


Russellville FAMILY DENTISTRY
 Mike McLeary, DDS



Russellville Family Dentistry welcomes Mike McLeary, DDS

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

Return to Russellville City Schools as RHS Assistant Principal realization of a dream for Ergle

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Nichole Ergle's career as an educator has taken her to three campuses, as an elementary teacher, counselor and assistant principal.

The latest career move for the 1997 Russellville High School graduate is taking her home.

The Russellville City Board of Education approved the hiring of Ergle as Russellville High School Assistant Principal. Ergle will work with RHS Principal Norman Lier, who was promoted from assistant principal last month when Jeremy Madden resigned to take a job in the

Tuscaloosa County School System.

"Col. Lier and I have a lot of the same goals and opinions in education and I believe we will work really well together," Ergle said.

For Ergle, whose teaching career began as an elementary teacher at Tharptown Elementary School, her new job is the realization of a dream.

"I'm very excited to be coming home, Ergle said. "It's always been a dream of mine to eventually come back to Russellville City Schools, whenever the Lord would lead me there.

"This position came open and everything worked out for me to have this opportunity. I want to be there to

See 'ERGLE,' Page 9

Vote Micheal Murray
 Republican nominee for Franklin County Commission Dist. 1
 November 5, 2024
 General Election

Council approves RFD Chief Mansell's February retirement

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Rarely is Joe Mansell at a loss for words.

And as the Russellville Fire Department Chief addressed the Russellville City Council Tuesday evening about his decision to retire, Mansell had plenty to say as the 32-year RFD veteran reflected on his career and the people of Russellville who made it special.

"We stand for the flag in this city. We kneel for God in this city.

Russellville is the kind of city I




COURTESY PHOTO

wanted my kids to be raised in and it's why I stayed here through my professional career," Mansell said.

Mansell, who's served as fire chief since 2002, will retire effective February 1, 2025.

See 'MANSELL,' Page 3

Morgan Chiropractic
 Chiropractic for the Entire Family



Dr. Tom Morgan
 811 Village Wood Drive
 Russellville
332-4949


24 HR TOWING



"We don't back down to anyone, but we will back up!"

11833 Hwy 43 South
 Russellville, AL 35653
256.332.7279

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



Bowen Family Dentistry
 243 Underwood Road • Russellville 256.332.4000

K&A LAWN AND TOWING SERVICE



- Mowing, Hedge Trimming
- Pressure Washing
- 24-Hr Towing & Roadside Assistance

256.324.0385

World-class dentistry. Hometown care.

Hablamos Espanol



SINGING RIVER DENTISTRY

531 St. CLAIR ST. | RUSSELLVILLE | 256-332-6888

Clayton russellville



NOW HIRING HOME BUILDING TEAM MEMBERS

STARTING PAY: \$21.50/HR + WEEKLY BONUS!

HTTP://CAREERS.CLAYTONHOMES.COM



annacarolporterholistic.harmony.com

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

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

"Get Ready to Heal!"

Call Anna Carol Porter today!
Certified Fascial Stretch Practitioner

Holistic Harmony. AC 256.668.2830

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net!



John Almirol, M.D.
Internal Medicine

"Over 22 Years Caring for Franklin County."

Mon-Thur: 8:30-5:00
Friday: 8:30-12:00

Se habla Español

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

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

Accepting new patients
256.331.1900

15225 Highway 43, Suite G
Next to Russellville Hospital



LOCAL • PERSONAL • CARING

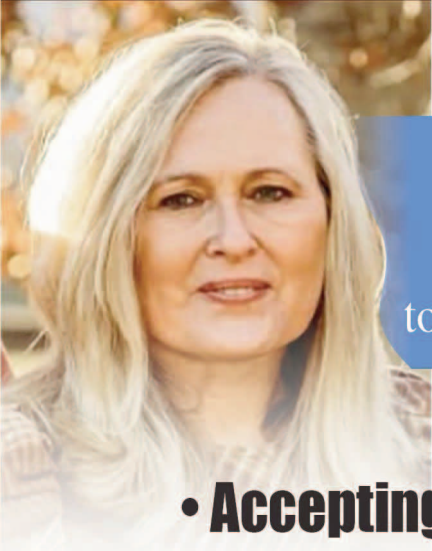
Monuments are Designed & Lettered in our local shop. On-site Engraving & Sandblasting Franklin County's Home Owned and Operated Monument Dealer!

Grant & Beverly Atkins
403 East Lawrence Street
Russellville, Alabama

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

Raymond Duane McNatt, age 56, of Russellville, died on Friday, September 6, 2024. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Jeff Elledge's
CREDIT CARS
WE FINANCE NO CREDIT
SLOW CREDIT BAD CREDIT
Down Payments As Low As
\$800* to \$2,200*
*According to inventory and any prior history with this dealership.
2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals
256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711



Russellville Hospital
welcomes back
Sandy Evans, CRNP
to our Rural Health Clinic.

- **Accepting New Patients**
- **Same Day Appointments**
- **Family Practice, Primary care Medical Check-Ups, Health Screenings**



256.331.2700
15225 Hwy 43 • Suite 1



Franklin Free Press

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

The Franklin Free Press is published weekly by Pilati Investments, Inc.
Our publication is mailed to our readers at no charge.

- Publisher**
John Pilati
E-mail: franklinfreepress@yahoo.com
- Sports Editor**
Kadin Pounders
- Layout Design**
Michael Rice
- Sales Representatives**
John Pilati
- Content Contributors**
Willodean Davis
- Graphic Design**
Jason Hill

Correction Policy

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

Letters to the editor

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

Copyright Information

Published by Pilati Investments, Inc. Copyright 2024
All materials and content are copyrighted by the Publisher

This publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any method, without the express written permission of the Publisher.

'MANSELL,' From Page 1

But he won't fade into the sunset, as the council approved hiring Mansell on a contract basis as a firefighter once his retirement date arrives. Mansell and the city inked a seven-year contract starting March 1, 2025, and expiring February 28, 2032, with an automatic five-year rollover clause unless either party gives advance written notice of its intent not to renew. Mansell will work a minimum of 168 hours per month, or 84 hours per pay period, once the contract period begins.

Additionally, Mansell will take an active role in helping choose his successor, something requested by Russellville Mayor David Grissom and the city council. Regardless of who succeeds him, Mansell believes the next chief will have a tremendous opportunity to succeed.

"I'm at the point in my career where we've got his department where it needs to be, so our next chief should have a clear path to succeed," Mansell said. "As my career as fire chief comes to an end, I leave with the confidence the department will continue to be led by dedicated, motivated and professional leaders."

The department's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of Class 2 is strong and works to the benefit of those it serves when it comes to insurance costs.

"We are a strong ALS (Advanced Life Support) department. We have equipment many larger departments aren't blessed to have. We've had success with grants, receiving millions in grant funding, and all of this could not have happened without the support of our mayor and council over the years supporting this department," Mansell said.

"And of course our accomplishments would not have been possible without the commitment, dedication and the hard work of the men at the Russellville Fire Department. We take an oath as firemen we will die to save a life and everyone of these guys raised their hands and meant every word," he added.

Mansell succeeded Harlon Hutcheson as RFD Chief in 2002, and Hutcheson was among the many people Mansell credited for his professional success.

"Harlon was one of the finest men you could ever work for. If not for his guidance and wisdom, we would not be the department we are today," Mansell said.

Mansell's many professional accolades include being named Alabama Fire Chief of the Year in 2022.

Grissom, who's been best friends with Mansell since they were in Russellville City Schools together, was emotional as he thanked Mansell for his service to the department and the citizens of Russellville.

"Chief Mansell, we congratulate you on your retirement and we certainly appreciate the job you've done throughout your years with the Russellville Fire Department," Grissom said.

"And we're pleased you'll be coming back and helping us on a contract basis. We'll be asking you to recommend the next chief and know you'll share your experience and wisdom with whomever is selected," Grissom added.

REWARD YOURSELF...

GIFT CARDS Available

OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE

Angel Harris
Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495
Reiki Practitioner II

256.332.4220
Creative Image Salon
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

Did you use
turbotax
any time from 2016-2019?

Bedford, Rogers, Bowling & McReynolds, P.C.
256-332-2880

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO \$1,000 OR MORE IN COMPENSATION



SCAN THE QR CODE, EMAIL
TURBOTAXINTAKE@GMAIL.COM
OR CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION

*No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers. The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements.

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

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 4a - 7p



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

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

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

Russellville City Council approves soliciting bids to finance purchase of \$2.25 million platform ladder fire truck

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council authorized Mayor David Grissom and City Clerk Belinda Miller to solicit bids to finance the purchase of a \$2.25 million platform ladder truck to replace the existing 21-year-old ladder truck.

The council voted unanimously to move forward with financing at its September 3rd meeting.

The city already has two fire trucks on order with delivery on those expected next year. The vendor the city used for the purchase of the two fire trucks contacted Russellville Fire Department Chief Joe Mansell about a demo ladder truck that's scheduled to be completed around the same time as the other two trucks.



COURTESY PHOTO

An example of the Sutphen 100 Aerial Platform Ladder Truck'

The truck is a Sutphen aerial platform ladder truck with a 100-foot vertical reach mid-mount ladder.

It's been two years since the council approved the purchase of the two fire trucks. With limited availability of new fire vehicles, combined with supply chain issues for the companies manufacturing them, costs for new trucks have soared while delivery delays have expanded.

Its availability in a few months is what made the ladder truck attractive for the city, according to Mayor David Grissom. With an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating of Class 2 for Russellville, residents enjoy discounts on homeowners insurance as a result of the strong rating.

Mansell said the department, pursuant to ISO ratings, needs a ladder truck because of the multi-story residential buildings at Village Square Apartments and Engle Drive Apartments.

The \$2.25 million pricetag, strange as it may sound, is expected to be a bargain compared to the expected cost of new ladder trucks that could top \$3-\$4 million with a three-year delivery lag.

Although financing such a pricey vehicle won't be easy, Grissom said he and Miller worked the numbers and he believes the purchase is manageable.

"It is a lot of money, but it's something important for the city," Grissom said. "We ran the numbers, talked with some banks, NACOLG and will look into a USDA loan. With our paving project and, according to the (Franklin) County Commission, our garbage is about to go up in price, there's a lot of uncertainty over how that will affect city finances. But with all that said, we can make it work on our end and it's an important addition for the citizens of this city," he added.

Councilman David Palmer said with the shortage of ladder trucks and the soaring costs, purchasing a new ladder truck for \$2.25 million 'isn't taking much of a chance because it's going to hold its value and if we have to sell it, it's likely we'd get our money back or even make some.'

In other agenda items at the September 3rd meeting, the council:
--approved a resolution declaring September as Suicide Prevention Month in the City of Russellville.

--accepted a grant of \$3.892 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the construction of a new Library/Multipurpose Community Center.

--approved additional work performed by Riley Bridge Co., on Windsor Drive, to be paid for out of the city's 4-cent gas tax fund.

--declared a vacancy for Fire Chief in the Russellville Fire Department, to be promoted from within the Classified Service, effective February 2025.

--declared a vacancy for Heavy Equipment Operator II in the Russellville Street Department and hired Thomas Dill and Michael McKinney (subject to McKinney getting his CDL before his start date) as Heavy Equipment Operators II.

--approved hiring John Holland as Heavy Equipment Driver/Operator in the Solid Waste Division of the Russellville Street Department.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council will be September 16, 2024, with work session at 6 p.m., and meeting to follow.

**THE RUSSELLVILLE ELECTRIC BOARD IS
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A
GENERAL MANAGER**

THIS POSITION REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING:

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

EDUCATION: A B.S. Degree in Engineering, Business, Accounting or Finance or some other college degree with equivalent years of experience and/or certification is required.

EXPERIENCE: Five to Ten years of increasingly responsible experience in management, preferably in a public utility, is preferred.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF POSITION:

The General Manager is the chief officer of Russellville Electric, working under a five-member Board appointed by the Mayor and City Council. He/she is responsible for carrying out the directives and policies of the Board, advising the Board about the laws, contracts and regulations which must be observed and keeping the Board apprised of the health of the Russellville Electric System both physically and financially.

He/she will work with the staff and all employees to provide utility services to the utility's customers in a courteous and professional manner, keeping the welfare and safety of both the employees and the public in mind.

The General Manager will be initially hired for a Ninety (90) Day probationary period. As a condition of hiring/retaining the position of General Manger, the individual hired, must within 60 days, if not prior to, the expiration of the Ninety (90) Day probation period, reside within the city limits to the City of Russellville, Alabama.

PAY RANGE/COMPENSATION

The pay range/compensation will be determined by a vote of the Board members of the Russellville Electric Board. The beginning pay for the General Manager shall be no less than One Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Five Hundred (\$176,500.00) Dollars, annually. The General Manager shall have 100 % of his/her family medical and dental insurance provided as part of his/her employment. The General Manager shall be eligible for participation in the Retirement Systems of the State of Alabama.

The full content of the job description for this position and applications are on file with and are being maintained by the Russellville Electric Board and are available at the request of applicant. Any request to receive a job description should be made to Amanda Hitt at Rogers, Bedford & Bowling, P.C. - 256-332-2880 or amanda@rbmattorneys.com.

Any and all applicants are subject to a pre-employment drug screen. The Russellville Electric Board shall perform a credit check of the applicant's credit history as well as a general Background check, including a Criminal History.

The Russellville Electric Board is an equal opportunity employer and will not discriminate in hiring based upon age, race, creed, religion, sex, national origin or disability.

All applications must be submitted in a manner to be received by the Russellville Electric Board by no later than the 30th day of September 2024.

Applications can be submitted to the Russellville Electric Board via E-Mail at: jeff@rbmattorneys.com.

or via United States first class mail to:

Russellville Electric Board
C/O Rogers, Bowling & McReynolds, P.C.
303 North Jackson Avenue
Post Office Box 669
Russellville, Alabama 35653

Undocumented woman living in Russellville to plead guilty to identity and election fraud charges

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A Russellville woman has entered a plea of guilty to multiple federal charges including false claims of citizenship in connection with voting, false statements in a passport application, use of a United States passport obtained by false statements and aggravated identity theft.

Angelica Maria Francisco, 42, signed a plea agreement Thursday for all charges contained in a nine-count information filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

Francisco's guilty plea and sentencing will be set for a later date.

According to information from the government, Francisco was an undocumented individual living in Franklin

County. She assumed the identity of a United States citizen in 2011. Francisco used that false identity to obtain a United States passport in 2011 and used the passport to travel to and from her native country of Guatemala in 2012, 2015 and 2018.

She also registered to vote and cast ballots in the 2016 and 2020 primary and general elections. Francisco is also accused of using her false identity to apply for a passport renewal in 2022.

The case was investigated by the Diplomatic Security Service, along with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, the East Metro Area Crime Center and the Alabama Secretary of State's Office.

Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen issued a press release September 5th expressing his appreciation to the United States State Department and the U.S. Attorney's Office for their efforts in the case.

"I have been very clear that a top priority of this office is ensuring only eligible American citizens are voting in Alabama elections," Allen said. "We will continue to assist law enforcement in every way possible as they prosecute individuals who vote illegally in Alabama elections to the fullest extent of the law."



For updates on news and sports, visit us online at www.franklin-freepress.net!

freedom FIBER 
connecting the way to a better future

**Coming Soon to
Russellville!**

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

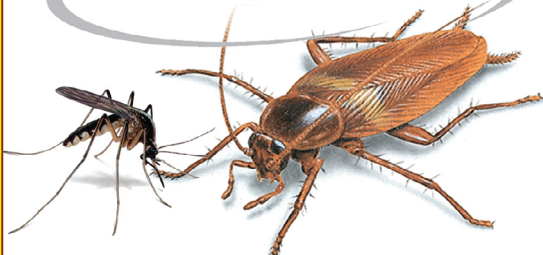
Ready to sign up?

**www.freedomfiber.com
205-921-6712**

**"The standard for fixed-income
living in Russellville"**



Pest Solutions




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


For updates on news
and sports, visit us
online at
www.franklinfreepress.net!


What's Happening


256.332.0255


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


 **T**HE NACOLG SENIORx MEDICATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUPPLIES FREE AND LOW COST MEDICATIONS FOR ANYONE IN ALABAMA WITH A DISABILITY OR A CHRONIC ILLNESS REGARDLESS OF AGE THAT REQUIRES DAILY MEDICATION. MEDICARE RECIPIENTS MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT NACOLG SENIORx TODAY. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS SERVICE. 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463) 256-389-0530 PAULA PARDUE 256-389-0529 THIS PROGRAM IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR


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


 **A**shaKiran serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking across Alabama. Their vision is to be a 'ray of hope' by bridging the gap between service providers and culturally diverse communities. Their 24-hour crisis line number is 1-800-793-3010. Learn more about AshaKiran by visiting www.ashakiranonline.org. Consultations are free and confidential, and available in 45 different languages.


 **N**orthwest Regional Library is proud to announce audiobooks are now available through our Books-By-Mail program. This program is completely free to those that are medically homebound, live more than 10 miles from a town with a public library, or require large print or audiobooks only. Must be a resident of Marion, Franklin, or Lamar counties. Contact us today at 205-487-2330 or visit our website at northwestregional.net to find out more information about the program! We are accepting donations of new or gently used CD audiobooks. Donations can be dropped off at any member library. Contact us for more information."


 **N**orth Russellville Baptist Church presents the second annual October Youth Fest, Sunday, Oct. 6th, 5 p.m.-until. Guest speaker will be Shannon Knight. Praise and Worship by Dustin Richardson, Dry Bones Revived and Jacob Feltman. Drama by the Bethel Drama Team. There will be door prizes, Youth Fest t-shirts for sale and finger foods following the event. Adults and Youth invited to come join the congregation for a great night of worship. A love offering will be taken up. Youth are asked to bring a stuffed animal for Cahaba Shriners for 'Shriner Kids.' For more information or to reserve seating for large groups, call Youth Pastor Randy Bracken at 938-646-4656, La Shawn Fortuna at 256-460-9510 or Lyndsey Marshall at 205-269-7429. Church located at 1401 Waterloo Road in Russellville.


 **T**he 2nd annual Jagger's Journey Poker Run is set for Saturday, Sept. 14. Get ready for an exciting day of riding and fun at the Poker Run event in support of Jagger's Journey Foundation. Enjoy a scenic ride with multiple stops to draw cards and build your poker hand. The best hands at the end of the run win a cash prize. All proceeds go directly to Jagger's Journey Foundation, supporting pediatric patients undergoing treatment for Aplastic Anemia and related rare diseases. Visit www.jaggersjourney.net for more details.

 **T**he annual Oka Kapassa Native American Festival is set for Friday-Saturday September 13-14 at Spring Park in Tuscumbia. American Indian culture takes center stage with storytelling, dancing, music, arts, crafts and a torch lighting ceremony. Over a dozen American Indian tribes return to their southeastern homeland for this special event. Saturday is open to everyone from 9-6, with free admission. Friday is 'School Day' from 8-2:30 p.m., primarily for school children. For more details, contact Terry McGee, Oka Kapassa Festival Chairman, at 256-757-4438.

 **M**y Father's House Ministries will host Holy Ghost Fire Power Camp Meeting 2024, September 15-20, with Evangelist Joel Ali. Sunday services at 10 am and 5 pm. Monday-Friday Evening services at 6:30 pm. Morning sessions Tuesday-Thursday at 10:30 am. For more information or a ride, call 256-460-1376. The event is hosted by Pastor Pearl. Shelton.

 **A**uditions for Crazy Quilt Club, by Pat Cook and directed by Brittany Faris, will be held Monday September 16, 2024, at 7:00 PM and Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Weatherford Centre in Red Bay, AL. The cast consists of 8 females and 1 male, with younger females being able to cast for older roles. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Please contact Scotty Kennedy at 256-356-8758 or scottkyd@att.net for any questions. Rehearsals will begin on Monday September 23, 2024, for six weeks leading up to the production. You will only have to be attendance for the rehearsals that include your character. The performance dates of the play will be November 7-10, 2024, at the Weatherford Centre in Red Bay, AL. Tickets will go on sale Thursday October 31, 2024. For group sales please contact Beth Hammock at 256-668-0045.

 **C**ommunity Action Partnership of North Alabama, also known as Russellville Head Start and Early Head Start, is a non-profit agency serving 3, 4 and 5 year old children absolutely free. We are located at 976 Ronnie McDowell Avenue in Russellville. Our hours are from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Call for an appointment today at 256-331-0162. Give your child a Head Start on school readiness! We offer top-quality, comprehensive early childhood educational services provided at no cost to your family. To learn more, visit www.capna.org/children-services.

 **N**orth Russellville Baptist Church, 1401 Waterloo Rd. Russellville, will be Hosting SWAMP JOHN'S, Tues. Oct. 1st from 4-7pm. Plates will Be \$15.00. Please stop and support NRBC and their Youth.

Email us at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

RCS Board approves \$42.87 million budget for FY25

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Schools Board of Education approved a \$42.87 million budget for fiscal year 2024-25 at its September 5th meeting.

The board approved the budget after a presentation from Chief Financial Officer Lisa Witt who described the system's financial condition as strong.

The \$42.87 million exceeds last year's budget of \$38.91 million.

Anticipated revenue for FY25 is \$41,113,525, with budgeted expenditures of \$42,879,234. The net budget deficit is the result of certain state funds in the FY25 budget that were received by the system earlier than anticipated, so they apply to the FY24 budget as a surplus, according to RCS Superintendent Tim Guinn.

With the end of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, or ESSER, federal funding that schools received during the COVID-19 pandemic, RCS administrators knew they would have to address how to fund as many of those positions as possible. Much of the system's ESSER funds were used to employ English Language Learners Aides and teachers to work with students whose primary language upon entering Russellville City Schools was something other than English.

"When I first came back to Russellville, I met with our CFO to develop a plan with her on moving forward without those ESSER funds and what to do to lessen the effect on people hired on ESSER monies," Guinn said. "Some had to be laid off but as we went through the summer and saw what the new budget from the legislature would look like we hired as many of those employees back as we could.

"The priority was to hire the ones who had been here the last few years. Our principals really pushed for many of them because of the outstanding job they did," he added.

Salaries and related expenses for instructional services total \$19,07 million, repre-

senting 44.5% of the FY25 budget. This includes salaries and benefits for faculty and instructional aides. Instructional support services, for non-teaching positions, will be \$4.53 million, representing 10.6% of the budget.

West Elementary School has 82 staff members. Russellville Elementary has 62, Russellville Middle School 56, Russellville High School 80 and there are 70 employees in the central office (including transportation and Park and Recreation Department). Russellville City Schools has a total of 350 staff members, a reduction of 10 from FY24.

Current enrollment for the four schools is: 607 at WES, 573 at RES, 599 at RMS and 755 at RHS, for a total of 2,534 students.

Teacher allotments for classrooms remains \$900 for FY25.

The budget includes \$4.77 million for capital outlay projects, the largest of which is the ongoing renovation of the Career Tech Center.

Anticipated revenues for Russellville City Schools are contained in one of four categories: state, federal, local and 'other.'

The majority, 61%, comes from state funding. Federal revenues account for \$5.47 million, or 13.3%. Local revenues are expected to be \$9.70 million with an additional \$870,000 from other revenue sources.

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

In other agenda items, the board:

--accepted a \$50,000 Legislative Community Service grant to Russellville City Schools from Rep. Jamie Kiel. The funds will be used to enhance campus security at all four schools, for Career Tech expenses and on the Early Literacy Program at West.

--approved facility use requests for the RHS parking lot on November 16, 2024, for the RHS Career Tech Automotive Department's Car Show fundraiser, and West Elementary School gym on October 2-3, 2024, for the RHS Tigerettes to hold a Mini Tigerette Clinic from 3-4:30 p.m., each afternoon as a fundraiser for the auxiliary band program.

--approved a trip request for RHS students on November 6, 2024, to travel to tour Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Blue Springs, Ms.

--approved personnel moves including:

--Retirement/Resignation/Termination/Leave of Absence: Resignation of Kyle Taylor as Assistant Football Coach at RMS, effective 8/25/24.

--Employment: Logan Lindsey, Laikyn Gardner, Student Workers for Parks and Recreation Department, Nicole Ergle, RHS Assistant Principal, Lauren Archer, RMS Librarian, Lauren Taylor Mills, RHS History Teacher, Matthew Reed and Jeremy Reed, Bus Drivers.

--Temporary Employment: McKinley Copeland, RES/WES Aide, 21st CCLC and WES Afterschool Program, Alana Parker, Amanda Ridge and Nicole Jensen, RMS Teachers for Saturday School.



COURTESY PHOTO

Rep. Jamie Kiel, center, with RCS Board members Kim Clonts, Ike Rogers, Superintendent of Education Tim Guinn and RCS Board member Greg Trapp.

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

Production wages from \$17.50/hr up to \$20.25/hr, with incentive. (Additional \$2/hr for Third Shift Differential)

Apply in person at our 2045 Hwy 44, Russellville,
or Apply online at pilgrimsusa.com!

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



**THE ELECTRIC BOARD OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA
NOTICE OF SALE OF UNNEEDED PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, The Electric Board of the City of Russellville, Alabama, owns the following described property, said property is neither specifically dedicated for public use nor subject to common law dedication for public use; and

WHEREAS such item of property is surplus and no longer needed for municipal purposes; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ELECTRIC BOARD OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1, That it is hereby established and declared that the above-described personal property has not been dedicated to public use and is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes.

Section 2, Pursuant to the Resolution adopted at the meeting of the Electric Board of the City of Russellville, Alabama held on the 30th day August 2024 the following described property was declared as surplus. The Electric Board of the City of Russellville, Alabama, will accept sealed bids for the purchase of following described property until 5:00 p.m. central time, the 30th day of September 2024 and bids will be opened at a meeting of the Russellville Electric Board to be held no later than the 15th day of October 2024:

- 2021 YUKON DENALI 4WD
- VIN – 1GKS2JKL8MR447861
- 6.2 LITER ECOTEC V8
- 10 SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION
- WHITE FROST TRICOAT
- TEAK/LIGHT SHALE INTERIOR
- MILEAGE – APPROXIMATELY 51,900

All PERSONS desiring to purchase the automobile described herein must submit a sealed bid. Said sealed bid must be either hand delivered and/or delivered in such a manner that said bid is delivered to the office of Rogers, Bowling and McReynolds, P.C. on or before 5:00 p.m. central time, the 30th day of September 2024, at the following address:

The Electric Board of the City of Russellville, Alabama
C/O ROGERS, BOWLING & McREYNOLDS, P.C.
303 North Jackson Avenue
Post Office Box 669
Russellville, Alabama 35653

All PERSONS desiring to purchase the automobile described herein may conduct an inspection of said automobile. Said vehicle will be located and available for inspection at the Russellville Electric Warehouse, located at 1012 Jackson Avenue South, Russellville, Alabama 35653. Said inspection will be allowed during normal working hours, by appointment only. Any person desiring to arrange an appointment should contact Craig Grissom at 256-668-7350.

THE CONVEYANCE BY THE ELECTRIC BOARD OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, OF THIS 2021 YUKON DENALI 4WD, VIN – 1GKS2JKL8MR447861, IS BEING MADE "AS IS"; NO WARRANTY IS BEING MADE OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING THE WARRANTY FOR FITNESS OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR FOR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. SPECIFICALLY, THE ELECTRIC BOARD OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WILL TRANSFER TITLE TO THE VEHICLE REFERENCED TO HEREIN "AS IS WITH ALL FAULTS", THEREFORE, SAID VEHICLE IS BEING SOLD "AS IS"/"WHERE IS".

THIS OFFERING TO SALE IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE ELECTRIC BOARD OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, WITH AND SUBJECT TO A RESERVE. THE ELECTRIC BOARD OF THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, ALABAMA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS. THE PERSON WHO IS DETERMINED TO BE THE HIGH BIDDER MUST CLOSE ON THIS TRANSACTION AND PAY THE PURCHASE PRICE FOR THE ABOVE-MENTIONED VEHICLE NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS THE DAY AFTER BIDS ARE OPENED.

Moore honored by ACCA for 16 years of public service

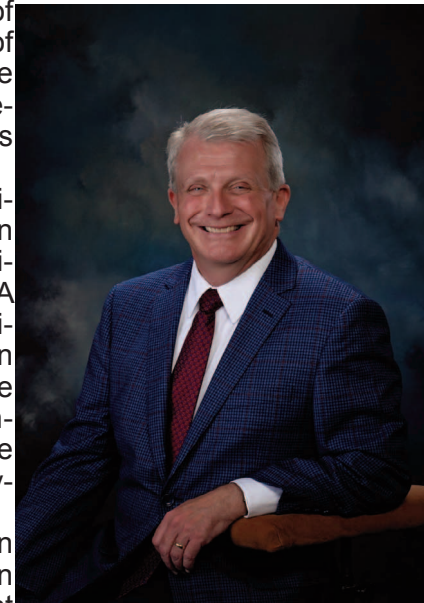
Submitted

Franklin County Probate Judge and Commission Chairman Barry Moore has been presented with the Tenure in Office Award by the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA) for his 16 years of service to county government and the state of Alabama. The award was presented in August at the Association's 96th Annual Convention.

"Judge Moore is worthy of the gratitude of all Alabamians for his dedication to public service and his personal sacrifice," said Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Director. "Amid the extraordinary challenges county commission members face every day, Judge Moore has continuously served his constituents with honor and pride, and he deserves a pat on the back from everyone in Franklin County."

ACCA annually presents the Tenure in Office Award to honor commission members who have served for at least 16 years in office. The award is given for four-year increments thereafter.

The Association of County Commissions of Alabama is a statewide organization speaking for all 67 counties with ONE voice. It promotes improved county government services in Alabama, offers educational programs for county officials and their staff members, administers insurance programs for county governments and employees, offers legal advice, and represents the interests of county government before state and federal organizations and agencies.



Hon. Barry Moore



Dr. Kelly's Urgent Care

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

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

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

'ERGLE,' From Page 1

help all our students grow and continue to thrive, do well and excel like they have been. It's a fantastic school system and I'm excited to say I'm now a part of it," she added.

Ergle leaves her assistant principal position at Lawrence County Schools' Career Tech Center to come to Russellville. Before going to Lawrence County, Ergle was a counselor for five years at Tharptown High School.

Ergle earned her degree in Elementary Education from the University of North Alabama. She holds a Masters in Counseling and Administration and a Masters in Instructional Leadership from the University of West Alabama. And Ergle is presently enrolled in UNA's EDS program.

She and her husband Jonathan, a broiler supervisor at Mar-Jac in Jasper, have four daughters.

It's been almost 27 years since she graduated from RHS, but Ergle still has some of her black and gold Golden Tiger apparel from high school.

"I'm ready to wear it again, and wear it proudly. And I already ordered some new (black and gold) today," Ergle said.



COURTESY PHOTO

New RHS Assistant Principal Nichole Ergle with her husband Jonathan and their four daughters.





POWER THROUGH SPRING CLEANING

FS 38
 Hardworking, lightweight, and ready to get the job done so you can move on.

\$139⁹⁹

REAL STIHL. FIND YOURS.

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

 <p>HSA 45 BATTERY HEDGE TRIMMER \$129.99 <small>Includes charger and built-in battery.</small></p> <p>★★★★★</p> <p><small>"Light weight and easy to use." - Haefdh</small></p>	 <p>FS 56 C-E TRIMMER \$219.99</p> <p>★★★★★</p> <p><small>"This trimmer is a great value." - Alwaysstihlin</small></p>	 <p>BG 50 HANDHELD BLOWER \$139.99</p> <p>★★★★★</p> <p><small>"Powerful and lightweight." - Kevin2376</small></p>	 <p>MS 170 CHAIN SAW \$199.99</p> <p>★★★★★</p> <p><small>"It starts easily and runs great." - Dick44</small></p>
--	---	--	---

See Jamie Kiel Today!
 Kiel Equipment • Hwy 43 Russellville
www.kielequipment.com



All prices are DSRP at participating dealers while supplies last. *The actual listed guide bar length may vary from the effective cutting length based on which powerhead it is installed on. Check out these reviews and others on the product pages at STIHLdealers.com. ©2021 STIHL



Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

I have 2 kittens, one female grey, one male black. 11 weeks old. (256) 945-9710.

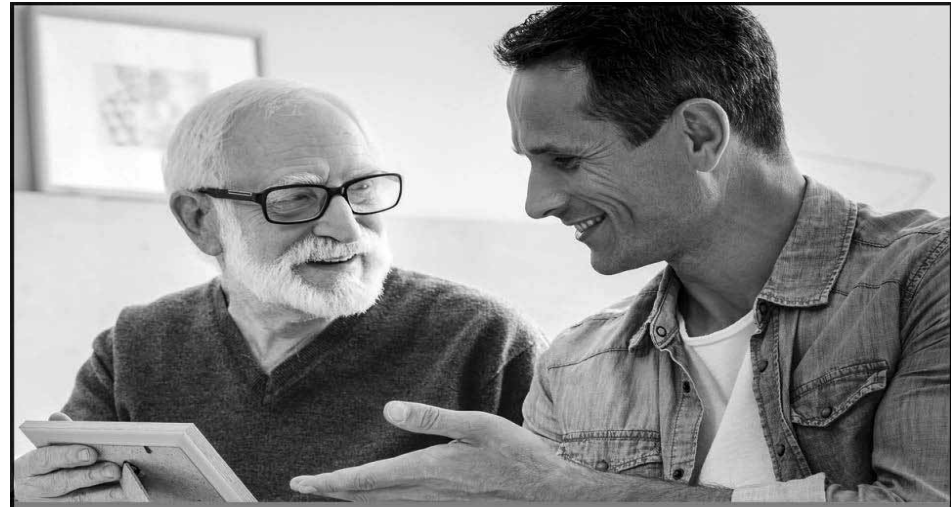
Vehicle Title Problem? We have a Solution!

Unclaimed/Abandoned Vehicles, Mobile Homes & Surety Bonds

JSE:Alabama's Vehicle Title Recovery Service!!

We can help with most Titled Vehicles in Alabama, including Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, RV's & Trailers. Stop in, by phone or online!

Free Phone Consultation
Call 1-205-267-5735
www.JSEAL.com



Become an
ADULT FOSTER CARE
Provider



1-800-458-7214
dhr.alabama.gov/AFC

"Love Never Ages"

Village at Oliver Place

NOW LEASING

Water included starting at:

2 BR \$505 • 3 BR: \$575



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

EyeCare Professionals

Russellville • Moulton • Red Bay

- Comprehensive Eye Exams for Adults & Children
- Contacts & Glasses
- Eye Injuries & Emergencies
- Designer & Safety Frames, Sunglasses



Mon.-Fri.
8a.m.-5p.m.

eyecareprofessionalspc.com
15255 Hwy 43 • Russellville • 256.332.5440

Have at least
14
fewer reasons to worry

Stay current on COVID, Flu & Childhood Vaccinations

Visit alabamaunites.com to locate a vaccine



Helen K FURNITURE

43 TRADING POST

**13480 Hwy 43
Russellville
256.332.0965**

"Quality Furniture at Affordable Prices"
24 Month Interest Free Financing! (wac)
www.helenkfurnitureinc.com • Facebook.com/helenkfurniture

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

FranklinFreePress.net

SPORTS

9.11.24

Bobcats prevail in four overtime thriller against Vinemont

*Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press*

With the game tied 42-42 in the fourth overtime period, Phil Campbell head coach Jacob Hamilton called a timeout. The Bobcats, having just scored the game-tying touchdown thanks to a scrambling Hayston Scott, needed just three yards for the two-point conversion and Phil Campbell's first win of the 2024 campaign. Hamilton—calm and confident—had the simplest of instructions for his offense.

"I looked at Johan Vasquez and I looked at Logan Wright, my left guard and my left tackle, and I told them, 'I don't care what they line up in, I don't care what front they're in, I don't care what happens; I need three yards and we're running it through you and you,'" Hamilton narrated. "Then I looked at Noah Raper and I told him, 'I'm giving you the ball and you're going to get three yards and win this game for us.'

"They told me 'yes, sir,' and then Johan Vasquez and Logan Wright blew them off the ball and Noah walks into the endzone for the two and we start celebrating," Hamilton added. "The crowd was nuts, the student section was very loud, and it was just a great, great environment. It was fun being a Phil Campbell Bobcat (Friday) night."

Just looking at the final 44-42 scoreline, it

See, 'PC,' Page 12

2-0 Vina off to hot start in 2024 gridiron campaign

*Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press*

The Vina High School varsity football team (2-0, 1-0) took care of business again on Friday night, traveling to Bear Creek to dispatch the Phillips High School Bears (0-2, 0-1) by a score of 28-6 as the Red Devils picked up their first Class 1A Region 7 win of the 2024 campaign.

"I don't think there was any sort of lack of motivation throughout the week this past week to prepare for Phillips," Vina's second-year head coach Cody Renfrow said. "It was a game last year that we felt got away from us. Our players understood that, and our coaches did a great job of getting everyone prepared and that definitely showed."

Senior running back Trevor Baker, last week's Franklin Free Press Athlete of the Week, opened up the scoring in the first quarter with a five-yard touchdown run that capped an eight-play drive. The Red Devils added to their advantage in the second quarter with a similar drive, once again finished off by a touchdown sprint by Baker, this one from six yards out. Vina closed out the first half with a touchdown run by another senior running back, Cai Lawler, to give the visitors a three score advantage at the break.

"Offensively we came out of the gates strong," Renfrow said.

"Our guys came ready to play from the opening snap, and I'm extremely proud of them," he added.

In the second half, Vina scored again to take a 28-0 lead with Phillips' lone consolation touchdown coming with less than five minutes to play. The Red Devils' final points were scored by senior quarterback Christian McCarley, a player that stood out to Renfrow for his performance in the final 24 minutes.

"He really stepped up in the second half. We faced a little bit of adversity when we had some guys banged up," Renfrow said. "He took on a much larger role offensively in the second half. He ended up with 127 yards rushing and added a touchdown, as well. He also had an interception on defense that was pretty big for us."

The win over Phillips marks the Red Devils first victory over the Bears since 2019 and Vina's first 2-0 start to a season since 2016. Renfrow said these are feats to celebrate but no reason

See, 'VINA,' page 13

Golden Tigers handle Lawrence County, extend region win streak to 26 straight

*Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press*

Led by another stellar performance from junior running back Cameron Phinizee and bolstered by four forced turnovers on defense, the Russellville High School varsity football team (2-1, 1-0) extended its region winning streak to 26 games on Friday night, defeating Lawrence County 42-20 on the road in Moulton.

Russellville's winning streak in the region dates back to the 2019 season, but it was the first region contest for first-year Golden Tiger head coach Dustin Goodwin, who praised his players for their performance.

"It's always great to get that first win (in the region) out of the way, and I thought our team did a great job of getting stops when we needed them, running the ball, and playing really hard," Goodwin said. "We knew Lawrence County was a tough opponent that was going to give us everything they had and play hard and challenge us, and they did."

"I was really proud of the way our guys came out and executed on both sides of the ball and answered the call," he added. "We were able to establish the run and then we were very consistent in the passing game, as well, which allowed us to spread out a bit and get the ball out of the box."

"Overall, we were proud of the way Cam ran the ball, the way we blocked up front, and the way we were able to stop the run."

The Golden Tiger defense started the game with a stop. Lawrence County drove into the red zone on their first possession, but the Russellville defense held and forced the Red Devils into

See, 'RUSSELLVILLE,' Page 14

Vargas Roofing & Home Remodeling

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

Freddy Vargas

256.668.7715

Licensed • Insured • Jeremiah 29:11

George Evans, MD

Offering general medical care services for the entire family



SHOALS PRIMARY CARE



256.383.4473 Ext. 2021

340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL

PEST CONTROL



PREDATOR PEST CONTROL

"The Insect Predator"

Eddie Deaton
(256) 627-1996

50 Years Combined Experience

Toll Free 1-888-832-5405

(662) 862-5631

(662) 840-4055



North Highlands Church of Christ

in partnership with Food
Bank of North Alabama



FREE Every 3rd Saturday
of each month
Sat., Sept 21st

9:00am-11:00am
North Highlands Church
of Christ Fellowship Hall

"For I was hungry and you gave me
something to eat Matthew 25:35"

'PC,' From Page 11

might be hard to believe Phil Campbell (1-1, 1-0) was down 8-0 to the visiting Vinemont Eagles (2-1, 0-1) at halftime.

"We only got the ball twice in the first half," Hamilton said. "They played keep-away with the ball and (Vinemont's) gameplan worked tremendously.

"We were playing well defensively, but they were just milking clock, milking clock and we couldn't get it in the endzone in the limited possessions we had in the first half," he added.

Things turned around in the second half, however, and the Bobcats were able to get on the scoreboard off the back of two big plays. The first was a long touchdown run by senior Hayden Wingo.

"We adjusted to how (Vinemont) was playing against us at halftime," Hamilton said. "We caught a break. I think we had a good play called, and Hayden Wingo breaks one for 89 yards."

After the failed two-point conversion it was 8-6 and PCHS still trailed, but the opening touchdown rejuvenated the Bobcats, who started to get into a rhythm offensively.

"Once we got that first one in, we were rolling. We had our confidence back, and then we started moving the ball on them," Hamilton said.

The Eagles answered with a touchdown drive of their own to make it 14-6, but Hamilton said there was never any doubt his team would tie it up. With less than a minute remaining, they did.

"We drive down and we're feeling confident. I was calm the entire time because I was confident we would tie it up," Hamilton said. "We hit Hagen Raper on a post route for about 40 yards to score with 59 seconds left and then we got the two to tie it."

The comeback completed, Phil Campbell's next task was to overcome the opposition in overtime. Not once, Hamilton said, did he or his team have any doubts they would come out on the other side victorious.

"Going into overtime we were still extremely confident," he said. "At one point we had a third and goal from like the nine or ten and I was never worried and the kids weren't either. We had two third downs where we weren't up there close to (the line to gain), but we found a way to make it happen.

"The kids never gave up and once we got that rhythm going we were extremely confident we were going to win," Hamilton added.

It was a back-and-forth affair in overtime with both Phil Campbell and Vinemont swapping blow for blow. For the Bobcats it was the quarterback Scott, who, time after time, made plays to get the hosts on the board. The sophomore accounted for all four of the Bobcats' OT touchdowns, passing for one and rushing for the other three.

"That's stepping up in the clutch," Hamilton said of Scott's performance. "When the game's on the line he wants the ball in his hands and you want to put the ball in his hands because you know he can make plays. It was a big, big game for him."

In the fourth overtime period, like they did so many times in regulation, the Bobcat defense stepped up, too. Vinemont scored to make it 42-36, but Phil Campbell halted the Eagles from converting their two-point try, keeping the deficit at six points.

"I had my offensive lineman Johan Vasquez, before he went out to play on defense (in the fourth overtime), tell me, 'Next time we score, run it behind me.' That was before (Vinemont) had even scored. He just knew we were going to score again," Hamilton said. "When we got the stop on the two, we knew. We knew we were going to score and we knew we were going to get the two and win."

The rest, as they say, is history. Raper, after Scott's equalizing touchdown rush, took the hand off from his young quarterback and followed right behind his fellow seniors Vasquez and Wright to punch it in from three yards for the win. The players on the field and the fans in the crowd went wild, and Hamilton, his team having come from behind to get their first win of the season in thrilling fashion, reflected on the fight and determination of his players and what the victory means for his program.

"We were down the entire game. The entire game we were behind. Our kids never gave up and we never had any doubts," he said. "Getting this win, I think it says we're not just here to compete in this region, we're here to win.

"Going into the next one, it's going to be the same mentality. There's no slowing down," he added. "We improved drastically from our previous outing, and it's a credit to my coaching staff and our kids for making the changes and making the adjustments.

"This was a great team win, a great team win. I could shout out certain kids, but this was a true team win, a total team win."

Phil Campbell travels to Oakman for its next region game on Friday, September 13th.

Southwood Gardens Apartments

Are you looking for an apartment that is closer to Walmart, the grocery stores, drug stores, and doctors? Are you 55 years of age or older drawing disability or 62 or older, if you are, then Southwood Gardens Apartments is where you need to be!! Besides being close to Walmart, we are also close to all surrounding churches and businesses!

Rent is based on income. Water is furnished, you only pay electric! Apartments are 1 bedroom on ground level furnished with: Carpet, Blinds, Central Heat & Air, Stove, Refrigerator, Laundry room onsite, and Maintenance on call.

Southwood Gardens Apartments are accepting applications. We have some vacant apartments now. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please send them our way.

We have new Management!
Apply at Russellville Housing Authority

Monday-Thursday
8:00am-4:30pm

73 Flippen Street • Russellville, AL 35653
(256) 332-1561 • (256) 332-1561

“Owner does not discriminate against persons with disabilities.”



The Sleep Clinic at Russellville Hospital provides complete sleep health management including sleep studies, diagnosis and treatment of sleep disorders.

Our sleep experts are here to help you take control of your sleep health. Most insurance companies do not require a referral to meet with one of our board certified sleep physicians.



“We are sleep specialists!”

Our experience and knowledgeable physicians provide expert advice for a multitude of sleep-related disorders, including: Insomnia, sleep apnea, restless leg syndrome, snoring, excessive daytime sleepiness, hypertension, periodic limb movement syndrome (PLMS), sleepwalking and pediatric sleep problems.

The Sleep Clinic

www.russellvillehospital.com

15225 Hwy 43, Russellville, AL (256) 332-1611

‘VINA,’ From Page 11

to rest on their laurels to this point. The Red Devils still have plenty of work to do, he said.

“It’s great to get 1-0 in the region. It’s a big win for our program, and it’s great to open up 2-0 for the first time in a long time. It’s exciting and it’s an exciting time to be a part of this program, but at the same time, we know there’s still more out there that can be achieved,” Renfrow said. “We’re proud of where we’re at, but we also know there’s a lot more work ahead of us.”

Next Friday the Red Devils host their next region opponent in Shoals Christian at Franklin-Hester Stadium. It will be another great opportunity for Vina to build on what it’s accomplished so far, Renfrow said, but the Red Devils will have to keep on top of their preparation if they want to continue their current success.

“We’re looking forward to Shoals Christian this Friday night, and that’s another big region game for us, so I don’t think it’s any time to relax,” he said. “Our message is going to be the same one that it’s been the last few weeks. We’ve got to establish the run, which I feel like we’ve done a pretty good job of so far this season. Defensively we’ve gotten so much better between week one and now. But really we’ve got to stay focused and not get too caught up in being 2-0 for the first time in a long time.

“Right now’s not the time to say we’ve won two games for the first time in a while and be satisfied with that,” he added. “We want to go be 3-0, we want to be 2-0 in the region, so we’ve got to make sure our guys stay focused and understand that there’s more out there that can be accomplished

BUCKLE UP!
It Could Save Your Life!

franklinsheriff.org
(256) 332-8811

Compliments of
Shannon Oliver
SHERIFF
FRANKLIN COUNTY

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don’t forget to check us out on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net!

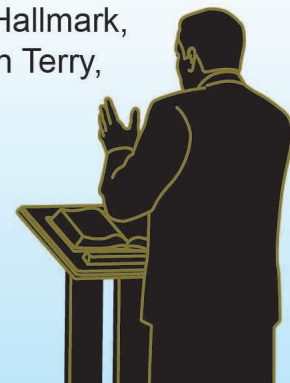
WGOL-FM 100.7 PASTOR SCHEDULE:

First Sunday each month: 3:30 p.m., Jonathan Prince, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

Second Sunday each month: 2 p.m., Andy Gasque, Ligon Springs Baptist Church. 2:30 p.m., Trevor Hallmark, Mt. Nebo Baptist Church. 3:30 p.m., Preston Terry, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

Fourth Sunday each month: 4 p.m., Greg Thorn, Shiloh Baptist Church.

We invite you to tune in and enjoy these inspirational messages!



a field goal attempt, which they missed from 25 yards out.

Then the Golden Tigers let Phinizee, who would finish the game with over 350 yards rushing, do his thing. The junior back opened up the scoring with a touchdown run from nine yards out midway through the first quarter. He would add another in the waning seconds of the opening period, running the ball into the endzone from 30 yards out to make it 14-0.

Phinizee's third touchdown run of the night came from 14 yards out giving the Golden Tigers a 21-0 advantage. Russellville would lead 21-6 going into the halftime break after a botched extra point attempt by Lawrence County.

Phinizee's final two touchdowns would come in the third quarter. His fourth was a five-yard TD scamper that put the Golden Tigers up 28-6; but it was his fifth and final rushing score that was really special, taking it in from 72 yards by cutting into the running lane, juking defenders in the secondary, and following lead blockers all the way into the endzone.

"It was awesome. Cam's a special player, and you saw it on that run. He found the hole and made a move on a guy to make him miss at the second level to break it," Goodwin said. "But what I really noticed about that play was Javon Poss running down the sideline and blocking a guy all the way that allowed Cam to make that play. That's the difference between a good play and a touchdown. That's the kind of effort and determination you want to get out of your players and it was really awesome to see."

It was Phinizee that scored nearly all of Russellville's points—sophomore quarterback Tripp Cleveland added the sixth and final touchdown with a rushing score in the dying minutes—but it was the Golden Tiger defense that continued to get the ball back to the offense, typically in advantageous field position.

The star of the night on the defensive side was sophomore linebacker Keifer Hallmark, who had a hand in three of Russellville's four takeaways, recovering a fumble and grabbing two interceptions.

"He's a little undersized but he plays way above his head," Goodwin said of Hallmark. "He's very gritty and gives you everything he's got. He's gotten a few interceptions this year so far, and I'm really proud of him and the way he was able to come out and perform for his team tonight."

The game was also notable for settling one of the unanswered questions the Golden Tigers had coming into the game, which was who the full-time starting quarterback would be. Freshman Whit Goodwin and the sophomore quarterback Cleveland split reps in Russellville's opening two games of the year, but it was Goodwin who started and received most of the playing time under center and was only subbed late in the game.

"We'll have to go look at the tape to know what we need to work on and learn from going forward, but overall we were able to move the football successfully," Goodwin said. "There are still things we need to do better and kinks we have to work out, but hopefully we'll continue to mature and get better at that position and on offense in general."

With their first region win in the books, the Golden Tigers will now turn their attention to their next opponent in East Limestone. Goodwin said Russellville will celebrate the victory over the Red Devils, but there are still areas the Golden Tigers need to improve in before traveling to take on the region rival Indians in Athens.

"Offensively we can't penalize ourselves," he said. "We had some penalties and stuff like that we need to clean up. It was a highly competitive game and in games like that emotions can run high sometimes, but we have to play to the whistle and then shut it down. Penalties have really hurt us, so we've got to clean that up, for sure."

Russellville will travel to East Limestone for its third straight road contest on September 13th before returning home to Golden Tiger Stadium against Ardmore on September 20th.

Second win of season for Belgreen spoils Tharptown Homecoming game

a field goal attempt, which they missed from 25 yards out.

Then the Golden Tigers let Phinizee, who would finish the game with over 350 yards rushing, do his thing. The junior back opened up the scoring with a touchdown run from nine yards out midway through the first quarter. He would add another in the waning seconds of the opening period, running the ball into the endzone from 30 yards out to make it 14-0.

Phinizee's third touchdown run of the night came from 14 yards out giving the Golden Tigers a 21-0 advantage. Russellville would lead 21-6 going into the halftime break after a botched extra point attempt by Lawrence County.

Phinizee's final two touchdowns would come in the third quarter. His fourth was a five-yard TD scamper that put the Golden Tigers up 28-6; but it was his fifth and final rushing score that was really special, taking it in from 72 yards by cutting into the running lane, juking defenders in the secondary, and following lead blockers all the way into the endzone.

"It was awesome. Cam's a special player, and you saw it on that run. He found the hole and made a move on a guy to make him miss at the second level to break it," Goodwin said. "But what I really noticed about that play was Javon Poss running down the sideline and blocking a guy all the way that allowed Cam to make that play. That's the difference between a good play and a touchdown. That's the kind of effort and determination you want to get out of your players and it was really awesome to see."

It was Phinizee that scored nearly all of Russellville's points—sophomore quarterback Tripp Cleveland added the sixth and final touchdown with a rushing score in the dying minutes—but it was the Golden Tiger



John Almirol, M.D.
Internal Medicine

"Over 22 Years Caring for Franklin County."

Mon-Thur: 8:30-5:00
Friday: 8:30-12:00

Se habla Español

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

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

Accepting new patients
256.331.1900

15225 Highway 43, Suite G
Next to Russellville Hospital

This week's Franklin County matchups highlighted by Vina looking to improve to 3-0 with road test at Shoals Christian

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

Belgreen (2-1)
BYE

Last week: Belgreen put a damper on Tharptown's homecoming game, knocking off the Wildcats 30-14.

Next week: The Bulldogs host Tanner at Sparks Stadium on September 20.

Phil Campbell (1-1, 1-0)
at Oakman (1-1, 0-0)

Date: Friday, September 13, 2024
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Hosea Collins Field

Last week: After trailing at home in the first half against region rival Vinemont in the first half, Phil Campbell came back to tie it up 14-14 at the end of regulation. The Bobcats then fought through multiple overtime periods, eventually outlasting the Eagles 44-42 after the hosts sealed it with a two-point conversion in the fourth overtime. Sophomore quarterback Hayston Scott had a hand in all four touchdowns in OT, passing for one and rushing for the other three.

What to watch: With their performance against 4A Hamilton and their resilient fight back effort to overcome Vinemont in overtime, the Bobcats have shown that they are a team with potential. A road region win at Oakman would only amplify the message Phil Campbell wants to send to everyone else, that they're contenders.

Series history: Phil Campbell and Oakman have never met before.

Next week: The Bobcats continue region play and will host Winfield.

Red Bay (0-2, 0-0)
at Winston County (3-0, 1-0)

Date: Friday, September 13, 2024
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Malcolm Blake Stadium

Last week: Red Bay was one of the few teams in North Alabama not participating in region play last week, traveling to play the University Charter School where the Tigers were knocked off in a close one, 16-14.

What to watch: This is Red Bay's region opener. A win over an undefeated Winston County would doubly get the Tigers headed back in the right direction and could be vital later on in the season when playoff berths are being decided.

Series history: Red Bay is 11-4-1 all-time against the Yellow Jackets. The Tigers last two meetings with Winston County came in the first round of the playoffs in 2018 and 2020; Red Bay won both, taking a 16-14 overtime victory in '18 and a 26-0 shutout victory in 2020.

Next week: Region play continues for the Tigers and they'll stay on the road, traveling to Lexington.

Russellville (2-1, 1-0)

at East Limestone (0-2, 0-0)

Date: Friday, September 13, 2024
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Cavnar Stadium

Last week: The Golden Tigers opened up region play with an impressive performance on the road at Lawrence County. Behind a stingy, greedy defense and a stellar five touchdown performance from junior running back Cameron Phinizee, Russellville extended its region winning streak to 26 games, knocking off the Red Devils 42-20.

What to watch: This game will be the Golden Tigers' third straight road contest. Will three consecutive weeks of traveling have any impact on Russellville's play? A hostile Lawrence County environment didn't seem to phase the Golden Tigers too much, but every road game presents its challenges. Also, with freshman quarterback Whit Goodwin seizing the starting job and getting a full game of reps under his belt last week, watch whether he will be given increased opportunities to pass the ball against the Indians and take some more of the workload off Phinizee. Goodwin finished with 96 yards passing last week.

Series history: The Golden Tigers are 12-2 all-time against the Indians. Russellville has won the last seven, winning those games by an average of 29 points. East Limestone's two wins over Russellville came in the 2011 and 2014 seasons.

Next week: Russellville returns to Golden Tiger Stadium to host region opponent Ardmore after a three-game road stretch.

Tharptown (0-3, 0-0)
BYE

Last week: Tharptown and Belgreen met for the first time on the football field, the Bulldogs taking first blood, 30-14, in what could be a great rivalry for years to come.

Next week: Tharptown finally gets into its region schedule in what will be its toughest game to date. The Wildcats travel to Decatur Heritage, one of the top teams in Class 2A.

Vina (2-0, 1-0)
vs. Shoals Christian (0-3, 0-1)

Date: Friday, September 13, 2024
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Franklin-Hester Stadium

Last week: Vina continued building momentum and changing its perception with a solid 28-6 road win at Phillips in its region opener. The victory gave Vina its first 2-0 start to a season since 2016.

What to watch: Vina's senior backfield trio of Trevor Baker, Cai Lawler, and Christian McCarley have been huge for the Red Devil offense so far this year. That's not going to change against a struggling Shoals Christian team that has allowed an average of 42 points per game this season.

Series history: Vina and Shoals Christian have played every year since the series began back in 2002. The Red Devils are just 4-18 against the Flame with their last win in 2019, a 44-12 victory.

Next week: Vina travels to Cherokee in Class 1A Region 7 play.



SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

Visit [GREYHOUND.COM](https://www.greyhound.com)

for Locations • Schedules • Everyday Low Fares

REWARD YOURSELF...

GIFT CARDS Available

OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE



Angel Harris

Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495
Reiki Practitioner II




256.332.4220
Creative Image Salon
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

Shoals Primary Care

welcomes

Dr. Zaman Shah

to the practice
in Sheffield



Board certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. Shah is an exceptional physician and a close family member of Dr. Syed. He will be continuing Dr. Syed's legacy of excellent and compassionate patient care with Shoals Primary Care.

Monday-Thursday 8am - 5pm
Walk-ins are Welcome
MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED
MEDICARE PATIENTS WELCOME



SHOALS
PRIMARY CARE

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

'BELGREEN,' From Page 14

defense that continued to get the ball back to the offense, typically in advantageous field position.

The star of the night on the defensive side was sophomore line-backer Keifer Hallmark, who had a hand in three of Russellville's four takeaways, recovering a fumble and grabbing two interceptions.

"He's a little undersized but he plays way above his head," Goodwin said of Hallmark. "He's very gritty and gives you everything he's got. He's gotten a few interceptions this year so far, and I'm really proud of him and the way he was able to come out and perform for his team tonight."

The game was also notable for settling one of the unanswered questions the Golden Tigers had coming into the game, which was who the full-time starting quarterback would be. Freshman Whit Goodwin and the sophomore quarterback Cleveland split reps in Russellville's opening two games of the year, but it was Goodwin who started and received most of the playing time under center and was only subbed late in the game.

"We'll have to go look at the tape to know what we need to work on and learn from going forward, but overall we were able to move the football successfully," Goodwin said. "There are still things we need to do better and kinks we have to work out, but hopefully we'll continue to mature and get better at that position and on offense in general."

With their first region win in the books, the Golden Tigers will now turn their attention to their next opponent in East Limestone. Goodwin said Russellville will celebrate the victory over the Red Devils, but there are still areas the Golden Tigers need to improve in before traveling to take on the region rival Indians in Athens.

"Offensively we can't penalize ourselves," he said. "We had some penalties and stuff like that we need to clean up. It was a highly competitive game and in games like that emotions can run high sometimes, but we have to play to the whistle and then shut it down. Penalties have really hurt us, so we've got to clean that up, for sure."

Russellville will travel to East Limestone for its third straight road contest on September 13th before returning home to Golden Tiger Stadium against Ardmore on September 20th.

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

Village at Oliver Place
NOW LEASING
Water included starting at:

2 BR \$505 • 3 BR: \$575



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

