


**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 Eagle Dr. • Russellville

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

**Morgan Chiropractic**  
 Chiropractic for the Entire Family



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

### Settlement reached on lawsuit resulting from 2021 death of female inmate at Russellville City Jail

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

April 7, 2021, is a day Tammy Taylor won't ever forget. When she learned her daughter Sarah Ann Campbell, who was arrested early that morning on a public intoxication charge by the Russellville Police Department, had died while in custody at the Russellville City Jail, the news, by her own words, was 'horrific.'

40 months later, Taylor is raising three of her grandchildren, ages 15,14 and 4. Although the pain of that day will never subside, a recent settlement on a wrongful death case

filed by Taylor on behalf of her daughter's estate will bring an end to the legal proceedings resulting from that fateful day.

Taylor filed the civil action against the Russellville Police Department, Hargett, and two RPD employees alleging the negligence of the department, its officers and dispatchers, caused her daughter's death.

The case was settled earlier this month for \$400,000. The parties filed a joint stipulation of dismissal with the Franklin County Circuit Court indicating the matter had been resolved and was due to be dismissed.

After attorney's fees and expenses

See 'SETTLEMENT,' Page 3

### Commission to solicit bids to build new animal control shelter

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission took a major step toward making a new animal control facility a reality in Franklin County at Monday's meeting by authorizing bids to be solicited for its construction.

Commissioners unanimously approved authorizing Probate Judge Barry Moore and County Administrator Leah Mansell to advertise for bids for the construction of a new facility to be located behind the

Franklin County Jail.

Once the lowest responsible bid is determined after the bid deadline, commissioners will still have to approve the costs of the project. Bids will be received until October 3, 2024, at 2 p.m.

All interested contractors wanting to bid must attend a mandatory pre-bid conference on Wednesday, September 25th at 2 p.m., at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex.

"I want to thank (Franklin County Engineer) Jason Baggett, (Animal Control Officer) Joey Wingo and

See 'SHELTER,' Page 9


**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



"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

annacarolporterholisticharmony.com

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](http://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

**FRANKLIN MEMORY GARDENS**



We offer ground burial, mausoleum and cremation spaces. All may be purchased at need or pre-need to include the burial vault and bronze memorial.

*Providing a peaceful, beautiful and serene cemetery for the people of Franklin County.*

**Carolyn Atkins Porter** *Since 1960*  
2710 Waterloo Road • 256.332.2115

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

**Robert Dwayne Watkins Jr., age 36, passed away at his home on Sunday, September 15, 2024. He was a lifelong resident of Franklin County and a long-time believer in the Baptist Faith.**

**Steven Don Amos, 57, of Russellville, moved from this life to his heavenly reward on September 2, 2024. Pinkard Funeral Home 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.

## **'SETTLEMENT,' From Page 1**

are taken out of the settlement, Taylor said the remainder will be placed in a trust for the benefit of her four children. Taylor believes the case was worth more, but she takes solace in what she believes that settlement means.

"Although the outcome wasn't what I was hoping for monetarily, I am relieved (the defendants) have to publicly admit they were negligent and that resulted in the loss of my daughter's life," Taylor said. "This was all about these children. And the settlement will help us take a step forward in the healing process. Life will never be the same for us, but we can at least move forward now."

The FFP spoke with Hargett September 17th, but he declined comment and referred questions to the attorneys representing the defendants. A second wrongful death involving an inmate who died in RPD custody is also pending, so Hargett said it would be improper to comment with pending litigation.

Taylor, who lives in southern Colbert County, wasn't told much on that fateful day other than Sarah, a 30-year-old mother of four, was found dead in her jail cell while lunch was being served to inmates around noon. Taylor said she was notified of her daughter's death by someone not employed by the RPD.

Emergency medical personnel were called to the jail but Campbell was pronounced dead shortly after their arrival.

According to a statement given to the Franklin Free Press by RPD Chief Chris Hargett the day Campbell died, officers who arrested her determined she was not in need of medical treatment at the time of the arrest.

From the day her daughter died, Taylor has repeatedly asked how, and why, Sarah wasn't monitored and regularly checked to make sure she wasn't dealing with any medical issues.

"If you arrest someone for public intoxication, you're saying you believe they're intoxicated on something and the police should be monitoring them and taking care of them, whether they're on drugs, alcohol or whatever," Taylor said. "Losing a child is awful. But in this case, because it should have been avoided, I'll never be the same. It's been a living nightmare."

Taylor was represented by the Birmingham law firm of Heninger, Garrison and Davis, LLC. Additionally, she was represented by the Russellville law firm of Rogers, Bowling and McReynolds, P.C.

Attorneys for both parties filed the joint stipulation of dismissal on September 11th.

Taylor acknowledges her daughter had a history of addiction and her legal problems resulted from that addiction. But Taylor explained that Sarah's cause wasn't hopeless, as people turn their lives around and thrive in life all the time, something Sarah would never have the chance to do after April 7, 2021.

"You can't tell me that just because of her past that is all that defined her. She could still have made something of herself, worked to get her children back and be a good mother.

"She was robbed of that opportunity," Taylor added.

Taylor, a certified nursing assistant (CNA) in the hospice field, is used to dealing with death in her job. As part of the training process to work in hospice, Taylor said she learned it's important to respect all lives, regardless of who the person is or their journey to the end of life. But she admits, when it comes to losing her own daughter, it was something she would never be ready for.

"Grief is very different when it's yours. All this training we get is because we're dealing with people who are dying and it's just different when it's you and your family going through it," Taylor said.

"We have an obligation and a job to do. It doesn't matter if it's a grandmother who was an alcoholic her entire life and she's dying of cirrhosis of the liver, or it's a grandma who sat in the church pew every week and never said an ugly word to anyone. You do your job without prejudice or judgment," she added.

With two inmate deaths within months of each other at the Russellville City Jail, Taylor believes the facility should be closed.

"They definitely need to close this place. At the very least, hire a CNA to walk through regularly to check on the welfare of the people in jail. Something's not right there and it's unacceptable," Taylor said.

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**

## NWSCC's Randolph, Public Relations Department honored at state conference

Submitted

The Northwest Shoals Community College (NWSCC) Public Relations and Marketing Department received five awards for outstanding marketing and public relations efforts by the Alabama Community College System Public Relations Association (ACCSPRA) last week during the ACCSPRA annual conference in Orange Beach, Ala.

Along with the awards, NWSCC Public Relations and Marketing Director Trent Randolph was named ACCSPRA 2024 Communicator of the Year.



COURTESY PHOTO

Randolph oversees the branding, media relations, public relations, marketing and promotional services office for the college. He has worked in the Public Relations and Marketing office for NWSCC since 2003.

**NWSCC Public Relations and Marketing Director Trent Randolph with his state awards.**

The college was presented awards in the following categories for marketing and public relations materials created and/or used during the 2023-2024 year:

- Pyramid Award (1st place)
  - Online Advertising
  - Outdoor Advertising
  - FlyerAward of Achievement (2nd place)
  - Photography (Graphically Manipulated)
- Award of Merit (3rd place)
  - Athletic

The Pyramid Awards ceremony recognized best practices from Alabama Community College public relations and marketing professionals who submitted marketing and public relations materials to an independent panel of judges. Approximately 330 entries were submitted.

The mission of ACCSPRA is to enhance the image, strengthen and promote awareness and public perception of the Alabama Community College System.

**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

**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](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

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

# Former Franklin County Commissioner Hastings passes away at age of 84

*John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press*

Don Hastings, who represented District Four on the Franklin County Commission for eight years, died Wednesday at the age of 84.

Services for Hastings were held last weekend at Deaton Funeral Home in Red Bay, with Jerry Hastings and Jackie Hastings officiating and Tyler Hastings speaking. Hastings was laid to rest in Red Bay City Cemetery.

He and his wife, Nancy Hallmark Hastings, who predeceased him, were blessed with a large family. He is survived by his five children

(Donnie Hastings Jr., Mark Hastings, Joe Hastings, Joanna Allred and Samantha Wadsworth), nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, one sister, Nancy Hastings Kennedy, 19 nieces and nephews, 29 great-nieces and nephews, 39 great-great-

nieces and nephews and five great-great-great-nieces and nephews.

Hastings was a native of Tishomingo County, Miss., and worked as a brick mason for over a half century.

In addition to twice being elected to the Franklin County Commission, where he served from 2008-2016, Hastings also served on the Red Bay City Council from 1992-1996.

Franklin County Commissioner Chris Wallace worked with Hastings on the commission from 2012-2016. Wallace remembers Hastings as a no-nonsense representative who took his role of representing the people of Franklin County as a privilege and an honor.

"He was all business most of the time, but he was a great guy. We disagreed sometimes, but in the end, we always remained committed to work together for Franklin County," Wallace said. "He was old school but on any issue he was wholeheartedly dedicated to doing what was best for Franklin County."

Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore had a tremendous respect for Hastings, as well as a good friendship.

"I enjoyed working with Don as a commissioner. He was a good county commissioner. You knew where Don stood. He was one of those individuals who would be straight forward with you, and what he said is what he believed in," Moore said.

"I had a lot of respect for Mr. Hastings and he was a good friend," he added.

**K&S TREE SERVICE**  
253 Laurelwood Drive  
Russellville, Alabama  
KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064  
Trimming • Topping • Removal  
Bucket Work • Stump Grinding



**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**

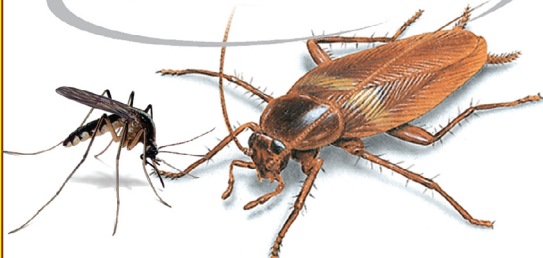
For updates on news  
and sports, visit us  
online at  
www.franklinfreep-  
ress.net!

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



256-332-1561 • 73 Flippen St

**Pest Solutions**



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

**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.

**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.

**Y**ou're invited to a Gospel Singing featuring the Lane Family on Sunday, September 22, at 2 p.m., at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 305 Bethlehem Church Road, Russellville.



**Real Estate  
Tips with  
Willodean!!**

**WGOL-FM 100.7** Daily 8 a.m.  
and 12 p.m.

**WillodeanDavissells.com • 256.762.5671**

# Absentee voting underway in Alabama with tougher laws in place to prohibit ballot harvesting

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

If you're wanting to vote absentee for the November 5, 2024, general election, you need to know the deadlines to vote absentee in person and the deadline for the absentee election manager to receive your mail-in absentee ballot.

Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen issued a media release reminding Alabamians of the deadline dates for absentee voting.

For voters wanting to have absentee ballots mailed to them, the application must be received by the absentee election manager on or before Tuesday, October 29, 2024. The deadline to return an absentee ballot application in person is Thursday, October 31.

Absentee ballots being returned by mail must be received by the absentee election manager before noon on Election Day, November 5, 2024. Absentee ballots being returned in-person must be received by the absentee election manager by the close of business on November 4, 2024.

Keep in mind the United States Postal Service mail delivery estimated times. According to a recent release from the USPS, it is recommended to mail in your absentee ballot application and absentee ballots at least 14 days before the applicable deadlines.

For those voting absentee in person at the Franklin County Absentee Election Manager's office, you must bring a valid photo identification, just as voters must when they vote at the polls on November 5, 2024.

In Franklin County, Brent Jeffreys is serving as the county's absentee election manager. His office is on the first floor of the Franklin County Courthouse.

The Alabama Legislature passed legislation that stiffened state laws

protecting voters from activists who profit from the absentee election process.

Co-sponsored by Rep. Jamie Kiel (R-Russellville), the law was designed to protect Alabama voters from ballot harvesting and from those seeking to monetize the absentee voting process.

The law criminalizes paying or receiving payment to pre-fill or collect absentee ballot applications. It's a felony offense to knowingly receive any payment or gift for distributing, order, requesting, collecting, pre-filling, completing, obtaining or delivering a voter's absentee ballot application or for paying another to do the same.

Absentee voting is underway at the Absentee Election Manager's office in the Franklin County Courthouse. To qualify for an absentee ballot, the voter must meet one of the following conditions:

- expect to be absent from the county on election day.
- are ill or have a physical infirmity.
- are a registered Alabama voter living outside the county.
- are an appointed election worker or poll watcher at a polling place other than their own.
- expect to work a required workplace shift on election day.
- are a caregiver to a family member of second degree of kinship or closer with that person being confined to their own home.
- are incarcerated in prison or jail and have not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude.

**For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)! Send your guest columns, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).**

## 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](http://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.



**FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSION**

P.O. Box 1028 · Russellville, AL 35653  
Phone (256) 332-8850 · Fax (256) 332-8855

Barry Moore, Chairman  
Chris Wallace, District I  
Jason Miller, District II  
Joseph Baldwin, District III  
David Hester, District IV  
Leah Mansell, Administrator

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

**Corrections Officer/Dispatcher, Franklin County Jail**

Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Friday, September 27, 2024.

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

Franklin County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the employment or provision of services.



**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.



# 'SHELTER,' From Page 1

Leah Mansell for doing an excellent job going over plans, looking at every aspect of this and preparing the bid," Moore said.

In other agenda items at its September 16th meeting, the commission:

- awarded the Highway 75 bridge repair project for the Cedar Creek Bridge to Shotcrete in the amount of \$206,600.
- approved the resignation of Blake Delaney from the Franklin County Highway Department.
- approved the hiring of Deborah Aycock and Greta Raper as temporary corrections officer/dispatcher in the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.
- approved the hiring of Jeffrey Davis as a temporary deputy.
- approved FMLA leave and catastrophic sick leave for Sheriff's Office employee Stacey Clark.
- approved the resignation of corrections officer/dispatcher Casey Carter and authorized advertising for the same.
- approved a contract for FY25 with Southern Health Partners for inmate medical and dental care in the amount of \$251,279.
- approved the resignation of Maddie Cagle as a corrections officer/dispatcher.
- approved the termination of Sheriff's Office employee Donnie Ivey.
- approved hiring Phillip Harrington as a temporary corrections officer/dispatcher.
- appointed J.R. Glasgow to the Franklin County Water Authority Board.
- appointed Mike Mayfield to the Franklin County E911 Board.
- appointed Jerry Groce, Brente Jeffreys and Lavon Duboise to the NACOLG Board.
- approved a FY25 contract with the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce for \$6,600, with a 10% escalation for FY26.
- rolled over a contract for diesel fuel and gas with Tatum Oil for \$.117 over rack price per gallon of diesel and \$.107 over rack price for gas.
- approved a 40-foot wide easement to Jamie Harris across property adjacent to a creek south of the Franklin County Jail.

The next meeting for the Franklin County Commission will be October 21, 2024, at 8:30 a.m., with a work session set for October 15, 2024, at 5 p.m., both at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex



## POWER THROUGH SPRING CLEANING





### FS 38

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

# \$139<sup>99</sup>

REAL STIHL. FIND YOURS.

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

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

**See Jamie Kiel Today!**  
Kiel Equipment • Hwy 43 Russellville  
[www.kielequipment.com](http://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](http://STIHLdealers.com). ©2021 STIHL



# Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

Just past  
Good  
Shepherd  
Catholic  
Church.  
Yard Sale.  
Thursday/  
Friday/  
Saturday,  
Sept.  
19,20,21. 8  
a.m.-until.  
1719 North  
Jackson  
Avenue North,  
Russellville,

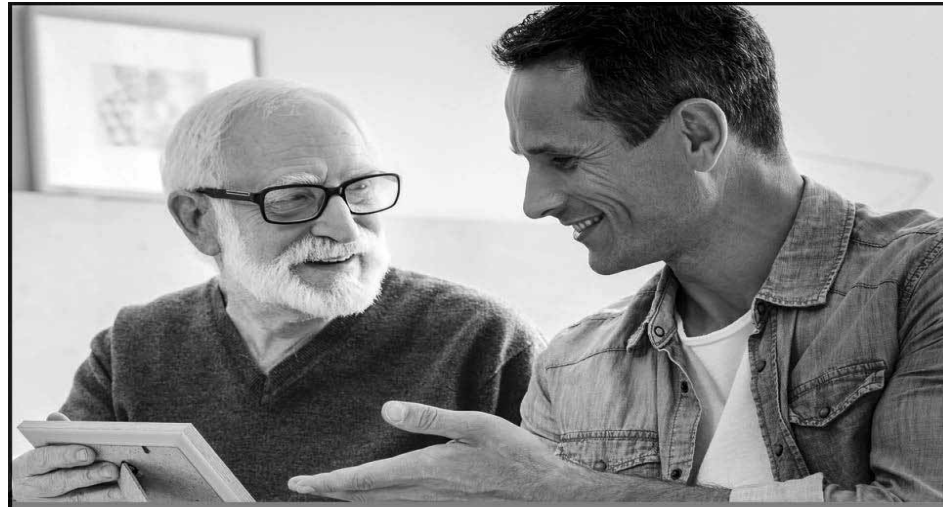
## Vehicle Title Problem? We have a Solution!

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](http://alabamaunites.com)  
to locate a vaccine

ALABAMA  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH

## Vina seeks 4-0 start with road test at Cherokee

Kadin Pounders  
 Franklin Free Press

Belgreen (2-1)  
 vs. Tanner (0-4, 0-2)

Date: Friday, September 20, 2024  
 Time: 7 p.m.  
 Location: Sparks Stadium

Last week: Belgreen was off. Prior to their bye week the Bulldogs traveled to Tharptown and beat the Wildcats 30-14 on their homecoming night.

What to watch: Belgreen is hosting a winless Tanner team that has scored just one touchdown through four games and has allowed an average of 55 points per game. Tanner has a solid history of success in football but is clearly having a very down year. Can Belgreen take advantage and grab a third win?

Series history: Belgreen and Tanner have never met.

Next week: **BYE**

Phil Campbell (1-2, 1-1)  
 vs. Winfield (3-1, 2-0)  
 Date: Friday, September 20, 2024  
 Time: 7 p.m.  
 Location: Parrish Stadium

See, 'ROAD TEST,' Page 15

## Vina varsity football team off to first 3-0 start since 1982

Kadin Pounders  
 Franklin Free Press

The King of Pop Michael Jackson released his Thriller album, Ronald Reagan was in his first term as president, and actor Alan Alda won his final Emmy for M\*A\*S\*H\* the last time the Vina High School football team got off to a start like this.

On Friday night, the Vina Red Devils defeated Shoals Christian 32-8 to stay perfect and improve to 3-0 on the season. The victory marked Vina's first 3-0 start since 1982.

"It's a huge win for us and our program," second-year Vina head coach Cody Renfrow said. "To go 3-0 for the first time since 1982, it's a big deal for us and it's been a long time since we've been able to start out a season this way. It's a credit to our coaches and our players, obviously, for the hard work and effort they put in.

"It's a good feeling. It's an exciting time to be a part of this program," he added.

The Red Devils wasted no time in putting winless Shoals Christian on the ropes, scoring touchdowns on their first two plays from scrimmage.

"Cai Lawler ran for about a 65-yard touchdown on the opening play, and then Christian

See, 'VINA,' page 13

## Golden Tigers rout East Limestone 52-6 on rainy, nasty Friday night

Kadin Pounders  
 Franklin Free Press

On a wet, soggy night in Athens, the Russellville High School varsity football team rained down the points on East Limestone, routing the Indians 52-6 at Cavnar Stadium.

Russellville's Class 5A Region 7 victory over East Limestone (0-3, 0-1) improves the Golden Tigers' record to 3-1 overall and 2-0 in the region.

"It's another step in the right direction," Russellville head coach Dustin Goodwin said of the win. "It's a good win on the road, and it's always good to get a region win. We're walking away healthy, which is always a positive when it's as slippery as it is. All in all, we'll enjoy this win and then we'll get back to work next week."

The impact of Hurricane Francine earlier in the week ensured that playing conditions were less than ideal for teams around the state, but that didn't stop the Golden Tigers from storming past the hosts Friday night. Russellville took control of the game early and, like the rain, never really looked like letting up.

The visitors got off to a fantastic start, scoring two touchdowns on only two offensive plays called. East Limestone opened the game with possession, but on the Indians' first play from scrimmage they threw an interception which was returned for a touchdown by senior defensive back Elliott Green.

A little later, when Russellville got its first chance on offense after another East Limestone turnover, junior running back Cameron Phinizee scored on the Golden Tigers' second play from scrimmage, running it in from 28 yards out to make it 14-0.

See, 'RUSSELLVILLE,' Page 12



COURTESY PHOTO

The Vina defense celebrates a turnover in its 32-8 win at Shoals

**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"**

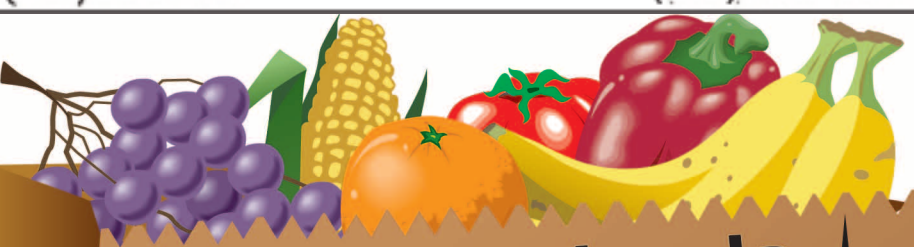
**Eddie Deaton  
(256) 627-1996**

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 21<sup>st</sup>

**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"*

# 'RUSSELLVILLE,' From Page 11

East Limestone responded with a scoring drive of its own, assisted largely from penalties by Russellville, but the Golden Tigers answered spectacularly with a 90-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by senior Jah Williams to make it 21-6 before the end of the first quarter.

"We like starting fast," Goodwin said. "Elliott Green got that interception on the first play of the game, and we were able to jump up on them early."

Goodwin said those big plays early dictated how much of the rest of the game would play out.

"Any time you can score non-offensive touchdowns, that's huge," Goodwin said. "Elliott's pick six on the first play of the game and then Jah's kickoff return were two big plays that really flipped the momentum to start the game."

"Those were two really good plays that took the wind out of (East Limestone's) sails," Goodwin added.

The Golden Tigers, plagued by penalties, failed to impress in the second quarter, their only points coming off a 40-yard field goal by senior Manny Martinez. However, the Golden Tigers continued to halt threats from East Limestone and halftime adjustments saw Russellville take its dominance up a notch in the second half.

"I thought we played a little sloppy in the first half," Goodwin said. "That seems to be the way we start off for whatever reason, but at halftime we challenged our guys to clean it up a little bit. They continued to play hard and do the things they're supposed to do and the second half was much better."

After the intermission, Russellville scored its final four touchdowns in the third quarter. The Golden Tigers received the ball to start the second half, and they opened it with a bang. Freshman quarterback Whit Goodwin hit a wide open Jabari Suggs for a 65-yard touchdown pass down the left flank to give the Golden Tigers a 28-6 advantage with just eight seconds gone in the final 24 minutes. At that time it was the first pass completion of the night for the Golden Tigers.

"We tried to set up something similar to that earlier in the game just to see if we would get the looks that we thought we would and we did," Goodwin said. "The first time it didn't work out but the second time we thought we'd get the same look that we thought we would and it fortunately worked out in our favor."

Russellville's next two touchdowns, which came within two minutes of each other, were scored by none other than Phinizee, who went into the game as the second-leading rusher in the country, according to MaxPreps. The running back hit on one of his signature long runs, an 85-yard touchdown scamper; he followed it up a couple minutes later with a one-yard touchdown run, set up by a nice reception near the goal line by senior receiver Gunner Sappington.

Phinizee would finish the game with 11 carries for over 160 yards.

Up 45-6, Russellville's final touchdown was scored by sophomore running back Taurus Davis, who broke a 72-yard touchdown run using a combination of excellent vision and speed. With 30 seconds left in the third quarter, Davis found an open running lane and, once he broke into the second level, left defenders in his muddy wake to cap the scoring.

As has been the case in each of their three wins this season, the Golden Tiger defense came up big Friday night. Apart from the highlight-worthy turnovers, the Russellville D shutout the Indians after allowing one touchdown in the first quarter. Goodwin, appropriately, lavished much praise on the defense.

"I thought the defense played really, really good," Goodwin said. "There are always things you can improve on and get better at on both sides of the ball; our defensive staff understands that, but all in all, they held them to six points. They played really well and we're happy that they did."

Late in the game, with the outcome essentially decided, Russellville was able to play its reserves and give its starters a rest. Goodwin said it was a nice opportunity for those players to get time on the field.

"They work just as hard as everybody else," he said. "When we're able to play some of our backups and some of our younger guys, that's great for them. At the same time, I'm excited to see those guys get to play on Friday night and have success."

Russellville will return home for the first time in three weeks to host region rival Ardmore on Sept. 20th.

# 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](http://www.russellvillehospital.com)

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

# 'VINA,' From Page 11

McCarley on our second play from scrimmage took one in from about 60 yards, as well," Renfrow said.

The Flame clawed one back after that to make it 16-8, but Vina—working with the wet weather conditions—extinguished hope for the visitors with two more scores.

"After the one touchdown we gave up, we played extremely well defensively," Renfrow said. "We hit a big pass play to Branson Vick right before the half. After that, in the second half, it was falling a flood, the field was in terrible condition, and we kind of just sat on the ball to get out of the game.

"(The weather) played into our favor. We obviously want to establish the run, which we did well at times," he added. "Sometimes it was more of a struggle due to the elements, but I'm really proud of the way they played."

Cai Lawler would add another rushing touchdown in the second half to cap the scoring and seal the game 32-8.

The Red Devils' three-game winning streak to open the campaign has, rightly, garnered attention by local football fans and some media outlets. Renfrow said his players merit the spotlight for what they've achieved so far, but Vina can't accomplish one of the program's major goals—changing the lackluster reputation of Vina football—with just a few wins.

"It's great to get the recognition that these players deserve, but at the same time we're focused on the next week and the next game. I tell them that if you truly want to change the reputation here it's got to be more than one or two games. You have to do it continuously," Renfrow said. "To be successful you have to continuously compete; and it's not necessarily got to do with the scoreboard and wins and losses, but it's how you play. It's how physical you play, it's the effort you play with—that's how you change the reputation.

"You have to be able to continuously improve and show that on the field," he added.

Right now, the Red Devils are perfect on paper, but Renfrow said there are still areas where Vina needs to improve if they want to stay unblemished in the win column, especially heading into another vital region matchup next week.

"We need to really improve on being disciplined," Renfrow said. "We had too many holding penalties (Friday) night. I think we had like six holding penalties and two personal fouls. We really, really need to clean that up and stay far more disciplined, especially going into a big game next week against Cherokee that's got huge playoff implications. That's something we're really focusing on moving into next week."

Cherokee is 2-2 and is coming off a 39-6 region loss to Addison, but Vina was shutout 46-0 in that matchup last season and hasn't beaten the Indians since 2020. Cherokee will likely not be an easy out for the Red Devils on the road.

"Cherokee is much improved over the past few years," Renfrow said. "They've got a bunch of skill guys that can move fairly quickly and, from what I've seen, they try to get on the edge. For us to be able to compete and possibly go win that game we're going to have to be the more physical team on the field. That's going to be the message going into that game because we're going to have to be the more physical team every down, every play and try to impose our will on them by running the ball effectively and keeping contain on them."

Vina will kickoff against Cherokee at W.L. Harris Stadium at 7 P.M. on Friday, Sept. 20.

**BUCKLE UP!**  
**It Could Save**  
**Your Life!**

franklinsheriff.org  
(256) 332-8811

Compliments of

**Shannon Oliver**  
SHERIFF

# Golden Tiger varsity volleyball team wins five-set thriller over area foe West Point

Kadin Pounders  
Franklin Free Press

In a five-set thriller, the Russellville High School varsity volleyball team picked up its first area win of the season Tuesday night, coming from behind to defeat West Point 3-2 at the RMS Gymnasium.

After opening the match with a win in the first set, the Lady Golden Tigers dropped the next two sets to the Lady Warriors but rallied to win the fourth set 25-21 and the decisive fifth set 15-11.

"It means a lot. I'm just very proud of them and how they fought and how they finished," first-year Russellville head coach Madison Lamon said. "We've been focusing on that a lot, and I've been harping on that with the team about finishing because we've been going three or more sets and coming up short.

"When you're neck and neck, don't back up against the wall and shut down but push forward—that's what we've been focusing on," she added.

The Lady Golden Tigers took the advantage in the first set, fighting from behind to win 25-21; however, the Lady Warriors stormed back to win the next two sets 25-14, 25-14. Down heading into the potentially match-deciding set, Lamon told her squad to forget the last two matches and focus on the next one.

"I just told them, you know, it's a new set going into that fourth set," Lamon said. "It's a new set, we're both blank, it's zero-zero. Let's not harp on the past and just focus on the next one."

Russellville showed plenty of fight to win the fourth set 25-21 and send it to a fifth and final set. The match now tied up 2-2, the Lady Golden Tigers got off to a flying 4-0 start in the fifth thanks in large part to serves from Blevyn Sappington. Sappington—she ended the match with 14 kills, seven digs, and two service aces—was just one of the players that impressed Lamon with her performance Tuesday night.

"I think Laila (Hill) there towards the end stepped up for us, and Blevyn was diving for balls everywhere," Lamon said. "Bri (McCulloch), our libero, did a great job moving side-to-side, hustling and diving for the ball, saving it for us.

"Fatima (Ramirez) stood out in key moments in serving and tipping (the ball), as well," she added.

Hill led the team with 16 kills and McCulloch finished with 25 digs on the night.

After two West Point timeouts, service from Ramirez helped the hosts go on another 4-1 run to give Russellville a 12-4 lead. The visitors did give the hosts a slight scare, going on an 8-2 run to make it 14-11, but in the end Russellville pulled it out to win 15-11.

In those tense moments, Lamon said she tries to remind her players—and herself—to stay under control.

"I just try to calm myself down and tell them to keep calm; slow the game down and not speed it up faster than what it needs to be sped up," she said. "Just keep it one play at a time."

The victory marks Russellville's fifth in its last six matches. The Lady Golden Tigers swept Belgreen twice and added wins over Haleyville and Hamilton since September 7th. Those wins, Lamon said, gave Russellville confidence heading into the match against West Point and believes the area victory will bolster it with more matches coming thick and fast.

"This weekend, our tournament on Saturday, helped build that confidence a lot because I know before some of them were down on themselves because they were hitting negatives or they were serving negatives or things like that," she said. "I think those wins and this win tonight has helped our confidence a lot moving forward, too."

With the win, the Lady Golden Tigers improved to 11-12 overall and 1-1 in Class 5A Area 15. Russellville will hit the road to face Deshler and Wilson in its next match on Thursday.



COURTESY PHOTO

Russellville's Blevyn Sappington reacts with intensity to a big play in the team's volleyball win over West Point.



**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**

**GENERAL NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE**  
**STREET DEPARTMENT**

**EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II**

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:** Drives and operates equipment to accomplish a full range of assignments and tasks. Operates heavy equipment on job sites, such as, but not limited to: back hoe, bobcat, loader and knuckle booms.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** The completion of High School Diploma or GED. Two years of work experience maintaining or constructing roads. Two years of work experience as an Equipment Operator I. The possession of a current and valid class B CDL. Work experience in the operation of knuckle boom truck.

**THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, political affiliation, disability, or any other non-merit factor.

Applications may be picked up at Russellville City Hall in the Office of the Mayor, 304 N. Jackson Ave., Russellville, Alabama. Applications must be returned no later than October 11, 2024 by U.S. Mail to:

The Russellville Civil Service Board  
P. O. Box 308  
Russellville, AL 35653

The average pay for this position is \$40,060.80 – 61,734.00

The successful candidate will be required to successfully complete a complete physical examination including drug screening prior to employment.

# 'ROAD TEST,' FROM PAGE 11

Last week: On the road at Oakman, in miserable conditions, the Bobcats were unable to get anything going offensively and were shutout 28-0.

What to watch: Can the Bobcats, a team with many veteran and experienced players, right the ship at home against a formidable region opponent. It's a game that will have major playoff implications, and Phil Campbell will need a performance that reflects that.

Series history: Phil Campbell is 5-12 all-time vs. Winfield. Last season the Bobcats were shutout 52-0; they haven't beaten the Pirates since 1997.

Next week: The Bobcats hit the road for a non-region contest against Hackleburg.

Red Bay (0-3, 0-1)  
at Lexington (2-2, 1-1)

Date: Friday, September 20, 2024  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: McMeans Stadium

Last week: Red Bay was routed 51-8 in its region opener at Winston County.

What to watch: The Tigers really need a win, but it will, again, be a tough ask. Red Bay will travel to a Lexington team that is coming off a 55-0 trouncing of Tanner last week—the Tigers have scored 55 points total this season.

Series history: Lexington owns the series advantage 16-10 in this matchup. The Golden Bears beat the Tigers 33-22 last season; Red Bay's last win over Lexington was in 2020.

Next week: Red Bay travels just across the border to play Belmont (MS) in a non-region contest.

Russellville (3-1, 2-0)  
vs. Ardmore (3-1, 1-1)

Date: Friday, September 20, 2024  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Golden Tiger Stadium

Last week: Russellville went on the road in terrible weather conditions and dominated region rival East Limestone 52-6, scoring touchdowns on offense, defense, and special teams.

What to watch: After three weeks on the road, this Friday's game will indeed be a welcome Homecoming for the Golden Tigers. However, Russellville's return to the friendly confines of Golden Tiger Stadium will be marked with a big chore. Over the last decade Russellville has dispatched the Tigers from Ardmore with relative ease, but this year Ardmore might prove to be a tougher out for the Golden Tigers. Ardmore has averaged 30 points per game this year and allowed just over 10 points per game, so statistically, on both sides of the ball, the two teams are pretty close to each other. Ardmore's only loss was a 28-6 defeat last week to No. 5-ranked Fairview, a team many consider to be region favorites. The Golden Tigers don't have any need to change what they've been doing so far, but they'll need a performance similar to that against East

Limestone to maintain the status quo against Ardmore this year.

Series history: Russellville is 8-1 all-time against Ardmore. The Golden Tigers lone loss in the series was way back in 1937, the very first time the two teams played.

Next week: **BYE**

Tharptown (0-3, 0-0)  
at Decatur Heritage Christian (2-1, 1-0)

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2024  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: West Morgan High School Football Stadium

Last week: **BYE**

What to watch: Both teams have had two weeks to prepare for each other, but Decatur Heritage, ranked No. 9 in Class 2A last week, is the clear favorite in this one. Tharptown has managed just two touchdowns through three games, while the Eagles have averaged 34. To have a shot Tharptown will have to play impeccable defense and shorten the game by maintaining possession and establishing a running attack. A few big breaks wouldn't hurt, either.

Series history: Tharptown is 0-6 all time vs. Decatur Christian. The two sides last met in 2017 with the Eagles coming out on top 55-0.

Next week: Tharptown travels to Vina in a non-region matchup between Franklin County teams.

Vina (3-0, 2-0)  
at Cherokee (2-2, 1-1)

Date: Friday, September 20, 2024  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: W.L. Harris Stadium

Last week: The Red Devils took care of business against a winless Shoals Christian team, beating the Flame 32-8 to start their season 3-0 for the first time since 1982. Seniors Christian McCarley and Cai Lawler had a hand in all four of Vina's touchdowns in that game.

What to watch: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. The Red Devils' running attack has proven extremely reliable and effective through the first three games, and the defense has been stout. The Devils will obviously want to continue that trend, but this week's road challenge will prove a tougher one for Vina given the speed and athleticism of Cherokee, according to head coach Cody Renfrow. The key to a potential fourth win for Vina, according to Renfrow? Physicality.

Series history: Vina is 8-15-1 against Cherokee. The Indians shutout the Red Devils 46-0 last season. The visitors will look to break the losing streak and get their first victory over Cherokee since 2020.

Next week: The Red Devils host Tharptown in a non-region inter-Franklin County contest.



# 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




Hayston Scott

**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

Hayston Scott - Phil Campbell football  
 @FCgoodnews

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 