

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 Engle Dr. • Russellville

Russellville City Council approves \$13.206 million budget for FY25

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council approved a \$13,206,657 budget for fiscal year 2025 at the council's September 16th meeting.

The city's total FY25 expenses are budgeted at \$13,206,535, leaving an unappropriated balance of \$122.

The largest source of revenue comes from local taxes and fees, anticipated to bring in more than \$11.875 million in FY25. Additional revenue sources include state shared taxes, intergovernmental transfers, fines and forfeitures, grants, alcohol revenues, library revenue and miscellaneous revenue.

Street Department expenses are the largest line item expense, at \$3.279 million. Police expenses are next, at \$2.673 million and fire department expenses at \$2.461 million.

Administrative expenses are budgeted at \$926,762 and appropriations at \$1.237 million. The budget includes a \$900,000 appropriation to Russellville City Schools for operation and management of the Parks and Recreation Department.

In other September 16th agenda items, the council: --approved a contract with the Franklin County Chamber of

Commerce and Miscellaneous Revenue.

See 'BUDGET,' Page 3

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

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

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

Bowen Family Dentistry
 243 Underwood Road • Russellville 256.332.4000

Morgan Chiropractic
 Chiropractic for the Entire Family

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

27 of 29 Franklin businesses receive satisfactory health ratings

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

27 of the 29 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the period of July 1, 2024 through September 22, 2024, had scores that fell into the "satisfactory compliance" range.

Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments. Scores are graded by the Alabama Department of Public Health inspectors on a 100-point scale.

Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanliness; plumbing and waste; poison-

See 'RATING,' Page 9

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

Mrs. Katie Lee Ray passed away September 22, 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.

'BUDGET,' From Page 1

Commerce to provide services for FY25 in the amount of \$13,200 with a 10% increase in the next fiscal year.

--approved an agreement with Crown Correctional Telephone, Inc., for 60 months to install and maintain non-coin pay telephones at the Russellville City Jail for inmate use.

--declared a vacancy for Heavy Equipment Operator II and authorized advertisement to solicit bids.

--approved the temporary appointment of Grant Tarascou to Lieutenant in the Russellville Fire Department and Shawn Hines to Sergeant for a two-month period.

--accepted a \$463,284.38 grant from the Transportation Alternatives Program set aside program to do sidewalk improvements on Washington Avenue, Jackson Avenue and Montgomery Street.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council will be October 7, 2024, with work session at 6 p.m., and meeting to follow.

Do we still live in the 'Wild West' days when it comes to where to cast your ballot?

*James Bonner
Special to the FFP*

(The following is a contributed column from Franklin County resident James Bonner, a veteran of state and local politics. He will be an occasional contributor to the FFP to share his unique, and often controversial, thoughts on politics. Your opinions and responses are welcome.)

Even in the Rawhide days the wandering cowboy bedded down for a couple days to vote in November. The wilderness line was somewhere around Dothan as late as 1824 when federal elections were decided by where the cowboy slept last night .(Ms Kitty had clout).

I personally have no doubt 16,000 Alabama voters chose to vote in Georgia in 2020 because as my drug dealer lamented, "The electoral college renders my vote moot in Alabama - why shouldn't I vacation in Georgia, especially if the DNC (Democratic National Committee) has free continental breakfast."

Let me repeat what I said: All Republicans are adamant that only citizens can vote. All Democrats claim only residency is required.

And the shakedown continues ... technically if you are in a Georgia nursing home and die while your ballot is in the mail ... well, no need to explain that. But you see where I am going.

In an election that can be spun on 16,000 votes and 16,000 people die in nursing homes in November, what does the citizenship of a dead person matter?

Thank God and Thomas Jefferson for the electoral college. Without it America would be a democracy and you would have voted yourself the treasury long ago. A boat without a captain alwaysalways votes to row over the falls.

Wouldn't it be a trip if (Vice President Kamala) Harris cast the deciding vote in the House and voted for Trump? Not a surprise, but a trip, as there are better jobs than President.

God bless you and God bless America, no matter which bunker you happen to be in.

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

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**

Vietnam veteran Mitchell running for Franklin County Commission District One on November 5th ballot

Submitted

Charles N. Mitchell has been a dedicated resident and small business owner in Franklin County for decades.

As the owner of Mitchell Welding, he has spent the last 10 years supporting local farmers by servicing heavy equipment with skill and dedication. His journey to becoming a small business owner began after years of hard work with Local 150 Operating Engineers Union, following his honorable service in the U.S. Army.

From 1965 to 1971, Mr. Mitchell served as a Sergeant in the Army, where he was deployed to Vietnam. During his time in the military, he was awarded two Bronze Star Medals for his bravery and dedication. His leadership and service in the military are a testament to his lifelong commitment to serving others.

Since moving to Franklin County in 1973, Mr. Mitchell and his wife, Helen, have raised their three sons, Trevor, Nathan, and Braden, with the same values of hard work, integrity, and community spirit that he brings to his business.

Mr. Mitchell's commitment to the well-being of our community goes far beyond his business. From offering affordable services and fair wages to his employees, to sponsoring local school sports teams, his actions have consistently supported Franklin County's future. Last year, he worked with two local businesses to raise over \$3,000, ensuring that 31 families and 62 children enjoyed a merry Christmas.

If elected as your Franklin County Commissioner for District One, Mr. Mitchell has pledged to continue his dedication to the community in a meaningful way.

Every year, he will donate half of his commissioner's salary to local schools, helping ensure our children receive the support and resources they need.

Mr. Mitchell isn't just about politics he's about people. He's about fairness, integrity, and the future of our community.

On November 5, 2024, vote for a leader who has always been there for Franklin County. Vote for Charles N. Mitchell--a man who truly cares.



COURTESY PHOTO

Please send your guest columns and other creative submissions to
franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

**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

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

K&S TREE SERVICE
253 Laurelwood Drive
Russellville, Alabama



KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064
Trimming • Topping • Removal
Bucket Work • Stump Grinding

Vote **Charles MITCHELL**

FRANKLIN COUNTY **1**
Commissioner District

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Charles Mitchell • 4635 Hwy 244 • Russellville, Alabama 35654

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

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.franklinfreepress.net!

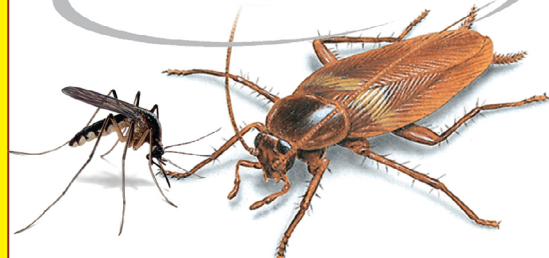
**"The standard for fixed-income
living in Russellville"**




Russellville
Housing Authority
Incorporated

 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.



*Real Estate
Tips with
Willodean!!*

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

WillodeanDavissells.com • 256.762.5671

Internationally acclaimed magician Joe Turner coming to Roxy on October 6th

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Joe Turner wears many different hats.

When he comes to Russellville on Sunday, October 6th for an afternoon show at the Roxy Theatre, Turner's only hat will be that of an internationally acclaimed magician.

Turner, a Mississippi native, was fascinated with magicians as a child. While that interest remained with him, Turner didn't follow that interest to any degree until he was hired as a professional corporate magician by the Coca-Cola Company, Clear Channel Entertainment and Reading is Fundamental to develop a program using magic to promote literacy among school-age children. That led to a one-man magic cabaret show in Buckhead from 2005-2008. Turner still tours the show part-time across the country. It all seems an unlikely career considering where his educational training was focused.

Turner, who recently moved to Somerville, Tennessee from Atlanta, began his college days studying physics with a goal of becoming a teacher. Turner earned a B.S., in Physics/Chemistry Education from Mississippi State University, where he also took extensive coursework in music and theater.

With that academic background, it seemed unlikely Turner would enter the field of management consulting, but that's just what he did in 1993 with Atlanta-based Anderson Consulting, followed by a position with Bank of America. In 2000, Turner left his profession behind to dedicate himself full-time as an entertainer and motivational speaker.

After earning local and state honors in Georgia, Turner served in 2015-16 as International President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the largest professional association in the magic industry. His duties as president saw Turner visit four continents to perform and teach magicians.

He's also a professional pianist, a talented vocalist, composer and playwright, as well as a husband and father of two adult children.

Known for his creativity in incorporating magic and entertainment into his motivational speaking, Turner's career includes features on Good Morning America, Nightline and CNN's Headline News.

"I never stopped performing theater and music in college. So when I moved to Atlanta, I talked with clients who found out about my background in consulting and they asked if I could theme what I was speaking about. And that's where speaking with the incorporation of magic came into pass," Turner said.

"And if I could do it for that, why not use magic to share my own message as well?," he added.

His October 6th family-friendly show at the Roxy will begin at 2 p.m. General admission adult tickets will be sold at the door for \$20, with tickets for children age 6 and under \$15 apiece. The Roxy box office will open one hour before showtime with first-come, first-serve seating.

No consulting or corporate motivational presentations in Russellville though. So what can the audience at the Roxy expect?

"You can expect to have fun with a show appropriate for kids to attend with families. I don't consider myself a children's magician, but I'm clean and I'll have opportunities for people of different ages to participate in the show and be interactive seeing and experiencing things they haven't seen before. It will be a great way for a family to spend a Sunday afternoon together," Turner said.

The 54-year-old Turner has a passion for historic theaters like the Roxy. "I respect the history of the films, plays and musical performances and other kinds of performing arts that's been in these theaters over the decades. I love being a part of the story of the historic Roxy Theatre," Turner said.

Turner's appearance at the Roxy came together as a result of his friendship with Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council member Jason Patrick. The two attended MSU together and played trumpet in the 'Famous Maroon Band.'

"We kept in touch and see each other on social media, so he was aware of what I do and the direction my career has taken me," Turner said. "Jason reached out to ask if coming to Russellville was something I'd be interested in doing. He told me about the theater, the Arts Council and I said 'absolutely.'"

Turner admits his career path is definitely non-traditional, but it comes with both blessings and challenges.

"It's afforded me and my family the opportunity to travel all over the world. I've taken my wife, daughter and son on multiple cruises and seen many countries and cities and I owe all of that to magic and the opportunity to take what I do to different places," Turner said.

And you can add Russellville to that growing list.

"It's a show suitable for all ages. No rabbits. No balloon hats. I'm not a children's magician. Adults will come and be amazed by something. Teens will come and be amazed by something. This show will give you something you'll talk about.

"And maybe some parents will bring their child who is interested in magic to the show so they can be encouraged by someone doing what their child is interested in. That's a part of this I love," he added.

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.



Pilgrim's

**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 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.

'RATING,' From Page 1

ous or toxic material storage and an inspection of the physical facility or property.

27 of 29 Franklin County establishments listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The high score was 100, received by Best Western Breakfast, 13770 Highway 43, Russellville, Frost Bite Commissary, 501 Lawrence Street East, Russellville, El Quetzal Buena Vista, 118 East Franklin St., Russellville and Red Bay Hospital, 211 Hospital Road, Red Bay.

The lowest score among the 29 establishments was an 81, received by Casa Fiesta Mexican Grill, 520 4th Ave., Red Bay.

Other inspection scores of Franklin County businesses, in alphabetical order, included:

- 306 BBQ, 13670 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
- Big Star #345 Deli, 406 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 84.
- Big Star #345 Supermarket, 406 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 96.
- Dismals Canyon Fountain & Deli, 901 Hwy. 8, Phil Campbell, 99.
- El Quetzal Buena Vista Bakery/Restaurant, 118 Franklin St. E., Russellville, 98.
- Homestead Cafe, 6631 Hwy. 43, Spruce Pine, 98.
- Kidz Konner, 14131 N. Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.
- Las Tres Fronteras, 519 St. Clair St. SE, Russellville, 94.
- M&H Food Mart, Inc., 9224 Hwy. 243, Phil Campbell, 84.
- Mama Cortez d/b/a Rancho Viejo, 11797 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, 96.
- Phil Campbell Senior Center, 135 Sherry Brice Drive, Phil Campbell, 96.
- Piggly Wiggly Deli #93, 518 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay, 94.
- Piggly Wiggly Market #93, 518 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay, 98.

- Pizza Hut, 13450 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
 - Russellville Nutrition, 14130 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.
 - Shiv Prayagi Inc., d/b/a Cedar Creek, 11477 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 91.
 - Southside Quick Mart, LLC, 12301 Hwy. 43 S, Russellville, 99.
 - Stockyard Cafe, 14330 Hwy. 243, Russellville, 96.
 - Stricklin Hotel Russellville, 114 N. Jackson Ave., 98.
 - Subway, 504 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 95.
 - Taco Bell, 13831 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 90.
 - Tharptown Elementary & High School, 145 Hwy. 80, Russellville, 98.
 - The Ville Nutrition, 112 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 95.
 - Yogi's Spruce Pine, 6675 Hwy. 43, Spruce Pine, 97.
- Health ratings are available at www.foodscores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.



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.



HSA 45
 BATTERY
 HEDGE TRIMMER

\$129.99

Includes charger and built-in battery.

★★★★★

"Light weight and easy to use."

- Haefdh



FS 56 C-E
 TRIMMER

\$219.99

★★★★★

"This trimmer is a great value."

- Alwaysstihlin



BG 50
 HANDHELD BLOWER

\$139.99

★★★★★

"Powerful and lightweight."

- Kevin2376



MS 170
 CHAIN SAW

\$199.99

★★★★★

"It starts easily and runs great."

- Dick44

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



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



Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

YARD SALE
Yard Sale.
Saturday,
Sept. 28,
7am-until. 100
Spring Street,
near
Russellville
High School.
Remodeling
sale. Oven,
light fixtures,

furniture,
clothing and
household
items.

Multi-Family
Yard Sale.
Saturday,
September 28.
6am-until.
161 First
Street,
Russellville.

Men's,
women's and
kids' clothing,
household
items, lots to
choose from !

Yard Sale.
Thursday
/Friday,
Oct. 3/4.
7am-until.
12516

Highway 187.
Women's
clothing, home
decor, tools,
accent
furniture,
unfinished
project pieces,
lots of good
misc. items. If
rain, will be
moved next
door and held

inside.

**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

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
**HUMAN
RESOURCES**

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

Have
at least
14
fewer reasons
to worry

Stay current
on COVID, Flu
& Childhood
Vaccinations

Visit alabamaunites.com
to locate a vaccine

ALABAMA
PUBLIC
HEALTH

**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

Vina-Tharptown highlights Week 5 slate of local games

Kadin Pounders
 Franklin Free Press

Belgreen (2-2)
 vs. Cherokee (3-2, 2-1)

Date: Friday, September 27, 2024
 Time: 7 p.m.
 Location: Sparks Stadium

Last week: Belgreen stumbled at home against Tanner, who was winless coming into the game. The Bulldogs lost to the Rattlers 47-13.

What to watch: Belgreen is hosting Cherokee, who took undefeated Vina to task last week, beating the Red Devils 48-8. The Bulldogs will look to fare better than that and stay .500 or better on the year heading into three straight weeks off.

Series history: Belgreen and Cherokee have never met.

Next week: BYE

Phil Campbell (1-3, 1-2)
 at Hackleburg (4-0, 3-0)

Date: Friday, September 27, 2024
 Time: 7 p.m.
 Location: Ray Family Stadium

See, 'PREVIEW,' 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

More than 80 participate in inaugural memorial tennis tournament

Kadin Pounders
 Franklin Free Press

A beautiful, sunny Saturday at the Russellville Tennis Complex was a perfect way to celebrate the memory of longtime friends and tennis enthusiasts Kay Cantrell and Ann Garrard. Over 80 competitors participated in the first ever Kay Cantrell and Ann Garrard Memorial Tennis Tournament on September 21st, an event to raise money for a scholarship fund in the two ladies' memory.

"The first ever Kay Cantrell and Ann Garrard Memorial Tournament was a success," said Katie Hester, granddaughter of the late Garrard and, alongside Cantrell's granddaughter Paige McCluskey, was an organizer of the tournament. "I don't think we could have asked for better weather or a better turn out.

"We want to thank all of our sponsors, as well as everyone who participated," she added.

Players from ages nine to 76 with experience levels ranging from beginning to over 30 years came from all over to play in the tournament. Hester said there were players from Florence, Cullman, Mississippi, and many places in between that came out to take part.

Competitors played in a tournament style bracket broken up between gender and age. In the



COURTESY PHOTO

Organizers Katie Hester and Paige McCluskey along with the families of Garrard and Cantrell.

See, 'TENNIS,' page 13

Golden Tigers improve to 4-1 with 38-7 Homecoming win over Ardmore

Kadin Pounders
 Franklin Free Press

After a three week road stretch, it was a true, welcome Homecoming for the Russellville High School varsity football team Friday night. In front of returning alumni and this year's Homecoming court, the Golden Tigers dispatched region rival Ardmore (3-2, 1-2) 38-7 at Golden Tiger Stadium, improving to 4-1 overall and 3-0 in Class 5A Region 7 play.

"It's huge. You can't take a win for granted," Russellville head coach Dustin Goodwin said after the game. "It's another region win, and it gets us where we want to be in our region."

The victory was Russellville's ninth straight over Ardmore. It was clear from kickoff both teams wanted to establish their running attack, control the line of scrimmage, and dictate the pace of the game. The Golden Tigers had just three possessions in the first half, but the home team took advantage when it had it, scoring touchdowns on two of those drives.

Junior running back Cameron Phinizee, as usual, helped move the ball down the field in both Golden Tiger touchdown drives in the first half—he had over 100 yards rushing at halftime. However, it was freshman quarterback Whit Goodwin, through the air and with his legs, that finished the scoring drives off. With just under two minutes remaining in the first quarter, Goodwin, from 10 yards out, found Javon Poss running a slant route in the endzone to put the Golden Tigers up 7-0; it was the senior wideout's first touchdown reception of the season. Later on, in the fourth quarter, Goodwin would connect with Poss again to make it two.

"If we had a list of the ultimate team players, (Poss) is up there on our list," Goodwin said. "He's

See, 'RUSSELLVILLE,' Page 12

**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.

‘RUSSELLVILLE,’ From Page 11

a selfless guy, he blocks every play, and he does a good job. When he gets opportunities he’s been able to make plays.

“It was nice to see him get into the endzone tonight, for sure,” Goodwin added.

Russellville’s second touchdown of the evening came in the second quarter. Down at the opponent’s 10-yard line again, Goodwin faked the inside handoff to Phinizee, a move the defense was forced to respect, before taking it himself outside to his left and into the endzone to make it 14-0 with 5:03 remaining in the half.

The game against Ardmore marked the first time this season that Phinizee has not scored a touchdown in the first half. Goodwin said it showed that Russellville has the ability—even if not always perfectly—to get more players involved when the opposition keys on trying to limit the all-state running back.

“It was definitely good to spread the ball around more than we have to this point,” Goodwin said. “Credit to Ardmore. They were dead set on taking away the run, but that gave us some things in the air that we could take advantage of, and I thought we did a pretty decent job of that.

“There are some things that we could’ve hit that just slipped through our fingers or whatever, but all in all, the ultimate goal is to get the ball in the endzone,” he added. “There were times when we were forced to put it in the air because we had (rushing) touchdowns called back.

“We want to be multiple, but at the same time we know we have to be able to run the football to win football games and we were able to do that for a majority of the game.”

Up 14-0 heading into the second half, the Golden Tigers continued to dominate on the scoreboard. Russellville added a 36-yard field goal by senior kicker Manny Martinez early in the third quarter to make it 17-0.

Ardmore responded on the ensuing drive with a four-yard touchdown pass to make it 17-7, but that would be the Tigers lone score of the night. The Russellville defense, as it has in most games this season, forced multiple turnovers to cut out scoring threats by the Tigers. Sophomore linebacker Daniel Aycock picked up a fumble on a backwards pass late in the third, and senior defensive back Richard Scott recovered another fumble in the fourth quarter.

Phinizee finally got on the scoresheet in the third period of play. Following Ardmore’s score, Russellville put together a scoring drive of its own, finished off by an eight-yard rushing touchdown by Phinizee. The junior back, who reached the 1,000-yard rushing mark last week, capped the scoring in the game with a 16-yard touchdown rush midway through the fourth. Phinizee, for the third time this season, finished the game with over 300 yards rushing.

Unfortunately for Phinizee and his team, they could’ve finished with more points; on the night the running back had three rushing scores called back on penalties. The Golden Tigers, who finished with over 120 yards in penalties Friday night, have seen too much of the yellow laundry this season. It was a big blight on what was otherwise a well-played game against Ardmore.

“We’ve gotta do what we’ve gotta do to clean it up,” Goodwin said. “You don’t want to take winning for granted. We did enough to win the game, but at the same time we can’t win every game we want to with that many penalties, so we’ve got to clean things up a bit.”

Russellville will aim to step up its discipline in that regard as it heads into a bye week. The open date on their schedule will give the Golden Tigers two weeks to prepare and treat any troubles ahead of what could very well be the Class 5A Region 7 title game against No. 5 Fairview on October 4th.

“We’ve ultimately just got to address the issues that we have,” Goodwin said. “We’ll watch this one over the weekend and come up with a plan to address some of our issues and work to clean those up. Then we’ll start our film study on Fairview and start formulating a plan to take into the next week.”

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

'TENNIS,' From Page 11

adult women's tournament, winners were Joyce Taylor, Donna Murray, Abbey Rea and Courtney Wray. Taylor, 76, was a friend and teammate of Cantrell and Garrard and won alongside her daughter Murray.

Adult men winners were Jake Murphee, Nason Green, Tyler Malone, and Keifer Rea.

The tournament also had youth tournament play with 18-under, 15-under, and 13-under brackets. The boys' 18u winner was Jake Murphee and the girls' 18u champion was Addie Dobbs. In the 15u tournaments, the boys' winner was Mason Kirk, while Macy Kate Aldridge won on the girls' side.

The 13u girls' champ was Ella Burns.

In all, Hester said the memorial tournament, which had over 30 sponsors, raised around \$6,500 for the scholarship fund, an impressive sum which will go to one or multiple scholarship recipients in the future.

Hester said Saturday was a perfect beginning to what she, McCluskey and other organizers plan on making an annual event to honor Cantrell and Garrard while simultaneously assisting students financially.

"There seemed to be a spirit of love encompassing the event which epitomized the two amazing women we were honoring," Hester said. "It was overwhelming to see how many people loved our grandmothers and that wanted to help further the education of local students."

BUCKLE UP!
It Could Save Your Life!

franklinsheriff.org
(256) 332-8811

Compliments of
Shannon Oliver
SHERIFF

We love to hear from you! Please send your guest columns, cartoon panels, letters to the editor, recipes and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

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

'PREVIEW,' From Page 11

Last week: Phil Campbell suffered its second straight region loss, falling to Winfield 43-28 at Parrish Stadium.

What to watch: The Bobcats get a break from region action with 1A Hackleburg. Phil Campbell needs to use this game against a smaller school to right the ship, get back to winning ways, fix mistakes, and build momentum heading into their region contest at Midfield to start the month of October.

Series history: This matchup is both programs' longest-running rivalry; Phil Campbell and Hackleburg have met every year since 1949. Although Hackleburg holds the advantage all-time in this series, 49-38-1, Phil Campbell has won the last five, including a forfeit by Hackleburg in 2020. The Bobcats squeaked by the 22-20 last season.

Next week: The Bobcats will stay on the road and return to region play at Midfield.

Red Bay (0-4, 0-2)
at Belmont (3-0)

Date: Friday, September 27, 2024

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Belmont, Miss.

Last week: Red Bay fell 35-24 at Lexington. The visitors hung around with Lexington until the second quarter when the Golden Bears started to pull away. The Tigers actually led 16-14 at one point but gave up 21 unanswered points, allowing Lexington to take control of the game. Red Bay scored one more touchdown in the fourth quarter, but it was too little, too late by that point.

What to watch: Sitting at 0-4, Red Bay is off to its worst start since the 1997 season—that was former head coach Dale Jeffreys' first year and the Tigers' last year in Class 3A. This week Red Bay will take a short trip across the Mississippi border to face the Belmont Cardinals, and in doing

so, can hopefully pass through the rough start and into daylight. The Tigers' problem thus far hasn't necessarily been its offense, which is averaging almost 20 points per game; Red Bay needs to sort out its defense, which has allowed 38 points per game.

Series history: This will be the 59th meeting between Red Bay and Belmont with the Tigers holding the series advantage 35-22-1. Red Bay has won the last two meetings, escaping the Cardinals 14-6 last season and shutting out Belmont 16-0 in 2022.

Next week: BYE

Russellville (4-1, 3-0)
BYE

Last week: After three straight weeks on the road, Russellville came back to Golden Tiger Stadium on Homecoming and took care of business against Ardmore, winning 38-7. Junior running back Cameron Phinizee had another big game with two rushing touchdowns and over 300 yards rushing. Freshman quarterback added two passing touchdowns and a rushing score.

Next week: The Golden Tigers host No. 5 Fairview at Golden Tiger Stadium. It's a massive game that, barring something completely unexpected, will serve as the de facto Region 7 title game.

Tharptown (0-4, 0-1)
at Vina (3-1, 2-1)

Date: Friday, September 20, 2024

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Franklin-Hester Stadium

Last week: Tharptown traveled to No. 9 Decatur Heritage for a Thursday night game and suffered a 68-0 defeat.

What to watch: Obviously getting a win—somehow, someday—is top of mind for the Wildcats. A road win against Vina, a fellow county team that was buoyed by a 3-0 start, would be a good first win. Both teams will want to establish their respective running games, so it could turn out to be a shortened, low-scoring game. That could potentially play into Tharptown's favor, but the Wildcats will have to show up with an extremely good performance.

Series history: Tharptown is 7-8 all-time against Vina, but the Wildcats have won the last four meetings, outscoring the Red Devils 98-0.

Next week: Tharptown travels to Tanner to continue its region schedule.

Vina (3-1, 2-1)
vs. Tharptown (0-4, 0-1)

Date: Friday, September 20, 2024

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Franklin-Hester Stadium

Last week: Vina's perfect start to the season came to an end on the road at Cherokee. The Red Devils fell 48-8.

What to watch: The Red Devils' undefeated streak has come to a close, but Vina has a great opportunity to get back to winning ways at home against a struggling Tharptown team. Vina found Cherokee's speed and athleticism an issue last week, but the hosts shouldn't find that to be a major problem this week. Look for the Red Devil defense to once again try to snuff out threats and for the Vina offense to control the clock with its running game. Vina's confidence shouldn't be too shaken after one defeat, and a win over a fellow Franklin County team, if nothing else, would give the Red Devils some bragging rights.

Series history: Vina holds the slightest advantage in the series history against Tharptown, but the Red Devils haven't beaten the Wildcats since 2017 when the two were in the same region.

Next week: Vina returns to region play and will host Hackleburg.



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 County Board of Education approves \$49.56 million budget

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Board of Education approved a \$49.56 million budget for fiscal year 2024-25 at its September 10th meeting.

The budget is down approximately \$5.5 million from last year's budget, due in large part to the expiration of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, or ESSER, monies from the federal government.

"The COVID funds are gone, and all we have remaining must be spent by September 30, 2024," said Franklin County Schools Chief School Finance Officer Carla Knight.

"So we had to do some cuts to account for those funds ending and that's why you see the \$5 million down from last year," she added.

All Franklin County Schools employees will receive a two percent raise in the new fiscal year. That raise is exclusive of teacher raises from the State of Alabama's FY25 budget that includes a 7.6% increase from last year's teacher salary schedule.

The Alabama State Department of Education requires all public school systems to maintain a one-month reserve balance equal to one month of general fund expenditures. That comes to approximately \$3.1 million for Franklin County Schools and the system has an ending general fund balance of approximately \$5 million, Knight said.

Franklin County Schools has 553 total employees, including certified and support staff, and total enrollment of 3,420, a decrease of 28 students from last year.

State funding is based on a school system's enrollment, and FY25 funding has a decrease of nine teacher units from the state. All teachers receive \$900 teaching supplements to be used for classroom related expenses, and an additional \$100 each to be used in a 'common purchase' pool for expenses that benefit all teachers as opposed to meeting a specific need in their classroom.

Primary revenue for Franklin County Schools comes from the State of Alabama (\$33.28 million). Federal revenue totals \$6.35 million and local funding provides \$9.59 million.

The primary expense is the area of instructional services and support services, \$31.54 million. Operations and maintenance expenses are budgeted for \$7.12 million, auxiliary services \$1.81 million, general administrative services \$2.94 million, capital outlay \$1.62 million and debt services \$2.01 million, approximately 3% of the total budget.

Additional state funding, \$256,000, for transportation expenses, will allow the system to purchase two new school buses in the coming fiscal year.

The new budget includes an additional \$106,000 for school nurses, which allows the system to have a nurse at every campus.

In other agenda items at its September 10th meeting, the board:

--approved the following personnel moves: Resignations for Johnna Oliver, Child Nutrition Program Assistant, Tharptown, Emma DeVaney, elementary teacher, PCES, Morgan McCarley, special education teacher, TES. Employment of Angelia Mims, kindergarten teacher, PCES, Maggie Fowler, junior high school cheer coach, PCHS, Hollie Rice, Child Nutrition Program Assistant, Franklin County Schools, Karlie Moore, business education teacher, THS. FMLA request for Taylor Godsey, teacher, PCHS, from August 14, 2024 to November 12, 2024. Teacher Substitutes including Carry Crawford, Kylee James, Allison Jamison, Rebecca Little, Britten Randolph and Mary Motes. Volunteers including Ashley Blackburn, volleyball and softball assistant coach, RBHS, Carson Corum, assistant junior high basketball coach.

--recognized board member Carol Murphree for achieving Level 1 Certification with the Alabama Association of School Board Member Academy.

--approved a sanitary sewer overflow response plan for the Tharptown Wastewater Treatment Plant System, Vina Wastewater Treatment Plant System for 2024-25.

--approved the Interagency Agreement for Providing Mental Health Services between Franklin County Schools and Riverbend Center for Mental Health for the new fiscal year.

--approved out of state trips including Vina girls and boys basketball teams to Smithville, Miss on Oct 22nd and Tremont, Miss., on Nov. 18th, Belgreen, Red Bay, Tharptown and Vina senior classes to Itawamba Community College, Vina pre-Kindergarten to Tupelo Buffalo Park on Oct. 18th, RBHS FFA to National FFA Convention in Indianapolis Oct. 21-24th, RBHS varsity and JV volleyball teams to Belmont, Miss., on Oct. 1st.

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



SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

Visit GREYHOUND.COM

for Locations • Schedules • Everyday Low Fares

Red Bay varsity volleyball team set for run of Area 10 matches and postseason berth

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

The Red Bay High School varsity volleyball team is heading into the back half of its regular season schedule with some important area matches still to play.

The Lady Tigers, 1-0 in Class 2A Area 10 after an early season home win over Sulligent on August 29th, sit at 6-8 overall, but second-year Red Bay head coach Elizabeth Scott is pleased with the effort she's seen from her team to this point.

"I have been pleased with how well the team has competed so far," Scott said. "I am most proud of the effort my girls have given each game. There's been some games where I knew some of my girls weren't feeling 100 percent and still played each game to the best of their ability."

In addition to their effort, Scott said the Lady Tigers have also improved in some key areas that were weaknesses for them last year, her first year in charge of the program.

"My team has improved on their serving percentage. We really

struggled last season on handing over points to our opponents because of serving errors," she said.

"I am proud of each of my players. They have all stepped up and improved each game," Scott added.

One player, in particular, has caught Scott's eye with her performances despite her experience level.

"One player I think of when speaking about stepping up is Aryana Neighbors," Scott said. "She plays with a level head and consistently hustles. This is her first varsity season and seems to be adjusting well."



COURTESY PHOTO

Taken together—the effort and the steady improvement—the differences between last year and this season have shown through in matches. Scott said that was most clear during Red Bay's matches against area foe Sulligent and their rival from across the border, Belmont.

"Our matches against Sulligent and Belmont were important matches to our team," she said. "We got the win over Sulligent and this put us 1-0 in our area play. Although we did not win against Belmont, we performed well and hustled through each set. In past games, Belmont pushed through the sets, ending the sets quickly."

The Lady Tigers still have plenty of important matches left to play this season; Scott said there are areas her team still needs to improve in if they are going to come out with the favored result in those matches, but she's anticipating more and more progression from her team as they move through the remainder of the schedule.

"My expectations for this season were for them to focus on improving our communication on the court," she said.

"They need to improve on keeping focus and rhythm during our games and to be continuously moving, making it hard for our opponents to catch us off guard," Scott added. "Our defense has weak spots, and any good team is going to pick those weaknesses out immediately."

"I am looking forward to watching my girls continue to improve and grow as a team. I hope to see them reach our preseason goals."

Red Bay faces area opponent Lamar County in its next match on Tuesday, September 24th.

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



342 Cox Boulevard
Sheffield
256-383-4473

shoalsprimarycarellc.com

361231-1