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## Russellville Electric Board reopens application process for vacant General Manager position

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Electric Board approved reopening the application period for the vacant position of General Manager at a special called meeting on October 17th. After Charles Canida submitted his resignation effective November 1, 2024, the position was advertised and applications were accepted throughout the month of September. A total of 19 candidates applied, but three of those applications came after the September 30th deadline. Of the remaining 16 applications, REB attorney Jeff Bowling's office

prepared 'blind' applications, which included candidates' professional work experience and training, but no identifying personal information. The board agreed to interview five candidates and Bowling's office set up those interviews for October 17th. But a source tells the FFP only one interview was conducted that evening and, after the board adjourned out of executive session, it voted to reopen the application period through October 31st. According to REB Chairman Nick Willis, four of the five applicants who were selected for interviews were not willing to move to Russellville, which was a clearly stated condition out-

See 'REB,' Page 5

## Commission rejects bids for construction of animal control facility and will reopen bid process

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission voted to reject the three bids received for the construction of a new animal control facility at the commission's October 21st meeting. The commission advertised for bids through October 3rd for construction bids on the facility which will be located behind the Franklin County Jail on Walnut Gate Drive, on land already

owned by the county. Plans for the facility call for 26 indoor kennels and six outdoor kennels in the one-story building. Estimated square footage will be 3,030 square feet. The bid process requires any bidder to attend a mandatory pre-bid meeting before submitting a bid. The contractors who attended the previous pre-bid meeting will not be required to attend the October 30th pre-bid meeting.

See 'ANIMAL,' Page 3

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**Pamela Gail Hatton, of Russellville, passed away Thursday, October 17th, 2024. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.**

**James "Ray" Fretwell, age 79, of Russellville, passed away on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.**

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### Franklin Free Press

113 Washington Ave. NW  
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## 'ANIMAL,' From Page 3

Deadline for bids will be 2 p.m., November 8, 2024.

The low bid received was \$789,000. Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore said he and commissioners are hopeful to received lower bids this second time around. The facility will be paid for using funds the county received through the American Relief Plan Act, a pandemic-related program that brought millions of dollars to state, county and municipal governments to jump-start the economy in the post-pandemic era.

Issues with stray, abandoned and loose animals, particularly dogs, have plagued Franklin County in recent years. Commissioners have received a steady dose of citizen and animal advocacy group concerns at work sessions regarding this issue.

With the rejection of the bids Monday, a decision on whether to accept the low bid that comes out of the second bid process will fall on the new Franklin County Commission which takes office in November.

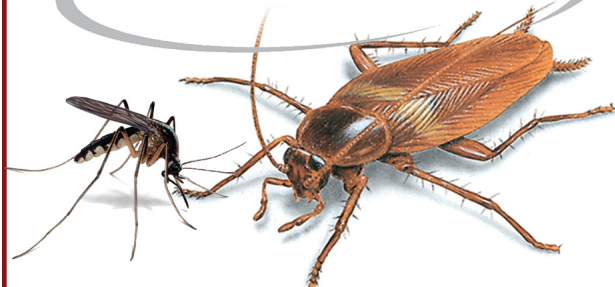
In other agenda items at the October 21st meeting, the commission:

--agreed to advertise for a Senior Equipment Technician in the Franklin County Highway Department.

--approved advertising for bids to finance \$488,000 to be used to purchase two dump trucks for the Highway Department.

--approved the hiring of Destiny Contreras, Greta Raper and Phillip Harrington as permanent Corrections Officers/Dispatchers in the Franklin County Sheriff's Office

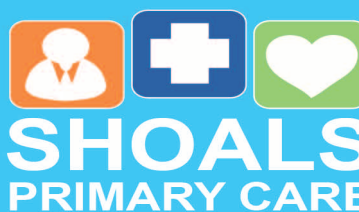
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# Russellville City Schools Board approves student out-of-state trips

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education approved a trip to Washington, D.C., for Russellville Elementary School's fifth-grade students at a short meeting held October 15th.

The students will travel to the nation's capital May 1-5, 2025. Additionally, the board approved a trip for RES' third-grade students to Tupelo on November 15th to watch the Disney on Ice show.

Russellville City Schools Superintendent of Education Tim Guinn reported to the board about several special events going on this month and November. The Russellville Middle School Choral program will hold its annual performance Spooktacular on Monday, October 28th at 7 p.m., in the RHS Auditorium.

All schools will again serve Thanksgiving meals in November, rotating among the schools every week. Last year, the Thanksgiving meal was served to more than 2,500 parents, grandparents and community members, Guinn said.

A Veterans Day program at Russellville High School Auditorium is set for November 12th, at 8:30 a.m. Students will have virtual school days November 25-26th and Thanksgiving break will be from November 27-29th.

In other agenda items, the board:

--approved Textbook Committees for each school with five faculty and two parents on each committee. West Elementary School: Suzanne Glass, Amy McReynolds, Brittany Flanagin, Krista Burcham, Gayla Mills, Kim Ergle and Betty Mendoza. Russellville Elementary: Channing Wright, Dana Crummie, Blair Johnson, Liza Bohannon, LeAnn Little, Jana Hein and Amy Knight. RMS: Monica Moon, Michelle Murray, Lee Brownell, Alannah Hill, Kayla Odom, Samantha Hartsell and Addie Harbin. RHS: Nichole Ergle, Nicole Watts, Stephanie Oliver, Jade Bragwell, Erin Willis and Maria Betancourt.

--approved the following personnel moves: Resignation: Shelly Kent, RHS ELA teacher. Employment: Darlene Hill, transportation and Nichole Ergle, RHS Assistant Principal, revision of start date to 9/9/2024. Temporary Employment: Karly Carothers, RES 21st CCLC and WES Afterschool Program, Ally Oliver, Andrea Mashburn and Heather Landers, RES 21st CCLC and WES Afterschool Program Aides, Kasey O'Malley and Ashley Inman, Pre-K Afterschool Program Aides. Athletic Volunteers: Richard Graham and Jessica Gipson, RHS Girls' Basketball volunteer coaches.

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## 'REB,' From Page 1

outlined in the job description, which read: The general manager will be initially hired for a Ninety (90) Day probationary period. As a condition of hiring/retaining the position of General Manager, the individual hired, must within 60 days, if not prior to, the expiration of the Ninety (90) Day probationary period, reside within the city limits to the City of Russellville, Alabama.

When contacted to set up their interview times, applicants were asked to confirm their willingness to move to Russellville within five months of being hired. At that time, four of the five stated they did not want to move to the city, so their interviews were canceled.

All applicants, including those whose applications were received after the original deadline, were contacted by Bowling's office to inform them of the reopening of applications through October.

Willis said the board wants to hire a new General Manager as soon as possible, but board members don't want to rush the process, as those in place managing the REB on an interim basis are doing 'a good job.'

The new general manager will be paid a starting salary of, at least, \$176,500 annually. Additionally, the GM's family medical and dental insurance will be provided as part of the employment package. And the GM will be eligible for participation in the Retirement Systems of the State of Alabama.

Qualifications for the position include: 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 must include Five to Ten years of increasingly responsible experience in management, preferably in a public utility, is preferred.

The board will hold its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, October 22nd but there will be no action taken related to the GM position, Willis said.

A special called meeting to review applications is likely to be called in early November, Willis said

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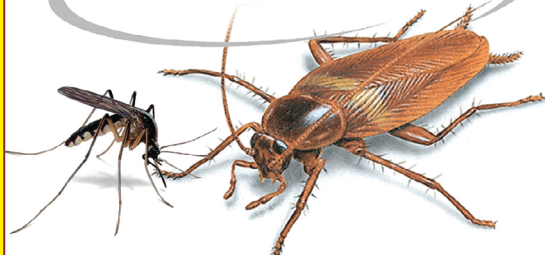
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 **T**he Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers ages 55 and older to help tutor and mentor children in day care, head start and schools. Volunteers will receive a tax-free stipend and travel reimbursement. We have openings for several schools 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](http://www.ashakiranonline.org). Consultations are free and confidential, and available in 45 different languages.


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 **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](http://www.capna.org/children-services).

 **T**he Cowboy Church of Franklin County will host its annual Fall Fest, Thursday, October 31st, at 6 pm. Join them for this fun event with a Chili Cookoff. Have your chili at the church by 5:30 pm. Fall Fest starts at 6 p.m., and ends at 8 p.m. Free hot dogs and chili until gone. Games, candy and cake walk. Everyone is welcome! Church is located at 25100 Highway 24, Russellville.

 **T**he annual Russellville Veteran's Day Parade, sponsored by American Legion Post 64, will take place on Saturday, November 9th, at 12 p.m. Veterans are invited to gather at the Franklin County Courthouse at 11 a.m., to place flowers on the memorial. Parade will assemble at the Farmer's Market behind the A.W. Todd Centre at 11:15. Parade procession will be north on Jackson Avenue. The Antique Car Club will participate. Horse or mule drawn wagons are welcome as well as any other participants. This year's Grand Marshal will be all Veterans from the Vietnam War and earlier. Vehicles will be provided to carry Veterans through the parade route. Veterans' families are also welcome to drive their own vehicle with their Veteran family member if they wish. Please have identifying signs on vehicles carrying Veterans. For more information, contact Grant Atkins at 256-627-2866.

 **G**et ready for a night of haunting poetry at our Florence Art and Museums' Open Mic Night, happening on October 30th, 2024, at 6:30 p.m at the Southall House, 209 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence. In celebration of Halloween, poets are invited to share their original works that explore their deepest fears.

 **T**his event will feature readings by Jason McCall and Nancy Owen Wilson, followed by an open mic for audience participation. Our goal is to promote poetry and create a welcoming space where both published and unpublished poets can share their work while bringing together our diverse communities. This program is free and is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums. The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is located at 217 E Tuscaloosa Street, Florence, AL, and is open Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Southall House, just next to the Art Center office, at 209 E. Tuscaloosa St. Call 256-760-6379 for more information.

 **S**iloam Missionary Baptist Church will host Fall Festival, Sunday, Oct. 27, from 5-7 pm. There will be Trunk or Treat, crafts for kids, cake walk, and hotdogs will be served! Church is located at 1657 Highway 60 in Russellville, across from King Drive In.

Email us at [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

# Franklin County Cattlemen in midst of busy October promoting Beef Month

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

October continues to be a busy month for the Franklin County Cattlemen's Association with a full slate of activities to promote October as Beef Month.

Franklin County Cattlemen's Association President Michael Pounders and FCCA member Phillip Hamilton visited elementary classrooms at Belgreen and East Franklin Schools to read to third graders.

The FCCA also co-hosted an agricultural industry tour for Franklin County high school students, and promoted a 'Farm to Fork' event showcasing local agricultural products produced in Franklin County.

And the Cattlemen distributed free coloring sheets to kids at Pumpkin Palooza, held October 5th in downtown Russellville.

As the Franklin County Cattlemen's Association continue to celebrate October Beef Month, FCCA would like to thank everyone who came by their booths.

FCCA started the week off at the Spirit of Hodges Festival, the Senior Health Fair, the Northwest Alabama RC&D Council annual meeting and Spruce Pine Day. FCCA board members always enjoys meeting the community and answering any questions about beef and the cattle industry.

Beef. It's not only what's for dinner. It's also the driving force in a busy month of interaction between the Franklin County Cattlemen's Association and the youth of Franklin County.



COURTESY PHOTO

Attendees at the Senior Health Fair received recipes for healthy beef dishes

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# Multi-agency effort recovers 11 vehicles from Cedar Creek near the 'Rock'

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A multi-agency effort resulted in the removal of 11 vehicles from Cedar Creek, with several vehicles pulled from 50-70 feet below the surface.

The effort was spearheaded by the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency through the use of equipment that provides real-time photos showing what's at the bottom of the lake.

The Active Sonar device shows rescuers instantly where objects are located in the water without any delay. According to Franklin County Emergency Management Agency Director Mary Glass, this allows divers to immediately access the object, in this case, vehicles.

Glass purchased the Active Sonar through funds she had available from her department's budget last year. She expressed her appreciation to the Franklin County Commission for allowing her to make the purchase.

The extrication process for the vehicles was centered around the Rock at Cedar Creek, Glass said.

Franklin County EMA also purchased four communication system masks for divers that allows them to communicate underwater. Glass hopes to purchase the remaining equipment that will allow rescuers in the boat to communicate directly with divers.

Glass described the process, which lasted more than a month, as a 'team effort,' with agencies including: the Phil Campbell Rescue Squad, Russellville Technical Dive Team, Down Time Scuba, the State of Alabama Insurance Agency Fraud Division, M&N Towing of Russellville, Calera Dive Team, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the Bear Creek Development Authority, the Colbert County Dive Team and the Columbus, Ga., Dive Team.

Active Sonar sends out a sound pulse that bounces off objects in the water and returns as an echo. It allows objects to be located that otherwise would be undetected if they were not making any sound. An image is returned to rescuers in the boat that indicates what the object looks like.



COURTESY PHOTO

Officials pull one of 11 vehicles from Cedar Creek last week.

Glass said the removal of the vehicles, many of which had been at the lake's bot-

tom more than a decade, was an important effort that also provided important training for EMA members and area divers.

The final three of the 11 vehicles were removed from lake bottom Thursday morning. Several of the vehicles were reported to be stolen, which is the primary reason officials from the state's Insurance Agency Fraud Division were a part of the team effort.

Glass and her staff used the Active Sonar in the EMA boat to locate the vehicles and it gave local divers and rescue officials important training on how to lift vehicles in case they become submerged with a person inside.

"Lifting the vehicle is a dangerous process and requires training to be done effectively. We're very thankful for this training and in the process, we were able to remove 11 vehicles from the bottom of the lake," Glass said.



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# 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 31st day of October 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  
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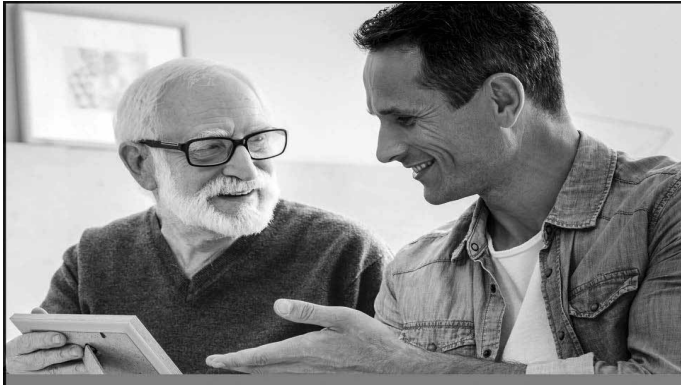
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Four-Family Yard Sale.  
Friday, Oct. 25. 7 a.m.-until 380 Ash Ave., and house next door. Russellville.  
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## Russellville at Priceville highlights Week 9 for local teams

Kadin Pounders  
 Franklin Free Press

Belgreen (2-3)  
 at Victory Christian (4-3)

Date: Friday, October 25, 2024  
 Time: 7 p.m.  
 Location: Richard Adams Stadium

Last week: **BYE**

What to watch: After three weeks off, the Belgreen Bulldogs should be well rested and healthy, but that long of a break might not necessarily help with form. There's no substitution for actual game reps, as any coach will tell you. The Bulldogs will have a challenge against a decent Lions team. Belgreen and Victory share one common opponent on the schedule this year, Sumiton Christian, whom the Bulldogs lost to and Victory Christian beat by 44 points.

Series history: Belgreen and Victory Christian have never met.

Next week: Belgreen will play its final game of the season at home against Vina.

See, 'WEEK 9,' Page 13

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## Russellville's volleyball season ends with area tourney loss to West Point

Kadin Pounders  
 Franklin Free Press

The Russellville High School varsity volleyball team's 2024 season came to a close Wednesday afternoon as the Lady Golden Tigers were swept by West Point in the semifinal round of the Class 5A Area 15 tournament, hosted by Lawrence County.

Russellville's lone area win during the regular season was against the Lady Warriors—they came back against West Point 3-2 at home in early September—but WPHS avenged that defeat Wednesday, beating the Lady Golden Tigers 25-8, 25-22, 25-23 to advance to the area final where the hosts Lawrence County came out area champions.

Russellville, missing two players for the semifinal match due to injury, started poorly and were beaten soundly in the first set. The Lady Golden Tigers regrouped, though, and made the last two sets much more competitive but were ultimately unable to grab a win in either.

"During the first set, we did not start off strong," first-year Russellville head coach Madison Lamon said. "I believe the nerves got the best of us the first set, and we let some outside factors control how we performed."

See, 'VOLLEYBALL,' page 15

## Golden Tigers move to 6-2 with rout of West Point

Kadin Pounders  
 Franklin Free Press

The Russellville High School varsity football team, in its penultimate region game of the season, clinched second place in Class 5A Region 7, traveling to West Point and defeating the Warriors 44-13 to improve to 6-2 overall and 5-1 in region play.

Offensively, the Golden Tigers controlled the game for most of the night, while the Russellville defense played hard-nosed and determined to keep the hosts out of the endzone. Like last week's matchup against Hatton, Russellville gave up an opening score to fall behind early but turned things around quickly and never really looked back, scoring 31 unanswered points.

"Usually people scheme you up, and that's part of the opening script, so sometimes they call the right plays and they were able to get in the endzone," Russellville head coach Dustin Goodwin said. "Fortunately, we answered offensively on our first drive of the game. All-in-all, you never take winning for granted, and I'm proud of the guys for the way they were able to execute and play physical when the opportunity presented itself."

"We'd love to score everytime we get it, but I'm definitely proud of some of the plays we were able to make tonight," Goodwin added. "Happy to get the win."

Russellville's opening touchdown was scored by junior running back Cameron Phinizee on an 18-yard rush to tie it up 7-7 with 3:20 to go in the first quarter. Phinizee, who finished the game with 221 yards on the ground, would tack on two more rushing touchdowns—a one-yard score in the second quarter and a 25-yard scamper in the third—to bring his season touchdown total to 24.

See, 'RUSSELLVILLE,' Page 12



COURTESY PHOTO

# GENERAL NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

## CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE

### PATROL OFFICER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

**DEFINITION OF JOB:** Patrols a designated sector of the city of Russellville and responds to complaints. Serves warrants and subpoenas and testifies in court. Provides traffic control assistance. Performs dispatching duties. Performs other police related duties as required.

#### REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

**Knowledge of:** the city buildings and street system of Russellville; city, state and federal laws; court procedures; department rules, regulations and procedures; maintenance and use of weapons; radio codes, surveillance equipment and legal procedures involved with illegal drug cases.

**Ability to:** operate a motor vehicle; read; safely fire a weapon; communicate on telephone and radio; generate written documents such as reports and tickets; bend, crouch; stretch; stretch; walk; run; respond to emergency situations on short notice when off-duty; and do the essential functions of the job as directed in this description.

**Willingness to:** work overtime, irregular hours, weekends and holidays; travel and attend seminars and workshops.

#### QUALIFICATIONS and SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Possession of a high school diploma or GED

Minimum of 21 years of age

Must meet or exceed the minimum requirements established by the State of Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission

Possession of a valid Alabama Drivers License

Possess the ability to obtain an Alabama Police Academy diploma or its equivalent

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Pay Range is from \$44,865.60 – 69,160.00.

Applications and copies of the Job Descriptions may be obtained at the Russellville City Hall, Office of the Mayor, 304 North Jackson Avenue. Applications submitted to the Russellville Civil Service Board less than one year ago remain active. Those individuals need not reapply in order to receive consideration for this appointment.

Applications must be returned no later than October 25, 2024 by U.S.

Mail to: The Russellville Civil Service Board

P. O. Box 308 Russellville, AL 35653

The appointees will be required to successfully complete a physical examination including drug and alcohol screening prior to employment.

# 'RUSSELLVILLE,' From Page 11

Phinizee and sophomore running back Tarus Davis, who ran for over 100 yards and scored Russellville's final two touchdowns of the contest, have become quite the backfield duo for the Golden Tigers the last few weeks. Davis has gotten more touches as the season has progressed and has come on as a solid reliever for the star, all-state ball-carrier Phinizee when he needs a breather.

"They're both two really good (running) backs, and they compliment each other well," Goodwin said. "It's good when one of them's tired and needs a spell. When Cam gets tired or has a long run and needs a spell, Tarus can come in and do a good job for us, and we're not really missing anything in the running game.

"(Davis) has done a good job for us, and we're really glad to have both of them," he added.

Russellville's second touchdown of the night came soon after the first, but this one was scored by the defense.

West Point's quarterback, on the Warriors second play from scrimmage after the kickoff, threw an interception to senior defensive back Zay Hubbard, who stepped in front of the receiver for the pick. Hubbard returned it 41 yards for his second touchdown in as many weeks after he returned a fumble for a touchdown last Friday night against Hatton.

Hubbard and fellow senior defensive back Jah Williams, who also had an interception Friday night, have menaced opposing offenses over the last couple weeks, both with their ball-hawking ability and their willingness to make their presence felt.

"(Hubbard and Williams) both played well again, and their physicality is a big part of that," Goodwin said. "They both had some big hits tonight and got some turnovers. Zay got the touchdown return for us, and Jah's done a really good job on the return team for us, as well.

"They're great guys, on and off the field, and they're both definitely doing some things to help the team win," Goodwin added.

Hubbard's pick-six, apart from giving Russellville the lead, set the tone for the Golden Tiger defense, which forced multiple turnovers on the night, played physically, and consistently halted an increasingly desperate-to-score West Point offense on numerous fourth-down conversion attempts throughout the game. One drive in particular, Goodwin said, epitomized the Russellville D's bend-don't-break attitude and swung momentum back Russellville's way in a game-changing moment.

With the score 31-7 in the third quarter—Russellville kicker Manny Martinez hit a field goal to cap the scoring in the first half—West Point produced a touchdown to cut Russellville's lead to 31-13. Freshman quarterback Whit Goodwin then threw an interception on the first play of the ensuing drive to give the Warriors the ball back in plus territory. A touchdown for West Point could've potentially made it just a 10-point game late in the third, but the Golden Tigers stopped the Warriors on 4th down and three from inside the 10-yard line to force a turnover-on-downs.

Taking over at their own five-yard line, the Golden Tigers then put together a three-play, 95-yard touchdown drive—highlighted by a 65-yard run by Phinizee and capped with a seven-yard touchdown dash by Davis—to halt a potential two-score swing in the hosts' favor and take the wind out of West Point's sails.

"Probably one of the biggest drives of the game was the fourth down stop late in the third quarter," Goodwin said. "Giving them the short field and then getting the fourth down stop, getting the turnover-on-downs, and then turning around and getting a touchdown (a few) plays later, I thought that was huge."

Davis' first touchdown run to make it 37-13 essentially iced the game, so his second, with 54 seconds remaining, served as icing as the Golden Tigers walked off winners and runners-up in their region.

Capturing the two-seed in Region 7 means Russellville will host the first round of the AHSAA playoffs against the three-seed from Region 5 in three weeks' time. It will be the fifth-straight year that Russellville has hosted in the first round. Goodwin said earning the opportunity to play at home to start the postseason is a big benefit.

"It's always extremely important to have home-field advantage in round one," he said. "I think that it's really good for the fans and really good for our players to be at home. We're fortunate that we were able to secure that tonight."

Two weeks now remain in the regular season. The Golden Tigers will travel to Priceville in their last region game next week before hosting Class 6A power Athens in the regular season finale. Goodwin said Russellville's focus will remain on getting better and maintaining momentum so his team is, hopefully, peaking as they head into the postseason.

"We're just looking to continue to improve and get stronger as we move forward and put ourselves in a situation to where we're clicking on all cylinders moving into the playoffs," he said.

# 'WEEK 9,' From Page 11

Phil Campbell (2-6, 2-4)  
at Hanceville (1-7, 1-5)

Date: Friday, October 25, 2024  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Ray Talley Stadium

Last week: Phil Campbell suffered a 48-12 road defeat at then-No. 6 Gordo.

What to watch: The Bobcats started the first of a three-game road stretch to end the season at Gordo last Friday and it didn't go Phil Campbell's way. That was to be expected, considering the injuries the Bobcats have suffered this season and given that Gordo is one of the best teams in Class 3A. The upcoming game at region rival Hanceville, though, is different. The Bobcats are slight road favorites here, and it would be great for the visitors to pick up win number three before traveling to Red Bay for their finale.

Series history: Phil Campbell and Hanceville have never met.

Next week: Phil Campbell travels to Red Bay for its non-region season finale.

Red Bay (1-6, 1-3)  
vs. Tanner (2-6, 1-3)

Date: Friday, October 25, 2024  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Tiger Stadium

Last week: Red Bay surprised many by holding Decatur Heritage to just 14 points and halftime and only trailing by eight. In the end, in the second half, however, Decatur Heritage tacked on a few more touchdowns and shut out the Tigers to make it a more distant 35-6 loss for the hosts.

What to watch: Red Bay has to be the favorite in this game at home against a Tanner team that has won two games against fledgling Belgreen and winless Tharptown while being blown out in every other contest. The season definitely hasn't gone the way Red Bay has wanted it to go, but with the campaign quickly drawing to a close and a meeting with Phil Campbell set for next week, this Friday's game represents the last best opportunity for the Tigers to put up a crooked number in the win column.

Series history: Red Bay is 10-12-1 all-time against Tanner. In the meeting between the two last season, the Tigers fell 46-14. Red Bay's last win over the Rattlers was in 2022.

Next week: The Tigers host Phil Campbell in their 2024 finale.

Russellville (6-2, 4-1)  
at Priceville (2-6, 1-4)

Date: Friday, October 25, 2024  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Bulldog Stadium

Last week: Russellville clinched the two-seed in Class 5A Region 7 with a 44-13 road win at West Point.

What to watch: It was a big win for the Golden Tigers last week as they beat West Point and guaranteed themselves a game at home in the first round of the AHSAA playoffs. In one sense, it's great to lock in home field advantage as early as possible—you don't have to sweat it the rest of the regular season. In another sense, it leaves Russellville with two games that, in regards to the postseason picture, don't really mean anything. The Golden Tigers are the clear favorite against Priceville, but even if Russellville lost it wouldn't affect their playoff standing.

Russellville will then host Athens in the final game of the regular season, a matchup they'll be underdogs going into. It will be interesting to see the balance of priority Coach Dustin Goodwin strikes between winning the next two games and resting key players for the postseason.

Series history: This is the first meeting between Russellville and Priceville.

Next week: The Golden Tigers host Class 6A power Athens in their regular season finale.

Tharptown (0-8, 0-4)  
at Lexington (4-4, 2-2)

Date: Friday, October 25, 2024  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: McMeans Stadium

Last week: Tharptown was beaten 72-20 by unbeaten and then-No. 7 Winston County.

What to watch: The glass-half-full take from Tharptown's loss last Friday is that the Wildcats scored a season-high 20 points against a top 10 opponent. The glass-half-empty view is that Tharptown allowed a season-worst 72 points to Winston County. At 0-8 I think you take the moral victories when you can find them. Maybe the Wildcats can use that as underdogs on the road at region opponent Lexington.

Series history: Tharptown is winless against Lexington in four meetings. Last year the Golden Bears won 77-6.

Next week: The Wildcats travel to Class 1A Phillips Bear Creek for their regular season finale.

Vina (5-3, 3-3)  
vs. Meek (5-3, 5-1)

Date: Friday, October 25, 2024  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Franklin-Hester Stadium

Last week: Vina was dealt a body blow in its race for the postseason, falling on the road at Addison 41-14.

What to watch: It's do or die time for the Vina Red Devils. If Vina wants a shot at making the postseason, Friday night's game at home against Meek is a literal must-win. Right now Vina sits just outside the final play-off spot at fifth in the region behind Cherokee, who holds the head-to-head advantage over the Red Devils. Vina will likely get the help it needs with Cherokee traveling to unbeaten Hackleburg, but it won't matter if the Red Devils can't pull off what would be, to be very clear, a massive upset over Meek.

Series history: Vina is 8-14-2 against Meek in a series that dates back to 1951. The Red Devils have lost 10 straight games to the Tigers, Vina's last victory an 8-6 result way back in 1985. Meek won the contest last season 46-8.

Next week: Vina travels to Belgreen for its regular season finale.

**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)!**

# Phil Campbell volleyball team advances to regional tournament with Area 15 Tournament second-place finish

Kadin Pounders  
Franklin Free Press

The Phil Campbell High School varsity volleyball team advanced to the AHSAA Class 3A North Regional for the second straight season after finishing runner-up in the Area 15 Tournament last week. PCHS was the lone volleyball program in Franklin County to advance to regionals after Belgreen, Red Bay, Russellville, and Tharptown were all defeated in the opening matches of their respective area tournaments.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lady Bobcats swept Colbert County 3-0 in the semifinals of the Area 15 tournament before they were themselves swept by Colbert Heights in the championship round.

"Colbert Heights, they performed better on defense, and we couldn't really set it up the way we wanted to," second-year Phil Campbell head coach Julianna Taylor said. "Our passing was okay, but as far as setting up the ball and putting a ball down, I feel like Colbert Heights outperformed us in that aspect."

"We hustled, we didn't give up, and I feel like that's a positive, but we definitely have to really focus on serve receive and just the setting the ball up and being able to put a ball down going into regionals,"

Taylor added.

Going into the first round of the North Regional, which will be held at the Hoover Met Complex, Taylor said her team has been playing selfless volleyball and it's helped the Lady Bobcats achieve success this season.

"We've been playing together more as a team," she said. "We're not playing just for ourselves, we're playing for our teammates, and I think that's been a really huge thing for us. It's not about ourselves, it's about playing for our team."

Phil Campbell will face the Winfield Lady Pirates in the first round in Hoover on Thursday. Last season the Lady Bobcats advanced to the second round of the North Regional; to do the same this year, Taylor said communication, commitment, and confidence will all be important factors.

"We definitely need to communicate more," she said. "Not hesitating, going after everything will be huge. Going after everything and giving 110 percent no matter what. No matter where the ball is at on the court, I expect them to be diving on the floor and just giving it everything they've got."

"Any team we play is beatable if we all play to our potential," she added. "Going into regionals, it's everyone's game at this point. Going in with confidence and believing in ourselves is definitely going to be key for us."

"I'm proud of these girls, and I'm excited to see what we can do."

First serve between Phil Campbell and Winfield is set for 1:30 P.M. on Thursday.

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## FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSION

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Barry Moore, Chairman  
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Leah Mansell, Administrator

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

#### Senior Equipment Technician, Highway Department

Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Friday, November 1, 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.

# 'VOLLEYBALL,' From Page 11

However, during sets two and three these girls battled and competed. We were missing two key players tonight due to injuries which was one of my middles and setter which had an effect as well with having to move players around."

Laila Hill, who led the team with nine kills in the match, Blevyn Sappington, and Bri McCulloch, who recorded a team-high 17 digs in the loss, received All-Area 15 honors for their efforts.

The season now over, Lamon, who led her team to a 17-29 overall record in her first year in charge, expressed her thoughts on the campaign as a whole. It was a learning experience, not just for her team but for herself as a coach, too.

"Reflecting on the season, it's clear we faced challenges but also had moments of growth and resilience," Lamon said. "As my first year as head varsity volleyball coach, I've learned a lot about team dynamics and the importance of building a strong foundation for the future, as well as assisting their growth into respectful young ladies as well as their character on and off the court."

Though there were some roller coaster moments for the Lady Golden Tigers this year, Lamon said the future of the program is looking up.

"We have a pretty young team all around. However, they've definitely stepped up when it's been necessary and blended as a team and showed they can compete and finish," she said. "I've had several freshmen step into the role of being leaders, which is going to be beneficial in the future for us. Despite the ups and downs this season, I'm proud of the progress we made, and I'm super excited for what the future holds

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Hayden Wingo

# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Hayden Wingo - Phil Campbell football  
@FCgoodnews

# "Flip it" for Franklin County Schools!

If approved by Alabama voters, Amendment One on the November 5, 2024 ballot would allow the Franklin County Board of Education to sell or otherwise utilize land in Walker and Fayette Counties owned by Franklin County Schools.

All revenue from these lands will support education in Franklin County for decades to come! Amendment One will be on the back side of your ballot! So please "Flip it" for Franklin County Schools.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO  
APPEAR ON THE BALLOT STATEWIDE

STATEWIDE AMENDMENT 1

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to grant certain sixteenth section and indemnity school land that is owned in fee simple by the Franklin County school system, is located in Fayette County and Walker County, and is for the exclusive use of schools in the Franklin County School System to the Franklin County Board of Education; and to provide for the distribution of any proceeds and interest generated by this land to the Franklin County Board of Education. (Proposed by Act 2024-301)

YES

NO

**Vote *Yes* on Amendment One!**