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Murray, Amendment One big winners on Election Night

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Almost 61% of Franklin County's registered voters cast ballots in the November 5, 2024, election, a number more than double the turnout in the March primary held earlier this year.

One local race appeared on the general election ballot, the Franklin County Commission District One position vacated when incumbent Chris Wallace chose not to seek another term.

Republican Michael Murray received 9,809 votes (84.42%) to Democrat Charles Mitchell's 1,792

votes (15.42%). Murray will take office along with new commissioners Tracie Clark and Greg Hovater, and incumbent Joseph Baldwin when their terms begin this month.

In his first run for elected office, Mitchell faced long odds as the Democratic nominee. Those long odds became insurmountable when more than 50% of local voters cast Republican straight party ballots. There were 6,643 Republican straight party voters, compared to only 962 Democratic straight party ballots, so any local Democratic candidate trailed by almost 5,700 votes before any non-straight party ballot was counted.

See 'ELECTION,' Page 3



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Red Bay residents approve alcohol sales by 623-550 vote

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Two years from a failed attempt to legalize alcohol sales in the City of Red Bay, nearly 1,200 residents showed up November 5th to consider the wet-dry referendum once again.

This time, aided by a massive turnout for the Presidential election, Red Bay residents approved alcohol sales with a 623-550 result in favor of

the referendum, representing a 53-47 percent vote.

In 2022, Red Bay voters defeated the referendum with 408 voting against alcohol sales and 373 supporting it. That vote was the first consideration of alcohol sales in Red Bay since the measure failed more than 40 years ago.

In 2022 and in 2024, in order to hold a referendum, a petition with at least 30% of voters in the most recent municipal election had to be

See 'RED BAY,' Page 5



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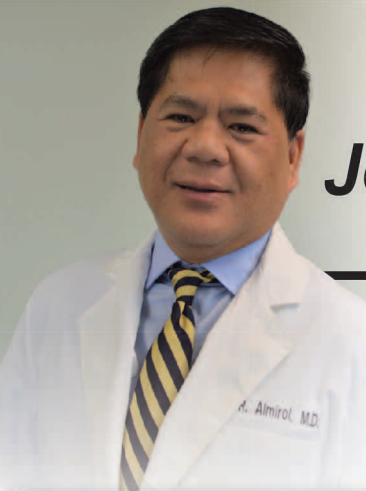
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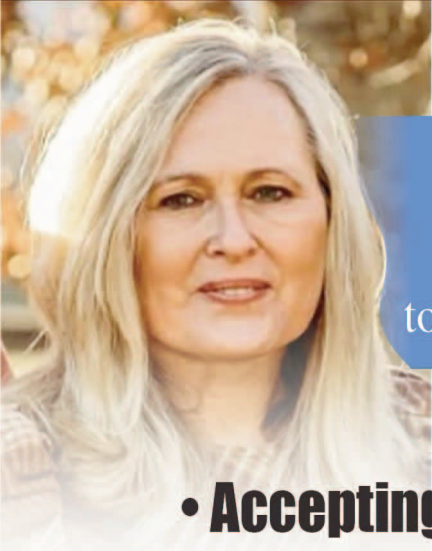
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Larry Lynn Bailey, age 78, of Russellville, passed away on Friday, November 08, 2024. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

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'ELECTION,' From Page 1

The Republican wave swept across Alabama once again, as the state GOP flipped 40 seats since the last election, after flipping 50 in the 2022 election cycle.

Franklin County voters overwhelmingly approved Amendment One, with 9,834 voting in favor of the amendment and 1,092 voting against it.

That translates to more than 90% support for the amendment that will give the Franklin County Board of Education the ability to sell or lease land it owns at and near the I-22/AL-13 intersection, a prime location for commercial and/or retail development.

Statewide, Amendment One was supported by more than 70% of Alabama voters, even though it only impacted Franklin, Fayette and Walker Counties.

While it's unusual for a local amendment to appear on ballots statewide, since the land at issue is located in Fayette and Walker Counties, and owned by Franklin County Schools, it had to be voted on across Alabama.

Franklin County Schools Superintendent of Education Greg Hamilton expressed his appreciation to the many school superintendents who supported Amendment One in their counties, and he was 'blown away' by the Amendment One results in Franklin County, where it passed 9,834 to 1,032, more than a 90-10% margin.

"How it would do statewide was very uncertain. There was just no way to know how it would turn out," Hamilton said. "But at the end of the day, Franklin County's results were just overwhelming as well as the statewide vote.

"The media played a key role in making voters aware of what Amendment One was about. I did at least 15 interviews with newspapers, radio stations or television stations across the state. Rep. (Jamie) Kiel and Sen. (Larry) Stutts played huge roles in getting this passed and we were thankful and happy to see a vote like that. It says a lot about our teachers and kids and how much Franklin County cares about them. This wasn't about me. It was about the future of our schools. This is something that will have an impact on our future generations for decades to come," he added.

Hamilton said the next step regarding the approximately 330 acres his school system owns at the I-22/AL-13 intersection will be for him, the board and board attorney Danny McDowell to meet and decide whether to retain a consulting firm or a national or international realty company to market the property.

Property along the I-22 corridor at major intersections has developed like wildfire in recent years, and the AL-13 exit, as the main route from the Shoals to Tuscaloosa, is some prime real estate.

Hamilton said he will also discuss with the board and McDowell how to set up a trust for any sale or lease proceeds derived from the land. Additionally, to make sure the process is transparent, he plans to ask stakeholders from each board district to be involved in that process.

There are some existing year-to-year hunting leases on the property that Franklin County Schools will honor until they expire, but the long-term plan is likely to involve selling the 329 acres at each corner of the intersection, with plans for the remaining 1,100 acres not near the intersection undecided at this time.

Under Alabama law, Section 16 lands were set aside by the Alabama Legislature for the benefit of public schools, but are managed by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the only revenue schools receive is when, or if, the department sells timber on the land or leases it to hunting clubs.

In 2002, the Alabama Legislature approved a bill to allow schools freedom to use and/or sell 16th Section lands and eliminated the limitation that only the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources could manage them. That's why the amendment was needed—so the school system could sell or use the lands to their maximum financial benefit.

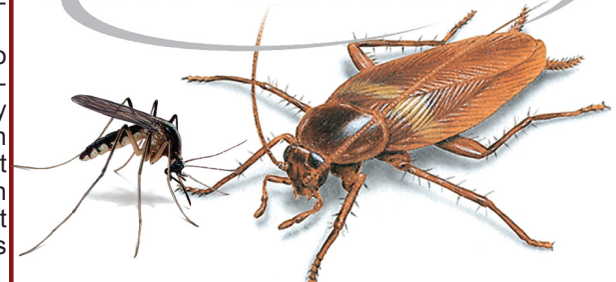
Recent developments at I-22 intersections in the area have included a Love's Truck Stop in Jasper along with retail development. There's a new truck stop at the Winfield exit as well. Conservative estimates, based on the asking price of adjacent lands, show Franklin County Schools could receive in the tens of millions from the sale of the 329 acres at the intersection.

Walker and Fayette Counties stand to benefit because they are not currently collecting any property tax or sales tax on the lands.

Hamilton understands the opportunity presented, as well as the duty for system officials to make responsible decisions, with these lands.

"This is not a grab and go deal. It's a deal that will impact this school system for decades to come. We'll continue to do what's best for future generations, where we'll always have these funds in trust, with the money remaining there and earning revenue," Hamilton said

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Sealed Bids will be received by The Russellville Water and Sewer Board until Wednesday November 20, 2024, at 10:00 A.M., local time, for the work according to Specifications and Contract Documents on file in the office of the Owner, the improvements hereinafter described. No bids will be received after the time set forth hereinabove; and the Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Bid Documents will be opened at the Russellville Water and Sewer Board on Wednesday November 20, 2024, at 10:00 A.M., 721 Jackson Ave S, Russellville, AL 35653. If your Bid Documents are mailed, they should be received prior to November 20, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. at Russellville Water and Sewer Board, 721 Jackson Ave S, Russellville, AL 35653.

The work of providing labor, equipment, and material for the of the Russellville Water System Infrastructure Improvements Project, Contract 2, H. E. Neal Water Treatment Plant Residuals Pond Improvements Project DWSRF Project No. FS010075-05. The principal items of work are detailed herein below:

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2. Improve Access Road
3. Miscellaneous Berm Improvements along with removal and disposal of existing residuals
4. Miscellaneous Baffle Wall Replacement

Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents are open to public inspection at the office of Owner, the Russellville Water and Sewer Board, 721 Jackson Ave S, Russellville, AL 35653 or may be obtained from the office of the Engineers, Utility Engineering Consultants, LLC, 130 Southcrest Drive., Suite 100, Homewood, AL 35209 upon deposit of \$0.00 per set, the actual cost of printing, reproducing, handling and distribution for each set of documents. No refunds will be made except to Prime Contractor Bidders, which shall be refunded for one bid set.

The Contract will be awarded to the lowest, responsible and responsive Bidder. No bid may be withdrawn after the time for opening bids has passed. The Owner reserves the right to hold the bids for a period of sixty (60) days after the date of receiving the Bids.

The Contractor is hereby advised that **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE** on this project and that the contract time of 60 consecutive calendar days total and noted restrictions shall be strictly observed. **LIQUIDATED DAMAGES WILL BE ASSESSED IF CONTRACT TIME IS EXCEEDED.** The Contractor may apply for an extension of time in accordance with the provisions of the contract; however, such an extension must be approved prior to the contract completion date to avoid the imposition of liquidated damages.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in any bid, and to accept any bid considered advantageous to the Owner.

The contractor shall note that funds for this project are provided through DWSRF (Drinking Water State Revolving Funds). All Applicable Federal Guidelines must be met. There will not be a Pre-Bid meeting.

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'Dream weekend' for Bohannon includes engagement, musical award

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The weekend of October 26th-27th was pretty good for Austin Bohannon.

Actually, it was damn good.

A day before he stood on the Grand Ole Opry stage and received a Josie Music Award for Country Male Vocalist of the Year, Bohannon proposed to his girlfriend, Rachel Barker, on a sailboat in the middle of Nashville's Percy Priest Lake, in front of family members on both sides. And just like the Chad Brock song, 'She Said Yes.'

"Her family is from Tennessee and my family was coming up for the awards show, so it was the perfect storm of getting everyone in place and she had no idea what was happening. She dressed up thinking we were going to a pre-show party," Bohannon said. "I had a pretty good idea she'd say yes. I've been getting hints for a while now."

The engagement comes approximately 2 1/2 years after the couple began dating. They met at Buffalo Wild Wings when she waited on Bohannon's table. But they didn't cross paths again until months later, when Bohannon had a show at Rising Crust Pizza and he saw their new server, Rachel. He didn't risk squandering a second opportunity.

Bohannon was nominated for five awards at the Josies, which recognize outstanding achievement in the independent music industry. After his name wasn't called for the first four nominations, Bohannon almost gave up on the final award presented—Country Male Vocalist of the Year, before hearing his name.

Barker was also nominated for Best Actress Performance in a Music Video for her starring role in the video for Bohannon's song 'Hotter Than Sin.'

So that magical weekend began with a successful proposal, and ended with Bohannon standing on the Grand Ole Opry receiving his



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'RED BAY,' From Page 1

submitted to the city clerk. With 781 votes cast in the 2022 referendum, that meant supporters of the referendum needed a petition with at least 234 signatures.

The vote was held two years after the previous referendum, the minimum time period for alcohol sales to be placed on another ballot.

Whether intentional or by coincidence, supporters of the measure benefitted from the referendum being held the same day as the general election.

The alcohol sales referendum was a municipal-only vote, so Red Bay residents could vote in two different elections at the polls Tuesday. There was the general election ballot, and separately, a municipal ballot on the alcohol referendum. Of the Red Bay precinct's 2,459 registered voters (some of whom do not live in the city limits), 1,441 cast ballots, representing a 59% voter turnout.

When the referendum results were posted on the Franklin Free Press Facebook page Tuesday evening, responses ranged from 'it's about time' to 'today is a dark day for our city.'

For Mayor Charlene Fancher, the Red Bay City Council and city attorney Mitch McKinney, they've already started their due diligence by gathering alcohol sales ordinances from other cities in order to review how those towns crafted their local laws.

Mayor Charlene Fancher said she, the council and McKinney will review the ordinances and solicit input from officials in those towns to see what works most effectively for their communities.

Fancher said she hopes to have an ordinance ready for the council to vote on within three to four months.

For the record, Fancher said she and the council did not take a public stance on the referendum. But she was glad to see a large turnout in order to hear a more complete voice from Red Bay citizens.

"We took the position we'd wait to see the vote and what our citizens wanted to do," Fancher said. "We'll continue obtaining ordinances from other area cities and reviewing those along with our city attorney."

Fancher said it's too early to consider details of the ordinance the council will consider. Factors including whether the ordinance will allow retail sales of alcohol, restaurant service of alcohol and/or criteria for opening a bar or nightclub will eventually have to be considered. And any business wanting to sell or serve alcohol will have to obtain the necessary local license and permit as well as a permit from the State of Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

"That's part of the process to start putting together an ordinance from different ones we review, but as for what will be allowed or won't be allowed, we've not initiated those discussions yet," Fancher said.

Fancher realizes the legalization of alcohol sales was a divisive issue in her city, but she asked for the public's patience and trust that she and the council will put together the right rules for Red Bay.

"This was the people's choice. Our job is to put the rules and regulation in place to make sure we handle this correctly. We want to take away the fears from the citizens and make sure we keep Red Bay beautiful, safe and not change the city we're all blessed to share," Fancher said.

"We ask them to give us a chance to put this ordinance in place and we'll be working hard toward getting that done. And we hope they'll trust us to do that," she added.

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

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net!](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)

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This 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.

LifeSouth Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Russellville Hospital on Thursday, November 14th, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. LifeSouth is the primary supplier of blood products to Russellville Hospital. Please contact Deborah Lindsey to schedule an appointment at 256-332-8676 or by email at deborah.lindsey@russellvillehospital.org. Please be sure to bring your photo ID when you donate. Everyone who signs up to donate will receive a free t-shirt, an appetizer card from Texas Roadhouse, a 60 minute massage from Shoals Bliss, a \$20 e-gift card and a free meal ticket from Russellville Hospital. We will also be giving away DOOR PRIZES! Please call me if you have any questions, and thank you for giving the gift of life!

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REB reviewing second round of General Manager applications

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Electric Board met Tuesday at a special called meeting to review the latest round of applications for the vacant General Manager's position.

The November 12th meeting saw the board go into executive session with board members receiving resumes of more than 20 candidates who applied for the job last month.

At a special called meeting on October 17th, the board approved reopening the application process after four of five candidates chosen for interviews indicated they were not willing to move to Russellville, a clearly stated condition outlined in the job posting.

Once again, the application screenings reviewed 'blind' resumes prepared by REB attorney Jeff Bowling's office. Those resumes included candidates' professional work experience and training, but no identifying personal information.

19 candidates submitted applications during the first job posting, although three came after the deadline and were not considered.

This time, REB Chairman Nick Willis said the board received nearly 30 applications. Bowling's office contacted each applicant to confirm their willingness to move to Russellville (or continue to reside in Russellville) and more than 20 said they were willing to do so. Those candidates who said they were not willing to live in Russellville were eliminated from consideration.

The board's regular November business meeting is set for November 19th, and Willis said he hopes the board will be ready to vote at that time on which candidates will receive interviews.

The new GM will be paid a starting salary of at least \$176,500 annually. Additionally, the GM's family medical and dental insurance will be paid 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 10 years of increasingly responsible experience in management, preferably in a public utility.

Former General Manager Charles Canida's retirement took effect November 1, 2024.

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Pilgrim's

'BOHANNON,' From Page 4

Josie Award. And it was just days after the release of his new single and video release for 'Can't Change Me.'

Not a bad month for the 27-year-old Russellville High School alumnus.

Every song Bohannon releases is one he's written or co-written, except for one he cut two weeks ago with Luke Combs' band. You make exceptions when you have the chance to collaborate with Luke Combs' band.

"The biggest thing for me is I'm happy doing what I love. It's a hard thing to learn to market yourself, but you have to do that as an independent artist," Bohannon said. "And I'm learning every day ways to do that. Will I ever get to where I want to be? Probably not, but every day I'm getting better at it. And I'm doing it myself. I don't have the luxury of millions of dollars to promote me."

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His new single is gaining traction. It reached the top 20 on Amazon Country's New Releases Chart, and top 100 on iTunes' Country Album Chart.

Earlier this month, Bohannon opened for Trace Adkins at a show in Selmer, Tn. , adding to the list of stars he's opened for, including Shenandoah, Colt Ford, American Idol alum Colin Stough and LOCASH.

He recently signed with a production company, the Orchard. A subsidiary of Sony Music, Orchard is a distribution and services company that partners with independent labels and artists like Bohannon.

"They have the ability to reach out and they have some clout. They'll take my music and deliver it to all streaming platforms," Bohannon said. "And that's the goal. If your career is like a hurricane, you start in the eye, in the middle, and you kind of wind your way around at first. I got the eye started, playing in the Shoals area and Northwest Alabama, and the next step is to take it from a F1 to F2 level."

You'll find Bohannon's music on all streaming

platforms, and his social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok. You can visit www.bohannonmusic.com to see show dates, hear his latest releases and purchase swag from his 'Bo' line of merchandise.

Bohannon recently reflected on the blessing of having stood in Grand Ole Opry's iconic Circle of Wood. Not many artists can say they've stood where so many legends stood previously.

It's another first in a rapidly moving music career full of firsts.

On November 22nd, Bohannon will have another first—his first Songwriter's Showcase organized by him.

It's called 'A Songwriter's Round for Special Needs' and it will take place at the Vivian Theatre in Florence. Proceeds will benefit Muscle Shoals Mighty League Baseball, and will feature Gary Nichols, Gary Baker, Mark Naramore and Rob Williford. Pre-show and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., with entertainment from Trey Nichols. The writer round begins at 8 p.m.

"I just want to sit down and not have to play and listen to some people I respect and like and hear their songs and watch them win over the crowd," Bohannon said. "It's for a great cause and I'm really looking forward to it."




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Mays honored by Alabama Bankers Association for Outstanding Leadership

Submitted

Community Spirit Bank proudly announces that Emily Mays, Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, and Senior Marketing Director, has been honored with the peer nominated, Excellence in Banking: Outstanding Leadership Award by Bankers 2 Leaders of the Alabama Bankers Association.

This prestigious award recognizes individuals demonstrating visionary leadership, dedication to team development, strategic decision-making, and commitment to community engagement in the banking industry.

With 19 years of experience in finance, Mays has long been a driving force in community banking, leading with both innovation and passion. Her contributions have set new standards for community bank marketing and have greatly influenced her peers. As a leader at Community Spirit Bank, Mays has introduced transformative marketing initiatives that have not only propelled the bank forward but have also served as models for community banks across Alabama. Many of her colleagues credit her mentorship as crucial to launching and enhancing their own marketing efforts.

Mays' impact extends far beyond her professional role. As an educator, she teaches bank marketing at the Barret School of Banking in Memphis, Tn., as well as financial literacy and personal branding electives to prepare future banking leaders. Her commitment to financial literacy has driven digital learning in 14 schools and opened two in-school bank branches.

After leading Community Spirit Bank's core conversion, Mays has been instrumental in guiding other banks through their own successful conversions, demonstrating her technical expertise and willingness to support others within the industry.

Mays is widely recognized for her dedication to her community and her involvement on various local boards, where she continues to advocate for the needs of her bank's markets.

Nationally, her contributions have not gone unnoticed, earning her a spot on the Independent Community Bankers of America's 40 Under 40 list and a feature in Business Alabama's "Movers and Shapers" of Franklin County. She is also a founding member of the Social Banker's group.

Community Spirit Bank's president and CEO, Brad M. Bolton congratulated Mays for the honor and the impact she has every day on the Community Spirit Bank family.

"On behalf of the board of directors and all of our team members, we are so appreciative for the Alabama Bankers Association bestowing this well-deserved recognition for Emily Mays.

"Emily is a great example of what a community banker does every day, helping to lead our team as well as advancing the great work that the community banking industry does in communities, across Alabama, and our great nation. We congratulate Emily on this well-deserved recognition," Bolton said.



EMILY MAYS

COURTESY PHOTO

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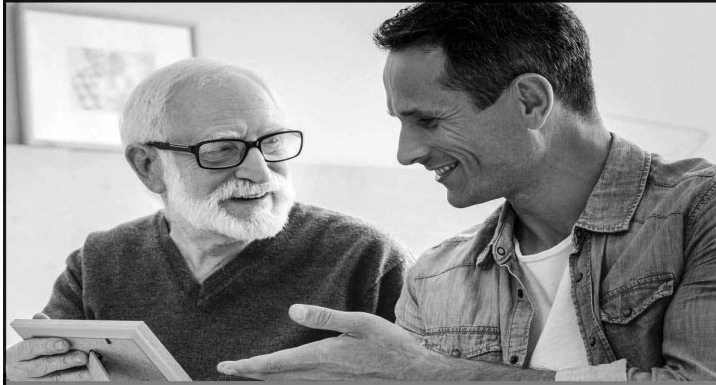
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Belgreen's Luna places eighth at 1A-2A AHSAA cross-country championship

*Kadin Pounders
 Franklin Free Press*

Several runners from schools in Franklin County competed in the AHSAA State Cross Country Championships, held at the Oakville Indian Mounds Cross Country Course, on Saturday.

On the girls' side the top finisher from the local area was Belgreen High School junior Briseyda Luna, who finished in eighth place in the Class 1A-2A championship event. Luna ran the 5k course in 21:21.12.

Phil Campbell's Avery Wells, a seventh-grader, was the lone Bobcat that competed in the championships on the girls' side. In the Class 3A race Wells placed 45th with a time of 23:59.63.

Russellville's girls' cross country team, which had the most competitors, fielded 10 runners. The Golden Tigers finished seventh out of 13 teams with an average 5k time of 23:11.89 and a total time of 1:55:59.41. RHS' top finisher was senior Esbeidy Jiminez, who ended in 33rd with a time of 21:52.18. Russellville's other competitors in Class 5A's field of 127 were sophomore Maribel Martin (53rd, 22:45.07), freshman Heidy Jacobo (64th, 23:04.62), junior Arielle Cooper (77th, 23:59.55), junior Rosa Castro (80th,

See, 'BELGREEN,' Page 15

RHS senior Baker selected for North-South All-Star Football Game

*Kadin Pounders
 Franklin Free Press*

Russellville High School senior Neyland Baker was one of 74 players in the state of Alabama to be selected to participate in the 66th annual AHSAA North/South All-Star Football Game in Mobile next month. Although Baker's football career with the Golden Tigers is over following Russellville's playoff exit, the stand-out offensive lineman will have one more opportunity to represent the black and gold at the all-star event.

"It's special, man," said Baker, who also represented RHS in the North/South All-Star Baseball Game as a designated hitter this past summer. "I've been blessed to play in both (games). I think it just shows how hard I've worked the last three years to be able to get the opportunity to do something like this."

"This past year's been a blessing," he added.

Russellville head coach Dustin Goodwin said Baker has been an invaluable member of the Golden Tiger football team this season, and his selection to the all-star game in two sports highlights Baker's versatility, something Goodwin likes to see in high school student-athletes.

"He's one of our main guys, for sure. He's a really good leader, does everything you want him to do, vocal when he needs to be, and definitely a guy you can count on. We're grateful to have him," the first-year RHS head coach said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Neyland Baker

See, 'BAKER,' page 12

Red Bay's Weatherford signs with inaugural NWSCC volleyball recruiting class

*Kadin Pounders
 Franklin Free Press*

When Red Bay High School's Gracie Weatherford, surrounded by family and friends, teammates and coaches, sat down and signed to play volleyball for Northwest Shoals Community College on November 1st, it was a scenario little contemplated by the senior until recently. When Weatherford was in the eighth grade, the Lady Tigers volleyball program was just getting started; her playing career since has helped elevate it. Now, joining a brand new program at NWSCC, Weatherford will have a similar opportunity with the Patriots as one of the members of their first signing class.

"I'm really thankful for this opportunity to get to do what I love and expand my platform and everything that means," Weatherford told the Franklin Free Press. "For my family, I mean it's really an important thing for us. Volleyball came to Red Bay my eighth grade year, and I didn't expect it to become as big of a thing as it became for me. I didn't believe I was going to play volleyball in college—I didn't think it was in the cards until this opportunity came up."

Just as the fledgling RBHS volleyball program was growing, Weatherford was growing up with it. That experience, she said, taught her patience and about "growing pains," as she called it. But that process with Red Bay also influenced Weatherford's decision to join the nascent NWSCC program. The opportunity to be a part of an inaugural signing class and the start of a new project was alluring to her.

"It was a big thing that went into my decision, that I came from this (situation) before, but obviously on a high school level," she said. "I thought it was just really neat that I could have this

See, 'WEATHERFORD,' Page 13

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'BAKER,' From Page 11

"He's sort of what we'd like to want all our student-athletes to be, honestly. He's a multi-sport guy, and we want our guys to have the opportunity to play multiple sports and excel at everything they want to do," Goodwin added. "He's been in the all-star game as a DH in baseball, and now he's getting to go as a big man up front playing offensive line in football. That's just a testament to his ability and the work he puts in in season and out of season, how much his coaches think of him and how much his teammates need him."

The leadership ability that Goodwin mentioned is one of the traits that Baker said he honed his senior season with the Golden Tigers.

"I learned how to lead a lot more this year," he said. "Seeing as I was a three-year guy, coming into this season a lot of kids looked up to me, and I learned how to be more of a vocal leader this year. I tried to show it through my actions and everything."

Baker said his technique and technical ability has also improved over the last couple seasons under a former all-state offensive lineman and Russellville alumnus.

"I've learned a lot over the last two years with Austin Stidham being my coach," he said. "He's shown me everything I need to know."

"I wanna thank Coach Goodwin for everything he's done for us this year, and I wanna thank Coach Stidham and Coach (Ches) Dye for everything they've done for me," Baker added.

Heading into the all-star football game, Baker, who will be one of 37 players representing the North team, will be armed with knowledge acquired from his previous experience in the North/South All-Star Baseball Game. The 6-foot-3, 290-pound lineman know he'll have to be keyed in going into the contest.

"I need to be better prepared for this one," Baker said. "The baseball (all-star game) was in the middle of the summer, and I was really focused on football and the upcoming season. I should be prepared a little bit better for this one, seeing that I'm just now coming out of football. I'm looking forward to it."

Committed to joining the University of North Alabama football program next fall, Baker believes the North/South All-Star Game will be an opportunity to get a small taste of what he can expect at the collegiate level.

"Obviously I'll be seeing some of the best competition in Alabama, and I'm sure that'll prepare me for college," he said. "The speed of the game should pick up a lot in this game, and it should get my mind about where it needs to be. It's not gonna be college level, but there'll be some of the best players in Alabama there and the speed of the game will pick up, for sure."

Goodwin believes Baker will put forth the effort in the game and can prove he's among the best of the best in the state.

"The talent level, it's supposed to be the best of the best," Goodwin said. "There's a lot of good football players in the state, and he's gonna go in there and work hard and show that he belongs and it'll set him up for his future."

The 66th annual AHSAA North/South All-Star Football Game will be played at the University of South Alabama's Hancock Whitney Stadium in Mobile on Friday, December 13th.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net! Send your guest columns, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.



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'WEATHERFORD,' From Page 11

same platform and role in college as I did here (at Red Bay). I want to be a part of what's going to be a great program at Northwest. I think Red Bay's a great program, and I think it's gonna continue to be, and in the same way I wanna be able to say that I'm a part of doing that at Northwest."

NWSCC announced the addition of women's volleyball back in early July, and then a month later handed the reins of the program to Susie Tverberg. While Weatherford may not have expected the opportunity, Tverberg, with 14 scholarships at her disposal, was very keen on getting the Red Bay standout's signature.

"She was my first offer for the program," Tverberg said. "She's the type of kid that I wanted to recruit right from the beginning.

"She has this unwavering commitment and love for volleyball. She plays school ball, she plays club ball, and she plays beach volleyball,

Gracie Weatherford signs with NWSCC volleyball as family, coaches look on.

so she basically plays all year round," Tverberg added. "That's what you've got to have: you've got to have someone that loves it that much, and it's evident by watching her play that she really loves volleyball."

Weatherford clearly has the talent to make it in the college ranks—"Her athleticism and her skill set is what sets her apart," Tverberg told the FFP. But second-year Red Bay head coach Elizabeth Scott added that she believes Weatherford's maturity and determination will also be big for her next team.

"She brings positivity to the team during tough times and keeps a level head at all times," Scott said of the Red Bay team captain. "Her hard work and drive to succeed will carry over to her collegiate career and even to adulthood. Gracie has high expectations for herself and pushes to be the best she can be."

Weatherford takes pride in the effort and work she's put in to arrive at this point in her volleyball career, but it's clear when talking to her that she doesn't rest on past performances.

"I do work very hard for everything that I've gotten, and I'm not one to back down," she said. "If I'm on the court or if I don't get on the court, I'm gonna do what I have to do to make myself needed—I don't make excuses as to why. I fix what I can fix, and I don't worry about what others are doing; I'm concentrating on what I did and the things I can do to make myself better.

"I'm good about, like, when I go back and watch game film, picking out what I can do better and what I can do to help my team," she added.

Given Weatherford's pursuit for perfection on the court, it only makes sense that when asked what she was looking forward to when she hits campus in Phil Campbell next fall she said it was being around more like-minded, competitive student-athletes—teammates with "the same purpose."

"Obviously we have a great group of girls at Red Bay, but some of them are more there, you know, kinda for the high school experience. Others are there to compete," Weatherford said. "I'm excited to be going to a place with girls who are all on the same page."

It's no wonder, then, that Tverberg wanted Weatherford. That type of purpose-driven attitude, the Patriots' head coach said, is what she was looking for when recruiting student-athletes to join her at Northwest Shoals.

"You're building a program on what you're hoping it's going to be and trying to sell that to recruits," Tverberg said. "We want to build a roster of competitive athletes that not only want to come in and make an impact but want to make our name known. We want to be competitive and we want to come in and beat teams we're not supposed to beat. As I'm building the team, I have to keep that in mind.

"I really think (Weatherford) can come in and have an immediate impact on our program—she's just that type of kid," Tverberg added. "Her dedication and commitment is unmatched, and I just think that's going to be extremely valuable to the program because you've got to have someone that loves it and wants it as much as you play in college



COURTESY PHOTO



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Wenonah ends Russellville's season with 30-28 overtime win

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville High School varsity football team's 2024 season came to a close in the first round of the AHSAA Class 5A playoffs Friday night as the Wenonah Dragons, the third seed out of Region 5, edged by the Golden Tigers 30-28 in overtime. In the program's 38 playoff appearances, the result marked just the eighth time Russellville has been eliminated in the opening round.

The game for neutrals was a thrilling tale of two halves that needed more than 48 minutes to decide the outcome; for Russellville players, coaches, and fans it was a heartbreaking postseason defeat, the result of a few too many mistakes and missed opportunities in the final 24 minutes of regulation.

"I thought our kids were prepared to win. I thought our coaches were prepared to win. Ultimately we made a couple mistakes at inopportune times that we couldn't overcome," first-year Russellville head coach Dustin Goodwin told the Franklin Free Press. "That tends to be what happens in the playoffs.

"We knew we were going to have to play a game where the entire team played well to get it done. For the most part I thought they played hard and played well, but when most every game comes down to four or five plays, unfortunately we didn't win those four or five plays tonight. Ultimately, that's what cost us the game," he added of the defeat, Russellville's first overtime playoff loss since the 1987 state championship game.

The contest started how they've usually done for the Golden Tigers this season: with the opponents opening the scoring. For the first time in a long time, Russellville took the opening kickoff and started out on offense but turned it over on downs later in the drive, giving the Dragons the ball.

Wenonah took advantage and with its effective ground game efficiently moved the ball down the field on the Golden Tigers, scoring from 10 yards out with 8:19 to go in the first quarter to make it 8-0.

Then, again, as Russellville usually does after trailing early, the hosts answered with a score to tie it up 8-8. A bruising 42-yard run by junior running back Cameron Phinizee leveled it with 3:12 to go in the first. The touchdown was Phinizee's 28th of the season.

Between both teams there were over 12 possessions in the first half alone, thanks to turnovers and quick three-and-out drives, but the second quarter belonged to Russellville. The Golden Tigers scored the only points of that period and used one of their three forced turnovers in the first half to put them up by two scores.

With 4:31 remaining before halftime, RHS freshman quarterback Whit Goodwin scampered in from 15 yards out to give the Golden Tigers their first lead, 15-8. On the ensuing kickoff, Wenonah's kick returner, instead of running north and south ran, from about three yards out, parallel to his own goal line. It turned out to be a big mistake for the Dragons as the returner was crushed by a member of the coverage team and coughed the ball up in his endzone. RHS sophomore Tarus Davis fell on top of the football, and 10 seconds after scoring their last touchdown the Golden Tigers were adding to their lead.

Following the extra point Russellville led Wenonah 22-8. It was a lead, thanks to a Keifer Hallmark interception that kept the Dragons from scoring, the Golden Tigers would take into the locker room at halftime. At the break, Goodwin said, the Golden Tigers felt optimistic about where they were at.

"We definitely thought we had momentum and were in a good spot at halftime," Goodwin said. "We just talked to our guys about paying attention to technique and doing what we were asking them to do. Some of the things (Wenonah) got us on wasn't really scheme but just us trying to do too much at times in different spots, so the message was really, 'just keep doing what you're doing.'"

After the intermission, however, things started to go sideways for the home team.

In the final 24 minutes the good vibes from the first half were not enough to keep the Russellville offense going; the Wenonah defense pitched a shutout, and the Dragons scored 14 unanswered points starting with a long, methodical drive on their first possession of the third quarter. The Dragons ate over six minutes of the clock, and the drive culminated in a short passing touchdown to pull the visitors within eight points after the failed two-point conversion.

Leading by a touchdown the Golden Tigers had a chance to retake a two-score advantage, but Whit Goodwin was picked off in the endzone. The Dragons weren't able to capitalize on the turnover as their own quarterback later threw an interception to senior Jah Williams, but the failure to

answer Wenonah's touchdown represented an opportunity missed by the Golden Tigers.

"We wanted to get the ball down the field any way we can. We had a hard time getting open," Goodwin said. "(Wenonah is) what we knew they were: big, athletic, fast. So, we didn't want our defense to be on the field all night. We were getting good yardage until the mistakes happened and those are tough to overcome.

"There ain't a whole lot of people scoring against (Wenonah) throughout the course of the year, and there's a reason for that," Goodwin added. "When you have negative plays offensively or you give up big runs or big passes in critical times defensively, you can't do that in these games."

In the fourth quarter, the Russellville offense committed more errors and these did end up proving costly, the price tangible on the scoreboard.

The first was a bad snap that sailed over Goodwin's head and ended, fortunately for Russellville, as a safety and not a Wenonah touchdown. That made it 22-16.

A few minutes later, with the Russellville offense still unable to gain any traction or sustained momentum, Wenonah got the ball back and eventually punched it in from a yard out to tie it up at 22-22, a blocked extra point the only thing keeping the Dragons from taking the outright lead with 2:54 left.

Despite giving up their advantage, the game was still there for the Golden Tigers to win. Russellville got the ball back, but disaster struck again on fourth and short. Another bad snap flew past the quarterback Goodwin and was recovered by Wenonah in Russellville territory with just over a minute left in the final quarter of play. It was another missed chance that doubled as an error, giving the Dragons excellent field position with time running out.

Fortunately for the Golden Tigers, their defense, as it has all season long, came up with a massive stop to keep them in contention. On fourth and inches, with less than 30 seconds left, the Russellville D won a race to the sticks and shoved the Wenonah ball carrier out of bounds just shy of the marker. The stubborn defensive effort forced the turnover on downs and sent the game into overtime tied at 22-22.

"I think our whole team played with great effort all night," Goodwin said. "Our defense came up with some big stops, even blocked an extra point at one point. They gave us a chance."

In the overtime period Wenonah started on offense first after Russellville won the coin toss. A short pass play got the Dragons into the endzone a couple plays later and another one put them up by eight points, 30-22.

On Russellville's overtime possession, the Golden Tigers needed all four plays to get into the endzone, but the freshman Goodwin eventually found senior receiver Javon Poss on a three-yard pass play to make it 30-28. The game on the line, Russellville had to convert the two-point try, but running back Tarus Davis, spelling a visibly hobbled Phinizee, couldn't find his way across the line. Davis was stopped just shy of the endzone and the two-point conversion failed, ending the Golden Tigers' season.

"We don't understand why things like this tend to happen, but you've got two groups of people fighting for the same thing and someone is ultimately going to lose that fight. Unfortunately that was us," Goodwin said he told his players after the loss. "We'll wake up tomorrow and maybe one day we'll realize why it happened the way it did and get something out of it that makes us better people down the road."

Goodwin added his appreciation for the team's seniors after the defeat, which was the final football game as a Golden Tiger for all and the final football game—period—for many.

"I'm thankful for our seniors and the trust they placed in us, the effort they gave us, and we really valued the time we were able to spend together," Goodwin said.

After the game Goodwin was asked to give his assessment of the 2024 campaign as a whole. With the emotions still raw, the head coach admitted more time will be needed to view the season through sober, nuanced glasses but he said he was proud of the way his team stepped up and developed throughout the year.

"I thought they played with great effort all year, and in some ways they exceeded expectations," Goodwin said. "When I was interviewing for the job or even after I first got here, you had people tell you you're gonna struggle early because you lost 27 seniors.

"We had a lot of inexperienced guys that were put on the field for the first time for the most part, and I thought they continued to grow over the course of the season and get better. A lot of that has to do with their character and the trust they placed in our coaches. For that I'm really grateful," he added. "Even though we lost tonight, I'm still really proud of our team and love our players."

Lauderdale signs with NWSCC inaugural volleyball recruiting class

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

When Belgreen High School senior Morgan Lauderdale put pen to paper last Friday, it was a major step towards achieving a lifelong goal: to play a sport at the collegiate level.

Lauderdale, described as a “quiet presence” by Belgreen volleyball head coach Alison Terry, was glowing as she signed her name, at that moment a member of the first class of signings for the new Northwest Shoals Community College volleyball program, set to begin competition in fall 2025.

“I’m very thankful and excited to have the opportunity to play at the next level,” Lauderdale said. “It’s been a dream of mine since I was a kid to be a college athlete. I know it’s going to be a challenge, but I’m excited to take on the challenge.

“I wanna thank God for the ability he has given me and the opportunities I have had throughout my life. I wanna thank my family, friends, coaches and teammates for always pushing me to do my best and helping me succeed and get to where I am today,” she added.

Lauderdale hasn’t been at Belgreen long, but the outside hitter and defensive specialist has played a huge role for the Lady Bulldogs, both on and off the court. Helping Belgreen to the Franklin County Tournament title this past season, Lauderdale recorded 149 kills, 239 digs, and seven blocks, including three solo blocks; she also finished the year with 52 aces and a successful serve rate of 89 percent.

As one of the two seniors on the squad, Lauderdale provided invaluable service as an older student-athlete the younger players could look up to. Not the loud or blustery type, Lauderdale led more by example.

“When we had (Lauderdale’s) signing I talked...about her leadership on the court and off the court,” Terry said. “She was a very quiet leader. She wasn’t as outspoken as some of the other players on the team, but the little ones were able to look to her to see how she handled herself, how she handled her mistakes. She helped explain things to them at practice, and I just appreciated her as an older member of the volleyball team her helping the young ones when they didn’t understand something.

“That’s something about Morgan that I want others to know,” Terry added.

Lauderdale’s capacity to captain and mentor others is one recognized not just by her high school coach but by her future coach at NWSCC, Susie Tverberg, as well.

“She has a natural leadership ability that is remarkable for a young person and a high school student,” Tverberg told the Franklin Free Press. “She has a way of making those people around her better.”

According to both Terry and Tverberg, Lauderdale also epitomizes what it means to be a student-athlete. In a reflection of her character, the senior is as dedicated to her performance in the classroom as she is to her play on the court.

“Like I tell my athletes, you have to be a good person both on the court and off the court,” Terry said. “At the college level, not only do they look for athletes that can play the sport, they’re looking for, like Susie (Tverberg) mentioned, she’s looking for kids that aren’t going to give her problems. They’re going to show up to class and try and want to make good grades. I think that in itself says a lot.”

“(Lauderdale) is a standout, both in the classroom and on the court,” Tverberg said. “When you have that combined of an academically sound student and an athletically sound student, they can come in and be the ideal addition to your program.”

Asked what trait she possesses that she believes will help her be successful at the next level, Lauderdale said it’s her ability to adjust to whatever situation she finds herself in.

“Being able to adapt to other players and work together with new people,” she said. “I recently just moved to Belgreen so I had to learn everyone’s skills and how they work with each other.”

In a similar way, Tverberg said that adaptability, in tandem with Lauderdale’s intelligence, gives her an edge on the court.

“She’s very smart and her intelligence and decision-making is going to make her invaluable to our team,” Tverberg said. “She has the ability to think on her feet and make those quick decisions to reset and adjust in game time.”

Lauderdale’s leadership, her commitment to her team and teammates, her dedication to improvement, and her willingness to push herself in the classroom and on the court—all of these things taken together culminated into an opportunity for her to play at the collegiate ranks. At small schools like Belgreen that opportunity probably doesn’t present itself as often as it should; but it worked out for Lauderdale, who, in the relatively short history of the school’s volleyball program, is the first Belgreen student-athlete to sign to play the sport at the college level.

“I didn’t know that,” Lauderdale admitted. “It’s an honor to represent Belgreen in that way.”

Though the senior’s volleyball career with the Lady Bulldogs is over, Terry believes Lauderdale’s opportunity to play college volleyball can be her legacy: an example and proof for other student-athletes that it doesn’t matter how small the school or how storied your program is, if you put in the effort you can do it, too.

“Sometimes it’s really hard for kids from small schools to get scholarships like that, but I think her hard work, and Susie Tverberg knowing what a great kid she is, that says a lot,” Terry said. “It makes me very excited for other students because they can look and say, ‘Hey, Morgan did this. I can do it, too.’ Whether it’s softball or basketball or whatever they choose, I hope that it can give others a goal knowing it’s possible. It doesn’t matter that we’re a small school. If you stand out as a person athletically or with other qualities off the court, it can happen to them, too.”

‘BELGREEN,’ From Page 11

24:17.99), junior Daimar Valdez (88th, 24:38.06), junior Miranda Gutierrez (90th, 24:42.04), seventh-grader Kristel Jimenez (91st, 24:42.18), freshman Maricela Felix (94th, 25:00.19), and senior Jessenia Mateo (100th, 25:49.28).

In the boys’ state meet, in Class 1A-2A, Tharptown’s Angel Garcia had the best finish among local runners. Garcia, a senior, finished 11th in the 5k race with a time of 17:44.37. Along with fellow Wildcat runners senior Frank Gutierrez (68th, 19:59.88), junior Daniel Jimenez (75th, 20:10.82), sophomore Melvin Gutierrez (93rd, 20:51.63), junior Giancarlo Espinoza (98th, 21:01.57), and freshman Zach Riley (100th, 21:05.04), Tharptown took 12th place out of 16 teams with an average 5k time of 19:57.66 and a total time of 1:39:48.27.

In the Class 5A boys’ meet, Russellville fielded nine competitors as the Golden Tigers placed 11th out of 16 teams with an average time of 18:20.49 and a total time of 1:31:42.43. The top finisher for the RHS boys was sophomore German Perez, who came in 33rd with a time of 17:15.11. Behind Perez were junior Connor Evans (44th, 17:44.18), junior Connor McFall (86th, 18:51.38), freshman Jonathan Manzo (89th, 18:54.70), junior Isais Jose (90th, 18:57.06), senior Ricardo Gutierrez (104th, 19:28.52), eighth-grader Ezequiel Mateo (112th, 19:36.06), seventh-grader Bryan Torres (115th, 19:39.26), and senior Uriel



COURTESY PHOTO

Briseyda Luna

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Mojica (128th, 20:18.36).

Franklin County Community Development Commission

The following information is the annual report of receipts and expenditures of the Franklin County Community Development Commission for the fiscal year ending 9-30-2024.

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

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

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

BEGINNING BALANCE FCCDC FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 10/01/2023	\$81,505.37
TOTAL IN LIEU OF TAXES DEPOSITS RECEIVED THRU 9/30/2024	\$170,682.20
TOTAL INTEREST EARNED THRU 9/30/2024	\$1,635.05
TOTAL BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR GRANT FUNDING	\$253,822.62

GRANTS AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

GRANT #	ENTITY:	GRANT AMT:		
2346	Belgreen High School Sound System	\$2,500.00	2406	BHS- 3rd Grade Tech Supplies \$800.00
2347	Franklin County Career Tech	\$250.00	2407	FCCDC Postage \$11.52
2348	VHS Cheer All American Comp	\$125.00	2408	City of Russellville- Jam on Sloss Lakes \$2,500.00
2349	PCES Chromebook Cart	\$444.18	2409	Distinguished Young Women of NWAL-Scholarship \$500.00
2350	BHS Scholars' Bowl Buzzer Systems	\$800.00	2410	East Franklin Jr High- Playground Equipment \$2,000.00
2351	VHS PreK Classroom Tools	\$800.00	2411	Franklin County Career Tech-Landscape & Improvements \$1,250.00
2352	BHS Fishing Team	\$250.00	2412	PCES- 2nd Grade Chromebooks \$800.00
2353	PCES Office Supplies	\$250.00	2413	PCES- 2nd Grade Chromebooks \$800.00
2354	PCHS Rocketry	\$800.00	2414	RBHS- Volleyball \$250.00
2355	THS Softball	\$2,500.00	2415	Red Bay Museum- Walkways \$7,500.00
2356	PCES Science Reading Material	\$800.00	2416	Russellville Fire Dept- Fire Prevention \$800.00
2357	PCES Reading Intervention	\$800.00	2417	RHS- Weightroom Equipment \$5,000.00
2358	THS Voices	\$250.00	2418	THS- Special Olympics \$500.00
2359	VHS Cheer	\$250.00	2419	The Healing Place- Furniture \$1,500.00
2360	PCES Car Rider Mirro Tags	\$250.00	2420	VHS- Bathroom Reno \$1,250.00
2361	VHS Cross Country	\$250.00	2421	BHS- Baseball State Playoff Assistance \$250.00
2362	VHS Boys Basketball	\$250.00	2422	RBHS- Baseball State Playoff Assistance \$250.00
2363	EasterSeals of NWAL	\$2,000.00	2423	RBHS- Softball State Playoff Assistance \$250.00
2364	BHS Science Classroom	\$500.00	2424	RHS- Softball State Playoff Assistance \$250.00
2365	RBHS Beta Club	\$250.00	2425	RHS- Tennis State Playoff Assistance \$250.00
2366	Franklin Co Archives	\$2,568.10	2426	RHS- Track & Field State Playoff Assistance \$250.00
2367	BHS Kindergarten	\$800.00	2427	RHS- Baseball State Playoff Assistance \$250.00
2368	BHS Prek	\$800.00	2428	Union Community Center \$5,000.00
2369	PCES Nurse's Off Supplies	\$250.00	2429	Franklin County Branch of MLK JR- Scholarship \$1,200.00
2370	Hodges VFD	\$1,500.00	2430	Belgreen High School-2nd Grade Technology Supplies \$800.00
2371	PC Boys Basketball	\$1,250.00	2431	Postage \$11.52
2372	Franklin Co Coroner	\$2,550.00	2432	City of Red Bay -Founders Day Sponsorship \$1,000.00
2373	TES Walkie Talkies	\$1,400.00	2433	City of Red Bay-Founders Day Car Show \$500.00
2374	Red Bay Senior Center	\$500.00	2434	City of Russellville-Lawn Mower and Weed Eater \$2,500.00
2375	RBHS	\$800.00	2435	City of Russellville-American Flags \$500.00
2376	East Franklin Jr High 1st Grade	\$500.00	2436	East Franklin VFD-LED Lantern & Charger \$1,584.00
2377	Franklin Co Chamber Visitors Guide	\$500.00	2437	Franklin County Chamber of Commerce-Watermelon Festival Expenses \$2,500.00
2378	RHS Baseball Hitting Machine	\$1,500.00	2438	Franklin County EMA-Tarps \$500.00
2379	Russellville Dream Center	\$1,500.00	2439	Franklin County Technical Response Team-Haz Mat Training Manuals \$500.00
2380	Downtown Russellville Collective	\$800.00	2440	Franklin County Fire & Rescue-Safety Training for VFD \$500.00
2381	Postage	\$15.60	2441	Franklin County Sheriff's Office-Training Academy Expenses \$500.00
2379	Russellville Dream Center (ck voided, lost in mail)	(\$1,500.00)	2442	Phil Campbell High School-Special Ed Washer/Dryer \$1,250.00
2382	Russellville Dream Center repalcement check	\$1,500.00	2443	Phil Campbell Elementary School-1st Grade Supplies \$800.00
2376	East Franklin Jr High 1st Grade (ck voided, lost in mail)	(\$500.00)	2444	Phil Campbell Elementary School - 6th Grade AMSTI Initiative \$800.00
2383	East Franklin Jr High 1st Grade	\$500.00	2445	Red Bay School Improvement - Year 2 of 5 Sponsorship \$3,500.00
2353	PCES Office Supplies (Ck voided, lost in mail)	(\$250.00)	2446	Tharptown High School-6th Grade AMSTI Initiative \$800.00
2384	PCES Office Supplies	\$250.00	2447	Vina High School - Girls Basketball Camp Expenses \$500.00
2385	Red Bay News	\$288.00	2448	Vina VFD - Car Show Sponsorship \$200.00
2386	Tenn Valley Media	\$648.00	2347	Franklin County Career Grant- VOIDED (\$250.00)
2386	Tenn Valley Media (ck returned, paid by Community Spirit Bank)	(\$648.00)	2449	Franklin County Arts and Humanities \$5,000.00
2387	Community Spirit Bank (Reimbursement)	\$648.00	2450	BHS- Volleyball ipad and ipad stand \$800.00
2388	Franklin Free Press - Annual Report	\$550.00	2451	BHS- 1st Grade Classroom Rug \$250.00
2368	Belgreen High School (ck voided, lost in mail)	(\$800.00)	2452	Postage \$11.52
2389	Belgreen High School	\$800.00	2453	City of Russellville- Purchase of Server & 5 Workstations \$5,000.00
2390	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Shoals Red Bay, Russellville Scholarship	\$1,000.00	2454	Franklin County Emergency Communications- Emergency Lights for Response Vehicle \$1,000.00
2391	Red Bay Weatherford Library Summer Reading Program/New Books	\$800.00	2455	Liberty Learning Foundation Sponsorship \$7,000.00
2392	Franklin Co EMA Rep/Maint Dive Boat	\$1,500.00	2456	PCHS- Drama Program \$500.00
2393	Franklin County E911 HD Monitors	\$800.00	2457	PCES- Reading Intervention Project \$800.00
2394	Franklin Co Coroner Emergency Lights, Equipment for Truck	\$1,250.00	2458	PCHS- Cheer Program Uniforms & Paint Supplies \$1,500.00
2395	PCHS Math Chromebooks	\$800.00	2459	RBHS- Football Helmet & Pads \$2,500.00
2396	RBHS Football Helmets	\$2,500.00	2460	RBHS- Newspapers in Education \$1,000.00
2397	Red Bay Lions Club-Purchase Coats/Shoes	\$500.00	2461	RBHS- Business Education Classroom Updates \$2,000.00
2398	THS Soccer Program	\$500.00	2462	Russellville Dream Center- Updates Storage Shed \$2,500.00
2399	THS Special Needs Picnic Tables	\$1,000.00	2463	Vina High School- Newspapers in Education \$1,000.00
2400	VHS Gym Renovation	\$500.00	2464	Bear Creek Collaborative- Dock & Kayak Launch \$15,000.00
2401	Postage	\$7.04		Transferred to Future Economic Development \$30,000.00
2247	Vina High School (ck voided, from November 2022)	(\$250.00)		
2402	BHS- Archery Team	\$250.00		
2403	BHS- Football Pads & Helmets	\$2,500.00		
2404	BHS- 4th Grade Tech Supplies	\$800.00		
2405	BHS- Restroom Reno	\$1,500.00		
			TOTAL OF ALL GRANTS AWARDED DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING 9/30/2022:	\$177,264.48
			TOTAL ENDING BALANCE OF THE FCCDC AS OF 9/30/2024:	\$76,558.14