

Financial security – I can help you achieve it. Let's talk.

Modern Woodmen
FRATERNAL FINANCIAL



JJ McCormick
220 W. Tennessee, Suite 112
Florence, AL 35630
256-668-7803
jeffrey.w.mccormick@mwarep.org

Have an opinion?
Story idea?



Morgan Chiropractic

Chiropractic for
the Entire Family



Dr. Tom Morgan
811 Village Wood Drive
Russellville

332-4949

Financial future bleak for Franklin County Water Service Authority

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

(Editor's Note: We spoke with FCWSA Board Chairman Randy Schultz this morning [October 7th] and he wanted to reassure FCWSA customers that, regardless of the authority's future path, customers will continue to have uninterrupted supply of clean, safe drinking water. Additionally, USDA officials have committed to continue operations of the plant in the event the authority is no longer financially able to operate. Whether it's bankruptcy, turning over

operations to the USDA or finding a way to refinance debt, FCWSA customers can be assured they will not be left high and dry when it comes to their water supply.)

Either by broken promises from two municipalities or overambitious expectations from its board, the Franklin County Water Service Authority financially bit off more than it could chew (or finance) when the plant was completed in 2006.

Capable of producing more than 780 million gallons of water per year, the plant has never operated any-

See 'WATER AUTHORITY,' Page 4

FCCDC approves \$10,000 grant to Bear Creek Collaborative for team building structures

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Community Development Commission met September 26 2025, and awarded grants to multiple schools and agencies.

The commission, which includes Brad Bolton, Jeremy Campbell and Red Bay Mayor Charlene Fancher, meets quarterly to review grant applications. The commission is comprised of two appointees from Franklin County's legislative delegation and a rotating seat between the mayors of Russellville and Red Bay. Sen. Larry Stutts reappointed Bolton and Rep. Jamie Kiel reappointed Campbell to another four-year term.

With the most recent grants, more than \$3.16 million has been returned

to Franklin County since the inception of the funding. The funds come from in lieu of tax payments from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Grant awards for the September 26th meeting included:

—\$5,000 to the City of Russellville Police Department for purchase of 13 desktop computers.

—\$5,000 to the City of Red Bay Police Department for purchase of an aerial manned drone.

—\$5,000 to the Red Bay Museum for lighting project for Railroad Park.

—\$5,000 to the City of Red Bay Education Fund for purchase of a digital message board.

—\$1,000 to Place of Grace for operating expenses.

—\$800 to Phil Campbell Elementary School for 3rd grade classroom purchase of TV.

See 'FCCDC,' Page 9

Have an opinion?
Story idea?



256.332.0255

Taking care of your family's dental needs

Brett M. Bowen, DDS

Bowen Family Dentistry

243 Underwood Road • Russellville

256.332.4000



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

11833 Hwy 43 South
Russellville, AL 35653

256.332.7279

World-class dentistry.
Hometown care.

SINGING RIVER DENTISTRY



Hablamos Espanol

531 St. CLAIR ST.

RUSSELLVILLE

256-332-6888

Clayton
WE ARE **russellville**
HIRING

COME JOIN OUR CLAYTON TEAM!

- BENEFITS JUST AT 31 DAYS!
- GREAT HOURS!
- CAREER GROWTH!
- \$21.50 STARTING RATE + WEEKLY BONUS

APPLY NOW

CAREERS.CLAYTONHOMES.COM

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

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 4a - 7p



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

**Full Service Deli w/ Breakfast
& Lunch Plates**

Ethanol-Free Gas

Hunting/Fishing Licenses

Fishing Supplies/ Live Bait

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

ROMANS 1:16

Owner, Daniel Parrish

*Unashamed
Lawn Care*

- Lawn Mowing & Maintenance
- Edging & Trimming
- Fertilizing & Weed Control
- Leaf Removal
- Spring/Fall Clean-Ups
- Bush & Shrub Trimming
- Pressure Washing

205-471-5507

**REWARD YOURSELF OR
SOMEONE YOU
LOVE**

256.332.4220

Angel Harris

Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495

Reiki Practitioner II

Gift Cards Available

Creative Image Salon

7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

FRANKLIN MEMORY GARDENS

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

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

Carolyn Atkins Porter *Since 1960*

2710 Waterloo Road • 256.332.2115

Tanner Swann, age 27, of Russellville passed away on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at North Alabama Medical Center. Akins Funeral Home is assisting the family with preparations.

Craig Michael Gibbons, age 67, of Russellville, passed away on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at his residence. Spry Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.

Mary Priscilla Smith, age 86, of Russellville, passed from this life Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at her residence. Spry Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements.



**PREDATOR
PEST CONTROL**

"The Insect Predator"

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

50 Years Combined Experience

Toll Free 1-888-832-5405

(662) 862-5631

(662) 840-4055

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



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

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



256.331.2700
15225 Hwy 43 • Suite I



Franklin Free Press

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

The *Franklin Free Press* is published weekly by Pilati Investments, Inc.
Our publication is available at newstands and online at no charge.

Publisher

John Pilati

E-mail: franklinfreepress@yahoo.com

Sports Editor

Kadin Pounders

Layout Design

Kadin Pounders

Sales Representatives

John Pilati

Content Contributors

Larsen Plyler

Willodean Davis

Graphic Design

Jason Hill

Correction Policy

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

Letters to the editor

The *Franklin Free Press* is published by

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

Copyright Information

Published by Pilati Investments, Inc. Copyright 2024

All materials and content are copyrighted by the Publisher

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

Back to the Bible **by Larsen Plyler:** **Matthew 7:15-20**

There is a danger along the way. False teachers will look to deceive those who are trying to follow Jesus. They may appear like fellow followers of Jesus, but they are actually wolves looking to rip apart the sheep. They are like the devil (1 Pet. 5:8).

Jesus says that they can be identified by their fruit. You know what kind of tree it is by the fruit it produces. If the fruit they are bearing doesn't line up with what truth would produce, they are not telling the truth. The fruit Jesus is referring to is the teaching.

If one is found to be a false teacher, they need to be removed and silenced. Ultimately, God will bring judgment (see Rom. 16:17; Titus 1:9-11). We should not adopt an approach of allowing everyone to share their view.

If their teaching doesn't line up with the Father's will made known through Jesus' teaching, they are false teachers (Mt. 7:21, 24). We should not provide an audience to them/. An orchard planter wouldn't tolerate rotten trees!

Lessons to Learn:

Be aware of the danger of false teachers. Not everyone who claims to teach about God's will has it right. What can you do? Continue to examine the Scriptures to see if what they teach is what God actually said. See the example of the Bereans in Acts 17:11 who searched the Scriptures to see whether or not what they were being told was really true. Back to the Bible!

John said that there were many false teachers that had gone into the world. The way that one could know whether or not they were telling the truth was whether or not they lined up with the teaching of Jesus' ambassadors, the apostles (1 Jn. 4:1-6).

Don't be someone who wants false teaching. Why would you? Because it might make you feel better about the way you're living. It might allow you to continue down the path you are traveling. Paul said some people wanted teachers who would "scratch their itching ears." Be aware of the danger.

For a helpful consideration of the gospel according to Matthew, check out Kenneth L. Chumbley, *Christ Revealed: A Commentary on Matthew*.

We're thankful to share these considerations of God's word. It's best if you have a Bible close to evaluate what we say. We want to go "back to the Bible" for all we teach.

Tune in to 100.7 WGOL Sunday at 8:30am for our Back to the Bible Radio Program.

Reach out with your questions, comments, or requests for personal Bible study at backtothebiblepodcast.com or at info@backtothebiblepodcast.com.



BACK TO THE BIBLE
WGOL 100.7 FM



SUNDAY 8:30 AM

backtothebiblepodcast.com

**LISTEN
NOW**



'WATER AUTHORITY,' from Page 1

where near that capacity, and FY2024 numbers show the plant to be only 30% utilized, with only 240 million gallons produced and used in the previous fiscal year.

Today, the FCWSA Board is at a financial fork in the road: either it must obtain debt relief or refinancing from the United States Department of Agriculture, its primary debt holder, or cease operations due to lack of sufficient income and no working capital to make necessary improvements and maintenance on the 20-year old facility.

FCWSA Board Chairman Randy Schultz presented a financial status update to the Franklin County Commission at the commission's September 2025 work session.

Additionally, Schultz said the FCWSA just completed a five-year review of expected capital needs, and the outlook is bleak.

"The unfavorable financial condition of the Franklin County Water Service Authority dictated inadequate maintenance and a need to replace aging equipment," Schultz told commissioners.

"While none of this impacts our ability to produce high quality water, without additional funding sources, customer growth, or grants, will have a serious problem," he added.

The Water Service Authority Board consists of Schultz, Lesley Cantrell, JT Lawler, J.R. Glasgow, Billy Entrekin and Barry Winsted, with one open seat. Its manager is Steve Swinney.

Although it didn't solve the Authority's financial crisis, all Franklin County residents and businesses benefited from the board's ability to bring high-speed fiber-optic broadband internet across the county as a result of its securing Freedom Fiber, a subsidiary of the Tombigbee Electric Cooperative, to complete the county-wide buildout.

Through local legislation enacted by the Alabama Legislature in 2014, statutory authority to provide broadband internet services to Franklin County.

The FCWSA Board's tireless effort to provide this essential utility was a driving force in convincing Freedom Fiber officials to come to Franklin County. There were other entities and individuals whose work also went into county-wide broadband services, but without the FCWSA, nowhere near 93% of county addresses would have access to high-speed broadband internet (100/20Mbps).

While the Authority hopes to benefit financially from last mile Franklin County broadband internet, that isn't expected to be a major revenue generator in the near future. And the Authority's financial benefit would be indirect at best, as its hopes for an increase in customers when or if new businesses and residences come to Franklin County as a result of fiber-optic broadband availability.

But the reality of the FCWSA in 2025 shows its future is in jeopardy. And the financial constraints date back to what the board says were broken promises from the Cities of Red Bay and Hodges prior to the plant's construction in 2006.

Schultz said the Board received commitments from both cities they would get '100%' of their water from the plant if it was built, but that never happened, as Red Bay and Hodges city officials decided to make improvements to their own plants rather than using the FCWSA plant. And that created a messy financial situation for the Authority.

"This caused and continues to cause a significant cash flow shortfall available to retire debt and operate the plant," Schultz said in his report.

There was no written agreement committing either Red Bay or Hodges to using the Franklin County Water Service Authority plant to provide its water, so the Authority moved forward on a verbal commitment in building the plant.

Annual use from Red Bay and Hodges would generate 'as much as \$9 million additional positive cash flow' since the plant was completed, Schultz said, and would have resolved FCWSA's financial shortfall.

With limited operational funds, there are concerns that Authority employees may leave for higher paying jobs with other water authorities because FCWSA could not match higher salary offers.

But the main panacea remains customer growth, perhaps the only solution for saving the Authority and resolving its financial crisis.

The Town of Vina recently announced it will purchase additional water from the FCWSA, generating as much as \$50,000 annual positive cash flow but that move will be made gradually over a three-year period, Schultz explained.

The FCWSA has 1,722 customers, with 1,128 using FCWSA plant water, and 594 using water the Authority purchases from Russellville and Phil Campbell Water Boards.

And an already high customer water rate compared to other water boards means FCWSA customers are already shouldering more than their fair share of the load.

For a low usage customer (avg. 2,150 gallons per month), the Franklin County Water Service Authority total annual bill is \$555.92. Compare that to Phil Campbell (\$401.31 annually), Red Bay (\$347.40) annually, Vina (\$368.12 annually), Russellville (\$304.15 annually) and Hackleburg (\$304.80 annually), using provided rates from those utilities.

The same is true for high usage customers averaging 5,722 gallons per month, with all five neighboring water boards lower by a range of \$132.54/annually to \$416.46/annually.

The FCWSA plant needs critical maintenance and equipment replacement, with pumps and filter membranes with expected 10-year use maximums still in service from 2006.

Board members stress that all maintenance required to ensure an adequate amount of clean drinking water has been performed, so water quality is not an issue. But the Authority's eight full-time employees operating a 24-hour plant and maintaining almost 240 miles of water line are pushed to the limit already.

The FCWSA estimates more than \$6 million is needed over the next five years to replace aging equipment and lines and correct a faulty plant design issue. And if the existing equipment fails, water production could certainly be slowed if multiple pieces of equipment fail at the same time.

Will the USDA provide relief? That's one hope for FCWSA board members. There is pending federal legislation that could provide debt relief, but there are no guarantees there. Large customer growth is needed, but remains unlikely. There are no easy solutions.

Schultz wants to reassure FCWSA customers they will continue to receive uninterrupted clean, safe drinking water regardless of what, if any, action the board takes. In the event of a USDA takeover, Schultz said USDA officials have assured him they would continue plant operations. And should the Authority file bankruptcy, another option, that could be as much as four or five years down the road. Either way, customers' water service will continue and remain safe and clean, Schultz said.

So while the FCWSA continues to provide clean, safe drinking water, its financial condition, and its future, remain cloudy.



Village at Oliver Place
NOW LEASING
Water included starting at:
2 BR \$505 • 3 BR: \$575

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

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Aderholt introduces legislation to mint \$2.50 commemorative coin

WASHINGTON—Congressman Robert Aderholt introduced the bicameral, bipartisan \$2.50 for America’s 250 Act in partnership with Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) alongside fellow America 250 Commissioners Reps. Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL) and Dwight Evans (D-PA). Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) introduced companion legislation in the Senate with Sens. Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Shelley Capito (R-WV), Alex Padilla (D-CA), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) as cosponsors. This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to issue two types of \$2.50 coins: a collectible ‘anniversary’ silver coin and a circulating coin, both featuring the historical design originally issued for America’s 150th anniversary.

“The 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence was a turning point in the history of the United States and the world, one that warrants national recognition,” said Rep. Aderholt. “I am honored to introduce a bill that recognizes this importance through a meaningful coin that links our nation’s past to its present and future.”

This legislation will carry on the precedent set by the 68th Congress that celebrated our nation’s 150th anniversary by authorizing the United States Mint to commemorate the 150th anniversary of American independence with two coins: a half dollar and a \$2.50 gold piece. As America marks its 250th anniversary, this coin will honor the same ideas and values recognized at the sesquicentennial.

“Every citizen deserves the opportunity to acquire such a coin as a means to connect to the founding principles of liberty, democracy, and self-governance,” Rep. Aderholt added. “This coin provides an accessible opportunity for the American people to engage with and take personal ownership of their national heritage through a tangible and lasting tribute.”

“As a member of the America 250 Commission and co-chair of the America250 Caucus, I’m proud to co-lead this bill to celebrate our nation’s 250th Anniversary with a commemorative coin. This coin will memorialize our moment in American history and celebrate our great mutual history. I’m grateful for the partnership with Rep. Aderholt and my House colleagues. It’s a privilege to work with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis as we prepare the nationwide celebration of America’s 250th birthday,” said Rep. Watson Coleman.

The \$2.50 anniversary coin for the 250th anniversary connects Americans today with a legacy of national celebration through coinage. In addition to the congressionally authorized activities already planned by the Mint, this new anniversary coin will serve not only as a lasting tribute to the founding generation and the ideals we share with them to this day, but also as a unifying and educational gesture on the occasion of the semiquincentennial.



Northwest Shoals
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**YOU CAN
SPECIALIZE**

nwscc.edu

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

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

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

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



Pilgrim's

freedom FIBER 
connecting the way to a better future

**Now Available
throughout Russellville
and Franklin County!**

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

Ready to sign up?

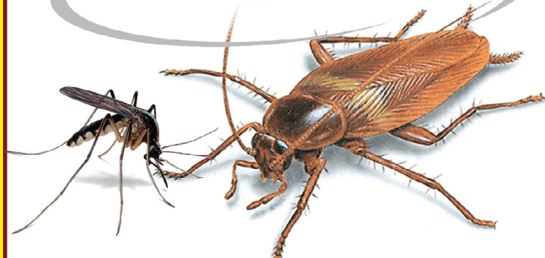
**www.freedomfiber.com
205-921-6712**

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



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


Pest Solutions





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


What's Happening
256.332.0255


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


 **A**merican Legion Post 64 will have its October meeting Thursday, Oct. 9, at North Highlands Church of Christ on North Jackson Ave. Meal at 6:30 pm, meeting follows at 7 pm.


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


 **T**he NACOLG SENIORx medication assistance program supplies free and low-cost medications for anyone in Alabama with a disability or chronic illness, regardless of age, that requires daily medication. Medicare recipients may also be eligible. For more information, contact NACOLG SENIORx today. There is no charge for this service. Call Paula Pardue at 256-389-0529, 256-389-0530 or 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463). This program is in partnership with the State of Alabama and Alabama Department of Senior Services. Contact us for more information.


 **M**y Father's House will host 'Friends and Family Day Fall Festival,' Friday, October 17, 2025, from 6-8 p.m. Come join them for a great time of fellowship and fun! Bouncy house, games, cake walk, hayride, food, candy and fun! Everyone is welcome. For more information or if you need a ride, call 256-460-1376.

 **T**he Cowboy Church of Franklin County will host a Trunk 'R Treat on October 31, 2025, starting at 5 p.m. There will be candy-filled decorated trunks and fun for all ages! Church is located at 25100 Highway 24, Russellville. For more information, call Michelle at 256-668-2344.

 **T**he Cowboy Church of Franklin County invites you to a Judgment House Experience Chili Cook-Off, Saturday, October 25th, at the church, located at 25100 Hwy. 24, Russellville. Bring your best chili, if you dare! Chili drop-off by 4 p.m. Judging begins at 4:30 p.m. 'Judgment House: The Last Ride, a hayride drama experience will begin immediately following the Chili Cook-Off. Free admission. Family-friendly Western-themed fun with a powerful message of eternity. For more information, call Jean at 256-275-0730.

 **T**here will be a Car Show as part of the Leighton Fire Department's 2nd annual Fall Festival, Saturday, Oct. 25th, 4-8 p.m., 2225 Railroad Street, Leighton. Sponsored by Why Knot Show 'Em Off. Free to spectate. \$20 registration paid day of show in person. Cars, trucks, bikes & RatRods. Trophies, door prizes, 50/50 drawing. Call 256-668-2585 for more info.

 **T**he Russellville First Methodist Church will have a 5th Thursday Food Giveaway on Thursday, October 30th, at 311 N Jackson Ave., Russellville, AL, beginning at 1 pm. Please use the back entrance from Washington Ave. Remain in your car, have your ID ready, and allow our volunteers to serve you. Note: In case of inclement weather, the giveaway will be rescheduled.

 **L**ove Packages Ministry is in need of donations of new and used Bibles (in any condition). They will be sent to ministers and missionaries around the world who will distribute them. Donations can be dropped off in the church office of Red Bay First Baptist Church or Russellville First Baptist Church.

George Evans, MD

Offering general medical care
services for the entire family



**256.383.4473 Ext. 2021
340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL**

Franklin County Schools in good financial health with \$52 million budget, up \$2.5 million from FY24-25

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When the new fiscal year began October 1st, the Franklin County Board of Education (FCBOE) was operating under a new \$52 million budget, approved by the board at its September business meeting.

FCBOE Chief School Financial Officer Carla Knight said the budget increased from FY2024-25 by \$2.5 million.

As of August 14, 2025, the system had an enrollment of 3,312 and a total workforce, including certified and support personnel, of 562. 64% of FCBOE's expenses are categorized as instruction and instructional support, 14% auxiliary transportation and the Child Nutrition Program, 8% in operations/maintenance, 5% capital expenses and 3% each for debt service and other expenses.

The majority of the system's revenue funding comes from the State of Alabama (69%). Local/other revenue constitutes 19% and federal revenue comprises 12% of the total budget.

FCBOE Greg Hamilton expressed his appreciation to Knight for her work with this year's budget.

"I want to thank our Chief School Financial Officer for the job she's done on a \$52 million budget, and I can't say enough about what my secretary Cyndi James does every day. They are both greatly appreciated," Hamilton said.

The FY26 budget contains \$1,000 for teachers to use at their discretion for classroom supplies. Those funds are distributed to the teachers through a program called Classwallet, the fourth year the system has used the program, which Knight said has saved tremendous time and paper-work.

The system's PEEHIP health instruction allocation, which the board pays for employee health insurance, increased from \$800/month to \$904/month, for a total annual expense of \$10,848 per employee.

The budget is supplemented by Advancement and Technology funds received by the system. Those funds increased to \$3.8 million for the new fiscal year. They provide significant aid paying for long-term maintenance projects and expenses, Knight said.

Additionally, the board receives \$139,124 in supplemental appropriation for after-school programs. Parents pay no tuition for their children to attend these.

With the addition of math coaches at three schools this year, all schools except Red Bay Elementary now have math coaches on campus. The five math coaches are primarily paid by a supplemental allocation of \$450,000 received by the board this fiscal year.

A new state law, the Paid Parental Leave Act, went into effect July 1, 2025. All female FCBOE employees now receive eight weeks paid leave for birth, miscarriage or adoption. Male employees receive two weeks paid leave under the new law.

Franklin County Schools receive \$976,223 in funding from the State of Alabama's RAISE Act. The RAISE (Renewing Alabama's Investment in Student Excellence) Act is a new hybrid funding formula for Alabama's K-12 public education system designed to provide additional funding for students with high needs, such as those in poverty, English language learners, students with special needs, and gifted students.

Approved in 2025 by the Alabama Legislature, it allocates significant state funding to help districts directly support these student groups, altering traditional foundation funding to allow schools to innovate and better address specific student needs.

The \$976,223 is an increase of \$536,608 as the system now receives additional funding for at-risk, English Language Learners, gifted and special education students.

Another important revenue source for Franklin County Schools remains its share of Franklin County's one-cent additional sales tax, approved by county voters in 2018 for an additional 30 years.

Revenue from the additional one-cent tax is divided into thirds, with the Franklin County Commission receiving one third, and Russellville City Schools and Franklin County Schools dividing the remaining two thirds proportionately based on each system's enrollment.

4-H Youth Are Beyond Ready: Franklin County Joins National Celebration of Leadership, Learning, and Service

Russellville, AL — From fairgrounds to classrooms, community gardens to robotics labs, 4-H youth in Franklin County are proving they're not just ready for the future — they're Beyond Ready. During National 4-H Week, celebrated Oct. 5–11, 2025, local clubs will share how 4-H equips young people with the skills, confidence, and resilience to lead in a world full of opportunity and change.

As America's largest youth development organization, 4-H empowers 6 million young people nationwide with hands-on learning experiences through clubs, camps, school programs, and community events. Through the Beyond Ready initiative, 4-H will help prepare 10 million youth for work and life by 2030. In Franklin County, 4-H provides opportunities for youth to develop public speaking skills, lead community service projects, practice financial literacy, raise livestock, wood working projects, compete in STEM challenges, horse club, archery club and much more.

Katernia Cole Coffey, Franklin County Extension Director says, "National 4-H Week is more than just a celebration—it's a powerful reminder of the impact youth development programs have on our communities. As the County Extension Director for Franklin County, I've seen firsthand how 4-H helps shape confident, capable, and community-minded young people. The values learned through 4-H—like responsibility, teamwork, and service—don't stay confined to the classroom or project space. They carry into college, careers, and every aspect of life.

4-H isn't just about learning how to show an animal, cook a meal, or grow a garden. It's about learning how to do things well, how to work as a team, and how to lead with integrity. Personally, being involved in 4-H helped me develop the skills to communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and follow through on my goals. These lessons became the foundation of who I am today.

I want the youth enrolled in 4-H here in Franklin County to have those same opportunities—experiences that can take them wherever they want to go in life. Whether they dream of becoming doctors, teachers, farmers, business owners, or community leaders, 4-H equips them with the mindset and skills to succeed. The program prepares youth to be beyond ready for college, careers, and life by focusing on real-world skills: leadership, critical thinking, adaptability, and civic engagement.

During National 4-H Week, let's celebrate the incredible potential of our young people—and recommit to giving them meaningful 4-H experiences that empower them to lead and thrive, wherever life takes them."

Jeff Elledge's
CREDIT CARS
WE FINANCE NO CREDIT

SLOW CREDIT BAD CREDIT
Down Payments As Low As
\$800* to \$2,200*
 *According to inventory and any prior history with this dealership.
2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals
256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711

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



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

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



"We are sleep specialists!"

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

The Sleep Clinic

www.russellvillehospital.com

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

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; 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

THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE CONSIDERATION WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, RELIGION, COLOR, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, DISABILITY, OR ANY OTHER NON-MERIT FACTOR. THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE ENCOURAGES APPLICATIONS FOR POSITIONS IN ALL PROTECTIVE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS FROM WOMEN IN AN ATTEMPT TO INCREASE THEIR REPRESENTATION IS PROTECTIVE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS.

Pay Range is from \$46,278.96 – 71,384.18.

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 do not need to reapply in order to receive consideration for this appointment. They need to call the city hall and ask to pull their application. Applications must be returned no later than October 24, 2025, 2025, 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.

'FCCDC' from Page 1

—\$7,000 to Liberty Learning Foundation Super Citizen Program for sponsorship for all of Franklin County.
—\$250 to Tharptown High School for purchase of mascot costume.
—\$800 to Red Bay High School for ACT Boot Camp Program and Math/ELA Tutoring Program.
—\$1,200 to Franklin County MLK Memorial Scholarship Committee for funding of one scholarship.
—\$800 to Belgreen High School for purchase of Chromebooks for classrooms.
—\$800 to Belgreen High School football program for purchase of equipment.
—\$1,000 to Franklin County Board of Education for purchase of a lawnmower.
—\$500 to Belgreen High School Kindergarten Classroom for purchase of supplies & learning tools.
—\$800 to Phil Campbell Elementary for Reading Classroom purchase of iPads.
—\$500 to Belgreen High School Special Education Classroom for purchase of classroom and learning supplies.
—\$250 to Vina High School for Art Program classroom supplies.
—\$800 to Phil Campbell High School for purchase of Chromebooks for math classroom.
—\$250 to Phil Campbell High School for production expenses of Theatre Program.
—\$500 to Vina High School Cheerleading for purchase of competition mats.
—\$200 to Vina High School Cheerleading for All American Cheer Camp expenses.
—\$200 to Vina High School Cross Country for team expenses.
—\$1,000 to Vina High School for installation of safety film for windows.
—\$800 to Vina Elementary School for purchase of five touchscreen Chromebooks for Special Education students.
—\$800 to Vina High School for purchase of supplies for fundraising event.
—\$1,375 to Red Bay News for Newspapers in Education via Red Bay News.
—\$500 to Vina High School Football for expenses for rebuilding lockers.
—\$500 to Vina High School Softball for locker room expenses.
—\$500 to Vina High School Basketball for expenses for locker room upgrades.
—\$1,000 to Tharptown Elementary School for purchase of desks for 5th grade classroom.
—\$500 to Vina High School for weight room project for all sports.
—\$1,000 to East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department for purchase of fire and safety tools.
—\$800 to Russellville Elementary School for purchase of technology and curriculum supplies.
—\$10,000 to Bear Creek Collaborative for design and build of sustainable team building structures.
—\$5,000 to Spruce Pine Historical Society for replacement of wooden floors in the Spruce Pine Museum.
—\$6,000 transfer to the Future Economic Development Fund.
The next meeting of the FCCDC will be Friday, November 21, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., at the Red Bay City Hall. Grant requests for the November 21st must be received by a commission member before 12 p.m., Friday, November 14, 2025.




ALL SMILES:
The three Democratic candidates for United States Senate attended a candidate forum Sept. 30 at Russellville's A.W. Todd Centre. The event was organized by the Franklin County Democratic Party and Chairman Rick Neighbors. From left: Kyle Sweetser, Dakari Larriett and Mark Wheeler. Each candidate answered questions submitted by audience members and each gave an opening and closing statement. The event, bringing candidates from across Alabama, was the first of its kind to ever take place in Franklin County.

Shoals Primary Care

welcomes

Dr. Zaman Shah

to the practice
in Sheffield




**Board certified in Internal Medicine,
Dr. Shah is an exceptional physician and
a close family member of Dr. Syed.**

**He will be continuing Dr. Syed's legacy
of excellent and compassionate patient
care with Shoals Primary Care.**

Monday-Thursday 8am - 5pm
Walk-ins are Welcome

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED
MEDICARE PATIENTS WELCOME



SHOALS
PRIMARY CARE

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



EyeCare Professionals

Russellville • Moulton • Red Bay

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

eyecareprofessionalspc.com
15255 Hwy 43 • Russellville • 256.332.5440

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





Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

BUSINESS

FREE Landscape Blocks, Rocks and Bricks. You load, you haul. There is **LOTS** of it! Call 256-436-6905.

YARD SALE

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10-11, 7am-until each day. Brookewood Subdivision off Underwood Road.

Multi Family Yard Sale. Thursday, Friday, Saturday Oct. 9-11. 7am-until. 1719 North Jackson Ave., past Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

SERVICES

SELLING a RV, Tractor or Golf Cart? **ADVERTISE STATEWIDE** or by region in over 100 Newspapers, reaching over 1 million readers each week! Run your ad in our Classified Network for just \$210 per week! Make one call to

this newspaper (participating Alabama SCAN newspaper) or call 1-800-264-7043 to find out how easy it is to advertise statewide!

BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES in as little as **ONE DAY!** Superior quality bath and shower systems at **AFFORDABLE PRICES!** Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 1-833-770-0326

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-385-7131

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and

do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, Call 24/7: 1-833-879-1371 Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

HEALTH/BEAUTY

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrator s. **FREE** information kit. Call 1-833-650-7885

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. **CALL NOW:** 1-833-641-6606

FOR SALE

Laying Chickens For Sale. \$15 apiece. Ducks For Sale. \$20. Call 256-324-2407.

AFFORDABLE TV & INTERNET. If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-833-641-6672

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today to schedule a **FREE** in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-833-641-6567

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is the most advanced gutter protection for your home, backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-833-683-2005 to schedule a **FREE** inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 20% off! Seniors and military save an additional 10%.

Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details

Prepare for power outages today with a

Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a **FREE 7-Year warranty** with qualifying purchase* Call 1-877-323-5516 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Safe Step. North Americas #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our **FREE** shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-871-6175

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your **FREE** Dental Information Kit with all

the details! 1-877-817-4697 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/alabama)

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving **ALL** installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/31/25.) Call 1-877-205-0836

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from **Erie Metal Roofs!** Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call **Erie Metal Roofs:** 1-833-955-3163

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest

carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-358-5270

AUTOMOTIVE

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? **DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS.** Fast free pick

up. **Patriotic Hearts'** programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-426-0193

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a **FAST, FREE** vehicle pick-up and receive a top tax deduction! Call **Veteran Car Donations** at 1-877-724-3049 today!

BUCKLE UP!

It Could Save Your Life!

franklinsheriff.org
(256) 332-8811

Compliments of

Shannon Oliver

S H E R I F F



K&S TREE SERVICE

253 Laurelwood Drive
Russellville, Alabama



KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064

**Trimming • Topping • Removal
Bucket Work • Stump Grinding**

Beautiful Fall Mums and Pumpkins for sale. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 8am-1pm, Friday 8am-5pm. Set up at intersection of Alabama 24 and Highway 77. Also, may pickup at Farm in Bethesda community. Call ahead at 256-668-3893 or with any questions.

Russellville suffers first region defeat, falls 35-28 at No. 3 Fairview

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville High School varsity football team dropped to 3-3 overall and 3-1 in Class 5A Region 7 play after being handed a 35-28 loss on the road at No. 3 Fairview on Friday night.

The two teams battled to a 14-14 halftime score before Fairview (6-0, 4-0) came out and dominated possession to start the second half. The hosts took a two touchdown lead into the fourth quarter, and that deficit proved too much for the Golden Tigers to overcome in the end.

"I'm proud of our kids," Russellville head coach Dustin Goodwin told the Franklin Free Press after the game. "Probably not a lot of people thought the game would go this way and we'd have a chance to win. We're not satisfied by losing by any means, but we are proud of our guys."

The first half was a back-and-forth affair. Russellville, taking the opening kickoff, drew first blood in the contest, scoring from the fourth play from scrimmage on a 56-yard touchdown pass from sophomore quarterback Whit Goodwin to junior Daniel Aycock. Less than a minute into the game, Goodwin found a wide open Aycock on a slant route over the middle of the field and Aycock won the race to the endzone to give the visitors

See, 'GOLDEN TIGERS,' Page 12

Tharptown beats rival, defending county champ Belgreen to win Franklin County Tourney

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

The Tharptown High School varsity volleyball team took home the 2025 Franklin County Tournament title on Saturday after beating the hosting Belgreen Lady Bulldogs in the championship round.

Tharptown and Belgreen, the defending county champ, met three times over the course of the tournament, splitting the first two matches 1-1 before the Lady Wildcats, who beat Phil Campbell 2-0 to start the double-elimination tourney, came out on top in the final match.

The Lady Wildcats, after defeating Phil Campbell and Belgreen, were perfect in group play and advanced to the championship round. Belgreen took the first game 25-12, 16-25, 15-13, but in the decisive second championship match Tharptown came out on top 19-25, 25-15, 15-11.

"I can't put into words how proud I am of our team for winning the county tournament," Tharptown head coach Lori Huffaker told the Franklin Free Press. "I am especially proud of their grit and determination when fighting back after being down a set—not once, but twice! That's a HUGE accomplishment."

"I absolutely love how they played together as a team and encouraged one another," Huffaker added. "I hope they enjoy this moment and savor this victory! And I really hope it makes them hungry for more of it!"



The 2025 Franklin County Volleyball Tournament champions, the Tharptown Lady Wildcats (Courtesy photo)

Phil Campbell gets to .500 with 36-26 region win over Midfield

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

The Phil Campbell High School varsity football team improved to 3-3 overall and 2-2 in Class 3A Region 5 play after a 36-26 home victory over Midfield on Friday night. The victory gave the Bobcats back-to-back wins for the first time since the end of last season.

"It was a huge win for us," third-year Phil Campbell head coach Jacob Hamilton told the Franklin Free Press. "It was huge for our momentum and big for us to get to .500."

"We jumped out on (Midfield) quick and that was great to see," he added. "Great team win." Junior quarterback Hayston Scott led a stellar offensive effort that saw the hosts lead 30-18 at halftime. Scott opened up the scoring in the first quarter with a rushing touchdown and then followed it up with a touchdown pass to senior Hagen Raper whom Hamilton had high praise for after the game.

"He may be our best overall athlete," Hamilton said of Raper. "He does a ton for us and he's extremely important to what we do as a team."

Another great athlete, junior Austin Elliott, scored Phil Campbell's third touchdown and Scott rushed for his second touchdown to close out the first half scoring for the Bobcats. At the half-time break PCHS led Midfield 30-18.

In the second half, each team scored one touchdown, Phil Campbell's final scoring sealing the game with around three minutes to play; once again it was Scott to find the endzone. The junior ended the game with 149 yards rushing on 17 carries and completed four passes on six attempts for 46 yards.

"Hayston is having a great season. He's our playmaker, he's only getting better, and we're really excited about what he's able to do for us with the ball in his hands," Hamilton said.

See, 'PHIL CAMPBELL,' Page 13

NOW LEASING
1-2-3 BEDROOM APTS.
WINDSOR
APARTMENTS
RED BAY
1-938-221-8074
 **Credit/Background Check
 **Income Restrictions Apply

'GOLDEN TIGERS,' from Page 11

an early 7-0 lead.

Fairview responded by scoring on its first offensive possession. On fourth down and medium, from the RHS 43-yard line, a halfback pass fooled the Russellville defense and the Aggies hit on a deep ball for the game-tying score with 7:53 to go in the first quarter.

That was one play that would come back to haunt the Golden Tigers. The next regret for Russellville came on its ensuing offensive possession: Driving 65 yards down the field RHS found itself with a first and goal from the Fairview one-yard line, but a holding penalty on first down and then two incompletions forced the Golden Tigers into a field goal attempt; senior kicker David Tomas' kick from around 29 yards out went just wide right of the goalposts and Russellville came away with nothing.

"Unfortunately we felt like we had a 14-point swing in the first half. We had (Fairview) on fourth and long and gave them a cheap one on a trick play that we'd like to have back," Goodwin said. "Then we had the ball on the one-yard line, had a holding penalty that backed us up and took us out of scoring (a touchdown) and missed a field goal there, so that's potentially a 14 or 10 point swing that would have made a difference in the game."

"We talked about it today: The game's gonna come down to three or four plays and hopefully we'd make them," he added. "When it came down to those two or three plays we just didn't make them."

Both teams would add another touchdown before halftime. Fairview's came on a short run to give the Aggies their first lead before the Golden Tigers tied it back up on a 28-yard touchdown pass from Goodwin to senior receiver Connor Devaney, his third receiving touchdown of the campaign.

In the first half both teams seemed content to take their time and shorten the game but the third quarter is really when the hosts began to dominate the contest in time of possession.

Receiving the kickoff to start the second half Fairview proceeded to drain half the clock on a methodical march to the endzone, capped by a three-yard touchdown rush by senior running back Jake Harper.

Down 21-14, Russellville's first possession of the second half ended with a punt after three plays.

The Aggies—really milking the clock now—put together another long drive and took another handful of minutes off the clock before they scored again to make it 28-14 with 16 seconds left in the third quarter.

In the third quarter Fairview ran 21 plays to Russellville's four and had possession for around 10 minutes.

Down by two touchdowns heading into the final 12 minutes, Russellville was forced to play catch-up for the duration. The Golden Tigers were able to pull back to within a score early in the fourth quarter when Goodwin found junior Sam Hamilton on a short five-yard touchdown pass to make it 28-21.

But just like in the third quarter, the Russellville defense was unable to get off the field when the Aggies got the ball back. Fairview continued to chip away at the RHS defense with Harper gaining three or four yards at a time, burning precious clock all the while.

Fairview scored its final touchdown on one of the few explosive plays Russellville allowed—a 42-yard run by Harper to make it 35-21 with 4:22 remaining.


The Golden Tiger offense, led by another 300-plus yard passing game from Goodwin, continued to fight and refused to give up, though. With 1:52 remaining, RHS pulled back with seven points once again when Goodwin hit Houston Askew on a 20-yard touchdown pass. Unfortunately Russellville's onside kick attempt went awry and, after the Aggies were able to convert one final first down, simply ran out of time to make a full comeback.

"I was proud of our guys offensively for not giving up and giving us a chance to try to tie the game up (after) the onside kick," Goodwin said. "I think the margin of error in this game was pretty small for both teams," he added. "Credit to Coach (George) Redding and his staff—they do a good job—and credit to them for making those plays."

The region loss drops the Golden Tigers, for the time being, to third place in Class 5A Region 7 behind Fairview and Priceville, who beat West Point Friday night to remain perfect in area play. Both Russellville and Fairview have yet to face Priceville. So the bottom line for Russellville is there is still everything to play for this season; Goodwin and the Golden Tigers don't intend to allow this one region defeat to keep them from attempting to reach their full potential.

"We're going to fight to get better, and that's not going to go away," Goodwin said. "We still have a chance to be seeded in the playoffs and maybe even get home field advantage—it just depends on how the second half of the season goes. So we'll lick our wounds tonight and get right back after it on Sunday."

The Golden Tigers next game is a non-region road contest at Hatton on Friday, October 10.



John Almirol, M.D.
Internal Medicine

"Over 22 Years Caring for Franklin County."

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

Se habla Español

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

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

Accepting new patients
256.331.1900

15225 Highway 43, Suite G
Next to Russellville Hospital



COACH
DUSTIN
GOODWIN
SHOW

Friday nights at 6:30 p.m. on **WGOL 100.7 FM**

'PHIL CAMPBELL,' from Page 11

Next to the Bobcats' ability to find the endzone five times in the game, Hamilton said a major reason his team was able to pull out the win was because they held on to the football for most of the game.

"We dominated in time of possession. Midfield had possession for about 16 minutes and we had the ball for about 30 and a half minutes, so we had the ball for almost twice as long as them. That was really important in this game," Hamilton said. "We were able to consistently have possession and continued to run the ball well. It was great to see that."

When the visitors did have the ball, the Phil Campbell defense came up with some vital stops and created takeaways to get the ball back into the offense's hands.

"We had some key stops on defense which were critical in helping us get the win," Hamilton said. "We had two interceptions on defense and were able to get the ball back to our offense. In a 10-point game those turnovers were massive."

The region win over Midfield puts Phil Campbell in that much better of a position in the race for the playoffs. With a 2-2 record in Region 5 the Bobcats currently hold the No. 4 spot behind Gordo (4-0), Vinemont (4-0), and Winfield (3-1); PCHS has the head-to-head advantage over Oakman (2-2), as well.

Phil Campbell has three region games remaining, starting with the Bobcats' final road contest at Carbon Hill on October 10. The outcome in those three games will decide whether Phil Campbell can reach the postseason again after missing out last campaign.

"This region is a gauntlet—it's a very tough region. But we've got three region games left and if we can win two of those then we can get that third or fourth spot and make the playoffs and have a winning season," Hamilton said. "We've got some tough games ahead and our guys know that, but the good news is we've got most of them at home and that's huge. The school spirit and support from the community this season has been incredible."

"We're determined to make the playoffs this season, and we are in a good position to get that third or fourth seed if we keep playing the way we're playing and continue to improve. We're heading in the right direction," he added.

Phil Campbell will travel to Carbon Hill for its next region game on Friday, October 10.



FREE PICKUP APPLIANCE

Do you need to get rid of an old, inoperable appliance at NO cost to you? Just call 256-668-3445, or 256-436-9818. We will pick up your old appliances free anywhere in Franklin County!



The 2025 Franklin County Volleyball Tournament All-Tournament Team.

From left to right: Bryn Scott, BHS; Lilliana Willingham, BHS; Carly Cason, THS (MVP); Alyssa Fischer, THS; Cadence Kennedy, THS



THARPTOWN VOLLEYBALL

CARLY CASON

FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

ATHLETE

of the

WEEK

SEPT. 29-OCT. 4, 2025

The FFP Athlete of the Week for September 29-October 4 is Tharptown volleyball's Carly Cason. Over four matches in the Franklin County Tournament, Cason recorded 56 kills, 8 service aces, and had 7 solo blocks. Cason helped lead her team to the Franklin County Tournament championship game where the Lady Wildcats beat defending county champ Belgreen. For her efforts, Cason was named the tournament MVP. Congrats, Carly!



Russellville Gas Board

Call for details
256.332.2020

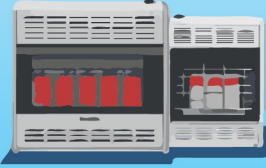
Natural Gas Appliance Rebates & Financing

Financing Available

Space Heater

Rebate of

\$300 / up to **\$600** total
per heater

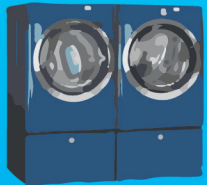


Loan Features:

- Can finance 100% of installation costs
- Monthly loan payment added to utility bill
- Quick approval process
- Fixed rate loan terms are available up to 6 years
- No prepayment penalty
- Must use licensed contractor
- Available to residential owner-occupied single-family and duplex homes

Clothes Dryers

High efficiency, less wrinkling and economical drying



Ranges

Instant and precise heat control when preparing meals for your family and friends



\$100 Rebate

Primary Home Heating Units

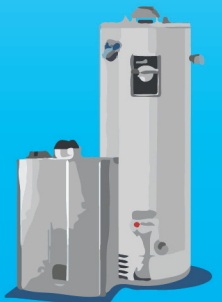
Superior heating to bring warmth and comfort to your home



\$800 Rebate

Water Heaters

Reliable hot water for your home



\$500 Rebate

North Highlands Church of Christ

in partnership with Food Bank of North Alabama

FREE

Every 3rd Saturday of each month
Sat., Oct 17th

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

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



Dr. Kelly's Urgent Care

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

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

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

Phil Campbell, Russellville varsity volleyball squads honor senior class last week



Phil Campbell head coach Lanice White joins Phil Campbell seniors Roxi Molina (10), Ava Hall (22), and Avery Cummings (12) for a photo after Senior Night recognition on October 2.



Russellville seniors Laila Hill (4) and Fatima Ramirez (6) are joined by RHS volleyball head coach Madison Lamson for a photo on Russellville's Senior Night on September 30.

FOOTBALL FRIDAY TAILGATE SHOW

on



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

Property Clerk, Revenue Commission Office
Deputy, Sheriff's Office
Courthouse Security, Sheriff's Office
Corrections Officer/Dispatcher, Jail

Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until positions are filled.

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

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



Dr. Amy Traylor to Our Team!



**Dr. Amy
Traylor**

**NOW
ACCEPTING**
Appointments

**Family Medicine
& Comprehensive
Health**

Care for the entire family

**Monday
Tuesday
Thursday
8-5**

**15225 Hwy 43
Suite B-1
256.331.2700**



KATERNIA'S KÖRNER



Katernia Cole-Coffey
Extension Coordinator

Kristina Rossin
Administrative Assistant II

Shirley Jimenez
EFNEP Educator

Ida Robinson
Fill-In Secretary

256.332.8880

What’s Happening with Your Franklin County Extension Office!




Franklin County 4-H Natural Resource Day Camp

ages 9-18

Saturday, October 18, 2025
9:00am-2:00pm

**Bear Creek Collaborative
at Overton Farms
2300 Overton Farm Road
Hodges, AL 35571**

**Cost: \$25.00/ child
Onsite Parent Cost: \$10.00**

Bring your own lunch

Explore, Learn, And Play In Nature!

Limited space available, register by Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Call 256-332-8880





The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or free language access services, contact Franklin County Extension Office at 256-332-8880.

Franklin County

Agriculture Workshop

Thursday, October 9, 2025
10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Chucky Mullins Center, 814 Hamilton Street,
Russellville, AL 35653.

IPM Smart Strategies

- Controlling Pests in Fruits and Vegetables
- Controlling Worms in Small Ruminants

Join us for effective, sustainable strategies for managing internal parasites in small ruminants and pests in fruits and vegetables. The event will feature expert-led sessions on tools like FEC and FAMACHA scoring, integrated pest management (IPM) techniques, and practical farm-level solutions to reduce chemical use, enhance productivity, and support long-term agricultural resilience.



Free Registration
www.aces.edu/go/5414

OR

call: 256-320-8051







Fall in Bloom: Floral Arranging

When:
Wednesday, October 8th @ 1:00pm

Where:
Lauderdale County Extension Office
802 Veterans Drive,
Florence, AL

Registration Fee:
\$30

Celebrate the beauty of fall by creating your own stunning bouquet of fall blooms. In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn floral arranging techniques while crafting a vibrant fall bouquet perfect for your home! All materials and supplies will be provided.



To register scan the QR code or call 256-766-6223

OCTOBER

- Fertilize established strawberry plantings
- Check landscape plants for damage caused by insect and disease
- If winter or spring weeds were a concern, apply preemergent herbicides to lawn
- Plant perennials and biennials, divide old clumps of perennials
- Plant spring flowering bulbs late this month in North Alabama
- Plant carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onions, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnip seeds

