

August 2024

# PIGSKIN PREVIEW

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE ST. CLAIR TIMES



**Game Schedules • Football Team Photos • Varsity Cheerleader Photos**

**High School Band Photos • Team Pre-Game Previews**





When it comes to service,  
we leave it all on the field.

COOSA PINES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION...

*Where You Belong.*



Coosa Pines  
Federal Credit Union  
*"Where You Belong."*

**FREE STUDENT ACCOUNTS:**

Students age preschool through college can join free. Membership open to Talladega, Coosa, Clay, St. Clair, Shelby, and Jefferson Counties. Join in person or online at [www.CoosaPinesFCU.org](http://www.CoosaPinesFCU.org).

33710 US Hwy 280 • Childersburg, AL 35044  
(256) 378-5559 • FB @ CoosaPinesFederalCU



FEDERALLY INSURED BY NCUA | ADDITIONAL INSURANCE THROUGH ESI | EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

000285105r1



# PIGSKIN PREVIEW 2024

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### SCHOOLS

Ashville .....	3
Leeds .....	8
Moody .....	14
Pell City .....	18
Ragland .....	22
St. Clair County .....	28
Springville .....	32
Victory Christian .....	36

### Team profiles by

- Chris Fernsler •
- Mitchell Davis •
- Shane Dunaway •
- Will Heath •

### Cover photo by

- Tucker Webb •
- The Daily Home



### Special thanks to

David Atchison  
Pam Isbell

## ASHVILLE BULLDOGS



# Ashville continues search for first win with new head coach

### From staff reports

**ASHVILLE** – Starting his second year as head football coach at Ashville, Kirakias Shepard looks for his first victory. In order to get that first win, and hopefully many, many more, Shepard expects his guys to continue working hard, trust the process and know that hard work is going to pay off.

The Bulldogs are in Class 4A, Region 6 this year along with Alexandria, Anniston, Cherokee County, Etowah, Hokes Bluff, Oneonta and White Plains.

“New to our region is Alexandria, down from 5A, Hokes Bluff, up from 3A, along with White Plains and Anniston,” Shepard said. “Cherokee County has played for the Class 4A state title the last two seasons, so you could say they have set the gold standard in our class and region. They are always tough and well-coached.”

Shepard said Region 6, as a whole, has the chance to be a tough, competitive region.

“I would say it is probably the toughest region in Class 4A, top to bottom,” he said. “Not only Cherokee County. But you have teams like Oneonta, Anniston and Alex-

andria who year in and year out are always good. Etowah is always tough.”

Shepard mentioned the two county foes the Bulldogs will face this year in Springville and St. Clair County High.

“Springville head coach (Jon) Clements and I touch base periodically,” Shepard said. “We thought it would be good to bring that rivalry back since it has been about five to six years since they have played each other. We thought it would be good for Ashville, for Springville, just good for high school football.”

One of the key players returning for Ashville this season is senior offensive tackle Mike Tindall.

“We have a senior council this year, and he is the head guy,” Shepard said. “His voice in the locker room carries a lot of weight. I look for him to have a breakout year and excel offensively and defensively.”

Shepard said Jrey Colley played outside linebacker last year, and they are increasing his role by putting him at running back.

“He has embraced that role, and we are looking forward to seeing

See **Ashville**, Page 4

# GAMEDAY

... STARTS HERE ...



**Enjoy Football  
with All of Your  
Favorites from**



## Dine-In or Carry-Out!

**Check Our Menu Daily  
On Our Facebook Page**

**5000 Cogswell Ave., Pell City**

**f (205) 884-8896**

003066451



# Ashville

From Page 3

what kind of season he will have,” Shepard said.

The Ashville center is Justin Henderson. “We call him ‘Bull’ and he started as a freshman last year,” Shepard said. “He’s had a good off-season and has really hit the weightroom hard.”

Shepard said he is looking forward to seeing what kind of season returning quarterback JB Potter will have.

“Not only was he our quarterback he was our starting free safety and leading tackler,” Shepard said. “He has worked really hard in the off-season, and I expect him to be a leader for us.”

A couple of receivers Shepard mentioned included Parker Smith and Jamon Williams. “Williams has a lot of speed and knows how to run routes,” Shepard said. “He makes coaches look smart. If we can get the ball in his hands, he can do some good things. Nate Huckbay was a two-way starter last year playing receiver on offense and safety on defense. We are moving him to corner this year because he is one of our best cover guys.”

Shepard said Jaden Harris is a key player returning after getting hurt in the season opener last year with a high ankle sprain.

The main team weakness is that the team is so young, according to Shepard.

“When I got here last year, the two smallest classes were last year’s senior class and this year’s senior class,” he said. “Last year we graduated eight seniors and this year, we only have four seniors on the team. So, we are having to rely on the younger classes a lot, which is a good thing and a bad thing. It’s a bad thing now because you are getting babies prepared to play before they are ready. But it will be a good thing next year. We are building for the future.”

Another weakness described by Shepard is depth.

“Our numbers are not where I want them to be,” he said. “My goal is to have 20 percent of the student population to participate in football. That would be right at 60-to-65 boys. Right now, we have about 35 boys. It’s not terrible, but it is not where I want to be. You live and learn and we are doing some different things this year in the weightroom from a conditioning standpoint to make sure our guys get deeper into the fourth quarter.”

Shepard said the major key to a success-

ful season is that his kids have to continue buying in to the process.

“They are competing right now, but when we start playing games, they have to understand that they have a chance to win,” Shepard said. “I do not want them thinking, ‘Well, we are Ashville, they are Springville. We are Ashville, they are Cherokee County.’ I don’t want them feeling defeated before the game actually starts. I want them knowing that before that first whistle, they can’t be beat. That is something we have preached all off-season. They put on their cleats and shoulder pads and strap up their helmets just like we do. Let’s trust our preparation and trust our coaching staff and go be Ashville. Stand together like they are and not wilting away in the face of adversity. They have to learn leadership. I tell them all the time that great teams are player-led. We’ve got that for the most part, we just have to be consistent in our leadership in good times as well as bad times. We need that leadership and staying healthy is a must. If we can do that, I think we can have a successful season.”

The Bulldogs open the season at home against Springville August 22, on a rare Thursday night special.

## ASHVILLE

- 8/22 vs Springville
- 9/6 at Anniston
- 9/13 vs Oneonta
- 9/20 at Etowah
- 9/27 at Talladega
- 10/4 vs White Plains
- 10/11 at Alexandria
- 10/18 vs Hokes Bluff
- 10/25 at CCHS
- 11/1 vs SCCHS

**WE ARE PROUD SUPPORTERS OF ALL  
OUR AREA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAMS.**

**HAVE A SUCCESSFUL AND SAFE YEAR!**

*Work hard to do  
your best and  
success will  
surely come.*





**ARNOLD LAW OFFICES**



**Jared B. Arnold**  
*Attorney At Law*

2109 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. Suite #3  
Pell City, AL 35125

**205-338-6565**



**PIPE PRODUCTS  
DIVISION**

815 MILES PARKWAY,  
PELL CITY, AL 35125  
205.884.4480  
FORDMETERBOX.COM



**ENJOY THE SEASON**





**BAIN & COMPANY, PC**  
*Greg Bain, Certified Public Accountant*



**Good Luck  
To All Area  
Football  
Teams!**

**1609 Cogswell Ave., Pell City  
205-884-2332**

0003149431



**Here's to a Great Season for the  
Ashville High School Football  
Team! Go Get Em' Bulldogs!**

**piggly wiggly®**

*Down Home, Down The Street.*

**Get all of your game day favorites by  
shopping at the Ashville Piggly Wiggly!**

**35771 US HIGHWAY 231, ASHVILLE • (205) 594-3670**



0003149921





# Go Team! Best of Luck ASHVILLE BULLDOGS!



There is always room to improve  
and there is always something  
else to strive towards.



*City of Ashville*

211 8 th Street  
Ashville, AL 35953

205.594.4151





HERITAGE SOUTH  
YOUR COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

"Your Game Plan for Financial Success"

Developing a playbook toward a winning financial future is a smart game plan.

That's why Heritage South offers so many ways to help youngsters to young adults learn the benefits of saving and building credit.



- Kids Club
- Totally Free Checking
- Credit Builder Visa
- All Your Loan Needs

Play it smart and say hello to Heritage South!

256-245-4776  
myhscu.com

Sylacauga Childersburg Moody Alexander City



000314854r1

000314758r1



**ST. CLAIR COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
*Equip. Enrich. Encourage.*

We would like to wish our St. Clair County Football Teams, Bands, and Cheerleaders a great season!

**Ashville Bulldogs**  
**Moody Blue Devils**  
**Ragland Purple Devils**  
**St. Clair County Saints**  
**Springville Tigers**



**ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION:**  
Justin D. Burns, Ed. D. - Superintendent  
Scott Suttle - Board President      Nickie VanPelt - Board Vice President  
Cathy W. Fine - Board Member      Allison Gray - Board Member  
Bogie Lovell - Board Member      Bill Morris - Board Member  
Randy Thompson - Board Member



## LEEDS GREEN WAVE



# Leeds Green Wave reload for 2024 season

**BY WILL HEATH**

Times staff writer

In high school football, as with most things in life, the only real constant is change.

This is decidedly true for Leeds High School as the 2024 season dawns. The program's schedule received a massive upgrade, both in region and out. The team's home stadium, Homer Smiles Field, will soon undergo renovations that will include a new fieldhouse.

On the field, Hood and his defensive staff will be replacing almost all of a front seven that has served as the bulwark for the Green Wave the past three seasons.

"This is high school football," said Hood. "When you play with kids that grow up in your town, every now and then you have to reload and replenish."

But one thing will not change for the 2024 version of the Green Wave.

"Winning every game," said senior defensive back Reece Bittner.

"That's really my goal, and our team's goal."

Hood's LHS program has done an awful lot of winning since 2020 — that span has included 39 wins, a region title and four berths in at least the second round of the AHSAA 5A playoffs.

The 2023 version of the Green Wave finished the season ranked fifth in the state.

"The expectations really never change," said Hood.

To fulfill those expectations, Hood and his staff will focus on a defensive front that begins its first season without defensive ends Kavion Henderson and Chris Burge, each of whom is currently on a Division I roster. In fact, among the Green Wave's front seven, only "bellcow" linebacker Miles Jones returns.

Replacing that legendary tandem, Hood said, will require speed and depth.

"They all can run to the football pretty well," Hood said. "We feel

pretty strongly that we'll be solid there."

Experience won't be a problem on offense, where do-everything senior quarterback Conner Nelson begins his second season as the full-time starter behind center. Along with seniors Grayson Ford and ZJ Dale in the backfield, and an offensive line that includes Troy University commit Gavin Bowlin among a bevy of experienced starters, including Carlos Plascencia and Wilson Beasley, Leeds will continue to look to dominate opponents in the rushing game.

"ZJ is a hero for Leeds," Hood said. "We really didn't know what we had in ZJ until last year. We were even contemplating using a defensive player at running back, and ZJ just took the job."

The Green Wave's primary playmaker on the edge in 2023 was freshman receiver Taylon Gaiter, now a sophomore among a corps

See **Leeds**, Page 10

## CITY OF LEEDS



**David Miller**  
Mayor of Leeds

**We support the  
Leeds Green Wave!**



**HUSTLE,  
HIT,  
NEVER  
QUIT!**

000314845r1

1400 9th STREET  
LEEDS, AL 35094 **205-577-1396**







# Metro Bank

“Come Home To Us”

- Personal Banking
- Business Banking
- Mortgage Loans

[www.metrobankpc.com](http://www.metrobankpc.com)



(205) 884-2265

- Business Loans
- CD's & IRA's
- Insurance Services

(Insurance is not FDIC Insured)

000314737r1





# A concussion is nothing to play with.

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury and should be taken seriously. Although fewer than 10% of concussions involve a loss of consciousness, it is important to understand the dangers and not take them lightly. Even a minor fall or collision may be of concern, so be alert to symptoms such as headaches, unsteadiness, confusion or other types of abnormal behavior.

Any athlete with a suspected concussion should immediately be removed from play and activity, evaluated right away by a doctor or healthcare professional, monitored and not left alone and not drive a motor vehicle.

To make an appointment, please call 205-934-1041.



Children's  
of Alabama®



ChildrensAL.org/Concussion

0003147721

## Leeds

From Page 8

of receivers that all return for the 2024 season.

"Experience matters," Leeds offensive coordinator Jeremiah Millington said. "Having talented kids makes our job a lot easier."

There will be, as Hood said, "no gimmes" in the 2024 schedule. The region, 5A Region 6, traded Alexandria and Southside-Gadsden for Jacksonville (10-3 and a third-round participant in the 4A playoffs in 2023) and Center Point (7-4, 1st round in the 6A playoffs). Leeds travels to Springville, Lincoln and Moody in region play.

"My last game going against Moody," said Dale. "That's one game I'm looking forward to."

Additionally, Leeds kept its series vs. 6A Mortimer Jordan in non-region play, and swapped dates with Pell City and Sylacauga for games against 6A foes Shades Valley and Pelham, along with a midseason trip to 5A powerhouse Briarwood Christian.

"If we're going to go deeper into the playoffs as a program, I wanted the mentality to be, we're playing a great team Week 0, a great team Week 10," Hood said. "And you just better step up and play."

The Green Wave faces their first on-field opponent with a jamboree game at Helena on Thursday, Aug. 15.



# City of Odenville

A Good Place To Call Home

**WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!**

*Odenville Mayor and  
City Council would like  
to wish*

*Odenville Football Teams  
Fantastic Season*



**GOOD LUCK TO ALL AREA TEAMS!**

183 Alabama Street Odenville, AL 35120

**205-629-6366**

0003148481





**LEEDS**

8/23 at Mortimer Jordan  
8/30 vs Shades Valley  
9/6 at Springville  
9/13 vs Lincoln  
9/20 vs Jacksonville  
9/27 at BCHS  
10/3 vs SCCHS  
10/11 at Moody  
10/18 vs Center Point  
10/25 vs Pelham



**TOWN OF  
RAGLAND**



Richard Bunt-Mayor  
Carlton Byers-Councilmember/Mayor  
Pro-tem District 1  
David Yance-Councilmember District 2  
Pat Ford-Councilmember District 3  
Brian Phillips-Councilmember District 4  
Andy Garrison-Councilmember District 5

**YARD BY YARD, We're With you!**

**205-472-0400**  
**220 Fredia St., Ste 102 Ragland, Alabama 35131**  
**[www.townofragland.org](http://www.townofragland.org)**

00031 4996r1





*Sarah M.  
Brazzolotto, LLC*  
*Attorney At Law*

**Hoping For  
a Fantastic  
Season for All  
of Our Football  
Teams In The  
Area!**



1908 Cogswell Avenue Pell City, Alabama 35125  
Telephone: 205-884-7726 | sarahmbrazzolotto@yahoo.com


0003148521

**24  
HOUR  
TOWING**

Air Cushion  
Recovery  
Wheel Lifts -  
Light & Heavy  
Duty Wreckers

**Complete  
Auto & Truck  
Repair**

**BEST OF LUCK  
TO ALL AREA  
FOOTBALL TEAMS!**



**MURRAY'S  
GARAGE, INC.**

1600 9th Street  
Leeds, AL 35094 **205-699-6651**

0003148991

**PATTERSON  
PHARMACY**

*A good neighbor is someone who cares about  
your community, your family, and your  
well being. That's Patterson Pharmacy,  
your local Good Neighbor Pharmacy.*



*Serving The Community  
Since 1966*

7513 Patterson Dr. | Leeds  
**(205) 699-5113**

*Good Luck on a  
Winning Season to the  
Leeds Green Wave and  
all local Football Teams!*



000277751





**If You Suffer Any of These Symptoms You Must Call Us Now!**  
**We Can Help!**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| › Freezing Feet                | › Loss of Muscle Strength              |
| › Burning Feet                 | › Loss of Flexibility Fingers and Toes |
| › Sharpshooting Pains          | › Neuropathy Itch                      |
| › Throbbing Pains              | › Lack of Motivation                   |
| › Hypersensitive Sheet Feet    | › Increase Desire to Sit               |
| › Cramping Hands, Legs or Feet | › Feeling Isolated and Depressed       |
| › Numbness                     | › Migraines                            |
| › Swelling                     | › Fibromyalgia                         |
| › Loss of Balance              | › Arthritis                            |

**Yes! We Take Medicare and All Secondary Insurance.**

**Do You Want to Know the Difference Between Sick Care and Health Care?**

**WE WILL TELL YOU | WE WILL SHOW YOU**

**We Are Neuropathy Specialists**

**WE KNOW NEUROPATHY | NEUROPATHY HATES US**

**Check Out Our Other Services!**

› We Treat Joint Pain Without Surgery › Hips | Knees | Shoulders

**We Have An Entire Wellness Center To Improve  
 The Quality of Your Life Without Drugs And Medications.**

**Haven't You Suffered Enough? Call Now! (205) 774-8222**



## MOODY BLUE DEVILS



# Moody's 411 Boys enter Year 3

**BY WILL HEATH**

Times staff writer

Jake Ganus is quick to acknowledge that “people just throw around” the word culture, particularly when describing football programs. Nevertheless, when it comes to describing Ganus’ Moody High Blue Devil program, there seems to be no better term.

The “411 Boys” enter Year 3 under Ganus, following a season in which they finished the season ranked 6th in 5A, claimed a share of the Region 6 championship and hosted a third-round playoff game at Bill Morris Stadium for only the second time in school history.

The program’s ascent hasn’t bred complacency; in fact, to hear Ganus tell it, the opposite seems true.

“I get calls from people saying, ‘Hey the stadium lights are still on and it’s 11 p.m. on Saturday night,’” Ganus said. “It’s my entire offense running through the plays.”

That preparation will be necessary in 2024. The Devils’ region now includes 2023 playoff squads in Center Point and Jacksonville — 6A and 4A playoff teams, respectively. Moody also scheduled non-region games against Gainesville (Ga.), 6A Oxford, 6A Helena and 7A Auburn High School. In fact, the home date vs. Auburn precedes region dates with Center Point (on the road) and their annual grudge match with archrival Leeds.

It’s all done with intention, according to

the third-year head coach.

“Each team we scheduled has a purpose for me,” he said. “Regardless of what our record is, when we get to the playoffs, we will be the most battle tested team in 5A, no doubt.”

Moody will take on that schedule with its own roster stacked with talent. Three names on the Blue Devil roster — quarterback Charlie Johnston, defensive back Sidney Walton and linebacker Ba’Roc Willis — are already committed to major-college programs (Georgia Southern, Tennessee and Alabama, respectively) and Ganus said a total of 17 Blue Devils have college offers of some kind.

One of the more notable names on that list will be Johnston, who Ganus described as a “Sunday arm.” Johnston will start behind an offensive line that returns en masse from the 2023 season, as the offense seeks to replace stalwart running back Blaine Burke.

“It’s something that just progresses over and over again, as we throw,” Johnston said. “We just stack days, and it’s been a lot of fun. I’m excited for this fall camp and this season.”

On defense, Moody is replacing its two leading tacklers in linebackers Zane Smith and Gavin Baker. Ganus and defensive coordinator Brandon Campbell have emphasized the importance of building

See Moody, Page 16



# Good Luck Leeds Green Wave!




**8651 Thornton Avenue**  
**Leeds, AL 35094**  
**lwwb.com**

205.699.5151

00306809-1



# SPEED POWER ENERGY



## A Winning Combination



**CoosaValley**  
TECHNOLOGIES

Faster Broadband + Better Service

CoosaValleyTech.com  
256-649-4669



**CoosaValley**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CoosaValleyEC.com  
256-362-4180



**CoosaValley**  
PROPANE

Your full-service propane company

CoosaValleyPropane.com  
256-362-4780



Moody

From Page 14

depth. Campbell estimated that the current roster has 11-13 “above the line” defensive players, while Ganus estimated that the squad would need around 18-20 reliable players on defense to stay competitive against the schedule.

“This year I feel as though people are more bought into the culture,” said Walton, the Tennessee commit at defensive back. “I feel like the hard work we put in over the summer and the stuff that we’re going to put in through the fall, that’s going to show y’all just how big a step we’ve taken, because I know we had dogs and we’re gonna have more this year. I’m extremely confident in myself and my team that I know that we’re going to shut them down every time.”

A veteran of the Thompson High School machine, Ganus and the MHS program have embraced the expectations that come with establishing a championship culture.

“We’ve had the best offseason in the history of this school,” he said. “Hopefully that translates into the best season in the history of this school.”

Moody’s season begins at home against Gainesville, Ga., on Thursday, Aug. 22.



MOODY

- 8/22 vs Gainesville
- 8/30 BYE
- 9/6 vs Jacksonville
- 9/13 at SCCHS
- 9/20 at Helena
- 9/26 vs Auburn
- 10/4 at Center Point
- 10/11 vs Leeds
- 10/18 at Springville
- 10/25 vs Lincoln

Southland  
GOLF CARTS  
Sales • Service • Rentals

Work Hard. Give It  
Your ALL For  
a Great Season!

2945 Logan Martin Dam Rd., Vincent, AL 35178  
205-525-0131







*Good Luck  
Moody Blue Devils!*



**MAYOR JOE LEE & COUNCIL**

Linda Crowe, Lynn Taylor  
Nick Rutledge, Ellis Key  
Matt Morris

City of Moody  
670 Park Avenue Moody, AL 35004  
(205) 640-5121

0003148471

 **RAGLAND**  
**TELEPHONE COMPANY**

630 Main Street  
Ragland

**205.472.2141**

[www.ragland.net](http://www.ragland.net)



We support our local  
**RAGLAND PURPLE DEVILS**  
and all the other St. Clair County Football Teams!

0003067881



## PELL CITY PATHERS

# Gentry has Pell City believing in itself

**BY CHRIS FERNSLER**

Daily Home Sports Writer

**PELL CITY** — The Panthers have more than a chance.

They have an obligation. Pell City, which has endured three straight losing seasons, is ready to stand up and be accounted for.

The Pell City boys are here to play, compete and win football games. New Panthers head coach Nick Gentry is filling his players heads with knowledge, common sense and confidence.

Are we talking about the same Pell City team that flopped to 1-9 last season? No, we are not.

"We expect to be a surprise. We're figuring out how good we can be," Gentry said.

His first Pell City team as the head coach does include 109 hard-hitting football souls. The Panthers return 14 starters (five on offense, nine on defense) from a young Pell City team that lost five games by four points or less last season.

This is a totally different Pell City team. Yes, it's true, Pell City hasn't had a winning football season since 2017.

But this Panther team

is more mature and more equipped to get the job done from sideline-to-sideline. Pell City isn't looking for excuses.

The Panthers are looking for wins with a twinkle in their eyes and some grass stains on their pants. Football matters plenty in Pell City, from the lake to the stadium.

"We want to build a championship program, but you have to put in the work to get the W's," Gentry said. "I see a winning season and a playoff-type of team (this year)."

Spearheading the Pell City offense will be junior quarterback Caleb Jenkins, the 6-2, 215-pound transfer from Lincoln. Jenkins can throw some spirals.

"He has a better throwing motion than (Tim) Tebow. Leadership is his No.1 thing, and Caleb studies film," Gentry said.

Pell City is destined to run the football, too, with a touch of speed and some stiffarms by the way of junior tailback Isiah Smith, and sophomore running backs Elijah Young and D.J. Burgess (6-2, 220 pounds).

The Panthers aren't hurting for game breakers at wide receiver either, not with seniors Tre Peterson and Jemareo Clegg on the premises, along with junior pass catcher Mayson Dates

and returning starter John David Propst (the former head coach's son).

Pell City has a wall of talent up front, too, with senior offensive linemen Malik Watts (6-4, 280 pounds) and Karsen Scott (6-1, 225 pounds), and freshman tackle Jamari Robinson.

"Our kids are going to play with heart and desire. They believe in our system, and they trust Nick (Gentry)," said Pell City athletic director Marty Smith.

The Panthers are also going to have a defense that looks like it belongs in Class 6A. The motors from the players are loud, and the talent is endless.

The Panthers are ready to battle with senior defensive lineman Jordan Woods (6-5, 315 pounds), junior defensive end Jordon Perry (6-1, 215 pounds), senior lineman Jachian Dunneville (5-11, 240 pounds) and veteran cornerback Jamari Johnson.

Burgess will also start for Pell City at linebacker.



SINCE 1956

# PELL CITY

HEATING & COOLING

AL Cert# 17078  
**Locally Owned**

**TRANE**  
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

**COMFORT SPECIALIST**

**0% INTEREST**  
for up to 72 months\*

**UNBEATABLE DEALS. UNSTOPPABLE PERFORMANCE.**

**PELLCITYHEATINGANDCOOLING.COM 205.338.2820 24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE**

\*The Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms apply to qualifying purchases charged with approved credit. The special terms APR will continue to apply until all qualifying purchases are paid in full. The monthly payment for this purchase will be the amount that will pay for the purchase in full in equal payments during the promotional (special terms) period. The APR for Purchases will apply to certain fees such as a late payment fee or if you use the card for other transactions. For new accounts, the APR for Purchases is 28.99%. If you are charged interest in any billing cycle, the minimum interest charge will be \$1.00. This information is accurate as of 1/1/2023 and is subject to change. For current information, call us at 1-800-431-5921. Offer expires 12/31/2023.

*While you embark on the next chapter of your life, know that our love and support will always be with you. Continue to soar to new heights and achieve your dreams. Enjoy your senior year to the fullest. We are so proud of you and love you.*

**Allie Latta**  
Pell City High School Class of 2025  
Cheer Captain - 6 Years of Cheering  
**Jefferson State**  
Area of Study: Physical Therapy  
Assistant

000314896-1



# *Where Pride and Passion Meets Success*

**SUPPORTING  
ST. CLAIR COUNTY  
HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**



**MIKE  
ROGERS**  
Congress



**(256) 235-2180**



PAID FOR BY MIKE ROGERS FOR CONGRESS | P.O. Box 1113 Anniston, Alabama 36202





# WANDA's

## Silk Flowers



**Pre-Made Arrangements**  
3508 Cogswell Ave Pell City  
**205-913-1942**

000314855r1



# RAGLAND

## CLAY PRODUCTS

**"Brick with Character"**  
Using tradition and innovative technology, Ragland Clay Products produces unique brick and brick pavers.



**We support  
Ragland  
Purple Devils  
and all other  
St. Clair County  
Football Teams!**

61 Industrial Dr.  
Ragland, AL


**205.472.2136**

000277620r1

# Kell Realty



**We're Rooting  
For All of  
Our Area's  
Football Teams!**



**Josh Kell - Broker**

17 Court Street, West Ashville  
**205-594-5391 office**  
**205-913-8772 cell**  
For Kell Realty Listings view our webpage @ [www.kellrealty.com](http://www.kellrealty.com)

**"Serving St. Clair & surrounding counties for all of your Real Estate needs"**

1252875r1





PELL CITY

- 8/23 vs. Pelham
- 8/30 vs. Coosa Christian
- 9/6 vs. Clay-Chalkville
- 9/13 at Mountain Brook
- 9/20 vs. Huffman
- 10/ at Oxford
- 10/ vs. Shades Valley
- 10/ at Pinson Valley
- 10/ at Clay-Central
- 11/ vs. Southside

**Work Hard to Accomplish Your Goals.**

**Wishing all Area Football Teams a Great Season!**



**Dawn Williams**  
CREN, ABR®, MRP, Realtor®



**RE/MAX HomeTown**  
PROPERTIES

30 Comer Avenue  
Pell City, AL 35125  
**205.747.5218**


 dawn@hometownproperties.com

*Let Dawn Lead You Home*

**WEBB**

**FLOORING**

204 Industrial Park Drive, Pell City, AL 35125  
205.338.0999





## RAGLAND PURPLE DEVILS



# Ragland hopes for a return playoff visit this season

*From staff reports*

RAGLAND — In the first three years Wes Tidwell has been head coach of the Purple Devils, he has guided them to the state playoffs each year and has an overall record of 21-13. Although Ragland won its first playoff game under Tidwell back in 2021, they have lost three playoff games in a row.

This year, Tidwell has hopes of leading his team into the playoffs again and picking up some wins along the way. To do that, he said his guys need to get better.

"Although the record doesn't show it, I feel like we have been better the past couple of years," Tidwell said. "We played a tougher schedule but just couldn't stay healthy toward the end of the year and we had key players getting injured. Our goal is to get better and improve from last year. We want to make the playoffs and have a chance to win the region. The main thing is for our kids to have a good time and enjoy playing football

while here at Ragland High School. We want to instill some character into our kids they can take with them after they leave here. Success off the field is just as important as success on the field."

As he discussed team strengths, Tidwell mentioned how he liked the offensive and defensive lines up front.

"We are not very big, but we are athletic and have some kids there in those positions that can really play and fun to coach," he said. "They are hard-nosed kids and kids that will get after you."

A three-year starter at tailback is Aaron Lee. Tidwell said Lee had a big year last year and should have another big year this year.

"Lee was an eighth grader when I first got here, and played a little bit," Tidwell said. "He has pretty much taken that job and it has been his ever since. Last year, he rushed for over 1,400 yards so I expect big things out of him."

Other key players Tidwell men-

tioned included Tacorion Soles, Jagger Cox, Brandon McCulley, Cash Robinson, Bradley Dill and Luke Brewer (160 tackles last year).

Tidwell said depth is going to be a team weakness this year.

"That has been an issue every year since I have been here and I guess it is at any Class 1A school," Tidwell said. "We do have better numbers this year, but it is a lot of young guys. It's guys that could give you reps, but they are not ready to give you reps."

Another weakness that Tidwell said is more of an inconvenience is having to break in a new quarterback.

"We have moved Jagger to quarterback, and he took his first snap from center a few weeks ago at an OTA and did a good job. He was playing in the slot position for us and out at wide receiver some. He's a good athlete and a smart kid."

Ragland moved to Region 8 in

See Ragland, Page 24



**Inc.**

**Professional Dry Cleaners and Laundry**

**(205) 594-3534**

**All Work Done On Premises**

37175 US Hwy 231  
Suite 7 | Ashville, AL

**"Your Clothes Best Friend"**

**Good Luck to all area Football Teams!**



000294132-1



# We support our local teams!

**ODENVILLE R  
DRUGS**

*Your Hometown Drugstore & Gift Shop*

**(205) 629-6303**

140 Council Dr., Odenville, AL 35120

**ASHVILLE R  
DRUGS**

*Your Hometown Drugstore*

**(205) 594-7088**

35767 US Hwy 231, Ashville, AL 35953  
Emergency (205) 369-2391

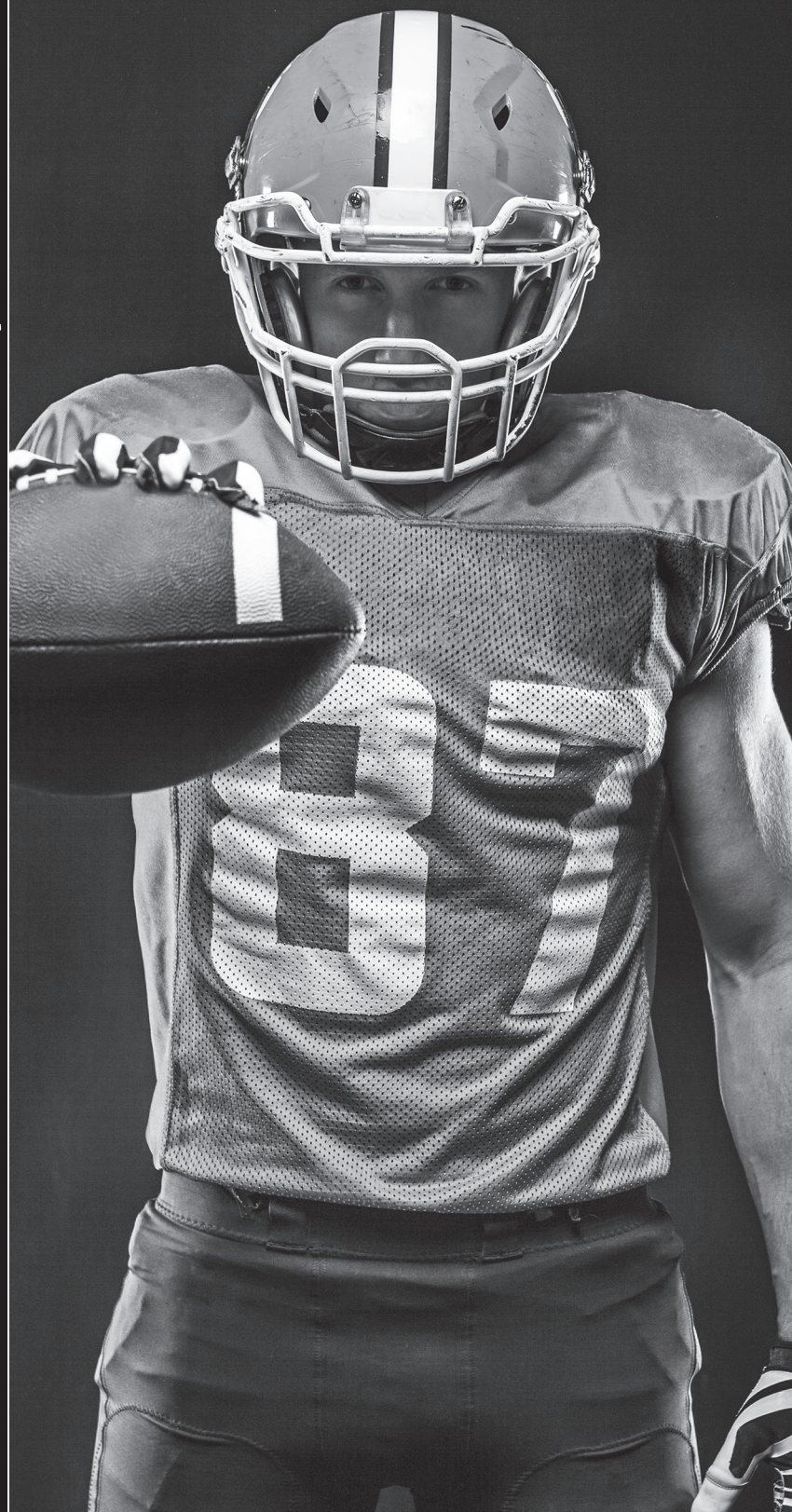
**MainStreet R  
Drugs**

*Your Hometown Drugstore & Gift Shop*

**(205) 338-4903**

2319 Cogswell Ave., Pell City 35125

*Your Hometown Drugstores*





# Ragland

From Page 22

Class 1A. Region opponents include Appalachian, Gaylesville, Ider, Spring Garden, Valley Head and Woodville. Every region opponent is new to Ragland except for Spring Garden. The Purple Devils did play Valley Head in the first round of the state playoffs last year and lost 30-14.

“Spring Garden is probably the team to beat in the region,” Tidwell said. “I do not know much about the other teams, but I am sure they are all decent. Valley Head did beat us last year in the playoffs and they have always been a strong physical team.”

Tidwell said keys to a successful season, if you’re talking wins and losses, you need to hang on to the football, no turnovers and no penalties.

“We’re going to make mistakes, but it doesn’t need to be a mistake that leads to an extra possession for an opponent where they could score points. We don’t want to punt the ball away because we jumped offsides. We need to cut down on mental mistakes and be a more disciplined football team. If we do that, we have a chance to be successful in the

wins verses the losses.”

But Tidwell added that a successful season is seeing the kids gaining some life lessons out of what they have done.

“A successful season to us is when these kids get something out of the season character wise,” Tidwell said. “If that happens, the wins will take care of themselves. Discipline teams win. Character teams win. That’s the way I look at it. If we handle those off-the-field issues, the on-the-field should be fairly easy.”

Ragland opens its season August 30, on the road against Donoho.





## Wishing All Our Local Teams A Successful Season



### THE ROBINSON LAW FIRM, P.C.

#### Ashville Location

Main Office • 6th Avenue Court Street W.  
P.O. Box 370 • Ashville, Al 35953  
205-594-5133

000314766r1

“No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.”

## Jean's Flowers

2606 Moody Pkwy., Moody, AL 35004  
205-640-5451

### Flowers For Every Occasion

Birthday • Anniversary  
Prom • Homecoming  
Get Well • Sympathy



## WE DELIVER!



Good Luck for a  
Winning Season  
to all our Local  
High School  
Football Teams!

www.jeansfloweronline.com

000314849r1



# SUCCESS

*is no accident*

# IT'S HARD WORK

Lets see what happens when preparation meets opportunity.

## OWN THE SEASON!



2024 FORD MUSTANGS

# TOWN & COUNTRY



Pell City, AL  
**205-884-0000**  
1-20 • Exit 158 • Hwy 231

[PellCityFord.com](https://PellCityFord.com)

"Experience Our Award Winning Attitude"



Pell City, AL  
**205-884-0000**  
1-20 • Exit 158 • Hwy 231





RAGLAND

- 8/30 at Donoho
- 9/6 vs. Spring Garden
- 9/13 vs. Southeastern
- 9/20 at Woodville
- 9/27 vs. Fayetteville
- 10/4 vs. Valley Head
- 10/11 at Appalachian
- 10/18 vs. Gaylesville
- 10/25 at Ider
- 11/1 at Decatur Heritage

# Good Luck to All Area Teams!

FROM

## CRAWFORD-SKINNER AGENCY, INC.

“Quality Service Since 1944”

Complete Insurance Agency

**205.467.6777**

6412 Main Street, Springville

**Auto-Owners**

INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

# Griffins

JEWELLERS

Since 1950

Talladega

256-362-5282

Pell City

205-884-2031

000314990r1





# BOOT SALE!



## Mens Boots starting at \$79



### Savvy SHOES \$29



### \$17.80 or 2 for \$34

## Rose's Shoes & Boots

1715 2nd Ave. East, Hwy. 75 N. | Oneonta, AL 35121  
All Major Credit Cards    Mon-Sat 9am-7pm | Sunday 1pm-5pm  
**205-853-8635**    Like Rose's Shoes & Boots on Facebook

# PCIFM



~est. 2012~

## Pell City Internal & Family Medicine

41 Eminence Way, Suite A | Pell City, AL  
**205-884-9000**

*At PCIFM, we believe in building a 1-on-1 connection with our patients to allow our physicians to better meet all of their needs. Aided by a highly-trained staff and advanced technology, we strive to provide a healthcare experience unparalleled in both quality and amiability. We welcome the opportunity to earn your trust and deliver the best healthcare available.*

**Healthcare that cares for you!**



Dr. Rick Jotani



Dr. Barry Collins



Dr. Ilinca Prisacara

**Our Services Include:**

- Primary Care    •Family Wellness    •Outpatient Care
- Sports Medicine    •Pediatric Care

**Extended Hours Clinic:**  
**Monday - Thursday 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
**Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and**  
**Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
**No appointment necessary.**

**We're Hoping All  
of Our Teams Have a  
Safe and Wonderful Season!**



**ST. CLAIR COUNTY SAINTS**



# St. Clair looking to improve this season

**BY SHANE DUNAWAY**  
Special to the Times

Since the 2018 football season, wins have become few and far between for St. Clair County’s football program, which yielded just three wins from 2018-2022.

Under first-year head coach Tyler Robinson, his team matched the win total of the previous five seasons in 2023, and with another offseason in the books, he said he believes his team can be more competitive this season.

“What’s funny about our region is three teams, including ourselves, are all in one county,” Robinson said. “Then, you add Leeds to the mix. They’re not in St. Clair County technically, but they’re right across the street. Four teams in close proximity always makes it interesting, and we’re all in the same area - us, Springville, Moody, and Leeds. Those are three games we want



## Good Luck to All Area High School Football Teams!

If you’re interested in a career in the trades, we are hiring and will train.  
Contact C&B Piping! [www.cbpiping.com](http://www.cbpiping.com)



8804 Parkway Drive, Leeds, AL 35094

(800) 333-2270

[info@cbpiping.com](mailto:info@cbpiping.com)

000314767r1



to win.

"Every week's a battle. It's hard to sit here and just circle one. Rivalries are always fun. I'm an outsider, too, so I'm not real familiar with the rivalries, but obviously, anyone in the county, you just want to beat them because you want to try to be the best in your county. Any three of those are going to be a tough matchup. We lost to all three last year."

According to the Alabama High School Football Historical Society, Springville secured a 42-13 win over St. Clair County in 2023 and reached the playoffs for the first time since the 2009 season.

"That was a big game in a big atmosphere, and they got the better hand of us that night," Robinson said. "They're well-coached, and Coach (Jon) Clements does a great job up there. So if I were, to I guess, just pick one, that would be one I'd circle this year to try to, I guess, get a little bit of revenge on from our encounter last year."

Robinson said the Fighting Saints graduated 11 seniors from the 2023 squad, but of those seniors, five saw heavy amounts of playing time.

"We hate to see those guys go, as always,

but we were actually still very young last year," he said. "Winning three games wasn't our goal going into it, but given our recent history in the past, it was definitely a stepping stone for us. Coming into this year, we'll have 10 seniors, with about five or six that'll be starters for us. That's counting both sides of the ball, so we're still very young, which is a good thing and a bad thing."

He added he hopes his team has gotten past the growing pains from the first season, but he has been impressed with the leadership of his seniors to help bring his vision for the culture of the locker room and team together.

"Last year, our best, probably overall, player was Jeremiah Thomas," Robinson said. "He's a senior this year, and he's our starting wide receiver ... He's been a really good player around this St. Clair County system for a long time. Everybody kind of knows his name, and he's one the defenses will have to be tuned into on Friday nights."

Another player primed for success on offense for the Fighting Saints in 2024

See St. Clair Co., Page 30



# Wishing the Saint Clair County High School Football Team a Winning Season! Go Saints!



## piggly wiggly®

*Down Home, Down The Street.*

Get all of your game day favorites by shopping at the Odenville Piggly Wiggly!

100 COUNCIL ST. A, ODENVILLE • (205) 629-6390





## ST. CLAIR CO.

- 8/23 vs Jemison
- 8/30 at MCHS
- 9/6 BYE
- 9/13 vs Moody
- 9/20 vs Center Point
- 9/27 at Shelby County
- 10/3 at Leeds
- 10/11 vs Springville
- 10/18 at Lincoln
- 10/25 at Jacksonville
- 11/1 at Ashville

## St. Clair Co.

From Page 29

will be sophomore quarterback Landon Smith, who will run Robinson's college-style spread system.

"His name has become very popular, really and truly, last year because to do what he did as a ninth-grader was extremely impressive," Robinson said. "He's one who has become a well-known name, and (with) some of the things he's done at 7-on-7's this year, he's really starting to make a name for himself."

Defensively, Robinson noted junior Tra Jones and senior Carson Jones will be relied upon to help bring success to the team this season. "He's (Carson) our Mike linebacker," Robinson said. "He's the quarterback on the defensive side of the ball. He's played a lot, he has great experience under his belt, and he has grown tremendously this offseason in that leadership role that he needed to grow in. I'm excited to have him back leading our defense."

One big difference Robinson noted could be a factor in how well the team fares in 2024 is how well the team has grasped the playbook. He said having another year in the system should open

up what they can do from an X's and O's standpoint.

"We had to be very vanilla on both sides of the ball last year," Robinson said. "It's great because it hopefully can give the kids a chance to play fast because they know what to do so well, but at the same time, you can become very predictable. This year, offensively, we'll have a lot of the same scheme, but we're very deep into our playbook with a lot more formations and a lot more plays installed because our guys actually understand what they're doing this year."

Perhaps the biggest obstacle on the path for the Fighting Saints in 2024 is the reshuffled Class 5A, Region 6, which saw Southside-Gadsden and Alexandria exit the region only to be replaced by Jacksonville moving up from 4A and Center Point dropping down from 6A.

"Life did not get any easier for us," Robinson said. "I thought we had the toughest area last year ... There's no question in my mind now that we are the toughest region in 5A. We are the best region in 5A, and if you can survive our region, then you're set to do well in the playoffs in my opinion."

The Fighting Saints open their season at home Aug. 23 against Jemison.

# City of Springville



### LOOKING FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES?

Big Canoe Creek Nature Preserve is officially open! Come and enjoy fun outdoor activities such as: biking, hiking, horseback riding, and bird watching on this beautiful 422 acre preserve.



**BIG CANOE CREEK NATURE PRESERVE**  
1700 Murphrees Valley Rd, Springville, AL 35146

1-800-811-0001



## Wishing for a Fantastic Season For Our Springville Tigers!



[www.springvillealabama.org](http://www.springvillealabama.org)



**You Can't Rely on Talent Alone.**  
**Success or Failure Depends on How Hard You**  
**Work & the Strength of Your Team!**



**GOOD LUCK TO ALL AREA TEAMS. WE WISH**  
**YOU A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL SEASON!**



**Quick Lane**®

TIRE & AUTO CENTER



**Quick Lane**  
at

**Town & Country Ford**

1103 Martin Street North | Pell City, Alabama, 35125 | 205-525-4777 | [PellCityQuickLane.com](http://PellCityQuickLane.com)



## SPRINGVILLE TIGERS



# Springville poised to continue its success this season

BY MITCHELL DAVIS

Special to the Times

As the Springville Tigers' 2024 football season quickly approaches, the Tigers' players, coaching staff and fans alike are eager to take part in and witness what is bound to be an exciting fall campaign. In a season which is likely to be impressed upon by a class of returning players, senior leadership and increasing cohesion, Springville's football squad seems poised to remain on their upward trajectory.

Just a year prior the Tigers were coming off the heels of a dismal single-win season. Rather than accepting mediocrity, Springville's coaching staff decided that a philosophy change was in order. That off-season Springville head football coach Jon Clements spent a week in El Paso County, Colorado at the Air Force Academy in order to learn the offensive philosophy of an Air Force Falcons team which has come to be known for bringing the flexbone triple option to modern prominence.

"My time at the Air Force Academy and the Air Force tape was a great starting point for us," said Clements, "The triple option is hard to learn, but here at Springville we have some intelligent kids. It wasn't hard to get them to fully buy in because they wanted to get better." It would be next to impossible to deny that the team did get

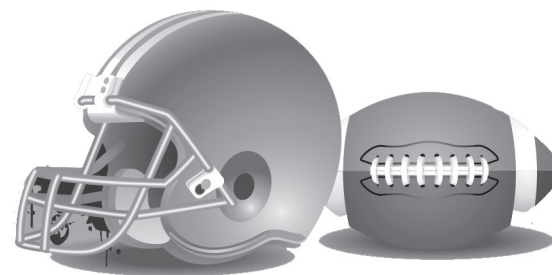
better from the get-go of their 2023 season as they bested Etowah 28-21, after losing to the same team the previous year in shutout fashion.

"The combination of our senior leadership and our change in offensive philosophy was a really big deal," said Clements. In the course of a single year, the Tigers had altered course with a new offensive identity and a willingness to do the hard work required for it to pay dividends. The season immediately following the Tigers' 1-9 2022 season, the team won five games and earned themselves a playoff berth in 2023.

Aside from the new offensive playbook, new offensive personnel also helped spark change for the Tigers. At the helm of Springville's revamped offense last year was newly minted starting quarterback Jake Conner (7), a dual-threat athlete with years of experience starting in the Tigers' secondary. Conner's junior campaign saw him record 537 passing yards, 455 rushing yards and 15 total touchdowns, earning himself St. Clair County football offensive MVP honors as he helped lead Springville on a much improved 5-6 season. "He started on defense as a ninth and tenth grader and then last year we played him at quarterback and safety, and this year he'll do the same thing," said Clements, "He's

See **Springville**, Page 34

# GOOD LUCK!



## We support Springville High School Football Team!

Good Luck To All Area Football Teams!



# Springville

## Small Engine Service

7885 Hwy. 11 North  
Springville



**205-467-0373**

Stacy Shoop Owner

000285165r1

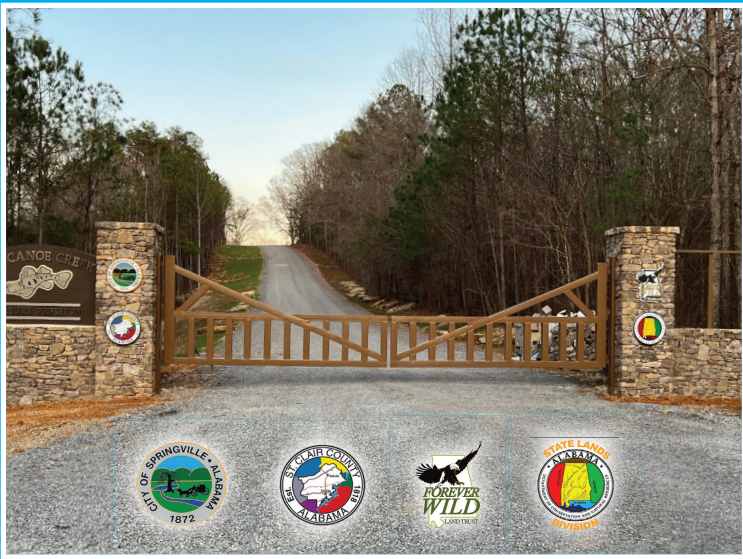
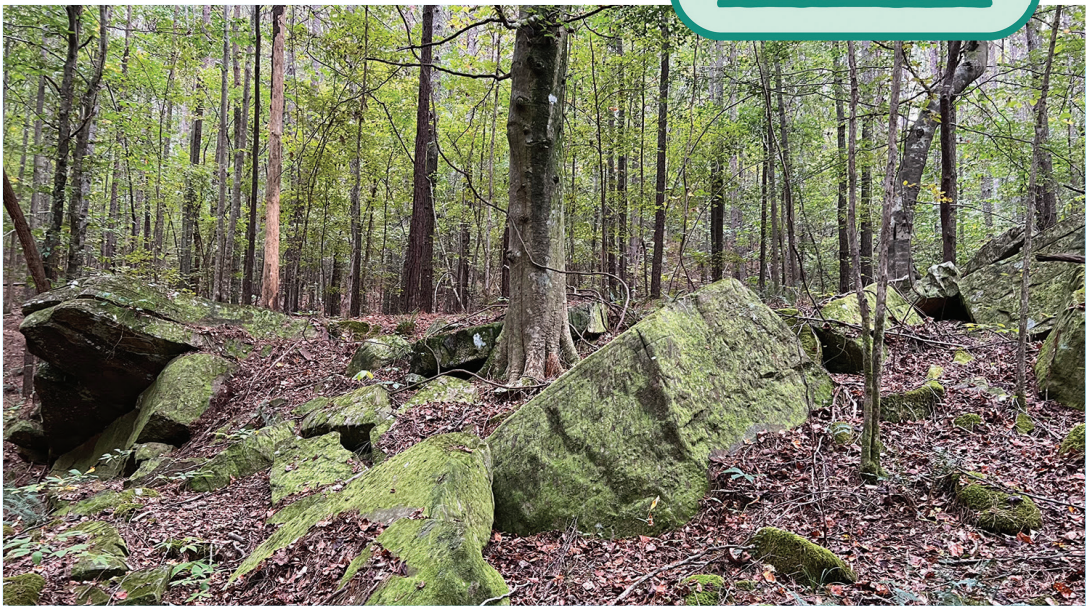


# BIG CANOE CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

1700 Murphrees Valley Rd, Springville, AL 35146

## READY FOR SOME ADVENTURE?

Big Canoe Creek Nature Preserve is officially open! Come and enjoy fun outdoor activities such as: biking, hiking, horseback riding, and bird watching on this beautiful 422 acre preserve.



City of  
Springville



Good Luck to Our  
Springville Tigers!



## Springville

From Page 32

the glue that holds us all together.”

Now given the benefit of another off-season, the Tigers have continued expanding their offense. “This offseason we really dug into ways teams run the triple option outside of just Air Force. We looked closely at Navy, Georgia Southern, and Carson-Newman,” said Clements, “We sent our staff all over the country; Searcy, Arkansas, Kennesaw, Georgia, Texas and Mobile. We went all over the place trying to find ways to get better.” Springville’s coaching staff spent countless hours in preparation for the upcoming 2024 season learning to implement and improve their offense, using prominent examples representative of their new playstyle such as reigning Division-II NCAA Football champions Harding University, who just broke the NCAA single season rushing yards record (6,161 yards). “Coming back, everybody’s got their own input. Each coach has his own contributions, so everybody’s got ownership,” said Clements, “[...] our staff has really connected in the last 18 months. It’s been really special, and I think our kids see it.”

Aside from refining and evolving their coaching philosophies, the Tigers also seem poised to benefit from their senior leadership in 2024. Returning fourth year players such as defensive back Jacob Adams (2), interior offensive and defensive lineman Talan Swallows (50) and defensive back Brady Seaman (3) highlight



Springville’s senior class alongside quarterback Jake Conners. The team also made an interesting addition, recruiting senior Brodie Frederick, a 6’6 athletic forward from Springville’s basketball team. Frederick’s presence is sure to bolster the Tigers’ dynamism.

“These are guys that have been here the whole time with us, and we’ve developed them and they play within the organiza-

tion and I think that’s probably what makes this group the most special. They’re all from here. They’re with us and they’re about us,” said Clements, “It’s just all Springville kids. It makes coming to work really fun.”

Springville now awaits their 2024 season to kickoff as members of what will likely be one of the most competitive regions in all of 5A, as Region 6 welcomes Center

Point (formerly 6A), and Jacksonville (formerly 4A) into the fold of an already competitive region, featuring the likes of Moody and Leeds.

“At the end of the day we want kids to have good experience and grow from it,” said Clements, “We’ve got the same goal every day and that’s just to be 1% better than we were yesterday, and we’re going to stick to it.”



# AARDWOLF

## TERMITE & PEST CONTROL SERVICES, INC.

[www.aardwolfpestcontrol.net](http://www.aardwolfpestcontrol.net)

# 205-338-6615

**We Support  
All Area High  
School Football  
Teams.**

**Work Hard &  
Good Luck!**



000294308r1

# Royal Foods


*Established In 1982*

1904 16th Ave S. | Pell City, AL 35128

# 205.884.104

“Set your goals high, and  
don’t stop till you get there.”

**GOOD LUCK To All  
Area High School  
Football Teams!**



000277869r1



**Fight Hard, Run Fast, Make Us Proud Team!**

**Classic Car Wash**

**10% Off Your Next  
Car Wash Or Full Service!**

*Valid Through 10/31/24*

**602 Martin St. S, Pell City AL, 35128**

**(205) 338-1322**

000315151r1





## SPRINGVILLE

8/15 at Dora  
8/22 at Ashville  
8/30 vs Fairview  
9/6 vs Leeds  
9/13 vs Bryant  
9/20 at Lincoln  
9/27 BYE  
10/4 vs Jacksonville  
10/11 at SCCHS  
10/18 vs Moody  
10/24 at Center Point  
11/1 at Corner



# Logan Martin Veterinary Clinic



Dr. Larry Chasteen, D.V.M. | Katrina Hannah, D.V.M.

*Make sure your Most Valuable Pets are up to date on their shots!*

## Good Luck to All Area Teams!

*Flea & Tick Season Is Here, We Can Help Protect Them!*



1220 Martin St. S. | Pell City  
(205) 884-3412





## VICTORY CHRISTIAN LIONS

# Victory Christian heads into 2024 season with new coach

BY SHANE DUNAWAY

Special to the Times

Victory Christian's football squad enters the 2024 campaign with a new head coach who may be new to the Lions, but he's a familiar face to many who call Pell City home.

Lions coach Matt Griffith first served as head coach of Pell City High School from 1998-2001, guiding the team to a 9-31 record in four seasons. Griffith, whose most recent stop in coaching was as a volunteer coach with Lincoln, holds a 107-95 record in 19 seasons, according to the Alabama High School Football Historical Society.

Griffith said he and his family had prayed hard about the decision as he mulled over potential coaching opportunities in play. He added he had not been actively looking for a head coaching role before Lynn Watson, a longtime friend who works as the Lions' athletic director, called out of the blue and made the pitch for him to lead the program.

"I felt led to come here, not only to coach football, but to teach full-time again and be around this atmosphere," Griffith said. "There's something really special about this place."

The Lions return seven seniors from a squad that finished 4-6 in 2023.

"I can't ask for a better group of kids," Griffith said. "They have come all summer. They've been great leaders. There's no doubt they are very, very, very hungry to win. They showed great leadership all summer long ...

"I really like our squad. We have a tremendous kid at quarterback in Shepard Sargent. We think we have some good pieces to build a quality football team, and this is going to come down to doing what we're coached to do and maintaining this great attitude that they've had."

Griffith said his team's offense will incorporate some of the philosophy he employed during his most successful run as a head coach in Sylacauga from 2005-2019. Under Griffith, the Aggies reached the postseason in 11 of 15 seasons.

"You want to run what you want to run, but you've also got to do a good job of adjusting to the talent that we have," Griffith said. "The good thing about it is we've got the pieces here at Victory this year to do pretty similar to what we were doing in Sylacauga, which was basically (to) be a spread option football team ... Now, we may not be as complicated in certain aspects until the kids learn the system, but right now, I'm pleased with where we are offensively."



Griffith heaped similar praise upon his defensive unit and kicker Dewayne Talley.

"There's no doubt the strength of our football team, on both sides of the football, (is) going to be from tackle to tackle," he said. "We

See **Victory Christian**, Page 38

**To All Area Football Teams**  
**GOOD LUCK THIS SEASON**

**EXPRESS SHIPPING**

*Located inside The Old Gray Barn*

**FedEx and UPS Authorized Shipping Center**

1910 Cogswell Ave., Pell City, AL 35125

**205-338-0791**

Check the  
**St. Clair Times**  
 for more football and  
 sports news!

**BEST WISHES**  
**All Area Teams**

**Dot H. Wood**  
 State Certified Appraiser  
 dotwood59@gmail.com

**Wood Appraisal Service**

1704 Cogswell Avenue | Pell City, Alabama 35125  
 205-884-1608



**It doesn't matter if you get knocked down...  
what matters is that you get back up!**



**TCCUSTOMS.COM**

**205-227-0100**

We have plenty of vehicles already built and you can come see them in our showroom, but if you would like to custom build a vehicle to your liking give us a call!

**TOWN & COUNTRY**



**"Experience Our Award Winning Attitude"**

**PellCityFord.com**

**Pell City, AL | 205-884-0000 | 1-20 • Exit 158 • Hwy 231**



# Victory Christian

From Page 36

have some older kids there. They’ve been playing a long time. They like football. They really thrive on it, and that’s always a positive. They picked up the system pretty quick, and they’re smart kids.”

Victory Christian competes in Class 1A, Region 6 of the Alabama High School Athletic Association. During the association’s biennial regional realignment, Spring Garden and Ragland moved to Region 8 in 1A, while Fayetteville and Woodland dropped down from 2A.

The regional shakeup continued when Talladega County Central closed following the 2023-24 school year.

“Fayetteville coming down from 2A and a couple teams coming down from 2A make it difficult because they’re used to having a little more numbers than a 1A school has,” Griffith said. “I think it’s a competitive region. Wadley’s a very good and talented football team and well-coached. Winterboro is going to see the rewards of a lot of kids from TCC going to them, so it’ll be interesting.

“You know, 1A football is very, very different. It’s old, iron-man football. You’re going to have a lot of kids going both ways, and you’re not going to have

a lot of depth. It’s who can get their kids in better shape, and who is left with a lot of juice in the fourth quarter.”

The Lions have not reached the playoffs since their 2019 campaign, and Griffith said he eyes an opportunity to get them back there in 2024 and beyond.

“You always go in with the goal of a winning season and to make the playoffs,” he said. “Then, I’ve always said once you make the playoffs, it’s anybody’s ballgame because it’s either one-and-done, or you go on to the next round. There’s no doubt our goal is to have a winning season and to make the playoffs. That will be the goal here every year. There’s no ifs, ands or buts about that. If you’re not making that goal, then what are you doing?”

Griffith praised the administrators for not only bringing him into the fold in time to set his squad up for success entering summer workouts but also for their faith-first approach to education.

“Our first goal at this school is God first,” Griffith said. “It is Christ-based at all times, and then everything else is up under that. God first, Christ-centered, and then, we start talking about football, having winning seasons and making the playoffs.”

The Lions open the 2024 season Aug. 23 at Sumiton Christian.



# Supporting All Area Football Teams.

## Work Hard To Reach Your Goals And Trust Your Team.

## Best Of Luck For A Fun And Safe Season!



1610 Cogswell Ave.  
Pell City, AL 35125  
(205) 884-6840

### Sheriff BILLY MURRAY

St. Clair County Sheriff's Office  
bmurray@stclairco.com

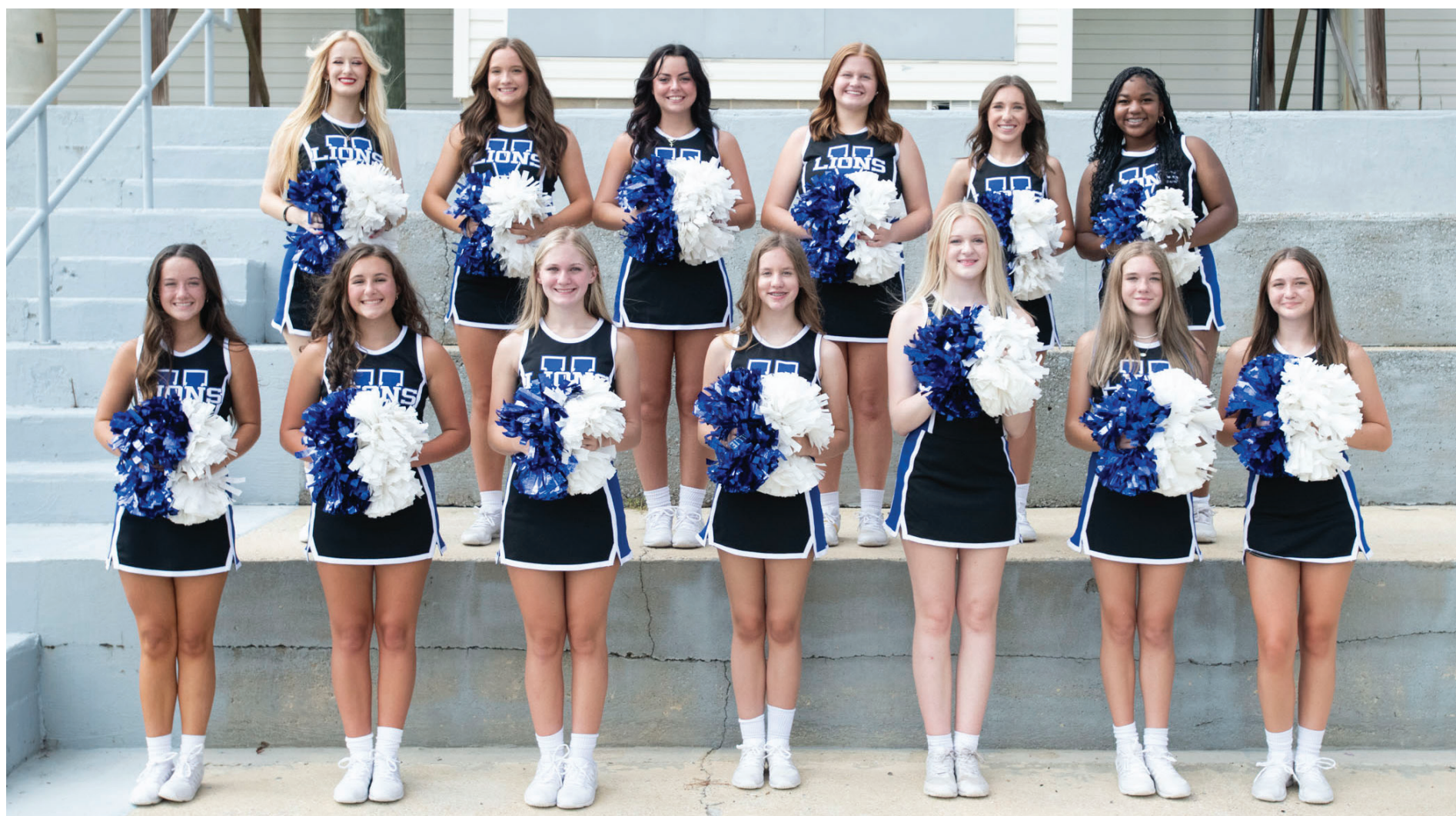
48 6th Street  
Ashville, AL 35953  
(205) 594-2140



Pd. Pol. Adv. Billy J. Murray For Sheriff, 121 Brooks Rd., Ragland, AL 35131

000315054-1





## VICTORY CHRISTIAN

8/23 at Sumiton Christian

9/6 vs. Woodland

9/20 vs. Wadley

9/27 at Francis Marion

10/4 vs. Winterboro

10/11 at Fayetteville

10/18 at Donoho

10/25 vs. Belgreen

11/1 vs. Berry



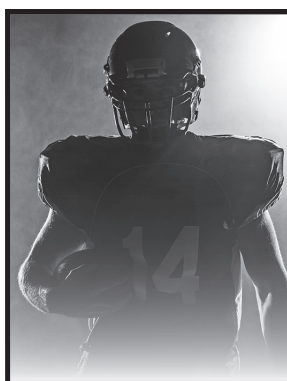
**J&K TIRES and  
SERVICE, LLC**

*Great Service Since 1997*  
Kurt & Lisa Nassif - owners

**Tires-Brakes-Alignments-Shocks-Struts-  
Oil Change-Minor Auto Repair**

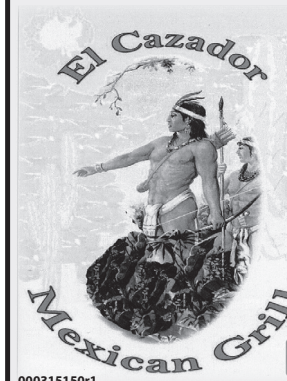
1667 Wood St., Steele, AL 35987  
Phone 256-570-0777 • Fax 256-570-0764  
Email: jandktires@gmail.com Website: jandktire.com

**Good Luck To All Area Football Teams**



**Work Hard  
Toward Your  
Goals & Enjoy  
the Season!**

***Best of Luck to  
all Local Teams!***



Downtown, Pell City  
1901 Cogswell Ave. Suite #1

**205-338-7585**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY  
LUNCH SPECIALS!**

Open Sun.-Thur. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

 Like and share on our facebook page.  
El Cazador Mexican Grill #4

000315150r1



# **NATIONAL CEMENT**

*National Cement Company of Alabama, Inc.*

524 Industrial Dr, Ragland, AL 35121 | 205-472-2191 | [nationalcement.com](http://nationalcement.com)

*We strive to offer the highest quality cement at the best possible price while maintaining our core corporate values of integrity, quality, and customer service and loyalty.*



**• Portland Cement • Masonry Cement • Color Masonry Cement**

*We Proudly  
Support Our  
Ragland  
Purple Devils!*



**524 Industrial Dr. | Ragland, AL 35131 | (205) 472-2191**