



**RUSSELL COUNTY  
BOWLING TEAM  
YEAR END  
BANQUET HELD**

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# The Times Journal

WEEK: March 17, 2022

Year 71, No. 36 A member of the Jobe Publishing Inc. News Network 50¢

## RCH Seeks New Leader

**Staff Report**

The search is underway to find a new leader for the Russell County Hospital.

Last week, after two, recent, special called meetings of the Russell County Hospital (RCH) Board, an announcement was made the board and Patrick J. Branco, former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) had "mutually agreed to terminate our employment relationship."

"Pat has done many good things for the hospital over the past couple of years, especially during a most difficult time of dealing with COVID and all the issues that resulted from the pandemic," RCH Board Chairperson Neal Dalton said. "On behalf of the board, we thank Pat for his service and wish him nothing but the best."

"As I head off into my

much-anticipated retirement, I wanted to express my deep gratitude to the staff of Russell County Hospital, especially the incredible physicians and providers for the support they provided me during the challenges we faced with COVID and other issues," Branco said. "I have met some incredible people at the hospital and the community, and I wish God's blessing on each of them. I thank the board for the opportunity to serve. I was deeply honored."

Wednesday, the hospital board discussed a severance package for Branco, and the possibility of an "interim CEO."

Friday, the board held another meeting regarding "personnel issues," and another meeting was scheduled for this Tuesday.

See next week's Times Journal for details.



Lock-N-Stow owners, from left, Tom and Joyce Holt, and Stacy and Todd Wilson at their new facility in Russell Springs.

## Friends Hope New Venture Will Benefit Community And Beyond

**By Wade Daffron  
TJ Editor**

The way Tom Holt remembers it, the original plan was "to build a little storage building."

So he and friend Todd Wilson talked about it, thought about it, and pondered it.

"When we started doing this," Todd said, "we thought if it's going to be worthwhile, it's got to be a decent size...go big, or go home.' That was our philosophy."

Thus the huge building under construction at the intersection of Lakeway and W. Steve Wariner Dr. in Russell Springs.

A new, 9,000 square-foot Lock-N-Stow facility, owned by Tom and Joyce Holt, and Todd and Stacy Wilson, is set to open any day now.

Friends for years, (Joyce and Stacy are cousins), this is their first business venture together.

They all stood outside their "little storage building" last week as builders buzzed

around them.

"It kind of ended up a little bigger than we planned," Joyce joked.

But that's fine with them, and they're already planning another similar building nearby.

Lock-N-Stow hopes to be an asset to the community.

"It's a climate controlled self-storage unit," Tom said. "Climate controlled is good

VENTURE,  
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Former Jamestown Mayor Nick Shearer, left, was made an honorary citizen of Russell Springs last week. Presenting Shearer with the declaration was Russell Springs Mayor Eddie Thomas, right.

## "Mr. Thomas Goes to Washington" Mayor Wants Pay Cut; Will Rally For City In Washington D.C.

**Staff Report**

The Mayor of Russell Springs will meet with officials in Washington, D.C. this week to seek support for the city.

Thursday, at the regular, monthly meeting of the Russell Springs City Council, Mayor Eddie

MAYOR,  
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## Special Olympics Coach To Take The Polar Plunge

**By Lisa Coffey  
Times Journal**

Polar Bears spend most of their lives jumping and swimming in the icy waters of the Arctic Ocean.

Their bodies are equipped for the frigid temperature, but as humans, our bodies are not.

So, why would a warm-blooded mammal want to experience the chill of a lifetime?

Well, I decided to ask that question to Stephanie Coffey who coaches the Russell County Special Olympics Track and Field team.

Here, in Stephanie's own words are why Special Olympics is so near and dear



Coach Stephanie Coffey, fourth from right, with the Russell County Special Olympics Track and Field Team.

to her heart.

"When I was in second grade, I remember eating lunch with this long-haired, brown-eyed, ketchup-loving girl who had Down Syndrome," Coffey recalled. "She was hilarious. Some of my favorite memories are of my second grade lunch table."

"Little did I know that this sweet girl would later become my sister-in-law," Coffey said. "Even though she is not my sister-in-law anymore, she is someone that I love with my whole heart and an amazing aunt to my kids."

COFFEY,  
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