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Dale honored with Gala Award at State Conference of NAACP

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When the Alabama State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) began March 1, Russellville resident Rev. Charles Dale was front and center to present, and receive, some important annual awards.

The NAACP State Conference began with a gala at the Capital City Club in Montgomery. Events will continue throughout March to commemorate the 54th anniversary of the Selma Bridge Crossing, an event Dale participated in.

On March 7, 1965, as more than 600 peaceful demonstrators attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in a march from Selma to Montgomery, they were met with resistance by Alabama State Troopers using billy clubs and tear gas.

Along with several other recipients, Dale was honored with the NAACP's Gala Award for his service on the Gala Committee and as an executive member of the Alabama State Conference.



Rev. Charles Dale, third from left, was honored for his service on the Gala Committee for the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP at last week's event.

See 'DALE,' Page 8

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Russellville Public Library chosen to receive first award from ALLA

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Public Library has been selected to receive the 2018 Bronze Level Standard Award for Public Libraries from the Alabama Library Association (ALLA).

The award will be presented to librarian Ashley Cummins at ALLA's President's Awards Reception on Thursday, April 4.

The Alabama Library Association is a non-profit corporation formed to encourage and promote the welfare of libraries and professional interests of librarians in the state of Alabama. Alabama Standards Achievement Awards recognize superior planning and levels of excellence attained by exceptional public libraries in Alabama. Gold Level Standard Award is the highest level of achievement, followed closely by Silver Level and

Bronze Level.

Libraries are evaluated in a number of categories, including facility, hours of operation, administration and governance, planning, budget, staffing and employee benefits, collection, promotion and partnering, services and technology.

"It's something we've looked into since 2014," Cummins said. "We've had a lot of changes in our services, and many were geared with this in mind. We wanted to meet those standards in order to better serve our community."

This is the Russellville Public Library's first ALLA award, and something Cummins and her staff have been working toward for several years.

"It's something we've looked into since 2014. We've

See 'LIBRARY,' Page 8

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David Dwayne Carpenter, Russellville, age 57
Died Thursday, March 7, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Liberty Hill Cemetery.

Wilma Ruth Carter, Russellville, age 93
Died Friday, March 8, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

Lee Morgan King, Russellville, age 80
Died Friday, March 8, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

James (Matt) Mims, Muscle Shoals, age 60
Died Thursday, March 7, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in East Franklin Cemetery in Phil Campbell.

Ollie W. Thornton, Russellville, age 85
Died Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.



We love to hear from you! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoons, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.
For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!

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Hardin remembered as 'ideal student'

PCES fourth-graders sell T-shirts to benefit Memorial Scholarship Fund

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

Sylas Hardin was the ideal student.

He was a hardworker, dedicated to improving himself and those around him in the classroom, and was a joy to be around throughout the school day. These are just some of the many incredible things Sylas's former teachers had to say about the late PCES student.

In December, Sylas tragically passed away at the age of 10 after battling an illness. Sylas's family and friends wanted to do something in his honor to make sure that Sylas and his tremendous attitude when it came to his studies will be influential to future students.

In lieu of flowers, Sylas's family requested that people make donations to the Franklin County Board of Education to start a scholarship in his honor.

In addition to his family beginning a scholarship fund to benefit students for years to come, Sylas's teachers and classmates decided that they wanted to do something to not only help honor his memory but also help out with the newly formed scholarship.

Tracy Cook was Sylas's fourth-grade homeroom teacher, and her class (along with help from fourth-grade math teacher Lorie Dorrah and fourth-grade Social Science teacher Julianne Riley) came up with the perfect idea. The classes decided to sell T-shirts throughout the month of

January, with all proceeds going toward the Sylas Hardin Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Cook said that she, along with the other teachers, hope that by selling the shirts and raising money for the scholarship that it would help inspire future students to be like Sylas.

"Sylas was a hardworking individual who always wanted to do the very best that he could, regardless of what subject it was or whatever he was doing. He was just the ideal student," Cook said. "We wanted to make sure that we did something that not only had an impact in the immediate future, but for many years down the road as well."

"Sylas was a hardworking individual who always wanted to do the very best that he could, regardless of what subject it was or whatever he was doing. He was just the ideal student," said Tracey Cook, his homeroom teacher. "We wanted to make sure that we did something that not only had an impact in the immediate future, but for many years down the road as well."

Jennifer Warhurst is the principal at Phil Campbell Elementary School and had even more incredible things to say about Sylas. According to Warhurst, Sylas always had a big smile on his face, always treated people with respect and was big hugger.

While Warhurst said that losing a student was an unthinkable tragedy that no school should ever have to endure, she hopes that by selling the T-shirts that this will honor Sylas and his life will

have a lasting impact on others for generations to come.

"When you lose a student, everyone in and around the school and community feels your pain," Warhurst said. "Sylas was a wonderful example for our students to follow. He was a hard worker, and he came to school every day ready to learn something new. The T-shirts will hopefully give future students someone to look up to and strive to be like with not only their academics, but just as a person, too."

As for the sale of the T-shirts, Warhurst said that they are no longer selling shirts for this year but will begin selling shirts around the same time next year. The color of the shirt will change from year to year but will always have the 'Sylas Memorial Scholarship Fund' and will always have a generic paw print on the back so that anyone from anywhere in the area can wear them. Warhurst said they have sold shirts from Phil Campbell to Russellville to Haleyville, and other areas as well.

Even though the shirts may no longer be on sale for this year, donations can still be made to the scholarship fund through different avenues. Donations can be dropped off at the Franklin County Board of Education or Phil Campbell Elementary or High School. Donations by check can be sent to P.O. Box 610 in Russellville.

The scholarship can be applied for by any Phil Campbell High School senior, and applications for the scholarship can be picked up at either Phil Campbell High School or Elementary School.



PHOTO BY BRADY PETREE

Tracy Cook was Sylas's fourth-grade homeroom teacher, and her class (along with help from fourth-grade math teacher Lorie Dorrah and fourth-grade Social Science teacher Julianne Riley) decided to sell T-shirts throughout the month of January, with all proceeds going toward the Sylas Hardin Memorial Scholarship Fund. Even though the shirts may no longer be on sale for this year, donations can still be made to the scholarship fund through different avenues. Donations can be dropped off at the Franklin County Board of Education or Phil Campbell Elementary or High School. Donations by check can be sent to P.O. Box 610 in Russellville.

Honey Do: Home alone

Many people in our area commute a considerable distance to work every day, and this can cause real problems when severe storms arrive. Children may be home alone or traveling to or from school. There are many dangers to consider when you are caught outside in severe weather. Does your family have a plan if separated during these times? Consider these tips.

•Build relationships with other parents. Get to know them and trade out keeping the kids from time to time. This makes the kids more comfortable and trusting of these people.

Many people commute a considerable distance to work every day, and this can cause real problems when severe storms arrive.

Children may be home alone or traveling to or from school. There are many dangers to consider when you are caught outside in severe weather. Does your family have a plan if separated during these times?

•Alternate safe locations. Contact other parents and set up an alternate location for your kids to go in an emergency. Many kids go home to an empty house until mom or dad get home from work. That doesn't

need to be the case with severe weather approaching. This also gives the parent a place to start looking if communication is disrupted after a storm.

•Teach your kids to take precautions well ahead of approaching storms. If you have storm shelters in your neighborhood, take the kids down and show them the area. If this is your plan, be sure to teach them the dangers of interacting with strangers.

•Teach the kids how to protect themselves from injury in a storm. Find the safest place in the house, use head protection of some kind, etc...

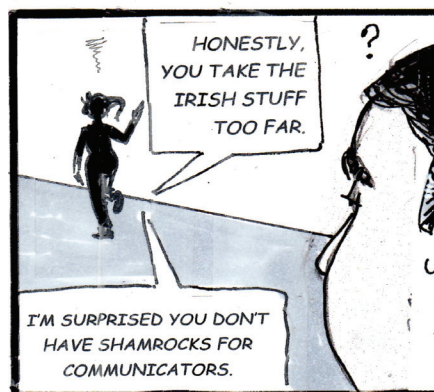
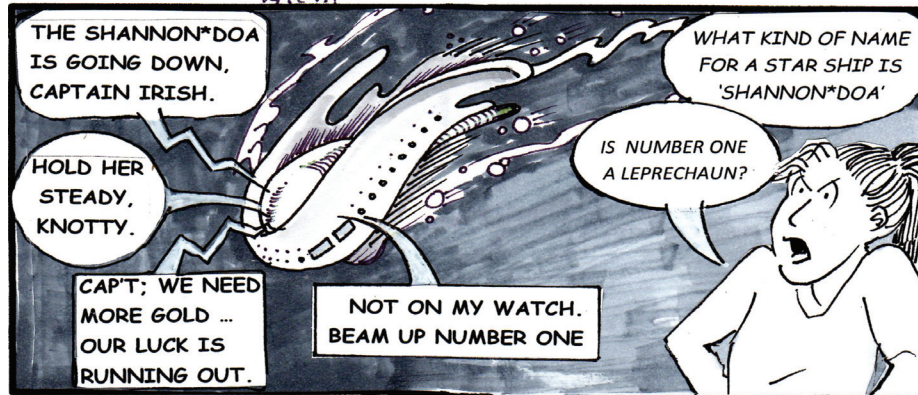
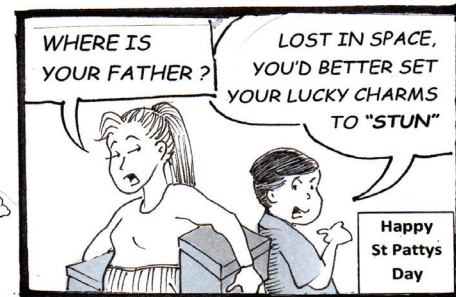
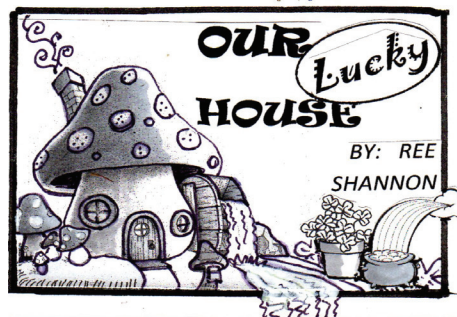
•Communicate, communicate, communicate, and teach the kids to always accept your calls and messages.

Of course we are assuming these kids are "old enough" and responsible enough to be left alone for short periods. Small children should always be supervised.

A little bit of planning can create great peace of mind in an emergency. Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green



FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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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.

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My take Am I being selfish on this... or just responsible?

I was called selfish a lot as I was growing up, and we all know that was never intended as a compliment, but I have a different viewpoint on the phrase, "You're selfish!"

I'll just give you a few examples of the things I did that gained me the title of a selfish person at times. I never meant it in that way. As a matter of fact, I called myself 'being responsible.'

As a young girl, I was fortunate enough to receive a doll at Christmas time. Of course, I loved all of them, but I was extra proud of the ones that could do stuff like cry or roll their head or open and close their eyes. I took extra-special care of them.

Most of my playmates took care of their dolls as well as I did, so I'd share all of my dolls with them. I found out the hard way that some would lay them on a dirty or wet ground and get their clothes dirty or even stained, or remove their socks and could only find one at the end of play-time.

Around age 10 or 11, I would lend and borrow books among some of my friends. Now, I had rules that I'd ask of someone before I would let them borrow a book. No corners turned down, no pages folded, and no writing or marking of any kind were those rules. Needless to say, if a book was returned in such a condition, I'd get mad and hurt and point out what they had done....

After a devastation such as that, I wouldn't let them play with my nicer dolls when they came

over again. Of course, I was told what a selfish person I was because I wouldn't give them the doll they wanted. In that case, being selfish turned out to be a good thing, because I still have a few of those dolls.

Around age 10 or 11, I would lend and borrow books among some of my friends. Now, I had rules that I'd ask of someone before I would let them borrow a book. No corners turned down, no pages folded, and no writing or marking of any kind were those rules.

Needless to say, if a book was returned in such a condition, I'd get mad and hurt and point out what they had done. Of course, anyone who has no respect for others' property or personal belongings could care less about what you say to them until they ask again. Then the apologies start rolling off their tongue when you say 'no.' My stuff just meant too much to me to give someone a second chance.

So for those reasons I was called selfish. If that is what selfish means, then I will have to say I was selfish then and still am now.

A few days ago, I got to thinking about all this and started asking myself if there was possibly a fine line between being selfish and being responsible.

Well, what do you think about this?
For right now, the only thing else I have to say is:
Until later.....



Gail Motes



Play it smart

Dear Dave,
Recently, the garage where I worked for a long time went out of business. I have a lot of my own tools, and I was thinking about taking out a loan of around \$20,000 to buy a few extra tools I need to open my own garage. It's always been a dream of mine to have my own shop, and this seems like the perfect opportunity. What do you think?

Rick

Dear Rick,
I love it when a person has the talent and drive to open their own business, but right now you're unemployed and looking at going into debt. That's a bad idea.

You'll never hear me recommend going into debt to start a business. Did you know most new businesses fail within the first five years due to debt payments? I literally started my company on a card table in my own living room years ago, so I know for a fact you can launch a business without going into debt.

You said you have your own tools, plus you have lots of experience. My advice is to find a place that needs a good mechanic. Then, use the income from a new job to save up for the additional tools you need and other startup costs associated with opening your own shop.

If you play this smart and start slow, you could have a thriving business on your hands in a few years

and no debt to eat up the money you make!

Dave

Get off the account today!

Dear Dave,
I opened a credit card account with a boyfriend several months ago in both of our names. We're no longer dating, and I was wondering if I can get my name off the account.

Melody

Dear Melody,
Yes, you can. Call the credit card company right now, and tell them to take your name off the account immediately. Find out if there's a balance on the card. If there is, and it was charged up while your name was on the account, you'll still be liable for that amount. They won't release you from responsibility for those purchases, but you can get off the hook for any future charges.

Then, send them a certified letter—return receipt requested—stating that you are no longer liable for additional charges on the card going forward. It wouldn't be a bad idea to call them again in a few days to make sure they got the letter, too.

You're learning a hard lesson here, Melody. You should never open any kind of joint account with someone when you're not married. And stop using credit cards!

Dave

**Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 15 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

For news updates throughout the week, don't forget to check us out on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net!

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What's Happening

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

Russellville Masonic Lodge 371 is selling Easter hams. Hams are \$30 and may be pre-ordered by calling 256-810-1970. Pickup will be Saturday, April 20 from 8-10 a.m. at the Lodge on Coffee Street.

We are searching for descendants of people buried in Russellville's Old Town Cemetery and Sadler Cemetery to give personal info and stories about their ancestors for a cemetery tour as part of Russellville's Bicentennial Celebration. Contact Doris Hutcheson (256-332-4085 or dorishutcheson@msn.com) or Chris Ozbirn (256-332-8827 or archive@hiwaay.net) for more info.

AARP Tax-Aide will be providing FREE income tax preparation at the Department of Human Resources in Russellville on Thursdays through April 11. You do not have to be a member of AARP, retired or a certain age to use this service. Call Ben at 256-332-0252 for an appointment, which is required.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension Office will conclude its Gardening Series at the Russellville Public Library from 10:30-11:30 a.m. this Wednesday, March 13 - Seeds & Wildlife.

The next meeting for American Legion Post 64 will be this Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The Shoals Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Sheffield Room at Park Place (501 N. Montgomery Avenue, Sheffield) this Thursday, March 14 at 2:30 p.m. Linda Romine will teach on "Healing and Protection in the Psalms." We believe that God heals spiritually, physically and emotionally. Prayer for healing will be offered. All are welcome.

Osborn Hill Cemetery will meet this Thursday, March 14 at the Littleville Town Hall at 6 p.m. to elect officers for the coming year. Donations are needed to help maintain the perpetual care now and in the future. Please make check payable to the Osborn Hill Cemetery Fund, c/o Mrs. Lana Duncan, 2330 Colburn Mtn. Road, Tuscumbia, AL 35674, or to the Valley State Bank in Russellville, AL 35674. We encourage everyone to come.

Sheffield Public Library and U.S. Marine Sergeant Fred Gossi, a Purple Heart recipient, invite you to attend an evening with Craig and Fred to hear the story of how in a remote part of Afghanistan in 2010, the sergeant fed a piece of beef jerky to a funny-looking stray dog. Theirs is a poignant and inspiring tale of hope, resilience and optimism, with a timeless message at its heart: It's not what happens in life, but how we respond to it. Craig and Fred's story is a shining example of the power of love to transform our hearts and lives. The event will take place this Thursday, March 14 at the Clarion Hotel in Sheffield. Doors open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. A donation of \$35 for tickets includes the meal and is available through the Sheffield Public Library. For more information, call 256-386-5633. This program is presented by Friends of Sheffield Public Library.

Ronnie McDowell and his band will return to Russellville this Saturday, March 16 at 7 p.m. for another benefit for the historic Roxy Theater. Franklin County's own Joseph Baldwin will be the opening act. For ticket information, please call 256-415-3270 or 256-460-8988. Reservations are going fast! Floor tickets are \$20 to \$30, and general admission balcony tickets are \$15.

Come one, come all to a benefit gospel singing this Saturday, March 16 at 5 p.m. at the Phil Campbell Community Center. Groups performing include Family Tradition, The Sharp Family and others. Come show brotherly love! There will be door prizes and plenty of food. Get a hamburger or a hot dog plus chips and a drink for \$5.00. Water will be for sale for \$1.00, and cakes will also be for sale for \$1.00/slice. All donations welcome!

The Russellville Civitan Club will hold its annual chicken stew fundraiser this Saturday, March 16 at Burns Nursing Home, 701 Monroe Street in Russellville. Stew should be picked up by noon on Saturday. Chicken stew is available in quart jars for \$10, two quarts for \$16, three quarts for \$20 and a gallon for \$24. For more information or to place an order, please call 256-412-0752. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Russellville FUMC will host a men's and a women's Step Study on Sundays from 3-5 pm. A step study guides you through a process of discovery and recovery over your hurts, hang-ups and habits. Everyone is welcome!

Spring Revival at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church (305 Bethlehem Road, Russellville, AL 35654) will be held March 17-20 with Sunday service at 5 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday services at 7 p.m. Evangelist will be Bro. Scott Delashaw. Pastor is Bro. Frank Chaney. Everyone is welcome!

For anyone with the courage to be honest about life's hurts, habits and hang-ups, FUMC of Russellville will host *Celebrate Recovery!* on Tuesday nights with supper at 6 p.m., large group at 6:30 and small groups at 7:30. Free childcare provided. Church is located at 311 North Jackson Avenue.

There will be a 2019 Spring RMS Football Parent meeting for any sixth-grade and seventh-grade boy who wants to play RMS football this spring. This meeting includes any seventh-grader who played last fall and any new seventh-grader playing for the first time. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19 at 6 p.m. in the RMS cafeteria. Each player must have at least one parent or guardian attend. Coach Larry Gilmer will be going over physical dates, paperwork, spring practice dates, general information, etc. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Coach Gilmer at RMS at 256-332-2120.

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As part of its Bicentennial Celebration, the city of Russellville will host a Church Tour on Friday, March 22. The tour bus will leave from the parking lot of First Baptist Church (213 N. Jackson Avenue) at 9 a.m. People interested in taking part in the tour should be at the church by 8:45 a.m. The tour will begin with a stop at Washington Avenue Church of Christ, where a tour will be offered and the history of the church will be shared. At 9:45 a.m., the tour will continue at First Presbyterian Church, where a tour will be offered and the history of the church will be shared. There will also be organ music and singing, and coffee will be served. From there, the tour will move on to First United Methodist Church at 10:30 a.m. In addition to a tour of the church and a presentation on the church's history, music will also be played. The tour will return to First Baptist Church at 11:30 a.m., where Doris Woodruff will share a presentation on the history of the church. There will also be a Power Point presentation featuring old photos, and refreshments will be served. The tour is free of charge, but people interested in taking part should call the Franklin County Archives by Wednesday, March 20 at 256-332-8827. All churches on the tour are handicap-accessible. The tour bus seats 31 people. Other tourists may also participate in the tour in their own vehicles.

Belgreen kindergarten registration will be held on Friday, March 22, 2019 from 8 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in the school library. Children registering must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2019. Please bring your child's birth certificate, social security card, immunization record, and proof of residency (copy of current utility bill, deed, or rental agreement) to register. For more information, please contact Belgreen High School at 256-332-1376.

Tharpstown Elementary is holding on-line pre-registration for its Pre-K program through March 22. Child must be four years old on or before September 1, 2019. If you have already registered your child online, please bring the following forms to the school on Friday, March 22: Child's birth certificate, immunization record (blue slip), Social Security card and proof of where the child lives (copy of power bill, gas bill, water bill, rental agreement/lease or deed). Pre-register your child at <https://alprek.asapconnected.com>. Drawing for registration will be March 22.

Tharpstown Elementary will hold Kindergarten registration on Friday, March 22 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. in the K-2 Building. Child must be five years old on or before September 1, 2019. Please bring the following forms: Child's birth certificate, immunization record (blue slip), Social Security card and proof of where the child lives (copy of power bill, gas bill, water bill, rental agreement/lease or deed).

The Red Bay Museum/Civitan Club will be dedicating its Native American Display in honor of Johnny Mack Morrow at the Red Bay Museum on Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m. The museum will be open from 1:30–4 p.m. with free admission. Donations will be accepted, and the public is invited to attend this event. The Red Bay Museum is fortunate and very thankful to have had someone in Johnny Mack Morrow's position to help the museum from its beginning in a variety of ways. We will be forever grateful for his dedication in serving the people in his district and improving the way of life for its citizens now and for future generations. This is an excellent time for anyone to visit the museum, especially for those that are not able to come during the week at the regular hours. The museum contains exhibits on landmarks from Red Bay with the actual items including the lobby to the Hotel Red Bay, soda fountain, theatre, church, bank, school and many more. The tour of the museum ends with a display on Tammy Wynette, who was born, raised and schooled in Itawamba County, MS, but called Red Bay her hometown, since it was the closest town she lived to.

There will be a ribbon cutting for a Little Free Library at the Phil Campbell Memorial Park on Monday, March 25 from 10 a.m.-noon. Book swap, local authors, snacks and crafts for kids. For info, call 256-627-7489.

Spring Revival at St. Paul CME Church will be held March 27-29 with services at 7 p.m. each night. Theme: "The Need for Revival in This Present Day," II Chronicles 7:14. Guest evangelist will be Rev. Pernell Perkins of St. Peters M.B. Church in Iuka, MS. St. Paul CME Church is located at 406 Hamilton Street in Russellville. Everyone is welcome to attend!

The 15th annual Relay for Life Open Bass Tournament will be held at Cedar Creek at Slick Rock Boat Ramp on Saturday, March 30 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Entry fee is \$70 per boat. \$10 per boat for Lunker (100% payback). \$1,000 guaranteed to first-place winner! Second and third place will pay out based on number of entries. Five-fish limit per boat. Only two contestants per boat. Large mouth, small mouth and spotted bass only will be counted. Fish must measure 12 inches with mouth closed and roll tail. Make all checks payable to American Cancer Society. For more information, contact Rhonda Boyles (4125 Waterloo Road, Russellville, AL 35653 or 256-627-4112) or Jamie Sumerel (256-762-5123).

Spruce Pine Historical Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Spruce Pine Community Center in Spruce Pine. Next meeting will be April 2. All members and friends are urged to attend.

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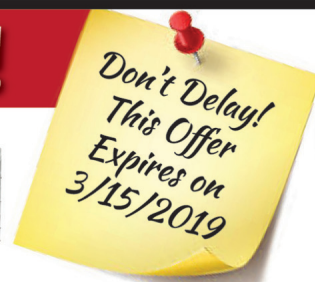


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'LIBRARY,' from page 1

had a lot of changes in our services, and many were geared with this in mind," Cummins said. "We wanted to meet those standards in order to better serve our community."

In addition to Cummins, the Russellville Public Library staff includes Perla Martinez and Peggy Harrison, along with several volunteers.

"This is joyful news on behalf of the Russellville Public Library," Cummins said.

Russellville mayor David Grissom said the award demonstrates the effectiveness of the local library in serving the Russellville community.

"We are proud of our library and its staff for receiving this distinguished award," Grissom said. "The library is often one of the first places a visitor to Russellville calls on as a resource. It's an important part of our community, and we appreciate the job our library staff is doing."

According to Gloria Repolesk, chairperson of ALLA's Public Library Division, libraries that receive awards are serving as examples for other libraries across Alabama.

"These public libraries that achieve Award Level Standards serve as benchmarks of excellence for other libraries in the state," Repolesk said. "We extend our appreciation and congratulations to you and your library for a job well done."

Libraries are judged based on the population of the community they serve. Russellville mayor David Grissom said the award demonstrates the effectiveness of the local library in serving the Russellville community.

"We are proud of our library and its staff for receiving this distinguished award," Grissom said. "The library is often one of the first places a visitor to Russellville calls on as a resource. It's an important part of our community, and we appreciate the job our library staff is doing."

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online at www.franklinfreepress.net. Send your letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. Need to contact us? Call our office at 256-332-0255.

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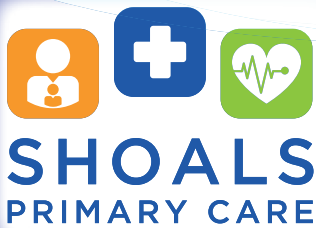
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'DALE,' from page 1

Dale presented the distinguished "Unsung Hero" Award to Clara Ester, who serves as National vice president of United Methodist Women.

Ester, a Memphis native, was at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated and ran to his side after the fatal shooting.

Her lifetime of service for the cause of racial equality was recognized, dating back to her days as a youth representative for civil rights in Memphis.

Dale presented the distinguished "Humanitarian" Award to Esther Brown. Brown is the executive director of Project Hope, an anti-death penalty organization. She has been an active opponent of the death penalty in Alabama for three decades.

She is a retired psychiatric social worker who worked in the fields of substance abuse, HIV and with the developmentally delayed population.

On March 8 at Miles College in Birmingham, Dale presented the distinguished "Game Changer" Award to Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, the 59th Bishop and the first female Bishop in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dale presented the distinguished "Unsung Hero" Award to Clara Ester, who serves as National vice president of United Methodist Women. Ester, a Memphis native, was at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated and ran to his side after the fatal shooting.

Jefferson-Snorton is the founder of the empowerment conference "The Phenomenal Women's Summit," and she has served since 2011 as Presiding Bishop in the Fifth Episcopal District, which includes Alabama and Florida.

Dale also presented the distinguished "Hidden Jewel" Award to Patricia Mokolo, NAACP Communications chairwoman, in appreciation of her hard work and dedication fighting for justice.

The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

For more information on the organization, visit its website at www.alnaacp.org.



We love to hear from you! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoons, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!

Co-Op Garden applications now being accepted

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama is now accepting applications for its Gerald Williams Cooperative Garden Program, which provides free vegetable seeds, plants and fertilizer to help qualified local residents who want to grow their own gardens.

The program is accepting sign-ups now through March 26, 2019.

To participate in the program, applicants must be a Lauderdale, Franklin or Colbert County resident, and their income must not exceed the following monthly gross amounts:

- \$1,517 for a single person household.
- \$2,057 for a two-person household.
- \$2,597 for a three-person household.

For each additional person in the household, add \$540 per month.

All interested residents should call 256-248-1921 for more information from the hours of 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. The Cooperative Garden Program is a partnership of the Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama, TVA Retirees, Bicentennial Volunteers, Inc., Southwire and many others.

Do I need a tax pro to file my income taxes?

Let's be real. No one likes doing their taxes. There are so many rules that you may or may not be following correctly, even with the help of online software. If your financial situation is straightforward, filing your own taxes could be your best bet. But the truth is, most of us could benefit from having a tax professional provide their expertise.



Chris Hogan

Whether you're a planner or a procrastinator, this article will help you decide if you should use a tax professional or file your taxes yourself. Don't worry, I'm going to make this easy for you!

Do you need a tax professional?

You've heard me talk about the importance of getting professional help to build and protect your wealth. Now, I'm not just talking about working with a financial advisor. That's one person you need on your side, but they're not the only person. Another person you need to meet with is a tax professional.

People will ask me, "Hogan, how do I know if I need to work with a tax professional?" I get it. You want to save money where you can. There are some situations where you can probably file by yourself. For instance, if you're a single filer with no dependents to claim and don't want to itemize any deductions, you're probably okay to file your taxes on your own.

Now, even if you could file on your own, you need to decide if you want to. Is it the best use of your time? Do you like crunching numbers? If not, you might want to use a tax pro to save yourself the time and headache that can come with self-filing.

You need a tax pro if...

In some circumstances, you absolutely need to work with a tax pro. Do any of these apply to you?

- You bought or sold property in the last year.
- You own a business.
- You do a large amount of freelance work.
- You have a lot of investments.
- You experienced major life changes (marriage, birth of a child, divorce) in the last year.
- You have multiple jobs.
- You give charitable donations.
- You intend to itemize expenses.
- You wonder how the 2017 Tax Bill affects you.

If you're still not sure, I would encourage you to work with a tax pro. When it comes to the IRS, it's better to play it safe now than regret something later!

Don't believe the myths you've heard

See 'TAXES,' page 10

Letter to the Editor

Random act of kindness

To the editor:

The Dixie Star Dollies chapter of the Red Hat Ladies enjoyed a good lunch at Taylor's Restaurant last Monday. When one of the ladies went to pay her bill, she was told that someone had already picked up the check—not just for her, but for the entire group, which was made up of six ladies in all.

All the ladies would like to send out a big 'Thank you' to the anonymous person who treated them to lunch. They were stunned by this gesture of generosity, and they appreciate it greatly.

One of the ladies said she was extremely encouraged to know that there are still good, kind people in the world who are willing to reach out and do something like this for a group of strangers.

Sincerely,
The Dixie Star Dollies
Red Hat Ladies



We love to hear from you! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoons, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!

Paying their respects...



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Employees of CB&S Bank lined Jackson Avenue on Monday afternoon as the funeral procession for Wilma Ruth Carter passed by the bank. Carter, a 53-year employee of CB&S Bank, died Friday, March 8. Bank employees stood with hands over hearts in the rain to pay their respects to Carter and her family.



Classifieds

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

BUSINESS

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YARD SALES

Yard Sale Wednesday, March 13 off Hwy. 48 in Tharptown. Go past school. First road to the left from Russellville. Lots of items! Wii, Pokemon, kid's bow, clothes and more.

Multi-Family Yard Sale this Friday/ Saturday

March 15/16. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. 1165 Hwy. 48 in Russellville. Turn right onto Hwy. 48 off Hwy. 43. Travel approximately one mile. Yard sale on left. Clothing, furniture, home décor and much more!

HOUSES/ APARTMENTS/ PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

House for sale. Indie home. 28X60 with 15 acres of land. Owner financing. With or without furnishings. Call 256-436-9758.

3 BR, 2 BA Home for Sale. 716 Kent Street, Phil Campbell. Includes app. one acre with house. Vinyl Siding. 24x24 garage. 2 car carport. Roof recently replaced. New refrigerator and stove. Call 256-460-7055. (3)

3 BR brick ranch for sale in Hester Heights, Russellville. 2 full BA, remodeled kitchen, 2-car attached garage, 2 1/2 car detached garage, large storm-house, and large lot. \$149,000. Call 256-263-8589. (4)

LOST AND FOUND

Is this your cat?



Or do you recognize this cat? White with light and dark brown on head, ears and tail. Black dot on tip of nose. Wearing a green collar. Came to a house on the corner of

Underwood Road and Jo Anne Avenue East in Russellville. Call 256-668-7899, 256-460-5899 or 256-332-6940.

Found: Child's billfold on Hwy. 81 in Oak Grove Community. Call 256-331-9858 to identify and claim.

Lost Dog! Black and White female. Missing from St. Clair St. in Russellville. Please call 256-332-7743. (3)

AUTO

Ford truck for sale. F-250 with a 7.3 motor. Call 256-436-9758.

FURNITURE

Queen Size Sealy Posturepedic Mattress for sale. Excellent condition. 256-331-9686.

LOOKING TO BUY

I WANT TO BUY CHICKENS AND DUCKS. PLEASE CALL 256-627-9691.

I'm looking to buy a Rocking Horse for a toddler. Please call 256-324-2917. (3)

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LEGAL SECRETARY WANTED: FULL-TIME POSITION. LEGAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. PAY BASED ON EXPERIENCE. SEND RESUME TO P.O. BOX 781, RUSSELLVILLE, AL, 35653.

MISC. FOR SALE

Fender Banjo for sale. \$200. Call 256-324-0179. (5)

Franklin Free Press Classified Rates Yard Sale Rates: **FREE, Deadline Monday at Noon; Real Estate-Homes, acreage, lots for sale or rent. \$25 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 40 words per ad; Vehicles, Boats, RVs, Motorcycles for sale. \$15 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Pets For Sale only \$10 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Free of Charge: Lost & Found, Giveaways, and Items Under \$100 (Private Parties Only). 15-word limit; Commercial Classified Rates: \$25 for**

Businesses, 15 words or less for six weeks. Ads exceeding word limit add \$10 per additional 15 words. The number in parentheses represents the number of times the ad has appeared. Call us at 256-332-0255 to place, cancel or renew your ad. Payment is required in advance of publication for ads.

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'TAX,' from page 9

Some people may think they'll be better off using software than working with a tax pro. That's likely because they've bought into one or more of the tax myths out there. Maybe you're familiar with these myths, or even believed them yourself.

Myth #1: A tax pro costs too much money

The cost of working with a professional to file your taxes can vary widely, depending on how complex your finances are. On average, fees range from \$176 to \$457. The higher costs are for those who have extra forms, like if you have rental property or state income taxes. Consider this: A recent survey of 2,000 Dave Ramsey Facebook fans found that people who worked with a tax expert got an average of \$791 more in their refunds than those who self-filed.

Myth #2: If I use tax software, my results will be 100% accurate

I don't know about you, but I've seen my computer software do some wacky things. Call it user error if you want, but computers and software aren't perfect. No, a human tax pro isn't perfect, either. But the good ones will back up their work with some kind of guarantee. And, you can ask a tax pro questions that are specific to your situation. Try doing that with software.

Myth #3: It will be faster to do it myself

The American Action Forum estimates that taxpayers spend an average of 17 hours doing paperwork and preparing to file their taxes. Seriously, you need to ask yourself if filing your own taxes is worth the time and effort. Yes, you'll still need to gather receipts and other paperwork if you meet with a tax pro. But if you keep up with that paperwork during the year, it shouldn't take that much time to get things in order. Certainly

not 17 hours...

Think about it this way: If a tax pro finds even one deduction, it was probably worth the cost. Not only that, but the fee you pay them may be deductible on next year's tax return!

*Chris Hogan is a #1 national best-selling author, dynamic speaker and host of *The Chris Hogan Show*. For more than a decade, Hogan has served at Ramsey Solutions, equipping and challenging people to take control of their money and reach their financial goals. His second book, *Everyday Millionaire: How Ordinary People Built Extraordinary Wealth — And How You Can Too*, was released in January. You can follow Chris Hogan on Twitter and Instagram at @ChrisHogan360 and online at chrishogan360.com or facebook.com/chrishogan360.

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Council honors firefighter with Merit Award

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Russellville Fire Department firefighter Chris Watkins was honored for his actions and medical decisions at the scene of a December accident that first responders believed saved the victim's life.

Watkins, a sergeant with the RFD and a paramedic, received a Merit Award and Lifesaving Award from Russellville mayor David Grissom at the Russellville City Council's March 4 meeting.

At the scene of an accident at South Washington Avenue and Hwy. 24, Watkins' decision on how to place a victim of the accident on the spine board is believed to have been a primary factor in allowing EMS and Air Evac personnel to notice the victim's wound and impact it, which facilitated the victim's safe transport and arrival to the hospital.

"Chris's quick thinking and the judgment call he made definitely increased the victim's chance of survival," RFD chief Joe Mansell said. "Russellville Fire is an Advanced Life Support service. By having ALS and medics, we can provide any treatment an ambulance can, with the exception of transport.

"This was a vision by Chief Harlon Hutcheson and Steve Thornton. They got it started, and we picked up and moved forward with it. With two stations, we can usually get to the scene pretty quick and have lifesaving measures in place by the time the ambulance gets there."

In other action, the council:

- Approved the purchase of 24 Airpaks with grant funding received through a Firefighter Grant. Sgt. Rhett Bradford worked extensively on the grant that resulted in approximately \$166,000 in funds for the Airpaks. Mansell also credited Lt. Denny Davis and Justin Green for their work on the grant, as well as the Airpak Committee. The grant is a 95/5 split, meaning the city is responsible for only five percent of the funds.

- Approved the hiring of Chad Sheffield as a patrol officer with the Russellville Police Department and Lariza Delgado as a dispatcher.

- Approved a vacancy for patrol officer in the RPD and authorized advertisement to solicit job applications.

- Approved a resolution naming Saturday, March 16 as Ronnie McDowell



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Mayor David Grissom presented RFD firefighter Chris Watkins with a Merit Award and Lifesaving Award at the March 4 meeting of the Russellville City Council. Watkins was honored for his actions and medical decisions at the scene of a December accident that first responders believe saved the victim's life.

Day in Russellville.

- Reappointed Tim Guinn to the Riverbend Board of Directors.

- Approved a request by Franklin County Coroner Charles Adcox to waive the rental fee of the A.W. Todd Centre on November 8, 2019.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council is set for Monday, March 18, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.

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A public notice from the Russellville Gas Board

RUSSELLVILLE GAS BOARD
1296 Walnut Gate Road
Russellville, AL 35654

The Russellville Gas Board is required by Federal Law to implement and maintain a Damage Prevention Program and a Public Awareness Program. The following information is provided in compliance with those requirements.

I. Damage Prevention Program

A. The Russellville Gas Board (RGB) is to notify parties who periodically excavate in areas where RGB's natural gas lines are located and to inform those parties to request that RGB's natural gas lines be located. Requests for line locations may be made by calling Alabama Line Location Center at 1-800-292-8525 or the Russellville Gas Board at 1-256-332-2020. A 48 hour notice is required.

II. Public Awareness Program

- A. Natural gas has no odor, therefore, in order to identify possible leaks, the Russellville Gas Board (RGB) adds a foul smelling substance to natural gas. If you detect a foul smell near appliances, apparatus, equipment or at any other location near natural gas lines call the RGB at 1-256-332-3850 or after hours at 1-256-332-2230. If the odor is strong, proceed as follows.
- 1) Leave the structure.
 - 2) Do not flip light switches.
 - 3) Do not use electrical equipment.
 - 4) Do not create a spark or flame.
 - 5) Notify the RGB.
- B. Repairs or alterations to any natural gas facility should be performed by a licensed and bonded pipefitter.
- C. It is unlawful to attempt to repair or alter natural gas pipelines or facilities owned by RGB.
- D. The RGB's natural gas pipelines are located underground throughout the area of service. In order for the public to identify the approximate location of underground pipelines, the RGB incorporates the following measures:
- 1) Bright yellow markers identify the existence of underground natural gas pipelines.
 - 2) Above ground facilities are painted silver. Fences have signs attached identifying RGB facilities.
 - 3) An on-site location of natural gas pipelines is available by calling Alabama Line Location Center at 1-800-292-8525 or the RGB at 1-256-332-2020.
 - 4) Detail maps are available at the RGB office located at 1296 Walnut Gate Road, Russellville, AL, 35654.
- E. In the event of damage to RGB's natural gas facilities the affected public should leave the area and the party causing the damage should:
- 1) Leave the equipment and premises immediately.
 - 2) Do not create a spark or flame.
 - 3) Notify the RGB immediately.

Natural gas is a safe and reliable form of energy. By implementing the Damage Prevention Program and Public Awareness Program, the Russellville Gas Board is committed to ensuring that it stays that way.

Russellville Gas Board

La Comisión de Gas de Russellville
1296 Walnut Gate Road
Russellville, AL 35654

La Comisión de Gas de Russellville por requerimiento de la ley Federal tiene que implementar y mantener un Programa de Prevención de Daños y un Programa de Conciencia Pública. La siguiente información va de acuerdo a dichos requerimientos.

I. Programa de Prevención de Daños

A. La Comisión de Gas de Russellville (RGB) deberá notificar a las partes que periódicamente excavan en áreas en que la RGB tiene líneas de gas natural e informar a dichas partes que piden que las líneas de la RGB sean localizadas. Para pedir la localización de las líneas puede hacerlo llamando al Centro de Localización de Líneas de Alabama al número 1800-292-8525 o en la oficina de la Comisión de Gas de Russellville al teléfono 1-256-332-2020. Se requiere notificar con 48 horas de anticipación.

II. Programa de Conciencia Pública

- A. El gas natural no tiene olor, por lo tanto para poder identificar posibles fugas, la Comisión de Gas de Russellville (RGB) le agrega una sustancia de olor fétido al gas natural. Si usted detecta este olor cerca de algún aparato o equipo o en cualquier otro lugar cerca de una línea de gas natural llame a la RGB al teléfono 1 256-332-3850 o después de horas de servicio al 1-256-332-2230. Si el olor es fuerte, haga lo siguiente:
- 1) Aléjese del recinto.
 - 2) No prenda luces o apagadores.
 - 3) No use equipo eléctrico.
 - 4) No cree una chispa o flama.
 - 5) Notifique a la RGB.
- B. Reparaciones o alteraciones a cualquier instalación de gas natural deberá ser hecha por un tubero con licencia y certificado.
- C. Es contra la ley intentar reparar o alterar una línea de gas natural o instalación propiedad de la RGB.
- D. Las líneas de gas natural de la RGB se localizan bajo tierra en el área de servicio. Para que el público pueda identificar la localización aproximada de líneas enterradas, la RGB incorpora las siguientes medidas:
- 1) Marcadores de color amarillo brillante identifican la existencia de líneas subterráneas de gas natural.
 - 2) Servicios sobre el suelo están pintadas de color plateado. Las cercas tienen señales identificando servicios de la RGB.
 - 3) Se encuentra disponible un servicio para localizar líneas de gas natural llamando al Centro de Localización de Líneas de Alabama al teléfono 1-800-292-8525 o a la RGB al 1-256-332-2020.
 - 4) Hay mapas detallados disponibles en la oficina de la RGB localizada en 1229 Walnut Gate Road, Russellville, AL, 35654.
- E. En el caso de daño a los servicios de gas natural de la RGB el público afectado deberá alejarse del área y la parte que cause el daño debe:
- 1) Dejar el equipo y el lugar inmediatamente.
 - 2) No provoque una chispa o flama.
 - 3) Notifique la RGB de inmediato.

El gas natural es una fuente de energía segura y confiable. Implementando el Programa de Prevención de Daños y Conciencia al Público, la Comisión de Gas de Russellville esta comprometida a asegurar que siga de esa manera.

Comisión de Gas de Russellville



Owens, Baker lead Bobcats to sweep of rival Red Bay

Staff reports

Nate Owens went 5-for-5 with five runs scored for Phil Campbell in last Friday's doubleheader at Red Bay, and Austen Baker had three doubles and six RBIs as the Bobcats cruised to a pair of blowout wins, 11-1 and 15-2.

Owens, a senior, reached base all seven times he batted on Friday. He went 3-for-3 in game two with a double, an RBI and three runs scored. Sophomore Ridge Raper also had a big second game at the plate, going 2-for-2 with three RBIs and three runs scored. Baker, another sophomore, was 1-for-2 with a double, two RBIs, two walks and two runs.

Luke Barnwell (1-1) picked up the win for Phil Campbell (5-3), allowing two earned runs on three hits (including a solo home run by Kolby Bragwell) in three innings. The sophomore right-hander struck out four and walked two. Mason Swinney pitched two scoreless innings in relief, allowing two hits and striking out four.

The Bobcats got to Red Bay starter Peyton Green with four runs in the top of the first. Raper had a two-run single, and Ty Leindecker also drove in a run with a hit. Leading 4-1, Phil Campbell broke it open with a nine-run third inning highlighted by two hits from Owens, a double and an RBI single. Cole Motes had a two-run single in the big inning, and Raper drove in another run with a base hit.

Barnwell finished 1-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored. Ty Leindecker was 1-for-2 with two RBIs, and Motes went 1-for-3 with two RBIs and a run. Rilan Garrison walked twice and scored twice, and Levi Crittenden had an RBI and a run. Trey Leindecker walked, scored and drove in a run, and Bryant Anthony also scored a run.

Bragwell led Red Bay (3-4) at the plate, going 3-for-3 with his second home run of the season and two RBIs. Alex Burroughs was 1-for-3 with a run, and Cade McKinney also had a hit.

Raper (1-0) dominated Friday's first game on the mound, holding the Tigers to just one unearned run on one hit in five innings and striking out 11. Baker backed him up with a big game at the plate, going 2-for-3 with two doubles, four RBIs and three runs scored. Owens went 2-for-2, walked, got hit by a pitch and scored twice.

After a scoreless first inning, Phil Campbell put up two runs against Red Bay starter Chase Allen in the top of the second on an RBI double by Baker and an RBI single by Ty Leindecker.

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Franklin Free Press 2018-19 All-County Boys Basketball

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Last week we announced this year's *Free Press* All-County selections for girls basketball. Now it's time to unveil our picks on the boys side.

This was a strong season for boys basketball in Franklin County—most notably at Red Bay, where the Tigers set a program record with 27 wins, brought home their first county title in six years, won an area championship and advanced to Hanceville for the second straight season.

A disappointing last-second loss to Vincent in the regional semifinals left Red Bay two wins shy of the Final Four, but it did nothing to diminish the remarkable turnaround (from a 2-24 record in 2016-17 to a 27-6 mark this season) engineered by head coach John Torisky and company.

At Russellville, the Golden Tigers enjoyed their best season to date under head coach Patrick Odom, winning eight of their final nine games to finish with a 20-7 record while playing a highly competitive schedule. Another home loss in sub-regional play (this time to Madison Academy, 70-64) was frustrating, but Odom and company have now won three area tournament titles—two of which have been clinched on an opponent's home floor—in four seasons.

Belgreen, meanwhile, has been even more dominant in area play, posting an overall record of 28-2 (postseason included) while hosting—and winning—three consecutive tournament championships. The Bulldogs fell short of the 20-win mark for the first time in three seasons under head coach Clint Isbell, but they played a beefed up schedule this season and still managed to finish a more than respectable 18-12. Only a last-second shot by Covenant Christian's Titus Griffin in the sub-regional round prevented Belgreen from making a third straight trip to Hanceville.

Needless to say, players from Red Bay, Russellville and Belgreen are featured prominently among our All-County selections, but student-athletes from all across the county will be highlighted here for putting together seasons worthy of recognition. Let's get to it.



Lucas McNutt

Photo/KG

Player of the Year Lucas McNutt, Senior Guard, Russellville

A first-team All-County selection as a junior, McNutt took his game to a whole new level this season and put together a career year on both ends of the floor. The 6'2 marksman was more prolific than ever from the perimeter, knocking down a career-high and county-best 80 three-pointers at a highly efficient 41-percent clip, but his development from spot-up shooter as a sophomore to complete all-around player as a senior was far more noteworthy and impressive.

Offensively, McNutt was nearly as dangerous attacking the basket off the dribble and in transition as he was firing away from beyond the arc, averaging a career-high 17.6 points per game on 44-percent shooting from the field. He battled

2018-19 Franklin County Leaderboard Scoring (Points per Game)

Mason Bragwell, senior, Belgreen	18.9
Winston Nolen, sophomore, Tharptown	18.2
Lucas McNutt, senior, RHS	17.6
Brant Bragwell, senior, Belgreen	16.0
Devin Buckhalter, senior, RHS	15.9
Scout Bragwell, sophomore, Belgreen	13.0
Luke Garrison, sophomore, PCHS	12.7
Gath Weatherford, senior, Red Bay	12.4
Isaac Riddle, senior, PCHS	11.6
Will Bonner, freshman, RHS	11.3
Chandler Dyas, sophomore, RHS	10.9
Edward Lopez, junior, Tharptown	10.6

See 'BOYS,' Page 14

Gath Weatherford



PHOTO/KG

PHOTO/KG



Mason Bragwell (23)

'BOYS,' from page 13

through some uncharacteristic struggles from the foul line early in the season to finish at 75 percent (43-for-57), and his 10 games of 20-plus points were tied for the second-most in Franklin County. [Only Belgreen's Mason Bragwell had more.] The ascension of freshman Will Bonner to the starting point guard role freed up McNutt to play off the ball and focus on scoring, but the senior still averaged 3.6 assists per game.

McNutt's productivity on the offensive end was all the more impressive considering how much energy he extended on a nightly basis as the Golden Tigers' primary defensive stopper. Without fail, Odom assigned McNutt the task of slowing down the opposing team's top perimeter threat, and more often than not he was up to the challenge. McNutt's length, athleticism and tireless effort made him an asset as an on-ball defender, and his instincts and anticipation helped him get in passing lanes and rack up steals in bunches. He was also a factor on the boards, pulling down 4.4 rebounds per game.

McNutt carried Russellville at times, pouring in a career-high 33 points in a 62-61 win over Rogers on December 18 and then scoring 30 eight days later in a 73-60 victory over Mars Hill. He also made seven threes in a road win at Jasper on November 27, one of 10 games in which he connected at least four times from beyond the arc. McNutt surpassed the 1,000-point mark for his career on January 25, putting up 23 in an overtime win at home over Jasper. He finished his four-year varsity career with 1,062 points scored.

First-Team All-County

Gath Weatherford, Senior Forward, Red Bay

Pay no heed to Weatherford's drop in scoring average from 16.5 points per game as a junior to 12.4 per game this season. Red Bay's deep rotation and balanced scoring attack had a deflating effect on individual numbers, but Weatherford was as potent and efficient as ever.

The 6'4 sharpshooter connected on 42.1 percent of his attempts from beyond the arc and finished with 75 threes made—18 more than last year, and the second-most of any player in Franklin County. Weatherford posted elite shooting numbers from everywhere, hitting 76 percent (53-for-70) from the foul line, 53.5 percent from two-point range and 46.4 percent from the field overall. He topped the 20-point mark eight times this season despite playing, on average, a modest 21 minutes per night.

Weatherford had a knack for playing his best in the biggest games and against the toughest opponents. He opened the season with five threes and 21 points in a 62-53 loss to eventual Class 1A state champion Decatur Heritage; he scored 20 points and nailed a game-winning three at the buzzer to beat eventual Class 2A Final Four participant Tanner 59-58 on November 21; he scored 22 points on 7-for-8 shooting from the floor and 4-for-4 from the line in a 60-47 win over county rival Belgreen on December 8; he knocked down eight threes and totaled 35 points in a pair of games on December 26 against Mater Dei High School and Metro East Lutheran at a Christmas Tournament in Illinois; he buried a career-high seven threes and scored 24 points against Belgreen on January 19 to lead the Tigers to their first county championship in six years; and he scored a season-high 25 points in a 55-52 sub-regional win over Sheffield on February 12.

Weatherford finished the season averaging 4.4 rebounds per game while also ranking among team leaders with 48 assists and 40 steals. He was as tough as ever on the defensive end, drawing a team-leading seven charges.

Over the final three seasons of his varsity career, Weatherford scored a total of 1,139 points and earned two first-team All-County selections from the *Free Press*.

Mason Bragwell, Senior Post Player, Belgreen

Bragwell led all of Franklin County in scoring for the second straight season, averaging a career-high 18.9 points per game. The 6'6 senior played his best basketball of the year when it mattered most, topping the 20-point mark in each of his team's five February games and averaging 24.8 points during that stretch.

As a scorer, Bragwell was both consistent and prolific, reaching double-figures in 28 of the 29 games he played and putting up at least 20 points 14 times (four more than any other player in the county). He made a career-high 22 threes, shooting 40.4 percent from beyond the arc, 54.3 percent from two-point range and 52.3 percent from the floor overall. He also finished strong at the foul line, going 33-for-41 in those five February games to finish the season at a solid 65 percent (113-for-173).

Perhaps the best game of Bragwell's illustrious career came the day after Christmas at the Bracy Invitational when he hit four threes and scored 33 points on 11-for-17 shooting from the field and 7-for-8 from the line in an 89-79 win over Central. He reached the 30-point mark again on January 4 against Phillips and then had 29 points, nine rebounds and three blocks in a 90-65 rout of Hackleburg on February 9 in the area championship game.

Bragwell led Belgreen with 7.2 rebounds per game and also blocked 45 shots. A three-time first-team All-County selection by the *Free Press*, Bragwell finished his varsity career with 1,844 points scored.



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'BOYS', from page 14

Devin Buckhalter, Senior Guard, Russellville
Buckhalter earns his second straight first-team All-County selection and third overall after a stellar senior season in which he set career-highs in scoring (15.9 points per game), threes made (48), rebounds (4.3 per game) and games with 20-plus points (nine).

The 6'0 senior guard was consistent, starting all 27 games for the Golden Tigers and reaching double-figures in 22 of them. He was also efficient, shooting 34 percent from beyond the arc, 44 percent from the floor overall and 74 percent (51-for-69) from the foul line.

Russellville played its best basketball of the season down the stretch, and Buckhalter was right in the middle of it. In eight games from January 18 through the end of the year, he topped the 20-

point mark five times, knocked down a total of 21 threes and averaged 19.2 points per game.

One of Buckhalter's many season highlights came on December 13 at Haleyville when he surpassed the 1,000-point mark as a varsity player, matching his career-high with 29 in a 73-54 win over the Lions. Buckhalter was a beast on both ends of the floor in the Class 5A, Area 14 tournament semifinals on February 5, scoring 24 points and hounding West Point senior point guard Rylan Jones with relentless on-ball defense throughout the second half.

In his final game as a Golden Tiger, Buckhalter scored 21 points in a 70-64 loss to Madison Academy in sub-regional play on February 12. He finished his four-year varsity career with 1,286 points scored and three area tournament championships.

Brant Bragwell, Senior Guard, Belgreen

A two-time second-team All-County selection by the *Free Press* as a sophomore and junior, Bragwell put together the best season of his four-year varsity career as a senior.

As one of only two returning starters for the Bulldogs, Bragwell was required to bear a heavier burden this season—and he rose to the occasion. The 5'11 guard set career-highs virtually across the board, averaging 16.0 points, 4.2 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game. He tied for third in the county with 66 threes made and was an effective and efficient scorer from inside the arc as well, shooting 51.1 percent from two-point range and a solid 65 percent (61-for-94) from the foul line.

More of a natural scorer than facilitator [he topped the 20-point mark eight times this season and reached double-figures in 25 of Belgreen's 30 games], Bragwell nonetheless posted an outstanding 1.94 assist/turnover ratio while directing the Bulldogs' fast-paced attack. He was also a disruptor on the defensive end, leading his team in both steals (2.2 per game) and deflections (1.6 per game).

Streaky at times from beyond the arc, Bragwell caught fire late in the season. He drilled a season-high seven threes and scored 29 points against

Hackleburg on January 28, helping Belgreen wrap up the area's top seed with an 80-54 rout; he then put on a show in two games at the Class 1A, Area 12 tournament, nailing nine threes and totaling 54 points on 22-for-35 shooting from the floor in blowout wins over Brilliant and Hackleburg.

Bragwell followed up his 30-point, seven-assist, six-rebound effort in the area final against the Panthers with 16 points in the sub-regional round against Covenant Christian. He finished his varsity career with 1,288 points scored.

Second-Team All-County

Will Bonner, Freshman Guard, Russellville

If you're looking for the biggest driving force behind Russellville's jump from a seven-win team

See 'BOYS,' Page 16



Devin Buckhalter

Photo/KG



Brant Bragwell

Photo/KG

2018-19 Franklin County Leaderboard Most Games with 20-Plus Points

Mason Bragwell, senior, Belgreen	14 (high of 33)
Lucas McNutt, senior, RHS	10 (high of 33)
Winston Nolen, soph., THS	10 (high of 30)
Devin Buckhalter, senior, RHS	9 (high of 29)
Brant Bragwell, senior, Belgreen	8 (high of 30)
Gath Weatherford, senior, RBHS	8 (high of 25)
Scout Bragwell, soph., Belgreen	5 (high of 27)
Luke Garrison, soph., PCHS	4 (high of 31)
Isaac Riddle, senior, PCHS	3 (high of 24)
Will Bonner, freshman, RHS	2 (high of 24)

'BOYS,' from page 15

the previous season to a 20-win team this season, look no further than Bonner. The 5'8 freshman was handed the keys to Russellville's up-tempo attack and immediately flourished. Running the show like a seasoned vet, Bonner pushed the pace, penetrated the lane at will (pun intended) and handed out 5.9 assists per game—including more than a few of the highlight variety.

Bonner also proved a capable scorer, topping the 20-point mark in back-to-back area wins over Lawrence County and Hamilton in early December and finishing third on the team with 11.3 points per game. He shot an impressive 47 percent from the floor and led the Golden Tigers in free throws made (86) and attempted (135) while shooting 64 percent from the line. [That figure undoubtedly went up in crunch time; in the area final against Hamilton on February 8, Bonner shot 8-for-8 from the line in the fourth quarter to help salt away a 62-52 win.]

Blessed with preternatural instincts and lightning-quick hands, Bonner was brilliant on the defensive end as well, leading the team in steals and displaying a knack for making game-changing plays in crucial situations. He also averaged 4.7 rebounds per game despite nearly always being the smallest player on the floor.

Braden Ray, Sophomore Forward, Red Bay

There isn't much the versatile and talented Ray didn't do for the Tigers during the course of their record-setting 27-win season. The long-armed, 6'3 sophomore averaged 9.6 points per game, second on the team; he was Red Bay's top rebounder at 4.8 per game and also led the team with 53 assists, 52 steals and 14 blocked shots; and he knocked down 23 threes at a 36.2-percent clip while also shooting 50.7 percent from inside the arc and 76 percent (70-for-92) from the foul line.

An effective scorer everywhere from the low block all the way out to the perimeter, Ray shot 46 percent from the floor overall and put up double-figure points 14 times. Look for that number to rise considerably next season as Ray takes over for departing senior Gath Weatherford as the No. 1 option for a Tiger team that should again be a



Braden Ray

Photo/KG



Will Bonner (1)

Photo/KG

threat to reach the Final Four.

Clay Allison, Junior Guard, Red Bay

Allison was absolutely an asset on offense for the Tigers, ranking fourth on the team in scoring (7.7 points per game), second in threes made (44) and first in foul shooting (46-for-57, or 81 percent). But no player in Franklin County (with the exception of Russellville's Bonner) impacted the game on the defensive end as much or as often as Red Bay's pest of a point guard.

Quick enough to flip the light switch and be in the bed before the room gets dark, the 5'7 Allison flits around the court with frightening speed. Whether harassing ball-handlers or darting into passing lanes, he sets the tone for a suffocating Tiger defense that held opponents to an average of just 41.9 points per game this season. Allison was credited with 50 deflections this season, tops on the team, and also had 39 steals.

Because of his stellar work on defense, Allison's efficiency on the other end of the floor is bound to be underappreciated; he posted elite shooting percentages from beyond the arc (42.7 percent), from two-point range (58.6 percent) and from the floor overall (48.7 percent).

Isaac Riddle, Senior Forward, Phil Campbell

A capable scorer both in the paint and from the perimeter, Riddle averaged 11.6 points per game (second on the team) while knocking down 21 threes and shooting 74 percent (23-for-31) from the foul line. He topped the 20-point mark three

times (including December 3 against Colbert Heights, when he scored 21 of his team-high 23 points in the second half of a 64-63 win), but Riddle's best work often came on the glass.

An athletic leaper with a nose for the ball, the 6'2 Riddle led Phil Campbell in rebounding on the season and had stretches of dominance on the boards—such as when he pulled down 15 rebounds (to go along with 16 points) in a loss to Belgreen on January 8.

Chandler Dyas, Sophomore Forward, Russellville

Despite being hampered by two different ankle sprains that cost him a total of five games, Dyas took a significant step forward in his second season at the varsity level.

The 6'2 wing upped his scoring average from 8.0 points per game as a freshman to 10.9 per game this season, knocking down a career-high 38 threes at a 36-percent clip and shooting 42 percent from the floor overall. Dyas and his pure stroke were money from the foul line, where he finished second in all of Franklin County at 81 percent (51-for-63).

To his credit, Dyas has become just as valuable to Russellville as a rebounder and a post defender as he is as a perimeter shooter. He led the team this season with 5.5 boards per game and was often a major factor on the offensive glass. As the tallest member of a guard-oriented, small-ball starting lineup, Dyas also typically drew the assignment of guarding an opposing team's best low-post scorer—and more than held his own.

Coch of the Year

John Torisky, Red Bay

Torisky won this award last year after overseeing a remarkable renaissance that saw Red Bay improve from two wins the previous season to 18 while earning a regional berth for the first time since 1995. Torisky is again our Coach of the Year after helping the Tigers take the next step this season—against a tougher schedule to boot.

The program record of 25 wins (set by the 1994-95 squad) was squarely in Red Bay's sights as

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John Torisky

2018-19 Franklin County Leaderboard Three-Pointers Made

Lucas McNutt, senior, RHS	80
Gath Weatherford, senior, Red Bay	75
Brant Bragwell, senior, Belgreen	66
Scout Bragwell, sophomore, Belgreen	66
Luke Garrison, sophomore, PCHS	57
Winston Nolen, sophomore, THS	50
Devin Buckhalter, senior, RHS	48
Clay Allison, junior, Red Bay	44
Chandler Dyas, sophomore, RHS	38
Hayden Moss, sophomore, THS	31
Brett Saint, sophomore, PCHS	29
Colton Corum, senior, Red Bay	24

'BOYS,' from page 16

early as October, when practice officially began, and the Tigers broke that mark on February 8 when they beat Sulligent in the final of the area tournament. They added another win (on a buzzer-beating three-pointer by senior guard Hunter Bays) in sub-regional play over Sheffield and finished 27-6 on the season—with half of those losses coming against elite out-of-state competition at a Christmas tournament in Torisky's home state of Illinois. The only three teams from Alabama to beat Red Bay this season were Class 1A state champion Decatur Heritage, Class 4A contender Deshler and Vincent, which dealt the Tigers a season-ending 41-40 loss in the Class 2A Northwest Regional semifinals.

Prior to winning that area title and making a second straight trip to Hanceville, Red Bay also won its first Franklin County Tournament championship since 2013. The Tigers achieved all those accomplishments on the strength of relentless defense and balanced offense—both of which were made possible by a playing rotation that legitimately went ten-deep.

Finding sufficient playing time for that many bodies can be a challenge, but Torisky and his staff deserve credit for convincing their players to fully buy in to the "we before me" philosophy that turned this year's Tigers into a defensive juggernaut and the winningest team in program history.

Reppin' the Bay, indeed.

Most Improved Player

Winston Nolen, Sophomore Guard, Tharptown

As a freshman last year, Nolen scored a total of 120 points in 28 games in his first season of varsity

action. This season, in roughly a two-and-a-half week stretch from December 29 through January 15, Nolen scored 165 points in the span of seven games—part of a breakout performance that saw the 6'0 guard more than quadruple his scoring average from 4.3 points per game last year to 18.2 per game this year (second-best in Franklin County).

2018-19 Franklin County Leaderboard Free Throw Percentage (min. 30 attempts)

Scout Bragwell, soph., Belgreen	.811 (43-53)
Chandler Dyas, soph., RHS	.810 (51-63)
Clay Allison, junior, Red Bay	.807 (46-57)
Braden Ray, soph., Red Bay	.761 (70-92)
Gath Weatherford, senior, Red Bay	.757 (53-70)
Lucas McNutt, senior, RHS	.754 (43-57)
Isaac Riddle, senior, PCHS	.742 (23-31)
Devin Buckhalter, senior, RHS	.739 (51-69)
Luke Garrison, soph., PCHS	.729 (43-59)
Lane Shewbart, soph., Red Bay	.697 (46-66)
Mason Bragwell, senior, Belgreen	.653 (113-173)
Brant Bragwell, senior, Belgreen	.649 (61-94)

Nolen finished the season with a whopping 473 points scored, reaching double-figures in all but two of Tharptown's 26 games and topping the 20-point mark ten times. He opened that hot stretch right after Christmas with 30 points (and six threes) against Wilson and also had 22 against Hackleburg, 22 against Vina, 27 against Colbert County and 29 in a win over Vina at the county tournament.

Granted, Nolen took a lot of shots—but he made a lot, too, including 50 from beyond the arc. He'll

See 'BOYS,' page 18



Winston Nolen (left)

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Ridge Raper

Sophomore Pitcher, Phil Campbell

Raper's second start of the season this past Saturday was a gem. The sophomore right-hander buzzed through five innings of one-hit ball on just 80 pitches, striking out 11 and walking three in an 11-1 rout of Red Bay. He did not allow an earned run, picking up his first win of the year. Later, in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader, Raper went 2-for-2 at the plate with three RBIs and three runs, helping Phil Campbell complete the sweep with a 15-2 win. Raper finished the week 4-for-11 with three walks, four RBIs and five runs.



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'BOYS', from page 17

be one of four returning starters for the Wildcats next season.

Newcomers of the Year

Scout Bragwell, Sophomore Guard, Belgreen

After totaling 20 points in a handful of games following a late-season promotion to the varsity as a freshman, Bragwell blossomed into perhaps the most efficient offensive player in Franklin County this season as a sophomore.

A sweet-shooting lefty with a smooth stroke and a high-arching shot, Bragwell buried 66 threes this season—tied for the third-most in Franklin County. He was no volume shooter, however. Bragwell connected on an incredible 48.3 percent of his attempts from beyond the arc; he also shot 54.4 percent from two-point range, 51.3 percent from the floor overall and a county-best 81 percent (43-for-53) from the foul line.

Simply put, if Bragwell shot it, regardless of where he shot it from, it was more than likely going in.

Bragwell finished his first full season at the varsity level averaging 13.0 points per game; he scored in double-figures 21 times in 30 games and topped the 20-point mark on five occasions. He wasn't merely a scorer, either; Bragwell also averaged 3.9 rebounds and 1.7 steals per game while totaling nearly twice as many assists (63) as turnovers (36).

With seniors Mason Bragwell and Brant Bragwell set to graduate in May, there's little doubt as to who will take over the role as lead 'Dog for Belgreen next season.

Luke Garrison, Sophomore Guard, Phil Campbell

Garrison made a splash—several of them, in fact—early in his freshman year at the varsity level, but by the end of that 2017-18 season he had only appeared in a handful of games with the big club. He burst onto the scene this season as a full-time starter and made the most of his opportunity, finishing fifth in Franklin County in three-pointers made (57), seventh in scoring (12.7 points per game) and ninth in foul shooting (43-for-59, or 73 percent).

Garrison's game-changing perimeter stroke helped him top the 20-point mark four times, including a mid-December game at East Lawrence when he set new career-highs with seven threes and 31 points in an 83-73 loss to the Eagles. His best all-around performance might have come on November 19 against Wilson, when he put up 25 points, seven rebounds and four assists in an 83-64 win over the Warriors.

All-Defense

Several of the players who earned first- or second-team All-County honors distinguished themselves on the defensive end. So did these guys:

Colton Corum, Senior Guard, Red Bay

Corum was many things as a defender—tough, hard-nosed, relentless and selfless. He was also smart, as evidenced by the fact that he was whistled for just 30 fouls the entire season. That certainly wasn't due to a lack of effort. Corum worked his way to 23 steals and 25 deflections while continuing to excel at the art of taking a charge.

Offensively, Corum was Red Bay's third-leading scorer at 8.1 points per game. He knocked down 24 threes, shot 55.1 percent from inside the arc and averaged 2.7 rebounds per game.

Hunter Bays, Senior Guard, Red Bay

Bays will almost certainly be remembered most for nailing the game-winning three at the buzzer to beat Sheffield 55-52 and punch the Tigers' ticket to Hanceville. But his steady work as a tireless on-ball defender was primarily how he earned his keep on a nightly basis. Bays finished second on the team with 43 steals and also had 27 deflections. As an offensive bonus, he also led Red Bay with 55 assists.

Jeb Bishop, Sophomore Post Player, Russellville

A transfer from Muscle Shoals, Bishop made an immediate impact for an under-sized Golden Tiger team with his rebounding and shot-blocking. Playing limited minutes in a reserve role, the 6'2 sophomore averaged 4.9 boards and a team-best 2.1 blocks per game.

Gaven Taylor, Senior Guard, Belgreen

Taylor was a capable scorer [he had a season-high 16 points on 8-for-10 shooting in a rout of Brilliant on December 3], but he did his best and most important work on the other end of the floor as a defensive sparkplug. Taylor's relentless energy and ball pressure helped force turnovers and create the faster tempo the Bulldogs preferred.



Colton Corum (12)

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Wildcats improve to 4-1 with sweep of Belgreen

Staff reports

Jayden Mitchell and Greyson Studdard combined to strike out 17 Belgreen batters last Thursday, and Britton Kennamore drove in the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning as Tharptown finished off a doubleheader sweep of the visiting Bulldogs with a 5-4 win.

Trailing 4-2 in the top of the sixth, Belgreen (0-3 through Sunday) rallied to tie the game when Luke Henson and Carson Cox both singled and scored on an error. The Wildcats (4-1) won it in their final at bat when senior Carson Petree walked, stole second, moved to third on a throwing error and scored on Kennamore's groundball.

Studdard (2-0) earned the win in relief, allowing one earned run on three hits in 2.2 innings. He struck out five and walked two. Mitchell started on the mound for Tharptown and continued his early-season strikeout binge, finishing with 12 K's in 4.1 innings. He allowed one earned run on two hits and five walks.

In three appearances this season through

Sunday, Mitchell had 29 strikeouts in just 10 innings pitched. Of the 30 outs he had recorded on the mound, all but one had come on strikeouts.

Hunter White led the Wildcats at the plate in Thursday's second game, delivering a two-run single in a three-run second inning and finishing 3-for-3 with a double, two RBIs, two runs scored and two stolen bases. Studdard had Tharptown's only other hit, a double.

Cox took the loss for Belgreen, allowing one earned run on two hits in 2.2 innings. He struck out two and walked two. Kostner Bryant started on the mound and struck out seven batters in 3.2 innings. He allowed two earned runs on two hits and six walks.

Henson was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run, and Peyton Turbyfill was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Cox went 1-for-3 with a run and a stolen base, and Koby Collins was also 1-for-3 with a steal. Bryant went 1-for-4 and scored a run. Will King and Cole King each walked twice and stole a base.

In previous action last Thursday:

Tharptown 13 Belgreen 3

The Wildcats got four hits from Greyson Studdard and three from Hunter White in Thursday's opener, backing up a complete game effort on the mound by Britton Kennamore.

Studdard finished 4-for-4 with two RBIs, two runs scored and three stolen bases. White was 3-for-4 with two steals and three runs scored. Senior Carson Petree also had a big game, going 2-for-2 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored.

Kennamore (1-0) took care of the rest on the mound, holding Belgreen to two earned runs on three hits in five innings. He struck out five and walked two.

At the plate, Kennamore walked three times and drove in a run. Jayden Mitchell went 1-for-3 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored. Colton Simmons drove in a run and scored twice, and Jessie Mitchell walked twice and scored.

Kostner Bryant led the way for Belgreen, going 2-for-3 with a double and a run. Koby Collins also doubled, finishing 1-for-1 with a walk and two runs scored. Canaan Stough drove in a run and stole two bases.

Big fifth inning sends Lady Bulldogs past PC 9-4

Staff reports

Katie Dempsey delivered a tie-breaking RBI single in a five-run fifth inning for Belgreen on Saturday, leading the Lady Bulldogs to a 9-4 win over Phil Campbell.

The Lady Bobcats (2-4 through Sunday) had just tied the game 4-4 with a run in the bottom of the fourth when Belgreen (5-3) got rolling in the top of the fifth. Emma Dempsey led off with a double, and Katie Dempsey's RBI single put the Lady Bulldogs on top 5-4.

After Gracie Dempsey bunted for a hit, Bailey Wood drove in a run with a sac fly. Jaelyn Johnson had an RBI groundout, and Sydney Borden followed with an RBI triple. She scored on a single by Kaycee Wilson, capping off the inning and making it 9-4.

The late five-run rally made a winner out of Emma Dempsey (3-2), who allowed three earned runs on four hits in five innings. She struck out five and walked one.

Borden finished 2-for-4 with a triple, a double an RBI and two runs scored. Katie Dempsey was 3-for-3 with two RBIs and two stolen bases, and Emma Dempsey also went 3-for-3 with a run and a stolen base. Kaycee Wilson was 2-for-3 with two RBIs.

Johnson went 1-for-3 with two RBIs, and Kelsey Wilson was 1-for-2 with two runs. Gracie Dempsey went 1-for-2, walked and scored a run.

Katie Thomas led Phil Campbell at the plate, going 2-for-3 with two doubles and two RBIs. Cypress Quinn was 1-for-2 with a double and two runs scored. Caitlynn Mills was 1-for-3 with a stolen base, and Caymen Quinn went 1-for-2 with an RBI. Jade Roberson was 1-for-2 with a run and a steal.

In previous action:

Belgreen 6 Shoals Christian 1

Kaycee Wilson and Katie Dempsey each had a two-run single in a five-run second inning by Belgreen last Friday, helping the Lady Bulldogs take control early against Shoals Christian.

Belgreen jumped in front 1-0 on Emma Dempsey's RBI single in the top of the first. Sydney Borden's RBI double got things rolling in the second inning, and Wilson added a two-run single to make it 4-0. After a double by Camie Terrell, Katie Dempsey's two-run single stretched the lead to 6-0.

Emma Dempsey picked up the win, holding Shoals Christian to one earned run on one hit in 3.2 innings. She struck out two and did not issue a walk.

'SWEEP,' from page 13

Baker added a two-run double in the third, and the Bobcats scored two more runs in the fourth on an RBI single by Barnwell and an RBI groundout by Garrison to open up a 6-0 lead.

Ty Leindecker finished game one 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI and a run. Barnwell was 1-for-4 with an RBI and two runs, and Motes went 1-for-3 with an RBI. Brett Saint also drove in a run.

Bragwell went 1-for-2 with a walk and a run, and Burroughs had Red Bay's only other hit.

Katie Dempsey finished 2-for-3 with two RBIs, and Borden was 1-for-1 with two walks and two runs scored. Kaycee Wilson was 1-for-2 with two RBIs, and Terrell was 1-for-2 with a double and a run. Emma Dempsey and Gracie Dempsey each went 1-for-2 and stole a base.

Phil Campbell 16 Shoals Christian 4

The Lady Bobcats scored four runs in the bottom of the first last Friday and then broke the game wide open with 12 runs in the second, cruising past Shoals Christian for their second win of the day.

Amber Ergle and Olivia Taylor both had inside-the-park home runs in the first inning. Ergle also had a double and finished 2-for-3 with four RBIs and three runs scored. Caymen Quinn was 2-for-2 with a double, two RBIs, three runs and two stolen bases. Emma Ergle went 2-for-2 with two runs and three stolen bases. Caitlynn Mills was 1-for-4 with an RBI and a run. She was also the winning pitcher. Emily Swinney went 1-for-2 with a double, three runs and three stolen bases. Taylor was 1-for-1 with two runs scored, and Kenner Scott walked twice, drove in two runs and stole two bases.

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