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03.27.19

# House approves gas tax, but two local legislators vote 'No'

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

Although the state's new 10-cent-per-gallon gas tax sailed through the Alabama Legislature with overwhelming support, two of the three members of the Franklin County legislative delegation voted against the measure.

Rep. Jamie Kiel (R-Russellville) and Sen. Larry Stutts (R-Tuscumbia) both said 'No' when the tax came up for a vote the first week of this month's Legislative session. Rep. Proncey Robertson (R-Mount Hope) voted in favor of the 10-cent tax increase.

The Alabama House passed the tax, which will implement the 10-cent-per-gallon increase over three years, by a vote of 84-20, and the Senate approved the measure by a 28-6 vote. Stutts was one of six Senate Republicans to

oppose the measure, in part because he objected to the indexed increase built into the tax that allows the legislature to increase it one cent every two years once the three-year phase in is complete.

**"Raising taxes should be difficult, deliberate and painful," Stutts said. "It should require a vote of the people or the legislature, not an automatic increase."**

"Raising taxes should be difficult, deliberate and painful," Stutts said. "It should require a vote of the people or the legislature, not an automatic increase."

Stutts also said most of the feedback he received from residents of District Six was opposition to the bill.

"My first duty is to represent the values of my

See 'VOTE,' Page 11



Kiel



Stutts

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# Return of Civitans to Phil Campbell now official as club receives charter



John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

The return of the Phil Campbell Civitan Club became official last Thursday evening as the club received its charter after reaching the threshold requirement of 20 members.

In fact, the newly reorganized club has 36 charter members. Barbara Burhans, governor of the Alabama District North, presented the charter to president Michele West.

The Charter Meeting was held March 21 at the Phil Campbell Community Center.

See 'CLUB,' Page 11

The Phil Campbell Civitan Club held its Charter Meeting March 21. Pictured above (from left) are Civitan International executive V.P. Scarlet Thompson, Leigha Morgan, Amy Gunderman, Tracy Faust, Christian Sherrod, Jamie Duboise, Denise Hester, Debbie Swanson, Lisa Hall and Michele West.

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**Susie Artie Vee Hallman Baker**, Phil Campbell, age 72  
 Died Thursday, March 21, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Blue Springs Cemetery.

**Charles "Satch" Jones**, Northport, AL (formerly of Russellville), age 78  
 Died Wednesday, March 20, 2019. Graveside service held at Knights of Pythias Cemetery in Russellville. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

**Owen James Swims**, Newborn  
 Died Saturday, March 16, 2019. The family held a graveside service at St. Paul Church Cemetery in Phil Campbell. Spry Memorial Chapel of Russellville assisted the family.

**Grace Johnson Thomas**, Russellville, age 81  
 Died Monday, March 20, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Franklin Memory Gardens.

**Wayne Tidmore**, Mt. Hope, age 74  
 Died Friday, March 22, 2019. Funeral arrangements had not been announced at press time. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville was assisting the family.

\*Sale good March 27 through April 3\*



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# Tribute bands headline Watermelon Festival

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The 39th annual Franklin County Watermelon Festival will feature musical headliners who have gained popularity paying tribute to two legendary rock groups.

The annual Watermelon Festival, sponsored by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, is a two-day event held the third weekend of August. More than 10,000 visitors to Russellville pour into the city during the weekend. This year's Watermelon Festival is set for Friday and Saturday, August 16-17.

Saturday's featured artist will be the Absolute Journey Tribute.

Billed as the most-traveled Journey tribute in the world, the group performed last year across 16 states and six Canadian provinces.

According to Absolute's website, [www.absolutejourneytribute.com](http://www.absolutejourneytribute.com), the band recreates not just a show but a full-fledged Journey concert, complete with exciting audience interaction.

Absolute strives to maintain accurately executed melodies to allow the audience to embrace the feel of an actual Journey concert.

Journey, which started in 1973, has 18 Top 40 singles and has sold more than 48 million albums in the United States. The group's long list of charted singles began after 1977, when Steve Perry joined Journey as lead vocalist.

"We are so excited to have the Absolute Journey Tribute coming to Franklin County this year," said Cassie Medley, executive director of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. "The audience will love their high-energy show filled with hit songs they will want to sing along to."

On Friday night, the headliner will be Shootin' You Straight, a Birmingham-based Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute band formed in 2016.

Shootin' You Straight focuses on Lynyrd Skynyrd's mid-1970s era sound.

According to the group's website, [www.shootinyoustraight.com](http://www.shootinyoustraight.com), the band works to recreate the visual image of Lynyrd Skynyrd and takes audiences back in time for an enjoyable night of music. The live shows closely replicate actual Lynyrd Skynyrd concerts, and band members say they're honored to pay tribute to the "greatest Southern rock band ever to take a stage."

"We are proud to announce Shootin' You Straight as our Friday night headliner," Medley said. "They are an outstanding musical group, and their talent



COURTESY PHOTO

Saturday's featured artist at this year's Festival will be the Absolute Journey Tribute (pictured above). Billed as the most-traveled Journey tribute in the world, the group performed last year across 16 states and six Canadian provinces.

goes well beyond just the one song you might think of, although they do that one very well, too."

The 39th annual Franklin County Watermelon Festival will feature full slates of music both Friday and Saturday evening including local artists. The *Franklin Free Press* will publish the full entertainment lineup once it's announced.

For more information on the festival, log onto [www.franklincountychamber.org](http://www.franklincountychamber.org).

# Shenandoah set to perform at Sloss Lake Jam

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

As he plans for the 10th annual Jam on Sloss Lake Fourth of July Celebration, Russellville city councilman Gary Cummings wanted this year's musical slate to have a 'local' flavor.

The free event, set for Thursday, July 4, at Russellville's Sloss Lake, will include an afternoon full of music from local artists and a headliner with its roots in the Shoals. The Russellville City Council approved a contract with the band Shenandoah at the council's March 18 meeting.

Led by Marty Raybon's distinct vocals, Shenandoah has delivered hits including "Two Dozen Roses," "Church on Cumberland Road," "I Want to Be Loved Like That" and "Next to You, Next to Me." Shenandoah has recorded ten studio albums, three of which are certified gold, and has seen 26 singles chart on Billboard's Hot Country Chart. Throw in a dozen number one hits and you've got the recipe for a country superstar.

Now on the BMG Music label, Shenandoah continues to release new music and tour nationally. The band recently premiered a new music video on Country Music Television for its current single, "That's Where I Grew Up," along with country artist Michael Ray.

Although the remainder of the music lineup for the Jam on Sloss Lake has not yet been released, Cummings said it would feature local artists.

In other moves, the council:

- Selected mayor David Grissom as the voting delegate and councilman William Nale as the alternate for the Alabama League of Municipalities Convention business meeting.

- Selected Grissom as voting proxy for the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation business meeting.

- Accepted a letter of resignation from Russellville Police Department officer Steve Bullion and declared a vacancy for patrol officer and asked the Civil Service Board to add an additional name to the list.

- Accepted a letter of resignation from Russellville Fire Department firefighter Daniel Smith and declared a vacancy for Firefighter I in the RFD and authorized advertisement to solicit job applications.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Russellville City Council is set for Monday, April 1, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.





# Honey Do: Be careful

After reading an account of a lady who was seriously injured when a mower her husband was riding kicked up a horseshoe, I thought this would be a timely article.

When a person takes hold of any tool or power equipment, he or she becomes responsible for the safety of people and property in and around the work area. Take into consideration the following factors when running a lawnmower.

- Know your machine. Read the manual that came with it.
- Maintain your machine. Sharp blades, fresh oil and proper grease will not only make your mower last longer but also make it cut better and safer to use.

**When a person takes hold of any tool or power equipment, he or she becomes responsible for the safety of people and property in and around the work area.**

**Know the safety features of the mower. All power equipment has safety standards that must be met, along with guards, covers, switches and safety warnings all over the equipment.**

- Know the safety features of the mower. All power equipment has

safety standards that must be met, along with guards, covers, switches and safety warnings all over the equipment. If these are removed, broken, bypassed or held out of place, they can certainly create a dangerous situation.

- Wear proper clothing. Long pants and safety glasses, especially when running a trimmer, can save lots of injuries.

- Walk the yard. Pick up and remove limbs, rocks and any foreign objects. Watch the ground as you cut for items that may be buried in the grass or overlooked.

- Know who will be, or may be, around. Sometimes children may get excited and run up to a person on a mower. Instruct the kids to play in a safe area, and watch for them to come around. Immediately disengage the blades should someone approach. Never give a ride to a passenger when the blade is engaged.

After all the recent rain, we will have plenty of yard work to do. Use a little common sense, be safe and remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green

## OUR HOUSE by Ree Shannon

*In Loving Memory of Mary Lou Lowrey*



progress toward winning with money!

Dave

**When can we buy a new car?**

Dear Dave,  
My husband and I are following your plan, and we're in the middle of saving up our emergency fund. When do you recommend buying a new car in the process? Do we have to wait until we've finished all the Baby Steps?

Alanna

Dear Alanna,  
I never advise buying a brand new car, unless you have a net worth of at least \$1 million. At that point, you've got enough assets that you won't get rocked by the ridiculous depreciation that comes with buying a new vehicle.

Now, you don't have to drive a beater until you pay off your house or anything like that. I advise people to drive the minimum they can in terms of a car until they complete my first three steps. Baby Step 1 is a beginner emergency fund of \$1,000. Baby Step 2 is paying off all debt except for your home. Baby Step 3 is fully funding your emergency fund with three to six months of expenses. After you've accomplished these first three steps, then you can move up to a nicer car.

Notice that I didn't say move up to a *new* car. I want you to save up cash, and get a really nice *used* car. That's what the typical millionaire does, and I want you to model your financial behavior after people who are in the position you want to be in some day!

Dave

*\*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. Follow Dave on the web at [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com) and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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### Letters to the editor

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**DAVE SAYS**

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by Dave Ramsey

**Time to fix the real problem**

Dear Dave,  
I've heard you tell people to avoid debt consolidation companies. Why do you think debt consolidation is such a bad thing?

Tom

Dear Tom,  
The main reason is that debt consolidation makes you feel like you did something to really change your financial world when you didn't. That's part of the catch. Believe it or not, I hear people all the time say, "I took out a loan and paid off all my debt!" No, you didn't. All you did was move your debt around. It's still there!

In cases like this, the biggest issue remains because you didn't do anything to address the real problems—you and your behavior. When you have debt, the number of payments you have left isn't the problem. The problem isn't interest rates, either. The problem is the person you look at in the mirror every day.

Until you get mad enough about your financial situation and the real reasons for it—until you fix *you* and your behavior—you'll never make any



# Eighteen local eateries earn satisfactory rating

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Eighteen of the 19 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of March 11-15 had scores that fall into the "satisfactory compliance" range.

Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments. Scores are graded by the Alabama Department of Public Health inspectors on a 100-point scale.

Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected.

Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up inspection within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanliness; plumbing and waste; poisonous or toxic material storage; and an inspection of the physical facility or property.

Eighteen of the 19 Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The highest score was 99, received by several locations, including West Elementary School, 1340 Clay Avenue, Russellville.

Inspections of Franklin County businesses, with critical item violations noted, resulted in the following scores:

- N&F No. 2, Inc., 9224 Hwy. 243, Phil Campbell, 81. (Employee washing hands in the three compartment sink, various foods being held out of temperature, including Polish sausage, Crispitos, egg rolls, and no approved course after 120-day notice given on February 7, 2019).

- City King Buffet, 520 4th St. SE, Red Bay, 92. (Dented cans).

- Pilgrim's Place, 1314 North Jackson Ave., Russellville, 93. (Slow sitting out at 46-50 degrees, walk-in cooler holding all products at 44 degrees).

- Monchi's, 121 N. Washington Ave., Russellville, 93. (No proof of approved course, 120-day notice given on Oct. 30, 2018).

- Campbell's Texaco, 3075 Hwy. 237, Phil Campbell, 93.

- Russellville Elementary School, 133 Chucky Mullins Drive, Russellville, 94. (Large pan sitting in/on kitchen handsink).

- Dollar General #785, 15043 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 94. (No soap in men's restroom).

- Quinn's Grocery, 9980 Hwy. 48, Russellville, 94. (Dirty meat/cheese slicer).

- El Patron Tex-Mex LLC, 13665 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 94. (Walk-in cooler holding all proteins, dairy at 46-51 degrees).

- Dismals Canyon Fountain and Deli, 901 Hwy. 8, Phil Campbell, 94. (No drying device in restrooms).

- Russellville High School, 1865 Waterloo Road, Russellville, 96. (Coating on mixing paddle chipping off).

- Wal-Mart #0403 Market, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.

- Russellville Middle School, 765 Summit, Russellville, 97.

- Wal-Mart #0403 Bakery, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 97.

- Marty's Meat Market, Inc., 85 Scotty Moore Drive, Russellville, 98.

- Wal-Mart #0403 Deli, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.

- Java and Jazz Cafe, LLC, 404 1st Street, Red Bay, 99.

- The Thrift Store, 109 Lawrence St. W, Russellville, 99.

Of the 20 inspections done in Colbert County from March 11-15, all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 100 was received by Glover-Payne Community Center, 1249 Second Street, Cherokee.

Health ratings are available at [www.foodscores.state.al.us](http://www.foodscores.state.al.us) and may be viewed by city or county.



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

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

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## What's Happening

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

**R**ussellville 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.

**W**e 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.

**A**ARP 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. Appointment required. Call Ben at 256-332-0252.

**S**pring 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!

**T**he 15th annual Relay for Life Open Bass Tournament will be held at Cedar Creek at Slick Rock Boat Ramp this Saturday, March 30 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Entry fee is \$70 per boat. \$10 per boat for Lunger (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).

**R**evival at My Father's House (104 East Lawrence Street) will be held March 31-April 3 with Sunday services at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday services at 6:30 p.m. Evangelist will be Ron Day. Join us!

**T**he dates for West Elementary School Kindergarten registration and verification have been set for April 1-12, 2019. Registration packets may be picked up at the Russellville City Schools Board of Education and returned with the required documents. A kindergarten screening will be administered to all registered students. Please refer to the following information to determine the appropriate time for you and your child to be present for the screening. All screening will be conducted at the RCS Board of Education building located at 1945 Waterloo Road, Russellville. Hours are 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2 p.m. Students whose last names begin with the letters A-M will be screened on Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Students whose last names begin with the letters N-Z will be screened on Thursday, April 18, 2019.

**S**pruce 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.

**T**he Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833, will meet Thursday, April 4 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center on Ash Avenue. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more info, call 256-324-2317. Everyone welcome!

**A**merican Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

**T**he Belgreen Alumni Banquet will be held Saturday, April 13 with a social hour beginning at 4 p.m., a meal at 5 p.m. and a program at 6 p.m. The class of 1969 will be honored. Also honoring graduating classes of 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004 and 2014. Everyone is welcome! If you plan on attending, please RSVP by calling 256-277-1211 or 256-740-9501.

**T**he Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guests the RHS A Cappella Ensemble at the Roxy Theatre in Russellville on Saturday, April 13 at 7 p.m. General admission seating. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. Call 256-335-4356. The KGB will be the featured act at a show sponsored by the Franklin County Arts Council at the Roxy on the second Saturday of each month. Proceeds will benefit the renovation and restoration of the Roxy Theatre.

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

**R**ussellville 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!

**F**or anyone with the courage to be honest about life's hurts, habits and hang-ups, First United Methodist Church 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. Come and join us!



## Aiming to celebrate



Wellington LTD Firearms is producing an Alabama Bicentennial 200th Anniversary Rifle. This American-made Henry 45-70 lever action rifle is plated in 24 Karat gold and contains artwork that brings to life Alabama's history and culture. The company is only producing 67 of the limited edition firearms.

## Wellington produces commemorative rifle to mark Bicentennial

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

As Alabama residents celebrate their state's bicentennial this year, a special commemorative firearm is available to enhance any Alabamian's gun collection.

Wellington LTD Firearms is producing an Alabama Bicentennial 200th Anniversary Rifle. This American-made Henry 45-70 lever action rifle is plated in 24 Karat gold and contains artwork that brings to life Alabama's history and culture.

The company is only producing 67 of the rifles and is accepting deposits now and reserving numbered editions.

Wellington LTD firearms include original artwork tied to accurate state history. The rifle's stock and forearm contain laser etched engravings commemorating Alabama's role in the Confederacy, with Jefferson Davis and the Confederate White House, as well as etchings of the U.S.S. Alabama and an homage to auto racing with the Alabama Gang.

**Wellington LTD firearms include original artwork tied to accurate state history. The rifle's stock and forearm contain laser etched engravings commemorating Alabama's role in the Confederacy, with Jefferson Davis and the Confederate White House, as well as etchings of the U.S.S. Alabama and an homage to auto racing with the Alabama Gang.**

After Alabama's secession from the Union in 1861, the Confederate government was headquartered in Montgomery at the Capitol Building until its later relocation to Richmond, Virginia. The Confederate White House in Montgomery remains on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

The rifle's butt plate contains detailed artwork commemorating Alabama's role as the nation's rocket capital.

The rifles contain a 22-inch octagon barrel and a large loop lever, with a classic Western look. Each rifle will contain its own edition number engraved on the top of the butt plate.

By paying a deposit, collectors can choose a specific edition number.

The rifles are \$3,000 each, with a portion of each sale going to the non-profit organization Still Serving Veterans, a Huntsville-based group that assists veterans and their families with transitioning back into the work force.

After ordering the collectible rifle from Wellington LTD, you will need to find a local federal firearms licensee who will accept the transfer of the firearm for you. This can be a local gun shop, pawn shop, gun range or any other location holding a valid federal firearms license.

For more information about these limited-edition collectible rifles, log onto [www.wellingtonltd.com/al200rifle](http://www.wellingtonltd.com/al200rifle), or call Jim Combs at Wellington LTD at 970-215-0677.

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# Commissioners renew recycling contract



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

The large green bins allow residents to turn in recyclables of mixed paper, cardboard, #1 and #2 plastics, and aluminum cans. The bins are located in downtown Phil Campbell (Piggly Wiggly), Red Bay High School, East Franklin Junior High School, Russellville High School, Russellville Elementary School, Belgreen High School, behind the A.W. Todd Centre in Russellville and on Coffee Street behind the old medical center across from the Downtown Chevron.

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Franklin County commissioners approved the renewal of a contract that will allow residents to continue to use eight recycling bins across the county.

The motion to approve the contract for another year with Shoals Solid Waste Authority passed unanimously at last week's meeting. The SSWA places the recycling bins in Franklin County and is responsible for maintaining and emptying them at no cost to the county.

The large green bins allow residents to turn in recyclables of mixed paper, cardboard, #1 and #2 plastics, and aluminum cans. No household garbage, food waste, contaminated food and no styrofoam are allowed in the boxes.

Franklin County probate judge Barry Moore said SSWA officials come to Franklin County each week to empty the recycling bins.

"They are full most of the time. That means they are being used, and we appreciate people using them," Moore said. "We just wanted to reiterate where they are located and let people know what they can put in these bins."

The bins are located in downtown Phil Campbell (Piggly Wiggly), Red Bay High School, East Franklin Junior High School, Russellville High School, Russellville Elementary School, Belgreen High School, behind the A.W. Todd Centre in Russellville and on Coffee Street behind the old medical center across from the Downtown Chevron.

The bins were purchased with grant funding obtained through Franklin and Colbert counties.

"It's a good project, and we want to keep it going," Moore said. "My family puts all our newspapers and paper products into the recycling bins. It's cut our garbage amount in half. And it does cut down on the amount of garbage going to our landfill."

# RCS Board accepts bid on roofing project

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education accepted a bid of \$181,440 on the partial re-roofing project for West Elementary School.

The roof was damaged as the result of recent heavy rain.

The low bid was submitted by MG Roofing, Inc., and was approved by the board at its March 21 meeting.

In other action, the board:

- Approved trip requests for RHS varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders from June 2-6, 2019, to attend cheer camp at Auburn University; FBLA students from April 11-12 to participate in the FBLA State Competition and Leadership Conference in Birmingham; RHS cosmetology students from April 14-17 to participate in the Skills USA State Competition in Birmingham; RHS show choir and drama from January 1-6, 2020, to participate in the Disney Performing Arts Workshop in Orlando, FL; and RMS Scholars Bowl students from May 24-27 to compete in the Junior National Academic Championship in New Orleans.

- Approved a procedure for facility use of board facilities and property by individuals, groups and organizations.

- Approved Textbook Committees for the 2019-20 school year with areas of concentration in health and physical education, math and technology education. West Elementary committee members include Deanna Hollimon, Brittany Sykes, Johnna Morrow, Krista Burcham, Jamie Lane and Jennifer

Willis. Russellville Elementary committee members include Kristie Ezzell, Tiffany Warhurst, Liza Scott, Lauren Ritter, Heather Godwin, Evelyn Servin and Priscilla Davis. Russellville Middle School committee members include Tony Bonds, Aleah Harris, Rachel Agee, Diane Townley, Mandi Willis and Odaly Linares. Russellville High School committee members include Jeremy Clemmons, Brea Cologross, Anna Kay Holland, Deedra Moore, Alana Swinney, Tessa Rushing and Liz Montiel.

- Approved personnel moves including leave of absence for WES teacher Jenny Wynn from February 4-April 1, 2019, and temporary employment of Kirklynn Hanson to fill Wynn's extension of leave of absence through April 1, 2019.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Russellville City Board of Education is set for Thursday, April 25, at 8 a.m. with work session Monday, April 22 at 3:30 p.m.



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!



# Garden Club receives Unsung Hero Award

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

When the weather gets hot, you've got to get up early in the morning to see the work of the Russellville Cultura Garden Club.

Club members will soon begin maintaining and watering the large flower pots and beds along Jackson Avenue in downtown Russellville. But they try to take care of those duties early in the morning before the temperature rises too much.

During Christmas season, club members work with the Russellville Street Department to decorate downtown, including the Franklin County Courthouse, and give their community a holiday makeover.

Regardless of the time of year, the Cultura Garden Club is always making a difference in the community. That dedicated, selfless service is why the club received the Roger Bedford, Jr. Unsung Hero Award at the recent Franklin County Partnership Banquet.

The Partnership Banquet is a joint effort of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin County Development Authority. The event recognizes outstanding accomplishments of individuals, organizations and businesses across Franklin County.

The Unsung Hero Award is named after Bedford, the long-time state senator who represented northwest Alabama for more than 30 years in Montgomery. It recognizes community service and philanthropy from those whose efforts might fly under the radar. Bedford explained why the Cultura Garden Club received this year's award as he presented it to club members.

"You probably enjoy the beauty created by this group every day as you pass through our community. They truly are special stewards of this county," Bedford said. "They get out there when it's cold or hot, and when you walk through town you see their work. I'm proud to present this year's award to the Cultura Garden Club."

Cultura Garden Club president Hillary Hall said club members work to keep downtown beautiful all year, particularly in the summer and at Christmas. The club also sponsors the annual "Every Light a Prayer for Peace" ceremony on the Franklin County Courthouse steps. The event allows the community to come together, light candles, enjoy music and pray for peace around the world.

The club has received awards from the Garden Clubs of Alabama at past state conventions, including the Dorothy Speir Parrish Award, which is given to the club that organizes the most outstanding "Every Light a Prayer for Peace" event in their city.



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Cultura Garden Club members with their Roger Bedford, Jr., Unsung Hero Award received at the recent Franklin County Partnership Banquet.

Cultura Garden Club keeps some of its seasonal decorations stored at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce office, so Chamber executive director Cassie Medley sees first-hand how dedicated club members are.

"We see all the work they put in at Christmas, and they're up early in the summer working in the heat," Medley said. "People don't realize all the time and effort they put into making this community beautiful, and they are very deserving of this award."

The Cultura Garden Club consists of 19 members, including Hall, Judy Baker, Debbie Beason, Patricia Cox, Eva Diaz, Carol Dykes, Hayley Fuller, JoAnn Graham, Gena Habig, Darlene Hester, Sherry James, Susie Malone, Cheri McCain, Debbie Nale, Brenda Oliver, Barbara Sage, Martha Sibley, Michelle Sibley and Doris Woodruff.

# Moore grateful to receive 'very special honor'

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

As she accepted the 2019 Franklin County Hall of Fame Award, Katrine Moore said March 12, 2019 is a day she will always remember.

Although Moore said there were other deserving nominees, she told the capacity crowd at the A.W. Todd Centre how much she appreciated the award and how special it was for her.

"I will never forget this day and being here right now," Moore said. "This is a very special honor, and I will always appreciate it."

Moore received the award at this year's Franklin County Partnership Awards Banquet, an event co-sponsored by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and the Franklin County Development Authority. The banquet honors the accomplishments of individuals, organizations and businesses across Franklin County.

The Hall of Fame Award is presented to someone whose lifetime accomplishments are outstanding and historically significant to Franklin County. Moore was nominated along with Anne Vinson and Susie Malone.

Moore, a retired school administrator, remains active in school events, serving as emcee for Homecoming, Senior Nights and even graduation at Red Bay.

She has been instrumental in a variety of civic causes including the Red Bay Civitan Club, the Red Bay Lions Club, the Dempsey Foundation and the Red Bay Museum.

"She has had such a positive influence on so many young people in Red Bay and is such a special person who was deserving of this award," said Franklin County Chamber of Commerce executive director Cassie Medley.

Other honorees at this year's Partnership Banquet included:  
• Beautification Award: Phil Campbell, Campbell's Texaco; Red Bay, the Bay



COURTESY PHOTO

Katrine Moore (left) receives the 2019 Franklin County Hall of Fame Award at this year's Franklin County Partnership Awards Banquet.





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# Officials investigating Belgreen threat

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

Franklin County Sheriff's Office investigators continue to search for those responsible for the threat of a school shooting at Belgreen School on March 13, 2019.

A school administrator received a call from a male caller late that afternoon that included threats of shooting the school. Law enforcement officers, including the Franklin County School Resource Officer Brent Wells, arrived within minutes of the call, along with officers from other agencies.

Franklin County sheriff Shannon Oliver said his department has subpoenaed telephone records for incoming calls to Belgreen School. Once investigators have that information in hand, they can

then execute a search warrant to determine the name associated with the number responsible for the threatening call.

Oliver said there have been multiple interviews of potential witnesses and persons of interest in the investigation.

"Our investigator Jason Holcomb continues to work this case, along with School Resource Officer Brent Wells," Oliver said. "This was a very serious and major disruption for hundreds of people. We'd just like to ask if someone knows anything or has heard anything potentially related to this incident, that we'd like to have all the information we can to make sure the person or persons responsible are brought to justice."

Citizens with information related to the incident may call the Sheriff's Office at 256-332-8820 or log onto www.franklinsheriff.org and make an

anonymous tip.

"Even though at this point it appears it was only a threat, it caused a lot of people to get upset, both kids and their families," Oliver said. "Whether the threat actually happened or not, it has serious effects on people involved, and we look forward to aggressively prosecuting those responsible."

The Code of Alabama defines the felony offense of making a terrorist threat when one makes a threat of violence or damage to property by causing the disruption of school activities. Upon conviction, the charge carries a prison sentence of up to 10 years.

Franklin County superintendent of education Greg Hamilton said he remains in contact with sheriff's investigators about the investigation and that the school system will cooperate in any way to make sure the case is aggressively prosecuted.

# Commission approves hiring of Nichols

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission recently approved the hiring of Melissa "Missy" Nichols as Human Resource Director/Payroll Clerk to fill the void left by the departure of Mandi Willis.

Willis resigned from the position in February after accepting the job of staff accountant for the

Russellville Gas Department.

Nichols, a Red Bay resident, most recently worked at Red Bay Pharmacy as a pharmacy technician. She also served as manager of CVS Pharmacy in Muscle Shoals as part of her 19-year tenure with CVS.

"We are delighted to have Missy in her new position of Human Resource Director/Payroll Clerk," said probate judge Barry Moore. "We had an out-

standing pool of eight applicants but felt she had the best fit and experience for the job."

Nichols holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resource Management from the University of North Alabama and a Business Administration Associates Degree from Northwest-Shoals Community College. She is a 1984 graduate of Red Bay High School.

Nichols began her new position on March 13.

## 'MOORE,' from page 9

- Auto & Detailing; Russellville, Pinkard Funeral Home.
- Business of the Year Award: Tiffin Supply of Red Bay.
- Franklin County's Best Kept Secret Award: Doe's Eat Place of Russellville.
- Distinguished Service Award - Phil Campbell, Nelda Moss.
- Red Bay, Brenda Hall.

- Russellville, Kevin Strickland.
- Volunteer of the Year Award: Joey Oden, posthumously.
- Excellence in Industrial Growth Award: Sunshine Mills of Red Bay.
- Industrial Support Award: Franklin County Career Tech Center.
- Industry of the Year: Mar Jac Poultry of Spruce Pine.



## 'VOTE,' from page 1

district in Montgomery," Stutts said. "I believe that with tax revenues at an all time high, an increase in taxes should be the last resort. If specific taxes, [such as] fuel taxes for roads, for example, need to be increased, we should look for another tax to decrease. This would make the increase in revenue neutral for the citizens."

That thought echoed a resolution passed by the Alabama Republican Executive Committee earlier this year that opposed the tax increase without a corresponding decrease in tax revenue elsewhere to offset the new tax.

Another reason Stutts opposed the legislation is that 66 percent of the tax revenue will go to the Alabama Department of Transportation, with a much smaller amount going to counties and cities.

"I would prefer that the largest portion of the money be used locally," Stutts said. "As written, the local counties and cities receive more dollars but actually a lower percent of the total monies than they currently receive under the previous funding formula."

Franklin County engineer David Palmer publicly supported the fuel tax increase, citing the need to update Alabama's aging road and bridge infrastructure.

Franklin County maintains 812 road miles, 625 of which are paved, and 114 bridges, 47 of which are more than 50 years old.

According to information from the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, in order to maintain proper upkeep on Franklin County roads, 208 miles should be resurfaced every five years under a recommended 15-year cycle, and 11.4 bridges should be replaced every five years under a recommended 50-year cycle.

The ACCA asserted the annual upkeep cost for Franklin County to adequately maintain road resurfacing and bridge replacement to be \$8.252 million.

The new tax is expected to generate an additional \$26 million each year in gas tax revenue. Each town and city will receive a base tax amount of \$14,109 and additional money depending on population. According to figures from the *Alabama Daily News*, Franklin County's revenue under the new tax should be \$824,040 annually. Franklin County municipalities are expected to receive the following amounts:

- Russellville \$80,561.
- Red Bay \$35,486.
- Phil Campbell \$21,880.
- Hodges \$16,058.
- Vina \$16,024.

Littleville is expected to receive \$20,953 annually.

The tax will be phased in with a six-cent-per-gallon increase August 31, 2019, and an additional two-cent increase on Oct. 1, 2020 and another two cents on October 1, 2021.

The state's gas tax before the new legislation was 18 cents per gallon on gasoline and 19 cents for diesel.

Critics of the new law cite the unusual tactic of Gov. Kay Ivey calling a legislative special session on day one of the regular legislative session because that move lowered the required amount of votes for the measure to pass.

By fast-tracking the legislation as the first thing on the agenda, it also rushed freshman legislators into making a decision and restricted their ability to adequately research the bill's effects, critics said.

Kiel said the legislation was 30 pages and it continued to change up until the day it passed out of the House.

## 'CLUB,' from page 1

The evening also saw the installation of the charter officers and an official welcome from state Civitan officials as well as Phil Campbell mayor Steve Bell.

The Phil Campbell Civitan Club recognized the contributions of the Russellville and Hackleburg Civitan Clubs as sponsoring clubs for their charter. Also recognized were four Certified Club Builders, including Walter Floyd, Jr. of Holly Pond, Julia Floyd of Holly Pond, Nancy Horton of Hanceville and Elizabeth McDowell of Decatur.

The 36 charter members of the Phil Campbell Club, including officers, are: Michele West, President; Tammy Trapp, President-Elect; Leigha Morgan, Secretary; Lisa Hall, Treasurer; Denise Hester, Chaplain; Mary Ann Malone, Sergeant at Arms; Jamie Duboise, Director; Tracy Faust, Director; Amy Gunderman, Director; Christian Sherrod, Webmaster; Debbie Swanson, Public Relations; Lashanda Wingo; Leah Gunderman; Cynthia Tice; Tammy Hutcheson; Andrea Hutcheson; Michelle Marbutt; Luanne Vickery; Tammy Dodge; Amy Jackson; Rebecca Stewart; Kim Bankston; Pamala Brantley; Paul Emerson; William Clark; Cynthia Dunn; Tracy Cook; Kim Quinn Gaisser; Jody Herring; Tina Swinney; Kelly Champion; Evelyn Scott; Cindy Peppers; Melissa Stancil; Mark Potter; and Lynn Landers.

The club meets every other Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Phil Campbell Community Center. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 11.

"It was amended the day we passed it in the House," Kiel said. "I didn't have a lot of time to go through it line by line and review all the changes that were made."

That was not Kiel's driving force for opposing the legislation, though.

**"I ran on [the platform of] smaller state government," Kiel said, "and the first vote I was asked to participate in was one to raise taxes. It went against what I ran on the last two years."**

"Out of 45,000 constituents, I can count on one hand the number of people who contacted me in favor of the gas tax increase who were either not politicians or who stood to gain from the tax in some way," Kiel said. "I was elected to go to Montgomery and represent the views of my district, and that's what I did. I think I did the right thing for our district. I don't live in Montgomery. I have to come home and face the people who elected me, and that is who I think about when I make decisions representing them."

Another source of controversy comes with the potential for a perpetual one-cent increase in the tax every two years. Franklin County voters approved a 30-year extension of a one-cent sales tax last year (75 percent for schools, 25 percent for county roads and bridges), but at least voters had the opportunity to decide whether to do that.

In this case, critics maintain, Alabama voters had no say in what will be a perpetual tax increase. And without future accountability by having to vote to renew it, legislators avoid accountability to their constituents down the road.

"I campaigned almost two years door-to-door and spoke at every function I could, talking almost exclusively about smaller government, less taxation and living within your means," Kiel said. "We have to do that at home and do it in business. I ran on smaller state government, and the first vote I was asked to participate in was one to raise taxes. It went against what I ran on the last two years."

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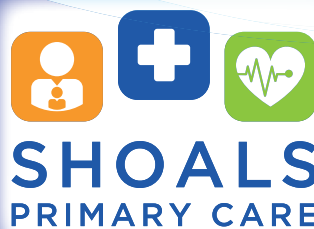
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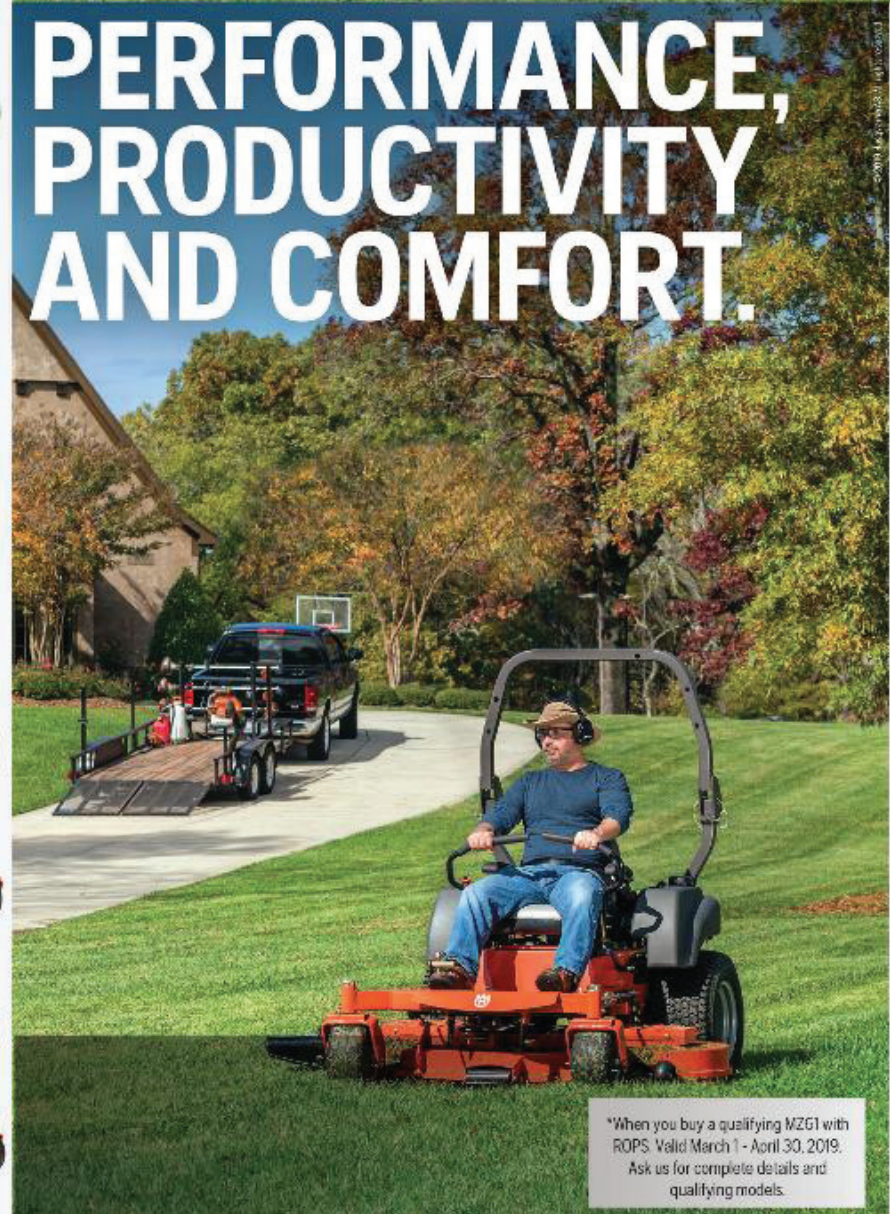
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## Russellville resident now a member of Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Russellville resident Dana Long Terry was inducted into the 2019 Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame at a ceremony held March 16 at the Marriott Shoals.

Terry, the daughter of Dan and Glenda Long of Russellville, lettered in five sports for Lexington High School, including volleyball, basketball, tennis, track and softball. Her teams competed in state playoff tournaments in three of the five sports.

See 'HALL,' Page 18



Dana Long Terry, the daughter of Dan and Glenda Long of Russellville, lettered in five sports for Lexington High School and was the 1989 Lauderdale County Female Athlete of the Year.

# Starting strong

## Golden Tigers sweep Hamilton, grab early lead in Area 14 race

Mike Self  
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - As he rounded the bag at first base following his first career varsity home run on March 16 against Scottsboro, Russellville sophomore Jackson Lindsey raised his arm and held his pointer finger aloft in celebration.

And don't think for one minute that his Golden Tiger teammates—especially the older ones—failed to take notice.

"We make fun of Jackson, because whenever he hit his first one, he held up a one," said senior pitcher Caden Parker. "He held up a one going around first base. It was pretty funny. So we make fun of him all the time."

Lindsey need not fret, though. At the rate he's currently going, he'll have plenty of opportunities to master the ins and outs of proper protocol for home run trots.

Lindsey, a 6'4" first baseman who has staked his claim to the No. 3 spot in the lineup as a varsity rookie, went deep again last Tuesday, launching a two-run homer to cap off a four-run fifth-inning rally that propelled Russellville to a 5-2 win over Hamilton in the area opener for both teams.

"It's big," said Parker, who took care of things on the mound with six strikeouts in six strong innings to notch his third win of the season. "It's big. It's good for a young team to win."

The Golden Tigers certainly fit that description, with Lindsey joined in the starting lineup last Tuesday by fellow sophomores Cole Barnett (shortstop), Gordon White (third base), Rowe Gallagher (left field) and J.D. Bishop (right field), plus freshman Nathan Brockway (DH) and eighth-grader Casen Heaps (second base).

See 'STRONG,' Page 16



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

**ROWE THE BOAT** - Russellville won last week's series opener 5-2 and then turned things over to Gallagher, who pitched into the sixth inning of an 8-3 win that got the Golden Tigers off to a 2-0 start in area play.

## Boutwell's final-round 66 helps RHS boys finish runner-up at Silver Lakes

Staff reports

Sophomore Eric Boutwell went low with a 66 on Saturday in the second and final round of the Robert Trent Jones Silver Lakes Classic just outside Gadsden, earning a second-place finish in the individual standings and helping Russellville finish second overall behind White Plains.

Boutwell shot 75 in Friday's first round and was tied for fifth before moving up the board with Saturday's 66. Senior Brayden Bendall shot a sec-

ond-round 73 on Saturday, followed by senior Jaceton Murray at 78 and senior Carson Reeves at 88. The Golden Tigers shot 305 as a team in the final round and finished the two-day tournament at 617, six strokes behind White Plains at 611.

Murray led Russellville on Friday with an opening-round 72, followed by Boutwell at 75, Bendall at 79 and senior Lucas McNutt at 86.

Russellville shot 312 as a team in the first round and entered Saturday's play trailing White Plains by four shots.



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# Saturday sweep stretches Bobcat win streak to nine Tigers bounce back, beat Belmont

Staff reports

Trey Leindecker hit a three-run homer to highlight a 10-run first inning for Phil Campbell on Saturday, and Austen Baker went 4-for-5 with three RBIs as the Bobcats extended their win streak to nine with a 14-2 rout of Belmont (MS).

Sophomore Luke Barnwell struck out five in five strong innings, and he got all the run support he would need in the top of the first. Phil Campbell (14-4 through Sunday) pounded out seven hits in the big inning, including a lead-off double by Barnwell, two-run singles by Levi Crittenden and Nate Owens, a pair of RBI singles from Baker and Leindecker's first home run of the season, a three-run shot to left.

The score remained 10-0 until Belmont got on the board with an unearned run in the bottom of the fifth. The Bobcats responded with a four-run sixth highlighted by RBI singles from Baker and Eli Smith.

Barnwell (3-1) did not allow an earned run in five innings, holding Belmont to four hits and walking just one. He threw 45 of his 75 pitches for strikes before giving way to reliever Mason Swinney, who allowed one run on one hit in one inning. He struck out two and walked one.

Baker had four of Phil Campbell's 13 hits and also scored twice and stole two bases. Barnwell was 2-for-5 with two runs scored, and Leindecker went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs scored. Rilan Garrison was 2-for-3, and Owens went 1-for-3 with three RBIs and two runs scored. Smith was 1-for-1 with two RBIs, and Crittenden went 1-for-4 with two RBIs and a run.

In previous action on Saturday:

**Phil Campbell 8 Red Bay 0**

Austen Baker struck out nine batters in a complete game shutout, leading the Bobcats to their third win in as many tries this season over county rival Red Bay.

Phil Campbell jumped in front early on a two-out, two-run double by Trey Leindecker in the top of the first. Baker gave up back-to-back singles to Alex Burroughs and Kolby Bragwell in the bottom of the first, but he started a 1-5-3 double play on a grounder by Chase Allen to get out of the inning.

Luke Barnwell's RBI single in the top of the second made it 3-0, and then Baker got another double-play grounder in the bottom of the inning. The sophomore right-hander settled into a groove after that, retiring Red Bay in order in the third and fourth innings.

The Bobcats added two runs in the top of the fifth on a sac fly by Nate Owens and an RBI groundout by Rilan Garrison. After Baker struck out two batters in a scoreless bottom of the fifth, he led off the top of the sixth with a single to spark another two-run rally. Baker then added an RBI double in the top of the seventh, stretching the lead to 8-0.

Baker (1-1) allowed five hits in seven innings and did not issue a walk, throwing 59 of his 88 pitches for strikes. He also went 2-for-4 at the plate with an RBI.

Barnwell was 2-for-2 with two walks and two RBIs, and Ridge Raper went 2-for-3 with a run. Garrison was 1-for-3 with an RBI, and Leindecker went 1-for-3 with two RBIs. Mason Swinney had one hit.

**Red Bay 7 Belmont (MS) 2**

Alex Burroughs overcame a shaky start to throw six strong innings for Red Bay on Saturday, and Kolby Bragwell went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored to help the Tigers bounce back from a loss earlier in the day to Phil Campbell with a win over border rival Belmont (MS).

Burroughs (3-0) gave up three singles and threw a wild pitch in the top of the first, allowing Belmont to score twice and grab the early lead. He settled in from that point forward and gave up only three hits the rest of the way, striking out five and walking two before turning things over to Bragwell, who worked a scoreless seventh.

Down 2-0 early, Red Bay (9-6 through Sunday) scored twice in the bottom of the first to tie the game. Kaleb Bragwell drew a leadoff walk, stole second, stole third and came home on an RBI single by Kolby Bragwell, who later scored the tying run.

Kaleb Bragwell's RBI single in the bottom of the second put the Tigers on top 3-2, and they added another run in the bottom of the fifth when Kolby Bragwell singled, stole two bases and then scored on a sac fly by Chase Allen. Red Bay then added three runs in the bottom of the sixth to put the game out of reach.

Kaleb Bragwell went 2-for-3 and scored twice, and Allen was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Kaleb Sims went 1-for-2 with an RBI, and Colbie King was 1-for-3 with a run.





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**Russellville tennis teams extend thanks to sponsors**

Submitted to the FFP

The RHS Varsity and Middle School Tennis teams want to extend a huge thank you to all of the sponsors for their generous donation to the tennis program this season.

Because of support from local businesses, the tennis program has the equipment, uniforms and resources necessary to enjoy great success this year.

A sign at the Russellville Tennis Complex proudly displays the program's Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsors. Again, thank you to our Gold Racquet Sponsors (CB&S Bank, Pilgrim's, and IHP), Silver Racquet Sponsors (Graph-X Apparel, Roger Bedford & Associates, Alabama Central Credit Union, Gateway Church of God, Russellville Gas Board, Russellville Electric Board, Common Sense Clothing Company, Doe's Eat Place, and Russellville Water Works & Sewer Board) and Bronze Racquet Sponsors (Alfa Insurance - Laura Horton, American Realty Company, Bank Independent, Campbell Vision Center, Clark Pulley, EyeCare Professionals, Family Pharmacy Group, First Metro Bank, Gault Signs, Grogans by Lon, Jamie Harris-City Councilman, Jamie Hood Jewelers, Keith's Automotive, Dr. Jim Lindsey, Dr.

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## 'STRONG,' from page 13

"We just have a lot of young guys that have to get in that groove," said Parker, one of only three returning starters from last year's state-runner up team. "They haven't played a lot at the varsity level yet. But we'll get there."

Russellville is beginning to make strides already, winning six of seven games through Sunday on the heels of a 1-9 start.

"We've grown as a team," said Parker, who had two wins during the recent hot streak and entered Monday's action 3-1 on the season overall. "At first, it was more 'Let me do this, let me do that.' Now we're actually coming together and playing as a team."

Those young guys were front and center in the pivotal fifth inning last Tuesday. Trailing 2-1, the Golden Tigers got their first hit of the day off Hamilton ace Sam Harris when Brockway led off the inning with an opposite-field single to left. He took second on a wild pitch and then moved to third on a sac bunt by Gallagher. Heaps followed with a line-drive single to center, tying the game 2-2.

Heaps took second on another wild pitch and then advanced to third on Barnett's fly ball to right. Senior Devin Buckhalter drove in the go-ahead run with a single through the hole on the left side, and then Lindsey hit a towering fly ball that carried just beyond the right-field fence for a two-run homer to make it 5-2.

This time, Lindsey was a little more stoic as he rounded the bases. After all, he'd been there, done that.

"He didn't do anything," Parker reported, sounding almost disappointed.

Russellville's rally in the fifth made a winner out of Parker, who worked fast and threw strikes all afternoon, allowing just two runs (one earned) on five hits and one walk in his six innings.

"I think my curveball was on point today," said Parker, who struck out Hamilton leadoff man Jathan Jackson for the third time to escape a bases-loaded jam in the top of the sixth and keep it a 5-2 game. "I've developed a slider a little bit, too, and I threw it some today. I throw it a little harder than my curve."

Head coach Chris Heaps lifted Parker after six innings in favor of Gallagher, who made his first relief appearance of the season after his previous five outings had all been starts. Gallagher retired the Aggies in order in the top of the seventh, striking out two and earning his first career save.

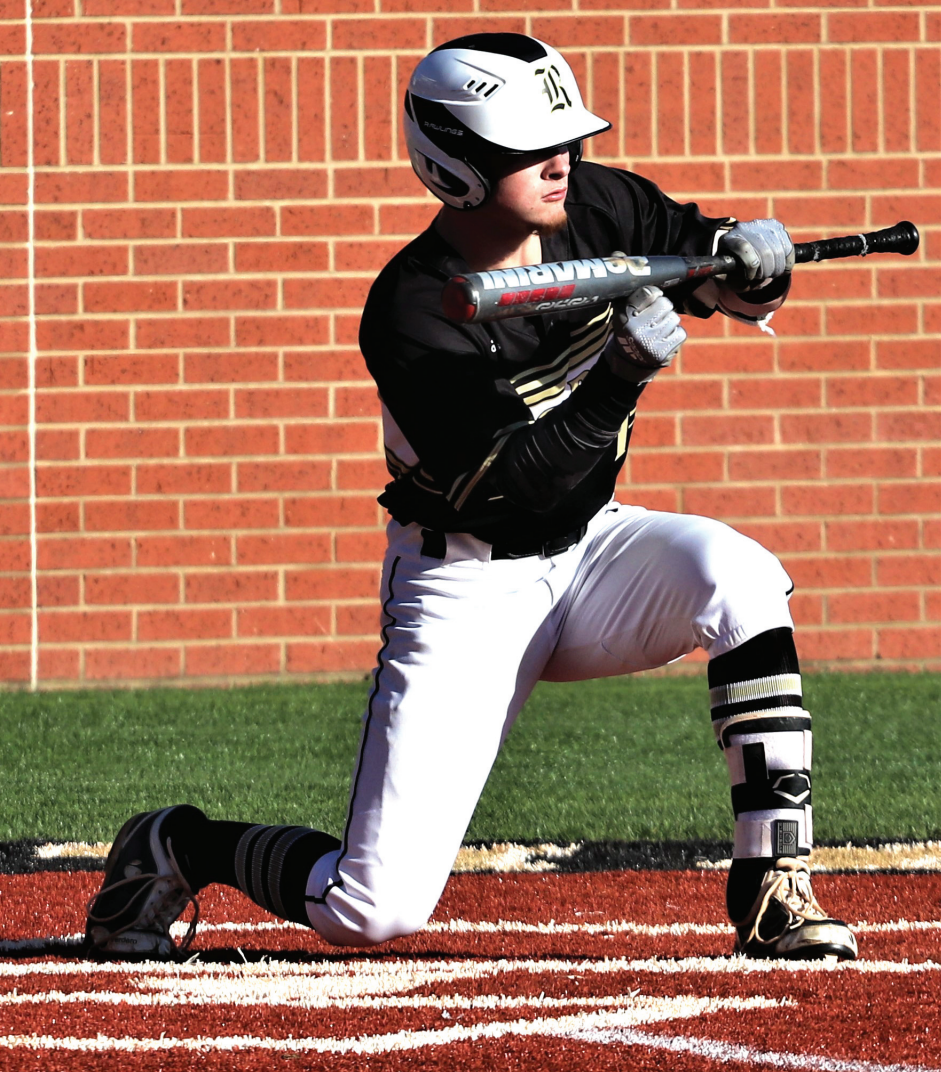


PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

**IN THE HUNT** - Briles collected two hits in each of the two games at Hamilton last Thursday, helping the Golden Tigers finish off a sweep of the Aggies and improve to 2-0 in area play.

Afterwards, Parker said he had no qualms whatsoever about not getting to go for the complete game, citing complete and total faith in Heaps' decision-making.

"No, not at all," Parker said. "That's all up to him. I believe in what he thinks. I believe in Rowe and in Gordon and in all our pitchers."

After Parker breezed through a quick one-two-three top of the first, Russellville took advantage of three Hamilton errors to grab a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the inning. Parker made that lead stand up until the top of the fourth, when the Aggies followed a Golden Tiger error with their first three hits of the game (including RBI singles by Drake Morris and Seth Durkin) to take a 2-1 lead.

Trailing for the first time all day and still looking for their first hit off Harris, the Golden Tigers didn't panic.

"We just wanted to bring more energy than we had been," Parker said. "We wanted to go up there and have some quality at bats and leave it there."

The Golden Tigers did exactly that in the fifth inning, collecting all four of their hits on the day and turning a one-run deficit into a 5-2 win that put them in position for a series sweep last Thursday at Hamilton.

Heaps finished last Tuesday's series opener 1-for-2 with an RBI and a run. Lindsey was 1-for-3 with the two-run homer, and Buckhalter went 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run. Brockway was 1-for-3 with a run, and Barnett also scored a run.

Russellville finished off the two-game area sweep of the Aggies last Thursday at Hamilton, scoring three runs in the top of the first inning and then turning things over to Gallagher, who pitched five solid innings to help the Golden Tigers earn an 8-3 win.

Russellville also won last Thursday's second game (which had no bearing on the area standings), rallying from a 6-5 deficit with eight runs in the top of the seventh inning to beat Hamilton 13-6.

The Golden Tigers came out swinging in Thursday's opener, getting a one-out double from Buckhalter in the top of the first. Lindsey followed with a single to center, extending his hitting streak to five games and chasing Buckhalter to third. Lindsey then stole his seventh base of the season, with Buckhalter scoring on the throw to second to make it 1-0.

Senior catcher Hunter Briles followed with a base hit to center, and courtesy runner Cade Fretwell stole second to put runners at second and third. Lindsey scored on a sac fly by Parker, and then White capped the inning with an RBI triple to right to make it 3-0.

Gallagher struck out two in the bottom of the first, working around a two-out walk, and Russellville added another run in the top of the second on back-to-back two-out doubles by Barnett and Buckhalter. Gallagher escaped a two-on, one-out jam in the bottom of the second, but Hamilton got an RBI single from Harris and a sac fly from Morris in the bottom of the third to cut the lead to 4-2.

The Golden Tigers got one of those runs back in the top of the fourth when Will Rogers walked, moved to third on another double by Barnett and then scored on an error. Gallagher kept it a 5-2 game until the bottom of the sixth, when Ben Jarrett and Tayten Lann opened the inning with back-to-back singles. White relieved Gallagher at that point and retired the next three batters, though Hamilton did score a run on a sac bunt and a sac fly to cut the lead to 5-3.

Russellville answered with three runs in the top of the seventh to put the game out of reach. Lindsey and Briles both got hit by a pitch with one out, and then Parker reached on an infield hit to load the bases. White drew a walk to force home a run, and another run scored when Bishop reached on an error. Nate Green's sac fly to deep left made it 8-3. Rogers followed with a single to center, but centerfielder Jathan Jackson threw out courtesy runner Cam Bonn at the plate to end the inning.

White worked around a triple and a walk in the bottom of the seventh, striking out Jarrett to finish off the win and earn his first save of the season.

Gallagher got the win, allowing three runs (two earned) on eight hits in five innings. He struck out four and walked two. White gave up one hit in two scoreless innings, striking out one and walking one.

Buckhalter led a 13-hit attack by the Golden Tigers, finishing 3-for-4 with two doubles, an RBI and a run scored. Barnett was 2-for-4 with two doubles and a run scored, and Parker was 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run. Briles also went 2-for-3, and White was 1-for-3 with a triple and two RBIs. Lindsey went 1-for-3 and scored twice. Rogers was 1-for-3 with a run, and Casen Heaps also went 1-for-3.

Freshman left-hander Eli Jackson took the loss for Hamilton despite striking out nine batters in six-plus innings.

Later on Thursday, the Golden Tigers finished off a three-game sweep and extended their win streak to five with a 13-6 win over the Aggies. Russellville trailed 6-5 before taking advantage of six walks and a pair of infield hits to score eight runs in the top of the seventh.

See 'STRONG,' page 17



## 'STRONG,' from page 16

Briles started the rally with an infield single, and Parker drew a walk. After White bunted into a force play at third, Brockway tied the game with an RBI single to center. With two outs, the speedy Rogers beat out an infield hit on a bouncer to first, allowing pinch-runner Fretwell to race home with the go-ahead run.

Barnett walked to load the bases, and then Buckhalter, Lindsey, Briles and Parker each walked as well to force home four more runs and make it 11-6. The final two runs of the inning scored when White reached on an error, stretching the lead to 13-6.

White finished off the win with a one-two-three bottom of the seventh, striking out two. Green (1-0) picked up the win with 2.1 innings of scoreless relief. He gave up two hits, struck out one and walked one. Senior Tanner James started for Russellville and pitched well into the fourth inning.

Buckhalter was 2-for-4 in game two with an RBI and a stolen base. Briles was 2-for-3 with a double and two RBIs, and Parker was 1-for-3 with a double and three RBIs. He had a two-run double in a four-run third inning.

Bishop was 2-for-2 with a double and a run, and Barnett was 1-for-4 with two RBIs. Brockway went 2-for-4 with an RBI and two runs. Lindsey walked three times and drove in a run.

In other action last week:

### Russellville 3 Fort Payne 0

Devin Buckhalter and Gordon White combined to throw a four-hit shutout for Russellville on Saturday, and the Golden Tigers scored three runs in the top of the eighth inning to prevail in the first game of a doubleheader.

Russellville (7-10 through Sunday) fell behind 8-0 in the first inning of game two and saw its streak of six straight wins end with a 13-8 loss.

Buckhalter made his first start of the season on the mound in the opener and pitched well, holding Fort Payne to three hits in 6.2 innings. He had retired seven in a row prior to issuing back-to-back walks with two outs in the bottom of the seventh. White relieved and got a fly ball to left to escape the jam and send the game to extra innings.

Cole Barnett singled with one out in the top of the eighth and then moved to second on a groundout by Buckhalter. Jackson Lindsey was hit by a pitch, and Hunter Briles walked to load the bases. Barnett scored the game's first run on a balk, and Caden Parker walked to fill the bases again. White followed with a two-run double to center to make it 3-0.

White (2-3) allowed the first two batters to reach in the bottom of the eighth but then retired the next three men to finish off the win. The sophomore right-hander pitched 1.1 innings, allowing no earned runs on one hit with one strikeout and one walk. Buckhalter struck out four and walked four in his 6.2 innings, throwing 55 of his 95 pitches for strikes.

Barnett was 2-for-4 with a run and a stolen base. Briles went 2-for-3, and White was 1-for-4 with two RBIs. Buckhalter had the team's only other hit and also stole two bases. Cade Fretwell stole a base and scored a run.

In Saturday's second game, Fort Payne took advantage of three hits, three walks and three hit batters in the bottom of the first, sending 13 men to the plate and scoring eight runs. The Golden Tigers scored four runs in the top of the second and hung around until the top of the fifth, when they got a two-run double from Buckhalter and an RBI single from White to score three runs to cut the lead to 9-7.

Fort Payne answered with four runs in the bottom of the fifth and then held on for the 13-8 win.

Lindsey went 3-for-4 in game two with an RBI, and Buckhalter was 2-for-4 with three RBIs. White went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run, and Rowe Gallagher was 2-for-4 with two runs. Hunter Briles added one hit.

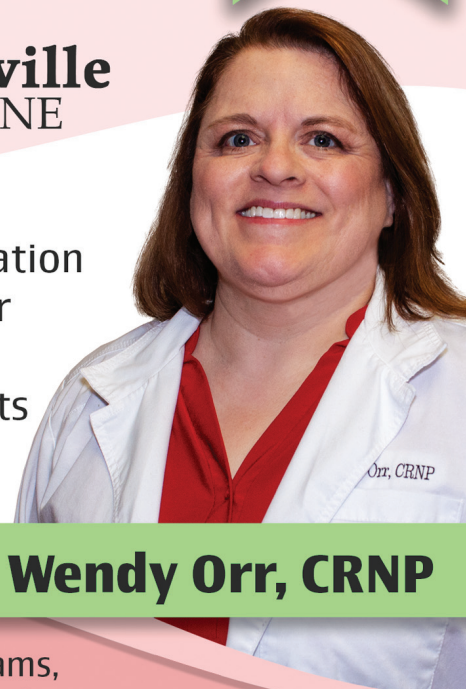


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## Relay bass tourney set for May 30

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The 15th annual Relay for Life Open Bass Tournament is set for Saturday, May 30.

The annual tournament is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and is coordinated by Rhonda Boyles and Jamie Sumerel.

"This is our fifteenth year to do the tournament, and it's always been a big success," Boyles said. "We want to thank everyone who helps make this event happen."

The fundraiser is put on by the Franklin County team of Will's Willing Walkers, which is named in the memory of Will Scott, the son of Tim and Cynthia Scott, and brother of Lauren Scott McCluskey.

Will was diagnosed at 18 months with cancer, and his life was cut short at age four with the diagnosis of a brain tumor.

Will endured multiple surgeries and chemotherapy and radiation, but lost his battle in 1998.

"For this reason, we keep fighting to find a cure. Along with so many who are affected, we keep pushing on," Boyles said. "We have volunteers and fishermen who are affected personally by the ugly disease known as cancer. That is why we

decided to start this tournament.

"We hope in some small way to make a difference—we are trying to 'catch a cure.'"

Participants in the tournament receive an advertisement book upon sign-in. This book includes ads from local businesses, well wishes for the fishermen and several in memory of ads.

The tournament begins at Slick Rock Boat Ramp on Cedar Creek at 7 a.m. Saturday and will run to 3 p.m., when weigh-in is scheduled. Entry fee is \$70 per boat, with \$10 per boat for luncheon (with 100 percent payback). First-place finishers in the tournament are guaranteed \$1,000. There is a five-fish limit per boat.

Door prizes will be awarded and entries are now being accepted. Take-off will be done by drawing and the tournament will be held regardless of weather conditions.

Two contestants are permitted per boat. Large mouth, small mouth and spotted bass only will be counted. Fish must measure 12 inches with mouth closed and roll tail. All fish, except trophy fish, will be released after the tournament.

For more information or to register for the tournament or volunteer to help, contact Boyles at 256-627-4112.

## TVBA Champs



COURTESY PHOTO

The Russellville boys second-grade basketball team recently capped off a 24-1 season by capturing the Tennessee Valley Basketball Association championship. The championship-game victory over Muscle Shoals marked the 20th straight win for the Golden Tigers. The TVBA is comprised of teams from across north Alabama, north Mississippi and southern/middle Tennessee, and all players must be in the same grade at the same school. During the season, the Golden Tigers won the annual Swampers Jam tournament, the regional tournament and the Final Four championship. Members of the team are Cade Willis, Ridge Stockton, Drake Egle, Paxton Smith, Whit Glover, Reese Glover, Braylen Willis, Jamere Rose, Asher Poss and Sincere Young. They are coached by Michael Easter and Jon Smith.

## 'HALL', from page 13

Dana was named the 1989 Lauderdale County Female Athlete of the Year during her senior year of high school.

She earned All-County, All-Area, All-Region and All-State honors as a member of the Lexington girls varsity basketball team. As a senior, Dana averaged 28 points per game and 15.5 rebounds. She amassed more than 2,100 points in her varsity high school career.

Dana also earned All-County, All-Area and All-State Tournament selection as a volleyball athlete her junior and senior years. Lexington was the Alabama 3A state tournament runner-up for five consecutive years.

She went on to play volleyball for two years at the University of North Alabama, recording more than 400 kills and 400 blocks in two seasons. She transferred to Livingston University, but an injury cut her athletic career short.

Dana also competed in state track championship competitions in the 400-meter dash and relays, and she made one tennis state championship tournament appearance.

Terry, 48, works as a School Resource Officer for Lawrence County Schools as part of the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office. She and her husband, Charles Keith Terry, have one daughter, Lauren, a student at Mississippi State University. Keith is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army, having been most recently stationed in Cuba. He was able to return home two days before his wife's induction in the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame.

The 2019 class included Terry and nine other standout athletes and coaches from Lauderdale County.

For more information on the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame, log onto [www.lcssportshof.com](http://www.lcssportshof.com).



### Kolby Bragwell Senior, IF/Pitcher, Red Bay

In last week's first area series of the season against Sheffield, Bragwell reached base safely 12 times in 13 plate appearances. The senior slugger went 6-for-7 with three doubles, six walks, five RBIs, seven runs and four stolen bases, leading Red Bay to a three-game sweep.

In six games overall last week, Bragwell went 11-for-17 with four doubles, eight RBIs, 11 runs and eight stolen bases, helping the Tigers go 5-1 to run their record to 9-6. Through Sunday, he was batting .579 (22-for-38) on the season with two homers and seven doubles.



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