



Listening & understanding, available here.

Lee Nickels, Agent
13760 Highway 43 Ste 6, Russellville, AL 35653
256-332-0052
lee.nickels.wmy5@statefarm.com
Hablamos Español



PRSR STD US POSTAGE
PAID Franklin Free Press
113 Washington Ave. NW
Russellville, AL 35653

FranklinFreePress.net

04.10.19

Auditor, superintendent differ on city's amount of school funding

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

When it comes to the partnership between the Russellville City Council and Russellville City Schools, all parties agree there is a positive working relationship with open lines of communication.

When it comes to the annual amount budgeted by the City of Russellville to be paid to Russellville City Schools, those lines of communication were tested at the April 1, 2019 city council meeting.

City council members heard an audit report from Van Stack, CPA, with Stack & Blair, LLC. Although Stack gave the city a clean audit for fiscal year 2017-18, it was his answer to a question from councilman Jamie Harris that drew the attention of school administrators present at the meeting.

The City of Russellville currently allots \$1,000,000 per year to be paid to Russellville City Schools from the city's general fund. From those funds, the school system pays

back approximately \$660,000 annually on a bond issue debt that came from the construction of Russellville Elementary School in 2000.

"Our city expects us to be the shining light for this city," Grimes said, "and that's what people expect when they move in here. But we're going down in our school reserve. This year we're operating on a \$330,000 deficit budget. If we continue to be funded at the level we are, we can't continue to do the things we're accustomed to doing."

As school administrators look for ways to finance a three-phase project to build a new high school, the subject of how much money is budgeted from the City of Russellville to the school system will remain an active topic.

"It's no secret that school officials see the need for a new school. Is there any way the city can come up with more money for a new school to be built?" Harris asked

See 'FUNDING,' Page 7

Cedar Creek Chevron
Biscuits & Barbecue
Mon-Fri
5 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Come see Stratt and the friendly folks at Cedar Creek Chevron!
11477 Highway 43 South, Russellville
256-332-0104

BCDA approves lease allowing town of Bear Creek to operate Twin Forks

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

At a special called meeting held April 5, the Bear Creek Development Authority Board of Directors approved a lease renewal with the Town of Bear Creek allowing the town to operate Twin Forks Campground for a 30-year period.

The lease was signed last Friday by BCDA Board chairman Jeff Mobley and Tammie Rowe Batchelor, the mayor of Bear Creek.

A previous 30-year lease between the two parties expired in 2016. Although the parties both stated a desire to renew the lease, the proposed lease extension had to be reviewed by attorneys for the Tennessee Valley Authority, which must approve all lease or contractual agreements entered into by BCDA.

A previous 30-year lease between the two parties expired in 2016. Although the parties both stated a desire to renew the lease, the proposed lease extension had to be reviewed by attorneys for the Tennessee Valley Authority, which must approve all lease or contractual agreements entered into by BCDA.

Once that approval came last week, the special meeting was called. BCDA attorney Jeff Bowling said he had been working with TVA officials to make minor changes to the lease and craft it with language that met with TVA's approval.

BCDA's board of directors actually voted on September 9, 2008, to renew the lease for "the maximum allowable time according to the TVA/BCDA contract," which was the 30-year period. That action, taken eight years before the lease expired, was questioned by some Bear Creek residents at previous BCDA board meetings.

See 'LEASE,' Page 9

Taking care of your family's dental needs
Brett M. Bowen, DDS
Bowen Family Dentistry
243 Underwood Road • Russellville 256.332.4000

FRANKLIN FREE PRESS
YOUR HOMETOWN, "GOOD NEWS" NEWSPAPER!
Follow me!
No WiFi then...
No WiFi now!
Take us anywhere!
FRANKLIN FREE PRESS
YOUR HOMETOWN, "GOOD NEWS" NEWSPAPER!

SOUTHERN COMFORT SERVICES
HEATING COOLING
We Service All Brands!
(256) 394-4662

We're All Ears!
Have an opinion? **256.332.0255**
Story idea?
Let us know!

George Evans, MD
SHOALS PRIMARY CARE
Offering general medical care services for the entire family
256.383.4473 Ext. 2021
340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL

Always online... franklinfreepress.net
FRANKLIN FREE PRESS
YOUR HOMETOWN, "GOOD NEWS" NEWSPAPER!

FAMILY Pharmacy GROUP
BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama
Family Pharmacy of Russellville
Accepting Tricare and BCBS
Hwy 43 & Underwood Rd
256.332.5545
familypharmacygroup.com

Sale good April 10 through April 23



MARTY'S MEAT MARKET

This Week's Specials

Fresh Lean
Ground Beef
\$2.29 lb.
fam. pack

Boston Butt
Pork Roast
\$1.49 lb.
2/pack

Fresh Fryer
Drumsticks
\$0.99 lb.
fam. pk.

Boneless Beef
New York Strip Steaks
\$7.99 lb.

Boneless Beef
Chuck Roast
\$3.99 lb.

Fieldstone
Whole Hams
\$1.59 lb.

Whole Boneless Pork Loins \$1.99 lb.

Country Style Pork Ribs
\$1.99 lb.

Cream Style Corn Yellow or White
\$4.99 / 2-lb. pack

Burger King Chicken Nuggets
\$7.99 / 5-lb. bag



Cut Fresh Daily!

**Come enjoy these great deals!
We thank you for your business!**



256-331-9285 • 85 Scotty Moore Dr
Mon.-Sat. 8 to 6 and Sunday 10-6

FRANKLIN MEMORY GARDENS



We offer ground burial, mausoleum and cremation spaces. All may be purchased at need or pre-need to include the burial vault and bronze memorial.
Providing a peaceful, beautiful and serene cemetery for the people of Franklin County.

Carolyn Atkins Porter *Since 1960*
2710 Waterloo Road • 256.332.2115

"In Memory of our loved ones..."

brought to you by Atkins Marble and Granite Works and Franklin Memory Gardens

Blanche Aycock, Russellville, age 85
Died Tuesday, April 2, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Tharptown Cemetery, Russellville.

Oscar Domingo, Jr., Infant son of Oscar Domingo Juan and Elia Domingo
Died Tuesday, March 26, 2019. Graveside service for the family held at the cemetery at Our Lady of the Shoals Catholic Church in Tuscumbia. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Brenda Aycock Long, Russellville, age 78
Died Wednesday, April 3, 2019. Graveside services held at Franklin Memory Gardens. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Melba Bragwell Morrow, Russellville, age 52
Died Sunday, April 7, 2019. Funeral arrangements had not been announced at press time. Pinkard Funeral Home was assisting the family.

Linda Ann Stancil, Spruce Pine, age 78
Died Wednesday, April 3, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Liberty Hill Cemetery.

Richard Bert Willmarth, Russellville, age 87
Died Thursday, April 4, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

Where Everybody Knows Your Name...



FREE Local Delivery
FREE Curbside Assistance
Mail Order Delivery*

We are a **Blue Cross-Blue Shield Preferred Pharmacy!**

Within the state of Alabama
(256)331-1919
14001 Hwy 43,
Suite 13
Franklin Shopping Ctr

RUSSELLVILLE DRUGS
FREE Local Delivery!

Jeff Elledge's
CREDIT CARS
NO CREDIT - WE FINANCE

98 Ford F150 \$800 Down	05 Honda Civic \$1000 Down
09 Chevy Malibu \$1000 Down	06 Pontiac Grand Prix \$1200 Down
07 GMC Acadia \$1500 Down	03 Toyota Camry \$1500 Down
04 Cadillac Deville \$1200 Down	03 Chevy Avalanche \$1800 Down

elledge.jeff@gmail.com

2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals
256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711

After 66 years, Wood-Thompson Insurance still proud to serve 'loyal, good' customers

Taylor Thornton
Franklin Free Press

As the oldest insurance agency in Russellville, Wood-Thompson Insurance Agency has been serving this community since 1953.

Though the Thompson family now resides in Madison, the agency remains in good hands here in Russellville under owner Sheila Underwood.

Underwood purchased the agency from Bill Thompson on June 1, 2000. Thompson, who also trained Underwood, is the son of one of the founders of the company, William Thompson.

Wood-Thompson is an independent insurance agency, meaning that they can represent more than one company. All companies represented by Wood-Thompson are "A" and best-rated. This allows them to shop coverages through different companies, offering their customers the best prices in any situation. Wood-Thompson has represented Auto Owners Insurance for more than 60 years.

The company has remained in its original location at 131 North Jackson Avenue since opening its doors in 1953. Wood-Thompson prides themselves on being available to all of their customers by opening their doors on Saturdays as well as Monday through Friday. They have been serving many of their customers for more than 30 years.

"We have many loyal, good customers in the area of Franklin County and the city of Russellville," Underwood said.

True to the company's well-respected name, Underwood expressed her appreciation to the citizens of Russellville and surrounding areas she has had the privilege of insuring.

"We have many loyal, good customers in the area of Franklin County and the city of Russellville," Underwood said.



Sheila Underwood



Jadonna Bowen



Melanie Ward

Underwood has two employees, Jadonna Bowen and Melanie Ward, who have each been with her and the company for more than 15 years. Bowen manages the personal lines, while Ward is the office manager.

Wood-Thompson Insurance recently acquired Iron Mountain Insurance. Underwood and her staff are excited about serving the insurance needs of the former Iron Mountain insureds.

"We will be happy to assist you with any questions about this transition," Underwood said. "We will work for you with the same service and dedication offered to our insureds the past 66 years."

In appreciation to their customers, Wood-Thompson will be giving away a free car wash to one person per week for the month of April. All that a person must do to enter this giveaway is like and share the posts made on the Wood-Thompson Insurance Agency Facebook page.

For more information on Wood-Thompson Insurance Agency, or to receive a quote, call 256-332-1381.

GARAGES | HAY BARNS | PAVILIONS | SHOPS | HOMES Quality Building Kits *customized* to fit your needs



SPECIAL

30x40x12 enclosed, 6x6 treated post, wood trusses 4' OC, #1 29 ga. metal with 40 year manufacturer warranty, (1) walk-in door, (2) windows, (2) 10x10 garage doors
\$11,400* include materials and labor
concrete pad extra



40x84x14 steel trusses, 2x6 purlins and girts, 6x6 pressure treated posts, #1 29 ga. painted walls and #1 29 ga. galvalume roof.
\$14,250* include materials and labor



Barns



Homes

Built on traditions of hard work, ethical business and commitment to quality, Summertown Metals has become a premier manufacturer and distributor of high quality building products. We are family owned and operated and have been in business for more than 10 years. We are committed to providing high quality materials and building solutions at the best possible prices resulting in an unbeatable value for you our customer.



3864 Summertown Highway, Summertown, TN 38483
www.summertownmetals.com

Call us today for a free quote.

*Delivery and taxes are extra. Labor is provided by an independent contractor. Pad must be level and suitable for building. Prices may change without notice. Printed prices are good within 100 miles of Summertown Metals. Applicable permits and codes may add to the cost of building.

Honey Do: Bird feeding

Do you know someone who eats like a bird? Well, if you do, they probably weigh about 500 pounds.

Birds need a lot of food, and they eat constantly. Their high rate of activity requires a lot of nutrition. That's why bird-feeding is such a great hobby any time of the year--especially now, when birds are building nests and preparing for new families.

Bird houses and feeders should be up, clean and well stocked. Birds need food, shelter and protection, just like everyone else. You can make your yard bird-friendly by paying attention to just a few details.

Evergreens can provide year-long shelter from the elements and predators. Consider planting more evergreens in your yard, whether shrubbery or individual trees, in a location near bird houses, feeders and a birdbath. Or create your habitat close to existing evergreens.

Shelter from wind is important. Placed near structures like your house or garage, feeders and bird-houses are protected from strong winter winds and can give great vantage points for bird watching from an inside window.

What you put in your feeders is important. Particular bird species

prefer specific types of food. Grains (seeds) and suet (seeds and fruits imbedded in fat) are popular with a wide variety of bird species. Seeds include sunflower seeds, corn and millet.

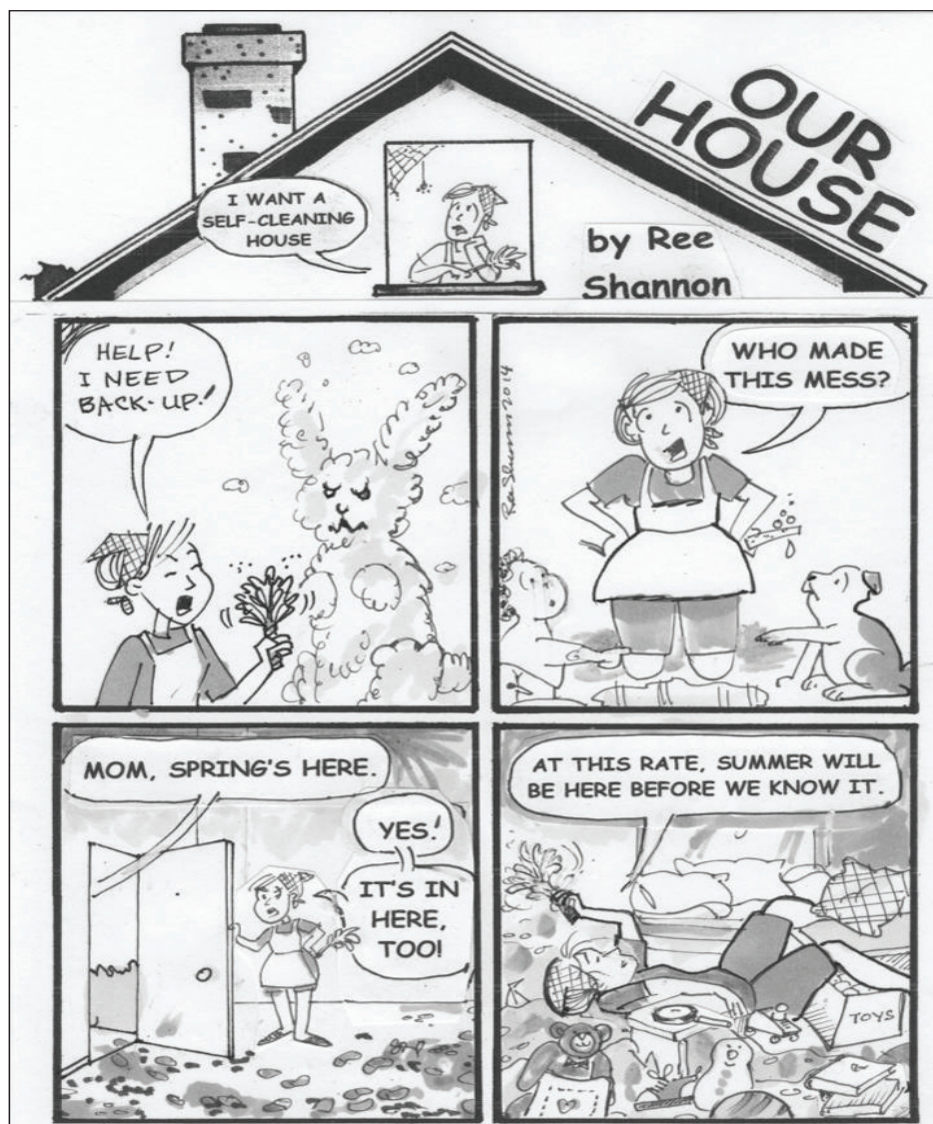
Black sunflower seeds and millet, in particular, are very popular among many common types of birds, such as cardinals, finches, blue jays and goldfinches. Blue jays, sparrows and starlings enjoy corn. Suet attracts woodpeckers and other birds. Installing a few bird feeders, each stocked with different types of food, is the best way to attract the greatest variety of bird types.

Note that feeding birds won't prevent those who migrate from leaving your area. This is instinct and has nothing to do with the food supply. For those birds that do stay throughout the winter, remember that once you start feeding them you must continue to do so or they will leave to find food elsewhere.

Birds are beautiful, interesting to watch and help control annoying summer insects. Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green



FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

113 WASHINGTON AVE. NW
RUSSELLVILLE, AL 35653
256-332-0255

The *Franklin Free Press* is published weekly by
Pilati Investments, Inc.
Our publication is mailed to our readers at no charge.

Publisher

John Pilati

Executive Editor

Mike Self

E-mail: franklinfreepress@yahoo.com

Sales Representatives

John Pilati

Content Contributors

Mike Self, John Pilati, Ree Shannon,
Doug Green, Rebecca Thomason, Sheryl Hamilton,
Ashley Cummins, Gail Motes

Graphic Design

Jason Hill

Correction Policy

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

Letters to the editor

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

Copyright Information

Published by Pilati Investments, Inc. Copyright 2018
All materials and content are copyrighted by the Publisher
This publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any method, without the express written permission of the Publisher.

My take Dedicated to Linda, on this... with all of my love

As I was writing this week's article, my mind was thinking of all the subjects I could write about, but my heart kept taking me back to the same one.

It could be my mind doesn't have a mind of its own, which is very likely, but I just don't think that was the case this time.

There was a very precious lady who was taken from her journey of life here on our patched roadways and is now walking the streets of gold.

No matter how I tried to write about other things, it was as though my hand moved to a different story. It seemed as though I had no control over the words, so I became a follower of my heart this week. My heart won, but it's an honor to be writing of someone so dear to so many.

This precious, God-loving Christian woman has known me all my life. I was blessed to be her friend. She always had a smile on her face, a sparkle in her eyes and a sound of laughter that could brighten the darkest of days. Even more, she was so beautiful, and her beauty was just of an outward kind, but it blossomed from within and throughout her soul.

For those of you who knew her, I probably could not even mention her name and you would know it anyway. She made everyone feel special. That was simply because, in her eyes, they were special.

She bestowed so many blessing on me, and she'd always comment on these articles that I occasionally write and tell me how she loved them and would laugh that precious laugh and

beam that beautiful smile.

She made my small contribution to be a blessing in her life, so I know my special friend was wanting an article to make her life's journey complete. It may sound crazy and off the wall to many, but that's okay, because this one is from me to my friend Linda!

As I was hugging the necks of her husband and three sons on her farewell tour, one of her sons told me something that I'll never forget. He told me how much she loved me, but I already knew that.

The next few words, however, took me by total surprise! It was one of the greatest compliments I've ever been told. He said that my personality reminded me a lot of his mother's. I could have seen her say right then, 'Well, I've never thought about that, but now that he mentions it, I can see that.'

Now that I'm nearing the end of this article, my heart is happy. I've done exactly what I was told to do. I don't usually do what I'm told, but this is one time I'm glad I did.

I love you so much! I'll miss everything about you. This life here on earth will be different without you, but the life you're living now will be better for those who are with you!

Thank you, Linda Stancil, for everything you stood for and for the special friendship we shared!!

Until later....



Gail Motes



**DAVE
SAYS**
Financial Straight-Talk

www.davesays.org

by Dave Ramsey

Travel expenses?

Dear Dave,
I'm an admissions counselor for a university, and I make \$37,000 a year. I spend a lot of time on the road, and I'm trying to get out of debt, but I have one credit card I'm still using for travel expenses. The university refunds me for these expenses, which always run \$300 to \$400 per trip, but usually it takes about three weeks for this to happen. Do you have any advice for someone in my situation?

Roxanne

Dear Roxanne,
Let's set up an account, and prime the pump once. By this, I mean in the next few months I want you save up \$500, then open a separate checking account for reimbursable travel expenses only. Make sure a debit card is attached to the account, too.

If you put \$500 into this account one time, you'll never have to save for it again. You'll use some of that

money for your travel expenses—on your debit card—and when they reimburse you, you'll put the reimbursement check directly into your travel account. After you get the initial \$500 in there, your travel account will run off your reimbursement checks.

Lots of people carry credit cards on the road for expenses, but often they'll end up buying things that aren't reimbursable. It happens to everyone who travels. Then, over time, you accidentally run up credit card debt. But when you use a debit card with an account that's completely separate, and you're not using it for anything except reimbursable travel expenses, it'll help you become a lot more disciplined with your purchases on the road.

Everyone who travels a lot does some stress eating and stress spending. Why? Because being on the road often, or for long periods of time, is no fun. The only people who think travel for work is glamorous are those who don't do it for living!

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.

RHS Acappella Ensemble set to join KGB for Rockin' at the Roxy this Saturday

Submitted to the FFP

Rockin' at the Roxy with the Kerry Gilbert Band and Guests will be this Saturday, April 13 at 7 p.m. Special guest for the show is the Russellville High School Acappella Ensemble directed by Emily Rush.

Rush formed the group about three years ago in the spring of her first year working with the high school. Twenty-four students make up the Ensemble. This group receives the most challenging music, and they are more accustomed to reading music and listening for parts, which enhances their vocal performances. Nine students of the Ensemble made All State this year.

At times, when a smaller group is requested to perform in the community, Rush may pull students from this group for singing the National Anthem or Alma Mater at games, local events and for graduation. The Acappella Ensemble has performed for the RCS Foundation, the Watermelon Festival, the Chamber of Commerce Community Partnership Awards Banquet, the Relay for Life Survivors Dinner, the Country Cottage, the Franklin County Retired Educators Association and the luminary ceremony at Relay for Life.

"We are excited to perform before the KGB concert and to work with Kerry," Rush said. "Can't wait to see what the future holds!"

Members of the Acappella Ensemble are Jacob Davis, Macey Vandiver, Abby Montgomery, Katie Darracott, Matt Darracott, Avery Guinn, McKinley Copeland, Patrick Crummie, Kaitlin Weeks, Elizabeth Pierce, Amberly Brown, Nicholas McSpadden, Brock Grissom, Addie Scruggs, Braden Bales, Madeline Cooper, Callie Mayberry, Tori Tiffin, Caroline Sparks, Abby Peters, Ethan Howard, Mady King, Ashton Shipley, Morgan Jenkins and Ella Burcham. Saturday's show begins at 7 p.m., and tickets may be purchased at the door or on Eventbrite.com. Adult tickets are \$10; tickets for children ages 7-12 are \$5; and children six and under get in free.

North Highlands Church of Christ
in partnership with Food Bank of North Alabama

FREE Every 3rd Saturday of each month
Sat., April 20th

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

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

Miranda Decker, M.D.

INTERNAL MEDICINE Comprehensive Adult Health Care

Dr. Decker is specialized in management of both acute & chronic medical conditions.

- Immunizations
- Preventative Health Care

Russellville Internal Medicine, P.C.

535 Gandy Street NE
Russellville, AL 35653

For appointments:
256-332-1120
Mon-Thur 8-5



THE NORTH ALABAMA FLEA MARKET

3RD WEEKEND MONTHLY

Saturday & Sunday April 20 & 21


North Alabama State Fairgrounds Muscle Shoals


NorthAlabamaFleaMarket.com


What's Happening


256.332.0255


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. Appointment required. Call Ben at 256-332-0252.


 It's mowing season! Time to remove old flowers from the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery on Hwy. 724 in Newburg. If you have relatives buried in this cemetery, please consider making a donation for cemetery upkeep. Donations may be mailed to: Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Fund, 941 Hwy. 87, Russellville, AL 35654.


 The dates for West Elementary Kindergarten registration and verification are 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.


 American 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.


 The Shoals Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Sheffield Room at Park Place (501 N. Montgomery Avenue in Sheffield) this Thursday, April 11 at 2:30 p.m. Dr. James Anderson will teach on healing. We believe that God heals spiritually, physically and emotionally. Prayer for healing will be offered. All are welcome.


 Pastor Lindell Cooley, former worship leader of the Brownsville Revival, will be in concert at Gateway Church (Russellville Church of God), 15988 Hwy. 43 in Russellville, this Friday, April 12 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Come and be touched by God! For info, call 256-627-7935 or 256-332-7176.


 The Belgreen Alumni Banquet will be held this Saturday, April 13 with a social hour beginning at 4 p.m., a meal (\$12 per person) at 5 p.m. and a business meeting at 6 p.m. The class of 1969 will be honored for their 50th Anniversary. Graduating classes of 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004 and 2014 will also be honored. Everyone is welcome! If you plan on attending, please RSVP by calling 256-277-1211 or 256-740-9501.


 The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert with special guests the RHS A Cappella Ensemble at the Roxy Theatre in Russellville this 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.


 Revival services with evangelist Bro. Brian Bridges will be held at Bethsaida Missionary Baptist Church on Hwy. 48 in Russellville April 15-19 at 7 p.m. each night. Pastor Bro. Stanley Hargett and congregation invite you to come and worship!

 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!

 For 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!

 There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at Belgreen Baptist Church on Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone welcome! Also, Belgreen Baptist Church will host its Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 21 at 6 a.m.

 Kathryn Tucker Windham's book *Alabama: One Big Front Porch* will be discussed at the April 17 meeting of the Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club at 10 a.m. The club meets at Coldwater Books, 105 West Sixth Street, Tuscumbia. For more info, email nancy537481@yahoo.com.

 Decoration Day at Osborn Hill Cemetery will be on May 4, 2019. The first Saturday of May has been observed as Decoration Day for well over 100 years. All old flowers will need to be removed off the graves. Please make plans for that special day to come to the cemetery. Also, it's time again for annual donations. If you would like to donate to the Osborn Hill Cemetery Fund, please send your donations to: Osborn Hill Cemetery Fund, c/o Mrs. Lana Duncan, 2330 Colburn Mtn. Road, Tuscumbia, AL 35674.

'FUNDING,' from page 1

Stack at the April 1 meeting.

"No, not in the immediate future," Stack told the council. "I don't think you need to fund too much more than you are right now."

Russellville City Schools superintendent of education Heath Grimes, along with Board of Education members Bret Gist and Greg Batchelor, attended last Monday's meeting. Grimes responded to Stack's answer during the council's work session.

"We're at the point where our school system is not financially where it's always been," Grimes said. "We have about one million more than the amount required by the State of Alabama [in the one-month reserve fund]."

"Our city expects us to be the shining light for this city, and that's what people expect when they move in here. But we're going down in our school reserve. This year we're operating on a \$330,000 deficit budget. If we continue to be funded at the level we are, we can't continue to do the things we're accustomed to doing."

While the \$1,000,000 figure is often stated as the annual amount budgeted by the city for its school system, Councilman David Palmer pointed out that is actually a net of \$340,000 and that the million-dollar amount is misleading.

"We want to do as much as we can to support our school system," Harris said. "We wanted them to hear the auditor's position that from his point of view we're doing all we can do. City employees are being asked to do more with less, and the mayor and council are trying to be good stewards of money... We'll continue to keep the lines of communication open, and that's the first step in working together."

"We are actually giving our school system \$340,000 rather than a million dollars each year, and I just want to clarify that point," Palmer said.

Palmer, along with other council members, expressed his support for Russellville City Schools and said there was a 'partnership' between the two entities.

"Our school system is phenomenal," Palmer said. "I want to work however we need to work to ensure they flourish and are able to continue to provide the level of education they currently provide and have provided for years."

"Does that mean the city will be able to, at will, give out monies to the school system? No. There always has to be deliberation, debate and collaboration, and finally decision-making, as to what level the city can fund the city school system. But in no way is the city at odds with the school system. We are partners. The system is part of the City of Russellville, and we are fully behind our schools and want to work with them to continue to provide top-notch educational opportunities for our children."

Grimes did not specify an amount he believes would be necessary for the city to fund in order to construct a new school. Rather, he referenced a return to prior levels of annual funding, which have been as much as \$1.4 million in previous years. Grimes explained that a portion of the city's sales tax revenue was raised in the name of Russellville City Schools.

"If the revenue could be restored to a level like it used to be, we would then balance that and look at when we could build a new school," Grimes said. "We would be able to leverage a bond and make payments on it."

"But I appreciate the opportunity to come speak and have an open line of communication. That's the biggest thing we need and want right now."

Russellville City Schools officials have a five-year plan that includes a three-phase process for a new high school. The first phase would be construction of a new career center in front of the current location. Second, a new academic building would be built. The third phase involves a new cafeteria building, all at a projected cost of \$30-35 million.

Harris, who invited Grimes and school board members to attend the meeting, reiterated the positive relationship the council has with school officials and described the council and mayor as 'pro-school.'

"We want to do as much as we can to support our school system," Harris said. "We wanted them to hear the auditor's position that from his point of view we're doing all we can do. City employees are being asked to do more with less, and the mayor and council are trying to be good stewards of money."

"In talking to [school officials], I felt it was productive and they understand where we're coming from. We'll continue to keep the lines of communication open, and that's the first step in working together."



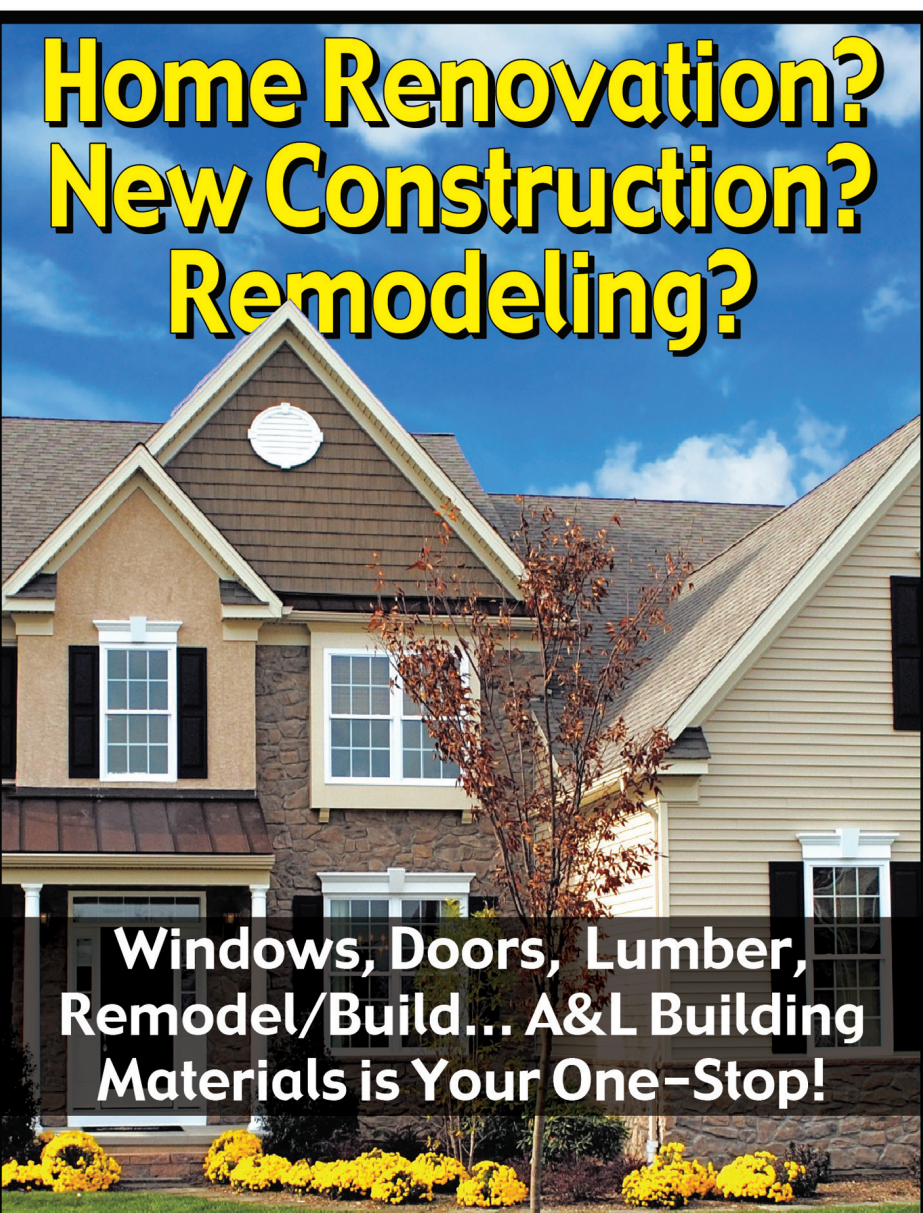
We love to hear from you! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoons, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!

Kevin G. Kelly, M.D.
FAMILY PRACTICE
Pediatrics
Newborn Care
Serving your family for over 30 years
256-331-2901


Urgent Care 
Walk-in Clinic
We are still here!
• Entrance located on right side closest to Fred's
• Please excuse our growing pains.
No Appointment Needed
13150 Hwy. 43 Suite 10
Russellville, AL
(intersection of Hwy. 24 and Hwy. 43)
256-331-2092


**Same hours,
Same location,
New look!**

**Home Renovation?
New Construction?
Remodeling?**

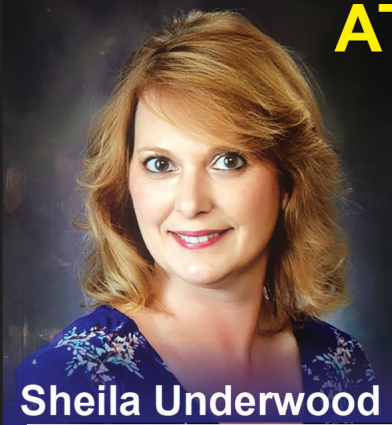


**Windows, Doors, Lumber,
Remodel/Build... A&L Building
Materials is Your One-Stop!**



**256.332.8181
HWY 43 • Littleville**

ATTENTION: Iron Mountain Insurance Customers:



Sheila Underwood

Wood-Thompson Insurance recently acquired Iron Mountain Insurance. We look forward to serving you and your insurance needs.

Please call us at 256.332.1381, or 256.810.1781 or visit us at 130 N. Jackson Ave., in Russellville. We will be happy to assist you with any questions during this transition.

We will work for you!

“Serving our local area since 1953”



AUTO
HOME
LIFE
BUSINESS

RHS students join the fight against child abuse through BIGS program

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and over the course of the month, all across America, there will be presentations, events and other forms of information about the cause.

One of these events was held right here in Russellville at Russellville High School. The Golden Tiger BIGS program is an RHS group whose focus is to mentor some of the younger students in the Russellville school system.

The Golden Tiger BIGS group is comprised of students ages 15 and above, as well as community volunteers who are ages 19 and above, and the group is also in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Shoals. The BIGS members who are above the age of 19 or no longer in school must undergo a background check as well as criminal background check.

The Golden Tiger BIGS group decided to take action and inform their fellow students as well as the faculty and staff at RHS about child abuse and how to recognize signs that a child is being abused. The group set up information boards, handed out pamphlets during each grade's lunch period and also took sign-ups for any student who might be interested in joining the program.

“If a student is interested in becoming a BIG, I strongly encourage them to apply,” Fowler said. “It’s a great way to make a difference and have an important impact on a child that may really need that kind of influence in their life. Child abuse doesn’t just limit itself to one month; it sadly happens year-round. By having this program, we hope that our students will be able to do some good and have a lifelong impact on that child’s life....If you think you can make a difference in a younger student’s life, we strongly encourage those students to apply.”

Child abuse does not have to just be physical or sexual but is also classified as neglect, emotional abuse or trafficking as well.

Carole Fowler is the school-based coordinator for the Golden Tiger BIGS group and said that the message that the group hopes to convey is that the BIGS program is a great way to make an important difference.

“If a student is interested in becoming a BIG, I strongly encourage them to apply,” Fowler said. “It’s a great way to make a difference and have an important impact on a child that may really need that kind of influence in their life. Child abuse doesn’t just limit itself to one month; it sadly happens year-round. By having this program, we hope that our students will be able to do

some good and have a lifelong impact on that child’s life.”

Fowler says that in addition to being mentors to the younger students, other activities include tutoring, playing games and, most importantly, building relationships between the BIGS and the younger students. Each match between the BIGS and littles meets once a week for approximately 45-60 minutes during school hours at the littles’ school.

Both BIGS and the younger students have to go through interviews in order to make the best pairing for both students. According to Fowler, the hope for students that do make it through the interviewing process is that the bond that will build between the BIGS and their littles will be one that will go beyond the first year.

“We really do try to make the best matches possible between the BIGS and their littles,” Fowler said. “We want them to know that they have someone there for them that they can talk to or turn to regardless of what happens. We strongly encourage any student that wants to apply to do so.

“Now, we don’t take every student, because each student we select has to meet certain criteria. But if you think you can make a difference in a younger student’s life, we strongly encourage those students to apply.”

In addition to the presentations during the lunch periods, the BIGS, along with help from the Peer Helpers group at RHS, also created a pinwheel garden. The pinwheel is a national symbol for child abuse prevention and is meant to resemble the whimsical and childlike notions.

Alana Swinney is the sponsor for the Peer Helpers at RHS and said that students in the program have gone through extensive training on how to help going forward and also played a key part in the child abuse prevention awareness presentation as well.

“The students in the Peer Helpers program went through training at the central office in January and go through every grade,” Swinney said. “We are hoping that we can be system-wide by next year, so we can make more of a difference. Our goal is to make a difference with others and to ultimately help others that need it.”

The Peer Helpers group will assist new students when the school year starts next year, as well as helping students with matters both inside and outside the classroom.

Any student wanting to join the RHS BIGS program should contact Fowler to fill out an application. For any student at RHS wanting to take part in the Peer Helpers program, contact Alana Swinney to apply.

The Golden Tiger BIGS is funded by the Alabama State Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, as well as the Children’s Trust Fund.

Council takes step toward much-needed traffic signal at dangerous intersection

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council took an important step toward seeing a new traffic signal at the intersection of Alabama 24 and the Lawrence Street/Walnut Gate Road intersection when the council authorized mayor David Grissom to execute a permit with the Alabama Department of Transportation at the April 1 council meeting.

This was the first step toward what many city officials and residents believe is a much-needed traffic signal at the intersection that has seen two fatalities already this year.

"This was the first step that has to be done to get the traffic signal installed," said councilman David Palmer. "ALDOT will be partnering with us in the funding of this project. It's not going to be funded 100 percent by the state. We haven't got the final agreement from ALDOT yet. They've agreed verbally to participate in the project, and as soon as we get a signed agreement we'll know what the total commitment from the state will be and we'll enter into a cost-sharing agreement."

With the expansion of Innovative Hearth Products and continued growth in the Russellville Industrial Park, the 24/Lawrence Street intersection has become increasingly busy, Palmer

explained.

Palmer said ALDOT officials reviewed an engineering study from Skipper and Associates Consulting regarding the need for signalization at the intersection, and at what level. ALDOT officials have notified City of Russellville leaders that the

The Russellville City Council took an important step toward seeing a new traffic signal at the intersection of Alabama 24 and the Lawrence Street/Walnut Gate Road intersection when the council authorized mayor David Grissom to execute a permit with the Alabama Department of Transportation at the April 1 council meeting.

"This was the first step that has to be done to get the traffic signal installed," said councilman David Palmer. "ALDOT will be partnering with us in the funding of this project."

study was warranted and that the state would participate in the project.

Palmer said he expects plans for the traffic signal to be completed later this summer, with work to begin on improvements on the intersection by fall.

In other action, the council:

- Heard a report from Stack & Blair, LLC, of Florence, and Certified Public Accountant Van

Stack regarding an audit of the City of Russellville for fiscal year 2017-18. Stack said the audit was clean, with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified as a result of the audit.

"As stewards of the City of Russellville's funds, we strive to be professional and honest in our dealings with monies," said Grissom. "A clean audit is something we expect, and it's important to the public to have confidence in how we manage city government."

- Approved a contract with Taylor Hamilton to provide umpiring services for Dixie Youth Baseball through the Russellville Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$2,000 for the upcoming season.

- Approved the appointment of Roy Lee Malone as Assistant Superintendent in the Russellville Street Department.

- Approved the hiring of Hunter Campbell as a laborer in the Russellville Street Department.

- Appointed Eva Diaz to a vacant position on the Russellville Public Library Advisory Board.

- Approved the waiver of the fee for the A.W. Todd Centre for an upcoming event hosted by the RCS Foundation on April 8, 2019.

The next regular meeting of the Russellville City Council is set for Monday, April 15, with work session at 6 p.m. and meeting to follow.

"The board hasn't got that authority, and you know it. How do you extend something when there's eight years left on it?" asked Bear Creek resident Mark Townsend in 2018. "Why worry about an extension if you had eight more years left?"

While the new lease secures operational control

of Twin Forks, an 80-campsite facility, with the Town of Bear Creek through 2049, an investigation by the State of Alabama into allegations of missing revenue at the campground remains pending.

Twin Forks Campground management has changed since that investigation began, and

Connie Morrison resigned last year as Bear Creek mayor.

The lease provides that Twin Forks Campground shall remain open to the public year-round, with the exception of a four-week period each winter, in which the facility may be closed for maintenance, inspection and cleanup.

'LEASE,' from page 1

Ozbirn leads effort to plant commemorative oak tree

Taylor Thornton
Franklin Free Press

To many, replacing a tree that was planted 100 years ago may seem like a strange wish, but to Chris Ozbirn, this is just the thing she has been hoping for.

Ozbirn, director of the Franklin County Archives, has organized an event to plant a white oak tree in honor of a French Sessile oak tree that was donated by the President of France to the State of Alabama in 1919. The Sessile oak was one of ten trees donated by France, and they were each given to Alabama in honor of the men from this state who died in World War I.

The trees were received in Tuscaloosa, but Alderman Wilmer Ramsey of Russellville requested that one of these trees be planted in Russellville to honor the 21 men from Franklin County who were killed in action in World War I, nine of whom were from Russellville. This request was granted on April 23, 1919.

The names of the soldiers from the City of Russellville who were killed during the war were George Brewer, Columbus E. Hunter, Oscar O. Kent, William L. Pace, Roscoe Roberson, Joseph H. Smith, Thomas H. Taylor and Hollins Walston. Planted at the intersection of Lawrence Street

and Jackson Avenue, the tree was eventually relocated in the 1940s due to an increase in automobile traffic. Subsequently, the Sessile oak tree died and was soon forgotten about by many Russellville citizens. What was previously known as 'the Victory Tree' was now gone from Russellville and the minds of its occupants.

Though she has been unable to contact the officials from France to get a new Sessile oak, Ozbirn decided to plant a white oak tree, a distant cousin to the Sessile oak, on the 100th anniversary of the original tree's planting. After the tree is planted, Grant Atkins will construct a marker that will explain the significance of the tree and the story behind it, as well as how it is an important piece of history for the City of Russellville.

Ozbirn has organized this event with the utmost care and efficiency. Though Rep. Jamie Kiel (R-Russellville) and Sen. Larry Stutts (R-Tuscumbia) are unable to attend the ceremony, Ozbirn has invited the Tuscumbia Color Guard, Boy Scouts of America, mayor David Grissom of Russellville, Franklin County probate judge Barry Moore and Franklin County Extension coordinator Katernia Cole-Coffey to attend and take part in the event.

The ceremony is set to begin at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23 at the Franklin County Archives, 300 East Limestone Street, in Russellville.



Ten Sessile oak trees (including the one shown above) were donated by France to the state of Alabama in honor of the men from this state who died in World War I.



Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

BUSINESS

DIXIE DRYWALL FINISHING & HOME IMPROVEMENT

LICENSED & INSURED

MARTY MCNATT OWNER

256-460-1632

YARD SALES

Yard Sale this Friday & Saturday, April 12-13 at 406 N. Hall Street. Five families. Clothes, shoes, purses, little bit of everything! Too much to mention!

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Fri. April 12. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. 901 Hwy. 144. First road on right on old 724. Turn right. Cabinets,

clothing, odds and ends and more.

Multi-Family Yard Sale. Saturday, April 13. 7 a.m.-until. Behind Walmart on Cross Street. Postponed in case of rain.

There will be a benefit Yard Sale for Larica and Greg Clark for help with medical expenses on Saturday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m. at the Belgreen Life Center next to the Dollar General in Belgreen. There will be clothing, books, microwave oven, sofas and new boots. Please come see us!

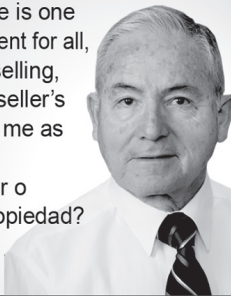
HOUSES/ APARTMENTS/ PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

2 BR, 1 BA house

AMERICAN REALTY, LLC.

Investing is better than just spending... Buying a house is one secure investment for all, but if you are selling, GREAT! It's a seller's market — Call me as well.

Quiere invertir o vendor una propiedad? Es buen tiempo, llame:



Enrique Aguilar
Realtor/Sales Associate
256-740-2356

for rent. Deposit required. Lawn service included. Call 256-436-4622.

Office space for rent in the old Farmers Insurance Building in Fred's Shopping Center. Approx. 2,400 sq.ft. Large building w/4 rooms, very nice! Next to Heads Up Hair Salon. \$800/month. Call 256-412-4417. (2)

House for sale. Indie home. 28X60 with 15 acres of land. Owner financing. With or without furnishings. Call 256-436-9758. (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. (4)

Found: Child's billfold on Hwy. 81 in Oak Grove Community. Call 256-331-9858 to identify and claim. (4)

AUTO

1996 GMC Sierra 1500 Extended Cab Truck for sale. 210,000 miles. V6 motor, White in color. Good tires, good condition. \$3,500. Call 256-412-4951. (2)

Ford truck for sale. F-250 with a 7.3 motor. Call 256-436-9758. (4)

CLOTHING

Heavy duty leather motorcycle jacket (women's medium), \$40. Harley Davidson motorcycle boots, never been worn (women's size 7), \$40. Justin Roper Cowboy boots (women's size 6 1/2), \$50. Call 256-324-4893. (2)

LOOKING TO BUY

Wanting to Buy Small Birdcage. Also looking to buy Swing Set. Please call 256-324-2917. (3)

HELP WANTED

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

15-FOOT QUACHITA ALUMINUM BOAT WITH 25 HP OUTBOARD MOTOR FOR SALE. TRAILER INCLUDED. \$1,000.

PLEASE CALL 256-577-2029.

1972 Chevrolet Dump Truck and Brush Bandit Limb Grinder for sale. Both \$5,000 or best offer or trade. Call 256-332-3837.

New Wheelchair for Sale. \$225. Almost new Electric Hospital Bed for Sale. \$225. Please call 256-332-3818. (1)

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.

ALASCAN

SERVICES

WANT YOUR ad to be seen in 120 newspapers statewide? Place your ad in our

Classified Network for just \$210 per week! Make one call to this newspaper (a participating ALA-SCAN member) or call 1-800-264-7043 to find out how easy it is to advertise statewide!

INSURANCE

AUTO INSURANCE Starting at \$49/month! Call for your Free rate comparison to see how much you can save! Call: 1-855-408-7970

LOWEST PRICES on Health Insurance. We have the best rates from top companies! See how much you can save, Call Now! 1-844-335-8693.

HEALTH/BEAUTY

ATTENTION: OXYGEN Users! Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills!

Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call the Oxygen Concentrator Store: 1-866-811-0108

ATTENTION: VIAGRA and Cialis Users! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special- \$99 +

Free Shipping! 100% guaranteed. Call Now: 1-855-382-4115

LIVING WITH Knee or back pain? Medicare recipients may qualify to receive a pain relieving brace at little or no cost. Call now! 1-844-277-2047

MEDICAL ALERT System for Seniors. Peace of Mind-Less than \$1 a day! Limited time offer: Free Shipping, Free Equipment & Free Activation! Call anytime 1-844-402-3662

STILL PAYING too much for your Medication? Save up to 90% on RX refill! Order today and receive free shipping on 1st order - prescription required. Call 1-866-351-1611

HELP WANTED- ADMIN/PROF

CNA's WANTED! In This Area with Good Pay! Flexible Hours, Full-Time and Part-Time work. Call 1-205-331-4359. Email Resume to nationwidengenomic@gmail.com. Fax: 1-205-759-1054.

FINANCIAL

SERVICES

DONATE YOUR Car to Charity. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 1-844-810-1257

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

BECOME A PUBLISHED Author! We edit, print and distribute your work internationally. We do the work. You reap the Rewards! Call for a Free Author's Submission Kit: 1-888-283-4780

FOR SALE

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. Easy, One Day updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for free in-home consultation: 1-877-730-3876.

MISCELLANEOUS

OUR PRESENT Truth. Let the bible explain Free Book and Bible Study. P.O. Box 171 Samantha, AL 35482. 1-205-339-4837.

NOW ACCEPTING BIDS FOR MOWING AND WEED EATING

The Blue Springs Cemetery Committee is taking bids for the mowing and weed eating of the cemetery for 2019. All bids need to be mailed to the address below, by April 12, 2019:

Roger D. Motes,
Attn: Cemetery Mowing Bid
9261 Highway 243
Phil Campbell, 35581

REWARD YOURSELF...

GIFT CARDS Available

OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE

Angel Harris
Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495
Reiki Practitioner II

256.332.4220
Creative Image Salon
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

TIMMONS

TREE SERVICE & SAW MILL

Tree Trimming / Removal
Lot Clearing • Select Cutting
Custom Cut Lumber
Small Tract Logging
Gravel Hauling
Dirt Work

FREE ESTIMATES

Call **JOSH (256) 627-7703**

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

A helping hand for Russellville



COURTESY PHOTO

Country legend Ronnie McDowell held a benefit concert for the Historic Roxy Theater on Saturday, March 16. McDowell was the guest of Russellville mayor David Grissom for a dinner at Doe's Eat Place, where one of McDowell's paintings hangs. It was McDowell's 27th concert in the city of Russellville.

The Belgreen Alumni Banquet will be held this Saturday, April 13 with a social hour beginning at 4 p.m., a meal (\$12 per person) at 5 p.m. and a business meeting at 6 p.m. The class of 1969 will be honored for their 50th Anniversary. Graduating classes of 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004 and 2014 will also be honored. Everyone is welcome! If you plan on attending, please RSVP by calling 256-277-1211 or 256-740-9501.

Village at Oliver Place Apartments & Townhomes

Water included starting at:

2 BR \$430 • 3 BR: \$505



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



**Buy a pair
of lenses,
get the
frames
for FREE!**

Select Frames Only.

**EyeCare
Professionals**



Dr. Wayne
Stevens

Dr. Martha
Morrow

Dr. David
Britton

**"Where healthy
eyes are our focus"**

eyecareprofessionalspc.com
15255 Hwy 43 • Russellville • 256.332.5440

**COME SEE
JAMIE KIEL.**



**MOW LIKE
YOU MEAN
BUSINESS.**



**ZERO TURN
MOWERS**
Monthly price starting at
\$69

LIMITED WARRANTY
3 YEAR | **NO HOUR LIMIT** | **5 YEAR** | **NO DRIVE SHAFT WARRANTY**
See your professional dealer for complete warranty details.

LIMITED WARRANTY
1 YEAR
See your professional dealer for complete warranty details.



STYLE

Redesigned, aggressive stance not only looks bold, but also provides better control, a smoother ride and improved stability.



CUT SELECTION

Offers 15 cutting positions ranging from 1.5 inches to 5 inches, to make your lawn look its best.



10-GAUGE FABRICATED DECK

The 5.5-inch deep deck delivers superior airflow to handle challenging mowing conditions and includes a reinforced leading edge.



FULLY WELDED TUBULAR FRAME

This fully welded tubular frame is a professional-grade backbone tough enough get the job done in your backyard.

*Special financing available. Subject to credit approval. See dealer for details.

KIEL EQUIPMENT

14696 HIGHWAY 43 | Russellville, AL 35653

256-332-6776 | www.KielEquipment.com



An Ariens Company Brand

CUTTING COSTS FOR COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS



MZT 61 Reg \$6699.95
Fleet cost \$5359.96

+



350BT Reg \$339.95 Fleet cost \$271.96

+



5251 Reg \$299.95 Fleet cost \$239.96

HUSQVARNA FLEET DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Save up to 20% with same-time purchases and get extended discount periods up to 24 months. Other discount packages available

SAVE **\$4467.97**

as low as \$96.80/ month 0%/48 months wac

\$100 instant rebate on select riding mowers



GREEN'S DEPENDABLE HARDWARE 15220A Hwy 43 • Russellville Behind McDonald's • 256.331.0123

Connect with us online at HUSQVARNA.COM





'Cats claim county title, stretch win streak to 8

Staff reports

Phil Campbell stayed red-hot on Saturday, winning three straight games in dominant fashion to claim the Franklin County Tournament championship and improve to 24-5 overall.

After getting a no-hitter and 14 strikeouts from freshman Mason Swinney in a 10-0 spanking of Vina and then riding a nine-run first inning to a 14-0 rout of Tharptown, the Bobcats wrapped up the county title and pushed their win streak to eight games with an 11-3 victory over Red Bay. Through Sunday, Phil Campbell had won 19 of its last 20 games since starting the season 5-4.

Senior lefty Nate Owens (4-1) was the winning pitcher in Saturday's championship game, holding Red Bay (14-8) to just two hits in six innings and striking out 11. Owens allowed three earned runs and issued four walks, throwing 65 of his 109 pitches for strikes before turning things over to reliever Austen Baker, who struck out one in a scoreless seventh.

After the Tigers scored twice in the top of the first to grab an early lead, the Bobcats tied the game in the bottom of the inning on back-to-back doubles by Luke Barnwell and Baker and then an RBI single from Rilan Garrison. They took their first lead with two runs in the bottom of the third. Barnwell doubled again, and then a pair of walks loaded the bases. Barnwell scored on a passed ball, and Swinney's RBI single made it 4-2.

Phil Campbell broke open the game with a six-run fourth inning highlighted by RBI singles from Baker and Owens and a two-run single from Ridge Raper.

Barnwell finished 2-for-2 with two doubles, two walks and three runs scored. Raper was 2-for-4 with two RBIs, two runs and two stolen bases, and Baker went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs. Owens was 1-for-3 with an RBI and two runs, and Garrison was 1-for-2 with two walks and an RBI.

Swinney went 1-for-3 with an RBI and a steal, and Levi Crittenden was 1-for-1 with a triple and an RBI. Trey Leindecker went 1-for-3 with a run scored.

Chase Allen led Red Bay at the plate, going 2-for-3 with a double, an RBI and a run. Kaleb Bragwell had the Tigers' only other hit.

In previous action at the county tournament on Saturday:

Phil Campbell 14 Tharptown 0

The Bobcats scored nine runs in the bottom of

See 'STREAK,' Page 18

County champs



PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW

Head coach Susie Tverberg (above, left) and the Lady Wildcats opened the tournament last Friday with an extra-inning win over John Smith (far right) and Belgreen. Brooke Daily (below) and the Lady 'Cats also beat Phil Campbell last Friday and then clinched the county title with a pair of wins over Red Bay on Saturday.

Tharptown won four straight games in impressive fashion to bring home a county title

Staff reports

Tharptown broke up a tie game with seven late runs on Saturday, pulling away from Red Bay to wrap up the Franklin County Tournament championship with a 9-3 win over the Lady Tigers at Phil Campbell.

After opening the tournament by beating Belgreen and Phil Campbell last Friday, the Lady Wildcats (14-9) clinched the county title on Saturday with a pair of wins over Red Bay (15-5). The final game was tied 2-2 before Tharptown took the lead for good with three runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Shaylee Wieting drew a leadoff walk, and Catie Dawson followed with a single. Olivia Ergle's RBI single brought home Wieting with the go-ahead run, and then Dawson scored on a bunt hit by Brooke Daily. Ergle scored on an error to cap the inning and make it 5-2.

Red Bay responded with a run in the top of the sixth, but the Lady Wildcats put the game out of reach with four runs in the bottom of the inning. Leslie Staggs got things started with a double, and Macy Petree bunted for a hit. Wieting drove in a

See 'THARPTOWN,' Page 16



Legacy **ATHLETE of the WEEK**
CHEVRON PRESENTS
Open 24 Hours

MAD skills

‘Ticked off’ Parker helps Golden Tigers take step toward area title

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - Chris Heaps has come to learn something about his senior ace pitcher.

An angry Caden Parker is an effective Caden Parker. “We were playing Foley at the beach, and we were down 2-0,” Heaps said. “Caden has a bad at bat. The umpire kind of took him out of it, and he got kind of ticked at himself. He got back on the mound, and just his entire demeanor changed. Everything sped up. He was a little bit angry. I said, ‘Hey, this is the Parker we need.’ He flipped that switch, and when he flipped, our whole team flipped.”

Heading into last Tuesday’s series opener against area rival Lawrence County, Heaps and his staff wanted to make sure Parker was in the right frame of mind for his critical Game 1 duel with Red Devil ace Cole Turner.

“Before the game, Coach Stanley said, ‘I volunteer to take Parker in the mud room and bang him up a little bit,’ just to tick him off and make him mad so he’ll pitch well,” Heaps said with a smile. “But he told me down in the bullpen, ‘I’m already mad, Coach. I want this.’ He had the right mentality.”

“Before the game, Coach [Jay] Stanley said, ‘I volunteer to take Parker in the mud room and bang him up a little bit,’ just to tick him off and make him mad so he’ll pitch well,” Heaps said with a smile. “But he told me down in the bullpen, ‘I’m already mad, Coach. I want this.’ He had the right mentality.”

An angry Parker was once again an effective Parker last Tuesday, as the senior right-hander hurled his first career no-hitter and allowed only one unearned run while striking out nine in a 3-1 win that put Russellville squarely in the driver’s seat in the race for the Class 5A, Area 14 championship.

“It was a dominant performance,” said Heaps, whose team split a pair of games in Moulton last Wednesday to take two of three in the series and entered the week atop the area standings with a 3-1 record. “What was dominant about it was his body language, his tempo, his mentality. It was kind of Cody Greenhill-like, as far as ‘Attack, attack, attack.’ He located well, mostly away, and he changed speeds. He did a really good job for us. His pitching performance was unbelievable.”

Parker struck out at least one batter in every inning but the seventh and did not issue a walk, rarely even going to a three-ball count. Lawrence County managed only three base runners against him, all of whom reached on errors.

“He was pounding the zone, hitting his spots,” said senior catcher Hunter Briles, who went 2-for-3 and drove in a run in addition to providing his usual good work behind the plate. “He never missed. Wherever I called it, he hit it.”

Parker recently added a slider to a repertoire that already included a good fastball-changeup combo and a curveball that is fast developing into a put-away pitch. Briles said Parker had the whole mix working last Tuesday.

“All of it was good,” Briles said. “He was on today. He had his ‘A’ game.”

When Parker is rolling like he was against the Red Devils, pace is every bit as much of a weapon as pitch selection. *Fast* doesn’t do justice to Parker’s tempo, particularly when he’s working from the wind. *Light-speed* is more like it.

“He’s one of the fastest ones I’ve ever caught,” Briles said. “It messes up a batter’s timing. It rushes them a little bit—especially when he mixes up his windup. It changes the whole game for him.”

Working fast is nothing new for Parker, who went 8-3 last season as a junior and was the Golden Tigers’ most reliable starter during their run to a fourth straight Class 5A state finals appearance, but he points to his nine-inning complete game against Foley on March 26 as a turning point.

“Coach [Corey] Flanagan pointed out that the other pitcher was going kind of fast and mixing up his windup,” said Parker, who held Foley to just one earned run and threw 63 of his 99 pitches for strikes in a 5-3 win. “After that, I kind of went out there and did it, too, and I’ve dominated ever since.”

He certainly dominated last Tuesday, stranding a runner in scoring position in each of the first two innings and retiring 10 consecutive batters (including six by strikeout) from the second inning through the end of the fifth. Lawrence County took advantage of two errors, a sac bunt and a groundout to spoil the shutout bid in the top of the sixth, but Parker finished off his no-hitter with a one-two-three seventh.

See ‘MAD,’ page 15



Caden Parker

Senior Pitcher, Russellville

Parker rose to the occasion last Tuesday in a key showdown with Lawrence County ace Cole Turner, helping Russellville move a step closer toward clinching a Class 5A, Area 14 title.

Parker pitched his first career no-hitter in a 3-1 win over the Red Devils, setting a season-high with nine strikeouts and issuing no walks. He was sharp and efficient all afternoon, throwing 54 of his 78 pitches for strikes.

Through Sunday, Parker (5-1) led the Golden Tigers in wins, complete games (two), innings pitched (46.1) and strikeouts (40).



Hwy 43 • Russellville, across from Wal-Mart • 398-8448

The Largest and Freshest Salad Bar in Franklin County!



NOW HIRING

Pilgrim's offers Competitive Wages starting at \$11.80/hr.

Benefits include: Medical, Dental, Vision, Vacation, Holidays, 401K and Opportunities for Advancement!

Join the Great Team Members at Pilgrim's by applying online at www.pilgrimsusa.com, in person at our plant located at 2045 Hwy. 244 in Russellville, or at the Sheffield Career Center.

Pilgrim's is an Equal Opportunity Employer, M/F/V/D.

Your Opportunity for a Better Future Begins at Pilgrim's!



256.774.9019

AL HVAC 91114 • AL PLUMBING MPG-3489 • AL ELECTRICAL 01889

GET A JUMP ON SUMMER WITH A TUNE-UP LEVEL RIGHT FOR YOU!

SILVER LEVEL Complete System Evaluation for \$39
GOLD LEVEL Complete System Evaluation, Tune-Up, Professional Cleaning for \$69

PLATINUM LEVEL for \$99 Complete System Evaluation, Tune-Up, Professional Cleaning, Money-Back Guarantee, Lifetime Thermostat Warranty

'MAD', from page 14

The closest the Red Devils came to getting a hit was in the top of the second when designated hitter Ki Pointer bounced a groundball back through the middle. Sophomore shortstop Cole Barnett ranged some 40 feet to his left to field the ball behind the bag; his throw to first was on time but slightly off target, pulling first baseman Jackson Lindsey off the bag and allowing Pointer to reach safely on an E-6.

Pointer moved up to second on a wild pitch, but Parker froze Turner with a breaking ball for strike three to start his string of 10 straight batters retired.

"I had a lot of movement today," said Parker, who improved to 5-1 on the season and now has 40 strikeouts in 46.1 innings, both team-highs. "I felt like I was on my game."

The Golden Tigers staked Parker to an early lead with two quick runs off Turner in the bottom of the first. Leadoff man Devin Buckhalter walked on four pitches and promptly stole his 14th base of the year. After unsuccessfully trying to move Buckhalter over with a sacrifice bunt, Barnett instead drove him in with a line-drive double (his team-leading ninth of the season) down the left-field line.

Briles followed with a groundball base hit deep into the hole at short. Ty Hutto kept the ball on the infield with a terrific diving stop, but Barnett never slowed down on his way around third and scored easily when Hutto's throw to the plate was well off line.

Turner, coming off an 11-strikeout performance in a three-hit shutout of Jacksonville the previous Tuesday, settled in after the rocky start, retiring 10 in a row before walking Parker with one out in the fourth. He then plunked Gordon White with a pitch, and both White and courtesy runner Nathan Brockway moved up on a double-steal. With Brockway streaking for the plate, Nate Green dropped down a textbook suicide squeeze bunt to bring home a key insurance run and make it 3-0.

"In this type of game, you've gotta have all your moves, you've gotta have all your strategies available to use," Heaps said. "Nate Green is a guy we had in the game because he's that guy. He's a good bunter. He's not a big-time hitter, but he's been swinging the bat better. And he can get the bunt down. That's our third [suicide squeeze] of the year. We don't use it a whole lot, but in 23 games, if you've done it three times, that's a lot.

"I was proud of Nate. I told Nate in the locker room before the game, 'You're starting at second base. You know what that means? You're an impact player. You're gonna do something to make an impact.' And he did."

Gifted with a three-run lead, Parker took care of the rest. West Point's 6-2 win over Hamilton on Tuesday means the Golden Tigers can not clinch an area championship until next week's series against the Warriors, but they could nail down a playoff spot with a win in Wednesday's first game at Moulton. Regardless, Tuesday's win over Turner and the Red Devils was a big one. "It gets us really ahead of the game," Parker

said. "I think we're gonna go in tomorrow and dominate like we did today."

Turner took the complete game loss on Tuesday, allowing three earned runs on four hits in six innings. He struck out five and walked two.

Buckhalter reached base twice on a walk and an error, but his hitting streak ended at 12 games. Briles had two of Russellville's four hits. Barnett and White had the other two.

In other action last week: Russellville 6 Lawrence County 3

Gordon White struck out seven batters in four innings of relief and also came through with a tie-breaking two-run single in the top of the fifth on Wednesday, helping Russellville bounce back and beat Lawrence County in the finale of a three-game series in Class 5A, Area 14 play.

After rallying with two runs in their final at bat to win Wednesday's first game 4-3, the Red Devils (14-12, 2-2 area) took a 2-0 lead into the fifth inning of the nightcap. The Golden Tigers (13-13, 3-1) took advantage of three walks, two wild pitches, an error and a balk to score five runs on only one hit in the top of the fifth.

Will Rogers walked to start the inning, and then Jacob Shelton came in to pitch in relief of starter Hunter White. Devin Buckhalter flied to right for the first out, but then Cole Barnett reached on an error. A walk to Hunter Briles loaded the bases, and Rogers scored the first run of the inning on a wild pitch to make it 2-1.

Jackson Lindsey walked to load the bases up again, and then Micah Owens came on to relieve Shelton. Owens was called for a balk, bringing home Barnett with the tying run. He recovered to strike out Caden Parker for the second out, but then White bounced a base hit up the middle and into center field to chase home Cade Fretwell and Lindsey for a 4-2 lead.

White advanced all the way to third on an error, and then courtesy runner Nathan Brockway scored on the second wild pitch of the inning to make it 5-2.

White (4-3) took care of the rest on the mound. The sophomore right-hander worked around a one-out double by Brayden Proctor in the bottom of the fifth, striking out Hunter White and Garrett Lee to end the inning. After Russellville added an unearned run in the top of the sixth to make it 6-2, White retired the Red Devils in order in the bottom of the inning.

White allowed a single to Trey Hutto and a two-out RBI triple to Proctor in the bottom of the seventh, but he also recorded two more strikeouts and then got Hunter White to fly to center for the final out.

White got the win, allowing one run on four hits in four innings. He struck out seven and did not issue a walk, throwing 45 of his 62 pitches for strikes. Starter Rowe Gallagher went the first three innings, allowing two earned runs on four hits. He struck out three and walked two.

Lindsey was 3-for-3 with a double and a run, and Gallagher went 1-for-3 with a run. White's go-ahead two-run single in the fifth was Russellville's



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

White hit safely in all three games against the Red Devils, delivering a tie-breaking two-run single in the fifth inning of the series finale.

only other hit.

Lawrence County 4 Russellville 3 The Golden Tigers were just two outs away from wrapping up a playoff spot in Wednesday's first game when Lawrence County rallied from a 3-2 deficit to earn the win.

Gallagher, pitching in relief of starter Devin Buckhalter, had retired the first three men he faced before issuing a one-out walk to Hutto in the bottom of the seventh. Owens followed with a single to put runners at first and third, and then Kaden Edwards beat out a suicide squeeze bunt for a hit to bring home Hutto and tie the game 3-3.

Proctor walked to load the bases, and then Owens scored the winning run on a wild pitch to give the Red Devils a split of the two area games.

Russellville trailed 2-0 until the top of the third, when Rogers tripled down the right-field line and scored on a sac fly by Buckhalter. The Golden Tigers took their first lead with a two-out rally against Hutto in the top of the fifth. Lindsey started things with a single, and then walks to Parker and White loaded the bases. Nate Green followed with a two-run double to the gap in left-center, putting Russellville on top 3-2.

Buckhalter pitched 5.1 innings, allowing two runs (one earned) on two hits.

Green was 2-for-2 with two RBIs, and Lindsey went 2-for-4. Rogers, White, Briles and Buckhalter each had one hit.



The Suites



Compassionate Care
For Your Patients
Short Term Rehab Center
At Florence

Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, LLC

Tel: 256.766.5771

FlorenceRehabCenter.com

'THARPTOWN,' from page 13

run with a groundout, and then Ergle came through with her second RBI single of the game to make it 7-3. Daily bunted for another hit, and Olivia Darracott delivered an RBI single. The final run of the inning scored when Taylor Cameron reached on an error, stretching the lead to 9-3.

That was plenty of support for Cameron (6-3), who picked up the win with three solid innings of relief. She allowed two runs (both unearned) on two hits, striking out five and walking one. Ergle started in the circle and went the first four innings, allowing one earned run on four hits. She struck out three and walked one.

Chloe Knoblock (7-4) took the loss for Red Bay, allowing four earned runs on 10 hits in a complete game. She struck out six and walked three.

Daily led Tharptown at the plate, going 3-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Wieting was 2-for-3 in the leadoff spot with a triple, an RBI and two runs scored. Ergle went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs, and Staggs was 1-for-3 with a double and two runs.

Cameron doubled and scored a run, and Darracott was 1-for-4 with an RBI. Dawson went 1-for-3 with a run, and Petree was also 1-for-3.

Red Bay trailed 2-0 before Lila Blackburn led off the top of the fourth with her fourth home run of the year to cut the lead in half. The Lady Tigers tied the game 2-2 in the top of the fifth on a sac fly

by Emmie Scott, but Tharptown grabbed the lead in the bottom of the inning and never looked back.

Blackburn finished 1-for-3, and Emma McCollister was 1-for-2 with a run and three stolen bases. Knoblock also went 1-for-2, and Scott was 1-for-3 with a stolen base.

In previous action at the Franklin County Tournament:

Red Bay 3 Belgreen 2

Lila Blackburn struck out seven batters in a complete game on Saturday, and Georgia Inman's sac fly in the top of the fourth broke up a 2-2 tie and sent the Lady Tigers to the county finals.

Red Bay scored twice in the top of the first on a pair of RBI groundouts by Sarah Eaton and Chloe Knoblock, but Belgreen (12-9) pulled even in the bottom of the first on a two-out, two-run single by Kelsey Wilson.

The game remained tied until the top of the fourth, when Knoblock singled, took second on an error, moved to third on a sac bunt by Layla Bilstein and then scored on Inman's sac fly to make it 3-2.

Blackburn (5-1) picked up the win, allowing two runs (both unearned) on three hits in 3.1 innings. Seven of the ten outs she recorded came on strikeouts, and she issued only two walks.

Emma Dempsey (6-7) pitched well but took the loss for the Lady Bulldogs, allowing two earned

runs on five hits in four innings. She struck out four and walked one.

Sydney Borden went 2-for-2 for Belgreen, and Kelsey Wilson was 1-for-2 with two RBIs. Kaycee Wilson also went 1-for-2, and Katie Dempsey scored a run and stole a base. Camie Terrell added a walk and a run scored.

Knoblock was 1-for-2 with an RBI and a run for Red Bay. Emmie Scott also went 1-for-2, and Annaliese Rogers was 1-for-3 with a run.

Tharptown 5 Red Bay 0

Olivia Ergle pitched a no-hitter for the Lady Wildcats, helping them shut out Red Bay in Saturday's winner's bracket final.

Ergle (8-6) struck out five and did not walk a batter in 3.1 innings, tossing her second no-hitter of the season. [She also no-hit Vina in a 15-0 rout on March 19.] Tharptown grabbed the lead early on Saturday, scoring twice in the top of the first on RBI singles by Brooke Daily and Olivia Darracott.

The Lady Wildcats added another run in the third and then scored twice in the top of the fourth on a bases-loaded walk to Shaylee Wieting and an RBI single by Catie Dawson.

Dawson finished 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run, and Daily was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run. Darracott went 1-for-2 with an RBI and a stolen base, and Taylor Cameron and Madison Vandiver each went 1-for-2 with a run. Wieting walked twice, stole two bases, drove in a run and scored a run.

Belgreen 3 Phil Campbell 0

The Lady Bulldogs scored three runs in the bottom of the first and then turned things over to Emma Dempsey, who held Phil Campbell to just four hits in a complete game shutout.

Dempsey allowed three hits in the top of the first inning but worked out of a bases-loaded jam. She gave up only one hit the rest of the way and finished with three strikeouts and no walks in six innings, retiring the final ten batters she faced.

Katie Dempsey got Belgreen's big first inning started with a single. She later scored on an RBI double by Camie Terrell to get the Lady Bulldogs on the board. Kelsey Wilson added an RBI triple, and Jaelyn Johnson's RBI single capped the inning and made it 3-0.

Terrell finished 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run, and Katie Dempsey was 1-for-3 with a run and a stolen base. Kelsey Wilson went 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run, and Johnson was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Gracie Dempsey went 1-for-2 with a stolen base, and Bailey Wood also had a hit.

Emily Swinney took the loss for Phil Campbell (4-11), allowing three runs (just one earned) in six innings. She struck out two and walked two. Katie



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Camie Terrell (right) drove in a run for Belgreen in last Friday's tournament opener, but the Lady Bulldogs finished with just two hits in a 3-2 loss to Tharptown.

'THARPTOWN,' from page 16

Thomas led the Lady Bobcats at the plate, going 2-for-3 with a stolen base. Cypress Quinn and Amber Ergle had the team's other two hits.

Belgreen 15 Vina 0

The Lady Bulldogs scored five runs in the bottom of the first inning and never looked back, cruising past Vina in Saturday morning's elimination game.

Emma Dempsey led the way for Belgreen, going 3-for-3 with a double and three runs scored. Katie Dempsey was 2-for-2 with three runs and three stolen bases, and Bailey Wood went 2-for-2 with a double and a run.

Sydney Borden (6-2) earned the win with a complete game in the circle, holding Vina to one hit in three innings. She struck out six and walked one.

The Lady Bulldogs got an RBI groundout from Kaycee Wilson and an RBI single from Camie Terrell in the five-run first inning. A single from Katie Dempsey and a double from Emma Dempsey set the stage for a three-run rally in the second, and then Belgreen ended the game with seven runs in the bottom of the third.

Terrell and Allie Davis each went 1-for-1 with an RBI and a run. Kaycee Wilson and Jaelyn Johnson each had two RBIs, and Borden walked twice, stole two bases and scored two runs. Gracie Dempsey was 1-for-2 with a run, and Kelsey Wilson had an RBI, a run and two stolen bases.

Tharptown 6 Phil Campbell 2

Olivia Darracott's two-run homer highlighted a five-run first inning for the Lady Wildcats last Friday, and Taylor Cameron struck out seven batters in a complete game to earn the win.

Tharptown scored its first run on a sac fly by Olivia Ergle, and then Darracott hit her first home run of the season to make it 3-0. Leslie Staggs added a two-run single, stretching the lead to 5-0. That was more than enough support for Cameron, who walked just one batter and held Phil Campbell to two hits in four innings.

Darracott finished 1-for-2, and Cameron was 1-for-2 with a double and a run scored. Staggs was 1-for-2 with two RBIs, and Shaylee Wieting went 1-for-3 with two runs and two stolen bases. Ergle was 1-for-2 with two RBIs, and Brooke Daily went 1-for-2 with a run.

Emma Ergle took the loss for the Lady Bobcats. Emily Swinney pitched well in relief, allowing two hits and no earned runs in 3.1 innings. She struck out two and did not issue a walk. Katie Thomas led Phil Campbell at the plate, going 1-for-2 with a triple, an RBI and a run. Caymen Quinn was 1-for-2 with a run and two stolen bases.

Red Bay 12 Vina 0

Chloe Knoblock dominated in the circle last Friday, striking out eight batters in a three-inning no-hitter as the Lady Tigers opened the tournament with a rout of Vina.

Red Bay took control early, getting a two-run double from Sarah Eaton in a four-run first inning. Emmie Scott doubled and scored on an error in the second inning, and the Lady Tigers put the game out of reach with a seven-run third inning highlighted by an RBI double from Knoblock, an RBI single from Georgia Inman and a two-run single from Lila Blackburn.

Of the nine outs Knoblock recorded, all but one came on strikeouts. She walked two. Scott finished 2-for-2 with two runs scored, and Blackburn was 1-for-2 with two RBIs, two runs and two stolen bases. Eaton was 1-for-2 with a double and two RBIs, and Knoblock went 1-for-3 with an RBI. Inman was 1-for-2 with an RBI and a run, and Annaliese Rogers scored twice and stole a base.

Tharptown 3 Belgreen 2

Tharptown's run to the tournament title began last Friday with an extra-inning win over the Lady Bulldogs.

The score was tied 1-1 in the top of the sixth when Catie Dawson was placed on second (per international tiebreaker rules) and eventually scored the go-ahead run on a bunt hit by Shaylee Wieting. Taylor Cameron added an RBI single to make it 3-1.

Belgreen got an RBI groundout by Camie Terrell in the bottom of the sixth to cut the lead to 3-2, but Tharptown held on for the win.

Cameron picked up the win in relief, allowing one earned run on one hit in 1.2 innings. She struck out three and walked one. Olivia Ergle started in the circle and pitched well, holding Belgreen to just one hit in four scoreless innings. She struck out four and walked one.

Tharptown grabbed a 1-0 lead in the top of the third on an RBI bunt hit by Macy Petree. Belgreen tied the game in the bottom of the fifth on a walk to Gracie Dempsey and a double by Katie Dempsey.

Emma Dempsey took the loss for Belgreen, allowing three runs (just one earned) on four hits in six innings. She struck out four and walked none. Katie Dempsey was 1-for-4 with a double and a run, and Emma Dempsey was 1-for-3.

Cameron led Tharptown at the plate, going 2-for-3 with an RBI. Petree was 1-for-2 with an RBI, and Shaylee Wieting went 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored.



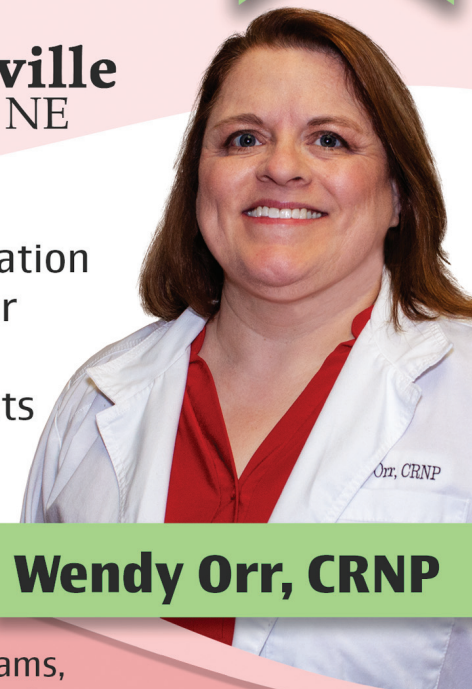
256-398-8994

523F Gandy St NE,
Russellville, AL 35653

Now in Russellville 523F Gandy Street NE

● OB Exams in Collaboration
with Dr. Steven Snyder

● Accepting New Patients



Wendy Orr, CRNP

Services:

Pregnancy care, Annual exams,
STDs, Abnormal bleeding, Infertility,
Menopause, and Family planning

www.HelenKeller.com

ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL 200TH ANNIVERSARY RIFLE



Receiver Detail (Right Side)

HENRY 45-70 LEVER ACTION RIFLE



Stock Detail

On December 14th, 1819, Alabama became the 22nd state to be admitted to the Union. This year will mark Alabama's bicentennial. In those 200 years, the Heart of Dixie has become home to Southern Hospitality and a culture that can't be found anywhere else. To celebrate this historic event, Wellington LTD is producing an heirloom quality firearm that captures the history and culture of this great state.

"Henry is American Made"



Receiver Detail (Left Side)



ONLY 67 RIFLES AVAILABLE!

OWN A PIECE OF ALABAMA'S HISTORY!

Engraved is a Henry 45-70 Lever Action rifle that is plated in 24 Karat gold. The artwork is dedicated to key historical events and icons that bolster the soul of this great state. This is an opportunity to own a limited edition rifle that etches your heritage into steel. With only 67 rifles being made, there is only one available for each county of the state. Call us today to reserve yours! More info: www.wellingtonltd.com



Butt Plate Detail

EACH EDITION WILL BE NUMBERED!
RESERVATIONS ARE ACCEPTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARE RECEIVED.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL JIM COMBS (970) 215-0677

WWW.WELLINGTONLTD.COM/AL200RIFLE/

'STREAK', from page 13

the first and never looked back, cruising into the county final. Rilan Garrison got things going in the monster first inning with a two-run double. Ty Leindecker later had a three-run double to make it 6-0, and Trey Leindecker added a two-run single. Luke Barnwell capped off the inning with an RBI single.

Phil Campbell wasn't finished mashing, adding five more runs in the bottom of the second. Cole Motes drove in a run with a triple, and Austen Baker hit a three-run homer. Ridge Raper added an RBI single to make it 14-0.

Brett Saint (4-2) was the beneficiary of all that offense, earning the win with a three-inning complete game. He allowed three hits, struck out four and walked none, throwing 26 of his 40 pitches for strikes.

Motes was 2-for-2 with two runs scored, and Raper went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run. Baker was 1-for-2 with the three-run homer and two runs scored, and Rilan Garrison went 1-for-1 with a double, two walks and two RBIs. Barnwell was 1-for-1 with two walks and two runs, and Ty Leindecker went 1-for-2 with three RBIs.

Trey Leindecker was 1-for-2 with two RBIs, and Mason Swinney drove in a run and scored two. Nate Owens walked twice and scored twice.

Hunter White, Greyson Studdard and Jayden Mitchell each had one hit for Tharptown (11-8).

Phil Campbell 10 Vina 0

Mason Swinney dominated on the mound, striking out a career-high 14 batters in a six-inning no-hitter.

Just a freshman, Swinney (2-0) issued only one walk and threw 53 of his 84 pitches for strikes. He struck out two batters in a one-two-three first inning, three in the second and three more in the third. He hit a batter to start the fourth inning but then got a double-play groundball and a strikeout to avoid any damage. He finished strong, retiring the Red Devils in order in the fifth and sixth innings, with five strikeouts.

Through Sunday, Swinney had racked up 32 strikeouts on the season in just 15.1 innings pitched.

Leading Vina 1-0 in the bottom of the fourth, the Bobcats got a two-run single from Austen Baker in a three-run fourth inning that made it 4-0. They added four more runs in the fifth inning, getting an RBI single from Luke Barnwell and an RBI double from Austen Baker. The 'Cats scored two more runs in the bottom of the sixth to end it.

Baker went 2-for-3 with three RBIs, and Ridge Raper was 2-for-4 with a triple and two runs scored. Barnwell went 1-for-3 and scored twice. Ty Leindecker walked twice and scored twice, and Cole Motes drove in two runs.

Red Bay 11 Belgreen 0

Senior Peyton Green threw a five-inning no-hitter, punching the Tigers' ticket to the championship game.

Green (4-1) did not record a strikeout but issued only two walks and needed only 45 pitches (29 of which were strikes) to get through five innings. He got all the offensive support he would need in the bottom of the first, when a double by Alex Burroughs sparked a three-run rally by Red Bay. Cade McKinney had the big hit in the inning with a two-run single.

The Tigers put the game out of reach with an eight-run third inning highlighted by an RBI single from Chase Allen, an RBI double from McKinney, a two-run single from Landon Glover and an RBI double from Burroughs.

Burroughs finished 3-for-4 with two doubles, an RBI and a run. McKinney went 2-for-3 with three RBIs, and Kolby Bragwell was 1-for-1 with two walks, two stolen bases and three runs scored. Glover went 1-for-3 with two RBIs and a run, and Green was 1-for-2 with two RBIs and a run.

Kaleb Bragwell went 1-for-4 with an RBI, and Allen was 1-for-1 with two walks and two runs. Kaleb Sims was 1-for-3, and Colbie King stole two bases and scored a run.

Shoals Primary Care, LLC

Internal Medicine • Family & General Practice

Dr. Faizullah Syed

is Welcoming New Patients



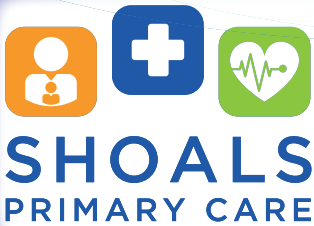
Baylee Corsbie CRNP, Faizullah Syed M.D.,
Misty Maxwell CRNP, Kelli Robertson CRNP

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED • MEDICARE PATIENTS WELCOME

Admitting Privileges at Helen Keller Hospital

Monday-Thursday • 8am - 5pm | Friday • 8am-Noon

Walk-ins are Welcome



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

For updates on news and sports all week, visit us on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net!

Your #1 fan

Your local independent agent is your neighbor – someone you can trust and someone who's here for you when it matters most!



Wood-Thompson Insurance

130 N Jackson Ave. Russellville
256-332-1381

Mon-Tues-Thur-Fri 8am-5pm
Wed 8am-noon • Sat 9am-noon

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Advertise with us! Call 256.668.2708 or 256.332.0255

franklinfreepress.net

MOWING



**Salvador's
LAWN SERVICE**
(256) 810-2351
Free Estimates
Licensed

MOWING • TRIMMING
MULCHING • CLEANING LEAVES
HEDGING & SHRUBS • EDGING

MASSAGE



**REWARD YOURSELF OR
SOMEONE YOU
LOVE**

256.332.4220
Angel Harris
Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495
Reiki Practitioner II

Gift Cards Available
Creative Image Salon
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

LANDSCAPING



K&S TREE SERVICE
253 Laurelwood Dr. Russellville, Alabama

Trimming
Topping • Removal
Bucket Work
Stump Grinding

KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064

PEST CONTROL



**PREDATOR
PEST CONTROL**
"The Insect Predator"
Eddie Deaton
(662) 315-2841
50 Years Combined Experience
Toll Free 1-888-832-5405
(662) 862-5631 (662) 840-4055

HOUSING



256-332-1561
73 Flippen St
"The standard for fixed-income
living in Russellville."

UNITS NOW AVAILABLE

Russellville
Housing Authority
Incorporated

CHURCH



Come Worship with Us!
First Presbyterian Church
Sunday: 11:00 - 12:00
Adult Sunday School: 10:00 - 11:00
Everyone is invited to join us for
this special time of worship.
201 N. Green Street, Russellville

DISTRICT ATTORNEY



JOEY RUSHING
Franklin County District Attorney
256.332.8870 • 256.710.4713
(daytime) (after hours)

EXCAVATING & SEPTIC



**Educated Excavating
& Septic Service**
Septic Installation & Repair
All Types of Dirt Work
15+ Years Experience
Free Estimates
Blake Herring • Licensed & Bonded
256.668.4573

PUBLIC SERVICE



BUCKLE UP! It Could Save Your Life!
franklinsheriff.org
(256) 332-8811
Compliments of
**Shannon
Oliver**
SHERIFF
FRANKLIN COUNTY

Lady Golden Tigers get to 3-0 in area play

Staff reports

Madison Murray homered and drove in four runs for Russellville last Wednesday, and the Lady Golden Tigers pounded out 17 hits (including six for extra bases) on their way to a 16-4 win at area rival Hamilton.

Russellville (12-12 overall, 3-0 in Class 5A, Area 15) got going at the plate in the top of the first inning. Tori Tiffin and Jenna Whitfield both singled, and then Murray delivered a two-run double to make it 2-0. Hamilton answered with a run in the bottom of the first, but Tiffin's RBI double in the top of the second made it 3-1.

Leading 3-2, the Lady Golden Tigers broke open the game with five runs in the fourth, getting a two-run triple from Tiffin, an RBI bunt hit from Murray and a two-run single from Logan. Murray later led off the sixth inning with her first home run of the season, and Chalea Clemmons added an RBI single as Russellville scored four runs to make it a 12-4 game.

The Lady Golden Tigers finished things off with a four-run seventh highlighted by a two-run single

from Krista Sikes and a two-run double from Chalea Clemmons.

Murray finished 4-for-5 with four RBIs and three runs scored. Tiffin went 3-for-3 with three RBIs, two runs and two stolen bases. Clemmons was 2-for-3 with three RBIs, and Logan was 2-for-5 with two RBIs.

Sikes took care of things in the circle, allowing four runs (just one earned) on seven hits in a complete game. She struck out seven and walked three.

In previous action:
Russellville 8 Lawrence County 0

Megan Warhurst and Chalea Clemmons combined on a two-hit shutout for Russellville last Tuesday, and the Lady Golden Tigers got three hits apiece from Tori Tiffin and a red-hot Alivia Clemmons on their way to beating Lawrence County 8-0 in Moulton.

After Warhurst escaped a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the first, Russellville grabbed a 1-0 lead on a two-out RBI single by Alivia Clemmons in the top of the second.

Warhurst retired the side in order in the bottom of

the second (the first of four straight innings in which the senior lefty would get Lawrence County one-two-three), and the Lady Golden Tigers added another run in the top of the third when Tiffin singled and later scored on a bunt by Autumn Logan.

Russellville broke open the game with a big two-out rally in the top of the fourth. Makala O'Neal, Alivia Clemmons and A.J. Taylor all singled to load the bases, and then Tiffin cleared them with a triple to center field. Jenna Whitfield's RBI single capped the inning and made it 6-0.

Clemmons finished the game 3-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored.

Warhurst (9-5) had retired 13 straight batters when she gave way to Chalea Clemmons after five innings of two-hit ball with four strikeouts and one walk. Clemmons struck out two in two perfect innings of relief to finish off the win.

Tiffin went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs scored, and Murray was 2-for-4 with an RBI. Whitfield went 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run, and O'Neal was 1-for-4 with two runs. Logan, Warhurst and Taylor each had one of Russellville's 13 hits.

RUSSELLVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

TIGER PRIDE NIGHT



Thursday, April 11th 5:30 PM

PARENT NIGHT WILL BE HELD IN THE RCS AUDITORIUM AT 5:30 PM AND WILL BE PRESENTED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH.

AFTER THE MEETING, PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A "TICKET" FOR FREE ADMISSION TO THE BASEBALL GAME AS WELL AS A FREE FOOD ITEM.

WE HOPE TO SEE OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY FOR A NIGHT OF CELEBRATING OUR TIGER PRIDE!