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Roxy to welcome country legend for concert in June

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Country legend Whisperin' Bill Anderson will perform a concert at Russellville's historic Roxy Theater on Saturday, June 22. The concert will begin at 7 p.m.

Anderson is best known for hit songs including "Po' Folks," "Mama Sang a Song," "The Tips of My Fingers" and his unforgettable smash hit "Still."

A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Anderson earned his nickname 'Whisperin' Bill' as a result of his breathy voice and warm, soft approach to performing a country song.

Anderson has a long list of accolades and awards to his name, including Songwriter of the Year (six times) and Male Vocalist of the Year. In 2001, he became a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

His list of songwriting hits for other artists includes Brad Paisley/Alison Krauss's "Whiskey Lullaby," Kenny Chesney's "A Lot of Things Different," George Strait's "Give It Away" and Mo Pitney's "Country."



Whisperin' Bill Anderson

See 'ROXY,' Page 3

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Robertson pleased to protect victims, families with new bill

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A bill that would allow crime victims of certain felonies to collect in the event a third person or entity pays the defendant for 'telling his story' in any form has cleared the Alabama House and a vote by the Alabama Senate is expected this week.

House Bill 180, sponsored by Rep. Proncey Robertson (R-Mount Hope), passed the House by a vote of 98-0 last week and has been submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee, a legal prerequisite before it's voted on by the entire Senate.

"As a police officer, I spent my entire career working for victims and the public. To give me an opportunity to continue that in my first piece of legislation is important."

The legislation, known as 'Lisa's Law,' is named after Lisa Ann Millican, a 13-year-old girl who was kidnapped, raped and tortured by Judith Neelley in 1982 before Neelley shot her in the back and dumped her body over a cliff near Fort Payne.

Neelley, who first injected the girl with drain cleaner before shooting her, was sentenced to death at age 18 upon her conviction. Former Alabama Gov. Fob James, on his last day of office, commuted Neelley's sentence to life.

Neelley's most recent attempt at parole, in 2018, was denied by the Alabama Board of Pardons and Parole.



Rep. Proncey Robertson

See 'ROBERTSON,' Page 9

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Sadie Lee Benderman, Spruce Pine, age 88

Died Thursday, April 18, 2019. Graveside service held at Spruce Pine Cemetery. Akins Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Jimmie "Jim" F. Bianco, Jr., Russellville, age 60

Died Thursday, April 18, 2019. Funeral held at Akins Funeral Home. Interment in Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

Tom Parker, Phil Campbell

Died Friday, April 19, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville.

Bradley Jack Porter, Northport, AL, age 45

Died Wednesday, April 10, 2019. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Cherry Hill Cemetery.

Kenneth Brewster Sykes, Russellville, age 54

Died Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Belgreen Cemetery.

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Motion to appoint mayor to Phil Campbell Water Board fails after vote of city council

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A motion to appoint mayor Steve Bell to the Phil Campbell Water Board failed after the city council voted 2-2-1 on the measure.

The motion, made by council member Jim Cartee, was seconded by council member Danny Brown. Both Cartee and Brown currently serve on the water board along with Sammy Taylor and Denny Hagood. Board member Stephen Sampson's term has expired, and that position will remain vacant until at least the council's May 21 meeting.

Cartee and Brown voted in favor of the motion, while council members Eddie Barton and Mike McQuary voted against. Council member Lynn Landers abstained, as did Bell.

"We will table this until our next meeting. We've got to do something with it soon, though," Bell said. "I'm open to suggestions on someone to fill this position."

Several employees of Phil Campbell Water

Works attended the council meeting. After the meeting, one employee mentioned Darryl Whitehead as a possible candidate.

Bell said the council preferred someone who is a city resident and has management experience.

"We will table this until our next meeting. We've got to do something with it soon, though," Bell said. "I'm open to suggestions on someone to fill this position."

In other action, the council:

- Heard an update on a new storm shelter to be constructed just south of City Hall. The pad has been constructed, and the shelter will be installed soon, Bell said.

- Discussed concerns about residents living in campers inside city limits. Town officials have received complaints about individuals living in a camper on Pike Avenue.

- Voted to set the public opening of the Phil Campbell Splash Pad over Memorial Day weekend. Memorial Day is Monday, May 27. The council also voted to increase Splash Pad charges

from \$1 to \$2. Splash Pad rentals (two hours) will be \$150, which includes a \$50 refundable deposit. Fees to rent the Phil Campbell Community Center will be the same.

Splash Pad rental includes the use of the pavilion. The party room may be rented for a separate charge.

- Heard a report from Bell about a Community Development Block Grant Program demolition grant available, with no matching funds required from the town, to pay for demolition of dilapidated properties in the city limits. The grant application requires pictures and notice from the owners saying they are willing to participate in the grant.

"There are a lot of them, and we need to do something with them," Bell said. "This is an important issue, and we need someone to take this on. We have a chance to do something about it, with no match on the grant for the city."

Cartee suggested that town building inspector Mike Rice be tasked with contacting property owners of dilapidated properties in furtherance of the grant requirements.

'ROXY' from page 1

A native of Columbia, South Carolina, Anderson grew up in the Atlanta area. He worked his way through the University of Georgia as a disc jockey at local radio stations in Athens. Anderson moved to Nashville, secured a recording contract with Decca Records and began his long list of hits, both as a songwriter and a recording artist.

Anderson hosted ABC's *The Better Sex* game show, and he was a three-year cast member on ABC's daytime soap opera *One Life to Live*. He hosted the country game show *Fandango* for six years on the Nashville Network, and he co-produced TNN's popular show *You Can Be a Star*.

Since 1997, Anderson has hosted RFD-TV's *Country Family Reunion*, a show where country legends sit alongside their peers and newcomers to the industry singing songs and swapping stories.

After a decade hiatus from music, Anderson returned in the mid-1990s to songwriting, and the result was a song he co-wrote that became a hit for Vince Gill, "Which Bridge To Cross-Which Bridge To Burn." Anderson also co-wrote Steve Wariner's smash ballad "Two Teardrops" and Mark Wills' "Wish You Were Here."

He has earned Song of the Year honors twice as

well as a Dove Award for co-writing the Gospel/Country Recorded Song of the Year, "Jonah, Job and Moses" by the Oak Ridge Boys.

Anderson, 81, lives in Nashville and enjoys spending time with his eight grandchildren.

Tickets for the Whisperin' Bill Anderson show are \$45 for premium floor seats and \$30 for all other floor seats. Tickets may be purchased online at <http://www.itickets.com/events/423922.html> or at WGOL studios, 113 Washington Ave. NW in Russellville.

For more information about Anderson, visit <https://billanderson.com>.

Committee announces recent grant awards

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The most recent grant awards from the Franklin County Community Development Committee were primarily education-related.

The grant awards were announced after the committee met April 19 to discuss applications for grant funding. The grants also included the transfer of \$5,000 to future economic development, something the committee approved at its last meeting.

Representatives on the committee include Russellville mayor David Grissom, Chris Wallace, Brad Bolton and Jeremy Campbell. While the Russellville and Red Bay mayors rotate appointments every two years, the other appointees are selected by Rep. Jamie Kiel, Rep. Proncey Robertson and Sen. Larry Stutts.

Grant awards included:

- \$200 to Franklin County Career Tech Center for FBLA State Competition.
- \$500 to American Legion Post #64 for expenses for Boys and Girls State.
- \$200 to Russellville Middle School for the Junior Scholars Bowl National Championship competition.
- \$500 to Phil Campbell Elementary School for purchase of classroom chairs for second-grade classrooms.
- \$150 to Tharptown High School for varsity cheer expenses for cheer camp.
- \$150 to Phil Campbell High School for resource classroom purchase of bookcases and cabinet.
- \$100 to Phil Campbell High School's special needs class.
- \$1000 to Vina Fire Department for purchase of one new fire suit.

- \$500 to Phil Campbell Elementary School for purchase of two standing desks and two stools for sixth-grade classrooms.

- \$500 to Tharptown High School library for purchase of books.

- \$500 to Frog Pond Volunteer Fire Department for purchase of clip lights, first aid kits and lighted cones.

- \$500 to Russellville High School softball for purchase of equipment and field maintenance.

- \$1000 to Phil Campbell Elementary for purchase of Chromebooks.

- \$500 to Phil Campbell Elementary for purchase of storage cabinet and science table in second-grade classrooms.

- \$250 to Franklin County Extension Service for 4-H summer educational programs.

The committee also approved reimbursement in an amount less than requested for several projects. The funds will be released after the purchases or improvements are made. They include:

- \$1,000 for field improvements on the Belgreen softball field.

- \$1,000 for a skid unit to be purchased by East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department.

- \$2,500 for purchase of HVAC units for the Roxy Theater. Request made by the Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council.

- \$2,000 to the Franklin County Board of Education for purchase of a riding mower.

- \$2,000 to Vina High School for purchase of a riding mower.

The next meeting of the Franklin County Community Development Committee will be June 28, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. in the Franklin County Courthouse Annex.

Requests for grants must be received by June 21 at 12 p.m.

Honey Do: Tiller time

The first three months of this year have been about as wet as I can remember. It's been hard to find a dry time to get in the yard, much less the garden or flower beds.

But, maybe, in the next few days, with temps a little warmer, a little sun and a little wind, the ground will dry out enough to get some plants in the ground.

A garden tiller is a great tool for working a small to medium garden or yard. Soil that is properly turned and tilled will create a much better bed for seeds and new plants that need to be able to breathe and get sufficient water.

Walk-behind tillers typically come in two distinct models, front tine and rear tine. Front tine machines have the diggers (or tines) in the front and wheels in the back. The tines will turn to the front and pull the machine along. By setting the "drag bar" at the back of the tiller, the machine will be held back easier and allowed to dig deeper into the ground. Some models have a reverse that will slowly back up the tines, should they become snagged on a rock or root.

Rear tine tillers have the diggers (or tines) situated at the back of the machine. These tillers are generally

easier to operate because they are heavier and more stable than front tine tillers. The tines on a rear tine machine usually turn backwards to the wheels, and this allows them to pulverize the dirt better. The wheels are gear-driven and provide the forward motion. Some models allow you to set the tines to turn backwards or forward. Forward-turning tines are great for situations where you don't want to dig as deep, like weeding, and the tiller will move along a little faster.

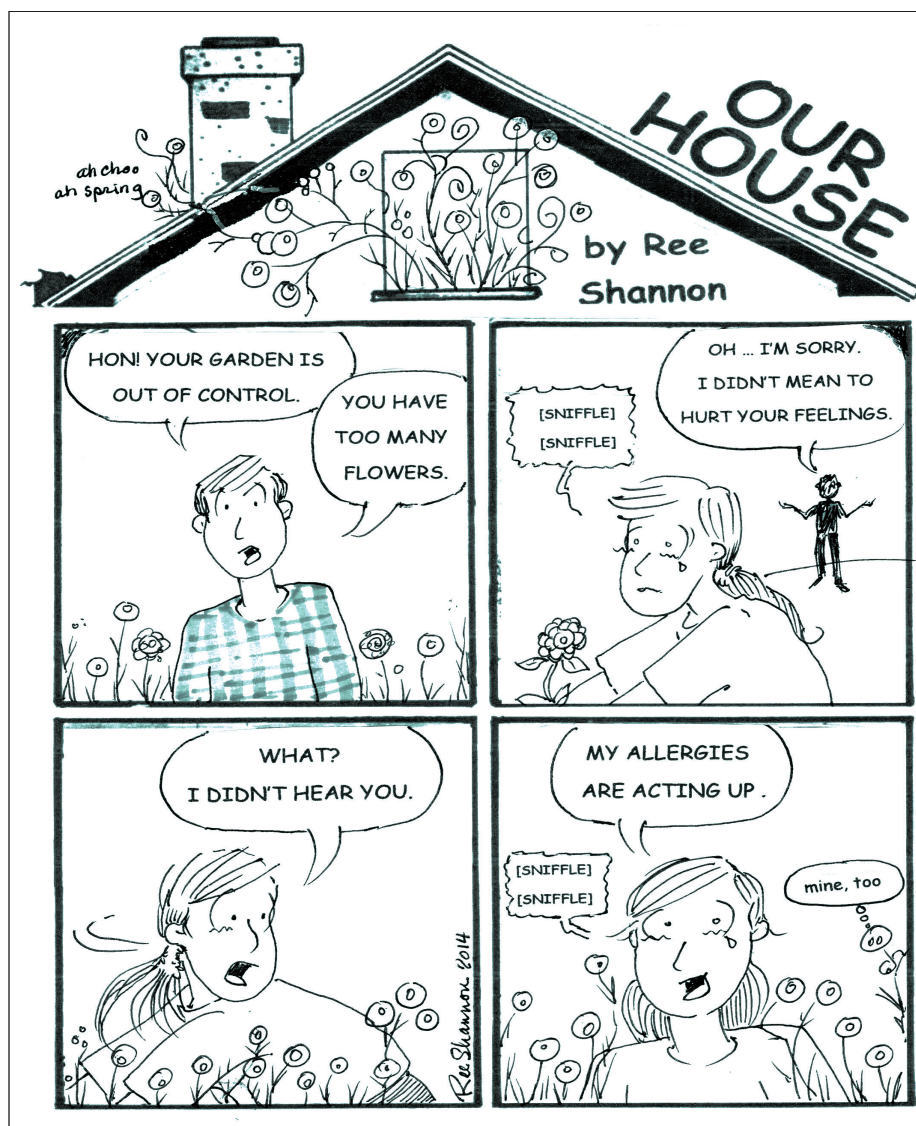
If you are digging out your old tiller for another season, be sure to service it with fresh fuel, oil and grease. Old fuel and oil should be drained from the tanks and replaced with fresh fuel and oil before you try to crank the tiller.

Check your owner's manual for the proper oil to use and also the location of grease fittings.

Don't forget to install a fresh spark plug, and you should be ready for a trouble-free season of yard and garden work. Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green



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My story, and why Alabama should pass this pro-life bill

By Rachel Blackmon Bryars
Alabama Policy Institute

What keeps us from sharing our stories? The ones we should tell?

When it comes to the story I shared last Wednesday morning with the Alabama House Health Committee regarding what would be the nation's strongest pro-life law, it's been fear.

Fear of being misunderstood.

Fear of future assumptions based on past mistakes.

Most of all, fear of causing my oldest daughter any embarrassment or pain.

This is her story, too.

But after long talks over the years and after recently watching the new movie *Unplanned* together, she says I must speak up. That she is proud, not embarrassed. That our story might strengthen one mother. Might help save one life.

My daughter's maturity humbles me because her life began when I was the opposite—foolish.

I graduated college after years of overachievement that I hoped would lead to what I wanted more than anything: A successful career.

Like many driven young women, I had given almost no thought to motherhood. Maybe one day I'd get married and have a family—one day far in the future.

I moved to Virginia for my first job as a television reporter and continued a successful side hustle as a model and commercial actress.

Everything was going better than I had

dreamed. My life was filled with hope and anticipation. But my life was also filled with loneliness and insecurity. With a gnawing desire to be loved and feel wanted.

I believed in abstinence until marriage, but my now-husband and I fell short. I found myself taking a pregnancy test. My heart shattered when I saw the results. The test said someone inside me had started to live, but in a flash, it felt like everything about me had started to die.

Sometimes life requires us to fall on one side or the other of a fence we never noticed before. I was notionally pro-life, but I had not engaged the argument because I had not thought about the argument. It was a topic for someone else, someplace else. But now it was me...

Sometimes life requires us to fall on one side or the other of a fence we never noticed before. I was notionally pro-life, but I had not engaged the argument because I had not thought about the argument. It was a topic for someone else, someplace else.

But now it was me, and the last thing I wanted was to be a mother. I did not receive Planned Parenthood counseling, but I imagine they would have said everything already racing through my mind:

I was only 22-years-old—way too young. I had everything to lose and nothing to gain. Why should one mistake define the rest of my life?



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by Dave Ramsey

Budget billing for utilities?

Dear Dave,
I'm just starting my debt-free journey and trying to lay out a budget. What are your thoughts on budget billing for utilities?

Ryan

Dear Ryan,
I think it's wonderful! There's absolutely nothing wrong with it at all. For a lot of folks, especially those in your situation, it helps smooth out utility payments and make them more manageable. In most budget billing scenarios, they add up your utility bill for the last 12 months and divide that total by twelve to determine a fixed billing amount for the next twelve months. It can make things so much easier when you're first starting to live on a budget, and you don't have a lot of wiggle room where your finances are concerned. I'm glad you're taking steps to get control of your money, Ryan. You can do this!

Dave

Emergency fund for business?

Dear Dave,
I have my own small business. My

annual sales are just over \$100,000, and I have a couple of months in administrative and general expenses set aside. Should I have an emergency fund for my company, too? If so, how much?

Taylor

Dear Taylor
This is a great question! I like the idea of a small business having six months of expenses set aside in an emergency fund. A financial cushion like that provides peace of mind and options. Also, it eliminates the need for borrowing money. With that kind of cash sitting around, you basically become your own line of credit.

When it comes to personal finance, I usually recommend setting aside an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses—depending on a person's overall financial condition. But the basic idea is the same, regardless of whether you're talking about personal finance or the financial health of your small business.

An entrepreneur has enough to worry about on a day-to-day basis. Having a fully funded emergency fund for your business can turn a disaster into nothing more than a minor inconvenience!

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.*

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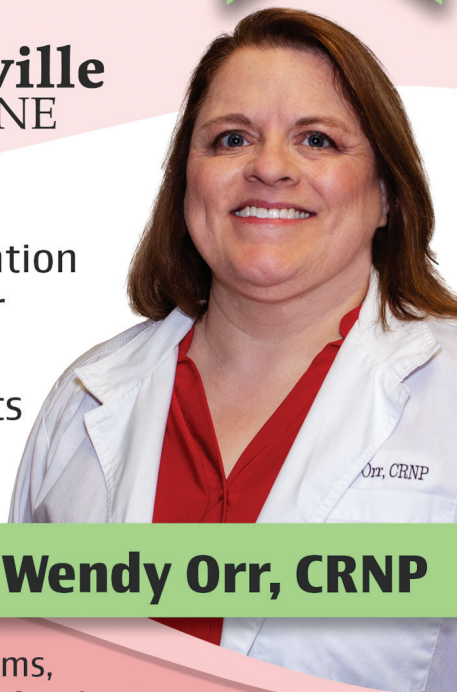
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EVENTS OF INTEREST • FAMILY REUNIONS • PLAYS • CHURCH GATHERINGS • EDUCATIONAL • CLUB MEETINGS

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.

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 Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts in Red Bay announces its third production of the season, *They'd Hang You In Nashville*, by William Gleason and directed by Scotty Kennedy. The performance dates are April 25-27 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m. at the Weatherford Centre in Red Bay. Tickets are \$8.00 each and go on sale at the Weatherford Centre Monday, April 15. You may go by or call 256-356-9829 between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. to purchase or reserve your tickets. Groups are welcome also.

The Phil Campbell High School Alumni Association will hold a scholarship fundraiser with your choice of William Bishop's smoked chicken or barbecue plates, including baked beans, slaw, roll, dessert and drink. Plates are \$10 each and will be available for pickup this Saturday, April 27 from 3-5 p.m. at the Phil Campbell Rescue Squad Building. Walk-ins are welcome, but chicken plates are limited. Purchase your ticket from any member of the Scholarship Committee. All monies go to the Scholarship Fund. Each year the association awards two \$500 scholarships to PCHS students. Donations may also be made at any time to the PCHS Alumni Scholarship Fund Account at any CB&S Bank. For more information, contact Lynn Landers at 256-810-4572.

Revival services at Mtn. Home Missionary Baptist Church (3600 Colburn Mtn. Road, Tuscumbia) will be held Sunday, April 28 through Wednesday, May 1. Bro. James McCullar will preach at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 28, and a fellowship meal will be held at 5 p.m. that evening. Services will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 29 (Bro. Frank Chaney); Tuesday, April 30 (Bro. Truman Kimbrough); and Wednesday, May 1 (Bro. David Kiel). You are invited!

CR 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!

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833, will meet Thursday, May 2 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center on Ash Avenue. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more info, call 256-324-2317. Everyone welcome!

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.

Spruce Pine Historical Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Spruce Pine Community Center in Spruce Pine. Next meeting will be May 7. All members and friends are urged to attend.

Attention all young ladies of Colbert, Franklin and Lauderdale counties entering 10th, 11th and 12th grades in the Fall of 2019!!! The Distinguished Young Women Scholarship Program will be held Saturday, August 3, 2019 at Norton Auditorium on the campus of The University of North Alabama. Young ladies entering the 12th grade will have the opportunity to compete for cash scholarships as well as many other scholarships to colleges and universities. Also, each county winner will have the opportunity to represent her county at the state program in Montgomery in January of 2020. Information and registration meetings will be held Wednesday, May 8, Wednesday, May 15 and Wednesday, June 5 from 4-5 p.m. at First Metro Bank, Muscle Shoals. Young ladies entering the 10th and 11th grades have the opportunity to be "DYW Little Sisters." For more information, contact Susan Hargett at 256-710-9239 or Katernia Cole-Coffey at 256-332-8880, or check information on our Facebook page at Distinguished Young Women of Northwest Alabama, or email dshargett@aol.com. Other information and sign up is available at www.DistinguishedYW.org. Please contact us no later than June 23.

American Legion Post 64 will meet Thursday, May 9 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The book *One Taste Too Many* by Debra H. Goldstein of Birmingham will be discussed at the May 15 10 a.m. meeting of the Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club. The club meets at Coldwater Books, 105 West Sixth Street, Tuscumbia. For more info, email nancy537481@yahoo.com.

The Kerry Gilbert Band will perform a benefit concert at the Roxy Theatre in Russellville on Saturday, May 11 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.

Six local establishments earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Six of the seven of the Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of April 8-12 had scores that fall into the "satisfactory compliance" range.

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

Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

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

Six of the seven Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range. The highest score was 100, received by Pollo LoQuillo Sno Balls #2, 115 Franklin St., Russellville.

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

- Los Tres d/b/a Costa, 912 4th St. SW, 76. (Sewage on top of ground behind building, dishwasher not sanitizing, beef, chicken and shrimp out of temp, no one holding food safety certification).

- Sonic Drive In Russellville, 15376 Hwy. 43 North, 90. (Mold in fountain heads).

- Willi's, 5680 Hwy. 243, Phil Campbell, 92. (Various toxic items stored with single service).

- Daisy Grocery, 125 North Jackson Ave., Russellville, 93. (Cooked food in cooler not date marked).

- Stockyard Cafe, 14330 Hwy. 243, Russellville, 96.

- Red Bay High School Cafeteria, 800 Eighth St., Red Bay, 97.

Of the 10 inspections done in Colbert County from April 8-12, all received scores falling in the range of satisfactory. The high score of 100 was received by TD Morris, Inc., d/b/a Southern Package, 3802 Hatch Blvd., Sheffield.

Health ratings are available at www.foodscores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.

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Council moving forward on safety improvements

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

After a recent fatality near the intersection, the Russellville City Council voted to authorize mayor David Grissom to move forward with officials from the Alabama Department of Transportation to make safety improvements at the Highway 43/Gandy Street intersection.

Earlier this year, a woman was killed after a car that had been hit at the intersection was pushed into the 43 Grill parking lot where she was struck. After that incident, Grissom contacted ALDOT engineer Mark Dale and asked for assistance in making safety improvements to the intersection.

Dale and his ALDOT team from the Tuscumbia office came to Russellville and assessed the intersection. Dale sent Grissom a map with proposed improvements that include the installation of a concrete barrier that would prevent eastbound traffic on Gandy from turning north onto 43.

Grissom updated the council at its April 15 meeting, and the council voted to authorize Grissom to write a letter to ALDOT and move forward with a

cost estimate for the safety improvements.

"That intersection definitely needs some work," Grissom said. "If we can save one life, then it's worth doing."

After a recent fatality near the intersection, the Russellville City Council voted to authorize mayor David Grissom to move forward with officials from the Alabama Department of Transportation to make safety improvements at the Highway 43/Gandy Street intersection. The council authorized Grissom to write a letter to ALDOT and obtain a cost estimate for the safety improvements.

"That intersection definitely needs some work," Grissom said. "If we can save one life, then it's worth doing."

ALDOT recommendations call for eastbound traffic on Gandy to be routed either south onto 43 or to turn north on the access road to make the turn onto 43 north.

Northbound traffic on 43 could still turn west onto Gandy, and traffic exiting the AT&T store would

have an exit south of Gandy so as to allow it to enter the turn lane to travel west onto Gandy.

Southbound 43 traffic would still be allowed to turn east into the AT&T store parking lot.

Grissom thanked Russellville Police chief Chris Hargett and councilman Arthur Elliott for their assistance in working on the project.

The council discussed making the concrete barriers temporary to assess the effectiveness of the safety improvements.

In other action, the council:

- Approved a resolution declaring April Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

- Approved an \$1,800 contract with Jeff Frederick to provide softball umpiring services for the City of Russellville Parks and Recreation Department.

- Accepted a letter of resignation from Beverly Harvey from the Riverbend Board of Directors.

- Approved a request from the Russellville High School softball team to waive the rental fee at the A.W. Todd Centre on May 23, 2019.

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

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:
 An Alabama State Lottery is no longer about our personal convictions, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians' casinos or other usual objections. A state lottery is about much-needed revenue—revenue voluntarily given, unlike the recent gas tax. It is additional revenue for improving education, raising salaries for public safety employees or teachers, or broadband for rural areas. The needs are many.
 As non-lottery states surrounded by lottery states learned the hard way, when Alabama citizens cross state lines to purchase lottery tickets,

it's not all they purchase. They have something to eat, go shopping do something fun or buy gas. So how much revenue is Alabama losing by not having a state lottery?
 Alabama citizens gamble today. They cross over to Tennessee, Georgia, Florida and soon to Mississippi for lottery tickets. Casinos in neighboring states are now within driving distance. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians have their Atmore casinos. Their respected enterprises, employing many in the area, offer a different game. A state lottery is no threat to their economy.
 No one has to change their convictions or buy a

lottery ticket. Anyone who wants to, can, voluntarily. The question is, where will they do it, and which state receives the voluntary revenue?
 How about Sweet Home Alabama?
 Governor Ivey and our elected lawmakers must give the state lottery bills the same urgency they gave the mandatory gas tax bill. Then, like the gas tax revenues, they need to use the revenues wisely. We'll be watching. We'll also remember on election day.
 Scott A. Mugno
 Russellville

'ROBERTSON,' from page 1

Robertson, a retired law enforcement officer, introduced Lisa's Law as his first piece of legislation sponsored in his name since he took office last year. "The family that inspired this legislation is working with the victim's rights group VOCAL. It won't affect them, but they've been through it so many times with this woman coming up for parole again and again," Robertson said. "They've had to relive this thing over in multiple ways. This is one way to assist families and allow them to recover compensation due to them if the defendant chooses to publicize his or her story."
 Robertson saw what he believes to be the unfairness of allowing a victim of a felony of moral turpitude to watch the person convicted profit for the reenactment of the commission of the felony by way of a movie, book, television show, memoir, blog, etc., in a case where that defendant was ordered to pay restitution to the victim or the victim's family.
 "What the bill does is not just about the criminal, but any third party who attempts to make money off it either needs the family's permission to try and profit from it, or they must provide notice of any payment that would be made to the defendant," Robertson said. "The victim and/or his or her family should have some compensation from that."
 "As a police officer, I spent my entire career working for victims and the public. To give me an opportunity to continue that in my first piece of legislation is important. Our body down there in Montgomery should be about serving the public and protecting the rights of our most vulnerable citizens."
 The legislation provides that the Alabama Attorney General's Office must be notified if a person or entity contracts to pay a person convicted of a felony of moral turpitude for reenactment of the commission of the crime through a

movie, book, magazine or his or her account of the crime.
 The AG's office will then notify the victim or his or her family, and the AG may represent the family in a civil action to collect funds that would otherwise be due the defendant. The first \$5,000 paid to a defendant under the legislation would not be subject to civil judgment, Robertson said.
 An amendment was added to the legislation that provides in the event a convicted person later is acquitted of the felony conviction, the defendant then has the right to commence a civil action seeking to be reimbursed for any funds he or she would be due.
 Shortly after James commuted Neelley's sentence to life, the Alabama Legislature passed a law that allows the governor to commute a death penalty conviction only to a life without parole sentence.
 Robertson has introduced a Constitutional amendment that would go even farther by providing advance notice to the victim's family and others.
 "The amendment provides that there must be at least 30 days' notice before any capital offense is commuted to life without parole, with notice provided to the victim's family, the local prosecutor's office who handled the case and local law enforcement who worked the case," Robertson said.
 That proposed legislation is contained in House Bill 178. Robertson expects to see a first committee hearing in the House on this bill later this week before the State Government Legislative Committee.
 Robertson has several other pieces of legislation pending that he's sponsored, including one dealing with school safety and another that would allow a needle exchange program to be conducted by a local health department in the event of an injection-related disease outbreak.

'PASS,' from page 4

Experts say cognitive dissonance is one of the most intolerable mental states—when we believe something is true, we'll either act in harmony with that belief, change it or rationalize any deviation from it.
 I knew the growing baby inside of me was a human being. What else could she possibly be?
 There were also medical realities that overpowered rhetoric—a heartbeat that I heard at my first appointment, fingers and eyes and ears and feet I could see at my second.
 I wish I could tell women in crisis pregnancies that becoming a mother is pure bliss. But it was the hardest thing I've ever done.
 As my pregnancy progressed, I fell into what I can only describe as months of complete anguish, depression and despair. I left my job. I sleepwalked into a marriage that I feared was another mistake. I berated myself, constantly asking, "How could you have been so stupid?" I withdrew from everyone and thought I'd never know happiness again.
 It's hard to write those words knowing what I know now: My husband and my five precious children are my entire world. I wish I were a better writer, because it's impossible for me to adequately describe the all-consuming love I feel for them. Anything that was lost is a laughable pitance, barely worth mentioning compared to all that I've gained.
 Looking now at my beautiful, artistic, strong,

unique, nearly 14-year-old daughter, I can barely fathom how she might have been erased from existence if I'd followed our culture's advice.
 Some abortion rights supporters believe that my daughter was not a person until the moment she emerged from my body. Others believe she may have been at some point, but claim we lack the knowledge of when.
 It seems a nightmarish hoax that our society says that during my pregnancy, even when my daughter was clearly alive, growing, able to smile, hear music, feel pain, kick her legs, and even develop to where she could survive outside of me, her fate depended solely on whether I thought she should live or die.
 I think in the quiet of our souls, we know that our absurd rationalizations about a "choice" are the only way we can bear the unthinkable truth—that every day, abortion doctors inject unborn human beings with poison, crush their skulls, tear them limb from limb, and vacuum them into the trash.
 I went to college with Jessica Coleman, an Ohio woman who later went to prison when she confessed to stabbing her baby shortly after secretly giving birth when she was 15 years old.
 I'll never forget watching Oprah Winfrey interview the tearful, ashamed inmate who was once my soccer teammate.
 How do we make sense of our hypocrisy? If only Jessica had received an abortion that day. If

only a doctor, not her, had stabbed her baby the moment before he was born. She would not have gone to prison. Oprah would have commended her for her brave choice.
 It's time to shake ourselves awake.
 To Alabama's lawmakers: It is always better for people to choose what's right on their own. But some actions are so heinous, so deeply wrong, that we must create laws to prevent them. Pass this bill.
 To anyone who calls themselves pro-life but does not give money to crisis pregnancy centers, adoption services or anything related to supporting life: You are like a Pharisee—heaping heaving burdens on others but refusing to lift a finger yourself. Give.
 To men, everywhere: The instinct to protect women and children is written onto your hearts. Rise up. This is not just a woman's issue. You have every right to fight for the life of another human being, especially ones so defenseless.
 And to my sisters carrying an unplanned baby: My heart aches for you. Every life—yours and your baby's—is valuable. Make the next right choice.
 It may be the hardest thing you ever do. But it will be the best thing you ever do.
 Rachel Blackmon Bryars is a senior fellow at The Alabama Policy Institute. Connect with her at Rachel@alabamapolicy.org and on Instagram @rachelblackmonbryars.



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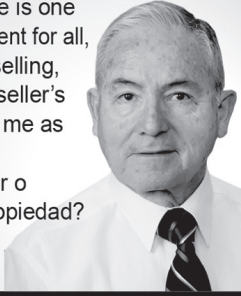
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Free-range chickens posing problems for city

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

If coyotes could write Yelp reviews, Russellville would have a reputation as a five-star buffet, thanks to the continued increase in the number of chickens in town.

As citizen complaints about roaming chickens increase, Russellville residents and city officials must deal with another growing problem—the increase of coyotes looking to dine on chickens and other livestock. And the city compliance officer says those coyotes are becoming more visible and fearless as they pursue easy meals across town.

"Coyotes are becoming a big problem, and the presence of chickens, ducks, turkeys and other livestock is what's doing it," said Brian Shackelford, Russellville Police Department compliance officer. "Some of the Hispanic residents don't eat store-bought chicken and only eat free range livestock. They raise their own birds and free-range them at home, and coyotes are coming to them.

"And that's the problem I have. Officers at night are seeing coyotes around Legacy Chevron, Walmart

and in other parking lots. They're coming to town to get food and getting more citified because of the availability of livestock in Russellville."

Shackelford said he's fielded numerous complaints about chickens, ranging from birds running loose to noise complaints with roosters to coyote sightings in town.

Although the City of Russellville has no specific livestock ordinance, Shackelford said that if chickens are creating a nuisance, it can be dealt with under the city's nuisance ordinance, which prohibits "anything that unlawfully causes hurt, inconvenience or damage...to another person or the general public, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property of another."

According to RPD chief Chris Hargett, such nuisances could occur when chickens are running loose and are not contained in a pen, or with roosters crowing in the morning or with loose livestock attracting predators like coyotes or foxes.

"If they are in a chicken coop where they can't get out, I'm not sure that would fall under the ordinance, unless they're disturbing the neighbors," Hargett said. "But the situation

with coyotes isn't just a nuisance—it's also a safety issue."

Police have responded to several coyote sightings near Woodland Hills subdivision, Hargett said. There are a few residences on West Lawrence Street nearby that have free-range chickens.

Shackelford said he's responded to complaints about free range chickens at residences on Franklin Street, Madison Street and near East Side Apartments.

"If we get a call, we'll go out there and investigate, but sometimes it's difficult to know where the chickens belong when they are running loose," Shackelford said.

The penalty for a conviction under the City of Russellville nuisance ordinance includes a jail term not to exceed 30 days and/or a fine not to exceed \$200 for the first offense, \$300 for a second offense and \$500 for each offense thereafter.

Free-range chickens and the subsequent coyote problem is a nationwide problem, according to www.preventivetvet.com. Coyotes are attracted not only to the chickens, but also to their feed and the rodents that are attracted to the chicken feed.

"Coyotes are susceptible to and



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Unpenned chickens, like these outside of a residence near East Side Apartments, are causing an increase in the number of coyote sightings in Russellville.

can carry/transmit certain infectious diseases that dogs and cats can catch," the website reads. "Coyotes can also be a source of mange (mites), fleas, ticks, intestinal worms and other parasites they can pass along to your pets."

Experts recommend not to leave dogs tied up outside in areas where coyotes are present. Dogs of any size, when tied up, are no match for a coyote and can be enticing to the predators as a food source.

Hargett said citizens wanting to report a problem with livestock nuisance may call 256-332-2230 and ask for Shackelford or himself.

Power of Pink



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

This 2018 model pothole patching truck was purchased by the Franklin County Highway Department at the discounted price of \$182,000. It was used as a demo by the company that sold it, Tractor and Equipment Company, according to Franklin County engineer David Palmer. The truck was painted pink to promote breast cancer awareness, Palmer said. It has a pink ribbon on the back. Palmer said he has no plans to paint the truck.

FCHD purchases new pothole patching truck

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

It will be easy to tell when the Franklin County Highway Department is out filling pothole patching work orders thanks to the recently acquired bright pink Lee Boy truck purchased by the department.

The 2018 model pothole patching truck was purchased at the discounted price of \$182,000. It was used as a demo by the company that sold it, Tractor and Equipment Company, according to Franklin County engineer David Palmer. The vehicle has only 2,000 miles on the chassis and 53 hours on the patching machine. The truck comes with full warranty coverage.

Palmer said the vehicle was priced more than \$45,000 lower than comparable models on the Alabama County Commission Annual Bid List.

The truck was painted pink to promote breast cancer awareness, Palmer said. It has a pink ribbon on the back. Palmer said he has no plans to paint the truck.

"It definitely lets people know we're out there working on potholes, and at the same time it's a symbol of breast cancer awareness, which is an important issue," Palmer said. "It's got a lot of extra features above and beyond what is actually on the bid."

The new truck is already in service and will be operated by Highway Department employee Jeff Cooper.

Previously, Palmer said, when crews went out to fill pothole patching work orders, they were two four-man crews working in different areas. With the new truck, only one man is required, and he can work daily on potholes.

Additionally, the potholes will now be patched with permanent mix compared to cold mix, which was previously used when potholes were filled by the work crews.

"We're patching every day, filling work orders," Palmer said.

Palmer said there were a few mechanical issues when the machine first went into service, but those seem to have been resolved.

"It was used as a demo, then it sat for a period of time," Palmer said. "There can be a few issues with a piece of machinery that's just sitting there and not being used."

The money to purchase the truck was approved in the department's fiscal year 2018-19 budget.

"We did budget for a new pothole patching truck this year," Palmer said. "It wasn't something that just came up. What did come up, though, was this particular truck and the opportunity to get it at a much lower cost."

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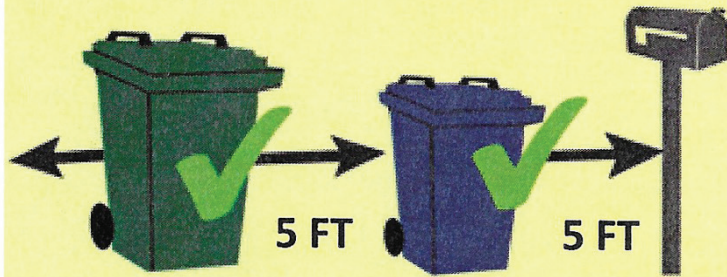


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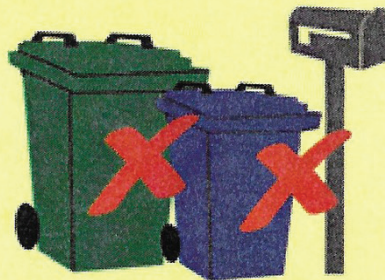
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Cart & Other Objects

Incorrect Cart Placement



Objects & Carts Too
Close Together



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Toward House

STARTING JUNE 1, 2019

New Automated Garbage Guidelines:

- All garbage should be in plastic bags placed in the issued can to keep the can clean and prevent it from littering garbage when emptied.
- Do Not overload the can or place items on top of can. The lid should be completely closed, avoid overflowing.
- Automated trucks cannot pickup extra garbage bags that are placed on the ground next to cans.
- Can(s) must be curbside to be emptied. Place your can with handle and wheels facing house.
- Can handle should face your house (not the street). The lid opening toward the street.
- Position cans at least five (5) feet away from any other object. Including mailbox, trees, poles, fence, vehicle, basketball goal, etc. (The automated claw of the new trucks needs to extend several feet outward from the truck).
- Do Not block cans or curbside access with parked car(s).
- Do Not place your can under wires or low tree branches.
- Do Not Obstruct lid openings with ties, cords, chains, etc.
- Should you need an additional can contact the Franklin County Solid Waste Department at 256-332-8412. (\$11.75 monthly charge per additional can).



Phil Campbell cruises into second round

'Cats close in on 30 wins with sweep of New Hope

Staff reports

Phil Campbell romped through the regular season, going 27-6 and out-scoring its opponents by more than seven runs a game. The stakes were higher in the first round of the Class 3A playoffs, but the results were very much the same.

The Bobcats cruised to a pair of five-inning wins over New Hope on Monday, routing the Indians 11-1 and 13-0 to punch their ticket to round two. Phil Campbell (29-6 and ranked No. 6 in 3A by the ASWA) will face the winner between Hanceville and Glencoe in a second-round series starting on Friday. [Hanceville and Glencoe split two games on Monday and will play a third and deciding game on Tuesday.]

The Bobcats, who averaged 10.4 runs per game during the regular season, broke open Monday's series opener with a six-run fourth inning and then took control early in Game 2 with a seven-run first inning. Starters Nate Owens and Ridge Raper and reliever Luke Barnwell all turned in solid work on the mound, helping Phil Campbell run its win streak to five and improve to 24-2 in its last 26 games.

After Game 1 starter Owens worked around an error and a walk in the top of the first, the Bobcats took the lead with a run in the bottom half. Austen Baker walked with one out and then scored when Owens smacked a 3-2 pitch to right for an RBI double.

Phil Campbell romped through the regular season, going 27-6 and out-scoring its opponents by more than seven runs a game. The stakes were higher in the first round of the Class 3A playoffs, but the results were very much the same.

Owens issued two more walks in the top of the second but also struck out two, avoiding any damage. Phil Campbell stretched the lead to 2-0 in the bottom of the second when Mason Swinney singled and scored on an RBI double by Ty Leindecker.

New Hope put two runners on base again in the top of the third, but Owens recorded three more strikeouts to keep it a 2-0 game. The Bobcats then put together a two-out rally to score twice in the bottom of the third. Rilan Garrison walked with two down, and courtesy runner Brett Saint scored on Raper's RBI double to center. Swinney added an RBI single, pushing the lead to 4-0.

New Hope scored a run in the top of the fourth and had the bases loaded with two outs when Barnwell relieved Owens and ended the threat

See 'CRUISES,' Page 15

Moving on



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

The Golden Tigers have now won 20 of their last 21 playoff series under Heaps (4), including four first-round sweeps in five years. They beat Sardis Monday 5-2 and 20-3.

Russellville began another playoff push in familiar fashion—with a first-round sweep

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - Time will tell whether or not Russellville's bid for a fifth straight trip to Montgomery has any staying power. Realistically, it could end as soon as this weekend against a hard-charging Southside-Gadsden team that is now 7-2 in the month of April after rallying from a late 6-0 deficit to stun Corner 8-6 in the third and deciding game of a first-round series on Monday.

Or it could end next week in the quarterfinals at the hands of Springville's fearsome offensive attack, which hammered out 36 hits and racked up 49 runs in an opening-round sweep of Pleasant Grove. [The Tigers return virtually every key member of the lean, mean hittin' machine that put on a

laser show at Russellville Baseball Stadium in last year's state quarterfinals, nearly ending the Golden Tigers' three-year stranglehold on the Class 5A north in the process.]

Or it could end in mid-May against another familiar foe in the Etowah Blue Devils, who impressively dispatched a very good Jasper team in round one and already have 26 wins on the year—including a 7-3 victory over Russellville back in late March.

No one knows how—or when—the Golden Tigers' latest playoff push is going to end, but this much is now certain: It has begun in very familiar fashion.

Russellville got a gritty complete-game effort from senior ace Caden Parker in Game 1 and then

See 'MOVING,' Page 16

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Red Bay finishes off sweep of Collinsville with 13-run seventh

Staff reports

Red Bay staggered Collinsville with an eight-run first inning and then delivered a knockout blow with a 13-run seventh inning on Monday, pounding the Panthers 23-8 to finish off a first-round sweep in the Class 2A playoffs.

The Tigers (18-9) won the series opener 10-3 and then survived a Collinsville rally in Game 2, earning themselves a second-round date with Sulligent. That series will begin on Friday at Red Bay High School.

The Tigers bookended Monday's nightcap with two monster innings. They sent 14 men to the plate in the top of the first and scored eight runs on six hits, including an RBI single and a two-run double from Kolby Bragwell. Chase Allen, Cade McKinney and Landon Glover also had RBI singles in the big first inning.

Collinsville fought its way back into the game, scoring four runs in the bottom of the second to cut the lead to 8-5. Red Bay answered with two runs in the top of the third, but the Panthers came back with a run in the fourth and two in the fifth to make it a 10-8 game.

Leading by two, the Tigers sent 17 men to the plate in the top of the seventh and scored 13 runs on seven hits, five walks and a hit batter. McKinney got things going with an RBI single, and Zac Humphries and Kaleb Bragwell each had a two-run single. Alex Burroughs drove in a run with a base hit, and Kolby Bragwell added another two-run double. Peyton Green capped the inning with an RBI double to make it 23-8.

Kolby Bragwell finished the second game 3-for-4 with two walks, two doubles, five RBIs and three runs scored. The senior Shelton State signee is now batting .547 (35-for-64) on the season with 11 doubles, 21 RBIs, 44 runs, 33 walks and a .710 on-base percentage.

Allen also had a big Game 2, going 2-for-4 with two RBIs and three runs scored. McKinney went 2-for-5 with two RBIs and two runs scored, and Green was 2-for-6 with an RBI and a run. Humphries went 1-for-3 with two RBIs and three runs scored, and Glover was 1-for-3 with two runs scored.

Kaleb Bragwell had a big game in the leadoff spot, finishing 1-for-3 with three walks, two RBIs and four runs scored. Burroughs went 1-for-3 with two walks, three RBIs and three runs, and Colbie King went 1-for-4 with two runs.

Allen (3-4) got the win, allowing seven earned runs on four hits in five innings. He struck out six and walked seven. Green pitched two hitless innings in relief to earn his third save of the season. The senior right-hander struck out one and walked one.

Red Bay trailed Monday's series opener 3-2 before rallying for four runs in the bottom of the fifth and four more in the sixth to win going away. Kolby Bragwell delivered a go-ahead two-run single in the fifth and also earned the win on the mound with his third complete game of the season. Bragwell (5-0) held Collinsville to two hits in seven innings, giving up three earned runs. He struck out nine and walked two, throwing 66 of his 109 pitches for strikes.

The Panthers put together a hit batter, a walk, a single and an error to score twice against Bragwell in the top of the second. The senior right-hander righted the ship and struck out the side in the top of the fourth. The Tigers tied the game in the bottom of the inning on an RBI double by McKinney and an RBI single by Glover.

Collinsville went back in front 3-2 in the top of the fifth on a two-out walk and a double, but Red Bay rallied with four in the bottom of the inning. King reached on an error, and Kaleb Bragwell singled to center. After Burroughs bunted the runners to second and third, Kolby Bragwell put the Tigers on top with a two-run single. Allen added an RBI double, and then Green delivered an RBI triple to center to make it 6-3.

Bragwell retired the Panthers in order in the top of the sixth, striking out two, and Red Bay put the game out of reach with four more runs in the bottom half. Humphries got things started with a single, and King doubled. Burroughs drove in two runs with a base hit, and Allen added a sac fly. Green's RBI single capped the inning and made it 10-3.

Bragwell retired the side in order again in the top of the seventh and finished the game by setting down the final seven batters he faced.

Green was 2-for-4 with two RBIs, and McKinney went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run. Allen was 1-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs scored, and Burroughs went 1-for-3 with two RBIs. Kaleb Bragwell was 1-for-4 with two runs scored, and Kolby Bragwell went 1-for-4 with two RBIs. King was 1-for-3 with two runs, and Humphries and Glover also had one hit apiece.

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Will Rogers Junior OF, Russellville

Rogers reached base all five times he batted in the second game of Monday's doubleheader against first-round playoff opponent Sardis, going 2-for-2 with three walks, three RBIs and three runs scored in a 20-3 rout by Russellville. He delivered a key two-run single in the third inning to help the Golden Tigers take control and later added an RBI single in an eight-run seventh inning.

For the season, Rogers ranks among team leaders with 20 walks, 25 runs scored, 10 stolen bases and a .458 on-base percentage.



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Belgreen, Red Bay set to host area tournaments

Staff reports

Belgreen got triples from Camie Terrell, Katie Dempsey and Emma Dempsey in a 12-run first inning last Wednesday and cruised to a 21-0 rout of Vina, finishing unbeaten in area play.

Emma Dempsey and Sydney Borden took care of things in the circle for the Lady Bulldogs (16-10 overall through Sunday, 6-0 in Class 1A, Area 11), combining on a three-inning no-hitter. Katie Dempsey, Terrell, Emma Dempsey and Bailey Wood each had three of Belgreen's 20 hits.

The 12-run first inning started with a two-run triple from Terrell and also included an RBI single from Emma Dempsey, a three-run triple from Katie Dempsey, an RBI single from Kaycee Wilson, a two-run triple from Emma Dempsey and an RBI single from Wood.

The Lady Bulldogs added seven more runs in the top of the second and two in the third. Katie Dempsey finished 3-for-3 with a triple, two doubles, five RBIs and three runs scored. Terrell was 3-for-3 with a triple, two doubles, two RBIs and three runs scored. Emma Dempsey went 3-for-3

with a triple and three RBIs, and Wood was 3-for-3 with a double, two RBIs and two runs scored.

Kaycee Wilson went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, and Noelle Willingham was 1-for-1 with four runs scored. Dempsey (8-7) got the win, striking out four in two perfect innings. Borden struck out the side and walked one in a scoreless third inning.

In other action:

Tharptown 12 Red Bay 1

Tharptown broke open a scoreless game with five unearned runs in the bottom of the third last Wednesday and never looked back, rolling to a 12-1 rout of area rival Red Bay.

With the win, the Lady Wildcats (18-10 overall through Sunday, 5-1 in Class 2A, Area 15) finished in a first-place tie with the Lady Tigers (19-6, 5-1) atop the area standings. Red Bay won a coin toss after the game and will host the area tournament on April 29-30.

Olivia Ergle (11-6) got the win last Wednesday, allowing just one earned run on three hits in five innings. She struck out four and walked two, throwing 40 of her 62 pitches for strikes.

Red Bay starter Chloe Knoblock (9-5) had faced

the minimum through two innings (with three strikeouts) and then retired the first two batters in the bottom of the third. Kyndall Morgan reached on an error to extend the inning, and Shaylee Wieting followed with an infield hit. Catie Dawson's RBI single got Tharptown on the board, and Wieting scored when Ergle reached on an error to make it 2-0.

Dawson came home on a bunt hit by Brooke Daily, and two more runs scored when Olivia Darracott reached on Red Bay's third error of the inning to make it 5-0.

Layla Bilstein got the Lady Tigers on the board with an RBI single in the top of the fourth, but Tharptown came right back with three runs in the bottom of the inning when Dawson delivered a two-run triple and then scored on a wild pitch. The Lady Wildcats ended the game with four runs in the fifth, getting an RBI double from Madison Vandiver and a two-run single from Morgan.

Daily finished 3-for-3 with two runs scored, and Dawson was 2-for-3 with three RBIs and two runs scored. Morgan went 1-for-2 with two RBIs and two runs, and Wieting was 1-for-2 with two runs.

'CRUISES', from page 13

with a strikeout. Phil Campbell then put the game out of reach with six runs in the bottom of the fourth. Trey Leindecker sparked the big inning with a one-out single and scored when Baker reached on an error. Owens drove in a run with a sac fly, and Garrison and Swinney each had an RBI single. Ty Leindecker capped the inning with a two-run single to make it 10-1.

The Bobcats ended the game in the bottom of the fifth when Baker reached on an error and scored on a double by Owens.

Swinney, a freshman, finished 3-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs scored, posting his eighth multi-hit game of the season. Owens went 2-for-3 with a pair of doubles and three RBIs, giving him 17 multi-hit games and 46 RBIs on the season. Ty Leindecker was also went 2-for-3 and drove in three runs.

Raper was 1-for-3 with two runs scored, and Trey Leindecker was 1-for-3 with a run. Cole Motes also had a hit, and Garrison went 1-for-2 with an RBI. Baker scored three runs, and Barnwell scored one.

Owens (6-1) picked up the win despite walking a season-high six batters in 3.2 innings. The senior lefty also struck out six and allowed one earned run on two hits before giving way to Barnwell, who retired all four batters he faced and struck out two.

Playing as the visiting team in Game 2, Phil Campbell jumped in front with a seven-run first inning highlighted by a bases-loaded walk to Garrison, a three-run double from Raper and an RBI single by Motes.

Raper gave up a leadoff single in the bottom of the first but struck out the next three batters. New Hope threatened in the bottom of the second but had a runner thrown out at the plate to end the

inning. The Bobcats then took advantage of two errors and two walks to score twice in the top of the third and make it 9-0.

Raper struck out two in a one-two-three bottom of the third, and then Ty Leindecker drove in a run with a sac fly in the top of the fourth. Raper pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the fourth, striking out two, and a double by Austen Baker sparked a three-run fifth inning for Phil Campbell.

Raper (6-0) earned the win with four shutout innings, allowing five hits and two walks. He struck out eight. Barnwell pitched a perfect fifth inning to finish off the win.

The Bobcats had just five hits in Game 2 but made the most of 10 walks issued by New Hope pitchers and five errors committed by the Indians. Baker went 2-for-3 with a double and three runs scored, and Raper was 1-for-3 with three RBIs. Motes was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run, and Swinney went 1-for-1 with two walks and two runs scored. Owens walked twice and scored twice, and Barnwell scored three runs. Garrison drew three walks and drove in a run.

The Bobcats are now one win shy of 30 for the season. Heading into the second round, they have out-scored their opponents by a margin of 366 runs to 106 on the season.

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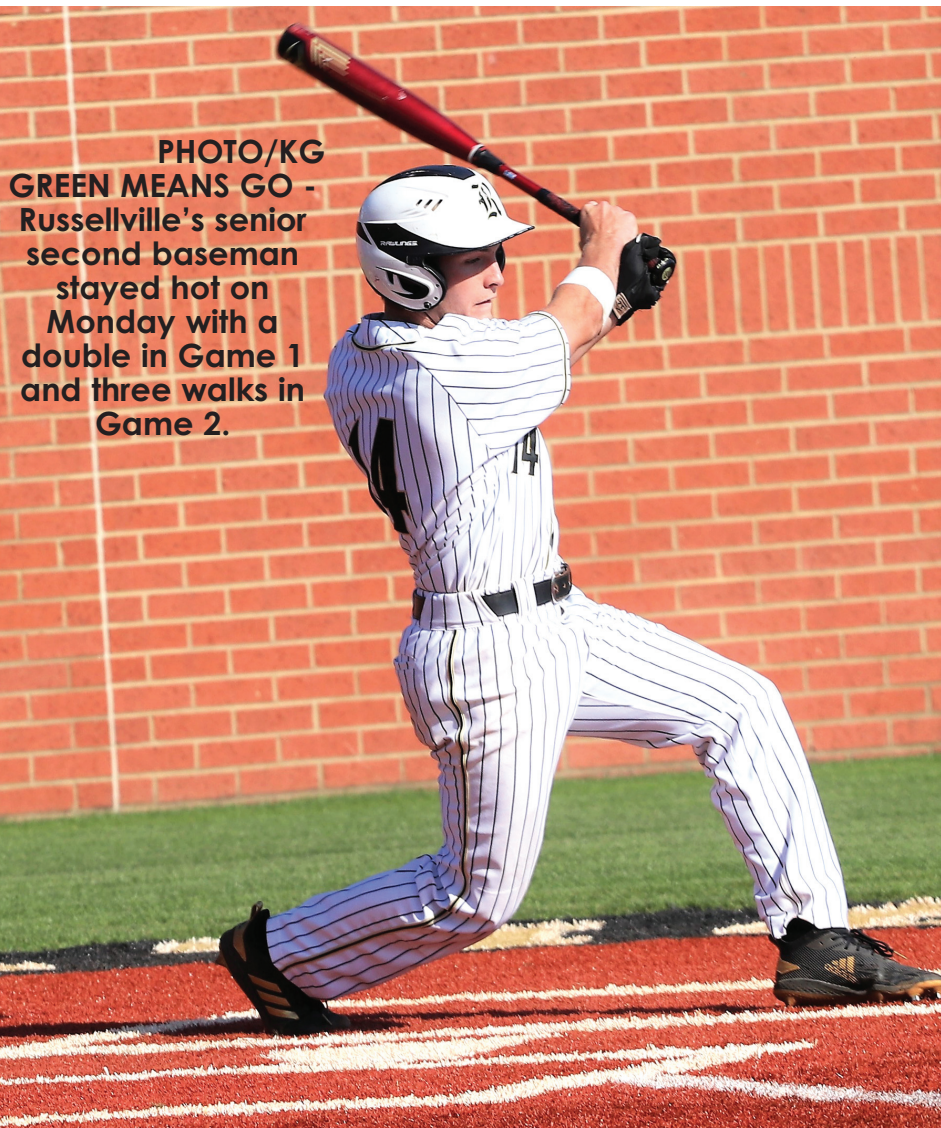
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'MOVING,' from page 13



**PHOTO/KG
GREEN MEANS GO -
Russellville's senior
second baseman
stayed hot on
Monday with a
double in Game 1
and three walks in
Game 2.**



**PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW
Briles caught Parker's complete
game in Monday's series opener
and also had two hits and two
RBIs in Russellville's 5-2 win.**

took advantage of a state record-tying 20 walks by Sardis pitchers in Game 2 on Monday, beating the Lions 5-2 and 20-3 to sweep a first-round series for the fourth time in the past five seasons.

The only time the Golden Tigers failed to make a clean sweep of the first round since the current run started was in 2017, when Mortimer Jordan pushed them to a third and decisive game. [Russellville won it 11-0 and went on to claim a third consecutive state championship.]

But, again, Monday wasn't about endings. It was about beginnings. It was about clichés that suddenly become something much more substantial—especially for seniors who aren't quite ready to entertain the notion of their high school career coming to a close.

"No, I haven't been thinking about that," said Parker, who surrendered a pair of first-inning runs in Game 1 before shutting down the Lions the rest of the way. "I'm just trying to go game by game and see how it plays out."

Parker (6-1), who held Sardis to five hits in his team-leading fourth complete game of the season, was equally disinterested in Russellville's record, which at 17-16 is now over .500 for the first time all season. [The Golden Tigers started the season 1-9 but have won 16 of their last 23 games.]

"I don't really look at our record," Parker said. "I just go out every game and play it like it's my last."

Monday's wasn't, in large part because of the contributions of some of Parker's fellow seniors. Leadoff man Devin Buckhalter singled in the first, doubled in the third and scored both times on base hits by catcher Hunter Briles, whose RBI single off the glove of left-fielder Reece Lee in the bottom of the third tied the game 2-2.

Second baseman Nate Green, another senior, was involved in a pair of key ground-ball double plays, turning one to end the top of the second and then starting another to wipe out a leadoff single in the sixth. Buckhalter drew a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the fifth to stretch the lead to 5-2; he later added a two-run double and an RBI groundout in Game 2 and finished the doubleheader 3-for-7 with two doubles, four RBIs and two runs scored.

Both of Buckhalter's hits in Game 1 were to the opposite field, and his double in Game 2 one-hopped the fence in center.

"Devin is our best hitter. He truly is," Heaps said of Buckhalter, who is now batting .410 on the season with 10 doubles, two home runs, 24 RBIs and 12 multi-hit games—all team-highs. "He's had some practices where...I mean, I've had some really good players the last four or five years. I'm throwing him pitches away, and he's sending balls to the back side of the field harder than I've seen guys hit them. He wears it out over there. He does a really good job of staying through the middle.

"Even when he got two strikes [in his fourth at bat of Game 2], he was able to get that groundball to second and drive in a run. That's what we're preaching—productive outs. Battle, battle, battle, and if you don't get the pitch that's in your plan, you've gotta change your plan."

Parker's plan against a Sardis lineup that featured six .300 hitters and came in averaging 6.3 runs per game was rather straightforward.

"Soft away," he said. "They try to pull everything."

The Lions (10-13) got a couple of key hits to the pull side in the top of the first, grabbing a 2-0 lead on RBI singles by Luke Morris and Brody Samples. Parker righted the ship from that point forward, holding Sardis to just three hits over the final six frames. His 14th career win (against only four losses) at the varsity level was more about substance than style, though; he recorded just one strikeout and uncharacteristically issued three walks, but he also worked the ball down in the zone all game and got eight groundball outs—including the two big double plays.

"I got mad," said Parker, who insists he does his best work on the mound when he's angry. "I mean, I didn't pitch as well as I would have liked, but I did enough to get a win, and we fought and won it. It was more of a battle today than anything. I did good enough to at least win the game, so I'm proud of that."

Parker is now 4-1 in five career playoff starts with two complete games.

"He knows how to compete," Heaps said. "When Parker works quick, he's good. He started off today with some bad body language early, kind of sluggish, and then he did what he did against Foley [in a nine-inning complete game win in late March]. We got down 2-0, and all of a sudden he turns the switch on a little and starts making better pitches."

Sophomore Gordon White followed up Parker's Game 1 performance with an even sharper—though slightly shorter—effort in Game 2. After the first two batters reached in the bottom of the first, White (6-3) retired the next 11 men he faced. The sophomore right-hander had seven strikeouts through four innings and led the game 7-1 before yielding his first walk and a pair of doubles in the bottom of the fifth. He turned things over at that point to fellow sophomore Rowe Gallagher, who used a lively fastball and his trademark slider to rack up six strikeouts over the final 2.1 innings.

White finished with eight strikeouts and just one walk in 4.2 innings, giving



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Wildcats close season with win over Hackleburg

Staff reports

Tharptown's Jayden Mitchell struck out nine batters in 3.2 innings and also keyed a five-run seventh with a three-run triple last Tuesday, helping the Wildcats close their season with a 12-4 win at Hackleburg.

Tharptown (13-10) grabbed a 1-0 lead in the top of the first on an RBI single by Greyson Studdard. The Wildcats added another run in the second and then stretched the lead to 3-0 in the third when Studdard doubled and scored.

Hackleburg got on the board with two runs in the bottom of the third, but Tharptown pushed the lead to 7-2 with a four-run fifth inning highlighted by a two-run single from Hunter White and an RBI single from Britton Kennamore.

The Panthers scored a run in the bottom of the fifth and another in the sixth

to cut the lead to 7-4, but the Wildcats put the game out of reach with five in the top of the seventh. Mitchell drove in the first three runs with his bases-clearing triple, and Carson Petree and Jackson Clement each added an RBI single.

Mitchell (4-5) earned the win, allowing two runs (one earned) on three hits in 3.2 innings. He struck out nine, walked five and threw 99 pitches before turning things over to Kennamore, who pitched the final 3.1 innings to earn the save. He allowed two runs (one earned) on four hits, striking out three and walking two.

Petree finished 2-for-3 with two walks, two stolen bases and three runs scored. Studdard went 2-for-3 and scored twice, and Mitchell was 1-for-5 with three RBIs and two runs scored. White went 1-for-2 with three walks, two steals, two RBIs and two runs scored. Colton Simmons was 1-for-4.

'MOVING,' from page 16

up three earned runs on five hits. He has now won six straight decisions since starting the season 0-3.

"He's located well," Parker said of White's recent surge. "He's kind of getting his groove at the right time."

The name of the game for White—as is the case with virtually all pitchers, especially those who don't overwhelm hitters with elite velocity—is command. He now has 38 strikeouts and just 13 walks on the season in 50 innings of work. White threw 50 of his 79 pitches for strikes on Monday, and his strike rate of 64 percent on the season is the best on the staff.

"I've told Gordon, 'When you're in a stressful situation, it ain't about throwing harder. It's about locating better,'" Heaps said. "That's a Greg Madduxism. He used to say, 'When I was in an adverse situation, I didn't try to throw harder. I tried to locate better.'

"God gave Gordon the ability to locate. If I have him throw 30 fastballs, I swear he'll hit his spot 28 times. Just hit your spot. He's got that God-given talent where he can throw to location. Sometimes he wants to throw harder, but that will come. With the weight room, long toss, the bands, the med-ball, that'll come. He's just a tenth-grader. But I like him and Rowe. They're gonna be good for us.

"Rowe had really good velo tonight, and his slider is just pretty darn good."

White and Gallagher combined to strike out 14 batters on Monday while walking just two. Sardis pitchers, meanwhile, issued 20 walks in Game 2, tying a state record previously set by Butler pitchers against Clements in 2013 and Billingsley pitchers against Maplesville in 1985.

Those 20 free passes helped Russellville score 20 runs on only eight hits—including early RBI singles by Jackson Lindsey and Casen Heaps, a key two-run single by junior Will Rogers in the top of the third, a leadoff single by freshman Ethan Oliver that sparked a five-run sixth, and two-run doubles by Buckhalter and Gallagher.

"It was just about being patient at the plate," Parker said, "and hitting the right pitch if it comes."

Rogers had a big Game 2, going 2-for-2 with three walks, three RBIs and three runs scored. Oliver went 1-for-1 with three walks and three runs, and Green walked three times and scored twice. Gallagher was 2-for-2 with two RBIs, and Buckhalter drove in three runs. Heaps went 1-for-2 with two walks and two runs scored.

The Golden Tigers certainly can't count on getting that much help from Southside pitchers in round two, but if Parker, White and Gallagher throw the way they did on Monday...

"I like it," Heaps said. "I think our chances are good."



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Tang Soo Do winners



PHOTO BY BRADY PETREE

Students at the Russellville Studio of Tang Soo Do competed in their annual regional tournament on April 6 and brought home a plethora of hardware in sparring, forms and weapons. Students who placed in one or more of the events are listed below along with their awards.

- Nick Galloway – Gold Sparring, Silver Forms and Bronze Weapons
- Dale Galloway – Bronze Weapons and Bronze Forms
- Amanda Galloway – Gold Weapons and Bronze Forms
- Karlee Faust – Gold Forms, Silver Weapons and Bronze Sparring
- Mary Beth Fisher – Silver Sparring, Bronze Weapons and Bronze Forms
- Cade Parker – Gold Forms, Silver Sparring and Bronze Weapons
- Trey Webb – Bronze Forms
- Sam Webb – Bronze Forms
- Maye Kinard – Bronze Forms
- Jacob Hartsell – Gold Forms
- Jennifer Hogan – Gold Weapons, Gold Sparring, Bronze Forms and Adult Female Grand Champion

Local wildlife club to host Family Fun Day

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Lost Creek Conservation and Wildlife Club is hosting a Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 4, with a variety of activities for all ages.

The event will be held at the Cedar Hill Trap Range, 4021 Hwy. 84, Russellville, and will begin at 9 a.m.

Activities include basic firearm safety, basic firearms cleaning, trapshooting, wobble trap, corn hole and horse shoes.

An officer from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Wildlife will be there along with the Shooting Sports Trailer.

The Lost Creek Conservation and Wildlife Club is a family-oriented local nonprofit club for kids ages 8 to 22, and it promotes sustainability, conservation, youth shooting sports, volunteering and preserving wildlife.

Lunch will be provided at the event.

The members of Lost Creek Conservation and Wildlife Club invite you to come out and see what they are all about. For more information, call or text 256-284-3817 or email lostcreekcwc@gmail.com.

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

Bragwell, Gray named Bryant-Jordan winners

Submitted to the FFP

Two Franklin County students were recently named regional winners by the Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Program.

Red Bay High School senior Kolby Bragwell was selected as the Bryant-Jordan winner for Class 2A, Region 7, and Tharptown High School senior Erica Gray was chosen as the Bryant-Jordan winner for Class 2A, Region 8. Both Bragwell and Gray received a scholarship in the amount of \$3,000.

The Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Program aims to recognize and honor Alabama students who have by ability and effort achieved a level of excellence in the areas of academics and athletics.

Each Bryant-Jordan winner has demonstrated the qualities of commitment, determination, character and strong motivation for success, not only in the athletic arena but in the classroom as well. These students represent the best of today's young people and give hope for a bright future.



Tharptown senior Erica Gray was chosen as the Bryant-Jordan winner for Class 2A, Region 8.

There are 104 regional Bryant-Jordan winners from all over the state of Alabama, with 14 class winners and two overall state winners. This year, the scholar-

Both Bragwell and Gray received a scholarship in the amount of \$3,000....These students represent the best of today's young people and give hope for a bright future.

ship stipends were increased for the 104 regional winners from \$2,500 to \$3,000. The stipends were increased for the 14 class winners from \$3,000 to \$3,500, and they were increased for the two overall state winners from \$3,000 to \$4,000 each.

In total, the 104 Bryant-Jordan regional winners each received a \$3,000 scholarship; the 14 class winners each received \$6,500; and the two overall winners were each awarded a total of \$10,500. That's a total payout of \$325,000—an increase of \$65,000 over the previous scholarship payout. The initial payout in the first year of the Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Program in 1986 was \$32,000.

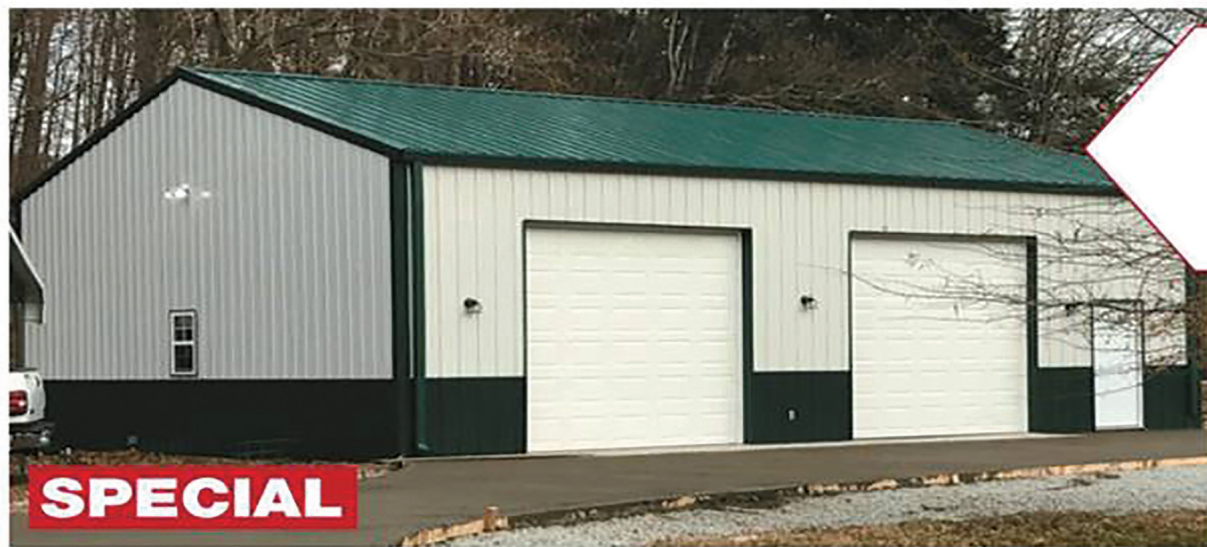
Bragwell, who plays football and baseball at Red Bay, will attend Shelton State Community College on a baseball scholarship after graduating in May.

Gray, who has played basketball, softball and volleyball at THS, will attend Northwest-Shoals Community College in the fall. She plans to pursue a career in the medical field. Gray is valedictorian of her class.



Red Bay senior Kolby Bragwell was chosen as the Bryant-Jordan winner for 2A, Region 7.

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