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Phil Campbell Rescue Squad gets new ambulance as part of rural EMS grant

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Residents of Phil Campbell and southeastern Franklin County who need medical transport now have a new ambulance at their service, thanks to a grant from the State of Alabama Rural Emergency Medical Services grant received by the Phil Campbell Rescue Squad.

The 2021 Ford Type 2 ambulance will be the primary response unit, replacing a 2007 model with more than 265,000 miles on it. The PCRS also has a 1994 ambulance available for backup.

PCRS President Barry Pounders said the new ambulance includes a

Stryker self-loading cot and a Life Pack 15 monitor/defibrillator, with a total expenditure of \$176,521.00.

The 75/25 grant required the Phil Campbell Rescue Squad to contribute \$44,130.25 toward the purchase, with the grant covering the remaining \$132,390.75.

The \$42,000 lift system allows EMTs and paramedics to load patients into the ambulance automatically with its lift feature. Previously, ambulance personnel were required to lift the patient's gurney into the ambulance, a task that was often difficult, particularly for larger patients.

"This is a wonderful feature, espe-

See 'GRANT,' page 3

REB manager receives \$7,800 raise weeks before recommending rate increase due to 'declining revenue'

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Three weeks before he urged the Russellville Electric Board to increase user rates by more than three percent due to 'declining revenue,' REB Manager Charlie Canida received a raise that saw his base annual pay increase to more than \$164,000.

Canida's 2022 salary, \$164,093.34, was an increase of \$7,831.96 from his 2021 salary of \$156,279.38.

Additionally, Canida's compensation package includes \$550 per month for his health and medical insurance, raising his pay to \$170,693.34, not including his

Retirement Systems of Alabama package.

Canida's employment agreement also gives him 26 days each year of annual leave and 14 days per year of sick leave, for a total of 40 paid days off.

Canida also receives all fringe benefits provided to other REB employees and any increases thereto.

The agreement provides that Canida will be furnished "a vehicle to be used in the discharge of his duties..." or in the alternative, reimbursement for mileage incurred in furtherance of his job duties.

That vehicle, a 2021 GMC Yukon Denali, was purchased by the

See 'REB,' page 5


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Lorene "Rena" Horton Bendall, 85, of Russellville, passed away on Wednesday, February 23rd. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

Shelby Jean Hill, 80, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Wednesday, February 23rd. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

John David Willis, 63, of Russellville, passed away on Wednesday, February 23rd. Interment at Duncan Creek Cemetery.



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‘GRANT,’ from page 1

cially for our older people in the squad to still be able to help and load patients,” Pounders said.

Licensed for more than 40 years, the Phil Campbell Rescue Squad has 25 active members, Pounders said. Its area of service includes 911 response to Phil Campbell and southeastern Franklin County. The squad also runs calls to Hackleburg, Bear Creek and the Haleyville area in Marion and Winston Counties when their primary provider is out of coverage.

Rep. Jamie Kiel assisted with PCRS’s grant application after he learned of the squad’s need for a more reliable ambulance.

“This is exactly why the Rural EMS grant program exists—to make sure rural Alabama residents have the same high quality, timely emergency medical services as people in larger metropolitan areas,” Kiel said.

The Life Pack 15 is a state-of-the-art monitor/defibrillator that allows constant monitoring of four key respiratory parameters.

The Phil Campbell Rescue Squad also purchased a 2021 Boston Whaler search and rescue boat to replace the two flat-bottom boats it previously used.

The new boat was purchased with PCRS funds. Pounders said 10 percent of insurance payments for ambulance calls are placed into an account used to purchase updated equipment. The boat will be equipped with a side scan sonar to help locate bodies/cars under water.

This will allow volunteers to search and locate much faster than the previous method of dragging the bottom of the water, Pounders said.

“With a good operator and the side scan sonar, we will have the ability to locate bodies and/or cars within minutes,” Pounders said.

The PCRS also recently ordered a GMC 2500 heavy duty crew cab to be used for quick response by rescue squad workers and to pull the boat.



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

The Phil Campbell Rescue Squad was able to purchase the 2021 Ford Type 2 Ambulance as part of the Rural EMS Grant. Pictured from left: PCRS President Barry Pounders, Rep. Jamie Kiel and his daughter Lydia, Michael Pounders, Melissa Mohr and Dion Schultz, Program Director for Alabama EMS Region One.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Franklin County Commission is accepting applications for the following position(s):

Corrections Officer/Dispatcher

Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Friday, March 11, 2022.

An application and job description may be picked up, faxed or emailed upon request from the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 N Jackson Avenue, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM or applications are available at www.franklincountyal.org under the Careers tab.

Franklin County is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in the employment or provision of services.

My take on this... you are normal and so am I

I was thinking about the way things were when I was growing up and the word 'normal', is conforming to a standard, usual, typical, or expected.

At a young age, I was not your typical child. I had a head full of thoughts and ideas. I gave a lot of thought to the different characteristics of others. I was curious and wore my heart on my sleeve. What a combination!

I know that was some of my traits because I remember questions like: Where in the world did you get such an idea? Why do you ask so many dumb questions?

Or in a more polite manner: You sure do ask a lot of questions. I always enjoyed going to my neighbors house because they seemed to be interested in my point of view and my ideas. They even told me how smart I was and that I would become even smarter as I got older, because I was so curious about so many things and was not afraid to ask questions.

Even though the scenarios are different, both are considered normal because I was expecting different views from everyone.

I don't know how many times I've heard someone say, "they just don't act normal."

Isn't that interesting?

In my opinion, every person has their own normal and just because some have a different lifestyle or their own thoughts and opinions, does not mean they aren't normal.

I used to read a book to my boys when they were young about a bunny rabbit named Leo. The title of the book was *Leo the Lop*.

This poor little bunny had ears that flopped while the other bunnies had ears that stood straight up.

He would try to do 'normal' things like the others such as hanging upside down on a tree limb with a big rock attached to his ears so that they would stand straight up when he hopped down from the tree.

A wise old owl was watching him do all those different things and finally asked, "whatcha doing?" Leo the Lop answered with a sad voice and tears in his eyes telling the owl what he was trying to do.

The wise old owl replied, "How do you know they are the ones that are nor-



Gail Motes

mal?" Then the wise old owl told him that "normal is whatever you are."

Of course, Leo had never thought about that before. He hopped away happy, realizing he was normal. Just a different normal.

So, if you feel bad when others tell you that you aren't normal because you have different thoughts, habits, or ideas, please understand that it's okay to be different!

After all, normal is whatever you are! Be proud of who you are.

I've been told for many years that I'm not normal. I just smile and go about my merry way because I am my own normal and I enjoy being *me*.

As always, until later...

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Correction Policy

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

Letters to the editor

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

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

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CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE

PATROL OFFICER – POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEFINITION OF JOB: Patrols a designated sector of the city of Russellville and responds to complaints. Serves warrants and subpoenas and testifies in court. Provides traffic control assistance. Performs dispatching duties. Performs other police related duties as required.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of: the city buildings and street system of Russellville; city, state and federal laws; court procedures; department rules, regulations and procedures; maintenance and use of weapons; radio codes, surveillance equipment and legal procedures involved with illegal drug cases.

Ability to: operate a motor vehicle; read; safely fire a weapon; communicate on telephone and radio; generate written documents such as reports and tickets; bend, crouch; stretch; stretch; walk; run; respond to emergency situations on short notice when off-duty; and do the essential functions of the job as directed in this description.

Verbal skills to communicate factual information to co-workers, supervisors, general public and court personnel. Reading skills to read and understand rules, regulations policies and procedures, writing skills to clearly, accurately, and neatly complete routine reports and other paperwork. Math skills to perform basic calculations. Listening skills to receive radio call, take complaints, and interview witness.

Ability to use a computer as needed for data entry, word processing reports and investigative strategies.

Willingness to: work overtime, irregular hours, weekends and holidays; travel and attend seminars and workshops.

Ability to do the essential functions of the job as directed in this description.

QUALIFICATIONS and SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Possession of a high school diploma or GED

Minimum of 21 years of age

Must meet or exceed the minimum requirements established by the State of Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission

Possession of a valid Alabama Drivers License

Possess the ability to obtain an Alabama Police Academy diploma or its equivalent

Ability to wear appropriate uniforms and safety equipment.

Ability to work nonstandard hours and emergency call-backs.

Ability to travel as required.

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Applications and copies of the Job Descriptions may be obtained at the Russellville City Hall, Office of the Mayor, 304 North Jackson Avenue. Applications submitted to the Russellville Civil Service Board less than one year ago remain active. Those individuals need not reapply in order to receive consideration for this appointment. Applications must be returned no later than March 7, 2022 by U.S. Mail to:

Pay Range is from \$31,948.80 - \$49,275.20.

The Russellville Civil Service Board
P. O. Box 308
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The appointees will be required to successfully complete a physical examination including drug and alcohol screening prior to employment.

Waco resident advocating for storm shelter addition to community

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When severe weather threatens Franklin County, Waco resident Aron Risley is accustomed to taking his family to a storm shelter.

The problem is, that requires Risley to drive his family to Sloss Lake to get to the nearest shelter. And with that shelter's close proximity to several apartments complexes across Alabama 24, he says overcrowding can be a problem.

Risley believes the Waco community is large enough for a storm shelter of its own, but he's finding out that process can be long, complicated and expensive.

Risley recently spoke with Franklin County Emergency Management Agency Director Mary Hallman-Glass about the possibility of his community getting a shelter.

"They say the closest one to our house is actually at Tharptown High School, but in reality, it's Sloss Lake, and it's always overcrowded," Risley said. "For us to go to Tharptown, we have to take a couple back roads and it takes longer to get there. And every minute is important in those situations."

Hallman-Glass said there are grants available to get storm shelters to rural communities, but there must be more than just a need in order to receive one.

"You need land and someone to pay the matching funds on the grant. These are 75/25 grants, so for a 75-person shelter, you're looking at needing around \$30,000 for a community shelter," Hallman-Glass said.

"And you're now required to have a bathroom in a shelter. We worked last year on getting shelters in the Pogo and East Franklin communities, but nobody wants to take ownership of these shelters. There's upkeep, maintenance, generators and you would need a septic tank and pay to have the land perked," she added.

There are also costs for power and gas, and if the power goes out, there must be a generator to kick in and run the lights, and a humidifier that has to constantly run to keep it from mildewing.

Risley said he spoke with officials at Waco Baptist Church (on old Hwy. 24) and there was some interest in having the storm shelter on church property. Risley said the church opens its doors when storms come for people in the community to have another safe place to go.

"There are a lot of people in our community. With the chicken plant, BDI Trailer Park, there are a lot of people living in mobile homes and when things get back, their only option is the church," Risley said. "And it's not safe driving your car all the way to Russellville or across 24 to Tharptown when it really gets bad."

Franklin County owns one storm shelter remaining from several that were purchased from the Franklin County School system a few years ago. But Hallman-Glass said that shelter is being stored in Hartselle and to get the company to refurbish it and transport it would be around \$38,000. There would also have to be pad work done and electricity would need to be hooked up.

Another responsibility for communities with storm shelters is having someone assigned to unlock the shelter in an emergency situation or as severe weather approaches.

"I'd love to help Waco but money is the problem. I don't know where they could turn but we're definitely willing to help," Hallman-Glass said. "Pogo is the same way. We had someone donate land but nobody is able or willing to take responsibility and pay the matching funds required for the grant."

For Risley, it's a matter of safety for his family and other families in the Waco community.

"I don't want to see anyone get hurt when there's an incident of severe weather. I want to see as many people as possible be safe and prepared inside a storm shelter in their community," Risley said.

'REB,' from page 1

Russellville Electric Board on August 27, 2021, at a cost to ratepayers of \$82,460, according to records obtained by the *Franklin Free Press* as part of an Alabama Open Records Act request. Canida is provided a gas card as well.

Canida's seven-year contract with the REB was originally entered into on December 16, 2015. That agreement was modified on April 24, 2018, to increase Canida's annual base salary. The agreement calls for Canida to receive a five percent raise each year. The contract runs through the end of 2022.

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Florence Lauderdale Animal Services and local rescues are working with Franklin County to help save many abandoned animals to give them a chance at a new life. Save Our Strays needs donations called into Russellville Animal Clinic, to pay for veterinary services, spay/neuter and medical treatment for everything from heartworms to Parvo. There are also boarding expenses for the animals due to their medical treatment. No amount of donation is too small. This group has saved many cats and dogs, and they need the community's help. Call Russellville Animal Clinic and tell them you're donating to the Save Our Strays Account. Their phone number is 256-332-2254.

In celebration of the 120th anniversary of Red Bay First Baptist Church the homecoming committee is seeking 120 people who will commit to reading the Bible all the way through in 2022. Please join us in reading and asking your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join us in this endeavor. Your life will be transformed. There are day-by-day reading calendars for January in the church office. You can also find reading plans on the internet.

The NACOLG SENIORx-Medicine Program is a program for free and low-cost medications for the uninsured, underinsured, Medicare coverage gap or disability waiting period. For more information, contact NACOLG SENIORx today. There is no charge for this service. 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463). Paula Pardue. 256-389-0529. This program is in partnership with the Alabama Department of Senior Services and NACOLG Department of Aging Services.

There will be a Ladies Service at Gateway Church 15988 Hwy 43 Russellville Al. Saturday March 5, 2022 at 11:00. There will be a brunch at 10:15 you are welcome to come and eat with us. If you have any questions please call 256-577-3997.

Belgreen School will host Kindergarten Registration on Friday, March 18, from 8:30-2:30 in the Belgreen High School Library. Parents or guardians of children who are 5 on or before 9-1-2022. Bring child's birth certificate, Social Security Card, proof of residency and up-to-date immunization records. For more information, call 256-332-1376.

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Pilgrim's completes local Hometown Strong grant allocation

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Pilgrim's recently completed its allocation of \$580,000 into local civic and community projects in the Northwest Alabama area.

Pilgrim's previously donated \$384,000 to the City of Russellville for construction of a splash pad at Sloss Lake.

Additionally, the following projects received funding through Pilgrim's Hometown Strong program:

—Russellville City Schools, \$71,000 to build two pavilions that will serve as outdoor classrooms, and provide a space for students to eat outside.

—The City of Sheffield, \$50,000 for installation of a shaded playground structure on an undeveloped lot.

—The Town of Falkville, \$42,600 for updates to the existing playground, including replacing wood chips with rubberized 'Pour and Play' surface. This project was completed last year.

—The Russellville High School track and field team, \$22,000 to purchase high jump and pole vault equipment, which will allow regional track meets to be held at RHS.

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Russellville's Historic Roxy Theatre announces spring show lineup

Submitted to the FFP

With the downward trend of the COVID Omicron, the Franklin County Arts and Humanities Council has made plans for some outstanding shows at The Historic Roxy this spring that you will not want to miss!

On Saturday, March 12th Kerry Gilbert and the KGB Band will present an outstanding show at the Roxy. Special guests—Trinacia Hall Hodge, Derrick Stancil, and Joe Holmes— will come together for a reunion of Mountain Breeze 2.0.

The foursome were active in the North Alabama area in the late 80s and early 90s, appearing at many venues, festivals, fair circuits and opening concerts for many major country acts including George Strait, Earl Thomas Conley, Tammy Wynette, The Bellamy Brothers, and Sawyer Brown, to name a few.

Known for their showmanship, outstanding band and tight harmonies, the group established itself as one of the top draws in the area. Mrs. Hodge went on to sing backup on several tours with the ever-popular group Alabama and continues to do background vocals and demo sessions in Muscle Shoals area studios. Trinacia joined back up with Kerry as a permanent member of The KGB in May of 2021. She also leads worship music at New Beginnings Church.

Holmes and Stancil have been active in praise and worship with their churches for many years and Gilbert has continued to entertain fans with his group, the KGB, for more than 30 years.

Fans who come out for this reunion show on March 12 can expect the same high energy, family-friendly entertainment that Mountain Breeze is known for, said Stancil. "We are excited about getting back together and look forward to seeing our fans," he said.

Saturday, April 23 Jarred Price will return to the Historic Roxy to present his show "Almost Elton John." This tribute to Elton John features Price and his Band—The Rocket Men.

Price, of Memphis, Tennessee, performs regularly at Lafayette's Music Room in Overton Square. He has performed at the Hard Rock Café on Beale Street, Memphis Botanic Garden— "Live at the Garden" event where more than 500 people came to his tribute show at the Radians Amphitheater.

Jerred was the featured performer at Elton John's 60th birthday celebration in New York City at the Elton John AIDS Foundation's "Lunch Around the World" event. He has gotten to meet and become friends with Elton John and have a common passion for sharing music and talent.

Price's mannerisms, vocals, outfits, and piano playing make the audience feel as if they're front of the artist himself. He will be bringing his beautiful red baby grand piano for the show.

Tickets are on sell now – all seats are reserved—prices are: \$35; \$30; \$25; \$20.

A new musical, "The Roxy's Salute to Broadway" will be presented April 28th through May 1st. This production written and directed by Hillary Malone Hall will pay tribute to many Broadway hits through the decades. Auditions were held February 12-13 at the Historic Roxy. More information will be available soon!

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Alabama Code Sections 32-13-1 through 32-13-8, the following motor vehicle will be sold for cash at 10:30 a.m., on April 13, 2022, at M&N Wrecker & Service Center, 11833 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, Al, 35653. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and the right to bid.

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Russellville BOE approves 2022-23 school calendar

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education approved its school calendar for the 2022-23 academic year, and 25 personnel moves at its February 24th meeting.

Students will begin classes on Tuesday, August 9th, with teachers starting their school year on August 2nd.

Homecoming will be Friday, September 30, 2022, and fall break for students will be on a Friday/Monday, October 7/10.

Christmas vacation begins the afternoon of Friday, December 16, with students set to return to class on Thursday, January 5, 2023.

Spring Break 2023 will be the week of April 3-7 and the final day of school, also graduation day, will be Friday, May 26.

Personnel moves and other agenda items approved by the board include:

—Temporary Employment: Courtney Green, Carly Hellums, Diane Maddox, Chalice Langston, Justin Chandler, Lauren Hellums and Sommer Jackson, teachers for the Afterschool Tutoring Program and Summer Learning Program, Sara Beth Searcy, Early Learning Childhood Center Before and Aftercare, Jesslyn McNutt, Tonya Lawler, Ben Phillips and Maranda Maggerise, 21st CCLC Aides.

—Employment in Supplement: Kaylee Brannon, RHS varsity cheer sponsor, effective 2022-23 school year, Katie Wilson, RMS Cheer sponsor, effective 2022-23 school year.

—Resignation in Position: Marshall Bryant,

Custodian/Groundskeeper at Park and Recreation Department.

—Resignation in Supplement: Stephanie Mayfield, varsity cheer sponsor, Tiffany Terry, pool manager at Park and Recreation Dept., Beth Gilmer, JV cheer sponsor.

—Employment in Position: Michael Statom, drivers education teacher RHS, Leslie Seal, RCS system-wide Mental Health Specialist, Dallan Montgomery, part-time student worker at Park and Recreation Dept.

—Leave of Absence: Lidia Angela Castillo, EL teacher at RMS, from February 14-April 14, Tonya Alonso, EL aide at WES, from February 7-May 27, Rachel Seal, teacher at WES, from February 24-May 22.

—Substitute: Tim Vandiver, bus driver (pending bus driver certification).

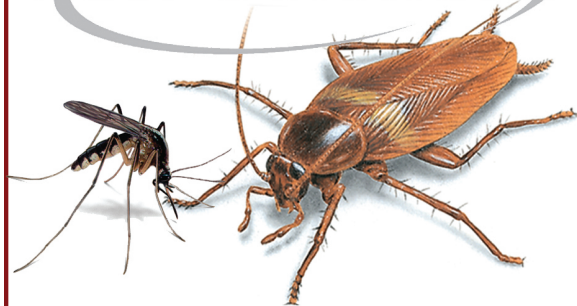
—approved a trip request for RHS students from March 10-12, to participate in the All-State Choral Festival in Birmingham.

—accepted the lowest bid, from Richey Athletics, for pole vault, mat and complete set of equipment in the amount of \$27,235, through funds from a Pilgrim's Hometown Strong program.

—approved a facility use request for RCS board room by the Alabama Rural Water Association on April 19, 2022.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the RCS Board of Education will be Thursday, March 24,

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Bobcats knock off Haleyville, fall to Central in first loss of season

Staff reports

Central's Hayden Hawk hit a two-run homer and also struck out 11 in five shutout innings on Saturday, helping the Wildcats hand Phil Campbell its first loss of the season, 4-1.

The Bobcats (3-1) had beaten Haleyville 14-8 earlier on Saturday but fell behind Central in the top of the first inning when Hawk followed up a single by J. Preston Langston with a two-run shot to right.

Phil Campbell starter Cole Pace did not allow another earned run in his five innings of work, but the Bobcats couldn't get anything going at the plate against Hawk. The 6'2 senior right-hander struck out the final six batters he faced and needed just 82 pitches to get through five frames, allowing four hits and issuing just one free pass (an intentional walk to Alabama signee Mason Swinney following a two-out double by Bryant Anthony in the third).

Central scored an unearned run in the top of the third to push the lead to 3-0 and then got a solo home run from Michael Larkin in the top of the sixth. Swinney's RBI single in the bottom of the sixth got the Bobcats on the board and cut the lead to 4-1.

Phil Campbell threatened in the seventh against Langston, getting a two-out single from Sage Raper and a walk to Anthony to bring Swinney to the plate as the tying run. He grounded out to second on the first pitch as the Bobcats stranded their seventh and eighth runners of the game.

Pace (1-1) took the loss, allowing three runs (two

See 'BOBCATS,' page 15

Coming out swigning



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

The Golden Tigers split a series with last season's 6A state champion, Faith Academy over the weekend where Canyon Pace and Eli Gipson both went 2-4 in the second game of a doubleheader.

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

Shayden Romans and Karson Hyde each had an RBI single in the top of the seventh inning for Russellville on Saturday, capping off a late rally that gave the Golden Tigers a 7-5 win over Faith Academy and a doubleheader split with the Rams in Mobile.

Faith (3-4) won Saturday's opener 11-7 and appeared poised for a sweep in game two, taking a 5-2 lead into the fifth inning. Grayson Thorpe led off the top of the fifth with a single for Russellville (2-2), and Canyon Pace followed with an RBI double to center. Pace moved to third on a groundout by Ethan Oliver and scored on another groundout by Eli Gipson to get the Golden Tigers within a run

at 5-4.

Russellville pulled even with a run in the top of the sixth. Casen Heaps was hit by a pitch, and Hyde drew a walk. Nathan Brockway delivered an RBI single to left, tying the game 5-5.

RHS reliever Brayden Spurgeon pitched around a walk in the bottom of the sixth, striking out two. The Golden Tigers then took the lead in the top of the seventh. Oliver started things with a one-out single and moved up on a base hit by Gipson. Romans followed with a tie-breaking RBI single to right, and Hyde came through with a two-out RBI single to extend the lead to 7-5.

Spurgeon (1-0) gave up a double and a walk in the bottom of the seventh but got Josh Gaffney to fly to center for the final out, sealing the comeback

See 'SWINGING,' page 13

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'SWINGING,' from page 11

win. Senior Samuel Pace started on the mound for Russellville and pitched four innings, allowing five runs (three earned) on six hits. He struck out five and walked two, throwing 47 of his 77 pitches for strikes.

Spurgeon worked three scoreless innings in relief, holding the Rams to one hit while striking out five and walking two.

Gipson staked the Golden Tigers to an early 1-0 lead with an RBI single in the top of the first and finished 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Faith answered with two runs in the bottom of the first and another in the second before Hyde drove in a run with a single in the top of the fourth, cutting the Rams' lead to 3-2.

Faith took advantage of a single, a walk and two Russellville errors to score twice in the bottom of the fourth and make it a 5-2 game. The Golden Tigers rallied with five runs over their final three at bats, and Spurgeon took care of the rest on the mound.

Canyon Pace capped off a productive weekend by going 2-for-3 in Saturday's second game with an RBI double and a run scored. In three games (one against Saraland and two against Faith) on Friday and Saturday, the senior catcher/DH went 5-for-9 with a home run and two doubles, driving in four runs.

Hyde was 2-for-3 in Saturday's second game with two RBIs. Thorpe went 1-for-4 with two runs and a stolen base, and Casen Heaps was 1-for-3 with a run and a steal. Romans, Brockway and Oliver also had one hit apiece.

In Saturday's first game, Russellville out-hit Faith Academy 10-7, but the Rams took advantage of three Golden Tiger errors to score seven unearned runs and claim an 11-7 win.

Russellville starter Banks Langston cruised through the first two innings, retiring the first six batters he faced and striking out three. The Golden Tigers then broke up a scoreless tie with a three-run third inning highlighted by Pace's two-run double.

Langston opened the bottom of the third with his fourth strikeout, but the Rams loaded the bases on a walk and two fielder's-choice groundballs. An error, an infield hit, a single and an RBI groundout brought home four runs and gave Faith a 4-3 lead.

The Rams extended the lead in the bottom of the fourth by rallying for four more runs after two men were out. They kept the inning alive with a walk, a hit batter and an error before getting a two-run single from Connor Robinson and an RBI single from Gaffney to take an 8-3 lead.

Russellville rallied and nearly pulled even with four runs in the top of the fifth. Pace and Reed Hill got things rolling with back-to-back singles, and Pace scored on a sac fly by Oliver to cut the lead to 8-4. Romans delivered an RBI single, and Andrew Hatton's two-run double brought the Golden Tigers within a run at 8-7.

RHS reliever Logan White struck out two batters in a scoreless bottom of the fifth, but Faith put together two hits, a hit batter and another Golden Tiger error to score three runs (two unearned) off Hill in the bottom of the sixth and make it 11-7.

Langston (1-1) allowed three earned runs on three hits in 3.2 innings, striking out four and walking two. White worked 1.1 scoreless innings in relief, allowing two hits and striking out three. Hill gave up two hits and struck out one in his inning of work.

Gaffney earned the win for Faith, allowing one earned run on five hits in four innings. He struck out four and walked two.

Pace was 2-for-4 with a two-run double, and Gipson also went 2-for-4. Hatton was 2-for-3 with a double and two RBIs. Thorpe and Hill each went 1-for-3 with a run, and Oliver was 1-for-2 with an RBI. Romans was 1-for-4 with an RBI, and Brayden Heaps walked twice and scored a run.



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'BOBCATS,' from page 11

earned) on five hits in five innings. He struck out three and walked one. Noah Raper worked the final two innings in relief, allowing one hit (Larkin's home run) and striking out one.

Anthony went 2-for-2 with a double and a run, and Swinney was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a stolen base. Cam Habada was 1-for-2 with a walk, and Sage Raper, Kyle Pace and Jacob Barnwell also had one hit apiece.

Earlier on Saturday, Phil Campbell got four RBIs from Hunter Baker and run-scoring doubles from Barnwell and Eli Taylor in a 14-8 win over rival Haleyville.

The Bobcats were leading just 2-1 after two innings when Taylor's RBI double sparked a five-run top of the third. Sage Raper was hit by a pitch to force home a run, and Swinney and Habada each drew a bases-loaded walk. Kyle Pace drove in the final run of the inning with a sac fly to make it 7-1.

Barnwell had an RBI double in the top of the fourth as Phil Campbell scored twice to make it 9-1, but the Lions rallied for five runs in the bottom of the inning to get back in the game. With their lead trimmed to two at 9-7, the Bobcats answered with a four-run sixth inning highlighted by a two-run single from Baker and an RBI single from Cole Pace.

Baker capped off the scoring for Phil Campbell with an RBI double in the top of the seventh. He finished 2-for-5 with four RBIs and two runs scored. Barnwell was 2-for-4 with an RBI double and three runs scored, and Cole Pace was 2-for-5 with an RBI and a run.

Swinney went 1-for-3 with an RBI, a run and three walks. Habada also walked three times and finished 1-for-2 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Anthony drew three walks, and Taylor was 1-for-4 with an RBI double and two runs scored. Sage Raper and Kyle Pace each went 1-for-4 with an RBI and a run, and Braxton Mayfield scored a run.

Habada (2-0) earned the win, allowing four earned runs on two hits in 3.1 innings. He struck out six and walked three. Taylor worked two innings in relief, allowing one earned run on two hits. He struck out three and walked two. Kyle Pace recorded the final five outs and did not allow a hit. He struck out three, walked two and gave up one unearned run.

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