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Mailbox theft, vandalism wave hits Spruce Pine

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

A wave of mailbox theft and vandalism has caught the attention of Franklin County Sheriff Shannon Oliver, and that's not a good thing for those responsible.

The incidents of mailbox theft and vandalism took place in Spruce Pine, with most victims residing on Highway 22 or 75, and a few on County Road 20 and Mon Dye Road.

Oliver said most of the mailbox theft and vandalism occurred between 10 p.m.-6 a.m., on February 19-20. Most of the reports involve mailboxes being stolen or crushed

with the flags on the mailboxes also stolen or broken.

"There's just no point to this behavior. It's pure mischief but it's also a crime," Oliver said. "It's causing a disruption to law abiding citizens and we are working to find and charge those responsible."

Although there are no specific leads yet, Oliver said, there is video of one incident and sheriff's investigators are working to identify the vehicle in that video. Additionally, Oliver said there are several other investigative tactics being used that he did not want to elaborate on.

One resident posted on social

See 'MAILBOX,' page 9

Open Records? Canida invoiced more than \$95/hour for 'research' of public records

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Russellville Electric Board Manager Charles Canida invoiced the *Franklin Free Press* and Russellville City Councilman Darren Woodruff more than \$95/hour for his time in 'researching' the REB's response to an Alabama Open Records Act request filed in December 2021.

The *FFP* served Canida and Sherry Smith, his Executive Assistant, with an Open Records Act request on December 22, 2021, wherein it requested the REB produce records reflecting Canida's annual compensation package, purchase of vehicles for use by Canida, board member compensation and records of over-

payment to board members, certain employee files, expenses for the REB's annual Christmas Party at the Marriott Shoals and other documents, all of which are public record.

Before turning over the requested records to Woodruff and the *FFP*, Canida insisted on prepayment of an invoice that changed three times for production of the exact same records. When Woodruff calculated the rate Canida was charging for his time in the second invoice, the councilman was shocked to learn it was more than \$95/hour.

"This is nothing but public extortion and an attempt to price most citizens out of seeing records they are entitled by law to review," Woodruff said. "Any ratepayer should be able to

See 'RECORDS,' page 5

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Jonathan "Jon" Hoyt Berlin, 59, of Russellville, passed away on Tuesday, March 1st. Interment at Halltown Cemetery.

Carlie Pace Hudson, 79, of Spruce Pine, passed away on Wednesday, March 2nd. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

Eddie Earl Vickery, 70, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Wednesday, March 2nd. Interment at Shady Groves Freewill Baptist Church Cemetery.

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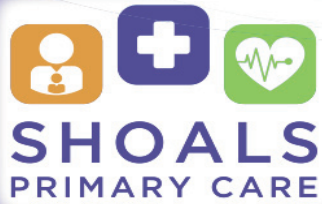
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Stutts' bill would end automatic state gas tax increases

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When the Alabama Legislature approved the controversial gas tax increase in 2019, it provided for a gradual increase up to 10 cents on each gallon of gas sold in the state.

There's also a provision of the motor fuel excise tax that allows for an increase every other year, starting October 1, 2023. That increase will be based on the National Highway Construction Cost Index and will perpetually increase the tax in alternating years.

Sen. Larry Stutts (R-Tuscumbia) didn't like the gas tax bill in 2019 and he still doesn't like it.

So Stutts introduced Senate Bill 277 in the March 2022 legislative session. The bill would remove the indexing provision of the tax and would require a full legislative vote to increase the tax on motor fuel.

Both Stutts and Rep. Jamie Kiel (R-Russellville) voted against the 2019 legislation, a move that endeared them to their constituents but drew the ire of Gov. Kay Ivey, who was 'all in' with her support of the bill.

Stutts' SB277 was introduced March 1st and referred to the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee, a

committee Stutts sits on.

Stutts' premise for the bill is that the new gas tax is generating more than \$300 million annually for road and bridge repair, and an automatic increase tied to construction costs could lead to burdensome tax increases on fuel, which has seen a dramatic cost increase over the past year.

"I fully understand the need for the repair of roads and bridges across the state," Stutts said. "One of the reasons I voted against the original bill was the automatic increase that was tied to construction costs."

If Stutts' bill becomes law, Alabama senators and representatives would have to approve future increases, and come home to voters asking questions about why they raised taxes.

According to a source familiar with the legislative process, Stutts' bill is unlikely to reach the Senate floor for a vote for the aforementioned reasons.

A second bill filed by Stutts, SB278, would prohibit pregnant women from lawfully obtaining medical marijuana as a dispensary site would have to receive a negative pregnancy test before a woman of childbearing age could fill a prescription.

Additionally, it would prohibit any

See 'BILL,' page 6



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'RECORDS,' from page 1

inspect the financial records from any utility no matter how rich they are, how poor they are or what their skin color is. This is the right of the citizens and that right is protected by Alabama law."

Although REB's policy is to respond and produce requested records within 30 days from the date of request, that did not happen in this case. The majority of records were not produced until March 1, 2022, and Canida required prepayment before they would be turned over to the FFP or Woodruff.

The FFP received three different invoices from the Russellville Electric Board for the same records request, starting with an invoice dated February 9, 2022, for \$1,016.

That invoice had a \$181 charge for documents and a \$835 charge for 'Research Fees,' with no further explanation.

When FFP Publisher John Pilati requested further clarification on the 'Research Fee,' including a breakdown of which employee or employees conducted the research and the rate their hourly work was charged at, Canida had a second invoice prepared, this time for \$1,064, for the exact same records.

This invoice, again dated February 9, 2022, was not presented to the FFP and Woodruff until March 1.

The second invoice included a document fee of \$187.50, and 'Research' fee of \$876.63, which was broken down into hours for 'Employee 1,' 'Employee 2,' and 'Employee 3.'

Employee 1, later identified as Canida himself, billed \$476.78 for five hours of research, for an hourly rate of \$95.35. Based on a 40-hour week, that would extrapolate to Canida earning an annual salary of \$198,298.88.

Employee 2, later identified as Smith, showed 4.5 hours of time and a total of \$199.21, for an hourly rate of \$44.26.

The invoice showed Employee 3, identified as REB accountant Tiffany Holt, having worked 2.5 hours on research for a total of \$200.64. This breaks down to an hourly rate of \$80.25, which based on a 40-hour work week, would have Holt's annual salary at \$166,932.48.

Holt's actual annual salary is \$95,680, according to documents produced in response to the Open Records Act request.

Both Woodruff and the FFP requested further clarification of who 'Employees 1, 2 and 3' actually were. That's when, for the first time, Canida, Smith and Holt were identified as the three persons who spent a collective 12 hours preparing a response to the document request.

But there was a third different invoice to come, once again dated February 9, 2022. This time, Canida (Employee 1) had a total of \$393.45 for five hours, for an hourly rate of \$78.69. Based on a 40-hour work week, this would indicate Canida to have an annual salary of \$163,675.20.

The third invoice had the same number of hours, but a different hourly rate, changed only after the requesting parties insisted that 'Employees 1,2 and 3' be identified by name.

Smith (Employee 2) showed 4.5 hours of research at a total of \$115.88, for an hourly rate of \$25.75, just over half of the hourly rate in the second invoice.

Holt (Employee 3) had 2.5 hours of research billed on the third invoice for a total of \$117.30. This breaks down to \$46.92 per hour, compared to her hourly rate of \$80.25 in the second invoice.

The next invoice totaled \$814.13, the third different total given to the requesting parties, and it was paid by Woodruff.

Section 36-25A-1 of the Alabama Code, commonly referred to as the Alabama Public Records Law, grants citizens the right to inspect and copy any public writing of a public agency, board, commission or any other governmental body which conducts the people's business.

The Public Records Law does not state a specific fee or limitation on fees, although the Alabama Attorney General's Office, according to www.muckrock.com, has historically stated, "If possible, a public agency should provide free copies of public records. However, if budgetary constraints prevent this, then a public agency may charge a nominal fee, if necessary, to cover its costs in providing copies of public records. One may inspect public records without paying a fee unless a substantial amount of an employee's time is required."

Canida attempted to charge more than \$1,060 for public records, much of which were simply photocopies of REB's 2020 and 2021 financial statements that required no research to locate, other than opening a file drawer.

While there are no specific fees outlined in Alabama's Open Records Law, any amount charged must not be excessive. Alabama courts have held some fees charged for public records to be excessive to the point that they prevent the average person or agency from requesting them due to an inability to pay.

According to www.muckrock.com, fees may be waived in cases where the requesting party is a governmental agency. Although Woodruff is a city councilman, there was no waiver of the fees charged by REB.

See 'RECORDS,' page 9



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East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department will be serving William Earl Bishop's Smoked Chicken and Pulled Barbecue Pork Plates from 4-7 p.m., on Friday, March 25. Plates are carryout only and are \$10 each. Pickup at East Franklin VFD, 10433 Highway 81, Phil Campbell. Dessert donations appreciated.

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.

LifeSouth Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Russellville Hospital on Thursday, March 17, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. LifeSouth is the primary supplier of blood products to Russellville Hospital. Please contact Deborah Lindsey to schedule an appointment at 256-332-8676 or by email at deborah.lindsey@russellvillehospital.org. Please bring a photo ID when you donate. Everyone who signs up to donate will receive a free t-shirt, an appetizer card from Texas Roadhouse, a free cookie dough card from Papa Murphy's and a free meal ticket from Russellville Hospital. All donors will receive a free cholesterol screening and we will be giving away door prizes! Please call with any questions and thank you for giving the gift of life!

Parents with children birth to 4 years old are invited to a night of learning and fun with their children! Children 0-4 years (thru Pre-K) and their parents/guardians are invited to West Elementary School cafeteria on Thursday, March 24, at 6 p.m., for a dinner and a program that includes a take home book and craft for each child. Topics will include how to read the book to your child, engage them in a story and how to follow-up including fun activities for your child. Dinner will be served to all in attendance. This event is funded in part by a grant from the Alabama Department of Early Education. Please contact the Russellville Elementary School or West Elementary School office for more information and to sign up, complete the form in this week's Franklin Free Press.

Parents with children birth to 4 years old...Join us for a night of learning and fun!



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Number of children attending _____ Name & age of child _____

_____ Name & age of child _____

Parent Signature _____

'BILL,' from page 3

medical cannabis dispensary from being located within 1,000 feet from a day-care center or a two-year or four-year institution of higher learning.

"As a physician who has worked decades in the medical field, I believe it is my duty to protect women and their unborn and newborn children from anything that can cause them or their infant harm," Stutts said. "There is no safe level of marijuana use during pregnancy. Therefore, it is reasonable to ensure that pregnant or breastfeeding women and cannabis cards do not coincide.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues on these issues, and I am hopeful for their passage in the Senate," he added.

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Cooper crowned Miss RHS at 40th annual event

Submitted to the FFP

The RHS Annual Staff sponsored the 40th annual Miss RHS pageant on Friday, March 4. The pageant offered an array of talent and beauty. We are very thankful that the Russellville Community has been very generous this year. Miss RHS 2022 was awarded over \$2,000 in cash and prizes.

Madeline Elizabeth Cooper was named Miss RHS 2022. Camille Faith Lynn was named first alternate, Tori Tiffin was named second alternate and Sophie Caroline Hill was named third alternate.

Other individual awards by grade were awarded in different categories.

Most photogenic: Ella Leann Colagross (9th grade), Peyton Leigh Parrish (10th grade), Silvie Miller (11th grade), and Madeline Elizabeth Cooper (12th grade).

Best interview: Ella Leann Colagross (9th grade), Kaitlin Hope Speck (10th grade), Silvie Miller (11th grade), and Madeline Elizabeth Cooper (12th grade).

Best evening gown: Hailey Daniela Rogers (9th grade), Kailin Hope Speck (10th grade), Silvie Miller (11th grade), Madline Elizabeth Cooper (12th grade).

Talent winners: Ella Leann Colagross and Hailey Daniela Rogers (9th grade), Stella Claire Hill (10th grade), Yadmil Perez Gabriel (11th grade), Caroline Alise Sparks (12th grade).

Grade representatives: Ella Leann Colagross (9th grade), Kaitlin Hope Speck and Stella Claire Hill (10th grade), and Silvie Miller (11th grade).

Lexie Wells was named the viewers choice winner for the pageant.

This year's award sponsors are Artist Jewelry, Russellville Florist, Dr. Wayne and Mrs. Lela Ray, Ms. Susie Malone, Ms. Maggie Coan, Mrs. Addie Harbin, Mrs. Kara Pendergrass, Kameo Salon, Joseph Roman's Photography, Campbell Vision Center, Holly Nails, Maggie J's Boutique, Lee Nails, 43 Grill, Ms. Nails, Salon St. Clair, Audrey's Gifts and Décor, Russellville Nutrition, The Grind Café, Hilltop Restaurant, Wal-Mart, High Level Nutrition, American Health and Fitness, The Ville Nutrition, Hello Gorgeous, Hangout Nutrition, Suzy's Clothing, Doe's Eat Place, Frosty Inn, Judah Nails and Spa, Rancho Viejo Mexican Restaurant, Joyous Adventures – Cassie Goodwin, Los 2 Hermanos Market, The Mustard Seed Bakery, and Andersyn Jack. Additionally, the contestant awarded Viewer's Choice were given a gift from Grogans by Lon Jewelry sponsored by Riverside Realty – Kiefer and Abbey Rea.

This year's program sponsors are AFTT Studio, Morgan Chiropractic, CB&S Bank, Brian's Auto Sales, Dr. Wayne and Miss Lela Ray, Ms. Susie Hovater Malone, Family Pharmacy, Cherry Tree Lane Bridal and Formal Boutique, Community Spirit Bank, Graph-X Apparel, EyeCare Professionals, Dr. and Mrs. Alan Sherrill, Wood Thompson Insurance, Valley State Bank, Russellville Water and Sewer Board, First Metro Bank, Russellville Electric, Alabama Central Credit Union, American Realty, Mayor David Grissom, Hester Printing, Russellville Florist, and Mrs. Marla Kerby. Special thanks to AFTT Studio for sponsoring the Contestant, Little Sister, and Rising Star Doughnut Party.

Miss Sydney Medley, Miss RHS 2020, was the emcee for this year's pageant. Miss Lauren Mae Sturdivant, Miss RHS 2021, also assisted and performed. The contestants competed in judges' interview, evening gown, and talent. Escorts were Jared Davis, Kiah Derrick, Braxton Hipps, Nate Medley, Micco Jay Selosa, and Jaben Wilcoxson. Dr. AnnaKay Holland is the coordinator of the pageant and Annual Staff sponsor, and Ms. Cindy Coan is the pageant director.

Contestants in this years Miss RHS pageant were: Keslie Brooke Allen, Madeline Elizabeth Cooper, Sophie Caroline Hill, Camille Faith Lynn, Kaitlyn Reed, Caroline Elise Sparks, Tori Tiffin, Kimberly Zatarain Avalos, Kimberly Campos, Silvie Miller, Yadmil Perez Gabriel, Emma Campbell, Destiny Taylor-Kate Elkins, Halle Reese Grimes, Stella Claire Hill, Peyton Leigh Parrish, Drew Caroline Reed, Chloe Sheffield, Kaitlin Hope Speck, Annie Claire Willis, Ella Leann Colagross, Hailey Daniela Rogers, and Lexie Wells.

We were so excited to again have Rising Stars and Little Sisters at our pageant again this year. Each contestant in the pageant was asked to select two girls who are students in Russellville City Schools to assist in their performance.

The Rising Stars are girls in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. The Little Sisters for the pageant are girls in grades sixth through eighth. It is hoped that these young ladies will use this opportunity to be in front of this audience and one day want to be contestants in the Miss RHS pageant. We are continuing to build traditions, something we are very good at doing at Russellville City Schools.

Miss RHS Rising Stars are: Ava Bianco, Annalesa Bonds, Baylor Bradford, Mae Campbell, Madeline Campos, Tinley Cleveland, Brilynn Green, Kerby Grissom, Ruby Gist Harbin, Zoe Jane Hartsell, Lyza Shaw Herring, Hadley Kate Horton, Elliana Inmon, Kennadie Keeton, Charlee Knight, Lupita Martinez, Adley Grace Odom, Collins Odom, Raylee Peden, Kingzlee Poss, Lillain Grace Ritter, Amzie Lynn Stough, Genesis Tristan, and Ivy Elizabeth Willis. Miss RHS Little Sisters are: Allison Ambrosio, Jaley Mae Bragwell, Darlene Campos, Camden Carson, Ella Copeland, Lilliana Figueroa, Emmy Green, Erin Hope Grimes, Madelyn Hatton, Aubree Hyde, Macie Cate Jackson, Chloe James, Audrey Claire Kiel, Isabella Malone, Bri McCulloch, Kalei Mitchell, Sadie Grace Odom, Audrey Oliver, Haylee Elizabeth Patrick, Rane Stone, Alexa Trapp, Ansley Kathryn Willis, and Ellie Willis.

The proceeds from this event will benefit the students by defraying their cost of the yearbook. Dr. Holland, Ms. Coan, and the Tiger Track Annual Staff appreciates the support of our RHS students.



COURTESY PHOTO

23 RHS students participated in the 40th annual Miss RHS pageant last Fridayas Madeline Cooper was named Miss RHS 2022.

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Sheriff's Sale

By virtue of an execution issued out of the Alabama Department of Revenue of Franklin County, Alabama, and to me directed whereby I am commanded to make the amount of a certain judgment recently obtained against Amada Torres Mena in favor of Alabama Department of Revenue out of the goods, chattels, land and tenements of the said Amada Torres Mena. I have levied on the following property, to wit:

Lots Numbered 185, 186, and 187 according to the original plat and survey of the City of Russellville, Alabama, said lots being bounded on the North by Lawrence Street, on the East by Lot No. 188, on the South by an alley, and on the West by Washington Street, in the City of Russellville, Franklin County, Alabama, and being a part of the property conveyed to Earl D. Stevenson on November 3, 1915, by Katie Canterbury and husband, W.J. Canterbury, by deed recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of said County in Deed Book 25, at Page 69. (Legal description provided by the parties)

Together with the appurtenances thereunto belonging.

Therefore, according to said command, I shall expose for sale at public auction, all the right, title and interest of the above named Amada Torres Mena on the 28th day of March 2022, at 10:00 A.M. on the Franklin County Courthouse steps.

This property will be sold on the above date unless this civil case has been settled. For information regarding this sale you may call 256-332-8811.

Dated this February 15, 2022.

Shannon Oliver
Sheriff of Franklin County

'MAILBOX,' from page 1

media about rotten bananas being left in his mailbox. Others have had theirs smashed or taken altogether.

Oliver said there are two different crimes involved with these incidents. Criminal Mischief Third Degree involves intentional damage to the property of another person in a value not exceeding \$500. Theft of Property Fourth Degree occurs when someone takes property owned by another person with a value not exceeding \$500. Both are misdemeanors, with a fine and jail time up to one year upon conviction.

Oliver said the investigation will continue, and although there's not a lot of evidence available yet to identify the suspects, they will continue working the case until those responsible are charged.

Anyone with information about the recent wave of mailbox theft and vandalism is encouraged to call the Franklin County Sheriff's Office at 256-332-8820.



COURTESY PHOTO

Most of the mailbox incidents occurred on Highways 22 and 75, with a few occurring on County Road 20 and Mon Dye Road.

'RECORDS,' from page 9

By comparison, the Franklin County Board of Education's Open Records Policy includes a fee of \$30/hour for clerical time and 10 cents per page for any photocopies. The average hourly rate charged by REB was more than \$73/hour, more than double that of another local governmental entity.

Last year, Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur), introduced a bill that would set a specific response time agencies would have to respond to Open Records Act requests. The bill would also have set a reasonable cost schedule to provide requested documents. The bill died in the 2021 legislative session.

If a citizen, or entity, is presented with a cost for public records it considers excessive, the only remedy is to file a civil action in the court system, which adds additional cost to the requesting party. This makes it even more financially burdensome and can serve as a deterrent to citizens' ability to review records they are entitled to, Orr explained.

"These records are not an agency's. They are the people's," Orr said during last year's legislative session.



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Bobcats improve to 6-2 with doubleheader sweep of West Morgan

Staff reports

Phil Campbell improved to 6-2 on the season with a doubleheader sweep of West Morgan on Saturday, routing the Rebels 10-1 and 12-1.

Senior Mason Swinney, who has signed with the University of Alabama as a shortstop, made his 2022 debut on the mound in Saturday's second game, allowing two hits and one unearned run in 2.2 innings to earn his 15th career win at the varsity level (against just two losses).

Swinney struck out four and walked one, throwing 31 of his 50 pitches for strikes before giving way to reliever Kyle Pace with two outs and two on in the top of the third. Pace got a groundball out to end the threat and then closed out the win with two more hitless innings, striking out two and walking one.

Phil Campbell scored 12 runs in game two on 11 hits, nine of which came from their numbers two, three and four hitters in the order. Sage Raper, Swinney and Cam Habada combined to go 9-for-9 with nine RBIs and six runs scored, helping the Bobcats cruise to their third straight win.

Swinney worked around a one-out single in the top of the first, getting three groundball outs. Phil Campbell then grabbed an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the inning on consecutive singles by Raper, Swinney and Habada.

Swinney, who entered this season with 176 career strikeouts in 106 innings pitched, recorded three K's in a one-two-three top of the second. The Bobcats took control with four runs in the bottom half, getting a two-run single from Raper, an RBI double from Swinney and an RBI single from Habada.

West Morgan put two runners on base in the top of the third on a walk and an error, and Daniel

See 'BOBCATS,' page 15

Big win on the big stage

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

Andrew Hatton delivered a walk-off RBI single in the bottom of the ninth inning for Russellville on Thursday afternoon, giving the Golden Tigers a 2-1 win over DeSoto (MS) Central in the opening round of the Perfect Game High School Showdown in Hoover.

Russellville (3-3) was hitless through the first five innings against DeSoto senior lefty Bradley Loftin, a Mississippi State commit. Loftin struck out 11 and walked just two, throwing 55 of his 80 pitches for strikes before exiting the game at the end of five with a 1-0 lead.

The Golden Tigers, who got six strong innings on the mound from junior right-hander Banks Langston, pulled even with an unearned run off reliever Hugh Parsons in the bottom of the sixth. Casen Heaps led off the inning with a single, moved to second on a base hit by Canyon Pace and then scored on error to tie the game 1-1.

Russellville reliever Brayden Spurgeon issued a leadoff walk in the top of the seventh but promptly picked the runner off first and got a groundout and a strikeout to end the inning. The Golden Tigers threatened in the bottom of the seventh, getting a two-out single from Nathan Brockway and a hit batter, but Parsons retired leadoff man Grayson Thorpe on a groundout to send the game to extras.

Spurgeon worked a scoreless eighth and then pitched around an error in the top of the ninth, getting a strikeout and a double-play groundball to keep it a 1-1 game. Shayden Romans sparked the decisive rally in the bottom of the ninth with a lead-off double to left. After an intentional walk to Karson Hyde, Brockway reached on a bunt hit to load the bases.

Hatton, a senior second baseman batting ninth in the order, ripped a line drive down the left-field line, chasing home courtesy runner Emmitt Green with the winning run.

Spurgeon (2-0) earned his second relief win of the season, holding the Jaguars to just one hit in three scoreless innings. He struck out two and walked one. Langston delivered his best start as a Golden Tiger, allowing just one unearned run on five hits in six innings. He struck out five and did not issue a walk, throwing 60 of his 87 pitches for strikes and getting 10 groundball outs.

Loftin was the story in the early going. The hard-throwing lefty recorded four strikeouts in the bottom of the first [Pace reached on a passed ball with two outs to extend the inning] and had nine K's by the end of the third.

DeSoto Central, a powerhouse 6A program in Mississippi that won three state titles in a five-year period from 2015 to 2019, broke up a scoreless tie on an RBI triple by Luke Sides in the top of the fourth. Langston got the next two batters to ground out, stranding Sides at third and keeping it a 1-0 game.

Russellville tied it in the sixth and then won it on Hatton's walk-off in the ninth. Pace continued his hot start to the season by going 2-for-4 on Thursday, raising his average to .476 (10-for-21) on the year.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

Hatton, above batting in last seasons state title game, went 1-3 with the lone RBI for the Golden Tigers as they notched a walk-off win in their first matchup of the Perfect Game High School Showdown in Hoover.

The senior catcher/DH has four multi-hit games already this season and 20 in his varsity career, the most of any active Golden Tiger.

Brockway went 2-for-3 with a walk on Thursday, and Heaps, Romans and Hatton had one hit apiece.

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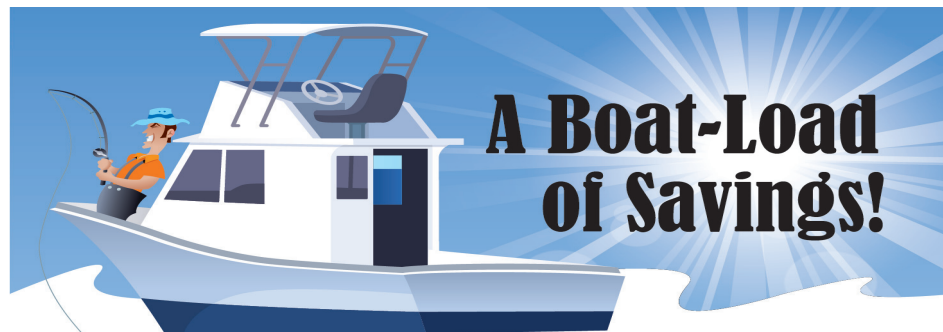
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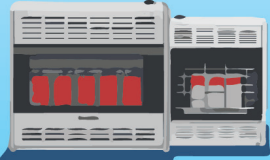
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DEAL OF THE MONTH!

'BOBCATS,' from page 11

Laporte got the Rebels on the board with a two-out RBI single. Pace relieved and got a groundball out to end the inning and keep Phil Campbell in front 5-1.

The Bobcats broke the game wide open with a seven-run fourth inning highlighted by RBI singles from Raper, Swinney and Kyle Pace, plus a two-run double from Habada and a sac fly from Cody Quinn.

Habada finished 3-for-3 with four RBIs, raising his season average to .455 (10-for-22). Swinney recorded the 15th three-hit game of his varsity career, going 3-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Raper was 3-for-3 with three RBIs, three runs and two stolen bases.

Kyle Pace went 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run, and Hunter Baker was 1-for-3 with a run.

Earlier on Saturday, Phil Campbell got five solid innings from senior pitcher Cole Pace and an RBI triple from Hunter Baker in a six-run fourth inning that turned a tight game one into a 10-1 rout.

Laporte started on the mound for West Morgan and racked up 10 strikeouts by the end of the third inning. The Bobcats struck out four times in the bottom of the third alone but managed to scratch out two runs in the inning, taking advantage of a single by Cole Pace, a hit batter, a walk to Swinney, a two-out error by the Rebels and a passed ball to grab a 2-1 lead.

Pace, who pitched in and out of trouble through the first three frames, got West Morgan three up and three down in the top of the fourth. Phil Campbell then scored six times in the bottom of the inning, making the most of four walks, four passed balls and an error. Raper had an RBI single in the inning, and Baker had an RBI triple.

Pace worked out of trouble again in the top of the fifth, pitching around an error, a hit and a walk to strand two men. Junior catcher Bryant Anthony also threw out a runner attempting to steal.

Pace (2-1) allowed one earned run on five hits in five innings, striking out two and walking five. Reliever Eli Taylor pitched the final two innings in relief, retiring all six batters he faced and striking out two.

Swinney was 1-for-2 in game one with two runs and two walks. Baker went 1-for-3 with two RBIs, and Raper was 1-for-4 with an RBI, a run and two stolen bases. Habada went 1-for-3 with a walk, a run and a steal.

Cole Pace was 1-for-4, and Taylor walked twice and scored a run. Anthony walked and scored twice, and Isaac Hill stole a base and scored a run.

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