

**SHANNON OLIVER SHERIFF**  
 May 24th Republican Primary  
Pd. Pol Adv. by Shannon Oliver • 1668 Hwy 49 • Russellville, AL 35653

**KING'S PIZZA**  
 14001 Hwy 43, Suite 12 • 256-332-8010

**NEW Menu Items:**  
 Dill Pickle Fries w/ Ranch \$4.99  
 Mac & Cheese \$2.99

**Free Local Delivery!**

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

FranklinFreePress.net

3.23.22

**Miller's Affordable Furniture**  
 256-627-2364  
**Ashley Durablend Recliners**  
**\$299**  
 While supplies last  
 12845 Hwy 43 • Russellville next to Frosty Inn

## REB residential rates fifth-highest among TVA-supplied Alabama power companies

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

A study on energy rates shows Russellville Electric Board residential customers pay the fifth-highest electricity rates of the Tennessee Valley Authority's 24 Alabama power suppliers, with an average rate of \$.1187 per kilowatt hour.

According to TVA's web site, there are 24 local power companies in Alabama that purchase electricity from TVA. The Russellville Electric Board's rates, according to <https://findenergy.com/al/>, are in the top five most expensive rates of all Alabama TVA-supplied power com-

panies.

And when a 3.1% rate increase goes into effect for Russellville Electric Board customers this summer, that could move REB even closer to charging its customers the highest rates among all TVA local power companies.

The *Franklin Free Press* contacted Charles Canida, REB manager, for comment and input into this article, but Canida did not respond to that request.

Additionally, the *FFP* requested information from TVA on electricity rates and the amount charged by TVA to its local power company

See 'RATES,' page 3

**ALABAMA GUN & PAWN**  
 Fishing Tackle - HUGE Supply!  
 New Shipment of Ammo!  
 15347 Hwy 43 • 256-332-1108

## Payne Creek residents hope to see mail delivery resume soon

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

Residents of Payne Creek Estates should have their mail service reactivated soon, according to a representative of the manufactured housing community's management company.

Austin Shapiro, Regional Manager for M. Shapiro Management Group, said a special lock box has been ordered and will be installed on the door to Payne Creek's mail room to keep it secure for access from U.S. Mail personnel only.

Last month, mail delivery to Payne Creek's approximately 65 residences was placed on hold, according to a spokesperson at the Russellville Post Office. Payne Creek residents receive their mail in individual pigeon hole boxes, each secured with a key issued to each resident.

Letter carriers insert the mail into each box through a 'mail wall' located in a room whose access is limited to U.S. Mail personnel.

After mail personnel reported seeing mail that had been removed from the boxes and notices from Payne Creek management that were directly placed into boxes, mail delivery to the Highway 48 community was placed on hold last month.

Russellville Postmaster Tim Eli said Friday he was aware of the situation and working with Payne Creek's management company to resolve it.

"The United States Postal Service is working with property management with the goal of rectifying the situation as soon as quickly as possible," Eli said.

From the postmaster's perspective,

See 'MAIL,' page 9

**CAROL MURPHREE**  
 Board of Education District 4  
 Republican Primary Tuesday, May 24

**Jacob's Ladder Florist**  
 256-436-8447  
 Jacobsladderflorist727@gmail.com  
 14904 Highway 23 Red Bay, Alabama 35582  
**Tina Cox**  
 Owner  
 • Silk Flower Arrangements  
 • Order Early for Decoration!  
 • Cemetery Vases \$28.50 and up!!  
 • Like us on Facebook  
 Open 9-4 Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri, 9-12 Sat.

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

**RUSSELLVILLE DENTAL CARE**  
 Everyone Deserves To Smile!  
 Dr. Steve Hammack & Staff *Se Habla Español*  
**NEW LOCATION!**  
 510 Engle Dr SE  
 (256) 332.6073

Our team is ready to serve you!

**SINGING RIVER DENTISTRY**  
 531 St. Clair St., Russellville  
 Call 256.332.6888 to schedule your appointment today!

**Hablamos Espanol**  

**CURTIS BAKER**  
 Board of Education, District 2  
 May 24, 2022  
 Republican Primary

Pd. Pol. Adv. By: Curtis Baker • 322 Austen Dr, Phil Campbell, AL



# Dr. Kelly's Urgent Care

Walk-In visits available.  
We are available to screen  
and test for COVID-19.

**Mon.-Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-3, Sun. 1-5**  
**13150 Hwy. 43, Suite 10, Russellville**  
**256-331-2092.**

Serving your family for more than 30 years.  
Family Practice, Pediatrics, Newborn Care.

## NOW HIRING

**\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus  
for all New Employees!**  
**Starting wages \$16.40 per  
hour with incentive up to  
\$32.20 per hour!!!**

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

Join the Pilgrim's team by  
applying in person at our plant on  
2045 Hwy. 244 in Russellville,  
or online at [www.pilgrimsusa.com](http://www.pilgrimsusa.com).  
Call Michael Cummings at 256-768-3707  
for more information

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



## FRANKLIN MEMORY GARDENS



We offer ground burial, mausoleum  
and cremation spaces. All may be  
purchased at need or pre-need to include  
the burial vault and bronze memorial.

*Providing a peaceful, beautiful and serene  
cemetery for the people of Franklin County.*

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

*"In Memory of our loved ones..."  
brought to you by Atkins Marble and Granite Works  
and Franklin Memory Gardens*

**Betty Jean Fretwell**, 76, of Russellville, passed away on  
Sunday, March 13th. Interment at Franklin Memory  
Gardens.

**Marshal Malcolm "Bud" McKinnon**, 83, of  
Russellville, passed away on Friday, March 18th.  
Interment at Phil Campbell Cemetery.

**Nella Sue McNatt**, 80, of Russellville, passed away on  
Thursday, March 17th. Interment at Franklin Memory  
Gardens.

# DEAL OF THE WEEK



## RAMONA REED AUTO SALES

**256.398.8751**

18516 Hwy 43 • Across from King Drive In



2001 Lincoln Town  
Car Limo  
**ONLY \$8500**



**"Let us help you find financing  
for YOUR dream car!"**

**No Driver's License - No Problem!**

# K&S TREE SERVICE

253 Laurelwood Dr. Russellville, Alabama



Trimming  
Topping • Removal

Bucket Work  
Stump Grinding

**KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064**

**‘RATES,’ from page 1**



Save now with  
**50% OFF\***  
Your First Application

**TRUGREEN GUARANTEE**      **AMERICA'S #1**  
LAWN CARE COMPANY

**Get the most out of your lawn this spring.**

**SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!**

**1-866-495-1367**

\*Requires purchase of annual plan. Special price is for first Lawn application only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services may vary by geography. Not to be combined with or used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Consumer responsible for all sales tax. †Purchase of annual lawn plan required for Healthy Lawn Analysis, which is performed at the first visit. \*Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. ©2022 TruGreen Limited Partnership. All rights reserved. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.



**Check Advance up to \$500**  
**Title Loan up to \$2,500**

**13724 Hwy 43**      Right across from  
**Russellville**      *Wendy's*  
**(256) 332-3566**

**CASHMASTER**  
CASH ADVANCE CENTER

**www.yourcashmaster.com**

(LPC) customers.

Scott Fiedler, with TVA Media Relations, confirmed that TVA does not offer a volume discount to its larger LPC customers. TVA's wholesale rate is \$.066 for all local power companies.

"Over 80 percent of retail customers of the top 100 utilities in America pay more for power," Fiedler said. "Our goal is to provide clean, reliable power at the lowest cost possible."

TVA does not make public the rates charged by individuals LPCs. This is in part due to the difficulty in comparing certain LPCs to each other due to significant variances in customer mix, density and location. In other words, predominantly rural LPCs have more infrastructure costs to supply electricity to fewer customers over a larger area, as opposed to LPCs serving higher population-dense customer bases.

The average retail price of power for the entire TVA region, which includes parts of seven states, is \$.091 per kilowatt hour. That's the average for all 153 LPCs served by TVA.

By comparison, Russellville Electric Board's \$.1187 per kilowatt hour charge is higher than TVA-supplied City of Athens Electric Department (\$.0992), Courtland Electric Department (\$.1002), Decatur Utilities (\$.0984), Florence Utilities (\$.1074), Muscle Shoals Electric Board (\$.1030), Sheffield Utilities (\$.1098) and Tuscumbia Electricity Department (\$.1069).

The 'Find Energy' web site states the average residential electricity cost for Alabama residents to be \$.1308, so that puts REB's residential rates 9.27% lower than the overall state average, but among the five priciest TVA-supplied LPCs.

'Find Energy' is a comprehensive website designed to compare local electricity providers and solar installers throughout the United States. It has a three-part mission, according to its website:

1. Take the immense amount of government data that is usually only used for government policy and make it accessible so consumers can make informed decisions about their energy options.
2. Present the energy industry in a realistic manner.
3. Make enough money to sustain and grow this project. We have taken no outside funding and are 100% bootstrapped by our co-founders.

**PEST CONTROL**

**PREDATOR PEST CONTROL**  
"The Insect Predator"  
**Eddie Deaton**  
**(256) 627-1996**  
50 Years Combined Experience

**Toll Free 1-888-832-5405**

(662) 862-5631      (662) 840-4055

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

right to reject any bid and the right to bid.

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 27, 2022, at M&N Wrecker & Service Center, 11833 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, Al, 35653. Seller reserves the

1999 Toyota Corolla LE  
1NXBR12EXXZ258814

2011 Chevrolet HHR LT  
3GNBABFW4BS552990

2005 Ford Taurus  
1FAFP56U05A285173

2012 Chevrolet Cruze  
1G1PC5SH6C7405970

# Merrill-led Voter Fraud Reform Task Force committed to ensuring election integrity

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

More than 3.625 million Alabamians are registered voters, the largest total in the state's history.

That number includes more than two million voters who have registered since January 19, 2015, the day that John Merrill's tenure as Alabama Secretary of State began.

Over that same time period, 1,367,770 voters have been removed from the active voter list through the Secretary of State's voter list maintenance process.

As Merrill begins his final year as Secretary of State, the newly-formed Voter Fraud Reform Task Force held its first meeting last September.

Comprised of 15 members, including Merrill, the task force includes Alabamians with diverse backgrounds and political persuasions.

Since 2015, the Secretary of State's office has processed more than 1,600 voter fraud complaints, resulting in six convictions, two overturned elections and the removal of one public official.

When you go to the polls in 2022, voters will see electronic poll books and other changes to the voter registration system to ensure Alabama

complies with the National Voter Registration Act.

A 'Vote for Alabama' mobile phone application allows eligible residents to register to vote, update their information and find their polling location on election day.

Merrill also implemented a free photo voter ID program and voter registration mobile unit initiative to make the voter registration process easier. Members of the Secretary of State's staff visit all of Alabama's 67 counties each year, where they provide free photo voter ID and voter registration forms.

Home visits are also available for those unable to visit a mobile unit event or their County Board of Registrars.

Although he will leave office next January, Merrill said he will continue to actively travel the state and work to ensure fair and impartial elections that have brought Alabama national acclaim in recent years.

"As we enter my final year as your Secretary of State, you have my word that I will continue to achieve only the best for our citizens," Merrill said. "Always know that I am just a quick phone call away if you ever need assistance."

# Russellville cost of living one-third below national average with exception of utilities

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

A new study shows Alabamians' monthly cost of living is almost one-third below the national average. But when it comes to utility costs, Alabama moves way up the list.

The data was compiled by [www.doxo.com](http://www.doxo.com) and the website reports that the average household in America spends \$2,003 per month on the ten most common household bills.

Those include: Mortgage, Rent, Auto Loans, Utilities, Health Insurance, Auto Insurance, Cable & Internet, Mobile Phone, Alarm & Security and Life Insurance.

The average person in Russellville, according to the website, pays \$1,353 per month for these ten bills. That's 32.5% lower than the national average.

The average monthly utility cost of \$382, though, is \$66 higher than the national average of \$316/month.

The City of Birmingham is ranked as the number two metropolitan area for highest utility expense, at \$396/month. Only Milwaukee, Wisconsin is higher.

Other average monthly expenses for Russellville residents include: Mortgage \$590, Rent \$576, Auto Loan \$390, Health Insurance \$90, Auto Insurance \$151, Cable & Internet \$73, Mobile Phone \$85, Alarm & Security \$71 and Life Insurance \$65.

Doxo provides a way to make managing and paying your bills easier and more secure, through a single account. Studies show that when people see all their bills in a consistent format, it can help them achieve their financial goals.

For more information on the study or on Doxo, visit [www.doxo.com](http://www.doxo.com).

Email us at [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com).

## FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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

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

### Publisher

John Pilati

### Executive Editor

Brady Petree

E-mail: [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com)

### Sales Representatives

John Pilati

### Content Contributors

Christian Medina, Gail Motes, Lori Skinner

### Graphic Design

Jason Hill

### Correction Policy

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

### Letters to the editor

The *Franklin Free Press* is published by hometown people, for hometown people.

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

### Copyright Information

Published by Pilati Investments, Inc. Copyright 2018

All materials and content are copyrighted by the Publisher

This publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any method, without the express written permission of the Publisher.

Don't forget  
to visit us  
online at  
[www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!



## Bowling Family Medical Clinic

- We are a primary care and walk-in clinic
- We accept all insurance, including Medicaid
- Convenient location at 1369-A, Hwy 43 in Littleville

Se Habla Español!

256-333-4118

Mon. - Thurs, 8 - 6  
Fri., 8 - 12, Sun., 1-5

# Southwood Gardens Apartments

Are you looking for an apartment that is closer to Walmart, the grocery stores, drug stores, and doctors? Are you 55 years of age or older drawing disability or 62 or older, if you are, then Southwood Gardens Apartments is where you need to be!! Besides being close to Walmart, we are also close to all surrounding churches and businesses!

Rent is based on income. Water is furnished, you only pay electric! Apartments are 1 bedroom on ground level furnished with: Carpet, Blinds, Central Heat & Air, Stove, Refrigerator, Laundry room onsite, and Maintenance on call.

Southwood Gardens Apartments are accepting applications. We have some vacant apartments now. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please send them our way.

We have new Management!  
Apply at on-site rental office

Monday-Friday  
8:00am-4:30pm  
100 Southwood Gardens  
Russellville, Al 35653  
(256)332-9027

“Owner does not discriminate against persons with disabilities.”



EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY

## 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



# Red Bay Hospital

## WE MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU TO STAY HOME!

### CHOOSE RED BAY HOSPITAL'S OUTPATIENT SERVICES

ECHOCARDIOGRAMS ● CAROTID DOPPLER STUDIES

ULTRASOUND ● X-RAY ● CT ● MRI

LAB ● IV INFUSIONS

PHYSICAL THERAPY

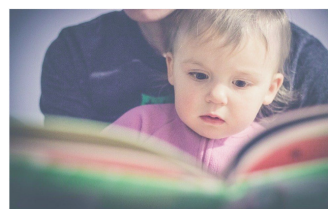
MAMMOGRAPHY



## (256) 356-9532

[HELENKELLER.COM/RED-BAY-HOSPITAL](https://HELENKELLER.COM/RED-BAY-HOSPITAL)

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



**Who's Invited:** Children 0 to 4 years (thru Pre-K) and their parents/guardians  
**Where:** West Elementary School Cafeteria  
**When:** Thursday, March 24th 6:00pm  
 ■ Meal Served  
 ■ Take Homes- A book and craft

**The Program will include:**  
 1. A popular award-winning children's book that is age appropriate for young children.  
 2. How to read the book to your child, engage them in a story, and how to follow-up including fun activities for your child.  
 3. Each parent/family attending will receive a copy of the book upon attendance.  
 \*\*Dinner will be served to all in attendance at the beginning of the session.

Text **LEARN** to **48258** for weekly Born Ready tips!  
 Tips are also available in Spanish/Espanol

This partnership is funded in part with a grant by the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education.

Please cut and return the below information sheet if you plan on attending. Please return to RES or WES office.

Number of adults attending \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of children attending \_\_\_\_\_ Name & age of child \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name & age of child \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**What's Happening**  
 256.332.0255

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

**Osborn Hill Cemetery -Decoration Day** will be on May 7, 2022. 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 its 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.

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.

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 305 Bethlehem Road, Russellville, has changed its Decoration Day to the first Sunday in May, 2022. This year that date will be Sunday, May 1st.

The 13th annual Coats Farm Benefit Trail Ride and Auction will be held on Friday, April 8th and Saturday, April 9th at Coats Farm at 1458 Co. Road 298 in Florence. Yard sale begins Friday at 8 a.m. in the barn with the trail ride beginning on Saturday at 9 a.m. There will be no silent auction. However, there will be restaurant, hotels and business gift cards sold at a discount. Chicken and goat stew, hamburgers, hot dogs, BBQ, and ham and beans will be served beginning at 11 a.m. Homemade peach and apple fried pies will be sold as well. There will be a big auction held outside beginning at 12:15. New & used furniture, sports memorabilia, antiques, tools, appliances, horse and horse tack, grass seed and much more will be auctioned off. For more information, call NACCH Director Don Williams at (256)-366-3327. All proceeds go to North Alabama Christian Children's Home.

Fifth Thursday Food Giveaway- March 31, 2022. Groceries will be distributed beginning at 2 p.m. on March 31, 2022 at the Ministry Center of the Russellville First United Methodist Church. Groceries will be distributed on a first come- first serve- basis while they are available. Please use the driveway entrance from Washington Ave (beside the Post Office) and remain in your vehicle and have your ID available while our volunteers serve you. Call the church office if you have questions 256-332-2955.

Russellville Masonic Lodge #371 is selling Smoked Hams for Easter. Hams are \$35 each and may be ordered by dialing 256-810-1970. Pickup is Saturday, April 16, between 8-10 a.m., at the Lodge on Coffee Avenue.

You are invited to Spring Revival at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 305 Bethlehem Road, Russellville, March 27-30, 2022. Sunday night at 5 p.m., Monday - Wednesday at 7 p.m. Pastor is Bro. Jeff Fleming. Evangelist is Bro. Terry Pace from Scottsboro. Everyone is welcome.

Jerred Price will return to Russellville's Roxy Theatre for his Almost Elton John concert on Saturday, April 23 at 7 p.m. Reserved tickets are \$35, \$30, \$25 and \$20 and may be purchased by calling 256-577-9932. Proceeds benefit the Historic Roxy Theatre.

**Swimsuit Season Is Coming!**

*Get Ready!*



**\$0**  
 Enrollment

- \$39/Mo. (6 Mo.) or \$33/Mo. (12 mo.)
- Student, Couple, Family Memberships
- 24 hr. Gym & Tanning
- Staffed Hours



**256-331-9003**

**24465 Hwy 24 RUSSELLVILLE**

# JOB OPPORTUNITY

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

**Deputy**

Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Friday, April 1, 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.franklin-countyal.org](http://www.franklin-countyal.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.

## March a time to enjoy books celebrating the spirit of Ireland

Lori Skinner  
Franklin Free Press

March is a time when we celebrate all things Irish. Whip up a batch of scones and have a nice cup of Irish breakfast tea, as you settle in with one of these great reads that celebrates the spirit of Ireland.

Our youngest readers will enjoy *How to Catch a Leprechaun* by Adam Wallace and illustrated by Andy Elkerton.

This zany tale has a leprechaun spreading mischief and evading traps, which will ensure many giggles from your reader. Wallace has 13 additional titles in the *How to Catch* series, so you will want to be sure to put them on your reading list.

Another fun read to share is *Too Many Leprechauns: Or How the Pot O'Gold Got to the End of the Rainbow* by Stephen Krensky and illustrated by Dan Andreasen. Finn O'Finnegan returns to his home of Dingle to discover that leprechauns have his village in chaos. This charming tale explains how the pot of gold made it to the end of the rainbow.

Slightly older readers will enjoy an adventure to old world Ireland in *Leprechaun in Late Winter* by Mary Pope Osborne. This 43<sup>rd</sup> installment in the *Magic Tree House* series is full of magic, myth, humor, and history.

Another great choice for older readers is *O'Sullivan Stew* by Hudson Talbot. Our heroine Kate uses her wits to tell entertaining stories in an effort to save herself, her family, and her village.

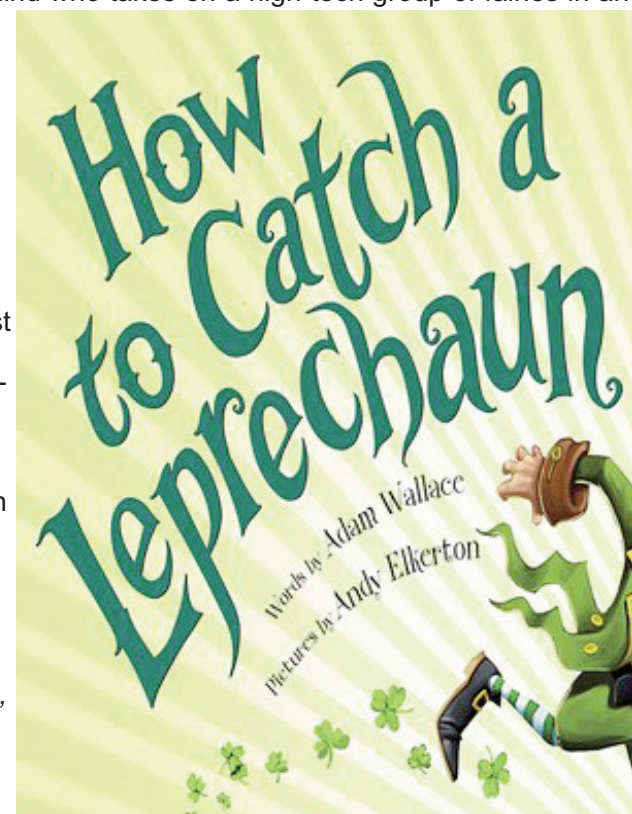
Irish author Eoin Colfer's beloved series *Artemis Fowl* is always a great choice for kids and adults who enjoy fantasy. Artemis is a 12-year old millionaire criminal mastermind who takes on a high-tech group of fairies in an effort to steal their gold and find his missing father. Even if you have seen the 2020 film, *Artemis Fowl*, based on this series it is definitely worth the read.

Riley Cain's *Banshee Rising* takes the Irish folklore of banshees and puts an adventurous twist on the classic tale. In this page-turner, 15-year-old Kaitlyn is pulled into an epic battle as she learns about her family's past. Be sure to keep an eye out for ghostly cameos by Jonathan Swift and others.

If you are in the mood for an entrancing biography, adult readers will find much to enjoy in *Tis' Herself* by Maureen O'Hara. Having been a life-long fan, I could not put down her autobiography. I highly recommend this one if you are interested in a peek at the woman off screen.

If fiction is more your thing, be sure to check out the *Dublin Murder Squad* series by Tana French. The series opener, *In the Woods*, won multiple awards and investigates the murder of a 12-year old girl. This one is a bit grittier and currently has 6 novels in the series.

Contributor Lori Skinner is the Head Librarian for Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC). For more information, she can be contacted at 256-331-6288 or [lori.skinner@nwsc.edu](mailto:lori.skinner@nwsc.edu). NW-SCC Libraries are open to the public and look forward to serving your library needs.



COURTESY PHOTO

*How to Catch a Leprechaun* is just one of many books recommended to celebrate the spirit of Ireland in the month of March.

“Eye Care & Eye Wear for Your Unique Lifestyle”

256-332-5440  
15255 Hwy 43  
Russellville



 EyeCare Professionals

[www.eyecareprofessionalspc.com](http://www.eyecareprofessionalspc.com) • M-F 8-5

**George Evans, MD**

Offering general medical care services for the entire family



**SHOALS**  
PRIMARY CARE



256.383.4473 Ext. 2021

340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL

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



# RUSSELLVILLE DENTAL CARE

***DON'T HAVE DENTAL  
INSURANCE?  
WE CAN HELP!***



**Russellville Dental offers  
an Insurance Plan for only  
\$196 per year. Includes all  
Free X-rays, Free Exams and Free Cleanings.  
Discounts on all other procedures.**



**WHY PAY MORE  
MONEY?**

*Every Penny Counts*


**510 Engle Dr, • Russellville  
256.332.6073**



Where Everybody  
Knows Your Name...



**FREE Local Delivery**  
**FREE Curbside Assistance**  
**Mail Order Delivery\***




\*Within the state of Alabama

**(256)331-1919**  
**14001 Hwy 43,**  
**Suite 13**  
 Franklin Shopping Ctr

**RUSSELLVILLE DRUGS**  
**FREE Local Delivery!**

**Miranda Decker, M.D.**  
**INTERNAL MEDICINE**  
**Comprehensive Adult Health Care**



**Russellville Internal Medicine, P.C.**

535 Gandy Street NE  
 Russellville, AL 35653  
 256-332-1120

Mon-Thur  
 8-5

**Kevin G. Kelly, M.D.**  
 Serving your family for over 30 years

**FAMILY PRACTICE**  
 Pediatrics  
 Newborn Care  
 256-332-5901

**Urgent Care**  
 Walk-in Clinic  
**We are still here!**

- Entrance located on right side closest to Fred's
- Please excuse our growing pains.

**No Appointment Needed**

**13150 Hwy. 43 Suite 10**  
**Russellville, AL**  
 (intersection of Hwy. 24 and Hwy. 43)

**256-331-2092**

# 'MAIL,' from page 1

residents must be confident their mail is securely delivered to them. If that confidence is eroded, the security of the mail is compromised and that creates a problem.

After the *Franklin Free Press* was contacted by two Payne Creek residents about their mail service being interrupted, the *FFP* reached out to Shapiro, the Michigan-based company that manages Payne Creek.

On Thursday, Austin Shapiro said he was not familiar with the mail situation at Payne Creek, but said he would look into it and get back with the *FFP*.

True to his word, Shapiro followed up and said he had ordered the lock box and it was scheduled for delivery this week.

"What matters to me is residents are receiving mail like they are supposed to and I have ordered the special lock box that will allow just the postal employees to access the mail room," Shapiro said.

Although mail has not been delivered to Payne Creek in more than a month, mail delivery was not stopped, Eli explained. Instead, mail for Payne Creek was 'on hold,' and could be picked up at the Russellville Post Office by residents.

There is a special hardship form residents can complete and file with the post office. The form is for residents who have physical impairments that limit their mobility and/or driving. The forms must be supported by medical documentation. If approved, those residents will have their mail service resumed directly to their door.

Candi Frederick, Payne Creek Manager, spoke with the *FFP* and acknowledged that when she started her job as manager, she did place fliers and 7-day notices into residents' mailboxes because "the previous manager was allowed to place notices into boxes and I thought it was okay to do it."

Frederick said once she learned of the postal carrier's concerns, she no longer went into the mail room. Frederick also said the key she had to the mail room was given to her by the letter carrier when Frederick was hired as manager.

Frederick said she and Russellville Post Office employees have had heated conversations about accusations made against Frederick by a former Payne Creek employee who said Frederick was stealing mail. Frederick said the former employee's claim is baseless and is part of an alleged pattern of harassment against her.

"The tenants have told me (the former manager) did put fliers and notices into their boxes. Stealing mail is a federal offense and I would never do that," Frederick said.

Frederick also said she was told by another Shapiro employee that the special lock box was ordered more than three weeks ago but it still had not arrived as of Friday.

For one resident of Payne Creek, regular mail delivery is directly tied to his health.

"There are people here who cannot leave. They get medicine through the mail and they don't drive. They may not have family members to help and that's a problem," the resident, who asked not to be named, said.

Residents are hopeful the problem will soon be resolved and their mail service will resume. And that's exactly what Shapiro wants as well.

"We are doing everything required to resolve this and hopefully residents will soon be getting mail like they're supposed to," Shapiro said.



COURTESY PHOTO

After mail service was suspended for approximately 65 Payne Creek residences, a special lock box was ordered by management to potentially resolve the issue.



# Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

**YARD SALES**  
 Multi-Family Yard Sale. Saturday, March 26. 6:30-until. 179 Abbey Lane, Russellville. Bakery equipment, small kitchen appliances, catering items, home decorations, little girls' clothing, ladies clothing 2X-Medium size and more!  
 Yard sale this Saturday, March 26th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beside Rancho on Hwy. 43.  
 Multi-Family Yard

Sale. Saturday, March 19. 7 a.m.-until. 408 Duncan Drive, Cedar Creek Subdivision in Russellville.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**  
 Need someone to Clean House every 2 weeks. Located in Russellville at 69 Eastwood Ave. Call 256-460-5432.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**  
 Needing help to work on farm. Need farmhands to help operate tractor, bulldozer, hay bailer, farm caterpillar and other farm equipment. Part-time, good pay for qualified and experienced people. (256)-332-4955.

**FOR SALE**  
 Truck tires for sale. Set of 4, good condi-

tion. \$80. Call (256)-668-2584.  
 GE Washer/Dryer For Sale. Dryer is like new, great condition. Washer needs minor repair. Both for \$150. Call 256-398-8158 or come by 911 Adams St., Russellville

Cub Cadet Riding Mower for sale. 50" cutting deck. 23 HP. \$825. Call 256-668-2584.  
 1992 Chevrolet Silverado Z71 Rear End for sale. \$300. 4-Wheel Clutch \$150. Drive Shaft \$100. Call 256-668-2584.

Trailer and house on 3.75 acres of land. 905 Railsplitter Road in Phil Campbell. Call (574)-214-6074 for more information!

Eight dog crates for sale. Call (256)-332-0205 for sizes and price.  
 2 Deer hunting climbing stands, 6 deer hunting ladder stands. Call (256)-332-0205 for prices.  
 Coffee table with wooden top. \$50. Call (256)-332-0205.  
 Large two-door oak wardrobe with shelves. \$225. Call (256)-332-0205.  
 Nice gentleman's chest. Brown wood. \$225. Call (256)-332-0205.  
 Cemetery plot for sale at Franklin Memory Gardens, Waterloo Road in Russellville. Located on Prayer Side of Cemetery. \$900. Call 256-668-7004.

**FOR RENT**  
 1 BR Apartment For Rent. Furnished. Private Entrance, Patio. Call 256-332-5081 or 256-627-1916. (1)  
 2 BR Apartment For Rent. Large Yard. Covered Patio, Central Air. Call 256-332-5081 or 256-627-1916. (1)

*Franklin Free Press Classified Rates: Yard Sale Rates: FREE, Deadline Monday at Noon; Real Estate-Homes, acreage, lots for sale or rent. \$25 for six consecutive weeks.*

Three Hanging Wall Heaters For Sale. \$150 for all three. 220-volt. Northstar Pressure Washer For Sale. \$75 OBO or work trade. Call 256-324-2407.  
 Up to 40 words per ad; Vehicles, Boats, RVs, Motorcycles for sale. \$15 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Pets For Sale only \$10 for six consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Free of Charge: Lost & Found, Giveaways, and Items Under \$100 (Private Parties Only). 15-word limit; Commercial  
 Classified Rates: \$25 for Businesses, 15 words or less for six weeks. Ads exceeding word limit add \$10 per additional 15 words. The number in parentheses represents the number of times the ad has appeared. Call us at 256-332-0255 to place, cancel or renew your ad. Payment is required in advance of publication for ads.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
 SPONSOR AN Exchange student! Enjoy another culture from the comfort of your own home. Make a difference in your community. Change a student's life! 1-678-745-8081.

**SERVICES**  
 BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo. with 190 Channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 1-855-943-1314.

**PLACE STATEWIDE**  
 Ads in over 100 Newspapers, reaching over 1 million readers each week! Run your ad in our Classified Network

ALASCAN for just \$210 per week! Make one call to this newspaper (participating Alaskan newspaper) or call 1-800-264-7043 to find out how easy it is to advertise statewide!

**INSTRUCTION**  
 ONLINE PHARMACY Technician Training New Students Only. Call & Press 1. Financial Aid Available for those who qualify. 100% Online Courses. Call 1-844-359-2283.

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

**Don Enrique, Agent**  
 enriquehomes@yahoo.com  
**Servicios Generales de Seguros y Vivienda**  
 256-740-2356

**It's Your Choice,**

**M&N**

**At the scene of an accident or breakdown, tell law enforcement you want M & N Towing! We offer local pick up for service & maintenance!**

**TOWING & SERVICE CENTER**  
 11833 Hwy 43 South • Russellville, AL 35653  
 256.332.7279

**Do you need Garden Tilling, Small Backhoe or Landscaping Work?**  
 Call Christopher at 256-702-1404.

**Bobby's**   
**KNIVES & MORE**

5825 Highway 56 • Russellville, Al.  
 256-366-7886  
 Friday-Sunday 8-4.



**Auto, Home, Life Insurance  
English and Spanish**

Real deal with a local feel.  
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.

**Scotty Wood, Agent**  
13760 Highway 43 Ste 6, Russellville, AL 35653  
256-332-0052  
scotty@agentscotty.com  
agentscotty.com



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

**FranklinFreePress.net**

**SPORTS**

**3.23.22**

# Big swings by Gipson, Pace help Russellville beat Loretto for Heaps' 300th career win

Staff reports

Canyon Pace delivered a tie-breaking two-run double in a five-run seventh inning by Russellville on Thursday as the Golden Tigers traveled north of the border and beat Loretto (TN) 10-5 to give head coach Chris Heaps his 300th career win.

Pace also hit a two-run homer in the top of the first, his third long ball in the past two games. Fellow senior Eli Gipson homered for the second straight game, too, tying the score 5-5 with a solo shot in the top of the fifth. He finished 4-for-4 and scored four runs.

Samuel Pace (2-1) earned the win in relief, pitching out of bases-loaded jams in the bottom of the sixth and the bottom of the seventh to hold Loretto scoreless over the final three innings.

Heaps, now in his 10th season at Russellville after guiding Central-Phenix City to a 31-16 record in 2012, has reached the 300-win mark in just 434 career games. His season-by-season records at RHS are as follows:

- 2013: 25-16 (lost in first round of Class 5A playoffs)
- 2014: 16-24 (no playoffs)
- 2015: 35-6 (won Class 5A state championship)
- 2016: 48-7 (won Class 5A state championship)
- 2017: 38-10 (won Class 5A state championship)
- 2018: 30-17 (lost in Class 5A state finals)
- 2019: 18-18 (lost in second round of Class 5A playoffs)
- 2020: 10-6 (AHSAA playoffs were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

See 'RUSSELLVILLE,' page 13

# Franklin Free Press 2021-22 All-County Girls Basketball



COURTESY PHOTO & PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

Franklin County was full of talent in girls basketball this season including the likes of Scott, left, garnered an all-state honorable mention selection for 1A after putting up over 20 double-doubles in her senior season, and Gracie Montgomery, right, who led Tharptown to their first county title in program history.

Brady Petree  
Franklin Free Press

Baseball and softball seasons are in full swing - no pun intended - and the 2021-22 high school basketball season is officially in the rear view mirror.

After an incredibly successful season for both boys and girls, it's time for the *Franklin Free Press* annual all-county basketball selections beginning this week with the girls team.

Across Franklin County, girls basketball programs put together a strong campaign that saw a first time county tournament title winner in Tharptown, multiple area champions in Belgreen and Phil Campbell and much more.

So without further ado, let's take a look at this year's *FFP* all-county basketball squad.

### Player of the Year

**Sara Scott, Senior Center, Vina**

It was a banner year for Scott who came into her final season with the Lady Red Devils with 823 points and 999 rebounds for her career.

Scott would surpass the 1,000 mark for both of those statistics this season for her career which would also include a streak of 27 made free throws as well.

Playing in 26 games, the 5'10 center scored 402 points (15.4 points per game) and pulled down 401 rebounds (15.4 rebounds per game).

Across 26 games played for Vina, Scott also put up 22 double-doubles on the year.

On the defensive end, Scott was no slouch either.

Tallying 48 blocks (1.8 per game) and 42 steals (1.6 per game) for the Lady Red Devils, Scott was an all-around talent for head coach Richie Hester and the Lady Red Devils this season and therefore is our selection for the *FFP* 2021-22 girls player of the year.

### First Team (in no particular order)

**Gracie Montgomery, Senior Guard, Tharptown**

One of two Tharptown players to make our all-county team this year, Gracie was the senior leader for a Tharptown Lady Wildcats squad that took home their first county title in program history in a win over Phil Campbell.

A Calhoun Community College signee for cross country, Montgomery made sure to leave her mark on the basketball court before departing for college.

In her senior campaign, Montgomery totaled

See 'TEAM,' page 14

**Pest Solutions**

**Pest & Mosquito Control**

**256-332-4008**

# Shoals Primary Care

welcomes

## Dr. Zaman Shah

to the practice  
in Sheffield



Board certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. Shah is an exceptional physician and a close family member of Dr. Syed.

He will be continuing Dr. Syed's legacy of excellent and compassionate patient care with Shoals Primary Care.

Monday-Thursday 8am - 5pm

Walk-ins are Welcome

MOST INSURANCE ACCEPTED  
MEDICARE PATIENTS WELCOME



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

361231-1

## Village at Oliver Place

Apartments & Townhomes

Water included starting at:

2 BR \$455 • 3 BR: \$525



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



Letters to the editor may be sent to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

# JOB OPPORTUNITY

CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE  
STREET DEPARTMENT

LABORER

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: No written test is required. Employee will be required to perform various types of routine manual labor, which are repetitive in nature. Such tasks may include but not be limited to the following: loading and unloading trucks filled with dirt, blocks, pipe, and other materials used for street repair; shoveling asphalt; installation of drain pipes; mowing grass and weed eating; digging ditches and any other activities as are described in the job description. The ability to lift at least 50 pounds may be required.

QUALIFICATIONS: Any combination of training, experience and sufficient physical health and strength to perform heavy manual work under inclement conditions.

THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, political affiliation, disability, or any other non-merit factor. The city of Russellville encourages applications for positions in all protective service departments from women in an attempt to increase their representation in protective service departments.

Applications may be obtained at the Russellville City Hall, Office of the Mayor, 304 North Jackson Avenue. Applications must be returned no later than March 28, 2022 by U.S. Mail to:

The Russellville Civil Service Board, P. O. Box 308 Russellville, AL 35653

The average pay for this position is \$22,734.40 – 35,027.20.

The appointees will be required to successfully complete a physical examination including drug and alcohol.

# Turn your home...



# into an outdoor paradise!

We Do Custom Hardscaping!



256.332.8181  
HWY 43 • Littleville

# MISSION MEDICAL

Se Habla Espanol



Now Offering

**Botox/Filler injections,**  
provided by Dr. Jeffrey Chenyi.

Experience and Trust you can  
rely on for your family's  
health!

Call for an  
appointment

Mon-Fri  
8-5

(256) 398-7212 • 14001 Hwy 43  
Franklin Shopping Center • Russellville, AL

Jeff Elledge's  
**CREDIT CARS**

**NO CREDIT WE FINANCE**

05 Buick Terraza \$1500 Down	08 GMC Acadia \$1800 Down
10 Ford F150 Supercab \$2800 Down	08 Chevy HHR \$1200 Down
05 Chevy Trailblazer \$1000 Down	10 Chevy Equinox \$1000 Down
05 Dodge Magnum \$1800 Down	93 Ford F150 \$1000 Down

elledge.jeff@gmail.com

2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals

256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711

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

## 'RUSSELLVILLE,' from page 11

2021: 42-7 (won Class 5A state championship)

2022: 7-7 (through Thursday)

Heaps, who won a state championship as a senior second baseman at Hartselle in 1990 and then helped his alma mater win three more titles as an assistant under legendary (and still active) coach William Booth, has been a part of eight state championship teams as a player, assistant and head coach.

Russellville has reached the state finals five times with Heaps at the helm after never making it to Montgomery prior to his arrival. The 48 wins by the Golden Tigers in 2016 are a school record and were just two shy of the national high school record of 50 wins set by Hartselle in 2009 (when Heaps was an assistant at HHS).

Heaps was named ASWA Coach of the Year in 2012 at Central-Phenix City, when he led the Red Devils to the Class 6A state semifinals. He won the award again in 2021 after leading the Golden Tigers to their fourth Class 5A state title in seven years.

Russellville jumped out to an early lead on Thursday in the top of the first when Gipson singled to center with one out and Pace followed with a two-run shot to left, his fourth home run of the season and the seventh of his varsity career.

Junior Banks Langston got the start for the Golden Tigers on the mound and worked around a leadoff single in the bottom of the first, striking out two. Langston put up another zero in the bottom of the second, and Russellville added to the lead with two runs in the top of the third. Gipson doubled and scored on a base hit by Reed Hill, and Ethan Oliver drove in Hill with an RBI double to center to make it 4-0.

Loretto cut the lead in half in the bottom of the third, scoring twice on a walk and two singles. The Mustangs rallied for three more runs in the bottom of the fourth, putting together a double, three singles and an error to take a 5-4 lead.

Gipson led off the fifth with his second home run of the season and third of his Golden Tiger career, driving a 1-1 pitch over the fence in left to tie the game 5-5. Samuel Pace relieved Langston in the bottom of the fifth and worked around an error, striking out two.

Loretto loaded the bases with one out in the sixth on a pair of walks and a hit batter, but Pace got a strikeout and a fly-out to escape the jam and keep it 5-5. Grayson Thorpe led off the top of the seventh with a single, and Gipson followed with his fourth hit of the night. After both runners moved up on a wild pitch, Pace doubled to center to put Russellville on top 7-5.

Hill followed with an RBI single to chase home Pace, and Oliver kept things rolling with his second double of the game.

Hill scored on a wild pitch to make it 9-5, and Oliver came home on another wild pitch to cap off the big inning.

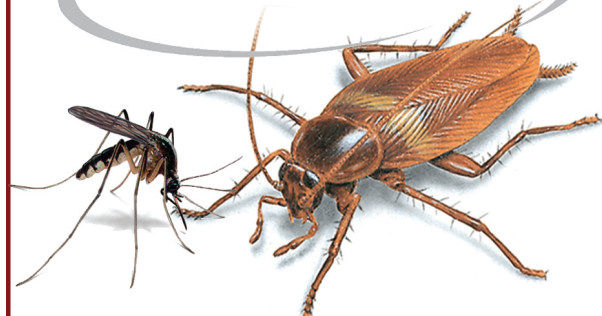
Loretto did not go quietly in the bottom of the seventh, putting the leadoff man on base on an error. Pace struck out the next two batters, but then a double and a walk loaded the bases. Pace got the final out on a fly-ball to center to finish off Heaps' milestone win.

Gipson had four hits in a game for the first time in his varsity career and is now 5-for-6 over the last two games with two homers and six runs scored. Canyon Pace has been even more productive this week, going 5-for-7 in two games with three home runs and nine RBIs. The senior DH was 2-for-4 on Thursday with four RBIs and two runs scored and is now batting .413 (19-for-46) on the season with four homers, six doubles and 18 RBIs in 14 games.

Hill went 2-for-3 on Thursday with two RBIs and two runs scored and is also 5-for-6 over his last two games. Oliver was 2-for-4 at Loretto with two doubles, an RBI and a run scored. Thorpe went 1-for-4 and scored a run.

Samuel Pace improved to 7-1 in his varsity career, holding the Mustangs to just one hit in three shutout innings. He struck out five and walked three. Langston pitched the first four innings, allowing four earned runs on eight hits. He struck out four and walked one.

## Pest Solutions



**Pest & Mosquito  
Control**  
**256-332-4008**

# Hop on in to Wood-Thompson Insurance and see us!

We have several new companies available to help find you the **LOWEST** available rate!



## Wood-Thompson Insurance

130 North Jackson Ave • Russellville  
Monday-Friday 8-5

256-332-1381



**Now OPEN** In Phil Campbell!  
**FRANKLIN DISCOUNT DRUGS**  
205-993-4554

**Free Local Delivery!**  
**Convenient Drive-Thru!**  
**Most Insurance Accepted!**



**Mon.-Fri. 9-6**  
**3145 Hwy 237**  
**Phil Campbell**

**Next to Phil Campbell High School**

Owner/Pharmacist  
Wes Mayfield

## 'TEAM,' from page 11

13.3 points per game for Tharptown while adding 3.9 rebounds per game as well.

### Kenner Scott, Senior Guard, Phil Campbell

After the 2020-21 season, Phil Campbell was looking at a major re-tooling year. Replacing three starters was going to be very difficult and head coach Craig Thomas needed some senior leadership to come from somewhere.

And the Lady Bobcats got just what they needed from the sharpshooting Scott who led Phil Campbell to a 19-12 record to go along with a 3A area 15 championship.

In her senior season, Scott averaged 12 points per game while bringing in seven rebounds per game in addition to four assists per game.

Scott also took a major step forward defensively for the Lady Bobcats this season as she totaled four steals per game to lead all Phil Campbell players.

### Noelle Willingham, Senior Guard, Belgreen

Willingham, following in the footsteps of her brother Issac who graduated from Belgreen the year prior, was sort of a "jack-of-all-trades" for the Lady Bulldogs this season.

Putting up solid numbers across the board, Willingham was a key contributor for a Belgreen team that brought home an area title.

Offensively, Willingham averaged 12.2 points per game while crashing the boards consistently for an average of 6.7 rebounds per game. Willingham also averaged 2.7 assists per game.

On the defensive end, the Lady Bulldog senior guard was a thorn in the side of opposing offenses, swiping an average of 2.1 steals per game.

### Kaylie Lindley, Junior Guard, Red Bay

It was a bit of a transitional season for Red Bay this season as they endured their first season under head coach Carlee Robbins.

However, one of the bright spots was junior guard Kaylie Lindley, who orchestrated the offense for the Lady Tigers throughout the course of the season.

A season-high scoring total of 23 points is just the beginning of what Robbins and her staff hope will be a dominant two seasons for Lindley.

In addition, Lindley was sneakily good in terms of backside rebounding, grabbing multiple rebounds that way over the course of the season.

### Second Team (in no particular order)

#### Madison Branch, Junior Guard, Phil Campbell

Branch was a key component in the Lady Bobcats success this season with her play on both ends of the court.

While scoring 9.5 points and averaging two assists per game is certainly a plus, Branch did most of her damage on the glass as she hauled in an extremely solid 12 rebounds per game.

On defense, Branch left her mark as well for the Lady Bobcats. The senior Bobcat blocked an average of four shots per game, which was the best total amongst county players this season.

#### Dacota Green, Freshman Forward, Belgreen

The evolution of basketball has seen the development of post players and taller forwards expanding their range and becoming more of a perimeter shooter.

Green certainly took a step in that direction this season while also performing at a high level in other aspects.

The sophomore center averaged 10.6 points per game, 6.0 rebounds per game and 1.3 steals per game for Belgreen.

In addition, Green also shot 31.3% from beyond the arc as well.

**MEDICARE**  
INSURANCE SPECIALISTS  
*Of the Shoals*

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE  
LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS  
LOCAL SERVICE

(256) 648-5220

410 S Wilson Dam Rd  
Muscle Shoals, AL  
Never a Fee for our service



# Welcoming New Patients



We would be honored to care for you and those you love.

Physicians (L-R):

Jack M. McLendon, MD, FACP | Jeremy Thompson, MD, FAAFP  
Joshua D. Vacik, MD, FACP | Courtney Bowen, MD | Brian C. Richards, DO  
Brad McAnalley, MD, FACP | Robert Dickson, DO

CALL

**(256) 383-4447**  
ext. 124

Like us... Share us...  
Call us...



[www.MedShoals.com](http://www.MedShoals.com)



1120 S. Jackson Hwy  
Sheffield, AL

MEDICAL ASSOCIATES  
OF THE SHOALS

351 Alabama Hwy 64  
Killen, AL

**Pick up your FREE copy of the  
Franklin Free Press at CJ's!!!**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 4a - 7p**



**GROCERY  
FISHING  
SUPPLIES  
DELI**  
**256-332-1324**

- 🐟 Full Service Deli w/ Breakfast & Lunch Plates
- 🐟 Ethanol-Free Gas
- 🐟 Hunting/Fishing Licenses
- 🐟 Fishing Supplies/ Live Bait

**14545 AL 187 @  
Intersection of AL 24**

## 'TEAM,' from page 14

Continuing with the post player trend, Mansell was the offensive and defensive anchor in the post for the defending country champs.

En route to the county championship, Mansell scored 11.2 points per game as well as tallying 8.8 rebounds per game.

Defensively, Mansell blocked an average of 2.2 blocks per game over the course of the season for Tharptown.

### Faith Cook, Senior Guard, Phil Campbell

Last season saw three Lady Bobcats make the FFP all-county team. And after graduating all three of the aforementioned players from a year ago, it stands to reason that it would be rather difficult to achieve the same feat.

But Cook rounds out the formidable trio that led the Lady Bobcats to yet another area title.

Cook averaged ten points per game in her senior season while crashing the glass to the tune of five rebounds per game.

### Kaitlyn Athey, Junior Forward, Vina

Athey helped form a dynamic one-two punch for Vina this season along with Sara Scott.

The Junior forward averaged 12.1 points per game along with 5.2 rebounds per game.

A defensive stalwart for the Lady Red Devils, Athey totaled 71 steals (2.7 per game) and 56 blocks (2.1 per game) on the year.

### Honorable Mentions

#### Jenna Whitfield, Junior Forward, Russellville

Whitfield averaged 8.5 points per game for the Lady Golden Tigers across 24 games. The Junior forward also pulled down 3.6 rebounds per game and came up with 1.9 steals per game.

#### Autumn Montgomery, Junior Guard, Tharptown

The younger sister of Gracie Montgomery (see above), Montgomery made a name for herself in her own right as a member of the Lady Wildcats.

Montgomery scored an average of 9.4 points per game. She also averaged 3.5 rebounds and 2.3 steals per game for Tharptown.

#### Madeline Ledbetter, Junior Post Player, Red Bay

One of the players to watch for next season under head coach Carlee Robbins as she will enter her second season at the helm of the Lady Tigers program is Ledbetter.

Ledbetter, a junior, scored a season-high 12 points in a crucial in-county matchup against Phil Campbell.

Over the course of the season, Ledbetter was able to pull down double-digit rebounds in multiple games for Red Bay.

### Coach of the Year

#### Craig Thomas, Phil Campbell

One could easily make a case for Chad Green, who led the Lady Bulldogs to an area title, or Tanna Benford who coached the Lady Wildcats to their first ever county title. But we will hand the honor to Thomas whose Lady Bobcats claimed a 3A area championship despite working with a large portion of a new starting rotation.

Anytime a team loses three starters from an area-winning team, it might be easy to see how it would be difficult to replicate that success the following year.

However, if there's one program in Franklin County that knows how to rebuild year after year, it's head coach Craig Thomas and the Phil Campbell Lady Bobcats.

Coming off of an area championship and a county title in the 2020-21 season, the Lady Bobcats almost didn't skip a beat.

Claiming the runner-up spot in the Franklin County tournament, Thomas and the Lady Bobcats went 19-12 en route to a 3A area 15 title once again.

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

**Free Estimates Licensed**

**MOWING • TRIMMING  
MULCHING • CLEANING LEAVING  
HEDGING & SHRUBS • EDGING**

LIONEL  
RICHIE

Multi-Platinum Artist

**R**EGISTER TO VOTE, AND  
GET YOUR VOTER ID TODAY.

**IT'S EASY ...  
EASY LIKE SUNDAY MORNING.**



SECRETARY OF STATE  
JOHN H. MERRILL

TO REGISTER TO VOTE OR SECURE A FREE ALABAMA PHOTO VOTER ID CARD, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BOARD OF REGISTRARS, VISIT [ALABAMAVOTES.GOV](http://ALABAMAVOTES.GOV), CALL 1-800-274-8683, OR DOWNLOAD THE [VOTE FOR ALABAMA APP](#).  
PAID FOR BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN H. MERRILL, MONTGOMERY, AL.

