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

Suspect in custody on Phil Campbell Texaco robbery

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

A suspect has been arrested in connection with the April 23rd armed robbery of the Texaco on Highway 237 in Phil Campbell, Franklin County Sheriff Shannon Oliver confirmed Monday.

Javorose Monquis Yarbrough, 27, was taken into custody late last week by sheriff's deputies while washing his car at a car wash on Highway 43 in Russellville.

Yarbrough was charged with one count of Robbery First Degree, a Class A felony punishable by a prison sentence of 20 years to life if a deadly weapon is used in the commission of the crime.

Yarbrough is accused of robbing

the Phil Campbell business at gun-point last month. He is a suspect in the armed robbery of the Russellville (Isbell) Dollar General that occurred last month, but has not been charged yet.

Oliver said both cases will be presented to a Franklin County Grand Jury this week.

Yarbrough was transported by sheriff's deputies to the custody of the Alabama Department of Corrections to serve the remainder of a sentence from a Pickens County conviction, Oliver said. A hold was placed on the inmate, and Yarbrough will be returned to Franklin County for arraignment once his prison sentence is done.

Yarbrough also has an Alias See 'ROBBERY,' page 5

County officials looking at safety, visibility enhancements for Highway 75/724 intersection

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

A Franklin County woman is back home after a hospital stay that resulted from injuries she received as a passenger in a vehicle struck by a tractor trailer at the Highway 75/724 intersection.

Social media reports from her family indicate that Sonya Quinn Elliott returned home this weekend. Elliott was injured when a tractor trailer, heading south on 75, allegedly failed to stop at the 75/724 intersection and struck a vehicle on the passenger side where she was riding. The accident occurred on April 26th, according to Franklin County Sheriff Shannon Oliver.

Highway 724, as it is now designat-

ed, is the former Highway 24 that was the primary east-west road between Russellville and Moulton prior to the completion of Corridor V.

The 75/724 intersection has a history of accidents, including at least one fatality. Russellville resident Misty Seal, who lives near the intersection, was one of several people at the scene shortly after Tuesday's collision.

"There have been so many accidents here," Seal said. "One problem is at night, the stop sign at 75 for traffic coming from new 24 is not visible. We need some safety improvements to make the intersection more visible."

Oliver agrees.

"Old 24 still receives a lot of traffic. See 'HIGHWAY,' page 3

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CURTIS BAKER
 Board of Education, District 2
 May 24, 2022
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WJ Hornsby, 83, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Saturday, April 30th. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

Armon James Kimbrough, 83, of Russellville, passed away on Wednesday, April 27th. Interment at East Franklin Cemetery.

Larry Rollen Ozbirn, 74, of Spruce Pine, passed away on Monday, April 25th. Interment at Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery.

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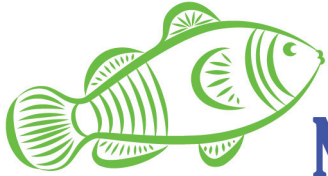
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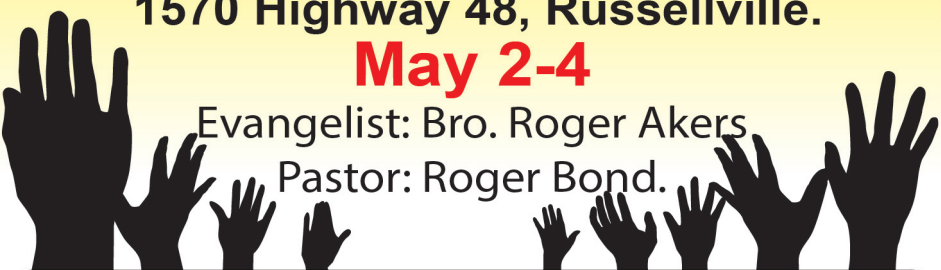
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'HIGHWAY,' from page 1

I've been contacted over the last few months about motorists speeding on 724 through that intersection," Oliver said.

The speed limit on 724 is 45 miles per hour, he said. Oliver spoke with Franklin County Engineer David Palmer last week about possible safety enhancements that can be made as vehicles approach 724 from the south and north on 75.

"We have increased our deputies' visibility and enforcement around that intersection and I've also seen more troopers in that area because I drive through that intersection regularly," Oliver said.

"Most of these accidents occur at night, so we need to look at solutions that let traffic on 75 know the intersection is there. The driver in this accident was from Kansas. Many drivers going to and from (Pilgrim's) are from out of town and not familiar with the area," he added.

75 is used as the main artery from new 24 to Pilgrim's for truck traffic. Oliver said some of the other north-south roads in the area have bridges with weight limits so traffic most frequently flows onto 75.

Franklin County Commissioner Chris Wallace, whose District One includes the area, said he plans to speak with Palmer to discuss the best ways to increase visibility on 75, not only for truck traffic but for all vehicles.

Palmer said drivers who use GPS to get to Pilgrim's are led to 75, a road that is designed for that heavy traffic.

"We spend some industrial access funds on that road to beef it up, stripe it and widen it. It's designed for that traffic," Palmer said. "We're going to investigate the intersection and see what we can do. I think there are several options we can look at."

Palmer said Highway Department employees can install larger stop signs and 'Stop Ahead' signs with red flashing lights operated by solar panels.

"Rumble strips are another option. Some people don't like those near their homes because they can be pretty loud with folks using that road at night," Palmer said. "But if we're having these issues at that intersection, rumble strips are a pretty effective device to make folks aware they are coming into a situation where they need to slow down or stop."

Palmer added that he will meet with Oliver to look at all options and expedite the process to make some visibility/safety enhancements that are at their disposal.

Dawson Distillery to host special event on May 7th

Submitted to the FFP

Dawson Distillery will be hosting a special event on Saturday, May 7, 2022, from 9 am – 6 pm.

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Moonshine will be available for purchase (limit 3 bottles per person), as well as homemade moonshine jams and moonshine fruit jars. They will be offering homemade chicken stew that day as well.

Dawson Distillery is located at 1022 LaGrange College Road, Leighton, Alabama, 35646.

Regular business hours are Thursday – Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm.

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Letter to the editor...

Dear Editor,

Have you ever wondered why we look around and cannot see where a lot of progress is being made? Our roads are still cracked, busted and full of potholes. We are remaining on the bottom in education. Rural hospitals all over the State are closing at a fast pace. Some of our rural schools are in need of major repairs. We are not getting good paying jobs into District 4, that pays a decent wage.

Affordable housing is hard to find. Our rivers and lakes are being polluted with toxic waste. Maybe we should take a look at the leadership in the Great State of Alabama and find our answers.

We have elected people in Alabama who do not even live in Alabama. We have candidates running for office in this election who do not live in Alabama. Our own Congressional District 4 House of Representatives Robert Aderholt lives in Arlington, Virginia. His children went to school at one of the most elite schools in the country in Arlington. He doesn't drive on these banged up roads we do. His children did not attend a rural school that is in need of repairs, and updated equipment.

Alabama elected Tommy Tuberville, a has-been football coach who lives in Florida and has no understanding of the Senate or how our government works over a lifelong Alabama resident, Doug Jones, a former prosecutor who has a career of being a crusader against racism and crime. What was Alabama thinking?

Now we have Mike Durant, candidate for the Senate who says that Huntsville is his home, but no one in Huntsville knows him. That is because he lives in Maryland and also has a luxurious home in Colorado. Durant is certainly a man in question considering that he turned his back on his own sister when she came forth that their father had sexually abused her for more than a decade.

Durant's father admitted the abuse and Durant took his father's side against his sister, a victim of rape and incest. Durant could not win a Senate race in Maryland,

Colorado or his home state of New Hampshire. He is running in Alabama because he thinks our voters are so backward that he can pick us off.

SEE 'LETTER,' page 7

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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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'ROBBERY,' from page 1

Warrant for failing to appear in Franklin County Circuit Court on a 2015 Attempted Murder charge.

The joint investigation, which included the Phil Campbell Police Department and the Russellville Police Department, intensified when officers obtained video footage of a vehicle at the Phil Campbell Texaco a short time before the April 23rd robbery. Additional video footage of the same car in the area, along with information obtained from a search warrant for electronic records, also led investigators to Yarbrough.

Yarbrough denied any involvement in either robbery after he was taken into custody without incident.

Oliver said the recent robberies created tension and concern for business owners and employees who work at night, and the case became a priority for investigators.

"This was a joint effort among agencies with a lot of hours and a lot of work going into developing a suspect quickly before he could commit another robbery," Oliver said. "When he completes his prison sentence, he will be back here in our county to face this new charge."



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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.


 Recall LaGrange's Distillery Raid on the Mountain will include a period-correct, living history event centering on a Prohibition Era Raid on a "suspected moonshine still." A group of lawmen will descend on the pioneer village of LaGrange and will engage in a brief skirmish with the locals. The skirmish will be held at 2PM on Saturday, May 7 at the College Site Park. Living history presentations will be ongoing throughout the day and also tours of the near-by Dawson Distillery earlier in the day. Craft Vendors and Tours of the LaGrange's Pioneer Village will be open inside the park all day. The Event is Free. Donations are always appreciated for continued operations of the park.


 It's that time again—Mowing Season. Time to remove all old flowers from graves and headstones at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery on Highway 724, Newburg. Donations are needed for the upkeep of the cemetery. If you have a loved one buried in this cemetery or want to help by contributing, please send contributions to: Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, 941 Highway 87, Russellville, AL 35654.


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 Pleasant Ridge Missionary Baptist Church #2 will hold Revival Monday-Wednesday, May 2,3,4, beginning nightly at 7 p.m. Evangelist is Bro. Roger Akers. Pastor Roger Bond and congregation invite everyone to attend. The church is located at 1570 Highway 48, Russellville.

 Franklin County Seekers of the Past will resume their quarterly meetings on Thursday, May 12, with a 5 p.m. meeting at the Franklin County Archives. Mary Carton will be the guest speaker with her program "Journey Down the Natchez Trace."

 The Franklin County Cattleman's Association will hold a Steak Sandwich Sale on Friday, May 13, at the Franklin Shopping Center. Sales will begin at 9 a.m., and continue until sold out.

 A Yard Sale to benefit the American Cancer Society Relay For Life will be held at South Side Baptist Church on Friday/Saturday, April 29/30, from 7 a.m.-2 p.m., each day. The church is located at 12215 Highway 43 South in Russellville.

 Orange Baptist Church will hold its Homecoming/Decoration Service on Sunday, May 15, at 10:30 a.m. The church is located at 8153 County Road 34, Russellville. Country/Gospel/Bluegrass singer Bradley Walker will be the special guest for this service. Everyone is invited.

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- Ray Fretwell, Chris Fretwell and Tina Fretwell Murray

'LETTER,' from page 4

Alabama voters have neglected to vote for the candidates who can best help our State and the problems of the people by voting party politics as opposed to their own best interests. This has yet to sink in with Alabama voters.

Why would a person living on Social Security vote for a candidate who wants to put Social Security in a can?

Maybe in this election, we should start looking at the voting records of the candidates and start voting based on our own personal interests instead of which party they are running for.

We could also benefit ourselves to check up on what these candidates are saying. Are they telling us what their plan is if elected or are they spending their time bashing their opponents?

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Dowdy released Monday afternoon on \$60,000 bond for manslaughter

Reprinted with permission of the Red Bay News. Our thanks to Jason Collum.

Jason Collum
The Red Bay News

Two separate attacks by the same pack of vicious dogs in two days south of Red Bay have left one woman dead, one woman injured, and the dogs' owner now facing manslaughter charges.

Most, if not all, of the dogs have now been killed by neighbors or people in the area.

Brandy Dowdy, 39, of Red Bay, has been charged after Friday's fatal attack. Dowdy was charged with manslaughter and under a new law, Emily's Law, which deals with not controlling dangerous dogs or taking precautions with them. She was booked into the Franklin County Jail on Friday. Bond was set

Monday at \$60,000, and Dowdy was released from jail Monday afternoon. Franklin County Sheriff Shannon Oliver said deputies were called to a Crumpton Road residence Friday evening around 6 p.m. on a report of a suspicious vehicle in the driveway of a home there. When the deputy arrived he was met by aggressive dogs and saw a scene that suggested there had been a struggle.

He followed the trail and found Jacqueline Summer Beard, 58, an Alabama Department of Public Health worker, dead from an apparent dog attack. Beard's body was located on the ground near her car.

"It was a pretty horrific scene," Oliver said.

Beard was at the home to follow up on an attack that took place on Hwy. 11 south of Red Bay on Thursday afternoon when a woman walking along the roadway was attacked by the same set of about seven dogs. Others nearby heard her screams and were able to rush to her rescue. She was flown to North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo for treatment and then transferred to University Medical Center in Jackson, Miss.

Oliver said it is believed Beard arrived at the home around 10 a.m. Friday morning for a follow-up.

"She went there to talk to the owners about putting the dogs up because they didn't have their shots or signing them over to be euthanized," Oliver said.

Dowdy, the dogs' owner, was apparently not at home when Beard arrived.

Dowdy was arrested at the scene on Friday evening. Oliver said his department had not had any calls regarding vicious dogs at the address prior to Thursday's attack, though there had been talk of problems with the dogs in the past.

"Apparently just talking with neighbors they have had some issues with them," Oliver said. "There are rumblings that they tried to bite or nip at a child, but we've not had any reports of anything (prior to these two attacks). I can't speak for animal control, though."

Oliver said when his deputies went to the scene on Thursday with animal control, "the dogs that were there were friendly, and they petted them. There wasn't any problem."

On Friday evening, the dogs were still on the attack after deputies arrived, apparently bit another man who was at the scene. Several dogs started attacking the residents gathered around the Crumpton Road site while the deputies were there and some of the dogs were immediately euthanized.

In Thursday's attack the woman was walking down Hwy. 11 from her residence when the dogs attacked.

She suffered life-threatening injuries and remained in the hospital in Jackson receiving treatment as press time.

On Saturday the ADPH issued a statement on Beard's death, asking for privacy for her family.

"Summer was known to her coworkers as an exceptional person," the statement said. "She was a tremendous team worker and was loved by those who knew her. It is a very sad day for ADPH, and we ask that everyone respect the privacy of the family during this most difficult time."

Under Alabama's Emily's Law, enacted in 2018, the owner of a dangerous dog(s) can be charged with a Class B felony if a dog they own has been previously declared dangerous, attacks a person without justification, and seriously injures or kills the person attacked. The matter becomes a Class C felony if the owner knows the dangerous propensities of the dog and recklessly disregards those propensities. A Class B felony is punishable by a prison term of two to 20 years and a fine of up to \$30,000. A Class C felony is punishable by a prison term of one to 10 years and up to \$15,000 in fines. The law is named after 24-year-old Emily Colvin, who died in 2017 after being attacked by a pack of dogs in the front yard of her home in Jackson County, Alabama.

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RHS among U.S. News and World Report's Top 25 Alabama high schools

Submitted to the FFP

For the second year in a row, Russellville High School has made the U.S. News & World Report's list of the Top 25 High Schools in Alabama, coming in at #22 on this year's list out of 718 high schools in the state.

This is a tremendous accomplishment for RHS, but it is even more impressive since this list considers socioeconomic factors that might affect rankings, such as the school's poverty rate (as measured by the percentage of students whose families receive federal government assistance) and the performance of underserved populations, such as the high number of English Language Learners at RHS. The poverty rate at RHS is 58% and the next closest poverty rate of one of the Top 25 high schools is 36%.

RHS Principal Dr. Jason Goodwin said this shows the hard work and resiliency of his students despite adversity.

"We know our students are hardworking, intelligent, and are receiving a top-notch education thanks to our dedicated faculty and staff, but it's great to see this reflected on paper as well," Goodwin said. "Many of our students face adversities to learning, such as language barriers and poverty rates, which studies show can negatively affect their performance in school. But our students continue to show their resiliency and how hard they are willing to work to achieve their goals no matter what barriers they may face. To me, this says so much about our students and about the quality of education they are receiving here at RHS."

RCS Superintendent Dr. Heath Grimes said he was excited to see RHS on this list for the second year in a row, which shows the high level of learning that continues to take place at RHS.

"At RCS, we want our students to know they are capable of whatever they set their minds to, and then we provide them with the tools necessary to make their goals possible," Grimes said. "We know many of our students face barriers beyond their control, and we make it our mission to make sure they are still able to succeed despite those challenges they face. We have amazing teachers who are dedicated to seeing their students succeed, no matter what, and we have students who set their goals high and strive to

meet those goals. All of that is a recipe for success. There is high-level learning taking place in our schools, and being part of this list for the second year in a row shows that."

The ranking of the 25 Top High Schools in Alabama is based on six different factors:

College readiness (30%), which includes the proportion of seniors in the class of 2020 who took and earned a qualifying score on Advanced Placement and/or International Baccalaureate exams at some point during their high school career.

Reading, math and science proficiency (20%), from testing in the 2018-19 school year (since most schools waived testing during the 2019-2020 school year due to the pandemic).

Reading math and science performance (20%), calculated as expected performance on tests given a school's student body characteristics.

Underserved student performance (10%), evaluating how well an underserved subgroup scored on state assessments compared with the average for non-underserved students among schools in the same state.

College curriculum breadth (10%), calculated as the percentage of seniors in 2019-20 who took and passed multiple AP/IB exams.

Graduation rates (10%) based on the 2019-20 school year.

Russellville City School Board President Greg Trapp said he and the whole board are happy to see RHS receiving much-deserved recognition.

"I am extremely proud of the students, faculty, staff, and administration at RHS for once again showing how dedicated our system is to making sure our students receive the best education possible," RCS Board President Greg Trapp said.

"I can't say enough about the amount of hard work it takes from our teachers on a daily basis to make something like this possible, and it doesn't go unnoticed. Our community has always supported the Russellville City Schools and expected the best. I hope everyone can appreciate what an asset we have here. Our schools are second to none in what is offered and what can be achieved, and that is something the entire community can be proud of," he added.



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SPORTS

5.4.22

Golden Tigers outscore St. Clair County 14-1 across two games to advance to 5A quarterfinals

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

Despite coming away with a series sweep in their second round victory over St. Clair County last week, the Russellville Golden Tigers wins were a tale of two games.

The one common theme was the elite pitching from Banks Langston, Brayden Spurgeon, and Logan White across the two games.

Through the first four innings in game one, every bloop that could fall for St. Clair County fell, every squibber would trickle just past an outstretched glove of a Golden Tiger defender, and the Golden Tigers just couldn't seem to string together enough successful at-bats to break through.

But while the offense was finding its footing, Langston was there to hold the Saints at bay.

After getting two runners on base in the top half of the first inning, Langston went to work on the mound in the home half working around a pair of singles to get an inning-ending double play.

Ethan Oliver, who would go 5-5 with three RBIs on the day, led off the top of the second inning with a double but the Golden Tigers would be unable to drive him in.

The Saints got a runner on base via an uncharacteristic error from Golden Tiger shortstop Eli Gipson which they were then able to bring home on a fielder's choice later in the inning to take an early 1-0 lead.

Russellville couldn't break through on the scoreboard in either of the third or fourth innings while Langston continued to wheel and deal to hold the

See 'QUARTERFINALS,' page 14

Sweeping away the competition

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

Heading into this week's second-round showdown with Phil Campbell, Plainview pitchers Noah White and Sam Crowell had both been on a remarkable roll of late. Over their previous 10 starts combined (six by White and four by Crowell), the dual aces had gone 10-0 with 10 complete games, eight shutouts and a grand total of one (one!) earned run allowed in 66 innings.

Then came Friday. Then came Phil Campbell.

With senior shortstop and University of Alabama signee Mason Swinney setting the tone, the Bobcats battered White and Crowell for 12 earned runs on 15 hits in 8.2 innings on their way to sweeping Plainview 9-1 and 6-4.

Phil Campbell (27-6) got a pair of gutsy pitching performances from juniors Cam Habada and Cole Pace and will ride a 13-game win streak into next week's quarterfinals.

White (7-2) got the ball for the Bears (25-7) in Friday's series opener. The senior right-hander had allowed only three earned runs all season in 56.2 innings, but the Bobcats scored against him in each of the first four innings on their way to a 9-1 rout.

Swinney got things started in the top of the first, smacking a 1-2 pitch over the fence in center for a two-run homer, his sixth of the season and the 15th of his varsity career. Habada issued a pair of two-out walks in the bottom of the first but stranded both runners to keep it a 2-0 game.

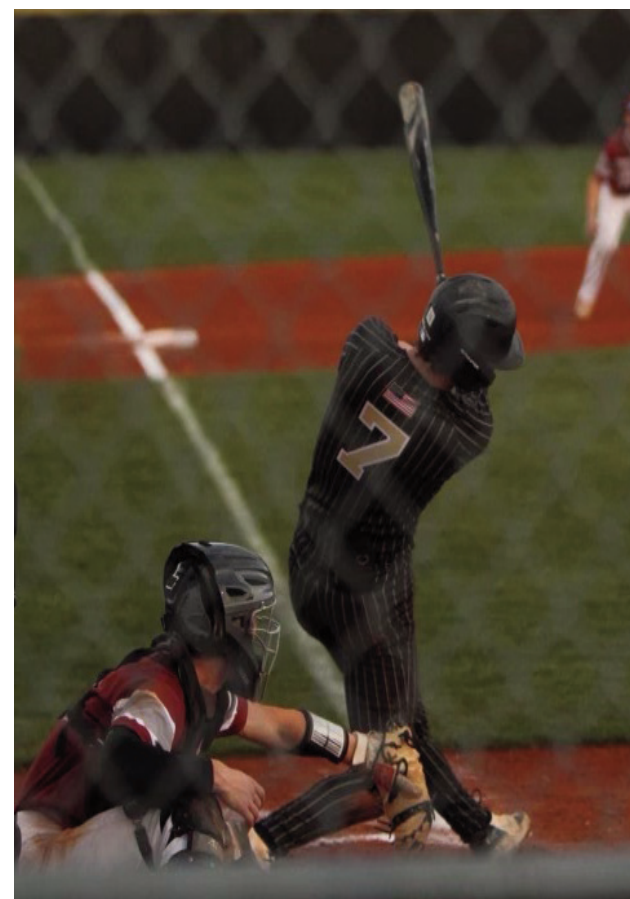
Phil Campbell went right back to work against White in the top of the second. Hunter Baker led off with his team-leading third triple of the season and scored on Bryant Hyde's single to left. Hyde moved up to second on an error and came home on an RBI single by Cole Pace to make it 4-0. After back-to-back walks to Bryant Anthony and Sage Raper, Swinney drove in the final run of the inning with his 14th career sacrifice fly.

Plainview stranded another runner in the bottom of the second, and the Bobcats added to their lead in the top of the third when Kyle Pace singled and scored on a double by Hyde. Habada struck out two in a scoreless bottom of the third, and Phil Campbell finished off White with two more runs in the top of the fourth. Following a single by Raper and a double by Habada, Baker delivered a two-out, two-run single to make it 8-0.

Raper tacked on an RBI single in the top of the fifth, driving in Cole Pace to make it 9-0. Plainview put together three singles and an RBI groundout to get on the board in the bottom of the fifth, but Habada tossed a one-two-three sixth and worked around two walks in the seventh to finish off his fourth complete game and 10th win of the season.

Habada (10-1) survived seven walks, holding the Bears to just three hits and one earned run in seven innings. He struck out six and threw a season-high 117 pitches on the night.

Baker and Hyde each finished the first game 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Raper was 2-for-3 with two runs and a stolen base, and Anthony was 2-for-3 with a walk. Swinney went 1-for-3 with a homer and three RBIs, and Habada was 1-for-4 with a double and a run. Cole Pace went 1-for-3 and scored



COURTESY PHOTO

The Bobcats scored 12 runs against Plainview's top two starters en route to a second round sweep to advance to the 3A quarterfinals.

twice, and Kyle Pace was 1-for-4 with a run.

Crowell, a junior lefty who had not allowed an earned run in 27 innings over his last four starts coming in, got the ball for Plainview in Game 2. The Bears staked him to a 1-0 lead on a double by White and an RBI single by Braden Haymon in the top of the second, but Phil Campbell took the lead for good with five runs in the bottom of the inning.

Baker drew a leadoff walk, and Hyde was hit by a pitch. Both runners moved up on an error, and Jacob Barnwell drove in the tying run with an RBI single. Anthony walked, and then with two outs Swinney came through with another big swing, driving in two runs with a single to right to make it 3-1. Habada followed with a two-run single of his own, stretching the lead to 5-1.

The Bobcats stayed in front by four until the top of the fifth, when Plainview put together a walk, an error, three hits and a sac fly to score three runs and trim the lead to 5-4. The Bears threatened again in the top of the sixth, putting two runners on with just one out and prompting a pitching change. Sophomore Eli Taylor relieved Pace and put out the fire, getting two groundball outs to protect the one-run lead.

With one out in the bottom of the sixth, Swinney provided Phil Campbell with a much-needed insurance run, lining a 3-2 pitch from reliever Austin Anderson over the fence in center for his second home run of the day, seventh of the year and 16th

See 'SWEEPING,' page 13

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'SWEEPING,' from page 11

of his Bobcat career. Taylor then finished off the win and earned the save with a one-two-three seventh, striking out Crowell to punch Phil Campbell's ticket to the quarterfinals.

Cole Pace (7-2) picked up the win, allowing four runs (just one earned) on six hits in 5.1 innings. He struck out five and walked four. Taylor needed just 14 pitches to retire all five batters he faced.

Swinney went 2-for-3 in Game 2 and drove in three more runs. He finished the day 3-for-6 with two homers and six RBIs and is now batting .489 on the season with seven home runs and 46 RBIs.

Habada was 1-for-3 with two RBIs in the second game, and Hyde was 1-for-2 with a run. Barnwell went 1-for-3 with an RBI, a run and a stolen base. Cole Pace walked twice, and Raper was 1-for-4. Anthony walked and scored a run.

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'QUARTERFINALS,' from page 11

Saints to just one run.

Then, after frustration and struggles had yet to yield to any signs of offense, the Golden Tigers finally caught a break.

A leadoff error allowed for Andrew Hatton to reach first base and then advance on an error to second base.

The Golden Tigers wouldn't even have to put a ball in play for their first run of the game as Hatton would scamper to third on a wild pitch and on the very next delivery from the Saints starter, would score on *another* wild pitch to tie things up at one apiece.

Eli Gipson and Canyon Pace walked in back-to-back at-bats while Nathan Brockway was then hit by a pitch to load the bases as Reed Hill flew out to end the inning.

Langston would continue cruising through the fifth inning, getting a pair of flyouts and a strikeout to keep the tie intact.

Nothing was cooking for the Golden Tigers in the sixth inning offensively as Langston would dominate the Saints lineup in the home half of the inning with a pair of strikeouts meaning that a 1-1 tie would make its way into the seventh inning.

However, Russellville had no interest in taking things to extra innings as they were finally able to take their first lead of the game.

A leadoff double by Grayson Thorpe followed by a sacrifice bunt from Eli Gipson set the Golden Tigers up with their first lead-taking runner standing just 90 feet away.

Canyon Pace then singled up the middle to bring Thorpe home.

Brandt Cummings would courtesy run for Pace on first and would advance on a wild pitch as Brockway would strikeout leaving the Golden Tigers with just one out to work with to add some all-important insurance runs.

With Cummings at third after *another* wild pitch, Reed Hill would double into left field to bring Cummings home to make it a 3-1 game in favor of Russellville.

The fourth and final run of the game for the Golden Tigers would come courtesy of not one, not two, but three straight hit by pitches to Shayden Romans, Brayden Spurgeon and Andrew Hatton would allow for Emitt Green (who courtesy ran for Hill at second base) to score.

Langston would allow two singles wrapped around a fielder's choice and would bring his spectacular night on the mound to a close as the righty would finish with 6.1 innings pitched while allowing only six hits with one run (unearned) and striking out five.

Brayden Spurgeon would come on in relief to and proceed to get the following two Saints batters to pop out and ground out to cap off a 4-1 victory, setting Russellville up to be one win away from advancing to the 5A quarterfinals.

Grayson Thorpe would go 2-4 with a run scored in game one while Canyon Pace went 2-3 with an RBI and a walk to his credit.

Ethan Oliver was perfect at the plate going 3-3 while Reed Hill went 1-4 with an RBI as Andrew Hatton went 0-3 but did have a run scored and an RBI.

Game two

Russellville 10 St. Clair County 0

Logan White was phenomenal. Plain and simple.

The young Golden Tiger lefthander spun six innings of no-run ball to pair with 12 strikeouts while the offense for Russellville would carry some of that late momentum from game one into game two to rout the Saints.

Playing as the home team in game two, White would take the mound and go to work first.

And go to work he did.

White would strikeout the first *eight* batters he faced across the first three innings of the game. Yes you read that correctly, eight straight Saints retired via strikeout by White.

While White was dealing, the Golden Tiger offense wasted no time taking a lead as Grayson Thorpe led things off with a single and advanced to third on a groundout by Eli Gipson. Canyon Pace would then single Thorpe home with a sharp grounder into leftfield. Brandt Cummings (courtesy runner for Pace) would advance to second on a groundout and Ethan Oliver would drive him home with a ground ball into right field to stake an early 2-0 lead for the Golden Tigers.

One run would be tacked on for the Golden Tigers in the bottom of the second inning as Casen Heaps would single and later be driven in on another single off the bat of Grayson Thorpe into right field to make it a 3-0 lead for Russellville.

The third inning saw both squads go scoreless in the third inning as White would surrender his first, and only, hit of the game on a weak single into centerfield in the top of the fourth.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, Casen Heaps singled after Brayden Spurgeon went down on strikes followed by another single from Andrew Hatton.

See 'QUARTERFINALS,' page 15



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Republican Primary May 24

My name is Joe Fike. I am the Republican candidate for Sheriff of Franklin County.

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I was appointed Police Chief in 2017 by the Town of Phil Campbell. I served the town in many roles, from Police Chief to Town Safety Officer, and occasionally rode the garbage truck. Leadership is about serving others and helping others around you rise.

I have operated a business for 16 years and understand what it takes to recruit and retain quality employees.

I am a Conservative Christian, and as Sheriff, I will be fair and impartial, and free from prejudice. I have grown a robust understanding while working in the correctional system and serving small communities to reason and be empathetic and compassionate while carrying out daily duties in these positions. I serve on the Franklin County Farmers Federation Board of Directors, the Phil Campbell Housing Authority, and the Franklin County Republican Executive Committee.

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'QUARTERFINALS,' from page 14

Grayson Thorpe flew out to advance Heaps to third which would then allow Eli Gipson to bring him home on a line drive single into centerfield.

As the Golden Tigers were looking for their first extra-base hit of the game, Canyon Pace would deliver with a double to straightaway centerfield, that just missed being a home run by a foot, that drove in Hatton and Gipson to make it a 6-0 lead.

White would pick up another pair of strikeouts in the top of the fifth inning as the Golden Tigers would go down scoreless in their half of the inning.

A strikeout to end the inning in the top of the sixth would give White his 12th and final punchout of the night as his offense would plate four runs in the home half to run-rule the Saints and take the win.

A leadoff triple by Grayson Thorpe kicked things off in the inning as he was then driven in just two pitches later on a single by Eli Gipson. Shayden Romans got his first knock of the day on a single into right field to move Gipson into scoring position where Brayden Heaps singled Romans to third while scoring Gipson on the play.

Needing just two more runs to put the game on ice, the Golden Tiger who had been the hottest hitter at the plate in Ethan Oliver came up.

After a wild pitch allowed Heaps to advance to second, Oliver then laced a single into right-centerfield to bring home two runs and cap off a 10-0 victory to send the Golden Tigers into the 5A quarterfinals.

White would get the complete game shutout while just allowing one hit, no walks and would strikeout 12 Saints in the win.

Thorpe went 3-4 with two runs scored and an RBI as the leadoff man for Russellville while Eli Gipson went 2-4 with two runs scored and two RBIs to his credit.

Canyon Pace would go 2-3 with three RBIs while Ethan Oliver went 2-2 to complete his perfect day at the plate in addition to three RBIs.

Shayden Romans, Brayden Heaps and Andrew Hatton each notched a hit while Heaps tallied an RBI. Casen Heaps would go 2-2 with two runs scored for Russellville.

The Golden Tigers will square off against Leeds this Friday with game one beginning at 4:30 with game two to follow at 7. If necessary, game three will be played on Saturday at 1.



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