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Volunteer firefighter shortage posing issues for local communities

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When someone tells Doug Coan he or she is interested in joining the Tharptown Volunteer Fire Department, it doesn't take long for Coan to get them an application.

In fact, he keeps a stack of them in his car.

Coan, one of the original incorporators of the TVFD in 1983, has served as chief for almost five years. Through its 39-year history, the department has seen membership as large as 25 or more volunteers. But that's not the case anymore, as

the department has anywhere from 10-12 active members at any time.

It's not a problem unique to Tharptown. The FFP spoke with officials from four Franklin County volunteer fire departments and each is facing a critical shortage of volunteers.

Although membership in local volunteer fire departments has declined since the 2020 onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is not a new problem. It's something local departments have dealt with for years, and if it doesn't concern you, it should, both personally and financially.

See 'VOLUNTEER,' Page 8

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Evetts investing more than \$1 million into former Lawrence Place building

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As an owner of a successful property management company, Blake Evetts has made a significant investment in the Shoals area.

But the Russellville resident wanted to invest in his own community, so Evetts recently purchased the former Lawrence Place assisted living facility on East Lawrence Street, where he's making more than a \$1 million investment.

Renovation is well underway on Evetts' Russellville venture, which will be called 'The Jameson: Efficiency Living.' The Jameson will feature 37 studio efficiency apartments, with one monthly fee for rent,

utilities and WiFi.

Pre-leasing is going on now through Evetts' company, H&H Property Management, with a projected move-in date of November 1, 2022.

Each unit will have secure entry, and will include a kitchenette with a two-eye stove, sink and refrigerator.

Evetts, a 2007 Phil Campbell High School graduate, had been looking for the right project to dive into in Russellville, and he found it in a property he drives by every day as he's going to work.

"It's been empty for a while and it's already zoned multi-family, so there was no rezoning required," Evetts said. "The wheels started turning and

See 'LAWRENCE,' Page 7

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Wayner Jesus Barrios, 17, of Russellville, passed away July 2nd. Interment at Franklin Memory Gardens.

James Jackson "Jack" Mayfield, 84, of Russellville, passed away on Saturday July 2nd. Interment at Shady Grove in Liberty Hill

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Oldham inducted into Court of Honor for Alabama Exchange Club

Submitted to the FFP

Dewey Lindon “Spoooner” Oldham Jr., songwriter, producer and session keyboardist, was inducted recently into the 2022 Court of Honor at the 101ST Annual Alabama District Exchange Clubs' annual convention.

The awards banquet honoring Oldham was held on June 3, 2022, at Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge. Oldham was accompanied by his wife Karen Hampton Oldham.

Oldham first gained attention in the 1960s Muscle Shoals Sound scene. He was previously inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame in Nashville in 2008, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2009, the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 2014 and the Nashville Songwriters' Hall of Fame in 2020.

The 23 clubs of the Alabama District Exchange Clubs have been honoring an outstanding Alabamian each year for the past 60 years. According to ADEC by-laws, a person nominated for the ADEC Court of Honor must be “recognized as an outstanding Alabamian who, by virtue of their efforts in his/her field of endeavor and in their personal life, has brought fame and honor to the State of Alabama.”



Dewey Lindon “Spoooner” Oldham Jr.

The Collegiate Exchange Club of Northwest-Shoals Community College is ADEC's newest club, chartered on February 16, 2022, under the leadership of charter President Hannah Hendon. The NW-SCC Club nominated Oldham for the award.

Oldham joins other inductees in the ADEC Court of Honor including Nick Saban, Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox, Rick Hall, Sen. Richard Shelby, Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton and Dr. David Bronner.

Oldham's keyboard work for FAME Studios brought a unique sound to Aretha Franklin's “I Never Loved a Man (the Way I Love You),” Wilson Pickett's “Funky Broadway,” and Percy Sledge's “When a Man Loves a Woman.”

In addition to playing keyboard with Franklin at FAME, Oldham recorded with her on her first four albums with Atlantic Records in New York City in the late 1960s. This work produced some of Franklin's most popular and soulful work, including “Respect,” “Think,” “Chain of Fools” and “Baby I Love You.”

In accepting the 2022 ADEC Court of Honor Award, Oldham quoted Elvis Presley, who when he was honored by the Jaycees as one of the “Ten Most Outstanding Men of Memphis” in 1971, stated:

*“Without a song, the day would never end,
Without a song a man ain't got a friend,
Without a song the road would never bend,
Without a song.
So I keep singing the song.”*

The National Exchange Club was founded in March 1911 in Detroit, and is headquartered in Toledo, Ohio. Exchange is America's oldest service club with more than 574 clubs and more than 15,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. For more information on the National Exchange Club, visit .

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Send your letters to the editor, guest columns, cartoon panels and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

My take on this... laziness is an opinion

Adults remind us daily that kids are so lazy nowadays, but will add the phrase, "well not all of them!" I would like to add something to that popular statement: adults are lazy nowadays, but not all of them!

I was thinking back to my childhood days when we had a lot of family get-togethers. There would be up to ten at first. Later, the numbers increased rather rapidly. Ten people is enough to make my point.

All glasses were filled with ice and we only had two ice trays. Pay close attention to the word "ice" and the number "two". No way! How could that be? That can't be right!

Most adults and children don't know what it is to go to the sink to fill an ice tray. If you showed them a metal ice tray with a handle to pull to empty the ice, they wouldn't know what it was or how to use it.

I bet you haven't given any thought to that, have you?

Refrigerators come with ice makers or ice and water in the door. They don't have ice trays that come with it. The other option is to buy a bag of ice.

Just think about this. An intelligent person realized most people were too lazy to fill an ice tray. A money-making idea was brought into existence.

Purchase a big freezer to make ice cubes. Take the time to put in a plastic bag to sell. A lazy person will send someone to the store to buy a bag of ice because they don't feel like getting out of their cozy chair.

If you are having a get-together of ten or more, all you need is more bags which means more profit for the ice vendor.

Why did all the kids play outside back then? It could have been where the house would stay clean. Or to be out of our mother's way while she was cooking or cleaning.

Maybe, because the only other thing to do was to watch television.

That was no fun because cartoons only showed on Saturdays. Being told if we stayed in the house, she would put us to work was a great incentive to stay outside.

I can remember going inside and telling mother I was thirsty. Kidding!

I didn't want to do that. I'd drink water out of the water hose. Maybe, the water hose stayed less contaminated back then. If we weren't drinking from



Gail Motes

it, the neighborhood friends were spraying each other.

The rich kids later had sprinklers and that was a big deal. No one had to be in charge of holding the hose. We all got to get wet at the same time.

I don't remember anyone wearing a bathing suit either. We just wore our plat clothes and the sun dried our clothes. If the word bathing suit is not familiar to you, it's because it's called a swimsuit in today's world.

Anyway, the next time you go buy a bag of ice, the older folks will most likely sit back and say, "I wish you would look. Everyone nowadays are too lazy to fill up an ice tray. They probably don't even know what one is!"

That sounds to me like each person has their own opinion of being lazy! As always, until later...



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Newburg residents encouraged to attend meeting regarding possible polling location changes

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Franklin County residents who vote in the Newburg precinct are encouraged to attend a public meeting Thursday, July 14, to learn more about a possible change in their polling place starting this November.

Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore will hold the meeting at Waco Baptist Church, the proposed new location for the Newburg polling place.

Newburg residents have voted for years at Macedonia Baptist Church, but the church closed and is no longer active, so church officials did not want to keep it open for voting.

Moore made arrangements with church officials to hold the May and June 2022 primary election and runoff at Macedonia, but that will be the last time, he said.

The purpose of the public meeting is to hear citizen input on the proposed location change to Waco Baptist Church, which already is the polling place for the Waco precinct.

If approved by the Franklin County Commission, Waco Baptist Church would serve as a dual polling place for elections, with separate entrances for the Waco precinct and the Newburg precinct, according to Franklin County Administrator Leah Mansell.

Those entrances will be clearly marked for voters, Mansell said.

If approved, Waco Baptist Church would not be the first dual polling place in Franklin County. The A.W. Todd Centre houses elections for two precincts, formerly known as the Electric Board Warehouse and College Avenue Elementary.

The public is encouraged to attend the July 14 meeting and offer input in favor of, or against, the proposed change.

The Franklin County Commission will consider the change of location for the Newburg polling place at its next meeting, set for July 18, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex.

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The Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers ages 55 and older to help tutor and mentor children in day care, head start and schools. Volunteers will receive a tax-free stipend and travel reimbursement. We have openings for several schools for the coming school year. Please call 256-332-6800 for an application.

Summer Revival will be held at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 305 Bethlehem Road, Russellville, July 17-22. Sunday service 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7 p.m. Evangelist Bro. Micah Fleming. Pastor Bro. Jeff Fleming and congregation welcome everyone. Prayer meeting 20 minutes before each service. For more information, call Bro. Jeff Fleming at 256-856-5610.

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'LAWRENCE,' from page 1

I started thinking this could be something successful."

With a dearth of conventional rental housing available in Russellville, Evetts decided it was the right time to move forward with The Jameson Apartments, which he hopes will be the first of several properties he'll develop in Russellville.

"We have a real need for conventional housing in Russellville. These are not going to be government subsidized homes. I am just trying to fill a need in my community," Evetts said.

Russellville City Councilman Jamie Harris' District Five includes The Jameson Apartments. When Harris learned of Evetts' purchase of the property, he reached out to offer his assistance.

"We are very appreciative of Mr. Evetts' investment in Russellville and his vision to renovate and design this property to meet the need for affordable rental housing in our community," Harris said. "I enjoyed talking with him and hope The Jameson is the first of many developments Mr. Evetts makes in Russellville."

While Evetts wanted to invest in his hometown, he also is a businessman with a goal of earning a return on that investment, something he's confident will happen with the Jameson.

Major renovations include new HVAC units in each apartment, new windows, flooring, kitchenette and electric and plumbing updates. Residents will have access to onsite laundry, vending and Evetts plans to build onsite storage units in a second phase of the renovation.

"As much as I love Russellville and doing something for my community, I'm also doing this for economic reasons. I believe the return on (The Jameson) will be very solid," Evetts said.

For more information on The Jameson: Efficiency Living, call 256-718-2000.

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COURTEST PHOTO

The Jameson Apartments will consist of onsite laundry, vending and plans are in the works for onsite storage in the future. The apartments will also have new HVAC units in each apartment along with new windows, flooring, kitchenette and electric and plumbing updates.

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'VOLUNTEER,' from page 1

Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings are issued to fire departments based on how each department scores against the organization's standards. The lower the ISO score, the lower your property insurance premiums.

Additionally, in rural areas, volunteer fire departments are the only option for first response. If one department can't answer a call, or doesn't have enough responders available, a mutual aid agreement will trigger a nearby department to respond. But that takes time. And in an emergency, time is everything.

Two Tharptown residents contacted the *FFP* recently to ask if the Tharptown VFD was still an active department. The answer? Yes. But it's a department in need of more members. And when prospective members learn that members are volunteers, many lose interest, Coan said.

"It's been a challenge to get younger people involved with our department," Coan said. "Unfortunately, when they realize there is no pay involved, that's the end of it for many of them. I've spoken with John (James, the President of the Franklin County Fire and Rescue Association) and Mary (Hallman-Glass, the Chief of Blue Springs VFD) and there just aren't enough people interested."

Coan, who responds to most calls dispatched to his department, said residents sometimes see Russellville Fire Department personnel responding in the Tharptown area, or Blue Springs VFD responding, and they mistakenly believe Tharptown VFD isn't on the call.

"They may see a Russellville fire truck and think Tharptown isn't there. But we are. We may not have our truck there, but we have a presence at the scene in most instances," Coan said.

Depending on the type of call, Coan said he often responds in his personal vehicle. Tharptown and Blue Springs have a mutual aid agreement, where each department is paged out on a structure fire call, as a way to provide more equipment, more water and more personnel.

"Doug and I got together last year and we're all short of help with our departments during the day, so we try to help each other out during calls," Hallman-Glass said. "Sometimes during the day we may only have one person show up. At night, we get a better response because most people are off work."

These mutual aid agreements are in place across Franklin County. For example, among Vina, Hodges and Red Bay VFDs.

Franklin County 911 Coordinator Brandon James said the mutual aid agreements are invaluable to departments that are wholly dependent on volunteers.

"These fire departments are a volunteer service, so they may not be staffed as much in the middle of the day because people are working," James said. "They provide for an automatic launch of another department anytime there's a structure fire."

Members of volunteer fire departments don't have to become firefighters. Coan said there are many ways a volunteer can help without going to firefighter school.

"We always need support personnel, who don't go into fires. They help with equipment. We have some older volunteers who are just drivers," Coan said.

In order to go inside a house fire, volunteers must receive Basic Fireman One level, which includes at least 40 hours of training, Coan said. That creates another time demand for prospective volunteers.

Another problem comes when a new member receives his or her gear, equipment and radio, then either moves or loses interest in being a member and that equipment comes up missing or damaged. Coan said the cost is around \$4,000 to fully outfit a firefighter with gear, equipment and a radio. When equipment isn't returned, or is received damaged or broken, that results in additional costs which can financially strap a volunteer department.

Coan said it's frustrating to always need more members, and it's something he thinks about day and night.

"I've thought about it, pondered how we can recruit new members and prayed about it," Coan said. "But we still haven't found the answers. I'm open to any idea anyone has as to how to get our volunteer membership to grow."

"It comes down to having the love for your neighbors in your community. It's a volunteer job, but there are many rewards. When I come home from responding to a call, I can lay my head down and know I did my part to help another family and protect them and their family. There's a lot of satisfaction in that," he added.

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Cochran vying for U.S. Congressional District 4 seat as Libertarian candidate

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When Franklin County voters go to the polls on November 8, 2022, they will have the choice of three candidates in the United States Congressional District Four race. One is a familiar name. One is a local name. And one is a name you've probably never heard, at least not in north Alabama.

Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-Haleyville) has represented the people of north Alabama's District Four the past 26 years in Congress. Democratic challenger Rick Neighbors (D-Hackleburg) and Libertarian Party candidate Johnny C. Cochran (L-Tuscaloosa) will attempt to unseat Aderholt.

While Neighbors is well known in Franklin County, where he lives and works in management at Pilgrim's Russellville, Cochran is a political newcomer who hopes to attract voters with his message that Alabamians are 'getting a raw deal' by being overtaxed with very little benefit in return.

Cochran pledges to pause federal spending and work toward a Balanced Budget Amendment, an idea often discussed but never implemented in

Congress.

A Tuscaloosa resident, Cochran graduated from Vestavia Hills High School in 2002, then attended the University of Alabama where he earned a degree from the Culverhouse College of Business in 2006.

He and his wife Laura have two children. The family relocated from Baltimore to Alabama in 2020 as a result of wanting to find a better (and less expensive) place to raise their sons.

A former volunteer on Republican campaigns, including those of former Congressman Dr. Ron Paul of Texas, Cochran said he became "disillusioned" with the Republican Party, which he said is controlled by "powerful elites at the top" who make all the decisions, ignoring the voices and will of the people who elect them.

Cochran said the blame game of Democrats and

Republicans pointing fingers at each other has resulted in a nation that's overtaxed with a government that overspends.

"The American people are overtaxed, the government spends more than they take in and then all this new money shows up out of thin air causing disastrous inflation," Cochran said. "And while the money supply explodes, the federal debt has skyrocketed along with it. In 1997, when incumbent District Four Rep. Robert Aderholt was elected, the national debt was \$5 trillion—now it's over \$30 trillion," Cochran added.

If elected, Cochran pledges to "work tirelessly to stop our nation's reckless spending that both the Democratic and Republican parties in Washington, D.C., have created and perpetuated in our nation."

Cochran changed political parties after the 2020 election and he is helping the Libertarian Party of Alabama create an affiliate in his hometown of Tuscaloosa.

According to his campaign website, Cochran has been endorsed by LetBamaVote, an organization advocating a Constitutional Amendment to allow Alabama citizens to initiate ballot measures or bring legislative acts up for a public vote, and the Alabama Cannabis Coalition, based on Cochran's platform of supporting citizens' rights to home grow Cannabis as well as the repeal of any criminal marijuana statutes.

For more information on Cochran and his campaign, visit his website, or contact him by email at , on Twitter (@JohnnyCCochran) or Facebook (Johnny C. Cochran for Alabama).

Cochran pledges to answer all questions and contacts. He will also hold a series of virtual town halls over the next four months.



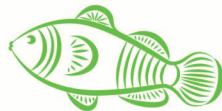
Johnny C. Cochran



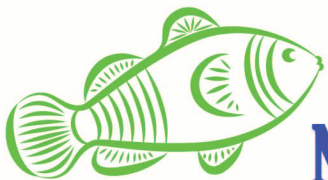
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<p>YARD SALES</p> <p>Yard Sale! Sat July 16 from 7am-until 405 County Line Rd., Leighton</p>	<p>Yard sale! Friday & Saturday July 15th and 16th at Pilgrim's Place BBQ in 1314 Jackson Ave. N in Russellville.</p>	<p>From 8 a.m. - until. Baby clothes, kids clothes, toys, adult clothes, houseware, furniture and lots more!</p>	<p>FREE. Are ready as of July 1st. at six weeks old. Call (256)-412- 8280 or (256)- 810-7119.</p>	<p>sale. Over a full futon. \$100. Call (256)-483- 3675.</p>	<p>wall heaters for sale. \$150 for all three. 220-volt. Northstar pres- sure washer for sale. \$75 OBO or work trade. (256)- 324-2407.</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>1 BR apart- ment for rent. Furnished. Private entrance with patio. Call (256)-332- 5081 or (256)- 627-1916.</p>	<p><i>Monday at Noon; Real Estate-Homes, acreage, lots for sale or rent. \$25 for six consecu- tive weeks. Up to 40 words per ad; Vehicles, Boats, RVs, Motorcycles for sale. \$15 for six consec- utive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Pets For Sale only \$10 for six consecu- tive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Free of Charge: Lost & Found, Giveaways, and Items Under \$100 (Private</i></p>	<p><i>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 addi- tional 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.</i></p>
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SPORTS

7.13.22

PCHS girls varsity basketball team to host charity horse show

*John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press*

The Phil Campbell High School girls varsity basketball team will host the Second Annual Charity Racking Horse Show this Saturday, July 16, at the Union Community Saddle Club.

The show begins at 6 p.m., but there will be live entertainment featuring singer/songwriter Walt Ackerman from 4:30-6 p.m., and resuming one hour after the show. There will be vendors on site so don't worry about bringing food or drinks. Sale proceeds benefit PCHS girls basketball and you'll see team members working during the show.

The Racking Horse Show is the primary fundraiser for Coach Craig Thomas' varsity basketball team. Proceeds benefit PCHS girls basketball and are used to purchase shoes, uniforms and equipment for the team.

Admission is \$5 and children five and under are
See 'PCHS,' Page 15

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STATE CHAMPIONS

For the third time in four years, the Russellville 12U softball team brought home the ARPA state championship. Now, their head coach is hoping that success translates to the high school level.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Russellville Golden Tiger 12U softball team, above, swept all three games in the ARPA tournament en route to a state championship.

*Brady Petree
 Franklin Free Press*

Most of the time, as the Russellville Golden Tigers are hoisting championship trophies and celebrating on the field, Russellville City Schools Superintendent Heath Grimes is in the stands, cheering on alongside the rest of the Golden Tiger faithful.

But over the weekend, it was Grimes who was the one able to celebrate and help hoist a championship trophy as the head coach of the Russellville 12U softball team that won the ARPA (Alabama Recreation and Parks Association) 12U softball program in Valley, Alabama.

"I have enjoyed coaching those girls and watching our softball program grow and I really feel like we are laying a solid foundation for our high school softball program," Grimes said. "We're very hopeful that this championship will eventually

lead to winning another state championship down the line at the high school level."

Over the course of the tournament, the Golden Tigers not only won all of their games outright, but they did so in convincing fashion.

In game one over the host team Valley, Russellville won 8-0. Then in game two against Winfield, a resounding 10-0 victory propelled the Golden Tigers to the state championship game against Valley who had won their next game to put them back in the winners bracket and into the championship game.

And much like the first two games, the Golden Tigers dominated once again, winning 10-0 over Valley to clinch the 12U state tournament title.

"We were a little slow in the start of the second game offensively but other than that we were very dominant. And so for us, we really hope that success is able to translate and help our student-ath-

See 'CHAMPIONS,' Page 13

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'CHAMPIONS,' from page 11

letes prepare as they transition into the junior high program." Grimes said. Of course, winning trophies and championship rings is a noteworthy achievement and is something that the players will remember forever.

But according to Grimes, the hope is that this championship will be a major building block for the young student-athletes as they take the next steps in their careers to the junior high, and eventually, varsity levels.

"It's really not about winning a championship right now. It's about developing the kids to the point where they know and understand the game and know how to compete at a high level. A lot of people get caught up in certain youth league tournaments and championships and things like that. And don't get me wrong, we love winning championships and I'm super happy for our girls and proud of them. But our main goal is to build for high school success," Grimes said. "If we can get the community behind the idea of building for that success at the high school level and that they are learning the game the right way so that they can have that success and win state championships at the highest level, then we feel like that would be a huge step for the program."

This is not the first state championship for this particular group of Golden Tigers. In 2019, they won the same state championship as members of the 10U team and again won it in 2021, this time as a 12U team, giving them back-to-back titles after the win this year.

Winning three state championships in four years (essentially three years given the COVID season) is a noteworthy achievement. And having all hands on deck from a coaching standpoint paid dividends for the Golden Tigers in recent years.

And while Grimes is admittedly not a master of the softball arts, having a coaching staff that chips in with a variety of areas of expertise in order to pull together and help coach a championship-winning team.

"We just all work together and whoever is coaching, we all just jump in together and get the job done. I am not a softball guru by any means but some of those guys are really good at what they do," Grimes said. "I organize it, motivate the team and make sure we are where we need to be and make some decisions but it's ultimately a group effort. And there have been several of us over the years that have developed these girls."

On a personal level for Grimes, he was able to coach his daughter to a state championship as well.

"I wasn't sure about coaching softball but back then it was 6U and I thought to myself that anyone could coach 6U so I agreed to do it and I thought I would coach that 6U team and never coach again. But my daughter and I have built a bond through softball and six years later we are still doing it," Grimes said. "She has really turned into someone who has a deep passion for softball and we really enjoy that bond and enjoy that success and winning championships together. And it's also good because she sees me so much in my role as superintendent and this allows for her to see me having fun and coaching and things like that and I know she enjoys it and I really do too."

The roster for the 12U Russellville team is as follows: Brookelynn Davis, Bella Malone, Sadie Odom, Erin Grimes, Jacqueline Perez, Jaley Mae Bragwell, Jemma Moore, Josie Burcham, Taitum Bishop, Kristyan Huerta and Addyson Porter.

Coaches for the 12U team over the years in which they have won state titles includes: Terrell Groce, Kelly Bragwell, Jason Burcham, Montrae McCulloch, Jonathan Odom, Shane Holcomb, Brandon James and Heath Grimes.

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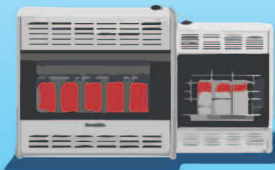
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'PCHS,' from page 11

admitted free. The Union Community Saddle Club is located at 5529 County Road 93 in Russellville.

A racking horse is an American horse derived from the Tennessee Walking Horse. Racking horses are known for their unique single-foot gait.

There will be 17 divisions at Saturday evening's show, 15 line classes (\$10 entry) and two Championship Classes (\$35 entry). The Racking Horse Championship and Adult Speed Racking Championship will be the final two events of the evening.

Thomas has strong family ties to Racking Horse competition, as his uncle Larry Thomas won the World Bred Championship in 1976. Phil Campbell freshman point guard Macy Hardy is also a championship-winning Racking Horse competitor. And Thomas is a horse owner who grew up around the beautiful animals when he visited his uncle Larry.

"I've always loved horses. I spent my summers out of school helping my Uncle Larry. I was probably more in the way than helping, but I loved going out there," Thomas said.

The event is made possible due to the strong support the team receives from the Union Community Saddle Club. The Union club hosts a community horse show at the Saddle Club the second Saturday of each month.

Saturday's event is expected to draw competitors from several states, as well as a large number of Alabama horses and riders.

For more information on the Second Annual Charity Racking Horse Show, call Lisa Norton at 205-792-4306 or Thomas at 256-627-4328.



COURTESY PHOTO
The Phil Campbell Girls Varsity Basketball Team will host a Racking Horse Show this Saturday, July 16, at the Union Community Saddle Club. Pictured are, from left: Marybeth Fisher, Isabell Ashley, Sidda Rogers, Macy Hardy and Hannah Welborn, along with Delta's Risky Business.

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