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Morrow returning to politics as volunteer in Mississippi governor's race

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Johnny Mack Morrow spent almost three decades serving the people of northwest Alabama in Montgomery as State Representative for House District 18. Morrow served seven terms in the Alabama House. In 2018 he lost a bid to become State Senator for Senate District Six. Although Morrow hasn't been in elected office in six years, politics will always run through his blood. So it's no surprise that Morrow will

soon be back into politics, but not as a candidate. Instead, he'll be working as a volunteer for Mississippi Democratic gubernatorial candidate Brandon Presley. Morrow spent the past four years serving as Special Projects Coordinator in the Research and Economic Development wing of Mississippi State University's Stennis Institute of Government. But he will step down at the end of the month to take a more active role in Presley's campaign. Morrow and his wife Martha moved to Starkville in 2020 after he joined

See 'MORROW,' Page 7

Firefighters honored for quick lifesaving actions

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Five members of the Russellville Fire Department were honored before the April 3rd meeting of the Russellville City Council for their quick action and lifesaving skills demonstrated on a call made last October. Captain Jeremy Glenn, Sergeant Shane Mansell, Fire Marshal Justin Green, Lieutenant Mickey Gentry and Sergeant Brad Pounders received Certificates of Merit and medals for their work in saving a life. It was the morning of October 20, 2022, when Lila Fuller went to a local nail salon for a pedicure. After she arrived around 9 a.m., Fuller's next

memory was seven days later in a hospital. Fuller went into full cardiac arrest. Holly Nail Salon employees quickly called 911 and the RPD responded. Fuller was stabilized and after three shocks, transported to Russellville Hospital. She was then air lifted to North Alabama Medical Center, where she had surgery and remained in the Intensive Care Unit for a week. Fuller and her son wrote letters to the City of Russellville to express their appreciation to the firefighters who aided her. "I truly believe God puts the people we need in our lives at the right time and place," Fuller said. "Thanks for caring and not giving up on me. I

See 'FIREFIGHTERS,' Page 7




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Duncan's many talents will be missed

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Almost 25 years ago, I answered a call late one afternoon from my desk in the Franklin County District Attorney's Office.

It was a gentleman from the Spruce Pine area with a question about pistol permit fees in Franklin County and how they compared to other counties.

The fact that an elected official answered the phone seemed to impress Duncan, even though that was obviously a part of my job.

We spoke a few minutes and I told him I'd get back to him with an answer, which I did the following day.

About a week later, Norris Duncan came into my office to thank me for answering his question, and a friendship was born. Although we didn't visit socially, Duncan often called me with thought provoking questions and story ideas.

Duncan died Friday at Helen Keller Hospital. He lived 87 full years of life.

If you didn't know Duncan and you heard him speak, your first thought might be that he sounded mad. He spoke in the same tone most of the time. He wasn't a shouter but he was persistent in asking for what he thought was right.

And those who didn't give him the respect of returning a phone call might find themselves the subject of one of Duncan's drawings, where they could be portrayed in less than the best light. Duncan's talent allowed him to 'enhance' features of the subjects he drew. And those subjects were sometimes elected officials who didn't return calls, or acted in a way Duncan believed was wrong.

Regardless, Duncan was a talented artist. He regularly submitted his original drawings to The Source, a magazine published by Buford Parker, and he often brought drawings to the Franklin Free Press as well. Duncan's contributions enhanced any publication that included them.

"I would tell him what I wanted and he would draw it. He was so good. That's the way it was," Parker said. "We were always good buddies. We had a good time together visiting places and doing articles. We didn't do as much of it the last few years, but we had a lot of good laughs together. "Norris was a likable person. You just had to get to know him," Parker added.

Duncan loved history. He was a supporter of the Franklin County Archives and he contributed drawings for the book History and Legends of Franklin County.

Duncan and his wife Shirley shared 68 years of marriage, the same number of years my parents were together. And as I miss them, I'll miss Norris Duncan and his unique insight on our world.

Duncan kept up with current events, both nationally and locally. And unlike many others, when he didn't understand why something was done, he picked up the phone to ask.

I'll always be glad I answered.



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Jimmie Clifford Morgan, 65, of Russellville, passed away Friday, April 07, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Norris Eldon Duncan, age 87, of Spruce Pine, passed away Friday, April 07, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Edward Keith Vandiver, 89, of Russellville, AL. on April 8, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Dylan Leon Prince, 30, of Russellville, passed away Saturday, April 08, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Mitchell Eugene Frederick, 66, of Bear Creek, AL. passed away Friday April 7, 2023. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

Mary Jean Holden, age 87, of Russellville, passed away April 8, 2023. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

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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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Letter to editor: Landfill expansion still a concern

Dear Editor,

If the Franklin County Commission approved a legal review of the county's solid waste policy "to make sure it allows (the Commission) to have solid legal grounds if (they) deny a future solid waste landfill applicant," why did the Commission hire a high priced defendant's law firm, one who almost always sides with businesses and polluters?

The same law firm that represented the Arrowhead Landfill during a large expansion. That landfill just signed a ADEM consent order and paid a \$30,600 fine for violating ADEM rules. Residents there filed hundreds of complaints over 15 years as they were subjected to all the hazards we were concerned about in the proposed landfill expansion here. Now they are asking ADEM not to renew Arrowhead's permits.

The same law firm hired by the Conecuh County Commission when they were asked to approve a Conecuh Woods mega-landfill. The Conecuh County Commission was in favor of that mega-landfill until their residents set them straight - to include voting in new County Commissioners. By the way, this same law firm then had to oppose the mega-landfill as directed by the new Commission.

Hiring this law firm raises serious concerns or questions for Franklin County residents and our county's future. For instance, is Franklin County Land Management (FCLM) a client of this law firm, was it during the landfill expansion application process last summer or has it ever been at any time? Was any conflict-of-interest determination made here and by whom? What was that determination? Neil Hargett, owner of FCLM, told several people in the county last summer he was paying a high priced law firm in Birmingham to assist FCLM. Is this the same firm?

Yes, we know other Birmingham law firms do this work, but do we know if it's another firm or not? The Commission hasn't told us. What does the Franklin County Commission know about that and when did it know?

Does the Commission know it hired a defendant's law firm that almost always represents businesses and polluters? Why did they not hire a law firm that defends the environment and could better address their own stated purpose for hiring a law firm here in the first place?

Who recommended this law firm to the Franklin County Commission and why?

What are the full details of the Franklin County Commission's requested legal review of the county's waste management plan by this law firm? What questions were asked? What specific information does the Commission seek?

Why hasn't the Commission made any and all this public yet? Why haven't they been more forthcoming with all the details when they initially announced this?

Where's the transparency? Franklin County residents have serious doubts whether the Commission is actually asking this law firm to suggest modifications it claims it seeks in order to deny a future solid waste landfill applicant. Could this be the beginning of a tactical and political process that gives the Commission cover to approve a landfill expansion after next year's elections should FCLM refile its application instead?

The Commission knows full well the clear and loud expectations of Franklin County residents given last summer's opposition to the FCLM landfill expansion.

With the entire Commission up for re-election next year, county residents have seen the Commission's sudden interest in long term issues previously ignored.

The Commission obviously knows it broke its trust with county residents over the landfill expansion issue. The Commission still hasn't apologized for threatening our homes and lifestyles on that issue.

Further, the Commission's latest action here continues to send concerning and conflicting signals - ones that could be addressed with more transparency, better clearer dialog with its residents, improved access to its meetings, and a 5 year strategic plan so all of Franklin County knows where we're headed. Failure to plan is planning to fail.

Like Conecuh County residents did, Franklin County residents need to seriously consider electing a new County Commission.

Go to the SAVE FRANKLIN COUNTY ALABAMA Facebook page for more information and updates on all these issues and join in the dialog to improve our beautiful county. It is ALWAYS up to the voters, not the elected officials, to make the changes we want. NOW is the time.

Scott A. Mugno, Lick Creek Cove Resident, Franklin County

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Sumerel to run for District Judge

Submitted

Russellville attorney Jamie Sumerel recently announced his candidacy for Franklin County District Judge in the March 5, 2024, Republican Primary.

Sumerel is with the Russellville law firm of Bedford, Rogers, Bowling & McReynolds, P.C. He has practiced law since 2008, with a focus on client representation in Franklin County Circuit and District Court.



Sumerel has been involved in the majority of cases in Franklin County Juvenile Court during his 15 years of practice. Juvenile Court is one of the primary responsibilities of the District Judge in Franklin County.

Sumerel is a graduate of Russellville High School, where he played for the Golden Tiger football program all four years.

Sumerel, 42, is the son of James Kenneth Sumerel and Bobbie Sumerel. His grandparents were John J. Sumerel and Lena Sumerel of Russellville and W.E. Taff and Bertsie Taff of Phil Campbell. Jamie is married to Amiee Lynn Sumerel. They have one son, Blake Tyler Pruitt.

After earning his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama in Commerce and Business Administration, Sumerel attended Birmingham School of Law where he earned his Juris Doctorate. He became a member of the Alabama State Bar in 2008.

“As a lifelong Franklin County resident and a graduate of Russellville High School, my family and I are invested in the future of our wonderful county,” Sumerel said. “I understand the importance of protecting our children, many of whom are brought into the court system through no fault of their own. Let’s continue to make Franklin County a safe place to raise a family. I humbly ask for your vote and support in the March 5, 2024, Republican Primary.”

Book Lovers Club selling chances on a Mother’s Day gift basket

Submitted

This year the GFWC Book Lovers Study Club is sponsoring the “Mother’s Day Basket Fundraiser.” The basket value is \$972 and will be given to one “Very Lucky Mother” on Monday, May 1st!!!

Currently club members are selling tickets (\$20 each) for this valuable basket. Tickets may also be purchased at the Russellville Public Library where the basket and some of the items will be displayed. You can buy as many tickets as you want. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used for local scholarships and community projects sponsored by GFWC Book Lovers Study Club.

Below are some of the items that will be included the “Mother’s Day Basket.”

- One night stay @ Willow Oak Lodge donated by Tim & Kim Horton
- Bella Rejuvenation Massage Gift Certificate by Shawn Partain
- Doe’s \$50 Gift Certificate
- Chocolate Covered Strawberries (half dozen) by Tammy’s Sweet Treats

Treats

- Maggie J’s Boutique Gift Certificate by Kristi Wilbanks
- Kameo Salon Hair Products by Dana Aycok
- Holistic Harmony Gift Certificate by Anna Carol Porter
- Chevron \$40 Gas Gift Card by Michelle and Jim Sibley
- Carwash by Linda’s Carwash
- The Ville Nutrition \$25 Gift Card
- Two McGee Farm May Baskets for Mom by CulturaGarden Club
- 43-Grill \$25 Gift Certificate
- Russellville Florist and Gifts Candle by Chase Sparks
- Two Tickets for KGB & Guest Show at Roxy Saturday, May 13 by Franklin County Arts Council

Franklin County Arts Council

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 **T**he Mom-Son Prom 2023 is set for Saturday, April 15, from 5-9 p.m., at the A.W. Todd Centre, 201 S. Washington Ave., Russellville. There will be food, great music and pictures. Church attire or formal wear please. \$25 for one mom and son. \$5/additional son. Please call Tammy west at 256-668-7649 for tickets or more information.


 **L**ifeSouth Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Russellville Hospital on THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. LifeSouth is the primary supplier of blood products to Russellville Hospital. Please contact Deborah Lindsey to schedule an appointment at 256-332-8676 or by email at atdeborah.lindsey@russellville-hospital.org. Please be sure to bring your photo ID when you donate. Everyone who signs up to donate will receive a free T-shirt, an appetizer card from Texas Roadhouse, a free cookie dough card from Papa Murphy's and a free meal ticket from Russellville Hospital. All donors will receive a free cholesterol screening. We will also be giving away DOOR PRIZES!


 **E**veryone is invited to a free concert by the gospel quartet Resound at 6 p.m. on April 30, 2023, at Red Bay First Baptist Church. A Love Offering will be received.


 **O**sborn Hill Cemetery -Decoration Day will be on May 6, 2023. 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.

 **S**t. Paul Missionary Baptist Church will hold a Relay for Life Benefit Yard Sale. Friday, April 14/Saturday, April 15 in the New Building next door to Born Again Collision Center at the Hwy. 243/Hwy. 81 intersection in the Trapptown Community. Friday times will be 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday times 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

 **P**urpose will be having a yard sale on Saturday, April 15 beginning at 7:00 a.m., in the parking lot of Gateway Church on Hwy 43 N in Russellville. The proceeds from the will be used for bus repairs.

 **2**016 Russellville High School graduate Austin Bohannon will perform a free concert Thursday, April 13th at 9 a.m., in the Russellville High School gym. RHS Principal Jeremy Madden said the public is invited. All visitors must check in at the front desk in the main entrance of the new addition.

 **M**ountain Valley Hee Haw will celebrate JoAnn Welch Miller's Birthday with a special evening of entertainment and fun with Elvis Impersonator Kevin Adams. Show time is 6-10 p.m., Saturday, May 6. Everyone is welcome. Admission is free. No alcohol or drugs allowed. From Russellville, follow 243 to Hwy. 79, turn right, go .25 mile and it's the third building on the left.

 **F**irst Baptist Church will celebrate Pastor Appreciation Day on Sunday, April 16 at 9:45 a.m. The church is located at 521 College Avenue in Russellville. Guest minister will be Rev. Larry Davidson III (Rev. B.J. Bonner's grandson). The theme of the day is "A pastor in season and out of season." 2 Timothy 4:2.

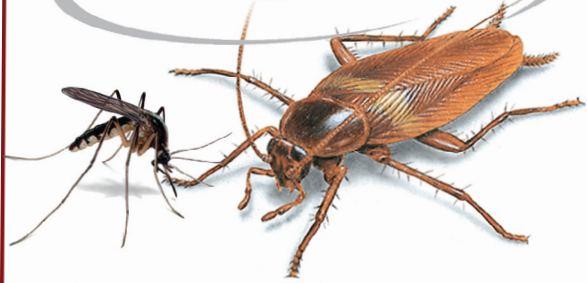
We love to hear from you! Please send your guest columns, cartoon panels, letters to the editor, recipes and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

'MORROW,' from Page 1

the Stennis Institute at MSU, his alma mater.

Presley said Morrow's role in the campaign has not been finalized, but he confirmed Morrow would be involved in a volunteer capacity working on some specific initiatives.

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As an Alabama legislator, Morrow chaired the Tourism Standing Committee and worked zealously to bring new tourism revenue to rural communities.

One of Morrow's major projects with the Stennis Institute was expansion of the 'Rails to Trails' program in Mississippi. Morrow has advocated for an expansion of the Tanglefoot trail, working to build a new trail from Greenwood to West Point, Miss., a 92-mile stretch, and a trail from West Point to Ackerman, Miss., a 44-mile stretch that would include the Mississippi State University campus.

"Small, rural communi-

ties that were dying prior to the opening of the (Tanglefoot) trail are suddenly and miraculously coming to life," Morrow said.

Tanglefoot Trail, a converted 44-mile rail-to-trail from New Albany to Houston, Miss., has led to significant economic development as recreational tourism and community usage of the trail increased.

Morrow was one of the first legislators to advocate for rural broadband as a necessary utility, like electricity, water and sewer, etc.

As Morrow worked toward the goal of bringing high-speed, reliable, last-mile fiber-optic broadband internet to rural Alabama, Presley contacted Morrow for assistance.

In December 2017, Morrow organized a meeting in Russellville with Presley and Tombigbee Electrical Cooperative CEO Steve Foshee. FreedomFiber is a subsidiary of Tombigbee and operates under Foshee's management. The meeting not only provided an update to Franklin County residents on broadband effort, it also afforded Presley the opportunity to hear Foshee explain how FreedomFiber began.

Presley, who has served as a member of the Mississippi Public Service Commission for the Northern District since first being elected in 2008, has led the movement to bring this critical utility to Mississippi's rural communities.

Although Morrow left elected office before seeing the onset of FreedomFiber's build out in Franklin County, his creation of the Franklin County Broadband Task Force more than 10 years ago started that process into motion.

Additionally, Morrow sponsored a Constitutional amendment approved by Franklin County voters that put broadband internet control with the Franklin County Water Service Authority.

"Once again, I want to thank Katerina Cole-Coffey, chairman, and the members of the Franklin County Broadband Task Force, Chairman Randy Schultz, Scott Mugno and the board of directors of the Franklin County Water Authority for moving this forward for the benefit of the citizens of Franklin County," Morrow said.

"Steve (Foshee) has told me how important they were in the broadband



COURTESY PHOTO

Brandon Presley, Johnny Mack Morrow and Katelyn Mabus, Presley's fiancée.

effort and this is going to happen in Franklin County. It will significantly improve the quality of life for Franklin County citizens," he added.

Seeing how Presley, a four-time elected Democrat in a Republican dominated district, is serving the citizens of Mississippi was enough motivation for Morrow to retire from Stennis to help Presley's campaign.

"It's been a pleasure and honor to work with my university for four years now and to work with communities to promote economic development, including tourism, through an economic think tank," Morrow said.

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"I'm leaving to help a friend who I very much believe in. Life moves on and this campaign is something I strongly believe in, so I'm going to do all I can to help Brandon become the next governor of Mississippi," he added.

And Morrow's confidence in Presley's chances of winning the state's highest office as a Democrat is shared by other political campaign veterans, including James Carville, who served as Bill Clinton's campaign manager the first time Clinton ran for president.

Mississippi's general election, including the office of governor, will be November 7, 2023.

Last year, Carville addressed Presley's candidacy and offered his prediction on how the campaign would fare.

"Mark my words. Mark it down. Two years from now, Mississippi will have a Democratic governor, Brandon Presley," Carville said. "Stop laughing and mark it down."

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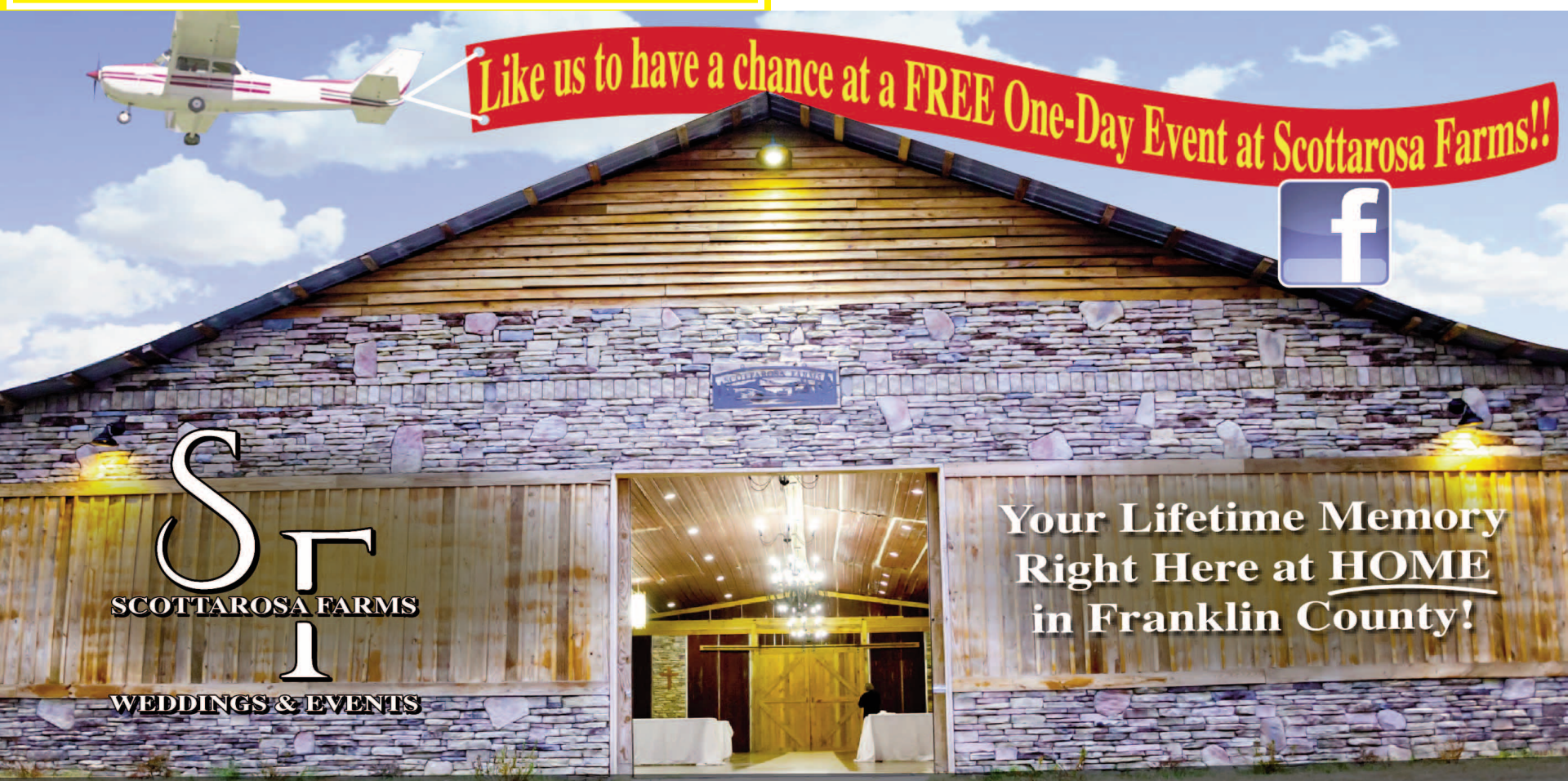
For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online
at www.franklinfreepress.net.

Helping The Homeless



COURTESY PHOTO

Dave Ferguson, left, with Long-Lewis Ford, presented Betsy and Doug Green with a \$1,500 donation to the Russellville Coalition for the Homeless at the Burnells concert held March 31st at the Roxy Theatre. The Burnells features 1980 RHS graduate Mark Kelly. Ferguson works with the band helping with promotion/management. Many thanks to the Long-Lewis Foundation for supporting this important cause and thanks to the Burnells for including the coalition as a beneficiary of their show.



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'FIREFIGHTERS,' from Page 1

thank you for doing the job God called you to do."

Russellville City Councilman Darren Woodruff said Fuller's emotional letter reminded him how much we should all appreciate the job done by our local fire fighters, EMTs and paramedics.

"That letter really got to me," Woodruff said. "I've said for years if something happens to me, I want the Russellville Fire Department to be there. I want to personally thank every one of you for what you do."

The five fire fighters received their certificates and medals from Deputy Fire Chief Randy Seal.



From left: Mickey Gentry, Justin Green, Randy Seal, Jeremy Glenn, Shane Mansell and Brad Pounders.

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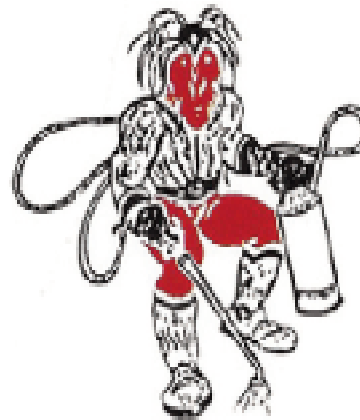


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A defining moment: Golden Tigers rebound to take series from Jasper

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

In a week that saw his team go 4-1, the most important game for Russellville varsity baseball coach Jess Smith's team may have been its 8-7 loss to Jasper on March 28th.

After his team blew a 5-0 lead and lost the opening game in a best-of-three series against 5A Area 14 rival Jasper, the Golden Tigers swept two must win games from the Vikings Thursday to win the series and improve to 14-11.

Smith challenged his team after Tuesday's loss. He told his young team about defining moments in life, and in a baseball season, and how they don't come in easy situations.

"With a younger team that's less experienced one through nine (in the lineup) gets punched in the mouth Tuesday in an area game, that was a major response to play the way we did Thursday," Smith said.

"It was more than just two wins. Those games were us executing on all cylinders and they were really our best offensive games of the year. Defining moments don't happen in comfortable situations. We talked about being good when you're uncomfortable. That's when defining moments take place," he added.

Russellville defeated Jasper 12-1, 10-0 in games two and three. The team's momentum carried over into the weekend, as the Golden Tigers garnered wins against Arab, 6-3, and Ardmore, 5-3.

In the 12-1 victory, Logan White threw five innings and allowed only five hits and one run,

See, 'RHS BASEBALL,' page 14

Bama bound: Warhurst to join Tide

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Conner Warhurst has always been a team player.

So when the Russellville High School senior joins the Alabama Crimson Tide football team next year, he'll be ready to contribute, regardless of how he's asked to do so.

At a ceremony held March 29th at the Russellville Field House, Warhurst signed as a preferred walk-on for Coach Nick Saban's program. Although he will not initially receive an athletic scholarship at Alabama, Warhurst's preferred walk-on status means he will have a spot on the Crimson Tide's roster at the start of camp. That puts him ahead of other walk-on players and presents an opportunity for Warhurst to impress coaches and earn a scholarship later in his playing career.

"As a preferred walk-on, they said they look at me as a guy they want down there to try and earn a spot rather than trying to make the team, which is a longer route," Warhurst said.

Former Golden Tiger Roge Bedford, Alabama's Assistant



PHOTO BY MICHAEL RICE

Warhurst at March 29th signing.

Director of Player Personnel, set up the visit to introduce Warhurst to the Crimson Tide program and coaching staff.

When Warhurst visited Alabama last fall, the Crimson Tide was hosting Austin Peay University at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Warhurst met the team, including several walk-on players, as well as Saban and his coaching staff.

What impressed him the most was how his future teammates described not just the school's football program, but the university itself and the educational support they receive.

"They talked about how it's the best place to be because it's the best school and football program. The professors work

See, 'WARHURST,' Page 13

Patriot softball struggling thru first season

Michael Rice
Franklin Free Press

The Northwest-Shoals Community College Patriots softball program continues its learning process as Coach Angel Brown's team winds its way through its inaugural season of Alabama Community College Conference play.

On March 23rd, the Patriots hosted Snead State Community College and were swept 10-0 and 4-1.

In game one, Snead's Lydia West hurled five innings of shutout softball, allowing five hits, walking none and logging two strikeouts.

NW-SCC starter Taylor Cameron pitched four innings, allowing six hits and five runs, with one strikeout. Chloe Handley threw the final two innings out of the bullpen.

Five Patriots managed hits against West,

including Katie Dawson, Ava Brumley, Kailey Armstrong, Madalyn Scott and Handley.

Game two was a much closer affair, with Snead State holding on to a 4-1 edge to earn the sweep.

Snead State scored once in the second inning and added three more in the third to build a 4-0 lead.

Mycala Mitchell started for the Patriots and kept her team in the game, going seven innings, allowing eight hits and four runs with four strikeouts and only one walk.

In the bottom of the sixth, Emily Ahonen drew a one-out walk, followed by an Armstrong single for NW-SCC. Brooklyn Owens singled to center driving home Ahonen. A ground out by Dawson ended the rally for the Patriots.

Owens and Handley both posted multi-hit efforts for NW-SCC to pace the Patriots'

See, 'NW-SCC,' page 12

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'NW-SCC,' from Page 11

offense.

On Saturday, the Patriots traveled to Boaz for another doubleheader. The homestanding Parsons won both games, 13-4 and 9-1.

After the Patriots took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first, Snead State plated three in the bottom of the inning.

Alyssa Brown's single in the first drove in Handley to give NW-SCC a 1-0 lead.

Although the Patriots played from behind, the game remained close until the bottom of the sixth inning, when the Parsons broke through for six runs.

The Patriots had two home runs in the game, a Scott blast in the fourth and a Brown home run in the fifth inning. Owens, Armstrong and Brown each had two hits to lead the Patriots.

Game two saw Snead State score four in both the second and third innings to once again take an early lead en route to a 9-1 win.

Brown's fourth-inning home run gave her two for the day and accounted for the lone NW-SCC run.

On Thursday, March 30th, the Patriots hosted conference foe Wallace State Community College for a pair of games at Muscle Shoals' Gattman Park.

Wallace State scored in each of the game's five innings on the way to a 11-2 win in game one.

Handley went 2-3 for NW-SCC. Scott went 1-1 and had an RBI single in the first inning.

Game two began as a pitcher's duel, as Wallace State led 4-2 after five innings. Wallace took a 2-0 lead in the top of the second, but the Patriots tied the game in the bottom of the fourth.

Jade Roberson's bases-loaded walk brought home the first Patriot run, and Alyssa Brown's single scored Ahonen to tie the game.

Wallace regained the lead in the top of the fifth with two runs, as the game moved to the sixth inning with the Patriots down 4-2. Wallace State broke it open with five in the sixth, en route to the final score of 11-5.

Mitchell went the distance on the mound, yielding 11 runs (nine earned) on 16 hits with four strikeouts.

Northwest-Shoals rallied for three seventh-inning runs. Armstrong scored on a Stefanie Price sacrifice fly to make it 11-3. Roberson followed with a two-run double that ended the scoring.

The Patriots traveled to Hanceville for another doubleheader with Wallace State on Saturday, April 1st. Wallace State swept both games 8-0 and 8-2.

In the first game, Wallace State pitcher Alivia Wilken threw a five-inning no hit-ter, striking out eight Patriot batters.

In game two, Mitchell threw six innings, allowing nine hits and eight runs with four strikeouts. NW-SCC batters had 10 hits, led by Price (2-4), Handley (2-4) and Scott (2-4). The Patriots, 10-26, travel to Alexander City on Thursday, April 13th, for a doubleheader with Central Alabama Community College. First pitch of game one is 2 p.m.

On Saturday, April 15th, the Patriots will host Central Alabama in Muscle Shoals, with first pitch of game one at 1 p.m.

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'WARHURST,' from Page 11

with you and help you the best they can," Warhurst said. "That education gives you an opportunity for whatever you want to do in life. It's not just always about football."

The son of Chad and Jennifer Warhurst, Conner was a key piece of Coach John Ritter's Golden Tiger program as a running back and safety.

His impressive senior season saw Warhurst rush for 1,550 yards on 188 carries. He scored 21 touchdowns. His junior season, Warhurst had 197 touches for 1,712 yards and 18 touchdowns.

After suffering a high-ankle sprain in Russellville's week 10 game against Athens last fall, Warhurst returned two weeks later in the Golden Tigers' playoff game against Pleasant Grove. For an injury of that magnitude, returning to game action in two weeks was a minor miracle.

"It was my senior year and I didn't want to miss another game," Warhurst said. "That's the big thing about me. I'll play if I can play. If I'm hurt, I'll play hurt. But I'm going to play whenever I can and help my team. That's what you do as a senior leader on a team."

Ritter has no doubt Warhurst will be able to contribute at the game's next level.

"He embodies what we want our program to be about. Warhurst has that physical brand of football that everyone should strive to be. I know Conner will do great things at Alabama," Ritter said.

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'RHS Baseball' from Page 11

while striking out six Viking batters. Neyland Baker and Banks Langston had home runs. Baker's blast came in the second inning. Langston's homer was in the fourth, an inning that saw the Golden Tigers score four runs. Baker went 2-3 with three RBI to lead the 12-run offensive output.

The pitching got even better in the decisive game three. White got the unusual task of starting both ends of a doubleheader on the mound. He threw two innings of no-hit baseball, paving the way to a three-pitcher combined no-hitter. Cayden Johns pitched the third and fourth inning and Seth Burns threw a perfect fifth inning as Russellville won a run-rule shortened 10-0 game in five innings.

Three Golden Tigers had multi-hit games, including Brandt Cummings (2-3, RBI, walk), Johns (2-3, RBI) and Daniel Askew (2-2).

Russellville had its strongest inning of the year in the second, as the team scored 10 runs in the frame. Brodie Vandiver, Eli Boutwell, Shayden Romans, Johns, Baker and Cummings each had RBIs in the inning.

With the 2022 5A Pitcher of the Year (Langston) unable to pitch due to an injury that still allows him to bat and field, Smith's team has responded with solid outings from the rest of his pitching staff.

"We're learning to win without Banks out there on the mound. That's good for the kids in our program, to get confident if your name is called, where we know as a staff and your teammates know you're going to get it done," Smith said.

And Langston has found other ways to contribute. In fact, a lot of ways, Smith explained.

"He's a competitor and he leads our offense in almost every category. He's finding ways to help us win in the box," Smith said.

The Golden Tigers stayed busy over Spring Break with wins over Athens (6-5) and Hamilton (6-1) to improve to 16-11.

On April 3rd, the Golden Tigers won a dramatic walk-off game with Johns' double in the bottom of the tenth inning.

Spurgeon started on the mound and threw 5.1 innings, giving up six hits, four earned runs with five walks and five strikeouts.

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Baker went the final 4.2 innings, allowing only four hits and one run while striking out three.

The Golden Tigers' sixth consecutive win came Tuesday with a 6-1 win over Hamilton.

Boutwell and Gunner Sappington combined for a seven inning pitching gem that limited the Aggies to two hits, no earned runs while logging seven strikeouts.

A four-run sixth inning saw Johns, Boutwell and Daniel Askew each drive in runs.

Russellville plays its final area series this week. The Golden Tigers will open Tuesday, April 11th hosting West Point for one game. The teams will play a doubleheader Thursday, April 13th at West Point.

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17-6 Bobcats eyeing another playoff run

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

As the calendar nears mid-April, Coach Jonathan Raper's Phil Campbell Bobcats find themselves in a familiar place—preparing to make another deep playoff run.

Phil Campbell is 17-6 and ranked second in the April 6th Alabama Sports Writers Association Class 3A poll.

An April 4th 4-3 loss to Class 7A Florence ended a seven-game win streak for the Bobcats.

Three days earlier, Phil Campbell swept a doubleheader from West Limestone High School, 6-2 and 14-4.

In game one, Bryant Anthony's first inning home run tied the game at 1-1. Four second inning runs put the game away for the Bobcats, with the key hit coming on Anthony's two-run homer, his second of the game.

Eli Taylor pitched six strong innings of four-hit baseball, giving up two earned runs, four walks while striking out six. Hunter Baker pitched a scoreless seventh for the Bobcats.

In the Bobcats' 14-4 win, West Limestone once again took an early lead, but that 1-0 advantage was quickly erased with six Bobcat runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Phil Campbell blasted 12 hits with multi-hit games from Cam Habada (3-4, RBI), Sage Raper (2-2, RBI) and Koltin Hester (2-2, RBI). Hunter Baker had a big game, going 2-2 with three runs batted in.

Kyle Pace went five strong innings, giving up six hits, one earned run with three walks and six strikeouts to earn the win.

In the Bobcats' 4-3 loss to Florence, Phil Campbell outthit the Falcons 7-6 but fell one run short on the scoreboard.

Four Bobcat pitchers combined for seven innings of six-hit baseball, with Florence scoring four earned runs with six walks and seven strikeouts. R Robinson threw a scoreless seventh inning for Phil Campbell.

Habada and S. Raper had multi-hit games to lead the offense. The Bobcats will travel to Lawrence County for a 4:30 p.m., start on Monday, April 17th and will host Red Bay the following day, with first pitch set for 4:30 p.m.

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