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Moore's long Tuesday ends with reelection as Franklin County Probate Judge

Michael Rice
 Franklin Free Press

It was nearly midnight on Tuesday, March 5th, Alabama's primary election day, when Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore finally had a few moments to reflect on the day's events.

Moore was elected to a third term earlier that evening, and Moore's office in the Franklin County

Courthouse served as election central as Franklin County Election Manager Mary Scofield and the probate office staff tallied the official results.

Since he was on the ballot, Moore was removed from that process for the March 5th primary, but he was at the courthouse most of the evening visiting with voters who came to see the results come in.

Moore received 3,189 votes to

See 'MOORE,' Page 8

Clark to carry 100% principle into County Commission District Four seat

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

When she's sworn in this November as District Four Commissioner, Tracie Clark will become the first woman elected to the Franklin County Commission.

But Clark's campaign was about much more than being a trailblazer. She had a specific strategy to reach as many voters as possible, and to be a good listener, something she'll carry with her once she takes office.

Clark defeated incumbent District Four Commissioner David Hester in Tuesday's Republican Primary.

While the margin wasn't a lopsided win, Clark won 18 of the 23 precincts that had reported late Tuesday (Hodges and Vina had not reported), including a win in her home box of Red Bay.

Clark received 2,677 votes to Hester's 2,263, a margin of 54-46 percent, on a day when turnout was light, which generally favors incumbents.

"Winning Red Bay was very special to me because those folks are my hometown people and they know me better than anybody," Clark said.

Clark, who was running for office

See 'CLARK,' Page 3

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April 16, 2024
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Thank you so much for your vote of confidence on March 5th. I owe my success to the countless volunteers, friends and family who helped me get elected as Franklin County District Four Commissioner.

I am grateful to the voters who have given me the opportunity to serve Franklin County. I'm delighted to have been elected to the Franklin County Commission and I will do my best to make a positive difference.

~ Thank You!
 Tracie Clark

15225 Highway 43, Suite G
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'CLARK,' From Page 1

for the first time, didn't campaign by asking voters to elect the first Franklin County woman to the county commission, she did hear feedback from voters who believed it was long overdue.

"I heard some comments from citizens who thought it was time for a lady to be in the political field on the Franklin County Commission," Clark said. "I was very nervous and didn't know how this would turn out, but I reached as many voters as possible without going door-to-door."

"I went to businesses, worked parking lots at stores, went to hospitals, nursing homes, doctors' offices and banks, going inside and talking with people face to face. That's the way local campaigns should work," she added.



One day before last week's primary, Clark had approximately 1,000 cards remaining. She decided that before she quit campaigning, she was going to hand out every last one, which she did by Monday evening.

When she woke up on election day, the 'hay was in the barn' as far as campaigning.

"I washed sheets, cleaned house and tried to stay busy all day. My husband and I voted together, but other than that, I was at home," Clark said.

Clark worked 34 years for the City of Red Bay as its revenue officer before retiring in 2021.

She's been active in civic groups in Red Bay as well as across the county. Clark serves on the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She's an officer in the Red Bay Garden Club and past chairman of the Red Bay Founders Fest.

When she gets involved in something, no matter how big or small, Clark operates by one principle.

"I'm a hard worker. Whatever I do I give 100 percent to it. If I'm on a board, I give my full effort. If I'm on the Red Bay Tree Commission, it's 100 percent. I'm never going to give a half effort to something. If I'm involved, I'm going to be involved in it fully," Clark said. "And that's how I plan to be as a county commissioner as well."

With no Democratic candidate in the County Commission District Four race, Clark will be unopposed on the November 5, 2024, general election ballot. And she'll take office on the second Wednesday in November following the general election, November 13, 2024.

From there, it's 100 percent

Franklin Free Press

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8-5

Managing your fearful and obsessive thoughts

Stan Popovich
Special to the Franklin Free Press

There are times that we encounter negative thoughts that can be overwhelming.

For some people, the more they try to get rid of their thoughts, the stronger they become.

As a result, here is a brief list of techniques that a person can use to help manage their obsessive thinking.

1. Do not focus on your fearful thinking: The first thing a person must do is not to dwell on the fear provoking thought when it comes. The more a person tries to reason out on the fear behind the thought, the stronger it becomes. The next time you encounter a negative situation, get into the practice of not dwelling on it.

2. Think of a red stop sign: At times, a person might encounter a fearful thought that may be difficult to manage. When this happens, visualize a red stop sign which can serve as a reminder to think about something else. Regardless of how scary your negative thinking may be, do not dwell on it.

3. Its only fear: The difference between an obsessive thought and a regular one is that an obsessive thought is based on fear. With this in mind, try to find the source of the fear behind your negative thinking and then find ways to get rid of your worries.

4. Your thoughts are exaggerated: Sometimes, a person may encounter a lot of scary thoughts coming at them all at once. Instead of getting upset, remember that your negative thinking is exaggerated with worry. Ignore the fear behind these obsessive thoughts, regardless how the strong the fear may be.

5. Challenge your negative thinking with positive statements and realistic thinking: When encountering thoughts that make you fearful or depressed, challenge them by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity and common sense. Focus on the reality of your situation and not on your negative thinking.

6. Carry a small notebook of positive statements with you: A person should keep a small notebook of positive statements that makes them feel good. Whenever they come across a positive and uplifting verse that makes them happy, write it down in a small notebook. A person can then carry this notebook around in their pocket and whenever they feel anxious, they can read their notebook.

7. Take it one day at a time: Instead of worrying about how you will get through the rest of the week or month, try to focus on today. Each day can provide us with different opportunities to learn new things and that includes learning how to deal with your situation. In addition, you will not feel overwhelmed with everything if you focus on one thing at a time.

8. Get help: Take advantage of the help that is available around you. If possible, talk to a professional who can help you manage your fears and anxieties. They will be able to provide you with additional advice and insights on how to deal with your current problem. By talking to a professional, a person will be helping themselves in the long run because they will become better able to deal with their problems in the future.

BIOGRAPHY

Stan is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers a variety of techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, please visit Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com>

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 **T**he Senior Center of Phil Campbell is under new management. Everyone age 60 and over are invited to come join us and be part of the group. This is for men and women. We meet at the Phil Campbell Community Center Monday thru Friday from 8-noon. A delicious lunch is served at 11 a.m. Meals are \$1 donation. Some come and play Rook. We also do Bingo when we have enough people. There are several games to play or just sit and socialize with other seniors.


 **P**astor Bro. Eric McKinney and the congregation of Crestview Missionary Baptist Church, 24131 Hwy. 24, Russellville, invite you to worship with them. Sunday morning Bible Study is from 10-Noon and Sunday morning worship from 11-Noon. All are welcome to our services! Call 256-324-0179 for more information.


 **M**Y FATHER'S HOUSE MINISTRIES, RUSSELLVILLE, AL, 104 E. Lawrence St., Pastor Pearl Shelton, would like to invite you to our weekly Prayer Meeting every Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m. Come join us as we pray together in unity and power! Anyone needing prayer please be sure to join us! Everyone is welcome!

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 **C**owboy Church of Franklin County will host its annual Egg Rodeo on Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. -2 p.m., at the church located at 25100 Hwy. 24 in Russellville. Egg hunt, stick horse competition, lunch served. All events will be in arena, so dress to get dirty.

 **T**he Franklin County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Easter Egg Hunts in Phil Campbell, Red Bay and Russellville on Saturday, March 23rd. The chamber will provide eggs filled with candy, small toys and \$1 bills. Donations are being accepted for \$25 gift certificates/gift cards for prizes. These will be collected through March 15th.

 **L**ifeSouth Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Russellville Hospital on THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH, 2024 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 deborah.lindsey@russellvillehospital.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, and a free meal ticket from Russellville Hospital. All donors will receive a free cholesterol screening. We will also be giving away DOOR PRIZES!

 **L**iberty Chapel Baptist Church will hold Revival Services March 24-27. The church is located on Highway 81 in the Oak Grove Community, close to the East Franklin Fire Department. Sunday night service will begin at 5 p.m., with Bro. Dakota Galloway preaching. Monday thru Wednesday services begin at 7 p.m., with Bro. Darren Steward speaking. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 256-324-8430.

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'MOORE,' From Page 1

2,109 for his Republican opponent, Franklin County District Two Commissioner Jason Miller, representing a 60-40% edge.

Moore said Miller called Tuesday evening to congratulate him on the primary victory.

Miller was a formidable candidate who's demonstrated a willingness to address controversial issues and cast votes outside the majority when he believes them to be in the best interests of Franklin County citizens.

Six years ago, Moore defeated Russellville Fire Department Chief Joe Mansell to win a second term. Mansell was another well-respected candidate, but he, like Miller, ran into the reality of Moore's popularity with Franklin County voters.

Originally appointed in 2007, following the death of then-Probate Judge Mike Green, Moore has served 17 years as probate judge, and with no Democratic challenger, his March 5th win means he'll serve through 2030.

24 years and counting—some tough numbers to achieve in local politics. But Moore describes his win as a team effort.

"I am very humbled by the support I had during the election and I appreciate my family and my supporters who helped, whether they put up signs, placed signs in their yard or just voted for me. I appreciate every one of them," Moore said.

As the clock struck midnight, Moore was more than ready to call it a day.

"We will take some rest and relaxation soon. Tuesday night was a late one. I was down at the courthouse until almost midnight," Moore said. "Then I got up early Wednesday morning, went to work for a few hours, then got out and started picking up signs. And I'll pick more up (Thursday).

"So we're not slowing down yet. But there will definitely be time for some rest and relaxation in the coming weeks," he added.

Moore doesn't attribute his staying power with Franklin County voters to any specific strategy. In fact, he's doing the job the same way he started 17 years ago.

"I'll work to stay consistent in what we've done in previous years. I have lived in Franklin County all my life. I was born and raised here," Moore said. "I enjoy trying to help people when they come ask for assistance in a particular matter and I, along with the other commissioners, just enjoy helping the citizens of our county to make this a better place to live and work."

There will be changes when Moore's third full term begins next January. District Three Commissioner Joseph Baldwin was unopposed, so he will serve a second term, but there will be new faces for Districts One, Two and

Four. Commissioners Chris Wallace and Miller did not seek reelection.

Tracie Clark defeated incumbent commissioner David Hester in District Four, and the other two districts will be decided on the April 16th runoff.

"I'm looking forward to working with whoever gets in there and working to make Franklin County better. It's all about working together toward that end," Moore said.

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I will never stop working to keep Franklin County a special place to live and work.

Sincerely, Barry Moore

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Watts named 5A Region 8 winner of 2024 Bryant-Jordan Scholar-Athlete Award

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

It's been a busy spring semester for Russellville High School senior Avery Watts. Two weeks after signing a volleyball scholarship with Mississippi University for Women, Watts was named a 2024 regional winner in the Bryant-Jordan Scholar-Athlete Program.

She becomes one of 52 high school senior-athletes to receive the honor. She and the other nominees will be honored April 15, 2024, at the annual Bryant-Jordan Awards Banquet, where she will receive a \$3,000 scholarship with an opportunity to receive an additional \$7,500.

The Bryant-Jordan Scholar Program, now in its 37th year, has honored outstanding scholar athletes with more than \$10 million in scholarships, with \$1 million available this year.

If Watts is selected as the 5A class winner, she will receive an additional \$3,500 scholarship and if named one of the two state award winners, she would earn an additional \$4,000 scholarship. Watts is also eligible for other special scholarships to be awarded April 15th by several in-state four year universities and community colleges.

Each participating high school in the Alabama High School Athletic Association is invited to nominate one senior student-athlete in each of two categories, scholar-athlete and the Bryant-Jordan Student Achievement Program.

Watts, who scored an impressive 32 on the ACT, holds a 4.0 GPA and 5.0 weighted GPA at Russellville.

In addition to being a three sport athlete, Watts is active in multiple academic societies and student organizations at Russellville. She served as the school's Girls State Alabama representative last year and took part last year in the Franklin County Junior Leadership Program.

Watts serves as President of the National Honor Society and she's completed seven AP courses along with multiple dual-enrollment courses.

RHS Principal Jeremy Madden said Watts epitomizes the qualities sought by the Bryant-Jordan Scholar-Athlete Program. He wasn't surprised when he learned Watts was named a regional winner.

"I am very proud of Avery and all her academic and athletic accomplishments," Madden said. "She is a role model to her classmates. I want to congratulate Avery for representing Russellville High School on the state level."



COURTESY PHOTO

RHS Senior Avery Watts, with her family and coach at her scholarship signing last month.

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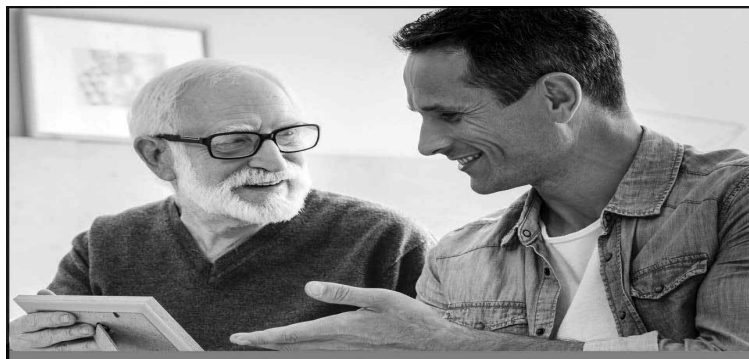
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Holding a cell phone while driving? You may be holding a ticket soon...

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

Got a cell phone in your hand while driving in Alabama? Starting in June, you could also end up with a traffic citation and unwanted points on your driving record.

When the Alabama Legislature passed a law last year intended to reduce the increasing number of people being killed or injured by distracted drivers, it came with a 12-month 'grace period' where officers could only write warnings to motorists in violation of the law.

That 'grace period' ends May 31, 2024. After that date, law enforcement officers can issue tickets to any driver observed using or even holding a cell phone. A motorist may only use a single button or a finger swipe to answer a call.

A first offense, upon conviction, carries a \$50 fine and one point on the driver's record. A second offense carries an increased fine to \$100 and two points on the driver's record. A third offense, upon conviction, will cost the motorist \$150 and a nasty three points will be added to the motorist's driving record.

Russellville Police Chief Chris Hargett said distracted driving incidents where drivers are holding and using cell phones is a rampant problem increasingly tied to accidents and loss of lives.

According to the Alabama Department of Transportation, approximately seven percent of all motor-vehicle related fatalities Alabama in 2022 were caused by distracted driving, many of those involving the driver's use of a cell phone.

"This continues to be a problem we see every day," Hargett said. "We've been writing warning tickets for violation of the hands free law, but that will change in June, when the 12-month grace period is over."

One concern Hargett has with the 2023 law is it's only a secondary offense, meaning officers may not stop a vehicle just because they see the driver holding or using a cell phone.

"The way the law is written, the officer must observe a separate traffic offense in order to stop the vehicle. Once stopped though, a citation for violating the hands-free law may be written in addition to the primary traffic offense," Hargett said. "Most cars today are capable of doing hands free phone usage, but some people just choose not to use that feature. (The new

law) is better than nothing, but it hinders us by being a secondary offense."

The 2023 hands-free law was passed in the memory of Leah Grace Tavin, CiCi Lunsford and Jay Kendall, three Alabama residents who died as a result of accidents determined to be caused by distracted driving.

Hargett said if a driver is using a phone for an emergency situation, 'common sense' should prevail when it comes to whether a traffic citation is issued.

The Alabama Department of Transportation recommends five tips to help drivers go hands-free:

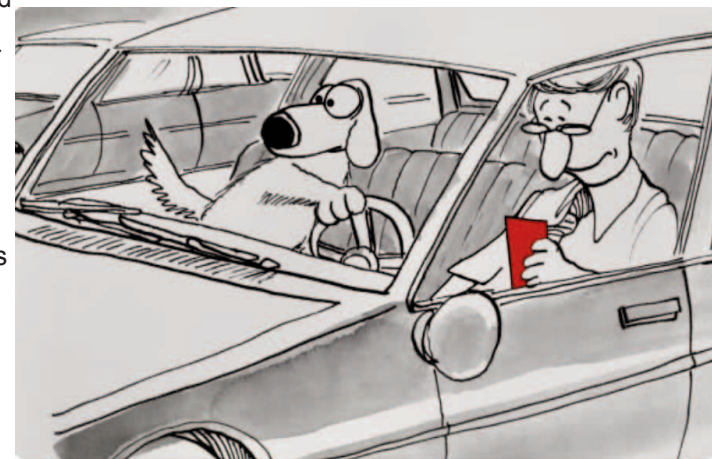
--Use Hands-Free Technology:
Use Bluetooth devices or dash-board mounts to keep your phone accessible but out of your hands.

--Plan Ahead: Set GPS navigation and music playlists before starting your car to minimize distractions while you are driving.

--Silence Notifications: Turn off notifications, use a 'do not disturb' setting or put your phone in airplane mode so you aren't tempted to look at your phone while behind the wheel.

--Pull Over if Necessary: If you must use your phone, drive to a location safely off the road, like a parking lot, before putting your phone in your hand.

--Put Your Phone Away: The simplest way to comply with Alabama's hands-free law is to ignore your phone. Place it in the glove compartment, in your purse or in the backseat. If your phone is out of sight, the road is the first thing on your mind and in your sight.



On Target: Belgreen archery program growing rapidly in numbers and success

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

Archery, the sport or practice of using a bow to shoot an arrow, is thousands of years old, and for thousands of years it was a primary skill used for hunting, warfare, and recreation.

Though modern technology has made the application of archery for hunting less popular and for battle obsolete, recreational archery and archery competitions are still fairly common around the world.

One school in Franklin County has gotten in on the archery action. Belgreen, using grant money, started its archery program in 2020 and has for the last four years competed in tournaments held throughout Alabama. First started by Ryan Champion, Belgreen's student resource officer Regina Cantrell, who had one of her own children involved, took over as the program's sponsor a few years ago. Cantrell said the program gives students who may have not been interested in other arenas a shot at competition.

"It's an opportunity for kids who don't necessarily excel at team sports or other sports a chance to get involved," Cantrell said. "I use the comparison to track because you have a team but you're competing as an individual. Some people are better at individual stuff."

Addison King, a junior archer in the program, concurred and added she gets

See, 'BELGREEN,' Page 15

Golden Tigers open area play on two-game win streak

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville High School varsity baseball team picked up two wins in three home games last week. After falling to Cullman 9-1 on March 7, the Golden Tigers rebounded with wins over Cordova and Hatton in a doubleheader on March 9. The results bring Russellville's record to 7-6 this season as the Golden Tigers look forward to vital contests coming up.

"We did not play good (against Cullman) but we rebounded on Saturday," Russellville head coach Jess Smith said. "That should give us momentum going into the work week and gives us something to build off of."

The loss to Cullman ended a three-game winning streak for the Golden Tigers. Rearing their ugly heads were some of the same issues that plagued Russellville earlier in the season.

"Cullman is a very good baseball team," Smith said. "A lot of it was some of the same mistakes we were making earlier: errors, too many walks, mistakes you can't make against good

See, 'STREAK,' page 12



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASCOW

Eli Boutwell's home run helped the Golden Tigers to a 6-2 win over Hatton Saturday afternoon.

RHS softball team on fire as area play begins

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville High School varsity softball team continued its unbeaten streak last week with four more wins and a tie, bringing the Golden Tigers' record to 11-4-1 on the season. Russellville has produced favorable results in nine of its last 10 games and hasn't lost since March 1.

"They have turned a corner this season," Russellville head coach Rick Lawson said of his team. "Every time they step on the field they expect to win. They're not playing cocky, they're playing with confidence and it's showing on the field."

Russellville started the week off with a dominant 7-1 win over East Limestone on March 4, led by an impressive 15-strikeout performance

from ace Jacey Moore. Moore surrendered just one run off four hits and a walk through seven innings on her way to the victory.

"Anytime Jacey is in the circle she gives us a chance because she's going to throw strikes," Lawson said after the game. "It helps us when she's there, she spins it really well and she'll get a couple strikeouts on her own."

Led offensively by two hits and an RBI from both Ticelee Gholston and Jemma Moore, the Golden Tigers doubled up the Indians on hits and put up crooked numbers in the second and fifth innings as they cruised to victory.

The Golden Tigers won again on the following day, March 5, sneaking past Central 5-4. Russellville jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead after two innings and added what would prove to be a vital insurance run in the fifth.

"We've had some great, timely hitting,"

See, 'SOFTBALL,' Page 13

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'STREAK,' From Page 11

teams. Looking back at it, only three of their nine runs were earned."

"They put up a five spot in the first inning and it was just tough to get back into the game after that."

Russellville had just three hits and just as many errors against the Bearcats. The lone run for the Golden Tigers came in the sixth inning, an RBI double by Brandt Cummings to score Gunner Sappington. Cayden Johns got the start on the mound but lasted just through the first inning. He was relieved by Ty Engelthaler who went on to pitch five and a third innings, striking out seven batters, and impressing his head coach.

"Ty Engelthaler was an extremely bright spot for us," Smith said. "He pitched well against Cullman and looking at the stats, only one of the runs scored against him was earned. To have a guy like Ty come in in a tough situation like that, it was certainly something positive to take out of it."

The Golden Tigers turned it around on Saturday with convincing 11-1 and 6-2 victories over Cordova and Hatton, respectively.

After falling behind 1-0 in the top of the first, Russellville quickly dissolved the deficit with three runs in the bottom half of the inning. Daniel Askew hit a leadoff home run to tie it up immediately. That was followed up with a groundout that scored Cummings and then an RBI single by Ty Willis.

The Golden Tigers would go on to add three more runs in the third, another run in the fourth, and then four runs in the bottom of the fifth to trigger the mercy rule. Askew led the team with two RBI while Cummings, Eli Boutwell, and Willis all came around to score twice. On the mound, Tripp Cleveland threw all five innings and gave up just two hits while fanning three batters. His one run allowed was unearned.

"I think we did a good job on the mound this weekend," Smith said. "We're not perfect. We're still making some mistakes, some errors that we need to fix, but I thought, for the most part, we were able to pitch our way out of those and play good defense to get out of those situations."

A 6-2 win over Hatton in the next game capped the week for the Golden Tigers. Cummings got the start on the mound and pitched three innings, allowed two runs, neither earned, and recorded six strikeouts. He was relieved by Johns, who tossed three scoreless innings and also sat down six batters. Gunner Sappington came in in the seventh to seal the game, striking out two of his three batters faced.

At the dish, Russellville was led by a two-hit, three-RBI game from designated hitter Ty Willis. The Golden Tigers took an early 1-0 lead in the first courtesy of a Willis RBI double. Russellville added four more runs the following inning, starting with a solo homer by catcher Michael Scofield. Willis then knocked in two more runs, scored by Askew and Brayden Entrekin, with another double to make it 4-1; he scored himself later that inning on a Cummings double to left field. Russellville's sixth and final run came in the fifth inning on a pitch that Eli

Boutwell sent over the center field wall.

The results against Cordova and Hatton give Russellville five wins in six games and provide momentum for the Golden Tigers as they head into area play. Russellville's next three games will be against Lawrence County, the first played at home on March 12 and the next two on the road on March 14.

"You never want to enter area play rolling off some losses," Smith said, adding that confidence is key in baseball. It's something the Golden Tigers will want to have plenty of when facing Lawrence County, a team Smith is not underestimating.

"I think (Lawrence County is) a great team. I've gone and watched them myself," Smith said. "Lawrence County, if you look at just their record, they don't look as good as they are. They are kind of like us. A lot of their losses are against good teams and they've been playing a lot of guys. When you get into area play, you know, you're going to have your best lineup and you're not going to be making as many changes."

Following the Lawrence County series, Russellville will face its next area rival Jasper on March 19 and 21. But Smith and the Golden Tigers are not looking that far ahead just yet.

"I like to tell my guys 'be where your feet are,'" Smith said. "Honestly, I don't like to look too far ahead. I want us to take it one day at a time, one week at a time, focus on what we've got in front of us. So right now we're getting ready for Lawrence County and just trying to get better every day."

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'SOFTBALL,' From Page 11

Lawson said after the East Limestone game. "When we get runners in scoring position, we usually find a way to scratch them across."

It proved true again against Central. The Wildcats outthit the visitors, 8-6, and made it interesting with a three-run sixth, but the Golden Tigers were ultimately able to secure their fourth straight win. Emma Campbell and Bryleigh Butler had an RBI apiece while Gholston had two hits in her three at-bats.

The Golden Tigers capped the week with a four-game marathon on March 9, notching another three wins plus a tie with Deshler. Russellville outscored its four opponents 10-1 on the day with three shutouts against Lexington, Wilson, and Hackleburg.

"We had some tremendous pitching and the girls were really spinning it well out there," Lawson said. "We backed up the pitching with some good defense. In four games we only gave up one earned run. Just a tremendous job."

Russellville started the day bright and early with a 4-0 blanking of Lexington. Paislee James led the team with two hits and a run in the leadoff spot and also earned the win in the circle, allowing just three hits while striking out three batters in five scoreless innings. The Golden Tigers grabbed two runs in the bottom of the first and then added two more in the fourth with RBIs from Gholston, Jacey Moore, Khristyan Huerta, and Emma Campbell.

Wilson ran into the Russellville buzzsaw next, but it was a tighter affair as the Golden Tigers eked out the 1-0 win. Russellville had nine hits in the game, but the sole run came in the bottom of the fifth, courtesy of an RBI single by Addison Holcomb.

"One area I think we can get better in is our consistency hitting. It's never just one person. Sometimes it's at the top of the lineup or the bottom or in the middle, but we're not able to string multiple hits together," Lawson said. "Everything is great when we're stringing hits together, but sometimes we're not able to do that."

Jacey Moore took care of business once again in the circle, striking out eight batters in six innings and giving up just three hits.

Russellville's third game of the day came against Hackleburg, which the Golden Tigers dispatched 4-0. Jacey Moore made her second appearance of the day in the circle and for the second time shut down opposing batters. She rang up 10 strikeouts and allowed only two hits and two walks through five innings.

"I'm really proud of (the pitchers). They were spinning the ball well and putting it in the zone," Lawson said. "They did a tremendous job."

Brooklyn Butler was the star at the plate for the Golden Tigers. She was a perfect 3-for-3 in the game and led the team with three RBI, hitting two doubles and a two-run home run in the top of the first inning.

The day finally drew to a close with a 1-1 tie against Deshler. After falling behind early, the Golden Tigers tied it up in the fifth and the game ended after the sixth inning. Gholston was responsible for Russellville's run, her sacrifice fly driving in Jemma Moore from third base. Brooklyn Butler, after showing off her bat in the previous game, put together a solid outing in the circle against Deshler. She pitched all six innings and after giving up a run in the first, threw five scoreless innings to keep Russellville in it.

All told, it was a good day for the Golden Tigers whose unbeaten streak was extended to eight games. It was also a long day. Lawson said his team started its day around 7:30 A.M. and didn't leave the ballfield until 9:00 P.M. He was pleased with how the Golden Tigers approached each game as the day wore on.

"It was truly impressive how they brought their energy every time they went on to the field," Lawson said. "Even though they'd been there all day, they always found the energy to play and they played well."

That attitude and ability to to continue playing hard throughout a long day is indicative, Lawson said, of the Golden Tigers' mentality in general.

"They stay chasing no matter what. They never give up in games," Lawson said. "We like to say that we're never too far ahead and never too far behind. They have the confidence that they can win every game we play and we're never out of games."

Lawson added that the recent results should serve as an added boost to morale as the Golden Tigers go into the all-important area games. Russellville faces Hamilton and Florence before hosting Lawrence County on March 14.

"I'm really proud of the girls for how they've played so far this year," Lawson said. "We have Lawrence County at home on (March 14) and that's obviously a big game. Hopefully we'll have a big crowd there for us"

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.

CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE STREET DEPARTMENT - LABORER

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

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

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

Applications may be obtained at the Russellville City Hall, Office of the Mayor, 304 North Jackson Avenue. Applications must be returned no later than March 22, 2024 by U.S. Mail to:

The Russellville Civil Service Board
P. O. Box 308
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Skaggs' diverse musical talents to be on display at March 17th show at Decatur's Princess Theatre

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

With his diverse talents, Ricky Skaggs' musical genre is hard to define.

He's seen top-of-the-industry success in both country and bluegrass music, and he's now recognized as an outstanding gospel artist as well.

For Skaggs though, he doesn't really care how you describe his sound. He just takes satisfaction from the fact that fans have enjoyed his sound for portions of six decades and counting.

Skaggs and his band, Kentucky Thunder, will return to Decatur's Princess Theatre on Sunday, March 17th at 7 p.m., for a show that will appeal to all music lovers. Tickets are \$35-\$65 and are available online at www.princesstheatre.org.

"I describe my music as being very real and honest," Skaggs told the FFP last week. "It's played from the heart and has the purpose of bringing joy. And in this day and time, in this climate in our world, people need joy and I don't think there's any music I know of that has more joy than bluegrass music does."

Skaggs grew up in the small town of Cordell, Kentucky. He describes his childhood as 'very simple, very honest.' His father worked as a welder and his mom, a housewife, would often be found canning foods and putting them up in the pantry.

"We had no A/C in the summertime. Dad just put screens in the windows," Skaggs said. "We never locked our doors, but we'd put a latch on the doors to keep the 'coons and possums from coming in."

"It was an honest time where we took care of each other. I fished a lot, ran the hills, hunted and brought in squirrels, quail and rabbits. It was pretty much as you'd expect a 50s lifestyle in the mountains to be," he added.

His professional musical career began in 1971 when he and Keith Whitley were invited to join bluegrass legend Ralph Stanley's band.

Skaggs pivoted to country music in the late 1970s and it turned out to be a career-changing move. He started as a member of Emmylou Harris' Hot Band before moving on to becoming an individual recording artist who logged 12 #1 country hits in the 1980s.

His 1982 induction at the Grand Ole Opry made Skaggs the youngest member in the Opry's history.

Songs like Heartbroke, Don't Cheat in Our Hometown, Highway 40 Blues and Honey (Open That Door) shot their way to the top of the country charts.

Skaggs' bluegrass career took off after he started his own record label, Skaggs Family Records, in 1997. Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder have released 12 Grammy-nominated bluegrass classics, eight of which went on to win the award.

His first two bluegrass albums also won Grammy Awards in consecutive years.

In 2000, Skaggs won a Grammy for his album Soldier of the Cross, his first all-gospel project.

Among his many awards, Skaggs is particularly humbled by his January 2021 National Medal of the Arts, presented to Skaggs and Toby Keith by President Donald Trump at the White House.

"That was the first Presidential award I'd ever received. I love President Trump. I loved him then and I love him more now," Skaggs said. "And I believe he's definitely going to be reelected."

Skaggs' March 17th show in Decatur will feature many of his country hits performed in bluegrass style, some of his favorite instrumentals and some gospel music.

"It's just a really well-rounded fun show. We'll come out rippin' and roarin' with bluegrass and we won't take the foot off the pedal until after the show. It's good to be coming back to the Princess. It's a special place for bluegrass," Skaggs said.



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'BELGREEN,' From Page 11

sentimental and restorative value from participating.

"I got involved in archery because it's something I always did with my papa, and I wanted to continue that," she said. "I enjoy it because it's very therapeutic."

"It helps calm nerves and is great for building upper body (strength)."

Belgreen is part of the National Archery in the Schools Program or NASP. The program is available to students from fourth to 12th grade and its purpose is to improve educational performance, according to the NASP website. NASP lessons are designed to follow school curriculum, taught by school faculty and students are meant to learn "focus, self-control, discipline, patience, and the life lessons required to be successful in the classroom and in life," according to the program's website.

"The goal of the program is to help spread archery through the state and to teach kids focus and other skills they need," Cantrell said.

The current Belgreen team has 12 participants ranging in years, Cantrell said, and the archers have improved at each of the tournaments they've participated in.

"We have one elementary archer, five middle school archers, and six high school archers," she said. "We have done six tournaments so far this year and my archers' scores have steadily increased by five to 10 points."

Junior archer Landon Cantrell said seeing continued improvement in the group is part of what makes it enjoyable for him.

"Belgreen archery means a lot to me because it's fun and we get to see each other grow at every tournament, fix our mistakes, and we also learn valuable lessons from our coach," he said.

Regina Cantrell would like to see the program continue to grow in the years to come and has taken steps to bring more money in for the archers.

"Right now I have 12 bows so I only have 12 kids. I'm trying to get more money to buy more bows," she said. "We've applied for some grants and done some fundraisers."

Belgreen recently held a 3-on-3 basketball tournament to help raise money for the program, which went well, Cantrell added.

"If we can get more funding we can provide them with more bows and more kids can join," she said. "It's something I really hope we can grow bigger."



COURTESY PHOTO

Belgreen archers at a recent competition held last month.

SOUTHWOOD GARDENS IFB (LAWNCARE)

Southwood Gardens is now accepting bids for LawnCare Service to cut the grass at Southwood Gardens. All grass areas are to be cut, trimmed and edged at a minimum of once every two weeks during grass cutting season, (March – October). All sidewalks and curb areas are to be edged and blown off, and all shrubs are to be cut twice a year.

The one-year contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder whose bid meets the requirements of the solicitation. All companies considering this proposal are strongly encouraged to physically inspect the properties prior to submitting a bid. The successful bidder shall be required to provide proof of Liability insurance. Southwood Gardens reserves the right to reject any/or all bids if it deems this would be in the best interests of the Complex.

Bids in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Southwood Gardens LawnCare Service Bids" should be mailed to the Russellville Housing Authority, P.O. Box 966, Russellville, Alabama 35653, or delivered to 73 Flippen Street, Russellville, Alabama 35653, in time to be opened and publicly read aloud at 10:00 a.m. on March 21, 2024. Bids received after this deadline will not be opened and shall not be considered. Any questions, comments, or requests to schedule a site inspection can contact Omar Tompkins at (256) 332-1561.

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