

Nearly 75 people braved the cold to take part in an Autism Society fundraiser 'Funky Fun Run' at Red Bay. See story Page 3.

The Russellville Electric Board hosted a steak luncheon for its employees last week to celebrate its recent Gold Risk Management award. See story Page 3.



PRSR STD US POSTAGE
PAID Franklin Free Press
113 Washington Ave. NW
Russellville, AL 35663

Candidates attend East Franklin political supper

Event raises funds for volunteer fire department

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

It wasn't long ago that every Friday and Saturday evening during a campaign season featured at least one political supper somewhere in Franklin County.

But last Friday's fundraiser for the East Franklin Volunteer Fire Department marked only the second event this year to allow candidates a forum to share their message with voters.

The Spruce Pine Historical Society held a candidate supper earlier this month, and those are the only two events on the calendar before the June 5 primary election.

EFVFD board member William Bishop served as emcee for the evening. The list of candidates attending

included Sen. Larry Stutts, Steve Lolley, Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow, Proncey Robertson, Ken Brackens, probate judge Barry Moore, Joe Mansell and Charles Adcox.

Franklin County revenue commissioner Veronica Stancil, who runs again in 2020, and circuit clerk Anita Scott (who is unopposed this year) also attended the event.

Bishop said the annual fire tax of \$36, which was approved by East Franklin voters, has shown immediate benefits for the department.

"That fee has really helped this fire department and all others. We're fortunate to have that revenue coming in to work with," Bishop said.

Bishop said the department's most immediate need was to replace a pump on one of its fire trucks.

See 'CANDIDATES,' Page 9

Vote **Barry Moore**
PROBATE JUDGE
Pd. Pol. by Barry Moore, 399 High Pine Dr., Russellville, AL, 35654

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

Riverside Realty
SHOALS
ABBEY REA
Real Estate Agent
256.627.0109

Uninsured drivers still an issue in Alabama despite new laws

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When Russellville resident Apollo Proctor was in an accident three years ago, he was left with a variety of injuries and a nearly totaled vehicle.

The other driver, a young Hispanic man, gave the Russellville police officer who responded to the scene his insurance information. The other driver, who was at fault according to police, was allowed to drive away from the scene, Proctor said, even though he didn't have a license.

It wasn't until days later that Proctor learned the other driver didn't have insurance with the company he represented to police. In fact, Proctor was told that company

had no record of ever insuring the driver.

That left Proctor to turn to his father's insurance (his father Donald owned the vehicle) to cover the vehicle damage.

As a result of the accident, Proctor lost his job after he was fired for being unable to work. Three years later, he still walks with a cane and suffers from bulging discs in his lower back. And to further add to his misery, Proctor lost his vehicle when he was unable to make the payments after losing his job.

That's a mountain of issues staring down on someone unfortunate enough to be injured by an uninsured driver, a problem that continues in Alabama even with new laws requiring drivers to have liability insurance.

See 'DRIVERS,' Page 10

Residential Commercial
SOUTHERN COMFORT SERVICES
HEATING & COOLING
24 HOUR SERVICE
(256) 394-4662

RE-ELECT **Dr. Larry Stutts**
ALABAMA STATE SENATE
DELIVERING FOR NORTHWEST ALABAMA
LarryStutts.com

ALABAMA GUN & PAWN
Title & Cash LOANS
15347 Hwy 43 • Rsvl
(256) 332-1108
Cash Spot
Title & Payday LOANS
310 Jackson Ave N Downtown Russellville
(256) 332-3220

MedExpress Littleville
1369 George Wallace Hwy
Littleville, AL
256.331.9700

Russell Bien, CRNP
Nurse Practitioner
SHOALS PRIMARY CARE
Offering general medical care services for the entire family
340 Cox Blvd • Sheffield, AL
256.383.4473
Ext. 2021

FAMILY Pharmacy GROUP
BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama
Hometown Pharmacy
Accepting Tricare and BCBS
609 Gandy St
256.332.7400
familypharmacygroup.com

Sale good April 25 through May 1



MARTY'S MEAT MARKET

This Week's Specials

Fresh Lean
Ground Beef
\$2.19 lb.
fam. pack

Boston Butt
Pork Roast
\$1.39 lb.

Whole Boneless
Pork Loins
\$1.79 lb.

Boneless
New York Strip Steaks
\$6.99 lb.

Boneless Bottom
Round Roast
\$3.29 lb

Boneless Skinless
Chicken Breast
\$1.99 lb.

Country Style Pork Ribs \$1.99 lb.

Smoked Sliced Bacon
\$3.59 lb. fam. pk.

Value Chicken Fingers
\$12.99 / 5-lb. bag

Bryan Bologna or Wieners
\$1.69 / 12-oz. pkg.



Cut Fresh Daily!

Come enjoy these great deals! We thank you for your business!



256-331-9285 • 85 Scotty Moore Dr
Mon.-Sat. 8 to 6 and Sunday 10-6

FRANKLIN MEMORY GARDENS



We offer ground burial, mausoleum and cremation spaces. All may be purchased at need or pre-need to include the burial vault and bronze memorial.
Providing a peaceful, beautiful and serene cemetery for the people of Franklin County.

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

"In Memory of our loved ones..."

brought to you by Atkins Marble and Granite Works and Franklin Memory Gardens

Ronald "Keith" Alexander,
Russellville, age 53
Died Saturday, April 14, 2018.
Funeral held at Akins Funeral Home.
Interment in Beulah Cemetery.

Dana Lynn Brown,
Russellville, age 46
Died Tuesday, April 17, 2018.
Graveside service held at Franklin Memory Gardens. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Linna Cecelia Baker,
Cherokee, age 73
Died Thursday, April 19, 2018.
Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Blue Springs Cemetery.

Morrison Lorecko Harris, Jr.,
Russellville, age 64
Died Friday, April 13, 2018. Funeral held at St. Paul CME Church. Akins Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family.

Harry "Buddy" Stephen Berryhill,
Phil Campbell, age 67
Died Saturday, April 21, 2018.
Funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at Spry Memorial Chapel. Interment in Vandiver Hollow Cemetery.

Justice James Rupley,
Phil Campbell, age 19
Died Sunday, April 15, 2018. Funeral held at Akins Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Antioch Cemetery.

Roger Glenn Black, Cicero, Illinois (formerly of Franklin County), age 70
Died Friday, April 20, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Taylor Cemetery.

Jason Gene Willis,
Tuscumbia, age 46
Died Wednesday, April 18, 2018.
Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in New Bethel Cemetery in Tuscumbia.



welcomes
Courtney Bowen, M.D.
to their Medical Practice



Undergraduate Degree:
Auburn University,
Auburn, AL

Medical Degree:
University of Alabama
School of Medicine,
Birmingham, AL

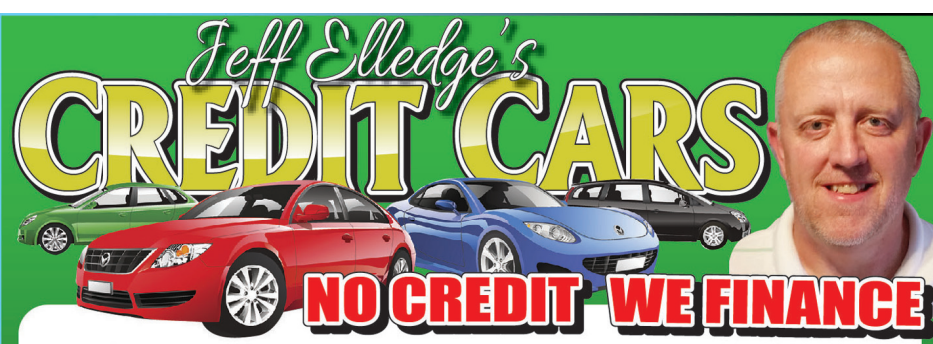
Residency:
UAB Huntsville,
Family Medicine
Residency Program,
Huntsville, AL

Dr. Bowen grew up in Central Alabama. She and her husband, Corey, are excited to be making their home in the Shoals. Dr. Bowen specializes in Family Medicine and is welcoming new patients.

To schedule an appointment call
(256) 383-4447, ext. 124
www.MedShoals.com

All of Our Physicians are Currently...

Welcoming
~~Accepting~~
New Patients



- | | |
|--|---|
| 07 Toyota Avalon
\$2000 Down | 06 Saturn Vue
\$800 Down |
| 04 Pontiac Aztek
\$1200 Down | 07 Toyota Camry
\$1800 Down |
| 04 Cadillac Seville
\$1000 Down | 00 Chevy Cavalier
\$1000 Down |
| 03 Chevy Trailblazer
\$1500 Down | 04 Chevy Malibu
\$800 Down |

elledge.jeff@gmail.com

2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals
256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711

'Funky Fun Run' raises funds for Autism Society

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Cold temperatures and snow flurries couldn't keep nearly 75 people from taking part in a fund-raiser for the Autism Society of Alabama.

The Franklin County Funky Fun Run was held April 7 at Red Bay High School. The event serves as the main fundraiser each year in Franklin County for autism. There was a 5K and a walk, and participants were encouraged to wear retro, funky-colored clothing.

Lauren Reid, fundraising and events manager for the Autism Society of Alabama, said the turnout was great considering the weather, which dipped into the low 30s and saw a light rain turn to snow flurries.

The funds raised, more than \$1,000, will be used for the many programs offered by the Autism Society of Alabama, including family respite care, scholarships to conferences and other resources available to families affected by autism.

"We provide online resources to families. There are 33 network groups across Alabama that connect with families and provide support," Reid said. "We also have provided first responder training. Since 2006, we've trained more than 700 first responders. And in Montgomery, we're working to get insurance coverage for families affected by autism."

The Autism Society of Alabama also provides autism resources for every county library in the state, Reid said.

In Alabama, autism affects more than 50,000 families. On average, one in 68 people have autism, and the rate is higher for boys, with one in 54 being affected.

Franklin County superintendent of education Greg Hamilton and his wife Jessica, who have an autistic son, are active in fundraising for autism and in bringing more awareness to the public about autism.

"As a parent of a child with autism, I know the daily struggles a child goes through and the stress it creates for parents," Hamilton said. "The Autism Society of Alabama is a vocal advocate for behavioral therapy, which I think is crucial in the success of an autistic child."



COURTESY PHOTO

Cold temps and snow flurries couldn't keep 75 people from taking part in an Autism Society fundraiser on April 7 at Red Bay High School.

"The weather wasn't ideal last Saturday, but a couple hours of adverse weather is nothing like what a child goes through with autism."

Hamilton explained that behavioral therapy was not covered by insurance in Alabama until a law passed last year that required the therapy to be covered by insurers.

"That's the kind of thing the Autism Society is an advocate for," Hamilton said.

Electric Board hosts luncheon to celebrate award

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When the Russellville Electric Board recently received a Gold Risk Management Award from the insurance divisions of the Alabama League of Municipalities, REB manager Charlie Canada and his board wanted to show their appreciation to those responsible for the high safety rating—their employees.

The board hosted a steak luncheon for all employees last week as a way to say 'thank you' for a job well done.

"We got a good report from the Alabama League of Municipalities. It was all positive. The inspector really bragged on our system and employees too," Canada said. "I'm really proud of all you guys for doing the right thing every day."

"We are in much better condition than we were five years ago, and that's because of [our employees] and the efforts of our board," Canada said.

As a Gold Risk Management Award recipient, Russellville Electric Board has incurred loss ratios below five percent in a five-year period. Recipients of the President's Risk Management Award include the top five percent of members with minimal losses over a five-year period.

The Russellville Electric Board will be recognized in the AMIC and MWCF's spring 2018 newsletter and at the League convention.

Canada said systems are graded on three areas—safety performance, system reliability and financial stability.

"We are in much better condition than we were five years ago, and that's because of you guys and the efforts of our board," Canada said.

REB chairman Darren Woodruff has attended safety training as part of the operation of his business, Petro Chemical Energy. As a business owner, Woodruff knows the importance of safety in the workplace.

"I know what you have to go through to be safe, and we want you to know how much the board appreciates you," Woodruff said. "I realize how dangerous it is to be a lineman. We're very proud of your safety record."

"You take care of us, and you take care of your equipment. We know you're doing the right thing and making good, safe decisions."



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Chad Whitfield, left, receives a gift from Russellville Electric Board chairman Darren Woodruff last week. The board hosted a steak luncheon for all employees as a way to say 'thank you' for a job well done. The Russellville Electric Board recently received a Gold Risk Management Award from the insurance divisions of the Alabama League of Municipalities. The board will be recognized in the AMIC and MWCF's spring 2018 newsletter and also at the League convention.

Honey Do: Idle thoughts

Finally...surely....maybe, spring weather is here. I know many of you are digging out the mowers, trimmers and tillers. If your equipment doesn't start, run or idle properly, consider the following.

Many times equipment may start, but it runs rough or quickly dies. Air filters, spark plugs and bad fuel can all cause these types of problems, but this week let's examine engine idling a little more closely.

Remember, machines are a lot like our bodies. They need air, food and blood flow in order to function. Air is taken in through the air filter, and a dirty air filter is like you trying to breathe in a sand storm. Be sure the airways are clear, but filtered.

Food comes to the engine in the form of fuel. The food we eat should be fresh, free from contaminants and prepared properly. Fuel should be fresh (less than 30 days old), free from water contamination and foreign material such as rust, and prepared properly, with proper oil mixes (2 cycle machines) and fuel additives. There are many fuel additives on the market. Just be sure that the one you use specifies protection from ethanol.

In a machine, blood flow is akin to oil circulation. Proper fill levels and

clean oil filters assure that internal parts are lubricated to give you the longest life possible out of the machine. Check your owner's manual for the correct weight and type of oil to use.

We are definitely seeing a lot of carburetor problems these days due to the quality of available fuel and the introduction of ethanol.

Carburetor diaphragms and needle seats are all prone to damage, and this can cause the engine to either flood out or be starved for gas. It's not a huge job to change these components or, in some cases, replace the carburetor.

Sometimes the carburetor may need to have the idle jets adjusted. Most new carbs must be adjusted by a licensed mechanic, due to new EPA regulations. If you attempt this job, you will probably find that you don't have the proper tools to turn the screws that adjust the fuel flow.

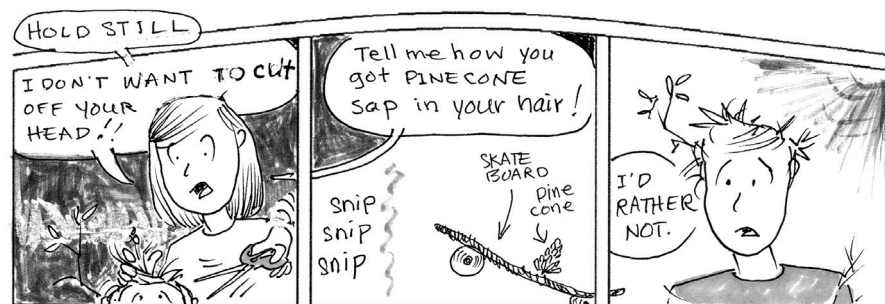
If your equipment cranks and runs at all, it's probably worth fixing. Consult a mechanic, and he'll steer you in the right direction.

Remember, help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green

Our House by Ree Shannon



provide the laptops. If you make \$200,000 a year, but you've just been incredibly silly and lazy with your money, you should buy the laptops and then get serious about growing up and getting control of your finances.

Don't make promises, financial or otherwise, you can't keep. I know this is a tough, embarrassing situation, but it's what I would do if I were in your shoes.

Dave

Tiny home depreciation?

Dear Dave,
Do you think the value of a "tiny home" would depreciate like a trailer?

Romeo

Dear Romeo,
That's a tough one. I'm not certain they would depreciate like a trailer, but I don't think they would go up in value much, either.

Any time there's a very limited demand for something, the price or value doesn't generally increase. And there are very few people looking to buy tiny homes. The tiny home movement is kind of a niche thing. It's a very narrow market, and something that doesn't have a lot of demand isn't going to appreciate.

I would avoid the tiny home movement if I were you, Romeo. Don't invest in things that don't have proven track records and don't go up in value. I love real estate, but not tiny real estate!

Dave

*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 13 million listeners each week on 585 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

FRANKLIN FREE PRESS

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

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

Publisher

John Pilati

Executive Editor

Mike Self

E-mail: franklinfreepress@yahoo.com

Sales Representatives

Linda Bumpers, John Pilati

Content Contributors

Mike Self, John Pilati, Brady Petree, Ree Shannon, Doug Green, Rebecca Thomason, Sheryl Hamilton, Ashley Cummins, Gail Motes

Graphic Design

Jason Hill

Correction Policy

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

Letters to the editor

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

Copyright Information

Published by Pilati Investments, Inc. Copyright 2016
All materials and content are copyrighted by the Publisher
This publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any method, without the express written permission of the Publisher.



DAVE SAYS

Financial Straight-Talk

www.davesays.org

by Dave Ramsey

Laptop dilemma

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are just starting Baby Step 1 of your plan. Prior to this, we told my two nephews we would buy them laptop computers for college. They don't get a lot of encouragement or support from their immediate family, so we try to help them when we can. Should we go ahead and honor this commitment, postpone getting our starter emergency fund in place, and possibly take on a little more debt, or bow out of the agreement?

Lisa

Dear Lisa,

Well, it's difficult to be generous when you're broke. You don't even have \$1,000 to your names, and you're going to buy two laptops? I don't know how much debt you have, or what your household income is, but I do know neither of you have managed your money very well.

If you make \$50,000 a year, and you have \$70,000 in debt, you should sincerely and apologetically bow out. Explain that you made a big mistake, and just be honest about why you can't

Everything but the kitchen sink (they already had one)

When you ask senior citizens about differences from their childhood to life in America in 2018, many will mention the increased government role in our day-to-day lives.

And it doesn't matter who's in control of the White House or Congress. The needle continues to point upward.

We are watched and tracked every day. While conservatives advocate that less government is better government, what's happening in America seems in direct conflict to that belief. And if you think government control of our lives is something new, it's not.

Recently, a reader gave the *Franklin Free Press* a copy of a Crop and Chattel Mortgage, issued in 1939 by the United States Department of Agriculture. The mortgage was issued to secure a \$231 loan used by a couple in Spruce Pine to plant their annual crops.

Of course, the government mortgage covered the land and the crops located on their Spruce Pine farm, but in an effort to protect its \$231, the federal government went a step farther. The couple also had to pledge "any other land owned or leased" in their name.

Did we mention this was a \$231 loan?

And to provide additional protection, Uncle Sam took it to the next step. The mortgage also included "one mare mule, black in color, named 'Bird,' six years old and weighing 750 pounds, and one Jersey milch cow, blue in color, named 'Reed,' three years in age and weighing 550 pounds."

So surely the government's \$231 was protected with a mortgage that covered this couple's land, crops, mule and cow. Apparently not, though, as the United States Department of Agriculture took it to another level to protect its loan. The mortgage also covered "one one-horse turn plow, good condition, two one-horse scratchers, good condition, one one-horse Ga. Stock, good condition and one Cole one-horse planter, good condition."

Okay, so now the couple, having pledged all its land, crops, mule, milch cow and four pieces of farming equipment, certainly would have put up sufficient security to satisfy the federal government.

Well, not quite.

The final piece of property pledged as security for this \$231 loan was "one 21-quart National brand pressure cooker, good condition."

With that final piece of collateral, the loan went through. Land, crops, a mule, a milch cow, four pieces of farming equipment and one pressure cooker, all for a \$231 farming loan. And after a \$2 recording fee was paid, the mortgage was on file at the Franklin County Probate Judge's office.

Apparently, no additional collateral had to be pledged for the recording fee....



John Pilati
Publisher

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

NOW AVAILABLE!

NEW UNITS & REPAIRS

TVA eScore Special Financing
PLUS! Rebates

We **GUARANTEE** you the lowest possible payment based on your individual needs.

\$49

Complete System Evaluation & Tune-up

GLASGOW Heating & Air

256.332.7256

glasgowhvac.com

Call for details. Good through 5/31/2018

Welcoming Patients!

Jeffrey D. Manord, M.D.
GENERAL & VASCULAR SURGERY

Dr. Manord is welcoming new patients to his office located adjacent to Russellville Hospital!

**15225 Hwy. 43 • Suite D
Russellville, AL**

**To schedule an appointment call
256-332-1500**

Welcoming new patients of all ages!

Russellville • Florence • Tuscumbia • Muscle Shoals

We welcome Dr. Steve Hammack to the team of SRD.

We accept Medicaid and will file all insurance plans.

SINGING RIVER

DENTISTRY

Healthy Smiles for a Lifetime!

SingingRiverDentistry.com

**531 St. Clair St. • Russellville
256.332.6888**

We're here for you



Regina Lawler- 19 years of caring, Mrs. Langcluster, Selena Jackson - 19 years of caring

Caring

Our unique *~CareSteps~* care management system & highly experienced team

Comfort

Intimate, one-level setting inspired by the best southern lifestyle designers

Family

Family Owned with 30 years of dedication to families just like yours

Choice

Of lifestyle, of payment plan, and more

FREE *~CareSteps~* Plan - Just for You

Call Today: 256-277-4081



900 North Jackson Avenue, Russellville, AL 35653
www.cottageassistedliving.com

Almirol INTERNAL MEDICINE



John R. Almirol, M.D.

Appointments may be made
by calling 256.331.1900

Mon-Thur: 8:30-5:00

Friday: 8:30-12:00


Se habla Español


**15225 Highway 43, Suite G
Russellville, Alabama**


What's Happening


256.332.0255


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


 In preparation for mowing season, the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Committee requests that all old flowers be removed from the cemetery on Hwy. 724 in Newburg. Donations for cemetery maintenance are needed and may be mailed to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, 941 Hwy. 87, Russellville, AL 35654.


 Dempsey Cemetery Decoration is the third weekend in May. To prepare for decoration, all old flowers must be removed by May 5. For more information, please call Hal Bray at 256-710-1120.


 Russellville Masonic Lodge 371 is selling Boston butts for Memorial Day weekend. Butts are \$30. Pre-order at 256-810-1970. Pick-up will be Saturday, May 26 from 8-10 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge on Coffee Street.


 The Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts presents its final production for the 2017-2018 season, "Southern Hospitality," by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten and directed by Scotty Kennedy. The play will run this Thursday, April 26-Saturday, April 28 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m. at Community Spirit Bank's Weatherford Centre in Red Bay. Tickets are on sale at the Weatherford Centre from 2-4 p.m. weekdays. Purchase your tickets there or reserve them by calling 256-356-9829. Tickets are \$8.00 each with open seating. Groups interested in coming may call Beth Hammock at 256-356-9286.


 The Pebble Bluegrass Festival, sponsored by and held at Pebble Community Center (100 County Road 3423 in Haleyville) is set for this Friday and Saturday, April 27-28. Rain or shine, held inside. Good, clean family entertainment from Rocket City Ridge, the Sparks Family and Tombigbee Divide. All bands and pickers welcome! Supper served from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday. Concessions on the grounds, free camping in the rough. Camper hook-ups: 30 Amp - \$12/day, 50 Amp - \$12/day. No drugs or alcohol allowed (enforced). Tickets are \$10 for the weekend, \$5 for Friday only (7 p.m.-until), \$7 for Saturday only (2 p.m.-until) and \$2 for children ages 6-12. Kids under six years old get in free with an adult. All proceeds go to Pebble Community Center. For info, call 205-269-2221.


 Gateway Church of God (15988 Hwy. 43, Russellville) will have a Revival with evangelist Jody Rogers from Dallas, Texas, April 29-May 2 with Sunday morning service at 10:45 a.m. and Monday-Wednesday services at 7 p.m. Sunday morning, April 29, will also be Pastor Appreciation, and there will be a meal after the morning service. After lunch, there will be a Ladies Service with Sis. Jamie Rogers at 2:15 p.m. Sis. Jamie is a very powerful preacher. Please try to attend if at all possible. For more info, call 256-332-7176.


 The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833 will meet Thursday, May 3 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center on Ash Avenue. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more info, call 256-324-2317. Everyone welcome!

 The Shoals Area Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Sheffield Room at Park Place, 501 N. Montgomery Avenue in Sheffield, on Thursday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Doc Shell will share his miraculous healing testimony and a teaching on healing. We believe God heals spiritually, physically and emotionally. All are welcome.

 The Russellville High School Class of 1988 presents the ninth annual Chucky Mullins Memorial Golf Tournament Friday, May 4, 2018 at Twin Pines Country Club. Tee-off times at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Lunch at 11:30 a.m. Three-man teams. Entry fee is \$225 per team. There will be cash prizes and door prizes. Proceeds go to the Chucky Mullins Memorial Scholarship Fund. For additional information, you may contact Deedra Seale Moore at (256) 412-5659 or Rosell Christian Hamilton at (256) 335-3663. Mail Donations to 399 High Pine Drive, Russellville, AL 35654.

 Osborn Hill Cemetery will hold Decoration Day on Saturday, May 5. 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, it's 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.

 The Helen Keller Hospital Foundation is bringing a familiar face from Facebook and YouTube to the Marriott Shoals Conference Center on Saturday, May 5. Heather Land, known for her "I Ain't Doin' It" series of videos, is bringing her comedy and music show to Florence as a fundraiser for the Foundation. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale by calling 256-386-4747. Ticket levels include: Bronze Level \$30; Silver Priority Seating \$40; Gold VIP Level \$100. The Gold VIP Level includes cocktail tickets, hors d'oeuvres, meet and greet with Heather Land, and a group photo. The proceeds from this event will benefit the Pediatric Unit at Helen Keller Hospital. For more information, call 256-386-4747.

 SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 12, for Pioneer Day, part of Franklin County's Bicentennial Celebration, from 9-5 in Russellville on the east side of Sloss Lake on Hwy 24. Living history demonstrations to show how people lived, worked and played 200 years ago. Actors will portray historical figures. Native Americans. War of 1812 soldiers. Civil war camp. Food and artisan products for sale. Free admission. Free parking in the field across Hwy. 24 from the entrance. Free shuttle bus service. Join in the fun and wear pioneer clothing, if you wish. For more information, email archive@hiwaay.net or call 256-332-8827 or 256-332-4085.

Kevin G. Kelly, M.D.

Serving your family for over 30 years

FAMILY PRACTICE
Pediatrics
Newborn Care
256-331-2591

Urgent Care

Walk-in Clinic

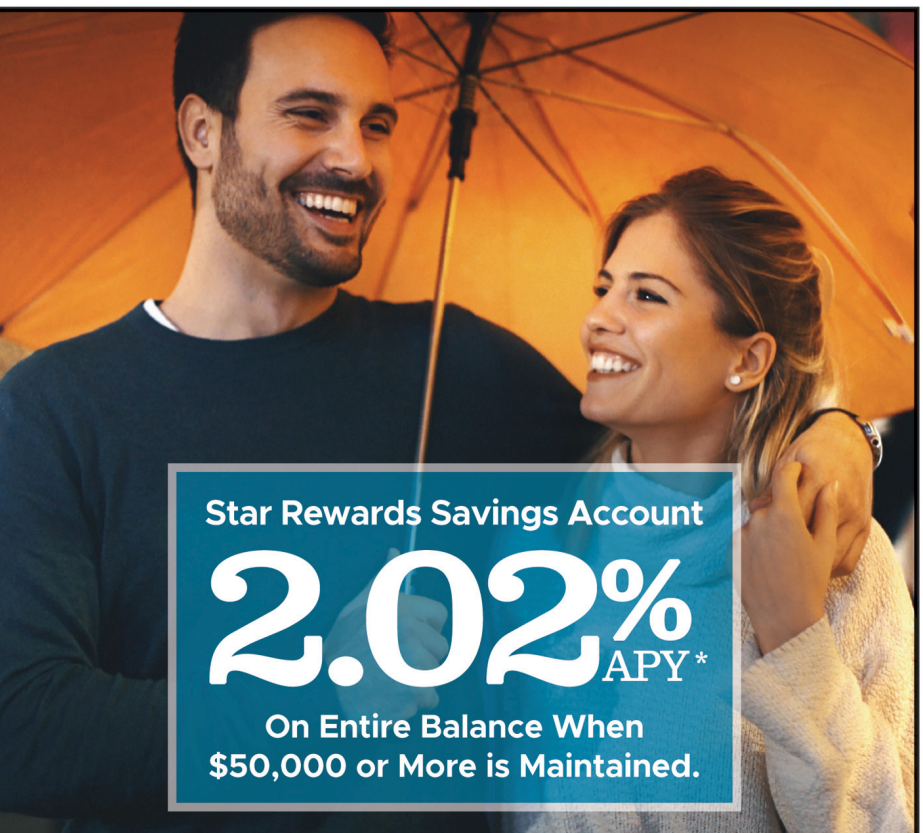
We are still here!

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

No Appointment Needed

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

256-331-2092



Star Rewards Savings Account

2.02% APY*

On Entire Balance When
\$50,000 or More is Maintained.

Reward yourself big at CB&S Bank.

Earn more with Star Rewards Savings.

Enjoy easy access to your money while maximizing your savings with a premium rate! All you need to start is a Star Rewards checking account. Visit us today and let CB&S Bank partner with you on your financial journey!



Russellville | Phil Campbell
cbsbank.com | 877-332-1710



*2.02% APY (Annual Percentage Yield) on entire balance when daily balance of \$50,000 or more is maintained. APY accurate as of April 2, 2018. Minimum deposit of \$50,000 to open a Star Rewards Savings account. Fees may reduce earnings. Rate subject to change. The following requirements must be met in order to earn the 2.02% APY: 1) must receive only electronic statements, 2) must maintain \$50,000 minimum balance in the account each day; 3) must have Star Rewards Checking account and meet qualifications of Star Rewards Checking; 4) guaranteed APY will be 0.25% if balance in the account falls below \$50,000 or if Star Rewards checking qualifications are not met.

¹Star Rewards checking requirements are: 1) ten (10) debit card transactions per qualification cycle (point of sale only), transactions must be posted and settled to account; 2) one (1) direct deposit or ACH per qualification cycle; 3) must receive only electronic statements. A qualification cycle for Star Rewards checking is the period beginning one day prior to the current statement through one day prior to the close of the current statement.



“As a business owner here in Franklin County, I know the importance of a good working relationship between local business and industry and our county government.

I've had the opportunity to work with local officials in bringing new industry to Franklin County as well as helping our existing industry to prosper and grow. Joe Mansell has the character, drive and passion for Franklin County that we need when Franklin County reaches out to prospective businesses looking to expand or relocate here.

Joe has a solid reputation and he's spent his professional career serving and protecting the people of Franklin County.

Please join me in voting Joe Mansell for Franklin County Probate Judge in the Republican Primary on June 5, 2018. And let's keep Franklin County moving in the right direction.”

~ Mike Madden, Spruce Pine, AL



COME SEE
JAMIE KIEL.



MOW LIKE
YOU MEAN
BUSINESS.



ZERO TURN MOWERS

Monthly price starting at

\$59

LIMITED WARRANTY 3 YEAR HOUR LIMIT	NO 5 YEAR BACK-SHAFT AND FRAME	LIMITED WARRANTY 1 YEAR
<small>See your professional dealer for complete warranty details.</small>		<small>See your professional dealer for complete warranty details.</small>



STYLE

Redesigned, aggressive stance not only looks bold, but also provides better control, a smoother ride and improved stability.



CUT SELECTION

Offers 15 cutting positions ranging from 1.5 inches to 5 inches, to make your lawn look its best.



10-GAUGE FABRICATED DECK

The 5.5-inch deep deck delivers superior airflow to handle challenging mowing conditions and includes a reinforced leading edge.



FULLY WELDED TUBULAR FRAME

This fully welded tubular frame is a professional-grade backbone tough enough get the job done in your backyard.

*Special financing available. Subject to credit approval. See dealer for details.



GRAVELY

An Ariens Company Brand

KIEL EQUIPMENT

14696 HIGHWAY 43 | Russellville, AL 35653

256-332-6776 | www.KielEquipment.com

Council considers resolution requiring department heads to reside in city limits

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A proposed resolution that would require City of Russellville department heads to reside in the city limits of Russellville was tabled at the Russellville City Council's April 16 meeting.

After a brief executive session, the council returned to the meeting and approved a motion to table the proposal so that city attorney Danny McDowell can research whether such action would be legal under Alabama law.

One council member, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said he hoped to see the council vote on the issue at an upcoming meeting.

"I think going forward this is something that is important for the City of Russellville. And I'd like to see our department heads living here in town," the councilman said.

The council member said the resolution would apply to future hirings and not be applied retroactively to current department heads.

In other action, the council:

- Approved a resolution commending Pilgrim's, Inc., for their employee participation in working for the City of Russellville the week of April 9-13.
- Approved a resolution commending St. Paul CME Church for its 138th anniversary set this month.
- Authorized the application of a 2019 Transportation Alternative Project Grant for \$267,988, with an 80/20 match, for completion of the downtown sidewalk project.
- Declared a 2005 Crown Victoria surplus property and authorized the sale of the vehicle to AMIC.
- Approved the annexation of property located at the southeast corner of the Alabama 24/Lawrence St. intersection, next to Russell De Villa apartments. The property is owned by Mark "Yogi" Welborn.
- Approved a bid from Aqua Marine Enterprises for installation of a community storm shelter at the John Blackwell Sports Complex.
- Approved a contract with country music entertainer Darryl Worley for the Fourth of July Jam on Sloss Lake.
- Approved a contract with Alabama Pyrotechnics Guild, Inc., for \$13,500 for fireworks at the Jam on Sloss Lake.
- Declared a vacancy for Operator III in the Russellville Street Department and authorized the advertisement to solicit job applications.
- Approved a request from the RHS Marching Hundred to waive the rental fee of the A.W. Todd Centre on May 15, 2018, for its annual band banquet.
- Approved a bid of \$6,100 from Clyde Baker to paint the interior and exterior of nine storm shelters in the City of Russellville.



The Suites

Short Term Rehab Center



Compassionate Care For Your Patients

At Florence

Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, LLC

Tel: 256.766.5771

FlorenceRehabCenter.com

Keep Your Cooling System Running Efficiently with a Tune-Up Level Right for You!



AL HVAC 91114

256.774.9019

PLATINUM

\$99⁰⁰

Complete System Evaluation
Tune-Up
Professional Cleaning
Money-Back Guarantee
Lifetime Thermostat Warranty

GOLD

\$59⁰⁰

Complete System Evaluation
Tune-Up
Professional Cleaning

SILVER

\$49⁰⁰

Complete System Evaluation

'CANDIDATES,' from page 1

Any additional funds remaining will be used to add fire hydrants in critical-need areas, he said.

Lolley, a Republican candidate for Senate District 6, spoke first. A former volunteer firefighter in Guin, Lolley heralded the job done by these men and women.

"To get up at 3 a.m., go respond to someone else's house and then go to work later that day is real dedication," Lolley said.

Morrow, who is vacating his seat in the Alabama House to run as the Democratic nominee for Senate District 6, talked about his roots in East Franklin.

"I can't remember the first time I came into East Franklin. This is my home here," Morrow said. "I was proud to support the funding bill for volunteer fire departments. Not all our legislators supported this in Montgomery. Some wanted to tie the bill up. I'll let them speak as to why they chose to do that."

Stutts, seeking a second term in the Alabama Senate, said he's lived up to the promises he made when he ran in 2014.

"When I ran four years ago, I ran against a Franklin County native," Stutts said. "I didn't carry a lot of Franklin County, but I talked with the mayors and county commission and told all of them after the election that I'd do my very best to serve the entire district, and I've lived up to that. I'm here to help you. Call me at 256-412-9661 any time."

East Franklin VFD chief Rodney Alexander asked Stutts why he was reluctant to get the fire bill through the Senate.

"I don't know that I was reluctant," Stutts said. "I signed it out of the Senate as soon as it got through. I appreciate what volunteer fire departments do, and it's not correct to say I was reluctant. I supported it with no opposition at all."

Stancil said her office has collected more than \$19,000 for the East Franklin VFD so far from the annual fee and more than \$100,000 county wide.

Brackens, a psychology professor at Northwest-Shoals Community College, is the Democratic nominee for House District 7, which serves East Franklin.

"My platform focuses on four quality-of-life issues—economic development, jobs, education and access to affordable health care," Brackens said. "We have to look out for those less fortunate than us in some cases. If we do this, we'll all be better off together."

Robertson, the lone Republican candidate for House District 7 after Rep. Ken Johnson withdrew from the race, said he is the conservative Christian candidate in the race.

"My family taught me my conservative Christian values," Robertson said. "I'm your conservative candidate, and I want you to know that. My conservative values drive who I am and who I will be in Montgomery."

Mansell will face Moore in the Republican primary for probate judge on June 5 in what is the de facto election, with no Democratic candidate.

"There is a saying among firefighters to never leave anyone behind, and I'll carry that into the office of probate judge," Mansell said. "I'll never leave the volunteer fire departments behind. Instead of doing fundraisers, they need to be spending time training, and that's what I'll support."

Moore spoke about road and bridge improvements through ATRIP funding and economic growth during his time in office.

"We've seen industry growth in recent years. Industry is the lifeblood of Franklin County and something we need to move Franklin County forward," Moore said. "We have to work together with our representatives and senators, the county commission and municipal leaders to move forward."

Adcox, the Republican nominee for Franklin County Coroner, will face Democrat Elzie Malone in November. Adcox, a juvenile detention officer, said he sees first-hand the destruction caused by drugs.

"I see the result of our big drug epidemic, and as coroner I want to educate our kids about the drug problem," Adcox said.

He also pledged to increase the coroner's response time on calls.

"We will respond in a timely manner and get to the call, take care of the family, take care of the body and move on," he added.

Softball tourney set to benefit wife of Russellville police officer

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A benefit softball tournament will help support the spouse of a Russellville police officer.

The Russellville Police Co-Ed Benefit Softball Tournament will take place Friday and Saturday, May 11-12 at the John Blackwell Sportsplex.

Jenny Lovelady, wife of RPD sergeant Dustin Lovelady, is currently in the fight of her life battling a second bout with cancer. She and her husband will be traveling to Houston's M.D. Anderson Clinic for treatments.

All proceeds raised from the softball tournament will help offset the cost of travel expenses and medical expenses for the Lovelady family.

Entry fee per team is \$150 with a three-home run limit. Tournament

rules call for 8/2 teams, with at least two women playing a position at all times. EH must be one male and one female. Women can hit anything, and men hit 44/375 or less.

The tournament will be a 1-1 count with courtesy 60-minute time limit and 15-run limit after four innings and 10-run limit after five innings. It will be a double-elimination format.

Coaches meeting for the tournament will take place prior to start time. First place will win a trophy and option of entry fee returned or a dozen balls. Second-place team will receive T-shirts and the prize the first-place team defers. Third-place team will receive T-shirts. Door prizes will be raffled off. You must have ticket in hand to redeem prize.

For more info, contact Craig Bullion at 256-668-5976 or 256-332-2230.

Shopping around for car insurance? Don't.

Let your local independent agent shop for you, and find the coverage you need.



Wood-Thompson Insurance

130 N Jackson Ave. Russellville
256-332-1381

Mon-Tues-Thur-Fri 8am-5pm
Wed 8am-noon • Sat 9am-noon

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

Don't forget to visit us online at www.franklinfreepress.net/!

Classifieds

256.332.0255

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

BUSINESS ADS

HANDY MAN
will do Drywall,
Painting,
Plumbing,
Remodeling.

Very reasonable
rates.

Call 256-320-3852
or 256-668-6202.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost Hereford Cow.
Mountain Star area. If
anyone has any informa-
tion, please call 256-
381-6579. If no answer,
call 850-252-0338. (5)

YARD SALES/ ESTATE SALES

YARD SALE AT ISBELL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH THIS FRIDAY
& SATURDAY, APRIL
27-28 FROM 6 AM-
UNTIL. PROCEEDS
WILL GO TO THE MAY
4 CANCER WALK. THE
CHURCH IS LOCATED
SOUTH OF RUSSEL-
LVILLE ON HIGHWAY
43 ACROSS FROM THE
FRANKLIN HOMES
TRAILER PLANT.

Yard Sale this Friday &
Saturday, April 27-28
from 8-5 in Franklin
Estate Subdivision.
Several families.
Furniture, stove,
refrigerator, lawn mower
and clothes.

Multi-Family Yard Sale
this Saturday, April 28
from 6 AM-until at 639
Duncan Creek Road,
Russellville. Various
items. Come see us!
Postponed if raining.

Indoor Yard Sale this
Saturday, April 28 from
7-3 at 300 Oak Street.
Kitchen items, home
decor, clothes, children's
clothes, tools and more!

CLOTHING

White wedding dress.
Size 22W. \$125 or best
offer. Call 256-366-4340
(3).

AUTO

1972 Chevrolet C50
Dump Truck For Sale.
\$3,500. Call 256-332-
3837. (3)

1997 Ford Explorer. In
good condition. Call 256-
324-0932. (3)

APPLIANCES

Bosch Gas Dryer for
sale. With pedestal.
Front loader. \$150 OBO.
Call 256-412-4951.

PETS

Dog for sale. Female
Shih Tzu, full-blooded,
has papers. 10 months
old and beautiful. Up to
date with all shots. \$200.
Call 256-324-2574. (4)

GIVEAWAYS

Cat free to good home.
Female bobtail. Spayed.
Needs indoor only
home. Not good for chil-
dren. Call 619-548-8212.

HELP WANTED

Russellville Utilities in
Russellville, Alabama, is
currently seeking
applicants for the Joint
Office Manager's
position with the
following education and
skill sets:

- A motivated person
- Degree in business
or five years experience
in office management
desirable
- Working knowledge
of computer information
systems a plus
- Working with the
public or customer

service experience
desired.

Russellville Utilities
offers a competitive
salary and benefit
package.

All applications will be
received through the
Alabama Employment
Service located at 500
South Montgomery Ave.,
Suite 102, Sheffield,
Alabama 35660.
If you can not apply at
the Sheffield Location,
go to your local Alabama
Career Center to obtain
an application and fax to
256-383-4983, attention
Andrea.

Applications will be
received through April
23, 2018 at 5 p.m.

MISC. FOR SALE

For sale: 6-foot bushhog
with slip clutch, \$500.
Call 256-668-4520 or
256-331-5681. (1)

Boat for sale: 14-foot
runabout, 70-hp, with
trailer, \$700. A real steal.
Call 205-993-4495. (1)

Formica counter tops.
Jena-Air stainless cook-
top stove with grill,
\$65. Two sets of patio
doors, \$60 each. Call
910-578-5821. (2)

Franklin Free Press Classified Rates

Yard Sale Rates: **FREE**,
Deadline Monday at
Noon; Real Estate-
Homes, acreage, lots for
sale or rent. \$25 for six
consecutive weeks. Up
to 40 words per ad;
Vehicles, Boats, RVs,
Motorcycles for sale.
\$15 for six consecu-
tive 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
Parties Only). 15-word
limit; Commercial
Classified Rates: \$25 for
Businesses, 15 words or
less for six weeks. Ads
exceeding word limit add
\$10 per additional 15
words. The number in
parentheses represents
the number of times the
ad has appeared. Call
us at 256-332-0255 to
place, cancel or renew
your ad. Payment is
required in advance of
publication for ads.

FOR SALE

ACORN STAIRLIFTS.
The affordable solution
to your stairs! Limited

time -\$250 off your
Stairlift purchase! Buy
direct & save. Please
call 1-800-471-4651 for
free DVD and brochure.

DIGITAL HEARING aids
- Now offering a 45-day
risk free offer! Free bat-
teries for life! Call to
start your free trial! 1-
866-960-5928.

SAWMILLS FROM only
\$4397.00. Make & save
money with your own
bandmill - cut lumber
any dimension. In stock
ready to ship! Free
info/DVD: www.Norwood
Sawmills.com. 1-800-
578-1363 ext. 300N.

MEDICAL

OXYGEN - ANYTIME.
Anywhere. No tanks to
refill. No deliveries. The
all-new Inogen One G4
is only 2.8 pounds! FAA

Coin Laundry

US Hwy 43
1/4 mile North of
McDonald's, behind
car wash. Open daily 8a.m.-8p.m.
New washers and dryers.
*Enjoy our backyard while
you wash! 256.740.2356*



Low rates!

approved! Free info kit:
1-844-264-9500.

GOT KNEE pain? Back
pain? Shoulder pain?
Pain-relieving brace at
little or no cost to you.
Medicare patients call
health hotline now! 1-
800-672-9326.

INSTRUCTION

MEDICAL BILLING and
Coding career training at
Sullivan and Cogliano
Training Centers. Call 1-
888-535-9909 or click
learn.sctrain.edu.
Financial Aid available to
those who qualify.
SCTrain.edu/disclosures.

HELP WANTED- DRIVERS

DRIVER TRAINEES
needed! Learn to drive
for Stevens Transport!
No experience needed!

New drivers can earn
\$900+ per week! Paid
CDL training! Stevens
covers all costs! 1-888-
528-8864.
drive4stevens.com.

SERVICES

SOCIAL SECURITY
Disability benefits. You
may qualify for disability
if you have a health con-
dition that prevents you
from working for a year
or more. 1-844-245-
3299 (M-F).

AUCTIONS

DONATE YOUR car to
charity. Receive maxi-
mum value of write off

for your taxes. Running
or not! All conditions
accepted. Free pickup.
Call for details. 1-844-
810-1257.

Have 10K in debt?
National Debt Relief is
rated A-Plus with the
BBB. You could be debt
free in 24-48 months.
Call 1-855-399-5019.

HIGH-SPEED Internet is
available where you live
today! Plans as low as
\$39.99 per month. Ask
about discounts for
DirecTV customers! 1-
800-480-1482.

PBSinternet@gmail.com.
DIGITAL HEARING aids
- Now offering a 45-day

Amigo Paisano

Compre su casa hoy.
Haga una cita con Don
Enrique. No credito no hay problema,
solo demuestre ingresos.

Seguro Verde y
pasaporte ok.
Don Enrique es un
Realtor con American
Realty Company LLC.
Buy your first home
with no down
payment, with
no closing cost.

Call Enrique Aguilar at 256.740.2356

'DRIVERS,' from page 1

"It's caused a lot of stress on me and my father. I lost my car since that accident because I can't work as much as I did at one time," Proctor said. "It makes me wonder how the state enforces mandatory insurance. He didn't get a ticket or anything, and they didn't tow his vehicle from the scene."

The Alabama Legislature passed the Mandatory Liability Insurance Law in 2016. That law reads that "no person shall operate, register or maintain registration of a motor vehicle designed to be used on a public road or highway unless it is covered by

a liability insurance policy."

Alabama law requires each vehicle to be covered by at least \$25,000 for death or bodily injury to one person and \$50,000 for death or bodily injury to two or more persons, and \$25,000 for damage to property.

A 2015 report from the Insurance Research Council found that almost 20 percent of Alabama drivers were uninsured.

Law enforcement now uses online insurance verification, and drivers who have no liability insurance face a fine of \$200 for a first offense, \$300

for a second offense and \$400 for a third or subsequent offense.

Additionally, when you apply for a tag for a new vehicle or renew a tag, proof of insurance must be presented to the Revenue Commissioner's office.

"We require proof of insurance, then the state monitors it from there. If it's canceled, the insurance company notifies the state and a notice is sent to the driver," said Franklin County revenue commissioner Veronica Stancil. "If a driver fails to respond to that notice, there is a fee added to the next time the vehicle is registered. You must either pay the fee or provide proof the vehicle actually had insurance at the time."

Stancil acknowledges it's not a perfect system, but she believes it's an improvement over the old system.

"It's a headache for us sometimes when the insurance lapses and the state may pull that up from two years ago," Stancil said. "But, overall, I feel like it's helping increase the number of people who get liability insurance."

For drivers who get notice of no liability insurance, they must either pay the fee or request a hearing within 45 days. The penalty for failing to do so is a 90-day license suspension and a \$100 reinstatement fee.

While these stiffer penalties should help increase the percentage of insured drivers on Alabama roads, they came too late to help Proctor.

"We did the right thing and had liability insurance on my vehicle," Proctor said. "But he got away with an accident that was his fault with no accountability, and that's not right."

REWARD YOURSELF...

GIFT CARDS Available

OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE

Angel Harris
Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495
Reiki Practitioner II

256.332.4220
Creative Image Salon
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine

TIMMONS

TREE SERVICE & SAW MILL

Tree Trimming / Removal
Lot Clearing • Select Cutting
Custom Cut Lumber
Small Tract Logging
Gravel Hauling
Dirt Work

FREE ESTIMATES

Call JOSH (256) 627-7703

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Advertise with us! Call 256.668.2708 or 256.332.0255

franklinfreepress.net

MOWING

Salvador's
LAWN SERVICE

(256) 810-2351

Free Estimates
Licensed

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



MASSAGE

REWARD YOURSELF OR
SOMEONE YOU
LOVE

256.332.4220

Angel Harris
Licensed Massage Therapist LMT #1495

Reiki Practitioner II

Gift Cards Available
Creative Image Salon
7129 Hwy 43 • Spruce Pine



LANDSCAPING

K&S TREE SERVICE
253 Laurelwood Dr. Russellville, Alabama

Trimming
Topping • Removal

Bucket Work
Stump Grinding

KARL RAGAN 256.332.9064



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Franklin County
Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 44 • Russellville, AL
Cassie Medley, Executive Director

256.332.1760 • 256.332.1740 fax
info@franklincountychamber.org
franklincountychamber.org



HOUSING

256-332-1561
73 Flippen St

UNITS NOW AVAILABLE

Russellville
Housing Authority
Incorporated

"The standard for fixed-income
living in Russellville."



CHURCH

Come Worship with Us!

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday: 11:00 - 12:00
Adult Sunday School: 10:00 - 11:00

Everyone is invited to join us for
this special time of worship.

201 N. Green Street, Russellville



DISTRICT ATTORNEY



JOEY RUSHING
Franklin County District Attorney
256.332.8870 • 256.710.4713
(daytime) (after hours)



SEPTIC SERVICE



PLAY.
SHOP.
DINE.



PUBLIC SERVICE

BUCKLE UP! It Could Save Your Life!

franklinsheriff.org
(256) 332-8811

Compliments of
Shannon Oliver
SHERIFF



**THERE ARE
OTHER WAYS...**

**TO GET
OUR INK!**



MAILBOX • SMARTPHONE • TABLET • COMPUTER • RADIO • FRANKLINFREEPRESS.NET

SPECIAL DELIVERY.

Welcoming New Babies,
STARTING DECEMBER 6, 2018

We're building a great place for you and your baby. Your prenatal journey starts with selecting the right doctor and ends with a birthing experience where this selection has a profound impact. These physicians have made the choice to deliver at the all new NAMC.



Back, from left: Dr. Elizabeth Thomas, Dr. Stephen Keith, Dr. Barbara Frazier, Dr. Mary Robbins | Front, from left: Dr. Daphne Jones, Dr. Brent Hurd

- Two C-section operating rooms on the delivery floor
- Large nursery with viewing windows
- Six-bed Special Care Nursery
- Beautiful panoramic views from patient rooms
- Two all-natural birthing suites with soaking tubs & birthing swings



North Alabama
MEDICAL CENTER

1701 VETERANS DRIVE | FLORENCE, ALABAMA

Phil Campbell's Davis selected for North-South All-Star Game

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

Phil Campbell's Abby Davis is among the 60 outstanding high school juniors in the state of Alabama chosen to take part in the North-South All-Star Basketball Game at the 22nd annual AHSAA Summer Conference this July in Montgomery.

Davis, a 5'11 forward who has already scored 1,334 career points at PCHS, will suit up as one of 15 players for the North squad on Wednesday, July 18 at the Dunn-Oliver Acadome on the campus of Alabama State University. The girls All-Star game is scheduled to tip off at 6 p.m., with the boys to follow at 7:30 p.m.

Davis earned second-team All-State honors in Class 2A from the ASWA this past season

See 'DAVIS,' Page 15



Abby Davis, who led the Lady Bobcats to a historic season as a junior, will play for the North All-Star team in Montgomery this July.

Been here before



LONG SHOT - Ezzell's fifth-inning home run (and subsequent celebration) helped seal Russellville's Game 1 win.

With a pair of strikingly similar wins, the Golden Tigers swept Etowah out of the playoffs—again

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - The symmetry of Russellville's first-round sweep of Etowah last Friday at Russellville Baseball Stadium was something only a true baseball fan could appreciate.

First, and most importantly, the Golden Tigers (24-13) won both games by the same final score of 7-3. In each game, they took the lead for good with a third-inning rally, and each of those rallies started with a base hit by junior catcher Hunter Briles. [In both cases, courtesy runner Omar Tompkins scored the first run of the inning.]

In game one, Landon Ezzell, a senior righthander, earned the win with a complete game on the mound and also hit a back-breaking home run (a two-run shot in the bottom of the fifth that pushed Russellville's lead to 6-3). In game two, Rudy Fernandez, another senior righthander, earned the win with a complete game on the mound and also hit a back-breaking home run (a three-run blast in the top of the seventh that pushed Russellville's lead to 7-2).

It's only fitting that Ezzell's homer was his sixth of the season and Fernandez's homer was his sixth of the season, keeping them tied for the team lead.

Afterward, head coach Chris Heaps reflected on the feeling of déjà vu that pervaded Friday's two wins.

"Seven to three, and seven to three. Ezzell gets the win and hits a homer, and Rudy gets the win and hits a homer," said Heaps, whose team has now swept 13 of 16 playoff series since the start of the 2015 postseason. "That's pretty neat."

The Golden Tigers likely weren't the only ones at the park on Friday contemplating a Groundhog

Day kind of vibe. The Blue Devils (25-11) have to feel like they've been down this road a time or three as well, having been swept out of the playoffs by Russellville in 2015 (in round two), in 2017 (in the quarterfinals) and, now, in 2018.

See 'BEFORE,' Page 18



PHOTOS BY KYLE GLASGOW
ON THE FLIP SIDE - Fernandez buried the Blue Devils with a three-run blast (punctuated by an all-time bat flip) in Game 2 and also struck out seven on his way to earning the win.

EyeCare Professionals

Dr. Wayne Stevens

Dr. Martha Morrow

Dr. David Britton

"Where healthy eyes are our focus"

eyecareprofessionalspc.com
15255 Hwy 43 • Russellville • 256.332.5440

Pitching powers Phil Campbell past Fyffe in first-round sweep

Staff reports

Phil Campbell flexed its mound muscle again in last Friday's doubleheader against Fyffe, getting six strong innings from Ridge Raper in the opener and a three-hitter from Nate Owens in Game 2 to sweep the visiting Red Devils out of the first round with a pair of impressive wins, 8-3 and 3-1.

The Bobcats (24-9 and ranked No. 9 in Class 2A) extended their win streak to nine and earned a date with top-ranked Mars Hill (24-8) in round two. They largely shut down a quality Fyffe team that had lost only four games during the regular season, and they did so without senior ace Peyton Thomas ever setting foot on the mound.

Raper (5-1) took care of business in Game 1, holding the Red Devils (20-6) to two earned runs on six hits in six innings. The freshman righthander struck out eight and walked none, throwing 66 of his 97 pitches for strikes before turning things over to senior closer Joe Hardy in the seventh.

Owens (7-2) was even better in the nightcap, allowing just one earned run and three hits in his fifth complete game of the season. The junior lefty also finished with eight strikeouts and walked just one batter, throwing 59 of his 91 pitches for strikes.

Fyffe pitcher Brant Rowell matched Owens for six innings, and the game went to the top of the seventh tied 1-1. Freshman catcher Austen Baker sparked a Phil Campbell rally with a leadoff single, and Raper followed with a base hit to left. Both runners moved up on a passed ball, and the Red Devils walked Thomas—who saw his streak of 14 consecutive at bats with a hit end just two innings earlier on a called third strike—to load the bases.

Owens came through with a sacrifice fly to center, chasing home courtesy runner Daniel Smith with the go-ahead run. Chase Hutchens followed with a single to center, driving in Raper to make it 3-1. Thomas was thrown out at the plate on the play, but a two-run lead would prove to be plenty for Owens, who promptly went back out and struck out two batters in a one-two-three bottom of the seventh to finish off the sweep.

With Friday's gem, Owens lowered his season ERA to 1.54 and now has 56 strikeouts and 21 walks in 50 innings. He has gone the distance in five of his seven starts.

Fyffe scored its only run off Owens in the bottom of the first on a single, a stolen base, a wild pitch and a sac fly. The Bobcats quickly pulled even with a run in the top of the second. Hardy was hit by a pitch and moved to third when the Red Devils committed an error on Brody Nix's sacrifice bunt. Senior Mike Wrona delivered a sac fly to tie the game 1-1.

Owens struck out two batters in a one-two-three bottom of the second, and Thomas singled to left in the top of the third for his second hit of the game and 14th hit in his last 14 at bats. Phil Campbell stranded two runners, however, and the game remained tied.

Owens had retired eight in a row before issuing a two-out walk in the bottom of the third. He got the next batter to pop out, and then Rowell worked around a leadoff single by Wrona in the top of the fourth. The Bobcats mounted a threat in the top of the sixth but stranded Hardy at third. Fyffe left a runner on in the bottom half, and then Baker's leadoff single sparked the decisive rally in the seventh.

Thomas finished 2-for-3 with a walk, and Baker was 2-for-4. Hutchens, Nix, Raper and Wrona had one hit apiece.

Raper set the tone early in Friday's first game, retiring seven straight batters and taking a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth. Fyffe put together two singles and an error to tie the game and had runners at second and third with nobody out, but Raper struck out the next two batters and then got an inning-ending groundout to escape the jam and keep it a 1-1 game.

Phil Campbell went back in front with a run in the bottom of the fourth. Hardy singled and scored one out later when Wrona reached on an error. The Red Devils rallied again, though, scoring twice in the top of the fifth on a single, a double, a groundout and another single to take a 3-2 lead.

The Bobcats took the lead for good in the bottom of the fifth. Raper and Thomas walked to start the inning, and Hardy came through with a two-out RBI single to bring home courtesy runner Brett Saint with the tying run. Nix then smacked the first pitch he saw into right field for a base hit, chasing home Thomas to make it 4-3.

Raper worked around a two-out single in the top of the sixth, and Phil

See 'PITCHING,' Page 10

Find your way to savings.

Save an average of \$526*

Stop here for great rates with America's #1 car insurance company**. Give me a call today.

Lee Nickels, Agent
13760 Highway 43 Ste 6
Russellville, AL 35653
Bus: 256-332-0052
lee.nickels.wmy5@statefarm.com

*Average annual per household savings based on a 2016 national survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm.
**Based on A.M. Best written premium. 1005000.1
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company - Bloomington, IL

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Miranda Decker, M.D.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Comprehensive Adult Health Care

Dr. Decker is specialized in management of both acute & chronic medical conditions.

- Immunizations
- Preventative Health Care

Russellville Internal Medicine, P.C.

535 Gandy Street NE
Russellville, AL 35653

For appointments:
256-332-1120
Mon-Thur 8-5

'PITCHING', from page 14

Campbell broke it open with four runs in the bottom half. Baker, Owens and Hardy all had RBI singles in the inning, and another run scored on an error.

Hardy relieved in the top of the seventh and quickly retired the first two batters on a groundout and a strikeout before giving up a walk and a single. He got the final out on a fly ball to right field, sealing the 8-3 win.

Hardy was 3-for-4 in Game 1 with two RBIs and a run scored. Thomas went 1-for-1 with three walks and three runs scored. Raper had a double, and Baker, Wrona, Nix, Owens, Hutchens and Cole Motes each had one of Phil Campbell's 11 hits.

Raper will carry a 2.07 ERA and an outstanding strikeout/walk ratio of 54/11 in 44.1 innings into next weekend's series with Mars Hill. He, Owens

and Thomas (6-3 with a 0.69 ERA, a strikeout/walk ratio of 82/10 and only 24 hits allowed in 51 innings) give the Bobcats perhaps their best chance yet of finally getting by the Panthers, who have eliminated them from the playoffs in each of the last three seasons.

This weekend's series (see below) will be played at the Roger Bedford Sportsplex in Phil Campbell, beginning with a doubleheader on Friday.

Class 2A Baseball Playoffs - Second Round - Mars Hill (24-8) at Phil Campbell (24-9)

The Skinny: Mars Hill has eliminated Phil Campbell from the playoffs in each of the previous three seasons. Back in 2015, the two teams went the distance in a best-of-three series in the first round, with the Panthers winning 8-2 in Game 3 to advance. The following year, Mars Hill swept Phil Campbell in a second-round series, beating the Bobcats 3-1 and 5-1. Last season brought more of the same as the Panthers swept another second-round series, winning the opener 4-2 and then surviving a late rally to edge the Bobcats 9-8 in Game 2.

Despite that recent history, Phil Campbell coach Jonathan Raper doesn't buy the notion that his team has a mental block when it comes to mounting Mars Hill. "No, I don't think so," Raper said. "We have so many different starters this year compared to the last two years. I think we know they're a very good baseball team. They have a really great program and great tradition at Mars Hill. We know that if we don't play very well and play error-free baseball, it will be hard to beat them. We'll have to have good pitching and hit the baseball to have a chance against them. They are always a good team that never beats themselves.

"Our players have a lot of respect for Mars Hill and understand that they are a good team, but so are we. If we don't beat ourselves, we will have a chance."

To Raper's point, in the seven playoff games between the two teams over the past three years, Phil Campbell has committed a total of 17 errors while Mars Hill has made only five (with four of those coming in one game). Panther lefty Seth Swinea has won head-to-head Game 1 battles with Bobcat ace Peyton Thomas in each of the past two series. In those two matchups, Swinea worked

a total of 14 innings and held Phil Campbell to three earned runs on 12 hits. Thomas, meanwhile, hasn't beaten Mars Hill since he was a freshman in 2015, when he dominated the Panthers with 10 strikeouts in a 7-1 Game 2 win.

In last week's sweep of Fyffe, Raper elected to hold Thomas back as his ace in the hole for a Game 3 that never materialized thanks to outstanding efforts on the mound by freshman Ridge Raper and junior lefty Nate Owens. This week, Raper (5-1 with a 2.07 ERA and 54 strikeouts in 44.1 innings), Owens (7-2, 1.54 ERA, 56 K's in 50 innings), Thomas (6-3 with a 0.69 ERA and a strikeout/walk ratio of 82/10 in 51 innings) and senior closer Joe Hardy (4-0 with two saves, a 0.56 ERA and 35 strikeouts in 24.2 innings) will look to shut down the Panthers' potent offensive attack. "People have told me this may be the best hitting team they've had in years," Jonathan Raper said.

The Bobcats have been steadily improving at the plate during their current nine-game win streak, raising their team batting average from the low-.260s all the way up to .290 on the year. Thomas, a UNA signee and the reigning Class 2A Hitter of the Year, has been on fire of late, collecting 14 hits in his last 15 at bats to raise his season average all the way up to .473 (44-for-93). The senior slugger has nine home runs this season to go along with 12 doubles, 28 RBIs, 30 runs scored and a .602 OBP. In those seven playoff games against Mars Hill over the past three years, Thomas is 6-for-24 with two homers and two doubles.

Freshman catcher Austen Baker has provided a spark in the leadoff spot with a .357 average and 13 multi-hit games (tied with Thomas for the most on the team). Raper bats .316 with a .420 OBP. Owens has 10 doubles and 31 RBIs.

'DAVIS', from page 13

after leading the Lady Bobcats to a 26-6 record and their first Final Four berth in 31 years. The versatile post player led the team in scoring (13.8 points per game) and rebounding (6.9 boards per game) while also using her length and athleticism to impact the game defensively with 48 steals and 40 blocked shots.

Davis knocked down a career-best 16 threes on the year and topped the 20-point mark six times, scoring a season-high 30 on January 26 in a 73-53 rout of Lamar County and then putting up 22 points and 10 rebounds on February 15 in a 55-46 win over Mars Hill in the Northwest Regional semifinals. That performance earned her a spot on the All-Tournament team in Hanceville.

After making her varsity debut as an eighth-grader at the end of the 2014-15 season, Davis averaged 14.6 points per game as a freshman in 2015-16, earning the first of three straight first-team All-County selections by the *Free Press*. As a sophomore in 2016-17, she averaged a career-high 15.2 points and 10.2 rebounds per game, adding 50 blocks and 32 steals.

Davis surpassed the 1,000-point mark for her career on December 4 of last year in a 20-point outing at Lamar County. She later put up 21 points and 11 rebounds against Belgreen in the finals of the Franklin County Tournament, leading the Lady Bobcats to a 58-47 win and their first county title in 20 years. Davis totaled 37 points in two games at the area tournament in February, helping Phil Campbell claim its first area championship since 1993.

Heading into her senior year, Davis has topped the 20-point mark 21 times in her varsity career. She will begin next season as Franklin County's active career scoring leader, with an outside chance at reaching 2,000 points.

Davis will be joined on the North All-Star team in July by A'Nautica Bibbs, a 5'6 guard from R.A. Hubbard; Kirby DeBoard, a 5'7 guard from Sand Rock; Deyana Dodd, a 5'5 guard from Sparkman; Jasmine Gracie, a 6'1 forward from Madison Academy; Abbi Holley, a 5'5 guard from Deshler; Annie Hughes, a 5'9 guard from Pisgah; Victoria Hunter, a 6'3 post player from Hoover; Joiya Maddox, a 6'0 guard from Hoover; Thaniya Marks, a 6'1 forward from Wenonah; Sierra McCullough, a 6'2 center from Sparkman; Ahrielle Parks, a 5'5 guard from Spain Park; Ariana Powe, a 6'1 forward from Grissom; Marisa Snodgrass, a 5'5 guard from Hazel Green; and Moriah Taylor, a 5'5 guard from Hartselle. The team will be coached by Ronnie Jackson of Ramsay and Candace Byrd of R.A. Hubbard, with Lauderdale County's Brant Llewellyn serving as administrative coach.



Jaceton Murray

Junior golfer, Russellville

Murray was on his game for the Golden Tigers in a pair of key matches last week. He opened on Monday by shooting 77 and earning a spot on the All-Tournament team at the Turtle Point Classic in Killen. Russellville was the top Class 5A finisher, placing fifth overall in a loaded 18-team field with a 324.

Murray followed up that effort with another strong showing last Tuesday, carding an even-par round of 36 at Deer Run in Moulton to help the Golden Tigers take down West Morgan and Lawrence County in a three-way match.



Hwy 43 • Russellville, across from Wal-Mart • 398-8448

The Largest and Freshest Salad Bar in Franklin County!

We strive to treat your family like our family, providing excellent customer care.



Russellville's Smith raking at Dyersburg

Staff reports

Reed Smith has been going so well at the plate for Dyersburg State than not even a collision with the outfield wall could slow him down for long.

Smith, a 2016 graduate of Russellville High School now in his first year at Dyersburg (a premier JUCO program in Tennessee), has been one of the top hitters for the Eagles (31-12) all season. Through Sunday, Smith had hit safely in 30 of the 40 games he had played in, recording 14 multi-hit games and batting .352 overall with seven home runs, eight doubles, 41 RBIs and 48 runs scored. He had drawn 13 walks and been hit by a pitch a whopping 17 times, pushing his on-base percentage all the way up to .455. Smith also entered the week a perfect 13-for-13 in stolen bases on the year.



Reed Smith

Smith batted second in the lineup for most of the season before recently sliding down into the middle of the order. He's played third base, shortstop and second base for the Eagles, and he was in center when the aforementioned run-in with the wall took place. One game after smacking a go-ahead three-run homer in a 5-4 win over Walters State Community College on April 8, Smith was chasing a deep fly ball when he crashed into the centerfield fence.

An ensuing concussion kept Smith out the lineup for the next few games, but he returned last Tuesday with a vengeance, going 5-for-6 with a triple and a double in a two-game sweep of Williams Baptist. He was at it again over the weekend, going 3-for-4 on Sunday with two RBIs and two runs scored as Dyersburg finished up taking two out of three from Cleveland State.

Smith, who signed with Mississippi State out of high school before landing at Dyersburg this season, made an immediate impact for the Eagles, collecting three hits in his third game of the year. He hit his first collegiate home run on February 18 in an 11-6 win over John A. Logan College in Wadley, and five days later he went 3-for-4 with a grand slam in a 7-6 loss to Jones Community College.

Smith swatted a pair of homers, including a go-ahead blast in the seventh inning, to lead Dyersburg past Vol State Community College 5-4 on March 10. One week later, he drove in four runs to spark a 16-3 rout of Jackson State. Smith's biggest game as a college player came on March 30 when he went 3-for-5 with two home runs, five RBIs and five runs scored in an 18-3 rout of Roane State.

Smith enters the week with 51 hits on the season, 16 of which have gone for extra bases. He is drawing interest from several SEC schools as well as Troy University.

At Russellville, Smith was a two-time first-team All-State selection as a shortstop, leading the Golden Tigers to Class 5A state titles in 2015 and 2016. He was MVP of the 2015 state finals series against Helena and finished his varsity career at RHS with 179 hits, 68 extra-base hits (including nine home runs) and 172 runs scored.

FREE Local Delivery
FREE Curbside Assistance
Mail Order Delivery*

We are a  Blue Cross-Blue Shield Preferred Pharmacy!

*Within the state of Alabama

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

RUSSELLVILLE DRUGS
FREE Local Delivery!

 **MedExpress**



Welcomes

Amy Woods, CRNP
to the Littleville location!

WALK-INS
WELCOME!

MedExpress - Littleville:
MONDAY - THURSDAY: 8AM to 5PM
FRIDAY: 8AM to Noon
256-331-9700

1369 A George Wallace Hwy, Russellville

 Helen Keller Hospital

Don't forget to visit us on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net!

NEW NOW LEASING

Village at Oliver Place
NEW 2 & 3 Bedroom

Now Offering Move-In Specials

Apartments & Townhomes
Water included starting at:

2 BR \$425 • 3 BR: \$498

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



GARAGES | HAY BARNES | PAVILIONS | SHOPS | HOMES

Quality Building Kits *customized* to fit your needs



SPECIAL

30x40x12 enclosed, 6x6 treated post, wood trusses 4' OC, #1 29 ga. metal with 40 year manufacturer warranty, (1) walk-in door, (2) windows, (2) 10x10 garage doors

\$11,400* include materials and labor
concrete pad extra



40x84x14 steel trusses, 2x6 purlins and girts, 6x6 pressure treated posts, #1 29 ga. painted walls and #1 29 ga. galvalume roof.

\$14,250* include materials and labor



Barns



Homes

Built on traditions of hard work, ethical business and commitment to quality, Summertown Metals has become a premier manufacturer and distributor of high quality building products. We are family owned and operated and have been in business for more than 10 years. We are committed to providing high quality materials and building solutions at the best possible prices resulting in an unbeatable value for you our customer.



3864 Summertown Highway, Summertown, TN 38483
www.summertownmetals.com

Call us today for a free quote.



*Delivery and taxes are extra. Labor is provided by an independent contractor. Pad must be level and suitable for building. Prices may change without notice. Printed prices are good within 100 miles of Summertown Metals. Applicable permits and codes may add to the cost of building.

Bad Credit? Repo? Fixed Income? NO Problem!



BUY HERE • PAY HERE

EASY APPROVAL
WITH AS LITTLE AS
\$500* DOWN!

*Approval based on length of time at residence and job, income, down payment and monthly payment amount.

Se Habla Espanol



2005 Hyundai Sonata

OVER 75+ CARS
To Choose From



2006 Chrysler Pacifica

View All Inventory at
MYEZRIDE.COM



1997 Chevy Cavalier

APPROVAL IN MINUTES!



2005 Dodge Neon



E-Z RIDE Auto Sales

104 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals • 256.383.9595

'BEFORE', from page 13

This past weekend's series, pitting two high-caliber teams ranked in the Top 10 in Class 5A with 47 wins between them and multiple state titles under their current head coaches [Heaps and the Golden Tigers are pursuing a fourth consecutive Blue Map, and Etowah coach Larry Foster led the Blue Devils to state championships in 1985, 1987 and 1996] felt more like a state semifinal showdown than a first-round matchup.

"Russellville and Etowah just shouldn't be playing in the first round," Heaps said. "That's like Hartselle and Cullman playing in the first round [which they did on Friday, in the 6A bracket]. It doesn't feel right."

Heaps knew his team would have its hands full with a Blue Devil lineup averaging 7.3 runs per game and boasting a collective batting average of .359 coming into the playoffs. Of particular concern were the first three hitters in the order, shortstop Austin Young, leftfielder Jarren Wright and hulking first baseman David Rutledge—each of whom batted better than .400 during the regular season. Those three guys (who had combined for 130 hits, 80 RBIs and 94 runs scored entering last Friday's action) might not be Reed Smith-Judd Ward-Landon Oliver (the vaunted trio of elite mashers at the top of the lineup that led Russellville to back-to-back titles in 2015 and 2016), but they had given opposing pitchers fits all season.

"We knew their first three guys were all really good hitters," Ezzell said, "and the rest of the guys in the lineup were scrappy. They battled."

To Ezzell's point: When he got to a two-strike count against East Limestone batters in his last home start of the regular season (a 16-strikeout gem), the at bat was essentially over. When he got to a two-strike count against Blue Devil hitters, the at bat was really just starting. [He recorded as many outs on pick-off throws Friday as he did on strikeouts, with two of each.]

Heaps has been coaching high school baseball in Alabama for nearly a quarter-century, and he and veteran assistant Jay Stanley have developed a vast and far-reaching network of friends, acquaintances and—for all intents and purposes—advance scouts all over the state. They

tapped into those resources while preparing for the Etowah series, specifically to build a plan of attack on how to handle Young, Wright and Rutledge when they came to the plate.

"We talked to a lot of people who had played those guys," Heaps said. "If you don't do your homework this time of year, you're putting yourself at a disadvantage."

The scouting report Heaps put together for Friday, by his own admission, favored substance over style. [Think black and white, and think spray charts. Lots and lots of spray charts.] He gave Stanley credit for going the extra mile in the creativity department.

"Coach Stanley's was definitely more creative, although mine probably took a little more work," Heaps joked after Game 2. "Jay does a great job putting all that stuff together. He didn't just have information for our guys; he gave them pictures and everything. He wanted our guys to know them and be as familiar with them as they could."

"That's a big advantage, when you think about it. When you're going to war against somebody, you'd like to know as much about them as you can."

Any scouting report worth the paper it's printed on will include details on a hitter's vulnerabilities at the plate, but Heaps is a firm believer that, when push comes to shove, his pitchers should worry more about pitching to their strengths than pitching to their opponent's weaknesses. That's why Ezzell relied heavily on his plus fastball in Game 1 last Friday; pitching coach Eli Fuller estimated that close to 90 percent of Ezzell's 100 pitches were good, old-fashioned (and mostly well located) heaters.

Because he's played in so many playoff games—35 of them, to be exact—over the course of his four-year varsity career, it's jarring to remember that Friday was Ezzell's first career postseason start on the mound. For the Golden Tigers, it was also the first Game 1 of a playoff series started by anyone other than former ace and current Auburn pitcher Cody Greenhill since 2013, Heaps' debut season at Russellville.

"It was a little strange not seeing Cody on the mound for Game 1," Heaps admitted, "but I have

a lot of faith in Ezzell."

That faith wasn't shaken, not even when Ezzell—who walked only nine batters in 44 innings during the regular season while compiling a 5-3 record and a staff-leading 1.11 ERA—issued back-to-back free passes to Rutledge and Young with one out in the top of the first.

"You could tell the adrenaline was flowing," Heaps said. "He might have been a little *too* pumped."

Both runners would eventually score—one on an error, the other on a wild pitch—as the Blue Devils grabbed an early 2-0 lead. They hadn't collected a hit during the rally, but the confidence flowing from the visiting dugout was palpable.

"I could feel it," Heaps said. "That's exactly what I was thinking—'Man, they've got a little swag going over there.' But when we scored those four runs in the third inning and took the lead, all of that kind of seemed to go away."

Briles, who has been a constant defensive presence behind the plate all season but has only recently begun to make an impact standing beside it as well, got things started in the bottom of the third with an opposite-field single to right. Etowah starter Will Hotalen—whose 1.11 ERA during the regular season was identical to that of Ezzell—walked leadoff man Noah Gist and Fernandez to load the bases. Ezzell stung a hard-hit grounder to deep short, where Young made a terrific backhand pick but threw wildly to second. Ezzell was credited with an RBI single, and Gist scored on the E-6 to tie the game 2-2.

Houston Kitterman followed with a sharp groundball back up the middle that Hotalen got a glove on but couldn't corral, resulting in another infield hit that brought home Fernandez with the go-ahead run. Courtesy runner Colton Madden scored the final run of the inning when Brock Malone executed a textbook squeeze bunt to make it 4-2.

"I thought today gave us a few chances to do some things we've been working our tails off on all week," Heaps said. "We got the squeeze down in the first game, and that was big. This is the time of year when you have to be really good at doing the things you're coached to do, and you have to be willing to whatever your coaches ask you to do."

More solid execution by the Golden Tigers helped them snuff out an Etowah rally and protect the lead in the top of the fifth. An RBI double by Hotalen—one of only three hits the Blue Devils mustered against Ezzell—cut the lead to 4-3, and courtesy runner Carter Dingler moved to third on a sac bunt by Will Noles. Heaps brought the infield in, and, from his position at second base, Malone could see the sign that Briles put down for Ezzell with Wright at the plate.

"I saw changeup, so I knew the pitch was gonna be low," Malone said. "I was expecting him to hit it on the ground, and when it came to me I just tried to attack it and make a good throw. I could see where the runner was, and I knew I had time to get him."

Malone fielded Wright's chopper to second with his momentum coming toward home plate and then fired a strike to Briles, who tagged a sliding Dingler for the second out. The one-run led was intact, but the Golden Tigers were by no means out of the woods. Striding to the plate was Rutledge, fresh off a regular season during which he led the Blue Devils with a .438 average, 17 doubles and 35 RBIs. Rather than break out his best pitch, Ezzell broke out his best move—and promptly picked Wright off first base to end the inning and leave Rutledge holding the bat.

See 'BEFORE,' Page 19

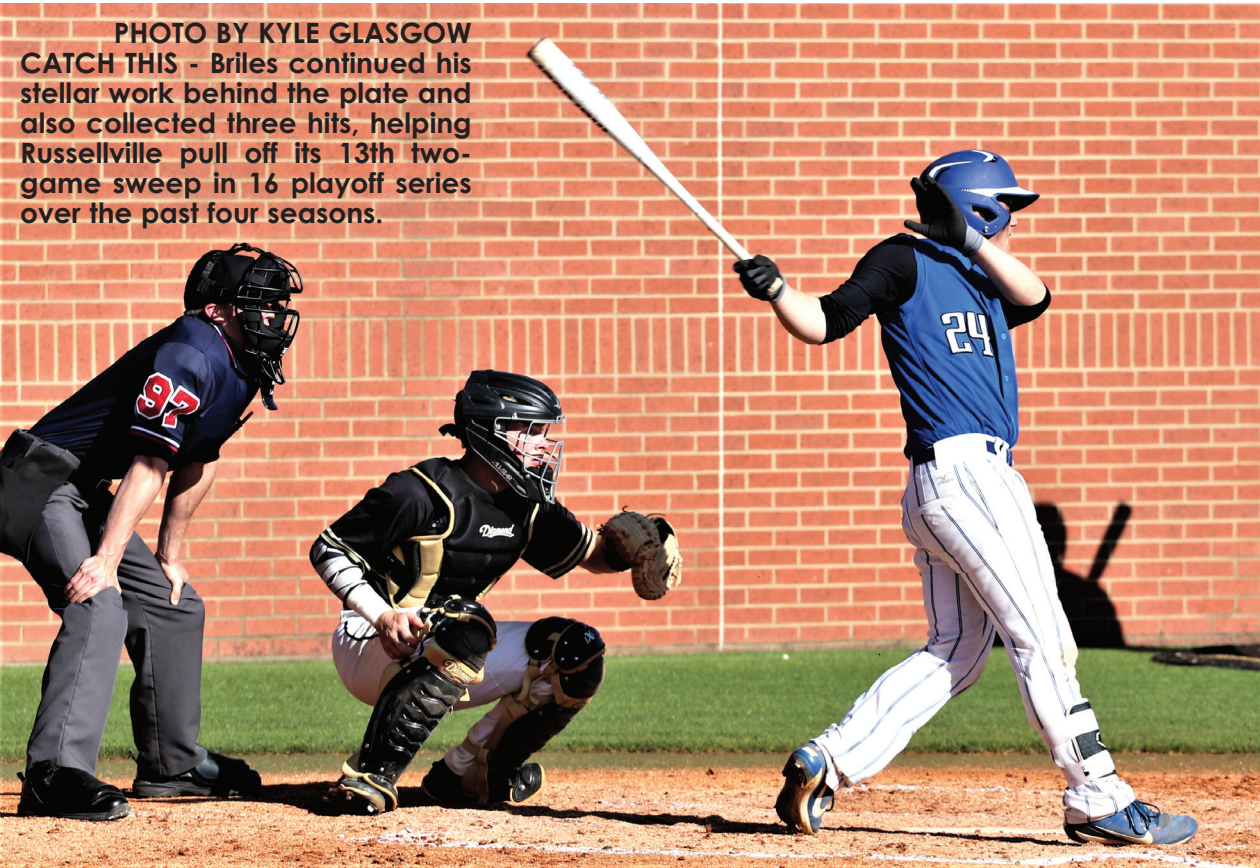


PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW
CATCH THIS - Briles continued his stellar work behind the plate and also collected three hits, helping Russellville pull off its 13th two-game sweep in 16 playoff series over the past four seasons.

'BEFORE,' from page 18

"We work on pick-offs all the time," Ezzell said. "It's part of our regular throwing program. I kind of caught him napping on that one. It was a big out, especially with their best hitter at the plate."

Gist led off the bottom of the fifth with a single, and Fernandez dropped down a perfect sacrifice bunt to move him into scoring position. That particular piece of small ball was rendered moot when Ezzell hammered a pitch from Hotalen over the center-field fence for his 13th career home run, stretching the lead to 6-3.

"That was big, just because it gave us a little breathing room," said Ezzell, who finished the first game 2-for-4 with three RBIs. "And it gave me a confidence boost going back out to the mound."

The lead having swelled to 7-3 on a two-out RBI single by Tom Barkley Scott, Ezzell retired the first two batters in the top of the sixth before yielding a single to Zac Jones. Ezzell proceeded to pick Jones off first as well before practically sprinting into the dugout amidst a sea of high fives and backslaps. He worked a one-two-three bottom of the seventh to finish off the win and stake the Golden Tigers to an all-important 1-0 series lead.

"We talked to a lot of people who had played those guys," Heaps said of scouting the Blue Devils. "If you don't do your homework this time of year, you're putting yourself at a disadvantage."

"He was excellent," Fernandez said of Ezzell, who issued walks to three of the first six batters he faced—and then none to the final 19. "Getting that first game is always big."

It was up to Fernandez to get Game 2 and finish off the sweep, and was up to the task. Ezzell may have the better fastball and the 16-strikeout game against East Limestone on his ledger, but it was Fernandez and his superior secondary stuff (a big-breaking curveball and a tighter, sharper slider) that produced the best K rate (8.3 per seven innings) on the staff during the regular season.

Fernandez (5-2) got a couple of key strikeouts on Friday, getting Rutledge to chase a 3-2 slider with a runner on third and two outs in a 4-1 game in the bottom of the fifth and then fanning Dalton Robinson with a well-placed fastball with a man on in a 4-2 game in the sixth.

The Golden Tigers had missed out on opportunities to break the game open, leaving the bases loaded in the top of the fourth and again in the top of the sixth. Fernandez took matters into his own hands in the top of the seventh, following up a double by Caden Parker and a walk to Briles with a no-doubter to left for a three-run shot—a no-doubter, that is, if you were watching the epic bat flip Fernandez performed immediately upon contact, and if you ignore the minimal distance by which the ball actually cleared the left-field fence.

Fernandez, though, knew it was gone. Or, at the very least, he knew it *better* be.

"I was hoping, that's for sure," he said afterward with a smile. "I would have looked pretty stupid doing the bat flip if it wasn't."

Working with a five-run cushion, Fernandez gave up a pair of singles and an RBI groundout in the bottom of the seventh, but he also struck out Young for the second time in the game and had enough juice left to throw a fastball by Hotalen for the final out. Fernandez finished with seven strikeouts, scattering eight hits and walking just two. One section of Heaps' scouting reports on Etowah's hitters included a column labeled "Put-Away Pitches," detailing the ideal pitch-type and location to finish off each Blue Devil hitter in two-strike counts. Fuller (who calls the pitches from the dugout), Briles and Fernandez executed the game plan at a very high level.

"We wanted to get ahead with the fastball," Fernandez said, "and then mix it up."

"Rudy was great," Ezzell said after Game 2. "I loved his mentality, the way he attacked."

On the day, the trio of Young, Wright and Rutledge went 5-for-19 with two walks and three strikeouts, and the Blue Devils managed only six runs and 11 hits total off Ezzell and Fernandez.

"When those guys pitch like they did today," Malone said, "we can beat anybody we play."

Fernandez finished 2-for-3 in Game 2 with four RBIs. He and Briles both had RBI singles in the top of the fourth, helping Russellville open up a 4-1 lead. Briles went 2-for-3 with a walk in Game 2 and had three hits on the day. Parker was 2-for-3 in the second game with a double and two runs scored.

"We've been swinging the bats better lately," said Malone, who went 2-for-6 on Friday with an RBI and a run in addition to playing his usual brand of sure-handed defense at second. "Hopefully we can keep it going."

The Golden Tigers will hit the road for a second-round series at Lee-Huntsville, starting with a doubleheader on Friday. The Generals knocked off Guntersville in round one, riding ace lefty Ludany Rodriguez to a 2-1 win in Saturday's decisive Game 3.

Turn your home...

into an outdoor paradise!

We Do Custom Hardscaping!



256.332.8181
HWY 43 • Littleville

Class 5A Baseball Playoffs - Second Round Russellville (24-13) at Lee-Huntsville (17-11)

Scouting the Generals: Lee went on the road in round one and took two of three from Guntersville, winning the series opener 6-2 and then bouncing back from a 6-2 loss in Game 2 to take Saturday's decisive third game 2-1. Senior lefty Ludany Rodriguez was dominant in Game 3, holding Guntersville to one earned run and three hits in seven innings with 12 strikeouts. The 6'1, 170-pound Rodriguez now has four double-digit strikeout games this season, including 14 K's in a two-hit shutout of Westminster Christian on March 2 and 10 K's in a one-hitter against Madison County later that month. Rodriguez has racked up 73 strikeouts in 43 innings on the year, posting a 4-3 record with a 3.26 ERA, 33 hits allowed and 24 walks....Rodriguez is joined on the Lee staff by sophomore Noah Watkins, who picked up the Game 1 win last Friday with four strikeouts in 2.1 innings of hitless relief. The highlight of Watkins' season came on March 22 when he threw a perfect game against Jemison, striking out 13 of the 15 batters he faced in a 12-0 win....Senior Nate Henderson is Lee's other top starter. He pitched in each of last Friday's games at Guntersville, working a total of 6.2 innings and allowing one earned run on eight hits with eight strikeouts and one walk....Lee had 18 hits in the Guntersville series.

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

9:AM Saturday April 28th

Farm Equipment Sale of Jack, Greg & Jeff Masterson

680 Whitt Store Road, Russellville, AL



Farm all Cub Tractor w/attachments, 4020 John Deere Tractor used daily 3717 hours, 4240 John Deere Tractor owned since 1992 used daily 10,363 hours. Cab heat & air works, 4020 John Deere Tractor 6100 hours used in hay field last season, 4320 John Deere Cab Tractor w/3226 qt. bush hog loader 9503 hours, 4020 John Deere Tractor 8327 hours' good rubber, Straight Tractor Bad crankshaft, 849 New Holland Baler, GMD 800 Kuhn Disc Mower 9 field ready -1 owner, GMD 700 Kuhn Dis Mower -field ready -1 owner, Vermeer 605 Series K- field ready -1 owner, 566 John Deere Hay Roller twine roller- field ready, GF 5001TH Kuhn Tedder- field ready- 1 owner, 2 WR22 Vermeer V Rakes, 1974 Ford 600 showing 54,774 miles 14x8 grain bed-used daily, Allis Chalmers L3 Gleaner Combine -field ready -has 6 row corn header & 18 ft. grain header, Arts way 450 Feed Crusher, John Deere 7000 12 row 30" planter Front Fold - field ready #070000510174, Hydraulic Dump Grain Trailer, Ford F-700 Truck w/14ft spreader bed, 4 Apache Creep/self-feeders 2 small, 2 large, 5 ft. Slip Scoop, 8 Row John Deere Planter model 71 planter unit w/stacker tool bar, 1974 Portable Generator for chicken houses, Canopy o 2640 John Deere, 148 John Deere Loader, 8 ft. Chisel Plow, Horse Drawn Planter, Horse Drawn Disc, 2 New Holland Silage Blowers, 4 Bottom John Deere Breaking Plows, 3 Bottom John Deere

Breaking Plows, 3 Bottom Ferguson Breaking Plows, Old John Deere 8 ft. Cultivator, John Deere 4 ft. Cultivator, 6 ft. International Grader Blade, Slip Scoop, 9 ft. Orchard Cultivator, John Deere Hydraulic Drive Post Digger, Front Blade for John Deere Garden Tractor #350194, 2 Front Hay Spears, 1 Front Hay Spears for Kubota, 1 Front Hay Spear Skid Steer, 6 ft. King Cutter II Tiller, 5 ft. Pull Type Disc, Skid Steer Pallet Forks, 2 Row Burch Planter, 7 ft. Hyd Pull Type Disc, 1000 Gallon Water Tank on Trailer, John Blue Spray Rig, 16 ft. One Axle Dual Tandem Hay Trailer, 4 Row John Deere Planter, 12ft. Allis Chalmers 2300 Disc, 2 -18 . BU810 Gehl Silage Wagons, 2 Metal Locking Shelves, David Bradley Walk Behind Tractor w/row plow, Metal Man Lift, Century 300 Gallon Spray Rig New Pump, 18x8 Van Bed for Truck- great for storage, 12x30 Storage or Office Building, 4 Chicken House Freezer Bottom & 2 tops & More.

FOR SALE BUT NOT PART OF AUCTION: (2) 100kw Generators, Air Diesel Deutz KHD Standby Generators, each unit has approx. 400 hrs, an Automatic Transfer Switch & are single phase, (8) Chicken Houses for removal.

Directions: From Russellville Alabama go east on County Road 48 for 11 miles, turn left onto Witt Store Road and go 7 tenths mile to auction site on the right. Watch for the Shane Albright Auction Signs! NOTE: GOOGLE MAPS MAY NOT GET YOU HERE! USE ANOTHER MAP OR FOLLOW ABOVE DIRECTIONS.

Terms: Real Estate: Payment in full is due day of auction by cash, good check or wire transfer only. Buyers not known to auctioneers will be required to present a Bank Letter addressed to Shane Albright Auctions and dated for 4/28/2018. All items sold "AS-IS WHERE-IS". Please be prepared to remove small items auction day so bring a trailer & help to load. A loader will be available day of auction and on Monday. Other Items not removed on auction day may be picked up on Monday April 30th from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm arrangements will need to be made after then. Watch for the SHANE ALBRIGHT AUCTION SIGNS!

For more information contact **BEN PHILLIPS 256-710-9683**



"Your Property — Our Reputation"

6508 Highway 72 • Killen, AL 35645
AL Office Phone: 256.757.8898
www.shanealbright.com

TN Lic. #5431 • Firm #112 • AL Lic. #1569
Ben Phillips AL Lic. #1331