



Letters to the Editor

We love to hear from you! Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoons, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com. For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out online at franklinfreepress.net!

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

Sweet Tea returning to Russellville as Watermelon Festival headliner

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

When this year's headliner for the Franklin County Watermelon Festival comes to town, it won't be their first visit to Russellville.

The Sweet Tea Trio was announced last Friday as the headliner for Saturday night's musical lineup on August 18.

The trio of Savannah Coker, Kate Falcon and Victoria Camp won the 2014 Alabama Country Music Showdown as part of a nationwide talent contest locally sponsored by WGOL-FM of Russellville. Sweet Tea won the local event in Russellville and went on to capture the title for the states of Alabama and Georgia.

Sweet Tea has opened for Lonestar, Tracy Lawrence, Scotty McCreery, Diamond Rio, Shenandoah and others. They had nine arena dates with Kid Rock in 2017 and have opened for Bon Jovi in Birmingham as well. And they opened for the supergroup Alabama this year.

See 'SWEET,' Page 11



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



Some of the activities for Pioneer Day will include a spinning wheel, broom making, chair caning, corn shelling and more.

County turns back the clock with Pioneer Day

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Franklin County is having a birthday party this Saturday, and you're invited! To celebrate the bicentennial of Franklin County, which was created by the Alabama Territorial Legislature on February 6, 1818, Franklin County Archives director Chris Ozbirn and her Pioneer Day committee have a full day planned at Russellville's Sloss Lake.

Pioneer Day, which is a free event, will take place on the east side of Sloss Lake. The event will feature living history vendors from the day when Franklin County was born.

There will be free activities, along with food and drinks available for purchase. Many of the artisans will also have their crafts for sale. Ozbirn said response to the event has been tremendous, with more than 60 craft vendors expected to attend. Ozbirn has planned a full day of fun and history. The only

See 'PIONEER,' Page 13

Residential Commercial
SOUTHERN COMFORT SERVICES
HEATING COOLING
We Service All Brands!
(256) 394-4662

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

We're All Ears!
Have an opinion? **256.332.0255**
Story idea?
Let us know!
FFP 256.332.0255

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

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
Family Pharmacy of Russellville
Accepting Tricare and BCBS
Hwy 43 & Underwood Rd
256.332.5545
familypharmacygroup.com

Sale good May 9 through May 15



MARTY'S MEAT MARKET

This Week's Specials

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

Boneless
Pork Loins
\$1.79 lb.

Baby Back Ribs
\$2.99 lb.

Boneless
Ribeye Steak
\$8.99 lb.

Boneless Bottom
Round Roast
\$3.49 lb

Boneless Skinless
Chicken Breast
\$1.99 lb.

KC Ham or Turkey,
Sliced \$3.99 pkg.

Shubert Rolls
\$2.99 / 10-ct.

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

Bryan Bologna
Regular or Thick
\$1.59 / 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

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

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

Charles Ray Bendall,
Tuscumbia, age 78
Died Saturday, April 28, 2018.
Funeral held at Colbert Memorial Chapel.

Margaret Burcham, Louisville, KY
(formerly of Littleville), age 77
Died Friday, May 4, 2018. Funeral held at Pinkard Funeral Home in Russellville. Interment in Hyde Lake Cemetery in Littleville.

Louise Lane Bendall,
formerly of Russellville
Died Monday, April 30, 2018. Funeral held at Colbert Memorial Chapel.

Jimmy Earl Cross, Littleville, age 75
Died Saturday, May 5, 2018. Funeral held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville. Interment in Halltown Cemetery in Red Bay.

Dayton E. Benson,
Russellville, age 83
Died Saturday, May 5, 2018.
Graveside services held at Belgreen Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home of Russellville assisted the family with arrangements.

Danny Ray Madden, Sr.,
Phil Campbell, age 70
Died Sunday, April 29, 2018.
Memorial service held at Spry Memorial Chapel in Russellville.



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

All of Our Physicians are Currently...

Welcoming
~~Accepting~~
New Patients

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



It's Baby Step 1 for a reason

Dear Dave, I'll be receiving my income tax refund soon. It will be enough to completely pay off my two smallest debts, or get my starter emergency fund of \$1,000 for Baby Step 1 in place. What should I do?

Brandy

Dear Brandy, I love that you're excited about using your refund to start the Baby Steps and begin gaining control of your finances. But we call the beginner's emergency fund Baby Step 1 for a reason.

Bad things can happen while you're working to get out of debt. That's why I want people to get a little money set aside before they start Baby Step 2, which is the debt snowball. What if the alternator on your car goes out or your refrigerator dies? Life happens, and things go wrong. When this kind of stuff pops up, and you don't have any money set aside, you're likely to quit the plan and wind up going even deeper into debt.

I know you want to get out of debt. I want you to get out of debt, too. But I want you to stick with the plan and actually get out of debt, instead of falling off the wagon the first time you hit a bump in the road!

Dave

*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. 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.

First, lay a solid foundation

Dear Dave, When is it okay to have a little fun and buy things you want when you're following the Baby Steps plan?

Kaitlin

Dear Kaitlin, The time for a little fun is after you've completed the first three Baby Steps. Baby Step 1 is saving \$1,000 for a beginner emergency fund. Baby Step 2 is paying off all debt, except for your home. And Baby Step 3 means you go back and add to your emergency fund until you have three to six months of expenses set aside.

Once you're debt-free except for your home—and you have your emergency fund completed—you've laid a solid financial foundation for your life. That's when you can have a little fun and spend some money on a vacation, new furniture or something like that.

Children think about their immediate wants and do what feels good. Adults, on the other hand, devise smart, logical plans and stick to them. I want you to have a great life, but you have to put in some hard work and say "no" to yourself sometimes in order to attain that great life!

Dave

For news updates throughout the week, don't forget to check us out on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net! Send us an email at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

NEW NOW LEASING Village at Oliver Place NEW 2 & 3 Bedroom 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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors NOW AVAILABLE! NEW UNITS & REPAIRS TVA eScore Special Financing PLUS! Rebates Up To \$1200 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

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

The Honey Do List: Look before you leap

You've made the move and gone out and bought a new pressure washer, and you just can't wait to get started on all those cleaning projects. Now, before you jump into anything, STOP, take a deep breath, dig out the owner's manual and read. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions before using any power tool.

But here are two things to remember when using a pressure washer.

1. THERE MUST BE WATER FLOW TO THE MACHINE BEFORE CRANKING.

Always attach a water hose to the unit and be sure there is water pressure on the hose. Watch out for kinks in your hose that may restrict water flow. Before turning on the water, press the trigger on the pressure washer nozzle to release any trapped air. Open the water valve so there is water supplied to the machine before cranking it.

2. NEVER RUN BLEACH THROUGH THE MACHINE.

Make sure all chemicals that will be used in the pressure washer are rated for use in these machines. If

you want to use bleach or bleach-based chemicals in your project, apply the chemical directly to the surface to be cleaned and then use your pressure washer to spray it down.

Forgetting either of these two points can result in a ruined machine that will not be covered by any warranty. This is true for electric and gas-powered pressure washers.

Gasoline-powered pressure washers are serviced just like a lawnmower. Fill the oil reservoir to the proper level, and fill the gas tank with fresh fuel from a clean can. Do not use E15 gasoline in any small engine. Most manufacturers have approved E10. Again, check the owner's manual for your specific machine.

Next week we'll look at nozzles and tips and more safety guidelines.

Don't forget your safety goggles and gloves, and remember that help is just around the corner at your local hardware store.



Doug Green

Our House

by Ree Shannon



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.

When life hands you lemons....

....What then?

We all know the rest of the story. Some of you may be taken aback when Paul Harvey would always say that on the radio. I know I was.

Anyway, I can say, I have made a lot of lemonade lately. This has a positive side for me, and you should know by now that I am a positive person. It's simple, really. I love lemonade. Oh, yeah! It's one of my favorite drinks.

All this began months ago when I lost my car key. This wouldn't be much of a dilemma for some people. That's because most of you probably have a spare. Well, I've already lost mine.

Oops! Right?

After weeks of looking, I knew it was time to have a replacement made. I had no idea about the concept of all this. I had to order a remote, a blank key and then have a different person cut a key and program the remote. That totals a set of four new tires plus balancing. The good news is I should be back in my car by the time you read this article.

I have a dear and brave friend who loaned me his car while I was waiting on my key. This following morning, I had to run an errand. Needless to say, I couldn't find his key. I thought to myself, "There's no way!" Thank goodness it was just locked in his car.

I dreaded this next text I had to send him, but I'm brave. I did it. Ha! He couldn't believe it. Of course, it shocked me when he said that.

Anyway, I just went inside and fixed lemonade with the lemons life gave me.

During this time, I'd been waiting on my new glasses to come in. When I received the text with the news I'd been waiting on, I happily got in my loaned car and hurried to Russellville.

She put them on me, but decided they could use a bit more tweaking. That turned out to be a disaster, because they broke. Oh, yeah! I got to wear them for a couple of seconds, and it felt so good! Guess what? In about a month, I should get another new pair. They must be a favorite of so many, because they were put on back-order.

I just went home and made myself another glass of lemonade.

Well, I'd like to say that was it for a while, but not quite. One week later, I had to go to Russellville again. Glad to be home, I stood at my locked door and reached to get the door key from my purse. Oh, yes! I was locked out.

I just told a friend, I was glad to be alive. I would've hated to have missed out on making memories to laugh about.

Since I had a brother in Boy Scouts, I know the famous motto: Be prepared. So please excuse me while I go make a gallon of lemonade.

Just in case!

Until next time, smile and be positive.



Gail Motes

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

Council nixes alcohol sales at Northside Grocery

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

After hearing opposition from North Russellville Baptist Church pastor Mark Daniel and two fellow church members, the Russellville City Council denied an application to sell alcohol at Northside Grocery on Waterloo Road.

The application was filed by Harmett Oil Company, LLC, doing business as Northside Grocery. Although a representative of Harmett Oil attended Monday's meeting, no person spoke for the application.

Daniel had a petition with 66 fellow church members who shared his opposition to the proposed alcohol sales that would have allowed beer to be sold at the longtime Russellville convenience store. Yogi's Foodco, located less than a half mile south on Waterloo Road, sells beer and wine.

"This is something very important to us as we survey the dynamics of our neighborhood," Daniel said. "It's a neighborhood. Sixty-six people in our church signed this petition about this being in our neighborhood. This is our convenience store. We believe if you approve this application, it will become an inconvenience to us."

Daniel said there were already safety concerns at the intersection by Northside Grocery related to traffic visibility for vehicles.

"We feel there is already a heightened risk. If we weigh the revenue vs. a risk assessment, we feel like risk wins out," Daniel said.

When mayor David Grissom asked for a motion related to the application, no councilman responded, so the application died for lack of a motion and a second.

In other action, the council:

- Approved an ordinance requiring new department heads to live within the city limits of Russellville. This ordinance applies only to future hirings and not to the current department heads who live outside of Russellville.
- Declared a 1998 Chevrolet Z71 surplus property in the Russellville Parks and Recreation Department and ordered the sale of the same.
- Approved solicitation of bids for a new 2018 Ford full size pickup truck for the Russellville Police Department. A \$15,000 grant from ADECA will apply to the costs of the vehicle.
- Approved solicitation of bids for the purchase of a 2018 Ford Explorer for the Russellville Police Department to be used as an investigator's vehicle.
- Extended the deadline for Russellville Police dispatcher positions to Monday, May 14, 2018.
- Approved a request from the Russellville Cultura Garden Club to waive the rental fee of the A.W. Todd Centre on May 17 for a fundraiser.
- Approved a request from First Metro Bank to waive the rental fee of the



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

In other business at Monday's meeting, the city council approved a resolution commending RHS students Nicole Putman and Sydney Bowling, RHS art teacher Melissa Grissom and Russellville Public Library librarian Ashley Cummins for their efforts in collaborating on a mural to go in the library recognizing 50 years of art at RHS. Mayor David Grissom is pictured above with, from left, Putman, Bowling, Cummins and Melissa Grissom.

A.W. Todd Centre on June 22 for a free elder abuse seminar.

•Approved a resolution commending Russellville High School art students Nicole Putman and Sydney Bowling, RHS art teacher Melissa Grissom and Russellville Public Library librarian Ashley Cummins for their efforts in collaborating on a mural to go in the library recognizing 50 years of art at RHS.

•Approved a resolution commending RHS and Russellville Middle School students for winning awards in the 2018 Times Daily Design an Ad Contest. Winning students included: Daniella Barrientos (Advertiser Award and 7-9 grade 2nd place winner); Sydney Bowling (10-12 grade 1st place winner and overall winner); Kalynn Suggs (\$1,000 scholarship to Northwest-Shoals Community college and 10-12 grade 3rd place winner); Kacie Fleming (Advertiser Award and 10-12 grade 2nd place winner).

New propane buses for county schools arrive



John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Most Franklin County students will have a brand new ride to and from school this fall as 44 new propane buses began to arrive last week.

The Franklin County Board of Education approved financing for the new buses in March. Twenty-two buses arrived last week, representing half of the \$3,506,939.92 purchase.

Franklin County superintendent of education Greg Hamilton said the buses are environmentally and cost-friendly, with cleaner air emissions, less maintenance costs and propane fuel, which is cheaper than diesel.

Each bus cost \$89,703, but after two \$5,000 rebates per bus, the final cost was \$79,703. Hamilton said the rebate monies went toward payment of principal on the loan with Valley State Bank, allowing a \$440,000 payment toward the principal.

"We received a big savings from Valley State Bank with the low interest rate they offered us on the ten-year financing," Hamilton said. "That will save us more than \$101,000."


Fleet funding from the State of Alabama is based on the age of the buses owned by the school system. There is no funding sent for buses over 10


SWEET RIDE - From left, Ronald Harris, Donald Borden, Sean Pruett, Michael Murray and Greg Hamilton with some of the new propane buses purchased by Franklin County Schools.


What's Happening


256.332.0255


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


 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.


 American Legion Post 64 meets the second Thursday of each month at the Chamber of Commerce office on Jackson Avenue. Meal served around 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. Next meeting will be May 10.


 Valley Grove Baptist Church will host an Old Fashioned Singing this Thursday, May 10 at 6 p.m. The church is located at 3040 Old Highway 20, Tuscumbia. This is a free event and will feature old hymnal singing. If you want to sing, play the piano or lead a song, please come and be a part of the singing. For more information, call 256-381-1662.


 Please support "Cindy's Journey" Benefit Ride. Everyone is welcome to join the cause! Cindy's journey started three years ago with Stage 3 ovarian cancer. Over the last three years, she was in remission for a short period, then discovered the cancer was traveling throughout her body and has now reached her brain. Her family refuses to give up, and so does Cindy! They have discovered a doctor in Texas who may help. Let's pull together as a community for Cindy's next journey to be a road of recovery and happiness! The ride is set for this Saturday, May 12 with registration at 10 a.m. and KSU at 11 a.m. There will be a free live concert by Luke Shepherd and the Cold Water Band. There will be food, raffles and a 50/50 drawing. Bouncy house by the Next Level. It all takes place at Natchez Trace Harley-Davidson, 595 U.S. 72 W, Tuscumbia.


 **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.

 All Sacred Harp Singers are invited to join the singing at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. this Saturday, May 12 for Pioneer Day in Russellville in the park on the east side of Sloss Lake on Hwy 24.

 The Kerry Gilbert Band and Byron Jamerson will perform a benefit concert with special guest Matt Prater at the Roxy Theatre this Saturday, May 12 at 7 p.m. General admission seating. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children under 6.

 Attention all young ladies of Colbert, Franklin and Lauderdale counties entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grades in the Fall of 2018!!! The Distinguished Young Women Scholarship Program will be held Saturday, August 4, 2018 at Norton Auditorium on the campus of The University of North Alabama. Young ladies entering the 12th grade will have the opportunity to compete for cash scholarships as well as many other scholarships to colleges and universities. Also, each county winner will have the opportunity to represent her county at the state program in Montgomery in January of 2019. Information and registration meeting will be held Monday, May 14 from 3-5:30 p.m. at First Metro Bank, Muscle Shoals. Young ladies entering the 10th and 11th grades have the opportunity to be "DYW Little Sisters." For more information, contact Susan Hargett at 256-710-9239 or Katernia Cole-Coffey at 256-332-8880, or check information on our Facebook page at Distinguished Young Women of Northwest Alabama, or email dshargett@aol.com. Other information and sign-up is available at www.DistinguishedYW.org. Please contact us no later than June 23, 2018.

 LifeSouth Community Blood Center will host a blood drive at Russellville Hospital on Wednesday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. LifeSouth is the primary supplier of blood products to Russellville Hospital. Please contact Deborah Lindsey to schedule an appointment at 256-332-8676 or by email at deborah.lindsey@curaehealth.org. Please be sure to bring your photo ID when you donate. Everyone who signs up to donate will receive a free T-shirt, an appetizer card from Texas Roadhouse, a free cookie dough card from Papa Murphy's and a free meal ticket from Russellville Hospital. We will also be giving away DOOR PRIZES! Please call me if you have any questions, and thank you for giving the gift of life!

 State tax obligations for business owners (licenses, sales tax, property tax, withholding, etc.) are a lot to be responsible for. To help Alabama business owners better understand and master these requirements, the Alabama Department of Revenue (ADOR) invites business owners to ADOR's free Business Essentials for State Taxpayers (B.E.S.T.) Seminar on Thursday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m. in Florence. The seminar will be held at the Shoals Chamber of Commerce, 20 Hightower Place. B.E.S.T. Seminars help new business owners navigate through unfamiliar tax complexities while updating current business owners on tax law changes. While there is no charge to attend the B.E.S.T. Seminars, reservations are required to ensure adequate space is available. You can reserve your spot online, or you can call Donna Jenkins or Christy Simmons at 256-383-4631, ext. 0. For more information on B.E.S.T. Seminars and other B.E.S.T. resources, visit our website at <https://revenue.alabama.gov/taxpayer-advocacy/b-e-s-t-seminars/>. B.E.S.T. Seminars are two hours long, plus additional time for questions and answers. Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled seminar.

In the
June 5th
Republican
Primary,
Vote for

Honesty
Integrity
Values



Shae & Joe
Mansell

Joe Mansell

Franklin
County

Probate Judge

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Joe Mansell, Hwy 48, Russellville, Al., 35654

A Night With
Joseph Baldwin

Sat, May 19th • 7p.m.
The Roxy Theater
Downtown Russellville

\$10

General Admission Seating



Featuring 3STRONG



All proceeds benefit
The 2019 American
Cancer Society
Relay for Life.

Sponsored by

"Will's Willing Walkers."

For more info, call
256.415.3270.

What's Happening

256.332.0255

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

Are you ready to "Stand Up, Step Out" for Jesus? Revival services will be held at 2nd Missionary Baptist Church in Russellville on Monday, May 21 through Wednesday, May 23 at 7 p.m. each night. Matthew 28:19. Evangelist will be Rev. Green Davison IV of St. James M.B. Church in Leighton. Pastor Rev. Johnny Smith and congregation invite you to attend.

The Franklin County Extension Office will host a free Herd Health Management Program on Tuesday, May 22 at the Northwest Alabama Livestock Auction, 1330 Hwy. 243 South in Russellville. Meal and registration will be from 5-5:45 p.m. Guest speaker Dr. Chris Bishop will speak from 6-7:30 p.m. He is a veterinarian with the Alabama State Veterinarians Office and will be discussing proper herd vaccination and deworming protocol. Meal sponsored by the Franklin County Cattlemen's Association, Franklin County Extension Office and Alabama Cattlemen's Association. RSVP by Wednesday, May 16 to 256-332-8880.

Everyone is invited to attend a Candidate Supper at Jonesboro Community Center on Saturday, June 2. Bean plates will be \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. Supper starts at 4 p.m. Candidates will speak at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Dianne at 256-332-0525 or Helen at 256-332-8078.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Lt. Col. John W. Harris Jr., Camp #1833 will meet Thursday, June 7 at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Rec Center on Ash Avenue in Russellville. Camp #1833 meets the first Thursday of each month EXCEPT January and July. For more information, call 256-324-2317. Everyone welcome!

Orange Baptist Church will hold Vacation Bible School on Saturday, June 16 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The church is located at 8153 Highway 34 in Russellville. VBS will be one day only. For more information, call 256-332-2296.

New Life Ministries invites you to join them for Sunday School at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings and for worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. On the first Sunday of each month, there will be a fellowship lunch after morning services. You and your family are invited to come worship and fellowship with the Lord of Hosts and his children. New Life Ministries is located on Hwy. 24 west toward Red Bay, right behind Tompkins Feed.

Mountain Valley Hee Haw features live music every Friday and Saturday night. Show time is 6 p.m. Karaoke at 7 p.m. on Thursday nights. Free admission. No alcohol or drugs. From Russellville, take 243 to Hwy. 79, turn right, go 1/4 mile, third building on left. Call 256-332-5479 or 256-810-4840.

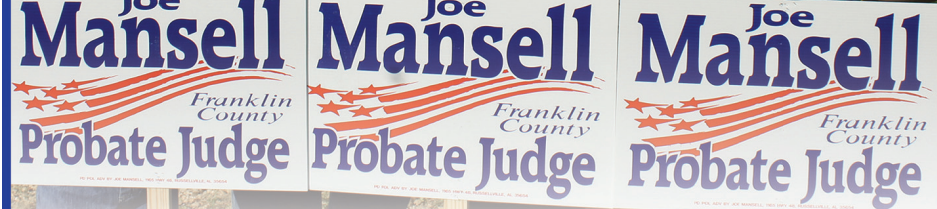
Village Square Apartments in Russellville host George's Country Boys each Monday night from 6-8 p.m. for some Gospel and Country singing. Come join in the fun!

TOPs (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) weight loss support group meets each Monday evening at 6 p.m. at the Russellville Recreation Center. Weigh-ins being at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to drop in for a free meeting visit. Call 256-446-5962 or 256-412-2855 for more information.

For anyone with the courage to be honest about life's hurts, habits and hang-ups, First United Methodist Church of Russellville will host *Celebrate Recovery!* on Tuesday nights with supper at 6 p.m., worship at 6:30 and groups at 7:30. Free childcare provided. The church is located at 311 North Jackson Avenue in downtown Russellville. Come and join us!

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online at www.franklinfreepress.net. Send your letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

"Protecting Our Future"



"Hello, I'm Mike Madden. As a lifelong Franklin County resident, a parent and a grandparent, nothing is more important to me than our children. We owe it to them to keep them safe both at home and at school.

Joe Mansell shares that belief. As Probate Judge, Joe will prioritize the safety of our children and work with local law enforcement and educators to place school resources in EVERY Franklin County school. Our children deserve no less!

Please join me in supporting Joe Mansell in the Republican Primary on June 5th.

Thank You,"

Mike Madden,
Spruce Pine, AL



Pd. Pol. Adv. by Mike Madden, Hwy 22, Spruce Pine, AL., 35585



The Suites  **Compassionate Care For Your Patients**
Short Term Rehab Center At Florence
Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, LLC
Tel: 256.766.5771
FlorenceRehabCenter.com

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



COME SEE JAMIE KIEL.



MOW LIKE YOU MEAN BUSINESS.



ZERO TURN MOWERS

Monthly price starting at

\$59

LIMITED WARRANTY RESIDENTIAL	LIMITED WARRANTY
3 YEAR HOUR LIMIT	5 YEAR DECK/SHELL AND FRAME
<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

Current event



PHOTO BY JOHN PILATI

Employees and board members of the Russellville Electric Board gathered last Thursday at the Walnut Gate Road site of the new REB Substation.

New substation will provide backup power source for Russellville

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Ground has been broken on a new industrial substation for the Russellville Electric Board that will provide a backup source of electricity to Russellville in case of a catastrophic event like the April 27, 2011 tornadoes.

The new substation is located at 490 Walnut Gate Road, next to the MS Industries II, LLC, plant. The substation will be 30 MVA, 161 KV/12.47 KV with seven feeder breakers and associated feeder regulators.

The project will require distribution line improvements/additions to include 0.4 miles of single circuit improvements/additions as well as approximately 4.3 miles of double circuit improvements/additions. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$6,640,000.

With MS Industries expected to be a large customer, and Russellville Electric Board's largest customer, CertainTeed Saint Gobain, located right across the street, the substation is in a strategic location.

"CertainTeed will benefit with this project for reliability purposes, and we hope it will help attract new industry out here as well," said REB manager Charles Canada.

The land for the substation was deeded to REB from the Russellville Industrial Development Board after MS Industries agreed to release the two square-acre tract.

Stewart Engineering of Anniston is the firm providing engineering services and oversight for the construction of the project.

"The substation has been part of our five-year plan, and we are excited to see the new substation finally materialize," Canada said. "The board began discussions about five years ago after the storm damage from the tornado that devastated Hackleburg and Phil Campbell as well as other areas in Franklin County. The storm was so close to Russellville that if it had tracked just a few miles further north Russellville could have been severely impacted.

"This got us thinking, if something happened to the existing Tom Pace Substation on South Jackson Avenue that it could possibly be months before electricity could be restored to Russellville."

The project will provide a backup source of electricity supplied by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and TVA has conducted surveys and studies, all of which supported the construction of the new facility.

Visit us on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net!
Send us an email at franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Happy Mother's Day Julie!

GLASGOW
Heating & Air

256.332.7256
glasgowhvac.com

YORK
INSTALL CONFIDENCE

Motherhood: All love begins and ends there.

~ Robert Browning

Happy Mother's Day from Senator Larry Stutts



Larry Stutts

Senator Larry Stutts

Financed by Stutts for Senate, P.O. Box 1014, Tuscaloosa, AL 35604



Green's DEPENDABLE HARDWARE

15220A Hwy 43 • Russellville
Behind McDonald's • 256.331.0123

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



Our Mother
God's
First
Gift



AKINS FUNERAL HOME

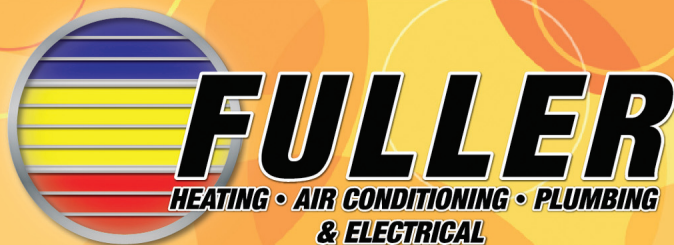
TRADITIONAL or CREMATION SERVICES

Akinsfh.com • 256-332-1131

North Alabama's Trusted Name
in Heating, Air Conditioning
& Plumbing Now Offers
ELECTRICAL SERVICES!



AL HVAC
91114
AL ELECTRICAL
01889



256.774.9019

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

Hear them ROAR



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW
Fernandez (3) had three hits in last Friday's series opener, then delivered a game-tying RBI double late in Russellville's Game 3 win. He also came through on the mound, pitching into the sixth inning and holding Springville to three earned runs.

AMERICAN REALTY COMPANY
of Russellville
For All Your Real Estate Needs
Call **Steve Pounders!**
256.460.8383
35 Years Experience
AmericanRealtyCompany.net

The Golden Tigers answered a stiff challenge from Springville, riding a late rally and a clutch double play to a fourth straight semifinal berth

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - Amidst the post-game revelry following his team's occasionally sloppy, constantly suspenseful and ultimately satisfying 6-4 win over Springville on Monday, Russellville baseball coach Chris Heaps relayed a motivational story he once heard from long-time Ole Miss coach Mike Bianco.

"In Africa, when a pride of lions goes on the hunt, there's always an older lion, the oldest one of the bunch, who's not really able to take part in the hunt any more," Heaps said. "He's lost his teeth, and he's just not physically able to do what he used to do, but he's still got a big, intimidating roar. So when the pride goes on the hunt, the old lion will get on one side of the savanna, and the other, younger lions will get on the other side. When the herd comes through, the old lion unleashes his roar, and when the animals hear it, they all run away from it—right into the rest of the pride that does the actual hunting."

Heaps shared this instructive tale with his players prior to Monday's game, which was destined

to either end the Golden Tigers' season—and their bid to become the first program in AHSAA history to win four consecutive Class 5A titles—or send them to the state semifinals. It may say "Tigers" across the front of Springville's purple jerseys, but in Heaps' rendition of the story they played the part of the old lion.

"Like I told our guys, this team has a loud roar," Heaps said of Springville, which had bashed its way to 26 runs on 30 hits (including five home runs, several of the tape-measure variety) in last Friday's doubleheader split at Russellville Baseball Stadium. "A really loud roar. But my challenge to our players was, 'Don't run away from the roar. Run to the roar.' Don't be intimidated. Don't be scared. Run to the roar."

That four-word phrase became Russellville's rallying cry for Monday evening. When Springville scored twice to erase a 2-0 deficit in the top of the fourth and appeared poised to take the lead, the Golden Tigers refused to tuck tail and flee. When Springville tied the game again at 3-3 on a homer by Brandon Daniels in the top of the fifth and then *did* take the lead with an unearned run, the Golden

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

'Cindy's Journey' Benefit Ride on tap for Saturday

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A benefit motorcycle ride will help offset medical costs for cancer treatment for a local woman.

"Cindy's Journey" Benefit Ride is set for this Saturday, May 12. Cindy Mitchell was diagnosed three years ago with ovarian cancer. After a short period of remission, doctors discovered the cancer had spread through her body and had reached her brain.

Cindy and her family refuse to give up, and they have found a doctor in Texas who may be able to help her. The benefit ride and concert is a time for the community to pull together for Cindy's next journey to be a road of recovery and happiness.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. at Natchez Trace Harley-Davidson, 595 U.S. 72 West in Tusculumbia. The ride starts at 11 a.m. There will be a free live concert by Luke Shepherd and the Cold Water Band.

The event also includes a bake sale and auction, with all proceeds to benefit Cindy and her family. There will be food, raffles and a 50-50 drawing. Children will enjoy a bouncy house by the Next Level.

Please join the cause and support Cindy's Journey Benefit Ride this Saturday, May 12.

For more information, call 256-460-9556.

Students earn scholarships

Staff reports

Two local students were named as recipients of the 2018 Louise Isbell Ashe Memorial Scholarships recently.

Cameron Vandiver, a senior at Russellville High School, and Allyson Hand, a senior at Colbert Heights High School, were among 12 students to receive the \$1,000 scholarships from Helen Keller Hospital and the Helen Keller Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary.

The scholarships are awarded to local graduating high school students planning to pursue careers in a healthcare-related field.

Other recipients included: Hope Highfield (Covenant Christian); Denver Sha-Vonne Benjamin (Cherokee H.S.); Matthew Richardson (Deshler H.S.); Carly Bailey (Florence H.S.); Caroline Bishop, Caroline Byington, Kaitlyn Galowitch and Komal Kaur (Muscle Shoals H.S.); Rachel Phillips (Rogers H.S.) and Hannah Cummings (Sheffield H.S.).

Congratulations to these outstanding students!

'BUSES,' from page 5

years of age. Of Franklin County Schools' 67 buses, 49 are on fleet renewal (less than 10 years old).

Hamilton credited former assistant superintendent Donald Borden with researching propane buses to determine whether the purchase would provide savings to the school system.

"Mr. Borden was instrumental in looking at other systems that have purchased propane buses and calculating the anticipated savings in fuel costs and general maintenance," Hamilton said. "I appreciate his efforts, along with the rest of the bus shop staff, in this project."

Borden said part of his research was visiting other school districts that had purchased propane buses.

"We visited Tusculumbia City Schools, and they've used them a few years now and spoke very highly of the buses," Borden said. "The mechanics love them, and they're cheaper on maintenance and parts." Another advantage of the new

buses is the factory-installed camera system. Hamilton said when the new school year begins, all buses operating on regular routes will be equipped with working cameras.

Pads measuring 10' x 24' were installed at Belgreen, Tharptown and Vina Schools. The propane tanks used for fueling the new buses will be placed on these pads. At Phil Campbell and Red Bay, the tanks will be installed on asphalt. Each tank will have a crash barrier around it. East Franklin Junior High will not have a tank, as that school will continue to use diesel buses, Hamilton said.

In addition to the two \$5,000 rebates per bus, the system will receive state funding per gallon of propane fuel it purchases and federal funding of \$0.50 per gallon to encourage systems to go green.

"We felt with the sale of the old buses and the big savings on the fuel and maintenance, we are coming out ahead," Hamilton said.

Vote Barry Moore

PROBATE JUDGE

DEDICATED • HONEST • EXPERIENCED



Pd. Pol. Adv. By: Barry Moore • 399 High Pine Drive • Russellville, AL 35654

'SWEET,' from page 1

The Sweet Tea Trio is managed jointly by Kid Rock and Ken Levitan, founder and head of Vector Management.

The trio's self-titled EP debuted on the iTunes country chart at 11 last June. The six-song EP includes two originals.

All three members are Alabama natives. Coker grew up in the Birmingham area, Camp in Northport and Falcon in Gadsden. The trio is now based in Nashville.

The entertainment lineup for Friday, August 17 includes the Midnighters at 6 p.m., followed by Rewind at 7 p.m. At 8:30 p.m., 7 Bridges, an Eagles tribute band, will headline Friday's show.

Saturday evening entertainment will begin on the main stage at 5 p.m. with the Kerry Gilbert Band, followed by the L.A. Outlaws at 6 p.m., the Joseph Baldwin Band at 7 p.m. and the Sweet Tea Trio headlining the Saturday lineup at 8:30 p.m.

'ROAR', from page 10

Tigers didn't flinch.

When Springville put two runners on with just one out in the top of the sixth and the top of the order coming up, the Golden Tigers stood their ground. And when Springville—trailing again after Russellville rallied for three runs in the bottom of the sixth—sent slugger after slugger to the plate in the top of the seventh and threatened to surge in front again, the Golden Tigers ran to the roar one last time, turning a game-ending, series-ending, dynasty-saving double play for the ages.

When all was said and done, Springville may have roared the loudest. But Russellville roared last.

"How 'bout that double play, huh?" Heaps said, beaming as he stood just inside the railing of the first-base dugout, with players, fans, family members and friends celebrating all around him. "Was that big-time or what?"

Heaps' pitching-and-defense mantra has long since been ingrained into the fabric of the Golden Tiger program, but this series with Springville put that tried-and-true philosophy through the wringer. The visiting Tigers (25-13) had made their living all year by out-slugging teams, overcoming pedestrian pitching and occasionally shoddy glove work with a dynamic offensive attack that was averaging 8.4 runs per game—before bombing Russellville pitching for 14 runs in the first three innings of last Friday's series opener. [By the end of Game 2, the Golden Tigers' team ERA had climbed half a run in one ghastly night, from 2.47 to 2.98 on the year.]

After dropping Game 1 by the hard-to-fathom score of 19-15, Russellville (28-15) slugged its way to an 18-7 win in Game 2, earning a split.

"We had a lot of guys have good nights at the plate," Heaps said Friday, "but we have to do a better job on the mound. We have to pitch better."

Senior Rudy Fernandez, passed over for his usual Game 2 start, rose to the challenge on Monday, silencing Springville's big bats through the first three innings with deception and spin.

"Rudy throws a good curveball and a good slider," Heaps said, "but the pitch he has that is the most precious weapon you can use against a team that really likes to hit is that changeup. I thought if he could put up a zero in the first inning, that would be key, and he put up three zeroes. He did a really good job of keeping their guys off balance."

Leading 2-0, Fernandez faltered a bit in the fourth, walking Daniels to start the inning, surrendering back-to-back singles to Chase Isbell and Brant Brown and committing a balk. The tying run scored on a passed ball, but shortstop Caden Parker reached high to snag a line drive off the bat of Justin Bromley for the third and final out.

The Golden Tigers regained the lead in the bottom of the inning when Springville committed its third costly error of the game, but Russellville returned the favor in the top of the fifth. After Daniels tied the game with a two-out homer to left-center, the Golden Tigers committed their only two errors of the night in a three-batter span, leading to an unearned run that put Springville on top 4-3.

It was a strange night defensively for both teams, who between them botched a handful of routine balls [there were six total errors in the game] but also combined to turn five double plays—the last of which will undoubtedly live in Golden Tiger baseball lore for years to come.

Trailing 6-4, Springville got base hits from Isbell and Ivan Cornelius to put runners at first and second with one out in the top of the seventh against ace reliever Jaret Ward, a side-arming senior and sinker-ball specialist who had taken over for Fernandez in the top of the sixth with Russellville down by a run. Now seeking to protect a two-run lead, Ward went to work against third baseman Braden Hughes, who had gone deep twice in Game 2 and represented the go-ahead run.

Hughes got the count to 2-and-1 before hitting a groundball back through the middle, just to the third-base side of the pitching rubber.

"I tried to field it," Ward said, "but I couldn't get a glove on it. When I turned around, I saw Caden running over toward second base."

Asked if he thought Hughes' grounder looked like a double-play ball, Ward shook his head.

"No," he replied, "it didn't."

Parker's first challenge was to get himself in position to field the ball, a task made more difficult by the nagging inflammation in his right knee that requires treatment in the form of ice baths on the regular. The junior shortstop showed no ill effects on the play in question, scooping up the ball a few feet behind the second-base bag.

"He showed some pretty good range there," said Fernandez, a shortstop by trade who typically mans an outfield spot when Ward is on the mound.

Having fielded the ball moving hard to his left, Parker's easiest play might have been to follow his natural momentum right on past the bag, bypassing second baseman Brock Malone and throwing to first, but *easy* wouldn't have ended the game. *Easy* would have meant another swing for Springville with the tying run on base.

Easy would have meant running away from the roar.

"I had double play all over my mind," Parker later said. "Me and Brock practice that play every day. Even when Coach is hitting fungos [to the outfielders] and he accidentally hits a bad one, I always go ahead and field it and we roll it over."

Dead set on getting the ball to his double-play partner, Parker next faced the toughest facet of the play.

"The feed," he said. "It was kind of a tough angle."

Parker knew from repetition exactly where Malone would be and how he would best receive the toss.

"Caden knows I like to come across the bag on a double play, unless the ball is hit up the middle," Malone said. "On a ball up the middle, with him moving in that direction, it's already a tough position for him to get it to me, and it would be even harder if I'm moving across the bag. So on a ball up the middle he knows I'm going straight to the bag and stopping."

Parker flipped the ball to Malone, who spun and pivoted back in the direction from which he'd come and fired a strike to first baseman Landon Ezzell, getting Hughes by a step to complete a highlight-reel 6-4-3 twin killing the likes of which is rarely seen at the high school level. The web gem snuffed out Springville's rally and ended the series in stunning fashion, setting off a spontaneous celebration. Heaps ran onto the field and wrapped Parker in a bear hug, lifting him off the ground. Fernandez tossed his glove in the air and raced in from right field, only to be intercepted by Malone, who was already headed in his direction.

"After I threw the ball to Landon, the first thing I thought about was getting to Rudy," Malone said. "He's worked so hard for this, and he came through for us today."

Fernandez had started Game 2 of every series the Golden Tigers had played this year (three in area play and two in the postseason), but he didn't pout when Heaps and pitching coach Eli Fuller chose to send Parker to the mound instead for last Friday's nightcap with the season on the line.

"Caden came over and told me, 'Coach Fuller says they're giving me the ball for Game 2,'" Fernandez said. "I just told him, 'I trust you.' Caden's got a really good curveball. I knew he'd get the job done. I told him we'd have his back and I'd be ready to get Game 3."

Fernandez retired the first six batters he faced on Monday and then got leadoff man Bradlee Cole into a 5-4-3 double play to end the top of the third. Parker, meanwhile, drove in a run with a groundout in the first inning and a squeeze bunt in the third, giving Russellville an early 2-0 lead.

Springville tied the game 2-2, then pulled even again at 3-3, then took its first lead at 4-3 and was five outs away from ending Russellville's reign when the Golden Tigers mounted a rally in the bottom of the sixth. It started, not surprisingly, when Gist—the team leader in walks on the season with 31—took four straight balls out of the zone from Springville starter Max Harrison. The Tigers made a pitching change at that point, turning to Isbell and his power fastball/slider combo to deal with Russellville's top two power threats—Fernandez (six home runs on the season) and Ezzell (eight homers, including a pair of grand slams last Friday in the Game 2 romp).

Fernandez took a fastball for a strike and then turned around an inside heater, ripping it down the left-field line for a double that chased home Gist with the tying run.

"I knew he was a two-pitch guy, fastball and slider," Fernandez said. "He threw me a fastball away on the first pitch, and then he came inside with a fastball. I was looking for it, and I was able to get my hands inside and barrel it up. Once I saw it get by the third baseman, I knew Noah was gonna score. I was thinking, 'We're about to win this game.'"

There was still work to be done, but Isbell lightened the load by plunking Ezzell and then Parker to load the bases. With the infield in, Houston Kitterman hit a pop-fly to deep short that hard-charging left-fielder Trevor Blackmon couldn't catch on a sliding attempt. The ball dropped in for a single, and Fernandez raced home with the go-ahead run.

Malone drew a bases-loaded walk to make it 6-4 and give Ward an extra run to work with. The senior reliever knew coming into the day that his number was likely to be called.

"Coach Fuller told me that Rudy was gonna start and I was the next guy in line," said Ward, who earned the win with 1.2 innings of scoreless relief and improved to 5-2 on the season. "Rudy did a great job of getting us through the first five innings and setting me up."

Ward induced the double-play grounder in the top of the seventh that sent the Golden Tigers to the state semifinals, where they'll host Mortimer Jordan in a best-of-three series beginning with a doubleheader on Friday. A Russellville team that has seen no fewer than 11 players move on to the college baseball ranks since bringing home that first Blue Map in 2015 is now two wins away from getting back to Montgomery for a fourth straight season.

"Nobody thought we'd be here," Fernandez said, "but we're proving people wrong."

Hear them roar.



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

Keys found at the corner of Marengo and Cemetery Streets Please contact Allen at 256.331.3045.

YARD SALES/ ESTATE SALES

Yard Sale this Thur, Fri, Sat and Sun, May 11-14. 301 Montgomery St SE. Clothes and a little bit of everything.

Yard Sale this Fri & Sat, May 11-12. 331 Briarleigh Subdivision. Huge selection of household items, trailer, tools, baby & kids items.

Yard Sale this Fri & Sat. May 11-12. 315 Montgomery St SE. Plus-sized clothes and lots of household items.

Community Yard Sale this Saturday, May 12 at Southwood Garden Apartments, 503 Cross Street. Lots of everything. Too much to mention!

Huge multi-family yard sale this Saturday, May 12 from 7 am-until at the corner of Jackson and Cherry Street. Men's, women's and kids' clothing, all sizes. Toys, bicycle, furniture, household items. Too much to list!

Yard Sale this Sat, May 12. Starting at 7. Several families, 1318 Harding Ave. Furniture, baby items, book and fabric and more.

Two-Family Yard Sale. Saturday, May 12. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Hwy. 43 South next to Southside Baptist Church. Clothing, furniture, etc.

CLOTHING

Really nice fur cape, like new. Great to wear with your prom dress. \$25. Call 205-993-5961.

White wedding dress. Size 22W. \$125 or best offer. Call 256-366-4340 (5).

AUTO

1972 Chevrolet C50 Dump Truck For Sale. \$3,500. Call 256-332-3837. (5)

1997 Ford Explorer. In good condition. Call 256-324-0932. (5)

HELP WANTED

Help Wanted: Disabled couple needs help around the home. Inside and out. Oak Grove area. 256.332.5573. Leave a message.

APPLIANCES

Bosch Gas Dryer for sale. With pedestal. Front loader. \$150 OBO. Call 256-412-4951. (2)

FURNITURE

Oak Dinette table and four chairs for sale. \$100. Call 256-324-1763.

4-drawer filing cabinet, \$10. Two nice gold chairs, like new, \$50 each. 205-993-5961.

GIVEAWAYS

Cat free to good home. Female bobtail. Spayed. Needs indoor only home. Not good for kids. Call 619-548-8212. (3)

MISC. FOR SALE

Trimmer/mower w/big roll of trimmer, \$200. Garden tools, \$5 and \$10 each. Call 205-993-5961.

40 Western books for sale by Louis L'Amour. \$35 for set or \$1 each. Call 256.446.8232. (1)

Boat for sale: 14-foot runabout, 70-hp, with trailer, \$700. A real steal. Call 205-993-4495. (3)

Formica counter tops.

Jena-Air stainless cook-top stove with grill, \$65. Two sets of patio doors, \$60 each. Call 910-578-5821. (4)

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 consecutive weeks. Up to 25 words per ad; Pets For Sale only \$10 for six consecutive 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.

ALASCAN 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 batteries 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.NorwoodSawmills.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 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

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 condition that prevents you from working for a year or more. 1-844-245-3299 (M-F).

Amigo Paisano

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

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!



More local eateries earn satisfactory ratings

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The seven Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the week of April 23-27 each had scores that fall into the "satisfactory compliance" range. Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments. Scores are graded by the Alabama Department of Public Health inspectors on a 100-point scale. Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediate-

ly closed. Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanliness; plumbing and waste; poisonous or toxic material storage; and an inspection of the physical facility or property. The seven Franklin County businesses listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 92 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range. The highest score was 99, shared by Slickrock Camp Store, 170 Slickrock Camp Road, Russellville, and Subway #24292, 15300 Hwy. 43, Russellville. Inspections of Franklin County businesses, with critical item violations noted, resulted in the following scores: •The Flying Beetle Destination, 104 Montgomery

St. SW, Russellville, 92. (Lettuce and tomatoes out of temp). •Backwoods Grill & Fish Camp, 2937 Hwy. 43, Phil Campbell, 93. •Kentucky Fried Chicken, 15045 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95. •Stockyard Cafe, 14330 Hwy. 243, Russellville, 95. •McDonald's, 15254 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96. Of the 18 inspections done in Colbert County from April 23, 2018 through April 27, 2018, no restaurants scored below the satisfactory range. The high score for the week in Colbert County was 99, received by Love's Travel Stop #580/Subway, 2048 Hwy. 20, Tuscumbia. Updated ratings are available at www.food-scores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.

thing she can't plan is the weather. In case of rain, though, Pioneer Day will be moved to the A.W. Todd Centre. Free parking for Pioneer Day with bus shuttles will be available across Highway 24 from Sloss Lake. "We have been so pleased with the response for this," Ozbirn said. "It's turned out way bigger than what I thought it would be to start with." Some of the activities include a spinning wheel, broom making, goat milk soap making, chair caning, handkerchief dolls, corn shelling, two blacksmiths and more. There will be Native American camps featuring dancing and history of the Choctaw and

'PIONEER,' from page 1

Chickasaw Indians. Additionally, there will be reenactments of the War of 1812, the American Revolution and a Civil War camp. Six food vendors are scheduled to attend, offering everything from old fashioned ice cream to funnel cakes to fried Oreos to hamburgers. Ozbirn's committee includes Doris Hutcheson, Tracie Clark, Nicole Pell, Buffie Ozbirn, Cassie Medley, Grant Atkins, Jackie Richardson, Sharon Hester and Lauren Wester. Pioneer Day will also feature historical figures brought back to life, including Chief Levi Colbert of the Chickasaw Nation, Andrew Jackson, Major William Russell and others. Children's activities include historical games

from 1818, along with educational programs to teach them about local history. Ozbirn expressed her appreciation to Russellville mayor David Grissom, Street Department supervisor Shannon Wilson and his staff, the Russellville Parks and Recreation Department, the Russellville Police Department and chief Chris Hargett, and the Russellville Fire Department and chief Joe Mansell. "Everyone with the city has been so supportive and wonderful," Ozbirn said. "The mayor even let us have his golf cart for the day." For more information on Pioneer Day and its activities, visit Franklin County Pioneer Day on Facebook.



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.

Star 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.

Youth in Livestock



Two outstanding Franklin County youth in livestock were awarded scholarships by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians (PBCI) for their participation in Alabama's livestock industry Saturday, March 17 at a luncheon held in coordination with the Alabama Jr. Beef Expo and the Southeastern Livestock Exposition (SLE) Rodeo. Joseph Dale Norton, Phil Campbell, was awarded the County Star Junior Cattleman award while Colt Thomas, Phil Campbell, received the County Premier Exhibitor award. Pictured above, from left, are SLE president Walter Crim, Norton, Thomas and PBCI elder Billy Smith. Each year, two young people from each of Alabama's 67 counties are awarded a scholarship to aid in future participation in youth livestock events or further education during the Jr. Beef Expo held at Garrett Coliseum during SLE Livestock Week.

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



CELEBRATING LIFE'S STORIES



Russellville Health Care
Long Term Care & Rehab Services
705 Gandy St • Russellville

Come Celebrate with Us May 13-19, 2018!

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 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.

North Highlands Church of Christ

in partnership with
Food Bank of North Alabama

FREE FOOD

Every 3rd Saturday of each month

Sat., May 19

When: **9:00am-11:00am**

Where: **North Highlands Church of Christ Fellowship Hall**



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...”
Matthew 25:35

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...”
Matthew 25:35

THE NORTH ALABAMA FLEA MARKET

3RD WEEKEND MONTHLY

Saturday & Sunday

May 19 & 20

North Alabama State Fairgrounds
Muscle Shoals

NorthAlabamaFleaMarket.com

Mon-Fri: 9:00 to 5:00 • Sat: 10:00 - 3:00

Sale ends: 05/31/18

JACKSON'S



Royal Furniture

Franklin Shopping Center • Russellville

256-332-6721

Twin Bunk Beds

Multiple colors available.

\$160

Twin Wood Bunk Beds

\$275

5 pc. Pedestal Dinette

\$300

Ashley 93" DuraBlend Sofa

Brown, Gray or Red

\$340

Ashley DuraBlend Sectional
Brown, Gray or Red

\$792

Ashley DuraBlend Sectional

Brown, Black or Red

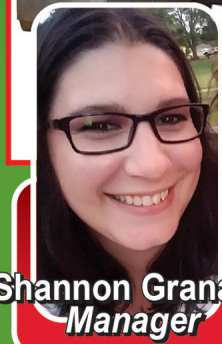
\$1250

Ashley Reclining Sofa

\$670

Ashley 93" Sofa

\$430



Shannon Granada
Manager

No Haggling Necessary! We ALWAYS Have the Best Prices!

Ashley 89" Sofa with Nailhead Trim

\$500

Ashley Rocker Recliner

Multiple colors available.

\$220

Ashley Rocker Recliner

\$430

Ashley Rocker Recliner

\$360

Dresser, Mirror, King Upholstered Headboard By Ashley

\$600

Dresser, Mirror, Full or Queen Headboard By Ashley

\$410

7 pc. Queen Bedroom Suite By Ashley

\$940

12 Months Interest Free Financing
Plus No Credit Check Financing.

We look for ways to approve your credit!

Saturday's wet weather forced Russellville to postpone Game 3 of its quarterfinal series with Springville to Monday evening. The game was played after our sports section went to press. To find out if the Golden Tigers' quest for a fourth straight state title is still alive, see the front section of today's paper or go online to www.franklinfreepress.net.



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

RHS girls nab third straight regional berth

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

When Alivia Clemmons says the Russellville softball team is like a family, she's not exaggerating. The Lady Golden Tigers are indeed a close-knit bunch.

"This is the closest team I've ever been a part of, chemistry-wise," said Clemmons, a sophomore outfielder. "We really are like family."

It still came as a surprise, though, when Clemmons and her teammates spotted head coach Kathryn Montgomery—just two days removed from the birth of her second child—outside their dugout at last Thursday's area tournament opener against Lawrence County.

Ian Jameson Montgomery was born May 1, 2018 to Kathryn and her husband Micah. Let the record show that Russellville's newest and youngest fan attended his first softball game on May 3.

"I think she got out of the hospital and came straight to the game," Clemmons said of Montgomery, now in her second season at RHS after being hired away from Shoals Christian in 2016. "We absolutely love her. She's such a strong woman. I mean, she just

See 'REGIONAL,' Page 20



FILE PHOTO

MOM'S THE WORD - Montgomery, now in her second season at Russellville, made a surprise appearance at last week's area tournament just two days after giving birth to her second child.

Slam session

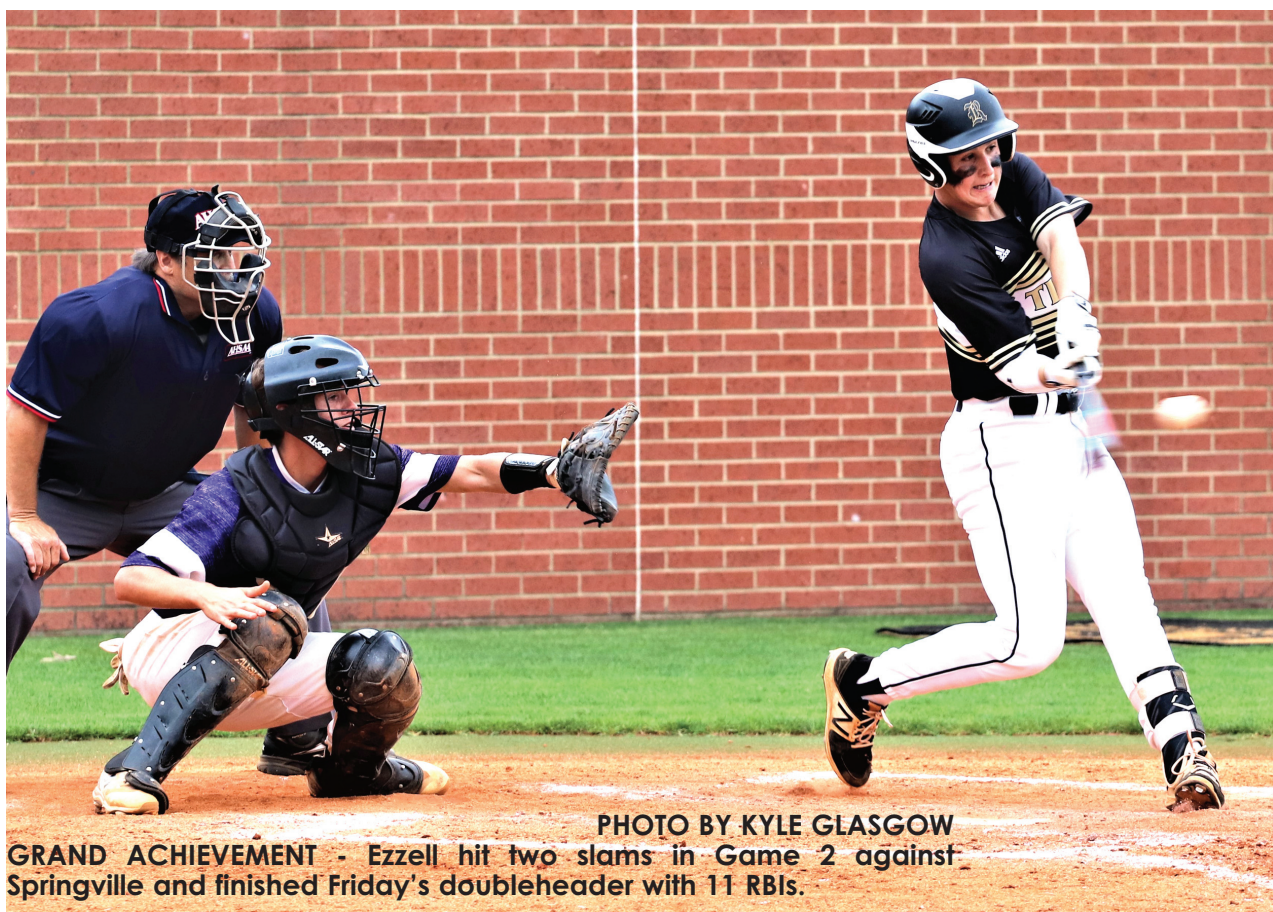


PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

GRAND ACHIEVEMENT - Ezzell hit two slams in Game 2 against Springville and finished Friday's doubleheader with 11 RBIs.

A pair of big swings from Landon Ezzell helped Russellville out-slug Springville and survive a wild night with a series-tying win

Mike Self
Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - The most noteworthy at bat of perhaps the most memorable night of Landon Ezzell's high school baseball career came with Russellville trailing Springville by a run in the third inning of last Friday's Game 2 in a best-of-three quarterfinal playoff series at Russellville Baseball Stadium.

With runners at first and second following a lead-off double by Noah Gist and a walk to Rudy Fernandez, Ezzell stepped into the batter's box and proceeded to do something he hadn't done all year.

He put down a bunt.

On a wild night when the two teams had already combined for 34 runs and 34 hits (including 11 for extra bases) in a Game 1 slugfest (won by Springville 19-15), head coach Chris Heaps' decision to play small ball seemed almost quaint and more than a little surprising—especially considering that Ezzell had two doubles and a single in his three previous at bats and was leading the Golden

Tigers on the season with six home runs and 20 extra-base hits.

None of that mattered as much to Heaps as did the positioning of Springville third baseman Braden Hughes, who was deep on the infield dirt—right where most third basemen would have been with a right-handed power bat at the plate.

"The bigger the game, the better the bunter," Heaps said later, breaking out one of the many pet phrases he has developed in more than two decades of coaching high school baseball. "And Landon is a good bunter. Everybody has to be a bunter this time of year. When [the third baseman] is twelve feet behind the bag in a situation like that, it's an easy play."

To his credit, Ezzell—who had five sacrifices in his career but none in 2018—got the bunt down, moving the runners up to second and third and passing the proverbial baton to the next batter, cleanup man Caden Parker.

"I thought it would be good for the team," Ezzell later said. "I knew Caden would put the ball in play."

See 'SLAM,' Page 18

'SLAM' from page 17

Parker did exactly that, smashing a line drive up the middle that had two-run single written all over it. Second baseman Bradlee Cole had other ideas, diving to his right to snag the hot shot for out number two. Just when it appeared that Russellville's attempt to play A-B-C baseball might end up D.O.A., senior third baseman Houston Kitterman came through with a two-run single to score Gist and Fernandez and put the Golden Tigers on top. [As a bonus, the ball got by centerfielder Brandon Daniels for a two-base error, allowing Kitterman to race all the way to third; he would score on a balk to make it 4-2.]

"We wound up scoring three runs right there," Heaps said afterward, "so it worked out for us."

True, but a 4-2 lead in the third inning against Springville's fearsome lineup felt about as safe as the last piece of pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving dinner. It didn't figure to last long.

"I've never seen anything like it," Heaps said of the offensive display put on by Springville's hitters Friday night. "I've been coaching baseball for 23 years, and I've never seen a team swing the bats like they did tonight."

Fortunately for Russellville, Ezzell wasn't finished doing noteworthy things at the plate. Batting with the bases loaded and two outs in the top of the fourth, the senior first baseman hammered a curveball from Springville starter Ivan Cornelius over the fence in left-center for a grand slam, extending the lead to 8-2. Two innings later, up again with the bases full, Ezzell crushed a first-pitch fastball from reliever Riley Usrey over the centerfield fence for another grand slam, capping off a ten-run sixth inning that finally put the game away after Springville had cut the lead to 8-6.

"When we got up 18-6," Heaps said with a straight face, "I started to feel pretty good."

The Golden Tigers (27-15 through Sunday) won 18-7, earning a split and forcing a Game 3 in a series that prompted Heaps to venture outside the realm of baseball in search of a proper metaphor.

"That was like a heavyweight bout," he said, dropping into a boxer's stance and throwing a couple of phantom punches. "It was like, 'POW, POW, POW!' And then they'd come right back at us, 'POW, POW, POW!' I've never seen anything like it."

If Friday's Game 1 had indeed been a fight, it might have been stopped

after the first three rounds. The visiting Tigers (25-12), who came in averaging a robust 8.4 runs per game on the season, scored three times on five hits in the top of the first, and they were just getting warmed up.

"They can definitely swing the bats," said Ezzell, who took a 1.12 ERA with him to the mound for the series opener. "I found that out in the first game."

"That was like a heavyweight bout," Heaps said in the aftermath of Friday's doubleheader, dropping into a boxer's stance and throwing a couple of phantom punches. "It was like, 'POW, POW, POW!' And then they'd come right back at us, 'POW, POW, POW!' I've never seen anything like it."

Springville loaded the bases in the top of the second, but Ezzell struck out Chase Isbell with a 3-2 fastball for the second out. Just when it appeared he might escape the jam, cleanup hitter Brant Brown lined a two-run single through the hole on the right side, and Cornelius followed with a three-run bomb to center to chase Ezzell and make it 8-0.

Springville put up six more runs on five hits in the top of the third and led 14-0 before the Golden Tigers finally got things going, scoring a run in the third, two in the fourth and three in the fifth to cut the lead to 15-6. Trailing 17-6, Russellville got two-run doubles from Ezzell and Parker in a five-run sixth inning that made it 17-11.

Isbell launched a two-run homer in the top of the seventh (one of five long balls on the night by Springville), but the Golden Tigers kept coming. They got an RBI double from Fernandez, an RBI single from Ezzell and a two-run single from Kitterman in the bottom of the seventh, climbing all the way back to within four at 19-15.

The comeback ran out of gas, but Russellville had sent a clear, two-fold message by putting up 15 runs over the final five innings of the game: Springville wasn't the only team capable of swinging the bats, and the Golden Tigers—winners of 17 consecutive playoff series and the last three Class 5A state championships—weren't going down without a fight.

"I told our guys after Game 1 that I was proud of them for the way they competed," Heaps said. "One thing we didn't do a great job of in Game 1, though, was loving our teammates. We had some negative things being said when guys weren't able to do their job. There were some negative attacks, and you can't do that kind of stuff if you love your teammates. That's how you measure a player—not by how he plays, but first and foremost by how he treats his teammates."

"So I told them going into Game 2 that I just wanted two things from them. Number one, I wanted them to love each other. Number two, I wanted them to go out and compete the way they did over the last few innings of Game 1. I told them, '[Springville] is trying to end your season. And I'm not ready for it to be over.'"

Heaps and his staff elected to go with Parker (6-2 on the season with a 1.92 ERA entering Friday) on the mound in the nightcap instead of Fernandez, the team's usual Game 2 starter.

"We thought Caden could hold the score down," Heaps said, adding further testament to the strength of Springville's offense. "We thought if he could hold them to five runs, six or seven might be enough for us to win it."

Parker helped himself in the top of the first, following up a two-out double by Ezzell with a double of his own to give the Golden Tigers their first lead of the day. Hughes hit a long two-run homer to left-center in the second to make it 2-1, but Kitterman's clutch two-run single in the third put Russellville back in front to stay.

Parker (7-2) gave up another homer to Hughes in the fourth and a two-run shot to Brown in the fifth, prompting Heaps to bring in reliever Jaret Ward to protect an 8-6 lead. Ward allowed a single to Cornelius and hit Casey Tittle with a pitch, but he got Justin Bromley to hit into an inning-ending double play.

Then came the monster sixth inning for the Golden Tigers, which began with one out when Ezzell was hit by a pitch. Parker doubled to right, and Kitterman was intentionally walked. Brock Malone hit an RBI single, and Devin Buckhalter lined a base hit up the middle for another RBI single. Buckhalter's ball got by Daniels in center for a two-base error, allowing two more runs to score to make it 12-6.

After a walk to Jeff Lloyd, Tom Barkley Scott singled home another run. Gist walked to load the bases, and Fernandez walked to force home a run. As Ezzell strode toward home plate with the bases full again, everybody in the ballpark was thinking the same thing—including him.

"It was in the back of my mind," Ezzell confessed. "It's funny, Coach Heaps was talking to us before Game 1, and he said that no matter what we did, whether it was good or bad or whatever, even if we hit a grand slam, it probably wouldn't happen again. I wasn't trying to hit another one. I was just trying to hit a ball hard somewhere."

"[Usrey] was throwing a little harder than the other guy, so he supplied the power. I just tried to put a good swing on it."

Legacy ATHLETE of the WEEK
CHEVRON PRESENTS
Open 24 Hours

Caden Parker

Junior Pitcher/Infielder, Russellville

Parker pitched Russellville to a pair of wins in elimination games against Lee-Huntsville and Springville and also had a productive week at the plate. Last Monday night in Game 3 of a second-round series at Lee, Parker struck out a season-high eight batters in six strong innings as the Golden Tigers advanced with a 13-1 win. He was back on the mound Friday in Game 2 against Springville, working into the fifth inning of Russellville's series-tying 18-7 win.

Parker also had four doubles, three RBIs and three walks in two games versus Springville.



Hwy 43 • Russellville, across from Wal-Mart • 398-8448
The Largest and Freshest Salad Bar in Franklin County!

'SLAM', from page 18

Ezzell's second slam—his eighth home run of the season and the 15th of his varsity career—put the game out of reach and sent the stadium into a state of delirium. Ward got another double-play groundball in the bottom of the sixth, and freshman Gordon White struck out Brown for the last out to finish off the win and a doubleheader that was nothing short of amazing in terms of offensive production.

The two teams combined on Friday for 59 runs and 57 hits, including seven home runs, a triple and 16 doubles. Batters walked a total of 22 times and struck out only 13 times. Springville's 3-4-5-6 hitters (Isbell, Brown, Cornelius and Hughes) combined to go 14-for-21 in Game 1 alone with 15 RBIs and 11 runs scored.

Isbell finished the doubleheader 6-for-9 with a home run, a double, five RBIs and five runs scored. Brown, the team's menacing cleanup hitter, went 5-for-9 with a home run, a triple, two doubles, six RBIs and five runs. Cornelius went 4-for-5 in Game 1 with a homer and six RBIs, and Hughes finished the night 5-for-8 with two homers and a double.

After going 0-for-3 to open Game 1, Ezzell hit safely in his final five at bats of the night and finished 5-for-8 with two home runs, two doubles, 11 RBIs and six runs scored. Parker celebrated his 18th birthday on Friday by going 4-for-7 with four doubles, three walks and three RBIs. Kitterman was 4-for-8 with four RBIs and four runs scored, and Fernandez went 3-for-7 with a double and five runs scored.

Gist reached base six times in the leadoff spot,



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW

Head coach Chris Heaps (far left) and Russellville's reserves gather along the first-base line for the national anthem, which was performed by local artist Kerry Gilbert prior to the start of last Friday's doubleheader with Springville in the quarterfinals of the Class 5A playoffs.

going 2-for-6 with four walks and five runs scored. Malone and Buckhalter both had three hits in the doubleheader, and Hunter Briles had a two-run double in Game 1. T.B. Scott went 2-for-6 and scored four runs.

Monday's Game 3 was played after our sports section went to press. For details on the game, see the front section of today's paper or go online to www.franklinfreepress.net. Monday's winner will face Mortimer Jordan in the state semifinals.

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

REBATES ARE BACK!

Receive up to **\$1,500** back on qualifying equipment **PLUS \$500** to trade in your old unit!

Replace your old unit with easy financing and easy rebates from TVA on HVAC units and water heaters.

FOR A LIMITED TIME!
\$7900* Monthly

*72 Months Same as Cash. Actual payment may vary. Based on average 2500 sq. ft. house.

LENNOX

FREE ESTIMATES
EASY FINANCING & REBATES

MPE SERVICES LLC
Heating & Air • Plumbing • Electrical
256-648-4893
MPE - All You Need!
callmpe.com AL #15059|53092

Offer valid thru May 1, 2018
Disclaimer: Actual rebate is based on qualifying analysis as well as approved product purchase.

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



'REGIONAL', from page 17

had a kid, like, three days ago, and she's at the game. We were surprised to see her."

If this were a fairy tale, Montgomery's unexpected appearance would have inspired a rousing performance by the Lady Golden Tigers. [A walk-off win would have made young Ian's first game a memorable one, even though he wouldn't have remembered it.] Unfortunately, reality has a way of interfering with a good story. Russellville fell behind Lawrence County 9-2 and got beat 12-6, dropping into the loser's bracket.

When they left the field at East Limestone High School last Thursday night, the Lady Golden Tigers—who had swept Lawrence County during the regular season for the first time in who knows how long—were closer to elimination than they were to securing a third straight regional berth.

"That first game, we were a little too headstrong," Clemmons said. "We thought we had it. After we lost, it gave us the motivation we needed. We knew what we had to do to get the job done. We had to lay it all on the line."

Russellville arrived at the ballpark on Friday afternoon needing to win two elimination games to reach the area finals and wrap up a regional bid. With Montgomery in attendance again and assistant coaches Gayla Mills, Tommy Bruton and Lauren Taylor running the show from the dugout, the Lady Golden Tigers cruised by Brooks 11-1, earning a date with top-seeded East Limestone in the loser's bracket final. The winner would be headed to Huntsville. The loser would be headed home.

Class 5A North Regional Softball Tournament - First Round (All games scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday at the Sportsplex in Huntsville)

Alexandria vs. Lee-Huntsville

Scottsboro vs. Russellville

Lawrence County vs. Guntersville

Ardmore vs. Douglas

*First-round losers are scheduled to play Thursday at 3 p.m., with first-round winners playing at 4:30 p.m. The winner's bracket final is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

Leading 1-0 in the bottom of the third, Russellville—which had mustered only five runs total off East Limestone pitcher Olivia Crouch in two area losses during the regular season—got back-to-back home runs from sophomores Autumn Logan and A.J. Taylor, opening up a 4-0 advantage.

"That was big," said Clemmons, who was on board for Logan's two-run shot off Crouch. "It gave us confidence that we could hit her. And we did. She throws a good rise ball. We tried to pick up on her pattern, lay off the rise ball and just hit it where it was pitched."

Seventh-grader Jenna Whitfield added an RBI single in the bottom of the fifth, driving in Taylor and stretching the lead to 5-0. East Limestone finally got something going against Russellville pitcher Megan Warhurst in the top of the sixth, scoring three runs on four hits to get back in the game, but the Lady Golden Tigers answered in the bottom half with a four-run rally highlighted by Taylor's two-run double to left.

Warhurst, a junior lefty, pitched around an inconsequential solo homer in the top of the seventh, retiring Crouch on a groundball to second to finish off a 9-4 win. Russellville lost an extra-inning affair with Lawrence County in the area finals, but the Lady Golden Tigers (21-18-2) had done what they needed to do to get back to Huntsville. They'll face Scottsboro on Thursday morning at 9 a.m. in the North Regional Tournament, with an eye toward finishing in the top two and advancing to Montgomery for the second time in three years.

"I absolutely think we're capable of going to state," Clemmons said. "If we come out and play good defense and hit the ball like we can, we can definitely make it."

The Lady Golden Tigers can certainly hit. They'll head to Huntsville batting .348 on the season as a team and averaging 7.0 runs per game, with 33 homers. The first six batters in the lineup (senior second baseman Sydney Burcham, sophomore pitcher Krista Sikes, Clemmons, Logan, Taylor and junior shortstop Karlie Moore) have each gone deep at least four times, with Clemmons the most unlikely slugger of them all.

Only 5'5 and slight of build, the pint-sized Clemmons looks as though she might have to run around in a downpour just to get wet. She has the appearance of a slap-hitter, but she carries a big stick. After hitting her first career home run as a freshman last year, Clemmons has popped six homers this season—tied with Burcham for the most on the team.

"I'm really just trying to put the ball in play," said Clemmons, a .408 hitter who leads the team in hits (49), doubles (nine) and runs scored (45) while ranking second behind Logan with 43 RBIs. "My goal when I come to the plate is, 'I'm not gonna let her get me out.'"

That sheer determination matters far more than Clemmons' small stature, which is made even more noteworthy by the fact that her younger sister

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!

We're here for you



Regina Lawler - 19 years of caring, Mrs. Langcuster, 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

'REGIONAL', from page 20

Chalea (a seventh-grader who hit her first varsity home run earlier this season) is already 5'10.

"My mom's side of the family is tall," Alivia explained. So, the question begs asking: Where does all that power come from? "My work ethic is the key. I work as hard as I can, and my dad has been a big part of that," said Clemmons, whose father Jeremy is an assistant principal at RHS. "We work on hitting all the time, and the workout program we have as a team has made a big difference, too."

Clemmons has plenty of company in the heavy hitter department. Burcham has been a force in the leadoff spot, leading the team with a .460 average, a .588 on-base percentage and 14 multi-hit games. She has three times as many walks (24) as strikeouts (eight) and is tied with Clemmons for the team lead in homers (six) and runs scored (45).

Sikes has settled into the No. 2 spot in between Burcham and Clemmons, batting .410 on the year with four home runs, 31 RBIs and 32 runs scored. Logan has five homers, nine doubles and a team-best 44 RBIs to go along with a .361 average in the cleanup spot.

Taylor is batting .405 with five home runs, seven doubles, 30 RBIs, 38 runs scored and a team-leading 23 stolen bases. Moore also has five homers to go along with a .363 average, 28 RBIs and 29 runs scored.

While sophomore Madison Murray recovers from a torn ACL, Jenna Whitfield has stepped into the starting catcher's role and made an immediate impact, batting .359 with 12 RBIs in 44 plate appearances at the varsity level. Sophomore first baseman Makala O'Neal (.260 average with four doubles, 13 RBIs and 16 runs scored) and junior outfielder Lauren Rogers (.352 OBP with 18 walks, 25 runs scored and 12 stolen bases) round out a deep lineup that can do damage one through nine.

Warhurst (4-5 with a 3.83 ERA), Sikes (9-9 with a team-high 88 strikeouts in 99.2 innings) and senior Emma Whitfield (7-4, 3.35 ERA) take care of things in the circle. Sikes and Whitfield combined on a two-hitter in the win over Brooks last week, and Warhurst went the distance in the regional-clinching game against East Limestone, allowing just two earned runs in seven innings.

Clemmons and her teammates couldn't have been happier to see Warhurst come through with the season on the line.

"We love Megan," Clemmons said. "She works so hard, and she does a great job of leading our team when she's pitching."

With five sophomores (not counting Murray) in the starting lineup and a middle school program fresh off a 34-4 season already starting to bear fruit at the varsity level, the future of Russellville softball looks incredibly bright. But for seniors Burcham, Emma Whitfield and Jasmine Galloway, there's no time like the present. For them, this week in Huntsville brings one final opportunity to get back to Montgomery and play for a state championship.

"Our seniors have experienced Montgomery before," Clemmons said, "but we'd love to help them get back down there and go even further, especially with this being their last year. That would be great."

As for Montgomery, she plans to be in attendance on Thursday morning when Russellville gets rolling against Scottsboro at the Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex. She went out of her way on Sunday to thank her assistant coaches for helping guide the team back to Huntsville.

"They've been clutch," Montgomery said. "Gayla and Tommy have been varsity assistants all year. Gayla is an elementary teacher at WES who handles a lot of the paperwork and logistics. Tommy is a volunteer who selflessly devotes himself to our program in any way we need him. Lauren, a jayvee assistant, has stepped in to offer more help since I've been absent the last week. Without being asked, she demonstrated a servant's heart and commitment to our program when we needed a little help filling all of the roles.

"Our team is truly a *team*, from the girls to the staff to the adults. That's what it takes to have success."



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASGOW
SMALL WONDER - During her breakout sophomore season, the 5'5 Clemmons has hit six home runs, tied for tops on the team. She also has nine doubles.

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.®



Turn your home...

into an outdoor paradise!

We Do Custom Hardscaping!



256.332.8181
HWY 43 • Littleville

Jeff Elledge's
CREDIT CARS

NO CREDIT - WE FINANCE

08 Mazda 3 \$800 Down	04 Pontiac Aztek \$1200 Down
03 Chrysler 300 \$800 Down	07 Toyota Camry \$1800 Down
07 BMW 328 \$1800 Down	11 Chevy Cruz \$1800 Down
11 Nissan Altima \$2000 Down	03 Ford Windstar \$800 Down

elledge.jeff@gmail.com

2506 Woodward Ave • Muscle Shoals
256.383.7979 • 256.710.3711

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

Jackson, Lady Bobcats return to regionals

Mike Self
 Franklin Free Press

Leeah Jackson doesn't mind talking, but the end of her high school softball career is one topic she'd just as soon not discuss.

"I can't even think about it," said Jackson, a senior shortstop at Phil Campbell. "It's really sad. I'm so close to all the girls on the team. I don't wanna leave them. We're just like a family."

With that in mind, Jackson intends to do everything she can to keep that final curtain from dropping on the Lady Bobcats, who are scheduled to open play in the Class 2A North Regional Tournament on Thursday at noon with a game against Hatton.

After qualifying for the regional last year for the first time in a decade, Phil Campbell (23-12) found its way back to Huntsville with a runner-up finish at last week's Area 14 tournament. Jackson, a Snead State signee, is hopeful that last year's experience on the big stage has left the Lady Bobcats a little more seasoned and a lot more prepared to play for a berth in Montgomery.

"It was just crazy. We'd never been there before, and we really didn't know what to expect," said Jackson, who went 4-for-8 with two walks, two RBIs and two runs scored in three games at the regional last May. "But I think we grew as a team, just getting to stay together and be together as much as we were. We learned a lot last year. The competition was so much harder, and we learned more about each other."

"We definitely wanted to go back this year. We were hoping we could work harder and maybe go even further than we did last year."

Jackson has certainly done her part, putting together another fantastic season at the plate. She heads into the regional batting .511 on the year with 20 walks and a stellar .622 on-base percentage. Of her team-leading 47 hits, an astounding 30 have gone for extra bases—eight home runs (tying her career-high from last season), four triples and 18 doubles.

"This year has probably been one of my best

years, hitting-wise," said Jackson, who also leads the Lady Bobcats with 39 RBIs, 38 runs scored and 34 stolen bases in 34 tries. "My batting average is higher than normal, and I've hit more home runs than I ever have in my life this year. I think I've become a better player, and I'm more confident in myself."

A confident Jackson presents a major threat to opposing pitchers, who often proceed with extreme caution. Of her 20 walks this season, at least a handful have been intentional, issued by pitchers who don't wish to see Jackson add to her career home run total [it currently stands at 20] at their expense.

Class 2A North Regional Softball Tournament - First Round
 (All games scheduled for noon Thursday at the Sportsplex in Huntsville)
 Cold Springs vs. Ider
 Lamar County vs. Mars Hill Bible School
 Hatton vs. Phil Campbell
 Section vs. Falkville
 *First-round losers are scheduled to play Thursday at 4:30 p.m., with first-round winners playing at 6 p.m. The winner's bracket final is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

Despite those impressive power numbers, Jackson said she doesn't step into the batter's box thinking home run.

"I'm going up there looking for a base hit," she said, "and it just kind of happens."

Jackson anchors an improved Phil Campbell lineup that she says is more productive than any she's been a part of. The Lady Bobcats are batting .319 as a team with 80 extra-base hits, and they average a healthy 6.5 runs per game.

"We have hit the ball a lot better this year than we have in the past," Jackson said. "We've scored more runs than we ever have. We've just focused on hitting the ball up the middle. We've focused more on hitting than we ever have in the past, and we've worked more on technique and fundamentals and stuff when it comes to hitting."

All that work has clearly paid dividends, as Jackson is far from the only Lady Bobcat enjoying a big season at the plate. Freshman Katie Thomas has hit anywhere from leadoff to the cleanup spot, batting .371 with 10 doubles, 20 RBIs, 24 runs scored and a .431 OBP. She has drawn 14 walks while striking out only four times all year.

Junior Abby Davis is a .330 hitter with four triples, four doubles, 15 RBIs, 29 runs scored and 14 stolen bases. Sophomore slugger Cypress Quinn came on strong down the stretch and finished the regular season batting .408 with two home runs and 12 RBIs in just 49 at bats. Kallie Allen, another sophomore, is batting .333 with seven doubles, 15 RBIs, 25 runs scored and 16 stolen bases.

Senior Darby Elliott, who prior to this season hadn't played softball since the seventh grade, has been a valuable small-ball weapon for head coach Doug Jackson, batting .311 with 15 stolen bases and a team-leading 12 sacrifice bunts. Fellow senior Olivia Knight bats .306 with nine steals and eight sacrifices, and eighth-grader Kenner Scott has contributed 25 hits, 25 runs and a .368 OBP. Senior Chloe Roberson has two home runs (including an inside-the-park job) among her six extra-base hits.

The Lady Bobcats got a lift recently when pitcher Emma Ergle returned from a leg injury that caused her to miss a large chunk of the season. Sophomore Emily Swinney (11-4 on the year in a team-high 89.1 innings pitched) filled in admirably, but Ergle provides more of a strikeout option in the circle. Only an eighth-grader, Ergle is 9-3 on the year with a 2.64 ERA and a strikeout/walk ratio of 50/14 in 53 innings.

"Emma is a great pitcher," Jackson said of Ergle, who struck out seven batters in a complete game to beat Red Bay 4-1 last week and nail down Phil Campbell's regional berth. "She works on pitching all the time. Even when her leg was broken, she still found a way to keep practicing her pitching. She's very strong on the rubber. She's a very good pitcher, especially for just being in the eighth

Lady Bulldogs win area championship

Tharptown also clinches regional berth

Staff reports

Fresh off winning their second consecutive county crown, Belgreen's girls added an area championship last week and clinched a berth in the North Regional Tournament.

The Lady Bulldogs beat top-seeded Tharptown 11-3 in the finals of the Class 1A, Area 13 tournament last Tuesday, getting four RBIs apiece from Cortny Williams and Emma Dempsey. Belgreen is scheduled to face Decatur Heritage at 9 a.m. on Thursday in the first round of the regional tournament at the Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex in Huntsville.

As the area runner-up, Tharptown (15-14) also clinched a regional berth and will face Athens Bible School at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday in Huntsville.

In last Tuesday's area final, the Lady Bulldogs got a two-run triple from Williams and a two-run double from Dempsey in a four-run top of the first. Tharptown loaded the bases against Dempsey in the bottom of the inning but scored just one run.

Belgreen added to the lead in the top of the third when Williams singled and scored on another double by Dempsey to make it 5-1. With two outs in the top of the fourth, Katie Dempsey drew a walk, stole second and came home on an RBI single by Williams.

Class 1A North Regional Softball Tournament - First Round

(Thursday, May 10 at the Sportsplex in Huntsville)

9AM - Belgreen vs. Decatur Heritage

9AM - Skyline vs. Covenant Christian

10:30AM - Waterloo vs. Gaylesville

10:30AM - Athens Bible School vs. Tharptown

*First-round winners and losers are scheduled to play Thursday at 6 p.m.

The winner's bracket final is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Friday.

The score remained 6-1 until the top of the sixth, when the Lady Bulldogs loaded the bases on a double by Katie Dempsey and walks to Williams and Kaycee Wilson. Dempsey scored on a passed ball, and Emma Dempsey added an RBI single to make it 8-1.

Belgreen scored its final three runs in the top of the seventh. Kelsey Wilson got things going with a single, and Emmie Scott bunted for a hit. Sydney Borden drove in both runners with a single and later scored on a groundout by Williams to make it 11-1.

The Lady Wildcats put up a pair of runs in the bottom of the seventh. Shaylee Wieting doubled and scored on an error, and Brooke Daily scored on a passed ball.

Emma Dempsey finished 4-for-4 with three doubles and four RBIs. Williams also drive in four runs and went 3-for-4 with a triple and two runs scored. Katie Dempsey was 2-for-4 with a double and three runs scored, and Scott went 2-for-5 with two runs and a stolen base. Borden, Kaycee Wilson and Kelsey Wilson each had one hit.

Emma Dempsey started in the circle and went three innings, allowing zero earned runs on four hits. She struck out two and walked two. Borden got the win with four innings of relief, allowing one earned run on three hits with two strikeouts and two walks.

Taylor Cameron and Ameliah Dawson led Tharptown with two hits apiece. In previous action at the Area 13 tournament:

Tharptown 10 Vina 0

Olivia Ertle took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and finished with seven strikeouts in a one-hit shutout last Tuesday as the Lady Wildcats eliminated Vina and clinched a regional berth.

Taylor Cameron, Cara Ertle, Ameliah Dawson and Aly Vandiver each had two hits for Tharptown. The Lady Wildcats jumped in front in the bottom of the first when Cameron singled and scored on an RBI single by Cara Ertle to make it 1-0.

Tharptown took advantage of two walks and two errors to score three runs in the bottom of the fourth. Brooke Daily had a base hit in the inning, and Dawson was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

That was more than enough support for Olivia Ertle, who struck out the side in the top of the fifth and did not allow a hit until Sarah Johnson singled with two outs in the top of the sixth. She was stranded, and the Lady Wildcats ended the game with two runs in the bottom of the inning. Vandiver had an RBI double, and Kyndall Morgan scored the final run on a steal of home.

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



Cara Ertle was 2-for-2 with two RBIs. Shaylee Wieting had an RBI double and scored twice, and Cameron went 2-for-4 with two runs. Morgan walked twice and scored three times.

Belgreen 5 Tharptown 2

Freshman Kelsey Wilson delivered a key three-run double in a four-run second inning, and Emma Dempsey held Tharptown to five hits in a complete game last Tuesday as the Lady Bulldogs advanced to the area finals and clinched a regional berth.

Dempsey did not allow an earned run in seven innings, striking out five and getting key double plays in the fourth and the sixth. The freshman escaped a bases-loaded jam in the top of the first with a strikeout of Ameliah Dawson and then worked around a two-out hit by Aly Vandiver in the top of the second.

Cortny Williams led off the bottom of the second with a double to center, and one out later Camie Terrell reached on an error. After a walk to Bailey Wood loaded the bases, Wilson cleared them with a double. She scored the final run of the inning on an error to make it 4-0.

Belgreen added a run in the bottom of the fifth, getting a double from Kaycee Wilson and a single from Terrell. Tharptown scored a run in the sixth and another in the seventh, but Dempsey was able to finish off the win.

Olivia Ertle took the loss despite not allowing an earned run in six innings. She struck out six and walked three, giving up seven hits.

Williams and Kelsey Wilson each finished 2-for-3. Camie Terrell was 1-for-3 with a run and two stolen bases, and Emmie Scott had one hit.

Taylor Cameron went 2-for-4 for Tharptown and stole a base. Vandiver was 2-for-3. Catie Dawson was 1-for-1 with a walk and a stolen base.

'JACKSON,' from page 22

grade."

At the opposite end of the age spectrum are Jackson and fellow seniors Elliott, Roberson, Knight and Karley Ertle, all of whom will play their final game in a Phil Campbell uniform at some point in the near future.

Just not *too* near. Not if Jackson has anything to say about it.

"I'd like to win, hopefully," she said of her goals for this week in Huntsville. "And not let my senior year be over. I'd like to see all the girls on the team work hard and grow and become better players. We just need to focus on the game, not on the surroundings and everything else going on.

"Just focus on one play at a time, one pitch at a time, and not worry about anything else other than doing whatever we have to do to win."

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)

EXCAVATING & SEPTIC

Educated Excavating & Septic Service

Septic Installation & Repair
All Types of Dirt Work
15+ Years Experience
Free Estimates
Licensed & Bonded

256.668.4573

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