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## Hamilton: School year going 'as good as it can be' with COVID-19 issues

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

As he addressed a room full of local educators, business people and community leaders Thursday morning, Franklin County Schools Superintendent of Education Greg Hamilton said the current school year was going "as good as it possibly can be."

And in 2020, that's a positive. Hamilton and Russellville City Schools Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes were the featured speakers at the second annual 'State of the Schools' luncheon, held at the A.W. Todd Centre and sponsored by the Franklin

County Chamber of Commerce.

The event provides an opportunity for both superintendents to share with the local community their evaluation, vision and goals for the future of their school systems.

"I give credit to our teachers, administrators and students for their ability to get through this unprecedented school year," Hamilton said. "The state of our schools is as good as it possibly can be for us and with all we've faced, that's saying a lot."

With 10 schools on six campuses, Franklin County Schools have an enrollment of 3,598 students, which is down 99 students from 2019. This is the first year the system has seen

See 'SCHOOL,' page 5

## Grimes: RCS fares well when compared to state's top school systems

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

As he delivered his "State of the Schools" presentation Thursday morning, Russellville City Schools Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes talked about the partnership between his system and the Russellville community—a partnership he described as essential.

"What happens in Russellville City Schools definitely takes a partnership between our central administration, our principals and administrators and our business leaders and community members," Grimes said.

"It's extremely important you hear at least annually what is going on with our school system," he added.

Russellville City Schools has 2,443

students for the 2020-21 school year. Demographics include 54.7 percent Hispanic, 36.8 percent white, 5.7 percent Black and 2.8 percent other races.

With a majority of the system's students Hispanic, Russellville City Schools teachers and administrators face unique challenges. 46.8 percent of its students are EL/former EL. That means those students come from homes where English is not the primary language and they are all in the process of learning English.

"26 percent of our students cannot speak English," Grimes said. 47 percent of those test out of EL but still possess limited English skills. We love and embrace our diversity but the language barrier does make for

See 'RCS,' page 3

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**Ottis Ralton Clark**, 77, passed away on Tuesday, October 13th. Interment at Blue Springs Cemetery.

**Sherri Darlene Daniel**, 57, passed away on Friday, October 9th. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

**Joyce Cothrum Eastridge**, 54, of Russellville, passed away on Wednesday, October 7th. Interment at Oak Grove Cemetery.

**Harold Dean Trapp**, 81, of Russellville, passed away on Friday, October 16th. Interment at Union Hill Cemetery.

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Congratulations to last week's Mystery Photo Contest, Johnny Davis.

# 'RCS,' from page 3

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Email your guess to the location of this week's Mystery Photo to [ffpmysteryphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:ffpmysteryphoto@yahoo.com). We will draw one winner from all correct entries each Monday Morning at 9 a.m. Include your name and contact number with your guess

**FFP**  
 FRANKLINFREEPRESS.NET

challenges.”  
 With that challenge along with a student body comprised of 71.3 percent living at or below the federal poverty level, Grimes is especially proud of how Russellville City Schools ranks in the annual State of Alabama report card in the category of academic growth.

“That’s about all you can ask when 99.5 percent of your students are making academic progress,” Grimes said. “That shows they are growing at the rate they need to grow and exceeding that rate. We are also proud of our 96 percent graduation rate.”

Russellville City Schools recently ranked as the 27<sup>th</sup> of Alabama’s 139 school districts. And Russellville High School earned an A grade, one of only 24 out of the state’s 565 public schools.

Although the system is meeting the unique challenges it faces, Grimes addressed an issue that has been discussed in the community—speculation about teachers leaving Russellville City Schools—and put it in proper context.

“We have the highest EL population in the state. At West Elementary School, the majority of students in our classes start not speaking English,” Grimes aid. “Our community standards expect our schools to be A-rated. We used to have 100-plus applicants for an elementary job. Now, there’s a statewide teacher shortage and it’s difficult to find quality applicants.”

Grimes referenced ‘concerns’ he’d heard from the community throughout his presentation. And he said turnover would continue to be an issue, even with the academic success RCS is seeing in the state rankings.

“Turnover is going to get worse because of the anxiety and stress and the situation we’re living in,” Grimes said. “We work hard to meet our accountability goals, but it’s tough. We are proud of the work done by our administrators, teachers and students. Russellville is a very special place.”

In the past five years, 44 percent of teachers hired by RCS have been Franklin County residents. Colbert County is next with 37 percent and Lauderdale County comprising 21 percent of new hires.

While Grimes has been criticized by some for allegedly ‘stacking’ new hires with Lawrence County teachers, the numbers don’t bear that out.

Of the 132 teachers hired since Grimes became superintendent, 47 were brand new teachers with no experience. 15 came from out-of-state districts, 13 from Franklin County Schools and 10 from Lawrence County Schools.

Additionally, 20 percent of all those hired during Grimes’ tenure are Russellville High School graduates.

The system is operating with a \$4.4 million reserve, more than twice the required minimum. The budget for FY 2020-21 is \$39 million.

Russellville City Schools has 318 employees, including new positions of Mental Health Coordinator, maintenance worker, and COVID-19 geared positions including two new nurses, two custodians and one tech assistant.

The \$3.4 million the system will receive through the 2020 state bond issue will be used for the Russellville High School expansion and career tech renovation/expansion.

The system will receive \$1.125 million in local funds from the City of Russellville this year.

Grimes has been an advocate at the state level for additional funding for EL instruction and his system has benefited with \$352,000 this year for EL funds thanks in large part to the efforts of Rep. Jamie Kiel.

Since the new school year began, 15 staff members and 14 students have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

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# Krewe de Guard plans day of 'virtual' Halloween activities

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Krewe de Guard will hold an all-day virtual Halloween festival on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, with several different activities from spooky storytelling to a cornbread cookoff.

Krewe de Guard is an environmentally friendly club made up of men and women that encourages the community to get involved. The club works along side of pre-existing organizations to benefit our community.

Funds received from these Halloween events will be used to help the homeless in Russellville, particularly as colder temperatures arrive.

The day will begin with Spooky Story Time, presented by the Russellville Public Library. This free event begins at 11 a.m., and will take place online through Zoom. The Zoom link can be found on the Krewe de Guard's Facebook page or on the Russellville Public Library Facebook page.

A pumpkin carving contest, with three age divisions (6 & under, 7-12, 13 & older), is also scheduled. Pumpkins can be dropped off at the Farmer's Market (behind the A.W. Todd Centre) from 4:30-6 p.m., October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Winners will be announced via the Krewe de Guard's FB page at 7 p.m., that evening. All winners will receive a prize.

The Good Witches Dance is another free event that will take place behind the A.W. Todd Centre at 6:30 p.m., October 29<sup>th</sup>. One practice will be held before the event. Send a private message to Anna Carol Porter with Krewe de Guard for more information and to take part. Must be 16 or older.

The Fall Cookoffs will include several events. A Cornbread Cookoff, with \$5 entry, a Best Chocolate Cake Contest, \$5 entry. Food entries may be dropped off at the Canteen on Washington Avenue on Wednesday, October 28, from 6-8 p.m., or at noon on Thursday, Oct. 29. Judging will be held at the Canteen at 12:30 p.m., on Thursday.

A Virtual Cake Draw, with \$5 entry, will also be part of the all-day events. Winners will be announced via the Krewe de Guard Facebook page Thursday afternoon. Cakes may be picked up at the Canteen from 7-8 p.m.,

See 'HALLOWEEN,' Page 5

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### 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.

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## Letter to the editor...

Submitted to the FFP

This is in response to Robert Aderholt's article on October 7, 2020, in the Journal Record.

Mr Aderholt, first I would like to make it clear that Democrats do not advocate abortion. We stand for a woman's right to choose. Big difference.

I respect your "pro-life" stand, however I question that it extends pass the birth of the child. Your voting record speaks for itself. You voted NO on CHIPS, the program that provides healthcare for poor children. You voted NO on the Appropriation Bill that gave \$32.8 billion to the Department of Education, \$9 billion student financial assistance and \$4.8 billion to special education.

The women of District 4 need to know how much you think of us. You voted NO on Violence Against Women Act; Pregnant Workers Fairness Act; Equality Act; Paycheck Fairness Act; Lilly Ledbetter Act; Employment Discriminatio Act, and you even voted NO on the bill to provide healthcare service to women Veterans.

We live in one of the poorest rural districts in America, and you voted NO on the HERO Act that provided stimulus checks to needy families. You voted NO on Emergency Housing Protection and Relief Act, Emergency Unemployment Compensation, increasing Medicare premiums and extending unemployment, and lowering drug costs.

You own more than one house and have a net worth of over \$2 million, but you voted NO to raise the minimum wage. You are lying to the people in District 4 when you say that you are working for

the people. Your voting record proves it.

You have been in Congress over 23 years and continue to support benefits for the wealthy and ignore the needs of working families. You voted NO to extend the payroll tax holiday, emergency unemployment, and extension of unemployment benefits. You didn't even vote on protecting older workers against discrimination.

This election, you have a man running against you who knows the working people. Rick Neighbors is a Veteran who I doubt would have voted NO on the GI Bill that you voted No on that would fund education, extend unemployment and Medicaid to Veterans.

Your support of Amy Coney Barrett goes without saying that this is nothing less than Trump stacking the Court to benefit himself. I am also a Catholic, but unlike Judge Barrett, I don't have to ask a man's permission to make a court decision.

No victim of rape or incest should be forced by law to not have a choice about her own body. Your pro-life opinion does not extend to the death penalty. You voted NO on the Death Sentence Amendment that would require a Defendant to serve life in prison as opposed to the death penalty when the Court has a doubt about their guilt.

A Congressman should vote on laws that benefit the people, not their personal opinion.

You have not voted on behalf of women, working people or Veterans. The people in District 4 need to know how you vote in Congress. You are not on our side.

Lynda Kirkpatrick,  
Vice Chair Public Relations  
Marion County Democratic Party

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## 'SCHOOL,' from page 1

a decline in enrollment since Russellville City Schools imposed tuition for out-of-city students several years ago.

Franklin County Schools have 555 employees, 50 regular bus routes, four career tech routes and three special education routes. With 44 of its 68 bus fleet comprised of new propane buses, the transportation infrastructure for the system remains strong, Hamilton said.

Several Franklin County high school students participated in Thursday's event. Red Bay student Jalen Vinson led the invocation and Vina student Amy Colvin the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hamilton said 600 of his system's students opted for the remote learning option for the first nine weeks of the 2020-21 school year.

To help those students have internet accessibility, Wi-Fi hot spots were installed at fire stations and community centers around Franklin County.

This year's budget for Franklin County Schools, \$40.7 million, is the largest ever. And the system has almost twice the required one-month fund balance on reserve, with \$3.9 million. State laws require public school systems to maintain a reserve balance equal or greater than one month of operating expenses, \$2.2 million for Franklin County Schools.

The system has seen a \$7 million turnaround financially since 2019, Hamilton said.

With additional funds through the CARES Act for COVID-19 safeguards, the Franklin County Board of Education was able to hire five more nurses and five more custodians this year. Temporal scanners were installed at every schools that check temperature and whether students are wearing masks upon entry to school. They also serve as metal detectors for security purposes.

Hamilton gave updates on several capital projects, including ongoing projects like installation of security fencing and a playground restroom at Red Bay School, office expansion at East Franklin Junior High, a new cafeteria at Tharptown and others.

Ultraviolet lighting will be installed in all air duct systems across Franklin County Schools, which will sterilize air and reduce risk of infection. Phil Campbell Elementary will see a library addition and East Franklin a classroom addition thanks in large part to \$4.9 million in bond issue funds from the Alabama Legislature to be used for capital projects.

New academic programs include rocketry at Tharptown, robotics at Red Bay and drama/theater at Vina High School.

Franklin County Schools also received a \$1.8 million 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant for its afterschool program that provides care from 3-5 p.m.

## 'HALLOWEEN,' from page 4

Thursday evening or by calling Anna Carol Porter at 256-668-2830.

Finally, a Virtual Costume Contest, with \$5 entry, or \$10/group or \$2/pet, will be open for entry in several age divisions: 3 and Under, 4-10, 11-17 and 18 and up.

Post your pictures on the Krewe de Guard's Facebook page. There will also be a prize for the best group costumes. Entry cut off is 8:30 p.m. Winners will be announced at 9 p.m., Thursday evening. All winners will receive a prize.

All participants must complete a registration form that can be scanned, emailed or personally turned in. The form and instructions are available on the Krewe de Guard's Facebook page.

Don't forget to visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

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 The Franklin County Health Department will offer a Flu Shot Clinic on Friday, October 30, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at First Free Will Baptist Church, 16140 Highway 43 in Russellville. Please bring your insurance cards, Blue Cross Blue Shield, All Kids, Medicaid or Medicare. If you do not have insurance, the cost will be \$5.


 The NACOLG SenioRx Medication Assistance Program supplies free and low-cost medications for anyone in Alabama with a disability or a chronic illness, regardless of age, that requires daily medication. Medicare recipients may also be eligible. For more information, contact NACOLG SenioRx today. There is no charge for this service. Call 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463) or 256-389-0529 and ask for Paula Pardue. This program is in partnership with the state of Alabama and Alabama Department of Senior Services.

 Southeastern Pro Wrestling presents the Thanksgiving Throwdown, November 7, 2020, at the Russellville Recreation enter, 201 Ash Avenue. Doors open 6:30 p.m., with bell time at 7:30 p.m. Main event features "Cowboy" Dusty MacWilliams vs. the "Suicidal Beast" Bryant Woods. Tickets \$10, with kids 5 and under free.

 The United Methodist Women will sponsor their annual Rummage/Bake Sale from 7am until 5pm Friday, November 6th, and 7am until 11am Saturday, November 7th, in the Ministry Center directly behind the First United Methodist Church in downtown Russellville. This event is held to raise money for local and foreign missions. Items for sale include household goods, furniture, books, and white elephants. Cakes, pies, and other homemade baked goods are available for purchase. Due to the statewide mask mandate, the wearing of masks and practicing social distancing is required. "We will wear masks to protect you and we ask that you mask to protect us!"

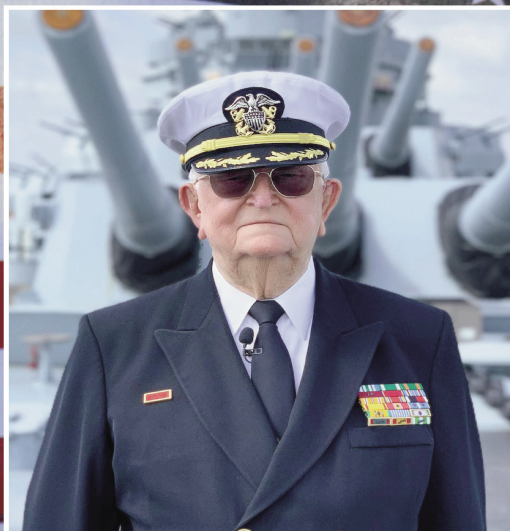
 The Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion announced that the annual Veterans Day Parade and the Veterans reception held immediately after the parade at the A.W. Todd Centre have been canceled this year to COVID-19 concerns. The VFW and American Legion announce this with deep regret but with the amount of preparation required for these events, it was not feasible this year. They invite everyone to attend the parade and reception in 2021.

 There will be a Gospel Singing at the Church of God, 77 Mars Hill Road, in Phil Campbell, on Saturday, October 31, at 6 p.m. The featured singers will be a Bluegrass group from Tennessee, the Mary Bean Singers. Also performing will be Family Tradition and the Believers. Everyone is welcome.

 Fifth Thursday Food Giveaway - 2 p.m. October 29, 2020 - Russellville First United Methodist Church - downtown corner of Madison and Washington Ave. Groceries will given out while supplies last. All social distancing measures will be followed. Bring your ID and follow instructions given by staff.

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An application and job description may be picked up, faxed or emailed upon request from the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 N. Jackson Avenue, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM or applications are available at [www.franklincountyal.org](http://www.franklincountyal.org) under the Careers tab.

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# Two Franklin County polling locations change for Nov. 3rd election

John Pilati  
Franklin Free press

Voters who previously cast their ballots at Quinn's Garage or Waco Church of Christ are reminded their polling places have changed starting with the November 3, 2020, election.

The Franklin County Commission approved the changes earlier this year after a public meeting was held to receive input from the community.

In the case of the Quinn's Garage voting precinct, voters will now vote at Tharptown Baptist Church. The church already serves as the voting site for the Tharptown precinct, so it's now a voting center that will house two precincts.

With the closing of the Waco Church of Christ on Hwy. 75, the building was no longer available as a voting site, so the commission moved that location of Waco Baptist Church on Hwy. 724.

The new location is a short distance from Waco Church of Christ, so voters won't have to travel out of the way.



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### Tigers bounce back against Colbert County, secure two seed in 2A Region 8

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

LEIGHTON - When you go more than two years without a loss in the regular season and someone finally hands you a loss, that next week will always bring some questions along with it. For Red Bay, after their loss to second-ranked Mars Hill, those questions were certainly there. The main question was centered around how players for the Tigers would respond after a tough loss with another high stakes game just one week later.

After all, this is a Red Bay team that hasn't even practiced after a loss in over two years with their last regular season loss coming on September 21st, 2018 against Belmont prior to their loss against Mars Hill just one week ago.

It didn't take long for those questions and concerns to be squashed.

Less than two minutes into Friday night's matchup against Colbert County, Jalen Vinson connected with Mason Holt on a 53-yard pass to kick off the scoring for the Tigers and they never looked back.

Red Bay jumped out to a 30-0 lead en route to a second-seed clinching, 30-14 victory over the Indians.

As for Red Bay head coach Michael Jackson, while there was certainly room for concern about the response from his players going into the game last Friday night, the seventh year Tigers coach ultimately had faith that his squad would be able to rebound and get back on track and was thrilled with the performance the Tigers had.

"We had a great week of practice. It was the first week of the season we had all of our players there

See 'TIGERS,' page 12

# One week at a time

With a region title and an undefeated region record in hand, Russellville turns their focus to Madison Academy before preparing for what the Golden Tigers hope will be a deep playoff run when the postseason begins next week.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

The Golden Tigers will look to finish their regular season with a win over Madison Academy before turning their attention towards Fairfield and the playoffs.

Brady Petree  
 Franklin Free Press

RUSSELLVILLE - There may have been only one half of football played at Golden Tiger Stadium on Friday night as the game was called after the first half due to inclement weather conditions, but the Golden Tigers were still able to put up a stellar performance in just half a game.

Across just 24 minutes of game time, Russellville accumulated 41 points and over 300 yards of total offense as the Golden Tigers came away with a victory against Lee Huntsville 41-6.

The win secured an undefeated season in terms of region play for Russellville, their first since 2015.

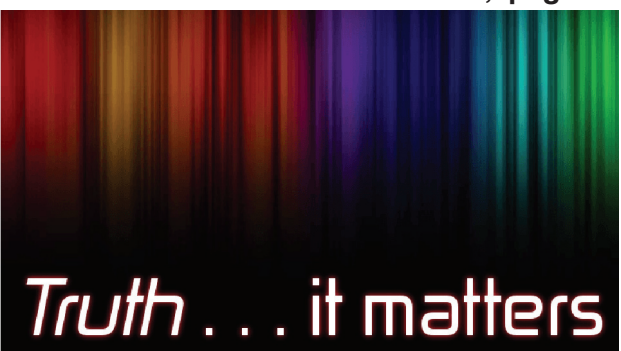
After clinching their first region title since that 2015 season just one week prior with a victory over East Limestone, Russellville head coach John Ritter wanted to make sure the Golden Tigers weren't just content with winning a region title and wanted them to close out region play on a high note.

Needless to say his players took that to heart. "I thought we came out and were extremely focused in all phases. Sometimes when you have a big win and two emotional games in a row you worry about coming out flat like are our kids content with just being region champs or are we going to finish it out," Ritter said. "There's a lot of vari-

ables that go into a game like Lee but I'm very proud of the way we came out and played with a lot of focus and energy."

Part of the reason for the uptick in offensive success that the Golden Tigers had against Lee was

See 'WEEK,' page 14



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## 'TIGERS,' from page 11

and I think that really made for a better atmosphere at practice throughout the week and allowed us to get in good preparation for the game," Jackson said. "C.T. Manley Stadium is a tough place to play at and Colbert County had only lost one game going into Friday night so we knew it was going to be a war. Our guys came out ready to play and we were able to hit on a few big plays in the first quarter and played really sound defense the entire game. I was very pleased with how physical we played against a really good Colbert County team."

The telltale sign for the Tigers in terms of how they would be able to bounce back from a tough loss would be how practice went during the week leading up to the matchup against Colbert County.

With a fully healthy squad on hand for the first time this year, practice for the week could not have gone much better for the Tigers according to Jackson.

"Our guys knew they had to get better in certain areas and we had everyone back with us including our younger guys. It always makes for a better week of practice when we have everyone there," Jackson said. "All in all it was a great week of practice for us and they knew that we needed to win that game on Friday night to give us an opportunity to get to where we want to be. Our seniors took that as a challenge and they rose to that challenge."

Vinson would finish his night going six for nine through the air for 131 yards and two touchdowns while Holt would reel in two catches for 77 yards, including the two touchdown passes from his quarterback. Running back Hunter King racked up 24 carries for 138 yards and two touchdowns.

As for Vinson, Holt, King and the rest of the Red Bay offense, their performance against Colbert County is just what the Tigers needed to get back on track.

Accumulating over 340 yards of total offense on the night, combined with the fact that the Tigers top guys on offense are looking as good as new with the playoffs right around the corner.

"Hunter played his best game of the year. He ran the ball extremely well and I was really glad to see that for him. He was a 1,200 yard rusher for us last year and he's had some really tough luck this year with a surgery and being out and he's just now getting back to full speed so it's good to see that kind of performance out of him," Jackson said. "Jalen was able to make a

See 'TIGERS,' page 13

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## 'TIGERS,' from page 12

couple of great throws early in the first half to get us moving with the run game and I was happy for those guys and our seniors to come back and play like they did."

Perhaps one of the more impressive aspects about Red Bay's victory over Colbert County, was the resurgence of the stellar Tigers defense. After allowing 300 yards rushing against Mars Hill, the defense for Jackson and his staff held the aforementioned Indians athletic backfield to just 66 yards rushing on the night, the lowest total allowed by the Tigers this season.

"Coach Purser did a great job with our game plan for Colbert County and we did a great job in limiting their ability to get in open space because their athletes are really skilled so we had to limit the run game," Jackson said. "We had all of our guys at 100 percent last week and that really makes a big difference in our run game from the week before. It was just a great overall effort by our defense."

Red Bay takes on Fayette County this Friday night to wrap up the regular season before preparing to face Winston County in round one of the playoffs next week.

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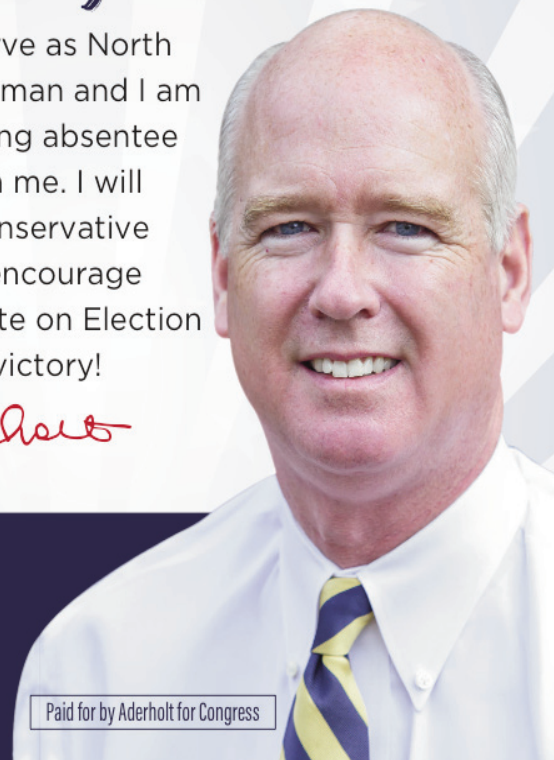
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## 'WEEK,' from page 11

due in part to the 216 rushing yards that they were able to put up in the one half of play. And thanks to the return of Arrieon "Boots" McCulloch, the Golden Tigers now have a three-headed monster at the running back position with the recent emergence of Conner Warhurst as a tailback and Caleb Matthews as an elite back in his own right.

Having the kind of depth that the Golden Tigers do at the running back position is certain to pose problems for opposing teams with the playoffs just two weeks away and that's something that Ritter and his staff are certainly hoping for.

"All three of those guys bring something different to the table. We've figured out over the past couple of weeks as to what each of them excel at and we're going to take advantage of what they do well and works best for each of them," Ritter said. "I think it provides us an advantage over a lot of people because we've got three running backs that could start for anybody in our region and in the fourth quarter when those defenses are tired from playing four quarters, our guys are fresh because we have the ability to rotate those guys out."

As the offense was wearing down Lee and the defense was getting continuous stops, Ritter and his staff saw this as an opportunity to get some work in on a few things that they otherwise might not have next week against 4A powerhouse Madison Academy.

An onside kick which was recovered by senior kicker Daniel Martinez and a fake punt conversion were just a few of the things that the Golden Tigers were able to work on and execute in preparation for the playoffs in case a situation arises in which they are forced to turn to some of the more obscure plays.

"It was kind of two-fold. We wanted to get that on film so that teams like Madison Academy and Fairfield have to work on stopping that. And if we're fortunate enough to advance in the playoffs, it's just something else that the opposing team has to worry about stopping us on," Ritter said. "And we knew that the weather was coming in as well and we wanted to do whatever we needed to do to get the game well in hand to where if there was a situa-

See 'WEEK,' page 15

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An application and job description may be picked up, faxed or emailed upon request from the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 N. Jackson Avenue, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM or applications are available at [www.franklincountyal.org](http://www.franklincountyal.org) under the Careers tab.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact David Palmer, County Engineer at (256)332-8434.

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# 'WEEK,' from page 14

tion like Friday night where the game was called at half we were in a good position."

Before Russellville looks ahead to their first round matchup against Fairfield next Friday night, the Golden Tigers first have to handle an undefeated Madison Academy team who are ranked second in 4A in the state.

Ritter says that the matchup Friday night should be a good playoff primer for the Golden Tigers as the matchup will have the feel of a playoff game.

"It's a playoff game. We're going to play a high quality team in Madison Academy and so it's a very, very good opponent that's very well-coached," Ritter said. "It's our job to go out and play at a very high level because one week from this Friday it's do-or-die

every week and so it's a great opportunity for us to play a great team right before the playoffs so that we can make sure we're in prime working order."



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Congrats to Week 7 winner Greg Bendall, who correctly picked 9 out of 10 games and also won the tiebreaker between Texas and Baylor by a final score of 28-21!

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## Hunter King Senior, Red Bay Running Back

King was a key part of the Tiger ground game last Friday night, as he is most nights for Red Bay, en route to a 30-14 victory over Colbert County to secure the two seed in their region. The senior running back finished with 24 carries for 138 yards and two touchdowns to go along with two receptions for 29 yards.



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