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Lawsuit filed against City of Russellville in second inmate death case

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

A lawsuit has been filed against the City of Russellville, Police Chief Chris Hargett and two police officers relating to the death of the second of two inmates to die in a five-month period while housed at the Russellville City Jail.

The suit was filed by Tammy Lynn Taylor, as administrator and personal representative of the Estate of Sarah Ann Campbell, her daughter, who died on April 7, 2021.

The legal action was filed in Franklin County Circuit Court on January 25, 2022, by Birmingham attorney Stephen D. Heninger.

Heninger has also sued the city, Hargett, Keller EMS and three police officers in a separate action that relates to the death of Dylan Kyle Lane, an inmate at the Russellville City Jail who was found deceased in a cell on November 15, 2020.

That lawsuit was removed from Franklin County Circuit Court and is now pending in federal court in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

According to court records, Campbell was arrested by RPD officers just after 7 a.m., on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, on a charge of public intoxication.

The complaint alleges that
 See 'LAWSUIT,' page 3

Hendrix Street drainage project funding approved

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

A drainage improvement project will soon begin for residents on Hendrix Street after the Russellville City Council approved a \$49,634 quote for the work.

The council approved the measure at its February 7th meeting.

Hendrix Street, located in District Two, has seen flooding issues during heavy rains for years, according to District Two Councilman Darren Woodruff.

The project calls for removal of the existing concrete drainage pipe and installation of approximately 100 feet of 60-inch high density polyeth-

ylene storm pipe. The contractor, Shotcrete of America, LLC, will back fill the dug out area with stone.

The project cost is \$33,500 and an additional \$16,134 for the 100 feet of pipe.

The contractor will build two headwalls with shotcrete to hold the pipe in place and will install one junction box on the downstream end for the 18-inch pipe to tie into. The scope of work also calls for Shotcrete to build the driveway back with stone.

"There has long been a problem during heavy rains with water coming off the top of the hill between Hendrix and Waterloo," Woodruff said. "This was an issue of concern for these

See 'FUNDING,' page 7

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Keith Michael Carroll, 90, of Russellville, passed away on Saturday, February 12th. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

Gary Wayne Jones, 69, of Phil Campbell, passed away on Thursday, February 10th. Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the family.

Shirley Ann Willis, 69, of Phil Campbell, passed away on February 10th. Interment at Botush Cemetery.



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'LAWSUIT,' from page 1

Campbell admitted to officers she had used methamphetamine prior to her arrest.

She was placed in a cell on the female side of the Russellville City Jail.

According to the complaint, there was an "obvious need" for Campbell to receive medical attention, but instead, she was placed in a cell and was found more than five hours later by an officer. The complaint alleges that Campbell was last observed alive by RPD personnel around 8:30 a.m.

According to records from Keller EMS, their ambulance arrived at 12:34 p.m., and medics found Campbell deceased, laying on a bottom bunk. Keller records indicate the patient was "apneic and cold to the touch with mottled skin," with signs of rigor mortis.

Additionally, Campbell had what appeared to be dried blood coming from her mouth. The Keller report states that officers reported observing Campbell "an hour prior to EMS being called," and she was alive and showed no signs of distress.

According to the police report, when she was arrested, Campbell told officers she used methamphetamine earlier that morning and officers were "unable to do anything with her."

After contacting a physician at Russellville Hospital, the Keller ambulance crew cleared the scene at 12:44 p.m.

The Franklin County Coroner's Report, completed by Coroner Charles Adcox, states that Campbell was last seen alive at 8:30 a.m., approximately an hour after her arrest. This information came from a RPD officer, according to Adcox' report.

Additionally, when Campbell was found deceased, she had no pants or undergarments on, wearing only a shirt.

Campbell's mother is asking for monetary damages for negligence and wantonness in causing or allowing her daughter to die while in custody. Additionally, there is a claim for violation of Campbell's civil rights, alleging the defendants showed "deliberate indifference" to Campbell's need for medical attention.

Russellville City Attorney Danny McDowell said he was aware of the lawsuit but, consistent with policy regarding pending legal actions against the city, he declined to comment on the allegations.

According to Hargett, RPD officers were called to a local motel the morning of April 7, 2021, after a man reported a female he did not know had entered his vehicle and was seated therein.

When officers arrived, Campbell was inside the man's vehicle and she was arrested on the charge of public intoxication.

Hargett said officers determined Campbell was not in need of medical treatment at the time of her arrest. And she did not request medical treatment at that time.

The investigation was turned over to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency since it involved a fatality inside the city jail.

Russellville Police Department's Jail Policy states that jail checks "will be conducted hourly," with officers physically checking to see all doors are locked at all times as part of their walk-thru to ensure all inmates are accounted for and not having any medical issues.

The policy also requires an intoxicated inmate to be placed on a bottom bunk or mattress on the floor when he or she is brought to the jail.

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The average pay for this position is \$31,948.80 – 49,275.20.

The successful candidate will be required to successfully complete a complete physical examination including drug screening prior to employment.

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QUALIFICATIONS: The completion of High School Diploma or GED. Two years of work experience maintaining or constructing roads. Two years of work experience as an Equipment Operator I. The possession of a current and valid class B CDL. Work experience in the operation of knuckle boom truck.

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The average pay for this position is \$28,516.80 - \$43,929.60

The successful candidate will be required to successfully complete a complete physical examination including drug screening prior to employment.

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

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

Applications may be obtained at the Russellville City Hall, Office of the Mayor, 304 North Jackson Avenue. Applications must be returned no later than March 7, 2022 by U.S. Mail to:

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The average pay for this position is \$22,734.40 – 35,027.20.

The appointees will be required to successfully complete a physical examination including drug and alcohol.

FCCDC approves numerous grants for schools, non-profits

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Community Development Commission met January 28, 2022, and approved a number of grants to local schools and non-profit agencies.

The commission, which includes Brad Bolton, Jeremy Campbell, Chris Wallace and Charlene Fancher, meets quarterly to review grant applications. The next meeting of the commission will be April 15, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., at the Red Bay City Hall.

Any grant request for that meeting must be received by a member of the commission on or before April 8th at noon.

With the most recent grants, more than \$2.308 million has been returned to Franklin County since the inception of the funding. The funds come from in lieu of tax payments from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The Franklin County Legislative delegation, Sen. Larry Stutts, Rep. Proncey Robertson and Rep. Jamie Kiel, each make an appointment to the commission to represent them.

Grant awards for the January 28th meeting included:

- \$5,595 to Franklin County Sheriff's Office for purchase of 20 bullet proof vests.
- \$5,000 transfer to Future Economic Development.
- \$800 to Tharptown High School for purchase of Chromebook storage cabinet.
- \$800 to Phil Campbell High School Special Education Classroom for purchase of iPads and Mic.
- \$250 to Red Bay High School Tip Off Club for sponsorship of basketball program.
- \$1,838 to Red Bay High School cheerleaders for purchase of carpet bonded foam roll mats.
- \$800 to Tharptown High School for purchase of Swivl Camera System.
- \$1,000 to Franklin County Career Tech for Cosmetology Purchase of Tables & Chairs for Classrooms.
- \$800 to Tharptown Elementary School for purchase of Chromebooks for fourth grade classroom.
- \$2,500 to Franklin County Career Tech for Industrial Maintenance Purchase of Metal & Metal Shear.
- \$800 to Belgreen High School for Special Education Classroom purchase of printer.
- \$1,021 to East Franklin Junior High School for purchase of privacy wraps for school doors.
- \$5,000 to Russellville Fire Department for purchase of Fire Prevention Vehicle.
- \$525 to Franklin Free Press for publishing of annual report.
- \$393.20 to Franklin County Times for publishing of annual report.
- \$300 to Red Bay News for publishing of annual report.

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What's Happening


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

 Florence Lauderdale Animal Services and local rescues are working with Franklin County to help save many abandoned animals to give them a chance at a new life. Save Our Strays needs donations called into Russellville Animal Clinic, to pay for veterinary services, spay/neuter and medical treatment for everything from heartworms to Parvo. There are also boarding expenses for the animals due to their medical treatment. No amount of donation is too small. This group has saved many cats and dogs, and they need the community's help. Call Russellville Animal Clinic and tell them you're donating to the Save Our Strays Account. Their phone number is 256-332-2254.

 In celebration of the 120th anniversary of Red Bay First Baptist Church, the homecoming committee is seeking 120 people who will commit to reading the Bible all the way through in 2022. Please join us in reading and asking your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join us in this endeavor. Your life will be transformed. There are day-by-day reading calendars for January in the church office. You can also find reading plans on the internet.

 The NACOLG SENIORx-Medicine Program is a program for free and low-cost medications for the uninsured, underinsured, Medicare coverage gap or disability waiting period. For more information, contact NACOLG SENIORx today. There is no charge for this service. 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463). Paula Pardue. 256-389-0529. This program is in partnership with the Alabama Department of Senior Services and NACOLG Department of Aging Services.

 You are invited to attend a free Digital Marketing Workshop, on Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 1-3 p.m., at the A.W. Todd Centre, 201 North Washington Ave., Russellville. Please RSVP through Cassie Medley with the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce by calling 256-332-1760 or emailing director@franklincountychamber.org. University of North Alabama marketing professionals will teach business owners the basics of creating and managing business pages on social media platforms and Google.

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'FUNDING,' from page 1

residents when I ran for office.

"I want to express my appreciation to (District One) Councilman David Palmer for his work and support on this project, as well as Street Department Superintendent Shannon Wilson for his work," Woodruff added.

City officials hope to see a starting date for the Hendrix Street project this spring.

In other agenda items, the council:

—amended the Russellville Municipal Court schedule of fines and court costs to reflect Alabama's new law that requires all fines for traffic offenses in a construction zone to be \$250.

—approved a donation of \$75,000 as an additional donation from Pilgrim's Hometown Strong program to be used on the Russellville Splash Pad project.

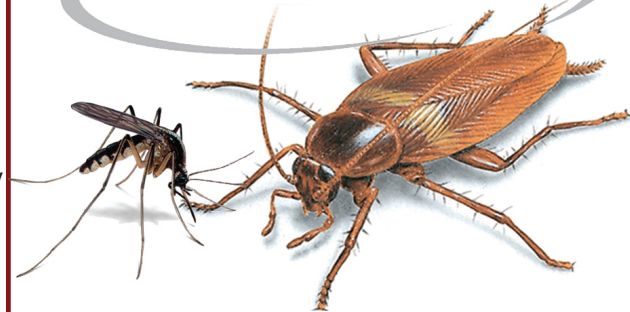
—accepted a letter of resignation from Logan Thompson with the Russellville Street Department, and Officer Jermaine Bates in the Russellville Police Department, and authorized advertisement for both positions, along with Heavy Equipment Operator II and Heavy Equipment Operator III in the Street Department. The council also approved the description of Heavy Equipment Operator III to include a preference that candidates be able to operate a paver.

—accepted a letter of resignation from Tim Guinn from the Riverbend Board of Directors.

—approved the updated Russellville Fire Department volunteer firefighter roster to include the following new volunteers: Ray Darracott, Johnathan Daniel Pace, Carson Drake Pace, Brandon Scott Baker, Robert Ryan Pike, James Michael Horton.

The next council meeting will be February 21, 2022, with work session at 6 p.m., and meeting to follow.

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Memorial fashion show exemplifies impact made by former PCHS student Shelby Grissom

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

Shelby Grissom might have seemed like a typical high school student just going from day to day. But to those who knew her best, they will tell you just how loving, unique, and fun she was once you got to know her.

A girl who loved eating peanut butter sandwiches with cheese puffs on the side and a Dr. Pepper - which was 80 percent water and 20 percent Dr. Pepper because that's just the way she wanted it - always found a way to turn the simplest of things into something interesting.

And Shelby didn't just leave her mark on those she was close to. Despite her passing 14 years ago, Grissom's name is still making a significant impact on the students and people within the Phil Campbell community.

After being forced to cancel for the past two years due to COVID-19, the Shelby Grissom Memorial Fashion Show was finally able to draw back the curtain and resume production at Phil Campbell High School last Thursday.

Students, teachers, and parents alike filled the high school gym as over 20 students donned the latest prom dresses and tuxedos in an effort to raise money for a scholarship to Northwest-Shoals Community College named in Shelby's honor.

For Kelsey Pruitt Johnson, who was one of Shelby's closest friends and now works at Phil Campbell High School, the fashion show brings about a great reminder of the kind of person that her dear friend was.

"I don't think there was a New Year's Eve until she passed away that I wasn't over at her house. We would watch Nick at Nite, go rolling yards and things like that. Shelby was more like a sister than she was a friend," Johnson said. "She was a leader through and through. There was nothing about her that made you think that she was going to follow the hottest trends or anything like that. But she was the first of us to get the iPhone so she was a trendsetter there."

The daughter of Keith and Deb Grissom and younger sister to Addie, Shelby was a member of the PCHS class of 2009. Grissom was also a cheerleader and was elected the 2009 homecoming queen among other accolades. Shelby passed away on November 8th, 2008 after battling a debilitating illness at the age of 17.

Despite going through her own battles, Grissom still found time to lend a helping hand to those in need. Whether it be through some large action or something as simple as having a chat with someone who needed it, Grissom made sure to make the most of her time by helping others.

"Shelby helped everyone. She would have given all that she had to help one person. And so for this fashion show in her name to be able to help even one person just speaks to how Shelby was. We all fall short of the glory of God and none of us are perfect. But if you look at how Shelby lived her life, she was genuine through and through," Johnson said. "Even when she was exhausted, she put forth all of her effort in everything she did. And now, look at the legacy that she has left. It's been 14 years since she passed and people still talk about her almost as if this happened yesterday."

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Sponsor and Family and Consumer Science teacher Aleah Harris was in charge of the organizing of the fashion show and the outpouring of support from the faculty, staff, students, and community was outstanding, Harris said.

"I can't say enough about Mr. (Darit) Riddle for allowing us to have this and also the shops that have helped us so much by donating door prizes, for the clothing, and all of the other people that made this show possible, it is just very awesome to see the amount of effort put in by everyone involved," Harris said.

Door prizes from multiple local businesses were given to students and visitors who attended the show.

25 students participated in the fashion show: Kameron Barnard, Abby Garrison, Grace-Lyn Habada, Sheena Smith, Ruby Torres, Brittany Storey, Chesney Hamby, Allie Herring, Allie Smith, Alexis Stewart, Lydia Garrison, Acie Cannon, Jolie Kline, Patience Mays, Aaliyah prince, Autumn Barton, Harmony Gaisser, Hannah King, Ciara McCarley, Lexi Pounders, Morgan Rollins, Mason Swinney, Cameron Habada, Sage Raper, and Zy Traywick.

"The group of students that helped out with the fashion show is such a good group of kids. And they were all very willing to do anything that was asked," Harris said. "I knew that they would be responsible and I knew that they would do what needed to be done and they all did an outstanding job."

Among the group of students participating in the fashion show was Grissom's cousin, Lydia Garrison. While all of the other dresses and attire had a certain flair to them, none of the apparel had quite the sentiment as the one Garrison had on.

Garrison was wearing Shelby's junior prom dress during the fashion show. While Garrison, who is a freshman at PCHS now, was too young to fully remember a lot about Shelby, she was humbled by the opportunity to wear her dress.

"It's really great for us to be able to have the show again. I didn't get to know Shelby that well because I was so young. But I've heard so many stories about how great of a person she was and it's just really special to be able to honor her and wear her dress too," Garrison said.

As Johnson spoke on stage at the fashion show about her late friend, she couldn't help but realize that after almost two decades since her passing, Grissom is still impacting students at Phil Campbell.

As for the message that Johnson hopes younger students coming through Phil Campbell get from the fashion show? Lead by example and try to make an impact, even if the action seems small at the time.

"These seniors would have been two or three years old when Shelby passed away so they never really had the chance to know her or understand who she was. So the fashion show is the perfect way for us to kind of show who she was and how she lived her life and how we celebrate her life," Johnson said.

"I think the kids here now learn about her whether it be from teachers, reading about her online, or just simply here at the fashion show. It kind of gives the kids someone to look up to and exemplify and show that the simplest of actions are what people are going to remember you by," she added.



PHOTO BY BRADY PETREE

After being unable to hold the Shelby Grissom Memorial Fashion Show for the previous two years due to COVID, the show returned with 25 students participating.

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Woman charged with fraudulent use of employer's credit card

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

A week after she pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of harassing communications, a Russellville woman was arrested for fraudulent use of a credit card owned by the attorney who represented her, and employed her.

Jennifer Marie Melendez, 37, was taken into custody February 11th after the Russellville Police Department executed a search warrant at her home.

Melendez was charged with fraudulent use of a credit/debit card, possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Melendez appeared in Franklin County District Court on February 3rd to answer the charge of harassing communications. She appeared with her attorney, Rebecca Thomason, and pled guilty.

She was charged with taking part in a video call with an inmate at the Franklin County Jail. During the conversation, which was monitored by law enforcement, Melendez told the inmate that a search warrant had been executed in Russellville and how a certain inmate 'needed to be handled,' according to Franklin County Sheriff Shannon Oliver.

According to a source familiar with the case, Melendez was communicating the name of another inmate who was allegedly working with law enforcement as an informant.

She pled guilty and received a 60 day jail sentence, suspended for two years upon good behavior, making no more phone or video calls to the jail and payment of court costs.

Melendez was employed in Thomason's Russellville law office at the time of her arrest, where she had worked since 2019.

Last week, RPD investigators received information that Melendez was allegedly using her employer's credit/debit card without the employer's knowledge or consent.

When officers served a search warrant Friday morning at Melendez' home, they confiscated illegal drugs, marijuana and drug paraphernalia, resulting in the additional charges.

The fraudulent use of a credit/debit card and the possession of controlled substance charges are Class D felonies, punishable by up to five years in prison upon conviction.

Also arrested during the execution of the search warrant were Isaac Sanchez, 22, charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia and Tredelle Delmore, 24, on three outstanding warrants and a probation violation warrant.

Melendez remained in custody as of Sunday awaiting a bond hearing and a probation revocation hearing.

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Franklin Free Press February 16, 23, 2022

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Bulldogs rout Bears to capture sixth consecutive area title

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

You would have to go back seven years before you found a different champion of 1A area 14. For the past six seasons, the Belgreen Bulldogs have dominated the region and last Thursday night, the Bulldogs were able to add to that impressive resume with another area title after a 75-34 victory over the Phillips Bears.

The area title, which marks the third in head coach Marty Cooper's tenure with Belgreen, is the first step in what fans, coaches, and players hope will be a returning trip to the state championship game in Birmingham.

For Cooper and the Bulldogs, it was business as usual in the area championship game as Belgreen jumped out to an early - and commanding - 22-7 lead in the first quarter to set the tone.

Kicking things off on a 9-0 run, the Bulldogs got six points in the quarter from three different players. Will Bonner, Collin Bonner, and Adrian Reaves each scored six points while Cole King and Canaan Stough scored two points apiece.

The second quarter was more of the same for Belgreen as they again crossed the 20 point mark in back-to-back quarters, giving the Bulldogs a 42-14 lead headed into halftime. Collin Bonner led the way in scoring in the quarter with nine points while Will Bonner scored eight points.

Carrying a large lead into halftime has become something of a common occurrence over the previous few seasons for the Bulldogs.

But despite the dominance that the Bulldogs display, See 'BULLDOGS,' page 14

Retrofitting and repeating



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA

The Lady Bobcats defeated Vinemont 64-49 to capture an area tournament title. Phil Campbell will take on Elkmont in the sub-regional game to try and punch their ticket to the regional tournament.

Brady Petree
Franklin Free Press

PHIL CAMPBELL - At the end of last year's basketball season, it could be argued that the Phil Campbell Lady Bobcats lost the most talent of any program in Franklin County. Katie Thomas, Caitlynn Mills, and Olivia Taylor all graduated off the roster for head coach Craig Thomas and the Bobcats, leaving three starting spots up for grabs.

And while most teams might have looked at the slight roster overhaul that was going to take place entering this season and thought that a rebuild might be in store.

But that's not the route that the Lady Bobcats chose. Instead, they chose to retool and charge forward with what they had.

And it paid massive dividends for Thomas and his staff this season.

"It's been a little bit of a rocky road this year with us losing those three big seniors from last year's team. But we view it like it's the next girl up from our standpoint. And our girls have done a great job stepping up and filling some of those roles," Thomas said. "We've been very fortunate. These girls have stepped up and have been playing like they have been starting at the varsity level their

See 'REPEATING,' page 13

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'REPEATING,' from page 11

entire lives so we are just extremely fortunate to have this group." After beating East Lawrence 51-29 in the area tournament semifinals, the Bobcats had their sights set on another area title. But they would have to get past Vinemont to do so.

Eyeing return to Wallace State after falling just short last season in a loss to Susan Moore, the Lady Bobcats pulled out all of the stops in their quest for the area crown.

Kenner Scott scored six points for Phil Campbell in the first quarter as the Lady Bobcats outscored Vinemont 18-12 in the first quarter to take an early lead. Macy Hardy (four points) and Faith Cook (three points) also contributed in the quarter.

To get key contributions from so many different players is the perfect development for Thomas and his staff as they transition to a new era of Lady Bobcat basketball.

According to Thomas, the work put in has been a tremendous amount over the course of the season across the board. Add to the crucial developments the impact of veteran presence Kenner Scott and the Bobcats find themselves in prime position for a potential deep playoff push.

"Our girls buy into what we try to do. They are here at every practice and they always give 100%. We sort of have a tradition here and they want to work hard and try not to break any of those traditions that we have," Thomas said. "Kenner has been a great leader for us. We challenged her to score in double-digits for us every time out and as a floor leader to keep everyone in line. And as that leader, she has taken the challenge and done a tremendous job with it."

Phil Campbell was able to outscore Vinemont again in the second quarter, this time by a 16-10 margin, to carry a 34-22 lead headed into halftime. Scott added five more points to her total on the night while Hardy scored six more points.

Vinemont was able to cut into the Lady Bobcat lead after outscoring Phil Campbell 13-9 to make it a 43-35 lead for Phil Campbell headed into the final quarter.

Then the Lady Bobcats flipped a switch and dominated the fourth quarter, outscoring Vinemont by putting up 21 points while allowing just 14 in the quarter.

The key to their success in the fourth quarter boils down to one simple thing according to the Lady Bobcats head coach: forcing Vinemont's hand.

See 'REPEATING,' page 15

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'BULLDOGS,' from page 11

played during last season's championship appearance run, there was a bit of concern over how this team would look following the departure of some of the key players. Scout Bragwell and Issac Willingham, two key contributors for Belgreen last season, departed via graduation, leaving two massive openings in the starting lineup for a team with championship aspirations.

However, thanks to the development of a few players while trotting out a senior-laden roster, Cooper and his staff have reason to believe that this might just be the most experienced roster that Belgreen has fielded in many seasons.

"We're a different team without Scout and Issac. Some of the things we have this year are better and then some of the things we have this year are not as good. This team has their own identity that's for sure," Cooper said. "We are very senior-loaded this year with eight seniors so we just have a ton of experience this year. The biggest difference is just us having eight seniors and being able to have that amount of experience."

The third quarter saw Collin Bonner lead Belgreen in scoring with eight points, giving him 23 points through just three quarters. Will Bonner scored four points as Jordan Wright and Adrian Reaves scored two points each as the Bulldogs outscored Phillips 16-12 to carry a 58-26 lead into the final quarter of the night.

Despite resting a large portion of the starters and key role players for a majority of the fourth quarter, the Bulldogs still managed to outscore the Bears 17-8 to cap off a 75-34 area tournament title win.

Cole King, Alex Jarnigan, and Jordan Wright scored four points each in the fourth quarter while Will Bonner (three points) and Ely Mitchell (two points) each contributed in scoring in the quarter.

While it could be argued that last season's Bulldog roster was more top-heavy in terms of talent, Cooper and his staff believe that the current state of the Bulldog roster possesses more depth. And that depth is something that Belgreen is hoping will come in handy as they begin the long, difficult trek back to Birmingham.

"Adrian is doing a lot of rebounding for us and Cole is guarding people up top and making a lot of those hustle plays for us as well. Both of those guys have stepped up for us in some big ways," Cooper said. "Then we have Canaan coming off the bench for us so we really think we have six starters because Canaan does a great job and really probably plays as many minutes as the starters do."

With winning the 1A area 14 tournament, Belgreen will host R.A. Hubbard in the sub-regional game on Tuesday, February 15th at 6 P.M.

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'REPEATING,' from page 13

"We got the opportunity to pull them out to man-to-man. Vinemont was a zone type of team and so when we went up by 11 points or so, we decided to pull the ball out and force them into man-to-man and they weren't able to defend us very well in man-to-man," Thomas said.

Madison Branch scored nine points in the quarter as Cook scored six more points in the win in the fourth quarter.

Next up on the docket for Phil Campbell, is Elkmont who they will have to defeat if they want to return to Wallace State.

While Elkmont might not possess a lot of size according to Thomas, they do live and die by the three-pointer. And he and his staff feel as though if they can limit the damage from outside the perimeter, there's a good chance that the Lady Bobcats will be making the desired trip to Hanceville.

"Elkmont loves to shoot the three. If you get beat two at a time, that's just the way it is. They're not very big, but they are very quick and athletic. So we've just got to limit the damage from three," Thomas said. "If we can keep them from running off that three-point line, that definitely plays to our advantage, so that is what we are hoping to be able to do."



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MEDINA
Scott, above, has been a much-needed veteran presence for the Lady Bobcats as they attempt to make a return to the regional tournament in Hanceville.

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