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Good Shepherd Catholic Church holds dedication for beautiful new building

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

With meteoric growth the past decade or so, the congregation of Russellville's Good Shepherd Catholic Church needed a church building well beyond the old 175-person church capacity. Along with some private donors, the Good Shepherd membership responded to that need and the result is a beautiful new church building that can house up to 500 people for a service. The new church was a

\$3 million project and according to Good Shepherd Catholic Church's Very Rev. Vincent Bresowar, the new building was paid for before it was formally dedicated last Saturday, October 28th. "Yes, it is paid for," Bresowar said. "We did a lot of events and fund raising, including food festivals. We also went out and were able to solicit donors from the community and from various parts of our diocese." Saturday's dedication service was a major event for the church, and is a prerequisite under Catholic doctrine

See 'CHURCH,' Page 3


Local Democratic Party seeking candidates for 2024 election


John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press


The Franklin County Democratic Party is looking for a few good men (and women) to run for local office in the March 5, 2024, primary election. The Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee met September 28th to set a date for qualifying for local offices. Qualifying opened September 29th and runs through Friday, November 10th at 5 p.m. The committee also set qualifying fees for local offices, including Probate Judge (\$300), Franklin County Superintendent of Education (\$290), Franklin County Board of Education (\$50) and Franklin County

Commissioner (\$100). Candidates who are not financially able to pay the qualifying fees may request a hardship waiver and the committee may waive those fees. All four Franklin County Commission seats will be on the March 5, 2024 ballot, along with Probate Judge, Franklin County Circuit Judge, District Judge, Board of Education Districts 1 and 4 and Franklin County Circuit Clerk. New Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee Chairman Trevor Prince said the party is actively recruiting candidates to run in each local office election. But that may be easier said than done, as Republicans hold every Franklin County office except for

See 'ELECTION,' Page 4




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**Jackie Lee Wingo passed away on
Wednesday, October 25, 2023. Spry Memorial
Chapel assisted the family.**

**Levona Jean Wells, age 89, of Russellville,
passed away on Thursday, October 26, 2023.
Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.**

**Judy Irene Lindsey Kilpatrick, age 77, of
Russellville, passed away on Sunday, October
29, 2023. Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the
family.**



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in the
March 5, 2024 Republican Primary**

'CHURCH,' From Page 1

before a new church can be used for services.

There was a procession from the old building to the new church, where the Bishop received a key to the new church.

"He consecrates it, blesses it and there's a long ceremony after that," Bresowar said. "After that, we have mariachi music, dancing and food. It's like a festival afterwards."

"This is a big day and a great day of celebration. It only happens when you build a new church, so it's a special day," he added.

Up until this week, the church held four services each weekend, three in Spanish and one English service.

"We regularly have approximately 1,200 at mass every weekend," Bresowar said.

The new church will allow him to cut down on the number of services

as seating capacity is three times that of the old building. Construction began in October 2021 and was completed in two years, not a bad time frame for a project in the COVID-19 era.

When Bresowar came to Good Shepherd eight-and-a-half years ago from Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Huntsville, a new building wasn't something he thought about. But that soon changed.

"Around five years ago we really came to the understanding that (a new church) had to happen for this community because it just keeps growing," Bresowar said.

The growth speaks well of the church staff, which includes Jazmin Ambrosio (Parish Secretary) and Flor Solorzano (Director of Religious Education). And it's been noticed by city leaders and residents.



COURTESY PHOTO

The majestic new building at Good Shepherd Catholic Church was dedicated Saturday.

"It's a blessing for them to have a bigger church to help their growing congregation," said Russellville City Councilman Darren Woodruff. "I also salute their outreach program and the amount of people they help each week in our community."

The church's outreach program Woodruff referenced meets needs of those in need. That includes basic needs like food and clothing, as well as payment of delinquent utility bills. It's funded completely by Good Shepherd's congregation. The outreach program is available at the church from 10-noon each Monday.

"They are very good at gathering resources when it needs to be done to help people. We fund raise in a lot of unique ways," Bresowar said. "Soccer, food festivals, raffles, good sales. It's not just giving on the collection plate. There are a lot of ways to fund raise and create a sense of community."

"It takes a lot of volunteers and people willing to help. Those are the good things. Like every church, we have our own issues too. But it's going pretty well and we're trying to do what the Lord is asking us to do here," he added.

A 1998 graduate of Homewood High School and a former Auburn University student and an Air Force veteran, Bresowar might have seemed an unlikely candidate to lead the largest church in Franklin County, particularly one with a 95% Hispanic membership.



COURTESY PHOTO

Good Shepherd Priest Vincent Bresowar and church members at the dedication ceremony.

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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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COURTESY PHOTO

The new church building at Good Shepherd Catholic Church is as beautiful inside as outside.

"Church is a place where you can come when you're dealing with hurt and there is a lot of hurting here. You can come here, not be judged and be a part of something positive and that's what we're trying to do—set up a place where people come and feel like they have a home," he added. And one look at the beautiful new building evidences that what Good Shepherd members and staff are doing is working well.

Good Shepherd's congregation includes members from Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras and more Central American countries. It's Franklin County's only Catholic church. Bresowar said Colbert County has one and Lauderdale County two. "We could use more than one here. We have an influx of migrants who keep coming and most of them come here from Catholic origin," Bresowar said.

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'ELECTION,' From Page 1

District Judge, where Democrat Paula McDowell is not seeking another term.

State candidates must qualify with the Alabama Democratic Party rather than at the county level.

The committee elected the following slate of officers: Vice-Chair Heather Cade, Secretary, Wanda Myrick, Vice President for Seniors, Carol Bolton, Vice President for Young Adults, Brady Petree, Vice President for Minority Affairs, Laura Lopez and District 18 SDEC Members, Rev. Charles Dale and Heather Cade.

The local party has a Facebook page. Those wanting to follow news and updates from the party are invited to search "Franklin County Alabama Democratic Party" on FB.

Committee member Rick Neighbors gave a report on the Shoals Democratic Club meeting he attended where former Sen. Doug Jones was the speaker.

"Senator Jones gave a very inspirational speech. His message and tone was we've got work to do and if we want to change the rules of the world we live in, we must elect new leaders," Neighbors said.

Neighbors also addressed the myriad of issues at the state level within the Democratic Party.

"We know we have a dysfunctional state party but in this Franklin County Democratic Party we have a solid group and we need to build at the state level," Neighbors said.

Outgoing local chairman Eddie Britton said he was stepping down for 'personal reasons he can't elaborate on at this time.' Britton introduced new chairman Trevor Prince, who attended the meeting with his wife Christian and their young daughter.

Britton believes the 24-year-old Prince can bring a fresh perspective to Franklin County, something the Democratic Party desperately needs.

"There are more Democrats in Franklin County than you might think by the way the vote goes. I firmly believe that if we energize voters, particularly those around Trevor's age, we can do this and be successful," Britton said.

Prince said he would send out monthly progress updates to all committee members and he told the group he 'welcomes input and/or criticism' along the way.

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Letter to Editor: Fretwell family says 'Thank You' to community

Dear Editor,

Our family wishes to thank each and every person who showed such tremendous support, sympathy and kindness upon learning of Jase and Jennifer's passing.

We wish to thank our extended family, the Russellville City School System, our Orange Street neighbors, Cherokee Nitrogen, Burns Nursing & Rehab, all friends and relations near and far who showed up, supplied food, donations or just simply prayed for our family.

We could not have asked for a better community upon learning of our tragic loss.

To each and every one of you who have given our family support, we are deeply grateful.

The Fretwell Family
Billy, Bre, Doug & Denise,
Brandon & Jessica Seay

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 **T**he Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers ages 55 and older to help tutor and mentor children in day care, head start and schools. Volunteers will receive a tax-free stipend and travel reimbursement. We have openings for several schools for the coming school year. Please call 256-332-6800 for an application.


 **A**shaKiran serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking across Alabama. Their vision is to be a 'ray of hope' by bridging the gap between service providers and culturally diverse communities. Their 24-hour crisis line number is 1-800-793-3010. Learn more about AshaKiran by visiting www.ashakiranonline.org. Consultations are free and confidential, and available in 45 different languages.


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


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

 **T**ennessee River Bass Club is seeking members for our 23/24 season. Club fishes monthly on Tennessee river and Bear Creek lakes. We welcome boaters or non-boaters 16 or older of all experience levels to join. Club is based in Sheffield. For more information, contact Tommy 256-627-5662.

 **A** Veterans' Appreciation Event will be held at the Hamilton Career Center on Wednesday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. All veterans are invited. Location is 1481 Military Street South, Hamilton, AL., 35570.

 **R**ussellville Masonic Lodge #371 is selling Hams For Thanksgiving. Hams are \$35 each and may be pre-ordered by dialing (256) 810-1970. Pickup is Wednesday November 22nd, between 8-10am at the Lodge on Coffee Avenue.

 **T**he annual Franklin County Veterans Day Parade will be held Saturday, October 11th, at 12 p.m., in downtown Russellville. Local veterans are invited to gather at the Franklin County Courthouse at 11 a.m., to lay flowers for the memorial in front of the courthouse. They will then move to the A.W. Todd Centre at 11:30 a.m., to assemble for the parade. The parade will take its usual route and will include Army trucks, antique cars, motorcycles and more. Any person or organization wanting to participate in the parade should be at the Todd Centre by 11:30 a.m. The parade is sponsored by the American Legion Post 64.

 **S**outheastern Pro Wrestling presents the Thanksgiving Throwdown, a pro wrestling event Saturday, Nov. 4th at the Russellville Recreation Center, 201 Ash Ave. Tickets are \$10. Under 5 free. For tickets call 205-544-5315. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Show time is 7:30 p.m. Scheduled to compete are Dakota Freakin' Riley, "Riot" Jake Andrews, King Roman, Wayward Son Corey Blaze, Lil' Sicko and more!

We love to hear from you! Please send your guest columns, cartoon panels, letters to the editor, recipes and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.



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Russellville Elementary, West Elementary students to host Veterans Day Celebration

*John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press*

Two local elementary schools will host a Veterans Day Celebration on Thursday, November 9th.

Russellville Elementary School and West Elementary School will honor veterans, active duty service men and women, and their families at this special event. They are all invited to attend.

The morning will begin with a Salute to Veterans program at the Russellville High School Auditorium at 8:30 a.m.

A Veterans Parade will follow at 9:30 a.m. The parade route will be the road between the RES and WES parking lots.

The program will include choral performances by RES and WES students, and will feature guest speaker Lt. Col. Norman Lier.

For more information, contact Channing Wright at 256-331-2123.

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Canida attributes power outages to squirrels

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

The cause of two recent power outages for Russellville Electric Board customers was revealed to be Sciuromorpha, better known as the modern squirrel, according to Manager Charles Canida.

At the October 24th meeting of the Russellville Electric Board, Canida said the power outage that occurred earlier that day, along with the one on October 14th that interrupted Alabama Crimson Tide fans' viewing of Bama's game against Arkansas, both resulted from a squirrel climbing on a busbar at the REB Substation on South Jackson Avenue.

"It was on the buss work and there's really no way to make that squirrel-proof," Canida told the board. "At 8:45 this morning, you and everybody are aware we had a squirrel get into the substation across the road here.

"Power was restored approximately nine minutes later. Ironically, the squirrel went into the exact location a squirrel went into 10 days ago on October 14th. The dead squirrel this time was laying in about the same place. It's just crazy," he added.

Canida said there is no way to make the buss work 'squirrel proof,' but REB tree trimmers did clear brush and some smaller trees from the west side of the substation in an effort to deter squirrels from coming to the area.

"If you look at a squirrel's habits and read up on it, mid-fall to late fall is when they move the most, gathering nuts and stuff," Canida said. "Maybe it was going up there to hide a nut somewhere, I don't know. It's just ironic it happened 10 days apart."

Canida also attributed a power outage on East Lawrence Street on October 24th to a squirrel walking on power lines across from Innovative Hearth Products.

"It took power off to the few homes across the street from IHP. I'm not a squirrel fan," Canida said. "They cause most of our outages."

Canida did not address why REB's second substation on Walnut Gate Road did not provide power to city customers when the first substation went out.

Former REB Chairman Darren Woodruff said he was on the board when funding for the second substation was approved. Woodruff said Canida assured the board a second substation would provide uninterrupted power in the event of a problem at the South Jackson Avenue substation, or vice-versa.

"That's exactly what he told us and it was the primary reason I supported building a second \$10 million substation," Woodruff said.

In addition to hearing Canida's squirrel update, the board also heard from Chasity Sweatmon of the Cullman based Fricke & Sweatmon, CPA, who performed the board's annual audit.

"Overall the board had a \$37,000 profit or increase in net assets for last year. The board improved in your financials overall," Sweatmon said.

Although the board's assets increased last year, there was no mention by Canida or board members about lowering electric rates. The board approved a 3.1% increase in rates last year, with Canida citing 'declining revenue' as the reason for the increase.

In other agenda items, the board:

--approved paying a prorated share of a year-end bonus for employees in the Russellville Utilities office. The office staff is jointly employed by the three city utilities.

--voted to make Columbus Day a holiday for all REB employees starting in 2024.

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Real Estate Tips

- By Willodean Davis

Why the holidays are a great time to buy

Willodean Davis
Franklin Free Press

Everyone knows the Holidays are a great time to be with your family, but it is also a great time to snag a deal on a new home.

Home buying trends prove some of the best deals are made at the end of the year. There is one undeniable truth, that real estate inventory is very low. There will be fewer mortgage lenders, realtors, and bankers available at this time of year.

You will need to have a Pre-Qualification letter in hand when you come to look at a house during the holidays. If you find a property, there will be a lot fewer buyers, so you may get a good deal. If someone is selling their home during the holiday season, they may have a serious need like relocation for a job or other personal reasons (we don't know and will not ask).

There is also lower business in November and December, so sometimes banks and mortgage companies have lower rates. This is not a guarantee, but it's possible. A lot of companies want as many deals as possible they can make before the end of the year is over. Investors are looking to buy before the year is out, so it can be a good time to sell property because investors will most of the time have cash money to purchase and are in a hurry to close.

Low inventory in many real estate markets, combined with a trend toward buy-

ers moving long distances means I am selling a lot of property to people from many different areas. To mention a few: Portland OR, Philadelphia PA, Virginia, California, Arizona, etc.

An experienced agent is more essential than ever, as these clients are buying and paying for their new property site unseen. I got to meet some new clients recently that we had worked with long distance. We completed home inspections, title work, repairs, house insurance, and everything we needed to work through, but he loved his 2 new homes, 4 buildings, and 83 acres of Alabama land. I love my job!

In buying property or selling property, bad weather comes to our area in November through February, but zigging when others are zagging could lose you the home of your dreams. Using home buying or selling trends can be a big asset for you.

In buying homes during the holiday season remember:

- 1) Homes are priced to sell.
- 2) Holiday Spirit makes people agreeable.
- 3) Fewer buyers looking.

The most important thing to remember, Christmas is God and family first. Then if the sellers want us to view their home, it will be the sellers who let us see the home. We will respect all parts of buying and selling in the holiday season.

Remember: Do something good for somebody today!

Call me, Willodean Davis, at 256-762-5671.

Tharptown, Russellville High Schools to compete in Saturday's BEST Robotics Game Day competition

Submitted

Northwest Shoals Community College (NWSCC) will host over 200 students from 15 area schools for the 2023 Northwest Alabama BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) Robotics Game Day this Saturday, November 4th, in the Patriot Center (gym) on the Shoals Campus.

Game Day will begin with the team parade and opening ceremonies for fans at 9 a.m., and conclude at approximately 4:15 p.m. with the awards ceremony. It will be free and open to the public.

The BEST Robotics season kicked-off Saturday, September 9th, on the Shoals campus for all area teams. The theme for this year's competition is Incision Decision, which is about robotics-assisted healthcare. Elementary, middle and high school student teams have been working on their robot design & engineering process. The top nine teams will advance to South's BEST Regional Championship at the University of North Alabama on December 1-3, 2023.

In addition to the Robotics game challenge, the students must compile a comprehensive Project Engineering Notebook, and are encouraged to develop an entire "company" around their product. The teams have the option to compete in an oral marketing presentation, to design and build a trade show exhibit, a website, a video commercial for their product, t-shirt designs and more. Many components of the competition are done throughout the week. Saturday will be the finale of the 2023 Northwest Alabama Hub's BEST season. Both the robot performance and team exhibits will be judged on Saturday.

Schools from the FFP readership area participating in the 2023 Northwest Alabama BEST Robotics Game Day include Russellville High School and Tharptown High School.



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Three fourth quarter TDs earn Hatton a win over Red Bay

Michael Rice
 Franklin Free Press

The Red Bay Tigers fell to Class 2A Region 8 opponent Hatton last Friday night 36-24, in the region finale for both teams.

The Hatton Hornets finished 3rd in 2A Region 8 while Red Bay was fourth. That means both teams are playoff bound but will open up with road games.

The Tigers are 5-4 overall and finished 3-3 in region play.

The scoring started with a one-yard touchdown run by Red Bay's Gage Edgmon and a successful two point conversion by Jaxon Vinson. The Tigers led 8-0 early in the second quarter.

The Hornets answered with a touchdown late in the second quarter. The two-point try failed and Red Bay carried a 8-6 lead into halftime.

Hatton had the only score of the third quarter with 4:09 remaining. The two-point try failed but the Hornets had their first lead at 12-8.

Forty seconds into the fourth quarter, Vinson scored a on a 10-yard touchdown run and Holden Inmon got the two point conversion, as the Tigers regained the lead 16-12.

Hatton would score on its next three possessions, though, en route to outscoring Red Bay 24-16 in the final 12 minutes.

The Tigers' final points came from Vinson on a three-yard run and he also ran in the two point try.

Vinson ended the game with two touchdowns and 156 yards rushing on 26 carries.

Edgmon finished 8-21 with an interception. He scored a second quarter touchdown on a one-yard run.

On defense, Keeton Lanphear and Eli Farris each had nine tackles Will West had eight tackles for the Tigers' defense.

The Tigers will face travel to Phil Campbell this Friday, November 3rd in one of the biggest county rivalry games.

REGION CHAMPS! Golden Tigers clinch 5A Region 8 title and hand Fairview its first loss

Michael Rice
 Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Golden Tigers improved to 8-1 last Friday with a resounding region championship clinching win over Fairview, 31-14.

Manny Martinez began the scoring for the Golden Tigers, kicking a 38-yard field goal to make the score 3-0 in the first quarter.

Cam Phinizee found the end zone late in the second quarter for a three-yard touchdown and Martinez kicked the point after to bring the score to 10-0, the same score Russellville took into the locker room at the half.

The Golden Tigers came out after halftime and added another seven points when



PLAYER TO WATCH: MANNY MARTINEZ Junior Kicker Manny Martinez is having another outstanding season. Through nine games, Martinez has made 47-48 extra point tries and is 4-6 on field goals, with a long of 40 yards. Martinez also handles punting duties for the Golden Tigers.

See, 'CHAMPS,' page 13

Playoffs likely for Bobcats after win over Clements

Hayden Moss
 Franklin Free Press

The Phil Campbell Bobcats' won a thriller, 44-36 over Clements High School, on Homecoming night. The win likely clinched a playoff spot for the Bobcats.

It was also a good night for Macey Welborn, who was crowned Phil Campbell's 2023-2024 Homecoming Queen.

Clements got on the board first, scoring on a 10 yard touchdown run, making the score 6-0.

The Bobcats managed to bounce back and score on a five yard run by Hayston Scott, making the score 8-6 after a two-point conversion.

The Colts scored one more time before the half on a six yard touchdown run, regaining the lead to 14-8.

Phil Campbell came out of halftime scoring on a 56-yard touchdown run by Braxton Mayfield, making the score 14-14.

Clements responded by taking the kickoff back 75 yards to lead 22-14.

The Bobcats scored on a one yard touchdown run by Scott, tying the game up at 22-22.

Phil Campbell scored again on a 22-yard touchdown run by Hayden Wingo, with a two-

point conversion to make it 30-22.

The Bobcats' head coach Jacob Hamilton was asked about Wingo's performance over the past couple of weeks.

"I've been very impressed with Wingo. He has really turned it on in the second half of the season. We had started him out at tight end, but figured out we needed to get the ball in his hands more and he's become our go to guy offensively. He's all in, plays hard both ways and has become a major impact player for us. I am very proud of him," Hamilton said.

The Colts next scored on a six yard touchdown run, making the score 30-28.

See, 'BOBCATS,' Page 14

Friday Night High School Football Schedule 11/3

Russellville @ Athens
 Phil Campbell vs Red Bay
 Tharptown @ Whitesburg
 Christian
 Vina @ Waterloo

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'Continued improvement' a theme of Red Bay, Phil Campbell seasons as teams set to clash in regular season finale

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

With both Red Bay and Phil Campbell's varsity football teams heading to the playoffs next week, there's plenty of excitement surrounding the post-season.

But first, the teams have a Friday night date with each other, as the county rivals close out the regular season.

The Bobcats will host Friday's game, with kickoff at 7 p.m. Red Bay is looking to avenge last year's 24-16 loss on the Tigers' home field.

The Tigers have a 5-4 record, while the Bobcats are 4-5. Red Bay finished fourth in Class 2A Region 8 with a 3-3 record and will travel to Tuscaloosa Academy for an opening-round playoff game November 10th.

After a 44-36 win over Clements, Coach Jacob Hamilton's Bobcats are 5-4 and are likely in the fourth playoff spot in 3A Region 8, although a series of tiebreakers will make that official after this Friday's end of the regular season.

Red Bay lost to Hatton 36-24 last week, but it was another solid night for the Tigers' offense, which amassed 367 total yards.

Sophomore running back Jaxon Vinson led the way on the ground with 156 yards on 26 carries, with two touchdowns and two two-point conversions.

Quarterback Gage Edgmon had a touchdown run and threw to Holden Inman for a two-point conversion.

Defensively, Red Bay held the Hornets to only 82 rushing yards but the Tigers' secondary gave up 235 yards and two touchdowns. The Tigers were also penalized an eye-popping 12 times for 110 yards in the loss.

Coach Heath Childers said his team won't have any problem getting motivated this week for Phil Campbell even with a playoff game looming next Friday.

"We don't have any trouble getting the kids ready to play this game, just like Phil Campbell's kids feel the same way," Childers said. "It's an in-county rivalry and we've played each other for a really long time. Both teams are excited and will be ready to play Friday night."

Childers' review of Phil Campbell game film shows a team he says is well coached and plays hard every snap.

"First and foremost, Phil Campbell is a well coached team. The coaches over there do a good job coaching their kids up," Childers said. "The main thing that pops out in film is how hard their kids play. They play hard, they're hustling and they get after it every play. That's what you notice first is how hard they're playing and that's a credit to their coaches and players."

While Red Bay is viewed as a ground-oriented offense, Childers said his team's biggest offensive performances included some big passing plays as well.

"We're a little more balanced than we've been in the past. The real explosive games we've had, we did a great job of taking advantage of what they gave us in the passing game," Childers said.

"That's when you see us putting up a ton of points. It's always good to see, but we do need to be more consistent with the passing game and do a better job of taking what our opponents give us," he added.

Against Clements last Friday, it was the Hayden Wingo Show for the Bobcats.

The junior accounted for nearly 200 yards, including two touchdown runs of 22 and 53 yards. He also hauled in a 61-yard touchdown pass from Hayston Scott. Wingo finished with 100 rushing yards on nine carries and 96 receiving yards on only two catches.

Braxton Mayfield had a big night as well. He ran for 110 yards and a

touchdown on seven rushes. Scott went 3-3 with 124 yards through the air against the Colts.

In his first season as the Bobcats' head coach, Hamilton said his team has battled adversity and steadily improved, both of which contributed to its playoff appearance next week.

"It's been a roller coaster of a season with highs and lows, but we've kept our heads down and taken it one game at a time and continued to just work on ourselves," Hamilton said.

"We constantly preach about getting better every single week through practice and games and our kids have done just that. I'm proud of our guys for continuing to fight and improving each and every week," he added.

Childers, in his third season as Red Bay head coach, said he's much more grounded than when he began his tenure leading the Tiger football program.

"Definitely. I've got my feet under me and all that good stuff now. It takes time to settle into a routine, get to know your players and for them to know what you expect of them," Childers said.

"Our kids have worked hard. We definitely feel like we should be better than 5-4 now, but it is what it is. We felt like we let a couple games get away from us we should have won, but you can't do anything about that now. So we're focused on getting better today and getting ready to play a pretty good Phil Campbell team," he added.

With realignment coming next season for the Alabama High School Athletic Association, new football schedules must be made based on who a team shares a region with.

Childers said he hopes to see the Red Bay-Phil Campbell game continued into 2024 and 2025.

"It should be in my opinion. But you just never know how your region is going to shake out and what weeks are open. You could be in a six-team or a nine-team region. But (rescheduling Phil Campbell) is definitely something we'll be looking at. It's a rivalry game and it's popular with the fans," Childers said.



RBN PHOTO/BRIDGET BERRY!

Jaxon Vinson leaves the pack behind en route to a touchdown against Sheffield.

Red Bay Tigers

5-4 Overall

Hamilton - W - 56-27

Lexington - L - 33-22

Sheffield - W - 50-6

Belmont - W - 14-6

Hackleburg - L - 28-14

Tharptown - W - 52-24

Falkville - W - 44-22

Tanner - L - 46-14

Hatton - L - 36-24

Phil Campbell Bobcats

4-5 Overall

Hackleburg - W - 22-20

Lamar County - L - 42-6

Elkmont - L - 44-22

Colbert County - L - 27-6

Carbon Hill - W - 52-13

Lauderdale County - L - 46-0

Mars Hill - L - 62-6

Colbert Heights - W - 32-27

Clements - W - 44-36

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'CHAMPS,' From Page 11

Bralynn Vincent caught a 22-yard touchdown pass from Harrison Burch to make it 17-0.

Fairview connected on a 32-yard touchdown pass to make the score 17-7 at the end of the third.

In the fourth quarter, Phinizee found the end zone two more times, from six and seven yards, to give the Golden Tigers a commanding 31-7 lead.

Fairview scored its last touchdown on a nine-yard TD pass to close out the scoring at 31-14.

The Golden Tigers racked up 380 total yards on the night.

Phinizee accounted for 189 of those yards with 34 carries and three touchdowns. Although Fairview kept Phinizee from breaking a long run, he still averaged more than five yards a carry. Malachi Duncan had the biggest gain for Russellville with a 57-yard run.

Burch went 7-18 with 124 yards and one touchdown.

Michael Scofield had a big night with 110 yards on six receptions.

The Golden Tigers finished 5A Region 8 play with a perfect 6-0 record. Fairview came into Friday's game undefeated on the season and in Region 8, but will host a playoff game as the region runner-up.

The Golden Tigers will travel to Athens this Friday, November 3rd, in a traditional rivalry game that was brought back last year. Russellville will look for redemption after a 32-31 home loss in 2022.

The Golden Tigers will host Fairfield Friday, November 10th in the opening round of the 5A playoffs.

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'BOBCATS,' From Page 11

The Bobcats responded with a 53-yard touchdown run by Wingo, making the score 36-28.

Clements went on a scoring drive that tied the game 36-36 on a one-yard touchdown run.

Phil Campbell scored one last time on a 61-yard pass from Scott to Wingo, making the final score 44-36.

Hamilton was asked about making his first playoff appearance.

"It's an awesome feeling. They'll make it official after week 10 but looking through the tie breaker rules and talking to my connections I don't really see how we wouldn't get that 4 spot," Hamilton said. "It's been a roller coaster of a season with highs and lows but we've kept our heads down, taken it one game at a time, and continued to just work on ourselves. We always preach to get better every single week and we have done just that. I knew if we continued to work on our goal of playoffs that when the time would come we could rise to the challenge. I am so proud of our guys for continuing to fight through adversity and improving each and every week. It's a great time to be a Bobcat, and it's only going to get better!"

Wingo had nearly 200 total yards of offense leading all players. Phil Campbell will host Red Bay this Friday with kickoff set for 7 p.m.

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