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## Absentee voting underway for March 5th primary elections

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

Absentee voting is underway for the March 5, 2024, Alabama primary election. Voters who qualify to cast an absentee ballot may vote in person at the Franklin County Courthouse during normal business hours of 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. While Franklin County Circuit Clerk Anita Scott would ordinarily serve as absentee election manager, Scott decided last year to look for some-

one else to handle absentees this election cycle since her son Derrick Scott was going to be a candidate for Circuit Clerk. Although Derrick Scott faces no opposition in the Republican Primary, Scott said Brente Jeffreys would serve as Absentee Election Manager for the March 5th primary. Absentee voting in Alabama may be done one of two ways. First, the voter may cast his or her ballot in person at the Franklin County Courthouse. After completing the application and attesting to one of

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## Commission hires architect to work on plans for new animal shelter

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission was expected Tuesday to take a big step forward in the process of constructing a new animal shelter for the county. The January 16, 2024, agenda included consideration of hiring Florence architect Robert W. Whitten to work with county officials to design a new animal shelter for Franklin County. For the past several years, animal rescue advocates and groups have called on the Franklin County Commission to approve plans to construct a new shelter. While this

move is preliminary, it's the first significant step by the commission in the process of designing, approving and construction a shelter. Preliminary plans call for the shelter to be built next to the Franklin County Jail off Walnut Gate Road. Franklin County Probate Judge Barry Moore said he and commissioners asked Franklin County Engineer Jason Baggett to talk with multiple architects to see if they have experience designing animal shelters and/or similar buildings, and to obtain fee quotes from them. "Caleb (Sherrill, Franklin County Assistant Engineer) and I have worked on some preliminary plans and we met with architects looking


See 'SHELTER,' Page 4

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 Franklin County  
 Commissioner,  
 District 1

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**Deborah Louise Hargett Waldrep, 55, of  
Russellville, passed away on Friday,  
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# 'ELECTIONS,' From Page 1

the qualifying reasons to vote absentee, the voter will be given a ballot to cast in a private booth in the courthouse. The second method is to send in an application for an absentee ballot by mail. The application must include a copy of the person's photo identification, front only.

Alabama law provides nine reasons that allow a citizen to vote absentee. They include:

- the voter expects to be out of the county or state on election day.
- the voter is physically incapacitated and will not be able to vote in person on election day.
- the voter is physically incapacitated and will not be able to vote in person on election and is unable to access his or her assigned polling place due to a neurological, musculoskeletal, respiratory, cardiovascular, or other life-altering disorder that affects his or her ability to perform manual tasks, stand for any length of time, walk unassisted, see, hear or speak and is 65 or older or a voter with a disability.
- the voter expects to work a required workplace shift which has at least 10 hours which coincide with the polling hours.
- the voter is a student at an educational institution outside the county of his or her permanent residence and is therefore unable to vote at his or her usual polling place.
- the voter is a member of, or spouse or dependent of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.
- the voter has been appointed as an election officer at a polling place which is not his or her regular polling place.
- the voter is a caregiver for a family member to the second degree of kinship by affinity or consanguinity and the family member is confined to his or her home.
- the voter is currently incarcerated in prison or jail and has not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude.

In 2020 and 2022, absentee voting requirements were relaxed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but voters wanting to vote absentee for the upcoming primary election must meet one of the above conditions.

The last day to vote in person at the Franklin County Circuit Clerk's office in the Franklin County Courthouse is Thursday, February 29th. The last day

to mail out ballots to voters is Tuesday, February 27th. Ballots may be returned in person until close of business on Monday, March 4th and/or must be received by mail no later than 12 p.m., on election day.

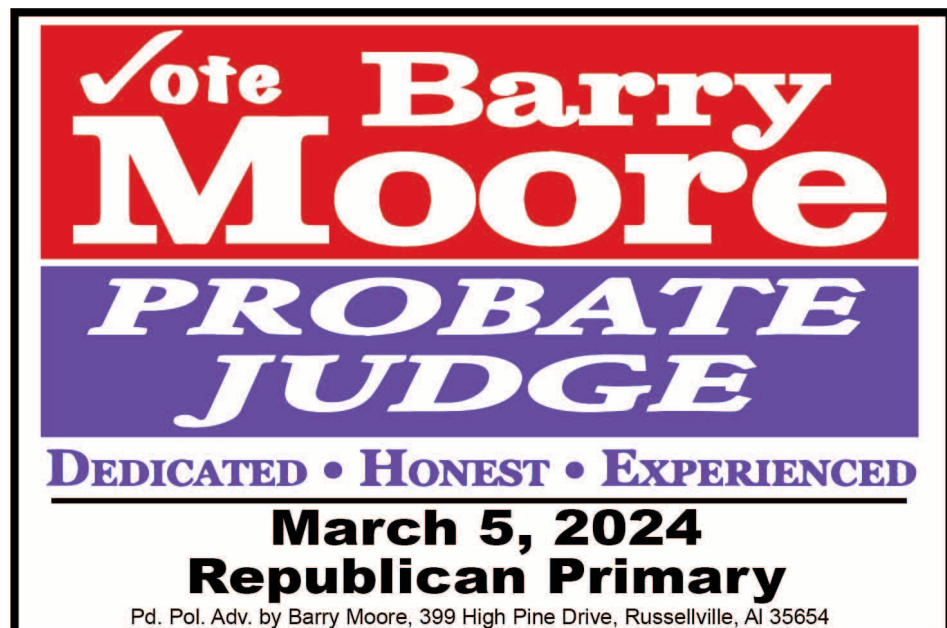
All applications must be mailed in a separate envelope, even in the case of spouses both applying for absentee ballots.

Ballots must be returned in person only from the actual voter other than in an emergency situation.

Voters with questions or concerns about absentee voting should call the Franklin County Absentee Line at 256-815-0169.

Voters will request either a Republican, Democratic or Amendment Only ballot.

Alabama voters will decide on one Constitutional amendment on March 5th



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**March 5, 2024 Republican Primary**  
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## Franklin Free Press

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# 'SHELTER,' From Page 1

for information on what we need to design and construct an animal shelter," Baggett told commissioners at their January 8th work session.

"(Whitten) is available to get on this relatively quick and his fee schedule will go by the Building Commission rates, somewhere between 6.9-7% of the cost of the building," he added.

Because this would be a contract for professional services, Alabama law does not require the work to be bid out.

Based on his experience, availability and familiarity with the design of buildings of this type, Baggett recommended Whitten to the commission.

"We asked Jason to do some research on this and we'll vote on his recommendation for an architect," Moore said. "This project will be paid for by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds."

District Four Commissioner David Hester said the goal is to have a workable, no-frills animal shelter that meets the county's needs.

"We're looking at some basic plans for what we need but it will be nice when it's complete," Hester said. "And we have a convenient location to build it near the jail."

Franklin County Animal Control Officer Joey Wingo is working with Baggett and the commission to gather information on what must go into a newly-constructed animal shelter. Wingo has visited shelters in Colbert, Lauderdale, Marion and Fayette Counties as part of that process.

"We're just getting ideas for things they like and dislike in their shelters," Wingo said. "Lauderdale County has really been helping us, as has Colbert County and Fayette County. What we want is similar to Fayette County, but would be larger. We've talked about this for a while. The facility we have is a lot older and was built in a hurry so it needs replacing."

Preliminary plans include a shelter with 20-25 indoor/outdoor kennels with each capable of housing multiple dogs, Wingo said.

"Of course this will depend on the bid process and the cost," Wingo said. "But I'd really like to see indoor/outdoor kennels so if you do have multiple dogs you could split it off if needed to have more kennel space."

"There are a lot of state regulations to comply with before we can even start building a facility. We continue to try and place the dogs we pick up, if possible, with rescue groups in our area. We try to get to them before they bring a dog to us," he added.

## Russellville Middle School ranked 109 of Alabama's 416 middle/elementary schools

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Russellville Middle School was recently ranked in the top 110 among Alabama's 416 middle and elementary schools by U.S. News & World Report's 2024 Best Middle School rankings.

RMS Principal Tony Bonds said the ranking is the result of a team effort that extends beyond the school walls.

"Being recognized among the best middle schools in Alabama by U.S. News & World Report is a huge accomplishment for our faculty, staff, students, system and community," Bonds said. "We have worked hard over the years to raise the standard for our students. This recognition validates our efforts to raise the standard of expectation for our students and their academic success. I am extremely proud of our teachers, staff and students at Russellville Middle School. We have truly embraced #theGOLDstandard!"

The rankings focus on state assessments of students who were proficient or above proficient in mathematics and reading/language arts

See 'RMS,' Page 5

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## 'RMS,' From Page 4

while accounting for student backgrounds, achievement in core subjects and how well schools are educating their students. Student-teacher ratios apply in cases of ties.

Russellville Middle School has 551 students, with 17% of students scoring at or above the proficient level for math and 43% at or above that level for reading. The reading proficiency rank is 222 of 416 schools and math proficiency is 137 of 416, according to U.S. News & World Report.

RMS' student-teacher ratio is 22:1. And the school's minority student enrollment is 71%. That includes 59.9% Hispanic/Latino, 29.2% White, 7.4% Black/African American, 2.4% Two or more races and 0.5% Asian/Pacific Islander and 0.5% American Indian.

23% of RMS students come from economically disadvantaged homes according to the report.

With 25 full time teachers and 100% of them certified, the school's experienced faculty includes 84% of teachers having more than three years' experience.

To learn how Russellville Middle School compares to other schools and more information on how the rankings are calculated, visit [www.USNews.com](http://www.USNews.com).

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

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## Heath Ayers Franklin County Commissioner District 2 In The March 5, 2024 Republican Primary "Thanks for Your Vote!"

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**Constitutional Amendment would allow fast-tracking of local bills, amendments**

*John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press*

When Alabama voters go to the polls for the March 5, 2024, primary elections, they will also vote on one constitutional amendment.

Amendment One will appear on all ballots, regardless of whether the voter casts a ballot in the Republican or Democratic Primary.

The language of Amendment One reads as follows: Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama 2022, to amend Section 71.01 authorizing the Legislature to sign and transmit local laws or constitutional amendments before the transmission of basic appropriations.

Section 71.01 of the Alabama Constitution prohibits any bill or law from being considered by the House of Representatives or Senate before budgets are approved by the Legislature and sent to the Governor, unless an additional vote is approved by the House and Senate of at least a three-fifths (3/5ths) vote.

Essentially, the Constitution requires the Legislature to pass a budget and send it the governor for signature before it can consider any other legislation.

If voters approve Amendment One, the Legislature may vote on and approve local laws or local Constitutional amendments even before the budget is approved.

Local laws are those which are not classified as general, special or private laws. While general laws apply to the entire state, a local law only impacts the residents of a particular county or counties.

The same is true for a local Constitutional Amendment. An example of a local Constitutional Amendment for Franklin County came in 2018 when voters were asked to consider extending the county's one-cent sales tax (with 75% going to the two school systems in Franklin County and 25% to the Franklin County Commission for road and bridge improvements) for a 30-year period.

Previously the one-cent tax was considered by Franklin County voters every two years.

Under the 2024 amendment, the Legislature could approve local legislation and clear the way for local amendments to be placed on the November general election ballot.

The Legislature has frequently used the three-fifths rule to usher through bills before approval of a budget, a procedural step called the Budget Isolation Reduction.


Why a Constitutional amendment is needed is something advocates of Amendment One must explain to voters. Count the Association of County Commissions of Alabama Executive Director Sonny Brasfield as one who supports the amendment.


"Local legislation is designed to deal with a problem in a particular county that's different from problems in neighboring counties. We think legislators ought to be able to bring those bills at any time and not be restricted by this budget isolation vote," Brasfield told a Birmingham television station last week.


Whether Alabama voters agree remains to be seen.


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 **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.


 **T**he Frog Pond Volunteer Fire Department is holding a fund raiser Gun Raffle with proceeds going to benefit the Frog Pond VFD. Tickets are \$10 or \$25 for 3 and may be purchased through Cash App or PayPal. Call 256-263-0825 for more information. One AR-15 and one Glock 19 Gen 5 will be given away. 16" AR-15 5.56/223 with 15" MHR. And Glock 19 Gen 5 9mm. Drawing will be held at the Fire Department on February 23, 2024, at 6 p.m.

 **M**Y FATHER'S HOUSE MINISTRIES, RUSSELLVILLE, AL, 104 E. Lawrence St., Pastor Pearl Shelton, would like to invite you to our weekly Prayer Meeting every Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. Come join us as we pray together in unity and power! Anyone needing prayer please be sure to join us! Everyone is welcome!

 **N**ew Ground will be in concert at North Russellville Baptist Church on Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited. A love offering will be taken up. Church is located at 1401 Waterloo Road.

 **C**ommunity Action Partnership of North Alabama is now taking applications for Head Start and Early Head Start. Give your child a head start on kindergarten readiness. No-cost services for eligible families in a classroom setting, programs for children ages birth through four years old, priority points for children in specific need categories and prenatal services for pregnant women teens. Call 256-331-0162 for an appointment today.

 **S**outheastern Pro Wrestling returns to the Russellville Recreation Center on Saturday, January 20! Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and show time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10, with 5 and under free. Call ahead for advance tickets at 205-544-5315. Scheduled to compete include: Sadisto, the Mississippi Kingpin Holly Hood, Dangerous David Cox, Lil' Sicko and more. Card subject to change.

 **Y**ou are invited to Revival at Gateway Church of God, 15988 Hwy 43, Russellville, AL. Evangelist: Garrett Marchant. January 28th - January 31st. Sunday Morning @ 10:30, Sunday Evening @ 5:00, Monday - Wednesday @ 7:00. If you have any questions, please call 256-627-7935.

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# How to convince someone to get help for their mental health

Stan Popovich  
Franklin Free Press

There are many reasons why some people are reluctant to get help for their mental health or addiction issues.

In addition, many people are not sure what to do when encouraging someone to get the help they need for their mental health.

As a result, here are seven suggestions on how to convince a person struggling to get some assistance.

1. Talk to the person instead of talking at them: Nobody wants to be lectured or yelled at. The

person who is struggling is scared and they need help in overcoming their fears and resistance to getting some guidance. Treat others the way you would want to be treated if the roles were reversed.

2. Find out why the person won't get help: Ask the individual who is struggling the reasons why they are reluctant to get some assistance. Although most people may not admit it, a sense of fear of the unknown and/or some kind of frustration are usually the main factors. It might

take a few tries, however, try to find out what is stopping your friend from getting treatment.

3. Address the reasons why the individual won't get help: Once you get the reasons why he or she won't get some help, the next step is to find the ways to address those factors that are preventing the individual from getting assistance. Addressing one's fears and concerns may convince them to take some action that will get their life back on track.

4. Get some advice from a professional: Talk to your doctor or a mental health counselor for recommendations on how you can help someone

who is struggling. A medical professional in the mental health field will be able to give you some ideas and options that you can use to help convince someone you know to get some help.

5. Find someone who understands: Try to find someone who used to

struggle with their mental health for their advice. For example, a person who used drugs and alcohol in the past could use their past experiences and insights to convince the individual to seek treatment.

A person who used to struggle with addiction or their mental health may be better able to relate to the person who is struggling.

6. Get them to attend a support group: Another way to convince someone to get help is to get them to go to a mental health support group. This may or may not work depending on the individual, but it is still worth a try. A person who goes to a support group can at least listen to those who are also struggling, which may convince the person to get some assistance.

7. Be persistent: Continue to be persistent with your loved ones in getting them the help they need. Keep in contact with your doctor and any mental health counselor on your progress. If things do not improve, continue to find other alternatives in getting the person some help.

## BIOGRAPHY

Stan is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers a variety of techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, please visit Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com>.



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# ‘Too much too fast’ a recipe for trouble in new year’s fitness programs

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

Evonne Freemon has seen it too many times.

As the owner of Freemon's Fitness, Freemon sees a surge of new members each January. While some become dedicated, long-time customers, many come and go within a few months, or weeks.

There are multiple reasons so many people start the year resolved to get in shape, but never see those resolutions come to fruition.

And Freemon knows which one is at the top of the list.

“Don't overdo it,” Freemon said. “Otherwise you won't keep coming back and you won't want to commit. You don't want to get so sore you lose it. Ease into a new fitness program.

“If you've never worked out, take time to get used to the machines and get your body used to working out before you just jump in there,” she added.

Freemon and her husband Randy opened their gym 21 years ago. Freemon's is located at 24465 Highway 24 West in Russellville, next to Freemon's Marine, Randy's business.

According to [www.thesummitfit.com](http://www.thesummitfit.com), the top five reasons Americans don't stick with an exercise program are: Lack of time, unrealistic expectations, motivation, fear of pain and poor exercise environment.

Freemon's members enjoy 24-hour access to the gym and tanning facilities, so that helps with any concerns about lack of time to exercise. You come when it's convenient, day or night.

And Freemon's members can work out in a clean, friendly environment where you don't have to worry about exercising in a crowded or intimidating facility.

Freemon can help you set realistic fitness goals. This is important because setting unattainable goals is a recipe for failure and frustration.

For new members who may be starting a fitness program for the first time, Freemon's offer a beginner's schedule for a three-per-week workout plan. All machines are numbered, so it makes it easy for a beginner to navigate through the gym and find the right machines.

“We have a lot of people who've never really worked out so this helps them get started and they can adjust to do something different later,” Freemon said. “We also have a personal trainer available for hire but this schedule is for those who don't want to hire someone.”

Freemon's will soon have several new exercise machines, including three ellipticals and a recumbent bike.

Freemon's memberships include free tanning, private showers, staffed hours along with 24-hour key access and a Fitness On Demand room.

Freemon's kept the same membership costs for 2024 as it had for 2023. Memberships are available for singles, couples, families and students, with six-month and 12-month contracts with no joining fee. All 12-month memberships include a free additional 13th month.

Freemon keeps office hours on Monday and Friday until 6 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday until 7 p.m.

Rickey Smith, owner of Personal Touch Fitness in Russellville, works with clients who want a professional trainer to help them begin and maintain a fitness program. You can learn more about his business by calling Smith at 256-668-2844.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net).



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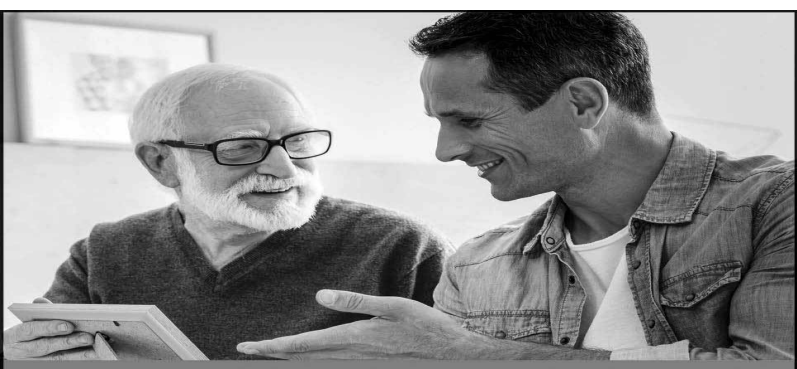
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## Lady Golden Tigers split pair of area games

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville girls varsity basketball team moved to 2-1 in area play after a 58-52 road win January 9th at Brewer High School.

Brewer led 12-6 after the first quarter, but the Lady Golden Tigers used an 18-9 advantage in the next eight minutes to take a 24-21 lead into halftime.

Brewer regained the lead after three, at 39-38, but Russellville outscored the Patriots 20-13 in the decisive fourth quarter.

Ella Copeland and Jacey Moore took high-point honors out of the seven Lady Golden Tigers who scored with 15 points apiece. Laila Hill added 10, Avery Watts 8, Jemma Moore 6, Alexia Groce 3 and Desiree Medina had one point.

On Friday, Coach Jermaine Groce's team hosted Lawrence County, looking to even its record at 9-9, but the Lady Red Devils went home with a 59-44 win, as Russellville fell to 8-10, 2-2 in area play.

Lawrence County held a one-point lead, 11-10, after the first quarter. But a 20-8 second quarter put the Lady Golden Tigers in a hole they could not dig out of.

Copeland led Russellville with 24 points. Jacey Moore had nine, Watts and Jemma

See, 'AREA,' Page 12

## Golden Tigers boys varsity now 4-0 in Area 15 play

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Golden Tigers varsity boys basketball team improved to 4-0 in 5A Area 15 play after sweeping Brewer and Lawrence County last week.

Coach Patrick Odom's team defeated Brewer 77-64 Tuesday night, led by EJ King's 32 points.

The high-scoring Golden Tigers have not lost this season when reaching the 70-point mark, something they did Tuesday at Brewer. And Brewer's offense kept pace for much of the evening.

"I think they shot better than they have all year, but when you go on the road in area, it's going to be a tough game," Odom said. "We played a great

fourth quarter and that's how you finish—like a championship team and that's what we

See, 'GOLDEN TIGERS,' page 15



Patrick Odom

## Red Bay boys, Belgreen girls capture varsity county tournament titles

Michael Rice  
Franklin Free Press

Last weekend, five teams took home Franklin County Tournament basketball championships.

The Red Bay Tigers and the Belgreen Bulldogs divided the titles between the two schools in each level.

The Red Bay varsity boys won their second consecutive championship with a 46-27 win over the Belgreen Bulldogs.

"We had a lot of expectations for this group since we got everybody back this year. It's a big deal to win the Franklin County Championship. Our guys had been excited for this tournament all year and we knew Belgreen would play us close in the finals even though they were undermanned. They tried to hold the ball on us and slow the game down," head Red Bay Tigers coach John Torisky said.

Although the Bulldogs tried to slow the Tigers down, Lawson Glover, Cody Carnes and Gage Edgmon scored 11 points each.

"Our guys fought through it and in the second half we hit some big shots that stretched it away," Torisky said.

Red Bay will face Sulligent this Friday night to round out its area play.

The Belgreen Varsity Girls won their first FCT championship since 2010 with a 51-34 win over the Phil Campbell Bobcats.

Makenna Fisher was the leading scorer with 19 points and Dacota Green scored 15.

The Red Bay junior varsity boys defeated the Phil Campbell Bobcats 49-38 in the FCT championship.

The Tigers spread the scoring around with Jeremy Thorn scoring 13, Cameron Woodruff scoring 10 and Jaxon Swann scoring 9.

The Belgreen junior varsity girls won in their championship game 38-18 over the Vina Red Devils.

Lily Green and Jaqueline Alban scored 10 points each.

The 9th grade Belgreen boys team defeated East Franklin 26-19 in the championship.

See, 'TOURNAMENT,' Page 13

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## 'AREA,' From Page 11

Jacey Moore had nine, Watts and Jemma Moore 3 each and Hill two. Russellville was set to host Red Bay Monday but the status of that game was unknown with the risk of severe winter weather in the forecast.

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#### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Franklin County Commission is accepting applications for the following position(s):

Roadway Maintenance Technician I, Franklin County Highway Department

Equipment Maintenance Technician II, Franklin County Highway Department

Corrections Officer/Dispatcher, Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until 5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 31, 2024.

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, by calling (256) 332-8850 or applications are available at [www.franklincountyal.org](http://www.franklincountyal.org) under the Careers tab.

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# 'TOURNAMENT,' From Page 11

"The guys worked hard all year. We didn't play too many games, but my guys came prepared," head 9th grade boys coach Will Bonner said. Jake Dill scored 16 for the Bulldogs in their championship win. "All of our guys contributed. We've got about six guys that do all they can when they're on the court," Bonner said.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to check us out on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!



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### REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

**Knowledge of:** the city buildings and street system of Russellville; city, state and federal laws; court procedures; department rules, regulations and procedures; maintenance and use of weapons; radio codes, surveillance equipment and legal procedures involved with illegal drug cases.

**Ability to:** operate a motor vehicle; read; safely fire a weapon; communicate on telephone and radio; generate written documents such as reports and tickets; bend, crouch; stretch; stretch; walk; run; respond to emergency situations on short notice when off-duty; and do the essential functions of the job as directed in this description. **Willingness to:** work overtime, irregular hours, weekends and holidays; travel and attend seminars and workshops.

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Possess the ability to obtain an Alabama Police Academy diploma or its equivalent

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## 'GOLDEN TIGERS,' From Page 11

needed to do.

"Jah (Williams) had a great game tonight. With Bralynn (Vincent) out, we adjusted a little bit and we need guys to step up and that's what he did tonight. Any time you lose a guy like Bralynn who's started that many games for us, it's a blow. But we're glad to get this one in the books," Odom added.

On Friday, Russellville hosted Lawrence County with a chance to improve to 4-0 in Area 15 play. The Golden Tigers didn't squander that opportunity, as Russellville won in blowout fashion, 97-51, to improve to 11-5 overall.

King tied a season high with 35 points. Gavin Hyde had 20 and Malachi Duncan added 14 for the Golden Tigers.

Russellville has two Area 15 games remaining, Friday, January 19th when it hosts West Point and a road game at Lawrence County on January 26th.

The team's games scheduled for Monday and Tuesday of this week were canceled due to winter weather. They were scheduled to play Red Bay and Haleyville.

Odom knows his team will see the best from his two remaining area opponents.

"Everyone knows what type of games we'll see. We'll get their best games. Everyone knows the area goes through us. We're not afraid to talk about that but we're prepared for it as well," Odom said.

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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