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Alabama gambling bill would allow for up to 10 casinos, lottery and sports wagering

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

Although details of the Alabama Legislature's proposed gambling bill have been released, subject to committee changes, the position of Franklin County legislative delegation hasn't changed. When it comes to legalizing a lottery and casinos in Alabama, they remain a hard 'no.'

In its current state, the bill, sponsored by Rep. Andy Whitt, would allow for a state lottery, sports wagering and up to 10 casinos across Alabama. Whitt's bill is expected to be presented to a House committee this week, where some changes and modification are expected. For Sen. Larry Stutts, he remains opposed to the legislation, and Stutts believes there's a good chance the

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Alabama State Republican Committee readies for March 5th primary with overwhelming endorsement of Trump

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

One year ago, Florida governor Ron DeSantis was the featured speaker at the Alabama Republican Party's winter meeting. At the time, DeSantis easily won a straw poll over other candidates, including former President Donald Trump. What a difference a year makes. The 500-member strong Alabama GOP held its winter meeting February 9-10 in Birmingham and overwhelmingly voted to endorse Trump, an unusual move for the

state party to make prior to the Republican Primary, set for March 5, 2024. But members of the state Republican committee, including Franklin County Commissioner Jason Miller, wanted to make a statement, especially with multiple prosecutions and lawsuits filed against Trump. "The American public has seen what President Trump is going through and how it's politically motivated in nature," Miller said. "And he's having to go through a case dealing with classified documents when nothing is being done against

See 'PRIMARY,' Page 9

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March 5, 2024
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**Dana Maria Ferrera Burns, age 68, of
Russellville, passed away on Friday,
February 09, 2024. Spry Memorial
Chapel assisted the family.**

**Johnny Raymond McBrayer age 64
of Spruce Pine, Alabama passed
away Friday, February 9, 2024. Akins
Funeral Home assisted the family.**

**Larry William Tucker, passed away
February 7, 2024. Pinkard Funeral
Home assisted the family.**

**James William Jack Masterson, age
85, of Russellville, passed away on
Wednesday, February 07, 2024.
Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the
family.**

**Micheal Ralph Harrison, age 57, of
Russellville, passed away on
Wednesday, February 07, 2024.
Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the
family.**

North Alabama Medical Center receives ACC Chest Pain accreditation

Submitted

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) has recognized North Alabama Shoals Hospital for its demonstrated expertise and commitment in treating patients with chest pain. The hospital was recently awarded Chest Pain Center Accreditation based on rigorous onsite evaluation of the staff's ability to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack.

Hospitals that have earned ACC Chest Pain Center Accreditation have proven exceptional competency in treating patients with heart attack symptoms. They have streamlined their systems from admission to evaluation to diagnosis and treatment all the way through to appropriate post-discharge care and recommendations and assistance in patient lifestyle changes.

"North Alabama Shoals Hospital is proud to be recognized again by the American College of Cardiology for having a dedicated team of professionals in heart care," said North Alabama Shoals Hospital COO Doug Holzbog. "We strive to provide our heart patients with the best care available, and this designation shows our commitment to the community. We will continue to advance in heart care and provide the most up-to-date services to our heart patients."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 730,000 Americans suffer a heart attack each year. The most common symptom of a heart attack for both men and women is chest pain or discomfort. However, women are more likely to have atypical symptoms. Other heart attack symptoms include, but are not limited to, tingling or discomfort in one or both arms, back, shoulder, neck or jaw, shortness of breath, cold sweat, unusual tiredness,

heartburn-like feeling, nausea or vomiting, sudden dizziness and fainting.

"North Alabama Shoals Hospital has demonstrated its commitment to providing the surrounding counties with excellent heart care," said Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH, FACC, chair of the ACC Accreditation Management Board. "ACC Accreditation Services is proud to award NASH with Chest Pain Center Accreditation."

Hospitals receiving Chest Pain Center Accreditation from the ACC must take part in a multi-faceted clinical process that involves: completing a gap analysis; examining variances of care, developing an action plan; a rigorous onsite review; and monitoring for sustained success. Improved methods and strategies of caring for patients include streamlining processes, implementing of guidelines and standards, and adopting best practices in the care of patients experiencing the signs and symptoms of a heart attack. Facilities that achieve accreditation meet or exceed an array of stringent criteria and have organized a team of doctors, nurses, clinicians, and other administrative staff that earnestly support the efforts leading to better patient education and improved patient outcomes.

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

Franklin Free Press

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The Franklin Free Press strives for excellence and accuracy, and we will be pleased to correct any error in our newspaper. To request a correction or clarification, call or e-mail our office.

Letters to the editor

The Franklin Free Press is published by hometown people, for hometown people. We urge contributions of all kinds, including guest columns, picture submissions, cartoons or letters to the editor. Send any letters to our office via U.S. Postal Service or e-mail, and we will gladly publish them. Letters must be signed and contain the hometown and phone number of the author. The Franklin Free Press reserves the right to edit letters for style, length and content.

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'GAMBLING,' From Page 1

bill may not pass the House due to so many competing interests at work.

"The legislative plan is that the House will deal with it first and it will probably be later in the session before we in the Senate deal with it, if they even come up with something they can pass.

"There are so many competing interests as to what level of gaming you're talking about," Stutts said.

Those competing interests reared their heads last weekend.

The preliminary legislation calls for up to 10 casinos that include some to be operated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Non-Indian owned casino locations would be limited to counties that already have existing dog tracks or licensed bingo halls. Within those counties, though, there is nothing in the bill that prioritizes giving the current track owners or the Poarch Indians, who have agreements in place to open casinos in Mobile County and a location in northeast Alabama.

There is no shortage of hands in the cookie jar when it comes to the state's gambling legislation. Track owners, the Poarch Indians, anti-gambling organizations like the Alabama Farmers Federation and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians all have their own agendas and supporters. Whether those competing interests can come together through the give and take of negotiations remains to be seen.

Regardless of the content of the bill's final draft, Kiel remains an opponent to any gambling expansion legislation.

"The troubling thing about expanding gambling beyond a lottery is it puts casinos in more communities," Kiel said. "To me, the focus should really be on stopping the illegal gambling rather than legalizing it."

If approved, Alabama's gambling future would be in the hands of voters, who would decide through a Constitutional amendment whether to go forward.

Whitt believes the people of this state have that right to decide. And he attributes concerns and uncertainty about portions of the legislation as attempts to 'muddy the waters' by confusing legislators as well as voters about what the bill actually contains.

But Stutts said his opposition isn't based on confusion.

"The gambling interests have fought among themselves for years, saying we want this or that," Stutts said. We want three casinos, we want five casinos.

"There's so much infighting it may never get to the point of a unified bill that could move forward," Stutts added.



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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.


 **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!

 **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.

 **B**lue Springs Volunteer Fire Department will host a Franklin County Candidate Bean Supper on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 12-4 p.m., at the fire department located at 3001 Hwy. 75, Phil Campbell. \$5 per plate includes beans, cornbread, onion and drink. Plates served at 12 p.m. Cake auction at 1 p.m., Candidate speeches to follow auction.

 **T**he Cowboy Church of Franklin County will host a Ladies Conference with speaker Katrina Coffman on Friday, March 8th at 6 p.m. This year's theme is "Showers of Blessings." Music and meal provided. The Cowboy Church is located at 25100 Hwy. 24, Russellville. Everyone is welcome.

 **C**owboy Church of Franklin County will host its annual Egg Rodeo on Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. -2 p.m., at the church located at 25100 Hwy. 24 in Russellville. Egg hunt, stick horse competition, lunch served. All events will be in arena, so dress to get dirty.



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Colbert officials announce plans to renovate Leighton Training School and reopen Senior Center

Submitted

The Leighton-Colbert Cooperative Improvement District Board of Directors will attend the Leighton Town Council meeting to announce plans for Leighton Training School renovations and its location as the proposed site for the new Leighton Senior Center. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm at Leighton City Hall.

Leighton Training School served generations of students, including prominent alumni entertainers Percy Sledge and Jimmy Hughes. Built in 1929 with funds raised, and on land purchased, primarily by the local African American community, Leighton Training School was placed on the Alabama Register of Historical Landmarks in 1977. While the original school closed in 1970, it was later reopened as Leighton Middle School, which then closed at the end of the 1993-94 school year.

Leighton Training School Students hold bi-annual reunions to celebrate its heritage and legacy.

A joint venture between the Colbert County Commission and the Town of Leighton resulted in the formation of the Leighton-Colbert Cooperative Improvement District ("LCCID"), the purpose of which is to make capital improvements. The first project undertaken by its Board of Directors is to assist with revitalization of the community with the renovation of the Leighton Training School building, which has been badly vandalized but is structurally sound. Proposed usages include not only the senior center, but also a museum for the school's memorabilia, areas for workforce training, a community hall, a possible clinic, nutrition classes, and more.

Renita Jimmar Hall, president of the LLCID, said "The possibilities are endless, and we hope to partner with others who can see the vision to transform Leighton Training School into a site that can help the town and county improve economic development, and to help future generations."

Leighton Mayor Derick Silcox, Vice President of LCCID, said that he looks forward to the school again being a place where citizens can come to learn. Colbert County Commissioner Tori Bailey said it has long been her dream to see Leighton Training School as a resource that will serve residents of the Leighton Community and those from other nearby towns.



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'PRIMARY,' From Page 1

Joe Biden for the same allegations.”

The featured speaker at the event was Kellyanne Conway, who served as Trump’s campaign manager and senior counselor to the president after his election in 2016.

Conway is an outspoken supporter of Trump and remains so even with multiple charges pending against the former President.

Alabama Republican Party Chairman John Wahl said the winter meeting had particular importance this year as it takes place on the eve of the March 5th primary election.

“We respect the other candidates, and we thank them for running, but the Alabama GOP believes Donald Trump is the clear conservative choice. He has proven time and time again he will never stop fighting to put American first and defend the values that made American great,” Wahl said.

“The bottom line is Donald Trump has a clear track record of improving the economy, creating jobs, strengthening our national defense and pushing back on the socialist agenda being forced on Americans,” Wahl added.

The state GOP also elected the National Committeeman and National Committeewoman to represent the state party at the Republican National Committee convention.

Bill Harris of Autauga County was elected as was Vicki Drummond of Walker County.

Other resolutions passed by the state GOP included a resolution urging the Alabama Legislature to give the governor power to appoint the Chief Medical Officer for the State of Alabama, a resolution encouraging the legislature to repeal a law which exempts public libraries from criminal provisions of the Alabama Anti-Obscenity Act, and a resolution urging legislative oversight of Long Term Care insurance in Alabama.

NWSCC announces President's, Dean's List for fall 2023

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

Northwest Shoals Community College recently announced its Fall 2023 President's List and Dean's Lists.

Requirements for the President's List are a semester grade point average of 4.0 and completion of a minimum semester course load of 12 semester credit hours of college-level work.

Earning President's List honors were:

--Phil Campbell: Peyton Wallace Bailey, Savanna Elaine Myers and Benjamin Ryan Palmer.

--Red Bay: Connor McNeil and Nicholas K. Pounders.

--Russellville: Carlos Jose Garcia, Carlie Gibson, MiccoJay Nallica Jackson, Presley Reagan Laster, Joshua Macgregor Lindsey, Emilee Regina Matthews, Abigail Lauren McMicken, Ashlee Channing Moon, Amanda E. Nieto, Daniel Pena-Cortez, Oswin Omar Perez, Selena Pounders, Jonathan Caige Smith, Tanner G. Steele and Joseph Wickersham.

--Spruce Pine: Anna Cate Nicholson.

Requirements for the Dean's List are a semester grade point average of 3.5 or above but less than 4.0, and completion of a minimum semester course load of 12 credit hours of college-level work.

Earning Dean's List honors were:

--Phil Campbell: Tucker Jack King, Jon R. Marshall, Clay Morgan and Robby Bryan Robinson.

--Russellville: Thania Lizeth Barrientos, Allie Nicole Bishop, Peyton William Boyd, Thalia Francisco Mendez, Armando Julio Gonzalez, Jennifer Gutierrez Gamarro, Elijah Cole Lawler, Sarah Elizabeth Mansell, Juan Carlos Marquez Prado, Felicia Ann Mitchell and Jessie Victoria Teague.

--Spruce Pine: Trey Austin Mann.

--Vina: Tiffany Lynn Swinney.

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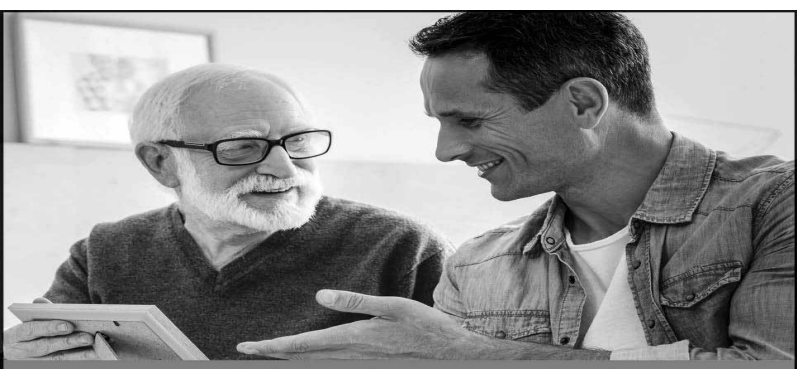


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RHS girls' postseason run ends with loss to Pleasant Grove

Michael Rice
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville Lady Golden Tigers fell to the West Point Warriors 56-37 Tuesday, February 6th.

The Lady Golden Tigers trailed early 18-6 at the end of the first period.

The Lady Golden Tigers suffered six turnovers in the first period.

Ella Copeland led the Golden Tigers with four points in the first half.

The Golden Tigers trailed 29-17 at the half.

The third period ended with the Golden Tigers trailing 42-25.

Copeland finished the night with 11 points.

The Golden Tigers went on to lose against Pleasant Grove 61-25 on Friday, February 9th. Copeland finished the game with 12 points. Jacey Moore and Aleah Bonma both scored four points.

The Lady Golden Tigers finished their season 15-11 overall.

Golden Tigers' boys varsity earns trip to Hanceville after fast-paced win over Wenonah

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

In a hectic, fast-paced game that felt closer than the final 77-66 scoreline suggests, Russellville pulled off the season sweep of Lawrence County to win the Class 5A Area 15 championship, the Golden Tigers' fourth area title in as many years.

"The fun part for (the seniors) is they've never known not cutting down nets," said Russellville head coach Patrick Odom. "That's a testament to them and the consistency of our program. It's never easy."



PHOTO BY KYLE GLASCOV

Bralynn Vincent holds up the 5A Area 15 championship plaque after Russellville's win over Lawrence County.

See, 'GOLDEN TIGERS,' page 12

Russellville girls soccer team wins opener 2-0 over Haleyville

Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville girls' soccer team blanked Haleyville 2-0 at Golden Tiger Stadium to win its season-opening match Thursday night.

Goals on either side of the halftime break saw the Golden Tigers through to the win. Ermelina Ponce opened her account in the first half to give the home side its first goal of the season. Nadia Mendez followed it up with a goal in the second half to clinch it.

Russellville head coach Dalaney Roberts said the win is a testament to the work her team has put in during the preseason.

"Our program as a whole is young, but there are a lot of eager players who are willing to put

in the work," she said. "We have had several 5:30 practices on Saturday mornings to get extra touches on the ball. The girls have committed to those times to work around their work schedules, which I think is really quite wonderful. Their priorities feel aligned with our mission and it's a prideful moment as a coach."

Getting the first match and first win under their belt will allow the Golden Tigers to focus on just playing the way they want to play, Roberts said.

"First game jitters played a role starting the season off," Roberts said. "Now that we have that behind us congruent with our first win, the girls are hungrier than ever to see the season through with consistency and perseverance."

"The varsity team has been working very

See, 'SOCCER,' Page 13



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'GOLDEN TIGERS,' From Page 11

Led by 17-point performances from senior Malachi Duncan and junior EJ King, Russellville opened up a lead that was ultimately commanding enough for the hosts to see off the Red Devils for the third time this season.

"Lawrence County's kids played really hard," said Odom, who is in his ninth season at Russellville. "We had foul trouble, adversity, but I'm proud of our guys for sticking their nose to the grindstone and finding ways to finish the game. That's what championships are all about."

The Golden Tigers went straight to work in the first period of play. Russellville dropped 26 points on the Red Devils in the opening eight minutes, nine points coming from three-pointers by senior KJ Murray and seven points from Duncan.

Russellville continued to outpace Lawrence County in the second

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period, though the buckets did not fall nearly as often for either team. Russellville's Gavin Hyde, who hit a buzzer-beating three-pointer to end the first period, tipped in a rebound at the horn to give Russellville the edge in the quarter and a 38-25 lead at the break.

After halftime, Russellville looked like a threat to run away with it. The Golden Tigers scored just seven points from the field but Lawrence

County sent Russellville to the line six times in the third quarter. The Golden Tigers took advantage, sinking 10 of their 12 free throw attempts, and with just over a minute left in the quarter established a 22-point lead, their largest of the game.

See 'GOLDEN TIGERS,' Page '14

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'SOCCER,' From Page 11

intentionally on things at practice that we feel will take our team to the next level," she added.


The Russellville girls' junior varsity squad also saw action Thursday night. The JV Golden Tigers brushed aside Haleyville 10-0 to trigger the mercy rule before full time. Maricela Andres took up most of the room on the scoresheet, putting seven goals past the Lions. Heidy Jacobo added a brace for the Golden Tigers and Yosilin Lopez scored the final goal of the game.

"This was an exceptional evening with (junior varsity) winning their first game since the 2021 season," Roberts said.

Russellville traveled to Mars Hill Monday, Feb. 12th, for its first road game.



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'GOLDEN TIGERS,' From Page 12

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Despite a seemingly comfortable cushion for the home team, a bevy of turnovers and fouls, especially technical fouls, allowed Lawrence County to cut the deficit to 14 points by the end of the third and down to nine points with 2:30 left in the game.

"We get a technical foul and all of a sudden it turns into like a seven-point play that kind of changes the nature of the game," said Odom. "We had two guys that are usually on the floor out of the game because of (technical fouls) so it was a crazy deal."

"It was kind of a crazy game, but that's just how it is when us and Lawrence County play," he added.

In the end the Red Tiger Devils' comeback attempt was too little, too late. A few more Golden Tiger baskets were enough to seal the 77-66 victory and Russellville's seventh area title in the last nine seasons.

With the win Russellville earned the right to play host in its AHSAA sub-regional game. Going into the state playoffs there will be no easy games, but the privilege of hosting the opening round is a boost, Odom said.

"We get to play the playoff game at home and that's the perfect scenario," he said. "By this point everyone is good so we're going to have to play really well, but to play it here—we play well here—we've got a chance."

And Odom was right: His team did have a chance, took it and defeated Wenonah 79-63 Saturday night to advance to the AHSAA Northwest Regional in Hanceville.

In a game that never downshifted to anything slower than breakneck pace, Russellville and Wenonah raced one another up and down the court and fought it close for three quarters. Although the game's opening points belonged to the Dragons, from there the hosts never trailed. It wasn't until the fourth quarter, however, before the Golden Tigers finally pulled away with it, eventually leading by as much as 18 in the final couple minutes.

"(Wenonah) brought in a very athletic, great basketball team," said Odom. "I knew it was going to be played like that. We're not going to back down from anybody."

Total turnovers competed with total field goals in a breathless first period, which Russellville edged out 16-14, thanks in part to nine points from Malachi Duncan, who finished the game with 18.

In the second period—if the tempo was any slower it was negligible—both teams' shots started to fall and each cut down on its turnovers. The Golden Tigers, led by seven points from EJ King, outscored the Dragons 26-20 in the second to take a 42-34 lead into the locker room.

Trailing at the start of the second half, the Dragons didn't lie down. BJ Billings dropped 11 of Wenonah's 20 points in the third as the visitors went on a run and outscored Russellville 20-14. This trimmed the Golden Tigers' lead to 56-54 going into the final eight minutes.

"We had pushed it out a little bit in the third and credit (Wenonah): I think they hit three threes in about a 90 second period of time that brought the game back," said Odom.

The game wasn't back on for much longer, though. Russellville ruled the final period of play, going on a tear that increased its advantage to 16 points with just under 3:00 left.

"You love the eight minutes when it was winning time, I thought our guys made all the winning plays," Odom said. "I don't know the numbers but we dominated the fourth quarter. That's how you win playoff games, that's how you win championships."

Wenonah turnovers and Russellville's baskets on the fast-break slayed the Dragons, the deepest piercing daggers coming from corner threes right in front of the Golden Tiger bench.

"The way we share the ball, the way we find the open guy, we've got those shots open," Odom said. "As a team I thought we shot so much better in the second (half)."

Russellville's King, who had 10 points in the fourth, finished with a game-high 27 points.

Up next the Golden Tigers will travel to Tom Drake Coliseum in Hanceville where they will face Ramsay in the first round of the northwest regional.

"We were there last year so our guys had that experience," Odom said. "Now it's about finding a way to recoup. It's going to be another fight."

"The 5A bracket in the northwest region is unbelievable with the amount of good basketball teams. Everybody's got a chance. You just have to compete at a high level," he added.

Russellville and Ramsay are scheduled to play on Friday, Feb. 16.

McKinney hired as Red Bay city attorney

Submitted

The City of Red Bay recently announced the appointment of Mitch McKinney, Esq., as the new City Attorney. Mr. McKinney's extensive legal expertise and dedication to public service make him an excellent addition to the city, officials said.

The Red Bay City Council unanimously approved the appointment in December, 2023 to begin in January, 2024. McKinney brings a wealth of legal experience to his new role. As a seasoned attorney, he has a proven track record for his previous work in both Atlanta, Georgia and Franklin County, Alabama, earning him recognition for his contributions to the legal community and his commitment to promoting justice and fairness.

In response to his appointment, Mr. McKinney expressed his eagerness to contribute to the success of Red Bay.

"I am honored to serve as the City Attorney for Red Bay and grateful for the trust placed in me by Mayor Charlene Fancher and the City Council. I look forward to working collaboratively with city officials to address legal matters and contribute to the overall well-being of this vibrant community," McKinney said.

As City Attorney, McKinney will be responsible for providing legal counsel to Mayor Charlene Fancher and the City Council. His role will include advising on municipal regulations, contracts, and other legal matters that impact the city's operations.

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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Fox on the Fairway, the latest BTCPA production, debuts February 15th

Submitted

The Bay Tree Council for the Performing Arts in Red Bay, AL announces it's second production of the 2023-24 season, Fox on the Fairway, by Ken Ludwig and directed by Molly Thorn.

The play will be presented February 15-17, 2024, at 7:00 PM and Sunday February 18, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Tickets will go on sale Monday February 5, 2024 at the



COURTESY PHOTO

From L-R: Scotty Kennedy, Tina Smith, Clint Sikes, Anna Lindsey, Theron Struzik, and Brittany Farris.

Weatherford Centre in Red Bay between the hours of 2:00-4:00 PM week days.

You may go by during those hours to purchase your tickets or call to reserve them. Dinner is available for each performance but must be reserved in advance. The play ticket is 10.00 and the dinner is 20.00, 30.00 for both.

If you would like to bring a group, you may contact Beth Hammock at 256-668-0045. The play was presented 12 years ago by BTCPA with two returning cast members. The other cast members are Theron Struzik, Clint Sikes, Brittany Farris and Anna Lindsey, with Dominic Rogers as stage manager.

Set amid the leafy greens of Quail Valley Country Club, Ken Ludwig's A Fox on the Fairway unfolds on the day Quail Valley faces its oldest rival, nearby Crouching Squirrel Golf and Racquet Club, for the golf tournament of the decade. Battle lines are drawn when the two clubs, like Greece and Troy, assemble their bravest heroes and play on to the final, madcap putt on an 18th hole that is the stuff of legend. A tribute to the English farces of the 1930s and '40s, A Fox on the Fairway takes audiences on a riotous ride that recalls the classics of the Marx Brothers.

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