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Federal crackdown on illegal immigration may impact Alabama legislation in upcoming session

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

"The Golden Age begins now...During every single day of the Trump administration, I will simply put America first."

Those were the first words from President Donald Trump as he spoke at his inauguration on January 20, 2025.

Trump's 'America first' mantra is a large part of what attracted Americans to his campaign in 2016, and again in 2024. Trump has said what so many of his predecessors would not—and the message of making our country and our citizens our priority, rather than foreign interests, resonated with American vot-

ers, particularly in Alabama, where Trump received 1,457,704 votes, representing 65% of the state's November 5, 2024, election.

As he addressed the country for the first time as president in his second term, Trump reiterated that message just before he outlined a series of executive orders he will sign that are expected to have dramatic impacts on illegal immigration.

"National unity is now returning to America. We will not forget our country, not forget our Constitution and we will not forget our God. And I will declare a national emergency at our southern border. All illegal entry will immediately be halted and we will begin the process of returning millions and millions of criminal aliens to

See 'LEGISLATION,' Page 5

RES one of six Alabama schools to receive Safe Schools Initiative award

John Pilati
 Franklin Free Press

When the Alabama Attorney General's office announced the six schools to be named 2024 Safe Schools Initiative Award winners, Russellville Elementary School was among the ranks.

RES Principal Channing Wright, her faculty, staff and students will receive the Attorney General's Safe Schools Initiative award from

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall at a ceremony set for Thursday, February 6th at 1 p.m., in the school cafeteria.

To be selected as a Safe Schools Initiative winner, schools go through a four-phase application process and review process by judges with expertise in school safety trends.

Judges look at whether the schools are taking effective measures to improve safety and combat the threat of violence as well as

See 'RES,' Page 4



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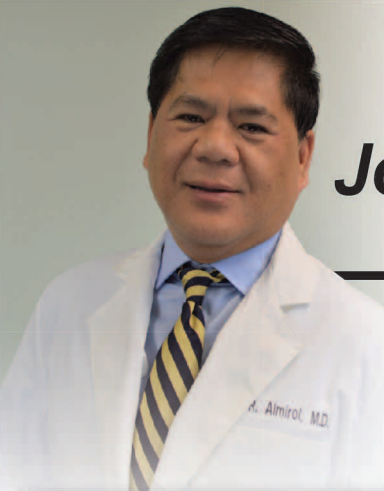
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Undocumented Russellville woman sentenced to five-year prison sentence for fraudulent passport, voter registration

*John Pilati
Franklin Free Press*

A Russellville woman living in the United States illegally was sentenced January 17th to serve 60 months in federal prison for using false documents and statements to obtain a United States passport and registering to vote.

Angelica Maria Francisco, 42, pled guilty September 5, 2024, to nine charges contained in a nine-count information filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

Those charges included using false claims of citizenship in connection with voting, false statements in a passport application, use of a United States passport obtained by false statements and aggravated identity theft.

U.S. District Judge Liles C. Burke sentenced Francisco to 60 months in a hearing last week.

According to information from the government, Francisco was an undocumented individual living in Franklin County. She assumed the identity of a United States citizen in 2011. She used that identity to obtain a United States passport in 2011 and used the passport to travel to and from her native country of Guatemala in 2012, 2015 and 2018.

She also registered to vote and cast ballots in the 2016 and 2020 primary and general elections.

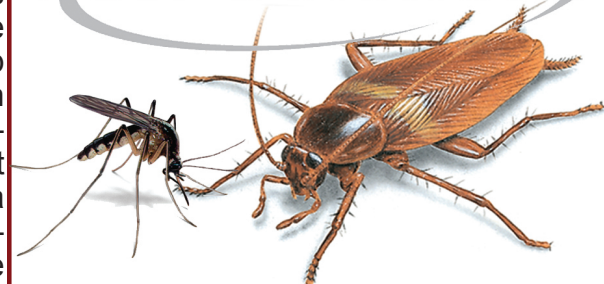
Francisco also pled guilty to using her false identity to apply for a passport renewal in 2022.

Multiple agencies investigated the case, including the Diplomatic Security Service, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, the East Metro Area Crime Center and the Alabama Secretary of State's Office.

U.S. Attorney Prim Escalona said Francisco's sentencing should be a warning to other non-U.S. Citizens who illegally attempt to vote.

"Maintaining the sanctity of the U.S. Election system is one of the most important responsibilities of federal law enforcement. My office will remain vigilant in carrying out this mission and, to that end, will continue to work with our federal, state and local partners to investigate and prosecute individuals who seek to undermine our elections," Escalona said.

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'RES,' From Page 1

reviewing any new, innovative safety policies adopted by school officials.

"We are incredibly honored that Russellville Elementary School has been recognized as one of only six Alabama schools to receive the Attorney General Safe School Initiative Award," Wright said. "This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff, students and community to creating a safe and supportive environment for learning.

Together, we are committed to ensuring the safety and success of every student."

The annual awards recognize and promote innovative efforts to improve student safety through the Alabama Safe Schools Initiative. "(Russellville Elementary School) has developed innovative programs and taken practical, effective steps to combat the threat of violence that has become a terrible part of our modern society," Marshall said.

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all. I look forward to continuing to spotlight the best school safety ideas for school administrators, resource officers, parents and students," he added.

The other five 2024 Safe Schools Initiative recipients include Orange Beach Elementary School in Orange Beach, UMS-Wright Preparatory School in Mobile, Ladonia Elementary School in Phenix City, Cullman City Primary School in Cullman and Elvin Hill Elementary School in Columbiana.

*Join us for the
Attorney General
Safe Schools Initiative
Award Ceremony*

*Thursday, February 6, 2025
1:00 pm*

*Russellville Elementary School Cafeteria
133 Chucky Mullins Memorial Drive
Russellville, AL 35653*

Please send your guest columns and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

'LEGISLATION,' From Page 1

the places from which they came. I will reinstate my 'remain in Mexico' policy. I will end the practice of birthright citizenship and will designate cartels as foreign terrorist organizations."

The effect of Trump's day one executive orders, he explained, is to impose a massive crackdown on illegal immigration. And it's a crackdown that will involve our nation's military for enforcement.

Trump's inauguration speech reiterated his day one commitment to close America's borders to illegal entry. And while this comes as welcome news to Americans who believe our country has become a revolving door for illegal entry, it could also have an immediate impact in the labor force in states including Alabama.

According to the American Immigration Council, immigrants comprise 5.1% of Alabama's overall work force, and 12.1% of Alabama's construction industry.

The question yet to be answered is how many of those working immigrants have legal alien status in the U.S. And for those who don't, their exits could come rapidly, and en masse.

Among the President's immigration-related executive orders are the declaration of the United States' southern border as a national emergency, resuming construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall, reinstating the 'remain in Mexico' policy that requires migrants to remain in Mexico while waiting for their asylum hearings, ending asylum which will accelerate the deportation process, designating cartels as terrorist organizations and attempting to end birthright citizenship, which recognizes those born on American soil as American citizens at birth. The legal status of the newborn's parents is not a consideration in how the 14th Amendment has been interpreted.

Additionally, although he did not address it in his speech, Trump plans a moratorium on all refugee entry into the U.S., for 120 days or more.

How these executive orders will impact the country, the state of Alabama and Franklin County remain to be seen.

Of Russellville City Schools' approximate 2,500 students, more than 57% are classified as Hispanic. Many of those students were born in the United States. But for those whose parents may be undocumented aliens, their futures in Russellville remain uncertain.

The school system, and the local population, experienced a decline in Hispanic numbers in 2012, after the Alabama Legislature passed HB56, described as the country's strictest, sweeping immigration law. At that time, Alabama's undocumented population was estimated to be around 120,000. As illegals left the state, taking their children with them, revenue received by public school systems declined as a result of the drop in enrollment, something that could happen again in the coming months.

The crackdown on illegal immigration federally has trickled down to the state level, where several bills have been pre-filed that would impact illegal aliens if the bills become law.

--HB3 would impose enhanced sentences for illegal aliens convicted of a felony offense. Any felony conviction for an illegal alien would involve sentencing at the next highest level of felony. And illegal aliens convicted of Class A felonies, Alabama's most serious classification, would face prison sentences of 15 years to life. Additionally, illegal aliens convicted of misdemeanor offenses with a victim who is a minor, would be punished for a Class C felony.

--HB7 would allow state and local law enforcement agencies to enter into agreements with the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security or other federal agencies for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws as well as the detention, removal and investigation of illegal aliens in Alabama.

Additionally, state and local agencies would be required to state and local government employees to maintain information relating to the immigration status of any individual and to transport an illegal alien to the custody of the federal government. And local and state agencies would be required to honor



Community Spirit Bank welcomes Marilyn Mayfield to our team as Loan Officer in our Russellville location!



Franklin County Commission

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Barry Moore, Chairman Joseph Baldwin, District III
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The Franklin County Commission is accepting applications for the following position(s):

Senior Equipment Maintenance Technician, Highway Department

Applications will be accepted in the Franklin County Commission office until the position is filled.

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 under the Careers tab.

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Marilyn has 40 years of experience, knowledge, and commitment to community banking. Her dedication to community service makes her an exceptional addition to the Community Spirit Bank team.
Welcome, Marilyn!

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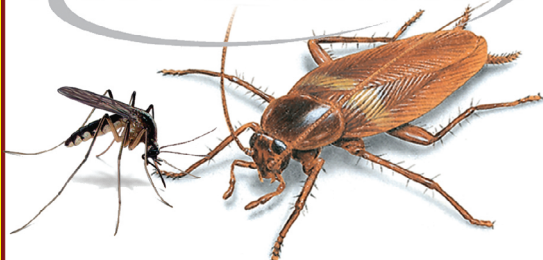
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 **Y**ou're invited to enter a 4-man Scramble Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, March 14th at Twin Pines Country Club. 100% of the tournament proceeds will benefit the North Russellville Baptist Church Youth Fest 2025. Team entries are \$400, or \$100 per person. Pre-register by texting Jason at 256-412-9786 or Randy at 938-646-4656. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m., and the shotgun start begins at 12 noon. Follow North Russellville Baptist Church Facebook page for updates.

 **T**he North Russellville Baptist Church Youth Group will host a Charity Golf Tournament Four-Man Scramble on Friday, March 14, 2025, at Twin Pines Country Club. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m., and the shotgun start begins at noon. \$400 per team entry, or \$100 per person. All proceeds benefit the North Russellville Baptist Youth Fest 2025. For pre-registration or more information, call Jason at 256-412-9786 or Randy at 938-646-

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Billy M. Bolton, Chairman of the Board of Community Spirit Bank welcomes Marilyn Mayfield to the Community Spirit Bank team.

On behalf of the Community Spirit Bank Board of Directors and our holding company, Independent Bancshares, Inc., it is my pleasure to announce the addition of Marilyn Mayfield of Russellville to our staff.

Marilyn has joined our team as a Loan Officer for our Russellville location, bringing with her an impressive legacy of 40 years in community banking. Her extensive experience, deep knowledge, and steadfast commitment to community service make her an exceptional addition to our lending team.

Marilyn's distinguished career spans every facet of the lending and underwriting process, showcasing her dedication to helping individuals and businesses achieve their financial goals. Over the years, she has also contributed her expertise to numerous community boards, further demonstrating her passion for serving and strengthening the communities she calls home.



COURTESY PHOTO

"We are so pleased to welcome Marilyn to our team. Her wealth of experience and her unwavering commitment to true community banking align perfectly with our mission to support and sustain thriving main streets," said Brad Bolton, President and CEO of Community Spirit Bank. "Marilyn's legacy of excellence and service is a testament to her dedication, and we are excited to see her impact in Russellville and beyond."

As a trusted lender and relationship manager, Marilyn looks forward to helping individuals and businesses in the Russellville area navigate their financial needs while fostering growth and prosperity. Her passion for empowering her community reflects the core values of Community Spirit Bank, where relationships and trust remain at the heart of everything we do.

We look forward to welcoming Marilyn and her valued customers to the Community Spirit Bank family.

Marilyn is married to Jerry Mayfield, and they have two sons and one granddaughter.

Connect with Marilyn at 256-332-5315 or mmayfield@communityspirit.bank.

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EZRA'S FIRST SNOW:



The Franklin Free Press invited its Facebook followers to send their favorite snow day photos on Friday, January 10th, when most of the county was 'snowed in.' We received almost 900 photos and had to choose one to win a special winter gift package.

Hannah King sent the attached photo of her son Ezra and we selected this photo as our winner. There were literally hundreds of wonderful photos. Thanks so much to our readers for submitting them!

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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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Sock drive helps Red Bay nursing facility residents enjoy a Merry Christmas

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Socks for Christmas may not seem like an exciting gift, but for the 70 residents of Generations of Red Bay nursing facility, the gift bags they received, which included multiple pairs of new socks, brought smiles to their faces.

The Franklin County Farmers Federation Women's Committee held its annual 'Cottons for Christmas' sock drive starting in November and 250 pairs of socks were collected from a generous community.

Each year the committee selects a local nursing facility and, through community donations, gift bags with socks, lotion, etc., are presented to residents.

Additionally, the committee provided extra gifts for five residents who had little or no family to share Christmas with them.

The Franklin County Farmers Federation Women's Committee members include: Yvonne Herring, Carol Glass, Becky Hester, Kathy Glass, Megan Murray, Shannon Murray, Lauren Murray, Libby Daniel, Annette Sturdivant, Elizabeth Glass, Stephanie Glass and Shirley Ezzell.

Committee members want to thank Franklin County residents and businesses for supporting the 2024 sock drive and wants everyone to know how much their donations are appreciated.



COURTESY PHOTO
Franklin County Farmers Federation Women's Committee members, with assembled bags for residents at Generations of Red Bay. From left: Yvonne Herring, Carol Glass, Becky Hester and Kathy Glass.

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Golden Tiger boys' varsity clinches area hoops championship

Kadin Pounders
 Franklin Free Press

The Russellville High School varsity boys' basketball team clinched the regular season area title on Friday night, beating the West Point Warriors 68-65 in Cullman. The win, which improved the Golden Tigers' record to 11-5 overall and kept them a perfect 3-0 in the Class 5A Area 15, assured Russellville's place in the area championship game.

"To be able to take care of business and go ahead and secure our place in the area tournament is kinda bigger in our situation," Russellville head coach Patrick Odom said. "When it's a three-team area like ours it guarantees you playing in the (area) championship game and state playoff basketball.

"It's really big and it allows us over the next week and going into tournament time to just focus on us," he added.

After the Golden Tigers beat West Point by 11 points at the Russellville Middle School gymnasium in the first meeting—a game that got "a bit chippy," as Odom described it—the matchup in Cullman was a tighter affair. Russellville took the advantage over the hosts in the opening stages of the game, but the Warriors always stayed within striking distance.

See, 'RHS,' Page 13

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Red Bay varsity boys win third consecutive Franklin County Basketball Tournament

Kadin Pounders
 Franklin Free Press

The Red Bay High School varsity boys' basketball team, ranked No. 9 in Class 2A in the latest Alabama Sports Writers Association poll, earned another local title on its home court on Saturday night, winning the 2025 Franklin County Tournament by beating Phil Campbell in the championship game. The victory gave the Tigers county bragging rights for the third straight season.



COURTESY PHOTO

"I think it means a lot to the kids," Red Bay head coach John Torisky said. "There's just natural rivalries in the county because of all the other sports, so I think for our guys to get a championship among some of their friends and guys they grew up playing against, it always means a lot.

"There's a lot of tradition in the county tournament, as well," he added. "It's always good to win a championship; it doesn't matter if it's county or area or what, so the kids were excited about it, for sure."

See, 'RED BAY,' Page 12

Back-to-back county tournament titles for Belgreen girls' varsity basketball team

Kadin Pounders
 Franklin Free Press

The Belgreen High School varsity girls' basketball team, ranked No. 5 in Class 2A in the latest Alabama Sports Writers Association poll, captured the Franklin County Tournament crown for the second consecutive year on Saturday night, defeating the Phil Campbell Lady Bobcats 51-28 at the Red Bay High School gymnasium.

"It's a big accomplishment to win the county tournament," Belgreen head coach Chad Green said. "I think Belgreen has won six or seven county titles in school history, and these girls have won back-to-back now; I think that's only happened one other time in school history.

"I'm proud of them," he added.

The Franklin County Tournament started last Tuesday, January 14, but the Lady Bulldogs would wait until the following Thursday to play their opening game. Belgreen was first tasked with taking on Red Bay, who knocked Tharptown out on the opening night of the tournament.

The Lady Bulldogs made quick work of Red Bay, defeating the Lady Tigers 62-18 to advance. BHS got stronger as the game went on, scoring more and more points each quarter. Belgreen's top scorers were mainstay Isabella Tate and freshman Kiera Smith, who has just made her way into the varsity squad.

"We were led by Isabella Tate and Kiera Smith, who each had 11 points and did a great job for us," Green said. "(Smith) came off the bench; she's moved up after the junior high season, and she did a good job. She hit a couple of threes and actually had a four-point play. She had a couple of drives and some lay-ups. We were just proud of her—she's a hustler."

See, 'BELGREEN,' Page 14

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'RED BAY,' From Page 11

The Franklin County Tournament began last Tuesday, January 14, but the Tigers opened their tourney on Thursday against the Vina Red Devils, who beat the Tharptown Wildcats to advance to the semifinal round.



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Red Bay took care of business against Vina, beating the Class 1A Red Devils 74-30, but Torisky said he was impressed by the determination of RBHS' opponents.

"I thought they played really hard," Torisky said of Vina, which was led by 13 points from senior Christian McCarley. "This was a team that didn't give up even when we made some shots early and played really well.

They kept fighting." RBHS was led by Landyn Lewey, who topped all scorers with 14 total points. No Tigers were left out of the action, though, as all 11 Red Bay players scored at least two points in the win.

In the county final, Red Bay faced off against Phil Campbell, who defeated Belgreen to advance to the championship round.

The first quarter of the game was played fairly evenly as Red Bay edged out the Bobcats 10-9 through the first eight minutes. But the hosts took firm hold of the game in the second quarter, outscoring PCHS 20-8 to take a 30-17 lead into the intermission.

Coming out of the break, the third period belonged to the Tigers, as well. The hosts outscored Phil Cambell 18-12 to take a 48-29 lead into the final eight minutes. That 19-point advantage proved enough cushion to carry the Tigers to the end even though the Bobcats, who scored 21 points in the fourth, were able to cut into the margin.

PCHS sophomore Austin Elliott led all scorers with 22 points in the contest, but Red Bay had three players hit double digits: Khalil Luster led the Tigers with 14 points, Bryant Harris scored 12, and Brayden Tabbs dropped 10 points.

Torisky said his team played well offensively and there were players with key individual performances in both tournament games as Red Bay pushed for the title.

"I felt our kids really shot well the last two games. In the championship we had 14 threes which I think is the highest for us this season," Torisky said. "We worry about the things we have to do to be successful. I thought we rebounded well and defended well both games—and we made shots, which always helps.

"One of our strengths is we're really balanced," he added. "Khalil (Luster), obviously, is a force down low. He's averaging almost 18, 19 points a game, so he's an emphasis for other teams. The way our offense is set up we take advantage of that by having other guys around him that can shoot.

"Jaxon Vinson had two really good games down low, just getting on the glass and being really aggressive and strong. Bryant Harris had a big game for us in the championship; he hit about four threes. So, what I really like about our team is it's really hard to single in on one guy, and I think that's what makes us hard to beat."

After winning a third consecutive Franklin County championship, Red Bay will turn its attention back to area and potential postseason play. Torisky is optimistic the county crown will provide a late-season boost for his squad as they enter those all-important final games.

"Anytime you can win something that has meaning to it like a championship game, where there's a little more stress and pressure on you, it allows the kids to feel that success and hopefully that carries over," Torisky said. "We've got some big games coming up, so hopefully that county championship will give some of the guys a little confidence that is needed for this group.

"We're playing pretty good right now and I think we can still play even better," he added.

"Our guys are doing what they need to do at this point in the year, and they're starting to figure out their roles. We've got a lot of talent on this team, so it's all just about getting better as a whole."

'RHS,' From Page 11

The Golden Tigers, knowing it would be a 32-minute battle, never ran away with it, but Odom said, in the end, his team found a way to win. "We got off to a quick start and got a lead early, but, you know, playing over there—we've taken a lot of great teams over there and always had to earn our way. It's always a four-quarter battle," Odom said. "They've gotta good team and they went on a few runs, but on every run our guys did what we talk about all the time. We matched them and were able to respond.

"We finished the game with some guts and some character, and it was just a big win for us," Odom added.

Russellville's senior playmaking duo EJ King and Jah Williams had great performances against West Point, according to Odom, but the head coach felt the road victory was a great team win with plenty of collaborators, too.

"EJ had another great game, and we kinda just get accustomed to what he does, but (WPHS) threw a lot of different looks at him and he just plays the way he plays," Odom said. "Jah Williams played another great game. With EJ playing the way he does, Jah doesn't get the attention he should, but he's been playing great for us all year.

"In the first half, Malachi Groce hit some big shots for us. That's a guy that's been struggling some with his shot, so I thought it was great to see him get going," he added, "but past that we just did what we've been doing. We've been playing about eight guys, and I thought all eight guys gave what they were supposed to give. If we can keep getting those contributions, that's what makes us a good team."

The result over West Point marked Russellville's 17th consecutive against area opposition (including area tournament games), a streak that dates back to January of 2022. Asked how his Golden Tigers ward off complacency and continue to perform against rivals, Odom said it has a lot to do with the culture and attitude of the program.

"We kinda build everything around making sure that it's to help us win these types of games because these are the important games, but I think it's also a testament to how we want to lead our guys," Odom said. "We don't get too high, don't get too low. We're just trying to find a way to get better each day, and each game gives you that opportunity.

"It's a long season, and you're gonna have nights you don't play your best, but you still gotta find ways to win," he added. "I think it's all about staying in that mentality. You can have a big win but if you ride it too long you're gonna turn around and find a way to lose a game. So, it's all about releasing that and moving forward and our guys do a good job of that. If you look at what we've done the last few years, I think it's paid off."



COURTESY PHOTO

Jah Williams drives the ball against West Point Friday night.

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'BELGREEN,' From Page 11

Green said the semifinal against Red Bay also highlighted how the team, as a whole, has improved on the defensive side of the ball. "We thought the intensity level of that game showed how much we've picked up on rebounding and defensively from the first of the year until now," he said.

"I've said all year long we're better offensively than we were last year, no doubt about it. But here in the last four or five games I feel like we've started to play defense like we want to play. We're holding our own on the boards and rebounding. That's a big deal," Green added.

The defensive effort continued in the county championship against Phil Campbell as the Lady Bulldogs surrendered just 28 points, well under the 37.5 points per game allowed by BHS this season. Belgreen, who fell to the Lady Bobcats 44-42 in overtime in the first meeting between the two teams on January 7, avenged the loss by seizing the county crown.

After a tight opening quarter, BHS led PCHS 15-12. But the Lady Bulldogs took control in the second period, outscoring the Lady Bobcats 17-3 to take a 32-15 advantage into the halftime break.

The 17-point Belgreen halftime lead proved too much for Phil Campbell to overcome in the second half. The Lady Bobcats, led by Macy Hardy's 13 total points, edged out the Lady Bulldogs slightly in the third quarter but it wasn't nearly enough as the Bulldogs bounced back to outpace PCHS 14-6 in the final eight minutes and win the game 51-28.

"(PCHS) beat us about a week and a half ago in overtime, and so we were definitely looking forward to seeing them again," Green said. "We know they have a good team and have done well this year. Coach (Craig) Thomas does a good job with those girls, so we definitely knew defensive-wise and keeping them off the boards was going to be a critical part of it.

"Overall, it was a good team win," he added. "I've got so much depth on the bench, and a lot of them come in and just understand



COURTESY PHOTO

their role in the team whether that's to shoot the ball, whether that's to defend, whether that's to help rebound or take care of the ball. It's always good to have a selfless-type team that the kids understand their role and are just looking to win.

"If you look at our scorebook from the last eight or nine games, I bet you we've had a different leading scorer every game, so that's always nice, too."

The leading scorer in the championship win over PCHS on Saturday was Bryn Scott, who led all scorers with 14 points. She was followed by Lilliana Willingham, who got to double digits with 10 points.

"Bryn Scott stepped up and made some big shots. And, of course, she always handles the ball and defends well," Green said. "(Willingham) has really come on these last eight or nine games, so we're proud to see that."

After winning the Franklin County Tournament for the second straight year, Green added that he was thankful for his team—and not just for the players they are on the court.

"I just wanna thank the good Lord for the team I've got," he said. "We all love to win, but this is a good bunch of girls. We've got some good Christian girls on the team, the coaching staff is good, so I'm just thankful to be part of it. It makes it enjoyable as a coach not only when you've got a good group of kids that work hard and win but are also good kids off the court."

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

EJ King - Russellville boys' basketball

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For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us on the web at www.franklinfreepress.net! Send your guest columns, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

109 of 109 Franklin businesses receive satisfactory health scores

John Pilati
Franklin Free Press

Each of the 109 Franklin County establishments that received health ratings during the period of November 1, 2024 through January 15, 2025, had scores that fell into the "satisfactory compliance" range.

Health ratings are required to be prominently posted in all food/lodging establishments. Scores are graded by the Alabama Department of Public Health inspectors on a 100-point scale.

Establishments with scores of 85 to 100 are considered to be in "satisfactory compliance" and are routinely inspected. Establishments scoring between 70 and 84 will be inspected again in 60 days, and those scoring between 60 and 69 will have another follow-up within 48 hours. Any establishment scoring below 60 will be immediately closed.

Areas of inspection by ADPH include management and personnel; food storage, preparation and service; equipment; utensils; linen cleanliness; plumbing and waste; poisonous or toxic material storage and an inspection of the physical facility or property.

109 of 109 Franklin County establishments listed in the most recent food and lodging establishment ratings scored 85 or above, within the satisfactory compliance range.

The high score was 100, received by the following businesses: Bel Haven Heights, 107 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, Red Bay Hospital, 211 Hospital Road, Red Bay, Red Bay Nutrition, 102 4th Ave. SW, Russellville Elementary School, 133 Chucky Mullins Drive, Russellville, Russellville High School, 1865 Waterloo Road, Russellville, Tropical Nutrition, 15480 Hwy. 43 Suite C, Russellville, Wal-Mart #0403 Market, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, Wal-Mart #403 Bakery, 13675 Hwy. 43,

The lowest score among the 109 establishments was a 90, received by Huddle House, 15485 Highway 43, Russellville, although this score was within the 'satisfactory compliance' range.

Other inspection scores of Franklin County businesses, in alphabetical order, included:

--306 BBQ, 13670 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 97.
 --43 Grill, 15110 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95.
 --B&J Cafe, 1327 Shellnut Loop, Phil Campbell, 97.
 --Belgreen High School, 14220 Hwy. 187, Russellville, 99.
 --Best Western Breakfast, 13770 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99
 --Best Western, 13770 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 94.
 --Big Star #345 Deli/Red Bay, 406 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 96.
 --Big Star #345 Supermarket, 406 4th St. SW, 98.
 --Big Star Deli of Russellville, 314 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 96.
 --Big Star Market of Russellville, 314 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 97.
 --Black & Gold Nutrition, 700 Waterloo Road, Russellville, 99.
 --Blue Boys, 4141 Hwy. 24, Red Bay, 99.
 --Bobcat Express Inc., 3075 Hwy. 237, Phil Campbell, 94.
 --Bojangle's Famous Chicken & Biscuit, 13810 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.
 --Budget Inn, 14184 Highway 43, Russellville, 97.
 --Burger King #1574, 15455 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
 --C.J.'s Grocery 14545 Hwy. 187, Russellville, 95.
 --Cano's Tienda y Taqueria, 10047 Hwy. 75, Russellville, 93.
 --Captain D's, 15434 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 91.
 --Cardinal Drive In, 602 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 95.
 --Coco Michocana 2, 318 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 92.
 --Casa Fiesta Mexican Grill, 520 4th Ave., Red Bay, 95.
 --Discount Grocery and Variety, 201 E. Lawrence St., Russellville, 99.
 --Dollar General, 5206 Hwy. 48, Russellville, 98.
 --Dollar General, 10450 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.
 --Dollar General, 3621 Broad St., Phil Campbell, 97.
 --Dollar General, 18625 Hwy. 24, Russellville, 99.
 --Dollar General, 212 Montgomery St. SW, Russellville, 98.
 --Dollar General, 9260 Hwy. 243, Phil Campbell, 98.
 --Dollar General, 5550 Hwy. 19, Vina, 98.
 --Dollar General Market, 212 4th St. SW, Red Bay, 99.
 --East Franklin Junior High, 1815 Hwy. 89, Phil Campbell, 99.
 --EconoLodge, 13600 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 95.
 --El Buen Sabor, 104 Montgomery St., Russellville, 95.
 --EL Patron Tex-Mex LLC, 13665 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 97.
 --El Quetzal Buena Vista, 118 East Franklin St., Russellville, 98.
 --Faelynn's Place, 3485 Broad St. Phil Campbell, 95.
 --Farmhouse Table, 116 Jackson Ave. N, Russellville, 95.
 --Frosty Inn, 12805 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, 98.
 --Gas Mart North, 17060 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
 --Harold's Gas & Grocery, 1425 Hwy. 172 East, Hodges, 99.
 --Hilltop Diner, 808 Ronnie McDowell Ave., Russellville, 99.
 --Hodges Senior Center, 1942 Hwy. 172, Hodges, 98.
 --Huddle House, 15485 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 90.
 --Ideal Mart, 503 Waterloo Road, Russellville, 98.
 --Jack's #136, 521 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 93.
 --Jack's Family Restaurant, 13640 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 94.

--Jay Raja Inc., 109 Madison St., NE, Russellville, 98.
 --Kelly's Kitchen, 912 4th St. NW, Red Bay, 94.
 --KFC, 15045 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.
 --Las Tres Fronteras, 519 St. Clair St., SE, Russellville, 98.
 --Legacy Chevron, 13518 Hwy. 43 South, Russellville, 98.
 --Little Caesar's Pizza, 13655 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 96.
 --Little Divas and Dudes Daycare LLC, 1100 4th St. NE, Red Bay, 99.
 --Los Dos Hermanos Corp., 409 Madison St. NE, Russellville, 99.
 --Los Primos, 105/107 Madison St., Russellville, 98.
 --M&H Food Mart, 9224 Hwy. 243, Phil Campbell, 92.
 --Malone Oil, LLC, 23791 Hwy. 24, Russellville, 99.
 --Mama Cortez DBA Rancho Viejo, 11797 Hwy. 43 S., Russellville, 98.
 --McDonald's, 606 4th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 96.
 --Mexico Bakery, 111 Franklin St. SW, Russellville, 99.
 --New Freedom Daycare, 508 St. Clair St., Russellville, 99.
 --Panaderia Adonai, 311 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 98.
 --Panda Buffet, 14633 US 43, Russellville, 93.
 --Past Times LLC, DBA Overton Farm, 2300 Overton Farm Road, Hodges, 99.
 --Phil Campbell Deli Mart, 3515 Broad St., Phil Campbell, 98.
 --Phil Campbell Nutrition, 3415 Broad St., Phil Campbell, 99.
 --Phil Campbell Senior Center, 135 Sherry Brice Dr., Phil Campbell, 99.
 --Pilgrim's Place, 1314 N. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 98.
 --Pizza Hut, 13450 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.
 --Quick Stop #7, Inc., 606 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay, 99.
 --Quinn's Grocery, 9980 Hwy. 48, Russellville, 98.
 --Red Bay High School, 800 8th St., Red Bay, 98.
 --Red Bay Hospital, 211 Hospital Road, Red Bay, 100.
 --Red Bay Nutrition, 102 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay, 100.
 --Red Bay Senior Center, 115 5th Ave. SE, Red Bay, 97.
 --Red Bay Tiger Mart, Inc., 211 4th Ave. SW, Red Bay, 97.
 --Red Bay Yacht Club, 996 9th St. W, Red Bay, 99.
 --Russellville Elementary School, 133 Chucky Mullins Dr., Russellville, 100.
 --Russellville High School, 1865 Waterloo Road, Russellville, 100.

--Russellville Middle School, 765 Summit St., Russellville, 99.
 --Russellville Nutrition, 14130 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.
 --Russellville Senior Center, 201 Washington Ave. SW, Russellville, 98.
 --Shiv Prayagi inc., DBA Cedar Creek, 11477 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 93.
 --Sonic Drive-In, 15376 Hwy. 43 N., Russellville, 95.
 --Southside Quick Mart, LLC, 12301 Hwy. 43S, Russellville, 98.
 --Stockyard Cafe, 14330 Hwy. 243, Russellville, 98.
 --Subway, 15300 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.
 --Subway, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
 --Swamp John's, 5181 Highway 24, Red Bay, 97.
 --Taco Bell, 13831 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 94.
 --Tharptown Elementary & High School, 145 Hwy. 80, Russellville, 98.
 --The Grind Cafe & Coffee Shop, 13760 Hwy. 43, 98.
 --The Ville Nutrition, 112 S. Jackson Ave., Russellville, 99.
 --Tienda Latina Mi Refugio, 412 Madison St. NE, Russellville, 99.
 --Tokyo Sushi and Steakhouse, 14001 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 97.
 --Tropical Nutrition, 15480 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 100.
 --Vina High School, 8250 County Road 23, Vina, 99.
 --Vulcan Food Mart, 28485 Hwy. 24, Russellville, 97.
 --Waffle House, 14005 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 97.
 --Wal-Mart Market, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 100.
 --Wal-Mart Bakery, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 100.
 --Wal-Mart Deli, 13675 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 99.
 --Wendy's, 13679 Hwy. 43, Russellville, 98.
 --West Elementary School, 1340 Clay Ave., Russellville, 99.
 --Willi's, 5680 Hwy. 243, Phil Campbell, 96.
 --Yogi's at Spruce Pine, 6675 Hwy. 43, Spruce Pine, 94.
 --Yogi's Ball Park, 27534 Hwy. 24 East, Russellville, 98.

Health ratings are available at www.foodscores.state.al.us and may be viewed by city or county.

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Varsity County Tournament: Red Bay girls, Vina boys win opening night games

*Kadin Pounders
Franklin Free Press*

The 2024-25 Franklin County varsity basketball tournament tipped off on Tuesday night at Red Bay High School with Red Bay and Tharptown opening the girls' basketball bracket and Vina and Tharptown playing in the first round of the boys' bracket.

The Red Bay Lady Tigers more than doubled up on the Tharptown Lady Wildcats, 28-13, to start the evening at the RBHS gymnasium. Red Bay, led by six points from Blake Oliver, jumped out to a 10-4 lead after the opening eight minutes and never looked like surrendering that advantage, outscoring Tharptown in every quarter.

Red Bay head coach John Torisky said getting the victory in the opening contest of the Franklin County tournament will hopefully serve as a morale booster for his young Lady Tigers squad going forward.

"For our girls it's all about getting confidence," Torisky said. "We're really young. We're basically a junior high team, so tonight was just good for them to get a win. They haven't seen that much.

"I know we've got Belgreen next (in the tournament), but we're just focusing on our area. We just want to try to play better every game, and hopefully at the end of the year steal one from Lamar County. That's our goal," he added.

"We're playing harder. We've still got to get better offensively and do a lot of things better with the basketball, but if we can compete then we've got a chance against some of the teams that we play. That was our goal tonight, and I think we did a good job."

Red Bay advances to face Belgreen, ranked No. 5 in Class 2A by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, on Thursday night.

Tuesday's nightcap game between the Vina and Tharptown boys' basketball teams, which featured plenty of fouls and turnovers, saw the Red Devils finish well ahead of the Wildcats. Vina jumped out to a 32-9 lead at halftime and used that cushion to ultimately come out on top 52-35.

Although the Red Devils struggled against Tharptown's suffocating press defense in the second half, the Wildcats had issues themselves turning Vina's mistakes and turnovers into as many baskets as were there for the taking. Ultimately, Vina never looked like it would give up its double-digit lead and advanced fairly comfortably.

"I'm super proud of the kids," Vina head coach Randy Barnes told the Franklin Free Press. "We prepared for this game. We've been preparing since last week. The county tournament's always a big game, evidently, regardless of who you're playing in the county, and to get a win, it's awesome for us.

"The kids really wanted it," he added. "What I'm most proud of is probably the fact that we've been practicing, practicing to execute the game plan and it clearly showed tonight (allowing) 35 points. We played (Tharptown) earlier in the year and we gave up, I think, 55 (points).

"I'm just super proud of the kids. It meant a lot to them, especially the seniors. That's the first county win we've had in a few years, so, honestly, I'm just super stoked."

Senior Christian McCarley, who hit four three-pointers, led the Red Devils with 19 total points in the win; Colton Davis and Matthew Patterson each scored 10 points.

The VHS win sets the Class 1A Red Devils up for a matchup against Red Bay, ranked No. 9 in Class 2A. The contest against the Tigers will be one of Vina's toughest, but Barnes said his team is ready to take on the challenge.

"We're excited for it, actually," he said. "Red Bay is a great team, great program and I've got a lot of respect for John (Torisky). I watch them, I watch them on film and actually utilize some of the stuff that they do and show to my kids. They're definitely a good program, constantly, year in and year out.

"We're excited for the opportunity," Barnes added. "We're excited to see where we're really at, you know, because we have a very tough area with Hackleburg and Marion County, both of them being ranked. I feel like Red Bay is a really good team, so it's going to help us moving forward. Three weeks from now in the area tournament, it's going to help us.

"There's one thing that (the Vina players) do, regardless if we win or lose, and that's play hard. They're going to play hard, regardless, Thursday."

Tip-off of the Red Bay-Vina game is scheduled for 7:30 P.M. on January 16th.

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