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The Night at the Museum

TUSCUMBIA—Have you ever been in a museum after dark? Come spend the evening with Elvis, the Temptations, and Hank Williams at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame's first interactive tour, *A Night at the Museum* on Saturday, March 14.

Stroll through Alabama's music history, see the legends come to life, and hear their unforgettable stories. Alabama Music Hall of Fame manager, Dixie Griffin, said, "We are thrilled to partner with Dr. Beth Garferrick's past and present Campaigns classes from UNA as we plan and pull this event together. They have been a tremendous help."

The event will start at 6 pm at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame located on Hwy 72 W in Tuscumbia. Admission is \$10 per person which includes interactive tour, movie and refreshments.

Reservations must be made by March 10 because of limited capacity! For reservations and information, call 256-381-4417.

The Tempest on March 10

FLORENCE—The Aquila Theatre Company presents *William Shakespeare's The Tempest* on Tuesday, March 10 at 7pm at UNA's Norton Auditorium. This is a reschedule from February 17.

The Tempest is presented in conjunction with the **Albert S. Johnston** Endowment.

General admission tickets are \$10. Student tickets are \$5. Outlets include Pegasus, Coldwater Books, Kennedy-Douglas Center for the Arts, and the UNA Bookstore.

Wallace the Series Guest

FLORENCE—The University of North Alabama Writer's Series, under the auspices of the English Department, is pleased to announce that the guest for spring 2015 will be **Daniel Wallace**.

Wallace is a storyteller who has been called one of our finest contemporary comic novelists. His tall tales are flush with classic myth, magical realism, and always a touch of the extraordinary. He is the author of four novels including, *The Kings and Queens of Roam*, and *Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions*. *Big Fish* was adapted into a blockbuster film of the same name by Tim Burton in 2003 and is currently being developed into a major

See SHORTS... Page 3

Volume 131 Number 20

March 4, 2015

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Northwest Alabama and beyond with direct mail to your home



The Seasons Converge
The branch of a dogwood tree preparing itself to greet spring woke up in the early morning of February 26 cradling portions of northwest Alabama's snowfall last week. Staff photo: TVM

There are More Pancakes

FLORENCE—The Florence Kiwanis Club will host their 64th Annual Pancake Day Friday, March 6 from 6am-7pm and Saturday, March 7 from 6am-1pm. Kiwanians will serve All-You-Can-Eat pancakes and sausage at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum at 702 Veterans Drive, Florence.

Advance tickets are \$7 or \$6 each for group sales of ten or more tickets. Tickets at the

door are \$8 each. Children 12 or younger are \$5 at the door.

Tickets are available from any member of the Florence Kiwanis Club or at the door. For advance tickets call 256-710-7059. Information about Pancake Day and Florence Kiwanis Club is available at www.florencekiwanis.com.

The Florence Kiwanis Club has set a goal of \$60,000. Proceeds will benefit local community projects.

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FIND THE LUCKY **Leprechauns!**

SHOALS-Lucky Leprechauns are dancing through the Courier Journal this week and next week.

The Courier Journal Lucky Leprechaun Contest allows readers to search through the *Courier Journal* and count all the **Color Leprechauns**. They can be green alone or made with any color combination. We are NOT COUNTING any black and white leprechauns, only the ones in color.

Readers will be able to

See LUCKY... on Page 6



YOUR Big Idea!

FLORENCE – A joint committee of leaders from the University of North Alabama, local schools, mayor's

offices, and the Shoals Chamber of Commerce is encouraging students and community members to bring forth their best ideas to develop the Shoals as the next leader in digital technology.

A cash prize and a \$1,000 scholarship to UNA for the Fall 2015 semester await the winners.

Submissions were due by March 1. Judges will select the winners of the first Shoals Big Idea Competition on March 11. The Big Idea event is open

See IDEA!... on Page 6

Congratulations to Area Teams!

- Red Bay - 2A Girls State Champions
- Lauderdale County - 3A Girls State Champions
- Deshler - 4A Girls State Champions
- West Limestone - 4A Boys State Champions

Inside this Issue

- Soap Operas
- Shoals Dining
- Knight Recalls
- Merle West's Legacy
- Ask the Attorney

- Pet Connection
- Coats' Farm Ride
- It's Competitive!
- Adopt-A-Friend
- A Love for US?

- Dave Ramsey
- Hocus Focus
- \$\$ Stretcher



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- Outdoors
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LUCKY LEPRECHAUNS ARE dancing through the Courier Journal. Search through the paper and find the Color Leprechauns. See complete details in this issue.

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Thursday, March 12, 2015
8:30 am - 2:00 pm
*Students eligible for kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 2, 2015.
Legal Guardian, please bring the following items to registration: birth certificate, immunization record, social security card, & recent power bill (with address portion).
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Shorts...

Wallace the Series Guest

Continued from Page 1

Broadway production. Wallace will read from his works on Tuesday, March 10 at 11am in the

Performance Center of the GUC. A book signing and reception will follow at 12:30pm in Stone Lodge. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the English Department at 256-765-4238.

ALS Benefit For Local Patient



TUSCUMBIA-As assisted living came into the Shoals area in the mid-1990's Cheryl McCorkle quickly gained the reputation as a caring and Christian leader in the Senior Living industry. With compassion and respect, she guided seniors and their families through emotional and sometimes difficult decisions - making many friends in her more than 17 years as Executive Director at Morningside of Sheffield, Atria Regency in Mobile and, most recently, Wellington Place of the Shoals in Muscle Shoals.

Cheryl was diagnosed in early 2014 with ALS/Lou Gehrig's Disease. With her true passion of caring for our Senior Citizens, she continued to work. She retired from Assisted Living in Dec. 2014.

A benefit event takes place Saturday, March 7 from 3pm until... at Valley Grove Baptist Church, 3040 Old Highway 20 in Tuscumbia. ALL proceeds from this event will go directly to Cheryl to help with her treatment-related expenses.

Enjoy the Southern Gospel music of Garry Lovette, Valdosta Baptist Quartet, Phil Russell, Ashley Partridge, Nicholas Gable, The Chandlers and very special guests, the Shoals Praise & Worship Choir And The Servants Quartet, from Ripley, MS.

Admission is free. Donations and love offerings will be accepted at the door.

**An account is set up at TVA Community Credit Union, 1405 South Wilson Dam Rd. Muscle Shoals, AL 35661 256-383-1019.

Donations can also be made online through PayPal link on the Facebook event.

For more information, please call Wellington Place of the Shoals 256-386-7177.

Richards Plans Release Show

SHEFFIELD-Sarah Lou Richards & The Handsome Devils will perform live in a record release concert at 6:30pm Friday, March 6 at The Nutthouse Recording Studio at 108 West 4th Street in Sheffield.

Recorded at Nutthouse with producer Gary Nichols, best known as the guitarist and lead singer for Grammy-nominated bluegrass group the Steel Drivers, *The Woman Behind the Curtain* marks Richards' first time recording with a full band.

"One of my favorite songs here is a track called 'Nothing Left,' which is about giving all you have until there's nothing left to give," says Richards, a road warrior who's spent the past four years touring. "That's where I am in my career right now. I'm stretching the rubber band as far as it'll go."

Inspired by the raw, rootsy songwriting of Brandi Carlile and Patti Griffin — and featuring a new generation of A-list session musicians from Muscle Shoals, including guitarist James LeBlanc — *The Woman Behind the Curtain* casts an eclectic net.

On an album filled with guitars, piano, fiddle, Wurlitzer organ and even the occasional banjo, Richards' voice, which Nichols likens to Alison Krauss, Lee Ann Womack and Martina McBride, is the most moving instrument here.

Tickets for the March 6 event can be purchased at: sarahlou-richards.ticketleap.com/album

releasemuscleshoals/ Tickets are \$20 and include beer, wine, appetizers and a copy of the new CD.

The City of Florence Planning and Community Development Department invites you to participate in our Public Input Session for the Community Development Block Grant Five Year Consolidated Plan. The Community Development Program provides funding for projects in eligible areas of the City.

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"Sirs, What Must I Do to Be Saved?"

How would you answer the question, what must I do to be saved? Would you find your answer in the Bible?

A jailer in the city of Philippi asked Paul and Silas this question, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30) The question itself reveals that the jailer understood that something would be required of him to be saved. What did Paul and Silas tell him to do? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household." (Acts 16:31) If you stop with this verse you will find that this is what many people today are being told over and over again, "just believe in Jesus Christ... this is all you must do" But, the answer to the jailer's question is not found in this verse alone. The jailer and his family needed to learn about Jesus Christ to believe in Him, so verse 32 says "Then they (Paul & Silas sdc) spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house." (Romans 10:17) Now, what was the jailer's response to the word of the Lord? "And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized." (Acts 16:33) Now what the jailer and his family did to be saved is exactly what Jesus told His disciples to go into the world and preach "He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:15-16) The jailer and his family believed in Jesus Christ and that same hour of the night they were baptized.

On the day of Pentecost, (Acts 2) the Jews who were convicted that they had crucified the Messiah asked the apostles the same question "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Here is what Peter said "...Repent and let ever one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:37-38) Repentance is a change of will, a turning from sin. Clearly to be saved we must believe in Jesus, turn from sin and be baptized for the remission of our sins. (See also Romans 10:9-10 for the importance of our confession of Jesus.)

Was this your answer to the question? If not, why not? We need to follow God's plan to be saved and not the plans of men. (See also these Biblical accounts of conversion: 8:12-13, 9:1-20, 10:1-48, 16:14-16, 18:8, 22:1-16.)

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The Lauderdale County School System

will be accepting applications from
March 2, 2015 through April 3, 2015
for the following **TOPS Preschool Programs:**
Brooks Elementary School, Lauderdale County High School, and Wilson High School.

Parents may pick up and return an application at the preschool site closest to where they live.

All applicants must apply in person and bring with them: original (blue) immunization card, copy of birth certificate, and proof of residency.

Typical peers will be determined through a drawing process. The drawing will be held the first week of May, 2015. Names not drawn will be placed on a waiting list. Three-year-olds will go two days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays), and Four-year-olds will go three days per week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays).

Applications are available at www.lcschools.org. All typically developing peers must go through the application process to attend the TOPS Preschool Program.

Children with special needs do not need to go through the application process. They will continue to be determined by their IEP team based on their needs, as required by law.

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Community Notes

COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge as space is available in the Courier Journal. All properly submitted Community Notes which are dated will be posted weekly at www.courierjournal.net. Visit our website for a complete list. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by noon Friday for consideration in the following week's issue. Fax to 256-760-9618; mail to 1828 Darby Drive, Florence, AL 35630; bring in person; email to editor@courierjournal.net; or "Submit News" on our website at www.courierjournal.net.

State Revenue Commissioner Julie P. Magee has announced that the February motor vehicle registration, renewal, transfer and vehicle property tax payment deadlines have been extended through March 6 for all Alabama residents affected by county office closings due to severe weather conditions beginning February, 25.

Love and Learn Pre-K is currently registering for the fall 2015-16. Love and Learn is an Alabama First Class program. To be eligible for this program the child must be four on or before September 1, 2015 and be an Alabama resident. The weekly fee for attending is \$10 per week. There are no income requirements. We are located at 11600 County Road 71, Lexington. Call 256-394-5462

Florence Parks and Recreation Department will be conducting registration for Youth Soccer now through March 8 for ages 4-14 years old. You can register at www.FPARD.com. Registration fee is \$45 per player. For more information contact Nicole Lambert at 256-760-6628.

Food for Christ - Rhodesville Methodist Church. More info call 256-810-8694.

Free, Fun Low Impact Aerobics, Killen Senior Center. Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:30am 256-757-1792.

Underwood-Petersville Community Center Luncheon: please join us March 5 for our First Thursday covered dish monthly luncheon at 11:30am with special guest. We hope to see you there.

The Shoals Chapter Order of St. Luke meeting will be from 1-3pm March 5 at Park Place, 501 N. Montgomery Ave. in Sheffield in the Sheffield Room. Wendy Sellers will be reviewing the booklet by Don Odom, "The Day After Jesus Heals You." For more information 256-381-3036.

You are cordially invited to a solo exhibition and artist reception, Circle Of Love with artist Amita Bhakta at 1st Floor Main Gallery of Lowe's Mills, 2211 Seminole Dr. in Huntsville. The exhibition opens from March 4-May 2. It has beautiful variety of stoneware, glazed sculptures, and paintings. An artist's reception will take place from 6-8pm Friday, March 6.

Clothes Give Away - Thursday, March 5 from 8-10am at the Care Center, First Baptist Church, 510 J.C. Mauldin Hwy, Killen. Phone 256-757-5334 or email mail@firstbaptistkillen.org for more info.

First Friday International Tea-Coffee - March 6, 3pm at University of North Alabama, Room 121, Powers Hall (Pina Street and Lion Drive). March's theme: Saudi Arabia. Enjoy tea with international Middle Eastern flare. Learn about the beautiful country of Saudi Arabia. Meet with international students at UNA.

New Free event series by the Office of International Affairs. Open to UNA campus and the greater Shoals community.

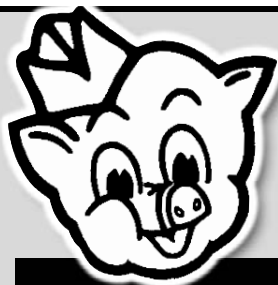
Lauderdale County School System will be accepting First Class Pre-Kindergarten applications funded by the Office of School Readiness for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year.

Applications may be picked up at the elementary school offices from March 2 - April 3 of Central, LCHS, Underwood, Waterloo, and Wilson Schools or at the Lauderdale County Board of Education (located at 355 County Road 61, Florence). Completed applications must be submitted to the elementary school office by 3pm on April 3.

Enrollment is nondiscriminatory and open to all children. Children must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2015 to be eligible for the program. A monthly tuition fee will be charged based on a sliding income scale.

For questions or more information regarding the Pre-Kindergarten application/process, contact Dr. Gina Baggett or Linda Barnett at 256-760-1300.

See NOTES... page 12



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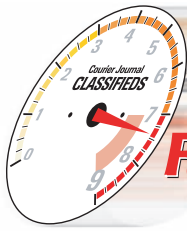
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Your Courier Journal is published for total saturation, direct-mail delivery every Wednesday to 69,807 Shoals area and surrounding homes. It is Alabama's Largest Weekly-Mailed Direct, and enjoys a larger circulation than all local subscriber based newspapers combined.

EDITORIAL POLICY: Your Courier Journal accepts a variety of news releases, photos, stories, Letters to the Editor and upcoming community, church or civic events for publication as space permits. Please submit all materials in written form to:

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Idea!...

Continued from Page 1

to the public from 5-7pm at the UNA Performance Center in the GUC.

There are three categories for this competition: High School/Middle School, College-University, and Community. Winners in each category with the most promising idea for making the Shoals a leader in digital technology will win \$500 to help them move their idea forward. Winners in three categories will be selected after brief presentations by the entrants based on the strength of their idea addressing the question, "How can we as a community become the next leader in digital technology?"

Several local entrepreneurs and business owners are working with the committee sponsoring this competition because they recognize that technology companies need talent, infrastructure and affordable living, in which to build their businesses.

"The Shoals can thrive as a technology hub in the South. We are excited to be part

of that effort, recognizing that we need talented, well-trained developers who are excited to remain in the community to work and start families. We need a supportive technology infrastructure and we need new ideas from the community. As we've seen in other cities with emerging start-up businesses, it takes energy from all segments of the community to spark the effort," said Kerry DeLay McCane, President and CEO of IP Watch. IP Watch is an intellectual property management technology company founded in Florence.

The Shoals Big Idea Competition has been designed to foster innovation and entrepreneurship by getting the community to imagine the Shoals as the next leading community in digital technology. The competition will award ideas with the potential to make a difference.

For more information, visit www.shoalsbigidea.com or email Dr. Santanu Borah at sborah@una.edu

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Lucky Leprechauns...

Continued from Page 1

enter once each week per person or email address. That gives each person two chances to win. Find all the **Lucky Leprechauns** (including in this article) and submit your tally on our website, www.courierjournal.net, or mail your guess with your name, address, and phone number to: Lucky Leprechaun c/o Courier Journal, 219 West Tennessee Street, Florence, AL 35630

Those with the correct number of color Leprechauns will qualify for the random drawings. Several prizes will be awarded to multiple winners, including gift certificates from Legends Steakhouse, Green Valley Nursery, and Foodland along with a large 3-topping pizza from Domino's. Winners will be announced in the March 18 issue.



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- Rick Fisher
- John Franklin
- Elaine Helms
- Edwins Jenkins
- Leighann McCoy
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- Pam Wright
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Richard Blackaby

Richard is the president of Blackaby Ministries International. He travels internationally speaking on spiritual leadership in the home, church and marketplace as well as on spiritual awakening, experiencing God, and the Christian life. He has authored over thirty books including *Unlimiting God: Increasing Your Capacity to Experience the Divine*.



Rick Fisher

Rick serves as the Vice President for Administration for Blackaby Ministries International. He helps churches, associations and corporations with focuses in the areas of spiritual leadership, leadership development, prayer and prayer ministry, developing a mission-focused congregation and other ministry related areas.



John Franklin

John is a nationally known speaker in the area of prayer and spiritual awakening, a pastor and an author of *And the Place Was Shaken: How to Lead a Powerful Prayer Meeting and Spiritual Warfare: Biblical Truth for Victory*. He founded John Franklin Ministries to resource churches in prayer and spiritual awakening.



Worship Leader, Kevin Reese

Kevin is the worship pastor at Woodmont Baptist Church in Florence.

Ticket Information:

Tickets are \$10 /person and are available at

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GARDEN EXCHANGE

I like to garden, but I am short on funds. My solution? Simple! Host a twice annual "plant exchange" where all the people of your community come to a designated area (usually someone's backyard). Everyone then places their names into a hat, and places their "bumper crop plants" in a row. Some will bring seeds, handmade garden stakes, etc. Then when their names are drawn from the hat, they are allowed to go to the row and choose which plants they would like to take home with them that spring or fall. Within the time frame of five years, we have landscaped our own front yard and helped to make many other gardens beautiful as well!

Judi W.

TAKE THE TIME TO CALL

I have received many free items or refunds just because I take the time to call a company. I was using a dishwasher soap that left residue on my dishes. When I called the 800 number, I was told that a certain powder they sold was better than liquid, and they sent me a coupon for two free boxes of their item. Our carbon monoxide alarm started acting weird after two years and I was going to throw it out and buy another. Instead,

I decided to call the company to see if there was anything I could do to fix it. After giving the serial number, I was told a new one would be sent to me free of charge. So, the old saying "if you don't ask, you don't get" is really true.

M. S.

THRIFT STORE END OF SEASON SALES

Just a reminder that it is end-of-season clearance time at most thrift stores. Most of these stores have a day or two of "bag sales." You pay \$1-\$5 for a paper grocery sack full of your choices. Call around to see when your local thrift store sales will be.

Kathy B.

CUTTING THE COST OF K-CUP(R) COFFEE

My husband enjoys the expensive single-cup packs (K-Cup(r)) for the new brewers on the market. I have found that you can get two cups of coffee, tea, etc. from one pack with no taste difference.

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Marilyn H.

ASK THE ATTORNEY



Thomas McCutcheon

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Q When my ex-wife and I got a divorce, we agreed on an amount of child support to be paid each month. Now she wants to take me back to court for more child support. She told me that an attorney told her there was a specific amount that I should be paying. Can the court change the amount of child support that we originally agreed to?

Richard, Moulton, AL

A A party seeking a modification of child support must plead and prove that a material change in circumstance has occurred since the original decree was entered by the Court.

A trial court (judge) has the discretion and authority to modify a child support obligation when a material change in circumstances has occurred since the original

decree.

There is a presumption that child support should be modified if the difference between what you are paying now and the amount that you would pay under the guidelines is more than 10%.

A judge can modify the amount of child support even when there is not a 10% change and a judge can refuse to modify the child support even when there is more than a 10% change.

The child support guidelines are virtually mandatory. If your ex-wife insists that you pay child support pursuant to the guidelines, her lawyer can present a material change in circumstances to the court to warrant a modification, and the guideline amount is substantially more than what you are currently paying, then it's pretty certain the guidelines will be applied to your case.

Remember that in every modification of child support, the healthcare needs of the child shall be addressed either through health insurance coverage, cash medical support, or other means. Normally, health insurance covering the children should be required if it is available to either parent through his or her employment or pursuant to any other group plan that would cover the child.

You can look at the child support guidelines online and get an approximate amount of what you would pay if the guidelines were applied to your case.

Buckle up and drive safely.

Please send the questions to:

"Ask the Attorney,"

P. O. Box 38, Florence, Alabama 35631

or visit our website at: www.mhatty.com

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See DOLLAR... page 13

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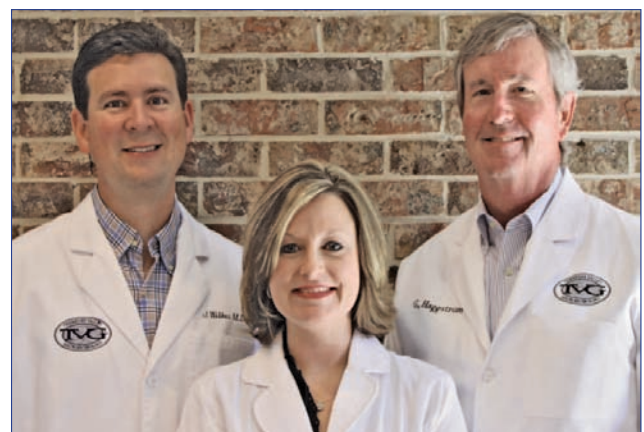
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Most of us who are what used to be called "old folks" but are now called "senior citizens", really miss the old hymns of our youth. The words of these hymns preached the good news of salvation and the ever-present comfort of the Lord in our troubles. It is my personal opinion that we are cheating our youth by not exposing them more to these old hymns.

One of my favorites is the hymn "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" written by Louisa M.R. Stead who was a missionary in Southern Rhodesia in the late 19th Century.

Out of one of the darkest hours of her life—the tragic drowning of her husband—she proclaimed through her tears, "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus". Her husband drowned during an ocean-side picnic attempting to save a drowning boy. Soon afterward Mrs. Stead and her daughter went to Southern Rhodesia as missionaries where she remained until her death in 1917. Here are the words to the hymn.

*"Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, And to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise, And to know, "Thus says the Lord!"*

*How I love to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'Neath the healing cleansing flood.*

*Yes I've learned to trust in Jesus. And from sin and self to cease.
Now from Jesus simply taking; Life and rest and joy and peace.*

*I'm so glad I learned to trust Him, Precious Jesus, Savior Friend;
And I know that He is with me; Will be with me to the end.*

*Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking Life and rest, and joy and peace.*

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!"*

When Mrs. Stead died her fellow missionaries wrote this tribute: "We miss her very much, but her influence goes on as our five thousand native Christians continually sing this hymn in their native language."

Amen and Hallelujah, Pastor White
Thanks, J. Hollis Wilson

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Notes...

Continued from page 4

Underwood-Petersville Community Center Breakfast -- please join us for our First Saturday Breakfast, March 7, from 6-9am. Menu: scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits, pancakes, grits, wonderful chocolate gravy, sausage and regular gravy, orange juice, regular and decaf coffee. Adult plates are \$6 and children 10 and under is \$3. Proceeds go toward the Center expenses.

The Lauderdale County School System will be accepting applications from March 2 - April 3 for the following TOPS Preschool Programs: Brooks Elementary School, Lauderdale County High School, and Wilson High School. Parents may pick up and return an application at the preschool site closest to where they live. All applicants must apply in person and bring with them: original (blue) immunization card, copy of birth certificate, and proof of residency. Typical peers will be determined through a drawing process. The drawing will be held the first week of May, 2015. Names not drawn will be placed on a waiting list. Three-year-olds will go two days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays), and four-year-olds will go three days per week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays). Applications are available at www.lcschools.org. All typically developing peers must go through the application process to attend the TOPS Preschool Program.

Children with special needs do not need to go through the application process. They will continue to be determined by their IEP team based on their needs, as required by law.

W. A. Threadgill Primary School Pre-Kindergarten (Alabama Office of School Readiness) and Kindergarten Registration March 2-6 and March 9-13 from 8:30am-2:30pm. Please bring: Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, Blue Immunization Card, Two Proofs of Residency and Proof of Guardianship and Parent/Guardian Driver's License and 2014 Income Verification (Pre-K students only). Children must be 4 years old on or before September 2, 2015 for Pre-K. Children must be 5 years old on or before September 2, 2015 for Kindergarten.

Quarterly Meeting of the Northwest Alabama RC&D Council will be Friday, March 6 at 10am at Bama-Q Pit & Grill, 125 Military Trail, Hamilton, AL. Registration will commence at 9:30am and the meeting will end at 11:30am with lunch following. An agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting. Please RSVP your attendance by Friday, February 27 by calling 256-383-1446 or emailing mleightcd@gmail.com.

The Alabama Wildlife Federation's Quad Cities Wild Game Cook-Off takes place Saturday, March 21 at 4pm at Longhorn Arena in Tusculumbia. To enter, call 500-822-9453.

Fish Fry at East Colbert Church of Christ Saturday, March 7, 12:30-6pm. All you can eat \$10. (All proceeds go to mission work and benevolence.)

Kindergarten Registration for Lauderdale County Schools - Friday, March 6, 8:30am - Central and Lexington. Friday, March 13, 8:30am - Underwood, Waterloo and Wilson. Friday, March 20, 8:30am - Brooks Elementary, LCHS and Rogers.

Children registering for Kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before September 2, 2015 to be eligible to enter school. The following are required for initial enrollment in public schools: child's certified birth certificate, child's social security card, certificate of exemption or certificate of immunizations, proof of residency. If you have any questions, please call Linda Barnett 256-760-1335 or Dr. Gina Baggett, Elementary Curriculum/Federal Programs Coordinator at 256-760-1336.

The Barnett Brothers Band will be at the West Side Village Community Center, Hwy 99 in the Owens Community, Friday, March 6, 7pm. \$5 admission, all ages welcome. No smoking allowed, no drugs or alcohol permitted. Bring finger foods to share at break. For more information, call 256-771-0586.

North Alabama Presbytery invites you to a Service of Installation for Rev. Jaina Anderson to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Sheffield on Sunday, March 8 at 2pm at First Presbyterian Church, 120 East Fifth Street, Sheffield. Please join us for a reception following the service in the fellowship hall.

See NOTES... page 34



Get an early look at next week's issue with the...
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Courier Journal Lucky Leprechaun Contest

Lucky Leprechauns are dancing through the Courier Journal March 4 and 11!

Search through the Courier Journal and count all the **Color Leprechauns**.
 Black & white Leprechauns are NOT included.

Submit your tally on our website, www.courierjournal.net or mail your entry with name address and phone number to: Lucky Leprechaun c/o Courier Journal, 219 West Tennessee Street, Florence, AL 35630

Count this Leprechaun, too!

Those with the correct number of Color Leprechauns found will qualify for random prize drawings. Prizes include gift certificates from

LEGENDS STEAKHOUSE **Green Valley NURSERY** **FOODLAND** **Domino's PIZZA**

Winners will be announced in the March 18 issue.
 Participants may enter one time each week per person or email address. - That gives each person two chances to win. The deadline to enter online is Thursday, March 12 at 5pm. Mailed entries **MUST BE POSTMARKED** by Wednesday, March 11.

15 PASSENGER VAN RENTAL- \$75/daily, \$350/5 days, \$450/7 days, Unlimited miles. 256-415-2000 03-11

COFFEE TABLE WITH 2 MATCHING end tables, oak with glass insert on top, like new. \$100. 256-654-3256 03-04

THE DOLLAR Stretcher



Continued from Page 8

FROSTY CAR WINDOWS

When frost or ice is on car windows, use the windshield cleaner with deicer already added. Put it in a spray bottle and spray on the windows. This will make scraping easier or you may not have to scrap at all. Denise

DO-IT-YOURSELF MOVE

My husband and I needed to move from TN to PA with a small house full of goods. We also needed short-term storage for three months once we got there. At that time, the lowest cost moving van that could accommodate our household would have cost \$1000 for rental one-way and even more for gas. The rental units were a minimum of \$350 on top of that. Plus, we would have to rent another truck to move into our permanent place!

The solution? We bought a "retired" school bus from a local school district for \$800. We removed all but the front two seats and packed it up! We even were able to fit a motorcycle through the back door! Since this bus was transporting children just weeks before, it was in very sound mechanical condition. They retired it because it did not meet code for passenger safety padding. We were able to move and have storage for a fraction of the price. Plus, after this move, we used the bus for another cross-country move to AZ! We saved 1,500 in van rental.

While we were unloading in AZ, a man dropped by and offered to buy the bus for \$400 on the spot! It is still being used as a storage unit at a job site today!

Mary

See DOLLAR... page 25

2005 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE 170K, 4 cylinder, Premium sound, Michelin tires 5k, Spoiler, beige, tan leather, \$7,495. Call 256-247-0833 or 256-627-2593 03-11

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Commentary

Obama's Allegiance To THIS Country?

An insulting question? Maybe, but well-deserving of an answer. Former NY mayor and presidential candidate, Rudi Giuliani, apparently would like to know as well: "I do not believe – and I know this is a horrible thing to say – but I do not believe that this president loves America."

Those words at a recent Manhattan dinner party have brought the Obama supporters out in full force with objections. They're creating noise trying to deflect attention, because any attentive objective observer for the past six years should have serious concerns.

Never mind that his primary mentors from youth have a five decade disdain for America. Several should have been imprisoned for life for crimes long ago.

The announcement during Obama's post-election speech in 2007 that he was "fundamentally going to change America," coupled with Michelle's comments in Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin on Feb 18, 2008, "For the first time in my adult lifetime, I'm really proud of my country..." seemed ominous early on. Both statements indicated something far short of an established appreciation.

If Obama's allegiance were to this country, he would applaud and encourage the hard working people who make up the backbone of this economy. He would not chide them

See ALLEGIANCE... on Page 31

Comments do not necessarily represent those of the Courier staff, its advertisers, or its readers.

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

Courier Journal

THIS WEEK

in the

Shoals

March 4, 2015

Happening THIS WEEK

A War Series

FLORENCE - The Florence-Lauderdale Public Library is hosting a series on the War of 1812 beginning this weekend. The events in the series are detailed here. There will also be an exhibit on display during the series. The contact number for any of these events is 256-764-6564, ext. 27.

The War of 1812 in the South: Causes and Consequences -

Dr. Tom Kanon: Sunday, March 8 at 2pm

Dr. Kanon will discuss the reasons why the War of 1812 was important to the early southern frontier by explaining the causes of the War as they related to the 'Old Southwest' and the impact the War had on the region. Questions and

See 1812... on Page 16

Fifty Years Since Selma

SELMA-The NAACP Alabama State Conference will host a Gala on Thursday, March 5 at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel & Spa Convention Center. The Gala is part of the events surrounding the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the Selma-To-Montgomery March, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The NAACP Gala will shine a light on those who have contributed as trailblazers to racial justice in America. The event is expected to be a sold out. The reception is at 6pm. The Gala begins at 7pm. Call Tonya Lee, NAACP Alabama assistant secretary, at 205-514-2859 to purchase tickets in advance. Any remaining tickets will be \$50 and

See SELMA... on Page 26

Dot Williams, left, and Christy Risner at last year's Trail Ride *Courtesy photo*



Ride, Food, Auctions for Children's Home

FLORENCE-The 6th Annual Coats' Farm Benefit Trail Ride & Auction takes place Saturday, March 7. Admission is free and donations are accepted. All proceeds go to North Alabama Christian Children's Home.

A Yard Sale "Under the Tents" is Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7 from 7am until each day. (No clothes please, will accept good yard sale items.) The trail ride begins at 9am on Saturday. Live entertainment is by the Pioneer Drive Band beginning at 10am. The silent auction runs from 10am-noon with gift cards, hotel lodging, oil changes, and more. Lunch begins at 11:30am with BBQ, hotdogs, hamburgers, chicken and goat stew, and ham and beans.

For more information, call Robert Coats at Coats' Farm, 256-766-3109 or 256-762-2514; Don Williams, 256-366-3327; or Buddy Smith, 256-762-2804. Coats' Farm is located at 1458 Co. Rd. 298 north of Florence.

JOIN THE SHOALS AREA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS at Florence Skate Center on Thursday, March 5 from 6-9pm for Old School Skate Night! Proceeds going to support both Lauderdale and Colbert Animal Shelters and the Singing River Equine Rescue. Realtors will also be collecting items for the shelters and taking donations. Bring the entire family and your dancing skates. Michael Dixon will DJ spinning the old tracks.

FIRST FRIDAYS is celebrating ten years in 2015 and the first date is Friday, March 6, from 5-8pm. Downtown streets will come alive with vendors and live music on the Big River Broadcasting Stage. "After 10 years First Fridays has become a staple in downtown Florence," said Andy Frith, chairman for the committee of volunteers who work to bring the event to the area from March-December each year. First Fridays will bring back popular themes and events this year, including the pumpkin drop in the center of Court Street and Mobile Plaza. Several dozen vendors will line Court Street and sell their hand-crafted items that include jewelry, original artwork, and clothing. The Cicada Screamers are set to take the stage at 5pm. They'll be followed by Strange Wave. Both bring an alternative rock sound to the event.

FIRST METRO BANK WILL HOST THE 3RD ANNUAL RUNNIN' AROUND DOWNTOWN 5K and 1 Mile Confetti Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, March 7. The event will benefit Shoals Scholar Dollars. The 5K race will take runners on a scenic route through historic downtown Florence. To register visit RunninAroundDowntown.com or stop by any First Metro Bank location.

SOFTBALL

Wednesday, Mar. 4 • 1pm (DH)
at Miles, Birmingham, AL

March 7 & 8

at Valdosta State, Valdosta, GA

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Wednesday, Mar. 4 • 5pm
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March 7 & 8

at Valdosta State, Valdosta, GA



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YOUR Letters

Your Courier Journal welcomes tastefully presented letters to be published as space allows. Letters may refer to timely matters of local, state or national interest or any topic of concern or interest. **Letters must include name, address and phone number for verification.** (Only name and town will be published.) Letters subject to editing. Please limit letters to 400 words. All letters become the property of the Courier Journal and may not necessarily reflect opinions of the Courier Journal staff, its advertisers or a majority of readers. Please submit typed or neatly written letters to: Editor-Courier Journal

by Mail or in Person
219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630
• e-mail: editor@courierjournal.net
• FAX- 256-760-9618

A Commons Birthday

Editor:

It's hard to believe that it has already been one year since the grand opening of the Commons building on UNA's campus! That also means our very own Chick-fil-A and Starbucks are also celebrating their birthdays!

On opening day last year Chick-fil-A saw a huge amount of support! We instantly knew we had chosen the right brand to be located in the heart of Florence on the campus of UNA! Having a Chick-fil-A on campus is not a simple task; since opening we have sold more than 44,000 sandwiches, serving between 500 and 600 guests per day. In the fast food industry, Chick-fil-A is considered to be one of the most stringent brands when it comes to high standards. Our awesome staff upholds

the highest of company standards, helping to propel us to excellent status in both bi-annual audits.

Sodexo and the University of North Alabama have worked tirelessly for over a year to bring the first Starbucks Coffee to the Shoals area. Successfully overcoming numerous obstacles made opening day more rewarding with lines of customers out the door, eagerly waiting for their favorite Frappuccino or latte beverage. Since that day and 27,000 Frappuccino's later, customers still eagerly line up each morning. We are no longer the only Florence location, but our operation remains in good standing with Starbucks corporate and should expect to see a few new items grace our menu over the summer months.

Our first year celebration event on March 3 is our way of showing appreciation for your Chick-fil-A and Starbucks loyalty.

Thank you for your support!

Gabi Borden
Sodexo Campus Services/UNA
Florence

Supporting Distortions

Editor:

Have we let our news information sources change our beliefs about what is normal? Is our country allowing a group of people who choose a behavior to ride the coattail of the equal rights obtained by our black Americans? This is combining apples and rocks, not the same at all. Is our society being forced to accept this behavior as normal? We only hear what the news outlets

See LETTERS... on Page 22



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LUCKY LEPRECHAUNS ARE dancing through the Courier Journal. Search through the paper and find the Color Leprechauns. See complete details in this issue.

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5 METAL SHELVES GOOD condition. Grey. \$20 each. 256-353-4297 03-04

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Do You Truly Love Jesus?

Jesus said "If you love me keep my commandments"
John 14:15

Jesus has commanded us to--

Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.
Love your neighbor as your self.
Mark 12:30, 31

Avoid vain worship shown by giving only lip service and by teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
Mark 7:67

Come to Him for He is the way to God.
John 14:6

Abide in Him so that we may bear fruit.
John 15:4

Believe and be baptized in order to be saved.
Mark 16:16

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Mystery Photo of the week!

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Enter at www.courierjournal.net

Last week's winner is Claire Childress of Florence who correctly guessed "The Mill Store, Florence"

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1812...
Continued from Page 14

discussion will be encouraged.

Kanon is an archivist at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. He holds a Ph.D. in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University. Kanon is the author of *Tennesseans at War, 1812-1815: Andrew Jackson, the Creek War, and the Battle of New Orleans*.

The Red Stick War
Dr. Kathryn Holland Braund: Sunday, March 22 at 2pm

From Fort Mims to Horseshoe Bend, Alabamians have marveled at the extraordinary battles of the Creek War for over two-hundred years. Yet the War's origins are still misunderstood, as is the role of Tecumseh and the relationship of the Creek War to the War of 1812. This presentation will explore the origins of the conflict and its ultimate outcome and repercussions.

Living Memories
Andrew and Rachel Jackson impersonators, Dave McArdle and Melinda Gaines: Sunday, March 29 at 2pm

The Jackson impersonators will help our participants feel they have visited with the Jacksons on a very personal level. McArdle and Gaines will also make historical connections between the Jacksons and Florence.

McArdle is a native of Bronx, NY. After moving to Tennessee, he portrayed Andrew Jackson at The Hermitage (Jackson's Nashville home) for seven years. Gaines is on the Board of Directors of Historic Rock Castle and chairs their Collections Committee. Dave and Melinda have appeared as the Jacksons in movies and documentaries.

John Coffee: General and Surveyor
Myers E. Brown II: Thursday, April 9 at 6pm

Brown will discuss John Coffee, his role in the War of 1812, and his local ties to Florence.

Brown is an archivist for the Tennessee State Library and Archives and holds a Master's degree in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University. He has authored *Tennessee's Union Cavalrymen* and *Images of Tennessee's Confederates*. He is a fellow of the Company of Military Historians and is Chair of the Tennessee War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

From the Cumberland to the Gulf: Tennessee Troops Traversing the Alabama Country

James W. Parker: Sunday, April 12 at 2pm

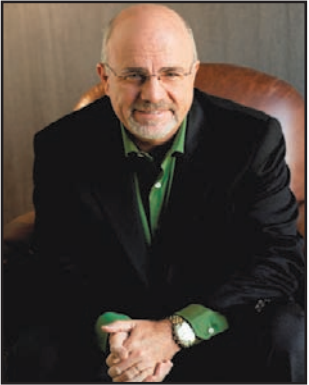
During the War of 1812, Tennessee troops were involved in operations from the Cumberland River to the Gulf of Mexico. This presentation will explore the events that transpired in the Southeast during the years of the conflict.

Parker is employed with the Alabama Historical Commission and holds a Master's degree in American Studies from the University of Alabama. He has researched the 1812 era for more than 30 years and has held presentations across the state and the region.

DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING OUT OF DEBT?



Dear Dave,
Should you budget for mad money, or just carrying around cash, when you're trying to get out of debt?
Aurora

Dear Aurora,
What really matters is the amount of mad money you allow yourself to have. Everyone needs a little pocket money. It's probably not going to throw you off too much if you put \$10 or \$20 in there. But \$100 or \$200? That's a bit much when you're scrimping, saving and supposedly working hard to get out of debt.

Think of it as a safety valve, Aurora. Everyone needs a break and a little fun now and then. Whether it's grabbing lunch out, or going to a movie once in a while, you need to relax and let off little steam.

Just make it part of your regular monthly budget, and stick to the amount. Little things like this will help keep your total money makeover moving in the right direction without wearing you out!
—Dave

IT'S A BETTER IDEA TO PRE-PLAN

Dear Dave,
My wife passed away last year, and she was just 43-years old. I paid cash for the funeral and all the arrangements. Now, I'm getting solicitations from the funeral home, wanting me to prepay my own funeral. I'm 45-years-old. Is this a good idea?
Dave

Dear Dave,
God bless you and your family. I'm so sorry you have to go through this, but I'm glad to hear you were in good enough shape financially to handle the

burden. That means you were both very wise with your money.

My advice is to pre-plan, but don't prepay. As you discovered, having to make important decisions in the midst of that kind of grief is a hard thing to do. Sometimes, people are so emotional during times like these that they make bad decisions. So, pre-planning and making selections ahead of time is a great idea.

But it's never a good idea to prepay for this kind of thing, and here's why. If you live to an average age, for what you'd prepay today at age 45, you could invest the amount, be self-insured for that kind of thing, and in all likelihood have a ton of money sitting there when your time comes.

Events like this make you realize the need for proper planning, but don't ever prepay them. Lots of people in the funeral industry don't like me for this stance, but that's just because they make lots of money on prepayment plans.
—Dave

Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business. He's authored four *New York Times* best-selling books: *Financial Peace*, *More Than Enough*, *The Total Money Makeover* and *Entre Leadership*. The *Dave Ramsey Show* is heard by more than 5 million listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @Dave Ramsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.



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Merle West Legacy

When an athlete is a member of three different sports Hall of Fames, it's not hard to figure out you're talking about a very special individual. That describes the late Merle West to a tee. I became associated with Coach West when he was at Coffee High School the same time I was broadcasting their games.

When I began to hear and learn about the tough road to success he had traveled during his career, I was tremendously impressed with his experiences. West started for four years in varsity football, baseball, basketball and track at Haleyville High School. Schools such as Alabama, Ole Miss, Southern Mississippi and Florida State became interested in the youngster as a junior in high school.

Then tragedy struck. Because of an accident, both arms and both legs were broken and he also sustained a back injury. His condition was so severe, doctors told him he probably would never walk again. Actually, the legacy of Merle West took its beginning during this time. After a six month stay in the hospital, sheer determination and dedication saw West return to school for his senior season.

After a stint at Itawamba Junior College, West signed a football scholarship to Florence State Teachers College where he was voted Most Valuable Lineman his senior year. After graduation, West embarked on a long and successful coaching career that saw him make stops at Handley High School, Athens High School, Cullman High School, Butler High School and Coffee High School.

In his 25 years at Coffee, West became head football coach and track coach. He also coached the girls golf team to a state championship in 1985 and started the wrestling program at the school. After retiring in Alabama, West coached at Loretto High School in Tennessee and Bainbridge High School in Georgia.

West officiated college and high school basketball for 35 years and was a wrestling official for 10 years. He also served his country in the National Guard and Naval Reserve. For his athletic and coaching achievements, West is a member of the Winston County Sports Hall of Fame, Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame and the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame.

E-mail comments and suggestions to: jerrywknight@comcast.net

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*BILL CREDIT/PROGRAMMING OFFER: IF BY THE END OF PROMOTIONAL PRICE PERIOD(S) CUSTOMER DOES NOT CONTACT DIRECTV TO CHANGE SERVICE THEN ALL SERVICES WILL AUTOMATICALLY CONTINUE AT THE THEN-PREVAILING RATES. Three free months of HBO, STARZ, SHOWTIME and Cinemax with SELECT, ENTERTAINMENT, CHOICE, XTRA and ULTIMATE Packages, a \$144 value when ordered by 2/4/15. Value on orders placed after 2/4/15 is \$152.97. LIMIT ONE PROGRAMMING OFFER PER ACCOUNT. Featured package/service names and current prices: SELECT \$49.99/mo.; Advanced Receiver fee \$15/mo. Price includes the following instant bill credits for first 12 months: \$30 for SELECT Package. For orders placed 2/5/15 or later, eligibility for bill credit amount will be based on ZIP code. Account must be in "good standing" as determined by DIRECTV in its sole discretion to remain eligible for all offers.

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Letters...

Supporting Distortions

Continued from Page 14

determine we should hear and slant it the way they prefer. LGBT (lesbians, gays, bisexual, transgender) are overly represented in the field of entertainment and news reporting when compared to the remainder of our society.

Our country is crossing a boundary of morality that we are being told through the majority of our television programs is the new normal. LGBT organizations would have us believe that their life styles are normal and must be accepted by all, including the right to redefine God's plan for marriage. We are being made to believe this is an equal rights issue. How can it be? It is a choice of behavior made for a sinful lifestyle. There are many sinful lifestyles in our society but they aren't attempting to force us call them normal and make them legal. Where do we as the silent majority say, "enough!"?

We do want our children to be able to pray in school. We do want "In God We Trust" as our official motto. We do want "One Nation under God" to be in our pledge of allegiance. We do want the marriage between a man and a woman to be the only accepted legal marriage in this country.

America is a country that is full of God-fearing, God-loving people who believe the Bible when it tells us how we should live our lives. Yet, many people supporting homosexuality would like for you to believe they are more intelligent, therefore they can make wiser decisions. It is not intelligence that one uses to distort God's Word to support their cause. God tells us in Romans 1: 20-22 that people who support this type of behavior think they are wise, but they are not. They are fools. One has to only look at Genesis 19 to see what happened to a society where homosexuality was accepted as normal. Americans have slowly seen our country's morals decline. We have watched as prayer was removed from our schools, we have elected atheists to decision-making positions, our motto in God we trust is challenged, and our pledge of allegiance is no longer voiced by all. Now we watch as our president agrees with same-sex marriage.

Our Supreme Court will be deciding in April each state's right to keep marriage between man and woman only. Pray that part of their preparation for this decision will include the study of the Bible. Changing the direction of the morality our country is headed is the most important issue we have facing us as Americans.

Gary Willis
Florence

See LETTERS... on Page 27

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FERTILIZING FOR BEGINNERS

Fertilizing a lawn is a springtime tradition for many homeowners. Winter can take its toll on a lawn, but fertilizer can go a long way toward helping a lawn recover from harsh weather. While lawn-and-garden enthusiasts might know the ins and outs of fertilizing a lawn, novices might need a little help as they look to restore their lawns.

- Find out what your lawn needs. Even novice green thumbs likely know that overfertilization can harm a lawn, and that's a big reason many homeowners approach fertilizing their lawn with some trepidation. A lush lawn adds to the curb appeal of a home, while a lawn that's patchy or appears to be poorly taken care of can lower property value. Before fertilizing a lawn, homeowners should determine the needs of

their lawns. A soil test can determine if the lawn has any nutrient deficiencies.

- Don't overdo it with nitrogen. Fertilizing with too much nitrogen is a common mistake, as too much nitrogen can be harmful, decreasing root growth and increasing a lawn's susceptibility to disease. A slow-release fertilizer may be an option, as such fertilizers break down nutrients over a longer period of time, which also allows homeowners to extend the intervals between fertilizing sessions. But a lawn can get nitrogen from other sources as well. Such sources include grass clippings or raked leaves left on the lawn after being shredded by a mulching mower.
- Consider using granules instead of spray. Spraying a lawn with fertilizer might seem like the easiest and quickest way to fertilize, but spraying is typically best left to the professionals. That's because novices often struggle to evenly apply the fertilizer when spraying, and many do not account for the wind when spraying fertilizer. A traditional spreader that fertilizes a lawn with granules makes it easier for nonprofessionals to apply the fertilizer accurately and evenly. Before fertilizing with granules, read the package to determine if you need to water the lawn before application, as some fertilizers are only effective when applied to a lawn after it has been watered. Also, be sure to fill the spreader on asphalt instead of the lawn.
- Plan to fertilize several times. Some homeowners only fertilize twice a year, once in the spring and then once again in the fall. But fertilizer should be applied multiple times throughout the year, beginning in the early spring. The first time to fertilize is when the soil temperature reaches roughly 55 F, which is often evident because grass typically starts to grow again when the soil reaches that temperature. Fertilize again roughly a month after fertilizer is first applied, and then do so every six to eight weeks after through October. Professionals often recommend using

an organic material during the third fertilizing session.



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Continued from Page 13

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Jen in Michigan

LADIES' BUSINESS CASUAL SLACKS

I've worked in offices for years where I am expected to wear "business casual" clothes. Women's dress pants are pricey, flimsy, and often dry clean only. I save money by buying khaki, white and black jeans. I use a seam ripper on a new pair to take the belt loops and back pockets carefully off, and they look like dress pants for much less money. In 10 years, no one has noticed the difference. Keep your black jeans looking good by re-dying them a couple of times a year.

Mary C.



ICE CREAM
 Tired of having crystals form on the top of your ice cream? If so, turn the container upside down when you return it to the freezer. I don't know why it works, but you won't have crystals in your ice cream any more.

BD

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If smudges are on your computer or TV screen, don't buy the expensive "electronic wipes." Instead, use 100% cotton. It's also great for cleaning glasses. Don't use water or any other cleaner. Just gently rub off the fingerprints or other smudges.

R.C. in KS

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Julie S.

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March...

Continued from Page 14

available at the door. A multi-day celebration entitled the "Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee" will commemorate the anniversary with the theme, "Remember, Recommit, and Restore."

President Barack Obama is scheduled to speak at midday on Saturday, March 7 at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge will take place Sunday, March 8. There will be numerous other planned activities.

In addition to Obama and NAACP National President, Cornell Brooks, thousands of attendees are expected in Selma and Montgomery, including former U.S. Presidents, past and present members of Congress, Civil Rights icons, entertainers and celebrities.

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Letters...

Continued from Page 22

Rural America: It's Complicated

Editor:

There are two closely held, widely believed, narratives about rural America. The national media narrative with its roots in the 1980's farm crisis, is fatalistic. Rural places are dying. It lives on at the Brookings Institute and the New York Times, fueled by demographics that show decades of population decline across much of rural America.

The other narrative is woven by small town boosters. They point to new demographic data showing 30-49 year olds returning to small towns. They talk with passion about new businesses and housing shortages.

The challenge is that neither narrative is wholly accurate. The truth is far more complex. The fatalists are caught in a crisis mind frame, and they are wrong. Rural America will not return to a vast buffalo commons anytime soon. Meanwhile, the boosters lead with great local successes while brushing over underlying trends.

To build a vibrant small town future in America, we must understand clearly what challenges we face and where emerging opportunities exist.

Many small towns are losing population, yet young families moving in often cannot find housing. Much small town infrastructure is in decline. However, contractors, plumbers and electricians have more work than they can handle often with new construction. Small town grocery stores are under pressure, but community-led efforts to retain grocery stores have seen dramatic success.

America's small town reality is complex. Some places thrive while others struggle. In every small town there is a mix of success and challenge. Understanding these dynamics is the only path to a vibrant future.

Brian Depew
Center for Rural Affairs
Lyons, NE
briand@cra.org

Religious Freedom

Editor:

It is the right of every American citizen to express their religious belief openly without fear from our government. It is stated in the First Amendment that we should enjoy religious freedom and that the lawmakers in Congress "shall make no law" that bars us from doing this. It is very plain and without need of further definition.

Any U.S. citizen has the right to boast their religious belief from the roof top without government interference. If a citizen has

See LETTERS... on Page 28

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Letters...

Religious Freedom

Continued from Page 27

no religious preference or belief, that citizen does not have to agree or disagree with what they hear; they don't even have to listen to another citizen proclaim their belief. The government does not have the authority, by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, to create a law that silences

me from proclaiming my religion or praying to my God in a public place or public property of which I pay my taxes to support. It is an illegal interpretation of the law by the Supreme Court to limit my right of religious expression, whether at work or school or public ball game or any other venue in which I may choose to do so; there is no Constitutional limit to my freedoms of religion or freedom of speech. So long as my speech or religious expressions do not insight public outrage or violence, or create a non-peaceful assembly of the people, it is still my right to express myself.

I would die for the right of the Christian, the atheist, the Muslim, or any other religious faith or non-faith based religion to freely express their belief in public. It is my responsibility to teach my children my belief and introduce them to my God as every other American has the right and responsibility to do. I do not have the right to suppress another citizen from their right of expression, and neither does our government.

George Washington said of the Constitution, "it's only keepers, the people." The government officials that try to limit or take away our freedoms are supposed to be kept in check by the people. When we allow our government to steal those rights away we lose our freedoms. Our Constitution says that Congress is the law maker, not the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is supposed to define the law and weigh the law against the Constitution; not make new laws to govern the people. That power belongs to the Congress.

I encourage you to write or call your congressional representative and make a strong voice for our freedom of speech and religious expression. It is imperative that we maintain the freedoms for which we declared Independence from British rule in 1776.

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Courier Journal Lucky Leprechaun Contest


Lucky Leprechauns are dancing through the Courier Journal March 4 and 11!

Search through the Courier Journal and count all the **Color Leprechauns**.
Black & white Leprechauns are NOT included.

Submit your tally on our website, www.courierjournal.net or mail your entry with name address and phone number to: **Lucky Leprechaun c/o Courier Journal, 219 West Tennessee Street, Florence, AL 35630**

Count this Leprechaun, too!

Those with the correct number of Color Leprechauns found will qualify for random prize drawings. Prizes include gift certificates from



Winners will be announced in the March 18 issue.

Participants may enter one time each week per person or email address. - That gives each person two chances to win. The deadline to enter online is Thursday, March 12 at 5pm. Mailed entries **MUST BE POSTMARKED** by Wednesday, March 11.

Soap Opera Preview



THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL Steffy made her intentions crystal-clear to Ivy about what she expected from Liam. Maya questioned Rick about the sincerity of his apology to the staff. Wyatt

gave Ivy cause for concern when he explained how far Steffy would go to get what she wanted -- Liam. Quinn regrettably confessed to Wyatt about the unfortunate run-in she had with Brooke.

Later, Brooke filled Deacon in on Quinn's dark side. Liam had some disappointing news for Ivy. Caroline and Ridge collaborated on another work of art. Tired about the way they've been treated, Ivy and Aly agreed to stand up to Rick and gain his respect. Nicole arrived unannounced at the Forrester Mansion, looking for Maya and a place to live. *Wait to See: Rick gets an update on the status of his divorce to Caroline.*

DAYS OF OUR LIVES Sonny dropped a bombshell on Will. Eric reached out to Nicole with a surprising admission. Lucas made a difficult decision regarding Adrienne. An emotional JJ attempted to explain his affair with Eve. Theresa was furious after learning about Melanie's investigation. Serena decided to use Daniel to get what she needed. Hope and Aiden got the stamp of approval from someone unexpected. Eve was faced with a difficult choice. Nicole urged Daniel to make a decision about their future. Melanie bristled at Brady's defense of Theresa. Serena received an unwelcome visitor. JJ was stunned to learn that not all hope was lost. Adrienne overheard a big secret. Jordan made a life-changing decision. *Wait to See: Jordan says goodbye to Salem.*

GENERAL HOSPITAL Nikolas decided to reveal something to Sam about Jake. Olivia opened up to Dante about her unexpected pregnancy. Alexis was suspicious of Michael's latest ruse in court. The judge made a ruling in Avery's custody case. Bobbie and Scott revealed the fact that Luke had gone to the darker side. Franco and Nina continued to scheme together. Maxie was taken aback by Spinelli's actions. Carly tried to persuade Sonny not to take extreme measures in regards to Avery. Morgan received instructions from Sonny on how to proceed next. Nathan was up front with Maxie about their relationship. Tracy revealed to Monica

her fears about Luke. New information was revealed about Luke's family that may help produce answers. *Wait to See: Silas has some devastating news.*

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS Adam blew off Sage's warning and did everything he could to get closer to Chelsea. Lily felt vindicated for never trusting Hilary. Neil relapsed on alcohol and publicly blamed Devon. Christine accused Phyllis of poisoning Kelly. Later, Phyllis visited Summer, who was having a hard time holding it together. Avery warned Nick not to get involved with Sage or it could negatively affect his custody case. Victor warned Kelly that Jack was out to get her. Paul questioned Kelly about the poisoning. Sharon felt rejected after Dylan wasn't interested in the romantic dinner she had planned. *Wait to See: Nikki begs Neil not to reveal her secret.*

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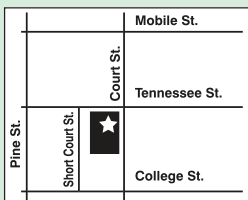
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Randall on Real Estate
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IT'S COMPETITIVE!

If you currently have a home for sale, you may be scratching your head. You may be asking yourself questions like "Why hasn't my home sold?" or maybe "Why are we not getting more showings?" "Why haven't we had an offer?"

Either way, it's quite obvious that selling today is not what it was in 2007 when a record number of homes were sold here in the Shoals area. In fact, the market in 2011 is slightly off from where it was in 2010.

Which means this: Selling a home is more competitive now than it has been in over 10 years.

If you're a seller, that means you have to not only be "effectively" priced, but the condition of your home needs to be tip top shape as well. See how you measure up on this list:

- How do you look from the street? Are your flower beds mulched? Do you have weeds everywhere? Have you trimmed your shrubs and bushes? Are your gutters cleaned out? What about pressure washing? Keeping the yard mowed today might not be enough. Look around you, if all of your neighbors lawns are "weed free", then you better call someone to treat yours or get to the co-op. You've GOT to make a great first impression. If it doesn't look good from the street, you'll never get them in the door.

- Are you de-cluttered? Move the piles! It is time to rent a storage unit. The \$30-50 monthly investment for a storage unit might save you thousands in a negotiation. Get rid of the clutter. Ask your REALTOR for help and for suggestions on staging.

- Are you clean? Clean, Clean, Clean!!! Aside from Curb appeal, in my opinion this is most important. It's got to be clean to sell. Hire someone to help if needed.

- Are you showing off your children and grandchildren to potential buyers or are you showing off your granite countertops? Remove the personal pictures. I know this sounds harsh, but it's really not. If someone sees pictures of you and your family everywhere, it takes away from visualizing themselves living there.

Bottom line: You've got to be on top of your game to sell your home in this market. If you measure up on all of the above and you are effectively priced, you're in good shape. Call your REALTOR and discuss the next steps. If you're falling short in some of the areas above, don't sweat it, just get busy! -mr

Please feel free to send your questions. Rest assured I will only use your first name when I answer your questions. Email to: questions@mikerandallhomes.com or mail to:

Questions for Mike Randall
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\$169,000 4BR. 2BA. 256-762-4092. Move in ready and updated. 2206 Bower Dr. Florence 35630 04-08

2150 CHICKASAW DRIVE. Nice 3BR, 2BA home in Hickory Hills. No pets. \$1,000 month, \$1,000 deposit. www.rentshoals.com 256-766-6992 03-04

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FOR SALE FLORENCE, 191 Chaparral Drive, 4BR, 2BA, \$119,000. K&H Inc. 256-349-0000 03-25

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Commentary

Allegiance...

Continued from Page 14

and penalize them for some mythical level of unfairness that they have supposedly created and bear the responsibility to correct.

A person who truly loves this country would not routinely assume the position of lead antagonist on heavily divisive issues.

Starting with the Louis Gates fiasco in Cambridge, Massachusetts stating the police acted "stupidly," Obama has injected himself into every media-trumpeted mistreatment de jour involving someone from the black community. Never has he sided with the authorities or the rule of law. His opinions have done nothing except create division, because as resulting evidence has demonstrated, he has yet to be right.

Obama claims to follow some form of Christianity but he attends no services, saying he doesn't want to be a distraction. He has been caught more than once on audio/video proclaiming his Muslim faith and then correcting himself. Who makes those kinds of mistakes about their own faith?

He frequently points out how Muslims are intertwined in American history since our founding as a nation. Really? I'd like to see that extensive list.

Regardless, Obama's bowing to the Saudi Muslim King sent a message to the world that he views himself and America as subordinate in that relationship. That is unacceptable on several levels.

Two of his former secretaries of defense, and two retired four-star generals who served under him harshly criticized his foreign policy positions. A retired four-star admiral who served in the Middle East in Obama's administration termed his policies "anti-American."

Economically we need look no farther than last week. Despite the fact that the Keystone Pipeline Approval Act was passed by significant, bipartisan majorities in both the house and senate and has the support of the US taxpayers by a three-one margin, Obama chose to shun tens of thousands of high-paying American jobs in America's vast proven energy sector in favor of more taxpayer subsidies wasted on his clean energy agenda.

The President and First Lady have also embarrassed us with some unfortunate international gaffes. If they weren't purposely making the U.S. a laughing stock, they were far too gauche to tour the White House, much less occupy it.

In March 2009, he was "too tired" to properly host Prime Minister Gordon Brown because he was 'dealing with the economic crisis.' It was but one of several such rebuffs of Brown. Obama did give the prime minister a gift set of 25 DVD's of classic American films. Too bad they were coded for the United States and unreadable by DVD players in the UK. The regional coding system is absurd and not Obama's fault. However, he or his advisors should have known about such issues in advance.

First Lady, Michelle Obama, broke protocol by touching Queen Elizabeth on the back in 2009. Again, not a huge deal to Americans, however, it is simply NOT done. She should know that.

During his May 2011 toast to the Queen on her soil, instead of pausing as the band began playing "God Save the Queen," President Obama continued speaking.

On that trip in 2011 the Obamas visited Westminster Abbey. The President signed the guest book. For some reason, he dated his entry as May 24, 2008. Three years off?

Regardless of differing ideals, this week's snub of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is another example. Obama's foreign policy mindset is a joke to everyone except Israel. To them it's literally life and death.

Some say that accusing a sitting president of being unpatriotic is out of bounds. That is precisely what Obama said as a sitting senator about President George W. Bush. Where was the outrage then? And where was Bush's pattern of outward animosity toward the U.S. which we seem to have now?

We all like to poke fun at G.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter for not being among the most distinguished of the Presidential list. However, none of their actions were done in an effort to lessen the unity, image, and influence of the U.S. on the world stage. We clearly can't say that with this President. So, do Obama's collective actions and remarks reflect a love for this country?

I have to stick with Rudy on this one.

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PET DÉCOR

Eight lifestyle hacks for dog and cat owners

Remember when the words “pet decor” meant a cat tree wrapped in ugly carpet or a crate with a cover thrown over it that doubled as an end table? No more. Whatever your decorating style, clever manufacturers and DIYers have come up with some amazing and amazingly attractive items and home hacks that suit both your pets’ needs and your own desire to have an attractive home. We’ve collected eight of our favorite ideas for making a beautiful life with your cat or dog, whether you’re remodeling, redecorating, crafting it yourself or buying something new.

❖ **Fur-niture.** We’ve all sighed over the amount of pet hair that collects on sofas, chairs, bedspreads — pretty much anything in the home. Of course you can throw a sheet over your sofa or purchase a cute cover decorated with paw prints, but there are other options if you want a more sophisticated look.

If you’re buying a new piece of furniture, look for easy-clean fabrics such as Ultrasuede, a type of microfiber, or Crypton, a synthetic fabric that resists stains (including those made by muddy paws), odor and bacteria. Or consider skipping fabric altogether and going with leather, pleather or vinyl. All are easy to clean, and some vintage vinyl pieces look fabulous. Check Etsy, salvage shops or Craigslist for finds.

❖ **Re-cover.** If you have sewing skills, look online for patterns and make slipcovers from the fabric of your choice.

Pet-friendly and washable fabrics include denim, cotton duck and canvas. Choose something that can be thrown in the washing machine when your pet throws up on it. Other good choices are floral or tapestry prints that will help hide fur between vacuum visits.

❖ **Pet beds.** Repurpose an old radio cabinet, console TV or suitcase to make a unique sleep spot for your pet. Another way to upcycle: Turn an old dresser drawer into a pet bed with a cushion or pillow. Look on Pinterest or HGTV.com for how-tos.

❖ **Built-ins.** If you’re building or remodeling your home, ask the contractor about implementing one (or more) of these pet-friendly conveniences: a pullout cabinet for storing pet food and dishes, or a sliding drawer beneath a cabinet with custom cutouts to hold pet dishes; window seats, bookshelves or cabinets with built-in pet beds; or a custom pet door that matches cabinetry or door paneling. Houzz and Pinterest have scores of examples.

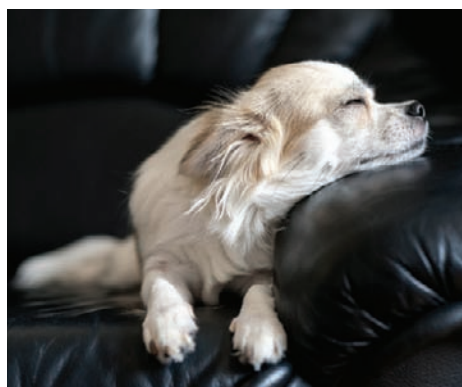
❖ **Pet door.** For a simpler way to snazz up an existing pet door, simply add trim, or molding, around the edges.

❖ **Cat walks.** Cats like to rule their domain from on high. And what could be higher than the ceiling? You can build or purchase attractive steps that attach to the wall so your cat can climb to the highest point in the room, well away from marauding dogs or toddlers. Bridges allow him to perfect his acrobatic skills as he crosses over doorways. Cat bridges, mazes,

and other configurations all attach to the wall so they take up little space while allowing your cat to go vertical.

❖ **Windows.** Build a window seat so your pet can enjoy the view outdoors or even an enclosed “catio” that can be accessed from a window. You can build a window seat yourself, hire a contractor or purchase one from retailers such as Bed, Bath and Beyond or Amazon.

❖ **Underfoot.** Hard-surface floors such as wood, bamboo or tile are easiest to clean, but if you must have carpeting, look for a low-pile style made of stain-resistant material. Another good option is Flor carpet tiles, which can be easily taken up and replaced. It will be a mood-saver when you’re cleaning up cat vomit for the umpteenth time or housetraining a puppy.



Pet hair cleanup is easier when you have leather, pleather or vinyl furniture.

Border collies rule at agility contest

• A border collie named Tex finished first at the second-annual Westminster Kennel Club agility trial, winning over a field of 330 dogs. A husky mix named Roo successfully defended his 2014 title as the highest-scoring mixed-breed dog in the competition. Scoring highest in their height categories were Pink, a papillon, 8-inch division; Keebler, a Pembroke Welsh corgi, 12-inch division; Smart, a border collie, 16-inch division; the aforementioned Tex in the 20-inch division; and Ffynch, a border collie, 24-inch division. The canine competitors comprised 74 breeds and varieties, plus 15 mixed breeds.

• New Jersey legislators and Gov. Chris Christie have enacted a “pet store disclosure” law that requires pet stores to provide breeder and inspection report information about puppies for sale. Described as the toughest in the country, the legislation also prohibits pet stores from selling puppies purchased from breeders found by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to have “severe violations” of care standards. The measure’s sponsor, state Sen. Jim Holzapfel, says providing the information allows consumers to research breeders and make an informed decision before buying.

• Wrong visiting hours? A miniature schnauzer named Sissy trekked 20 blocks to the hospital where her owner was undergoing chemotherapy. She had ridden there in the car previously, but had never made the journey on foot. After finding her way, the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, dog walked in through the automatic doors and was presumably in search of an elevator to take her to visit Nancy Franck. Hospital employees intercepted her and used the phone number on her tag to call Dale Franck, who had been searching frantically for the would-be canine candy stripper.

— **Dr. Marty Becker and Kim Campbell Thornton**

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Gospel Meeting

Chapel Hill Church Of Christ

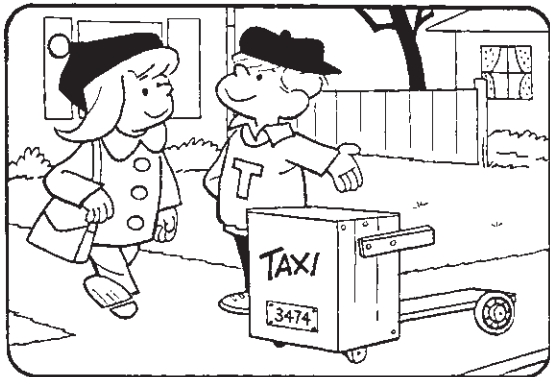
March 8, 9, and 10

Speaker:
ARDIE COLLINS

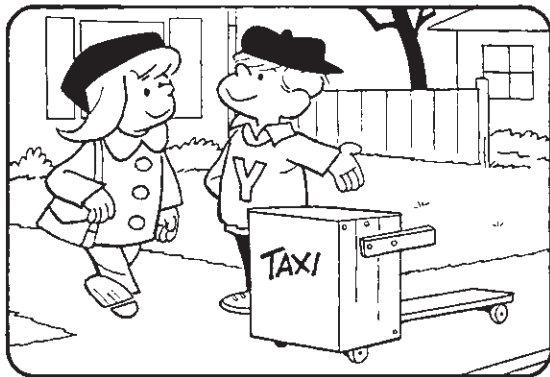
Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9:30am
 Worship: 10:30am • Lunch Following
 Singing at 1:30pm
 Evening Service: 3pm
 Monday & Tuesday Night Services: 7pm

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Fur is smaller. 3. License is missing. 4. Letters is different. 5. Wheel is different. 6. Curtains are missing. 7. Hat is different. 8. Fur is smaller. 9. License is missing. 10. Letters is different. 11. Wheel is different. 12. Curtains are missing.

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Community Notes...

Continued from page 12

LifeSouth Blood Drives - March - ECM Center, 205 Marengo Street, Florence, 256-765-7038. The hours are: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm; Saturday, 9am-3pm; Sunday, 1-5pm.

Keller Center, 1208 S Jackson Highway, Sheffield, 256-383-3535. The hours are: The hours are: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. Wednesday, March 4, 5am-7pm, American Wholesale Book Company, 4350 Bryson Blvd, Florence

Thursday, March 5, 9am-3pm, BookSmart, 602 John Aldridge Dr., Tusculmbia

Friday, March 6, 7:30am-4pm, Hackleburg High School, 189 Panther Rd, Hackleburg

Saturday, March 7, 7am-2pm. Kiwanis - Pancake Day, 702 E Veterans Dr., Florence

Sunday, March 8, 11am-4:30pm, Petersville Church of Christ, 3601 Cloverdale Rd., Florence

Monday, March 9, 12-7pm, Wal-Mart, 13675 Hwy 43, Russellville

Tuesday, March 10, 7:30am-4pm, Phil Campbell High School, 65 School St., Phil Campbell

Wednesday, March 11, 8am-4pm, Muscle Shoals High School, 1900 Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals

The March 2015 American Red Cross Blood Drives for Lauderdale, Colbert and Franklin Counties. Donors can schedule an appointment at or get additional information at www.redcrossblood.org Teresa Becker 256-990-0830.

Wednesday, March 4, 10:30am-4:30pm, Northwest Shoals Community College, Gym, 800 George Wallace Blvd, Muscle Shoals.

Thursday, March 5, 1-6pm, Rogersville Community at the Rogersville Volunteer Fire Department, American Red Cross Bloodmobile, 36 Wheeler St, Rogersville.

Monday, March 9, 2-6:30pm, YMCA of the Shoals, American Red Cross Bloodmobile, 2121 Helton Dr, Florence.

Thursday, March 12, 10:30am-3:30pm, First United Methodist Church, Basement Fellowship Hall, 415 N. Seminary St, Florence.

The Alpha Pi (Florence) chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. will have its annual Scholarship Banquet on Friday, March 13 at the Cypress Lakes Country Club in Muscle Shoals at 7pm. The program is held each year to assist the chapter in sponsoring scholarships for area high school seniors. The speaker for this year's banquet is Rev. Trevor Crenshaw.

Rev. Crenshaw is a graduate of Coffee High School in Florence and earned his B.A. degree from American Baptist College, his Master's degree is from Selma University and he is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Rice University.

Rev. Crenshaw has served as pastor of Petersville M. B. Church, and as interim pastor of Holy Sanctuary Temple of God. Currently, he is the proud pastor of Trinity M. B. Church in Florence. He is very active in the community and also serves as an adjunct professor at Huntsville Bible College!

This year the fraternity will present its third annual James H. Floyd memorial scholarship sponsored by the Floyd family and the local chapter. Mr. Floyd was an outstanding local educator and a long time member of the fraternity.

For ticket information contact any chapter member of Omega Psi Phi or call 255-757-1459, 256-383-0004 or 256-381-2595. John Humes is the chapter's president and the program chairman is Rev. Charlie Johnson, Jr.

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NAMI Shoals Support Group for families with adults and/or children who have brain disorders (mental illnesses) meets Tuesday, March 10 at 7pm at the NAMI Shoals office, 749 Thompson St., Suite A, Florence. Need directions or more information, call 256-765-2081.

The Tennessee Valley Art Association Center Stage presents "The Diary of Anne Frank" by Frances Gorch & Albert Hackett. Adapted by Wendy Kesselman. Directed by Darren Butler.

Anne Frank has emerged from history a living, lyrical, intensely gifted young girl, who confronted her young life and the horror of her time with astonishing honesty, wit, and determination. Her impassioned story about the lives of eight people hiding from the Nazis in a concealed attic for two years commemorates the life and legacy of a courageous young girl who died in March 1945 shortly before the end of WW II.

March 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 7:35pm, March 15 at 2:05pm. \$12.50 for adults, \$8 for students. Tickets available at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, 256-383-0533

Florence Downtown Parking Deck Clean Up - Saturday, March 14, 9am-noon at the Downtown Florence Parking Deck.

Join in and clean the Downtown Parking Deck. Our Downtown is growing and parking has become more and more valuable!

Please volunteer to help Downtown Florence Unlimited and the City of Florence with sweeping, painting and making our deck more appealing. Wear closed-toe shoes and old clothing. This is a bring your own broom event. It will help if you bring a dust pan or gas leaf blower.

Mt. New Home M. B. Church in Leighton will be hosting a benefit program for Rev. George Smith on March 15 at 4pm. Guest speaker will be Karlos Felton, pastor Zion #1 M. B. Church in Barton and moderator of the Muscle Shoals District Missionary Baptist Association. The music will be provided by Westside M. B. Church of Decatur. Please come and share with Rev. Smith.

Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America is having its Annual Musical Program Sunday, March 15, 3pm at Bethel CPCA, 408 East Alabama St. in Florence.

Host: The Starlight Gospel Singers and St. James Special Chorus. Co-host: Rev. Olive Turner and witness along with St. James Senior Choir. All singing groups and soloists are invited.

Elizabeth Skipworth is the contact chair: 256-764-4512.

The Helen Keller Hospital Foundation Employee Committee will sponsor a **Uniform Sale** on Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20 in the River Room, which is located in the basement of Helen Keller Hospital. Uniforms 2U will provide a great selection of scrubs, shoes, monogramable items, bags, jackets, and more. For more information about the Helen Keller Hospital Foundation, please contact the Foundation Office at 256-386-4470.

Helen Keller Hospital will host the 21st annual Heart Healthy Dining Out on Tuesday, March 24. This event will take place at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center at 5:30 p.m. This is a community education program sponsored by the Keller's Cardio Pulmonary Rehabilitation Department. The goal of the program is to educate people how to make healthier choices while dining out. "We want people to realize that they do not have to compromise taste in order to eat healthy," said Angela Hamilton Vinson, RN, BSN. Area restaurants bring samples of their heart-healthy entrees for the attendees to enjoy. Participating restaurants include: Sperry's, George's Steak Pit, Keller Cafe', Marriott-Shoals, Legend's, Olive Garden, LaHacienda, Yummies Bakery, The Rising Crust, Yogurt Mountain, and more!

Tickets are \$7 each and can be purchased at the Keller Wellcare Center. This event will sell out, so get your ticket early. Call 256-386-4747 for ticket information.

Beauty and the Beast JR will be presented by 7th-12th graders grade from Hartselle Jr. High & High School, March 13 at 7pm, March 14 at 2pm and 7pm, Hartselle High School Auditorium, 1000 Bethel Rd in Hartselle. Tickets: Students/ Seniors \$8, Adults \$10. Please contact Lisa King at lisa.king@hcs.k12.al.us or call 256-773-5426 or 256-612-1208.

St. Florian Senior Center is accepting group card players. We are now accepting reservations on Wednesdays and Fridays. Lunch provided if interested for a nominal fee. Fridays Bingo 10:30am-Noon. Lunch is served at Noon on Fridays and 11:30am on Wednesdays. For more information call Debi 256-760-6660 or 256-412-4144.



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2 Timothy 2:25 "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth." *There's the problem.*

Christ spoke in: **John 7:19** "Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?" Do you think you can keep the law and save yourself or keep yourself saved? Mass confusion. Jesus spoke in: **Matthew 15:8** "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honouret me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." **Jeremiah 29:13** "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Are you looking for God? Until you believe the truth, your search is useless. **2 Thessalonians 2:13** "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." Salvation is still without works and the free gift of God. **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." **2 Corinthians 9:15** "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." Don't stumble at the truth and lose your soul following a dead end church or religion. Only Christ can save you, trust Him today. See Ephesians 1:12&13 and read them. You must acknowledge the truth and believe it and trust it. Christ is the truth. See John 14:6.

To our readers, if these articles have been a blessing and if we should continue them, contact us. Thank you.

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