

Shoals Shorts

CLAS Honors Florence High

FLORENCE— Florence High School was selected as both a 2019 CLAS Banner School and a 2019 CLAS School of Distinction from State School Board District 7 during a virtual awards ceremony hosted by the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools last week. CLAS recognized 30 Schools of Distinction across the eight state School Board Districts.

The CLAS Banner School program was created in 2001 to recognize schools in Alabama that showcase outstanding programs and service to students. Each school was nominated for this award by their superintendent with 189 school programs nominated statewide.

Florence High School's "Lunch with the Keys" program was nominated by Florence City Schools Superintendent Dr. Jimmy Shaw. Lunch with the Keys takes place in a non-traditional atmosphere outside of the classroom. Organizers Pete and Sharlene Key describe the school sponsored program as an engaging, lively conversation around the dinner table. The Keys have now assisted Florence High School students in character building, conflict resolution, mentoring, communication and leadership development for five years.

A Drive-Thru Nurse Pinning

MUSCLE SHOALS— Northwest-Shoals Community College will host its first drive-thru nursing program pinning ceremony on the Shoals Campus Friday, May 15 at 5pm. The ceremony will

See SHORTS... on Page 2

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May 13, 2020

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Tailgaters Cheer Grandson's Arrival

by Bernie Delinski
Times Daily Staff Writer
Originally published April 23, 2020

FLORENCE — Tim and Mendy Palmer couldn't be inside North Alabama Medical Center for a special delivery this week, so they improvised.

The Palmers pulled a recreational vehicle into the hospital parking lot Monday and basically tailgated late into Tuesday night until getting the news they had long awaited: they have a new grandson.

Eli Grey Montgomery was delivered by cesarean section at

approximately 10pm on Tuesday, April 21. This brought cheers from the Palmers, a set of great-grandparents, and Eli's 7-year-old cousin, Mark Rylan.

This was the first child for their daughter, Kennedy, and her husband, Dylan Montgomery. They said Kennedy is recovering well.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, visitors cannot be allowed in the hospital, and only Dylan was allowed to be in the delivery room with Kennedy, so the Palmers did the next best thing.

See CHEER... on Page 18

Pre-Apprenticeship Program is Free

MUSCLE SHOALS - The Northwest-Shoals Community College Adult Education, Ready to Work, and the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council programs are partnering to offer a free summer pre-apprenticeship program, CTE 101, beginning May 26.

According to Adult Education and RTW Director, Tara Branscome, the new 7-10 week program gives participants an opportunity

See CTE 101... on Page 15

Our is Lobby Open

FLORENCE—The Courier Journal's front business lobby has reopened to the public as of this week.

Ads may be placed in person and general business may be conducted with both the Courier Journal and TimesDaily at 219 W. Tennessee St. in Florence. Office hours are 8am-5pm Monday-Friday. We will continue to



See LOBBY OPEN... on Page 8

Inside this Issue



Oakley Auto Sales
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Williams Auto Sales



- Elective Procedures
- Medicare Minute
- Dave Says

- Computer Skeptic
- Ask the Attorney
- Soap Updates
- Hocus Focus
- Adopt-A-Friend

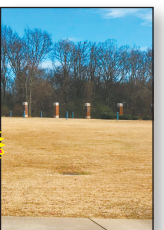
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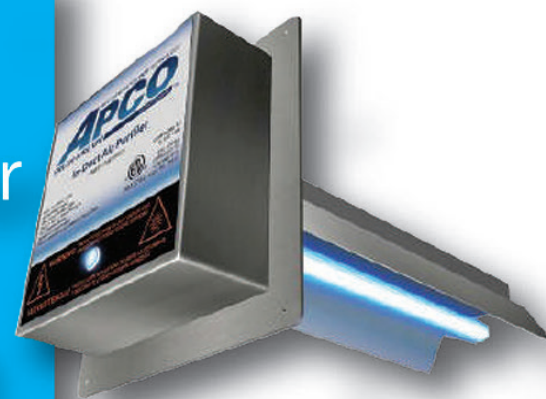
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Shorts...

A Drive-Thru Nurse Pinning

Continued from Page 1

feature the pinning of 102 NW-SCC Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) and Practical Nursing (PN) graduates. Nursing graduates will hear brief remarks from NW-SCC President Dr. Glenda Colagross, Director of Nursing Education Brittny Humphres, and graduating representatives from the 2020 ADN and PN class. The drive-thru event adheres to Governor Kay Ivey's Safer at Home order.

The annual NW-SCC Nursing Program Pinning Ceremony is a symbolic tradition of the ceremonial pinning that originated in the 1860s at the Nightingale School of Nursing Hospital in London. The nursing pin received by graduates is a type of badge awarded by the program's faculty as a welcome into the profession. Remarks and the Nightingale Pledge will be followed by the presentation of the pins in a car drive-through format.

The event takes place in the parking lot of Building 120 on NW-SCC Shoals campus in Muscle Shoals.

Fan-Friendly UNA Tickets

FLORENCE – UNA has introduced some fan-friendly changes for individuals wishing to purchase season tickets for the upcoming 2020 football season.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNA will offer flexible payment options and a ticket assurance plan that will include full reimbursement for any home football game(s) not played during the upcoming season.

"As a University and an athletic department, we will always be committed to the well-being of our fans," said UNA athletic director Mark Linder. "This program will allow us to prepare for the upcoming football season while giving our fan base confidence that they can recover their hard earned dollars should we have to cancel any games. As we weather the COVID-19 pandemic, this program brings some certainty to our fan base in knowing that purchasing their season tickets is a low-risk proposition."

Effective immediately, UNA Athletics has introduced the North Alabama Ticket Assurance Plan: Ticket

See SHORTS... on Pg 4

A World Full Of Corruption

Follow the money. Shedding and killing innocent blood. Taking advantage of those that are having a hard time, and have children. Price gouging. Hiding yourself from your own flesh. Thinking in secret you got away with it. What's in it for me? Never enough money. The world's current distress will continue to produce many "perditionists" (my own word) and extortionists drooling over the opportunity to make more billions through the misfortunes of others. It's called: **1 Timothy 6:10** "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." But remember this: **Hebrews 4:13** "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." AND: **Romans 14:12** "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." **Romans 2:16** "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel." You might have gotten away with it down here but, you've got a bad payday coming. Then, you'll see that your dollars weren't worth it after all.

I've got some horrible news for you folks that support shedding {killing} innocent blood. God hates: **Proverbs 6:16-17** "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, **and hands that shed innocent blood,**" Again in: **2 Kings 24:4** "And also for the innocent blood that he (King Manasseh) shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon." The betrayer Judas said: **Matthew 27:4a** "Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood (JESUS CHRIST)." If you persist in these sins, get ready to join Judas and millions of others who have disregarded God's repeated warnings, in hell and the lake of fire forever. It took time, but you finally got what you deserve. If this little fear pandemic has you upset, imagine what you will do when God calls you into eternity and says: **Matthew 7:23** "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Think it's funny? You will see. Are you saved? Why not?

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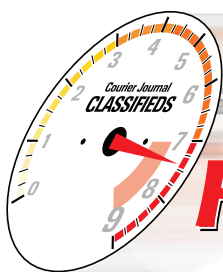
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Shorts...

Fan-Friendly UNA Tickets

Continued from Page 1

holders who purchased tickets directly through the UNA ticket office will have the option to either receive a refund for the canceled game(s), or have a credit towards a future ticket purchase, if for any reason any portion of the 2020 football schedule does not take place. This guarantee applies to all ticketed UNA Athletics home events.

2. Fans will be able to renew their 2020 North Alabama football season tickets by putting down just \$20. The option for weekly payments will be available, or the remaining balance will be split between two equal payments on July 15 and August 15.

3. UNA has extended the renewal deadline for North Alabama football season tickets to July 1, instead of June 15.

Fans can renew or put a deposit down on their 2020 football season tickets at www.roarlions.universitytickets.com or by calling 256-765-5466. Season tickets will go on sale to the general public on July 6.

food and shelter funds from a total of \$28,212 for Phase 37 and \$40,222 for the CARES Act funding being made available for Lauderdale County and a total of \$18,076 for Phase 37 and \$25,772 for the CARES Act funding being made available for Colbert County in 2020 from funds provided by Congress for food and shelter programs in high-need areas.

The program is administered nationally by a half dozen organizations involved in helping meet such needs. A local board administers the Colbert-Lauderdale program.

To be considered, local applicants must be non-profit; have an accounting system and annual audit; practice nondiscrimination; have demonstrated capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and have a volunteer Board of Directors.

Qualified charities may apply for a share of the funds by writing to the United Way of Northwest Alabama, Attn: Jennifer McNulty, P.O. Box 1228, Florence, AL 35631-1228.

All requests must be received by Wednesday, May 20. Inquiries for an application may be directed to the United Way of Northwest Alabama, 256-764-5892 ext. 100, or ceo@uwshoals.org

Food/Shelter Funds for Non-Profits

FLORENCE-Local non-profit organizations can apply for emergency

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Community Education
Specialist



Hitting the Snooze Button

Credits to my co-worker, Jeanne Isbell for the seed thought for this week's article. Thanks Jeanne!

Lew Wallace, author of *Ben-Hur*, invented the snooze button. We owe Mr. Wallace a debt of gratitude. Isn't it remarkable what five, ten, fifteen minutes of extra sleep can do for the body?

Out of the current pandemic has come, though unintentionally, snooze opportunities across the globe. Extra time to reflect on home (with stay-at-home and shelter-in-place orders); health (with masks, gloves and sanitizers); and help (doctors, nurses, etc. providing care). Life has slowed considerably, reminding us of its value. Only God can bring positivity out of a pandemic!

At Good Samaritan Hospice we value time. We work to ensure that you have the highest quality of life possible. Face your terminal illness without the stress of continued appointments. Call us. Hit the snooze button, sit back and let us care for you!

-Howell Bigham, 256-702-7500

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Pluris recently announced it has been providing safe drinking water to residents through East Lauderdale County Water and Fire Protection Authority for nearly 10 years.

Since beginning service, Pluris has made significant additional investments in infrastructure on behalf of all residents who get their drinking water from Pluris through East Lauderdale Water and Fire Protection Authority. As Pluris approaches nearly 10 years of service to County residents, we look forward to providing safe drinking water to Alabama for years to come.

Recently East Lauderdale County Water and Fire Protection Authority announced that it would be increasing its water rates to customers.

In addition to nearly 10 years of producing safe drinking water, Pluris is pleased in not having raised its rate during those 10 years.

Pluris is averaging 1.5 million gallons per day in flow volume to people in the county and has capacity to increase flow for the future.

Pluris's water supply costs are expected to increase in the future as Pluris continues to meet federal and state drinking water provisions.



View of Pluris's Center Star Well and Drinking Water Treatment Facility in Killen



Aerial View of Pluris's Carver Springs Drinking Water Storage Tank and Treatment Plant

For more information, readers are encouraged to email Pluris's Alabama manager Tony Cosby at Awcosby1@gmail.com.



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Bumble Bee Premium Light Tuna Pouch 2.5 Oz.
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Piggly Wiggly, Kingsford Original & Match Light
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4/\$11

Coke Products 12 Pk. 12 Oz. Cans
3/\$11

Coke Products 2 Liters
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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. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following week's issue.

- Email to editor@courierjournal.net;
- Look for "Submit News" on our website at www.courierjournal.net.
- Fax to 256-760-9618;
- Mail to 219 W. Tennessee St, Florence, AL 35630; or
- Bring in person.

All properly submitted Community Notes which are dated will be posted weekly at www.courierjournal.net. We do our best, however, there is no guarantee that this free information will be published in the paper. Visit our website for a complete list of community notes. If your item MUST appear in the paper a certain week, we suggest you also place a paid ad by calling 256-764-4268. That way it will be in at least one area of the paper. When your community note is published, your event will have coverage in two different locations.

Scam Alert! Florence Utilities received reports of a scam last week. Someone pretending to be with the Florence Utilities may ask for payment through PayPal or bank account information and threaten to cut off service for non-payment. Florence Utilities says it DOES NOT call customers to ask for payment information and WILL NOT come to your house to evaluate an account. If you have any concerns about your utility account, please call Customer

Service at 256-760-6512. If you are ever in question about a scam call or someone at your door, call your local Police Department or 911.

Community Action Northwest Alabama Utility Funds Available. Any income eligible person living in Lauderdale, Colbert or Franklin counties needing utility assistance may call for an appointment at 256-764-5142. Please listen carefully to the list of requirements. You may also obtain a PAPER APPLICATION packet, available under "Guidelines", from our website at www.caanw.org Please read the state-issued instructions carefully including all documents that must be provided. The utility application may be emailed (email address in packet), mailed or dropped off at any time to the office in the county a resident lives 8-4:30pm M-F. Offices locations:

- 745 Thompson St. Florence (256-766-4330)
 - 1001 S. Washington Ave, Russellville (256-332-7534)
 - 505 N. Columbia Ave, Sheffield (256-383-3832).
- Assistance once per season. Winter season ends May 31. Summer season begins June 1

Shoals Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale!! Thursday, May 14 from 8am - 7pm and Friday, May 15 from 8am - 5pm, Florence-Lauderdale Farmers' Market 451 Fairground Road in Florence. Perennials, annuals, trees, shrubs; bulbs, herbs, fruit & vegetable plants; gardening hand-tools sharpened onsite; and more. Come Join Us!!

Monthly lunch at Cloverdale Community Center is cancelled for May. We will resume as soon as possible. Everyone please be safe.

See NOTES... page 26

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The registration fee (which covers the cost of field trips, camp t--shirt, supplies, and snacks) and the first week's payment are due at the time of registration.

May 4 -August 7
6:30am-5:30pm
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Fees:
 Registration Fee: \$90
 \$85 per child
 \$80 for 4 days
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Mini's Camp:
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 For students that completed Pre-K 2019-2020 OR will be entering Pre-K the Fall of 2020

Traditional Camp:
 Ages 6-12 years
 Students must have completed Kindergarten

Times:
 Camp opens at 6:30am and closes at 5:30pm with camp activities from 8:30am to 4:30pm

Camp Information
 The Summer Day Camp is a structured progressive program that offers campers new challenges and adventures that are age appropriate. Weekly activities include arts and crafts, daily devotions, water activities, games, sports, and much more. The program offers air conditioned and indoor facilities for hot and rainy summer days. Breakfast, lunch, and snack are provided for all children.

*Registration forms may be picked up at Calvary Learning Center, Calvary Baptist Church office, or on our Facebook Page: Calvary Learning Center Kids.

*Calvary Learning Center also provides care for newborns to children 5 years of age.

Calvary Learning Center
Jamie Foster - Site 1 Day Care Director
Angela Holt - Site 2 Day Care Director

Summer Day Camp is sponsored by Deshler High School Fellowship Of Christian Athletes

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Courier Journal Lobby Open...
 Continued from Page 1

observe social distancing guidelines as stipulated in the governor's Safer at Home order. We will allow no more than three people in the lobby at any time, and we will require customers to wear face masks during their visits for the next few weeks.

The Courier Journal is still open for business online, by telephone, fax, or email. Your free copy of the Courier Journal is available after 10am every Tuesday in the lobby or in the rack outside our front door at 219 West Tennessee St. in Florence.

Please call 256-764-4268 for more information or to conveniently place a classified ad over the phone.

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No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

Medicare Minute

"Medicare Minute - Scams!!"

As we mentioned in this article a few weeks ago, scammers and con artists thrive when unrest happens in our country. The following tips are taken directly from Medicare.gov and, hopefully, will help you avoid being scammed:

Unfortunately, scammers are using the COVID-19 pandemic to try to steal your Medicare Number, personal information, and money. And they are using robocalls, social media posts, and emails to do it. Remember, if anyone reaches out to get your Medicare Number or personal information in exchange for something, you can bet it is a scam. Be on the lookout, so you can stop scams before they happen.

Here are recent Coronavirus scams to watch for:

- Robocalls offering you respiratory masks they will never send
- Social media posts fraudulently seeking donations for non-existent charities, or claiming to give you stimulus funds if you enter your bank account number
- Fake testing kits, cures, "immunity" pills, and offers for protective equipment

Con artists may try to get your Medicare Number or personal information so they can steal your identity and commit Medicare fraud. Medicare fraud results in higher health care costs and taxes for everyone.

Protect yourself from Medicare fraud. Guard your Medicare card like it is a credit card. Remember:

- Medicare will never contact you for your Medicare Number or other personal information unless you have given them permission in advance.
- Medicare will never call you to sell you anything.
- You may get calls from people promising you things if you give them a Medicare Number. Do not do it.
- Medicare will never visit you at home.
- Medicare cannot enroll you over the phone unless you call first.

Do's

- Protect your Medicare Number and your Social Security Number.
- Use a calendar to record all your doctor's appointments and any test you get.

Don't

- Give your Medicare card, Medicare Number, Social Security card, or Social Security Number to anyone except your doctor or people you know should have it.
- Accept offers of money or gifts for free medical care.
- Allow anyone, except your doctor or other Medicare providers, to review your medical records or recommend services."

If you have questions regarding any aspect of Medicare or Medicare health plans feel free call us at Alabama Health Guidance (256-648-5710), stop by our office at 885 Florence Blvd (Four Lane Shopping Center) or email me at ikey@alabamahealthguidance.com. Alabama Health Guidance is an independent insurance agency and is not affiliated with Medicare or any other government agency.



Ikey Fowler

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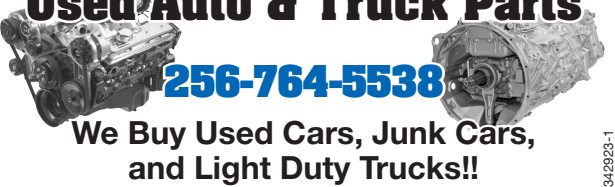
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Guest Opinion-Editorial

Constitution Above Their Pay Grade

A few days ago two Michigan police officers visited a mother who had allowed her daughter to play with the child next door in their backyard. They demanded her name which she refused to give as she had done nothing wrong. For this she was cited as being uncooperative. The video of the incident showed them treating her with pure contempt (*Tucker Carlson Tonight*, May 1, 2020).

This should never happen in America. The Constitution gives government agents no such power.

Given the draconian measures used by Democrat governors denying civil liberties in their states, many Americans wonder why the Constitution isn't protecting them as before. However, today elected officials are largely constitutional illiterates as are their constituents. Virtually no one has read fully and recently the less than 10 page document. For years I had to tell students that Democrats overwhelmingly ignore the Constitution and Republicans carry it with them but seldom read it—neither defending it against actions of their own political party.

Hence, some governors have turned into tyrants respecting the 1st Amendment. When Governor Phil Murphy of New Jersey was asked if his actions were not violating the Constitution, he answered, "That's above my pay grade." But it shouldn't be! It is Government 101 and all governors took an oath to preserve it. The Constitution required it.

See **PAY GRADE..** on Page 12

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



HAROLD PEASE, Ph.D
History / Political Science Instructor
Expert on the US Constitution



Courier Journal

THIS WEEK

Electives

NAMC is Resuming Some Non-Urgent Procedures, Surgeries

FLORENCE – North Alabama Medical Center last week announced that it plans to safely resume some elective and non-urgent surgeries and procedures that were previously rescheduled out of an abundance of caution amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision to reschedule procedures when clinically appropriate was made in accordance with federal and state guidance. The decision is aimed at helping preserve critical resources



Pigg

in the event of a surge of COVID-19 patients in the community. Recent projections indicate a lower than expected volume of COVID-19 in the region, which means less strain on healthcare resources. "Resuming these important services is an essential component of meeting our community's health needs," said Russell Pigg, Chief Executive Officer of North Alabama Medical Center. "As this work gradually gets underway



in our hospital again, we remain committed to conserving critical supplies, being vigilant in our fight against COVID-19, and ensuring that our facility is

See **ELECTIVE...** on Page 16



Simple Acts of Kindness

SUBMITTED BY READERS of the COURIER JOURNAL

There are some cute little girls that visit me from time to time at my apartment complex. So the doorbell rang and two of them were standing there with blue kitchen rubber gloves on and a big basket with all these beautiful eggs in it. One of them said that her grandmother had a little farm and she wanted to share the eggs. I only

had a few at the time and there were none at the store, so it was a real blessing. I wish I had thought to take a picture of them.

Stephanie

A couple of months ago, when one could grocery shop in the peace of the night, my insomnia got the best of me and I headed off to Walmart

See **KINDNESS...** on Page 20

in the Shoals

May 13, 2020

Happening THIS WEEK

THE SHOALS MASTER GARDENERS' ANNUAL PLANT SALE is on Thursday, May 14 from 8am - 7pm and Friday, May 15 from 8am - 5pm at Florence-Lauderdale Farmers' Market 451 Fairground Road in Florence. Perennials, annuals, trees, shrubs, bulbs, herbs, fruit and vegetable plants; gardening hand-tools sharpened onsite; and more will be available. Come Join Us!!

THE MONTHLY LUNCH AT CLOVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTER is cancelled for May. We will resume as soon as possible. Everyone please be safe.

THE VALDOSTA COMMUNITY REUNION that is held each year on the first Saturday in June will be cancelled this year due to the COVID-19.

THE SHOALS WRITERS will plan to resume meeting on May 16, unless otherwise noted.

STOP VIOLENCE – SAFEPLACE SHELTERS Are Open for victims of domestic violence during COVID-19. Call our 24/7 helpline: 1-800-550-9215. We are not just a shelter! Other available services for qualifying clients include: goal planning, legal services, safety planning, and more.



CONVENIENT LINKS TO OUR PAGE FLIP EDITIONS

www.courierjournal.pageflip.site/publications/CourierJournal

www.kidsvillenews.com/lauderdale/view-current

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:

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

South Korean Model

Editor:

We can learn from South Korea. Their excellent education system prompted Alabama officials to travel last fall on a teacher recruiting mission.

South Korea this year tackled COVID-19 through one of the largest and best-organized epidemic control programs in the world. The key was free rapid availability of testing under its health care system and high-tech tracking that kept deaths to a few hundred.

Last month voters re-elected President Moon's party in a landslide. He is now tackling another deadly global crisis – climate change. The world's seventh-largest source of planet-heating carbon dioxide is on course to become the first East Asian

country to produce nearly 20% of its energy needs from renewables by 2030 - and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

South Korea is the biggest emitter yet to endorse the kind of industrial planning and social safety net expansion rarely seen outside of wartime. The new climate measures in South Korea might help reverse the increasing use of coal in Asia that threatens to propel global warming

Trump loyalists across the country besieged poison control centers for advice and counsel on the use of disinfectants for coronavirus control...



beyond the point of no return.

The plan is to end public financing of domestic and overseas coal projects, retrain workers for green jobs, make large-scale investments in wind and solar energy, undertake research, and consider a carbon tax (perhaps modeling the fee and dividend legislation being considered by our Congress).

Dan Waterman Killen

An Ignorant Question

The Editor's piece in the May 6 *Courier Journal* accuses the "Trump-hating media" of naively assuming that the President actually meant what he said. The article quotes

See **LETTERS...** on Page 22

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Guest Op-Ed

Pay Grade

Continued from Page 10

“The Senators and Representative before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath ... to support this Constitution” (Article 6, Clause 3). All elected leaders and all military personnel swear an oath to preserve the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic.

The First Amendment that Democrat governors and some mayors are threatening reads,

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.” The 14th Amendment made it applicable to all states offices as well.

Simply put, for those with tyrannical tendencies, no governor, legislature (including city and county), congress or president shall make or enforce any law or decree respecting religion, speech, press, or peaceable assembly. Nor may they deny citizens petitioning government for redress of grievances when civil liberties are offended.

We will walk on public places, including beaches, when and where we please. We will attend any church where, when, and in any size allowed by the pastor of the attended congregation as we please. You may not regulate the distance between walking or communicating people. We will wear face coverings at the request of the owner of buildings we visit, but not at your order, as you do not own us. You may not require us to stay in our homes or yards. You may not collectively shut down our work places without individual due process. You may not use drones above our heads taking photos and shouting instructions monitoring and enforcing a collective behavior. We are a free people. These rights are not negotiable and do not disappear in times of national emergencies. These rights come from God—not from you. Yes, the Constitution also gives us due process on the parts of the above where contested.

The remainder of Tucker

See OP-ED... at TOP

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Guest Op-Ed

Continued from Below

Carlson’s interview with Governor Phil Murphy follows:

Tucker: “Fifteen congregants at a synagogue in New Jersey were arrested and charged for being in a synagogue together. Now the Bill of Rights, as you well know, protects Americans ... right to practice their religion as they see fit and to congregate together to assemble peacefully. By what authority did you nullify the Bill of Rights in issuing this order? How do you have the power to do that?”

Governor: “That’s above my pay grade, Tucker. I wasn’t thinking of the Bill of Rights when we did this.”

Tucker: “Since you are an elected official, a leader in the government, an executive, how do you have the authority to order something that so clearly contravenes the Bill of Rights of the United States, the Constitution? Where do you get the authority to do that?”

Governor: “Well here’s the thing. We know we need to stay away from each other, number one. Number two, we do have broad authority within the state. Number three we would never do that without coordinating, discussing and hashing it out with the variety of the leaders of the faiths in New Jersey.”

Tucker: “You can’t just, as the governor of a state, tell people who they can talk to, when and where, because the Constitution of the United States, upon which all this is based, prohibits you from doing this; so you clearly decided that you could do it.”

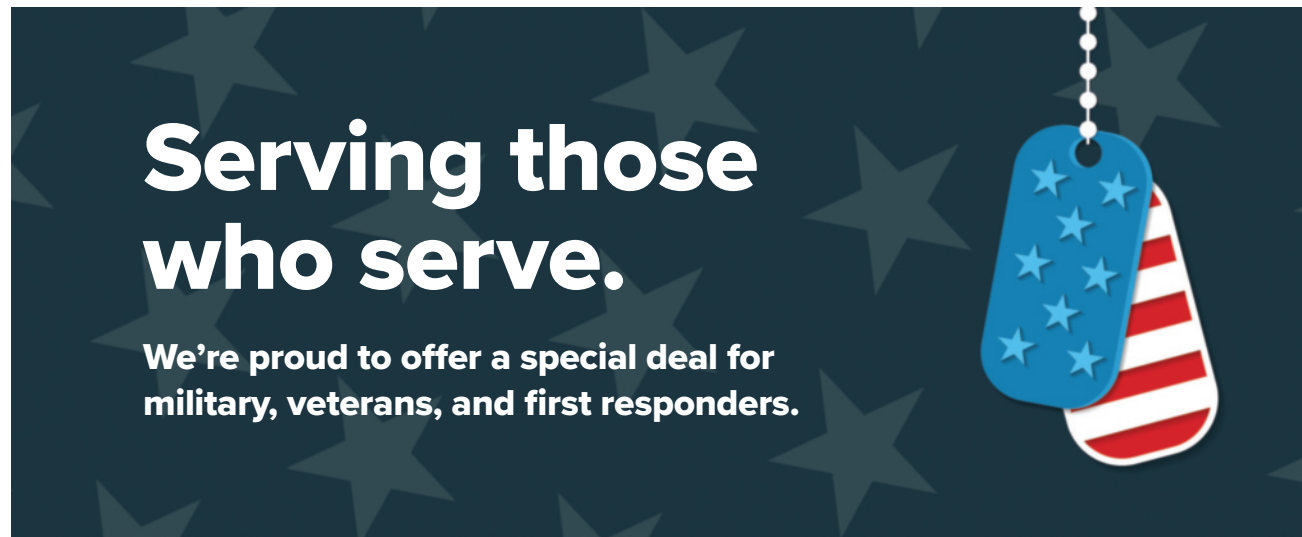
Governor: “We have to find a different way to worship.”

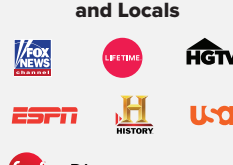
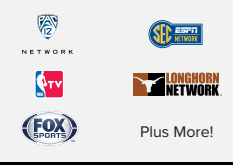
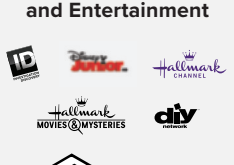
Tucker: “Government is not allowed to tell people how to worship” (Tucker Carlson Tonight, April 15, 2020).

Unfortunately, the same conversation could have been with almost any of the other 1st Amendment violating governors, or worse, 3rd world dictators.

Dr. Harold Pease is a syndicated columnist and an expert on the United States Constitution. He has dedicated his career to studying the writings of the Founding Fathers and applying that knowledge to current events. He taught history and political science from this perspective for over 30 years at Taft College.

To read more of his weekly articles, please visit www.LibertyUnderFire.org




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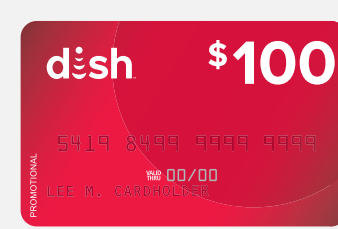
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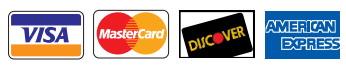
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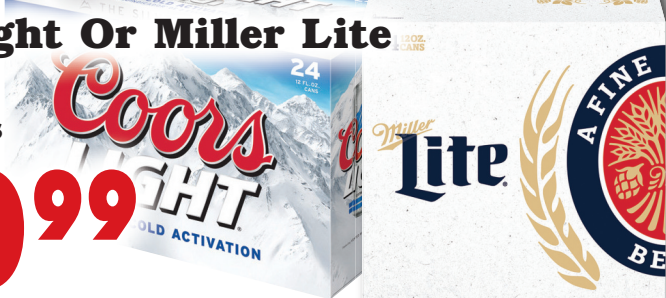
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Continued from Page 1

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Elective...

Continued from Page 10

a safe place for all patients, providers and employees."

NAMC has carefully monitored and evaluated supplies and resources throughout recent weeks including personal protective equipment like masks, gowns, gloves, and goggles.

The decisions about which procedures can safely move forward will be made only after assessing a comprehensive pre-operative checklist and evaluating potential risks. The hospital will initially focus on scheduling patients with more time-sensitive health needs. Surgical patients will have to pass standard COVID-19 screenings and will be asked to practice "safer at home" behaviors for seven days prior to their procedure to minimize potential exposure.

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North Alabama Medical Center will continue to screen and mask everyone who enters the facility. They will maintain a zero-visitor protocol for the foreseeable future.

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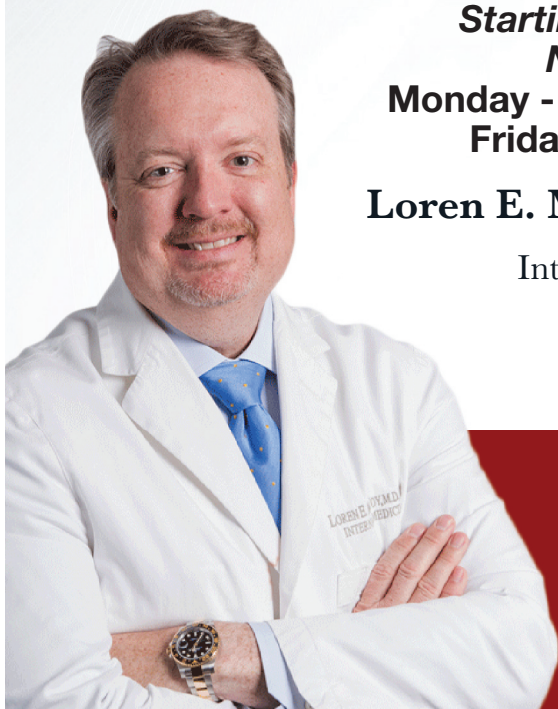
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The 4th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America was designed by our founding fathers to protect the people from their government. Our 4th Amendment specifically provides "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable search and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

The United State Supreme Court recently decided a case directly on the 4th Amendment. The facts were that a police officer in Kansas ran a license plate and saw that the owner of the vehicle had a suspended license. The officer pulled the vehicle over, searched the vehicle and found contraband. The driver argued that anyone could have been driving that truck, not necessarily the registered owner.

The Kansas Supreme Court agreed and ruled that the deputy did not have a reasonable suspicion because his reason for stopping the vehicle driver amounted to "only a hunch". The United States Supreme Court reversed the Kansas Supreme Court and ruled that an officer may initiate a "brief traffic stop when he has 'a particularized and objective basis for suspecting the particular person stopped of criminal activity.'"

The Court ruled that all officers, anywhere in this country, before stopping a vehicle must be able to state a particular objective reason. To search a person or their vehicle, the officer must either obtain consent or a warrant based on specific probable cause.

A well trained officer can always find a reason to pull someone over. The courts will look to see if that reason is just a "hunch" or if that reason was objective. The courts look for evidence that there was probable cause for the traffic stop versus a police officer just "having a feeling".

Always remember that our country was founded during an age of rebellion and innocence when it was thought possible to create a government strong enough to protect us from foreign enemies but not strong enough to threaten our individual liberties. This case walks the line.

Buckle up, drive safely, wash your hands, and as always, your referrals are appreciated!



Please send the questions to:
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We will not print your full name in the article. We will not be able to return any written or preprinted items which are submitted.

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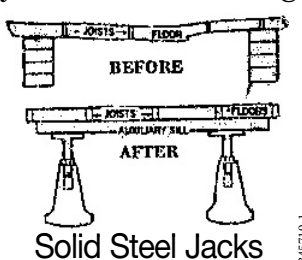
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RED LINE YOUR ADS. SEE PAGE 6

Cheer...

Continued from Page 1

"We knew we'd have to camp out in the parking lot, so we're here," Tim said Tuesday, as he and Mendy stood outside the RV.

Mendy said she had planned to be in the delivery room with her daughter for support, especially since this is Kennedy's first baby.

"That's what I wanted to do," she said. "I wanted to see her."

She realized when things started shutting down in March she would not be able to go inside the hospital.

"Those two had a meltdown when they found out," Tim said of his wife and daughter.

Still, Mendy was there as much as possible from the parking lot, as the families texted, called, and saw each other via FaceTime along the way.

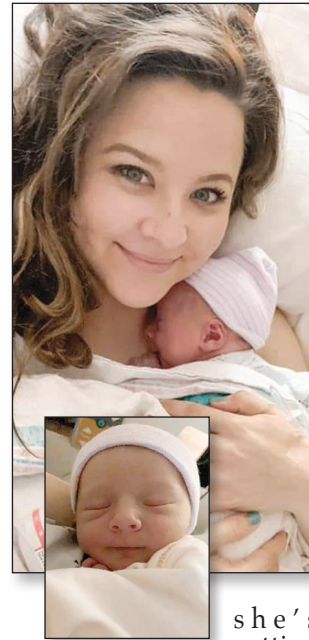
"Mendy coached her through some of the contractions," Tim said.

"I was supposed to be in there with her," Mendy added, sighing and looking back toward the hospital.

At one point Dylan stood at the window of the hospital room at night and used the flashlight from his phone to signal to the Palmers where they were.

For recent University of North Alabama graduate Kennedy, being at North Alabama Medical Center was nothing new. She's an emergency room nurse there.

"She graduated from UNA in December and started here in January," her father said. "Her team is taking care of her, and



Kennedy Montgomery with newborn, Eli

of trips to the store for supplies while waiting.

"We thought Eli would be here by now, but he's been stubborn," Tim said Tuesday afternoon.

The Palmers made signs and placed them outside the RV, which was adorned with blue balloons. One sign was a play on the 1980s Salt-N-Pepa "Push It" song, reading, "New baby babyyyy, push it real good."

According to the Palmers, the North Alabama Medical Center staff seemed to get a kick out of the tailgating and it soon became Facebook fodder.

"It spread like wildfire," Tim said. "Friends and family from multiple states talked about how cool it was and wanted to share in the fun."

"Maybe we started a social distancing trend," Mendy added.

she's getting a little special treatment."

Tim's boss owns the RV and let the Palmers use it.

When the Palmers pulled into the parking lot Monday, they did not expect such a long wait before Eli arrived, all 5 pounds 11 ounces of him. They had to make a couple

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NOTICE OF ABANDONED AND UNCLAIMED MOTOR VEHICLES

Pursuant to the Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicles Act: Section 32-13-4 Code of Alabama 1975 as amended. Notice is hereby given that on **Saturday, the 13th day of June, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** The following motor vehicles will be sold at public auction for cash. The auction will be held at **Horne Wrecker Service, Inc., 1634 State Street, Florence, Alabama.** Horne Wrecker Service Inc. will accept proof of ownership should anyone care to submit same, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. until the day of the sale. **Vehicles may be viewed starting Monday, June 8, 2020 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**

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03 BMW 325CiC	WBABS33473PG91607	1BN4992	RED	SCHNEIDERS AUTO
04 BMW 745Li	WBAGN63554DS51926	20AF553	BLACK	SCHNEIDERS AUTO
98 CHEVY LUMINA	2G1WL52M0W9154441	41GH828	GOLD	CO RD 139
00 CHEVY IMPALA	2G1WF55K9Y9167533	1754AZ9	GOLD	CENTRAL AVE
01 CHEVY BLAZER	1GNCT18WX1K135602	41HB369	BLUE	CO RD 290
02 CHEVY TRACKER	2CNBJ13C826929554	33BW980	RED	FLO BLVD & DARBY
05 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER	1GNES16S856203602	41HA353	WHITE	NORWOOD BLVD
08 CHEVY MALIBU	1G1ZG57B68F194820	41HA669	BLACK	ROYAL AVE
99 FORD CROWN VIC	2FAPF71W5XX105359	FJD944	BLACK	COX CREEK PKWY
00 FORD EXPLORER	1FMZU63P2YZB83847	42AD472	BLUE	D & D MARKET
06 FORD EXPLORER	1FMEU63E26UB19525	41FC553	WHITE	BOB WALLACE APPL
09 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCU03749KD05296	20AT869	GRAY	SWEETWATER AVE
12 FORD FUSION	3FAHP0JG6CR302896	41GJ678	PURPLE	COX CREEK PKWY
96 HONDA ACCORD	1HGCD5695TA229536	11JN779	TAN	CO RD 47
05 HONDA ACCORD	1HGCM56815A179647	2322AZ0	GRAY	SIMPSON ST
05 HONDA CIVIC	1HGEM22175L069688	41DS204	RED	CLOVERDALE RD
02 HYUNDAI SONATA	KMHWF25H82A579864		WHITE	CO RD 5 & 85
06 KIA SPORTAGE	KNDJE723367213014		GRAY	DR HICKS BLVD
11 INFINITI G25	JN1DV6APXBM601433	49CC773	GRAY	PINE ST
94 LINCOLN TOWN CAR	1LNLM81W3RY646467	41GK238	BLUE	N CHEROKEE ST
01 MITSUBISHI GALANT	4A3AA46G91E226083	41GJ798	WHITE	CO RD 41
99 NISSAN PATHFINDER	JN8AR07S8XW387488	41GJ373	GOLD	CO RD 14
01 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4DL01D91C184905	9465AC8	GRAY	SANONNER AVE
03 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL11D23C256412		TAN	CHERRY HILL HOMES
08 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL21E28N476806	7108AY2	WHITE	HUNTSVILLE RD
08 NISSAN MAXIMA	1N4BA41E28C820720	JLZ907	WHITE S	ROYAL AVE
09 NISSAN VERSA	3N1BC13E79L407233		WHITE	TEXAS ROAD HOUSE
15 NISSAN VERSA	3N1CN7AP9FL844877	ACC1490	GRAY	HWY 20 & CO RD 16
98 OLDS AURORA	1G3GR62C0W4124821		BLACK	W TUSCALOOSA ST
06 PONTIAC G6	1G2ZG558064110437	41GT340	GOLD	N WEAKLEY ST
02 SATURN SL1	1G8ZH52822Z267469	41GS201	BLUE	COX CREEK PKWY
01 TOYOTA AVALON	4T1BF28B41U136355	41GL966	MAROON	WATERLOO RD
08 TOYOTA PRIUS	JTDKB20U587756492	41FL952	SILVER	N PINE ST
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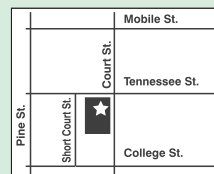
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Soap Opera Preview

DAYS OF OUR LIVES Sarah prepared to disappear forever with "her" daughter. Brady and Xander came to blows. Ben asked Ciara an important question. Kate gave Jake the rundown on Stefan DiMera. Ciara accepted Ben's proposal. Sonny and Will reflected on the anniversary of Adrienne's death. Sarah and Kristen crossed paths. Brady made a difficult decision. Gabi sought answers from Rolf about Stefan. Ciara told Hope about her engagement to Ben. Abigail attacked Kate. Jake rejected Gabi's attempts to help him with his memory. Evan and his family arrived in court for his verdict. Chad, Jack and Jennifer rallied around Abigail. Lani told Eli she was going to confess to Rafe. Maggie and Sarah had an emotional heart-to-heart discussion. Ben questioned Jake about the goons who stopped

by the garage. *Wait to See: Zoey reveals Evan's secret to Rafe. Orpheus delivers some horrifying news to Marlena. Eric is furious with Brady.*

GENERAL HOSPITAL Michael prepared for court. Willow contemplated her future. Nelle asked for a special favor. Brook Lynn reached out to Dustin. Chase declined Finn's offer. Lucy received an important phone call. Carly admired Willow. Michael surrounded himself with family support. Nelle got antagonistic. Curtis was furious. Sonny was in agony. Olivia was upset. Mac pulled Chase aside. Laura fully supported Robert. Diane prepared Michael. Carly confronted Chase. *Wait to See: Nelle makes a grand entrance. Anna finds herself overly preoccupied. Nina gives Sasha a hard time.*

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SIGNS OF THE PAST



Location: 34.7443°N, 87.6456°W
1918 Avalon Ave, Muscle Shoals, AL

Although similar to the Sheffield sculpture, the history of Shoals music, presented on the descriptive plaques, features the Muscle Shoals contribution. The model for the sculpture was the celebrated bassist David Hood, but he was meant to represent all Muscle Shoals musicians. Be sure to stop and read the interesting plaques.

~ Courtesy David Curott ~ author of "Signs of the Past" and "More Signs of the Past"

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Kindness

Continued from Page 10

at 4am. It was a very pleasant experience and I wasn't in a hurry since work didn't start until 8am. As I started toward the check out, an elderly man was headed in the same direction.

I let him go first since he had only a few items and "elders first," you know. His gift card was giving him trouble and it took longer than it should have. Feeling badly for taking my time, he acknowledged me and said he was sorry. As he began to walk away with his purchase, he threw a \$20 bill toward my groceries on the counter.

In shock, I laughed, grabbed the cash, and headed toward him. We both broke out into laughter as I put the money back in his coat pocket. I thanked him very much, but said I could not take the money. What a kind gesture from the man!

Thank you, dear Sir. I hope you are well and sleeping through the night these days.

Celeste

When did YOU experience or see a Simple Act of Kindness that will be uplifting for others? Please email or mail us the Simple Act of Kindness that you have witnessed or experienced so everyone else can share in the enjoyment --- editor@courierjournal.net or Kindness - c/o Courier Journal 219 W. Tennessee St. Florence, AL 35630

DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

GO AHEAD, KNOCK IT OUT

Dear Dave,
We make about \$70,000 a year, and we're debt-free except for our house. We're following your plan, and just started saving for retirement, but we only have \$15,000 left on our mortgage. We can have that paid off in six or seven months, so would it be okay to go ahead and pay off our home as soon as possible before continuing to save for retirement?

Nate

Dear Nate,
I'm generally pretty hardcore about sticking with the proper order while doing the Baby Steps. But in your case, with such a small amount left to pay on your home, I think I'd go ahead and knock that out.

Most of the people I talk to still have six figures left on their mortgages. There's a big difference between that and the situation you two are in right now. Think about it, you guys could be completely debt-free by Christmas, and you've already started to make a move on retirement planning. I say go for it!

—Dave

TITHE ON STIMULUS CHECK?

Dear Dave,
Should my wife and I tithe on our stimulus checks? She thinks we should, but I'm not sure. In my mind, we already gave our money to Caesar—so to speak—and now he's just giving it back. What do you think?

Luke



Dear Luke,
Well, it's your money you're getting back. The government doesn't really create anything, it only takes money from us. And in this case, it gave you back some of what it took. I don't really see that as a titling circumstance.

The other side of the coin is that you really can't go wrong being generous. The tithe is your baseline for generosity. You shouldn't tithe or not tithe because of a set of rules, but if you're having a theological or philosophical discussion about the tithe and how it works, I think your reasoning is sound.

It's certainly not a salvation issue, but generosity is a good rhythm to have in your life. And honestly, these stimulus checks are kind of like tax refunds. You gave it to the government, and now they're giving it back.

So, in my mind it's okay either way. I've just always had an attitude of when in doubt, it's better to give.

—Dave

* Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

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Letters...

An Ignorant Question

Continued from Page 10

Trump's speculation on the potential use of disinfectants or UV light to purge the human body of COVID-19 infection. The President said, "I see the disinfectant where it knocks it out in a minute and is there a way we can do something like that, by injection inside or almost a cleaning?"

Not quoted in the Editor's analysis, were Mr. Trump's additional ruminations on the possibility of introducing light inside the body. The President's actual words: "So, supposing we hit the body with a tremendous — whether it's ultraviolet or just very powerful light — and I think you said that hasn't been checked but you're going to test it," Trump said then. "And then I said, supposing you brought the light inside of the body, which you can do either through the skin

See LETTERS... on Pg 24

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Letters...

An Ignorant Question (2)

Continued from Page 22

or in some other way. And I think you said you're going to test that too. Sounds interesting."

The Editor correctly notes that Trump subsequently "tried the C-Y-A mode... instead of just admitting that his comments were confusing." Confusing, indeed!

Trump loyalists across the country besieged poison control centers for advice and counsel on the use of disinfectants for coronavirus control. The manufacturers of Clorox and Lysol issued their own dire warnings against any introduction of their products into the human frame.

Video recordings of the President's zany speculation clearly show that he turned 90 degrees to his right to direct his questions to the panel of experts on the platform with him, thus belying his later, and very lame explanation that he was merely "... asking a sarcastic — and a very

sarcastic question — to the reporters in the room about disinfectant on the inside." There would have been no basis for his telling the reporters that "I think you said you're going to test that too." Once more the President violates one of the most essential of behaviors for chronic liars-keeping his story straight.

The Editor contends that "...only the most brain-dead or partisan among us would assume he meant we should grab a bottle of bleach and a syringe right now. We discovered that we have plenty of brain-dead in the media." True, Trump was not personally recommending such self-administered therapy. But that is not the point. That he seriously inquired of experts as to the potential of injecting disinfectants and applying internal light to treat COVID-19 betrays an astonishing degree of ignorance and naivete! The "Trump-hating media" (the Editor's descriptor) did what we should expect the media to do-reported correctly an ignorant and inane question from a prominent source not unknown for such nutterances.

John P. Crowder
Florence

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Nominate now!

The Shoals Woman of the Year award honors women who have made significant, unique, and lasting contributions to their community. Nominees must be residents of one of these North Alabama counties: Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, or Lawrence.

Tell us why your nominee deserves to be the next Shoals Woman of the Year.

Include your name and contact information.
Email your nominations to: swynominations@timesdaily.com
or mail them to:
TimesDaily, Attn: Shoals Woman of the Year,
219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630

DEADLINE for nominations is Friday, May 29, 2020

The Shoals Woman of the Year award will be presented in August 2020 - more information coming soon!


2017 SWOY
Mercy Winters


2018 SWOY
Jessica Davenport


2019 SWOY
Ginger Willingham

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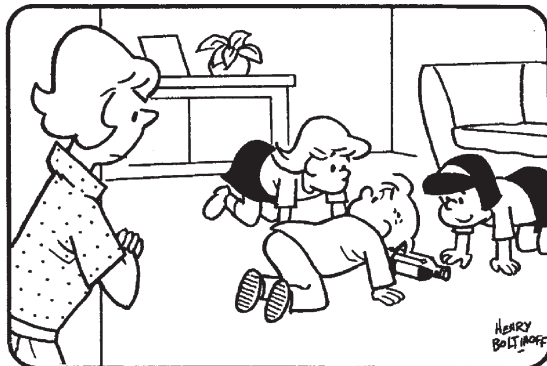
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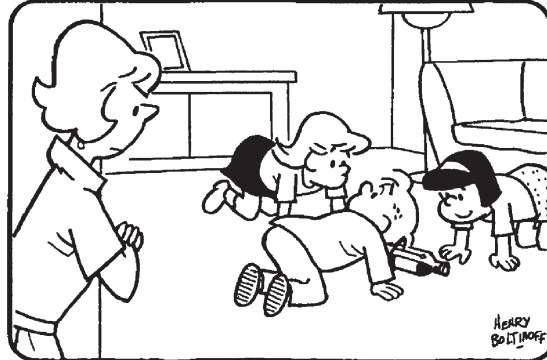
Last week's winner is **Monica Davis of Florence** who correctly guessed "Mars Hill Bible School In Florence"

One entry per person. Winners will be announced each week in our paper and on our website. Winners Gift Certificate will be mailed, until further notice.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Plant is missing. 2. Frame is added. 3. Woman's blouse is different. 4. Lamp is added. 5. Girl's skirt is different. 6. Woman's earring is added.

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2G4WD582X61244328	2006 BUICK LACROSSE	1FAHP25127G141932	2003 FORD TAURUS
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1GCCT19WXX8173005	1999 CHEVROLET S TRUCK	1J4GK58K23W635096	2013 HYUNDAI ACCENT
3GNBAADB6AS544267	2010 CHEVROLET HHR	1J8HH48K07C505966	2003 JEEP LIBERTY
3GNDA13D27S599254	2007 CHEVROLET HHR	5XXGM4A72DG093596	2007 JEEP COMMANDER
2G1WT58K079229016	2007 CHEVROLET IMPALA	1YVHZ8CHXA5M53033	2013 KIA OPTIMA
3GNBAADB7AS579030	2010 CHEVROLET HHR	2MEFM75W51X690060	2010 MAZDA 6
KL1TD5DE4AB050661	2010 CHEVROLET AVEO	JN1DA31D03T522912	2001 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS
1GCCS14R1P8129432	1993 CHEVROLET S10	1N4BA41E05C843666	2003 NISSAN MAXIMA
1G1ND52M7W6247568	1998 CHEVROLET MALIBU	1N4DL01D9XC109064	2005 NISSAN MAXIMA
1G1AT58H897262414	2009 CHEVROLET COBALT	1N6ND16SXGC385369	1999 NISSAN ALTIMA
3C8FY4BB41T588240	2001 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER	1N4AA51E99C817719	1986 NISSAN K C 4X2 X TRUCK
2C3HE66G1YH333346	2000 CHRYSLER 300M	1N4DL01D1YC185699	2009 NISSAN MAXIMA
2B3KA43R86H302617	2006 DODGE CHARGER	1G3GM11Y9HP322961	2000 NISSAN ALTIMA
2D4FV48V85H190090	2005 DODGE MAGNUM	1P3ES27CXVD113238	1987 OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS
1D7HE48N16S501316	2006 DODGE DAKOTA	2G2FS22K3W2212823	1997 PLYMOUTH NEON
4B3AG52H82E150248	2002 DODGE STRATUS	2G2WS522651141879	1998 PONTIAC FIREBIRD
2B7KB31Z4TK178157	1996 DODGE VAN	1G2ZG528554152959	2005 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX
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1FAFP3830YW350720	2000 FORD FOCUS	YV1MS382782372819	2008 TOYOTA CAMRY
1FAFP34P23W149788	2003 FORD FOCUS	YV1LS61J1Y2633277	2008 VOLVO S40
1FMU18W0VLB31097	1997 FORD EXPEDITION		2000 VOLVO S70

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Notes...

Continued from page 7

The Valdosta Community Reunion that is held each year on the first Saturday in June will be cancelled this year due to the COVID-19.

LifeSouth seeks recovered COVID-19 patients to help by donating plasma
LifeSouth is partnering with medical centers in Florida, Georgia and Alabama to collect plasma from COVID-19 patients who have recovered from the virus, to transfuse to patients with COVID-19 to help with recovery.

Recovered COVID-19 patients who were tested and found positive, can donate plasma if they have not had symptoms for at least 14 days and test negative by a lab, or after 28 days without symptoms with no follow-up testing required.

The treatment is considered an investigational new drug by the FDA and collected donations will be sent to medical centers to treat critically ill COVID-19 patients. The plasma contains antibodies that may help fight the virus.

Plasma is the clear, straw-colored liquid in the blood that remains when red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets are removed.

Potential donors should email medicaloffice@lifesouth.org or call 888-795-2707.

The TVA Retirees Association Muscle Shoals Chapter 2020 Annual Picnic scheduled for June 16 has been cancelled. Based upon current understanding of health concerns for large gatherings, the board thought it would be best to cancel the picnic this year. At this point we are planning to continue the picnic in 2021.

We will keep you informed about future plans for the picnic and other Chapter activities.

The Shoals Writers will plan to resume meeting on May 16, unless otherwise noted.

Due to the continuing developments related to the coronavirus and with the health of our inductees, honorees, staff and general public our top priority, the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame has rescheduled its 52nd Annual Induction Banquet & Ceremony for August 1, 2020 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel.

As opposed to the previously rescheduled date, August 1 will allow more time for all parties involved to be better prepared for the event.

For more information regarding the ASHOF or the upcoming Induction Ceremony, please visit our website at www.ashof.org or call 205-323-6665.

The 16th Annual Swampers 5K and 1 mile walk/run has been postponed until Saturday, August 1. (Previously scheduled for Saturday, April 25) This race is sponsored by Shoals Civic League and is the largest event of its kind in the Shoals area with over 800 applicants last year. The August race will follow all guidelines as in the past years, with packet pickup and finish line at Muscle Shoals Middle School. To register for the race at reduced rates, go to swampers5k.com

Florence Parks and Recreation/The Club (Florence Senior Center) has temporarily suspended all activities at The Club.

The nutrition program IS, however, providing meals for their homebound clients as well as those that normally eat lunch at The Club. For those that normally eat at The Club they can call each day, Monday-Friday, between 8-10am to let us know they will be driving by to pick up a prepared meal under the front porch without entering the building. There is a limited number of lunches for each day.

Prepared meals will be ready to be picked up between the hours of 10-11am Monday-Friday. Please call 256-760-6668 or 256-760-6420 for more information or to let us know if you will be picking up your meal. These meals are for those that regularly attend lunch at The Club.

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I'VE SEEN A PHENOMENAL EXPLOSION OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES and misinformation since I wrote a recent article on Coronavirus misinformation. I suppose much of the misinformation is the result of so much uncertainty but, man, some of you have gone completely off the rails. The ones that really get my goomy are the ones about my hero Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, and the reason I get to do what I do. Even some of my smart friends are falling for this stuff. We simply must stop tolerating and legitimizing this junk. With that in mind, here are some of the conspiracy theories about Bill Gates so far and why they are goofy:



Jim Fisher

MISINFORMATION EXPLOSION

by "The Computer Skeptic"

CONSPIRACY: Bill Gates owns the patent on Covid19 and caused the pandemic so he can manufacture the vaccine and make billions. FACT: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been giving away free vaccines around the world for many years. They just happened to donate some money to the Pirbright Institute who does hold a patent on a chicken version of the Coronavirus. That has somehow morphed into Bill Gates creating the Covid19 virus. It's just dumb. CONSPIRACY: Bill Gates wants to microchip everyone

so he can track everybody's location for . . . reasons. Also, this is the mark of Satan. Also, the microchip actually contains Covid19. FACT: In March of this year, Gates gave a talk on Reddit (a website for nerds like me) and suggested that, in order to keep businesses open and clients safe in the future, we may consider an invisible temporary tattoo on people that can be read from a distance that will quickly prove that they've either recovered from Covid19 or had the vaccine. This would allow people to safely attend football games, for

example. Bill was just throwing out ideas. There was never any mention of a microchip and, at risk of stating the obvious, microchips can't transmit biological viruses.

CONSPIRACY: Bill Gates wants to reduce the world's population by injecting "poisoned vaccines" or something. FACT: Gates did give a TED Talk a few years ago. In his talk, he stated that one of his goals is the widespread availability of birth control to help countries control their exploding populations. That statement morphed into "Bill wants to murder the planet!" I can't make this stuff up!

Years ago virtually everyone celebrated an end to the polio epidemic. We are now on the verge of an equally crucial scientific advancement and people are already demonstrating against them because of dumb

conspiracy theories. At some point, hopefully soon, we are going to be able to hug one another, congregate in worship centers, at sporting events, at city hall meetings, and restaurants. Getting there is going to require critical thinking skills and some creative ways of verifying that people aren't a danger to others. To that end, I propose a large "GOOBER" tattoo on the foreheads of conspiracy theorists. Tell all your friends I said that and let's see how that story evolves.

Jim Fisher owns Excel Computer Services in Florence. Reach him at www.ExcelAL.com

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