

Trail Closed for a Week

SHEFFIELD – The Tennessee Valley Authority is closing portions of the 2.6 mile nature trail loop near Ashe Boulevard from November 30 –December 3 to perform right of way maintenance work along the power line. Weather permitting, the work will be complete by December 3.


The public should not cross any safety barriers that will be set up around Ashe Blvd. just south of the Old Railroad Bridge. TVA crews will clear vegetation and remove danger trees that may fall into the power line during bad weather. TVA has an industry leading right of way management program that supports wildlife habitat and significantly reduced service interruptions – achieving over 99.99% reliability for every year since 2000, on the nation's second-largest transmission system.

Pannell Joins First Metro

FLORENCE–First Metro Bank and its board of directors proudly welcome **Jon Pannell** as Vice President and Commercial Lending Officer. With nearly 20 years of experience in the banking industry, Pannell is an outstanding addition to First Metro Bank and will influence the future success and growth of the community bank.

Pannell received BS in Business Management at Athens State University and is a 2013 graduate of Alabama Banking School. His vast

See SHORTS... on Page 2



**REMINDER:
AD DEADLINE**
for the DEC. 2
issue is
Wednesday, Nov. 25

**Automotive Inside
NOW**

National Advance Auto Sales
Jeff Elledge Auto Sales



Happy Thanksgiving!

Tennessee St. Florence, AL 35630 256-764-4268

Volume 137 Number 5

November 25, 2020

POSTAL PATRON

PRST STD.
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Florence, AL 35630
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CIRCULATION
VERIFICATION
COUNCIL

Courier Journal

Verification of weekly circulation upon request Serving Northwest Alabama and

Thankful for Her

It is Important to Appreciate What We Have

by Laney Estey Wroten
for the Courier Journal



Ellie Mae is recuperating nicely since coming home with owner, Chasley

Courtesy photo

It was a typical afternoon in our neighborhood. Folks were out walking, chatting and enjoying the cooler fall temperatures. The distant melody of the ice cream truck reminded us that summer was dwindling to an end. The day was uneventful thus far.

One thing was for certain, though. Neighborhood favorite, Ellie Mae, a three year old Golden Retriever, was ready for her afternoon stroll and a visit with her best pal, Larry Thompson, who

Happy Thanksgiving

Thank You for Shopping **MARTIN'S**
We Appreciate Your Business!!

15% off One Item

Good November 25-28. May not be used with any other coupon, discount, or offer. Excludes Bogg Bags, Simply Southern Simply EVA Totes, Birkenstock, Ugg, Employees. Limit one coupon per customer. Other exclusions may apply. Martin's/Wakefield's reserves the right to deny any coupons that are not being used in accordance with company guidelines.

550 Cox Creek Parkway
MARTIN'S CJ5AT

For information about advertising in this spot, call 256-740-4701



4 49894 00055 8

would have some water and ice ready for her arrival. As Ellie Mae's owners Chasley, Mallory and two year old Chloe Smith would round the corner of the loop, Ellie

See THANKFUL... on Page 12

Winners of Idea Audition

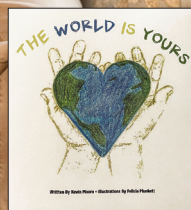
FLORENCE – Kevin Robinson and Richard Bennett, representing Bless Yr Heart Music Production Company in Sheffield, received \$5,000 for the winning entry in the Shoals Idea Audition. The entrepreneurship competition took place November 10 on the University of North Alabama East campus. Robinson and Bennett pitched the idea for a live concert entertainment program that will

See IDEA... on Page 11



Ellie is listening and watching her grandfather, Kevin Moore, read from her book.

Courtesy photo



Your World

Grandfather Thankful for
Ellie's Opportunites Ahead

FLORENCE – Kevin Moore is active as principal at Underwood Elementary and with his church family at Chisholm Hills Church of Christ. He recently added a new accomplishment to his resume - children's book author. *The World is Yours* was written for his first grandchild, Ellie. After Ellie was born she spent some time in the NICU. While she was there, Moore had

See YOURS... on Page 6

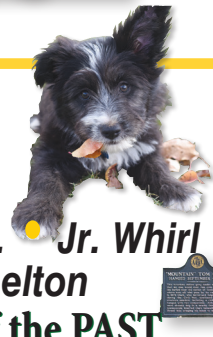
Inside this Issue

- Ask the Attorney
- Dave Ramsey
- Medicare Minute

**GAME DAY
SCORE CARD** 2020

- \$\$\$ Stretcher
- Hocus • Soaps
- Adopt-a-Friend
- Quilt Challenge
- Computer Skeptic

- Holiday Pet Tips
- Savvy Sr.
- Steve Shelton
- SIGNS of the PAST



Online Only:

- Pet Talk
- Mystery Photo
- Web Poll
- Outdoors



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AL HVAC LICENSE #91114 • AL PLUMBING MPG-3489 • AL ELECTRICAL 01889



382843-1

Make sure you have **HOT WATER** when you

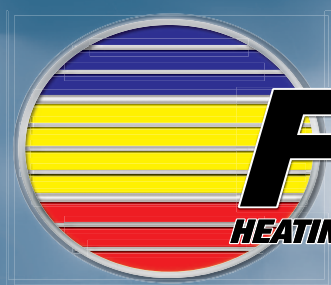
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FOUND KNIFE AT KILLEN re-cycle trailers. Call to identify. 256-757-1223.

WE BUY WORKING AND Non-Working appliances at Bernie's Used Appliances, 4306 Huntsville Road, Florence, AL 256-767-0909.

BUYING BROKEN WASHERS AND Dryers. No Front Loads, 256-275-7699.

WHIRLPOOL DRYER, WHITE, RUNS good. \$120 O.B.O. 256-652-3110.

DREAM ON ME WHITE toddler bed with Sealy mattress and bedding set. Excellent Condition, \$75; Call / text 256-520-7258 Huntsville

BUYING ESTATES. PAYING CASH.

WE BUY AND SELL es-
tates, antiques, tools, cast
iron, and jewelry. Call 256-
762-0966 or 256-275-0273

SEWING MACHINE REPAIR, MOST makes & models. Free estimates. Ken's Sewing Center, 256-381-0161.

RIDGEWAY FLOOR GRAND-FATHER CLOCK, Beautiful, Call 256-627-0777

BUICK: N.O.S., 1970 FACTORY original. Stereo push-buton radio. For sale or would trade even for a good used carburetor for 1967 Ford 100 240, 6 cylinder engine (manual choke) 256-742-1263.

KING MATTRESS, \$35. BLACK metal bunk bed frame, \$35. Gaming chair, \$15. 256-766-4900.

I BUY CAMPERS, TRAILERS & MOTOR HOMES

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\$\$\$ CASH \$\$\$

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(local number)

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VACUUM CLEANER REPAIR, MOST makes & models. Free estimates. Ken's Sewing & Vacuum Center, 256-381-0161.

NISSAN: FRONTIER XE, 2004 \$8,950. Crew Cab, 85K actual miles, V6, auto., alloy wheels, EXTRA CLEAN! 256-527-2125.

SET OF ALUMINUM SAW BLADE Wheels & Tires for S-10 and other vehicles \$200 Firm, 256-415-2830

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VACUUM CLEANER REPAIR, MOST makes & models. Free estimates. Ken's Sewing & Vacuum Center, 256-381-0161.

SOUTHERN APPEAL TREE SERVICE
Stump Grinding, Tree Removal & Pruning. Free Estimates. Licensed, Insured & Bonded.
256-381-2306 or 256-702-1254

CHEVROLET: CAMARO, 2017 \$24,500, Convertible, 50th Anniversary Edition, 45K miles, Red with black top & black stripes. Adult driven, 256-318-2661 Decatur area

HOUSE CLEANING
Weed flower beds and trim bushes. Free estimates. References available, 256-366-3295

1892 PUMP ORGAN KIM-BALL 5 octave, walnut Restored with stool and history, \$1,500. 256-702-2487.

16 FT. TANDAM AXEL TRAILER, Heavy Duty, 6-ply Tires, looks good, pulls good, 256-436-6666, Florence.

FALL SPECIAL, GUTTER Clean Out, Seamless Gutters, Gutter Guards. Call Gutter Works at 256-394-3497.

MUZZLELOADER 50.C, BLACK KNIGHT, bolt action, shot once, like new, \$250 OBO, 256-436-6666, Florence.

Shorts...

Pannell Joins First Metro

Continued from Page 1

knowledge of banking greatly contributes to First Metro Bank, especially in his role on the bank’s Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program team. This team has worked diligently to provide nearly 600 local small businesses with millions of dollars in financial relief during the pandemic. In a few short months, Jon has already helped First Metro Bank make a large impact in the communities they serve.

“We are honored to welcome Jon to First Metro Bank,” said **Rodney Howard**, First Metro Bank’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “We could not have asked for a more experienced business professional to fill this major role. The board of directors and I know he will do a phenomenal job serving our commercial customers while helping extend our footprint throughout the communities we serve.”


Home Grown Earns a 3rd

FLORENCE – **Gabriel Rhoden**, a junior majoring in Communications at the University of North Alabama, has taken third place in the Best Short Film Documentary category at the 2019-2020 College Media Association Film and Audio Festival for his film, “Home Grown.”

The event took place virtually in late October. “I’m extremely honored and grateful with my third-place win,” Rhoden said. “It’s a great encouragement, and I only hope to use it to better myself and my passion for this craft. I couldn’t have done it if it weren’t for my family and friends who have encouraged and pushed me from the very beginning.”

Rhoden’s film features a third-generation cattle farmer who has been farming in North Alabama for more than 50 years. The story illustrates his vocation and how it has changed and is in decline. “Home Grown” can be found on YouTube at “Home Grown Short Film by Gabriel Rhoden.” The College Media

See **SHORTs...** Page 6



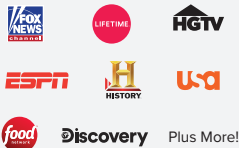
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See who's at the door, right from your TV.

Connect the Google Nest Hello video doorbell to your Hopper 3 DVR so you can see who's knocking without missing your show.



Control your TV and entire Smart Home with a single remote.


Use the DISH Voice Remote with Google Assistant to find shows, dim the lights, set the thermostat and more. Yours, free, when you sign up today.

 **Hey Google**

Requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC.

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Offer for new and qualifying former customers only.

Important Terms and Conditions:

Qualification: Advertised price requires credit qualification and 24-month commitment. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. **Offer ends 1/13/21. 2-year commitment:** Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. **Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$59.99 advertised price:** America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. **Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost:** Programming package upgrades (\$74.99 for AT120+, \$84.99 for AT200, \$94.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). **Regional Sports:** RSN surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. **NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change):** Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. **Remote:** The DISH Voice Remote with Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. **Other:** All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price guarantee are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. All offers require credit qualification, 2-year commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay. Google Nest Hello video doorbell is a trademark of Google LLC.

PREM_26348
375978-1

★ ★ ★ ★

FORD: RANGER, 2002 \$1,500.
FOR SALE
256-702-9167

WE BUY JUNK and Repairable Vehicles with titles.
Call Ron 256-275-6540

REASONABLE TREE SERVICE.
Tree cutting, trimming, stump removal, free estimates, owner Gilbert Barga 256-314-1009 or 256-366-3539.

DAVE'S HOME REPAIRS AND REMODELING: Sheetrock, re-pair, plumbing, carpentry, electrical, tile, painting. References. Quality work. 256-702-2983

Yard Sales

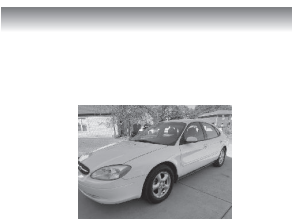


An exclusive listing of the better sales in the Shoals area.

To list your sale, fill out the form on page 6.

WE MUST receive your ad by Friday prior to the Wednesday release date. (8 days before a Saturday sale)

MUSCLE SHOALS: 702 EAST Moss Ave (Corner of Moss Ave. and John R St.) Day after Thanksgiving Sale! 11/27 Fri. and 11/28 Sat. 6AM. Big Christmas Yard Sale plus other items!



FORD: TAURUS SES, 2003 Low miles, like new, new tires, leather, very dependable. \$3,900 Firm! 256-436-8755

NISSAN: ALTIMA SL, 2010 \$7,950. Heated leather, sunroof, Bose® audio, rear view camera, NEW TIRES, Extra Clean! 256-527-2125.



FORD: PICK-UP TRUCK, 1954 ANTIQUE RED, best offer, 256-577-2586 Cherokee area

SOLID WOOD DESK, LIKE new, very nice, \$150 obo. 256-686-1227.

RED OAK, WHITE OAK, Hickory, Pecan Firewood. Pick up or Delivered. Call Eddie: 931-213-0350.

CHRYSLER: TOWN & COUNTRY, 2007 \$11,500. Chrysler Town & Country Handicapped Van in good condition. Power windows, locks and sunroof. New Tires and headliner replaced. 89,700 miles. Asking \$11,500. 256-366-0810.

AUNT ZULA BELLE BORED in NURSING HOME? NEW Bible Word Search Puzzle Books. Mars Hill Bookstore, 256-764-4088

HYUNDAI: SANTA FE LIMITED, 2014 \$15,500. Excellent condition, NEW TIRES, Loaded!! 256-654-5455.

ROGERS REMODELING Specializing in kitchens, bathrooms and decks. Also do all types of home repair and insurance claims. Drywall, ceramic tile, vinyl siding, replacement windows and metal roofing. 256-394-3827 or 256-247-8384

CABINET AND MINOR HOME REPAIR: Replace drawer slides, doors, etc. Soffits, fascias, trim work, etc. 256-284-5889

I BUY JUNK AND repairable vehicles and catalytic converters. Call Michael 256-702-8400

ROOFING - LEAKS REPAIRED, chimneys flashed, valley repair. All work guaranteed. Free estimates. 256-383-3218

LABRADOR RETRIEVER PUPPIES, AKC registered, championship blood line, \$600 ea. 530-230-7879. Harvest, AL

BRADFORD PEAR WOOD, FIREPLACE length, 14 ft. trailer length, \$125, must load yourself, 256-740-7571 Wheeler Dam area

QUALITY 50 YEAR OLD SOLID OAK DOUBLE BED, \$100, with matching dresser/mirror, like new, \$150 256-648-1365



Darryl Keith Kimbrel

11-22-1967 - 11-21-1999

Darryl,
We loved you then,
We love you still,
We always have,
We always will,

Mom & Dad
(Johnnie & Denny)



“Roll Tide, Roll!”



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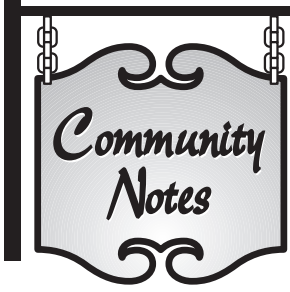
KOGER LAWN SERVICE AND
Pressure Washing, houses, piers,
boat houses, decks, driveways
and walkways. 256-366-3133

ELECTRIC LAWN MOWER, 7
mo. old, \$150. Toys/Peppa Pigs
+ more, \$40 total. 256-686-4380.

**FULL/QUEEN JOHNSON BED-
ROOM SUITE, 5 pc. \$250; GE**
Washer, 2 years old \$150; Yama-
ha Trombone \$200; Zenith Stereo
with two remote speakers \$100;
10 ft. Woods Bushhog \$4,000;
Two pieces of Exercise Equip-
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MARANER, 3 male puppies, full
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BUICK: LESABRE, 2005
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The Winter Art Market will include
works varying from paintings and pottery
to jewelry, baskets, and handbags. A wide
range of price points will be available, so
whether you're looking for small stocking
stuffers or elaborate gifts, the market will
have the special, one-of-a-kind treasures
you're looking for.


Singing November 29 at 10:45am
at Muscle Shoals Church of God 1700
Firestone Ave. The Terry Williams Family
from Tupelo, MS. Everyone welcome.

Bubbles, Buttons, Balls and Balloons
- Shoals Piecemakers Quilt Guild's Annual
Challenge exhibit will be on display at the
Kennedy-Douglas Center for the Arts, 217
E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence, from November
30-December 15.
The center is free and open to the
public 9am-4pm Monday-Friday, and 1-4pm
Sunday.
CDC guidelines observed.

**The NW AL Chapter #2 of the Korean
War Veterans Association** will meet for
breakfast and business at Hampton Inn and
Suites, 505 S. Court St. Florence at 8am
on Wednesday, December. 2. We have
some very important business to discuss
so please try to attend. Come earlier and
enjoy your free breakfast in the dining area.
Please direct any questions to Commander
Jim Taylor at 256-383-8172.

Santa Paws Christmas Market
takes place from 10am-6pm on Friday
and Saturday December 4-5 at Florence
Lauderdale Animal Services.
Gift ideas for everyone on your list.
Homemade Sweet Treats and Craft items.
All in one place - located at 3240
Roberson Rd in the Florence Industrial
Park.
Proceeds benefit Chloe's Fund to help
sick and injured animals.

See NOTES... page 26




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Now Open at New Location



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
each week 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.

Florence – Lauderdale County Drive
Thru Food Pantry at Northwood Methodist
Church, Seven Points. Call for appointment,
256-764-2111.


COVID-19 and Rapid testing is now
available at the SHOALS COMMUNITY
CLINIC - FREE to the public. The clinic has
partnered with the Alabama Department
of Public Health to administer these tests.
The new COVID Rapid test takes only 15
minutes. 256-760-4713

**Tis the season for holidays! The Muscle
Shoals Sound Studio will be closed**
November 24-27 for the Thanksgiving
Holiday, open again on Saturday, November
28 and again beginning Tuesday, December
1. The Christmas closing will be December
22-28, and open December 29-31. The
Studio will be closed on New Year's Day,
January 1. For more information, call 256-
978-5151.

Winter Art Market 30+ Artists - Hundreds
of one-of-a-kind gifts at the Tennessee
Valley Museum of Art in Tusculmbia.
Opening Weekend Hours
TVAA Members Opening: Fri, Nov 27,
10am-6pm
Public Opening: Sat, Nov 28, 10am-5pm
Artists Sunday: Sun, Nov 29, 1pm-4pm
Regular Hours:
November 30-December 23
Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm
Saturday, 10am-5pm

Help for the divorced and separated during the holiday

**December 2
6-8pm**



Surviving the Holidays

If you're separated or divorced, the holidays can be a lonely,
stressful, and depressing time. But there's hope. Join us for an
encouraging seminar to discover how to enjoy the holidays again.

DIVORCE *Care*

Woodmont Baptist Church
2001 Darby Drive • 256-766-1255
Main Campus Room B101

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WILL BE OFF

Thursday & Friday

NOVEMBER 26 & 27

For the Thanksgiving Holiday

Ad Deadline for the December 2 issue is

4pm WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

(The Wednesday before Thanksgiving) Call 256-764-4268



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Urgent Care

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•BROWN LEATHER SECTIONAL, \$200 cash. •Burgundy recliner, \$50. •Palm curio cabinet, \$75. •Cheetah wing-back chair, \$75. •Cherry coffee table, \$25. •Palm chair and ottoman, \$100. •Kid's riding train with track, \$30. 256-247-0938 - Rogersville area.

SWIVEL BARSTOOL, SPINDLE FULL back, maple, 42", foot rest, \$75. 256-882-0173. Huntsville

LAZY BOY ROCKER RECLINER, tan leather, \$100. Albertville, 256-878-4564.

OAKWOOD CEMETERY IN SHEFFIELD, Three lots, all together, \$1,800, 256-710-8927.

CHEAP RATES, CONCRETE FINISHING

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MANSELL ROOFING, DISCOUNTS TO Veterans, and Seniors, all work guaranteed, Free estimates, 256-383-3218

SOUTHERN APPEAL TREE SERVICE
Stump Grinding, Tree Removal & Pruning. Free Estimates. Licensed, Insured & Bonded. 256-381-2306 or 256-702-1254

ARTIC CAT 4X4 300 ATV, all terrain in good shape \$1,200 or best offer 256-383-7909

SEWING MACHINE REPAIR, MOST makes & models. Free estimates. Ken's Sewing Center, 256-381-0161.

ROOFING - LEAKS REPAIRED, chimneys flashed, valley repair. All work guaranteed. Free estimates. 256-383-3218

FENCES & DECKS: We Build, years of experience. Call for bids. Greg 256-335-7663

NISSAN: VERSA, 2010 \$6,450. One owner, 4 door hatchback, 83K actual miles, silver, automatic, power package. SUPER CLEAN! 256-527-2125.

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE! Junk batteries, \$5 each. Ranger Battery Co. 426 Royal Avenue. 256-766-0473

3 QUILTS, QUEEN SIZE, HAND SEWN, \$75 each, 256-227-0800 (Tanner)

HOME IMPROVEMENT AND BUILDING: siding, additions, garages, painting, decks, Free Estimates. 256-383-3218

GMC: TERRAIN SLE, 2011 \$8,750. 1 owner, heated seats, back-up camera, NEW TIRES AND BRAKES. 256-527-2125.

2007 TRIUMPH ROCKET 3 Classic, 2300 cc, blue and white, many extras, 14k miles. Must see to appreciate, \$10,500. call 256-784-2013.

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\$11.99

per month

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SOUTHERN SHINE CAR WASH

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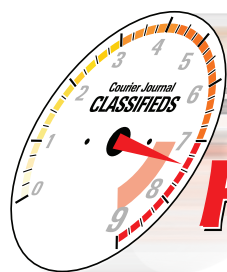
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Shorts...

Home Grown Earns a 3rd

Continued from Page 2

Association Film and Audio Festival is designed to encourage and promote excellence in student video work by showing examples of top-notch projects in multiple categories. The College Media Association serves student media pros, staffs, and programs with education, research, and resources.

UNA Women's B'ball Signs 4

FLORENCE – Four players signed national letters of intent to play for the University of North Alabama women's basketball team on Wednesday. UNA head coach **Missy Tiber** announced the addition of high school standouts **Claudia Bridges**, **Skyler Gill**, **Olivia Jones** and **Macie Walker**.

Bridges is a 5'-5" point guard from Fayetteville High School in Arkansas who helped lead her team to deep playoff runs during her sophomore and junior seasons. The Bulldogs advanced to the state semifinals in 2019 before qualifying for the 6A state championship game the following year.

Gill is from Savannah, TN and can play guard or forward. She helped lead Hardin County High School to the regional semifinals in 2019 before

earning a berth in the regional finals the next season. She averaged 14.1 points, 10.6 rebounds, and 3.1 blocked shots per game and earned multiple accolades as a junior, including Hardin County MVP, first team All-West Tennessee, first team all-district, District 13 MVP and district tournament MVP. Gill also holds the Tennessee state record for blocked shots in a game with 15.

Jones enters her senior year at University School of Jackson, TN with more than 1,000 career points. The 5-10 guard helped lead the Bruins to consecutive appearances in the state quarterfinals in 2019 and 2020. She holds a school record with eight three-pointers in a game and finished her junior season averaging 13.2 points, 5.3 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 2.1 steals per game.

Walker is a 5-9 guard from Belmont High School, MS and is another 1,000-point scorer. She helped lead the Cardinals to the 2019 state championship game, as well as a quarterfinals appearance the following year. The three-time All-State selection earned All-Division 1-3A Player of the Year honors as a sophomore and a junior. Most recently, she was named one of Mississippi's Top-12 players in the state known as the Dandy Dozen.

See SHORTs... Page 9



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CIRCULATION

Steve Pope

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 5:00pm

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Florence, AL 35630

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Your Courier Journal is published for total saturation, direct-mail delivery every Wednesday to **72,703** 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:

219 W. Tennessee St.

Florence, AL 35630

or email to:

editor@courierjournal.net

well in advance of the planned event. The Editor reserves right to shorten, edit, reword or omit submissions as seen fit. All information submitted for publication becomes property of the Courier Journal. Information published does not necessarily reflect an opinion or endorsement by the Courier Journal, members of its management, or its staff. Advertisers are responsible for all content and claims in their advertising.

Yours...

Continued from Page 1

many words swimming in his head about home, family, and finding your place in the world.

The book is illustrated by a dear family friend, Felicia Plunket. *The World is Yours* provides a positive message during a challenging time, a nice keepsake for a new baby, or for a recent graduate trying to find a place in this world.

The book is available through Kevin Moore's Facebook page, Watson Interiors, and Mars Hill Bookstore. A percentage of the profits will be donated to NICU at the UAB Women & Infants Center.

THEIR AD IS NOT HERE! Do you like to shop at certain stores? Are they not advertising their sales in the Courier Journal? Tell them that they should be.

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TVMA's Winter Market

TUSCUMBIA— The Winter Art Market at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art includes 30+ artists and hundreds of one-of-a-kind gifts. Customers will not only be supporting TVAA, but will also be directly supporting local and regional artists.

With all the art festival cancelations this year, the Winter Art Market is providing a way for artists to sell their work. Think of the market as an art festival that is spread out over a month, to allow for save shopping.

The Winter Art Market will include paintings and pottery to jewelry, baskets, and handbags. A wide range of price points will be available, so whether you're looking for small stocking stuffers or elaborate gifts,



the market will have the special, one-of-a-kind treasures you're looking for.

Photos of many available items will also be shared at www.tennesseevalleyarts.org and at www.facebook.com/thetvma, so you can also browse from home, then call to make purchases to pick up at the museum!

Opening Weekend Hours

TVAA Members Opening:

Friday November 27 from 10am-6pm

Public Opening:

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Shorts...

Continued from Page 6

Relief with Revive Plus

MONTGOMERY – Governor Kay Ivey last week announced Revive

Plus, a \$200 million grant program to support small businesses, non-profits and faith-based organizations in Alabama that have been impacted by COVID-19. Revive Plus is the second wave of funding for these organizations with 50 or fewer employees. It will award grants of up to \$20,000 for expenses they have incurred due to operational interruptions caused by the pandemic and related business closures.

"As the state rolled out over \$1 billion of the CARES Act monies to the individuals and businesses affected by COVID-19, it became evident the group most overwhelmingly hurt during the pandemic were the small 'mom and pop'

shops," Governor Ivey said. "A second round of assistance through Revive Plus will ensure that the small business owners who have borne the brunt of the downed economy can be made as whole as possible.

Entities may receive up to \$20,000 to reimburse qualifying expenses if they have not received federal assistance for the corresponding item they are claiming with the state of Alabama. The Revive Plus grant is in addition to any state of Alabama Coronavirus Relief Fund grant previously received. Grants will be awarded to qualifying applicants on a first-come-first-served basis until the funds are exhausted. Qualifying entities must have been in business March 1, 2020 are currently in business and have a valid W-9 to apply for a Revive Plus Grant.

Alabama received approximately \$1.9 billion of CARES Act funding to respond to and mitigate the coronavirus pandemic. "This second round of funding for Alabama entities will provide much needed resources for our state's economy," said Senate Minority Leader Bobby Singleton (D-Greensboro). "I appreciate the governor and the Finance Department's work."

Entities may access grant information and the grant application through the Coronavirus Relief Fund website. <https://crf.alabama.gov/default.aspx>

The application period for the Revive Plus Grant Program runs from November 23 – noon, December 4.

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Derrick recently retired after teaching and coaching for thirty years. He taught at Muscle Shoals Middle School and coached at the High School. He is married to Lisa Gargis, the North Alabama Market Manager for Humana. Their son, Sam, attends the University of North Georgia and is a member of the Nighthawks' golf team. Derrick says he looks forward to starting his new career working with Alabama Health Guidance. Please, give Derrick a call for any **MEDICARE** questions or needs.

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Contact: Machele
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- Priceville/Somerville**
Contact: Greg
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2019 County Road 394, Killen

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Idea...
Continued from Page 1

be professionally shot and recorded in Sheffield. "We've recognized the utter lack that streaming technology has provided the live music world, as our own artists in this town stay unemployed," said Robinson. "We believe that there is a better alternative to keep those musicians employed and be able to present the wealth of music of the Shoals to the world."

Bless Yr Heart Music Production Company has recently received its first national ad placement, and Robinson and Bennett hope to create more live music productions from the stage they have dubbed "Live from Nashville Ave."

The Shoals Idea Audition is an annual event sponsored by Innovation Sponsors Bank Independent, UNA College of Business, and the Shoals Economic Development Authority.

For seven years, this event has taken place under the auspices of Shoals Shift, a creative effort through the Shoals Business Incubator, UNA, and the Shoals Chamber of Commerce.

The event is designed to foster new businesses, help entrepreneurs polish their presentations, and introduce community leaders who might be instrumental in helping make their ideas a reality. The top scoring ideas were awarded a \$5,000 cash prize, with \$2,500 and \$1,000 to second and third-place winners, respectively.

Ten competitors presented their ideas to a preliminary round of judges on Nov. 9. These presentations were narrowed down to three, each of whom made their pitch in person in a final round to judges Nov. 10. The presentations were streamed from UNA's East Campus via Facebook Live to ensure proper social distancing procedures could be observed.

This year's second place winner was Micah Johnson who has created a modern education system focused on enabling more people to engage in software development. Emily Butler, founder of More Than the Reel online platform, took home third place.

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Thankful...

Continued from Page 1

would come off her leash and sprint to the Thompson’s house. This routine was coined, “The Ellie 500,” by the loop spectators. She would then trot back and forth and visit with everyone, receive her usual treats, and visit with her furry friends. To say that these visits were the highlight of the day would be a gross understatement.

Ellie was the glue that bound us all together. She had become the best friend of my 11 year-old Black Lab, Bama, and they would take turns vying for the attention of LT, (also known as Pops, the dog whisperer). When Bama passed away two months ago, Ellie’s visits became the most important activity of the day for me and my ten year-old son, Beau. Bama had left a gigantic hole in our hearts, and the grief almost consumed us, but Ellie knew we were grieving. She knew Beau needed her to chase a ball and I needed to bury my face in her floss. She became our furry therapist,

and was slowly bringing us out of our sadness. There is nothing better than “Big Dog Love.” It seemed almost like Bama had given her instructions to take care of her humans, and Ellie was taking her job very seriously.

The next few minutes of that picturesque afternoon became a horribly slow-moving nightmare. Ellie had dashed across the street to investigate something in my garage, and Mallory was in hot pursuit. Our neighbor pulled from his driveway and Ellie darted in front of him. All we could see is our furry golden jewel rolling under a jeep and yelping in pain.

We rushed her to the emergency vet where it was discovered she had 9 broken ribs and a broken tailbone.

At that point, many people will say, “It’s just a dog, put it down,” or “why would you spend that kind of money on a pet?” There are also those who will go to any lengths for their beloved animals.

The next few days were filled with a lot of anxiety. Is surgery needed? Will Ellie have a good quality of life? Will her breathing improve? She would look at us with those beautiful brown eyes and it was like she was telling us she was going to be okay. Waiting, praying, worrying, untold texts, a flood of emotions, and thousands of tears were shed with anticipation of what life for our precious Ellie would look like. Finally, weeks later the day arrived that we had been waiting for. Ellie would finally get to come home!

Recovery will be slow, and she will need constant supervision, but we are going to band together and make it happen! The vets have called her an absolute miracle. She should have never survived the accident or the pain from a broken tailbone and ribs, but they don’t know our Ellie Mae. She knew her humans needed her. Ellie made her grand appearance home on Saturday, October 17, and her first pit stop was to see her beloved Larry and Carol Thompson. As soon as the back hatch of the Explorer opened and she heard his voice, her tail began to thump. We were all holding back our tears. She won’t be running any Ellie 500s anytime soon, but we are all ecstatic to just see our girl back on the loop.

There are many valid lessons that can be learned from all of this such as keep your children close and your pets on their leashes. Be aware of your surroundings. Pay close attention to people who are outside and obey speed limits, especially in

residential areas. As a pet owner I realize how an animal can wiggle out of a leash, or dig under a fence and take an adventure. As a parent, I also see how this could have easily happened to a small child, or an older kid who has become complacent making their rounds in a familiar territory.

There is also a tough realization that even though Ellie Mae is getting all of the love and attention she needs, there are so many pets that do not.

Taking on an animal is a

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See ELLIE MAE... Pg 13

Voice of the Lions



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Ellie Mae...

Continued from Page 12

huge responsibility, if done correctly. So many times pets are left to their own devices, aren't fed properly, and not given any attention at all. The shelters are bursting at the seams with animals that need homes. Animals depend on us to fulfil their needs, but they give us so very much in return. During this unprecedented pandemic and being quarantined at home, many people have only had their pets to keep them company.

It also brings to mind that pet grief is real. Losing a pet is like losing a beloved family member for a lot of people. Never belittle someone who has lost their furry companion and is having a hard time coping. If one positive result from all of this is that the experience has bonded our neighbors together even stronger than before. We all need each other, and helping one another has become more important than ever. Look out for your neighbors. Check on those who are stuck in the house. You never know when you can make someone's day by just being like an animal and dishing out some unconditional love!

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Commentary

Blessings Vary with Country

With each passing year the fall season seems more and more constricted. Cracker Barrel has Halloween out in late August and Christmas out before images on our Lane calendars even don an orange cast. With the notable exception of this year's COVID-19 debacle, Halloween has become a huge commercial opportunity. All that vivid imagery combined with the need to market Christmas earlier and earlier is having an adverse impact on Thanksgiving. Many get a four-day weekend out of it and kids often get a week off from school, lending a degree of substance to Thanksgiving Day. However, there are other more sinister pressures on Thanksgiving than subdued colors and limited themes for decoration. Younger adults don't have the same perspective on life that generations before them had at the same age. Remembering oppressive regimes leading up to World War II, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Soviet Union, the Berlin Wall, evils of socialism / communism

See BLESSINGS... on Page 34

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

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

Courier Journal

in the Shoals

THIS WEEK

November 25, 2020


Happening THIS WEEK



Bubbles, Buttons, Balls, and Balloons: Guild Quilts

FLORENCE—Entries in the Shoals Piecemakers Quilt Guild's Annual Challenge will be on display at the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts Annex Galleries from November 30 - January 15. This year's exhibit marks the 32nd year of the Challenge. The Guild members have new rules for the Challenge each year and the creative way the rules are

See BUBBLES... on Page 30



Thanksgiving Tips to Keep Pets Safe

Many Dogs and Cats Are Newly Adopted or Fostered During COVID

Like everything else in 2020, this Thanksgiving will look quite different for most of us. There will likely be fewer folks around the dinner table, friends may be connecting on FaceTime, and grandma might be joining by Zoom, sadly without her famous sweet potatoes. Although there might be fewer human visitors, many American homes have newly adopted dogs and cats to be thankful for and pets are grateful to be spending the holiday in foster homes. Many people are counting their blessings with a pet in their home for the first time. For this reason, Best Friends Animal Society hopes to help make this a happy, healthy holiday for all family members by offering a few special precautions to protect our pets:

See THANKSGIVING PET TIPS... on Page 18

THE WINTER ART MARKET includes 30+ artists and hundreds of one-of-a-kind gifts at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art in Tusculumbia. Opening Weekend Hours TVAA Members Opening: Fri, Nov 27, 10am-6pm Public Opening: Sat, Nov 28, 10am-5pm Artists Sunday: Sun, Nov 29, 1pm-4pm Regular Hours: November 30-December 23 Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm Saturday, 10am-5pm The Winter Art Market will include works varying from paintings and pottery to jewelry, baskets, and handbags. A wide range of price points will be available, so whether you're looking for small stocking stuffers or elaborate gifts, the market will have the special, one-of-a-kind treasures you're looking for.

THE NW AL CHAPTER #2 OF THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION will meet for breakfast and business at Hampton Inn and Suites, 505 S. Court St. Florence at 8am on Wednesday, December. 2. We have some very important business to discuss, so please try to attend. Come earlier and enjoy your free breakfast in the dining area. Please direct any questions to Commander Jim Taylor at 256-383-8172.

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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:

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Americans spent nearly \$20 billion at local businesses on Small Business Saturday in 2019...

For Positive Outcomes

Editor:

Thank you for publishing the recent anti-Trump letter, "95% Right-Wing Rag." It shows that you allow everyone to express their view. I am not a political person, but what concerns me is the lack of civility and outright rabidity of today's dialog. The drumbeat is "all-inclusive", yet voices are muffled by intimidation and anger. The buzz words of today are trite without thoughtful consideration of what they really mean. Any eloquence and insight intended by last week's editorial was completely lost in ire and vulgarity. Anger is now the heartbeat of our nation.

a community and a nation can be strengthened based on the bonds of shared experience and commitment.

B. J. Wilson
Muscle Shoals

Shop Safe, Shop Local

Editor:

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many events to be cancelled this year, but it does not take away the opportunity to shop local during the holiday season. Communities across the country have found innovative ways to keep both business owners and customers safe. For example, the Valley County Chamber in Ord, Nebraska made their annual Snowball Drop a virtual event. Starting in early November, the Chamber posted questions about local

See LETTERS...on Page 22

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NOT A DAY GOES BY THAT I DON'T SEE ONE of my Facebook friends announce that they are giving up Facebook for Parler. Parler.com is a social network that is sort of a mix between Twitter and Facebook. So what is Parler and why has it become an overnight phenomenon?

Fair warning: It's "Parler.com" (French for "Parler" not "Parlor." The latter is an adult website. I didn't know that until before my coffee this morning when I began my research but I sure know now! Anyway, according to their website, Parler allows you to "Speak freely and express yourself openly, without fear of being 'deplatformed' for your views.



Jim Fisher

PARLER PEOPLE

by "The Computer Skeptic"

Parler is people and privacy-focused, and gives you the tools you need to curate your Parler experience."

The catalyst for the creation of Parler started a few years ago when Facebook and Twitter started "de-platforming" certain groups dedicated to conspiracy theories, white supremacy, anti-vaccination, and other controversial subjects that Facebook's investors, advertisers, and normal people deem unacceptable. Facebook responded by either making it difficult to find these groups in searches or outright deleting the groups. In an attempt to slow the spread of misinformation, Facebook and Twitter also started fact-checking individuals who post "news" that has been deemed inaccurate or unsupported by "independent" fact-checkers. Therefore, Parler opened its doors to these people in September 2018 but really gathered steam over the last few weeks during the assertion that Democrats stole the election from President Trump.

There are also some interesting conspiracy theories floating around about Parler's connection

to Russia. The founder evidently met his Russian wife about two years ago in Las Vegas. She was in America for a two-week vacation. After they met, they traveled back and forth between Russia and the US which, in this political climate, is a bit suspicious. Then the founder suddenly came into a pretty large sum of money to start this new venture. The obvious speculation is that Russia is involved but there are a few ultra-conservative people who invested in the venture, too.

The problem I have with unfettered sites like Parler is that they often cater to the fringes of society and inevitably deteriorate into platforms for vitriol, hate, and violence. It's only a matter of time before Parler gets blamed for some violent act-- which is one reason Facebook and Twitter started clamping down on some of the nastiness. Our poor world has enough problems as it is without feeding the trolls.

I joined for research purposes and, well, there are no cute puppy pictures at all which is quite ominous. I'm convinced that many of the Parler people are the ones who leave their shopping buggies in a parking spot instead of walking it to the corral. If Parler is your thing well, you do you. But, really, social media isn't an airport; you do not have to announce your departure.

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



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Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." **1 John 4:19** "We love him, because he first loved us." **Romans 5:5** "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Now, do you have the "love of God" in your heart or the "love of sin"? God knows. You can't hide anything from Him. If the love of God is not in your heart, you need to get saved. Jesus is waiting on you to open your heart's door and let Him in. Will you do it? If you don't love Jesus Christ, you are under a curse. It is going to be rough for you suffering the vengeance of Almighty God under a curse. Receive Christ and get saved today. God help you.

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Thanksgiving Pet Tips...

Continued from
Page 14



...Poultry or ham
bones can break
up or splinter in a
pet's stomach and
be deadly, so dogs
and cats should
never be allowed
to gnaw on them.
Bones should
go in the trash
immediately...

In addition, many
common decorative
plants and flowers
can be toxic for curious cats
and dogs. So, before
buying plants or creating
the centerpiece, it's wise
to ensure that you're
not using anything
that could poison your
pets. According to the
American Veterinary
Medical Association,
some plant hazards
include amaryllis, baby's
breath, sweet William,
some ferns, hydrangeas
and others.

Those soulful
eyes may tempt
pet owners to
give in to their begging
critters, but sharing the
fabulous feast can lead to
trouble for pets.

Too much rich, fatty
food, or simply new,
unfamiliar foods can
upset a pet's stomach-
and even cause
pancreatitis which can
be life-threatening - so
owners should go easy
on the tidbits. Poultry
or ham bones can break
up or splinter in a pet's
stomach and be deadly,
so dogs and cats should
never be allowed to gnaw
on them. Bones should
go outside to the trash
immediately. Other food-
flavored items like plastic
wrap, string, mesh, or
the pop-up timer can
smell tempting to curious
pets, but can injure their
stomachs if ingested.

Chocolate, especially
that used for baking,
is toxic for dogs, so it
should be kept out of
reach. Other common
food items that can
be poisonous to dogs
include onions, raisins
and grapes, so avoid
sharing these.

It's a good idea to
review these rules with
any guests as well, since
well-meaning holiday
visitors might not know
the potential harm caused

by slipping
treats to the
pets under
the table. If pet owners
want to make the holiday
special for their four-
footed family members,
they should plan ahead
and have safe dog and cat
treats on hand. There are
also many great recipes
online for homemade dog
and cat treats that are fun
to make and extra special
for our pets.

Thanksgiving is often
one of the busiest evenings
for emergency vet clinics.
So, let's be extra careful
with our animal friends—
especially this year, when
many animal hospitals are
operating under COVID
restrictions. That way the
holiday can be happy and
healthy for everyone, and
maybe your veterinarian
can have the night off too.

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Howell Bigham
Chaplain,
Volunteer Coordinator

Thanksgiving

Since 1863 Thanksgiving has been observed as a national holiday. It is a time when families dine around a table laced with turkey or ham and the usual accessories. But Thanksgiving is more than being consumers. It is about gratitude. Appreciation. Thankfulness. In our great land, the United States of America, we are extremely blessed. At Good Samaritan Hospice, we wish for all our readers a very "Happy Thanksgiving."

But for the remainder of this article, let me tell you what we are thankful for at Good Samaritan Hospice. We are grateful for the opportunity to be of service, to lend a hand, to provide medical care for the terminally ill. We are thankful that families place trust and confidence in our ability to help during a very difficult time. We are thankful for the bonds and ties that families share with us.

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-Howell Bigham, 256-702-7500

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Letters...

Shop Safe, Shop Local...

Continued from Page 14

businesses on their social media. Every community member who responds to a post is entered to win prizes from local businesses on Nov. 28, which is Small Business Saturday.

Americans spent nearly \$20 billion at local businesses on Small Business Saturday in 2019, according to the Small Business Saturday insights survey. Events like these are crucial for our local businesses, especially in the midst of recent surges in COVID-19 cases. The impacts of the pandemic have been detrimental for many of our main street businesses which make initiatives like Small Business Saturday even more timely.

Almost two-thirds of small businesses have a website, according to the Small Business Administration. As you search for the perfect gifts, intentionally seek options local businesses have for online shopping. If that is not available, you can directly call the business owner. Chances are you or someone you know already have their number.

While shopping may look different than in years past, there are still a multitude of ways we can shop safely and locally this holiday season.

Halle Ramsey
*Business Dev. Specialist
Center for Rural Affairs
Lyons, NE*

Sleezy Deals and Kickbacks

Editor:

John Crisp's comments in another local paper mentioned that Trump voters have bought into the sketchy allegations about the Biden crime family. Sketchy? Joe admits it. When Hunter Biden's computer was retrieved from the repair shop, the hard drive revealed a treasure trove about the entire Biden crime family. Joe Biden warned Ukraine's leader that if the prosecutor investigating Hunter Biden wasn't fired in 6 hours, Ukraine would not get the billion-dollar loan guarantee. This was not an idle threat.

In American jurisprudence when a person of power offers a thing of value for an action, that is bribery, at least for the average American. This crime was recorded, so why wasn't he prosecuted? The lists are long and since it was about a Presidential contender, should have

made front page news. What happened to the investigative reporters like William Safire? For four years Democrats and the press have demanded to see Trump's taxes, but not a peep about the money laundering cash kickbacks Joe got from sleazy deals made through his family. Oh, by the way, the plywood put up to protect storefronts can be removed since Trump lost.

Alfred Farris
Muscle Shoals

Thank You to NAMC Heroes


Editor:

As we enter the special time of year traditionally associated with giving and thankfulness, I wanted to take a moment to recognize our team of dedicated healthcare heroes at North Alabama Medical Center.

It is difficult to imagine a more challenging time

See **LETTERS...Page 36**

**SIGNS
OF THE PAST**



Thomas Sigismund Stribling

In 1934, T.S. Stribling won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Store*, part of a trilogy set in Florence. His story "Birthright" was produced in Hollywood as a silent movie and, later, with sound.

**INDUCTED 2007
CITY OF FLORENCE
WALK OF HONOR**

Location: Location: 34.8061°N, 87.6315°W
Walk of Honor, River Heritage Park, Florence

Born in Clifton, TN, Stribling graduated from Florence Normal School (now UNA) and then got a law degree from the Univ. of Alabama. In 1907, he gave up practicing law in Florence to pursue his real love: **writing**. His 11th novel *The Forge* focused on life in Florence and the Shoals. *The Store* and *The Forge* completed a trilogy leading to the "Pulitzer".

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

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WHAT I LEARNED AT THRIFT STORES

One really great reason to shop at the thrift store is to learn which brands of clothing (and other items) hold up well over time. If/when I have to buy something brand new, I feel far more confident spending money if I know I'm buying a brand that will still look great, wear well, or be durable enough to pay for itself. On the few occasions when I've needed to pay retail prices for any of these items, I stick to the brands I know are worth the expense.

JD

KITCHEN ORGANIZATION

Metal or plastic lunch boxes make wonderful storage boxes. They are portable and of uniform size. You probably already have a few at home. Others can be acquired inexpensively at thrift stores and yard sales. I use them to store individual packages of cocoa, cider, instant oatmeal, etc. It is a great way to store crayons, art supplies, make-up, condiment packages, and curlers. These boxes are easily stackable and storable and can be labeled for easier use.

Bobbie

REDUCING TRAVEL STRESS

Here are a few potential money and stress saving tips for the upcoming holiday travel season. If

you're expecting company to fly in, make sure you have extra shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, shower soap, contact lens solution and other appropriate toiletries for your guests to use so they don't have pack them in their luggage. Providing these amenities will save space, stress through security check-in rules and potentially money for your guest so they don't have to pay extra for added weight. Also, make sure you let your guests know that you're providing these items and tell them that they can use your washer and dryer too. If guests can wash a load or two, they won't need to bring as much. Use of a washer and dryer can save parents of small ones a lot of excessive packing too. Although you may have to spend a few dollars to get the toiletries, any of the items you provide for your guests can be then used by you and your family or saved for the next round of visitors. These tips are just great courtesies to help each other out during the upcoming holiday season, making it less stressful for those traveling.

Tanya

A WORTHWHILE GIFT FOR TEACHER

Each year I organize a gift card for a teacher. I send a letter to all the parents that explains the concept of donating any dollar amount to give the teacher one giant gift card. We have purchased cards to

garden shops and sporting goods shops. The parents like the idea because the gift is taken care of and the teachers like it because they can purchase whatever suits their fancy. We all just sign a "You're a Great Teacher" greeting card. Parents don't feel obligated to spend big dollar amounts and the teacher usually ends up with a pretty good-sized gift card.

Trina

AVOIDING IMPULSES

We just went through parent-teacher conferences in our district. As both a teacher and a parent, and with book fairs at multiple schools, I knew I would be tempted to purchase books. Books are good, right? And your purchase supports the schools, so it sounds like a good thing to do. And it is

See DOLLAR... page 28

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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

SAVE UP TO GET OUT OF THE RUST BUCKET



Dear Dave,
I let my fiancée use my car to get back and forth to work, and it has a lot of miles on it and a few mechanical issues. The money we've put into the car to fix the issues is about the same or more than the car is actually worth. We just started your plan a couple of months ago, and we've almost got a beginner emergency fund saved up. We also have very little consumer debt to pay off. I'm afraid, though, if we get into a second \$1,000 to \$2,000 car, we'll just experience the same kinds of issues and it will turn into another money pit. I bring home about \$5,000 a month, and she works part-time and goes to school. How do you think we should handle things?
Thaddeus

Dear Thaddeus,
Well, if you're serious about following the plan, you don't really have a choice right now. But you're bringing home a nice paycheck, man. You

ought to be able to buy a better \$1,500 to \$2,000 car with cash in a month or so, just to give you some relief. Then, stick some money aside each month until spring and get something that's a big step up in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 range.
Listen, I don't want anyone driving around in a rust bucket longer than they have to. And it sounds like you really need to get up out of the junk. But if you do some research and buy wisely, you can get a good year or two out of a \$1,500 car. The car may not look like much, but you're not trying to catch a girl's eye. You've already got a fiancée. If you find an old Honda or Toyota that's still mechanically sound—and yes, they're out there—it'll get you by while you save up for something a lot better.
But remember, you and your fiancée don't need to own anything together until you're married. The kind of arrangement you have now can cause real problems. If you guys get married and combine your resources and dreams, it'll be better for everyone relationally and financially. You're playing house already, so you might as well go ahead and get married and combine your lives on every level.
It's time to paint or get off the ladder, dude!
—Dave

* Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Dave Ramsey Show, heard by more than 16 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

Florence City Schools						
COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES						
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES AND EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS						
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020						
FUND TYPES DESCRIPTION	GOVERNMENTAL				FIDUCIARY	EXHIBIT F-II-A
	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	DEBT SERVICE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	EXPENDABLE TRUST	TOTAL (Memo Only)
REVENUES						
STATE REVENUES	28,988,625.33	2,120.00	323,571.62	764,767.38	0.00	30,079,084.33
FEDERAL REVENUES	1,080.00	5,947,259.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,948,339.89
LOCAL REVENUES	20,378,508.08	1,166,837.67	37,441.04	5,586,977.31	537,302.22	27,707,066.32
OTHER REVENUES	298,946.35	102,791.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	401,737.98
TOTAL REVENUES	49,667,159.76	7,219,009.19	361,012.66	6,351,744.69	537,302.22	64,136,228.52
EXPENDITURES:						
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	26,447,210.78	2,849,833.92	0.00	77,616.13	124,150.66	29,498,811.49
INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES	8,384,840.66	1,296,190.90	0.00	154,587.33	266,995.71	10,102,614.60
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	5,217,451.44	109,476.93	0.00	133,030.30	6,551.04	5,466,509.71
AUXILIARY SERVICES	1,616,339.65	2,780,755.03	0.00	0.00	17,279.15	4,414,373.83
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	1,416,807.20	165,737.10	0.00	44,327.62	0.00	1,626,871.92
CAPITAL OUTLAY	2,174,716.04	0.00	0.00	419,157.30	0.00	2,593,873.34
DEBT SERVICES						
PRINCIPAL	0.00	0.00	1,576,296.08	496,672.90	0.00	2,072,968.98
INTEREST	0.00	0.00	1,876,586.37	29,386.77	0.00	1,905,973.14
OTHER DEBT SERVICES	0.00	0.00	4,070.00	0.00	0.00	4,070.00
OTHER EXPENDITURES	1,591,523.78	442,143.38	0.00	0.00	66,000.74	2,099,667.90
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	46,848,889.55	7,644,137.26	3,456,952.45	1,354,778.35	480,977.30	59,785,734.91
OTHER FUND SOURCES (USES):						
TRANSFERS IN	608,314.24	1,079,637.34	3,238,256.79	44,380.24	11,560.55	4,982,149.16
OTHER FUND SOURCES	5,315.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,315.74
TRANSFERS OUT	1,426,882.29	240,279.02	0.00	3,238,256.79	76,731.06	4,982,149.16
OTHER FUND USES	0.00	24,570.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,570.48
TOTAL OTHER FUND SOURCES (USES)	(813,252.31)	814,787.84	3,238,256.79	(3,193,876.55)	(65,170.51)	(19,254.74)
EXCESS REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES OVER(UNDER)EXPENDITURES & OTHER FUND USES	2,005,017.90	389,659.77	142,317.00	1,803,089.79	(8,845.59)	4,331,238.87
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE - OCT 1	9,604,833.90	1,002,091.70	1,560,692.43	501,254.42	490,634.43	13,159,506.88
ENDING FUND BALANC - SEP 30	11,609,851.80	1,391,751.47	1,703,009.43	2,304,344.21	481,788.84	17,490,745.75

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Medicare Minute

"Prescription Drug Plans"


October 15th through December 7th is a period of time that Medicare has set aside to make changes to your Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) or Medicare Advantage Plan (MA) if you want. Whether you have a Medicare supplement and a stand-alone drug plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan with prescription drug coverage now is the time to review your drug plan for 2021. Like MA plans, drug plans have certain things you want to look at when considering which PDP is best for you. Those things are premium, deductibles, copays, coinsurance and the plan's provider network.

Although the things listed above are most important so are the tiers that drugs are placed into. So before we discuss the cost of the plans let's look at drug plan tiers. Normally there are five tiers to a drug plan. Tier 1 and Tier 2 drugs are usually your most common generic drugs. Tier 3 drugs are preferred brand, Tier 4 drugs are non-preferred brand and Tier 5 drugs are specialty drugs. One of the most misunderstood parts of a drug plan is the tier a person's drug is in.


Many people we meet with think that if their drug is listed in a certain tier under their current PDP it's the same on all plans. This is not always true. Sometimes, for example, a drug may be listed a Tier 2 under one plan but may be a Tier 3 under another plan. Why is this important? Because in most drug plans the copays are higher for Tier 3 than Tier 2.

You can check the tiers of your drugs by looking at the plan's formulary. The formulary is a list of the drugs that are covered by the plan. You can get the formulary of the plan you are considering by going to the plan's website, going online to Medicare.gov or you can visit our office and we can help.

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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Courier Journal **Mystery Photo**
of the week!

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Enter at www.courierjournal.net

Last week's winner is **Brad Feeden** of Florence who correctly guessed "O'Neal Bridge underneath girders and framework on Florence (North) side by playground"

One entry per person. Winners will be announced each week in our paper and on our website. Winners can pick up their Gift Certificate at the Courier Journal office beginning Wednesdays after 12 Noon.

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PLAY THE GAME DAY SCORE CARD Contest every week during the football season. Win a \$50 gift card from Longhorn Steakhouse for the best card and another \$50 gift card plus \$50 cash if it contains all winners. Only in the Courier Journal and at CourierJournal.net.

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Community Notes...

Continued from page 4

Christmas Market to benefit Legacy Christian Academy on Saturday, December 5 from 9am-5pm. \$3 admission. 50 vendors, food, and more. 530 JC Mauldin Hwy, Killen.

The Town of Waterloo's ATV Christmas Parade will be held on Sunday December 6 at 6pm. Line up will begin at 5:30pm at the south boat ramp. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

This event is hosted by the Culver Museum. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 restrictions, refreshments will not be served at the Culver Museum after the parade.

YMCA of the Shoals Affordable Before & After School Care includes over 7,000+ square feet of childcare dedicated space - homework help, team building activities, arts & crafts, and much more. Have Fun! Make Friends! Learn New Things! If you need affordable childcare, contact us today at 256-246-9622 or bcanup@ymcashaos.org.

The Help Center Food Pantry will be hosting its 4th Saturday Food Distribution program on the 3rd SATURDAY during December, due to the holidays. Therefore, events will take place December 19. The Saturday distribution is to accommodate families in need of additional food and groceries who are unable to come during the regular weekday distribution days. The regular 4th Saturday food distribution schedule will resume in January, 2021.

Help Center days of service during the week are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30-noon. Please bring picture ID and proof of current address (utility bill, mail, etc). Warm winter clothing will also be available during the weekdays. Food donations are being accepted during hours of operation. If you would like to make a financial donation, the Help Center's mailing address is: Help Center Food Pantry, PO Box 1713 Florence, AL 35631

Support from community volunteers, local churches, and civic and social organizations has been vital not just during the holidays, but throughout the year as the Help Center continues to serve an increasing numbers of families in need. The Help Center can always use volunteers to help with client registration, packing food boxes, and sorting clothing. If you would like to volunteer, please come by during hours of operation, and they will be glad to show you around and see if this is a way you can serve our community. The center is located at the corner of Veterans Drive and Court Street in downtown Florence.

Country Oldies Dance Hall Open Again located at 110 Town Plaza, 500 N. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield. Every Friday and Saturday night 7-9pm. Come twist, line dance, buckdance, or your choice. Best in country music. Everyone welcome!

Leaf Collection Started Monday, November 2 in Florence. You can find Guidelines for Residential Leaf Collection on the city website at http://florenceal.org/.../stre.../leaf_collection/index.php.

Leaf Collection Guidelines for Residents:

1. Leaves should be raked curbside, but NOT in street or gutter.
2. Keep leaf piles away from obstacles like cars, trees, fences and mailboxes.
3. Don't cover your WATER METER.
4. Limbs, pinecones, sticks and rocks DAMAGE EQUIPMENT and slow the collection process.
5. BAGGED LEAVES will be picked up weekly with curbside trash.

FORGIVE ME WHEN I WHINE

I have decided that I am going to run this article every Thanksgiving week.

Another moment of reflection can only make us better. Happy Thanksgiving.

"Forgive Me When I Whine"

Today upon a bus I saw a lovely maiden with golden hair;

I envied her—so beautiful, and how, I wished I were so fair;

When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle;

She had one foot and wore a crutch,

but as she passed, she wore a smile

Oh God, forgive me when I whine,

I have two feet; the world is mine

And when I stopped to buy some sweets,

the lad who served me had such charm;

he seemed to radiate good cheer, his manner was so kind and warm;

I said, "it's nice to deal with you, such courtesy I seldom find,"

He turned and said, "Oh, thank you sir."

And then I saw that he was blind.

Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,

I have two eyes; the world is mine.

Then when walking down the street,

I saw a child with eyes of blue;

He stood and watched the others play,

it seemed he knew not what to do;

I stopped a moment, then I said,

"Why don't you join the others, dear?"

He looked ahead without a word,

I realized—he could not hear.

Oh God, forgive me when I whine,

I have two ears; the world is mine

With feet to take me where I'd go,

with eyes to see the sunsets glow,

with ears to hear what I would know,

I am blessed indeed. The world is mine Oh God, forgive me when I whine.

(Not sure where this poem came from. I have had it in my files for decades.)

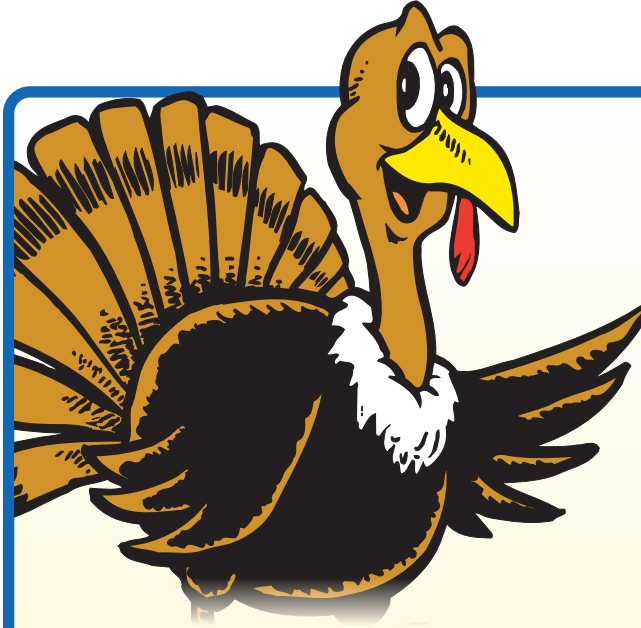


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See NOTES... page 35



COURIER JOURNAL EMPLOYEES WILL BE OFF Thursday & Friday

NOVEMBER 26 & 27
For the Thanksgiving Holiday

Ad Deadline for the December 2 issue is

4pm WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

(The Wednesday before Thanksgiving) Call 256-764-4268



Diabetes: You DON’T Want it!

AUBURN—Over 500,000 Alabamians have diabetes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) calls this disease “a serious health condition which can result in limb amputation, the need for dialysis, or even death.” To bring awareness and highlight what life is like for those diagnosed, November is recognized as American Diabetes Month®.

What is Diabetes?

Tera Glenn is an Alabama Extension human sciences regional agent. According to Glenn, diabetes is a disease that deals with the lack of production or the improper use of insulin in the body. There are three main types of diabetes - Type 1, Type 2, and Gestational Diabetes.

- **Type 1** – the body does not produce insulin (usually diagnosed in children and adolescents)
- **Type 2** – the body does not produce enough insulin or it is not properly used by the body (most common type)
- **Gestational Diabetes** – This type usually occurs during pregnancy. Once the mother delivers the baby the diabetes goes away. However, this is a risk factor for developing Type 2 diabetes later in life.

While Type 1 diabetes is hereditary, there are several risk factors that contribute to a Type 2 diagnosis. These factors may include age, race, a person’s family history of Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, gestational diabetes and being overweight. “Having a family history of diabetes is a risk factor for developing diabetes,” Glenn said. “However, this does not mean that you will automatically develop diabetes just because it is in your family genetic history.”

Effects on the Body

“Diabetes can affect the whole body including many major organs such as the heart, blood vessels, nerves,

eyes and kidneys,” Glenn said. “If not properly managed, it can cause a person numerous complications and major damage to the body.” One complication that is possible is neuropathy, a pain or tingling numbness in the extremities most commonly in the feet. Other complications include blindness, poor kidney function and gum disease. Unmanaged diabetes can also put a person at a great risk for a stroke and heart disease.

DEEP

The Alabama Extension human sciences team commits to providing Alabama residents with fact-based information about diabetes. Through the Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP), professionals offer educational programs and classes to assist those living with diabetes.

“Diabetes is a serious disease that affects not only the person with diabetes, but it also affects their entire family,” Glenn said. “DEEP empowers people living with diabetes to take control of their situation.”

Through education a person with diabetes can learn the tools needed to prevent the costly complications related to diabetes. The DEEP classes offer an engaging and interactive learning environment. In these classes, attendees will learn about health management strategies and lifestyle choices as they relate to diabetes.

More Information

For more information about DEEP or to see a list of upcoming workshops, visit the Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP) page on the Alabama Extension website, www.aces.edu For further information, contact the human nutrition, diet, and health agent that covers your area. Information about diabetes is available on the American Diabetes Association website, www.diabetes.org



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THE DOLLAR
Stretcher



Continued from Page 23

if you need the books and can spare the money. To avoid temptation, I left my checkbook and credit cards at home. I went to the fairs, and I wrote down one book that I was interested in getting. I decided that I would think about it, and if I decided I really wanted it, I could stop back later with a check. That removed the possibility of making an impulse purchase, and I saved \$20, not to mention it's one less thing cluttering up my house that, while I would

like, really didn't need.

This also works when you're going "looking," browsing or shopping socially. Lock the payment methods in the glove box or drawer of your car, and if you find something that's worth the trek out to the car to retrieve credit card or checkbook, you can be pretty sure it's a good purchase. Not having credit cards on me helps me really think about what I'm about to buy. Just walking out to the car to retrieve them can "break the spell" and it gives time to think through the potential purchase.

This wouldn't work for groceries or mass market stores where you're going for a list of things you need,

but you could get the items on your "needs" list, take them to the car, and then come back in if you really need/want the extra stuff.
Marianne

IDENTIFYING LEFTOVERS

I like to re-use plastic food containers with removable lids (from cottage cheese, yogurt, sour cream, etc.), but I don't like misplacing food because I cannot see what is stored inside. So when I wash these items, I cut away a portion of the middle of the lid, being careful to preserve the "integrity" of the edges. Then I place my leftovers or other items in the container, cover the opening with a piece of plastic wrap, and snap

the lid in place, creating a sealed window through which I can still view the contents.
Jenne in Missouri

MAKING DRY MIXES

Instead of buying mixes for things like banana bread, I make my own. When I have some time and am making a batch of quick bread, I line up several zipper bags and put the dry ingredients in them as I put them in the bowl. I then label them and store them in my pantry. When I want to bake again, I just have to grab a mix and half the work is done! This saves me money and time, and it is much healthier for my family.
Tammy D. in Germantown, WI

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<input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi St.	at	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee	at
<input type="checkbox"/> Ole Miss		<input type="checkbox"/> Vanderbilt	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chiefs	at	<input type="checkbox"/> Bears	at
<input type="checkbox"/> Buccaneers		<input type="checkbox"/> Packers	

***DEADLINE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 • 3pm**

CHECK BOX BESIDE EACH WINNING TEAM

ALTERNATE GAMES in event of postponements

<input type="checkbox"/> Miami	at
<input type="checkbox"/> Wake Forest	

***EXACT SCORE FOR THIS GAME**

<input type="text"/>	*Texas Tech	at
<input type="text"/>	*Oklahoma St.	

TIE BREAKER GAME

Write Score **HERE**

<input type="text"/>	Auburn	at
<input type="text"/>	Alabama	

(vs: games played at a neutral location)

Week 11 - November 14 Winner - Kelsey Bjork of Florence, AL

Pick up gift card at our office - 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence

Mail or deliver your entry to: Courier Journal Game Day Scorecard

219 West Tennessee St. , Florence, AL 35630 or Fax to: 256-760-9618*

or enter online at www.courierjournal.net

Winners will be listed online Tuesday afternoon and in the FOLLOWING week's Courier Journal.

RULES: You can only enter for yourself, not other people. Only one entry per person per week. Only one winner per week. Winners must present a photo I.D. when picking up their gift certificate(s). Check the box beside the appropriate picks for the first 11 games, then write in the exact score of the tie-breaker game. Person with the most correct picks receives a \$50 Gift Card from Longhorn Steakhouse in Florence. No change will be returned for any unused portion of the certificate. Gratuity is not included. In event of a tie, the tie-breaker score will be utilized. Otherwise, it will not be considered. Closest tie-breaker score wins. Total points will be next tie breaking procedure, and a random drawing of finalists will be used to determine the winner if they are still tied after the tie-breaking procedure. ALTERNATE GAMES will only be used- in the order listed, in cases of late postponements or forfeits, games which will then be excluded from consideration. Person with the winning card for the week, who also picks every game correctly including tie-breaker, will also win \$50 from the Courier Journal and another \$50 Longhorn Gift Card. Judges decision is final. Mailed entries must be post-marked by deadline day. Hand-delivered, faxed or on-line entries must be submitted by exact time of deadline stated above. NO EXCEPTIONS. Winner is posted on website each Tuesday afternoon and in the paper delayed by one week. Employees and family of Courier Journal and Game Day Scorecard sponsors are ineligible to win. ***NOTE: If you're faxing, first make a CLEAN COPY, then FAX THAT COPY. NEWSPRINT DOES NOT REPRODUCE CLEARLY ON A FAX. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ILLEGIBLE COPIES.**

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How to Claim Social Security Benefits During the Pandemic

Dear Savvy Senior,
With my local Social Security offices being closed due to COVID-19, what is the best way to apply for my Social Security retirement benefits?

Approaching 62

Dear Approaching,
Because of the pandemic, all Social Security field offices across the country have been closed since March, so you can't just walk-in, talk to a counselor and apply for benefits in person right now. But there are other ways to claim your benefits that are much easier and quicker. Here's what you should know.

How to Apply?

The easiest and most convenient way to apply for your Social Security benefits during the pandemic is to do it yourself online at [SocialSecurity.gov](https://www.ssa.gov). It usually takes around 15 minutes to complete the application, as long as you've gathered all of the required information and documentation (more on that at the bottom of the column). You can also save your application as you go, so you can take a break at any time.

If your situation is complicated or you're uncomfortable using the Internet to apply, you can have a Social Security employee assist with the process via telephone. To make an appointment call 800-772-1213. (If you're hearing impaired, you can call 800-325-0778.) The phones are monitored Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. At the time of your appointment, the representative will call you.

If you start to complete the online application form but find that it's too confusing or complicated, call the agency and set up a phone appointment.

Once you have submitted your application, a representative may contact you with updates or questions about your application. You can also check the status of your application by signing in to your "my Social Security" account at [SSA.gov/myaccount](https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

When to Apply?

You should file one or two months before you want benefits to begin, but if you're the worrying type, you can do it up to three or four months before. It takes a little time to process the paperwork, so by putting in your application a few months early, you can fix any problems that come up without it interfering with your starting date.

It's also worth noting that if you start receiving your Social Security retirement benefits before age 65, you will automatically be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B, and you'll receive your Medicare card about three months before your 65th birthday. It will include instructions to return it if you have work coverage that qualifies you for late enrollment.

But if you decide to delay your retirement benefits, you'll need to sign up just for Medicare at age 65, which you can also do at [SocialSecurity.gov](https://www.ssa.gov) or over the phone at 800-772-1213.

Need Information

In order to apply for Social Security benefits online or over the phone, you'll need to be able to document some information about your identity and work history. So before applying, have the following information handy:

- Your Social Security number.
- Your birth certificate (original or certified).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful alien status if you were not born in the United States.
- A copy of your U.S. military service papers if you had military service before 1968.
- A copy of your W-2 forms and/or self-employment tax return for last year.
- Your bank information (including your account number and the bank routing number) where you want your benefits direct deposited to.

For a complete checklist of what you'll need to complete your application, see [SSA.gov/hlp/isba/10/isba-checklist.pdf](https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/isba/10/isba-checklist.pdf).

Send your senior questions to:
Savvy Senior,
P.O. Box 5443,
Norman, OK 73070,
or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.savvysenior.org).
Jim Miller is a contributor to the
NBC *Today* show and author of
"The Savvy Senior" book.



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Bubbles...

Continued from Page 14

followed by each member makes this exhibit an exciting adventure. This year the challenge is called Bubbles, Buttons, Balls and Balloons.

The quilts on display as part of the quilt challenge will include circular patterns, including traditional patterns such as wedding ring, log cabin wreaths, storm at sea, snowball, etc. or an "art quilt" such as a textile painting. A small portion of fabric (the "challenge fabric") was provided each quilter and it must be included in the design of the quilt. The shape and size of the quilt is up to the individual quilter, but it must have been completed entirely by each artist within this calendar year of 2020. The normal three-layer quilt with binding is required.

The Guild members will judge their peers' work at the initiation of the exhibit when they will choose their Favorite Quilt, Best Use of Theme, and other awards. The public chooses the People's Choice Award by voting for their favorite quilt during the period of time that the exhibit is on display at Kennedy-

Douglass Art Center by marking ballots available in the display area.

The Shoals Piecemakers Quilt Guild meets at 7pm on the second Monday of each month at Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Florence. New members are welcome. The Guild is made up of quilt makers at all levels of expertise and people who are interested in promoting the collection and preservation of quilts.

Safe social distancing is observed at the art center, and no more than eight people are allowed in each gallery at a time. All visitors are asked to wear masks.

The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is free and open to the public Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm and Sundays 1-4pm. The Art Center is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St. in Florence. Call 256-760-6379 for more information.

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Travel Tips if You Go

Close to 50 Million Expected to be Driving this Weekend

Due to the ongoing pandemic and recent spikes on COVID-19 cases across the country, traveling to see friends and family this Thanksgiving will be dramatically different.

Travel by car is projected to account for 95% of all holiday travel this year, according to a report by AAA. What was once one of the busiest weeks for airports, Thanksgiving air travel is anticipated to be down nearly half of prior years to 2.4 million travelers.

Although more people will be staying at home, the study still projects 47.8 million people will be driving to their Thanksgiving destinations for the holiday. Driving offers a safer alternative, greater schedule flexibility, and a cheaper option with the average gas price nearly 50 cents less per gallon than a year ago.

- Thanksgiving Car Travel Checklist**
- **Wipe it Down**
- Carry a packet of disinfecting wipes and frequently clean common touchpoints such as the steering wheel, door handles, seat belts and buckles, keys and fobs, window button, radio and

- climate control buttons, and more. According to a survey by CarRentals.com, there are roughly 700 different strains of bacteria living in the average vehicle, and the average steering wheel is four times dirtier than a public toilet seat.
- **Create a Safety Kit -**
Pack face masks, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, and a thermometer to help protect and monitor your health. Bring water and extra snacks to reduce the need to stop during your trip.
 - **Sanitizer: Don't Leave Home Without It**
- Carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer and use it every time you enter the car. This is an especially important practice after stopping for a bathroom break or touching a pump handle and buttons at a gas station.

- **Know Before You Go**
- Research the state and local regulations along your route and at your planned destination to learn about any travel restrictions that may be in place.
- **Care for Your Car -**
Prior to any long road trip, it is important to check each of the car's vital engine fluids such as transmission, coolants, braking and steering. Most critical is to have the engine's oil replaced every 3,000 miles. Also check the vehicle's battery (most have a lifespan of 4-5 years), air filter (should be changed every 15,000 miles) and make sure the tires are properly inflated.

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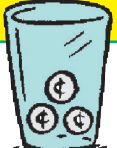
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"WHAT ALWAYS REMAINS DOWN, even when it flies up in the air?" Connect the dots and find out.

Answers On Page 38

AN ODD CHALLENGE!

Problem: You must place 6 coins into 3 cups so that each cup contains an odd number of coins.



KNOW YOUR AREA CODE!

Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the words in Grid A.

1. A unit of area.
2. The big dance.
3. A college student.
4. A flat-topped hill.

A			
	R		
		E	
			A

GRID A

1. To be concerned.
2. To frolic boisterously.
3. Secret writing.
4. Conforming in every detail.

C			
	O		
		D	
			E

GRID B

Today's Top Seven CD's... Words, That is!

Using the definitions and anagrams below, you must find the seven eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

1.	C						D
2.		C					D
3.			C			D	
4.				C	D		
5.			D			C	
6.		D					C
7.	D						C

DEFINITIONS:

- What Michelangelo did.
- Expression of approval.
- Kept apart from.
- Short, amusing story.
- Used to secure doors.
- Enough to meet needs.
- A household servant.

ANAGRAM:

lice + shed
aced + cola
sled + cued
coda + teen
sold + pack
quay + aced
cost + dime

Illustrated by David Coulson

Soap Opera Preview

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL Liam and Steffy agreed to disagree about Thomas being an imminent threat to Hope. The Hope Mannequin came to life for Thomas during a family dinner with Hope and Douglas. Caught between reality and hallucination, Thomas made a critical error. Furious, Liam arrived to confront Thomas and instead witnessed a shocking moment. Struggling and in disbelief, Liam broke down while telling Steffy an unbelievable story. *Wait to See: Finn's unexpected arrival brings a disoriented Thomas back to reality.*

DAYS OF OUR LIVES Jan made a shocking demand at Shawn and Belle's wedding. Claire realized that Jan betrayed her. Lani apologized to Kristen for Eli's actions.

Eli commiserated with Abe and Julie. John attacked Jan. Charlie comforted a distraught Claire. Philip found a surprise in his bedroom. Xander and Sarah uncovered a clue regarding Philip's partner-in-crime. The Hortons gathered to celebrate Thanksgiving. Abigail and JJ rallied around Jennifer. Julie gave Jack hell for hurting Jennifer. Gwen manipulated Chad and Abigail. Jake insisted to Kate that they had nothing to hide. Rafe returned to Salem and discovered that much had changed. Gabi arrived in Salem determined to reunite with Jake. Gwen fueled Chad's paranoia about Jake and Abigail. *Wait to See: Jack and Abigail reconcile.*

GENERAL HOSPITAL Cameron was injured. Dante and Dustin shared a common

goal. Mac headed off Laura. Sam left Julian hanging. Sonny was devastated. Carly waited for some important news. Sam sensed that she wasn't being told something crucial. Julian asked Ava for a favor. Maxie searched for Mac. Carly helped Brando. Britt came upon Brad having a nightmare. Kevin shared some bad news with Laura. Ava gave Julian an ultimatum. Liz leaned on Scott for support. Molly and Sam discussed Alexis' drinking. *Wait to See: Sonny accepts what is best for his family.*

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS Jack discovered Theo's revenge plot. Lily came to Billy's defense. Chelsea demanded answers from Sharon. Victor tried to stop Adam from self-destructing. Sally made her mark in Genoa City. Abby faced a tough decision. Sharon reminded everyone of the importance of giving back. Lily tried to mend fences between Devon and Nate. *Wait to See: Summer has a change of heart.*

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Sale of Abandoned & Unclaimed Vehicles

Pursuant to the provisions of Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicles Act: Section 32-13-4 Code of Alabama 1975, notice is hereby given to the owners, lienholders and other interested parties that the following described vehicles were taken into custody by Andy's Wrecker Service to wit: The named vehicles will be sold at Public Auction to the highest bidder for cash or credit cards at **Andy's Wrecker Service located at 20850 Hwy 72, Tuscumbia Alabama on December 9, 2020 at 9am-12pm.** You can call before the Auction date to make an appointment to view vehicles.

Year/Make/Model	Color	Vin#	Tag#	Tow Date
2007 BMW X3	Black	WBXPC93457WF15999	41GS963/AL	8/15/2020
1999 Chevrolet Astro Van	Maroon	1GBDM19W0XB113081	8884AV2/AL	10/4/2020
2000 Chevrolet Impala	Blue	2G1WF55E1Y9108518	25GB694/AL	8/5/2020
2007 Chevrolet Impala	Red	2G1WB55K379297267	4900AV6/AL	8/29/2020
2009 Chevrolet Impala	White	2G1WB57K991220238	33CG795/AL	9/30/2020
1999 Chevrolet Malibu	Blue	1G1NE52J5X6251137	20CZ321/AL	10/3/2020
2002 Chevrolet Monte Carlo	Blue	2G1WW12E529260676	20DB661/AL	8/18/2020
1998 Chevrolet S-10	Blue	1GCCS1449WK258816	33BD293/AL	4/25/2020
2007 Chevrolet Silverado	Black	3GCEC13J77G519348	41DR262/AL	9/15/2020
2009 Chrysler 300	Silver	2C3KA43D29H571109	33BW311/AL	9/24/2020
1995 Dodge Dakota	Beige	1B7GL23Y75S184122	9639AB7/AL	9/5/2020
2007 Dodge Charger	Black	2B3LA43R07H740991	20DC624/AL	9/13/2020
2002 Dodge Ram	Blue	3D7HA18N12G168031	593XT1/Arkansas	2/17/2020
2001 Ford Crown Vic	White	2FAFP71W41X175698	3K50B1/TN	9/15/2020
1997 Ford F-150	White	1FTEX18L4VNC96656	41BF965/AL	10/25/2019
2009 Ford Focus	Black	1FAHP36N99W199116	7558AY6/AL	10/9/2020
2000 Ford Mustang	Gold	1FAPF4045YF182051	44D66F4/AL	11/1/2019
2000 Honda Accord	Red	JHMC65679YC009072	41HH522/AL	10/2/2020
2004 Honda Accord	Silver	1HGCM5678A143380	NRP5634/Texas	10/11/2020
2008 Honda Civic	Black	2HGFG126X8H515867	47WR131/AL	11/15/2019
2007 Hyundai Sonata	Black	5NPEU46F47H174017	TSA5281/MS	8/12/2020
2008 Hyundai Tiburon	Red	KMHMM66D98U282692	1CC7918/AL	5/11/2019
1992 Jeep Cherokee	Black	1J4FJ5852NL208763	20CP886/AL	10/22/2019
1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee	Black	1J4GZ78Y0WC136332	33BW175/AL	8/20/2020
2001 Jeep Grand Cherokee	White	1J4GX48S91C583296	52JM818/AL	10/1/2020
1998 Lexus ES300	White	JT8BP28G4W0131341	20BZ898/AL	10/9/2019
1997 Lincoln Town Car	Blue	1LNLM82W8VY680865	2391AM7/AL	9/10/2020
2006 Nissan Altima	Silver	1N4AL11D96C218826	6148BB2/AL	9/2/2020
2008 Nissan Altima	Grey	1N4AL21E98N515780	20DA657/AL	7/16/2020
2001 Nissan Maxima	Tan	JN1CA31D11T630030	41AH899/AL	9/17/2020
2013 Nissan Pathfinder	Black	5N1AR2MN7DC669068	TVV187/AL	10/6/2020
2005 Toyota Sienna	Silver	5TDZA23C25S246767	11JH545/AL	7/28/2020
2017 Volkswagen Passat	Black	1VWAT7AXHC044950	8917AV3/AL	9/2/2020

Andy's Wrecker Service does not make any warranties expressed or implied as to the mechanical condition, mileage, year, make, model or related paperwork on any vehicle. Andy's Wrecker Service has provided as much information as possible for the buyers' convenience on all vehicles. We will not guarantee the accuracy of Information on any vehicle. Vehicles are sold as is, no warranties or guarantees. All sales will be final and must be paid for on the day of the auction, seller also expressly reserves the right to bid and purchase at the public sale.

For information or questions containing to any vehicle please contact Andy Wayne Smith 256-627-8565 or Pamela Hallmark 256-483-8565.

Commentary...

Blessings

Continued from Page 14

were all top of mind in real-time reality or in education soon after for those middle age and above.

Mounting progressivism, society's more secular bent, greater mentality of entitlement, a deteriorating work ethic, and too many decades since U.S. liberty was seriously at risk have weighed heavily on our group perspective of what it means to be thankful and blessed.

We also have imagery of the pilgrim which in today's warped view was an intolerant, racist, sexist, evangelical who carried a gun, shot animals, and carries little association with what is now deemed respectable.

We are supposed to be thankful to whom, and for what? Blessings? Many don't know the difference between a series of blessings and a set of entitlements. We have become much more divisive and expectant then appreciative.

The growing unfamiliarity for anything spiritual in nature makes the concept of thanking an unseen and increasingly unfamiliar entity for the bounty on the Thanksgiving table completely foreign. What is there is just supposed to be there, if not a little more.

The wake-up call is right in front of us. All we have to do is take an objective look at our unparalleled liberties compared to those in other societies. Many have no liberty at all to be thankful for. It's shut up and line up or die/disappear. Others have a lesser degree of liberty, but they are in peril to varying degrees.

For that we should be placing an even greater emphasis on Thanksgiving rather than lesser.

We should appreciate the real history of the hard work, sacrifice, bloodshed, and slow but meaningful change throughout American history to obtain and defend that goal of liberty. It's the goal those pioneers, often referred to as pilgrims, in the early 1600's, dreamed about. Half of them died enroute, and many more who died in year one and two after arrival. Yet, they knew that what could be ahead was better than the subjugation they left behind. They gave thanks daily for their bounty and the blessings in this new land.

We should also

understand that powerful undesirables don't like established American freedoms. It makes things harder for those outside of America to govern. They would like to reform American ideals backward towards that subjugation.

Is life perfect here? No, but our freedom to advocate both sensible AND stupid things is based upon what began 400 years ago. And we can see progress that other societies don't, and won't. For that alone we should give thanks.

We know that there are many, both internal and

external, who would love to eliminate our blessing of liberties and quell all rational public discussion about maintaining them. For that knowledge and the ability to push back against such tyranny, we should be equally thankful.

We are foolish to think that all we have to do is play nice, adhere to what has been extolled through things like *The 1619 Project*, and give in to the growing forces of secularism and communism, and everything will be okay for American liberty as we have known it.

Middle Road Self Storage, LLC, located at 785 County Rd. 61, Florence, AL 35634 will conduct a live **ONLINE AUCTION at: www.storageauctions.com** to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Alabama Self-service Facility Act, Alabama code 8-15-30 to 8-15-38. Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale.

Accepting bids now until live auction ends on Wednesday, December 9th at 11:45 am.

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Community Notes...

Continued from page 26

The Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area opens its latest photo contest this year with a twist: just snap and post. To enter this year, all you have to do is post a photo on your own social-media accounts with the hashtag #msnhaphotcontest. We'll do everything else."

Previous MSNHA photo contests required entry forms and compliance with several guidelines. This year, the only restrictions are that photos must be taken within MSNHA's six counties—Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone and Morgan—and they must showcase nature.

Contest deadline is 5pm, Monday, February 1. After the contest ends, MSNHA staffers will choose a first-place and a second-place photo. Winning photographers will receive prize packages with items from local businesses and museums.

A partnership program of the National Park Service, National Heritage Areas recognize regions throughout the country that help tell America's story. The MSNHA is hosted by the University of North Alabama and focuses on the themes of music, Native Americans and the Tennessee River. Email msnha@una.edu for more information. ##

REAL Rehome Educate Adopt Love offers the following pet preventive care assistance for dogs and cats in Lauderdale, Colbert and Franklin Counties:

- Flea/Tick Control
- HW Testing
- HW Preventative
- Vaccine

Submit your Pet Wellness application from our Facebook page REAL Rehome Educate Adopt Love or website www.rehomeeducateducate.webs.com

The Club (Florence Senior Center) is closed for activities. However, curbside meal pick up is Monday-Friday. Call 8:30-10:30am for meal. Pick up between 10:30-11:30am.

Donations accepted, but not expected. 256-760-6668.

Burrell-Slater Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Dinner for 2021 has been changed from its regular time in February to April 9 due to the coronavirus.

Nominations for honorees are presently being accepted. Athletes who excelled in sports at historic Burrell-Slater School are eligible for this prestigious honor. Applications may be obtained from any Hall of Fame committee member or by calling 256-710-9057. All applications are due by January 15, 2021. Additional information is also available from Dave Smith, Samuel Brewer, or John Humes.

The Friends Bookstore at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library has now reopened! The bookstore was closed from mid-March-August due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but has now reopened with the new business hours of 12-4pm Monday-Friday. Don't forget your mask!

The Friends Bookstore has a large variety of books at great prices, so be sure to go shop their selection! Proceeds from the bookstore help the library provide more free books and services to the community. 350 N Wood Ave. in Florence.

The Friends Bookstore is beginning to accept donations again, starting with greeting cards, calendars, and magazines only. Please bring your donations during business hours, which currently are from noon-4pm Monday-Friday.

Did you know that there are 250 children who can't live at home in our community each month? These children can't live at home because the very people who are supposed to protect and care for them are not able to do so. These are the children in foster care. These are the children that need someone to stand up for them when it feels like no one cares. These are the children that need a CASA Volunteer.

Please consider becoming a Volunteer Advocate for local children who need a caring and committed adult to speak up for their best interest. Call the Shoals CASA office at 256-765-0041 or check out the agency's website for more information www.ShoalsCASA.org.

Alabama Extension at Alabama A&M University is offering educational webinars on Zoom for youth, adults and teachers. Online users can find a listing of Zoom sessions or other activities at: <https://www.aces.edu/events/> or www.facebook.com/pg/AlabamaExtensionAAMU/events/

Access Alabama Extension's website at www.aces.edu, sign up for our daily briefing, or visit us on social media to find practical solutions facing Alabama residents and communities.

For more information, contact Kimberly Sinclair-Holmes at ksh0035@aces.edu.

LifeSouth Community Blood Centers can now test all eligible blood donors for COVID-19 antibodies.

The antibody test conducted by LifeSouth is authorized for use by the FDA and detects if someone has developed antibodies to COVID-19. A positive test result may indicate past exposure and some immunity to the virus. This antibody test is not a diagnostic test and will not determine if the person currently has the virus.

LifeSouth encourages donors to make an appointment to donate over the coming weeks.

For additional information, call LifeSouth toll-free at 888-795-2707 or visit www.lifesouth.org.

Donors must be at least 17 or 16 with parental permission, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health. A photo ID is also needed.

Want a job? Want a better job? Get your GED! Free GED Prep classes are located near you. The program is open entry with new students starting classes weekly. For more information, call the Northwest-Shoals Community College Adult Education Program at 256-331-5440 or 256-331-5438.

The American Red Cross has seen an outpouring of support from blood donors in response to the coronavirus outbreak. During this uncertain time, the Red Cross continues to encourage healthy individuals to schedule and keep donation appointments in the weeks ahead to ensure a stable supply throughout this pandemic.

Each Red Cross donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions have been implemented to ensure the health of Red Cross donors, employees and volunteers.

Healthy individuals who are feeling well are asked to make an appointment to donate later this month and after by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, calling

See NOTES... page 38

Real Estate

FLORENCE APTS FOR RENT: 505 S. Orleans St. 2 bdrm. apt. located in 55 and older community next to Marriott Hotel. \$450 mo. rent., **CALL HUD HOME NETWORK 205-833-1420.**

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3308 17TH AVENUE, SHEFFIELD 3 Bdrm/1 1/2 Bath home, totally renovated for immediate occupancy. Totally new kitchen--cabinets and all stainless steel appliances--two new HVAC units, new water heater, new electric panel. Hardwood & ceramic tile floors. All new bath fixtures, including whirlpool tub. Fully finished, walk-out basement \$109,500. Call 256-710-5093 for appt.

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130 S. Smith St., Florence - 3BR - 1BA • \$795 • \$5k down

For Sale
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Thompson St., Florence • 1500 sqft warehouse/office • \$149,000
County Road 61 Florence • 22 acres • \$350,000

New Construction
155 County Road 608, Rogersville • 3BR - 2 BA • \$189,000
145 County Road 608, Rogersville • 3BR - 2BA • \$189,000
958 Joan Lane - Killen 3 BR - 2 BA • \$199,000
213 Stuttts St., Muscle Shoals 3 BR - 2 BA • \$219,000

For Rent: 256-762-4201
Office Space on Tennessee St., Florence \$495/Month
Office Space, 615 Geneva Ave Muscle Shoals Starting at \$275/Office
Office Space, Downtown Florence 500 E. TN St. \$550/Month

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FOR SALE BY OWNER, 112 Harris St., \$5,000 cash, Call Billy 1-205-603-2037

NORTH FLORENCE: FOR RENT 2 bdrm Apartments. Appliances, Washer/Dryer connections. \$450 plus deposit. 256-764-3986.

SHEFFIELD APT. FOR RENT: 1800 14th Street, Apt. A 2 bdrm., 1 ba., \$500 Rent, \$300 Deposit. 256-764-3137.

FARM + LAND FOR sale/ Tuscumbia: 106 acres, pasture, pond, mature timber, fenced with mountain view of the river. Perked, \$360,000. 256-412-8956. leave a message.

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3G5DA03E04S570317	2004 BUICK RENDEZVOUS
1G4HE57Y66U131573	2006 BUICK LUCERNE
2G4WD54LXN1499171	1992 BUICK REGAL
1G6KF57921U117908	2001 CADILLAC DEVILLE
2GCEC19T4X1202287	1999 CHEVROLET SILVERADO
1GCCS19X9V8121969	1997 CHEVROLET S10 TRUCK
3GNDA13D18S635212	2008 CHEVROLET HHR
1G1ND52J816130905	2001 CHEVROLET MALIBU
1GCDT19W7S8183374	1995 CHEVROLET S10
2GBJG31M7E4153508	1984 CHEVROLET VAN G30
1G1JH12F157115718	2005 CHEVROLET CAVALIER
1G1ZH57B194271183	2009 CHEVROLET MALIBU
1G1AK55F867753115	2006 CHEVROLET COBALT
1G1JC5SH2F4160662	2015 CHEVROLET SONIC
1G1ZH57B28F239023	2008 CHEVROLET MALIBU
2G1WF52E059355836	2005 CHEVROLET IMPALA
1C4GP45R55B420230	2005 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY
1C3LC65M98N262086	2008 CHRYSLER SEBRING
3A8FY48BX8T155999	2008 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER
1D7HA18N96S658294	2006 DODGE RAM 1500
1B7FL26X3M5361332	1991 DODGE DAKOTA
3C4PDDBG1ET142419	2014 DODGE JOURNEY
2C3CDYBT2EH120901	2014 DODGE CHALLENGER
1FMZU62E72UA09910	2002 FORD EXPLORER
1FAFP45X74F240416	2004 FORD MUSTANG
1FAHP25W98G129662	2008 FORD TAURUS
2FMZA52205BA76660	2005 FORD FREESTAR
1FMYU03126KC04755	2006 FORD ESCAPE
1FAHP3HN9BW145382	2011 FORD FOCUS
1FTRF14534NB95845	2004 FORD F150
1FTNX20F9XEE67206	1999 FORD F250
1FTVF14524NA56255	2004 FORD F150
1FMZU63EX1UB05608	2001 FORD EXPLORER
1FAFP53U61A121389	2001 FORD TAURUS
1FMZU67E82UB18739	2002 FORD EXPLORER
1FMDU65W92UC44002	2002 FORD EXPLORER
1FMZU67E53UB50131	2003 FORD EXPLORER
1FAFP34N95W261912	2005 FORD FOCUS
1FAFP6046KH192549	1989 FORD THUNDERBIRD
1FMDA41X1RZB00694	1994 FORD AEROSTAR
3FAFP11353R151012	2003 FORD ESCORT
1FAHP36N39W114738	2009 FORD FOCUS
1FAFP53U01A218636	2001 FORD TAURUS
1FMYU03192KD54226	2002 FORD ESCAPE
1FAHP35N99W105821	2009 FORD FOCUS
1FTRE14W45HA80859	2005 FORD E150 VANS
1FAFP66L9WK228186	1998 FORD CONTOUR

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: SIMPSON'S WRECKER SERVICE gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on **Saturday, December 19 , 2020 at 9am at 835 Rickwood Rd., Florence, AL 35630**, pursuant to subsection 32-13-3 of the Alabama Statutes. SIMPSON'S WRECKER SERVICE reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. Simpson automotive does not make any warranties (expressed or implied) as to the mechanical condition, mileage, year, make, model or related paperwork of any vehicle. Simpson Automotive has provided as much information as possible for the buyer's convenience. We will not guarantee the accuracy of that information. Seller shall have the right to reject any bid that is unreasonably low. Seller expressly reserves a right to bid and purchase at the public auction.

SIMPSON'S WRECKER SERVICE

835 Rickwood Rd.
Florence

Letters...

Thank You to NAMC Heroes

Continued from Page 22

for our community than what we have faced over the past eight months of the COVID-19 pandemic. This public health crisis continues to take its toll on our community, demand even more of our energy and efforts to keep ourselves and others safe, and quite frankly, change life as we know it.

The brightest ray of sunshine and hope through this ongoing storm is an incredibly talented, committed, and courageous team fighting this virus on the front lines at NAMC every day. These heroes are hard at work caring for you and your family, friends and neighbors around the clock. I truly hope that fact gives you some peace of mind.

Every one of our colleagues – whether providing direct patient care or supporting those who do – plays a vital role in helping ensure our patients receive the best possible care. I am so grateful for their extraordinary efforts during these demanding days, their passion for serving others and their ability to keep a positive outlook despite such trying times.

There is no doubt that we have felt so much love and support from our community since the beginning of the pandemic. It has been humbling to say the least. As our battle continues, I sincerely hope you will keep our team in your thoughts and find a way to share your gratitude for a healthcare worker

you appreciate. Your support continues to fuel our team and lift us up more than you can imagine, so thank you for standing by us.

And, of course, please be diligent and do your part by continuing to wear your mask, wash your hands, and keep your distance from others. We are all in this together, and we will get through this together.

There is no doubt that we are in the middle of an unprecedented moment, but we are confident that our talented team will continue to rise to the challenge.

Russell Pigg
CEO-North Alabama Medical Center
Florence

Appreciating Rural Hospitals

Editor:

This year we celebrated the Power of Rural Hospitals on Thursday, November 19. Alabama's 53 rural hospitals always deserve to be celebrated, but our communities have seen the benefits of having a rural hospital close to home own more than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic may have changed the way we live our daily lives, but it has not changed the powerful role rural hospitals play in the healthcare infrastructure of our state. If anything, it's made us realize even more just how critical they are.

Alabama's rural hospitals have shown their power by stepping up in the community. As the rest of the state

See LETTERS...Page 37

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Courier Journal

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The animals you see here are currently in local animal shelters or rescue facilities. Adoption fees vary and include having your new friend spayed or neutered, if necessary. Help us help these and other animals by adopting a new friend today.

PRISCILLA is a very shy and incredibly gentle girl. This sweet girl is middle aged and around 45 pounds. She does offer sweet little tail wags when you talk to her, and adorable grins. Priscilla will ever so lightly nudge your hand if she wants to be loved. We don't know much about her backstory but she definitely knows all about furniture and loves climbing right on to the nearest couch. She might do well in a home with a confident, respectful dog that will help show her the world isn't so scary after all! **THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$85** and includes heartworm test, current vaccines, spay/neuter and microchip. Adoptions are by appointment only. Please call us at 256-760-6676 to meet this amazing girl.



ALL BLACK CATS & KITTENS only \$25!

Adoption fee includes spay or neuter & rabies! Please call the Colbert shelter at 256-381-4073!



Hi there. I'm **LOLA** and I'm looking for my forever home. I'm unsure what a breed is but the people feel I may be a lab mix. Go figure. Daddy was a traveling salesman. I was born January, 2020 so I'm just a young lady. I'm very sweet but can be timid. I'm up to date on my shots and being spayed. I would love a family to call my own and be loved by. If you're interested in giving me my forever home, please email PAWS at shoalspaws@gmail.com



Letters...

Appreciating Rural Hospitals

Continued from Page 36

began the process of shutting down, our hospital staff put on their masks and went to work. Alabama's rural hospitals treated many COVID patients close to home, helping ease the burden on patients and their families and helping avoid overcrowding in the larger urban hospitals. They have served as testing sites since the pandemic began, but they also have been a community resource keeping their citizens informed and their doors open.

Imagine if your rural hospital had not been there. Who would have administered the test, cared for your loved one, or stabilized patients during this crisis? Thankfully, we did not have to find out because our rural hospital heroes answered the call. COVID-19 has taught us how important it is to have an operational, fully-functioning hospital in rural Alabama communities. Nearly half of Alabama hospitals are considered rural and serve the hardworking Alabamians who live in these areas. They treat more than 1.8 million patients a year and provide healthcare in your backyard, instead of down the interstate.

The 11,144 employees who work at Alabama's rural hospitals have

made the sacrifice to care for you during this pandemic. So join me in thanking them on Nov. 19 as we celebrate the Power of Alabama Rural Hospitals.

Dr. Don Williamson
President-Alabama
Hospital Association
Montgomery



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Classified Form on Page 6

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Notes...

Continued from page 35

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A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Motor Coach Tours with The Club (Florence Senior Center). These trips are open to the public. www.GroupTrips.com/TheClub
Prices for 2020 are being honored for now on 2021 trips!. Register soon!
Mackinac Island, 7 days 6 nights, \$719, August 15-21, 2021.
Niagara Falls & Toronto, 7 days 6 nights, \$689, June 13-19, 2021.
For more information, call The Club 256-760-6642

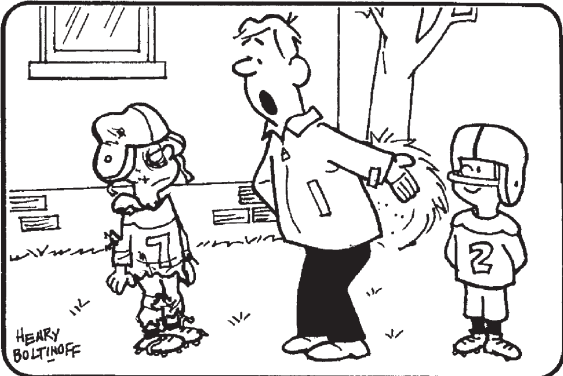
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This Program Is In Partnership With The State Of Alabama And Alabama Department Of Senior Services

Volunteers Needed - Alabama Hospice of the Shoals in Tuscumbia is currently seeking volunteers to serve the following counties: Colbert, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Franklin, Marion, Winston.
Areas of need: Patient Volunteer, Administrative Volunteer, Craft/Hobbies Volunteer, Community Outreach/Event Planning/Fundraising Volunteer.
For more information contact: Alabama Hospice of the Shoals in Tuscumbia, 1404 East Avalon, Suite C, Tuscumbia. Phone: 256-314-1204, fax: 256-314-1206, or email: Barbara.Johnson3@LHCgroup.com

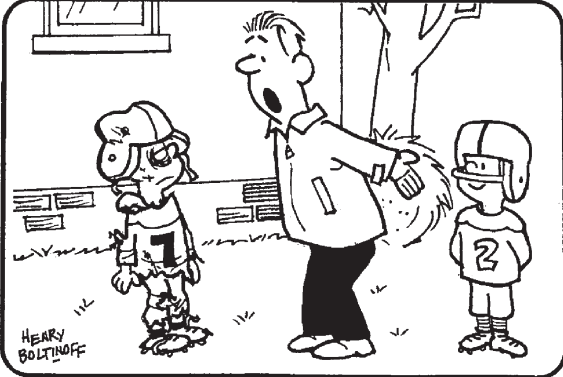
Hospice Volunteers Needed - Veterans, Students, Retirees, everyone with an hour a week to share with someone in your community. Specific needs: Male veteran to visit WWII vet, Florence area. Hairdresser/Barber in all areas. alan.jordan@comfortcarehospice.org. 256-269-2100 Comfort Care Hospice, Sheffield.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man's hair is different. 2. No. 7 on jersey hidden. 3. Window is black. 4. Man's right arm is hidden. 5. Socks are striped. 6. More bricks on house.

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Answer: A feather (look up the word "down").

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Solution: The cup containing 1 coin is placed inside the cup with 2 coins. Each cup will now contain an odd number of coins.

Answers

Illustrated by David Coulson

A	C	R	E
P	R	O	M
C	O	E	D
M	E	S	A

GRID A

C	A	R	E
R	O	M	P
C	O	D	E
S	A	M	E

GRID B

Today's Top Seven CD's... Words, That is!

1.	C	H	I	S	E	L	E	D
2.	A	C	C	O	L	A	D	E
3.	S	E	C	L	U	D	E	D
4.	A	N	E	C	D	O	T	E
5.	P	A	D	L	O	C	K	S
6.	A	D	E	Q	U	E	C	Y
7.	D	O	M	E	S	T	I	C

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PASSENGERS AND GUESTS IN VEHICLES

We had a nice recovery this week in a single car accident. These cases involve the guest passenger statute.

Persons riding in motor vehicles are classified in the statutes and causes as either guests or passengers and are owed differing duties depending on whether they are guests or passengers. The difference is that guests are usually riding for free while passengers are being transported by a common carrier, such as a taxi or bus, for a fee or fare.

The duties owed by drivers or operators of motor vehicles to their social or other nonpaying guests who are passengers are governed by the guest statute.

The guest statute provides that the driver of a vehicle only owes a guest the duty to not willfully or wantonly injure the guest. However, the guest statute is in derogation of the common law, and as such, it should be strictly construed.

The relationship between the host and the guest is consensual in nature. Therefore, protests by a guest to the driver about the driver's operation of the vehicles may invalidate that consent and change his status to that of a passenger. Whether children under 14 years of age subject to the guest statute is to be determined by the jury based upon the individual child's capacity to consent.

Basically, if you pay for the ride or are doing something to benefit the driver you are a passenger and may sue. If the driver is reckless you are a passenger and may sue.

Where a person is a guest and seeks damages from the driver's underinsured motorist insurance carrier after a single vehicle accident, the guest statute controls the ability of the guest to recover against the insurer.

Buckle up, drive safely and as always your referrals are appreciated! 256-764-0112



Please send the questions to:
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