

Shoals
Shorts

UNA Back in
Colbert Co.

FLORENCE, – The University of North Alabama opened a multi-purpose center on 6th Street in Tuscumbia last week that will be primarily utilized by the College of Arts and Sciences, School of the Arts, and the Office of Advancement. It has been more than 150 years since UNA has had a presence in Colbert County.

“I am excited to have a physical UNA presence in Colbert County once again,” said Tuscumbia Mayor, **Kerry Underwood**. “It is historically significant for them to invest here for the first time since the LaGrange campus site burned down during the Civil War. I am thrilled to see their willingness to have a presence in downtown Tuscumbia and to create a legacy of success that will continue for many years.”

Throughout the past several months, the property, which had housed a hardware store, was renovated to include two designated offices, an art gallery space, classroom space, and a professional kitchen. There is the potential for the facility to house a box office as well as fan shop in the future.



Trenholm on
25th Version

TUSCUMBIA– The Tuscumbia Civitan Club announces production of the 2020 Civitan Christmas Ornament featuring Trenholm

See **SHORTS...** on Page 3

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Volume 137 Number 7

December 9, 2020

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Post 5140 at 75

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FLORENCE–Florence Post 5140 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States will celebrate its 75th anniversary on December 11.

The post was chartered and became an active post on December 11, 1945.

“The first Post Commander was J.P. Phillips and at that time the post home was located in North Florence,” according to Post Commander, John Baker. “We moved into our present location at 127 S. Royal Ave. in January of 1970.”

Throughout the years Post 5140 has had a record of providing service to the community, to veterans, service

members and their families, and to our nation.

See **POST 5140...** on Pg. 6



National Commander, Harold Roesch, attached a letter to the Diamond Jubilee Award sent to the Post which commander John Baker is holding.

It states in part, “It is an honor to congratulate you upon the occasion of the 75th anniversary of your Post. Your continued devotion to protecting and upholding American ideals serves as an inspiration for all to follow, and is testament to our motto, **No One Does More For Veterans.**”

Shoals Tinsel Trail is Open Nightly

FLORENCE–Florence-Lauderdale Tourism and the Shoals Chamber of Commerce invite you to kick off the Shoals’ second Tinsel Trail, now open each night from dusk-midnight. The Tinsel Trail is a display of live Christmas trees on the grounds of the Florence-Lauderdale Visitor Center in McFarland Park. The display is intended to promote



community. Each tree is sponsored by a local corporation, group, or family, and has been decorated by its sponsor or another organization designated by the sponsor.

This year each sponsor was tasked with choosing a local charity or nonprofit

See **TINSEL...** on Pg 11

‘20 Faire is Virtual

FOUNTAIN ON THE GREEN – Even though the 2020 Alabama Renaissance Faire had to be postponed until October of 2021 because of COVID-19, the talented IT team within the Faire’s Roundtable successfully created an exciting Virtual Renaissance Faire. It contains all of the elements of an in-person Faire, from Medieval martial arts, to vocal and instrumental period musicians, to Irish step dancers, some giddiness, resourceful terminology, and more.



The Virtual Faire was launched on October 24 and 25, the same weekend that the in-person Faire would have occurred.

See **FAIRE...** on Page 6

Screen shot of Sir William of Lincolnshire as host welcoming everyone to hour 1 of the 8-part virtual Renaissance Faire.

Inside this Issue



Ray Miller Buick-GMC
National Advance Auto Sales
Jeff Elledge Auto Sales

Savvy Senior
Dave Ramsey
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Cat & Kids



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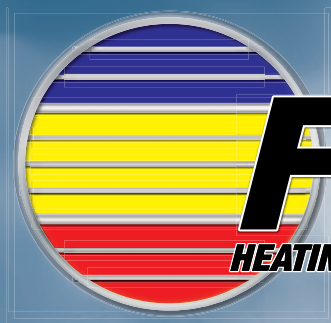
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Let God's Peace Rule in Your Hearts
Never underestimate the power of a supposedly intelligent people to deceive themselves and you. To do so, creates a false peace. Sin is a sorry comforter when that's all you have left to cling to. Stubbornness has no reward. Sad is the lot of a self-satisfied people. In times like these, we need comfort, assurance and peace. Some folks are not happy unless everyone is as miserable as they are. Your problem friend, is that when you hope in yourself, you wind up with no hope. The rule of law, what's that? What about the rule of life and death? How about the 6ft. rule (72 inches) of life? One per year. How many inches are left on the ruler for you? What do you actually owe God? Now, what does God owe you? You know why you're miserable and unhappy when you have to reach to sin to get some comfort? You don't have the peace of God and never will until you meet the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said: **John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Peace is a gift from Christ that accompanies salvation.
Study these scriptures: **Colossians 3:15** "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." **Philippians 4:7** "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Today, billions of lost souls are looking to fill that lost empty void in their never dying soul. Only Christ can do it. Jesus came once to this earth and died for you. Now it is time for you to come to Him. Jesus said: **John 6:37** "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." What you do now with Christ controls your peace and salvation. The ball is in your court. God bless.

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Cat & Kids
by Cathy Turner

Moments of Silver

When I was twelve, I asked if I could have the family silverware. I loved that rose covered silverware. I loved when mama would pull out the tattered brown holder that looked like a scrapbook. It actually was a tri-fold with loops that held the silver in. I loved the musty smell and soft feel of the maroon velveteen cloth that protected our family treasure that once belonged to my great-grandmother Hattie Cleveland. (I am not sure how she came about it.) But I loved cleaning it with that goopy silver cleaner, watching the black rub off. Every holiday I would ask to clean it. I loved that we had it. And most of all I loved setting the table with that shiny, beautiful, heavy family silverware.

My dad taught me how to set the table – which pieces go where, what side the water glass goes on and so on. It was one of the few things that he taught me and the holiday dinners were the only times that we were did anything close to fancy. So I loved it! I loved choosing which linen cloth to put on the table and putting out mama's china. I felt like I was creating a piece of art. Truly, that is what setting the table is – a piece of art. And I have gotten better at it over the years. I love creating a shiny, beautiful table with goblets, cloth napkins, flowers and love. When my family looks at our holiday table, I want them to know that they are loved.

And the food that goes on the table is just as important. I have had the thought while in the grocery store, "They don't even know that I am thinking of them right now." But I want them to know it when they sit down at the table. I want the smell of the greens, potato salad and dressing to say I care. I took the time and I care. And the day isn't about gluttony. It's about warmed bellies and hearts, and satisfied taste buds. It's about being glad that you have a mama and a family that loves ya.

That's really what's most important – who is around the table – who's picking up the silverware – and the smiles on their faces. At our table everybody gets a

chance to shine. Somehow each person has a moment to lead the conversation. No one gets left out. Each person is important. We all bring something to the table. (Ha!) And listening is a joy. While silver forks are clanging china plates, we share memories, stories of crazy happenings in our lives and laughter. Love surrounds the table.

I know that your table is the same. I hope that you take the time "clean the silver" and create tapestries of love on your table. The first time you eat at my house, you will eat from china with silver, because you are a treasure. But with this virus, it may not be soon. This year family and friends are not coming. But on the after-the-holiday dinner Zoom call there will still be laughter and love because we are still important to each other. So like they said in the old Bell phone commercials, "Reach out and touch someone." Call somebody. Call everybody. Create moments of silver on the phone. Let them know that they are at your table of love. Don't regret – rejoice! Be glad that you have people that you miss. That shows that you really are loved. Happy holidays everybody!

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com

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Shorts...

Trenholm on 25th Version

Continued from Page 1

High School. It is the 25th ornament in the on-going series that showcases historical sites and landmarks in the community.

Trenholm High School began in 1887 Tuscumbia Colored Public School. It moved from Deloney Hill to the corner of 11th and High Streets in 1905. The name changed to Trenholm High School in 1921 in honor of former principal **George W. Trenholm**. The high school department opened in 1896 and graduated its first four-year class in 1922. For over 90 years, Trenholm was a rallying force in the Black community as a center of culture, recreation, leadership, and education. The school closed in 1969 due to desegregation and the students were transferred to other city schools. The buildings were soon demolished and a historical marker was erected at the site in 2011.

Ornaments of the beloved school are available at Fiddledee D! gift shop at 111 S. Main St. in Tuscumbia, where they will be for sale throughout the Christmas season. The price is \$15 and purchases must be cash or check made payable to Tuscumbia Civitan. Inventory from previous years will also be offered as long as available to complete collections.

Tuscumbia Civitan Club supports many worthwhile charitable endeavors in the community through sales of the Christmas ornaments and Claxton Fruitcakes. Fruitcakes are on sale at local grocery stores and from Civitans. Among the recipients of funds raised are Safeplace, CASA, Meals on Wheels, the Cerebral Palsy Center, Boys and Girls State and many more.

For more information: 256-710-9081, 256-710-1440 or call Fiddledee D! 256-383-9797.

For Children at K-D Center

FLORENCE– Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts offers these two Holiday programs for children.

Mixed Media artist Provie Musso will be teaching a holiday ornament workshop on Saturday, December 12 from 10am-noon at the K-D Center. The workshop is open to children ages 8-12 years old, they will learn how to craft holiday ornaments using cardboard, recycled materials and found objects. All materials will be supplied.

On Saturday, December 19 from 10:30-11am. Mrs. Jessica, Youth Services Librarian from the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, will join Kennedy-Douglass in welcoming children ages 4 and up for a Holiday Storytelling Hour with gingerbread treats.

Both programs are free, parents just need to call the Art Center in advance to reserve a place for their child(ren) as we are limiting attendance to allow for social distancing. We ask that all participants to wear a mask to ensure the safety of all guests.

Directing the United Way

SHOALS – While this year has been a challenge for everyone, United Way of Northwest Alabama has continued to provide services and support for those in need. They continue to partner and support 19 area nonprofit agencies and to provide direct services through 211 Information & Referral and Success by 6. United Way also had extended services

See SHORTs... Page 5

MISSING: FOUR COWS from Kingtown area. Last seen South of Co. Rd. 50, approximately one mile east of Hwy. 101. Three Black Angus and one Charolais. If seen call 256-762-8761 or 256-762-8560.

FOUND OBJECT IN BUGGY at Muscle Shoals WalMart. Call to describe. 256-383-7438 (Sheffield)

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Dr. Johnson has been with HH Heart Center for 7 years, practicing in Decatur, and has recently transferred to the Sheffield location. He lives in Killen with his wife, Morgen, and his son, Anders. In his time off, Dr. Johnson enjoys gardening and spending time with his family.

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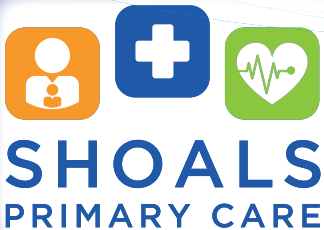
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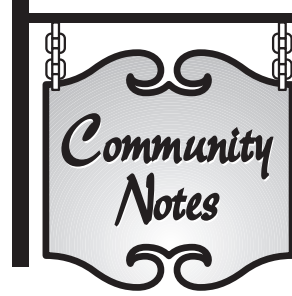
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COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE in the Courier Journal. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following week's issue.

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

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 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.

Christmas Lights, Spring Park, Tuscumbia abound in the park this year so a drive-thru tour is perfect to see the Christmas displays and park that is totally lit with twinkling lights. Through Dec. 24, an evening tour through the park will delight both the old and young! Fountain lights, music, water show will be presented nightly on the hour - 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9pm. Free.

Christmas Train and Carousel in Spring Park, Tuscumbia will be running this year through Dec. 23 from 4-8pm daily. Admission fees for the Christmas Train is \$5, Carousel, \$3; Combination ticket, \$7.

Christmas at Ivy Green in Tuscumbia. Enjoy the beautiful live Holiday decorations at the Helen Keller Home, Sat, Dec. 12, 8:30am-4pm. Admission.

White Christmas, the Musical, Muscle Shoals High School Auditorium, at 3 & 7pm., Dec. 12, 2pm, Dec. 13 and 7pm, Dec. 14. Tickets are \$12, tickets at www.gofan.com (online only)

Winter Art Market 30+ Artists - Hundreds of one-of-a-kind gifts at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art in Tuscumbia through 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.

Shoals Republican Club After Hours + Trivia Thursday, December 10, 6-8pm at High Ridge Spirits Distillery, 1401 Huntsville Road, Sweetwater District, Florence.

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, through December 15.

The center is free and open to the public 9am-4pm Monday-Friday, and 1-4pm Sunday. CDC guidelines observed.

LifeSouth Blood Drives The Shoals Center, 307 Veterans Drive, Florence, 888-795-2707. The hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-5pm; Tuesday and Thursday 9am-7pm; Saturday 9am-3pm; Sunday 1-5pm.

Blood Drives for December 2020
Wednesday, December 9, 8:30am - 3:30pm, Shoals Christian School, 301 Heathrow Drive, Florence

Wednesday, December 9, 4:30pm - 8:30pm, Parkway Community Church of God, 663 Cox Creek Parkway, Florence
Thursday, December 10, 2pm - 7pm, Mangas Tool and Die, 2721 Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals

Friday, December 11, 9am - 1pm, Easter Seals Rehabilitation, 1615 Trojan Drive, Muscle Shoals

Friday, December 11, 3pm - 8pm, Texas Roadhouse, 307 Cox Creek Parkway, Florence

Saturday, December 12, Noon - 7pm, Ollie's Bargain Outlet, 1700 Darby Drive, Florence

Sunday, December 13, Noon - 6pm, Rural King, 3401 Woodward Avenue, Muscle Shoals

Monday, December 14, 9am - 3:30pm, Shoals Dream Center, 2950 Cloverdale Road, Florence

Tuesday, December 15, 11am - 5pm, TVA Community Credit Union, 1405 S Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals

Wednesday, December 16, Noon - 6pm, Shoals Hospital, 201 W Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals

The Florence Christmas Parade has been a holiday tradition in Downtown Florence for over 50 years. This year's

tradition will have a new spin to allow participants to enjoy the parade from the safety of their own vehicle to adhere more easily to social distancing.

Downtown Florence Alliance will host the 2020 Christmas Parade of Lights presented by Bank Independent on December 10. Parade from 6-9pm spectators may drive through Tennessee and Court Streets to view the spectacular display of holiday lights in Downtown Florence. Candy will not be distributed in this year's parade.

The Parade of Lights will begin on East Tennessee Street and veer north (right) on Court Street. Police will be helping control traffic. Santa & Mrs. Claus will be featured as the finale of the parade at the intersection of Court and Tuscaloosa where onlookers may turn left or right to exit the parade route. Background music for the full parade experience will be provided by Big River Broadcasting on WQLT-FM 107.3.

Make the holidays special for others by registering an entry in the parade! Incorporate the "Parade of Lights" theme in your entry to maximize your chances of winning a trophy in your division. Awards will be presented in the following categories: Marching Band, Non-Profit, Community/Interest, and Business. Winners in each category will receive a Christmas themed trophy. Businesses along the route are also welcome to participate to bring additional publicity and broaden their competitive space.

Visit downtownflorencealliance.com for more information.

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 bcnup@ymcashaols.org.

Crossroads Community Outreach is hosting its 4th Annual Christmas Community Event. Saturday, December 19 from 2-4pm at two convenient locations, 318 S. Court Street (American Legion building) across from Walgreens in downtown Florence, and at Handy Recreation Center, 1105 Beale Street in Florence. Both events will be outside with a traditional Christmas meal served to-go and prizes for the kids. This event is open to the entire community and no registration is required.

Social distancing will be employed, masks will be required, and hand sanitizer will be available.

Crossroads Community Outreach is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that assists those who may or may not qualify for traditional help or where no services for their specific need exists. Crossroads also provides a Homeless Day Space & Resource Center, Street Outreach, Food Pantry and Clothing Closet located at 318 S. Court Street, Suite A in Florence.

For more information about Crossroads Community Outreach, call Executive Director, Dr. Kimberly Jackson at 256-

See NOTES... page 35

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Fresh Beef Neck Bones or Split Chicken Breast 99¢ Lb.	Beef Stew Meat or Eye of Round Steak \$3.99 Lb.	Boneless Chicken Breast or Pork Roast \$1.39 Lb.	Farm Raised Catfish Fillet (Lb.) or Chicken Leg Quarters (10 Lb. bag) \$2.99 Lb.

12 Days of Christmas Sale

Follow us on Facebook, starting December 10th

We will post a Daily Special or Specials for our 12 Days of Christmas Sale

We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

Lauderdale Co-op

1026 S. Court St., Florence • 256-764-8441
154 Elgin Drive, Rogersville • 256-247-3453

Shorts...

Directing the United Way

Continued from Page 3

to include assistance to food pantries, individuals in need of rent and utility assistance, and grant opportunities for nonprofit agencies in need due to the pandemic.

There are currently several seat vacancies on the Board of Directors. United Way invites those interested in serving others and making an impact in our community to apply to join the Board of Directors.

Members of the board do not work within the day-to-day operations of United Way. However, board members should be interested in actively working as a team to create long-term solutions for the organization and the community as a whole. They should be willing to meet-bi-monthly either in person or electronically, help identify service gap areas, and help strategize as to how to address those gaps. A desire to create lasting change in our communities is necessary to be an effective board member.

If you or someone you know is interested, please email **Jennifer McNulty**, ceo@uwshoals.org or find one on the United Way’s website, www.uwnwal.org under the Volunteer/Events Tab.

12 Ways to Rock for the Theatre

FLORENCE–Big River Broadcasting and The Shoals Theatre present *12 Ways to Rock Your Holidays*.

Some of the finest treasures representing what the Shoals has to offer with all proceeds benefiting the historic Shoals Theatre. You can bid on these gifts for 12 consecutive days beginning Thursday, December 10.

Bids will close at 9pm on December 21. Winners will be announced December 22. The impressive list of goodies includes golf rounds at Turtle Point, **Robert Trent Jones**, and **Blackberry Trail**; music packages from 3614 Jackson Highway, **Counts Brothers**, and the **Alabama Music Hall of Fame**, a guitar autographed by **Travis Tritt** and **Billy Bob**

See **SHORTs...** Page 9

CAT SITTING SERVICE: WILL come to kitty’s home, fill bowls, scoop litter, give meds., scratch ears, 256-412-6982

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SWIVEL BARSTOOL, SPIN-DLE FULL back, maple, 42”, foot rest, \$75. 256-882-0173. Huntsville

2 WALKERS WITH SEATS & brakes, good condition, \$25ea. Bedside potty, never used, \$30. 256-387-3564.

SOFA TWEED 99”X44”, VERY nice and clean, \$125. Nonsmoking home. 256-483-1826.

CERAMIC TILE - NEW or repair. Any type. 256-810-4117.

WANT TO BUY OLD US Coins & Currency, 10x & up face value, 256-627-5842 Florence

SWIVEL BARSTOOL, SPIN-DLE FULL back, maple, 42”, foot rest, \$75. 256-882-0173. Huntsville

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

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FORD: FLEX SEL, 2009 \$9,950. Leather, Pano-sunroof, Sony audio, only 88K actual miles, Extra Clean! 256-527-2125.

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PECAN FIREWOOD, \$45
Truckload, We do not deliver. Call 256-383-7949.

GRANDFATHER CLOCK, \$200; **ORGAN** \$100, call 256-974-0496.

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GARDEN SPRAYER, GREEN WOOD 4 gallon back pack. Still in box, \$40. 256-374-3233 Athens area

NISSAN: FRONTIER, 1998 \$1,500. 5 speed, needs work, leave message. 256-383-7744.

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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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PREM_26348

382185-1

CADILLAC: CTS, 2010 \$13,950. Luxury, one owner, 32K actual miles, silver, grey leather, NEW MICHELIN TIRES, Exceptional condition! 256-527-2125.

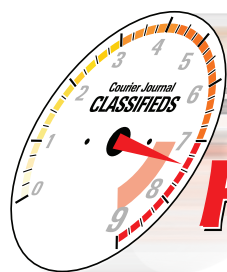
I'M SO LONELY IN the **NURSING HOME...Wish I had some BIBLE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE BOOKS** from Mars Hill Bookstore for Christmas...

TOYOTA: CAMRY LE, 2010 \$9,950. V6, leather, navigation, ONLY 83K miles, just serviced! Excellent Condition. 256-527-2125.

FLORENCE MONUMENT CO. GRANITE and Bronze Memorials, we also cut death dates. 1950 Helton Dr., Florence. 256-766-5118



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Mail

MAIL – Mail your written ad to address at right. Include your phone number. We will call to finalize your ad. List how many weeks the ad is to run.

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OFFICE – Drop by our office at your convenience 8-5 Monday-Friday and write/submit it there.

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\$7⁰⁰ Week

• **Yard Sales** **5 LINES** Prepay Each additional line - \$1.50 YARD SALES - An exclusive listing of the area's better sales prominently placed

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• **Private Party Auto Rate** Up to 8 LINES for 4 weeks. Prepay Each additional line - \$2.00

\$15⁰⁰ Week

*one line is approx. 30 characters

Name		
Address		
City	State	Phone

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Phone-in Ads MUST be Charged to Credit/Debit Card! NO EXCEPTIONS! NO REFUNDS!

DEADLINE: Friday 5pm

Faire...

Continued from Page 1

Additionally, it was archived, so it can be enjoyed indefinitely.

To access the Virtual Faire, the viewer can find it on both the Facebook page and the YouTube channel of the Alabama Renaissance Faire. It is conveniently divided into

8 one-hour segments, allowing the viewer to watch as time permits.

Since 1987, the Roundtable of the Alabama Renaissance Faire has brought this free event to Fountain-on-the-Green (aka Wilson Park) in downtown Florence. In 2020, the show goes on thanks to the wonders of digital technology.



You Drive the Route

FLORENCE–The half-century tradition of Florence Christmas Parade will have somewhat of a reverse spin through downtown December 10.

Participants will enjoy the parade from the safety of their own vehicle making it easier to social distance. Spectators will be the ones traveling the parade route through Tennessee and Court Streets from 6-9pm to view the spectacular display of holiday lights, while parade participants will be stationary. Candy will not be distributed in this year's parade.

Parade of Lights
DOWNTOWN FLORENCE

The Parade of Lights will begin on East Tennessee Street and veer north (right) on Court Street. Police will be helping control traffic. Santa & Mrs. Claus will be featured as the finale of the parade at the intersection of Court and Tuscaloosa where onlookers may turn left or right to exit the parade route. Background music for the full parade experience will be provided by Big River Broadcasting on WQLT-FM 107.3. Visit downtownflorencealliance.com for more information.

The Downtown Florence Alliance will host the event which is being presented by Bank Independent.



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Monday - Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm

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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:

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or email to:
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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.

Post 5140

Continued from Page 1

"In addition to providing assistance to veterans, we also support the community by providing a scholarship at Northwest Shoals for veterans and their families, support the ROTC Program at UNA, sponsor the Voice of Democracy, a patriotic audio essay contest for grades 9-12, and sponsor the

PATRIOT'S PEN, a patriotic essay writing competition for grades 6-8," Baker added.

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' premier scholarship program. Involvement and donations are the only means of Post support. Donations are welcomed to: VFW Post 5140, P.O. Box 1524, Florence. Email vfwpost5140@gmail.com for more information.

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Howell Bigham
Chaplain,
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The Season of Giving

Christmas is one of the most beautiful times of the year. During the Christmas season, people across the world display an attitude of generosity and unselfishness as they shower attention and love toward others. It is the season of giving.

Gifts vary in shape and size. Price tags may range from low cost to very expensive. We attempt to match gifts with individuals receiving them.

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FORD: TAURUS, 2000 \$1,800 OBO, V6, old air, runs good, fully loaded, good tires, clean, 30 mpg, 256-565-8531 no text messages, Moulton, AL

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DYNA-GLO KEROSENE HEATER. RMC-95-C2, 23,000 btu., \$70. 256-682-2055 Moulton area.

Shorts...

12 Ways to Rock for the Theatre

Continued from Page 5

Thornton and the Boxmasters, and others; art work from local artists **Tommy Mathis** and **Wayne Sides**; gift certificates from Marigails and **Billy Reid**; a one night stay at the Stricklin Hotel, with complimentary bowling in the Boiler Room; one night at the Gunrunner with full spa treatment; one night at the Marriott Hotel, with dinner at the 360 Grille, and breakfast for two.

It's a great opportunity to support the Shoals Theatre, a 501-c non-profit making all your donations tax deductible. For details and to make your bids, go to theshoalstheatre.org

Thank you for making your bids and rocking your holidays.

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Tinsel Trail...

Continued from Page 1

to represent. Trees can have themes that match the company's mission, holiday themed, or they can be just totally unique! Each tree has a sign with the sponsor and decorator's names. "We sold 50 trees this year. I was a little



worried that we wouldn't have many sponsors this year," said Randa Hovater, Media Relations Manager with Florence-Lauderdale Tourism. The proceeds of this project are being donated to the winner of the Talk of the Trail Award Tree's chosen charity or nonprofit. The public will vote on the awards digitally. Voting will close at 10am on December 11. The charity/nonprofit that will receive the proceeds will be announced at noon on December 11. The Tinsel Trail is free and open to the public nightly through January 6. For more information, visit the Tinsel Trail website: www.visitflorenceal.com/shoals-tinsel-trail/

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Commentary

The Avoidance of Any Integrity

Election integrity has been a poignant term for the last few months. In September and October both major parties were in lock step. Since that point democrats are nowhere to be found. They and their national media cohorts are great at avoiding some really pressing issues. They have moved on from any election controversy. According to Democrats, the election is done and legitimate in every aspect. Any questions or concerns as to the legitimacy of the results are met with terms like unfounded, unsupported, ridiculous, baseless, unconfirmed, and dubious.

Scott Pelley even had an exclusive 60 Minutes interview with Chris Krebs that CBS aired November 29. President Trump put Krebs in charge of US election security two years ago. He was able to tout his agency's impenetrable wall and the most secure election ever while refuting Trump's claims of election interference. It was also pointed out that Trump had fired him the week before.

Krebs insisted that his team was beyond reproach, and that all this unfounded election scuttlebutt just undermines Americans'

See INTEGRITY... on Page 17

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

December 9, 2020

Happening THIS WEEK



Courtesy photo

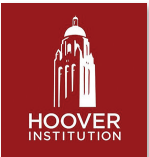
It's Dickens Downtown

TUSCUMBIA – Celebrate the season at “Dickens Day Downtown”, a modified version of Tuscumbia’s Annual, “It’s a Dickens Christmas, Y’all” Festival. The event is scheduled for Saturday, December 12 from 10am-3pm in downtown primarily along Main Street. Due to Covid 19, a more

See DICKENS... on Page 32

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

THE WINTER ART MARKET WITH 30+ ARTISTS - includes hundreds of one-of-a-kind gifts at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art in Tuscumbia through 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.



DR. THOMAS SOWELL Senior Fellow Hoover Institution

Guest Commentary

Farewell to Economist and Teacher Walter E. Williams, My Best Friend

Walter E. Williams loved teaching. Unlike too many other teachers today, he made it a point never to impose his opinions on his students.

Those who read Walter Williams' syndicated newspaper columns know that he expressed his opinions boldly and unequivocally there, but not in the classroom.

Walter was a professor of economics

at George Mason University for 40 years. He once said he hoped on the day he died he would have taught a class that day. And that is just the way it was when he died Wednesday, December 2.

He was my best friend for half a century. There was no one I trusted more or whose integrity I respected more.

Since he was younger than me, I chose him to be my literary executor, to take control of my books after I was gone. His death at age 84 is a reminder that no one really has anything to say about such things.

As an economist, Walter Williams

See WALTER... on Page 26

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL MON. DEC. 14 6PM vs Murray State in Flowers Hall, Florence

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MEN'S BASKETBALL THUR. DEC. 10 6PM vs Troy in Flowers Hall, Florence

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, through December 15. The center is free and open to the public 9am-4pm Monday-Friday, and 1-4pm Sunday. CDC guidelines observed.

YOUR Letters

Your Courier Journal welcomes tastefully presented typed or neatly written letters to be published as space allows. Letters may refer to timely matters of local, state, or national interest or any topic of concern or interest. Letters must include name, address and phone number for verification. (Only name and town will be published.) Letters are 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.

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

God's Word About Us

Editor:

God says a lot about how much he loves us in his word. God so loved the world that he gave his only son, Jesus. Our heavenly Father loves us because he calls us his children and that is what we are. However, the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him like we do. 1 John 3:1.

God tells us to be kind to others and to ourselves. Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves. Proverbs 11:17.

To be kind to others and yourself you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Colossians 3:8.

We must set our minds on things above, not on earthly things and God will bless us. Colossians 3:2.

Tex Tatum Florence

The Corrupt System

Dear Editor:

The prospect of a Biden "War Cabinet" in Washington raises the

question: Who will fight Basement Joe's foreign wars for him? Probably no one outside the professional military establishment.

In a recent issue of "Foreign Affairs", Gen. James "Maddog" Mattis urged Biden to abandon President Trump's "America First" policy. The article, co-authored by Mattis, contains nothing insightful or original.

Mattis is proposing the old, outdated system of one-sided alliances. However, is he not misleading our allies in Europe and the Far East? The truth is, America likely will never again go to Western Europe's defense. Nor is it likely to fight another major war in Asia. Our country is no longer the America of World War II. Character wise, it isn't even the America of Korean and Vietnam wars. That is a fact beyond Mattis' control. Is he planting false

See LETTERS...on Page 23

The attacks over the past four years have proven that the U.S. Congress and the State Department are corrupt . . .



HARDLY A DAY GOES BY THAT I DON'T SEE A FACEBOOK OR TWITTER FRIEND BEMOANING the fact that Facebook “censored” their posts. At risk of repeating an oft’ used slogan: fake news! The truth is a little complicated. What they do do is place a little flag below your post that says, “False Information” with a button you can click to see why the “fact” is disputed. Consider it a warning to others to be a bit skeptical if the content of the contents of the post as there appear to be some, shall we say, inaccuracies. You can also have your hand smacked for posting inflammatory stuff.

Granted, these fact checks



Jim Fisher

Facebook Censorship

by “The Computer Skeptic”

and hand slaps are imperfect. Facebook and Twitter use artificial intelligence (AI) for the grunt work. If you post something that is racially insensitive, for example, the AIs may smack your hand with no regard to context. For example, I recently received a 48 hour Facebook ban for saying, “White people are dumb,” in a Facebook group dedicated to recipes. Some of us were embroiled in friendly banter about white folks who love plain mashed potatoes with no seasonings. It was not “racist” at all. I wasn’t even serious . . .

well, maybe a little. I mean, who the heck can eat mashed taters without gravy or at least some salt and pepper? But I digress. The AIs didn’t know that I was (not really) joking so my post was “censored” and I temporarily lost my Facebook privileges. Lesson learned. Other Facebook users have been fact-checked for posting silly conspiracy theories about the election or vaccines or covid hoax theories that do demonstrable harm to society.

So users are revolting against these “fact checks” by leaving Facebook for other platforms

such as Parler that was discussed in my last article. I must admit that the fact-checks do seem to be administered to my far-right friends more often than far left. But as a passionate middle-grounder, it seems pretty clear that my far-right friends are simply being goofier about posting stuff that’s not true. Real-life examples include, “Joe Biden is wearing a foot boot to hide an ankle monitor,” and “The Coronavirus is over in the United States so there is no need for a vaccine.” So those people are mad at Facebook/ Twitter.

What they don’t seem to understand is that Facebook/ Twitter didn’t make the decision to censor or fact-check anyone. For a long time, consumers and advertisers stood by and watched the world burn thanks to people who do not have the inclination to fact-check themselves. So we-the-

consumers demanded that social media companies put a stop to the spread of malicious fake news and they reluctantly obeyed.

Sure, it’s a double-edged sword. We Americans are used to speaking our minds about anything anywhere anytime with no repercussions. But we live in strange times where reality itself is under assault and facts don’t matter. Consumers are sick of it and demanding that something is done to slow the spread of disinformation. Facebook listened.

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



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Commentary...

Integrity...

Continued from Page 12

confidence in the US voting system.

I appreciate Mr. Krebs' efforts. However, there is too much underreporting and avoidance for everything on his end to be rated cleanly. Joe Biden-Harris may have been declared President, but I am still not feeling the legitimacy. And any confidence in left-wing support of election integrity deteriorates by the day.

A few isolated claims and third-party rumors would be one thing; those could be expected.

However, over 1,000 sworn affidavits under penalty of perjury from people representing both parties is another. Many more credible claims, intimidated witnesses, retaliatory moves against claimants, and the sheer numbers and variety of issues is unconscionable to ignore. There are so many more than we can mention here.

• We can start with gift card and t-shirts that were given out to people who voted in some key areas. Numerous social vanity

videos from those voters depict what is clearly illegal - as was the advance voting tutorial that accompanied those prizes.

• Security footage at Fulton County's State Farm Arena clearly showed four poll workers scanning ballots after everyone was told to go home at around 10pm November 3. The footage includes workers pulling out what appear to be suitcases from underneath tables during the process which continued into the early morning hours of November 4.

• Several witnesses have confirmed that Dominion Voting Systems had machinery connected to Wi-Fi systems "during ballot tabulation." One such location was in Wayne County Michigan where each terminal was connected according to testimony.

• A Michigan poll observer testified that their military ballots looked like 'Xerox copies,' all marked for Biden.

• Melissa Carone, a freelance IT worker in Detroit working on site November 3-4 said in an affidavit that she "witnessed nothing but fraudulent actions take place."

"I observed numerous employees, city workers, running batches of ballots through the tabulators countless times...They were just rescanning, rescanning," Carone said. "Counting ballots 9-10 times." Carone said there were 22-24 tabulating machines where she was working, so she observed the malpractice thousands of times. When she told her boss that there were irregularities, he dismissed them. He told her that they were there for IT support, not to tell them how to run their elections.

• A mathematician who claimed to have evidence of voter fraud to present the Arizona Legislature was suspended from Twitter.

• A website belonging to Sidney Powell, former federal prosecutor now filing election fraud lawsuits has had a story link blocked by Twitter.

• Georgia's Secretary of State admitted last week that Fulton County election workers 'Cut Corners' in the second recount.

• Over 23,000 late-arriving absentee ballots that should inarguably be disqualified were counted in Pennsylvania. Another 86,000 with extraordinarily outlandish return dates were also counted.

Thousands of those mail-in ballot envelopes were destroyed which must contain signatures that match the ones on the ballots.

• There were historically-low absentee ballot rejection rates, (less than 1% compared to 3%) despite the massive expansion of mail-voting options. If rejection rates were even closely comparable to those of previous years, Trump would have been the clear winner nationally.

• Apparently, the evidence of 50,000 votes Delaware County, PA held on 47 USB cards is missing.

• The Voter Integrity Project estimated that over 20,000 people who no longer met residency requirements cast ballots in Georgia. Biden's last noted margin was less than 13,000 votes.

• There were serious 'chain of custody' breakdowns. Mailed ballots "arrived" in pristine condition (without creases that would be present if they had indeed been mailed) Invalid residential addresses, a record number of dead people voting.

In spite of all the affidavits, many lower-level courts have largely dismissed the initial voting lawsuits citing "no evidence." It will be interesting to see if district level and above use the Constitutional requirement of legal votes only as a basis during the appeals process.

Of course, democrat-backed platforms Facebook, Twitter, Google and YouTube refuse to let users document any suspicions or evidence of corruption, censoring posts as quickly as their algorithms find it. That was the pre-election process as well with evidence of Hunter Biden emails and mounting evidence of Joe's corruption in China gaining little-to-no traction.

We still don't know the full degree of chicanery that occurred in the wee hours of November 3-4. The peculiarities have no logically-compelling explanation. With Trump comfortably ahead, many swing states stopped counting ballots in what appeared to be a coordinated pause. In most cases, observers were removed from the counting facilities. Counting then continued without the observers.

When the major networks began winding down prime-time viewing for the night, the cohorts were in shock. They were wearing the results. They were beaten soundly and they knew it. It was evident

See VOTING...Page 21

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As we have stated before, AEP is only for those people who are already on Medicare and wish to enroll in or make changes to their prescription drug plan or Medicare Advantage Plan for 2021. AEP does not affect anyone who is getting Medicare for the first time in 2020 or is on Medicare and leaving employer coverage in the coming year. Medicare will give you a Special Election Period (SEP) for these situations.

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It is also important to remember that AEP does not affect Medicare supplements. You can enroll in or make changes to your Medicare supplement at any time during the year. Keep in mind that you may have to go through underwriting to make changes to your supplement. If you are getting Medicare for the first time or leaving employer coverage you can sign up for the supplement 6 months prior to your coverage starting.

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.



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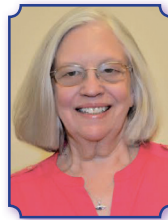
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Commentary...

Voting...

Continued from Page 17

in their posture, on their faces, and in their voices. They were looking for answers, but could barely utter the words.

Statistically abnormal 90%-10% voting patterns tabulated overnight spiked with unusually large numbers (hundreds of thousands) only in locations necessary to secure a Biden win in several states. That skewed demographic pattern did not surface with any other similar areas in comparable states. We woke up to a complete reset of numbers that we were just supposed to accept without question. November 3 was just a mirage.

Bellwether states of Florida, Iowa, and Ohio each defied the polls and went to Trump.

Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin always swing in the same direction as Ohio and Iowa since they are regional peers.

Yet, Biden leads in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin because of an apparent avalanche of black votes in Philadelphia, Detroit, and Milwaukee. His 'winning' margin was derived almost entirely from votes counted in these cities after the counting had allegedly been stopped for the night.

In 2008, Obama rallies were packed. The national mall was packed for his inauguration. The opportunity to elect Obama was a sensation, a movement.

In addition, many white people voted Obama based on a presumptive leaning of racism if they didn't. He received 61 million votes in 2008.

Biden supposedly received over 70 million votes, more votes than any presidential candidate in history, while winning a record low of 17% of the counties (524). Obama won 873 counties in 2008. Biden's Black support fell well below 90%. His Latino/Hispanic/Cuban support fell below 60%. Those numbers make it virtually impossible for a Democratic presidential candidate to take Arizona, New Mexico, or Nevada.

Exit polling showed that Trump performed far better in many key demographic groups than he did in 2016: 11 million more votes, receiving 95% of Republican support, increasing his overall support in the Black community by 50%, the most for any Republican since 1960. Trump also

garnered over one-third of the national Hispanic vote (35%). Trump also did exceptionally well with rural working-class white males.

Trump's 2020 campaign rallies were packed, COVID concerns and all. Even in limited appearances, Biden couldn't fill a few hundred seats at times.

Yet, we are supposed to believe that Biden received 9 million more votes, 15% more than Obama received on that initial presidential run.

If that is true, such record-breaking numbers for Biden should also have far-reaching down-the-ballot coattails. However, Biden did not provide any of that momentum.

The Republicans gained a large number of seats in the House while winning over two-dozen races that were considered toss-ups. They also appear to have held the Senate. In addition, Republicans also made gains at the state level and did not lose one state legislature.

It's bovine scatology, pure and simple. The legal/legit votes are not there. This seems too much like Venezuela's 2004 election revisited. Hugo Chávez was behind as votes were being counted that night. At midnight the machine stopped counting. At 3am Chávez was ahead by 10%.

I can certainly see why the left-loving media is not asking the difficult questions like they would if the tables were turned.

Oh, come on, Magazzu. You're just another right-wing, nut-job conspiracy theorist who can't accept that tTrump lost.

We convict people and sentence them to death on eye-witness testimony, video evidence, and a lack of an adequate explanation. Why is that type of evidence being ignored here?

No, I'd take it the other direction. Barring anyone who has contracted main-stream network-instilled oblivion, those maintaining that all measures of fairness and election integrity were adhered to on November 3 and afterward amounts to denial, absurdity,... and/or approval. And those are the printable descriptions. Take your choice.

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TIE BREAKER GAME

Write Score HERE

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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.

Letters...

The Corrupt System

Continued from Page 12

hopes in the minds of our allies, as Biden seems to have done recently with Japanese Prime Minister Suga? If the senile Biden stumbles into real war,

who will follow him? Antifa or waves of illegal immigrants? Not likely. Real wars are fought for national survival. Even if they begin as high-tech wars, they are in danger of escalating into meat-grinders. Such wars require constant drafting of manpower until one side is depleted or loses its nerve. A country's twilight army is drawn from the cream of the crop. It comes from those bright young

people who have a deep-rooted love of country. If they no longer exist in great enough numbers, or if they are unwilling to respond to the call, a country is finished. The baseless attempts at overthrowing the Trump administration have disgusted tens of millions of Americans. The attacks over the past four years have proven that the U.S. Congress and the State Department are corrupt. So are the Justice Department, the FBI, the military, and the CIA. All of them are hopelessly debased by cowardly opportunists and careerists like Biden and Mattis. Can we expect the best of our youth to die for such a corrupt system?

Thomas Ponder
Killen

Biden Swamp in Charge

Editor,

I think the Democrats think they are okay with Biden, but your good old time Democrats are in for a big surprise. You will have higher taxes, kill babies, they will be telling you what to do, not go to church, school, be

dictators. So you will see. They don't care about you, only the rich people will be the ones getting their way. Just wait and see what a mistake you have made when Biden and his swamp people get in charge. There is no way Trump would have lost had he not been cheated out. They will cheat to get anything they want. You people will soon find out the truth!

Betty Balentine
Lexington

Corruption and Cheating

Editor:

With all the proof of witnesses, videos, and whistleblowers coming forward, any judge not willing to allow all evidence to be presented, heard, and judged is hiding truth and complicit with the corruption to cheat and steal the election.

Paul Sabatino
Florence

See LETTERS...Page 28

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Thomas McCutcheon

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WILL CONTESTS

The most common reasons for contesting a Will are undue influence, lack of mental capacity to make a Will or the improper execution of a Will.

If one of these is proven the Will in question is set aside as if it never existed.

On March 15, 2019, the Alabama Supreme Court decided *Jones v. Brewster* which gives a checklist for Will contest cases. This is the “go to” case for lawyers who want to file a Will contest.

This case details and explains the applicable Alabama code sections and the procedure for filing a Will contest. One important point is the strict time limit. If the decision to contest a Will is made, there is a very strict time limit, potentially six months.

Undue influence occurs when someone with influence uses that influence to cause a person to make a Will different, if not influenced, than they would have made.

A properly executed Will is one signed in front of two witnesses, who then also sign the Will as witnesses. We don’t often see these cases because all lawyers now provide what’s known as a self-proving Will. That is a Will, signed by the “testator” in the presence of two witnesses and then notarized. That’s not to say that a Will like that couldn’t be invalid, but it is likely properly executed.

The mental capacity required to make a Will means that a person has sufficient mind and memory to know what property they are giving in the Will, the people to whom they are giving it, and that they are signing a Will.

Will contests are odd and the rules are strict. Some contests are filed one way in some counties and differently in others. This is one of the few types of cases where the loser can end up responsible for the cost to defend the Will.

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

Please send the questions to: “Ask the Attorney,” P. O. Box 38, Florence, Alabama 35631 or visit our website at: www.mhatty.com

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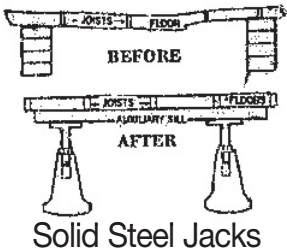
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described as being “like Walter Williams.” Holding a black belt in karate, Walter was a tough customer. One night three men jumped him—and two of those men ended up in a hospital.

The other side of Walter came out in relation to his wife, Connie. She helped put him through graduate school—and after he received his Ph.D., she never had to work again - not even to fix his breakfast.

Guest Commentary...Dr. Thomas Sowell

Walter Williams...

Continued from Page 12

never got the credit he deserved. His book “Race & Economics: How Much Can Be Blamed on Discrimination?” is a must-read introduction to the subject. Amazon has it ranked fifth in sales among civil rights books, nine years after it was published.

Another book of his on the effects of economics under the white supremacist apartheid regime in South Africa was titled, “South Africa’s War Against Capitalism.” He went to South Africa to study the situation directly. Many of the things he brought out have implications for racial discrimination in other places around the world.

I have had many occasions to cite Walter Williams’ research in my own books. Most of what others say about higher prices in low-income neighborhoods today has not yet caught up to what Walter said in his doctoral dissertation decades ago.

Despite his opposition to the welfare state as something doing more harm than good, Walter was privately very generous with both his money and his time in helping others.

He figured he had a right to do whatever he wanted to with his own money, but that politicians had no right to take his money to give away in order to get votes.

In a letter dated March 3, 1975, Walter wrote, “Sometimes it is a very lonely struggle trying to help our people, particularly the ones who do not realize that help is needed.”

In the same letter, he mentioned a certain hospital that “has an all but written policy of prohibiting the flunking of black medical students.”

Not long after this, a professor at a prestigious medical school revealed that black students there were given passing grades without having met the standards applied to other students. He warned that trusting patients would pay—some with their lives—for such irresponsible double standards. That has, in fact, happened.

As a person, Walter Williams was unique. I have heard of no one else

Walter liked to go to his job at 4:30am. He was the only person who had no problem finding a parking space on the street in downtown Washington.

Around 9 o’clock or so, Connie—now awake—would phone Walter and they would greet each other tenderly for the day.

We may not see his like again. And that is our loss.

Originally printed December 4 in The Daily Signal. ©Creators.com

Regular readers will recall Walter Williams’ insightful columns appearing as Courier Journal guest commentaries several times in recent years, courtesy of The Daily Signal.

Dr. Thomas Sowell is a syndicated columnist, a Marine Corp veteran, and has served on the faculties of several universities, including Cornell and UCLA. He is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, a public policy think tank at Stanford University.

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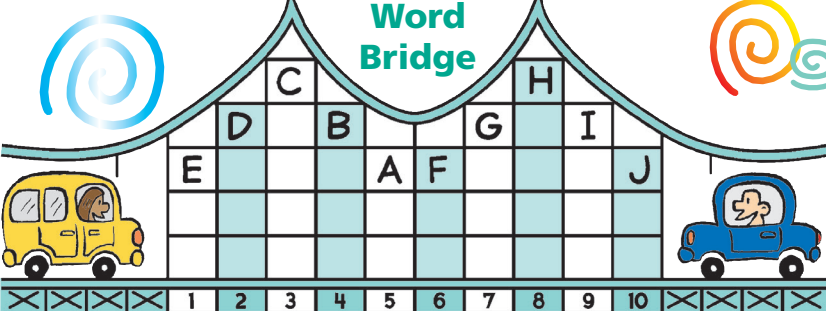
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LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 one-syllable words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

1. CAR	NEST
2. HERE	LED
3. EAR	ROT
4. DORM	TIC
5. GAB	ART
6. IMP	ANT

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Word Bridge

C	H		
D	B	G	I
E	A	F	J

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

1. Great self-esteem.
2. Disagreeably humid.
3. Type of TV transmission.
4. Refuse to go on.
5. Expression of surprise.
6. A Mediterranean cap.
7. A valley
8. What ghosts do.
9. Where travelers stay.
10. Preserved fruit.

Answers On Page 34

Illustrated by David Coulson

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CHEAPER PAINT EDGING

I recently purchased a house but could not afford a painter to come paint, so I decided to do it myself. My concern was buying all that blue tape to trim the edges with to make a “clean” edge with the paint

and then throwing it away. I searched for an alternative as the tape was expensive and the thought of throwing it away after I was done was appalling.

I came across latex bathroom caulk. I adhered the caulk to the top of the baseboard. I put just a thin

line down, and I didn’t mash it with my finger like you would if you really need to caulk something. I just made a small bead line. And then I painted. After I finished painting, I used the little V shaped caulk tool to start the edge of the caulk and it all came off in one long line. The paint line was as perfectly straight as if I’d taped it off. Best of all, I reused the caulk in another area. I used it to caulk my daughter’s window frames outside and mashed it in for actual use. The cost was minimal, it worked wonders, and there was no waste.

Wendy B.

JUNK DRAWER ORGANIZERS

You know those pesky kitchen junk drawers that get filled up with stuff so quickly? Then, when you look for something, you almost have to dig through half of the drawer to find a certain item. I nipped this problem in the bud with plastic tool organizers available in any home appliance store.

They are usually made of sturdy transparent plastic and are used to store nails, tacks, tools and other equipment. The containers are divided into sections of different sizes and have a plastic lid that fits tight to prevent the contents from spilling. Buy several of these (they’re quite inexpensive) and use them to organize your junk drawer. You’ll be glad you did. My junk drawer is so organized now that all I have to do is open the right container and grab the item I want without having to dig through the mess to get to it.

Karolina

See DOLLAR... page 32

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marker at
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87.3968 W

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~ Courtesy David Curott ~ author of “Signs of the Past” and “More Signs of the Past”

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Letters...

Continued from Page 23

Physicians No Longer on Front Lines: You Are

Editor:

State Health Officer is a difficult role to fill, especially this year. While partisanship and conspiracies continue to divide us, it is the job of the State Health Officer to make decisions for the good of all people throughout Alabama. This is exactly what Dr. Scott Harris has done for Alabamians during (and before) the COVID-19 pandemic.

After reading a recent article about Dr. Harris, I was appalled but not surprised by the fact that he has received death threats over mask mandates and other preventative measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. Governor Kay Ivey enacted the first mask mandate on July 16, 2020 at the recommendation of Dr. Harris and others. After the initial mandate, Alabama's case average and death rates quickly fell. Neighboring states without mask mandates – including Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Tennessee – all continued to rise above Alabama's average.

As President of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, I would like to proudly declare my support of Dr. Harris and Governor Ivey in regard to the mask ordinance, social distancing guidelines, and other measures to protect the citizens of Alabama. Science and data have shown us time and time again that these guidelines work. That being said, why are there still Alabamians who push against these life-saving initiatives?

While appealing to a sense of personal responsibility should be effective enough, it has proved not to be. What happens when personal responsibility is not enough, and people are endangering others? Mask mandates. Social distancing guidelines. Occupancy limitations.

Physicians and other health care providers have worked tirelessly to serve our patients, even at the cost of our own health and safety. What if I told you that we are no longer on the front lines of this pandemic, but you are? You have the power and capability to stop the spread of the Coronavirus

that has taken over 3,450 other people safe. Many lives in Alabama and 1.39 million lives worldwide. All you have to do to potentially save a life is to wear a mask in public, socially distance, and wash your hands. These simple actions not only save lives, but can also help our physicians and hospital systems not get overwhelmed with patients. You can help keep your family and our families safe at the same time.

As we head into this holiday season, we can't require people to keep themselves safe. But we are asking them to keep other people safe. Many people could be infected and transmit the disease to others without even knowing they are sick. I just hope that we can recontextualize the mask mandate and see it as a simple act of kindness to protect those around you. It seems like the least we can do for our families, friends, loved-ones, physicians, nurses, and communities as a whole.

John Meigs, Jr.
President, Medical Association of the State of Alabama
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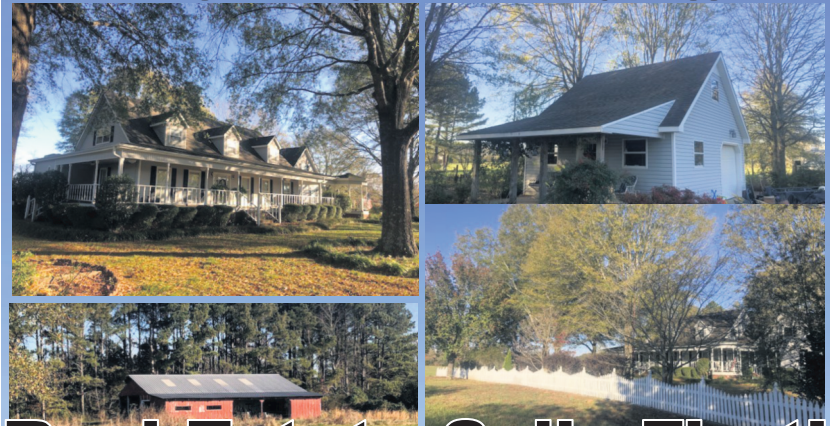


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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

PATIENCE, DETERMINATION... AND TIME

Dear Dave,
One of my resolutions this year was to start living on a budget, and gain control of my money. I never realized how easy it would be to get

discouraged early on. Can you give me some encouragement to help make my financial resolutions stick in 2021?
Collin

Dear Collin,
The secret to making a goal into a reality is getting started. It's really that simple. You also have to be realistic and accept the fact that nothing—especially things you've never done before—works out perfectly the first time around. That leads to the next step, which is patience. Most people think about losing 20 pounds, and immediately feel it needs to happen in the next month or so. It doesn't. And mostly likely, it won't. Like almost everything else worth doing, it's something that requires sacrifice and focus each day over an extended period of time. Crash courses are usually painful and rarely work out well. But once you've done something a few times, it becomes an easier and easier part of your daily routine. Pretty soon, it's not a chore or something you're afraid of.

Making a budget and gaining control of your finances works the same way. When you first create a money plan, it probably won't work out exactly as you hoped. That's okay. It will barely work the second month, but it won't be as scary, because you've already done it once. By the third month, you'll have a much better feel for it, and your stress levels will

go way down because you already know the basics. It just takes determination, patience, and intensity to get through the rough patches that go along with starting anything new.

A new year is just around the corner, Collin. Don't fall into the same old trap. Give yourself a little grace, but keep your eyes on the prize. Start preparing yourself now. You've got plenty of time to begin laying out a plan, and have a solid budget ready when January 1st arrives. It may feel like things are beginning slowly, but you can make

this happen if you'll just stick with it!
—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.*

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THE DOLLAR
Stretcher



Continued
from
Page 27

Dickens...

Continued from Page 12

limited line-up will be featured.

The popular carriage ride returns with Clyde and Pride, the Clydesdales. The rides will be free. All the Dickens characters will be strolling through downtown. And we haven't forgotten about Santa! It will be snowing at Cold Water Commons (the pocket park) where he will be visiting. Downtown shops and restaurants will be catering to every need

with masking and social distancing being practiced in all public areas.

Complimentary Christmas photos will be available on the Carousel in Spring Park from 11am -1pm.

Dickens Day Downtown is sponsored by Tusculumbia Retail Development. For more information, call 256-383-9797 or follow on Facebook.

BAKED ON POTS AND PANS

I use baking soda followed by a little bit of white vinegar poured on top as a pre-soak for cleaning pots/pans and bakeware with stubborn stains. If the baking soda/vinegar combo is slow to work, put the pan over a very low heat on the stove for about 15 minutes and this will increase the cleaning power.

Mary H.

SHE LIKES WOOL

Instead of buying an electric blanket, I bought a wool blanket for \$5 at a church sale. I think wool is great; I wash it gently in my washing machine, and it's very warm. It's only drawback is that it's itchy, so you need to layer with a sheet. I also use flannel sheets in the winter and can turn my thermostat down to about 58 degrees. The actual temperature when I get up in the morning is about 60 degrees.

Margaret P.

SAVE THE CAR MATS

Living in the cold and snowy north, our car mats get very full of sand, salt, slush and grime in the winter. I started putting old towels over our car mats in the winter to protect them. I wash the towels every month or so until spring arrives. Our 16-year-old Dodge Spirit has its original car mats that look like new!

Brenda N. in Rochester, MN

Courier
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Mystery
Photo



of the
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Savvy SENIOR

How to Write an Online Will

Dear Savvy Senior,
Writing a will has never been a high priority to me but this lingering coronavirus crisis has changed my thinking. Can you recommend some good do-it-yourself resources to help me write a simple will?

Getting Older

Dear Getting,
The coronavirus crisis has changed the way a lot of people look at things, including wills. Currently, fewer than half of American adults have prepared a will. But having a last will and testament is important because it ensures that your money and property will be distributed to the people you want to receive it after your death.
If you die without a will, your estate will be settled in accordance with state law. Details vary by state, but assets typically are distributed using a hierarchy of survivors. Assets go to first to a spouse, then to children, then your siblings, and so on.
You also need to be aware that certain accounts take precedence over a will. If you jointly own a home or a bank account, for example, the house, and the funds in the account, will go to the joint holder, even if your will directs otherwise. Similarly, retirement accounts and life insurance policies are distributed to the beneficiaries you designate, so it is important to keep them up to date too.

Online Will Makers
If you have a simple, straightforward estate and an uncomplicated family situation, writing your own will – with the help of a good online will making program – is a viable alternative to hiring an attorney and much cheaper. Like tax software, these online tools will guide you through a series of questions and will insert your answers into a will for you, and it usually takes less than 20 minutes from start to finish.
Three top-rated do-it-yourself options include the Quicken WillMaker & Trust 2021 downloadable software (available at nolo.com) that costs \$100 and works with Windows and Macs and is valid in every state except Louisiana; LegalZoom (legalzoom.com), which offers basic wills for \$89 or \$99 if you'd like assistance from an independent attorney; and Trust & Will (trustandwill.com) which charges \$89 for a basic will.
If that's more than you're willing to pay, consider FreeWill (freewill.com), which is a completely free will making resource made possible with the support of nonprofit organizations.

When to Hire a Lawyer
If you have considerable financial assets or a complex family situation, like a blended family or child with special needs, it would be smart for you to seek professional advice. An experienced lawyer can make sure you cover all your bases, which can help avoid family confusion and squabbles after you're gone.
The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (naela.org) and the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (naepc.org) websites are good resources that have directories to help you find someone in your area.

Costs will vary depending on your location and the complexity of your situation, but you can expect to pay somewhere between \$200 and \$1,000 to get your will made. To help you save, shop around and get price quotes from several different firms. And before you meet with an attorney, make a detailed list of your assets and accounts to help make your visit more efficient.

Make it Valid
Be aware that to make your will valid, you must sign and date it and have it witnessed according to the laws of your state. Most states require two witnesses who are not listed as beneficiaries in your will to watch you sign it. Some states also require that a notary witness the signing as well. Nationalnotary.org can tell you if a notary is needed to legalize a will in your state, if remote notary services are available, and how to access such online services to execute your will if you are sheltering at home during the pandemic.

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Jim Miller is a contributor to the
NBC *Today* show and author of
“*The Savvy Senior*” book.





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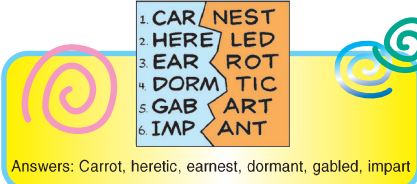
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Answers: Carrot, heretic, earnest, dormant, gabled, impart



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Community Notes...

Continued from page 4

2218 or Amy Rogers at 256-443-4585, website crossroadsco.org or Facebook at Crossroads Community Outreach.

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.

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 #msnhaphotocontest. 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 Rehomeducate 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 Rehomeducate Adopt Love or website www.rehomeducate.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.

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Ray Miller Discount **\$6,100**
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#21G-065. Must finance with GMF. Must have trade 15 or newer. W.A.C.



ENCORE 2020

Rebate **\$3,500**
*Buick Targeted Private Offer **\$1,500**
*GM Targeted Private Offer **\$500**
Ray Miller Discount **\$1,691**
(For GMF) Additional **\$1,500**
Up To **\$8,700 OFF** MSRP
#20B-061. Must finance with GMF. Must have trade 15 or newer. W.A.C. *Must qualify.



ACADIA 2020

Rebate **\$3,250**
Ray Miller Discount **\$4,451**
Up To **\$7,700 OFF** MSRP
#20G-306. Must finance with GMF. Must have trade 15 or newer. W.A.C.



ENCORE GX 2020

Rebate **\$2,400**
*Buick Targeted Private Offer **\$1,500**
*Costco Member Private Offer **\$1,000**
Ray Miller Discount **\$1,851**
(For GMF) Additional **\$1,500**
Up To **\$8,250 OFF** MSRP
#20B-080. Must finance with GMF. Must have trade 15 or newer. W.A.C. *Must qualify.



TERRAIN 2020

Rebate **\$4,250**
Ray Miller Discount **\$3,341**
Up To **\$7,600 OFF** MSRP
#20G-299. Must finance with GMF. Must have trade 15 or newer. W.A.C.



ENCLAVE 2020

Rebate **\$3,750**
*Buick Targeted Private Offer **\$1,500**
*Costco Member Private Offer **\$1,000**
Ray Miller Discount **\$3,631**
Up To **\$10,000 OFF** MSRP
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<p>Your Pre-Owned Choice Since 1964</p>	<p>16 Ford Expedition #20B-130C, 4 Door, Leather, 3rd Row, Local Trade!</p>  <p>\$22,788</p>	<p>17 Buick Envision #17P-4634, 4 Door, Leather, Sunroof, Navigation!</p>  <p>\$22,888</p>	<p>17 GMC Terrain Denali #21G-008A, 4 Door, Leather, Sunroof, 45K Miles!</p>  <p>\$23,688</p>	<p>17 GMC Acadia #17P-5143, 4 Door, SLE, 3rd Row, 1 Owner!</p>  <p>\$23,888</p>	<p>16 GMC Terrain Denali #20G-256B, 4 Door, 1 Owner, Sunroof, 6 Yr/100K Limited Warranty!</p>  <p>\$24,888</p>
<p>18 Nissan Maxima #21G-035A, 4 Door, Auto, Full Power, Local Trade!</p>  <p>\$24,888</p>	<p>17 GMC Acadia All Terrain #20G-318B, 4 Door, V6, Leather, Nice Local Trade!</p>  <p>\$28,788</p>	<p>17 Buick Enclave #20G-291A, 4 Door, Leather, 27K Miles, 6 Yr/100K Limited Warranty!</p>  <p>\$29,988</p>	<p>Great Selection of Local Trades!</p>	<p>18 GMC Terrain Denali #18P-6146, 4 Door, Leather, Sunroof, 6 Yr/100K Limited Warranty!</p>  <p>\$30,788</p>	<p>18 Buick Enclave #18P-8397, 4 Door, Leather, 1 Owner, 6 Yr/100K Limited Warranty!</p>  <p>\$31,788</p>
<p>16 Toyota 4Runner #20B-124A, 4 Door, Limited, Leather, 49K Miles!</p>  <p>\$32,888</p>	<p>18 Toyota 4Runner #21G-027A, 4 Door, 4WD, XP Package, Loaded!</p>  <p>\$34,888</p>	<p>17 Toyota Tundra #20G-317A, Crew Cab, 1 Owner, Local Trade!</p>  <p>\$39,788</p>	<p>20 Enclave Avenir #20P-0299, 4 Door, 1 Owner, Loaded, 6 Yr/100K Limited Warranty!</p>  <p>\$48,788</p>	<p>20 Toyota Tundra #21G-031A, Crew Cab, Leather, 4x4, 10K Miles!</p>  <p>\$48,888</p>	<p>17 GMC Yukon XL Denali #21G-039A, Leather, Sunroof, Navigation, 6 Yr/100K Limited Warranty!</p>  <p>\$48,988</p>

ALL prices DO NOT INCLUDE tax, title & fees. Some photos for illustration purposes only.