

**Valentine's  
Strawberries**

SHOALS— Gateway Apostolic Church in Florence is offering Milk or White Chocolate-Covered Strawberries through this week for your special someone or for yourself. Special Valentine's pricing includes \$20/ dozen or \$13/ half dozen for pick-up orders, and \$25/ dozen, \$18/ half dozen for delivered orders in the Shoals area. Proceeds from the strawberry sales go toward church updates and the church's building fund. Call 931-252-8841 with questions or to place your order. Gateway Apostolic Church is located at 103 Simpson Street in Florence.



More SHORTS... on Page 2

Volume 137 Number 16

February 10, 2021

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**Cherishing Her Cards**

Hundreds Came for Her Birthday

By Lisa Singleton-Rickman  
TimesDaily Staff Writer  
Originally published 1.29.21

MUSCLE SHOALS — When Barbara Moomaw's 77th birthday was approaching this year, her husband of 56 years, Jimmy, conspired with his Washington Park Baptist Church family to celebrate in the safest way possible through a card drive. Church friends and family put the word out about Barbara's Jan. 23 birthday and the cards started rolling in.



At last count, Mrs. Barbara, as she's affectionately known to friends, had collected 533 cards. However, that was before the next

**Barbara Moomaw with a few of her 600+ birthday cards.**

Courtesy photo

See BIRTHDAY CARDS... on Page 6

**YMCA, City Invite You to RESET at the River**

FLORENCE—Everyone is invited to RESET at the River every day at noon from February 15-March 13 at McFarland Park. YMCA of the Shoals and the Florence Parks and Rec Dept. are sponsoring the daily event to help everyone restart, get some fresh air, move and be inspired as we get into the new year! RESET at the RIVER will include inspirational speakers, exercise instructors, and

nutritionists sharing information about RECONNECTING with others, REINVESTING in yourself and your community, REFRESHING your food knowledge and choices, and RESTORING your spirit, mind and body. The challenge of exercising 20 minutes a day 5 days a week will prevail throughout the RESET



See RESET... on Page 6

**Antibody Therapy at NAMC**



FLORENCE – North Alabama Medical Center (NAMC) is offering bamlanivimab and casirivimab and imdevimab, a new monoclonal antibody therapy, for treatment of non-hospitalized patients with a mild or moderate case of COVID-19. The drug was developed by pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals,

Inc., and it recently received emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration. It is now being allocated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health and other state agencies.

See ANTIBODY... on Page 11

**Inside this Issue**

**Automotive Inside NOW**  
Oakley Auto Sales  
National Advance Auto Sales  
Jeff Elledge Auto Sales

- On Your Debt
- Medicare Minute
- Cat & Kids
- Dave Ramsey
- Junior Whirl

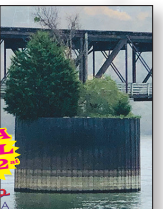
- Professor Meets the Concrete Confederate
- Guest Commentary
- Hocus • Soaps
- Ask the Attorney

- TVAA Art Show
- Adopt-a-Friend
- Insurance Insights
- Your Letters
- Two Pages of Jobs



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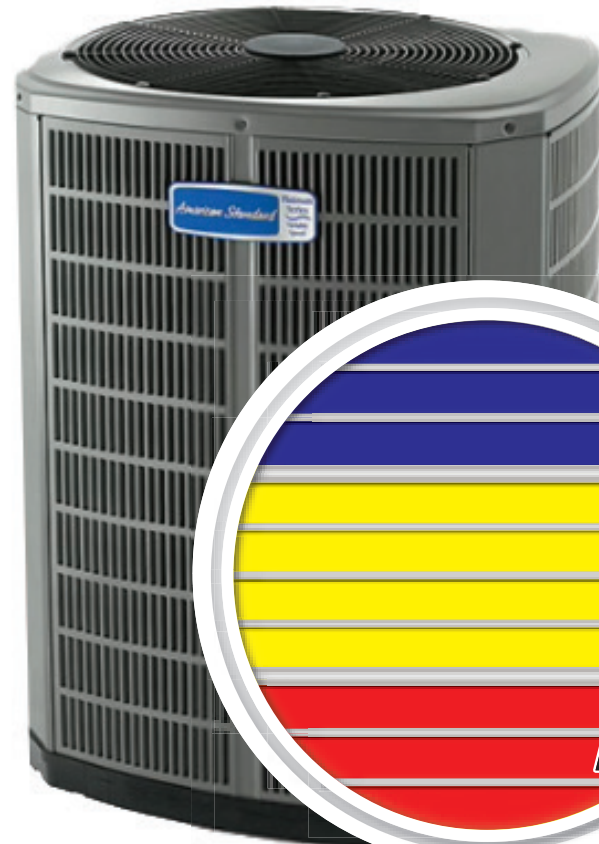
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## Shorts...

Continued from Page 1

### Space Camp Scholarships

RUSSELLVILLE—Middle-school students who live in Alabama House District 18 are eligible to apply for scholarships to attend a special Space Camp program free of charge. This includes students who live in Lauderdale, Colbert, and Franklin counties.

"The importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) cannot be emphasized enough. I want to be sure that our students in rural Alabama have the same opportunity to attend Space Camp as other kids in the state", said District 18 Rep. **Jamie Kiel**.

Students ages 12-14 may apply for Space Academy for Leading Students in Alabama (SALSA), a Space Camp program funded by the Alabama legislature. One male and one female student living in the district will receive a scholarship to attend SALSA. To be eligible for SALSA, students must apply before the February 27 deadline. The two students chosen will be notified in March 2021. The camp will take place

in May. Each scholarship includes tuition, room and board for the Space Academy program. Travel to and from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center is not included.

To learn more, visit [www.spacecamp.com/salsa](http://www.spacecamp.com/salsa).

### Community Action Grant

MONTGOMERY—Grants totaling \$47.8 million have been awarded to help low-income households with utility costs during the cold winter and hot summer months.

"The coldest and hottest times of the year hit many low-income residents particularly hard," Gov. **Kay Ivey** said, "These grants will provide additional funding to assist in lowering the costs for many of them." stated Gov. Ivey. She awarded the grants to 19 community agencies that manage the program of emergency funding at the local level that will help low-income families heat and cool their homes this year.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering the grants from funds made available by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These grants in addition to grant funds

of \$13 million in grants awarded through the CARES Act in late 2020.

Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama Inc. that serves Colbert, Franklin, and Lauderdale counties will receive \$1.38 million this year. For more information or to apply for assistance, call 256-766-4330.

### Women of Action Series

FLORENCE – The Women of Action Speaker Series on the University of North Alabama campus is set to launch February 17. The series is sponsored by Community Service and Outreach, the Mitchell-West Center for Social Inclusion, and the Center for Women's Studies.

"When the series began in the Fall of 2020, we wanted to showcase women in the community who excel in areas of civic engagement, education, business, and leadership," said Dr. **Andrea Hunt**, Founding Director of the Mitchell-West Center for Social Inclusion and Special Assistant to the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. "This group of women is equally as talented and have contributed a great deal to the success of our community."

See SHORTS.. on Page 8



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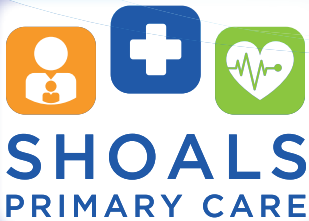
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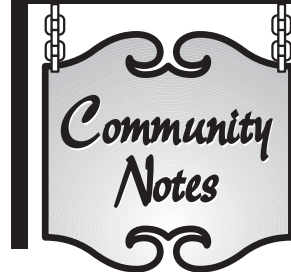
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**Milk or White Chocolate Covered Strawberries For Sale** - \$20 dozen, \$13 1/2 dozen (picked up), \$25 dozen, \$18 1/2 dozen (delivered in Shoals area). To order call 931-252-8841. Gateway Apostolic Church, 103 Simpson Street, Florence.

**The deadline for entry in Artistic Renderings of Youth is February 19.** This is a juried exhibit of artwork open to 7th - 12th grade students from Colbert, Franklin and Lauderdale counties. The exhibit opens March 1 and runs through March 31 at Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts in Florence.

The exhibit and competition are coordinated by area art teachers. Schools may participate or students can enter on their own. Each student can enter up to three works. Entries are juried and, if accepted, are eligible for ribbons awarded in different grade level groupings. Works must be original and can be in any medium. All 2-dimensional entries must be matted or framed. Framed pieces and canvases must have hanging wire attached on the back.

For more details on entry rules call Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts 256-760-6379.

Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is located at 217 East Tuscaloosa Street in Florence.

**2021 February Holy Days of Religions in the Shoals include:**

- Chinese New Year, February 12
- Christian, St. Valentine's Day, February 14
- Hindu, Vasant Panchami, February 16
- Christian, Shrove Tuesday, February 16
- Christian, Lent begins, February 17
- Jewish, Purim, February 26

**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.

**Keeping the Dream Alive** - Thank you to all Keepers of the Dream. Starting from 2008 when we held our first MLK Youth Tournament to now. Even during COVID-19, God's Way Counseling Services for the Youth is Keeping the Dream Alive and we hope you are too.

Even though we are unable to physically hold and showcase our annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Basketball Tournament, we will still be accepting donations and contributions to stay engaged and continue assisting community members most affected by this pandemic. Our hearts go out to all of the people that we've lost this year due to COVID.

Thank you all in advance for your continued tax-deductible support and gifts. Make checks payable to: God's Way Counseling Services for Youth, Inc.

**The Shoals Writer's Guild** is tentatively planning to resume meeting on February 20 pending the library's permission. Membership dues will be postponed until the Guild resumes meeting. If you have already paid your dues, and you would like a proration please email Joy Willow at shoalswritersguild@gmail.com.

**Governor Kay Ivey and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) announced** Friday that starting February 8, ADPH will extend eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations to include people 65 or older, and additional groups of frontline workers. Details about the Vaccine Allocation Plan are available at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19.

Frontline Critical Workers listed in the plan are as follows:

- First responders
- Corrections officers
- Food and agriculture workers
- U.S. Postal Service workers
- Manufacturing workers
- Grocery store workers
- Public transit workers
- People who work in the education sector (teachers, support staff, community college and higher education)
- Childcare workers
- Judiciary (including but not limited to) circuit judges, district judges and district attorneys

The additional priority groups will add over 1 million people that are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination in Alabama. While just under 2 million people will qualify to receive the vaccine, the state continues to only receive around 100,000 doses each week.

**See NOTES... page 21**

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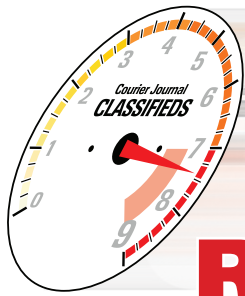
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## Birthday Cards...

Continued from Page 1

day's mail was delivered. Some first- and second-grade classes at Webster Elementary made her cards, adding another 63 to the tally.

The total has risen daily since the word got out about a week before her birthday.

Jimmy Moomaw said his wife, who is dealing with Parkinson's disease and dementia, hasn't been able to be out and about the past 10 months because of COVID-19 concerns.

The couple's frequent travel was likewise thwarted last year.

Jimmy considered a drive-by birthday parade, but feared it would be too cold for her to sit outside and enjoy it.

Jimmy initially wanted to keep all the cards until Barbara's birthday and surprise her, but it soon became apparent that wasn't doable.

"The mailman started delivering them on Tuesday before her Saturday birthday and there were so many, I knew I had to let her have them as they came in or it would take forever to get through them all," he said.

"I joked that the mailman was probably thinking with all those cards that I'd died and she was getting sympathy cards."

Moomaw went to the mailbox and found 169

cards addressed to his wife. "She is well-loved by a whole lot of people," he said.

The outpouring of love for Barbara came from all around including 11 states.

She received cards from her friends from Waterloo, where she attended high school; from co-workers from ECM from which she retired in 1995 as a secretary; and from countless people she'd taught during her 40 years as a Sunday school leader.

"I just can't tell you why there was such a response," Barbara said. "Jimmy never meets a stranger and has always gotten me involved with many different groups of people, so I guess that's how I've come to know so many people."

"It has always been that when you see one of us, you see us both," she said. "I couldn't believe all these cards, and I read every one of them, more than once, actually."

Cathy Puckett, a church friend of the Moomaws, said people were eager to send birthday cards to Barbara because "it seemed like a great way to give back a little for all her years of friendship and kindness."

"To know her is to love her and we're just thrilled that this brought her some well-deserved happiness on her birthday — and beyond," said Cathy.

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## RESET...

Continued from Page 1

at the RIVER CAMPAIGN. And a RESET Activities sheet will be shared and encouraged. Get out of your house, put on your mask, and spread out at our beautiful river and be inspired! Be ready to move! Join your community. Let's RESET at the RIVER and bring some energy and joy into 2021!



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# Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

## "Hey Gran"

Ruby, our fully understood and was as patient as needed. A first-born trooper. I knew that things and people were better when days later Ruby and her mom Skyped, both smiling with no mask. "Hey Gran," Ruby said. "Mom and I were just talking about how weird you are." "Really?!" I said. "And what exactly were y'all saying?" Then between giggles they shared a little list of the weird things that I supposedly do. "You talk to yourself while you are cooking". (But I'm sure that everyone does that me. How blessed am I - not weird - I thought.) "You start laughing so hard that you cry in the middle of the night at things that aren't funny." (I have seen others do this.) "You call people, "Hey Gran," but this time "Bingo", "Pudd'nhead", "Yamaha", "BooBoo" or anything else that comes to your head. (Well...) "Oh, and you know a thousand camp songs like 'Annie Mae' and 'Granny's in the Cellar'". (I will have to share the words of these songs with her because her little brother, Jericho isn't two yet, so it was a little disconcerting. But I also let her know that these Ruby calls have been the brightest spot in these pandemic days. She has lifted me up just by the way she says my name. She has me at the "Hey Gran". In normal days, who lights up when you see them? Have you called him or her or them during these days of separation to wish them a happy birthday or show them your crafting or to pray with them or to show them your strawberry popsicle or to tell them the funny weird things that they do? Call somebody and let them know that you genuinely miss them and love them. It will bring a smile to your face.

Then she proceeds as if she can see my face. Her sweet little voice is just filled with the excitement of having something to share and with flat-out joy! She is always smiling with one tooth missing and speaking like we are old friends. Her sweet greeting and grin make me feel the way my mom made me feel - like she was always happy to see me. How blessed am I to have this genuine little grandbaby face in my life! About a month ago, I got one of the saddest calls I can remember, though. It was Ruby, and she said, "Hey Gran," but this time her voice inflection went down on the "Gran". "My little brother has the COVID," she said. Ruby was truly upset. They have been trying to avoid the virus but Jericho got it first. Then her mom and dad got it. I commiserated with her because her little brother, Jericho is not two yet, so it was a little disconcerting. But I also let her know that they all could get better because I had gotten better. Luckily, they all displayed mild symptoms of low fever and fatigue. And thankfully Ruby never got it. During the isolation time, I became Ruby's quarantine playmate. She'd call and say, "Hey Gran. Look at what my Barbies are doing." Or "Hey Gran. Look at the sheet that I'm coloring." She seemed to be the one in quarantine but this was mostly by her own choice. One evening she called me and said, "Hey Gran. I'm having dinner in my room. All the people who have COVID are downstairs eating, but I chose to eat in my room." Wow! What a little baby had to figure out and deal with. She

Email comments or suggestions to [CatnKids1@gmail.com](mailto:CatnKids1@gmail.com)

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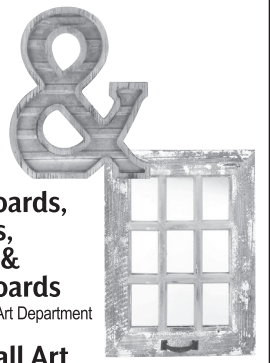
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# LOVE THY NEIGHBORHOOD. HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES.



## Shorts...

### Women of Action Series

Continued from Page 2

This semester's notable speakers include:

- **Tori Bailey**, February 17, at 5:30pm
- **Chelsea Kauchik**, March 17, at 5:30pm
- **Andrea Holt**, April 21, at 5:30pm

Each presentation will be via Zoom, and registration can be found at [www.una.edu/socialinclusion/events](http://www.una.edu/socialinclusion/events), and additional information is at [www.una.edu/womensstudies](http://www.una.edu/womensstudies).

### Masks Req'd on the Trace

WASHINGTON – To protect the health of those who live, work, and visit our national parks and facilities, and in support of the President's Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing, the National Park Service (NPS) last week implemented a mask requirement for employees, visitors,

partners, and contractors. The mandate includes the Natchez Trace Parkway through Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee.

Masks are now required in all NPS buildings, facilities, and on NPS-managed lands when physical distancing cannot be maintained, including narrow or busy trails, overlooks and historic homes. Additional public health measures are in place across the service, from capacity limits to one-way trails, or temporary closures in response to local conditions.

"Working with public health officials and following the latest science and guidance, we can make national parks safer for employees, visitors and partners," said NPS Deputy Director **Shawn Benge**. "We will continue to evaluate operations and make appropriate modifications to visitor services as needed."

Visitors should check park websites and social media channels for details before they visit. Park rangers are on duty to provide information, protect visitors and park resources, and uphold this requirement.

### *The Table is Almost Set*

You hear many religious people remark, "America is just not in the bible." But the born-again child of God that studies the Bible and believes it knows better. The main game played today in America is "DECEPTION", and the master of ceremonies is the Devil. See John 8:44 and **Revelation 12:9** "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." **Revelation 12:12** "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Folks, your main problem with Revelation is not understanding it, but believing it. The (Elitists) of the world have attributed most of Revelation, if not all of it, to the past for fear it is talking right to them. But, studying carefully and believing the events literally will show such catastrophes have never happened. It's not mysteries or synecdoche or hyperboles.

America is in the Bible. God has in the KJV historically used birds, serpent, animals, metals, beasts, the sea, to refer to countries and or individuals or all humanity. America is in Ezekiel 38, (young lions); in Daniel 7, "like a leopard"; in Revelation 13, "unto a leopard". That's just three. Instead of following someone too lazy to search these things out, do it yourself. There's only one nation that fits the criteria of these beasts and that's America. Matching the nations in Daniel 7, and the (fourth beast), and then in Revelation 13, (another beast), when the real bad boy shows up will put you right on target. The devil will then reveal who he really is. The nations are all in place, the U.N., W.H.O., C.D.C., C.F.R. & The Trilateral commission, the world bank, the international monetary fund, and the one with all the answers is soon to reveal himself. Me, I'm looking for the Saviour. Hope you are too. Dear saved one, you're going up soon.

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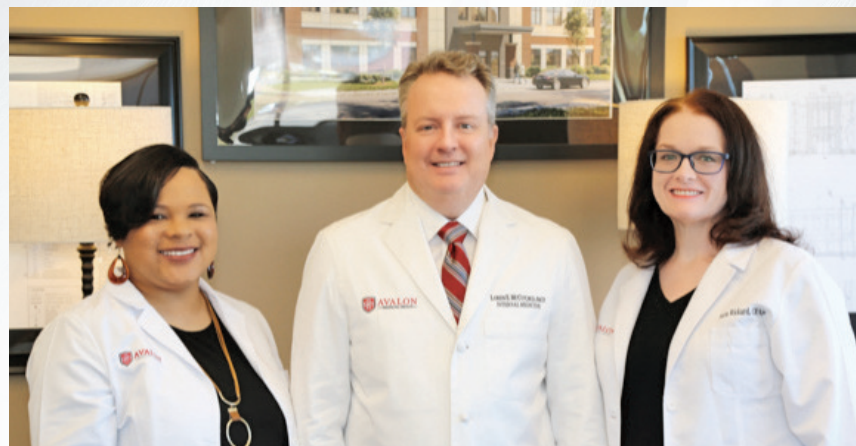
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**2/\$5**

**Select Betty Crocker Hamburger Helper Box**  
**99¢**

**Select Margaret Holmes Vegetables**  
  
 14.5 Oz.  
**89¢**

**Select Folgers Coffee**  
  
 24.2-30.5 Oz.  
**\$6.49**

**Kraft Original Mayo**  
 30 Oz.  
**\$3.49**

**Lipton Family Size Tea Bags**  
 24 Ct.  
**\$2.19**

**Cap'n Crunch Cereal**  
  
 12-14 Oz.  
**2/\$5**

**Select GM Cereals**  
  
 Cinn. Toast Crunch, Honey Nut Cheerios Or Lucky Charms 32 Oz.  
**\$4.99**

**Frito Lay Doritos**  
  
 9.25-10.5 Oz., Cheetos 7.5-8.5 Oz. Or Fritos 7-9.25 Oz.  
**2/\$5**

**Coke Products**  
  
 6 Pk. 1.5 Liters Bottles  
**5/\$11**

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

**Coke Products**  
  
 8 Pk. 12 Oz. Bottles  
**3/\$12**

**Select GM Cereals**  
  
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**Broccoli Crowns**  
  
**99¢** Lb.

**Yellow Onions**  
  
**\$1.79** 3 Lb. Bag

**Trayed Tomatoes**  
  
**\$1.99** 4 Ct.

**Fresh Express 50/50 Mix, Spring Mix Or Baby Spinach**  
  
**2/\$5** 5 Oz.

**Idaho Potatoes**  
  
**\$2.99** 8 Lb. Bag

# Antibody...

Continued from Page 1

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful viruses. Bamlanivimab and casirivimab and imdevimab is specifically designed to help block the SARS-CoV-2 virus and prevent the virus from further infecting healthy cells. Administered intravenously, this innovative treatment is designed to help lessen the severity of COVID-19 in individuals who are COVID-19-positive and are at risk for developing a severe form of the disease. "NAMC is proud to offer this treatment locally for qualifying patients, and our team has seen promising results in our initial patients," said Casey Willis, Associate

Administrator. "We've provided nearly 500 infusions and of those people, only 12 have been admitted as patients for COVID-19. Offering this treatment locally is an important step forward in helping prevent the most at-risk patients from being hospitalized due to COVID-19." Patients must meet specific clinical criteria, including having a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 that is mild or moderate; having underlying health conditions or > 65 years of age; and being stable enough not to require hospitalization. A bamlanivimab and casirivimab and imdevimab treatment requires an order from the patient's provider.

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Detailed position announcements and applications can be requested by visiting the web page at [www.nwsc.edu](http://www.nwsc.edu) or by contacting the Office of Human Resources at 256-331-5229. NW-SCC is an equal opportunity employer

Part-time Production Worker  
Day and Night Shift

TimesDaily has an opening for entry level positions in our Packaging Department. Candidates must be reliable and able to work flexible work schedules. Must be able to work weekends and holidays. This is a physical, fast-paced position that involves continual lifting, standing and bending. Must be able to lift and carry up to 40 pounds. Team work. Must be 18 years of age or older.

Applications can be picked up at TimesDaily  
219 W. Tennessee Street,  
Florence, AL 35630  
EEOC

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### Part-time Non-CDL Truck Driver

The TimesDaily has a position available for a Part-Time Non-CDL Truck Driver. The ideal candidate must have an excellent driving record and a clean MVR (motor vehicle report) as well as proof of personal auto insurance. Candidate must pass a DOT physical, be able to lift up to 50 pounds, and be capable of driving up to 8 hours at a time. Must be able to work flexible schedules including days, nights, weekends, and holidays as needed.

Please email resumes to [hollie.cotella@timesdaily.com](mailto:hollie.cotella@timesdaily.com).

Applications may be picked up at 219 West Tennessee Street, Florence, AL 35630.

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**Quad Cities Taxi**  
 Is looking for **Taxicab Drivers, and Wheel-chair Van Drivers.** Day and night shifts. Must be 25. Apply in person at 122 N. Royal Ave., Florence, between 8 am and 4 pm, Mon.-Fri. (No phone calls please)

**Circulation District Manager**  
 The Decatur Daily currently has an opening for a Circulation District Manager. The Circulation District Manager is responsible for recruiting and advising a contract newspaper carrier force for the distribution of newspapers and other related products.

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 Assisted Living  
 Please come by and pick up an application  
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**Part-time Non-CDL Truck Driver**  
 The TimesDaily has a position available for a Part-Time Non-CDL Truck Driver. The ideal candidate must have an excellent driving record and a clean MVR (motor vehicle report) as well as proof of personal auto insurance. Candidate must pass a DOT physical, be able to lift up to 50 pounds, and be capable of driving up to 8 hours at a time. Must be able to work flexible schedules including days, nights, weekends, and holidays as needed.  
 Please email resumes to hollie.colella@timesdaily.com.  
 Applications may be picked up at 219 West Tennessee Street, Florence, AL 35630.

This is a full-time position that offers an annual salary of \$26,000 and \$3,000+ bonus opportunity, plus full benefits including medical, dental, 401(k) and mileage reimbursement.  
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 Ability to lift a minimum of 50 pounds  
 Ability to work independently with minimum supervision  
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**1st shift Lead Multi-Craft Maintenance Mechanic** needed to join ES Robbins Corporation. Primary requirements: 10 years experience in plant maintenance required.  
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 Electrical troubleshooting skills needed: AC/DC motors, relay's, safety circuits, starters. Mechanical skills needed: welding, hands-on, pumps, forklift.  
 Must be able to work any shift, be able to repair equipment, perform preventive maintenance on equipment and have good communication skills. Must be able to lift and carry heavy items as well as work on elevated levels. Strong work ethic required.  
 Email [jobopportunities@esrobbins.com](mailto:jobopportunities@esrobbins.com) or apply in person at **2802 E Avalon Ave, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661**  
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 Apply in person:  
 1769 Lawrence Street  
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 or Online @ [Indeed.com](http://Indeed.com)

**Guest Commentary**

*Liberals Want a 'Return to Civility.'*  
**When Did They Practice It?**

**A** 2020 Joe Biden campaign ad described the pending election as an "opportunity to leave the dark, angry politics of the past behind us." After Biden's election, the Democrats and media urge a "return to civility." But when did the Democrats practice the very civility to which they seek to return?

Let's go to the videotape: When Barry Goldwater accepted the 1964 Republican nomination, California's Democratic Gov. Pat Brown said, "The stench of fascism is in the air."

Former Rep. William Clay Sr., D-Mo., said President Ronald Reagan was "trying to replace the Bill of Rights with fascist precepts lifted verbatim from 'Mein Kampf.'"

Coretta Scott King said this in 1980, "I am scared that if Ronald Reagan gets into office, we are going to see more of the Ku Klux Klan and a resurgence of the Nazi Party."

After Republicans took control of the House in the mid-'90s, Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich.,

**See CIVILITY?... on Page 33**

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



LARRY ELDER



**Courier Journal**

in the *Shoals*

**THIS WEEK**

February 10, 2021

*Happening*  
**THIS WEEK**

**Empowering Presence**

Display by Southern Black Artists Opens February 13

Portrait by Michi Meko

Courtesy images



**T U S C U M B I A** – The Tennessee Valley Museum of Art (TVMA) is hosting art exhibitions by two prominent Southern Black artists, Michi Meko and Lynthia Edwards, as well as displaying artwork by Charlie Lucas and Kerrigan Casey.

These exhibitions open on Saturday, February 13 and will be on display through

Friday, April 2.

"These exhibitions explore the African American experience in the south through the eyes of four established and emerging Black artists. These artists present a diversity of experiences within Black identity. These works of art emphasize and empower Black presence through

stunning visual narrative," said Christi Britten, the executive director of the Tennessee Valley Art Association, which runs the museum.

Michi Meko, a Florence native, is an Atlanta-based artist who has earned national recognition.

**See EMPOWERING...on 26**

**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE SHOALS** presents Valentine's Day Charcuterie and Flowers to go! - The event is sponsored by Sweet Basil Cafe and Kaleidoscope Florist & Designs which will donate a percentage of each order to the Children's Museum.

On one hand, choose from boxes of fine Cured Meats, Soft and Hard Cheeses, Nuts, Sweet Bites, Gourmet Honey or Fruit Preserves, and mouthwatering Sweet Basil specialties. There's even a kids Mac N' Cheese dinner for 4 little appetites. On the other hand, choose from 3, 6, or 12 Roses, a Cosmopolitan Arrangement, boxed Chocolates, Plush Teddy Bears, or Valentine's Balloons.

Custom orders are welcome. The deadline for orders is 5pm on Wednesday, February 10. For more details, a list of options, or to order, call the Children's Museum at 256 - 284-7107 between 10am-5pm. You MUST call CMS for them to receive a portion of the proceeds.

**BASKETBALL**  
**MEN**  
**FEB. 12 & 13**  
**vs Liberty**  
**in Flowers Hall**

**WOMEN**  
**RETURN FEB. 20**  
**vs. Bellarmine in Flowers Hall**

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**VOLLEYBALL**  
**FEB. 13 & 14**  
**vs Liberty**  
**in Flowers Hall**

**SOFTBALL**  
**FEB. 12-14**  
**Alabama State Stinger Classic**  
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**THE UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST ALABAMA** hopes to 'Clear the Waitlist' of children who are waiting to be enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Success By 6. Every \$30 donation will enroll a child for an entire year, but ANY amount will help! To donate online, visit [uwnwal.harnessapp.com/wv2/campaign/3461](http://uwnwal.harnessapp.com/wv2/campaign/3461) or call 256-764-5892 or more information.

**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](mailto:editor@courierjournal.net)  
• FAX- 256-760-9618

**Will We Ever Get that Railroad Overpass?**

Mr. Magazzu,

I believe I started writing letters about the railroad overpass around 2005 that were published in the Courier Journal and have submitted several more that were published over the years.

I did a drawing of my proposal and showed it to a couple of my coworkers back

into Sheffield that ran along the tracks which could probably be tied in with the new Inspiration Landing project.

I later proposed that a private firm build the overpass to ALDOT standards which would have been far cheaper than the current proposals. I suggested that it be a toll overpass with smart phone readers that could charge a person's account and after the private firm got a reasonable return on their investment it would be given to the state of Alabama. I told you about the drawing I made, but you said you couldn't publish it at that time.

The latest \$120,000 study on the best places for a railroad overpass in the Shoals area has "can you believe five" locations. My initially-proposed

I remember pointing out in one of my letters that the center lane would be for emergency vehicles only and that

*...So the 45th President's exit from power a few weeks ago was needful and right. It was, in fact, imperative...*



if one life was saved it would be worth it. I also pointed out that construction of an overpass at that location could be almost entirely built without interrupting traffic until it was tied into the existing streets. It also had another entrance

into Sheffield that ran along the tracks which could probably be tied in with the new Inspiration Landing project.

I later proposed that a private firm build the overpass to ALDOT standards which would have been far cheaper than the current proposals. I suggested that it be a toll overpass with smart phone readers that could charge a person's account and after the private firm got a reasonable return on their investment it would be given to the state of Alabama. I told you about the drawing I made, but you said you couldn't publish it at that time.

The latest \$120,000 study on the best places for a railroad overpass in the Shoals area has "can you believe five" locations. My initially-proposed

**See LETTERS...on Page 18**





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- Hartselle/Cullman Contact: Machel 256-227-7807
- Priceville/Somerville Contact: Greg 256-497-0515

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**Courier Journal** **Mystery Photo**  
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Last week's winner is **Dan Kenney** of Cherokee who correctly guessed  
**"Shoals Marine, Cox Blvd. Sheffield, AL"**

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## Letters...

### Railroad Overpass?

Continued from Page 14

location was one of the two favorites of the latest from the design firm presented to the commissioners. A two lane was the cheapest and of the two favorites, my location was cheaper than all the other proposals. The two locations near downtown Sheffield are completely ridiculous and the craziest one was an underpass in this area that has flooding issues constantly.

The Cox Blvd to King Street that ties into Avalon is the only one that ever made any sense. I will be glad to share the drawing I made with anybody who wants to see it. I named the overpass in the drawing as "Unity Overpass" because this location would tie Tuscumbia, Muscle Shoals, and Sheffield together. It's a shame that it has taken this many years of discussion. We still don't have one, and we may not get one this time.

**Roger Henry**  
Russellville

### It Was Trump's Time to Go

Editor:

Donald Trump loved America greatly, but he loved himself more.

A man who had made a legion of enemies, mostly for all the right reasons, his unbounded self-absorption at last made him his own worst enemy.

And in so doing, tragically, Trump became the unwitting foe of the very cause he zealously set out to befriend the American cause.

Until in the end, by no one's doing but his own, Donald Trump proved more of a liability than an asset to the movement, the party, and the nation that had placed their trust in him.

So the 45th President's exit from power a few weeks ago was needful and right. It was, in fact, imperative.

For the good of the country, I as a lifelong Republican, conservative, and patriot, a devoted son of the heartland, earnestly hope the exit is irreversible and final. Begone, sir.

It's time to turn the

page on Donald Trump, America. Let us hold on to what was good in his presidency, have done with what was bad, learn from both, dig deep for what still binds us together as one people, and go forward to better times.

For better times are still within our grasp. Our destiny as Americans, one nation under God, indivisible, is still ours to shape. Do we have what it takes? I'm convinced we do.

**John Andrews**, Editor  
*Backbone America*  
Centennial, CO  
© 2021 Backbone America

### They're Taking Little by Little

Editor,

Am I the only one who resents big tech's hold on the American public's ability to choose candidates, do business, or socialize, etc.? They decide who wins/loses elections (see millions sent to influence GA senate election, all to Dems), where we shop/what we may/may not buy (see Mike Lindell's My Pillow product line dropped from Kohl's and Bed, Bath, and Beyond and his site dropped from Facebook). Personal accounts were closed after certain remarks were judged inappropriate by the unknown censor in the sky, while Lewis Farrakhan and the leader of Iran still have active accounts. Freedom of the press no longer exists in this country unless it is in newspapers such as this one.

Wake up people. Decisions are being taken from you little by little. Unless it is still possible to find an old encyclopedia in an undiscovered library somewhere, I'm not sure that the history of the country is still available in its unaltered form (see 1619 history now being taught as fact in some of our schools). We are in trouble.

Watch what your children are learning, use your cell phones/computers wisely, and choose to shop at stores that offer American made products as well as Chinese, even when the makers of those American products are Trump

See LETTERS...on Page 22

# FOODLAND Supermarkets

## FOODLAND Marketplace

### FOODLAND plus

Home-Owned, Home-Operated

**Preferred Angus BONELESS RIB EYE STEAKS Family Pack**

**\$8.99** Lb.

**Hormel Natural Choice Assorted Sliced BONE-IN PORK CHOPS Family Pack**

Family Pk. Center Cut Bone-In **PORK CHOPS \$2.49** Lb.

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**Choice Beef WHOLE TENDERLOIN FILLET**

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**Red Ripe STRAWBERRIES** 1 Lb.

**2/\$5**

**Dole Shredded Lettuce, Garden Salad, Coleslaw Or DICED SOUTHERN SLAW Each**

**\$1.19**

**PINK SALMON FILLETS**

**\$6.99** 2 Lbs.

**Tennessee Pride SAUSAGE** Mild, Hot Or Sage 1 Lb. Roll

**2/\$5**

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**Hunt's MANWICH** 15 Oz.

**99¢**

**Double "Q" PINK SALMON** 14.75 Oz.

**\$2.99**

**Peru Sweet ONIONS** Lb.

**\$3.29**

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**\$3.99**

**Food Club BUNS** 8 Ct.

**99¢**

**Duncan Hines CAKE MIX** All Varieties 15 Oz.

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**Duncan Hines FROSTING** 2/\$3 14-16 Oz.

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Downy Liquid **FABRIC SOFTENER** \$4.99 51 Oz.

**\$5.99**



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**AD GOOD FEB. 10-16, 2021**

<b>Preferred Angus Beef BONELESS CHUCK ROAST</b> lb. .... <b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>Fresh 85% Lean GROUND ROUND</b> Fam. Pk. Lb. <b>\$3<sup>79</sup></b>	<b>Hormel Natural Choice BABY BACK PORK RIBS</b> lb. .... <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>Smithfield Marinated Boneless PORK LOIN FILLETS</b> 23-27.2 Oz. <b>\$5<sup>39</sup></b>
<b>Family Pack CHUCK STEAK</b> lb. .... <b>\$5<sup>49</sup></b>	<b>Sanderson Farms Fresh SPLIT CHICKEN BREAST</b> Fam. Pk. Lb. <b>\$1<sup>39</sup></b>	<b>Hormel Natural Choice Boneless PORK SIRLOIN ROAST</b> lb. <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>Bryan Reg. Or Thick BOLOGNA</b> 12 Oz. .... <b>2/\$3</b>
<b>Land 'O Frost Premium LUNCH MEAT</b> 1 lb. .... <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b>		<b>Bar S Reg., Bun Length Or Turkey JUMBO FRANKS</b> 1 lb. <b>\$1<sup>19</sup></b>	

<b>Food Club SALAD DRESSING</b> 16 Oz. <b>2/\$3</b>	<b>Quaker INSTANT GRITS</b> 11-12 Oz. <b>2/\$3</b>	<b>Food Club PICKLES</b> 16-24 Oz. <b>2/\$4</b>	<b>Sunshine Or Zesta SALTINES</b> 16 Oz. <b>2/\$5</b>	<b>Van Camp's BEANEE WEENEE'S</b> 7 Oz. <b>5/\$5</b>
<b>Wesson OIL Best Blend Canola, Corn Or Vegetable</b> 48 Oz. <b>2/\$5</b>	<b>Duncan Hines FUDGE BROWNIE MIX</b> 18 Oz. <b>2/\$3</b>	<b>Food Club INSTANT OATMEAL</b> 11-15 Oz. <b>3/\$5</b>	<b>Clorox LIQUID BLEACH</b> 40-43 Oz. <b>2/\$5</b>	<b>Gravy Train DOG FOOD</b> 14-15 Lb. Bag <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b>
<b>Dr. Pepper, Sprite Or COCA-COLA</b> Mix & Match 12 Pk. Cans Or 8 Pk. 12 Oz. Btls. <b>2/\$9</b>	<b>Dr. Pepper, Sprite Or COCA-COLA</b> 6 Pk. .5 Liters <b>3/\$10</b>	<b>BODY ARMOR</b> 16 Oz. <b>2/\$3</b>	<b>Frito Lay CHEETOS OR FRITO</b> 7-9 Oz. <b>2/\$5</b>	<b>Little Debbie BIG PACK SNACKS</b> Nutty & All Varieties Box <b>2/\$6</b>
	<b>Ruffles POTATO CHIPS</b> 8-9 Oz. <b>2/\$6</b>			

## DAIRY & FROZEN

<b>Tropicana TWISTERS PUNCH</b> 59 Oz. .... <b>5/\$5</b>	<b>Blue Bell ICE CREAM</b> Pints ..... <b>2/\$4</b>
<b>Country Crock MARGARINE</b> 15 Oz. .... <b>2/\$4</b>	<b>Food Club Select Var. FROZEN FRUIT</b> 12-16 Oz. .... <b>2/\$6</b>
<b>Food Club Home Style Or Buttermilk BISCUITS</b> 4 Pk./10 Ct. .... <b>2/\$5</b>	<b>Jimmy Dean BREAKFAST BOWLS</b> 7 Oz. .... <b>2/\$5</b>
<b>Daisy Reg. Or Light SQUEEZE SOUR CREAM</b> 14 Oz. .... <b>2/\$4</b>	<b>Food Club WHIPPED TOPPING</b> 8 Oz. .... <b>99¢</b>

## DELI & BAKERY

<b>Deli Fresh FRIED CHICKEN</b> 8 Pk. <b>\$7<sup>49</sup></b>	<b>Deli Fresh DEVILED EGG POTATO SALAD</b> lb. <b>\$2<sup>69</sup></b>
<b>Millie Ray &amp; Sons CINNAMON OR ORANGE ROLLS</b> 15 Oz. <b>\$3<sup>59</sup></b>	<b>Ma's YEAST ROLLS WITH BUTTER</b> 8 Ct. <b>2/\$5</b>
<b>Bakery Fresh DECORATED CUPCAKES</b> 6 Ct. <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>Cotton Blue CHEESECAKES</b> 4.5-4.8 Lb. <b>\$29<sup>99</sup></b>

*Mrs. Freshley's DESSERT SHELLS 99¢ 6 Ct.*  
*Mrs. Freshley's PINK SNOWBALLS 99¢ Each*

## BEER & WINE

<b>Coors Light Or Miller Lite BEER</b> 12 Pk. Cans Or Btls. <b>\$11<sup>49</sup></b>	<b>Michelob Ultra SELTZER</b> Variety Pack 12 Pk. Cans <b>\$15<sup>29</sup></b>
<b>Yuengling BEER</b> 12 Pk. Cans Or Btls. <b>\$11<sup>49</sup></b>	<b>Cupcake Lighthearted WINE</b> 750 ml <b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b>

**Not Available At All Locations!**

**AD GOOD FEB. 10-16, 2021**

**FOODLAND Supermarkets**

**Prices Good At These Locations ONLY!**

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<b>FLORENCE</b> 1708 Darby Dr. • 7am-10pm • 256-767-2227	<b>FORD CITY FOODLAND</b> River Road • 7am-10pm • 256-446-5842
<b>MUSCLE SHOALS</b> 3001 Woodward. • 7am-11pm • 256-381-7277	<b>ELGIN CROSSROADS</b> ELGIN Forest Plaza • 7am-11pm • 256-247-1958
3413 Woodward Ave. • 7am-11pm • 256-978-6093	<b>ROGERSVILLE</b> Rogersville Shopping Ctr. • 7am-11pm • 256-247-1805
<b>SHEFFIELD</b> Foodland Plus • 106 Towne Plaza • 7am-10pm • 256-381-6552	

# Notes...

Continued from page 4

**The Florence Senior Center/The Club is serving curbside meals** Monday-Friday from 10:30-11:30am. Please call in to reserve your meal between 8:30-10:30am. Call 256-760-6668 for a menu. Participation requirements: Over 60 years old and a tidbit of information. You can register over the phone.

**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 Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC)** currently offers industry-led training certifications at Northwest-Shoals Community College.

The MSSC training center at NW-SCC is an industry-led training, assessment, and certification system focused on the core skills and knowledge needed by the nation's front-line production and material handling workers. MSSC training offers both entry-level and incumbent workers the opportunity to demonstrate that they have acquired the skills increasingly required in the technology-intensive jobs of the 21st century.

If you have questions regarding MSSC certification at NW-SCC, please contact Taylor Franks. You may call 256-331-8092, text 256-415-6992, or email at msscstraining@nwsc.edu.

**A phone scam involving Florence Utilities** customers was reported last week. The caller demanded payment and threatened disconnection of utilities. Please be advised that Florence Utilities will NOT call customers to ask for payment information over the phone. If you have any concerns about your utility account, please call our Customer Service department at 256-760-6512. If you ever have a question about a scam call or someone at your door, call the Florence Police Department at 256-760-6610 or 911.

**LifeSouth Blood Drives for February** 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.

Wednesday, February 10, 8am - 3:30pm, Wilson High School, 7601 Highway 17, Florence

Thursday, February 11, 7am - 2pm, Darby Doors, 3110 Kendall Drive, Florence

Friday, February 12, Noon - 6pm, Cricket Wireless, 2010 Woodward Avenue #A, Muscle Shoals

Saturday, February 13, 8am - 2pm, Level Up Nutrition, 408 S Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals

Sunday, February 14, Noon - 6pm, Walmart, 2701 Cloverdale Road, Florence

Monday, February 15, 10am - 4pm, Colbert Farmers Co-Op, 8140 Main Street, Leighton

Tuesday, February 16, 11am - 4pm, State Farm - Britt Blanton Agency, 365 Highway 72, Killen

Wednesday, February 17, 7:30am - 4pm, Hackleburg High School, 189 Panther Road, Hackleburg

**Nominations are open for the LONG-LEWIS LOCAL HERO OF THE MONTH AWARD.** In an effort to reward local people for Outstanding Community Service, Long-Lewis Automotive Group in cooperation with The Long-Lewis Foundation, will be awarding one person each month \$500 and a Certificate of Appreciation to recognize their efforts in serving The Shoals.

Simply visit the Long Lewis of the Shoals Facebook page and nominate someone you feel deserves this award for Outstanding Community Service. The recipient of the Award will be determined by the nominee post that gets the most Likes from the community at the end of each month. We will announce the recipient, via social media, on the 1st of the following month. The Certificate and \$500 Award will be given to the recipient at the local dealership by the 10th of each month.

## Show your love with their favorite shows this Valentine's Day.

Give the best value in entertainment with Shoals Satellite.



190 CHANNELS	190+ CHANNELS	240+ CHANNELS
AMERICA'S TOP 120 All-Time Favorites and Locals	AMERICA'S TOP 120 PLUS Everything Sports	AMERICA'S TOP 200 Everything Sports and Entertainment
<b>\$64.99</b> /MO.	<b>\$79.99</b> /MO.	<b>\$89.99</b> /MO.

RSN surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies and varies based on location.

RSN surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies and varies based on location.

All our packages come with local channels, a Smart HD DVR included, free standard professional installation and free premium channels for 3 months.

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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 eAutoPay. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. **Offer ends 7/14/21. 2-year commitment:** Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. **Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$64.99 advertised price:** America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. **Available with 2-year price guarantee for additional cost:** Programming package upgrades (\$79.99 for AT120+, \$89.99 for AT200, \$99.99 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. **Premium Channels:** 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz and DISH Movie Pack unless you call to cancel. **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. 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. © 2021 DISH Network L.L.C. All rights reserved.

PREM\_26920

995979-1

# Orsted Grant for Local Nonprofits

FLORENCE – United Way of Northwest Alabama's Northwest Alabama Covid Emergency Fund recently received a very generous donation from Orsted on behalf of its Muscle Shoals Project. The money will be distributed in phases. The first will help alleviate some of the financial burden those in the nonprofit sector have faced since the beginning of the pandemic.


Nonprofit agencies from Colbert, Lauderdale, Franklin, and Marion Counties are invited to apply for up to \$2,500 in funding. Agencies must submit their 501c3 letter and their 990. Agencies are not required to be current United Way partners, but they must be operational and providing services in some capacity.

"We are truly thankful for this gift from Orsted," said Jennifer McNulty, CEO of United Way of Northwest Alabama. "We have a team of individuals dedicated to ensuring that dissemination of our Covid fund creates the greatest impact in our communities."

United Way has raised approximately \$150,000 for the Northwest Alabama Covid Emergency Fund thus far and continue to raise money to help those in need. Funding has provided in the form of food pantry credits at the Northwest Alabama Food Bank, an initial round of funding for distressed nonprofits, rent and utility assistance, oxygen for Covid patients who are discharged from the hospitals, and now another round to support nonprofit agencies in need.

Any interested nonprofit agency can find the application on United Way of Northwest Alabama's Facebook and LinkedIn pages or just email kerry@uwnwal.org for a link.

The deadline for application submission is Friday, February 19 at noon. For more information, contact Kerry Del Pizzo at 256-764-5892 or email kerry@uwshoals.org.



**DAY by DAY**  
Grief Support Group for Bereaved Parents/Grandparents

**Meets**  
**Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**

**Woodmont Baptist East Campus,**  
2002 Darby Dr., Florence

**FRIENDS, CARING AND SHARING**

For information, email: [debbiec2414@aol.com](mailto:debbiec2414@aol.com)

*Mask required and Social distancing will be in effect and we will meet in a larger area.*

## Letters...

### They're Taking Little by Little

Continued from Page 18

supporters. At least then you can be sure that the money you pay for those products will go to an American worker.

**Sandra Crafton**  
Killen

### Washington's Sinister Side

Dear Editor:

I hope for their sake that the Deep Staters in Washington keep Basement Joe on a tight leash. If he sleepwalks into war with Red China, everyone of them ought to hang. This country is in no mood for a bloodletting in Asia, and probably never will be.

Biden has no business threatening the China military. Only one president can out-hustle the East, and that is Donald Trump. You think the Chinese made fools out of Swalwell and Pelosi? They'll steal Biden's pants quicker than they stole Swalwell's!

Evidently, the MAGA movement is exposing Washington's sinister side, a side we don't ordinarily see in the mainstream media. There is a sense of desperation, almost of hysteria, coming out of the U.S. Congress, the Justice Department, and the FBI. Have some members of the Washington establishment been involved in questionable activity with China? Have they been involved in influence peddling and money

laundering? We don't know.

Again, who will fight Basement Joe's foreign wars? Biden's new Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, a leftist and former Obama official, surely knows the answer. No one will fight who is outside the professional military. A war with Red China won't be won by "Special Forces," or high-tech frogmen. Nor will it be won by brushfire "generals" from the Middle East wars. American liberals will never fight a war with Red China. They have been waterboys for the communists at least since the 1930's.

If Blinken is smart, he'll explain to Biden that it might not be a good idea to alienate 80 million conservatives. Otherwise, he may find himself one day without an army.

**Thomas Ponder**  
Killen

the night while my wife and I are safe in our bed. Thank you for staring adversity and your enemies in the face.

Thank you for keeping Almighty God in the nation we love. Thank you for not backing down and doing what was best even when many within government and without detested you. Thank you for your standing up for women, both black and white. Thank you for caring for the little guy.

Thank you for standing up for God's unborn children. Thank you for standing up against those of your own party who stood against you. Thank you for always putting our nation first, not like others.

During the four years of your Presidency, I felt like I had a president who cared for the people of our country. May God always bless you and your family.

**Michael Beck**  
Florence

### Thanks and Appreciation

To Editor:


Thank you President Trump

I want to thank you, my President, for having the brass to go against the grain like no other President has in my lifetime. Thank you for not plunging us into another war that we had no business getting into. Thank you for walking through HELL and back for the American people. Thank you for doing it FREE. Thank you for working sometimes into

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# Savvy SENIOR

## How to Choose a Medical Alert System

Dear Savvy Senior,  
I am interested in getting my mom, who lives alone, a medical alert system with a wearable pendant button that will let her call for help if she falls or has a medical emergency. What can you tell me to help me choose one?

Too Many Choices

Dear Too Many,

A good medical alert system is an effective and affordable tool that can help keep your mom safe and living in her own home longer. But with all the different products and features available today, choosing one can be challenging. Here are some tips that can help.

### Three Key Questions

Medical alert systems, which have been around since the 1980s, provide a wearable help button – usually in the form of a neck pendant or wristband – that would put your mom in touch with a dispatcher who could summon emergency help or contact a friend or family member as needed.

To help you narrow down your options and choose a system that best fits your mom's needs, here are three key questions you'll need to ask, along with some top-rated companies that offer these products.

#### 1. Does your mom want a home-based or mobile system?

Medical alert systems were originally designed to work inside the home with a landline telephone, which is still an option. But since fewer and fewer households have landlines these days, most companies today also offer home-based systems that work over a cellular network. With these systems, pressing the wearable help button allows you to speak to a dispatcher through a base unit located in your home.

In addition, many companies offer mobile medical alert options, too. You can use these systems at home, but they'll also allow you to call for help while you're out and about.

Mobile alerts operate over cellular networks and incorporate GPS technology. They allow you to talk and listen to the operator directly through the pendant button, and because of the GPS, your location would be known in order for help to be sent.

If your mom doesn't leave the house very often, she may not need a mobile system, but if she is still active, she may want added protection outside the home.

#### 2. Should her system be monitored or not?

The best medical alert systems are monitored, meaning that the help button connects you with a trained operator at a 24/7 dispatching center.

But you also have the option to choose a system that isn't monitored. With these, when you press the help button, the device automatically dials a friend or family member on your programmed emergency call list.

These products can often be set up to call multiple people and to contact emergency services if you don't get an answer from someone on your list.

#### 3. Should you add a fall-detection feature?

Most medical alert companies today now offer the option of an automatic fall detection pendant for an additional fee of \$10 to \$15 per month. These pendants sense falls when they occur and automatically contact the dispatch center, just as they would if you had pressed the call button.

But be aware that this technology isn't full proof. In some cases, this feature may register something as a fall that isn't. The alarm might go off if you drop it or momentarily lose your balance but don't actually land on the ground.

#### Top Rated Systems

Here are four top companies, rated by Consumer Reports, that offer home and mobile monitored medical alert systems:

- Bay Alarm Medical: Fees range between \$20 and \$40 per month; [BayAlarmMedical.com](http://BayAlarmMedical.com); 877-522-9633.
- GreatCall's Lively Mobile Plus: The device costs \$50 plus a \$25 to \$40 monthly service fee; [GreatCall.com](http://GreatCall.com); 800-650-5921.
- MobileHelp: Monthly fees run \$20 to \$45; [MobileHelp.com](http://MobileHelp.com); 800-809-9664.
- Phillips Lifeline: \$30 to \$50/month, plus a onetime device/activation fee of \$50 to \$100; [Lifeline.Phillips.com](http://Lifeline.Phillips.com); 855-681-5351.

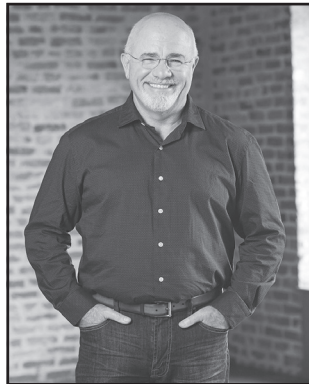
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Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



# DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

## PUT A LITTLE MORE THOUGHT INTO IT



Dear Dave,  
I don't like admitting this, but I absolutely hate my job. Last year I almost cashed out part of my 401(k) to start my own business or open a franchise, and doing something like this is still on my mind. Considering how I feel, do you think this would be a good idea?

Kurt

Dear Kurt,  
In your current state of mind, this entire idea is a trap. Don't misunderstand, I love the idea of someone living their dream and owning their own business. But you just mentioned starting your own business in same breath with opening some sort of franchise. That tells me you don't really know what you want to do.

Have you ever heard someone say they're "going all in"? When you're playing cards, that means you're about to bet everything on a single hand. But here's the deal, it's never smart to go all in when it comes to small business. That's a good way to turn a dream into a nightmare.

I'm urging you to really think about this before you take action. You didn't mention anything about your financial situation, other than you have a 401(k). That's a good thing, but if it's all you have—and you don't have any other savings set aside—you could be in real trouble. If you decided to leave your job, and your idea for your own business doesn't pan out, you've lost a chunk of your retirement savings. It's gone for good. Bankruptcy also becomes a real possibility. Opening a business just because you don't like your current job, or you're angry at "the man," is a bad idea. You need to find something you truly love doing, because to have any chance of success you'll have to live and breathe that business day and night, seven days a week.

Don't make any rash decisions about your current job right now. If you really want to start your own business, begin by doing a lot of research, saving as much money as

you can, and thinking about things you could do for a living that would make you smile every day. Once you figure that out, the next step is devising a plan that will allow you to open a business without putting your entire financial world in danger. In other words, how can you start small with the money you have, instead of damaging your retirement funds or taking out a loan?

It's not an either/or proposition, Kurt. You don't have to risk it all to get away from a job you hate and into one you love!

—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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A Central Storage Shoals, LLC, located at 5428 2nd Steet, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661 in accordance with the Alabama Self-Storage Act; per Section 8-15-34, Code of Alabama, 1975, legal notice is hereby given that the following units will be sold or disposed of by sealed bid after **February 10, 2021. Past due charges and fees will be accepted until 4pm on February 10, 2021.** A Central Storage, LLC reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale or disposal.

Name	Unit#	Contents
Delia Allen	F24	Household Misc.
Paige Davis	L1	Household Misc.
Debra Garrison	E9 & E22	Household Misc.
Elizabeth Henryson	E11, E20 & J16	Household Misc.
Tina Hood	L5	Household Misc.
George Johnson	E5 & E26	Household Misc.
Lonnie Jones	L43	Household Misc.
Katrina Lewis	C46	Household Misc.
Arianna Mullins	J22	Household Misc.
James Robinette	J41	Household Misc.
Annette Stanley	E8	Household Misc.
Demetria Thompson	L9	Household Misc.
Klarissa Whalen	G37	Household Misc.

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### Weekly Quiz • Topic: *It's all Greek to me!*

- In Greek Mythology, Prometheus bequeathed humanity?  
A. Air B. Water C. Fire D. Land
- Ulysses, a legendary Greek King and a hero in the epic Poem, "The Odyssey," was composed by:  
A. Bocephus B. Homer C. Jethro D. Abner
- Who was the Greek god that ruled Mount Olympus?  
A. Hades B. Poseidon C. Apollo D. Zeus
- The 10th paired cranial nerve (coming directly off the brain,) Vagus is a Latin word meaning:  
A. Lost B. Wandering C. Desert D. Toga
- "Achilles Heel" implies:  
A. Weakness B. Pain C. Fracture D. Invulnerability

Answers: 1. C 2. B 3. D 4. B 5. A

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Hunter Morrison	C21	Miscellaneous
Lakyrria Jones	E46	Miscellaneous
Emmitt Thorne	C51	Miscellaneous
Russell Workman	C27	Miscellaneous
Russell Workman	C16	Miscellaneous

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# SIGNS OF THE PAST

**HERITAGE PARK**

The settlement of what is now eastern Lauderdale County (known as "Over Elk") by non-Native Americans commenced by 1807. Federal land sales were held in Huntsville during the spring of 1818. Although much of the land was described as a "howling wilderness," there was a rush to buy. Records of these sales show purchasers were Samuel Burney, Andrew Rodgers, Archibald Fuqua and dozens more. Andrew Rodgers bought 79 acres in what became the downtown business district and as a trading center, the village became known as Rodgersville. Businesses were set up at this site because of the three thoroughfares that intersected. One followed an old Indian trail which extended from what is now Florence to present-day Huntsville. This became U.S. Highway 72. Another led to a shallow ford across Elk River. This road is now called Snake Road. The third was between Giles County, Tennessee and the Tennessee River. It was the route known today as Lamb's Ferry Road. Heritage Park was built at the SW corner of this intersection.

(Continued on other side)

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JUNE 2010

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Town parks are convenient places to sit and relax and briefly get away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Florence has its Wilson Park, Tuscumbia has Spring Park, and Rogersville has created this nice pocket park in the town center.

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



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## SIGNS OF WINTER!

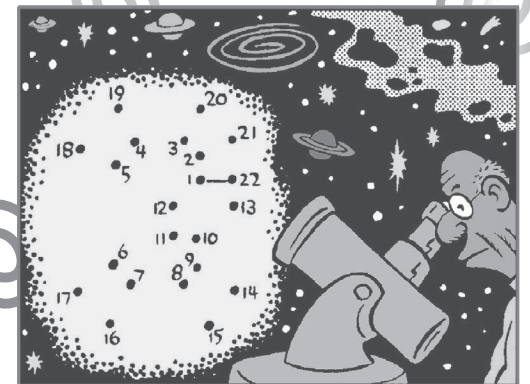
S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	S	S	L	F	S
M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	N	A	I	L	H
E	C	A	L	P	E	R	I	F	O	L	G	U	O
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L	F	Z	E	N	A	G	G	O	B	O	T	R	E
E	I	E	T	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	I	L
E	R	B	G	N	I	D	D	E	L	S	S	E	S
T	D	G	D	R	A	Z	Z	I	L	B	E	S	H



Hidden in the diagram above are 17 words associated with winter. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the words that you're looking for.

- |           |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Blizzard  | Lights    | Sleet    |
| Christmas | Mistletoe | Snowball |
| Drift     | Presents  | Toboggan |
| Fireplace | Salt      | Toys     |
| Flurries  | Shovels   | Trees    |
| Holidays  | Sledding  |          |

Answers On Page 38



**CONNECT THE DOTS** and find out what the end of everything is.

**DON'T SLIP UP ON THIS ONE!** Try solving this AlphaMath puzzle over a nice cup of hot cocoa. You must replace the letters in the sign with the digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.

Illustrated by David Coulson

**IT'S MAGIC!** Use the numbers 6 through 15 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row, vertical column and even the four corner squares must total 55. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you. Use trial and error – and a good eraser!

	16	20	
19			17
	22		
			21

[55]

# Insurance Insights

## Can you drive safely in every type of severe weather?

Driving in perfect weather is hard enough, but when severe weather hits, it's important to take extra precautions. You probably already know that slowing down and increasing concentration can make a big difference. But these extra precautions for specific kinds of weather can help you get to your destination safely.

### Tips for driving in ice or snow

- **Slow down.** Bridges and overpasses freeze first, so take it slow and avoid sudden changes in speed or direction. Watch out for black ice.
- **Keep windows clear.** Visibility is crucial, especially in bad weather. Scrape the ice off of your windows before you leave to ensure proper visibility.
- **Brake cautiously.** Abrupt braking can cause lock-up and loss of steering control.
- **Resist the urge to "floor it."** If you get stuck in snow, straighten the wheels and accelerate slowly. Avoid spinning the tires.

### Tips for driving in rain

- **Turn on wipers.**
- **Use headlights.** Visibility is usually compromised in rainy conditions.
- **Keep windows clear.** The defroster or air conditioner may help.
- **Be patient.** Take it slower than normal. Leave more room when stopping.
- **Go around.** Never cross a flooded roadway, because it's tough to tell how deep the water is.
- **Turn off cruise control.** It is best to allow the driver to control speed and react to conditions.

### Tips for navigating in the fog

- **Turn on the low beams and fog lights.**
- **Wait it out.** If you're having trouble seeing, safely pull over to the right side.

### Tips for handling your vehicle in high winds

- **Look out.** Keep an eye out for flying debris. And use extra caution near trailers, vans or vehicles carrying lightweight cargo.
- **Some cars shouldn't be driven.** It's best not to drive autos with high centers of gravity like SUVs and trucks in high winds.

### Severe weather driving tips

- **Turn on headlights and wipers.**
- **Listen to the radio.** Tune into a local weather station for storm and traffic updates.
- **Never try to outrun a tornado.** Get out of the car and find shelter. Stay alert for flash floods.
- **Don't wait.** Leave low-lying areas and move inland.

### Driving in all types of weather

- **Buckle up.** Every trip, every time.
  - **Focus on your destination and avoid distractions.**
  - **Have an Emergency Kit.**
- Special tips for commercial drivers**
- **Watch out for Rollovers.**
  - **Use caution in Severe Winds.**
  - **Lost or Damaged Cargo.**

These tips may help ease some anxiety on the road during all kinds of weather. However, the unexpected can still happen. Learn more about how State Farm® can help after a crash.



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## Empowering ...

Continued from Page 14

He has exhibited at museums across the country and was featured as an Artist in Residence on the streaming service Hulu in 2019.

Following a near drowning in 2015, Meko's work began to focus on "the African American experience of navigating public spaces while remaining buoyant within them." Meko's work explores how the "barrage of images" on social media of African Americans being threatened in public spaces "simulates an experience of drowning." His exhibition at TVMA is titled *When It's Black Outside: Notes from the Before Times*.

The exhibit has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The museum's Education Gallery will feature an exhibition by Birmingham artist Lynthia Edwards. Her paintings and collages are "inspired by the ordinary existence of black girls raised in the south." Edwards' work expresses the "emotions, thoughts and ideas about the world (each girl) lives in" and aims to "ignite a dialogue amongst the viewers that glorify black girl magic."

Edwards received attention from the media and the art world when one of her portraits of Senator John Lewis was purchased by the civil rights pioneer himself. In 2020, she also designed voter registration posters for the DC Sparkle Squad project.

Alongside Meko and Edwards is work by world-renowned Alabama folk artist Charlie Lucas and local emerging artist Kerrigan Casey. Paintings and sculptures by Lucas have been curated from the museum's permanent collection as well as private collectors of his work over recent decades.

Casey is an emerging Florence artist who uses her "own life, music, and culture" to challenge "the Shoals' perceptions of art" and to explore "beauty and blackness in modern art and free expression."

The Tennessee Valley Museum of Art is open Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm and will be open on Saturdays from 10am-3pm during these exhibitions. Entry is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, and free for members of the Tennessee Valley Art Association. Masks are required to enter the museum, and distancing is



Lynthia Edwards



Charlie Lucas



Kerrigan Casey

maintained. Photos of the exhibition and discussions with the artists will be posted to the museum's website and Facebook page.

For more information, call 256-383-0533 or visit [tennesseevalleyarts.org](https://tennesseevalleyarts.org).

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# Soap Opera Preview

**THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL** Hope put Liam on the spot about Steffy's unborn baby. Steffy became emotional as Finn expressed the many ways she had bettered his life. Eager to regain trust, Thomas held himself accountable to Ridge and Brooke. Hope made a difficult decision about her future with Liam. The identity of Steffy's baby daddy was revealed. Emotions ran high as, separately, Finn and Liam grappled with what came next. Dr. Bridget Forrester returned to visit her mother, Brooke. *Wait to See: Carter demands answers from Zoe and Zende. Eva, the Forrester International publicist, gets to work with Katie and Paris. Liam desperately tries to save his marriage to Hope.*

**DAYS OF OUR LIVES** Jack conveyed the truth to Gwen. Jake presented an offer for Kate. Old wounds were reopened when Kate and Laura crossed paths. Rejected by Jake, Gabi turned to Xander. Philip gave his letter of resignation to Victor. Kristen summoned Susan to the prison. Chloe volunteered to help Brady as he recovered. Fueled by anger, Xander made a shocking announcement. Laura and Gwen faced off. Ivan came clean with Vivian. A desperate Gwen pleaded for Jack's help. Chad was thrilled when Abigail agreed to move back home. Steve surprised Kayla with a wedding. Jake and Kate learned that Vivian is alive. Lani and Eli finally brought their twins home. Ben and

Ciara shared a dream in which they were Romeo and Juliet. *Wait to See: Ben confides in Claire about his dream. Charlie threatens Ava. Kate hopes to use Jake to thwart Vivian's scheme.*

**GENERAL HOSPITAL** Nina pleaded her case. Ava offered a bit of insight. Valentin questioned Peter. Britt had a change of heart. Carly and Joss visited Morgan's grave. Jax urged Joss to live life to the fullest. Nina had second thoughts. Olivia felt out of place. Sam, Molly and Kristina discussed Alexis. Lenny proved to be an unlikely ally. Olivia expressed her anger. Joss was happy to see Trina. Nina made an important promise. Alexis confessed. Carly met with Diane. Sam and Dante made a connection. Nina was furious. Portia worried about Cyrus' influence over Britt. Lesley took a stand. Nina turned to Jordan for help. Portia was very surprised. *Wait to See: Britt confides in Jason. Valentin sees an opportunity for a second chance. Cyrus threatens Brando.*

**THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS** Victor targeted Billy. Kyle felt backed into a corner. Abby stole the spotlight. Jack connected with Sally. Kyle made a confession to Summer. Devon and Amanda's evening took an unexpected turn. Victor gave Adam a reality check. Elena came clean with Nate. Rey demanded answers from Sharon. Nick supported Chelsea. Adam provoked Rey. *Wait to See: Amanda lets her guard down with Naya. Mariah prepares for her new journey. Bill Spencer visits Genoa City.*

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# The Professor Meets Connie, the Concrete Confederate

by Professor Thomas Ott  
Owner & Resident of  
Amelia's Victorian Home  
in Florence

"**W**h e w ! " thought the old professor, as he dropped his late payment into the Utility Department's drop-box.

He wondered if Amelia, the friendly ghost in his Victorian home, caused him to find the missing bill. He also wondered if maybe Amelia had hidden it in the first place to play a trick on him.

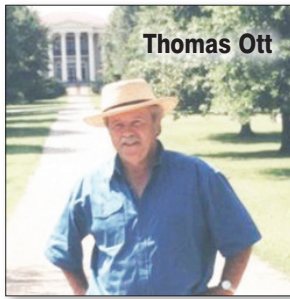
"It's late," remarked the professor to himself, as he pulled out his time-worn pocket watch and tapped it to see if it were still running. He didn't want to worry his wife at home who probably awaited his arrival with a cup of hot tea. But a strange urge seemed to give his feet a mind of their own,

as he began strolling the sidewalk between the courthouse and the First Federal Building. The cold winter's night caused him to raise his coat collar and put his head down. That's when something strange happened.

"Psst-psst," a voice whispered, so soft that the professor thought it the whimsical sound of a breeze. But there it was again, causing him to look up at the courthouse Confederate monument. The statue's lips seemed to move, making him wonder if he should have had that second glass of sherry before leaving home.

"That's right, Professor. I can speak, but didn't have the need for 117 years until now."

"Oh, my God," replied the frightened professor, "the Book of Revelations is coming true."



Thomas Ott

"Oh, calm down, Professor. Amelia said that she would get you here."

"Amelia, my house ghost?"

"Yes, that Amelia, Professor. Now put your fears aside and duck under the police barriers. Come close. We need to talk." With curiosity outweighing his urge to run, the professor did as he was told.

"Now, I've got something to say," the statue emphasized. "When I stood on this pedestal for the first

time in 1903, there was a racist fanfare stirred by Dr. Moody's speech. Many in his audience agreed with his views. But that symbol attached to me then has faded into obscurity with each passing generation's demand for social justice. But there is another symbol, powerful in 1903, and even more powerful today. It is the symbol of peace. Both Union and Confederate veterans attended my unveiling, school children sang *America*, and former Johnny Reb and a former Billy Yank shook hands over a Confederate grave. You don't truly know the value of peace until you've been to war."

"You're right. By the way," quizzed the professor. "What is your name?"

"Well, let's see, Professor. I've never had one. But a white marble company in Atlanta shaped me into what you see. The ravages of time have weathered me into a gray appearance. One of my recent viewers even said that I looked like a concrete Confederate. So why don't you call me 'Connie, the Concrete Confederate.' Actually I

prefer just 'Connie.'"

"Professor, do you know how the Civil War ripped Florence apart?"

"I know some of it, Connie."

"Well, let me tell you all of it. From the beginning, it was awful: riverboats sunk by Union gunboats at our docks, wounded Confederates from the fall of Fort Donelson arriving at Pope's Tavern for treatment, local residents standing on the banks of the Tennessee to listen to the roar of the big guns coming downriver from Shiloh. And this was just the beginning. Florence changed hands over forty times, and with each new occupation came new privations and tragedies for Florence. Food grew short, and local humor believed that a bag of potatoes made a man rich.

And there was all that killing. A band of Confederate youth calling themselves the LaGrange Rifles marched to the battlefield. Few ever came home. The progression of the war made tensions and intolerance grow. One victim was Reverend Robin Lightfoot, a slave

preacher, who Confederate authorities lynched in 1864 for his expression of joy about the outcome of the war.

Banditry became a major feature of the war as well. It bred Tom Clark who fought for and deserted both sides and became a menacing devil to the residents of Florence. Not until 1872 did local authorities catch and hang him.

Florence even played a part in the end of the war. Not far from Florence, General 'Fighting Joe' Hood assembled his army in a desperate attempt to drive Union forces out of Nashville. His counterattack failed."

"Say, Connie, I don't think that I could have told Florence's Civil War story any better in one of my lectures."

"But I am just now getting to my argument, Professor. Mrs. Amelia Camper headed a ladies' society pushing for a Confederate statue. All the heartbreak that I just described forged her strong demand. She wanted a statue that represented peace."

See CONNIE...on Pg. 32

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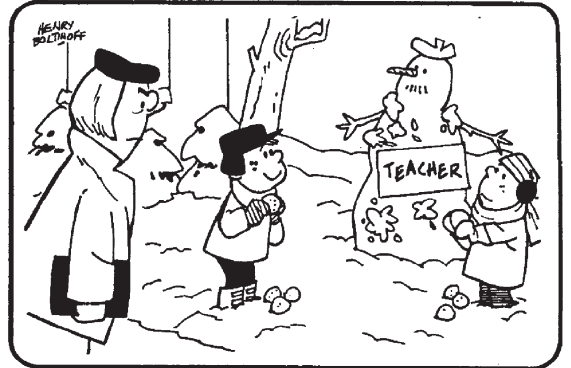
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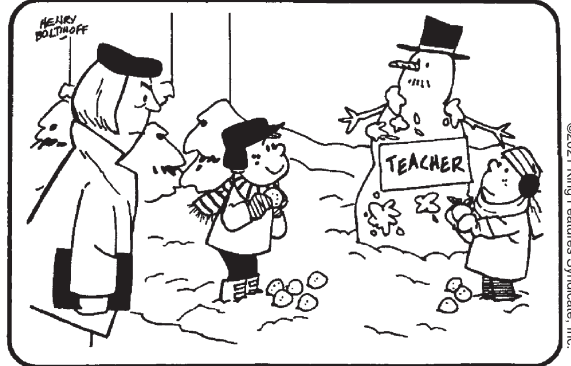
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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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# Connie, the Concrete Confederate

Continued from Page 28

"Wait a minute, Connie! Amelia Camper and her husband, Moncure, lived in my Victorian home at the beginning of last century. She's the ghost that I see in my hallways sometime. In a sort of strange way, we have become friends, even though she can be a bit manipulative."

That's right, Professor, we both connived to get you here. But let me continue. Amelia wanted and got a statue symbolizing peace. My rifle is at rest, my bayonet sheathed, and my knapsack of food and ammo rests beneath my feet. I symbolize a soldier coming home and not going to war. In my eyes is a soldier longing to see his family."

Nice summation, Connie, but what are you trying to conclude?"

"It's this, Professor. America now is approaching America then: a summer of burning cities, the Capital building stormed, and tempers near the flashpoint. Diversity shouldn't mean division in a country known for its unity. And this brings me to my opinion about my removal from the

courthouse."

"Well, go on, Connie, I'm listening."

"I don't mind leaving the courthouse. Lord knows that my feet have gone flat from standing on this pedestal for the last 117 years. I'm ready for a change."

"A change to where, Connie?"

"I don't want to stand in the City Cemetery. I'd soon be forgotten if not vandalized. No, I want to move to Pope's Tavern. I'd be happy with a much lower pedestal with no bombastic inscriptions, just something simple to commemorate both sides in the Civil War. It was at Pope's Tavern that so many fighting the war died. You probably don't know this Professor, but the spirits of 600,000 young men that the war killed pulse through my veins. I want the public to see me, and maybe a few will regard me as a lighthouse, warning them about the dangerous shores of a civil war."

"Hey, Mister, are you speaking to that statue," a policeman shouted. "Say, aren't you Professor Ott? I was in one of your history

classes twenty years ago.

Why are you here so late?"

"I'm just on a walk after dropping off my utility bill. I'm not speaking to the statue, just admiring it."

"Do you need a lift to your home, Professor?"

"No, I have my car, and I was leaving."

As the old professor walked away, he glanced back and thought he saw Connie smile.

*Thomas Ott earned his Ph.D. in Caribbean History from the University of Tennessee. He authored The Haitian Revolution. 1791-1804 which stands as one of the important books on that subject. His interest in Haiti's great slave rebellion has led him to promote the importance of its leader, Toussaïot l'Ouverture, before academic and general audiences.*

*In 2010 Ott retired from the University of North Alabama to write the story of Saturday, a slave on the French side of the author's ancestors and a participant in the world's greatest slave rebellion. For more information, visit <http://booksbythomasott.com>*

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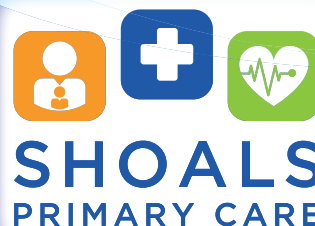
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Guest Commentary—Larry Elder

Civility...

Continued from Page 14

compared the newly conservative-majority House to “the Duma and the Reichstag,” referring to the legislature set up by Czar Nicholas II of Russia and the parliament of the German Weimar Republic that brought Hitler to power.

About President George Herbert Walker Bush, Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., said, “I believe [Bush] is a racist for many, many reasons. ... [He’s] a mean-spirited man who has no care or concern about what happens to the African American community. ... I truly believe that.”

About the Republican-controlled House, longtime Harlem Democratic Rep. Charlie Rangel, said in 1994, “It’s not ‘s—’ or ‘n—’ anymore. [Republicans] say, ‘Let’s cut taxes.’”

A decade later, Rangel said, “George [W.] Bush is our Bull Connor,” referring to the Birmingham Democrat segregationist superintendent of public safety who sicced dogs and turned fire hoses on civil rights workers.

Donna Brazile, former Vice President Al Gore’s presidential campaign manager, said in 1999, “Republicans have a ‘white boy attitude, [which means,] ‘I must exclude, denigrate, and leave behind.’ They don’t see it or think about it. It’s a culture.”

The following year Brazile said, “The Republicans bring out Colin Powell and [Rep.] J.C. Watts, [R-Okla.], because they have no program, no policy. ... They’d rather take pictures with black children than feed them.”

About President George W. Bush, Gore said: “[Bush’s] executive branch has made it a practice to try and control and intimidate news organizations, from PBS to CBS to *Newsweek*. ... And every day, they unleash squadrons of digital brownshirts to harass and hector any journalist who is critical of the president.” Digital “brownshirts”?

About George W. Bush, George Soros, the billionaire Democratic donor, said, “The Bush administration and the Nazi and communist regimes all engaged in the politics of fear. ... Indeed, the Bush administration has been able to improve on the techniques used by the Nazi and communist

propaganda machines.”

Former NAACP Chairman Julian Bond, in a 2006 speech at historically black Fayetteville State University said, “The Republican Party would have the American flag and the swastika flying side by side.”

Former Gov. Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 2005, described the contest between Democrats and Republicans as “a struggle between good and evil. And we’re the good.” Three years later, Dean referred to the GOP as “the white party.”

After Hurricane Katrina, Democratic Missouri Senate candidate, Claire McCaskill, said George W. Bush “let people die on rooftops in New Orleans because they were poor and because they were black.”

Feminist super-lawyer Gloria Allred referred to Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice in 2001 as “Uncle Tom types.”

Then-Sen. Hillary Clinton, in 2006, said, “The [Republican-controlled] House of Representatives ... has been run like a plantation. And you know what I’m talking about.”

Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Democratic National Committee chairwoman in 2011, said, “Republicans ... want to literally drag us all the way back to Jim Crow laws.”

Again, exactly when did Democrats practice the “civility” to which they wish to return?

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*Larry Elder is a bestselling author and nationally syndicated radio talk-show host.*

*The son of a janitor, Larry was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles.*

*His latest book is “The New Trump Standard.”*

*Elder the recipient of a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and has hosted a drive time radio show in Los Angeles since March, 1994. He has established the Larry Elder Charities, a non-profit organization that will contribute to groups and individuals offering non-government, self-help solutions to problems of poverty, crime, poor parenting, dependency, and education..*



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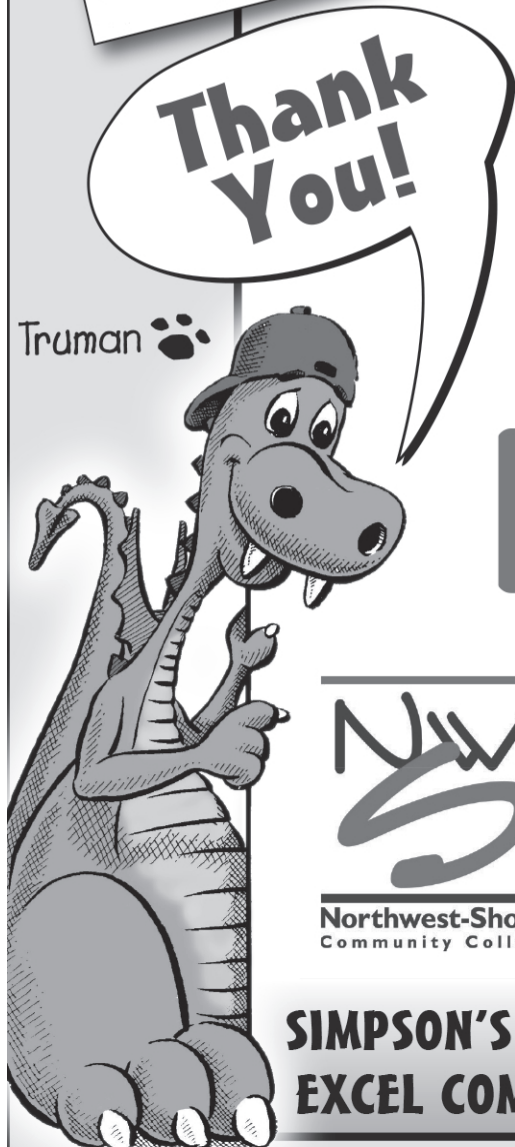


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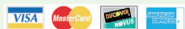
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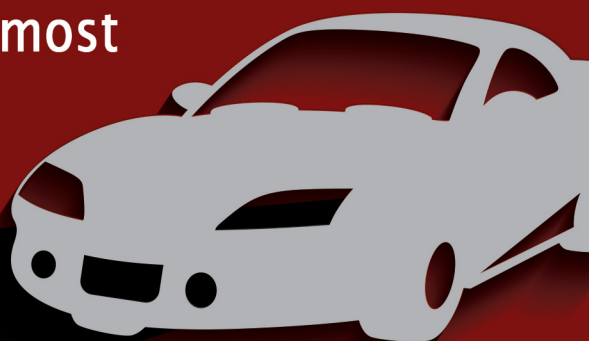
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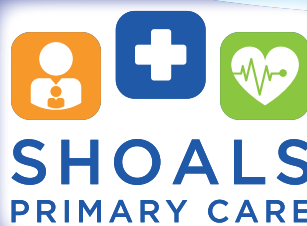
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# ON YOUR DEBT

## Are We Facing a Wave of Auto Repossessions?



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A year ago, back in January and early February of 2020, some financial experts were predicting that subprime auto loans—vehicle loans to people with lower credit scores who were considered higher risk—might be the next housing bubble. According to streetblog.org, between 2009 and 2019, U.S. automobile loan debt increased by 75%, to more than \$1.25 trillion. In early 2020, about seven million auto loans were 90 days past due.

Of course, at that point no one could have anticipated the financial challenges that lay ahead for many Americans. As the Covid-19 pandemic spread, tens of millions of people around the country lost their jobs. The unemployment rate has dropped significantly since the initial spike but remains considerably higher than pre-pandemic.

### Delinquencies Declined in the Early Days of the Pandemic

The surge in unemployment could have triggered a wave of automobile repossessions, along with other negative consequences such as evictions and mortgage foreclosures. However, two factors combined to forestall widespread defaults and auto repossessions. First, pandemic aid in the form of stimulus checks and enhanced unemployment benefits stabilized finances for many who were abruptly out of work. In fact, many at the lower end of the earning spectrum found themselves—for a short time—with more funds available than they had while working full time. According to the Brookings Friedman Institute for Economics at the University of Chicago (BFI), the median unemployment benefit for an Alabama resident with the \$600/week federal enhancement was 148% of regular income. The impact was similar in Mississippi (147%) and Tennessee (142%).

At the same time, a combination of government moratoriums and voluntary relief programs temporarily took the pressure off many people, including some who had already been running behind when the pandemic struck. Auto loan borrowers generally did not see the type of government protections extended to renters in many areas, homeowners with federally backed

mortgage loans, and student loan borrowers. But, many auto lenders implemented their own programs, including several offering 90-day deferrals.

So, in the early days of the pandemic, with unemployment soaring and the future uncertain, auto loan delinquencies dropped slightly. However, that figure was somewhat misleading. In April 2020, more than 3.5% of auto loans nationwide were in “hardship” status, compared with just under .64% the previous month. In other words, the percentage of auto loans in hardship status in April was about 5.5 times as high as the same measure in March. Locally, the difference was even more extreme: in Alabama, the percentage of motor vehicle loans in hardship status in April was 8.7 times the March figure.

### Protections and Deferrals are Running Out for Many

For virtually everyone, the spring of 2020 stimulus checks are long gone. The increased unemployment compensation expired, was replaced with a smaller boost, and then expired again. Income for those still relying on unemployment has dropped dramatically. While the median unemployment insurance recipient in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee was receiving 142-148% of regular earnings while the initial federal supplement lasted, median income through regular state-based unemployment in the three states is just 41-47% of what the recipient earned at work.

At the same time, those 90-day deferrals on automobile loans and other moratoriums and voluntary programs have now long expired. Even those who have returned to work may have catching up to do—and catching up is becoming an emergency for some. So, it is no surprise that delinquency rates on auto loans are rising again. The percentage of auto loans that are 60+ days delinquent has increased steadily over the past several months.

In short, the number of automobile loans creeping toward possible repossession is growing, but many still are not in a position to catch up, and options may be dwindling.

If you are in this position, it is in

your best interest to be proactive.

That may be as simple as contacting your lender. Do not make assumptions based on past experience—many lenders have changed their practices, at least temporarily. That may mean options that you are not aware of, like the opportunity for a deferral, interest-only payments, or some other solution that will help you stay on track.

### Bankruptcy and Auto Repossessions

If you are out of options or simply recognize that months of financial strain have put you too far behind to regain control on your own, it may be time to learn more about bankruptcy. Both Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcy can temporarily halt collection action, including repossession.

Of course, you cannot simply discharge your car loan in bankruptcy and keep your car, but an experienced local bankruptcy attorney like the ones at Bond & Botes can explain the options and help you determine the best path for you. For example, you may be able to redeem the car for less than the amount of your loan in Chapter 7 bankruptcy, or to catch up the past-due balance over time in Chapter 13. Many times, paying your car payment through a Chapter 13 bankruptcy plan can save you money since the interest rate tends to be lower and the balance is paid over 5 years. If you are in a situation where you are behind on your car payments, have a high interest rate and a high payment, a Chapter 13 could help you!

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Let us solve your financial problems and you can begin gathering information right now by scheduling a free consultation with one of the experienced bankruptcy attorneys at Bond & Botes. We can answer all your questions regarding Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, Chapter 13 Bankruptcy, stopping a foreclosure or wage garnishment, avoiding liens, stopping lawsuits, discharging medical debt, personal loans, payday loans, credit card debt, etc. We can alleviate your stress! We want to help and we can help you!

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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.

**BLAZE** is a handsome 1 yr old male lab mix. He is a happy and playful boy. Please adopt Blaze. **\$25 ADOPTION FEE** includes vaccinations and spay/neuter surgery! If you can't adopt please sponsor. For more info please call or go to the shelter. To make a sponsorship donation contact the Colbert shelter at 256-381-4073 or 5010 Missouri St Tuscumbia, AL 35674 or by paypal [ccaca@bellsouth.net](mailto:ccaca@bellsouth.net)



**TUSSELE** is a very mellow dog who still enjoys playing with toys and getting treats. He is 5 years old and 60 pounds. Tussle originally came to us as a stray who was heartworm positive. Tussle is now almost done with his treatments and will be ready for adoption. He has done great with all the kids he has met, as well with other dogs.

**THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$85** and includes heartworm test, current vaccines, spay/neuter and microchip. Adoptions are by

appointment only. Please call Florence Lauderdale animal services at 256-760-6676 to meet this amazing guy.

I'm **CASSANDRA** and I would love to meet you! I'm a pit mix and born October, 2015. I'm a great little lady. I was dropped off at the shelter and the nice people from PAWS gave me a great foster home so I had a chance at a forever family. I'm absolutely beautiful as you can see from my photo. I'm crate trained and don't mind being in it. I'm also house trained. I don't do well with leash walking just yet. My humans are working on that with me. I'm very submissive with other dogs.

I do however don't like sharing my food with them. I can be timid around my humans but am working on that. I don't jump on my humans and I understand that is a good thing. I just need a patient family to work with me on my trust issues. I would need a fenced in yard to play safely with my humans. I'm fully vetted, spayed, and micro chipped. If you're interested in being my forever family please email PAWS at [shoalspaws@gmail.com](mailto:shoalspaws@gmail.com)



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# Community Notes...

Continued from page 21

**The charming town of Linden, TN is pleased to announce the 13th annual Blooming Arts Festival on March 26-27.** Blooming Arts Festival is Linden's annual signature event and one of the region's leading outdoor festivals. The free event, had more than 150 artists registered in 2019 and attendance near 10,000.

"This year, more than ever in our history, we are excited to invite people to attend our premiere Linden's downtown Main Street features wide sidewalks, retro lampposts, restored architecture, and beautifully landscaped trees; the perfect backdrop for showcasing creative arts and crafts.

Past exhibitions have included fine art - oil paintings, watercolors, acrylics, clay sculptures and photography. Fine hand-crafted artisans bring stained glass, leatherwork, jewelry, glass, furniture, fiber, quilting and numerous other displays of creativity.

In addition to arts & crafts exhibitors, a full schedule of live music is planned for both days plus the always-popular Kids Zone, complete with rides and many fun activities. Blooming Arts Festival is free and open to the public.

For more information, including how to register for a booth, visit [www.bloomingartsfestival.com](http://www.bloomingartsfestival.com)

**Pay it Forward: Donate to Educate** - Shoals Scholar Dollars is an Education Foundation raising money to pay tuition at Northwest Shoals Community College and transfer scholarships to the University of North Alabama for Lauderdale and Colbert County students who meet certain criteria. Donate to Scholar Dollars at any participating financial institution the second Friday of each month.

**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.rehomeandeducate.webs.com](http://www.rehomeandeducate.webs.com)

**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](http://www.ShoalsCASA.org).

**City of Florence - Recycling Program:** Paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and jugs only (#1 & #2), aluminum cans, and steel cans are all recyclable. Residential curbside cart collection is provided within

City of Florence limits. The Florence Recycle Center drop-off is available to everyone, 24 hours, 7 days a week.

**Cardboard Boxes**  
Place large, broken-down cardboard boxes 3 feet away from your recycle and garbage carts. Remove all contents from each box before recycling as Styrofoam and plastic film are NOT recyclable.

**Televisions/Electronics**  
Old TV's are not collected with curbside trash. They can be dropped off at two locations:

--Florence Recycle Center: 1200 Terrace Street, Florence

--Florence Landfill: 29485 County Road 14, Florence

**Wrapping Paper**  
All paper is recyclable if it will tear. We encourage you to reuse ribbons and bows, but they are not recyclable.

**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/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/AlabamaExtensionAAMU/events/)

Access Alabama Extension's website at [www.aces.edu](http://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](mailto:ksh0035@aces.edu).

**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@ymcashaols.org](mailto:bcanup@ymcashaols.org).**

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

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# Junior Whirl Answers

by Charles Barry Townsend      Illustrated by David Coulson

**Answer: The letter 'G,' of course is at the end of everything**



Our answer: I=6, C=3, E=8, R=9, N=4, K=0, S=1, A=2, T=7. (638 + 9640 = 10278)

**ICE + RINK = SKATE**

13	16	20	6
19	7	12	17
8	22	14	11
15	10	9	21

[55]

**SIGNS OF WINTER!**

S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	S	S	L	F	S
M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	N	A	I	L	H
E	C	A	L	P	E	R	I	F	O	L	G	U	O
S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	Z	W	T	H	R	V
L	F	Z	E	N	A	C	G	O	B	O	T	R	E
E	I	E	T	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	I	L
E	R	B	C	N	I	D	D	E	L	S	S	E	S
T	D	G	D	R	A	Z	Z	I	L	B	E	S	H

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# Medicare Minute

## "Medicare Part A Part 1"

On a Medicare card Part A will have the word "Hospital" beside it. Because of that Medicare Part A is most commonly known as the inpatient or hospitalization part of Medicare. This means when a Medicare beneficiary is admitted into the hospital most of the services that are received are filed under Medicare Part A. This sounds simple but sometimes it's not.

Medicare Part A has a deductible of \$1,484 per benefit period. Notice two things here. First is the deductible of \$1,484. If you are admitted into the hospital and had Original Medicare only, you would owe the first \$1,484 of your stay. This deductible covers hospital services, including semi-private rooms, meals, general nursing, drugs as part of your inpatient treatment, and other hospital services and supplies.

The second thing to notice is the term "benefit period". This tells you the deductible is not an annual deductible but could hit you more than once in a calendar year. A "benefit period" begins when you are discharged from a hospital or skilled nursing facility and ends when you haven't received any inpatient care for 60 consecutive days. If you are admitted as an inpatient after the 60 days of no inpatient care a new benefit period begins, meaning another \$1,484 deductible. Also if you are confined to the hospital for 60 consecutive days your deductible will cover you but on the 61st day you will begin paying a coinsurance.

The good news is for most Medicare beneficiaries Part A is free. Free meaning you don't pay a premium for it. The reason for this is while you are working you pay 1.45% of your pay check into Medicare. If you did that for 40 quarters you're entitled to Part A for free. Next week will discuss the other benefits of Medicare Part A.

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](mailto: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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Get an early look at next week's issue with the...

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