

**Gurley Sets
UNA Record**

FLORENCE -- UNA senior punter, **Joe Gurley** of Killen, set a new UNA single season record with a 43.3 yard punting average in the recently completed 2021 season. Gurley's mark eclipsed the average set by **John Crittenden** in the 1991 season.

Gurley punted 45 times this season for 1,950 yards, with a long punt of 65 yards. He had nine boots of over 50 yards and 14 punts were downed inside the opponents 20-yard line. Only nine of his 45 punts were able to be returned by the opponent.

Earlier this season, Gurley set a school career record with 31 punts that went 50 yards or more from the line of scrimmage. He also had 62 career punts downed inside the opponent's 20-yard line.



Gurley

Volume 138 Number 6 December 1, 2021 **POSTAL PATRON**

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The 106 Year Record

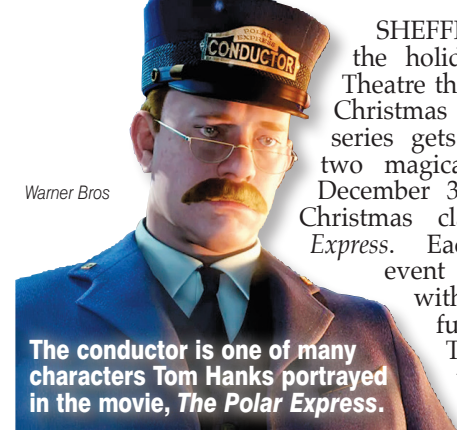
MUSCLE SHOALS--Lewis Automotive Group sales consultant, **Blake Stutts**, recently set a new record for the 106 year-old company by selling a total of 57.5 vehicles in October 2021. The previous record was established by **Don Mathews** in August of 2006 when he sold 53.5 units. **Jeff Jones** sold 52 vehicles in March of 1995. They are the only three to have eclipsed 50 vehicles in one calendar month since the



L-R Jeff Jones, Blake Stutts, and Don Mathews

See SALES.... on Page 38

The Polar Express Opens Christmas at the Ritz



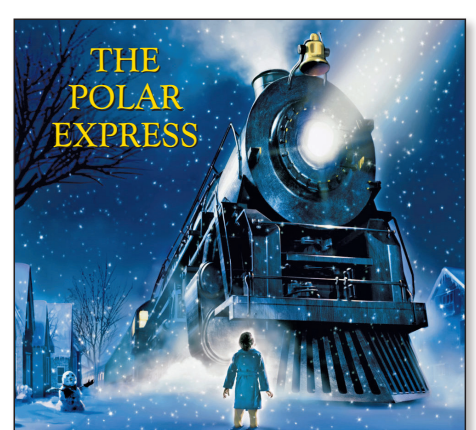
Warner Bros

The conductor is one of many characters Tom Hanks portrayed in the movie, *The Polar Express*.

SHEFFIELD - Celebrate the holidays at the Ritz Theatre this December with Christmas at The Ritz! This series gets underway with two magical family events December 3-4 based on the Christmas classic, *The Polar Express*. Each Polar Express event will start at 6pm with festive family fun at the Ritz Theatre complex which will be decked out

for the season! Tickets are \$18 each and are available now at TennesseeValleyArts.org or by calling 256-383-0533. Participants will get to ride a trolley with Santa, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies, and make an ornament to hang on the Ritz' Christmas tree. Then at 7pm everyone will watch *The Polar Express* on The Ritz's big screen.

This event is all about creating Christmas magic for families,



See POLAR.... on Page 11

NW-SCC's Winter Show

PHIL CAMPBELL -- Northwest-Shoals Community College's (NW-SCC) Music Department will host its Falling into Winter concert Thursday-Saturday, December 2 - 4 at 7pm in the Lou B. Bevell Center on the NW-SCC

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Inside this Issue

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- Dave Ramsey
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- Hocus • Soaps
- Christmas Coloring!
- SIGNS of the PAST

306 GAME DAY SCORE CARD 2021

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Automotive Inside NOW National Advance Auto Sales Jeff Elledge Auto Sales

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Tennessee Valley Museum of Art Winter Art Market NOV. 30 - DEC. 23

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Shorts...

NW-SCC's Winter Show

Continued from Page 1

Phil Campbell Campus. The Concert will feature the NW-SCC Show Choir, Vocal Point, directed by Jonathon Romero.

Admission for the concert will be \$8 and children 12 and under will be free. NW-SCC employees and students will be admitted free with a valid college ID. Tickets must be purchased in advance for each show online at <https://bit.ly/3DyIqux>.

Show Choir Members

and Hometowns

- Amberly Brown Russellville
- Chloe Carpenter Phil Campbell
- Gabe Engle Haleyville
- Andrew Estes Double Springs
- Taegan Franks Winfield
- Makenzie Galloway Phil Campbell
- Ari Gilstrap Phil Campbell
- Avery Guinn Russellville
- Gunner Land Russellville
- John Linley



NW-SCC Show Choir, Vocal Point, performs in 2021 on the NW-SCC Phil Campbell Campus. NW-SCC photo

to make children across America smile a little brighter on Christmas morning. The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation was created in 1991 by the Marine Corps to provide new, unwrapped toys and spread a message of hope to less fortunate children.

The *Courier Journal/Times Daily* office at 219 E. Tennessee St. in Florence is also a Toys for Tots drop-off location.

October Hero of the Month

MUSCLE SHOALS—The Long Lewis Hero of the Month for October is **Dianne Michael**. Michael has fostered well over 1,000 dogs for all of the local shelters and rescue organizations. She spends her own time and money

See SHORTS... Page 5

- Hamilton Briley Mills Red Bay
- Anna Kate Warner Hamilton
- Nicol Webster Florence

toys. Toys of all sizes are greatly appreciated. To find the First Metro Bank nearest you, visit firstmetro.com.

The Conley Detachment #1477 is one of 1,140 detachments in communities across the country. Not only does the Marine Corps League support marines throughout the United States, but they have also expanded their mission



Drop off Toys at First Metro

SHOALS—First Metro Bank is partnering with the Conley Detachment #1477, Marine Corps League to bring the joy of Christmas to local children throughout the Shoals.

All First Metro Bank locations are among those serving as Toys for Tots drop-off sites until Friday, December 10. Please donate new, unwrapped

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SIGNS OF THE PAST



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Chartered 1856 as Florence Wesleyan University, R. H. Rivers, President. Regarded as North Alabama's most eminent landmark, this Gothic Revival structure was designed by Adolphus Heiman, Nashville, and built by Zebulon Pike Morrison, Florence, as new home for LaGrange College (organized 1830 by Methodists). Used by both armies at various times during Civil War. Deeded to State of Alabama, 1872, as first coeducational teacher training institution south of Ohio River. School expanded to become University of North Alabama in 1974. Listed: National Register of Historic Places.

Location: 34.8089°N, 87.6786°W
UNA campus, near N.Wood & Nellie Avenues

In 1863, at one point during the Civil War, General William Sherman used Wesleyan Hall as his headquarters. When Sherman left, he penned a letter protecting the bldg from harm by the future Federal invasions.

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

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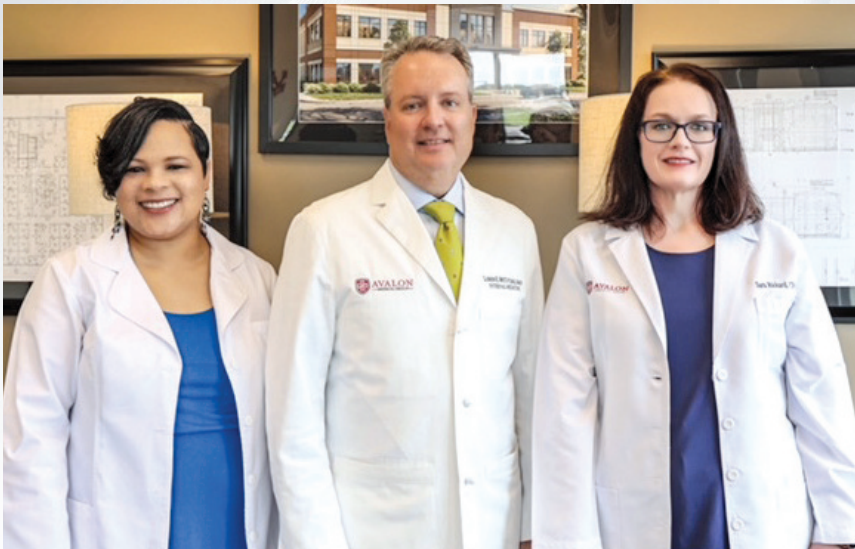
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NISSAN: VERSA SL MODEL, 2008 \$6,750. Hatchback, 4 door, automatic, power package, alloy wheels, NEW TIRES! Excellent Nissian Value. 256-527-2125.



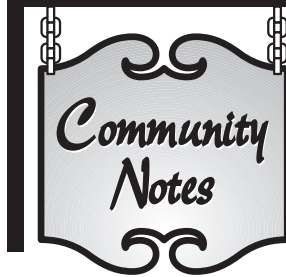
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COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE in the Courier Journal. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following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

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

All properly submitted Community Notes which are dated will be posted weekly at www.courierjournal.net. We do our best, however, there is no guarantee that this free information will be published 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.

St. Florian Christmas Toy Drive going on now through December 10. Accepting new toys and monetary donations. Drop off at St. Florian Town Hall.

Join us in helping families in need in our community this holiday season.

The Muscle Shoals Chapter of TVA Retirees will meet in person on Wednesday, December 1, at the TVA Community Credit Union, 1405 Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals, at 10am.

- Door Prizes will include:
- 4 - \$25 Cash Prizes
 - 7 - Membership Dues for 2022
- Lunch will be provided

The Batting Brigade Quilt Guild meets every 2nd Monday at 9:30am at Edgemont Methodist Church, 1330 Eauclaire Ave in Florence. Everyone interested in Quilting is welcome - from beginners to expert

Want to list your event in Community Notes? Email your information to editor@CourierJournal.net.

Clothes Give Away, Adults, Teens and Children - from 8-10am Thursday,

December 2 at the Care Center, First Baptist Church in Killen

Northwest-Shoals Community College's (NW-SCC) Music Department will host its **Falling into Winter** concert Thursday, Saturday, December 2-4, at 7pm in the Lou B. Beville Center on the NW-SCC Phil Campbell Campus. The Concert will feature the NW-SCC Show Choir, Vocal Point, directed by Jonathon Romero.

Admission for the concert will be \$8 and children 12 and under will be free.

NW-SCC employees and students will be admitted free with a valid college ID. Tickets must be purchased in advance for each show online at <https://bit.ly/3Dylqyx>.

Shoals Tinsel Trail, December 3-January 3 at Alabama Music Hall of Fame, 617 US Hwy 72W, Tuscumbia. Local businesses and organizations decorate trees in an array of themes. Be

See NOTES... page 36

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The Florence Lauderdale Animal Services (FLAS) Building is located at 3240 Roberson Road in the Florence Industrial Park. All sales benefit Chloe's Fund which provides financial assistance for sick and/or injured shelter animals.



based Strategic Energy Management training program developed with the State of Tennessee's Energy Efficient Schools Initiative to help public school districts make smart energy choices that improve the classroom learning environment and save money through decreased energy use. Tight budgets and aging buildings leave many schools facing a difficult decision between funding



learning programs and making needed facility upgrades. TVA's \$7.3 million School Uplift program will help 160 public schools in seven

states solve that problem. "Sheffield Utilities General Manager, Steve Hargrove, informed us about School Uplift opportunity, and Sheffield Utilities has partnered with us every step of the way," said Sheffield City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Keith Davis. Three Building Energy Upgrade grants of up to \$200,000 each will be

See SHORTs... Page 8

Shorts...

October Hero of the Month

Continued from Page 2

to feed, transport, and take care of all the rescues. In addition, Michael helps conduct fundraisers for thousands of dollars to help with medical bills to save adoptable animals in need of care. She never stops; she is a true hero to our community!

Nominations for November are still being accepted at the Long Lewis of the Shoals FB page.

L-R: Melissa Henson, Jamy Tillman, Brandon Narmore, Dana Harris, Melvin Long, Dianne Michael, Nick Moore, Michael Gregory, Ashley Moody

Long-Lewis photo

A 2nd Santa Paws Market

FLORENCE—Florence Lauderdale Animal Services will host the second and final weekend of 2nd Annual Santa Paws Christmas Market Saturday and Sunday, December 3-4, presented by Chloe's Fund. The hours are from 11am-5pm

L.E. Willson is UpLift Finalist

SHEFFIELD—L.E. Willson Elementary School in Sheffield was recently selected as a Round One Finalist in the TVA School Uplift Grant for the 2021-2022 school year.

Earlier this year, all four schools in the Sheffield City School District were selected to participate in the School Uplift program. School Uplift is a 12-month behavior-

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A Word Fitly Spoken




Howell Bigham
Chaplain

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 25:11, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Throughout our lifetime we have opportunities to talk to and with people of all walks of life. The wisest of the Old Testament encourages the weighing of words. He teaches that we are to gauge the situation before engaging in a conversation. An appropriate word is compared to gold in a silver basket. Did you know that your words can be among the most valuable things you possess?

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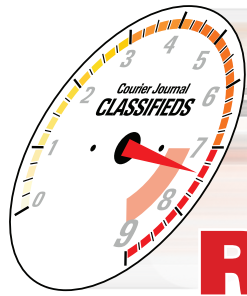
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Shorts...

L.E. Willson is Uplift Finalist

Continued from Page 5

awarded to economically distressed, qualifying schools participating in the TVA School Uplift Program. One school per district was allowed to apply, and L.E. Willson was announced as a finalist in early November. As a result, L.E. Willson received an investment grade energy audit valued at \$15,000. Round two of the grant process will conclude around February 4, and winners will be announced on February 28.

"The TVA Building Energy Upgrade grant would allow us the opportunity to make a capital investment that would improve energy efficiency and lower some of the overhead cost at LE Willson," said Davis.

6 Named All-Big South

CHARLOTTE, NC -- The University of North Alabama had six student-athletes named to the 2021 All-Big South Conference football team, while senior defensive back K.J. Smith of Perry, GA, was named the Big South Scholar

Athlete of the Year for the third straight time. Smith and senior defensive lineman Wallace Cowins, Jr., of Conyers, GA, were first-team All-Big South selections.

Redshirt freshman running back, Parker Driggers of Brantley, AL, redshirt junior receiver Dexter Boykin of Fairfield, AL, senior punter Joe Gurley of Killen, AL, and freshman punt returner Kobe Warden of Killen, AL, were all second-team All-Big South picks.

Smith was named to the Big South All-Academic team and was the league's top scholar athlete for the third straight season.

Smith was named All-Big South for the second straight season after leading the conference with six interceptions and ranking second in interception return yardage with 69.

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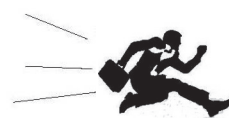
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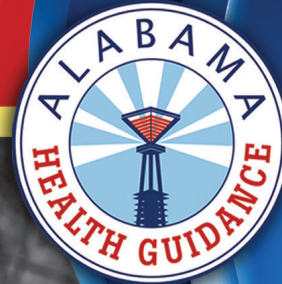
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Polar...

Continued from Page 1

According to Burt Helton, board chair at the Tennessee Valley Art Association, which runs the Ritz Theatre. "Christmas is all about kids and how their eyes light up at the excitement of the holidays," said Helton. "We want to provide an immersive experience for children to make Christmas even more magical."

Christmas at the Ritz will continue Dec. 13-17



grant entry to all five films. Tickets are available online, by calling 256-383-0533, or at the door.

To learn more about the Tennessee Valley Art Association, which runs the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art and the Ritz Theatre, visit tennesseevalleyarts.org.

Christmas at the Ritz Schedule

- Monday, December 13:**
It's a Wonderful Life
- Tuesday, December 14:**
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
- Wednesday, December 15:**
The Muppet Christmas Carol
- Thursday, December 16:**
A Christmas Story
- Friday, December 17:**
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Currently, there are about 31.7 million small businesses in the U.S., and they account for 65.1% of new jobs since 2000. However, local companies need even more support during and following the pandemic. As of November 2020, 29.7% of small businesses were negatively impacted by the pandemic with accommodation and food services; arts, entertainment and recreation; and educational services ranking as the hardest-hit industries. During the pandemic, Black owners have experienced a decline in business activity nearly three times higher than other owners.

As one of the leading insurers of small businesses, State Farm® knows how important it is to support local. And whether you're looking to make small steps to improve your community or you already support local small business on a regular basis, we've got some suggestions — both simple and out-of-the-box — on how to make a difference in your corner of the world.

- 1. Shop small** - Before any purchase, check area stores in person or online. Or turn to platforms like Bookshop, Lyst and Sook for help finding books or clothing from small retailers.
- 2. Explore and experiment** - Once a month, skip the chain restaurant or big-box hardware store and seek out local alternatives. Ask neighbors or check Yelp for recommendations.
- 3. Skip the middleman** - Order directly from your favorite local restaurants and stores. Third-party delivery and shopping apps charge merchants high fees that reduce their already-small profits.
- 4. Join a CSA** - Community-supported agriculture (CSA) is a system for connecting farmers with locals who will purchase their fresh ingredients. Check localharvest.org for CSA options in your area.
- 5. Buy gift cards** - When birthdays and holidays come around, give gift cards to an area spa, restaurant, theater or other local businesses. Gift cards are a great way to introduce others to your favorites.
- 6. Make a donation** - Charities are valuable employers and providers in local communities. Amplify your giving by donating to small nonprofits or give directly to the local chapters of national organizations.
- 7. Give a "like"** - You can also support small businesses without buying. Liking their social media profiles, leaving positive reviews and sharing them with your friends is powerful word-of-mouth advertising.



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 **Helen Keller Hospital**

Commentary

White Supremacy Focus is Tiresome

There's nothing more frightening in America today than an angry White man" "White male anger could prove to be one of the biggest roadblocks we face in building a successful multiracial democracy."

Those are two official CNN positions on its Twitter feed seemingly provoked largely by the acquittal of Kyle Rittenhouse. And it seems to be a growing attitude shared by most of the major media outlets.

Keeping up with the trial to an extent, I found Rittenhouse's demeanor to be amazingly calm for as lousy as he has been treated since that third night of riotous looting and burning in Kenosha, Wisconsin in late August of 2020.

Initial questioning of the suspect, witnesses, and a review of the numerous video angles should have firmly established his defensive posture. So the charges against him were corrupt and/or political from the start. His first attorneys were apparently more self-serving allowing him to sit in jail for 87 days when his \$2 million bail had been raised

See **WHITE...** on Page 27

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

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

Courier Journal

THIS WEEK

in the *Shoals*

December 1, 2021

Happening
THIS WEEK

Comerata Returns

Rockhill Directing Cantrell as Collaborative Pianist

FLORENCE--Florence Camerata is an accomplished community chorus established in 2006. It is open to all singers age 17 and up. It was led by Dr. Ian Loeppky, University of North Alabama Director of Choral Activities, for many years with much success.

Loeppky made a change which resulted in a search for a new director in 2017.

The Camerata was fortunate to engage Rebecca Rockhill in 2020, a

longtime Director of Choral Activities at Florence City Schools and current choral instructor at the University of North Alabama. In addition to Rockhill, Karen Cantrell joined the group as our Collaborative Pianist.

According to Florence Camerata member, Gail Johnson, the group worked hard to prepare a Spring Concert in

See **COMERATA...** on Page 30



Rebecca Rockhill, left, soloist David Johnson, and Florence Camerata singing "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Courtesy photo



A Second Year for a

Winter Market

TUSCUMBIA - The Tennessee Valley Museum of Art is hosting its second annual Winter Art Market November 30 - December 23. The market offers a unique holiday shopping experience, with hundreds of one-of-a-kind pieces featured in work from over 50 artists and artisans.

The Winter Art Market was launched in 2020 as a way to support artists who were struggling in the face of canceled festivals and

See **WINTER...** Page 21

THE FLORENCE STREET DEPARTMENT ASSISTED the Florence Beautification Board in transporting and placing a 15-foot Fraser Fir on the North Court Street median last week.

The official tree lighting will take place at 4:30pm December 3 at the median in the 400 block of North Court. This is followed at 5pm by the "Every Light a Prayer for Peace" program at Pope's Tavern, and at 6pm for the lighting of Wilson Park.

UNITY - FREEDOM - CHRIST, CHRISTIANS FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM

- You are invited Sunday, December 5 at 5:30pm at Parkway Community Church across from Mars Hill School. Come join a coalition of Christians and Patriots as we engage the culture. We must form a union that supports those who stand up for themselves. As mandates come down from Washington DC and employers, we are vowing to use truth and freedom to combat the evil they perpetrate.

THE FIRST ANNUAL ST. FLORIAN CHRISTMAS PARADE will be Saturday, December 4 at 6pm. Setup is at noon, lineup at 5pm. The route will be from Experience Church to St. Florian Park. For registration information, contact St. Florian Town Hall at 256-767-3690.

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YOUR Letters

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

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

Just Plain Nonsense

Editor,

In Mr. Tom Jones' letter of November 17 (*His Precious Project*), he managed to show how little he researched his stated information. Were we all to just take hearsay's and whatfor's as truth, we would require more faith in human nature. I lack that faith.

It took less than 5 minutes during my coffee to find his information was just plain nonsense. I do not intend to allow my waning years to be filled with lies and innuendos. It's called being gullible. Are you as well?

Linda Johnson
Florence

The Climate of Hate

Friends,

It seems as if the media and the globalist cohorts are focusing most of their time, energy, and money on climate change. Of course, they have made

...The ideas that they put into those two documents were philosophic, not racist nor White supremacist...



millions while destroying thousands of American jobs and costing America it's energy independence. However, that is not the climate this little note is about.

The climate that we need to address right now if we want to survive has nothing to do with weather. It is the tsunami of hate that found it's origins in college classrooms and permeated liberal media and left wing activist groups. These destructive and loud minority groups are making tens of millions of dollars.

Listen to the leaders of the Democrat Party when they talk about Republicans. We are called everything but human by Maxine Waters, Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, and The Squad.

See **LETTERS...** on Page 26

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- b. 811
- c. 611
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- d. Putting up a mailbox
- e. Installing a deck
- f. All of the above

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- b. Gasoline
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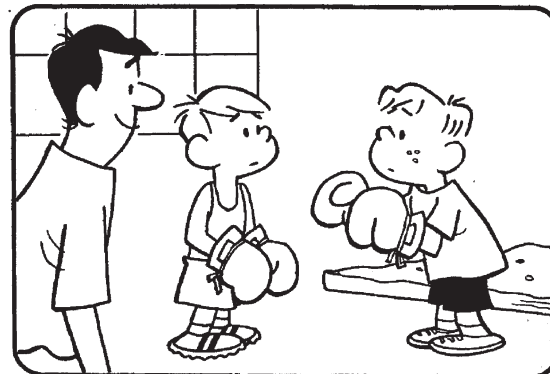
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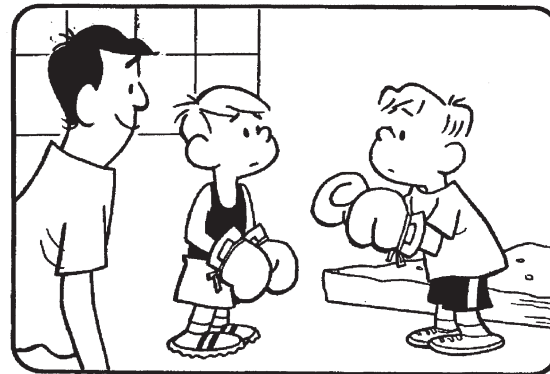


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Shirt is different. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Freckles are missing. 4. Mat is thicker. 5. Stripe is added. 6. Nose is smaller.

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Winter Market...

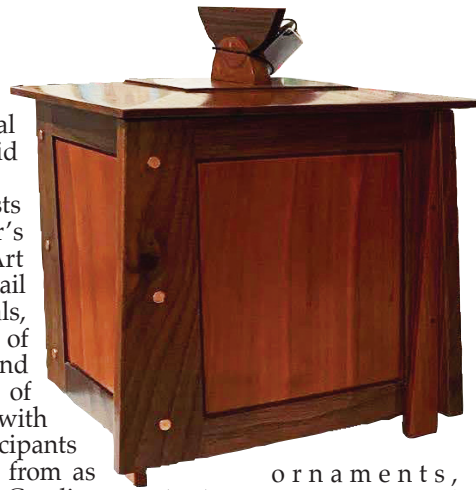
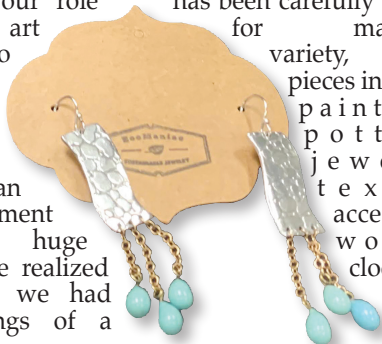
Continued from Page 14

exhibitions. The market was designed to allow for safer shopping by spreading out the event throughout the holiday season.

"The Winter Art Market started last year as an experiment," said Christi Britten, the executive director of the Tennessee Valley Art Association, which runs the museum. "Our staff was looking for a way to create some holiday joy in our community and to use our role as a regional art association to help artists sell their work during COVID." What began as an experiment became a huge success. "We realized quickly that we had the beginnings of a

major regional art event," said Britten.

The artists in this year's Winter Art Market hail from the Shoals, the state of Alabama, and various parts of the country, with some participants sending work from as far as North Carolina and Idaho. The market has been carefully curated for maximum variety, with pieces including paintings, pottery, jewelry, textile accessories, wooden clocks and boxes,



ornaments, baskets, toys, and household items. Prices range from under \$10 to over \$1000, so everyone can leave with the perfect items for a loved one or great new piece of art for their own home.

The Winter Art Market is open during the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art's normal hours of Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm and Saturday 10am-5pm. There will also be

evening shopping hours each Thursday until 7pm. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and free for TVAA members and for education, healthcare, and first response workers. There will also be a free admission day on Saturday, December 11 during the "It's a Dickens Christmas Y'all" event in downtown Tusculumbia.

A full list is participants in on our website with this article at CourierJournal.net.

To learn more about the Tennessee Valley Art Association, visit tennesseevalleyarts.org or call 256-383-0533.



Last year's Winter Art Market at Tennessee Valley Art Center included works, from left, by Amy Pieroni, Laurens Cotten, and Marian Baker.

TVAA photos

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Savvy SENIOR

Senior Alert: Your Old Cellphone May Not Work in 2022

Dear Savvy Senior,

My 80-year-old father has an old flip phone he carries around with him for emergency purposes, but I've heard that these devices will soon be phased out. Is this true? If so, how can we know if his phone will be affected, and where can I find him a simple new one that he can operate.

Searching Daughter

Dear Searching,

Yes, it's true! If your dad's mobile phone is more than a few years old, he will probably need to upgrade it in the very near future.

Why?

Because all of the major cell phone carriers - AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile - are shutting down their older 3G networks in 2022 to free up airwaves for 5G and other advanced services. So, if your dad is using an old 3G phone, like millions of other older Americans, he'll need to get a new device if he wants to make calls, text or reach 911.

But you should also know that it's not just older cellphones that will be obsolete. Older home security systems, medical devices and personal emergency response systems that still harness 3G will also be affected. Adding to the confusion, older 4G phones that don't support modern cellular voice technologies, such as Voice Over LTE or HD Voice, are impacted, too. Those customers may need a software upgrade or a new phone.

Here are the timelines for the 3G shutdowns: AT&T - Feb. 2022; T-Mobile - July 1, 2022; Verizon - Dec. 31, 2022; Sprint (which is owned by T-Mobile) - March 31, 2022; and Sprint LTE - June 30, 2022. Other smaller carriers like Tracfone, Cricket, Boost and Straight Talk, will also be affected, because they rely on airwaves from the big three.

Is Your Phone Affected?

Cellphone carriers say they have been alerting customers who use older phones that services are ending, sending a combination of texts, letters, phone calls and emails. If you're not sure about your dad's phone, contact his carrier or check their website for a list of affected devices.

Another way to see if your dad's phone is 3G is to look up his international mobile equipment identity number which can be found by pressing *#06# on his keypad. Once you have it, go to www.imei.info and type it in the search bar to get the phone's details. If his phone has a frequency of 900 megahertz (MHz) or 2100 MHz, it's 3G. You can also look for a "3G" icon at the top corner of his phone, but not all 3G phones have that icon.

How to Upgrade

If you find that you do need to upgrade your dad's cellphone, carriers are offering discounts and special promotions on replacement devices. If you're worried about your dad having to learn your way around a new device, you'll be happy to know that there are plenty of modern new flip phones available that work on the next-generation networks.

Or, if your dad decides that he would rather forge ahead without a phone than upgrade, then he will need to cancel the service. Most carriers will let you cancel your plan without any penalty. However, if he forgets to cancel his phone plan and doesn't upgrade to a working device, the company won't automatically stop charging him just because he isn't able to access their network.

How to Recycle

If your dad does have to replace his old cellphone, the best way to dispose of it is to recycle it. Large retailers, such as Best Buy, offer recycling programs for old electronics. Or you can search for local recycling programs on websites like Call2Recycle.org and Earth911.com.

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



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Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

A Beautiful View

She is six years old. It's her first flight. The picture shows her peering out of her rounded rectangle airplane window. She is quietly enthralled. Her braided natural hair with its curlicues fades into darkness on one side of the picture. On the other, the side glance of her face is highlighted by the heavenly glow coming in from the sun and the clouds. There's a land of clouds outside the portal. It is breathtaking - blues, grays, whites and shining outside the window. She is taking it all in. Her mom has captioned the post: "Beauty beholding

beauty." My comment: "Yes." Our grandbaby girl is beauty. In this picture she is wearing a kid-sized pastel blue and purple cloth mask.

So much is happening in this picture. Our baby girl is getting to see the world from a whole different view. Different from our ancestors - on this flying wonder that she was allowed on and able to afford. Different from the streets and sidewalks that she has walked and ridden her bikes on - riding on air on silver wings. Different from the houses and buildings that stack up her life daily - into a firmament that consists only of sunshine and

water droplets that can make your ride bumpy. What a less complicated and truly majestic view. A view that seems only a step below God's house.

This is a picture of awe and innocence. It's a beautiful thing to see. But it is easily marred. A virus - a cuss word - a slap - a crash - hurt - harm - bias - being unloving - being ignored - belittling - doubting - discouraging - hating - darkness - evil - can ruin the joy in our picture, in our lives. I have written about innocence many times before. Innocence and purity are the basis of goodness. Sometimes I think that we try to steal people's

purity by convincing them that they are not good, and that the world is not good. Why do we do that? Try to dash another person's awe. I have held on to awe. Sure the world has sickness, war, death and pain - but! I'm not innocently unaware of sin, hardship and sadness - but... there is beauty.

What are you viewing? Look at that little baby's face. Look at that red maple against the bright blue sky. Feel the wrinkles on the back of your Mama's hand and think of her history. Light a fire and wonder what just happened. Combustion and oxygen...what? Have a baby and give thanks.

Drink recycled water that is as old as the earth and be amazed. There is no new water. Plant a plant and watch it grow. Kiss your husband and feel a tingle. Look out the window. Cook some eggs! Awesome!

Be in awe. For us life is so abundant! We are flying on what we have been given. Be thankful. Don't let anything mar your appreciation and joy. If you are not enthralled, change your view. Look at life like it's your first flight. Oh yeah, it is! His picture of you - you are beauty beholding beauty.

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com

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ASK THE ATTORNEY



Thomas McCutcheon

Ask the Attorney is sponsored by local attorneys, McCutcheon & Hamner, P.C. as a service to the residents of NW Alabama.

Gap Insurance vs Collision Insurance

I had a lady with a bad knee injury talk to me about resolving her on the job injury case and leaving her medical bills open for life. I told her that it would certainly be an option for her to have the right to future medical care or receive a one-time lump sum payment in exchange if the case was settled and she wanted to close her medicals.

If the case was tried by the court, the judge would leave her right to future medical care open for treatment relating to the original on the job injury. That sounds like the better option and sometimes it is, but it's always good to know your options

and understand that future medical care is not as clear cut as it sounds.

On September 17, 2021, the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals decided a case that concerned the issue of whether or not an employer continued to be responsible for medical treatment for an on the job injury if there was a new incident that caused pain.

The facts of the case are that a Mr. Billups was injured on October 18, 2016, had back pain and surgery and eventually settled his case leaving his medical benefits open. On February 12, 2019, Mr. Billups was lifting a lift gate on his delivery truck when he felt a pop and a lot of pain. His employer claimed that this was merely a recurrence of the original injury and not a new injury. His current employer tried to put the blame and the bills on the old employer.

After the court heard the testimony of two surgeons and Mr. Billups (who had never been able to return to full duty following the 2019 injury), the court determined that this was a new injury and that his employer was responsible for the injury.

It's always important to remember that in worker's compensation cases no pre-existing condition exists if the employee is able to perform the duties of their job prior to the injury. That is one of the most important aspects of the Alabama Worker's Compensation Act.

Although it sounds really great that a person would have lifetime medical treatment for an on the job injury and sometimes it is, often the incident that causes new treatment after the case is settled is actually a new injury that terminates the employer's obligation for future medical treatment. You have to know and understand something about the future treatment you expect before you can make an informed decision about closing your right to that future medical treatment. Sometimes money now is better than a disputed right later.

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



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

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"Due to Covid, we ask everyone to wear a face mask as a courtesy and added protection to all. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Sincerely, the children of Nell Moore."

Letters...

The Climate of Hate...

Continued from Page 14

The Democrat leadership said nothing about the riots that caused so much death, pain, and destruction last summer, yet they promote hate and anger against any American who opposed those riots. They do everything they can to divide us, to destroy civil debate and an exchange of ideas.

We are Americans! Let's not forget that this country has helped more people gain more wealth and freedom than any other country in the history of man. This little tidbit seems to have been lost on the mainstream media. It seems to be secondary to those in Washington, those who

seem to think that selling out to China and destroying the middle class and the possibility of gaining wealth is acceptable.

We need to talk. Perhaps not as friends, but as people who love the country for the opportunities it offers. It is time for Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, to get together and share ideas. Debate in an safe place like Starbucks!

It won't be easy, but lets change the climate, make new friends and have some fun. If we are smart we can make the country and then the world truly a much better place for us our children and grandchildren without riots and anarchy.

Jim Brasfield
Florence

It's Not Theory, It's an Agenda

Editor:

Theories have a basis in fact. Critical Race Theory is not a Theory; it is an agenda that is based in bias and prejudice. "Critical Race Theory" suggests two key ideas: White Americans of European descent are inherently racist, and the U.S. Constitution was written to secure and maintain White Supremacy and Racism.

Historical FACTS prove that every nation and culture on the planet (the two possible exceptions are the Israelites and the aboriginal Australians) practiced the economic pattern of grow, prosper, expand, conquer, enslave; grow, prosper, expand, conquer, enslave; etc., and finally, shrink, decline, retreat, be conquered, and be enslaved.

Historical Events, not prejudice, not bias, not genetics, gave White Europeans a philosophical, technological, scientific, industrial, and societal advantage. The first Historical Event was the Golden Age of Greece. The second Historical Event was the Roman Empire. The third Historical Event was the rise in power and the spread of the Roman Catholic Church. The fourth Historic Event was the Renaissance.

The ancient Greeks excelled in philosophy, mathematics, technology, and theories of government

See LETTERS... Page 27

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Commentary

White...

Continued from Page 14

long before. A GoFundMe defense page was shut down - for nothing other than political reasons.

He must have been labeled a racist or a white supremacist thousands of times since the charges came down with nothing to support that statement. Even then-candidate Joe Biden tweeted the white supremacist angle during the campaign with Rittenhouse's photo.

We have become so race-obsessed that we can no longer honestly assess situations as Americans.

Indeed, many were so preoccupied by race that they were oblivious to the fact that nothing about the case touched on race except possibly a juror or two and the fact that the incident took place on the third night of chaos from a BLM protest. Rittenhouse and all three Antifa members at issue were white, a fact that the media had a tendency to leave out far too often during racial inuendo.

It's not something that should matter anyway. Self-defense is self-defense regardless of color, sex, age, education, socioeconomic class, etc. of those involved.

But there is so much we could unpack on this travesty of a legal proceeding and the associated coverage.

CNN even labeled Kyle Rittenhouse a murderer in a headline online during his trial before realizing the weight of that error.

The media was also preoccupied with the idea that Rittenhouse crossed state lines with an assault-style weapon that he planned to use.

Rittenhouse lived just across the state line in Antioch, IL, some 10-12 miles away. From how far away do Antifa members travel to rip apart communities?

The favorite media term "assault-style" is supposed to play ominously to the listener or reader's imagination, like a machine gun in your favorite war movie. Under it all, it still amounts to a LEGAL firearm that allows one round per squeeze.


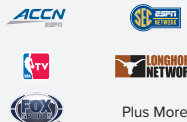
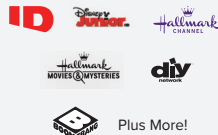
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Letters...

It's Not Theory, It's an Agenda

Continued from Page 26

that are used to this day. The Romans were great conquerors and great assimilators. As they conquered Greece, they took the mathematics and technology that the Greeks had created (Greek Arch) and altered it to their advantage (Roman Arch). Wealthy Roman families enslaved Greek philosophers, scholars, teachers, and mathematicians and used them to tutor their families. Since Rome was already a Republic ruled by a Senate, the Greek idea of a Republic was not new to them. As the Roman Empire expanded out of Italy: as far north as the Steeps of Russia and into Briton; west into Spain; east into the Armenians; and, south into Egypt, and the Middle East, it brought its assimilated knowledge, Roman Law, and Latin into the conquered cultures. Rome changed from a Lunar Calendar to the 365-day calendar. Latin became the intra-European language. Eventually, the Roman Empire declined, retreated, was conquered, and enslaved. The assimilated knowledge of Rome would remain in Europe, but it would remain hidden for centuries.

The third Historic Event in Europe was the rise in power of the Roman Catholic Church. Throughout the Dark Ages, the World's nations and cultures, including Europe's, continued to enslave. As the Roman Catholic Church expanded into Europe, it brought to Europe a common set rules pertaining to the ideas of "right and wrong" and stated that a person's labor may be owned, but the person belonged to God/Church. Enslavement of Europeans ended in Catholic Europe and Feudalism began. Feudalism bound the person/peasant/peon to the land (they needed to feed their families) and to the "Lord of the Land" but the person was "free". As the population and Middle Class of Europe grew a new method of cheap labor formed - "indenture". A free person could sell his/her labor for food and shelter for a

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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



CUTTING COSTS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Dear Dave,
We're doing our best to stick to our cash Christmas budget this year. Are there any traps to avoid, and do you have other advice on ways we can cut costs during the holiday season?

René

Dear René,
If you're getting out of debt, the phrase "extra money" probably isn't even in your vocabulary. Regardless, stores will do everything they can to convince you to toss a couple of extra items into your cart when Christmas rolls around. Their festive marketing is everywhere, and most of it tries to get you to spend extra on things you don't need or can't afford.

It might be Christmas, but that doesn't mean you need to buy a bunch of high-end electronic gadgets for everyone. Any way you slice it, electronics add up to be way more than most people want to spend. Try focusing on more personal—and less expensive—gifts that will be truly meaningful to the ones receiving them.

Set a reasonable budget, determine what's fair for each person and stick to it. Be sure you're following realistic gift guidelines before you go out shopping. If you have kids, don't let their Christmas lists dictate how much you spend. Your budget should do that. Look out for sneaky buys that drain your wallet, too. Some people spend as much on stocking stuffers as they do regular gifts under the tree.

Whether you're shopping online or out and about, remember that extended warranties are not a good deal. Neither are store credit cards and the accompanying "discounts." It seems everyone from big-box retail stores to mom and pop operations have their own store credit card these days. Sure, they'll be happy to offer you 10 to 20 percent off a \$7 purchase of socks if you'll just open

an account. But there's a good chance you'll still be paying off this year's Christmas next December. If gift wrapping at the store is complementary, go for it. If not, just do it yourself. Sure, it takes a little time and effort, but you'll save a ton of money buying a few rolls of wrapping paper at the local dollar store. Don't wait until December 20th to order your Christmas presents, either. Plan ahead — like right now — so you don't have to worry about expensive overnight shipping rates.

Finally, I know many folks want to send Christmas cards to everyone they know every year. Some people go completely over-the-top, with their family (including the dog and cat) dressed to the nines and a photo taken by a professional photographer. Come on! You can cut costs by sending cards to just your closest friends and family. It's okay to be a little selective here, and the cards don't have to be expensive.

I hope this helps, René!

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of "The Ramsey Show," heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and 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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Comerata

Continued from Page 14

2020. Then Covid-19 hit and activities had to be suspended. "Finally, after about 15 months, we resumed rehearsals in May 2021," Johnson said. "On July 20 we presented a celebratory concert called, "An Awakening", which was enthusiastically received by a standing-room-only crowd at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Florence."

The next offering is a Christmas Concert, "Christmas in the Shoals," at 7pm on Tuesday, December 7 also at First Presbyterian.

"We are excited to share some really beautiful holiday music with our community," Johnson added. "Some will be familiar and some new to you, but all are beautiful!"

There will be no admission charged, but there will be a donation box if anyone is so inclined. Florence Camerata is a 501(c)(3) entity, and is grateful for all donations. Singers with the Florence Camerata are vaccinated. All attendees are encouraged to use appropriate Covid protocol.

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ON YOUR DEBT

Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA)



B. Grant McNutt
Managing Attorney

The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) is found at 15 USC § 1692. It is a very powerful federal consumer statute packed into just six pages. The FDCPA was enacted by Congress on September 20, 1977 and became effective six months later. In formulating the Act, Congress articulated the purposes for the enactment of legislation as follows: "There is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors. Abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to the invasions of individual privacy." 15 USC § 1692(a).

For there to be a violation of this Act, there must be a consumer debt, a debt collector, and a violation of the Act. It is important to note that this Act covers consumer debts only and does not cover commercial or business debts. The debt has to be for personal, family, or household purposes such as medical bills, utility bills, insurance bills, personal loans or credit cards or the like. The following areas DO NOT fall under the FDCPA: child support, income tax, or tort claims such as car accidents. The debt collector involved must be a third-party debt collector. Note that the original creditor itself is excluded from the definition of a debt collector and only applies to a third-party debt collector.

Whether the communication or other conduct by a debt collector violates the FDCPA is determined by the courts by analyzing it from the prospective of the least sophisticated consumer, and that is to ensure that the FDCPA protects all consumers, the gullible as well as the shrewd. There are four keys in deciding whether there is a violation of the FDCPA: Was the communication untruthful, unfair, undignified, or disrespectful? Interestingly, whether the debt is actually owed or not is immaterial.

If you believe you are being unfairly

harassed by a third-party debt collector under the FDCPA, please feel free to contact us as we practice in this area of law. Additionally, please use search engines such as Google or Bing to see who is contacting you and, if at all possible, get the full name of the debt collector as well as the full mailing address, city, state and zip code. Additionally, it is very important to keep detailed notes if you start getting harassed in an untruthful, unfair, undignified or disrespectful manner by a debt collector. Please write up detailed notes every time you are contacted in this disrespectful manner and make sure you write down the time of the call, the date, the number the call came from, how the person identified himself or herself, and exactly what was said by them and by you. It is also very important to make sure you keep all letters and/or correspondence received from the debt collector.

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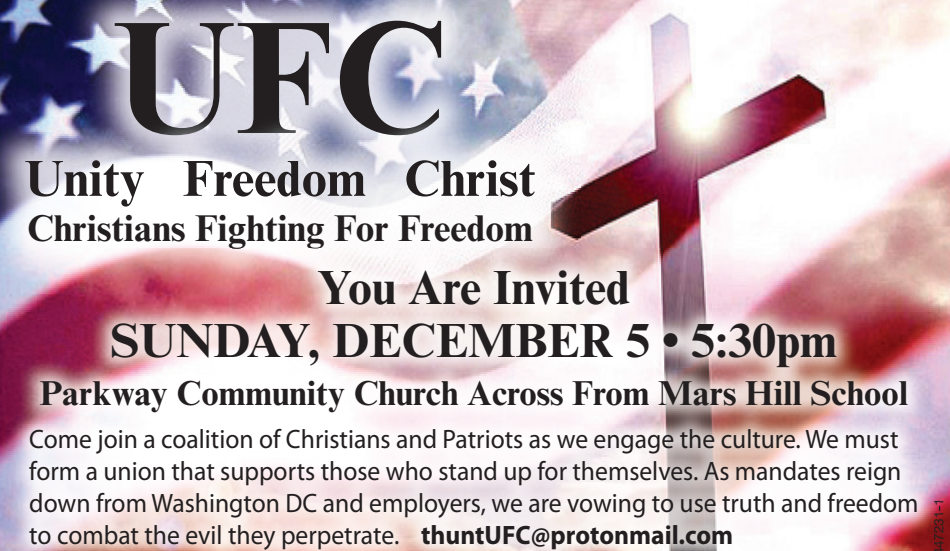
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Commentary 2

Focus...

Continued from Page 27

Rittenhouse in Kenosha that night claiming that they were there protecting property/businesses. Neither the police nor the owners seemed to take issue with it, because not much else was being done.

Sure, we can always say Rittenhouse had no business being in Kenosha that night with his "assault-style" weapon.

We can also realize that those who were paid to keep order in that town were failing miserably and had disengaged from the situation.

Had Rittenhouse come to town planning to use that weapon aggressively, he had plenty of opportunity before he finally did.

We should also realize that looting, pillaging, and burning of businesses is not acceptable behavior, period. Since there appeared to be no efforts all year by law enforcement to protect the public through arrest and prosecution, it looks like the only way of dissuading rioters. Someone had to at least look like they were doing something.

The Rittenhouse case went to the jury November 16 to consider his fate on five felony counts, including first-degree intentional homicide.



We can thank our lucky stars that in spite of all the despicable tampering, intimidation, stalking, and threats employed by the prosecution, activists, media hacks (and alleged freelancers), this jury still had the courage to do the right thing, and acquit Rittenhouse on all charges.

This verdict may have been the only thing keeping this nation out of total chaos. If one can't legally defend himself/herself when facing eminent danger, injury, or death, there is no recourse for law-abiding citizens.

It's unfortunate that the police shot and killed Jacob Blake on August 23, 2020, regardless of whether or not they had to.

It's unfortunate that the protests over the shooting turned into a multi-day riot. That neither brought Blake back to life nor did it determine whether or not the police action was justified.

Granted, Rittenhouse was a 17-year-old who made a hasty decision to show up to a riot. Regardless, he had the right to act in self-defense when others made an equally-hasty decision to aggressively assault him.

There are only a few points of benefit from this case.

The jury concluded there was not enough evidence to convict Rittenhouse of

murder. That still leaves open the possibility that self-defense is a legitimate reason to use deadly force in the United States - at least for the time being.

Hopefully, this case will also save other lives, causing protestors to think twice before initiating an attack on armed adversaries.

We get further affirmation, however unfortunate, that the rabidly partisan national media can tout the stories they want, in the manner they want, with the details they want, and then double down on any resulting inaccuracies in an attempt to save face and alter public perception of reality.

That is worth remembering.



The Courier Journal and TimesDaily building is a drop-off location for **Toys for Tots**. New and Unwrapped Toys may be put in the donation box located in the front lobby at 219 W. Tennessee St. in Downtown Florence **BEFORE DEC. 15.**



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**TIE BREAKER
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ATLANTIC COAST
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Winners will be listed online Tuesday afternoon and in the FOLLOWING week's Courier Journal.

RULES: You can only enter for yourself, not other people. Only one entry per person per week. Only one winner per week. Winners must present a photo I.D. when picking up their gift certificate(s). Check the box beside the appropriate picks for the first 11 games, then write in the exact score of the tie-breaker game and alternate game. Person with the most correct picks receives a \$50 Gift Card from 306 Barbecue in Florence. No change will be returned for any unused portion of the certificate. Gratuity is not included. In event of a tie, the tie-breaker score will be utilized. Otherwise, it will not be considered. Closest tie-breaker score wins. Total points will be next tie breaking procedure, and a random drawing of finalists will be used to determine the winner if they are still tied after the tie-breaking procedure. ALTERNATE GAMES will only be used in cases of late postponements or forfeits, games which will then be excluded from consideration. Person with the winning card for the week, who also picks every game correctly including tie-breaker, will also win \$50 from the Courier Journal and another \$50 306 Barbecue Gift Card. Judges decision is final. Mailed entries must be post-marked by deadline day. Hand-delivered, faxed or on-line entries must be submitted by exact time of deadline stated above. NO EXCEPTIONS. Winner is posted on website each Tuesday afternoon and in the paper delayed by one week. Employees and family of Courier Journal and Game Day Scorecard sponsors are ineligible to win. **NOTE: If you're faxing, first make a CLEAN COPY, then FAX THAT COPY. NEWSPRINT DOES NOT REPRODUCE CLEARLY ON A FAX. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ILLEGIBLE COPIES.**



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Soap Opera Preview

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL An angry Ridge put Deacon on notice. Steffy and Liam strategized about Hope and Deacon. Steffy clashed with Hope over an accusation. Brooke stunned the room as the situation between Ridge and Deacon escalated. Carter had a major epiphany about his love life. Ridge was fiercely protective of Brooke while professing his love to her. Sheila paid Finn a surprise visit at the hospital. *Wait to See: Brooke finds herself at odds with Hope. Finn struggles with his commitment to Steffy and being drawn to Sheila. Ridge reaches his breaking point, and Brooke makes a decision.*

DAYS OF OUR LIVES Marlena drew Ben and Ciara into her web of lies. John was desperate to find Marlena. Maggie came to Brady's aid. Philip tried to get Chloe to confess her "affair" with Brady. A vulnerable EJ opened up to Nicole. Sami tried to cajole her guard into revealing the identity of her captor. Kristen recruited two allies to help her escape police custody. Sami attempted to escape. Gwen and Ava struck up an uneasy alliance. Xander made a stunning discovery. Lani visited Kristen at the Salem PD. Ciara told Ben she was

suspicious of Marlena. John and Paulina compared notes about Marlena. Abe and Lani had a heart-to-heart talk. Philip tested Chloe's loyalty once again. Brady was viciously attacked. *Wait to See: Marlena, Ciara, and Ben are visited by a mysterious hiker. Paulina pours out her heart to Abe. Eli and Lani learn alarming news about Kristen.*

GENERAL HOSPITAL Portia gathered her friends for Thanksgiving dinner. Marshall sought out TJ at the hospital. Sam and Dante received some important news. Nina and Phyllis made an admission to each other. A squabble erupted at the Quartermaines', but later the holiday brought about an unexpected reunion. Sam worried about next steps. Sonny received a disturbing call. Austin and Britt commiserated. Obrecht greeted a surprise visitor. Alexis's Thanksgiving dinner took a turn. Olivia confronted Ned. Sonny sought Spinelli's help. Sam and Dante made an important move. Sonny and Carly reconnected after a long night. Brando and Nina were determined to help Sasha. Brook Lynn and Chase reassured Maxie. Valentin opened up to Anna. Carly had an uneasy feeling. Sonny gave Brando

advice about being a father. *Wait to See: Valentin makes a move to gain closure. Maxie is surprised by who she finds. Britt makes an assumption about Austin.*

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS Victor left no stone unturned to find Abby. Ashley and Jack hit a dead end in Spain. Amanda celebrated a victory. Abby's world was turned upside down. Jill returned home to clean up Billy's latest mess. Victor and Nikki

received some shocking news. Victor took the gloves off with Billy. Jill shared an intriguing offer with Lily. Ashley called home with unexpected news. Devon and Amanda toasted to new beginnings. Mariah questioned Noah about his return to Genoa City. Adam pushed Billy's buttons. *Wait to See: Victor puts the pressure on his adversaries. Jill starts a bidding war. Lily takes on a new role.*

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Courier Journal

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Last week's winner is **Paul Bernard** of **Tuscumbia** who correctly guessed "Singing River Dentistry" in Muscle Shoals

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

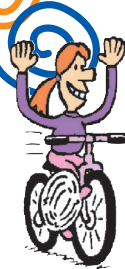


Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

On The Move!

In this puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example we changed BIKE to WALK in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.




BIKE

BILE

BILK

BALK

WALK




1. PORK to CHOP
2. MILK to CAKE
3. LOVE to HATE
4. DECK to HAND
5. FEET to CLAY

Answers On Page 38

A RHYMING REBUS! All right, students, you have two minutes to solve this rebus puzzle.

YY UR, YY UB. I CUR YY 4 me.




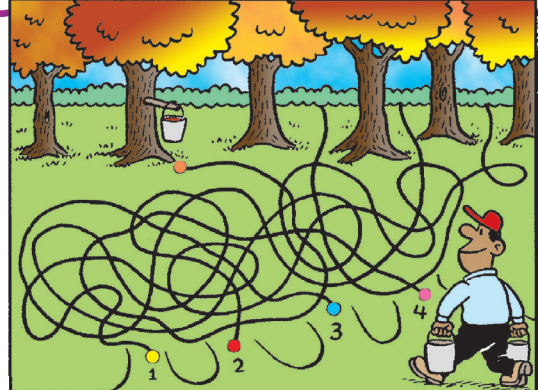
A WINNING HAND! You'll be aces if you solve this one. In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all end in ACE. Use the following definitions:

1. ACE (in place).
3. The universe.
5. Very hot place.

2. Sneaker part.
4. To wipe out.
6. Type of ornament.

1. ACE
2. _ACE
3. __ACE
4. ___ACE
5. ____ACE
6. _____ACE





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DON'T BE A SAP! See if you can guess the right path that will take you to the maple tree.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Letters...

It's Not Theory, It's an Agenda

Continued from Page 27

specified period of time, usually 7 to 10 years. Although enslavement ended in Catholic Europe, it continued to be practiced everywhere else in the world.

The Renaissance Period in Europe was a time when knowledge and learning became a cherished pursuit. Books and scrolls hidden away for centuries became treasured, but to learn from the books and scrolls, a scholar had to be fluent in Latin and Hellenic Greek. The Classic Education became a necessity for European scholars. The assimilated knowledge of Ancient Greece and Rome was now available for study. Europeans presented new ideas in mathematics, science, technology, industry, astronomy, and government in Latin because Latin was the intra-European language. The entire mental acumen of Europe could be shared, studied, debated, accepted, or refuted.

The white men of European descent that wrote the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were classically educated. They read, wrote, and spoke Latin. They read and wrote Hellenic Greek. They had studied Plato's Republic, Homer, John Locke, Cicero, Marcus Aralias, Martin Luther, Aristotle, etc. The ideas that they put into those two documents were philosophic, not racist nor White supremacist. The words that they put into the two documents had very specific meanings for over two thousand years, and they had no reason to believe that those words would not have the same meaning for two thousand more years. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The signers of the Declaration of Independence knew the difference between "unalienable" and "inalienable". Do you? Their ownership of Sub-Saharan (Black) Africans was not racist. Slavery

was still a part of the Sub-Saharan culture. It was Sub-Saharan Africans that captured, chained, and sold other Sub-Saharan Africans (watch Dr. Henry

Louis Gates, Jr's: Africa's Greatest Civilizations). The U.S. Constitution's three-fifths clause applied to ALL persons that did NOT have self-determination. It starts

with "the indentured" - white Europeans - then adds the "Negro slave" (Negro is the Latin word for black), and the "Chinese manservant". Note: In his

youth, Benjamin Franklin was indentured.

Critical Race Theory is not based in fact; it is an agenda based in bias, prejudice, and perhaps, an

uninformed, misinformed, or revisionist version of history.

Vic Billingham Killen

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Notes...

Continued from page 4

sure to vote for your favorite. The best overall tree will have their charity of choice as the recipient of the proceeds. This is a wonderful free family event! Information: www.ShoalsTinselTrail.com

Elgin Senior Center will have a Christmas Bazaar, Friday and Saturday, December 3 and 4. For sale will include Homemade Christmas decorations, jewelry, and many other items. Hot dogs or chili plates will also be for sale for \$5 each. The center is located one block south of the traffic light in Elgin. Proceeds from the sales will be used for new handicap bathrooms.

Florence Lauderdale Animal Services will again host the 2nd Annual Santa Paws Christmas Market presented by Chloe's Fund. The second weekend is on Saturday and Sunday, December 3-4, from 11am-5pm each day. Everything is reasonably priced and you can find gifts for family and friends! The Florence Lauderdale Animal Services (FLAS) Building is located at 3240 Roberson Road in the Florence Industrial Park. All sales benefit Chloe's Fund which provides financial assistance for sick and/or injured shelter animals.

Celebrate the holidays at the Ritz Theatre this December with Christmas at The Ritz! This series will kick off on December 3 and 4 with two magical family events based on the Christmas classic "The Polar Express". Tickets are \$18 each and are available now at tennesseevalleyarts.org or by calling 256-383-0533.

Each Polar Express event will start at 6pm, with festive family fun at the Ritz Theatre complex, which will be decked out for the season! Participants will get to ride a trolley with Santa, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies, and make an ornament to hang on The Ritz's Christmas tree. Then, at 7pm everyone will watch The Polar Express on The Ritz's big screen.

Cross Brand Cowboy Church in Killen will be having a vendor event Saturday, December 4 with lots of Christmas shopping. Chicken stew will be ready for lunch! - by the bowl or gallon, Plus a fajita cook off! Yum! The on-foot rodeo will start at 2pm! Assorted vendors, crafts, jewelry, Avon, and lots more. Concessions will also be available. 5255 Houstartown Rd. Turn off Hwy. 72 by Woods Flooring.

All proceeds go to our Christmas elves program! Not only do children have a great Christmas but their family will have a nice Christmas dinner!

Fish Fry at East Colbert Church of Christ Saturday, December 4, has been canceled. **Canceled until further notice** - until we can all sit down together and enjoy the food.

Shoals Symphony presents Peace, Joy, Love on December 5 at Norton Auditorium, UNA Campus, Florence. Embrace the holiday season with Joy, Love, Peace as the Shoals Symphony Orchestra is joined by special guest vocalist CJ Greer. Enjoy bringing your family back together as the Shoals Symphony Orchestra fills Norton Auditorium with the sound of holiday classics to ring in the most wonderful time of the year! Show begins at 3 pm. Tickets: www.shoalssymphony.org

Attention - All Veterans - One of the benefits due any man or woman who served our country honorably is a free burial space in a National Cemetery.

Beautiful Tri-Cities Memorial Gardens in Florence will reserve a complimentary burial space to honor our Nation's Veterans with a discounted spousal space. The only requirement is proof of Honorable Discharge. Call: 256-203-0877 or stop in today at 2601 Florence Blvd. in Florence. This is a limited time offer

Shelters across the country are crowded and in desperate need of support due to slowed adoptions and longer stays for homeless pets. With the holiday season upon us, no pet should have to be without an adoptive family. To ensure pets get a chance to go from shelter kennels to the cozy couches of loving homes, BISSELL Pet Foundation is hosting its "Empty the Shelters - Holiday Hope" adoption event December 6 -20. Such efforts have helped more than 67,758 pets find homes in shelters throughout the country. During each nationwide event, BISSELL Pet Foundation sponsors reduced adoption fees for \$25 or less. The "Empty the Shelters - Holiday Hope" event will be hosted in more than 220 shelters in 40 states and Canada. Florence Lauderdale Animal Services at 3240 Roberson Rd in Florence is among those participating. Call 256-760-6676 for more information.

State Health Insurance & Assistance Program (SHIP) - Medicare and Medicaid counseling is provided to those becoming eligible for medicare through age or disability in Alabama. We can help with understanding the medicare benefits and programs as well applying for those you may qualify for. During the open enrollment period (October 15 - December 7), we can assist in a possible savings for the coming year through these programs. We also help to prevent and report health care fraud. We cover lauderdale, colbert, franklin, marion, and winston counties. There is no cost for these services. Call 256-389-0538. In partnership with the state of Alabama and Alabama department of senior services.

The Florence Camerata Concert will entertain our patrons with "Christmas in the Shoals" on Tuesday, December 7 at 7pm at First Presbyterian Church, 224 E. Mobile St. in Florence. The conductor is Rebecca Rockhill and Karen Cantrell is the collaborative pianist. Tickets are not required, however, donations will be accepted!

First Annual St. Florian Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 4 beginning at 6pm. Setup at 12noon, lineup at 5pm. Route will be from Experience Church to St. Florian Park. For registration information, contact St. Florian Town Hall at 256-767-3690.

The Lord's House Church, at 7210 County Rd. 7 in Florence, is having a singing with Joyful Noise on Saturday, December 11 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please call Delana 256-367-7598.

See NOTES... page 38

Magnolia Gardens Apartments 110 S. Cypress St. • Florence, AL

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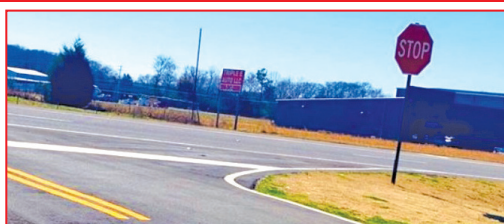
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442043-1

ONLINE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AUCTION! ENDING DEC. 7 • 11AM HWY 72 EAST • ROGERSVILLE, AL LAUDERDALE COUNTY



Commercial Property on Highway 72 East of Rogersville, AL • .77 acres • 125' Road Frontage • Natural Gas • 3 Phase Electrical • Sewer Available • Lot Size 125'x275'

DIRECTIONS: From the light in Rogersville, travel east on Highway 72 for 1.5 miles. Property will be on the left. **LOOK FOR OUR HOLLAND SIGNS!!**

TERMS & CONDITIONS: REAL ESTATE: A non-refundable deposit of 15% will be required the day of the sale with closing within 30 days. The seller will furnish a deed and preliminary title search. **A 10% BUYERS PREMIUM** will be added to the final bid price to determine a total contract price on the real estate. All other expenses, including closing cost will be charged to the purchaser(s). Property is being sold "as is" with no warranties expressed or implied.

Be sure to go online to hollandrealty.com to check out our new website and register for Online Bidding. **Call us for All your Real Estate and Auction Needs!!**



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E-mail- hollandrealtylisting@gmail.com
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Real Estate

ESTATE AUCTION

9:AM Saturday, December 11th
- 6845 County Line Rd., Russellville, AL -

"For The Estate of Homer Amos"

95 Acres +/- Beautiful Farm with 2 Acres +/- Lake,
30'x100' Hay Barn & Creek

Call Ben Phillips for Survey Plat 256-710-9683



For more info, call Ben Phillips 256-710-9683 or visit www.shanealbright.com



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HOME FOR RENT: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, range and refrigerator furnished. Washer & dryer connections. No pets. Near Lowes in Florence, \$550 month, \$400 deposit, 256-766-9664 or 256-483-6154

HOME FOR RENT: 1950 Shade Ave., N. Florence, 3 bdrm., 1 ba., central air, \$895 mo., \$600 deposit. Section 8 welcome. 256-335-4554.

240 HARRINGTON DR MULTI-FAMILY Home for Sale in East Ridge Estates in Killen. 4 Bdrm., 3 full Baths, Bonus Room, Full Basement, Covered Carport. Large Workshop. \$320,000. 256-483-2505 or 256-483-0132.

CENTRAL HEIGHTS: 233 Co. Rd. 241 One bdrm efficiency apartment. Utilities furnished. \$600 mo. rent. \$300 deposit. 256-366-5631.

FLORENCE HOUSES FOR RENT, 3 bdrm., appliances, washer/dryer connections, \$800-\$900 plus deposit. 256-764-3986.



The Courier Journal and TimesDaily building is a drop-off location for Toys for Tots. New and Unwrapped Toys may be put in the donation box located in the front lobby at **219 W. Tennessee St. in Downtown Florence** before Dec. 15.


Estate Sale! **House Under Contract**
1920 Charlotte Ct., Florence, AL
Friday-Wednesday, December 3-8

Fri: 9am-6pm • Sat.: 9am-2pm • Sun.: 1pm-4pm • Mon.-Tues.: 9am-6pm • Wed.: 9am-1pm

Rare, Exquisite Antiques, Beautiful Glassware, Home Furnishings, 2 Leather Recliners, Nice Lift Chair, Lots of Cookware, Serving Dishes, Red Willow, Courier & Ives, Morgan Town Golf Ball Cobalt Blue Tea and Juice Set, Cherry Jackson Press Cabinet, 19th-20th Century High Quality Secretary, (3) Queen Size Beds, (1) Full Bed, Several Marble Top Tables, Very Large Gone With The Wind Globe Lamps, Cast Iron Pans, Beautiful Kitchen Table with Black Rush Bottom Chairs in Excellent Condition, framed Original Oil Paintings, (2) Wooden Boxes of Beautiful Silverplate, Box of Old Silverplate Utensils, Victorian Dresser, Victorian Parlor Furniture, One Gorgeous Ornate Victorian Sofa and Chair, Beautiful Antique In-Lay Chest, Christmas Decor, Lots of Costume Jewelry, 9-1/2' Tall Early American Antique Formal Secretary that was Transported Down the TN River and Hauled by Oxcart to Waynesboro Victorian Home, Huge and Beautiful Bookcase Cabinet, Everyday Dishes, Small Appliances, Books, Oak Desk, 50" TV, Shop Items, Washer & Dryer, **and much more! Don't Miss!**

TERMS: we accept Cash, Local Checks with ID and Venmo. Everything sells As-is and sales are final. Shop carefully at your own risk. We are not responsible for accidents or injuries.

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 rian area: no smoking, 256-443-4349. **LOT IN Davis Estates, 256-383-2357.** bdrm. Apartments. Water & Appliances furnished, \$495 + deposit. 256-764-3986.

For Lease
301 North Dickson St., Tuscumbia • Office Space with full bathroom • \$1,100 per mo. • 12 month lease

For Sale
414 Calhoun Florence • \$89,000
County Road 61, Florence • 22 acres • \$290,000
Middle Road • building lot • \$47,500

New Construction
118 Mauldin Ave, Florence • \$249,000

Kevin Knight - K&H, INC.
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The "Col. Sidney F. Tate Jr." Estate
Online Auction
 Ending 6:PM Thursday, December 9th
 — 1936 Hermitage Dr. Florence, AL —

- 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home
- 1996 Cadillac Deville Concourse Sedan
- Personal Property
- Bid online at www.shanealbright.com



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Saturday ★ December 4th ★ 10:00AM
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313.16 Acres Sold in 7 Tracts
Savannah, Tennessee in Hardin County

Auction Site: Holland Creek Road
Look for the Auctions United tent!



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 Check our video on YouTube under "The Mary Ann Moore Freeman Estate Hardin County, Tennessee"

Real Estate Terms: A 10% Buyers Premium will be added to the highest bid and will be paid the day of the sale. The balance is due within 60 days at closing.

Location: Along Holland Creek Road, Savannah, Tennessee
For more information: Call Jim Givens at Auctions United, 800-222-5003 or Tony Alcott at United Country-River City Realty 731-607-2221.

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Sales Record...

Continued from Page 1

company was established in 1915. Stutts attributed the new mark to, "Hard work, dedication, sacrifice, and my desire to never settle. I have a strong belief in 100% customer satisfaction and going the extra mile. I also wouldn't be able to do what I do without the help of my amazing colleagues and team members within our Long-Lewis Automotive Group." "Our honesty, integrity and no-nonsense way of doing business has led to us being awarded more Presidents' Awards for customer satisfaction than any other dealer in

the nation," said Todd Ouellette, President/ CEO of Long-Lewis Automotive Group. Ford has also recognized Long-Lewis as the #1 dealership in the nation in customer satisfaction. "This was a huge accomplishment in which we take much pride," Ouellette added. According to a recent National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Dealership Workforce Study Industry Report, the national average for automotive sales staff turnover rate is 62%. Long-Lewis' rate is less than 10%.

WANT TO BUY: PORTABLE Carport Building, in good condition. Will move, 256-366-9829

CAN YOU FIND THE DIFFERENCES in the two drawings? Look for Hocus Focus each week, only in your Courier Journal.

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

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FORD: 500, 2007, \$6,000. SEL, 4 door, One owner, good condition. 615-512-3420. Tusculumbia

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I BUY JUNK CARS, Trucks and Vans. With Titles Only! PAY CASH! Call Lonus, 256-980-9500.

Notes...

Continued from page 36

Christmas at Ivy Green, on Saturday, December 11, 8:30am -4pm at 300 North Commons W, Tusculumbia. Beautiful live holiday decorations adorn the historic birthplace and home of America's First Lady of Courage, Helen Keller. Sponsored by the Council of Local Garden Clubs. 256-383-4066

The 11th Annual "Dickens Christmas, Ya'll" December 11 - Downtown Tusculumbia is transformed by this holiday festival reminiscent of Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol." There are carriage rides, falling snow, trolley tours, high tea, and music among other activities to enjoy throughout the day. Admission is charged for some events. Information: 256-383-9797, tusculumbiaretaildevelopment@gmail.com

Monthly Book Club Discussions at the Florence Lauderdale Public Library 350 N. Wood Ave. Florence. For more info contact: 256-764-6564 ext.136 or katie@flpl.org.

Thursday, December 16, 5:30pm - "Christmas in Peachtree Bluff" by Kristy Woodson Harvey

A special performance by Paul Thorn benefiting Jeffery Charles Eubanks Endowment Fund UNA Foundation on Friday, December 17 at Marriott Shoals Conference Center. Doors open 6pm, silent auction and show at 8pm. General admission \$25, VIP tables \$500. Tickets at <https://paulthornmarriottshoals.eventbrite.com>. Sponsored by Shoals Primary Care, UNA, and the Marriott Shoals.

The Shoals Writers Guild has finalized the remainder of its 2021 Schedule. Update your calendars.

All meetings at Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, 350 N. Wood Avenue, Florence unless otherwise indicated. Saturday December 18 10am-noon. Speaker: Author Bradley Sides, Event: Christmas Social. For more information, please email, shoalswritersguild@gmail.com

54th Annual Knights of Columbus Turkey Shoots are Saturday, December 18 at Langer Hall, 4051 County Road 30 in St. Florian.

Shotgun Rounds, .22 cal Rifle Rounds, .22 Pistol Rounds. All ammunition provided! We have Ham Rounds. Concession stand will be open. Youth friendly. Fun for the entire family.

Reunion of USS Kitty Hawk CVA/ CY-63 - June 6-9, 2022 in San Diego, CA. For information, contact Jim Melka at jfmelka@netins.net or 319-332-1632.

Lifesouth is in emergency need for blood donors, as the national blood shortage continues, and asks donors to



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help by donating blood during their Back to School Blood Drive. Blood donors who give blood at any LifeSouth donor center or bloodmobile through Sunday, August 8 will help summer blood shortages, save lives, and receive a \$20 e-gift card as a thank you for donating.

This year continues to be difficult for LifeSouth and blood centers across the country with the impact of the pandemic causing a decrease in blood donations, while the need to help patients in local hospitals continues to increase.

Regular blood donors who have not given recently and first-time donors can make a major impact by donating. One donation can save up to three lives.

Donate at the Center, 307 Veterans Drive, Florence. Schedule an appointment, 256-765-7038. www.lifesouth.org. The hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-5pm; Tuesday and Thursday 9am-7pm; Saturday 9am-3pm; Sunday 1-5pm.

To find a donor center or mobile blood drive near you, visit lifesouth.org or call 888-795-2707. Blood donors must be at least 17 or 16 with parental permission, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health. A photo ID is required. LifeSouth donors receive a complementary cholesterol screening with each donation.

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

YOU ARE NOT ALONE! If you are troubled about someone else's drinking or substance abuse, Al-Anon may be for you.

Shoals area Al-Anon Meetings Hope Group: Mondays - 6pm at Highland Park Church of Christ, 600 Geneva Ave, Muscle Shoals

Shoals Alateen (ages 12-18 years): Mondays - 6pm at Highland Park Church of Christ, Muscle Shoals

Florence Daytime Al-Anon: Tuesdays - 11am at Magnolia Church of Christ 2640 Vulcan Ave, Florence

Florence Freedom AFG: Tuesdays - 11am at Mission of Mercy 414 E. Tuscaloosa St, Florence

Russellville Al-Anon: Thursdays - 6pm at Russellville First Baptist Church 213 Jackson Ave, Russellville

Paths to Recovery: Thursdays - 6pm and Saturdays - 10am at Crosspoint Church of Christ Adult Center at 1350 Cox Creek Pkwy, Florence

For more info visit www.al-anon.org

Help for the divorced and separated during the holiday
Wednesday, December 1 6-8pm

Surviving the Holidays

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

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Junior Whirl Answers
by Charles Barry Townsend Illustrated by David Coulson

On The Move!

- PORK, CORK, COOK, COOP, CHOP.
- MILK, MILE, MALE, MAKE, CAKE.
- LOVE, LIVE, LAVE, HAVE, HATE.
- DECK, HECK, HACK, HANK, HAND.
- FEET, FEAT, FLAT, FLAY, CLAY.

BIKE BILE BILK BALK WALK

1. ACE
2. LACE
3. PLACE
4. EFFACE
5. FURNACE
6. NECKLACE

YY UR, YY UB. I CUR YY 4 me.
"Too wise you are, too wise you be. I see you are too wise for me."

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Medicare Minute

"Prescription Drug Plans 3"

Last week we discussed prescription drug plan premiums, deductibles and coinsurance. This week we will continue to look at Medicare prescription drug plans by looking at copays, formularies and provider networks. When choosing a prescription drug plan these six things are very important to consider.

A copay is a fixed amount you pay for each individual prescription. Copays can vary depending on the tier of your prescription. Typically the lower the tier, the lower the copay. A tier 1 drug usually has a lower copay than a tier 2 drug, tier 2 drugs have a lower copay than tier 3, etc. Because different plans may categorize drugs in different tiers it's a good idea to know how your plan treats your prescriptions.

The prescription drug plan's formulary will tell you two important things. First, it will tell you if the prescription you are taking is covered under the plan. Second, it will tell you the tier of the prescription. Knowing the tier of your prescription is important in determining the copay. For example, Plan A may list your prescription as a tier 2 whereas, Plan B may have it as a tier 3. This should tell you that Plan A will have a lower copay on your prescription than Plan B. It will also tell you if your drug will fall in the deductible phase of the plan.

The plan's provider network is a list of pharmacies that accepts the plan. All pharmacies do not accept all plans so if you have a particular pharmacy you would like to use check to make sure they accept your plan. You can do this by simply asking your pharmacist. Also, pharmacies are listed as "preferred" and "standard" under some plans. In this case a "preferred" pharmacy may have lower copays than a "standard" pharmacy.

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



Ikey Fowler

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<p>NIAGARA PURIFIED DRINKING WATER 24 PACK, 1/2 LITER BTL.</p> <p>2/\$5</p>	<p>JOHNNY FLEEMAN'S HONEY MUSTARD 12 OZ. BTL.</p> <p>2/\$3</p>	<p>KRAFT MAYONNAISE 30 OZ. JAR</p> <p>2/\$5</p> <p>SAUER'S MAYONNAISE 30 OZ. JAR \$1.69</p>	<p>TOMATOES ON THE VINE LB.</p> <p>\$1.49</p>
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<p>DORITOS TORTILLA CHIPS 9.25-10.5 OZ. BAG</p> <p>2/\$6</p>	<p>TONY'S PIZZERIA FROZEN PIZZAS 18.9-20.93 OZ.</p> <p>3/\$9</p>	<p>SPARKLE PAPER TOWELS 6 COUNT PKG.</p> <p>\$5.99</p>	<p>BOTA BOX WINE 3 LITER BOX</p> <p>\$15.99</p>
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