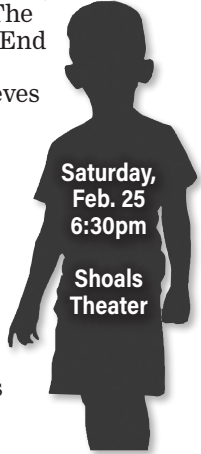


**In Step With
Fatherhood**

FLORENCE—Shoals Theatre is hosting the local premier of the FREE documentary, *The Fatherless Epidemic*, at 6:30pm on Saturday, February 25. The ALLIANCE to End the Fatherless Epidemic believes that one of the most pressing issues in America is family life without the presence of a responsible father. While there are many attempts at solving our societal ills by treating symptoms, the church is being called to fight the issue at its roots. The solution to the epidemic is, not to outsource it to the government, but to mobilize the church and wage war against the enemy that is decimating our homes.



The Rescue Me Project and Common Ground Shoals are local members of the Alliance. The ALLIANCE to End the Fatherless Epidemic provides volunteers for the local ministries, and helps mentor their leaders. In turn, Rescue Me Project and Common Ground Shoals also send adult volunteers and teenagers to the Alliance's camp in Colorado each summer, which is funded by the Alliance.

To reserve tickets, visit www.TheShoalsTheatre.com. To learn more about the mission, visit us at www.FatherlessEpidemic.org.

More SHORTs... on Page 6

Volume 139 Number 18 February 22, 2023 POSTAL PATRON

Courier Journal

Serving Northwest Alabama and...
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REPORTS REFLECTS NW-SCC ANNUAL IMPACT

\$148.5 Million

MUSCLE SHOALS -- Northwest-Shoals Community College added \$148.5 million in income to the Northwest Alabama economy in fiscal year 2020-21, an impact that supported 2,687 jobs, according to a 102-page independent economic impact report released by Lightcast last week.

Students and alumni of colleges within the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) added \$6.6 billion to Alabama's economy, supporting/directly impacting one out of every 27 jobs (98,923), representing about 2.7% of Alabama's gross state product.

Additionally, the report concluded that the state



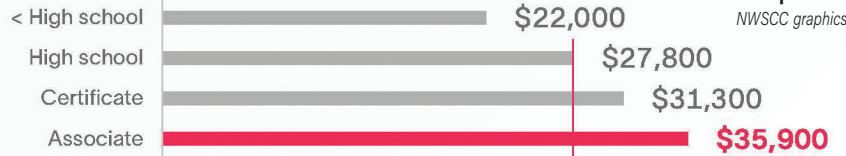
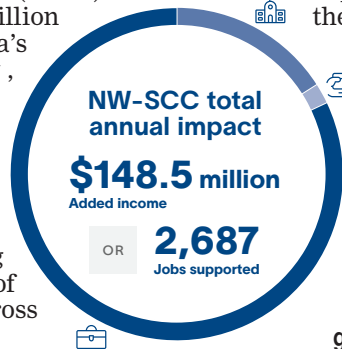
Goodwin

sees a net benefit of \$1.1 billion in added tax revenue from students' higher lifetime earnings and increased output to businesses.

According to NW-SCC President Jeff Goodwin, the report allows the college to quantify the impact it has on the community each year. "Our community college system knows how important it is to capture the impact of how we serve Alabama every day," said Goodwin. "This report puts numbers to the impact we knew we

See \$148.5 MILLION... on Page 2

The average associate degree graduate from NW-SCC will see an increase in earnings of \$8,100 yearly compared to someone in Alabama with a high school diploma.



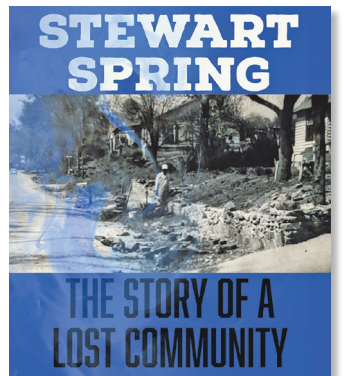
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Historic Glance at Stewart Spring

FLORENCE—The Florence Arts and Museums and community members coordinated by Ms. Anita Smith Cobb invite the public to a presentation on the history of the former Florence community known as Stewart Spring on Sunday, February 26 from 2-4pm at the Burrell Slater Community Education Center at 610 West College Street.

A group of black citizens who formerly resided in Stewart Spring have collaborated with

See STEWART... on Pg 11



INSIDE This Issue

- Ask the Attorney
- DreamGirls
- Medicare Minute
- On Your Debt
- Insurance Insights
- Hocus Focus
- Soap Updates
- Adopt-A- Friend
- Commentary- Best of



- An Act of Congress
- Cat & Kids
- Dave Ramsey
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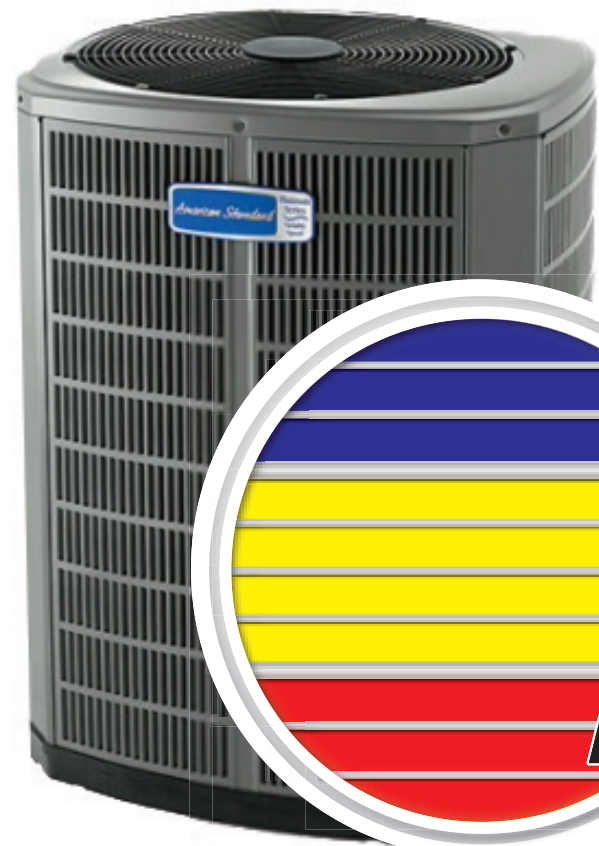
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RED LINE YOUR AD SO EVERYONE CAN SEE IT! See page 6.

The Economic Value of Northwest-Shoals Community College



About NW-SCC

4,419 Credit students

1,138 Non-credit students

452 Employees

The NW-SCC Service Area Alabama

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\$148.5 Million Annual Impact...

Continued from Page 1

were making in our Northwest Alabama communities through the countless alumni stories we hear each year.”

One of the largest takeaways from the report is in regard to NW-SCC alumni impact. The report states, “Today, thousands of former NW-SCC students are employed in the NW-SCC Service Area. As a result of their education from NW-SCC, the students receive higher earnings and increase the productivity of the businesses that employ them. In FY 2020-21, NW-SCC alumni generated \$122.2 million in added income for the regional economy which is equivalent to supporting 2,121 jobs.”

“The data this report provides proves we are on a forward path of excellence in that

pursuit,” said Jimmy H. Baker, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. “Residents are receiving a strong return on investment when they invest in training at one of our colleges – whether through an adult education program, rapid skills training program, rigorous certification or academic transfer program that allows them to move toward completing a bachelor’s degree. Further, they’re using that training to make a difference right here in Alabama.”

A few additional highlights from the NW-SCC and ACCS reports:

- The Alabama Community College System celebrates 60 years as a system this year and represents 24 community and technical colleges.
- Taxpayers, who provided NW-SCC with \$16.5 million of funding in FY2020-21, will receive

what amounts to an added tax revenue/return benefit of \$40.7 million.

- NW-SCC students generate \$8.30 higher future earnings for every dollar invested in their education.

- The average NW-SCC associate degree graduate earns \$8,100 more each year than a resident with only a high school diploma.

Lightcast is a global leader in labor market analytics for colleges and universities. It analyzed data using FY2020-21 academic and financial reports from Alabama’s community and technical colleges, and industry and employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Census Bureau.

The full report can be found at accs.edu/impact/. The NW-SCC specific report can be viewed at www.nwsc.edu/impact.

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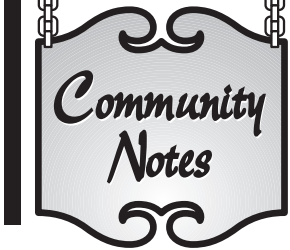


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COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE in the Courier Journal. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following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

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

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.

Thursday, Mar. 2 Cherokee High School 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Friday, Mar. 3 TriGreen Equipment 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Leighton
Saturday, Mar. 4 Shoe Carnival 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Florence
Sunday, Mar. 5 Walmart 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Florence – Hough Rd
Monday, Mar. 6 Lexington High School 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Mar. 7 Mitchell – Hollingsworth Nursing & Rehab 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Florence
Wednesday, Mar. 8 First Baptist Church of Colbert Heights 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Tuscumbia

Utility Assistance for Elderly & Disabled Open Now - Community Action of Northwest Alabama. We will be accepting applications / appointments from Elderly (60 & Older) households, as well as Disabled households for the month of February. Come by the office at 745 Thompson St., Florence and pick up an application.
 Appointments will be open to the general public at a later time.

Florence Knights of Columbus Council 3989 - Fish Fry. Feb 24, March 10 & March 24 at Saint Joseph Catholic School, 115 Plum Street, Florence. 4:15-6:45pm. Adults \$15, Children (age 4-6) \$5. The meal includes Catfish Fillets, Hush Puppies, Coleslaw, Baked Potatoes, French Fries & Dessert. Cheese Pizza available (Kids Only)
 All proceeds go to the Knights of Columbus Council 3989 Charity.

Bethel Lauderdale Church honors Black History - February 26 at 10am. "Celebrating the Past while Influencing the Future." You are cordially invited to join us as we honor and remember where we have come from, where we are and where we are going by the grace of God.

Featured Guest Speaker: Kaytrina Simmons, Florence City Council Pro-Tem. Including guest soloists, special tributes and a soul food feast to follow. 10099 County Road 2, Florence.

The Library of Things - Items to Borrow Don't Buy. Items available for check out at Muscle Shoals Public Library, 1918 Avalon Ave, Muscle Shoals:

- Metal Detector • Tape Measure
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Call 256-386-9212 or visit online at youseemore.com/muscleshools

LifeSouth Blood Drive Dates
Wednesday, Feb. 22 Deshler High School, 7:30am – 4pm, Tuscumbia.
Thursday, Feb. 23 Amedisys Hospice, 10am-5pm, Hamilton.
Friday, Feb. 17 24 Big Star, 1am-6pm, Red Bay.
Saturday, Feb. 25 BAM, 10am-4pm, Florence.
Sunday, Feb. 26 Walmart, 10am-4pm, Muscle Shoals.
Wednesday, Mar. 1 Phil Campbell High School 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Estate Planning: What You Need to Know - Monday, February 27 at 6pm. Well-known attorney and probate specialist, Bethany Malone, will conduct a community service program at Shoals Elks Lodge 2860.

Some of the topics to be covered include: Wills & Trusts; Probate & Non-Probate Property (procedures); Durable Power of Attorney; Medical or Healthcare Power of Attorney; Living Wills and Advance Directives; Beneficiary Designations; Long Term Care Planning; Homestead Exemptions; Estate Tax and Elder Law Resources. A Q&A session to follow. Everyone is invited! Elks Lodge 2860 is located at 408 North Nashville Avenue, Sheffield. Finger foods will be available.

Singing at Oakdale Baptist Church 1215 E. Reeder St., Florence Sunday, February 26 at 5pm. Bob Sellers former lead singer for the Kingsmen Quartet. No charge - love offering appreciated. Everyone welcome.

The Florence Kiwanis Club will host its Annual Pancake Day on Friday and Saturday, March 10-11 at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum on Veterans Dr, Florence.

Friday, March 10 from 6am-7pm
 Saturday, March 11 from 6am-1pm
 Advance Tickets \$8, 10 or more \$7
 At the Door \$10 Children under 12, \$5
 Advance tickets can be purchased from any Florence Kiwanis member and at any of the following locations:

- First Southern Bank (303 N Pine Street, Florence location only)
- Harris Elder Law Office (407 S Court Street, Florence)

See NOTES... page 19

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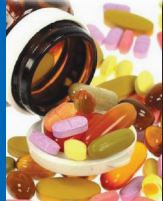
VIN	YEAR/MAKE/MODEL		
2009 ACURA TL	19UUA86259A024504	2002 FORD ESCORT	3FAFP11312R185155
2000 BUICK CENTURY	2G4WS52J7Y1320919	1995 GMC SIERRA	2GTEK19K2S1524560
1994 BUICK LESABRE	1G4HR52LXRH509004	2005 HONDA CBR 600	JH2PC37085M203464
2008 BUICK LACROSS	2G4WD582X81148900	2001 HONDA ODYSSEY	2HKRL18681H595567
1992 CADILLAC FLEETWOOD	1G6CB53B2N4339105	2013 HYUNDAI SONATA	KMHCC4A40DA073774
2004 CADILLAC DEVILLE	1G6KD54Y44U158403	2004 INFINITI G35	JNKCV51FX4M700197
2012 CHEVROLET IMPALA	2G1WG5E31C1134099	2000 ISUZU RODEO	4S2CK58W3Y4318426
2015 CHEVROLET SONIC	1G1JA5SH4F4174102	2018 JEEP WRANGLER	1C4HJXDGXJW144878
2001 CHEVROLET MALIBU	1G1ND52J016243439	2002 JEEP CHEROKEE	1J4GX48S02C107732
1995 CHEVROLET S-10	1GCCS19Z9S8104652	JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE	1J8GR48K57C568845
2001 CHEVROLET BLAZER	1GNNT13W31K223256	2007 LEXUS IS 250	JTHBK262672035002
2007 CHEVROLET EQUINOX	2CNDL13F276089694	2006 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL11E96C194066
2000 CHEVROLET IMPALA	2G1WF55E5Y9139691	2006 NISSAN TITAN	1N6BA07B76N561897
2005 CHEVROLET IMPALA	2G1WH52K459295933	2005 NISSAN MAXIMA	1N4BA41E45C808323
2008 CHEVROLET HHR	3GNDA13D18S629765	1999 NISSAN MAXIMA	JN1CA21D4XT806376
2009 CHEVROLET AVEO	KL1TD56E89B385835	2009 PONTIAC VIBE	5Y2SP67899Z469339
2006 DODGE STRATUS	1B3EL46XX6N207744	2007 PONTIAC G6	1G2ZG57N874262891
1994 DODGE RAM 2500	1B7JC26Z5RS707383	2004 SATURN ION	1G8AJ52F44Z167019
2002 DODGE CARAVAN	1B8GP25392B742053	2004 SATURN VUE	5GZCZ534X4S833778
1999 FORD TAURUS	1FAPP53U1XA134401	2006 SUZUKI HAYABUSA	JS1GW71A662107459
2008 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCU03188KB09212	2014 TOYOTA COROLLA	5YFBURHEXEP008119
2002 FORD EXPLORER	1FMYU60E92UC80563	1992 TOYOTA CAMRY	JT2SK12E4N0001475
1997 FORD F-150	1FTDX172XVNB32512	1992 TOYOTA PU	JT4VN93DXN5030661
1994 FORD F-250	1FTF25Y6RNA94240	2010 TOYOTA SCION	JTKKU4B44AJ053387
2009 FORD RANGER	1FTYR10D59PA53623	2017 VOLVO VN	4V4NC9EH7HN985657
1999 FORD F-150	1FTZF1720XKA85813	2001 YAMAHA MOTORCYCLE	JYARN05E21A010856
		2004 YAMAHA V STAR	JYAVM01E14A061311

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LANGSTON CHIROPRACTIC and ACUPUNCTURE



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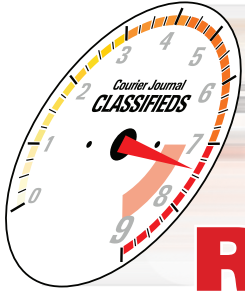
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ONLINE - at our Website...
Go to www.courierjournal.net and click "Place a Classified"

PHONE - 8AM-5PM Mon-Fri
Charge to Credit/Debit Card by calling **256-764-4268**

FAX - 24 HRS - Charge to Credit / Debit Card by faxing an ad to **256-760-9618**. Include exp. date. List how many weeks the ad is to run.

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

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

ADVANCE PAYMENT IS REQUIRED in cash, check or Credit/Debit Card. Phone-in Ads MUST be Charged to Credit/Debit Card! NO EXCEPTIONS! NO REFUNDS!

DEADLINE: Friday 5pm

Private Party Rate 4 LINES Each additional line - \$1.50 - Prepay - NO REAL ESTATE • 1 item per ad - 4 Weeks/3 lines 1 ITEM \$16 Each additional line - add \$5 **\$5⁵⁰** Week

Commercial Rate 4 LINES Each additional line add \$1.50 - applies to anyone engaged in sale of goods/services on a recurring basis or for profit, licensed or not - including pets. 6 Weeks \$36 - Each additional line - add \$7.50 total **\$8⁰⁰** Week

Real Estate Rate 5 LINES Each additional line add \$1.50 - applies to agencies, individual, developers and anyone engage in selling, renting, leasing structures and/or properties in Real Estate or General section. 6 Weeks \$36 Each additional line - add \$7.50 total **\$8⁰⁰** Week

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YARD SALES - An exclusive listing of the area's better sales prominently placed **\$12⁵⁰** Week

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EMPLOYMENT - Looking for employment or Businesses looking for employees **\$15⁵⁰** Week

Private Party Auto Rate Up to 8 LINES for 4 weeks.
Each additional line - \$2.00..... **\$17⁰⁰** 4 wks

*one line is approx. 30 characters

Empty box for ad content.

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➔ HOW MANY WEEKS? Multiply the number of weeks - X - the cost of the ad.....

YES! RED LINE MY AD! PLEASE CHECK THE BOX **only \$3 additional**

MAILING ADDRESS: Courier Journal, 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630

Please Print Ad Clearly. NOT RESPONSIBLE for illegible handwriting

Questions? Call our office at 256-764-4268.



Northwest-Shoals EMS students participate in CPR training on the Shoals campus.

Courtesy photo

Shorts...

Continued from Page 1

Free Class on CPR Training

MUSCLE SHOALS -- We never know when a heart condition or emergency might affect our loved ones. However, if we know the correct CPR techniques, we could help save a life.

NW-SCC will hold a free CPR class for residents on Thursday, February 23, beginning at 5pm in the Beville Center on the Shoals campus.

"We know the more people we can train to correctly perform CPR or use an AED (automated external defibrillator) the more lives we can help save," said NW-SCC Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director Dr. Chris DeMorse. "Dr. Todd Oyen is one of our EMS instructors that is a certified American Heart Association Training Center Coordinator. He will conduct the training and he does a great job walking participants through each step."

As part of the free class, NW-SCC hopes to bring awareness of February as American Heart

Month, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health.

To sign-up for the free class, visit <https://bit.ly/FamilyandFriendsCPR> February2023 or for more information about the Northwest-Shoals EMS program, visit <https://nwsc.edu/explore-programs/health-studies/emergency-medical-services/>.

Spay/Neuter Gift Match

SHOALS- In honor of Spay & Neuter Awareness and World Spay Day, one of Northwest Alabama Spay & Neuter Assistance supporters has agreed to match all donations received during the month of February, up to \$5,000. All donations received go directly toward spay/neuter surgeries.

Matching gifts means that when you donate, they match, and that doubles the impact. You can donate through NASANA's Facebook page, PayPal at donate@nasana.org or through

See SHORTS... on Page 13



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CIRCULATION
Ted Fallin

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

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219 W. Tennessee St.
Florence, AL 35630
256-764-4268
Fax: 256-760-9618

Your Courier Journal is published for total saturation, direct-mail delivery every Wednesday to 66,500 Shoals area and surrounding homes. It is Alabama's Largest Weekly-Mailed Direct, and enjoys a larger circulation than all local subscriber based newspapers combined.

EDITORIAL POLICY: Your Courier Journal accepts a variety of news releases, photos, stories, Letters to the Editor and upcoming community, church or civic events for publication as space permits. Please submit all materials in written form to:

219 W. Tennessee St.
Florence, AL 35630
or email to:
editor@courierjournal.net

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

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DEADLINES: Issues Published Every Wednesday
INSERTS - 5 pm Thursday
DISPLAY ADS - 5 pm Thursday
CLASSIFIED ADS - 5 pm Friday unless otherwise specified



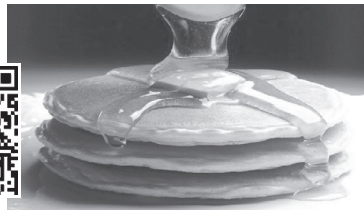
Florence Kiwanis Club

Making the world a better place,
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Annual Pancake Days

Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum



Friday, March 10 • 6am–7pm
Saturday, March 11 • 6am–1pm
Advance Tickets \$8 At the Door \$10
Bundles of 10+ \$7 Children under 12 \$5

Tickets are available from Florence Kiwanis members OR at these Florence locations:

- First Southern Bank (301 S Court Street) • Harris Elder Law Office (407 S Court Street)
- Progress Bank (230 E Tennessee Street) • <http://florencekiwanis.com/>

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location

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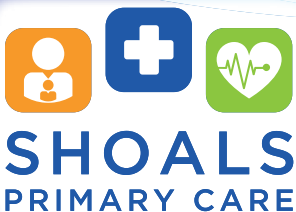


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Insurance Insights

Beginner skills checklist for teen driver

Vary the routes to practice the following:

- Turns: speed and use of signals
- Braking smoothly: gradually slowing to a stop
- Accelerating smoothly: steadily increasing to a safe speed within the posted limit
- Approaching intersections controlled by stop signs or lights
- Determining right of way
- Single-lane and multi-lane roadways (low speeds)
- Changing lanes and how to merge into traffic safely
- Maintaining appropriate speed
- Scanning for and identifying hazards
- Keeping a safe following distance
- Sharing the road with cyclists, pedestrians and school buses
- Driving in a school zone
- Reacting to an approaching emergency vehicle
- Using turning lanes



As your new driver starts to master these skills, pay attention to which ones he or she is confident with. As you both become more comfortable, continue to expose your teen to different times of day, levels of traffic and weather conditions on familiar roads.

At this point, your teen has mastered the basics and needs lots of practice getting used to the road. For the next several hours of driving practice, stick to low-speed, low-traffic roads. Try to take a different route each time to be sure your teen is getting the variety needed to become a safe driver. Also consider working with a driving instructor.

NISSAN: ALTIMA SL MODEL, 2017 \$14,950. Charcoal with black heated leather, full power, rear-view camera, alloy wheels. Completely Serviced. 256-527-2125.

TOYOTA: HIGHLANDER LIMITED, 2012 \$17,950. Full power, heated leather, sunroof, alloy wheels, rear-view camera. **Excellent maintenance history**, just serviced. Must See and Drive! 256-527-2125.

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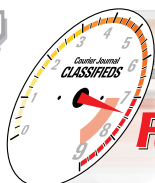
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Courier Journal



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ASK THE ATTORNEY DEPOSITIONS



Thomas McCutcheon

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

Many claims end up in the court system simply because from time to time different insurance companies decide they don't want to pay claims for a year or two. Claims that would ordinarily be settled now have to go to court. Depositions are a tool lawyers use to find out about the claims and the people in the case.

I can look at a case and tell you how it's going to be defended. Insurance companies never just open up their pockets voluntarily. Either they argue that their client wasn't at fault, that the other person wasn't hurt as badly as they claim, or they were already hurt and the accident didn't cause it. They may

take the position that the person did get hurt but now they are completely well.

The deposition is not just about the facts, it's about how they are presented. If the person is authentic and makes a good impression, the case is worth more. If a person is surly, sarcastic, or sour, the case is generally worth less. How questions are answered is important.

When people give their depositions it's important for them to listen to their lawyers. Very few people can walk into a deposition without preparation and do a good job. Occasionally, you will have a client who doesn't follow your instructions, but is harmless. Generally, people that don't know what to do or can't remember what to do don't do well at all.

Lawyers are going to tell their clients to listen to the question the other lawyer asks. They are going to tell their clients to answer the question that was asked and then stop talking completely. We will tell you to wait until the other lawyer finishes their question until you begin to answer. And the best advice that you can get is to be sure to say that you don't know if you don't know. People who talk and talk and guess and speculate and just run on like they're the most charming person in the world end up with no case. I've seen people do superb jobs on depositions. I've seen people get mad and not follow instructions and absolutely lose the value of their case because they don't make an effective and meaningful presentation.

If you ever have to give a deposition ask yourself, how long you think it will last? Ask yourself, what do you think you will be asked? Ask yourself, what are you most worried that you will be asked? After giving those three questions consideration, take the time a few weeks out from your deposition and sit down and talk with your attorney about what they expect to happen and how you might best approach the questions that will be asked. Joel and I have a short sample deposition from a car accident case that we mail our clients before their deposition simply so they can see what one looks like and read some of the questions they will be asked. Our clients do better as a result of understanding the process.

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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We will not print your full name in the article. We will not be able to return any written or preprinted items which are submitted. No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality legal services performed by other lawyers.

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256-314-5496



Stewart Spring...

Continued from Page 1

the city of Florence Arts and Museums to record the history of this black community which no longer exists. Interviews, photographs, newspaper clippings, art, and memories tell the story of the neighborhood in two 40-minute video presentations. The afternoon will include both videos, a short intermission, light refreshments, and a question-and-answer session.

This program is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums and is free to the public. Call 256-760-6379 for more information.

Are you a **diabetic?**

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A foot ulcer is an open sore on the foot that can be difficult to heal.



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CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS – JOB OPPORTUNITY

STORM DRAINAGE DEPT.

Part-Time Position Available:
Mosquito Truck Technician – (\$14/hr)

Applications are available at the **City Clerk's Office, 2010 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, Alabama,** from 7:45am - 4:30pm, phone number 256-383-5675.

The City of Muscle Shoals participates in E-Verify, in compliance with a federal law to verify the identity and employment eligibility of all persons hired to work in the United States.

THE CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



MANGAS-AarKel
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We are expanding the team!

Start here, end here. There's a reason why we have so many employees with 25+ years with the company; Mangas-AarKel offers careers!

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We are currently accepting applications for:
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Detailed position requirements can be found on Indeed.com. Please apply on Indeed.com or send resume to HR@mangastool.com.

CITY OF MUSCLE SHOALS – JOB OPPORTUNITY

LABORER STORM DRAINAGE

Full Time 32 Hours/Week With Benefits

Applications are available at the **City Clerk's Office, 2010 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, Alabama,** between the hours of 7:45am and 4:30pm, phone number 256-383-5675. Applications may be downloaded from our website, www.cityofmuscleshoals.com

RESUMES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN LIEU OF APPLICATIONS.
Application Deadline: Friday, March 3, 2023, 4:30PM

A current job description is available at city hall and the website which details essential functions of the job as well as knowledge, skills, abilities and physical requirements necessary for successful job performance. Any offer of employment is conditional based upon the successful applicant's satisfactory completion of a job related physical examination, drug and alcohol testing.

The City of Muscle Shoals participates in E-Verify, in compliance with a federal law to verify the identity and employment eligibility of all persons hired to work in the United States.

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Monday–Thursday 8am–5pm • Fridays 8am–Noon

Commentary- Best of

Editor's Note: This award-winning Commentary appeared in this space nine years ago this week, February 25, 2014, as Black History Month was coming to a close. Some names have changed, and the primary subject has been re-elected twice and is no longer the only Southern minority in the Senate. However, the piece is still appropriate and timely, because those intent on destroying America - creating division based on race, sex, and personal choice, are working more aggressively now than ever before.

Blacks and Women ARE Our History

American calendars are now dotted with months claimed by special interest groups of various races and nationalities. February always sets the pace as some feel we must still be reminded that black people are a part of the fabric of America. Next month the special interests will feel compelled to remind us that women have also made notable contributions to American history. Why?

Are the special interests so insecure that they are still trying to convince themselves of something that most of us already understand? There

See HISTORY... on Page 20

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

February 22, 2023

Happening THIS WEEK

A FINE PERFORMANCE TAKES AN Act of Congress

SHEFFIELD - Acclaimed acoustic band Act of Congress will perform their unique blend of roots music and pop at the Ritz Theatre on Saturday, February 25 at 7pm.

The evening is made possible by presenting sponsor Pettus Plumbing & Piping. Tickets are \$25 and are available now at tennesseevalleyarts.org or by calling 256-383-0533.

"Act of Congress is definitely not

See ACT OF CONGRESS... on Page 25



Courtesy photo

THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION will host its Hunting Heritage Festival event NW Alabama on Saturday, February 25 at Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum at 702 Veterans Drive in Florence. Doors open at 6pm. Tickets are \$60; a Couples Ticket is \$80; Sponsor Ticket is \$300; and a Jake Ticket is \$20. Avoid the line! Buy your ticket online at events.nwtf.org/11240-2023/tickets.

Ritz Hosts Adaptation of 2006 Musical



SHEFFIELD—The 2006 film adaptation of the Broadway musical, *Dreamgirls*, will be on the big screen at The Ritz Theater for one special show at 7pm Friday, February 24.

An ambitious talent manager Curtis Taylor Jr. (played by Jamie Foxx) spots a three-woman act at a talent show. He offers the chance of a lifetime, to be backup singers for a national star (Eddie Murphy). Deena (Beyoncé Knowles),

See DREAM... on Page 31

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE at Bank Independent's Sheffield location at 710 S. Montgomery Ave. on Friday, February 24 from 11am- 2pm. Join in the fun as Smashburger will be on site for lunch and stop in for a visit to see why they proudly boast about being Sheffield's Bank of Choice.

BASKETBALL

MEN

Feb 22 vs Kennesaw State @ Home
Feb 24 vs Jacksonville State @ Home
Feb 27 - Mar. 5 TBA - ASUN Tourney

WOMEN

Feb 23 vs Jacksonville U. @ Home
Feb 25 vs N. Florida @ Home

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BASEBALL

Feb 24-26 vs Miami (OH) @ Home

SOFTBALL

Samford Bulldog Classic - Birmingham

Feb. 25 at Samford
Feb 25-26 vs Southern Indiana
Feb 26 vs IUPUI

Visit www.roarlions.com for full team schedules and ticket information

THE HEALING PLACE WILL HOST A SUPPORT GROUP, Tuesday, February 28 from Noon-1pm. Support group and information session for Grandparents Raising Grieving Grandchildren. We will offer light refreshments and provide information and discussion to participants. 2409 Wildwood St. in Muscle Shoals. RSVP by calling 256-383-7133 or messaging us on Facebook/Instagram.

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
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Florence, AL 35630
• e-mail: editor@courierjournal.net
• FAX- 256-760-9618

Lest Ye Be Judged

Editor;

So those of you wanting to force females from 10-55 years to birth unwanted babies beginning from conception... because you insist that using contraceptives is a sin.

Lest ye forget... any man who spills his seed is guilty of that same sin. Go forth young men and be fruitful, lest ye also be judged as a murderer by those same 'Christians.'

You need to vote.

Linda Johnson
Florence

End Our Association

Editor;

The *TimesDaily* printed an Associated Press article entitled, "US downs Chinese balloon; recovery operation underway." The article states, "The US military on Saturday

Queerness of any color should not be taught in public schools. . . ”

shot down a suspected Chinese spy balloon off the Carolina coast on orders from President Biden after it traversed sensitive military sites across North America, the latest flash point in tensions between Washington and Beijing." It was also stated that the balloon dealt a severe blow to already strained US - China relations that have been in a downward spiral for years.

In the last few days it has been reported that a China fighter jet got within a few feet of one of our jets. It has also been reported that China may have have a missile that travels so fast it cannot be picked up on radar.

A later AP article in the *TimesDaily* was entitled, "US forces returning

See LETTERS... on Page 26

Shorts...

Spay/Neuter Gift Match

Continued from Page 2

PayPal Giving Fund by clicking on the donate button on their website, www.nasana.org. You can also mail donations to: NASANA, 2701 Mall Drive, PMB 266, Florence, AL 35630.

Whether it's \$1, \$5 \$10, or more, your donation to

NASANA at any time in February will be doubled. NASANA is a 510(c)(3) organization, so every donation is tax deductible to the extent of the tax law.

Public Input - Browns Ferry

ATHENS- The Tennessee Valley Authority is asking for public input on the

Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Subsequent License Renewal Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Renewal of the current operating licenses would allow BFN to continue supplying approximately 3,900 megawatts electric capacity of safe, clean, reliable, and cost-effective baseload power for an additional 20 years.

The SEIS addresses the potential environmental effects associated with obtaining Nuclear Regulatory Commission subsequent license renewals for the BFN Units 1, 2, and 3 located in Limestone County, Alabama. Renewal of the current operating licenses would permit operations for an additional 20 years past the current operating license terms which expire in 2033, 2034, and 2036 for Units 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

BFN's current baseload generation supports future forecasted baseload power needs as outlined in the TVA's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan. It helps to maintain grid stability and generating capacity for TVA's generation portfolio mix.

TVA will host a public meeting on March 14, 2023 from 6-8 pm CST at Calhoun Community College Decatur campus in the Advanced Technology Center. Detailed information is available at [//www.tva.com/nepa](http://www.tva.com/nepa).

Comments must be received or postmarked by March 27, 2023 and may be submitted in writing

to J. Taylor Johnson, NEPA Specialist, 1101 Market Street, BR 2C-C, Chattanooga, TN, 37402, online at <https://www.tva.com/nepa> or by email to nepa@tva.gov. Electronic submission of comments is encouraged to ensure timely review and consideration.



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Weekly Quiz • Roses

- The American Beauty Rose is which color?
A) Red B) White C) Yellow D) A, B & C
- The "Yellow Rose of Texas" is the official state song of Texas.
True or False?
- The Rose Bowl Parade begins in Pasadena and ends in Gardena.
True or False?
- A rosewood tree gets name because:
A) sweet smell B) thorns C) blooms roses D) looks like roses in the wood
- "A rose by any other name would still smell sweet" was penned by:
A) Mark Twain B) William Shakespeare C) Geoffrey Chaucer D) Dante

Answers: 1) A 2) False 3) False 4) A 5) B

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The Cooperative Garden Program is a partnership of the Community Action Agency NW-AL, TVA retirees, Bicentennial Volunteers Inc., Southwire, and many others.



Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

Take Care

Recently I was reminded of a wonderful woman who came into my life when I was in my 20s. Sister Burleson (I don't think that I ever knew her first name) was a short, dark-skinned woman who was married to a preacher-man. She was an older woman who taught me as a younger woman how to love my husband. Sister Burleson was in her 70s and wore wigs and false eyelashes. She loved dress suits and was always matching, down to her purse and shoes. She had a little bit of an air about her, but I never saw her enter our church building without Brother Burleson's arm being around her waist. He loved his wife.

You have heard me speak of Sister Burleson before. She was the one who gave me my first iron skillet and told me that marriage was like an iron skillet – when it gets rusty just get out the oil, lather him up, heat him up for about an hour and it will be fine after that. She also told me that just because I was a stay-at-home mom didn't mean that I didn't need to put on nice clothes every day. She added, "Your husband is around well-dressed women at work. You don't want him looking at them and not at you." "Get up," she said, "put on some clothes

and meet him for lunch." Sister Burleson outright told me and the others in her wives' class that if we didn't pay attention to our husbands someone else would.

I am indebted to her for helping me to know that I needed to be attractive for and attracted to my husband. I grew up being a really big tomboy, and I grew up in a troubled home, so I never really saw much affection, connection or sexual interaction. I think I saw my parents kiss once, maybe. So through the years I have watched other couples, listened and learned, and put effort into our love relationship.

We both, my husband and I, have worked to promote adoration and intimacy. There are lots of ways to show your mate that you value and want him/her. #IHave a good sharing relationship. Talking and sharing about things you love, and he loves and does creates intimacy. A silent dinner does nothing for love. Take up a common interest if you don't have anything to talk about. Serve together – adopt an old lady. Take walks away from the TV, computer, and phone. Cook together. Smile. Hold hands. Touch the back of his neck. Pray together. Sing. Dance. Go shopping together and try on clothes

in front of him. Let him choose. Know when he needs a break from work or from you or from the kids. Make arrangements. I did this recently with a little weekend vacay for us. Afterward a friend commented by saying that she loves the way that my husband and I take care of each other.

Which now makes me think of something that will throw in for my great-granddaughters to read – Take care of him ladies. (Of course, I mean guys too.) I have had friends who were intimate with their husbands once a month or once every two months, and they ended up wondering why their marriages were not strong. Truly, they gave each other too much time to think on other things or other people. Intimacy starts by creating a spirit of like. If you like each other, your spirits will touch. If your spirits touch, then your bodies will follow. This should happen often. Remember, this can happen with anyone. But you want it to happen with your husband.

So yes, I thought of Mrs. Burleson recently when my husband thanked me for my efforts. (She would have smiled her thin-line smile and given me a nod and a wink.) Then he asked what we needed to do so that we could keep loving each other for the next twenty years. The first thing I did was thank God for him. You must keep working on it – no matter how old you are. Come on y'all - put out some effort!

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com



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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

ROLL WITH IT

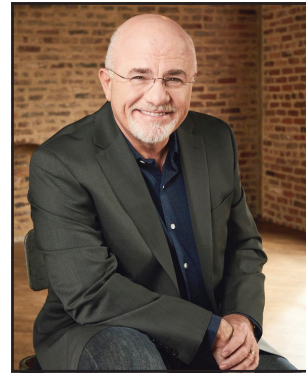
Dear Dave,
The other day, my wife and I discovered a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) we'd forgotten about for over 10 years from my time in the Army. There's a little over \$3,200 in there. We're both in our thirties, and we're trying to save up our starter emergency fund in Baby Step 1 of your plan. We were wondering if we should withdraw the money and use it toward Baby Steps 1 and 2, or just leave it in there.

Todd

Dear Todd,
The best thing to do is roll the money over into an IRA. Otherwise you're going to be hit with a 10% penalty—plus your tax rate—and end up paying 30% to 40% of it to the government. That's kind of like asking, "Would it be a good idea to borrow \$3,200 at 30% interest to pay off debt?" Of course not! That would be a really dumb idea. And in a sense, that's what you'd be doing by just taking the money out of the TSP.

It's not a ton of money, but conceptually, I hate the idea of giving the government 30% to 40% of my money just to get my money out. So yeah, do some research, find a good investment professional near you—one with the heart of a teacher—and roll it into an IRA.

Congratulations to you



and your wife for deciding to take control of your money. And thank you for your service to our country, Todd. I hope this helped.

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of *The Ramsey Show*, heard by more than 18 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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Notes...

Continued from page 4

- Progress Bank (230 E Tennessee Street, Florence) or
- at www.FlorenceKiwanis.com

For more information, see <http://florencekiwanis.com/> or Kiwanis Club of Florence, AL on Facebook. All proceeds are donated to child/family-focused organizations in the Shoals. Visit www.FlorenceKiwanis.com

Riverhill School's Chili Cook-Off will take place on Saturday, February 25 from 2-6pm at Singin' River Live in downtown Florence. This is a family friendly event with delicious food, tasty beverages, excellent entertainment, and fun for all ages!

The energetic atmosphere created by the chili cooking teams will make for a great tasting by the guests. Cooking teams will vie for the approval of a small panel of judges and guests, alike, in the hopes of taking home an award for their winning chili recipe. While the sponsors and their teams focus on winning the chili contest, the attendees from across the Shoals area will enjoy the food, fun, and good-humored rivalry. Tickets are \$10 to taste them all. Kids under 12 enter free. The proceeds from this fund-raiser event will benefit Riverhill School. For more information, visit riverhillschool.org/riverhill-chili-cook-off-2023/

The National Wild Turkey Federation® will host its Hunting Heritage Festival event NW Alabama on Saturday, February 25 at Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum.

702 Veterans Drive in Florence. Doors open at 6pm

Single Ticket \$60; Couple Ticket \$80; Sponsor Ticket \$300; Jake Ticket \$20. Avoid the line! Buy your ticket online at events.nwtf.org/11240-2023/tickets

Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education, First Class Pre-K Alabama's Voluntary Pre-K Program Pre-Registration. First Class Pre-K Programs are accepting online pre-registration applications for the 2023-2024 School Year. Enrollment is open to all children four years of age on or before 9/1/23 who are residents of Alabama. (Children who are eligible for kindergarten are not eligible for pre-k.)

Pre-Registration Dates: Now - March 16, 2023. Pre-Registration Application: to pre-register, go online to <https://prek.alaceed.alabama.gov>

Acceptance into a First Class Pre-K program is strictly through a random drawing. Parent/Guardian does not have to be present at drawing. Email notices of acceptance will be sent in mid-April.

Random Drawing Details for Ekklesia Preschool: March 17, 2023 - 10:30 AM Ekklesia Preschool, Muscle Shoals Location.

See NOTES... page 30

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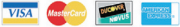
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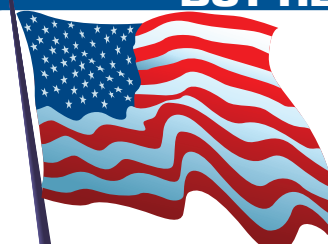


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Commentary - Best of from Feb. 25, 2014

History...

Continued from Page 12

was a time when something of this nature was necessary. That time has passed.

Special promotions of Black history should not be relegated to a specific month, especially if we agree that we should not be pigeon-holed by race or gender. Designating a specific month for

celebrating and handing out recognition makes an assumption that accomplished blacks and women are not worthy of mention alongside other accomplished Americans.

Should this paper publish a cache of articles about blacks and women solely in February and March as part of the celebratory month? Should we fill the other ten months entirely with males of

European, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American background? Or are we still allowed to run articles about outstanding citizens without regard to any distinguishing physical traits? I don't understand the need to separate and make note of differences when all races should be celebrated all the time.

That is why it is so disappointing that the NAACP, the self-appointed voice for black people in this country, has yet to show support or appreciation for a relatively new black U.S. senator. The 2012 appointment of Tim Scott to the vacated South Carolina senate seat is significant in several capacities.

He is the only U.S. senator of color from the south since the 19th century. His appointment to the seat was made by South Carolina's female governor, Nikki Haley, in the state where the Civil War began.

Scott is required to run for reelection this year. If early indications are accurate, he stands a good chance of being

first southern black Senator confirmed by the people since reconstruction.

When this should be a tremendous opportunity for South Carolina to bask in the glow of some new steps in American history, the supposed voice of Scott's own people have shunned him like a leper.

Scott's crime? He is a conservative republican, but the NAACP refuses to respect anyone who doesn't carry water for the liberal black orthodoxy.

Scott's positions on hard work, education, self-reliance, and the traditional family in their opinion don't merit congratulations or support. Rather, Scott is subjected to venomous personal attacks and character assassinations, all while the group insists their people deserve to be off the plantation.

Among those comments were some from the head of the NAACP's North Carolina



Chapter. The Rev. William Barber II referred to Scott as 'a ventriloquist's dummy, incapable of thinking or speaking for himself.'

Ironically, speaking for himself is exactly what Scott and other legitimate minority leaders are doing these days. Little respect is ever afforded Clarence Thomas, Walter Williams, Condoleezza Rice, Allen West, Thomas Sowell, Alan Keyes, J.C. Watts, and others of similar ilk who are successful and should be role models for everyone, especially members of the black community. They are shining examples of the American dream envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King decades ago based on equal opportunity and self-reliance.

Instead, the media continues to trumpet its usual blowhards with of lesser character and little competence. For instance, Texas

congresswoman, Sheila Jackson Lee, recently stated that her newly formed Congressional Full Employment Caucus will "give President Obama a number of executive orders that he can sign." She added that "writing up executive orders should be our number one agenda."

That's not her first set of brilliant comments, either.

Those who continue to embrace the culture of dependence, spout nonsense, harp on black victimization, and consider an election-year increase of government benefits and handouts a victory for their people, are little more than self-serving vultures looking toward election day.

That's okay. Tim Scott can keep moving forward as a real progressive. He will prove to be an individual of substance for many years to come. Thankfully, the regressives leading the liberal black community won't be able to relegate him to a footnote of black history month each year.

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(Continued on other side)

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

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Soap Opera Preview

DAYS OF OUR LIVES
 Kate, Kayla and Marlana received some shocking news from a familiar face. John and Steve were skeptical of Orpheus's revelation. Roman tried to stop John and Steve from going through with their deadly plan. Allie

and Chanel shared a bittersweet goodbye. Brady grew suspicious of Sloan. Stefan earned a small victory in his plot against E.J. Gabi questioned Rafe about his feelings for Jada. Nicole made an admission to Johnny. Brady and Eric put their plan into action. Johnny and Wendy made a curious discovery. EJ and Nicole discussed their future. Gabi was shocked by Li's proposal. Stefan panicked when he learned of Brady's intentions. Sloan angrily confronted Eric about his betrayal. Rafe and Jada secured an arrest warrant for Li. EJ shared his suspicions about Stefan with Nicole. Paulina received a message from Kate. *Wait to See: Steve and John investigate Orpheus's claim by grilling Tony and Anna. Marlana, Kayla and Kate wonder if there's hope for them after all. A heavenly advocate for the three women puts pressure on Nick.*

GENERAL HOSPITAL
 Portia had some explaining to do. Spencer comforted Trina. Mac and Jordan raced to stop a crime. Alexis confirmed her theory. Laura and Kevin had much to discuss. Heather made a shocking move. Felicia tended to an injured friend.

Curtis confided in Marshall. Ava heard a stunning confession. Liz pleaded with Scott. Taggart sought out Portia. Esme needed urgent medical attention. Shots rang out on Spoon Island. Mac delivered some heavy news. Sonny asked Brook Lynn for help. Dex told a half-truth. Carly provided some emotional support. Nina issued a warning to Drew. Sasha was very determined. Dante and Jordan led an interrogation. Josslyn had mixed emotions. *Wait to See: Laura and Sonny comfort Spencer. Scott seeks out Robert. Esme is worried.*

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS
 Victor made a power move to help Adam. Heather gave Daniel a stern warning. Devon turned to Christine for counsel. Sally examined her relationships with Nick and Adam.

Ashley turned the tables on Tucker. Victoria gave Audra the third degree. The moment of truth arrived for Sally and Nick. Victor made good on a promise. Kyle sought forgiveness from Summer. Jack helped Billy pursue a new opportunity. *Wait to See: Nate's plan to reconnect with his family backfires. Daniel makes a difficult decision. Diane receives a cryptic message.*

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John 5:22 "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son;" **2 Timothy 4:1** "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;" **1 Thessalonians 5:3** "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." **Romans 11:21** "For if God spared not the natural branches (ISRAEL), take heed lest he also spare not thee." **2 Peter 2:4a** "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell," **Romans 8:32a** "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all;" Do you think God will spare you at judgment without Jesus Christ? NO, HE WON'T SPARE YOU EITHER! Get real! **James 2:13a** "For he shall have judgment without mercy."

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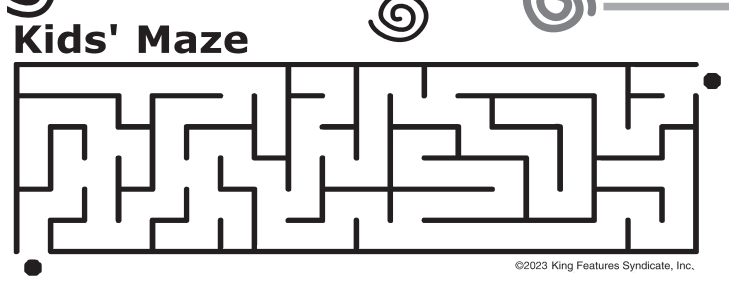
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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Pebble | S _ _ _ _ _ | Make up for | A _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2. Split | _ _ _ _ _ D _ | Heavenly | _ _ _ _ _ N _ |
| 3. Bird cage | _ _ _ _ T _ | Derrick | _ _ _ _ N _ |
| 4. Lift | H _ _ _ _ _ | Damp | M _ _ _ _ _ |
| 5. Olympics souvenir | _ _ _ D _ _ _ | Iron or cooper, e.g. | _ _ _ T _ _ _ |
| 6. Grocery employee | _ _ A _ _ _ _ | Larger | _ _ I _ _ _ _ |
| 7. Like Bullwinkle | _ _ _ O _ _ _ | Like Mickey | _ _ _ U _ _ _ |
| 8. Vineyard building | W _ _ _ _ _ | Glad rags | F _ _ _ _ _ |
| 9. Dog lead | _ _ _ _ _ H | Smallest amount | _ _ _ _ _ T |
| 10. "Pride and Prejudice" author | _ _ _ _ _ E _ | Lone Star capital | _ _ _ _ _ I _ |

Puzzle Whirl

MINI SUDOKU

		6	3		
1					6
4					
3	5				2
	1	3	2	6	
				5	3

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 6-box square contains all of the numbers from one to six.

WORD LADDERS
Can you go from FLIP to BIND in 6 words?
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

flip

bind

Answers on Page 30

WORD SPIRAL

○	A	K	○
○	S	○	○
P	○	E	○

Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

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Act of Congress...

Continued from Page 12

your typical acoustic singer-songwriter band," said Mollie Holland, board chair for the Tennessee Valley Art Association, which runs The Ritz. "Their harmonies and melodies are unbelievable, playing genres that cover everything from soothing to rocking. Seeing them live is an incredible

experience you don't want to miss," she added.

The Birmingham-based band has released multiple albums and has toured the world as Cultural Ambassadors for the U.S. State Department. Act of Congress regularly performs with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and has played for the likes of Disney, SXSW, NPR, Paste, and Billboard.

Holland is also the Director of Projects & Group Travel at the Colbert County Tourism & Convention Bureau. She first started listening to the Act of Congress after meeting violinist/singer, Connie Skellie. She has been a big fan ever since and is excited to help bring the band to the Shoals. Holland indicated this performance is part of a larger plan to provide more high-quality concerts in the area's great venues.

"I am excited for the future of the Ritz Theatre," said Holland. "Our area is fortunate to have a jewel like The Ritz, and I hope visitors and locals alike take advantage of all it offers - plays, films, a monthly movie series, and a variety of concerts in the works."

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2004 Dodge Intrepid	Red	6020AY1	2B3HD56G94H602407
2003 Dodge Grand Caravan	Gray		2D8GP74L73R125564
2000 Chevrolet Blazer	White	4829BJS	1GNDDT13W1Y2304217
2003 Chevrolet Tracker			2CNBE13C236950096
1999 Toyota Corolla		20A2BCH	2T1BR12E8XC135501
2001 Ford Focus	White	41A1026	1FAFP363X1W248656
2002 Chevrolet Trail Blazer	Black		1GNDS13S422324324
1998 Lexus GS 300	Gold		JT8BD68S1W0025907
2002 Buick LeSabre	Silver	41FJ668	1G4HP54K62U277685
1995 Honda Accord	Beige	821-GH9	JHMCDS5564SC049746
2007 Chrysler 300	Red	3310BF0	2C3KA53G77H694420
2000 Honda Accord	Gold		1HGCG5640YA108593
2006 Chevrolet Equinox	Silver		2CNDL13F766058326
2005 Ford Explorer	Burgundy	42BR133	1FMZU73KSSUA54827
2007 Suzuki Boulevard C90	Silver		JS1VY52A172104507
2005 Z Bike Bermuda	Red		LJ4TCKPH25J000030
2006 Chrysler Sebring	Silver		1C3EL56R76N211910
2000 Toyota Tundra		41A17AN	5TBRT3414YS050954
2007 Nissan Pathfinder		162BFLS	5N1AR18U37C639890
2010 Hyundai Elantra	Navy		KMHU4AD3AU954603
2003 Nissan Altima	Tan	907BBVR	1N4AL11D63C148004

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Letters...

End Our Association

Continued from Page 12

to Philippines to counter China threats.”

It is time for all American corporations to end their dealings with China! These corporation are helping the number one threat to our country. Whose side are they on?

Some corporations are in the process of downsizing or shifting away from China because of the threat they represent. All corporations that offer products to Americans need to be immediately shifting away from China.

The National Football League and the National Basketball Association need to end their dealings with China. We as purchasers need to move away from items made in China. This will not be easy, but let's try! As a former President stated, Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country!

Bill Smoak
Florence

Spreading Falsehoods

Editor,

Much misinformation is spreading concerning Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and his stoppage of the Advanced Placement African American Studies Course. This has been described as white supremacy and all sorts of other demonized ideas. If one only gets his information from the legacy media, it is understandable why one would come to this conclusion. However, facts matter.

DeSantis stopped this course from being taught in Florida due to particular modules within the course. The modules were: Black queerness, Critical Race Theory (CRT), and Black Lives Matter (BLM).

Queerness of any color should not be taught in public schools.

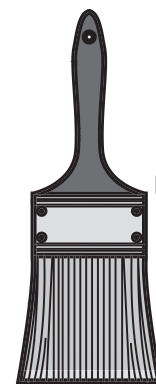
CRT, at its core, suggests our systems are discriminatory, and are designed against people of color. This also should not be taught because it isn't true.

BLM has been the most destructive political movement of my lifetime.

The course Governor DeSantis blocked can, should, and MUST be stopped. Period. Full stop. Our children are being indoctrinated in the progressive political ideology. Schools are funded primarily by the property taxes of the area in which they reside. Therefore, these schools should not be instructing students in ways that are against the core beliefs of the large majority of its citizens.

No one is suggesting

See LETTERS... Page 29



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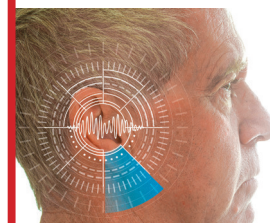
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Backpack is missing. 2. Bush is smaller. 3. Scarf is shorter. 4. Strap is moved. 5. Earflap is smaller. 6. Zipper is missing.

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Medicare Minute "Medicare Part B Coverage"

Medicare Part B is most used when you visit your primary care physician or specialist. But Medicare Part B is also used for many other medically necessary services. Medicare defines medically necessary as "healthcare services or supplies needed to diagnose or treat an illness, injury, condition or disease, or its symptoms and that meet accepted standards of medicine".

One of these other services covered by Part B is transportation by ambulance. Medicare covers and helps pay for ambulance services only if other types of transportation will endanger your health and will only cover and help pay for you to be transported to the nearest medical facility that's able to give you the care you need. If you choose to be transported to a facility farther away you may have to pay more.

Another service Part B covers is Durable Medical Equipment (DME). DME must be long lasting equipment that is used in your home for medical reasons and has an expected lifetime of at least 3 years. Medicare has a long list of equipment that falls under DME.

One of the most important benefits of Medicare Part B are the preventive services that it covers. These services include health care that is used to prevent illness or detect illness at an early stage.

Medicare.gov list 23 screenings and shots that fall under preventive services. They include things such as mammogram screenings, colorectal cancer screenings and flu shots.

Part B has an annual deductible of \$226 and a coinsurance of 20%. This means that if you have Original Medicare only, with no other supplemental coverage, you will owe the first \$226 filed on Part B each year and, after the deductible is met, you will be responsible for 20% of the cost of Part B services you receive.

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



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Letters... Spreading Falsehoods

Continued from Page 26

African American history should not be taught. There is value in teaching the history of the Civil War, the civil rights movement, and legislation passed due to those events. I believe it is a requirement in the state of Florida, but this course goes way beyond that. His objections have nothing to do with resentment, or white supremacy, or anything negative concerning another race. If we do not stop this indoctrination of our children, what kind of future is in store for our country?

plantations before and many years after the civil war. They were mostly against the civil rights legislation for blacks all the way though the 1950s and 1960s.

By hook or by crook, President James Polk, a Democrat, forced Mexico to give up parts of Texas, California, and other western states.

In 1915, the Democrats, who controlled Congress, voted against women's right to vote.

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Florence

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It is Hard to Understand

Editor:

I simply don't understand why any of the following major groups can vote for Democrats: Seniors, Indians, blacks, Mexicans and women, unless they live on the plantation. Living on the plantation here means any individual or group, states, counties, cities, towns, and organizations that get free money in cash, grants, or some other means.

In the last two years, the Federal government, which has been controlled by the Democrats, has increased the debt by almost \$5 trillion, much of it going to keep people on the plantation.

Joe Biden was the key instigator for taxing social security as regular income. Joe voted to tax 50% of their social security in 1983. Then in 1993 he and a majority of the Democrats voted on a bill to tax 85% of social security earnings. Not a single Republican voted for this bill. Al Gore cast the deciding vote.

President Andrew Jackson, who got the Dem party started, rounded up all the remaining Indians in the South and put them on a plantation in Oklahoma.

Of course, the Democrats primarily in the South wanted to keep Black people on their

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Meet **NEWTON**, is a young handsome boy who loves long walks and playing outside. He's a great leash walker and a volunteer favorite. He would love a family of his own. Fostering is free. **THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$85** and includes heartworm test, current vaccines, spay/neuter and microchip. Please call or come by **Florence Lauderdale animal services** 256-760-6676 to meet this handsome boy.



Meet **CHA CHA**, a 1.5 year old beautiful female mixed breed dog. She is good with other dogs, older children but prefers no cats. This beautiful 50 pound girl would love to have an energetic family to play with outside during the day and snuggle with at night. She would love for you to meet her and even take her on a doggies day out. **THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$85** and includes heartworm test, current vaccines, spay/neuter and microchip. Please call or come by **Florence Lauderdale animal services** 256-760-6676 to meet this beautiful girl.

Meet **LUKE**, He is the sweetest boy, super playful and just wants a home of his own! Luke is about 1.5 years old. He has previously had his leg broken and it wasn't seen by a vet and healed back wrong. This does not slow him down one bit! He is so playful and LOVES belly rubs! He has been vaccinated against parvo, distemper and kennel cough as well as having an annual 5 way shot! He is up to date on nexguard and wormer as well! Luke has an **ADOPTION FEE OF \$85**. The fee covers \$70 off of his neuter, \$15 rabies and his microchip. For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter** 256-381-4073.



Meet **JR**, he has been with us since June of last year! Jr is ready for his new home! He is ready for a family of his own! He is good with kids and has been ok with dogs. He is a 1.5 year old lab mix! He is a lot smaller than his picture makes him look. He keeps getting looked over in his kennel and would do awesome if we get him out for you! Jr's **ADOPTION FEE \$35. \$50 OF THE FEE WAS SPONSORED**. That includes voucher for \$70 off of his neuter, \$15 for rabies and his microchip. He is current on NexGuard and vaccines. For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter** 256-381-4073.

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Notes...

Continued from page 19

Wilson Track and Field and the Cross Country team Warrior Color Run - Sponsorships from \$25-\$500 are available through March 3.

Warrior Color Run on April 15.
1 Mile Color Run Begins @ 9am
Zumba Begins @ 10am OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. The entry fee is \$25.

Vendors and Food Trucks will be open from 9a.m. until noon in the Wilson High School Gymnasium.

Runners Swag can be picked up at registration table on the day of the event beginning at 7am.

Register for the event at: <https://warriorcolorrun.itsyourrace.com/register>

Those interested in sponsoring may email Lindsey at warriorathleticboosters7601@gmail.com.

Church Women United invites all to World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 3 at 10am at North Wood United Methodist Church, 1129 Willis Ave. in Florence.

The theme is "I Have Heard About Your Faith" CWU Mission: "Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Serve."

Northwest Alabama Spay & Neuter Assistance - In honor of Spay & Neuter Awareness and World Spay Day, one of our supporters has agreed to match all donations received during the month of February, up to \$5,000. All donations received go directly towards spay/neuter surgeries.

Matching gifts: you donate, they match, double the impact. You can donate through our Facebook page, PayPal at donate@nasana.org, or through PayPal Giving Fund by clicking on the donate button on our website, www.nasana.org. You can also mail donations to: NASANA, 2701 Mall Drive, PMB 266, Florence, AL 35630.

Whether it's \$1, \$5 or \$10, or more, your donation to NASANA at any time in February will be doubled. Since we are a 510(c)(3) organization, every donation is tax deductible.

See NOTES... page 31

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ON YOUR DEBT

The History Of Bankruptcy In Alabama

And Why The Bond And Botes Law Offices Are The Best Choice For You



B. Grant McNutt
Managing Attorney

Bankruptcy is a legal process designed to help individuals who are unable to pay their debts get a fresh start. It's a complex and often confusing process, which is why finding the right bankruptcy attorney is critical. In Alabama, bankruptcy has a long history dating back to the 19th century. Let's take a look at how it all started.

the best choice for several reasons.

The first bankruptcy law in the United States was enacted in 1800 and was replaced by the Bankruptcy Act of 1841. This act allowed individuals to file for bankruptcy, but it wasn't until the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978 that a modern bankruptcy code was established. In Alabama, bankruptcy cases were initially heard in federal district court, but in 1911, the state established its own bankruptcy court.

First, Bond and Botes has been serving clients in Alabama for over 30 years. Their experienced attorneys have a deep understanding of the state's bankruptcy laws and will work to protect your rights and interests.

Second, Bond and Botes has a proven track record of success. They have helped thousands of individuals navigate the bankruptcy process and achieve a fresh start.

Finally, Bond and Botes is committed to providing their clients with personalized, compassionate, and affordable legal services. They understand that filing for bankruptcy can be a stressful and overwhelming experience, and they are dedicated to making it as smooth and painless as possible.

Over the years, bankruptcy laws have undergone several changes, with the most recent being the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. This act made it more difficult for individuals to file for bankruptcy and it also provided more protection for creditors.

In conclusion, if you're facing financial difficulties in Alabama and considering filing for bankruptcy, the Bond and Botes Law Offices are the best choice for you. With their deep knowledge of the state's bankruptcy laws, proven track record of success, and commitment to providing personalized and compassionate legal services, they will help you get the fresh start you need. We want to help, and we can help you!

If you're facing financial difficulties and considering filing for bankruptcy in Alabama, you need an attorney who understands the complexities of the process and can guide you through it. The Bond and Botes Law Offices are

Alabama State Bar requires the following: "No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."



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Answer

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1	3	5	4	2	6
4	6	2	5	3	1
3	5	1	6	4	2
5	1	3	2	6	4
6	2	4	1	5	3

Word Spiral Answer

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Notes...

Continued from page 30

The Gerald Williams Cooperative Garden Program is administered each year through Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama. It offers FREE vegetable garden supplies to help qualifying local residents wishing to grow their own gardens.

This year's sign-up period is from February 21- March 25.

Participants in the program must:

- Reside in Lauderdale, Colbert, or Franklin Counties
- Must not exceed monthly gross (prior to take-out see below)

Maximum Monthly Incomes

- Single-person household - \$1,699
- 2-person household - \$2,289
- 3-person household - \$2,879
- 4-person household - \$3,469

For each additional person add \$590. Call 256-248-1921 from 1-4pm Monday-Friday.

The Cooperative Garden Program is a partnership of the Community Action Agency NW-Al, TVA retirees, Bicentennial Volunteers Inc., Southwire, and many others.

Florence Parks and Recreation Department is conducting registration for **Youth Baseball, Youth Soccer, and Youth Softball** programs through February 24.

Youth Baseball is open to age groups 3-12. You may register online at www.FPARD.com. Registration Fee is \$35 per player. For more information, contact David Dolan at ddolan@florenceal.org or 256-718-5091.

Youth Soccer is open for boys and girls ages 4-13 years old. Registration is \$45 and includes a team shirt. You may register online at www.FPARD.com. For more information, contact Augie Erbe at aerbe@florenceal.org or 256-718-5087.

Youth Softball is open for ages 5-12. You may register online at www.FPARD.com. Registration Fee is \$35 per player. For more information, contact Zach Tverberg at ztverberg@florenceal.org or 256-718-5054.

Woodmont Baptist Church's Single Adult Ministry is holding a **Catalyst Event for all single adults in the area on March 3 at 6:30pm**. This event will be led by Dr PJ Dunn and TableForOne Ministries from Atlanta, GA and will be held in Woodmont's gym. There will be a small snack supper, worship, table group discussion, and a wonderful word from PJ Dunn about being complete in Christ. Childcare will be provided and you can register for this free event at woodmontbaptist.org. Woodmont Baptist Church is located at 2001 Darby Dr, Florence, AL.

Dream...

Continued from Page 12

Effie (Jennifer Hudson), and Lorrell (Anika Noni Rose) are the talented music trio, known as the Dreamettes. After Taylor takes creative control of the group, he eventually pushes the singers into the spotlight. When one becomes the star, forcing another out, the three learn a hard lesson about the high cost of fame.

The Ritz is located at 111 W 3rd St. in Sheffield. This screening of *Dreamgirls* is licensed through Swank Motion Pictures, Inc. Concessions will be available, including fresh popcorn, wine, beer, water, soda, and candy.

Your tickets will be emailed to you upon purchase. Please have your tickets either loaded on your phone or printed when you arrive at the theatre.

TVAA is unable to offer refunds on purchased tickets. Call 256-383-0533 for ADA seating. For more events at the Ritz Theater, visit www.tennesseevalleyarts.org

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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 Noon.

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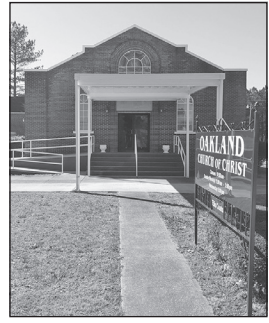
PROVERBS 14:12
There is a way which seems right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death.

Has society lowered the threshold for acceptable behavior, set by Christ, to a level that allows sinful behavior to seem right?

Paul tells us in 2Timothy 4:2-3 The time will come when people will not listen to the true teaching. But people will find more and more teachers who please them. They will find teachers who say what they want to hear. People will stop listening to the truth. They will begin to follow the teaching in false stories.

As Earl Pitts once said, "WAKE UP, AMERICA!"

We are a small congregation of mostly senior citizens who love the Lord.
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