

Drive-Thru Underway

FLORENCE—Mayor Andrew Betterton, the Florence City Council, and Florence Utilities are excited to break ground on the new Drive-Thru Utilities Payment Center that will take place on Thursday, March 9 at 12:30 pm.

The payment center will include five drive-thru-only lanes and a drop box lane centrally located, at 365 Seville Street for easier access and convenience for residents and businesses. The project consists of a 360-day contract and is expected to be completed in spring of 2024.

SCS Open House Event

FLORENCE—Shoals Christian School will host an Open House Thursday, March 9 from 1-4pm at 301 Heathrow Drive in Florence.

SCS faculty, parents, and students will be on hand, so you can learn more about the academic athletic and extracurricular programs. Meet some of the school's athletes, explore their fine arts program, and visit the flame spirit store while you are there.

You are also welcome to stay after the open house and enjoy free admission and a free concession item at the home baseball and softball games from 4:30-8pm. Please call 256-767-7070 to RSVP.

Trail Ride at Coats Farm

FLORENCE – The 14th Annual Coats Farm Benefit

See SHORTS... on Page 2

Volume 139 Number 20

March 8, 2023

POSTAL PATRON

Courier Journal

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Brooks Takes District



Brooks High School won Alabama Scholastic Challenge Division III at NW-SCC. Courtesy photo NW-SCC

PHIL CAMPBELL—Northwest-Shoals Community College hosted the 2023 Alabama Scholastic Challenge district competition in Division III for seven high schools recently on the Phil Campbell campus.

Brooks High School won the tournament with a 4-1 win-loss record. They will compete at the State Tournament on Friday, April 14 at Jefferson State Community College in Birmingham.

Division III schools competing include Belgreen High School, Brooks High School, Deshler High School, East Lawrence High School, East Lawrence Middle School, and Haleyville High School.

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Singleton

Four Get Promoted

SHEFFIELD – Bank Independent recently announced the promotions of team members Tim Singleton, Stacy Suggs, Janice Pride, and Samantha Hayes.



Pride



Suggs

Singleton has been promoted to Executive Vice President and will



Hayes

See FOUR... on Page 6

More Butter and Syrup, Please

FLORENCE– It's finally here. The Florence Kiwanis Club is hosting its Annual Pancake Days March 10-11 at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum on Veterans Drive in Florence.

Friday hours are 6am-7pm. Saturday serving is from 6am-1pm. Advance Tickets are \$8 each; ten or more are only \$7 each. Tickets for Children 12 and under are \$5. Tickets at the door are \$10 each.

Discounted advance tickets can be purchased from any Florence Kiwanis member. In addition, tickets can be purchased at any of the following locations:

- First Southern Bank at 301 S Court St.

See SYRUP... on Page 6



March 10 & 11

INSIDE This Issue

Automotive Inside NOW

Ray Miller Buick-GMC
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Shorts...

Trail Ride at Coats Farm

Continued from Page 1

Trail Ride and Auction takes place March 10-11 at the Coats Farm north of Florence.

The Yard Sale begins Friday, March 10 at 8am in the Barn

Trail Riding begins Saturday, March 11 at 9am. The Silent Auction begins at 9:30am outside. Chicken and Goat Stew, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, BBQ and Ham & Beans will be served at 11am. Homemade peach and apple fried pies will also be sold.

The Big Live Auction will take place outside at 12:15 Saturday with new and used items: Furniture, Sports Memorabilia, Antiques, Tools, Appliances, Horse and Horse Tack, Grass Seed and much more.

All proceeds go to the North Alabama Christian Children's Home, a 501c-3 Group Residential Home licensed by the state of Alabama to provide 24/7 care for up to 22 children. NACCH seeks to provide a safe haven for children who have come from an environment where they have been abused,

abandoned, and/or neglected.

Coats Farm is located at 1458 County Rd. 298 in Florence (East off Hwy 17, just north of Zip City. Follow the signs.) For more information call **Don Williams**, NACCH Director 256-366-3327; **Robert Coats** 256-762-2514 or **Buddy Smith** 256-762-2084.

Singing River Athens Open

ATHENS— Singing River Dentistry, a Shoals fixture for three decades, opened its sixth north Alabama location in Athens on Monday, March 6.

"We're excited to join this thriving community and serve the citizens of Limestone County and surrounding areas," said Dr. **Jimmy Gardiner**, who founded the practice in 1992 with an office in Tuscumbia.

Singing River's new office in Athens is large enough to accommodate two dentists and four hygienists. They are in network with most insurances including Medicaid.

Leading the Singing River team at the new location is Dr. **Stephen Watkins**, a recent addition to the Singing River family with decades of experience in general and family dentistry.

"As someone who started his practice in Athens, I am excited to be returning to this community and helping patients achieve their best oral health alongside our team," said Watkins.

SRD's Athens location is conveniently located at 22026 Gateway Blvd, Suite A on the corner of

Lindsay Lane and US 72. Appointments can be made by calling 256-202-4849.

It's Spring at the Fountain

FLORENCE – Harrison Fountain, the iconic structure at the heart of the University of North Alabama, will be relit for the spring as part of the annual Light the Fountain event Thursday, March 16 from 6:30-9pm. Congressman **Robert B. Aderholt** has been tapped to light the fountain at 7:30pm.

"Congressman Aderholt has worked tirelessly on behalf of the University, even before his district included the institution," said UNA President, Dr. **Ken Kitts**.

In addition to the lighting ceremony, the tradition has evolved to include free t-shirts, food, a photo booth, and music. They are these extras which make Light the Fountain a student favorite, according to Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. **K.C. White**.

"The campus community and the broader Shoals community look forward to this annual event as the return of spring and warmer weather on campus," she said. "The community gets to celebrate in this special event with us, and students enjoy a bit of a party on the plaza after the lighting takes place. UNA is a beautiful place, and Light the Fountain celebrates this special time of year."

The rain date is March 21.

Oakland Church of Christ

23680 County Rd. 14, Florence

2 JOHN 9

"Whosoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."

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Again, Jesus addressing God, His Father, said "Sanctify them by Your truth, YOUR WORD IS TRUTH." John 17:17

We are a small congregation of mostly senior citizens who love the Lord. We would love for you to come and worship with us at 11am Sunday. We also have Bible study on Sunday at 10am and Wednesday at 6PM.



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Boston Butt Pork Roast **\$1.59** Lb.

Whole Spare Ribs **\$1.99** Lb.

Sirloin Pork Chops **\$1.69** Lb.

Country Style Pork Ribs **\$1.69** Lb.

Pork Belly (Skin On) **\$3.99** Lb.

Hickory Country Bacon **\$3.99** 16 Oz.

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Chicken Wing Flaps **\$2.79** Lb.

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Boneless Chicken Breast **\$1.99** Lb.

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Farm Raised Whole Catfish **\$5.99** Lb.

Chicken Leg Quarters **\$5.99** 10 Lb. Bag

DAY by DAY
Grief Support Group for Bereaved Parents/Grandparents

Meets
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Woodmont Church East Campus,
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Yard Sales

MUSCLE SHOALS: 603 Pilgrim Avenue (located in the warehouse behind the Village Shop) Fri. and Sat. 8AM, **INSIDE SALE!** Furniture, clothing, Christmas Decor., etc. Map ID #1140

KILLEN: 930 CO RD 394 Fri. 6AM-2PM, Sat. 6AM-2PM, Rain or Shine! 3 Families. Lots of TREASURES~ Map ID #1139

HUGE SALE

KILLEN: 1636 County Rd. 73 March 11 Sat. 7:00 a.m., Outdoor & Indoor sale that includes furniture, glassware, kitchen items, decor, and much more! Map ID #1141

Chloe's Fund

Fern Sale

Order By March 11
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Boston Ferns in 10" Hanging Baskets	Kimberly Queen in 3-Gallon Pots
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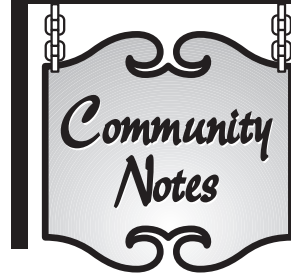
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COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE in the Courier Journal. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following 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.

PopPops Boxing Gym - 1 Year Anniversary - Grand Opening, Friday March 10 5-10pm.

Featuring special guest Eric "Butter Bean" Esch, Retired Pro Boxer, Kick Boxer and Mixed Martial Artist.

Come meet Coach PopPop, USA Certified Boxing Coach/Trainer
106 South Water St, Tuscumbia. Call 256-856-6213 for details!

Chloe's Fund Fern Sale - Order by March 11 for early April pick-up. \$20 All Sales Pre-Sold. Boston Ferns in 10 inch hanging baskets. Kimberly Queen in 3 gallon pots. To order call Lisa Wilson Rim at 804-240-6880, or via Facebook Messenger.

All proceeds benefit Chloe's Fund for the emergency medical needs of Shelter animals.

If you vote at Handy Recreation Center you are invited to a District 1 Community Meeting with Kaytrina Simmons, Tuesday, March 14 5:30pm-7pm, Handy Recreation Center, 1105 Beale Street, Florence.

Send questions and/or concerns in advance: 256-349-3879 or email ksimmons@florenceal.org

First Missionary Baptist Church, at 330 South Thompson Street, Florence, will be celebrating with the Rev. Joseph Marshall and Family on his 40th Pastoral Anniversary. Sunday, March 12 at 11am. We cordially invite you to come and celebrate with us on this very special occasion.

The Rev. Cornell Martin, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church of Pulaski TN, will bring the 11am inspirational message.

LifeSouth Blood Drive Dates
Thursday, March 9 Central High School 7:30am - 3:30pm Florence
Friday, March 10 PetSmart Noon - 5pm Florence

Saturday, March 11 Kiwanis Pancake

Day 6:30am - 2pm Florence - Coliseum
Sunday, March 12 Buff City Soap Noon - 5pm Florence

Monday, Mar. 13 Franklin County Courthouse 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Russellville
Tuesday, Mar. 14 UNA Student Nurses 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. UNA campus - front of nursing building

Wednesday, Mar. 15 SouthernCare New Beacon Hospice 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Florence

Thursday, Mar. 16 Lauderdale County High School 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Rogersville - School AV Room

Friday, Mar. 17 Sheffield High School 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Health Science Classroom

Saturday, Mar. 18 Cypress Creek Indoor Range 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Florence

Sunday, Mar. 19 Walmart 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Russellville

Registration Open - The Muscle Shoals Parks and Recreation Department is taking registration for Youth Track and Field through March 10. This is for ages 7-12 and the age cutoff date is June 1. Fee: \$35. For information, call Lee McIntyre, 256-386-9270.

See NOTES... page 10



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We're Moving on Up, You Should Too!

First Southern Bank is moving to 201 South Court Street in the Summer of 2023

Here at First Southern, our slogan is “Deep Roots, Home Grown, Still Growing...”, and we are doing just that: Growing! We have made the decision to relocate our main office, as well as part of our operations, to 201 South Court Street.



In 2017, First Southern was purchased by a group of Shoals-area businessmen and investors who are committed to providing financial services for businesses and individuals in all the regions it now reaches,

The former Truist Bank Building has officially become the First Southern Bank Building! We made this decision so that we would have a greater capacity to continue serving the Shoals, and every other community we touch, with excellence.

helping to strengthen local economies. Their vision for the bank and for economic vitality has allowed First Southern to increase our ability to serve our customers with excellence.

To our existing customers, thank you so much for your continued support. You are the reason we do what we do!

Today, First Southern provides full-service banking to individuals, families, and businesses in person at our four Shoals-based locations; at our Marshall County, Alabama branch; and to many more online. We also provide in person loan services at our Loan Production Offices in Texarkana, Arkansas; New Albany, Mississippi; and Ocala, Florida. As First Southern grows, we remain committed to building and maintaining the meaningful relationships with our customers that we are known for!

To those feeling dissatisfied with their current bank, we would be honored to serve you here at First Southern Bank! Our vision is for our customers to feel seen and valued, while never having to doubt that their investments are being well taken care of by our team. We have notable success as a community bank, and that success is growing daily, so come grow with us!

Come join the First Southern Family, where our top priority is *you!*

First Southern Bank is the oldest financial institution under continuous operation in the Shoals Alabama region. We were founded in January of 1935 as First Federal Savings and Loan Association. On June 10, 1995, after seeing considerable growth by investing in the families of the area, First Federal Savings and Loan changed its name to First Southern Bank and transitioned to a state commercial bank.



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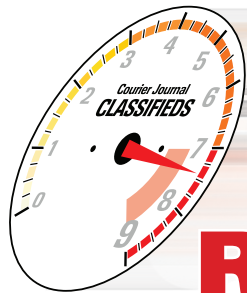
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Four Get Promoted...

Continued from Page 1

continue to serve as Eastern Region President and Senior Commercial Lender. He joined Bank Independent in 2014 as Area President serving the Huntsville and Madison County communities. Singleton has been significantly responsible for building and promoting the bank's presence in the Huntsville market. Singleton is active in the local community through numerous organizations and volunteers as a Court Appointed Juvenile Advocate.

Suggs has been promoted to Executive Vice President and will continue to serve as Chief Operations Officer. She was appointed Chief Operations Officer in 2017, but her career with Bank Independent spans three decades beginning in 1988 with her first role as a Proof Operator. From that initial role, she moved into auditing, credit analysis, regulatory compliance, information security, and into her previous role as Senior Vice President of Risk Management, which she held from 2006 to 2017.

Pride has been promoted to Senior Vice President - Team Member Care. She came to Bank Independent in 2013 as the Employee Assistance Manager with Human Resources. She has since been instrumental in shepherding initiatives for the Bank to include *Guarding Our Values* and *Enhancing our Culture* and the current *Succession*

and *Recruiting* initiative. She serves on the board for the Shoals Chamber of Commerce.

Hayes has been promoted to the title of Accounting Officer. She began her career with Bank Independent as a Roving, Part-Time Teller in 2011 before moving to accounting. Her previous role was Accounting Manager. Hayes has pursued her professional education in finance and accounting, earning an Associates from Beville State Community College in 2010 and a Bachelor's in Business Administration in 2012 followed by a Master's in Business Administration in 2019 from UNA.

"We are proud to recognize the promotion of these team members who exemplify servant leadership, help us achieve our mission of making a positive difference in people's lives and fulfill our vision to be the bank of choice in the communities we serve," Rick Wardlaw, CEO of Bank Independent said. "Each of them is committed to fostering strong relationships with both customers and team members, while also deeply caring about making a difference in the community."



256-764-4268



Personnel

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CIRCULATION

Ted Fallin

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

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DEADLINES: Issues Published Every Wednesday

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CLASSIFIED ADS - 5 pm Friday unless otherwise specified

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Florence, AL 35630

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Fax: 256-760-9618

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

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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.

Syrup...

Continued from Page 1

(Florence location only)
• Harris Elder Law Office (407 S Court Street, Florence)

• Progress Bank (230 E Tennessee Street, Florence)

• Online at florencekiwanis.com (with no fees deducted)

All proceeds are donated to child/family-focused organizations in the Shoals area.

For more information, see <http://florencekiwanis.com/> or Kiwanis Club of Florence, AL on Facebook.

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Proud to serve you, your families, and our community!

Adam Isbell, M.D.
Board Certified in Internal Medicine



529953-1

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

CONCRETE WORK: DRIVEWAYS, SIDEWALKS, Curbs, Slabs. No job too big or too small, 30 years of experience. Call Peanut 256-980-2208

GOLDDOODLE PUPPIES - MINI, MEDIUM, & FULL-SIZE \$900-\$1500. 256-443-3261 or 205-310-2066

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VOLKSWAGEN: JETTA SE, 2014 \$9,800. Gray and black, 122K miles, heated seats, keyless go, Bluetooth®, sunroof, cruise, fully serviced, **NEW BATTERY**, clean title. 40 mpg+ 256-762-7138.

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Available 24-7
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Tree cutting, trimming, stump removal. Free Estimates. Owner Gilbert Barga 256-314-1009 or 256-366-3539

CHEVROLET: IMPALA, 2014 \$11,950. LT Limited, 4 door, automatic, sunroof, full power, black in color, alloy wheels, just serviced. Super Condition! 256-527-2125

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•Landscaping •Spring Clean-ups 256-668-5807

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MANSSELL ROOFING, Discounts to Veterans and Seniors. All Work Guaranteed. Free Estimates, 256-383-3218

HONDA: CR-V, EX 2008 \$13,950. 1 owner, only 76K miles, full power, sunroof, alloy wheels (with **NEW TIRES**), just serviced. Outstanding Condition! 256-527-2125


KING DREAM CLOUD MEMORY foam Mattress, like new \$300. 256-318-0951

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MOVING? Call Moving Made Easy for all your moving needs 256-483-7038


Turning 65? Time for MEDICARE? Educate Register Today!

Our next Medicare Class is Thursday, March 16th before 11am-Noon @ Alabama Health Guidance 885 Florence Blvd. Florence, AL



We know all of those **MEDICARE** options may seem a bit confusing – but our **LOCAL** Insurance Specialists have over 20 years of combined experience to help make the whole process easy for you.

▶ Our **"Third Thursday" Medicare Education Classes**, offered each month, allow you the opportunity to learn more. Call to register now to attend one of these classes!



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For accomodation of persons with special needs at meetings, call 256-648-5710

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2/\$8
15 Oz.

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Weather Is
Here. Time
To Break Out
The Grill.**

Old Wisconsin
Summer Sausage

\$3.99
8 Oz.

Oscar Mayer
Pre-Cooked Bacon

\$4.99
2.52 Oz.

Hormel
Pepperoni

\$3.99
6 Oz.

Country Pleasin Assorted Flavors
Smoked Sausage

\$5.29
14 Oz.

Piggly Wiggly
Mac & Cheese

7.25 Oz.
69¢

Pride **Vegetables** - Assorted
Green Beans, Whole Kernel Corn,
Cream Corn Or Corn 'N Peppers

14.5-15 Oz. Can
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Chips Ahoy! Assorted
Chips Ahoy! Cookies

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2/\$7

White Lily **Flour**
Self-Rising Or All Purpose

5 Lbs.
\$3.99

Assorted Idahoan
Instant Potatoes

4-4.1 Oz.
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Tony's
Pizzas

18.9-20.93 Oz.
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Lay's **Potato
Chips** 7.75 Oz.
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Frito Lay
Doritos
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2/\$7

Frito Lay
Cheetos 7.5-8.5 Oz.
Or Fritos 7-9.25 Oz.
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**Coke
Products**
6 Pk. 1/2 Liters
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\$3.99
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4 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS



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Urgent Care

Primary & Urgent Care

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(256) 415-4005

Express Care

1106 N Cave St.
Tuscumbia
(256) 386-7774

Greenhill

351 AL Hwy 64
Killen
(256) 272-8066

Sheffield

1120 S Jackson Hwy
Suite 300
(256) 383-4447

Front Row: Courtney Bowen, MD • Jeremy Thompson, MD • Amber Olsen, DO

Back Row: Joshua Vacik, MD • Robert Dickson, DO • Anthony Horton, DO • Brad McAnalley, MD

FISH FRY
FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH
4pm - 7pm
Calvary Baptist Church
601 N. Main St., Tuscumbia, AL
Proceeds go to
"Operation Christmas Child"

CHEVROLET: SILVERADO 1500, LT
Model., 2015 \$24,950. Crew Cab, 4x4,
pearl white, charcoal interior, Fabtech lift
kit, 33X20 tires, nice wheels, full power,
rear-view camera, Tonneau cover. Excel-
lent Condition! **Must See!** 256-527-2125.

WE BUY RIDING MOWERS,
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No matter your location, I will come to you. Call Lawrence 931-242-3135 Local number

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2013 \$11,450. 1 owner, only 99K miles,
heated leather, alloy wheels (with **NEW TIRES**), navigation, **extensive service history**. Must See and Drive. 256-527-2125.

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Give Daniels Clean Exteriors a call for all of your Pressure Washing needs. Free estimates, Licensed & Insured, 256-412-0131

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WE BUY JUNK CARS, Trucks or Vans with or without titles, Call Joel 256-303-7609

GOLF CLUBS, PXG IRONS, 4-PW. 256-381-4816

2021 RANGER Z518 BASS BOAT, 200 Mercury motor, less than 100 hours, under warranty, Two Helix 9 depth finders with Livescope, Excellent Condition, \$52,800, Call 205-288-0298

Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama's Gerald Williams Cooperative Garden Program

FREE vegetable garden supplies to help qualifying local residents wishing to grow their own gardens

SIGN UP Feb. 21 through the March 25 DEADLINE.

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 \$590.00

All Residents

Call 256-248-1921 • 1-4 pm 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.

AJ#22253

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Offer valid 3/3/2023 to 4/8/2023
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EMPLOYMENT Opportunities

Notes...

Continued from page 4

The Parkinson Association of Alabama (PAA) will host its annual Parkinson's Patient Symposium on Friday, March 10 at the Pelham Civic Center, 500 Amphitheater Road, in Pelham. This FREE educational event is open to those living with Parkinson's disease (PD), their care partners, and families. It will include valuable content from Parkinson's disease experts for improving the quality of life for those affected by PD.

Doors open at 8:30am with complimentary breakfast followed by an inspiring keynote speaker, Matthew Moore, who is also living with Parkinson's, along with other general assemblies.

This event will also offer three breakout tracks with two sessions each. Whether you are newly diagnosed with Parkinson's, living well with PD, or a care partner - there are special sessions dedicated to where you are on your journey. Learn more about the session details, speakers and bios at <https://www.parkinsonalabama.com/symposium2023>

The event is FREE, but seating is limited, and registration is required. Please go to www.parkinsonalabama.com/symposium2023 to reserve your seat.

The deadline for entry in Artistic Renderings of Youth is March 10.

This is a juried exhibit of artwork open to 7th through 12th grade students from Colbert, Franklin, and Lauderdale counties. The exhibit runs March 20 - April 28 at Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts in Florence.

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

For more details on entry rules, call Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts 256-760-7379 or email: connect@florencealmuseums.com

The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St. Florence and can be reached by calling 256-760-6379.

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 - 10:30am Ekklesia Preschool, Muscle Shoals Location.

Clay to Bronze Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence, will continue the exhibition by Huntsville sculpture Everette Cox from now - March 10. The center is free and open to the public from 9am-4pm Monday-Friday and 1-4pm Sunday. 256-760-6379.

See NOTES... page 30

The City of Sheffield
will begin taking applications for
TRUCK DRIVER

for the Cemetery Department at **8:00 a.m. on Monday, February 27, 2023**, and will accept applications through the close of business **Friday, March 10, 2023, 4:30 p.m.**

Applications may be obtained in person from the City Clerk's office and the City's Facebook page. The completed application must be returned to the City Clerk's office, 600 N. Montgomery Avenue, Sheffield, Alabama.

The City of Sheffield offers a Great Benefit Package

The City of Sheffield is an equal opportunity employer.

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED: Experience and References required. Please email contact information, experience and references to sws@cvdusa.com

Housekeeper/Dogkeeper
ISO of housekeeper/dogkeeper 2 to 3 days a week. 7:30AM to 5:30PM. \$14 an hour after training
Call 256-764-3335
Mon.-Fri. between 9AM-4PM to setup an interview.

KENNEL HELP, TUSCUMBIA. PERMANENT/PART time, 7AM-9AM and 5PM-6PM daily, small dogs. Dependable person and car. 256-627-8822.

CNC MACHINIST MANUAL MACHINIST
We offer:
Blue Cross Insurance, Dental Insurance, 401K Die-Tech, Inc. 4504 Helton Drive Florence, AL 256-764-7077 256-764-2562 Fax

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTER
The Decatur Daily, a five-day daily covering three counties in north Alabama, is investing in its newsroom as it seeks to produce more quality journalism. We are looking for a general assignment reporter who is able to develop sources, dig for stories of importance to our readers, handle hard news and tell a compelling story. The successful candidate will cover a wide range of topics, including police, local government, education and enterprise stories. Accuracy is essential.

The Daily is an award-winning, family-owned newspaper founded in 1912. Decatur, on the banks of the Tennessee River, is home to Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, United Launch Alliance, a high-tech manufacturing sector and a vibrant arts community. It is located 20 minutes from Huntsville and an hour from Birmingham.

Send a brief cover letter, five of your most current, relevant writing samples and resume including references:
Eric Fleischauer
Metro Editor
eric@decaturdaily.com

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

The City of Sheffield
will begin taking applications for
LABORER
FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT

Applications will be accepted beginning **Monday, February 27 at 8am** through the close of business **Friday, March 10 at 4:30pm.** Applications with job description may be obtained in person from the **City Clerks' Office** and the **City's Facebook page.** The completed application must be returned to the City Clerk's Office, **600 N. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield**

The City of Sheffield offers a Great Benefit Package

The City of Sheffield is an equal opportunity employer.

~Job Announcement~
Lawrence County Solid Waste

DIRECTOR POSITION

The Lawrence County Commission is accepting applications beginning **February 27, 2023 - March 27, 2023** for the position of **Solid Waste Director.** Detailed information in full can be viewed on **Monster.com** or **TNValleyJobFinder.com** for the following:
•Job Requirements
•Knowledge Requirements
•Pay & Benefits

Applications may be picked up at: Lawrence County Commission 12001 AL Highway 157 Moulton, AL or on our website at www.lawrencecountyal.org

Completed applications and resumes may be delivered to the Lawrence County Commission or emailed to **Heather Rose** at hdyar@cc.lawrencecountyal.gov

Lawrence County is an equal opportunity employer.

Service One Transport
Hiring Short Haul & Regional OTR CDL A Drivers
Good Home Time • Sign On Bonus
New Equipment
Apply on Tenstreet @ <https://intelliapp.driverapponline.com/c/serviceone>
256-314-5496



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Multi-Craft Maintenance MECHANIC - 3rd Shift

Primary Requirements: 5 years' experience in plant or automobile mechanics required. Electrical troubleshooting skills needed: AC/DC motors, drives, relay's, safety circuits, starters.

Mechanical Skills Needed: welding, hands-on, pipe fitting, pumps, forklift. Must be able to repair equipment, perform preventive maintenance, have knowledge of refrigeration equipment, lift and carry heavy items, as well as work on elevated levels.

High school diploma or equivalent, strong work ethic, good communication skills, basic reading, writing and math skills.

\$1,000 Sign-on Bonus after 6 mo.

Excellent, Low-Cost Benefits: Blue Cross/Blue Shield/Dental/Life/Short Term Disability/Vacation/Holidays/401(K).

Apply online at esrobbins.com, email jobopportunities@esrobbins.com, or in person at 2802 E Avalon Ave, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661
No phone calls please.

Equal Opportunity Employer 531417-1

Home Instead.

Home Instead is seeking **Homemakers and Family Caregivers** to join our team to care for our non-medical clients one on one in their homes in the Shoals area. 7a-3p, 3p-11p and 11p-7a shifts available. Please come by our office at 2703 Darby Drive for a paper application or apply online at www.homeinstead.com/200 click on careers.

Magnolia Adult Home Care
Full-time + Part-time
CAREGIVERS NEEDED
Competitive Pay
To Apply, Visit magnoliaAHC.com/job-opportunities


Florence Housing Authority
is seeking to fill vacancy for:
Administrative Assistant

The job description is located on our website. To apply and be considered for the position, download the job application from our website at www.flohousing.org and email the completed application to floaccounting@flohousing.org

No telephone calls. No hand delivered or faxed cover letters, resumes or other information will be accepted at Authority offices.

Applicant review will begin on Monday, March 20, 2023.

FLORENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY Equal Opportunity Employer
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HR Professionals 

Our rates are very reasonable and our employment section is seen by potential employees in **North Alabama's Largest Circulation.**

Call us for results.... 256-764-4268

DODGE: JOURNEY CROSSROAD EDITION, 2016 \$17,950. 1 owner, only 48K miles, white, heated leather, rear-view camera, alloy wheels **(WITH NEW TIRES)**, 2 keys. Excellent Condition. 256-527-2125.

2004 Chevy Silverado, Extended Cab, Short Wheel Base, runs & drives great, high miles, automatic, 5.3 engine, 2-wheel drive, \$4,500, 256-764-5519

CHEVROLET: IMPALA, 2014 \$11,950. LT Limited, 4 door, automatic, sunroof, full power, black in color, alloy wheels, just serviced. Super Condition! 256-527-2125

► BUYING!!! CARS, TRUCKS, FISHING BOATS, in good condition or repairable. CALL 256-810-8411



1999 Plymouth Prowler, 14,200 miles, excellent condition, yellow with black interior, current owner owned for 17+ years, \$31,500. Call 256-366-9327.

STIHL LEAF BLOWER like new, \$120; Motorola Walkie-Talkies with ear plugs \$40 256-383-2058

CATS. BORN 4/17/22, INDOOR, spayed/neutered, rabies shots, FREE to good home 256-766-0314.



GMC: EXTENDED CAB SLE, 2004 \$9,800. 4x4, 1 owner, high miles, but like new! \$12,500 reduced \$9,800. 256-810-7238.

CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES, REGISTERED AND full blooded; females, \$735, males, \$630. Call Ralph 256-303-2406. We deliver!

I BUY JUNK CARS, trucks, vans and repairable vehicles. Call Mike 256-702-8400

JIMMY'S MOWER SHOP, buying and selling lawn & garden equipment. Call 256-284-0364 after 12pm daily, no text

SPORTS CARD SHOW

SAT., March 18th
8am- 2pm
Clarion Inn
Sheffield, AL
Call 256-412-2184
for more info.

Monday - Friday 10:30am-6pm

NEW HOURS, NEW LOOK, SAME GREAT FOOD!

256.381.9633

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Join Us Online: courierjournal.net

March 4 - 11
Spring / Summer Sale

DATES & TIMES
Mon. thru Fri.
Mar 6 - 10 10-6
Sat.
Mar 11 9-2:30
1/2 off items in red ink on Mar 10-11 Fri. & Sat.

North Alabama State Fairgrounds
dittos@dittosforkiddos.net

Local Medicare Insurance Specialists

Florence Office - 885 Florence Blvd. **Muscle Shoals Office - 410 S. Wilson Dam Rd.**

Hope Stamps Buttrum | Ikey Fowler | Lee Fowler | Erica Vaughn
Judy Keenum | Anah Whitehead Fowler | Beverly White | Caycee Fowler

Kay Holland | Kelly Davis | Marianna Honeycutt
Paul Sanderson | Mark Sanderson | Conner Sanderson



Are You Turning 65?
There's never a fee for our services.

- Are you a Veteran?
- Do you need Extra Help?
- Are you coming off of your Employer's Insurance?

Any Medicare Questions?
We can provide answers to help.

- Medicare Education
- Medicare Insurance Enrollment
- Medicare Drug Plan Assistance
- Low Income Benefits
- Customer Service to the policies you have with us



256-648-5710

www.AlabamaHealthGuidance.com

256-648-5220



530019-1

531209-1

Commentary

Misinformation Not Misdirected

There is no mystery as to why the national media can't be trusted any more than a convicted pedophile living near a daycare center.

They say what they want you to hear. If what they say flies counter to the truth, so be it. They figure you'll get over it.

Unfortunately, their cohorts are many in the federal government and some of its agencies. And everyone is slowly coming to realize it. When either is questioned or presented with some additional facts, those are dismissed as misinformation, racism, fringe rants, or another right-wing conspiracy, a retort hoping to debase any argument or concern.

Such repeated pronouncements don't settle anything. Rather, they often prove the initial concerns merit further attention.

Most of us are fed up with that dismissiveness. So, in the coming weeks this space is going to discuss where a lot of

See MISINFORMATION... 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

in the *Shoals*

THIS WEEK

March 8, 2023

Happening
THIS WEEK

Histories Intertwined

Black Hands Assist Before Belle Mont and After

TUSCUMBIA—Belle Mont Mansion will partner with the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church to present a program on Saturday, March 11 at 2pm on African American history tied to the Belle Mont plantation. The program is free. Tom McKnight will share a power point of the research used to find his ancestors.

The native New Yorker found that his ancestors came

See HISTORY... Page 22



This log house was on the Belle Mont property during the Historical American Building Survey (HABS) which was compiled in the 1930's. Significant buildings and properties were documented and catalogued across the nation by architects. This dwelling no longer exists but represents the type in which enslaved African Americans lived and in which sharecroppers lived after emancipation. Yet, little of their history remains, and few of their belongings can be found inside the home where their masters would have rested more comfortably. The woman pictured was probably a "model", a practice used by the photographers to help indicate size perspective. *Courtesy photo*

THE LOVELACE FAMILY WILL BE SINGING at Anderson First Baptist Church at 5:30pm on Saturday, March 11. The church is located at 247 Church St. in Anderson. A love offering will be received.

A FISH FRY AT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH takes place Friday, March 10 from 4-7pm at 601 N. Main Street Tusculumbia. Proceeds go to Operation Christmas Child.

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLORENCE will be celebrating the Rev. Joseph Marshall and Family on his 40th Pastoral Anniversary. Sunday, March 12 at 11am. We cordially invite you to come and celebrate with us on this very special occasion. The Rev. Cornell Martin, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church of Pulaski TN, will bring the 11am inspirational message. The church is located at 330 South Thompson Street.

CLAY TO BRONZE KENNEDY-DOUGLASS CENTER for the Arts at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence continues the exhibition by Huntsville sculpture Everette Cox through March 10. The center is free and open to the public from 9am-4pm Monday-Friday and 1-4pm Sunday. 256-760-6379.

SOFTBALL
MARCH 10-12
Blues City Classic in Memphis
March 10 vs. Pittsburgh 1:30pm
at Memphis 6:30pm
March 11 vs. Indiana St. 9am
vs. Pitts 11:30am
March 12 at Memphis 1:30pm

NORTH ALABAMA



WLX 98.3 FM & 103.5 FM
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BASEBALL
MARCH 10-12
at Tennessee Tech
in Cookeville, TN

MAR. 14
vs Murray State
in Florence

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

YOUR Letters

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

by Mail, in person, or mail slot
Editor-Courier Journal

219 W. Tennessee St.,
Florence, AL 35630

• e-mail: editor@courierjournal.net
• FAX- 256-760-9618

Very Little Respect

Editor:

I agree with Mark Moore in his March 1 letter, *Loud Noise Ordinance*. We live in Lauderdale County and cars and trucks speed in front of our house day and night. It sounds like they don't have mufflers on their vehicles and BOOM-BOOM (not music)!

My husband is on home oxygen and hospice and he is very nervous and these people DON'T Care about other people. They speed by our house so that our windows rattle. This is SO UNNECESSARY!!!

What happened to RESPECT?

Nancy Johnson
Florence

Not Over-Populated

Editor:

The whole world's population could fit in the state of Texas. Amazing as it may seem, it's true. The entire population of the world could be housed in the U.S. state of Texas very comfortably - with each

person living far in excess of what is now available to all, except the most wealthy.

Consider. The land area of Texas is 262,000 square miles* and current UN estimates of the world's population could be about 8 billion.** By converting square miles to square feet — multiply by 5,280 feet per mile

See LETTERS... on Page 24

Some very influential people say the Earth is grossly over-populated and needs to be at 500 million total population.

”

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Weekly Quiz • Bays

- Which state is nicknamed the Bay State?
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- The Bay of Fundy has the highest tides in the world and is located in:
A) Canada B) Ireland C) France D) Italy
- Bay Rum may be what?
A) Hair Tonic B) Beard Oil C) Cologne D) A, B & C
- Bay Shrimp are found in this bay:
A) Tokyo B) San Francisco C) Tampa D) Corpus Christi
- Tokyo Bay is where a battle was fought during WWII. True or False?

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

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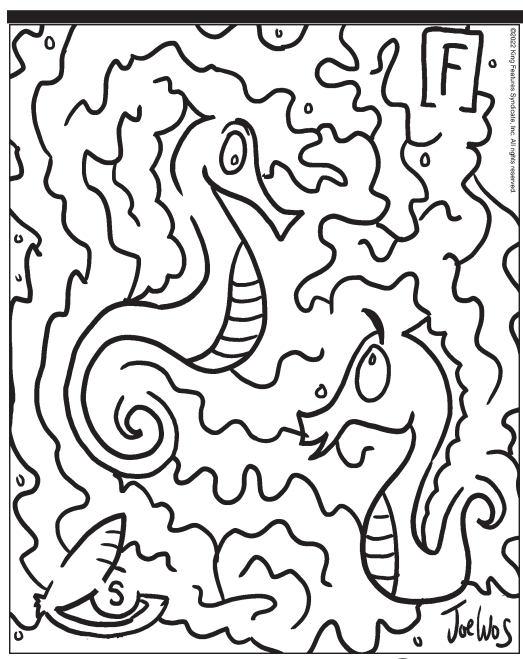
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Kids' Maze

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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. Australia's largest	_ Y _ _ _ _	Actor Poitier	_ I _ _ _ _
2. Courtroom event	_ _ _ A _ _	Warble	_ _ _ L _ _
3. Bee farm	_ P _ _ _ _	Bird farm	_ V _ _ _ _
4. Fill in the _____	_ _ _ N _ _	_____ -tie event	_ _ _ C _ _
5. Bridle	_ _ _ L _ _ _ _	Alice's Mad friend	_ _ _ T _ _ _ _
6. Box	F _ _ _ _ _	Correct	R _ _ _ _ _
7. Fabric press	_ A _ _ _ _	Socialize	_ I _ _ _ _
8. Old jalopy	_ _ _ _ _ R	Excursion	_ _ _ _ _ T
9. Pursue	_ _ _ A _ _ _	Selected	_ _ _ O _ _ _
10. ____ tot	_ _ _ T _ _ _	Animal trainer	_ _ _ M _ _ _

Puzzle Whirl

MINI SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to six.

WORD LADDERS

Can you go from COINS to SPIES in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

coins

spies

Answers on Page 30

WORD SPIRAL

U		T
	E	
F		A

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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Cat & Kids
by Cathy Turner

Grand Occasions

The last two weeks have been a whirlwind of fun surrounding our son's passion of performance. The Broadway show, "Tina; The Tina Turner Musical" came to Memphis and to Atlanta. The musical is touring the nation and has been playing to sold out audiences everywhere so far - Buffalo, Baltimore, Detroit, New Orleans, D.C., Orlando, for instance. I hope you've seen it or will see it! The national tours of the Broadway shows are just as good, if not better, than the New York based shows - sometimes it's the same people. I saw "Tina" twice on Broadway and that "Ike" had less energy, and perhaps less thought to the real man's life showed through in that show. Of course I am biased, but our Garrett made "Ike" mad and sad and mean and brilliant! Just last night a friend said, "Garrett is just a different person on stage!"

Yeah, that's right! And he has been wowing people by the thousands. They do eight shows a week - one show on Tuesday through Friday, and two shows on Saturday and Sunday. On Mondays, their "off days", they travel to the next city. Tuesday morning is the sound check and a wardrobe change review with new assistants. Then Tuesday night - the show! And each night in the show the "Tinas" (they have two women who alternately play "Tina") belt out 20 songs! The show definitely explores the abusive side of Tina's relationship with Ike. On the stage, she gets slapped around and thrown down, and she gets back up and sings. Ike was a complicated, angry, manipulating person. By the end of the first act, everyone in the theater is tired - including Garrett! He has nine clothes and wig changes - in the first act! And he has six songs to sing. He said once, "Someone should take my blood pressure or check my pupils at the end of Act One! I'm on the bed with another woman, snorting coke; I beat my wife; I whip my son! I mean, a woman pulls a gun on me! I'm singing "Rolling On The River"... It's insane!" He added, "I am acting, but my body is reacting as it should physically! It's crazy!" And I, his mother, am reacting naturally as I should. I have had the thought more than once, "If he smacks her one more time, I'm going to go up there and get him!" This show is so engaging! And the energy it takes...wow!

Of course, they are not really hitting, but Garrett so amazingly depicts Ike that he draws everybody in. And no one else was more enraptured than his grandmother. I had the grand occasion of sitting with my wonderful, 86-year-old mother-in-law in the front row at the Orpheum in Memphis! Garrett flirted with her all night long! Anytime he was dancing or singing near us, he was winking and grinning at his grandmother - and she was eating it up! The show ends with a concert, and Mom and I were nothing short of groupies! We were up dancing and doing the Tina moves to "Proud Mary"! I will remember that forever! What a night!

What a time these two weeks have been! Seeing all the Turners in Memphis (my husband is from there) was great. The Turners originated from Mississippi just like Ike Turner. We visited the Stax Museum while in Memphis, and they had pictures of Ike. I now have to research Ike, because he truly looks like a cousin. Then the next weekend, having my family and lifelong friends at The Fabulous Fox Theater on Rows C, D and E looking at Garrett in lights was amazing!!! And for Garrett, the most incredible part was that on that Kremlin shaped building in downtown Atlanta, where he has seen "Hamilton", "In the Heights" and much more, there hung a one story picture of him singing with "Tina". Blessed! Just God. God truly has given us so many audiences. I thank you for being mine, and allowing me to gush! I am just marveled.

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com

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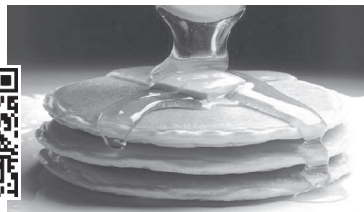




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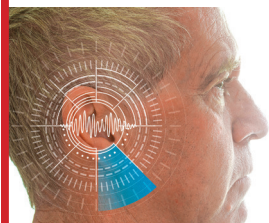
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Commentary

Misinformation...

Continued from Page 12

misinformation is really coming from as time and space allow.

We're going to start this week with the Wuhan lab leak and COVID-19.

The Wuhan lab leak will never be a 100% lock, but this reference last week in the *Wall Street Journal* continues a two-year noose tightening.

"The Energy Department now joins the Federal Bureau of Investigation in saying the virus likely spread via a mishap at a Chinese laboratory," an updated document from the National Security Council states. "The Energy Department's conclusion is the result of new intelligence and is significant because the agency has considerable scientific expertise and oversees a network of U.S. national laboratories, some of which conduct advanced biological research."

Still, the idea is downplayed in the media with comments like, "The Department of Energy's lab leak assessment is with low confidence," and, "The Biden administration has reached no consensus on how the COVID-19 pandemic started."

What a surprise.

Almost from the outset of the COVID crisis in late March of 2020, the media and pharmaceutical companies have made it their mission to discredit and insult every reputable medical professional who questioned the efficacy of the "vaccine," masks, lockdowns, inoculation mandates, and more. When "vaccines" became available the government joined the misrepresentation party.

They decided that COVID was easily spread through surface transmission; that masks were highly effective in reducing the spread (the definitive Cochrane review brings that into question), that being vaccinated prevented us from getting COVID, and prevented us from spreading it to others. They insisted that vaccinated immunity was far greater than natural immunity, and that young people benefit from a booster just as



much as older Americans. Two top vaccine experts quit the FDA in protest over that claim, because the data was never there). The CDC never disclosed hospitalization rates among boosted Americans under age 50 either. If they had, too much evidence would have surfaced too early.

The government also claimed medical evidence that myocarditis occurred more often after the infection than after the vaccine. However, recent evidence shows myocarditis is at least four times more common after the vaccine.

Often viable information was available that would either discredit the prevailing narrative or at least bring it into question. Anything that undermined the government's objective of total vaccination and

brought into question shoddy CDC studies, purposely small sample sizes, and willfully excluded groups, was never considered. That is criminal. It turned people's lives upside down, people who had legitimate concerns and objections. The charade caused unnecessary job loss, injury, and in many cases, unneeded death.

Sure, they may have contracted COVID anyway, and may have been among the 1/3 of 1% who died of COVID - and not in association with any other medical issues. However, it is extremely disappointing to know that our government goes to such lengths to silence those with valid concerns.

That is intellectually dishonest, a purposeful weaponization of many falsehoods and half-truths.



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Prepare Your Home For Spring Weather

You can't stop spring showers, but you can prepare your home and surroundings for thunderstorms, severe winds and more.

Spring is known for its rapidly changing weather and that can mean severe storms. Help get your home and family ready with these tips.

Let it flow. Remove winter's debris from your gutters, drains and downspouts so that heavy rains can flow freely off your roof. Be sure that downspouts are secure and that water is draining well away from your home and not toward your foundation.

Trim the trees. Prune lanky limbs and branches so they don't snap off in a windstorm and land on your home or a power line.

Check the pump. If your home has a sump pump, test it to make sure it's clean and operable and that the outflow is draining properly. Consider adding a battery-powered backup sump pump to keep the system working if the power goes out.

Stow your gear. When strong winds are forecast, secure patio furniture and other yard items or put them in your garage or a shed so they don't become dangerous projectiles.

Cover up. Close and secure storm shutters if your home has them. Keep blinds and shades drawn and tape or tack window coverings around the edges to help protect you from broken, flying glass.

If power outages are common in your area, prepare an emergency kit and keep it in a central location in your home.

Basic supplies should include:

- Flashlight and fresh batteries,
- Battery or solar-powered weather radio and/or transistor radio,
- First aid supplies,
- Hand sanitizer or wipes, and
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History...

Continued from Page 12

for him as he discovered their names and the lives they had made for themselves in northwest Alabama during their enslavement and after emancipation when they established themselves in prominent roles in the Black community of the times.

Among the people he will introduce in his program is Delia Watkins, a former seamstress at Belle Mont. Another is Bertha Watkins, highly esteemed by Belle Mont's owner Ella Winston, who deeded a home and property to her after the Civil War. McKnight's program, "The Hunt for Grand Master Powell", will also introduce ancestors Sophia Napier Watkins and Rev. Fred Watkins, members of Mosiac Templars of

America, an African American fraternal organization.

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, located off Cook Lane (St. Paul Circle) in Tusculmbia, was founded post emancipation by individuals who were formerly enslaved at Belle Mont and some of their descendants. The St. Paul congregation will be special guests for the program. They are invited to bring photos and to share stories of their own ancestors, associated with Belle Mont or not.

Ms. Charlotte Perrett, the elder member of St. Paul Church will be the special guest for the event. At 101 years of age, she fondly remembers her grandmother who was a midwife to many women in the Tusculmbia area and for whom she was named, and her great-grandfather, who was enslaved at Belle Mont.

Visitors to the program are also invited to bring photographs and stories to share. Belle Mont staff will be on hand to assist with research questions and in creating a digital file. This will be accessible to the public at Belle Mont, and copies will be supplied to the St. Paul Church and to Helen Keller Library.

An official announcement will be made concerning the Meredith log homeplace located a short distance from Belle Mont. A home was constructed by the late Oscar Meredith in the early 1900's utilizing techniques that were typical of dwellings built in the "dog trot" style that housed enslaved people at Belle Mont and at similar plantations. The house recently has been designated by the Alabama Historical Commission as one of the state's "Places in Peril." As such, it is considered a significant Alabama site worthy of preservation. Photographs of the house will be on display.

Belle Mont is located at 1569 Cook Lane, Tusculmbia. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information, call 256-381-5052 or email bellemontmansion@gmail.com.

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Credit Scores In The South

Almost every corner of the South, every race, every income bracket, appears to have lower credit scores than the rest of the nation.

The region's poor credit means Southerners are paying more to borrow money, assuming they can qualify for loans at all. That sets them back in everything from car and home purchases to credit card rewards.

The reason why credit scores are so low in the South is connected to medical debt because that's the most common type of unpaid bill that people have. The South easily has the highest levels of medical debt in the country. Personal injury cases often produce medical bills. Some go unpaid until the case is resolved.

Credit-rating agencies and their partners such as Fair Isaac Corp. (FICO) reduced the role that medical debt plays in their scores in 2017 following a settlement between credit-rating agencies and 31 states' attorneys general. Still the share of residents with overdue medical debt remain more strongly linked to a county's credit score than any other factor, including debt related to car loans, credit cards and student loans.

Last year, the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) issued a report finding that medical debt is "an unexpected, unwanted, and financially devastating expense" that is "far less reliable and predictive of people's ability to pay their bills" than other kinds of borrowing.

As a result, the big three credit-reporting bureaus Experian, TransUnion and Equifax announced steps to further reduce medical debt's influence on credit scores.

Starting this year, medical bills under \$500 will no longer affect your credit report. Even after they're sent to collections. That should wipe an estimated two-thirds of medical-debt collections from credit reports.

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

Please send the questions to: "Ask the Attorney,"

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Letters... Not Over-Populated

Continued from Page 12

twice — and dividing by the world's population, one finds there are more than 913 square feet per capita. So a family of 5 would occupy more than 4,565 square feet of living space. Even in Texas, that's a big house. Since many would prefer to live in large apartment buildings as in all cities big and small, then there could be at least 1/2 to 3 acre lots with some these huge 4,565 sq ft homes. And most likely roads, too. So the Earth is not running out of space.

Some very influential people say the Earth is grossly over-populated and needs to be at 500 million total population. Hmm, I do not see or hear about any of them "checking out" to ease the so-called over-population. So I will I say the problem is a few greedy and power-hungry individuals leading to severe mismanagement of God's abundant resources rather than over-population. Of course, putting everyone in Texas is not realistic, but doable. BTW... God's biggest and main resource.... People!

It really is all about Him.

Jerry Duke
Florence

Those Crop Insurance Programs

Editor:

For farmers across the country, the first months of a new year mean thinking about planting their next crop. For many, it also means thinking ahead to the deadline to sign up for federal crop insurance.

Generally, federal crop insurance refers to a set of programs available for agricultural producers to protect against crop or revenue loss. Programs are administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and individual insurance policies are sold by private agents in every state. Data from the most recent Census of Agriculture shows that hundreds of millions of acres across the country are insured with federal crop insurance programs.

Plans must be selected by a set deadline called the sales closing date. For most spring-planted crops in the Midwest and Great Plains region, the deadline is March 15.

At the Center for Rural Affairs, we view crop insurance as one of the tools in a producer's toolbox to manage risk. It is important to us that operations of all shapes and sizes have the information they need to make the best decisions for them.

As such, we are ready to assist producers wanting to learn more about their options before the sales closing date.

Over the years, the Center has developed resources and offered educational opportunities about crop insurance for a wide range of operation types. We have worked alongside row crop producers, diversified fruit and vegetable growers, and many in between.

We know federal programs are complicated and constantly changing. Numerous programs have been introduced or adjusted for 2023 alone. Producers practicing conservation and those with smaller, diversified, or organic operations are among those that can expect to see different options available.

Support from Center staff is free and voluntary. If you have questions

about your options or want to learn if crop insurance is available for your operation, I encourage you call 515-215-1294 or email me at kateh@cfra.org.

Kate Hansen
Senior Policy Associate
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Meet **GILBERT**, a young sweet medium sized lovable boy. He has such a cute face and calm personality. He is a good leash walker and his favorite thing is attention. Gilbert just wants to be loved and have a home to call his own. **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.



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The first thing to know is, **you only receive one "Wellness" visit per year.** If you go to a specialist, and they code your visit as a "Wellness" visit, you cannot go to your primary care physician and receive another "Wellness" visit. It is your responsibility to know how your visit is coded. If you do not want a visit to a specialist or primary care physician coded as a "Wellness" visit you must speak up.

The second, and maybe the most important, thing to know is; for a visit to be coded as a "Wellness" visit it must be for **preventive services only.** Your "Medicare and You Handbook" states; **"If you doctor or other health care provider performs additional tests or services during the same visit that aren't covered under this preventive benefit, you may have to pay coinsurance, and the Part B deductible may apply."** In other words, if you are having a medical issue and go to your doctor and discuss this issue, you probably will not be able to use your "Wellness" visit and must pay your copay or coinsurance. **"Wellness" visits are for preventive screenings and tests only!**

If you go to your primary care physician or specialist, and they "break the news" to you that a visit is not eligible to be coded as "Wellness", please be patient with your provider. It's not that they do not want to help you; it's that Medicare will not approve it.

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



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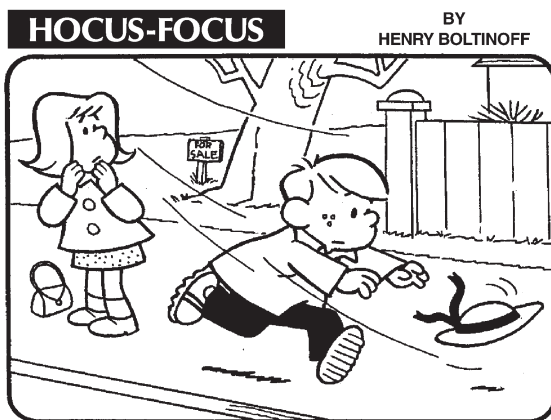


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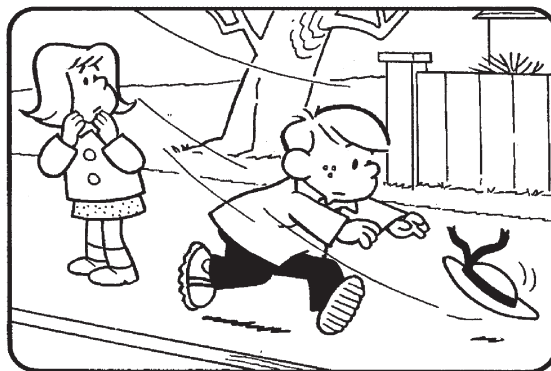
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1832

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*Location: 34.6663°N, 87.3104°W
East side of Train Depot, Courtland*

Tuscumbia-Courtland-Decatur railroad chartered in 1832. Originally horse-drawn but steam driven by 1834. First railroad west of the Alleghenies. Vital transportation for cotton around the hazardous river shoals.

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

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DAVE Says

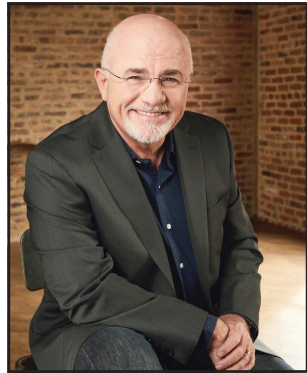
by DAVE RAMSEY

I WOULDN'T DO IT THAT WAY

Dear Dave,
 I have an uncle who wants to gift some property to one of his sons, myself and my sister. The property is about two-and-a-half acres, and it's probably worth around \$125,000. My wife and I are trying to pay off debt in Baby Step 2 of your plan, and we're not sure how we feel about the situation. What do you think?

Dave

Dear Dave,
 If your uncle asked me if he should do this, my answer would be no. The



thing is, you've got three different sets of people with different lives and very different situations. Not only that, but these three potential co-owners probably have differing ideas about the land and what should or shouldn't be done with it. To me, the whole thing sounds like a big family fight just waiting to happen.

If I were in his shoes, I'd just sell the property and split the money equally between the three of you. It'd be a lot easier that way, and you'd avoid the chance of hard feelings

between you and your relatives down the road. Don't get me wrong, your uncle sounds like a kind and generous man. He's trying to be a blessing to all three of you, but it has a very real possibility of causing unintended problems he may not see coming.

That's the way I'd handle it, Dave. A couple of acres of dirt split between three people isn't worth all the squabbles and bad feelings it could cause.

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show." He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," 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 of Ramsey Solutions.

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See E.B. White's *Stuart Little*

Time Out For Theater Has Two Saturday Performances

SHEFFIELD— The Ritz Theatre is hosting two public performances of the play *Stuart Little* on Saturday, March 11 at 2pm and 6:30pm. The play is a production of Time Out for Theatre, the Ritz's children's theatre program. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at tennesseevalleyarts.org.

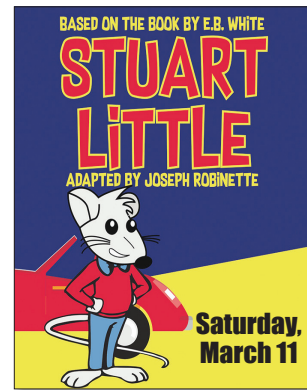
The play is written by Joseph Robinette and directed by Laura Connolly and Andrew Maples. It is based on the classic book by E.B. White and follows a mouse named Stuart Little born into an ordinary New York family. The many



adventures—both big and small—of Stuart Little are brought vividly to life in a series of delightful scenes, depicting the marvelous maneuverings of a mild-mannered mouse trying to survive in a “real people’s world.”

Charlotte's Web, which has the same original author and playwright, has traditionally been Time Out for Theatre's spring show. *Stuart Little* was the perfect way to share a different story while ensuring a great experience for the cast and audience.

“E.B. White's classics are a hit with children at The Ritz,” said Christi Britten, the executive director of the Tennessee Valley Art Association, which operates The Ritz. “*Charlotte's Web* was in the spotlight for many



years, and now it is time for that lovable little mouse Stuart to shine.”

them grow in their ability and make new friends,” says Leslie. “My sons enjoy how their roles become very helpful to Stuart in the story and play a part in driving the show forward.”

The cast of children and adults has been hard at work in rehearsals, preparing for a week of field trip performances and the two public performances. Families are encouraged to purchase tickets for the public shows in advance to ensure their seats.

For tickets or for more information about the Tennessee Valley Art Association, which runs the Ritz Theatre and the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, call 256-383-0533 or visit tennesseevalleyarts.org.

For Leslie Sawyer and her sons Jackson and John Thomas, community theatre is a family affair. Leslie is working as stage manager on *Stuart Little*, and her boys play multiple roles in the cast.

“The best part of being involved in theatre with my family is watching



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Where Are Our Sins?

John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." **1 Peter 2:24ab** "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness." **2 Corinthians 5:21** "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." **Romans 8:3** "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:" **John 19:30** "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." **Acts 2:31** "He (David) seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul (CHRIST'S) was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption." **Ephesians 4:10** "He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things." Judgment for OUR sins and the sins themselves were placed on Jesus Christ on that cross when He died. He then went to hell and dumped all sin there and was resurrected from the dead. **Hebrews 9:28** "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

When you die lost, without Christ, the reason you go to hell is to rejoin your sins there and you'll pay that debt for them throughout eternity, because YOU refused to trust Jesus as your Saviour. I cannot make it any simpler than that. Without Christ, you enter eternity on your own. You cannot hide sin. It must be paid for by someone. Either you pay the debt or you must have a Saviour that paid it for you. You have only a few days left to make up your mind. Christ stands at your heart's door and knocks? Will you turn Jesus down again? Ask the Lord Christ to save you, today.

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Notes...

Continued from page 10

Avant: Five Contemporary Voices will be on view Now - March 11 at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art in Tusculumbia. The work of five contemporary artists, are each exploring innovative ideas and form through the mediums of drawing, textile, painting, collage, and sculpture. Melinda Crider, Dariana Dervis, Tracie Noles-Ross, Miriam Omura, and Chiharu Roach are all currently based in Birmingham, but bring experiences from throughout the American South, as well as from Japan and the UK. Exhibition hours are Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm and Saturday 10am-5pm. Admission to the TVMA is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and free for members of the Tennessee Valley Art Association.

The Pope's Tavern Archaeology Club will host a fossil identification workshop on Thursday, March 16 from 6-7pm at Pope's Tavern Museum in downtown Florence. The Archaeology Club is an organization managed and supported by Pope's Tavern Museum and dedicated to advancing archaeological education through community-based projects and public history while encouraging responsible and ethical practices of archaeology in the community. Members can learn from each other through a common interest in the community's past, through hands-on archaeology opportunities, public history projects, workshops, field trips, and discussions. Members under 12 must be accompanied by an adult during club meetings and activities. The workshop March 16 will be hosted by Dr. Greg Buckley, associate professor in the Department of Geoscience at the University of North Alabama. Dr. Buckley will discuss the preservation of fossils throughout the region. The meeting is open to anyone who has an interest, and people are encouraged to bring their own fossils for identification. This program is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums. Pope's Tavern is located at 203 Hermitage Drive in Florence. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday from 10am - 4pm. Call 256-760-6439 for more information.

FREE Fishing Days at Deibert Park 6:30-11:30am on March 27, March 30, April 11, May 18, Sept. 12 and Oct. 12. No fishing license needed. Bring your own tackle, snacks and chairs. 256-760-6420

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Soap Opera Preview

DAYS OF OUR LIVES Belle left Eric to fend for himself. Sloan urged Melinda to throw the book at Eric. Nicole and EJ turned the tables on Stefan. Li tried to win back Gabi. Stefan had a surprising reaction when Gabi revealed her deal with Li. Johnny and Wendy caught on to EJ's plan. Sloan had an unexpected offer for Eric. Rachel came between Brady and Chloe. Li interrupted Stefan's romantic rendezvous with Gabi. Sloan got under Nicole's skin. Paulina hired Belle to defend her against Sloan. Chanel got to know Talia, who applied for a job at the bakery. Alex and Maggie disagreed over business matters. Chad found himself in hot water with Stephanie. Paulina's news put Chanel in an awkward position with Talia. Jada asked Rafe if he was romantically interested in her. EJ set Stefan up for a fall. *Wait to See: Johnny pulls a fast one on Tripp. Maggie firmly puts Alex in his place. Gwen is heartbroken over Xander's confession.*

GENERAL HOSPITAL Alexis called out Gregory. Diane broke some important news to Spencer. Esme's perception changed. Ava opened up to Sonny. Victor

threatened Elizabeth. Ava was rudely interrupted. Drew had news for Carly. Alexis was concerned for Curtis. Dex updated Michael. Sonny asked a favor of Olivia. Curtis was stunned. Victor and Obrecht found some common ground. Anna and Valentin received some new information. Trina supported Spencer. Esme made an offer to Laura. Sonny questioned Gladys. Trina briefed Ava. Maxie had a big idea. Lucy was horrified. Sasha didn't hold back. Dex and Josslyn made time for romance. *Wait to See: Drew pitches an idea to Ned. Nina confides in Ava. Mac and Cody bond.*

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS Phyllis made a dangerous decision. Nick gave Adam a reality check. Billy shared words of wisdom with Kyle. Summer confronted Nick. Nate discovered a secret. Sharon gave Billy a warning. Victor struck a deal. Daniel revealed a secret. Devon questioned Tucker's sincerity. Ashley and Billy shared a difference of opinion. Chelsea took on a new project. *Wait to See: Nikki makes a shocking announcement. Summer strategizes against Sally. Billy receives some unexpected news.*

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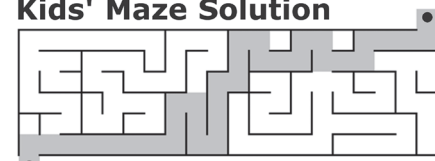


Puzzle Whirl Answers

Even Exchange answers

1. Sydney, Sidney
2. Trial, Trill
3. Apiary, Aviary
4. Blank, Black
5. Halter, Hatter
6. Fight, Right
7. Mangle, Mingle
8. Junker, Junket
9. Chase, Chose
10. Tater, Tamer

Kids' Maze Solution



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WORD LADDER

Answer
COINS, CHINS, CHIPS, SHIPS, SHIES, SPIES

MINI SUDOKU

Answer

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

Word Spiral Answer
FRUITCAKE

ON YOUR DEBT

Benefits Of Bankruptcy And Debt Settlement



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If you are struggling with overwhelming debt, you may be considering options like bankruptcy or debt settlement. While both can help you address your debt, they have very different benefits and drawbacks. In this article, I'd like to explain the benefits of bankruptcy over debt settlement and explain why bankruptcy may be the better choice for consumers.

First, let's define these terms. Bankruptcy is a legal process that allows individuals and businesses to eliminate or restructure their debts. Debt settlement is an agreement between a debtor and a creditor to settle a debt for less than the full amount owed.

Now, Let's Look At The Benefits Of Bankruptcy:

Automatic stay: When you file for bankruptcy, an automatic stay goes into effect. This means that creditors must stop all collection efforts, including phone calls, letters and lawsuits. This can provide much-needed relief from harassment and give you time to reorganize your finances.

Discharge of debts: Depending on the type of bankruptcy you file, you will be able to discharge most types of debts, such as credit card debt or medical bills. This means that you will no longer be legally responsible for paying those debts.

Fresh start: Bankruptcy allows you to start fresh and rebuild your finances. While bankruptcy can have a negative impact on your credit score, it also provides an opportunity to create a new financial plan and improve your credit over time.

Protection of assets: In most cases, bankruptcy can protect your assets from being seized by creditors. This is particularly true in Chapter 13 bankruptcy, where you can keep your assets while making payments on your debts over time.

Now, Let's Compare These Benefits To Debt Settlement:

No automatic stay: Debt settlement does not provide the same automatic stay as

bankruptcy. Creditors can continue to harass you for payment and even file a lawsuit against you at any point, which can be stressful and make it difficult to focus on your finances.

No discharge of debts: Debt settlement typically only settles a portion of your debt, and you may still be responsible for paying the rest and/or pay taxes on the amount you save. This means that you won't get the same relief from debt as you would in bankruptcy.

No fresh start: Debt settlement does not provide the same opportunity for a fresh start as bankruptcy. While you may be able to settle your debts for less than the full amount owed, you will still have to pay a significant portion of your debts.

No protection of assets: Debt settlement does not provide the same protection of assets as bankruptcy. Creditors may still be able to seize your assets to pay your debts.

In summary, bankruptcy offers many benefits over debt settlement, including an automatic stay, discharge of debts, a fresh start and protection of assets. While bankruptcy may have a negative impact on your credit score (debt settlement does as well), it can provide a path to financial stability and a new beginning. If you are considering bankruptcy or debt settlement, it's important to speak with a qualified bankruptcy attorney who can help you understand your options and make the best decision for your situation.

Bond & Botes Helps People Struggling with Debt

Contact The Bond & Botes Law Offices
We'd love to discuss your finances with you if you have found yourself in one of these scenarios. Debt can be overwhelming. The attorneys here at Bond & Botes provide guidance on helping clients reduce or eliminate debt. We can alleviate your stress! We want to help, and we can help you!

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