

## Recognizing 9/11 Rescue

FLORENCE—The Florence Workout Anytime will host their second 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb on Wednesday, September 11 starting at 8:46am, the same time the first plane hit the World Trade Center.

In honoring the first responders' sacrifice that day owners **Steven Elliot** and **Billy Robertson** welcome attendees and members of the community September 11 who will have the opportunity to use stair master machines aiming to complete 110 flights of stairs, the same number of floors responders navigated during the 9/11 rescue mission.

Elliot and the rest of those participating will be joined by members of the Florence Fire Department who will be participating in the stair climb as well.

## Trace Road Reopens

TUPELO—The closed section of Natchez Trace Parkway, between mile post 320 (Highway 72) and 326 (North Pike Road), has reopened to traffic.

One lane closures will continue there and elsewhere as necessary to complete striping and final project cleanup. Please use caution and continue to watch out for workers and equipment. A ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the full 40-mile rehabilitation of the Parkway will be announced at a later date.

See **SHORTS...** on Page 2

Volume 139 Number 46

September 6, 2023

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**A/C Problems Turned The Poodle Next Door Into A Puddle**



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## Railroad Bridge Enhancements?

SHOALS—Join the Tennessee RiverLine to explore ideas for enhancing Old Railroad Bridge visitors' experience. This community planning session is 4:30-6:30pm on Tuesday, September 12 at Singin' River Brewery at 526 E. College St. in downtown Florence.

The Shoals RiverTown's leadership team, composed of members from the



file photo

See **BRIDGE...** on Page 13

## Return to Coldwater

Free Family Festival Returns to Tuscumbia

TUSCUMBIA - Native Americans from throughout the U.S. will be in Tuscumbia to share the stories and traditions of their ancestors during the 21st Annual Oka Kapassa, Return to Coldwater Festival September 8-9. The festival at Spring Park in Tuscumbia has been recognized as one of the top events in September by the Southeast Tourism Society. The free family event features Native American heritage, entertainment, and education through hands-on activities, arts, crafts, and demonstrations.

Friday, September 8 is school day at the festival. Approximately 1,000 students will attend from as far away as Walker County in Alabama and



Oka Kapassa YouTube Screenshot

See **OKA KAPASSA...** on Page 9

## A Heartfelt Gesture for United Way Supporters

FLORENCE—The United Way of Northwest Alabama will host its Annual Meeting and 2024 Campaign Kickoff on Thursday, September 14 at 6pm in Singin' River Room at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center.

The evening is open to all community-minded individuals, and is especially a heartfelt gesture of

See **UNITED...** on Page 5

## INSIDE this Issue

**Automotive Inside NOW**  
Advance Auto Sales  
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## Shorts...

Continued from Page 1

### Land is Back with Lions

FLORENCE—University of North Alabama softball head coach, **Ashley Cozart**, announced the addition of a familiar face to her coaching staff last week. Former catcher, **Georgia Land**, will assist the coaching staff this upcoming season.

Land was one of three seniors on the team this past season. She finished the 2023 campaign with an impressive .341 batting average and a team-high 9 home runs .587 slugging percentage, and 1.034 on base percentage plus slugging percentage (OPS).

“Adding Georgia to our staff immediately makes us better,” said Cozart, who enters her 11th season in 2024. “Her knowledge and passion for the game is so exciting to observe. Georgia was one the best catchers I’ve ever had. We are so happy to have her join us.”

Land transferred to North Alabama as a sophomore and finished her fourth year in 2023. She was a second team

All-ASUN selection in 2022 and 2023.

“I am so thankful for Coach Cozart giving me this opportunity to come back and help coach this year,” said Land. “I have loved all four years here as a player and am so excited to be here for my fifth. I cannot wait to pour into this team and see what they can do this year.”

Land started 158 games for the Lions over her four seasons.

Written comments may also be mailed to the following address by September 15.

Alabama Dept of Public Health WIC Program  
 Attention Allison Hatchett  
 RSA Tower, Suite 1300  
 201 Monroe St.  
 P.O. Box 303017  
 Montgomery, AL 36130-3017  
 Telephone: 334-206-5673

### AISA Award to Riverhill

FLORENCE—The Riverhill School Family deserves congratulations for recently receiving the prestigious Alabama Independent School Association (AISA) President’s Award for the 2022-2023 school year!

The criteria for winning the AISA President’s Award includes achievement in all areas of school excellence such as: academic achievement, professional development, extra-curricular involvement, school improvement and other activities that celebrate excellence in education.

The award is only presented to one AISA K-8 school each year.

### Feedback on WIC Program

MONTGOMERY—The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutrition education and supplemental foods, and serves pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 whose family income is up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Special emphasis is placed on participation of infants, children, and high-risk pregnant women.

The WIC Program regulations require each state agency to establish a procedure under which members of the general public are provided an opportunity to comment on the development of the state agency plan.

The Alabama WIC Program will be seeking public comment about 2024 State Plan between September 1- 15, 2023, Alabama WIC Program’s 2024 State Plan of Program Operations

The reviews may be viewed and comments made online at [www.alabamapublichealth.gov/wic/index.html](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/wic/index.html)

### We'll Meet Again at UNA

FLORENCE—We'll Meet Again: A New American Musical will come to life at UNA's Norton Auditorium on Friday, September 8. The patriotic, life-affirming story is inspired by the life of Henry

See SHORTS... on Page 6

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| <br><b>Chicken Drumsticks</b> 99¢ Lb.<br><br><b>Whole Crawfish</b> \$3 <sup>49</sup> Lb.                        | <br><b>Whole Chicken Wings</b> \$1 <sup>99</sup> Lb.<br><br><b>Chicken Wings Mix Cut (Drumettes &amp; Flaps)</b> \$2 <sup>59</sup> Lb. | <br><b>Boneless Chicken Breast</b> \$1 <sup>99</sup> Lb.<br><br><b>Chicken Tenders</b> \$2 <sup>49</sup> Lb. | <br><b>Farm Raised Whole Catfish</b> \$5 <sup>99</sup> Lb.<br><br><b>Chicken Leg Quarters</b> \$6 <sup>99</sup> 10/Lb./Bag |



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# Yard Sales

An exclusive listing of the better sales in the Shoals area.

To list your sale, use the classified form on page 6.

WE MUST receive your ad by Friday prior to the Wednesday release date. (8 days before a Saturday sale)

**FLORENCE MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE**, 112 Winwood Lane, Friday & Saturday 7am-1pm, Furniture, Clothes, Cookware, Too Much To List!

**FLORENCE: PLEASANT HILL CHURCH** Inside Yard Sale! 2705 Co Rd 222 Sat. 9/9 7AM-Noon

**FLORENCE NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE**, 811 Summerfield Trail, Hunters Ridge Sub., (Behind Home Depot) Sat. 6am-until? Home goods, Clothing, Outdoor items and much more! Map ID# 1503

**FLORENCE: YARD SALE** 2041 Alpine Dr. Sat. 9/9 7 AM, Lots of Good Items! Map ID# 1502

**FLORENCE MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE**, 8410 Co. Rd. 189, Cooley's Corner. Fri. & Sat. 7am-until? Lots of Stuff, Selling Cheap! Furniture, Leaf Blower, too much to mention!

**ROBINS RIDGE ESTATE SALE** 110 W. Meadow Hill Drive Florence, AL 35633

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Sunday, Sept. 10th, 1pm-3pm

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**MUSCLE SHOALS MOVING/ ESTATE SALE**, 8675 River Road, Fri. & Sat. 7am-until? Wolf Tanning Bed, Furniture, Dishes, Men's & Ladies clothes, Wicker Furniture, Alabama memorabilia and lots of misc.

**KILLEN: 5474 County Road 31** Fri. 9/8 7AM, Sat. 9/9 7AM, Power press, Tools, Housewares, Christmas decor, clothes, plastic food storage buckets, dishes - small Longaberger baskets. Map ID 1505

**FLORENCE MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE**, 401 N. Locust St., Sat., 6 am-until? Walnut Kitchen Table with 6 chairs, Stereo, Clothes, Shoes, Purses, Hats, Pictures, Christmas, Comforters, Bricks and much more!

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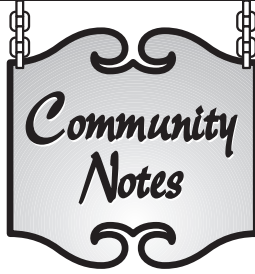
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**Leighton Library Celebration, Thursday September 14, 5-7PM** 8740 Main Street, Leighton. Featuring Music by Taylor Grace and an Art Exhibit by Phillip Bowling.

You are invited to join the friends of the Leighton Library for the total renovation of Leighton Public Library including refreshments and special guests. Also featuring the introduction of the Leighton Ancestry Room, and the Women's

**North Alabama State Fair, September 11-17** at Fairgrounds, 65 Sportsplex Dr, Muscle Shoals. The 89th Annual Fair offers agricultural shows and thrilling new entertainment options. Don't miss the Carnival Midway featuring Wade Shows' exciting rides. Information: www.northalabamastatefair.org

See NOTES... page 30

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;

**LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:**

**Wednesday, September 6** Colbert County High School, 2200 High School St., Leighton, 8am - 3:30pm

**Thursday, September 7** Listerhill Credit Union, 4790 E 2nd St., Muscle Shoals, 11am - 4:30pm

**Saturday, September 8** Cypress Creek Indoor Range, 5060 AL-157, Florence, 11am - 6pm

**Tuesday, September 12** Department of Transportation, 295 Hwy 20 E., Tusculumbia, 7:30am - 2pm

**Thursday, September 14** Long Lewis Ford, 2800 Woodward Ave., Muscle Shoals 1pm - 6pm

**Saturday, September 16** Teddy Bear Foundation, 7317 Oakwood Street, Florence, 10am - 5pm

**Infants - Adults, Clothes & Shoes Give Away Thursday, September 7** from 8-10am at the Care Center, First Baptist Church, Killen

**Rummage Giveaway September 9, 7am-until** at St. Paul MB Church, 415 St. Paul Circle, Tusculumbia (in the Spring Valley Community).

Come and get it for FREE. All items must go!

**TN River Bass Club is seeking members** for our 23/24 season. The club fishes monthly on the Tennessee River and Bear Creek Lakes. We welcome boaters or non-boaters 16 or older of all experience levels to join. The club is based in Sheffield. For more information, contact Tommy at 256-627-5662.

**Ruhi Institute Spiritual Development program** beginning Sunday, September 10, "Reflections on the Life of the Spirit." Sponsored by the Baha'is of the Shoals. Please call 256-277-9931 for details.

**FREE Fishing Days at Deibert Park** 6:30-11:30am on Sept. 12 and Oct. 12.

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# United...

Continued from Page 1

appreciation to United Way's dedicated supporters.

"As we come together to celebrate our community's generosity, we are reminded of the

profound impact that our supporters create," said Board President, David Greenfield. "Your dedication to our community and organization continues to move us forward, and we are thrilled to express our heartfelt thanks."

"This event allows us to show our appreciation to our generous donors and present awards to recognize the community and businesses that go above and beyond," said UWNWAL CEO, Jennifer McNulty. "We also use this event to let our donors know the impact that their donation makes in our community. This is one of my favorite events, and I'm genuinely looking forward to it."

Tickets for the Annual Meeting and New Campaign Kickoff can be secured conveniently through the United Way's website: [www.uwnwal.org](http://www.uwnwal.org) on the Events/Volunteers page. Alternatively, feel free to call 256-764-5892 to reserve your spot. Sponsor opportunities are available until Sept. 7.

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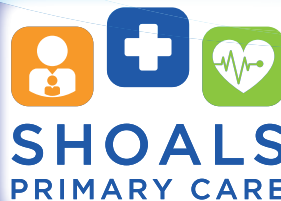
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# OKA KAPASSA




## Native American Festival

You are invited to enjoy the artistry and skills of 150 authentic demonstrators of Native American culture!

## Saturday, September 9

### 9am-5:30pm • Spring Park • Tuscumbia

**Public event in Tuscumbia at the Roundhouse**  
**Friday evening 5:30-7pm, Sept. 8**  
**TROLLEY TOURS** at 5:30 and 6:30pm to several historic Trail of Tears structures.  
**FLUTE PERFORMANCE AND CULTURAL PRESENTATION** at approx. 6pm  
**ALABAMA TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION Annual Membership Meeting**  
**at 10am Saturday, Sept. 9**  
 at the Roundhouse - Open to all interested parties.

**Pioneer Living History Log Cabin**  
 Located Above Waterfall  
 OPEN 10-4



### Schedule:

(Times are approximate and schedule is subject to change)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>9:00 - Park Opens - Native American Crafts, Demonstrations, Native Foods and Music</p> <p>10:00 - Native American Flute - Will Harjo (Creek), Storyteller Amy Bluemel (Chickasaw)</p> <p>10:30 - Introduction of Special Guests and Committee Welcome</p> <p>11:00 - Grand Entry and Salute to Veterans</p> <p>11:30 - 11:50 - Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe</p> <p>12:00 - 12:20 - Cherokee Dance Troupe</p> <p>12:25 - Hoop Dancer - Lyndon Alec (Alabama)</p> <p>12:45 - Poarch Creek Princesses DRUM</p> <p>1:00 - 1:20 - Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe</p> | <p>1:30 - Choctaw Princess</p> <p>1:45 - Storyteller - Freeman Owle (Cherokee)</p> <p>2:00 - 2:20 - Cherokee Dance Troupe</p> <p>2:30 - Storyteller - Amy Bluemel (Chickasaw)</p> <p>2:45 - Hoop Dancer - Lyndon Alec (Alabama)</p> <p>3:05 - Native American Flute - Will Harjo (Creek)</p> <p>3:20 - 3:40 - Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe</p> <p>3:45 - 4:05 - Cherokee Dance Troupe</p> <p>4:10 - Storyteller - Freeman Owle (Cherokee)</p> <p>4:30 - Hoop Dancer - Lyndon Alec (Alabama)</p> <p>4:45 - Storyteller - Freeman Owle (Cherokee)</p> <p>Conclusion of Arena Activities</p> <p>5:00 - Stickball - West Side of Pavilion (Choctaw and Chickasaw)</p> <p>5:30 - Close - Chipisala' cho!</p> |
|--|--|

### Drums



Southern Pine Singers (Choctaw)  
 Perform with Cherokee Dancers Hoop Dancer and Grand Entry,

A Special Chokma' shki (Thank You) to our Sponsors!

Without you this event would not be possible!





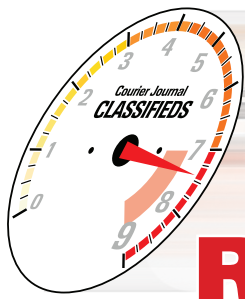



Facebook: The Oka Kapassa - Return to Coldwater Festival Or Colbert County Tourism, 256-383-0783

Rain location for Oka is The Roundhouse in Tuscumbia

OkaKapassaFestival.org





Courier Journal

# Classifieds

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## Shorts...

### We'll Meet Again at UNA

Continued from Page 2

Stern and his family's remarkable odyssey and narrow escape from Nazi Germany, their immigration to America, and their integration and settlement in Alabama.

Five-year-old **Heinz Stern** and his family escaped Westheim, Germany under Nazi occupation in 1937. They were welcomed with open arms by the small town of Opelika, Alabama. Henry Stern, as he became known, continued a 60 year search for other family members who survived the Holocaust.

After experiencing *We'll Meet Again*, renowned Auburn University basketball coach, **Bruce Pearl** and his wife, **Brandy**, immediately knew its importance as a moving story that everyone should experience with their families. Subsequently, the Pearls helped encourage and support this Southern Tour of the show.

"We want as many people to experience this production as possible so that others can laugh and cry and be moved and inspired by the music, the story, and the dancing – just like Brandy and I were," said Pearl.

The musical features 1930s and 1940s-era music, including many of the most popular songs and swing dances of the World War II years. Classics include "Boogie Woogie Bugle



Boy," "I'll Be Seeing You," and "Juke Box Saturday Night," as well as several beloved Jewish and Hebrew songs integrated into the story.

*We'll Meet Again* was created and written by **Jim Harris**, directed by **Richard Rose**, with vocal arrangements and musical orchestrations by **Mark Hayes**.

For tickets, please visit [www.una.edu/schoolofthearts/purchase-tickets.html](http://www.una.edu/schoolofthearts/purchase-tickets.html)

### National Pub for Weeden

FLORENCE–Weeden Elementary School in Florence recently received some national recognition.

Principal **Daphnae Hogan** announced that the school was featured in the *World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Resource* and the *National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition* newsletter.

Weeden Elementary English Language Teacher, **Mónica Farris**, wrote and submitted

See SHORTS... on Page 10



### Personnel

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Judy Cox  
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Heather Ridinger

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Andrea L. Gray

#### OFFICE STAFF/CLASSIFIED

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Ted Fallin

#### OFFICE HOURS:

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

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### 219 W. Tennessee St.

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219 W. Tennessee St.  
Florence, AL 35630  
or email to:  
[editor@courierjournal.net](mailto: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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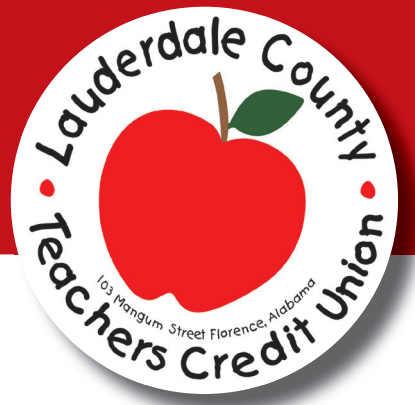
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# Oka Kapassa...

Continued from Page 1

southern Middle Tennessee. Education is a major component of the Oka Kapassa Festival which stresses authenticity in all demonstrations, offering a learning experience for fourth and fifth graders.

A Native American cultural program will be open to the public Friday from 5:30-7pm at the Tuscumbia Roundhouse. This includes trolley tours at 5:30 and 6:30 to view witness sites of the Indian Removal period. A cultural presentation will take place at approximately 6pm.

Festivities geared for the public get underway at 10am on Saturday, September 9, with special crafts, fancy and traditional dance, demonstrations, storytelling, and music. Authentic Native American artwork and crafts, including basketry, jewelry, and shell-carvings, will be available for purchase. Events conclude at 5pm. Festival goers are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

"Tuscumbia is a special place for Native People," said Terry McGee, chairman of the Oka Kapassa Festival.

During the forced relocation of Native Americans in the 1830s, which became known as the Trail of Tears, Tuscumbia residents brought food, clothing, and blankets to members

of the Creek tribe as they passed through the town during their journey west. Chilly McIntosh, Chief of the Creek Indian Nation, responded to the acts of kindness by saying, "As long as our nation remains upon the earth, we will recollect Tuscumbia."

"This is what the Oka Kapassa Festival is based upon and why the Nations return to Tuscumbia, 'The Homeland' each year," added McGee.

The Oka Kapassa board members are proud other Indian Nations have joined the Creeks in honoring McIntosh's promise to return to



McGee

T u s c u m b i a . C h e r o k e e , Chickasaw, Creek, Alabama, and Choctaw are just some of the tribes that will be represented.

No festival is complete without food! In addition to concessions, several well-known American Indian cooks will be preparing foods that were developed by their ancestors. Juanita Gardinski and brother Billy Thompson (Choctaw) are returning to Oka Kapassa to serve delicious and authentic Native American foods such as buffalo, fry bread, Indian tacos, fish, and roasted corn. Gardinski also demonstrates bead work and her family share Choctaw culture with attendees at Oka Kapassa. She has served



OkaKapassaFestival.org

on the Oka Kapassa Festival Advisory Board for 19 years. Gina Brown (Chickasaw) will travel from Ada, OK., her tribal homeland, to cook traditional pashofa, a stew combining pork and cracked corn. It is cooked in a cast iron pot over an open fire and left unseasoned. This allows the person eating it to season to their own taste. Mary Newman (Eastern Cherokee) will be demonstrating traditional outdoor cooking of the 1800's, preparing foods in cast iron and clay pots over campfire.

In addition to events in the park, the Coldwater Stagecoach Stop, living history log cabin, 301 S. Dickson St., Tuscumbia, will be open during the festival from 10am-4pm

on Saturday. The annual membership meeting for the Alabama Trail of Tears Association

is scheduled for 10am Saturday, September 9 the at the Roundhouse in Tuscumbia. The meeting is open to current members and those interested in joining. For more information, please contact Judy Sizemore at jsizemore@una.edu

Oka Kapassa- Return to Cold Water, is made possible through assistance from Alabama Department of Tourism, Alabama State Council on the Arts, the City of Tuscumbia, the Chickasaw Nation, Colbert County Community Development Commission, Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, Northwest Alabama Resource Conservation and Development (RC & D), Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and Tennessee Valley Authority. Other

local businesses and community sponsors are listed on the festival Facebook page, Oka Kapassa Festival-Return to Coldwater.

For more details, call Colbert County Tourism and Convention Bureau at 256-383-0783 or visit the Oka Kapassa Festival-Return to Coldwater Facebook page, or the website, www.OkaKapassaFestival.org

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## Shorts...

### National Pub for Weeden

Continued from Page 6

the article titled "The Ripple Effect of Cultural Responsiveness." The article covers how a collaborative connection between teachers, schools, parents, and local businesses helped celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity through Weeden's annual Heritage Day.

"Because our classrooms are diverse and constantly changing, it is important to support cultural inclusiveness that reflects the current social context," Farris noted in the article. "Cultural responsiveness requires that our teachers consider cultures and backgrounds of all students and provide them with literature that addresses the reality of today's students."

### UNA Record Enrollment

FLORENCE – The University of North Alabama has set a new enrollment record with the start of the 2023-2024 academic year. Registrations continue to arrive daily, but officials say the data is beginning to converge around a final tally in excess of 10,600 students for Fall 2023.

Enrollment includes traditional, campus-based learners as well as online students, Early College students, and degree-seekers in UNA's portfolio of international programs, according to Julie Taylor, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management.

"We are seeing great balance in our enrollment patterns at UNA. This supports the good work that is being done on campus with regard to retention," she said. "We find our students thoroughly enjoy their UNA experience and want to complete their coursework with us. We anticipate having our highest retention rate on record for this fall."

"The (Delores and Weldon) Cole Honors College is another part of the equation for our success with retention," said Taylor.

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[eric@decaturdaily.com](mailto:eric@decaturdaily.com)

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Commentary

# Not Climate, It's Just Ineptitude

**V**acationing in Hawaii is not on the radar right now. It's understandable why people would cancel or postpone trips to Maui out of respect for those impacted by the recent fire. In one aspect, that is admirable. However, they are also unwittingly compounding the misery for many survivors.

**In A Few Words**



**TOM MAGAZZU**  
Editor

The historic town of Lahaina, once the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom and a favorite site of Hawaiian kings and queens in the late 1700's-early 1800's, was destroyed. That is a huge cultural loss.

However, the prime resort areas on the island remain untouched.

Around 10 square miles of Maui's 735 square miles has been burned, less than 1.5%. While that's devastating to those who are directly impacted, it represents a fraction of the island and of the resort areas. As a result of the agricultural exodus in recent

See **INEPTITUDE...** on Page 28

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

# Courier Journal

# in the Shoals

# THIS WEEK

September 6, 2023

## Happening THIS WEEK

A Colorful, Bold Eccentric Style

# Baker Inspired by Family Life

FLORENCE—The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is pleased

to present the imaginative paintings by Alabama artist, Marian Baker, beginning September 8.



Baker is a contemporary folk artist donning a whimsical style. She spent her early years painting portraits from family photos. After 10 years of painting professionally, Marian continues to draw on her childhood memories in a playful way.

**Works by MARIAN BAKER**  
Kennedy-Douglass Center  
September 8 – October 6



**Strawberries, above, and Scooter Champ, left, both by Marian Baker.** Courtesy photos



**Baker**

Marian's sense of humor prevails by incorporating seemingly random numbers in her paintings that allude to her fascination with lucky numbers. This peculiar trademark is rooted in an early painting featuring her lucky number 11. The painting was scoffed at by her husband, and

See **COLORFUL...** Page 26

**FLORENCE COUNCIL-WOMAN, KAYTRINA SIMMONS**, invites all West Florence citizens to a community meeting at 6pm September 7 at the Mount Moriah PB Church Life Center. The meeting will include an important recreation discussion. For more information, contact Simmons at 256-349-3879.

**"BEAN DAY" FUNDRAISER TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12** at the American Legion Post #11 Home, 318 South Court St in Florence— 11:30am - 2pm, \$10/person • Eat-in or Carry-out's available. Menu: White Beans with Ham, Cornbread, Sliced Onion, Mayonnaise Slaw, Dessert, and Tea or Bottled Water. Head Cook is Past Post Commander Mickey Haddock. - Hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary to support programs for local veterans, widows, and families. Contact: President Trish Montgomery 256-810-3755

**GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEIGHTON** will host the 45th Pastoral Anniversary for Reverend Jerry L. Reeves on Sunday, September 10 at 9am. The guest minister at the 9am service will be Rev. Jimmy Bailey, Pastor of Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Courtland. Galilee Baptist Church is located at 6775 Old Highway 20, in Leighton.

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# YOUR Letters

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

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

## Lottery... MORE \$\$

Editor:

The new amount of money is a half a billion or more that the Powerball and Megaball lotteries are using to lure buyers (or should I say suckers) into buying tickets.

Once again, just look at how the numbers come up...so that no one can win the big prize until the lottery commission is ready. There is a lot

of of free publicity from TV news, etc. No investigations...hmmm.

**Paul Sabatino**  
Florence

## LGBTQ+ More Vocal

Editor:

What is going on with the state legislatures? They seem to be focused on restricting LGBTQ+ rights,

especially the gender-affirming medical treatments for "children."

So, someone who does not identify as one of the two predominant genders and is younger than 18 years cannot get any medical treatment that will allow them to appear as the phenotype of one of the two predominant genders.

Or what if they do not identify as the sex that was assigned them at birth? Legislators want there to be some type of counseling until they become adults in an attempt to give the youth the time to "change their mind."

I don't know about anyone else, but I knew what my gender/sexual preference was at an early age. Most children are aware of the differences

See **LETTERS...** on Page 22

NASA can jabber about safety and structural issues, yet the timing is highly suspect.





# Bridge...

Continued from Page 1

Quad Cities and Colbert County, selected the Old Railroad Bridge as the priority placemaking project for the RiverLine's Community Planning Initiative program. Based on feedback from the leadership team and the Shoals community, the RiverLine's planning and design team has put together ideas for the Old Railroad Bridge such

as signage, enhanced access, and potential connectivity to Patton Island.

"The Old Railroad Bridge is a tremendous asset for the Shoals, and the Old Railroad Bridge Company has worked hard to maintain it," said Carrie Crawford, Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area director. "We are hoping that, as

the placemaking project moves forward, even more people will be able to enjoy the bridge and perhaps even Patton Island. There are many things that have to happen to make it all fall into place, but we are excited to start the process with the conceptual designs that the RiverLine team has been working on."

RiverLine's Community Planning Initiative program is funded by the US Department of Agriculture Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge, 3M Foundation, TVA, and University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The RiverLine is also helping the Shoals with a funding strategy for the project, recommending grant opportunities to move this project forward.

For more information, visit [msnha.una.edu](http://msnha.una.edu) or [trriverline.org](http://trriverline.org).



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# ASK THE ATTORNEY



**Thomas McCutcheon**

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## Free Settlement Tips For Accident Victims

Some injury cases can and should be handled without an attorney. Here are some free tips for handling an automobile accident case.

Let's begin at the end. How much money do you get to keep? Make certain that you know and confirm that amount. If you settle for \$5,000.00 but your hospital bill is \$4,900.00 then you only keep \$100.00. Understand what your compensation for your injury is.

You will need:

1. The accident report;
2. Medical bills;
3. Proof of who paid the bills, i.e., Blue Cross, Medicare, Tricare, or that they have not been paid.
4. Proof of lost wages.

You will also need some patience. Do not take the first offer. Think about it overnight. Different insurance companies make different kinds of offers. Some are fairer than others but not a single one will make their best offer first. If you have more treatment than just an ER visit, a good personal injury attorney can do all the work and make you money.

We get a large number of cases from people who refuse to sign medical authorizations issued by the insurance company. If we take the case, we review the medical records for accuracy before we send them to the person evaluating the claim.

With property damage claims the value of the car is what it is. It doesn't matter what you paid for the vehicle or how much you owe. One of the things that we hear often is that the replacement value is not adequate and now a person has a car payment that they didn't have before. Please note that if you had to replace the engine or transmission and you have those receipts it could add value to the vehicle.

If your vehicle is a total loss, make sure you have the title to the vehicle. If you still owe for the vehicle, make sure you have the lien holder's information as well as the amount of the payoff.

I think we all see people driving as if they are alone on the road. The best tip is to drive defensively.

*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](http://www.mhatty.com)

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# Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

## Let's Go!

As you read this, I am preparing to speak to a conference of 1500 ladies! I will be traveling to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee for the conference, and I am so excited! I spoke at this conference last year also. Like last year, this year I am the Friday night speaker. As such, I have deemed myself the cheerleader, the pumper-upper, the waker-upper. These ladies will have traveled miles and miles to get there, in a group, on a Friday and will have just had supper. I will try to be the starter of the beautiful, fun and exciting moments to come in that conference.

Last year to start off, I led the ladies, acapella, in a rap song that I had written. Now, there was no swaying or bending of the knees, but by the end of the song, I could tell that they were getting the meaning, purpose, and rhythm of the song. It was fun and fruitful! After the evening was over a cute, petite, older woman came to me and identified herself to me. She was the mother of a Middle School teacher, who taught our children. He was their teacher 25 years ago, and he was older than me then. That meant his mother has to be at least

85 years old now. She came to me and said, "I have done something that I have never done before." I asked her what that was and she responded with a big smile, "I rapped!" Whoop! Well, that made it all worthwhile right there.

This year during my talk - don't tell anybody - we are going to do a country rap. It's a country song with a lot of words sung fast! If I can teach this song, God will be in it! You see, I am not a song leader. I am not trained in music in any way, even though I have always sung all my life - Motown, gospel, R&B, musicals, Shania, everything. I love to sing! But not only am I not a song leader - I am hearing impaired. I have been all my life, but it wasn't diagnosed until I was in my 40s. So to lead 1,500 women in a country song that they don't know - acapella - is going to be something!

God just wants us to sing. And we will, but I decided to ask a choral director, sister-friend to check me. Because truly, I don't know if I hear, what I hear and I am not really sure what I sound like. We spent half an hour together. She gave me some pointers. But mostly she said start where you are comfortable and sing with confidence. I asked, "How can I be sure where to start?" She asked, "How do you know where

to start on other songs?" I said, "Well, I've sung them a thousand times." She said, "Well then, go home and sing this song a thousand times." Then she listened to me sing one more time, smiled, and said, "You're starting it in a good place."

What words of affirmation for me! With one sentence, she bolstered the confidence and calmed the heart of someone with an impairment. Oh what we can do for one another! I was going to go to Tennessee and sing. Now I'm gonna go and 'sang'! To God be the glory! Please, don't ever be stingy with affirming words. Let's go!

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

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



# Soap Opera Preview

**DAYS OF OUR LIVES** Marlena asked John and Steve to help identify the mystery man. Xander received a job offer. Marlena agreed to help Ava. Theresa surprised Brady. EJ tried to wipe Ava out. Sloan grappled with her guilt and considered coming clean. Chloe and Nicole shared a tense exchange. Sarah struggled with her feelings for Xander. Johnny threw a wrench in EJ's plan. Tripp and Wendy met at the Salem Inn for a special night. Harris helped Ava, but put them both in a bad situation. Rafe learned there was trouble at Bayview. Victor's loved ones gathered together for his funeral. A grieving Maggie pushed

Sarah to tell Xander the truth. Philip attempted to reassure Kate. Sonny and Xander came to blows. *Wait to See: John uncovers a secret about the mystery man. Sarah goes into labor. An unexpected visitor rocks Salem.*

**GENERAL HOSPITAL** Sonny found himself in the hot seat. Diane was called to action. Ava pressed Mason. Cyrus toyed with Drew. Carly demanded some answers. Kristina and Dante commiserated. Cody was on a mission. Anna followed Valentin. Alexis was blunt with Nina. TJ and Molly were very hopeful. Sam came clean. Mac was determined. Trina confided in Josslyn. Gregory lost his nerve.

Molly and Kristina clashed. Dex opened up to Josslyn. Anna was apologetic. *Wait to See: Eddie Maine is in his element. Cody has a revelation. Ava gives advice to Nina.*

**THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS** Phyllis interfered in Daniel's love life. Lily reconnected with Billy. Mariah made an unexpected move. Victor taught Victoria a painful lesson. Adam kept up appearances with Sharon. Nikki made a new enemy and summoned Kyle to an important meeting. Billy lost his cool. Nate gave Audra some unsolicited advice. *Wait to See: Victor comes to Sharon's rescue. Jack and Diane worry about Kyle. Nick receives an intriguing offer.*

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# Letters...

## LGBTQ+ is More Vocal

Continued from Page 12

in two primary genders/sexual phenotypes by age 4 or 5. By the age of 9 or 10, they are likely to have already determined their sexual preference, preferences, or the lack of one. I cannot imagine the fear that a child must have if and when they suddenly discover that they do not have the same sexual orientation as virtually all of their peers. It must be a lonely and scary journey to "come out" of that horrible closet.

Parents who understand their children's issues just need to help them be physically and mentally healthy individuals.

I hear comments about why a gender choice/sexual orientation have become so common? I do not know the estimates of LGBTQ+ individuals in the general population. I am going to use 2% as an example.

If the population in the US were 5,000,000, then the number would be 100,000. Now, with a population growing to 300 million, the number would closer to 6,000,000. A much greater percentage of those 6,000,000 are out of the closet and more vocal than the LGBTQ+ in the past.

William Simpson  
Florence

## No Depth to Corruption

Editor:

Biden's permanent placing of our Space Force command in Colorado instead of Huntsville seems like political retaliation against our state, whose politicians have pretty much voted against anything he has foisted upon Americans.

Of course, NASA gets its funding from the federal government. Now Democrats thumb their noses at the military's preference for Huntsville by not only keeping the Command in Colorado Springs, but now even the rocket at our State line is being removed.

NASA can jabber about safety and structural issues, yet the timing is highly suspect. Even the military has since revised their previous preference for Huntsville. There's no depth of corruption, lies, and deceit this President won't plumb.

Wayne South  
Florence

## Tell Them That We Care

Editor:

These past three months demonstrate that greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels and related human activities are making the planet hotter. The cause and existential threat posed by climate change is truth for climate scientists – and should be for all.

Unfortunately, it is politically divisive. Most Democrats and Independents agree climate change presents a major threat, but 70% of Republicans say it's minor or no threat at all, according to a recent NPR poll.

Only one Republican candidate in the August debate raised his hand (briefly) that human behavior is causing climate change. The questioner noted that young people are looking for leaders willing to use all America's resources –

More LETTERS... Page 24



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▶ **EXTRAS:** Harley Daymaker Headlights, Krator Faring with JD Customs, Windshield, 14 DNA Monster Bars, LED low-profile turn signals and brake lights, Curved Tag, Forward Controls, Kuryakyn Road Thunder Speakers, Forged Twisted Sissy Bar, Saddlemen SDC Seat, Vance and Hines Big Radius Pipes with quite baffles (still noticeable but took out the cracking sound), Viking Swing Arm Bag, Cruise Mate Throttle Lock. **RUNS GREAT!** Just got back from a week long ride with no issues. ONLY \$7,200.

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Hwy 200 • Central Heights  
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We Welcome WIC & Food Stamp Shoppers. Quantity Rights Reserved. None Sold To Dealers.

## SHOP OUR FULL SERVICE MEAT DEPARTMENT

USDA FRESH FAMILY PACK  
**GROUND BEEF**  
**\$3.08** LB.

GRADE A FROZEN  
FAMILY PACK **FRYER DRUMSTICKS**  
**68¢** LB.

USDA MIXED  
**PORK CHOPS**  
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MIXED **\$1.58** LB.

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TWIN PACK **RUDY FARMS SAUSAGE & BISCUITS**  
**\$6.98** 10 CT.

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**\$4.48** LB.

15 OZ. **PREGO PASTA SAUCE**  
**2/\$4**

15 OZ. **LUCK'S BEANS OR PEAS**  
**5/\$5**

9.6 OZ. CAN **FOLGERS COFFEE**  
**\$3.98**

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**\$1.88**

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OR 12 OZ. **SINGLES**  
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6 PACK 1/2 LITER BTLs.  
**3/\$11**

**PEPSI PRODUCTS**  
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**Letters...**

**Tell Them That We Care**

Continued from Page 22

land, wind, solar, nuclear, and scientific research — to make ourselves leader in energy production anywhere.

Perversely, an alliance of rightwing groups crafted an extensive presidential proposal to bolster the planet-heating oil and gas industry and hamstringing the energy transition. Against a backdrop of record-breaking heat, fire and floods this year, the \$22 million endeavor called Project 2025, was convened by the notorious rightwing, climate-denying thinktank, the Heritage Foundation, with ties to fossil fuel billionaire Charles Koch.

The plan would hugely expand gas infrastructure, gut the Environmental Protection Agency and move it away from the climate crisis. It proposes cutting the agency's environmental justice and public engagement functions.

Republicans in Congress continue to show they will stop at nothing to undermine environmental protections that help protect the wellbeing of our grandchildren — and

the earth.  
Tell them that we care!

Dan Waterman  
Killen

**Restore the System**

To The Editor:

I have learned in my almost 75 years on earth that some people are builders and some are destroyers.

These psychopathic globalists are destroyers and people like myself are builders.

We Americans must wake up to the dangers these globalists pose to our liberties and join together to build a whole new system.

We will build a system of free enterprise where people can prosper from their hard work, where government is limited and defends the peoples' rights, where there is true freedom, but there are *just* laws that protect the innocent and punish those who do harm.

It will honor the U.S. Constitution and the Republic.

Actually, this is the system America was founded on, and it will restore the one our founders set up!

Janice Gross Williams  
Killen

**Who can GO TO THE GYM for 30 minutes and only 4 sessions to get this result?**

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- ✓ Exclusive Memberships
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SCAN TO SIGN UP

Before Emsculpt

After Session 4

90 Days After

Before Emsculpt

After Session 4

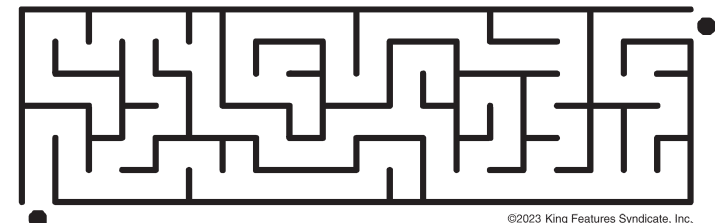
90 Days After

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*Across from Infants & Children's*

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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. Banquet           | F _ _ _ _ _       | Bread leavening   | Y _ _ _ _ _       |
| 2. Insignificant     | _ _ _ L _ _ _ _   | Food cupboard     | _ _ _ N _ _ _ _   |
| 3. Residence         | _ _ _ U _ _ _ _   | Palomino, e.g.    | _ _ _ R _ _ _ _   |
| 4. Southpaw          | _ _ _ E _ _ _ _   | Tall              | _ _ _ O _ _ _ _   |
| 5. Most unkind       | _ _ _ _ _ N _ _ _ | Skimpy            | _ _ _ _ _ G _ _ _ |
| 6. Arms and legs     | _ _ _ _ _ S _ _ _ | Caribbean dance   | _ _ _ _ _ O _ _ _ |
| 7. Chatter on and on | _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _ | Thunder roll      | _ _ _ U _ _ _ _ _ |
| 8. Give a speech     | O _ _ _ _ _ _     | So angry          | I _ _ _ _ _ _     |
| 9. Psychiatrist      | _ _ _ _ _ _ K _ _ | Memorial          | _ _ _ _ _ _ _ E   |
| 10. Foolishness      | _ _ _ O _ _ _ _ _ | Note quite a mare | _ _ _ I _ _ _ _ _ |

**WORD LADDERS**

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

**BOXER**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**HATES**

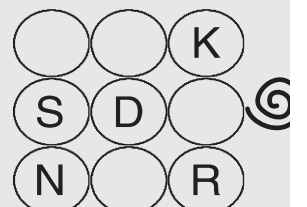
**Puzzle Whirl**

**MINI SUDOKU**

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |   |   |   |   |
| 2 | 4 |   |   | 5 |
|   | 2 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 6 | 3 |   |
|   |   |   | 6 |   |
| 3 |   | 5 |   | 2 |

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 SPIRAL**



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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**Answers on Page 30**



# Weekly or Bi-Weekly... Most Everyone Receives the Courier Journal

## Modified Mailings Reach More Readers and Shoppers

SHOALS—Since going direct mail in 1982, the Courier Journal's circulation has gradually grown and full area saturation was maintained. However, the Covid-19 pandemic, the growing cost of production materials combined with routine, semi-annual postage increases have put some heavy pressure on our distribution pattern. That combination now requires creative avenues of getting our advertisers' message to as many readers as possible on a regular basis.

Having the largest print circulation in Alabama does come with a few challenges, especially when it is a free paper that is mailed to a wide area.



As a way of reaching as many Shoals area homes as possible, we have begun "feathering" some distribution areas this month. This allows us to offset some of the increased distribution expenses while still reaching a large number of homes with regularity.

The feathering process will actually reach more homes overall since a few areas that were not receiving the paper this year are being reinstated. The only difference is that the feathered areas will be receiving the Courier Journal regularly, but on alternating weeks.

In addition, we have numerous open racks around the Shoals area where a free copy of the Courier Journal is always available during a store's business hours.

These include all area Foodland stores, Food Outlet stores in Florence and Central, Hometown Market in Florence, Big Star in St. Florian, HT General Merchandise on Chisholm Hwy, and the Rogersville and Town Creek post offices.

A list of rack locations will also appear in the Courier Journal routinely and it will be updated often.

Regardless, the mailed papers alone will still exceed 51,000 every week.

Readers can always access the searchable Courier Journal Page-Flip edition beginning every Tuesday as well from our website at [www.CourierJournal.net](http://www.CourierJournal.net). Just click on the Page-Flip link. This has become a very popular option. That page can then be bookmarked for easy weekly access to our most recent issue.

Courier Journal advertisers have benefitted from the lowest cost per thousand ad rates in the state for at least the last 30 years according to Alabama Press Association records. In addition, the Courier Journal has long been a print industry leader in market saturation.

Neither is going to change any time soon.

**NEED HELP?**  
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Your link to community resources

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**Courier Journal**



Mystery Photo of the week

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**Win a MEAL FOR 2**



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in Downtown Florence

Last week's winner is **Mike Jones of Florence** who correctly guessed "Krispy Kreme in Florence"

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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**BURIAL PLOT FOR SALE** \$1250. Greenview Memorial. 256-710-5730

## Colorful...

Continued from Page 12

that is when she decided to feature numbers in her art in spite of his opinion. Bold eccentricity alongside a colorful paint palette make up her signature style.

Besides drawing inspiration from family life, Marian finds many ideas from the materials she collects while on the road. Many of her paintings are bordered in old screen-printing frames that she salvaged from a burned down warehouse. Collecting and incorporating these vintage elements adds a timeless value to her work and ultimately completes Marian's intended expression for her art.

Over the years, people have increasingly recognized Marian Baker, featuring her work on several movies and TV programs. At least 25 pieces of Marian's art are on display at the LeBonheur Children's Hospital. "Storytelling Time, Again" will remain on display at the Kennedy-Douglass Art Center through Oct. 6.

The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is open to the public Monday-Friday from 9-4 and on Sundays from 1-4. There is no admission charge. The art center is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St. in Florence. It can be reached by calling 256-760-6379.

## Medicare Minute Medicare "Donut Hole"

September and October are two months we get calls on the coverage gap or "donut hole". This happens because there is a temporary limit on what your drug plan will pay while you are in the gap. The good news is not everyone will enter the coverage gap. The coverage gap begins after you and your plan have spent a certain amount on covered drugs. In 2023 once you and your plan combined have spent \$4,700 you will enter the coverage gap.

Here's the way the coverage gap works. Imagine you have a prescription that retails for \$400 per month. Your copay, hypothetically, is \$30. This means your plan would pay the rest of the cost or \$370. Medicare will track what you paid (\$30) and what your plan paid (\$370) and count the cost of the drug as \$400 for that month. Let's also say that the other prescriptions you are taking equals \$100 per month. You are now at \$500 per month. In this example you would reach the coverage gap sometime in September.

Under most plans in 2023 once you have reached the coverage gap your plan will temporarily stop paying anything on your drugs. This means you will be responsible for the entire cost of your prescriptions. The silver lining around this very dark cloud is Medicare has negotiated a discount on the drugs you use. For name brand drugs and/or generic drugs you will pay 25% of the retail price.

If you are eligible for Medicare but still on employer coverage you may wonder why you have never reach the coverage gap. This is because employer coverage does not have the "donut hole". The coverage gap only applies to Medicare prescription drug plans. Also remember that Medicare drug plans can vary which means your coverage in the gap can vary.

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



Ikey Fowler

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(Four Lane Shopping Center)

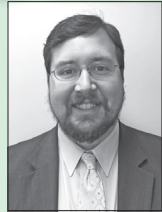


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**Turning 65? Time for MEDICARE? Educate before Enrolling** Register Today!  
**Our next Medicare Class is Thursday, Sep. 21st 11am-Noon @ Alabama Health Guidance** 885 Florence Blvd. Florence, AL



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!



**EXPERIENCE MATTERS!** Meet with our Medicare Experts:  
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For accomodation of persons with special needs at meetings, call 256-648-5710

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Coin Collection (Gold and Silver Dollars) • Collector Swords and Knives • Jewelry including Gold & Sterling • Princess Diana and Trump Proof Sets • Gun Sight Vices • Spotting Scope • Dining Room Set • Curio Cabinets • Bose Radio • Laser Disc Player and Movies • JBL Speakers • Yamaha Receiver • Decorative Items • Patio Furniture • Tools • Pressure Washer • Chain Saw • Much More!!

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 3 bdrm., 1 ba., central  
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Commentary

# Ineptitude

Continued from Page 12

years, Hawaii is overwhelmingly a tourism/hospitality-based economy. The national media, with its tendency to sensationalize and make everything the worst and most cataclysmic to date, has portrayed an idea of total island devastation. That imagery and attention

has driven the island's vacationers elsewhere. Instead of the traditional resort areas being packed with the usual late summer visitors, hotels are at 10-15% occupancy, a catastrophic, COVID-like statistic that is creating a trickle-down effect of layoffs and cash-flow issues. Many of those who were left homeless at least had jobs a few miles away to fall back on. Now many of those are going away because guests and

their tourism dollars are not arriving. People who had planned on Hawaiian trips by-all-means should follow through. Unfortunately, the political opportunists are taking advantage of the situation to declare how the root cause of the disaster is everything from white settlers and industrialists in the 1800's to climate change and America's passive attitude in addressing it. Nothing new there. Lately, EVERY notable tragedy seems to have its genesis in white people or climate change. Sure, it was warmer than average on the island for much of the summer and high winds that buffered coast off the coast were an obvious cause and accelerant, but there was some stupidity involved as well. There were repeated calls for electricity to be restricted in some of the areas that were more susceptible to having downed power lines during the high winds. Cheap foreign labor and some of America's

highest land costs eliminated the last of the sugar and pineapple plantations in the middle of the previous decade. Sprawling fields of green sugar cane and pineapple shrubs were once the state's lifeblood. What hasn't been developed to capitalize on tourism has been overtaken by dry, non-native grasses. Local leaders knew of the island's susceptibility to widespread fires. Despite fires scorching over 100,000 acres on Maui from 2016-2020, less than \$250,000 has been spent on wildfire mitigation on the entire island, according to regulatory filings over the past four years. Hawaii's heavy emphasis on unrealistic near-term 100% renewable environmental goals clouded thinking on the need for current fire prevention measures. Hawaii Electric admitted the need to prevent power lines from sparking in wind but delayed its funding requests to the state until last year. No funding has yet been received. Doug McLeod, a former

Maui County energy commissioner, conceded, "We weren't as focused on these fire risks as we should have been." During the confusion, officials also closed the only road in and out of Lahaina dooming scores of possible survivors to incineration. Perhaps the most exasperating failure was the delay by Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources in diverting water from Upcountry Maui to help Lahaina firefighters, which would have prevented much, if not all, of the catastrophe. Kaleo Manuel, first deputy of Hawaii's Commission on Water Resource Management, and a celebrated Obama Foundation graduate and DEI proponent, wasted valuable hours. Instead of realizing the enormity and the urgency of the situation, Manuel chose to seek input from local farmers. This critical period, while initial flames had been tempered, would have given firefighters an upper hand. However,

five hours after the initial request, approval was moot because access to water diversion areas were already overcome by flames and the town's fate was all but sealed. As it turns out, releasing water to combat fires strays from agency's commitment to promoting "water equity." Indeed, Manuel's comments during a 2022 University of Hawaii livestream said it all, "My motto is always, like, let water connect us and not divide us... We can share it, but it requires true conversations about equity." Instead of facing immediate dismissal for an unacceptably unrealistic perspective, Manuel has been reassigned to another position in the agency. We'll have to see where liabilities fall for Lahaina's 120 deaths and the destruction of over 2,700 structures valued at over \$5 billion. However, we MUST realize our increasingly frivolous mindsets often ignore reality.

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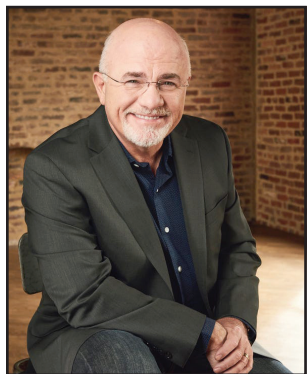




# DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

## HELPING TAKE CARE OF MOM



Dear Dave, My mother-in-law is 85, and she's had some health setbacks recently. The family got together with her, and as a group, we decided it was time to sell her property and move her into an apartment at a nice senior living facility. She should see a little over \$300,000 from the sale of her house. Aside from that, she has

about \$10,000 in a savings account. The problem is, she'll only receive \$2,100 a month in Social Security, and rent at the facility is \$2,600 per month. Plus she loves making donations to charities. With interest rates where they are, is a CD ladder a good place to put the money to help her cash flow expenses in the future?

— Ed

Dear Ed, If this were my mother-in-law, I'd want her to do better than a CD (certificate of deposit) ladder. Even with the deficit between her Social Security income and the cost of rent, she'll only need to see \$6,000 a year from the investment to make up the difference. And plus, she's 85. Even if she got nothing in terms of interest, the chances of her burning all the way through her nest egg before she dies are almost zero. I know the thought of her passing away isn't pleasant, but it's something you have to take into consideration.

As far as the charities go? Right now, she's the charity. Maybe not in the traditional sense of the word, but it's time for mom to come first. Only the strong can help the weak. I didn't let my toddlers carry our newborn. And when it comes to money, you've got to have the financial strength—the free and clear assets—to carry others. Take care of your own household first. That's her responsibility at this point.

Ed, you're not going to mess this up unless you put the money in crypto, or something stupid like that. If you want to do some high-yield savings as a part of it, that's fine. If it were me, I'd probably end up investing some of it too. Here's the thing: Overall, if you could make 8% on it, that's \$2,000 a month, and it lasts indefinitely. That's not even touching the principal. But like I said before, even if you make nothing on it, just divide \$6,000 into \$300,000. See what I mean? It's probably going to last as long as she does.

Of course, there may be some other medical bills, and you'd probably want her to have a life other than just paying bills. That's why I'd like to see that extra \$2,000 a month happening. It would provide a little cushion. And there may be a few other little things from time to time the family would have to pick up, but that's not unusual in a situation like this.

You all can make this work for her. Don't be super aggressive, but don't be super conservative either.

— 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," the "Today" show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth, and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions.

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**SHAWN** is adorable and such a smart, sweet boy!! He is still a puppy and can come off as a wild child but we think with a little work he'll be a superstar. He went for a doggie day out yesterday and was very cuddly and well behaved in the car. He's good with dogs and kids and is always happy. Shawn is about 8 months old and 50 lbs. **THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$25** and includes everything your pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines, spay/neuter, heartworm test, and a microchip. Please call **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** for more information.



Meet **MORTICA**. She is currently in foster and is such a sweet, smart girl. She is spayed, vaccinated, crate trained, house trained, good with other dogs and kids. Mortica is very playful and a wonderful companion & guard dog. She loves toys and needs heavy duty ones. Also she needs to be in a secure fence. She is called Tisha for short and she responds to that. **THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$25** and includes everything your pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines, spay/neuter, heartworm test, and a microchip. If you've been looking for a new family member we hope you'll make the shelter your first stop. Please call **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to set up a meeting with this all around amazing dog.



Meet **WEEVIL**. This 6 month old puppy will melt your heart. Weevil is fun, playful and loves being around other dogs and kids. This puppy would make an amazing companion. **THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$85** and includes everything your pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines, spay/neuter, heartworm test, and a microchip. He is currently in foster so Please call **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to set up a meeting with this adorable pup.




**GRACIE** spent the day at Petsmart Saturday and was the most well behaved dog. Gracie is calm and doesn't mind being around lots of dogs or people. She is excellent with children. Gracie is a 2 year old large Doberman mix that's super chill. She is also good on a leash and loves walks. **THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$25** and includes everything your pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines, spay/neuter, heartworm test, and a microchip. Please call **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** for more information.



**LUNA** is a very special girl! She came to us over 1 year ago when she was literally skin draped over bone! She has been with us for nearly a year. She has been looked at several times but always passed on because she needs a little extra care. Luna will win your heart over if you will give her the chance! She is very timid with new people. She doesn't like to load up in the car on her own. She is leery of humans, with every reason to be. She is already spayed and she is already microchipped! She is just waiting on her person to come along and give her the best forever home! **THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$25** That includes a voucher for \$70 off of spay/ neuter, \$15 voucher for rabies, distemper vaccine, parvo vaccine, NexGard, wormer and a 5way shot. For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073**.





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## Notes...

Continued from page 4

**The 6th Annual Turner Parker Horse Show** takes place, Saturday, September 16 at its new location, St. Joe Park Arena in St. Joseph, TN.

Registration begins at 10:30am. "Battle for the Buckle" Showtime is at noon. Rail Classes showtime at approximately 6pm. Entry Fees: \$5 per class, \$10 per championship class.

General Admission: \$5 for two people or less. \$10 for three people or more. Sponsorship Levels start at \$199.

All Proceeds to benefit St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital. Checks can be made Payable: Turner Parker Horse Show, 35608 County Road 8, Florence, AL 35634. Payments are 100% tax-deductible as allowed by law.

For more details, contact: Ryne Parker at 256-443-7556, ryne.parker@lcschools.org or April Parker april1108@gmail.com

Follow & Like us @The Turner Parker Horse Show

Thank you for your support!

**The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts** is pleased to present the imaginative paintings by Alabama artist, Marian Baker, "Storytelling Time, Again," from September 8-October 6. Baker is a contemporary folk artist donning a whimsical style.

Her sense of humor prevails by incorporating seemingly random numbers in her paintings that allude to her fascination with lucky numbers. This peculiar trademark is rooted in an early painting featuring her lucky number 11. Bold eccentricity alongside a colorful paint palette are what make up her signature style.

Over the years, people have increasingly recognized Marian Baker, featuring her work on several movies and TV programs. At least twenty-five pieces of Marian's art are on display at the LeBonheur Children's Hospital.

**The Shoals RiverTown's leadership team** -- composed of members from the Quad Cities and Colbert County -- selected the Old Railroad Bridge as the priority placemaking project for the RiverLine's Community Planning Initiative program. Based on feedback from the leadership team and the Shoals community, the RiverLine's Planning and Design team has put together ideas for the Old Railroad Bridge such as signage, enhanced access and potential connectivity to Patton Island.

Tennessee RiverLine to explore ideas for enhancing Old Railroad Bridge visitors' experience. This community planning session is 4:30-6:30pm, Tuesday, September 12 at Singin' River Brewery, 526 E. College St. in Florence.

For more information, visit [msnha.una.edu/ortriverline.org](http://msnha.una.edu/ortriverline.org).

Known as "The Funniest Man in America," James Gregory will be bringing his Southern humor to UNA's Norton Auditorium on September 16 at 7pm as a benefit event for Shoals Scholar Dollars. James has traveled the country spreading his down-home humor and hilarious observations. Shoals Scholar Dollars is proud to host James Gregory as part of their "Legends in Concert Series." James Gregory is brought to you with the help of Big River Broadcasting, the

Shoals Marriott, UNA's School of the Arts, The Alabama Music Hall of Fame and the Rotary Clubs of Florence and Greater Shoals.

For tickets, visit [www.shoalsscholardollars.com](http://www.shoalsscholardollars.com).

**Fall meeting - Jacksonburg Church of Christ**, 414 County Road 28, Florence, will have a fall Gospel meeting September 17-20 with Tom Larkin. The Sept. 17 Bible study begins at 9am with 9:45am worship service. Fellowship lunch will follow in the annex, with a 1:30pm afternoon service. Services will be 7pm Sept. 18-20. Everyone is welcome.

**The soulful vibes of Sledgefest** are in Downtown Leighton September 16, the annual music festival honoring legend and Leighton native, Percy Sledge. Enjoy live music, local vendors, tasty food, and a friendly community. From classic tunes to delicious treats, it's a family-friendly day of entertainment. Don't miss out! For more details, visit the Town of Leighton Facebook Page or call 256-446-8477.

**The 29th Annual Trail of Tears motorcycle ride** is September 16 recognizing the 1830's forced removal of the Cherokee Indians to the Oklahoma Territory. Included in this ride are American Indian pow-wows and various activities such as drumming and dancing, vendors in Waterloo, and many stops all along the Trail of Tears. This is held each year on the 3rd Saturday in September and offers free live entertainment. Information: [www.al-tn-trailoftears.net](http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net) or email: [townofh20@aol.com](mailto:townofh20@aol.com).

**The Scooters for Hooters Poker Run** is September 30 leaving from Natchez Trace Harley Davidson in Tusculmbia. A day of riding, music, and community, all supporting breast cancer survivors. Registration starts at 9am, kickstands up at 10am. The entry fee is just \$20 per bike, which includes lunch after the ride, entry into the thrilling Poker Run where you can test your riding skills and luck for some fantastic prizes. Don't forget to try your luck in the 50/50 drawing for a chance to win big. As the sun sets, enjoy the rocking tunes of the LA Outlaws on the big stage. Information: 256-383-5814.

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- 2. Paltry, Pantry
- 3. House, Horse
- 4. Lefty, Lofty
- 5. Meaner, Meager
- 6. Limbs, Limbo
- 7. Ramble, Rumble
- 8. Orate, Irate
- 9. Shrink, Shrine
- 10. Folly, Filly

## Puzzle Whirl Answers

### Kids' Maze Solution



### WORD LADDER

Answer  
BOXER, BOXES, BORES  
BARES, HARES, HATES

### Word Spiral Answer

RANSACKED

### MINI SUDOKU

Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
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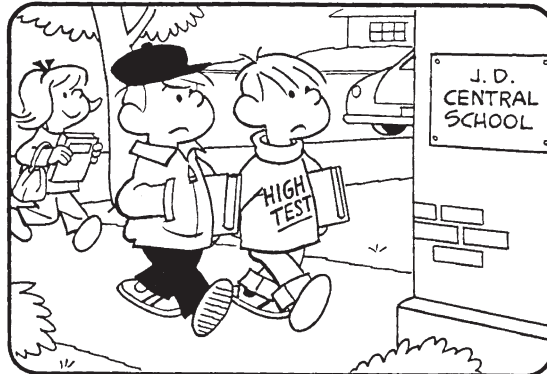
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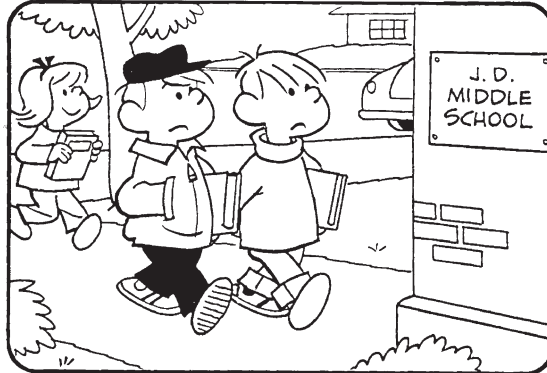
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Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man (CHRIST) is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Has Jesus Christ saved you? Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Are you saved? Why not? After reading this, how can you still choose hell over heaven? That's spiritual suicide! Call on Christ, get saved now, before you no longer have a choice!

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Oka Kapassa (Ococoposa), meaning "Cold Water," was the Chickasaw name given to Spring Creek and to a trading post established near the Tennessee River about 1780. About 1817, Michael Dickson and others were greeted at what by then was called Big Spring by Chief Tuscumbia, a Chickasaw rainmaker. The settlers named the new town in his honor in 1822. Colbert County, formed in 1867 from the northern half of Franklin County, was named for Chickasaw Chieftains George Colbert, operator of an inn and ferry on the Natchez Trace at the Tennessee River, and his brother, Levi Colbert, who ran an inn on the Trace at Buzzard Roost Spring.

(Continued on other side)

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**Location:** 34.7298°N, 87.7051°W  
At northern entrance to Tuscumbia Spring Park

This historical marker in Spring Park reminds us that Native Americans lived here thousands of years before the European peoples. Next Saturday (Sep. 9) the public is invited to celebrate "their return" at the Native American Oka Kapassa Festival to be held in Spring Park. See you there!

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



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