

TNT Expands its Presence

FLORENCE—TNT Fireworks last week announced the acquisition of American Fireworks in a move that continues expanding the market presence of TNT.

The acquisition highlights a longtime bond between the Anderson family in the Shoals, which owns TNT, and American Fireworks Chief Executive Officer, **Chester Davis**.

“The Anderson and Davis families have shared a longstanding connection, professionally and

personally,” wrote TNT President, **Carson Anderson**, in the press release. “We are honored to carry on this remarkable legacy, and we are eager to welcome the American Fireworks team to the TNT family.”

Last 2 Days for Tots’ Toys



FLORENCE—The *Courier Journal* and *TimesDaily* office, at 219 W. Tennessee St. in Florence, is a drop off location for Toys for Tots. New and unwrapped toys may be placed in the donation box located in our front lobby by Thursday, November 30. Office hours are 8am–5pm, Monday–Friday. *Thank you!*

More SHORTS... on Page 2

Automotive Inside NOW
Advance Auto Sales

Volume 140 Number 6

November 29, 2023

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100 Club Serves the Families

FLORENCE — Tragedy struck the Sheffield Police Department on October 2, 2021 as Sergeant Nick Risner lost his life in the line of duty. The heart-wrenching event spurred swift and impactful change in the Shoals region of Alabama.

The memory of Sergeant Risner continues to inspire positive transformation by means of new laws, the creation of

See 100 CLUB... on Page 10

A Unique Blend for Christmas

SHEFFIELD – Acclaimed acoustic band Act of Congress will perform their unique blend of American roots music mixed with traditional Christmas music at the Ritz Theatre on Friday, December 1 at 7pm. Tickets are \$30-\$40 and are available now at tennesseevalleyarts.org or by calling 256-383-0533.

The Birmingham-based band has released

See ACT... on Page 11



Act of Congress
Courtesy photo



Photo courtesy: Waylon Huguley

Colbert DA's Office has \$15,000 Upgrades Grant

TUSCUMBIA—The Colbert County District Attorney's Office received a \$15,000 grant recently from the Colbert County Community Development Commission to support upgrades in services and resources.

Sen. Larry Stutts, Rep. Kerry Underwood, and Rep. Jamie Kiel presented the check to District Attorney Hal Hughston III at the Colbert County Courthouse. Rep.

See GRANT... on Page 9

Attending the Colbert grant announcement L-R, Rep. Jamie Kiel, County Commissioner Tyrus Mansell, District Attorney Hal Hughston III, Probate Judge Daniel Rosser, Sen. Larry Stutts, and Rep Kerry Underwood.

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- Guest Commentary
- Puzzle Whirl

GAME DAY SCORE CARD 2023

- Ask the Attorney
- Cat & Kids
- Savvy Senior



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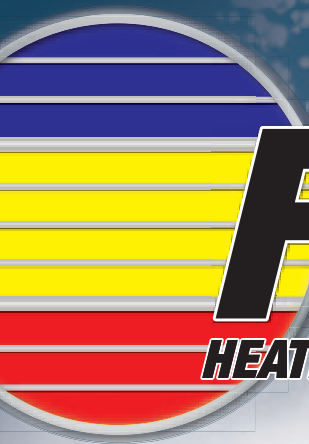


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Shorts...

Continued from Page 1

Cramer Center Grant of 400K

FLORENCE — The Cramer Children's Center is the recipient of a \$404,433 grant which is part of a \$2.4 million package benefiting 11 agencies in 15 north Alabama counties that provide professional assistance to child abuse victims.

"Child abuse continues to be a crime that affects too many Alabama children and families," said Governor Kay Ivey. "I commend these groups for their focus on prevention and for working to restore victims' ability to live happy, healthy and productive lives."

The Cramer Center provides a variety of services including "Court School," which helps victims become acclimated to a court setting, to clients in Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale and Lawrence counties.

The grant money was provided to the state by the U.S. Department of Justice and is being administered by the

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.



Fire Alert is Still in Force

FLORENCE — Northwest Alabama no longer is under a "No Burn" order the Governor Kay Ivey issued on November 8. according to the Alabama Forestry Commission. However, the fire alert restriction is still in effect, which means there are still restrictions and approval from the Alabama Forestry Commission must be granted.

Rainfall last week eased the severe dry conditions somewhat, with areas in the Shoals receiving just over 2 inches, according to National Weather Service data. The area remains almost 10 inches below average for this time of year, which is normally at around 47 inches.

The Fire Alert restriction remains in effect until the state forester rescinds it.

reduced adoption fees so shelters can charge \$50 or less to take deserving pets from kennels to the couches of loving homes. The "Empty the Shelters - Holiday Hope" event will be hosted at 380+ organizations in 43 states, including

- Florence Lauderdale Animal Services, 256-760-6676, and

- HASRA Inc (Heart of Alabama Save Rescue Adopt) Hasradog.org BISELL Pet Foundation was founded in 2011 by Cathy Bissell, and its work has touched the lives of more than 720,000 pets and counting.

With shelters facing unprecedented overcrowding, responsible pet ownership is a must. If you are considering opening your heart and your home to a new furry friend this season, and you understand the commitment, please consider a pet through a local shelter or rescue.

South's BEST December 1-3

FLORENCE- UNA is poised to welcome hundreds of high school teams and students from around the Southeast as part of this year's South's BEST Robotics competition on campus December 1-3. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has signed on as the sponsor for this year's competition.

"A great deal of work and preparation has gone in to cultivating the campus environment that will greet robotics teams, coaches, and families from around the southeast," said Dr. Katie Kinney, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. "We are thrilled to be able to welcome them and to showcase the wonderful things happening at UNA."

Through participation in BEST's STEM program, students learn to analyze and solve problems using the Engineering Design Process, which helps them develop technological literacy skills that industry seeks in its workforce.

More SHORTS...on Page 6

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Smoked Hog Jowl \$2.99 Lb. Beef Brisket \$2.99 Lb.	Boneless Chicken Breast \$1.79 Lb. Chicken Leg Quarters 10Lb. Bag \$6.99	Whole Chicken Wings \$1.99 Lb. Cut Chicken Wings (DRUMSTICKS & FLAPS) \$2.59 Lb.	Whole Rabbit Each \$12.99 Quail 4 Pk. Bag \$12.99

Holiday Hope at 2 Shelters

SHOALS- The BISELL Pet Foundation is bringing hope to homeless pets this holiday season with its "Empty the Shelters - Holiday Hope" event from December 1-17. This effort has helped more than 204,000 pets find loving homes, making "Empty the Shelters" the largest funded adoption event in the country. An average of 1,225 pets are adopted each day of these quarterly national events. During each nationwide event, BISELL Pet Foundation sponsors



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)

SHEFFIELD: ESTATE SALE
 SALE 3304 Hatch Blvd. Nov 30th-Dec. 3rd 8-5 Furniture, appliances, tools, decor.

FLORENCE: ESTATE SALE
 Indoor/Outdoor 103 Buckingham Circle, (Dead End street off Mars Hill Road) Fri. 7am-3pm and Sat., 8am-3pm.

MUSCLE SHOALS CARPORT SALE, 1511 Fords Way Ave., Friday, Dec. 1st - 3rd, 7am till dark. Corner of Waverly & Fords Way (In the Back), Lift Chair Recliner, Table and more.

JACKSON HEIGHTS ESTATE SALE
 2104 Marietta Ave., Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Fri., Dec. 1st, 9am-3pm (numbers given out 8:30am)
 Sat., Dec. 2nd, 9am-2pm (numbers given out 8:30am)
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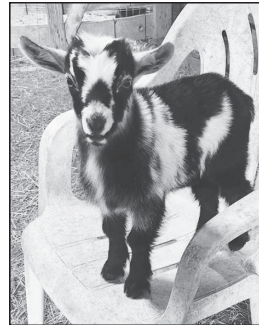
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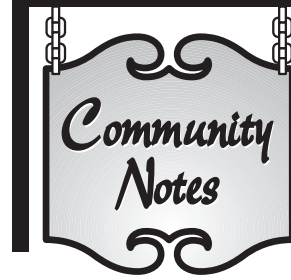
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For more information, call 256-978-5151 or visit www.muscleshoolsoundstudio.org

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:
Thursday, December 14 Helen Keller Hospital, 9am - 6pm
Sunday, December 17 Lowe's - Muscle Shoals 10am - 4pm

Gerald Clemmons needs a kidney! Gerald is a lifelong resident of Lauderdale County. He has kidney disease and is on dialysis. He has been told that he needs a

kidney transplant, and a living donor is his best chance to survive. Please consider becoming a living kidney donor for him at Vanderbilt Hospital.

You can help! To be a donor, you will need to: know your blood type, be at least 18 years of age, be in good physical health, and have a good mental disposition. This week can provide more information: <https://bit.ly/VandyLivingDonor>
If you can't donate, please share this information.

The 2023 Tusculmbia Civitan Christmas Ornament is Deshler

See NOTES... page 7

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

A workshop on Holiday Decorating with Nature will be presented by the Regional Offices of Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Colbert, Franklin, and Lauderdale counties) at historic Belle Mont Mansion, 1569 Cook Lane, Tusculmbia, from 1-3pm Friday, December 1. Jayne Leutzow, Regional Extension Agent for Home, Grounds, and Gardens will demonstrate techniques for creating festive swags, garlands, wreaths, centerpieces, and the apple & pineapple cones that are used in decorations at historic Williamsburg. Participants will be able to create examples of their choice of decoration to take home with them. You are invited to bring additional greenery or decorative objects to personalize your wreath or arrangement. The cost is \$25, including materials and refreshments. Space is limited and prepaid registration is required. Proceeds benefit Belle Mont's preservation and operations. Call 256-381-5052 or email bellemontmansion@gmail.com for more information.

Muscle Shoals Sound Studio will be closed for Christmas December 23 -January 2. It will reopen Wednesday January 3, 2024.

Tour prices will remain the same for 2024 as well as hours and tour times: 10-4 Tuesday - Friday with tours at 10:30,

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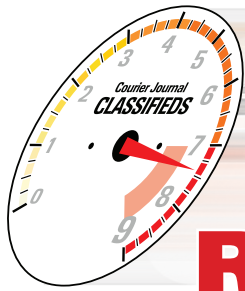


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Shorts...

Continued from Page 2

UNA Athletics Exceeds \$20M

FLORENCE- North Alabama Athletics celebrated a second consecutive record year of fundraising and external revenue generation, exceeding more than \$20.6 million during the 2023 fiscal year (FY23), which ran from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023.

The year was highlighted by the naming of three athletic-related facilities or positions - CB&S Bank Arena, The Schmitz Family Head Men's Golf Coach position, and the future Bank Independent Stadium.

"The importance of aligning athletics fundraising with institutional and community priorities cannot be overstated, and we enjoy incredible alignment at UNA," said Director of Athletics, Dr. Josh Looney. "Giving has a direct impact on the current and future success of our programs and student-athletes. We are beyond grateful for the generosity of UNA supporters who have helped generate powerful momentum going into

our second year as a full member of Division I."

This year's record-breaking effort was fueled by more than \$19.6 million in cash and pledges, which topped the previous athletic department high of \$9.7 million established in FY22. Philanthropic gifts were received from 676 unique donors, and the Lions Athletic Club enjoyed a 3% increase in annual giving.

UNA's external revenue generation also included more than \$749,000 in corporate partnerships. This represented a 5% increase from the previous high set in FY22. An additional \$516,121 in ticket sales completed the FY23 revenue totals.



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8:00am - 5:00pm

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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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editor@courierjournal.net

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

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

Notes...

Continued from page 4

High School, celebrating the school's centennial. It is now available for purchase at Fiddledee D! Gift Shop, 111 S. Main St., in Tusculumbia, at Helen Keller Library, 511 N. Main St. in Tusculumbia, and at financial institutions in the city. The cost is \$20 cash or check only (to Tusculumbia Civitan Club). Proceeds benefit local charities. For more information or to purchase by mail or Paypal: Tusculumbiacivitan@gmail.com. For more information, please call 256-710-1440.

"It's a Dickens Christmas, Y'all," is returning to downtown Tusculumbia on Saturday, December 9, from 10am - 4pm. The free downtown festival will have

Dickens characters, carolers, and brass bands along Main Street throughout the day. Look for the Carriage rides, trolley tours, Victorian dancers, an Arts & Crafts market tent, a petting zoo, food vendors, themed specials at downtown shops and eateries, and maybe even a little "snow."

Special events (some with modest admission charges) include: "Scones and Moans", Breakfast with Santa, Poetry and Music at St. John's Church, Milk and Cookies with Tiny Tim, Fezziwig Strut Your Mutt Dog Parade, S'mores Firepit, Cookie Decorating, Ornament Making, and a Holiday High Tea in the historic clubhouse at the Tennessee Valley Country Club. Santa will make his annual visit to Tusculumbia during the event. An evening trolley tour will showcase a "Parade" of Holiday Porches.

The Charles Dickens themed Christmas festival is sponsored, with community participation, by Tusculumbia

Retail Development, Inc.

For more information, call 256-383-9797, 256-627-9823 or Colbert Tourism at 256-383-0783. Follow on Facebook - 13th Annual It's A Dickens Christmas Y'all.

The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is hosting the Quad Cities Photography Club Member Exhibition through December 28. The Quad Cities Photography Club was created in January 2022. Their mission is to provide an informal, friendly, and supportive environment for local photographers at all levels of experience and with interests in all types of photographic imagery. They share ideas and knowledge with one another through participation in meetings, guest lectures, and club excursions.

The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is open to the public Monday - Friday from 9-4 and on Sundays from 1-4. The art center is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St. Florence, AL and can be reached at 256-760-6379.

Disabled American Veterans - Veterans Serving Veterans. 1409 W. 11th St., Sheffield, 256-381-8229. Open Mon-Wed, 9am-1:30pm

Meets every fourth Tuesday of each month, November 28. Dinner at 6pm - Business at 7pm

'Hi Neighbors of the Shoals' meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month (Dec. 5) in the Florence Public Library at 10:30am. This women's social group all ladies who are currently residents of the Shoals area. Contact Berta Birch, 256-777-3119, for further details.

Florence Camerata, the area's premiere volunteer community chorus, will be performing its annual holiday concert, Christmas In the Shoals, on Tuesday, December 5 at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church on E. Mobile St in downtown Florence.

This concert will feature a wonderful variety of Christmas music, some old familiar favorites along with some beautiful lesser-known pieces.

The concert is under the direction of veteran conductor, Rebecca Rockhill, and is accompanied by collaborative pianist, Karen Cantrell.

Admission to the concert is free; a donation box is available for those who wish to support this non-profit musical organization.

Religious Abuse Support Group of the Shoals will meet the first and last Sundays of every month. Time and Location will vary. About us: we are a group dedicated to supporting individuals in our local community who have experienced abuse within religious institutions.

Check our Facebook for additional details. Contact us at <https://www.facebook.com/ragshoals/>

There is space HERE for YOUR EVENT, and plenty of eyes to read it. Email your information to editor@CourierJournal.net.

Are you looking for a new church home? Weeden Heights Methodist Church is a small friendly church with Christians who love the Lord, welcome new members with open arms and no affiliation with larger denominations; an independent Church whose discipline is the Holy Bible. We answer to no organization or group. We answer to the Holy Lord and God.

Sunday Worship 11am. Wednesday Prayer Group 10am. Wednesday Bible Study 5pm. Weeden Heights Methodist Church, 128 N. Orleans, Florence.

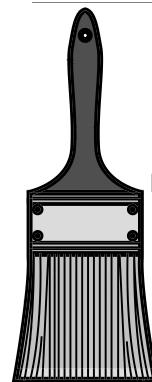
The Florence Beautification Board presents The Wildflower Project! Through this project, you can contribute to the future of our community's sustainable growth. There are several tiers of involvement, Tier 1 - \$100; Tier 2 - \$200; Tier 3 - \$1,000 To donate, you may give checks to the Beautification Board City of Florence, PO Box 98, Florence, AL 35631. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Social Dance on Tuesday Nights, 6:30-8:45, at The Club (Florence Senior Center), 450 Country Club Drive in Florence. Music from across the decades provided by The Browns. The Club is an alcohol, drug, smoke, and weapon-free facility. 256-760-6420.

Joints in Motion, chair exercise class, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at The Club (Florence Senior Center), 9:30am. No charge. BINGO Wednesdays 10:15am until our 11:30am lunch (w/ \$1 lunch donation)! If you are 60+ you can join us for lunch and games. 256-760-6420.

The Club (Florence Senior Center) and Diamond Tours presents the Myrtle Beach Holiday Show Trip November 27-

See NOTES... page 30



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Grant...

Continued from Page 1

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Ernie Yarbrough was unable to attend due to a previous commitment. "I am always glad to see some of our tax dollars be put to good use. The DA's office has an important role in law enforcement. To provide technology and safety updates for them is a good investment

for the community." According to Hughston, the District Attorney's office has not previously applied for a grant from the Commission. "With budget cuts around the state for District Attorney offices, these funds will help fill the voids in our budget to implement or update technology vital to the function of our office," added Hughston. Hughston said the District Attorney and investigators for the District Attorney's office are often in the field for various reasons, including serving warrants, locating individuals, interviewing witnesses, worthless check enforcement, subpoenas for trial preparation and being present during high profile criminal events.

"It is vital that they are equipped with technology and equipment for their protection as they work throughout Colbert County," Hughston said. "It is our intent to equip the District Attorney's office with the assistance of this grant to function more efficiently and to better serve the citizens of Colbert County as well as improve communication with local law enforcement. We are thankful to the Colbert County Development Commission and local legislators Sen. Larry Stutts, Rep. Jamie Kiel, Rep. Kerry Underwood, and Rep. Ernie Yarbrough for sponsoring this grant."



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100 Club...

Continued from Page 1

heartfelt artworks, and renewed community commitment to protect those who serve.

One of the most remarkable initiatives born out of this tragedy is the establishment of the 100 Club of the Shoals. This organization serves Lauderdale and Colbert counties. It aims to provide essential financial assistance to the families of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMT staff who have made the ultimate sacrifice or endured serious, traumatic, and disabling injuries while on duty.



Rusty Trapp is a key figure behind the 100 Club of the Shoals *Courtesy photo*

Originated in 1952

The idea for the 100 Club originated in 1952 when a Detroit businessman rallied 100 of his friends to contribute money to support the family of a fallen police officer. Their collective efforts helped pay the widow's mortgage, cover bills, establish an education fund for the officer's children, and create a substantial savings account with \$7,000. Today, there are numerous 100 Clubs across the nation dedicated to the same noble cause. The 100 Club of the Shoals marks the first of its kind in the

state of Alabama.

Rusty Trapp, a key figure behind the 100 Club of the Shoals, emphasizes the organization's mission. He states, "The 100 Club of the Shoals represents those in our community who believe that we should care for the families of public servants who make the ultimate sacrifice to protect and preserve our families and property." The organization relies on the generous contributions of its members, who pledge annual dues of \$100 or make one-time donations of any amount. Importantly, the club operates without paid staff or professional fundraisers, minimizing administrative costs, and depending solely on dedicated volunteers

to engage members and raise awareness of their vital cause.

The 100 Club of the Shoals has already made a meaningful impact on the community. Brandy Risner, the widow of Sergeant Nick Risner, has received financial assistance to help alleviate the family's financial burdens. The organization is actively working toward completely erasing the Risner family's debt through future donations.

Ron Tyler, Florence Police Chief, voiced his gratitude for the 100 Club during a recent press conference. He highlighted the importance of such resources for first responders and their families. He acknowledged, "The 100 Club of the Shoals is a lifeline for those who put their lives on the line for us every day."

The 100 Club of the Shoals invites individuals, businesses, and the community at large to become members or make donations. By doing so, they ensure that support is readily available for the families of fallen or injured first responders.

Trapp expressed his hope that the stories and initiatives born from the tragic loss of Sergeant Nick Risner will inspire others to join their cause. He stated, "We hope that what you have heard today will inspire you or your business to become a member and donate so we can be prepared to help those families in need when they have made the ultimate sacrifice for us."

Those interested in learning more or contributing can visit the organization's website at www.100clubshoals.org.

Each One Can Reach One
Shoals CASA is seeking caring community members to join our team as **Court Appointed Special Advocates** for local abused and neglected children.



For more information, on how you can volunteer and help change a child's story contact us today.

Heather Begley - Executive Director
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Act...
Continued from Page 1


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

The Alabama Symphony Orchestra describes Act of Congress as "a timeless blend of tight harmonies, vintage instrumentation and deep musical roots. Don't miss your chance to see one of the country's best bands."

Act of Congress's Christmas Concert has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning as one of the most popular Christmas acts touring in the Southeast. Discover videos of Act of Congress's Christmas Concert at <https://actofcongresschristmas.com>. Their modern mixes of traditionally popular Christmas songs demonstrate their skillful musical talent while enticing audiences to sing along.

An Act of Congress Christmas is made possible by presenting sponsor, Colbert County Tourism.

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Guest Commentary

The Root Cause of the Insanity on Our College Campuses...

It is Older Than You May Think

Americans are finally catching on that the oppressor-oppressed narrative being taught in our schools and universities is not a conspiracy theory disseminated by conservatives. It's real. Jewish students having to barricade themselves in a college to escape a mob in Manhattan of all places, has opened people's eyes to the threat woke ideology represents to civilization.

Too bad it took a grotesque massacre and mass rapes in the Holy Land to do it. However, now that we have people's attention, let's connect the dots.

The oppressor-oppressed worldview that paints democratic Israel as the

See **INSANITY...** on Page 24



Mike Gonzalez



Lindsey Burke

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

Courier Journal

in the *Shoals*

THIS WEEK

November 29, 2023

Happening THIS WEEK

It's Time to Stuff the Bus

Singing River Media Group and Area School Systems Collaborate

THE SHOALS – The annual Stuff the Bus holiday toy drive will return to the Shoals for the 2023 season. Stuff the Bus directly benefits children across Colbert and Lauderdale counties and is a collaboration between Singing River Media Group and school systems within those two counties.

Traditionally, Stuff the Bus is set up in the parking lots of Wal-Mart in Muscle Shoals and Wal-Mart on Hough Road in Florence.

This year, the bus will be visible and accepting toys from November 27 – December 10.



Courtesy image



November 27 – December 10

Educators from local school systems, volunteers, and the Singing River Media Group staff will collect the donated toys.

On December 11, educators will gather in their respective counties

to “shop” for their students. Educators can also submit specific needs for kids at their schools, and any monetary donations will go toward these items.

“Stuff the Bus is a no-brainer for our organization to continue. We know that we are

See **BUS...** on Page 22

CHLOE'S FUND 5TH ANNUAL SANTA PAWS

Christmas Market takes place Friday & Saturday December 1–2 at 333 E. College St. in Downtown Florence (Inside Studio 23). Hours both days are 10am-5pm. There will be Household Gifts, Christmas Decor, and more. Proceeds benefit Chloe's Fund to help sick and injured animals at Florence-Lauderdale Animal Services.

EVERY ALABAMA TEXAS ROADHOUSE

location will host fundraisers to benefit the ALS Association and support The Kerry & Gary Challenge on Tuesday, November 28. The restaurants will donate 100% of the night's profits to the organization. The Kerry & Gary Challenge is an annual fundraising campaign founded by former Auburn Basketball player, Gary Godfrey, and former Alabama running back, Kerry Goode, both battling Lou Gehrig's disease. In partnership with The ALS Association, the campaign unites collegiate sports rivals to raise funds and alleviate the financial burden on ALS-affected families in Alabama. More information is available at www.thekerryandgarychallenge.com. Stop by Texas Roadhouse on Cox Creek Parkway in Florence from 4–10pm Tuesday.

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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.

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Editor-Courier Journal
219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630
- **e-mail:** editor@courierjournal.net
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Maintain Ten Feet

Editor:

Alabama law says a vehicle must maintain at least ten feet distance between it and the vehicle in front of it when stopping at a traffic signal or stop sign.

After witnessing and experiencing many vehicles stopping or inching up only a foot or two behind another vehicle, I realize it is time for police to start issuing more warnings or tickets to these inconsiderate and rude drivers.

Also, its highly dangerous to tailgate vehicles in front of you.

Paul Sabatino
Florence

Democrats Can Get Their Swing Back

Editor;

“It don’t mean a thing,” Duke Ellington and Irving Mills informed us in 1931, “if it ain’t got that swing.” Does Ohio still have that swing?

Over the last few years some, including University of Cincinnati political science professor David Niven, have cast doubt on the state’s long-held “swing state” or “belwether” status in national elections -- but presidential polling, combined with the results of the November 7 election, show that the Buckeye State could be as relevant as ever when it comes to discerning

national political trends. Recent *New York Times* and Siena College polls show former president Donald Trump leading incumbent Joe Biden in five of six non-Ohio “swing” states -- Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, and Pennsylvania. Trump carried all of these in 2016, but lost in 2020 with Biden ahead only in Wisconsin. Those same polls also predict a large shift in Biden’s direction if Trump is convicted in some or all of his currently pending criminal cases.

Meanwhile, the most recent Ohio poll noted at RealClearPolitics from early October has Trump up on Biden by 12 points. Not a lot of “swing” vibe there.

On the other hand, on November 7,

See **LETTERS...** on Page 31

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AUGIE is adorable, very waggly and super friendly. This precious boy can entertain himself with toys, and he keeps a clean kennel, and he's just one of those dogs that it's hard not to be happy around! Augie is around 3, and about 60 lbs. We hope you'll come meet him and our other sweet dogs. **ADOPTIONS ARE CURRENTLY \$85** and include everything your new pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines, a microchip, spay/neuter, and heartworm test. Please call or come by **Florence Lauderdale animal services** 256-760-6676 to meet this amazing dog.

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Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

The Nursing Relationship

Writer's note: When I wrote the following column twenty-one years ago, in May, 2002, breast-feeding was not as popular as it is today. But because of its popularity, I have decided to share these words again. Let's just make sure the babies get fed. But if nursing is the decision, it should be supported. It's natural, not nasty. I am so glad that we have come to fuller understanding of this relationship.

Dear Mom and Dad,
I am so glad that you made the decision to breast-feed your baby. There is no other relationship like it (except perhaps your marriage). It is such a connectedness that it is hard to explain. That eight inch distance between your baby's eyes and your eyes when that baby is feeding is about the closest and most consistent eye contact that you will ever experience.

Yet now that you have committed to this wonderful connectedness with your child, do not allow yourself to become disconnected from everyone else. Sometimes nursing moms become somewhat like second-class citizens in their own homes - doomed to feeding in the back bedroom for the duration.

Discussion has to be had with those around you about your decision to nurse. Sometimes relatives feel weird around nursing moms. Grandmoms don't want you to nurse around granddads and sisters don't want you to nurse around their husbands. Well, we have to consider where they are coming from. Most people perceive the mammary glands (the breasts) as sexual rather than biological. (But once you have given suck to a child for 12 months, you know why they are there.) Most of the uncomfortable observers have either not been closely associated with the nursing relationship or are of the teaching that it is nasty or private.

Talk to them. Tell your mom that it's not nasty. If it's your in-laws, talk to them. Perhaps grandmom is uncomfortable, and granddad really is not. Tell them that you will be discreet, but you do not want to be left out. If they cannot get over their discomfort, then tell the comfortable ones to visit the room where you are nursing. Nurse in the noise in the beginning, so that you can nurse in the company of others. Do be discreet. But, do not let yourself be left out.

One other reminder, do not let your husband be left out either. Have him at your side. Talk. Tell him that he has a captive audience. --- Once I saw a cartoon that showed the mom nursing in the bed in the morning, nursing in front of the T.V., nursing in the living room, in the car, and again in the bed that night. In the last bedroom frame, the daddy asks, "Does he ever come up for air?" It's true, nursing babies eat a lot, and every time

the father is outside that nursing relationship. But you can pull him close and let him look into that child's satisfied eyes. And in your dry moments, let him know that the two of you still have a relationship that you need and that you are building a very strong foundation for a very strong family.

Sincerely,
Cat

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com.

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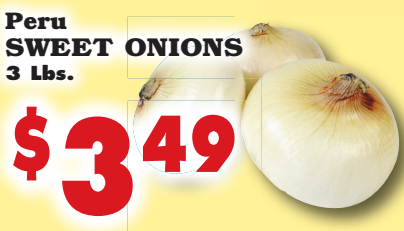
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Medicare Minute

"Prescription Drug Plans 3"

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

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

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

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

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



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God requires that we must meet Him prepared. The bible clearly states what ahead for those prepared and those unprepared. It's my job to teach and show you what's ahead. It's your job at least to show up and find out what's next for you and your family. There's one tomorrow with your name on it. When God calls you, you must go, ready or not. The Bible contains tomorrows' news today. God has given us all one short lifetime to get ready to meet him. No matter how rotten you are or how good you are, you need a Saviour when you meet Him. There is one available. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Get ready for your final tomorrow. Come see us Sunday @10:00am, and find out what God has done, is doing, and will do with all of us. You need to prepare to meet God!

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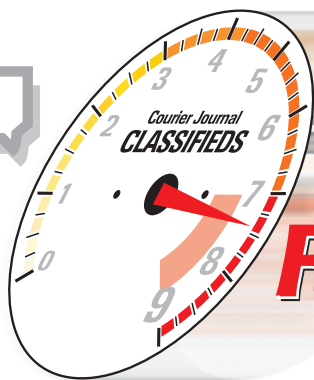
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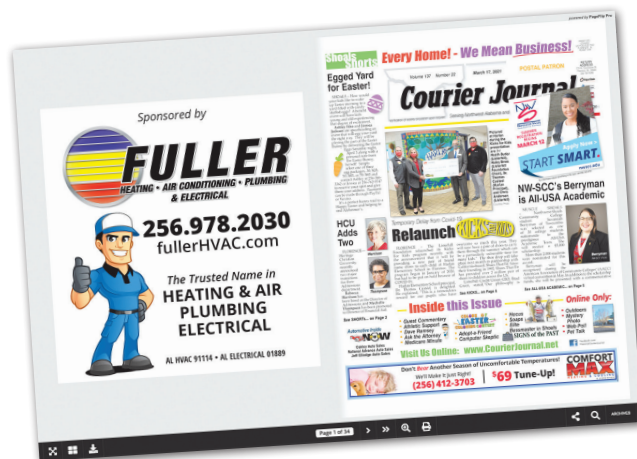
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What To Do If Your Car Is Recalled

Consider the following information on how to handle vehicle safety recalls.

Every year people hear about automotive recalls — everything from air bags to steering columns. Automotive recalls may occur when a vehicle's equipment, performance or construction are deemed unsafe. If there is a safety risk, either the manufacturer or The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) may issue a recall. According to NHTSA, in 2022, they issued 932 safety recalls which affected over 30 million vehicles or equipment.

How to find out if your vehicle has a recall

The easiest way to learn about a recall is to enter your vehicle's 17 character VIN number on the NHTSA page. Manufacturers must alert the NHTSA and affected drivers, dealers and distributors. You should receive a notification from the manufacturer that details the recall and provides instructions for having it repaired.

Top reasons for an automotive recall:

- Equipment • Electrical system
- Power train • Steering • Structure

What should I do if my car is recalled?

When you receive a recall letter, thoroughly read the notification to see if there's anything shared about whether it's safe to continue driving the vehicle before the recall is fixed. Then follow the instructions and schedule an appointment with your dealership or authorized mechanic to have the problem corrected. Often, you shouldn't be charged for repairs. The exception is recalled tires. You'll have only 60 days after receiving the letter to get a complimentary replacement.

I don't have time to deal with a recall. Do I have to?

Some people ignore recall notices, but a vehicle under a recall may be unsafe to drive. And, if you try to sell it, the unrepaired recall will show up in the vehicle's history. If you get a recall notice, contact your dealer as soon as possible to schedule a fix.

Are recalls free on used cars?

Safety issues are addressed on both new and used cars. Please be aware that there are limitations to no-charge repairs based on the vehicle's age.

Will I get a loaner or rental car while mine is fixed?

Manufacturers may not provide alternative transportation and they're not required by law to do so. While you shouldn't expect a loaner, it doesn't hurt to ask your dealership, since they have a closer relationship with you and may be able to help. Thankfully, many recalls can be repaired within an hour or two and a loaner may not even be necessary.

What should I do if I think my car has a manufacturing problem?

Have problems fixed immediately, don't wait for a recall letter. You also can file safety concerns with the NHTSA, or call the Department of Transportation's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Hearing impaired (TTY) call 800-424-9393.



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Offers Of Settlement In Workers Compensation Cases

The usual course of events in an on-the-job injury case begins with an injury and ends with the court approval of a monetary settlement. In between those two events are medical treatment, recovery and often dissatisfaction.

Workers comp does not pay for loss of enjoyment of life. That means if you enjoyed watching your children play sports and you can't sit in the bleachers for long anymore, you don't get any money for that. If you liked to bowl but you can't, you don't get any money for that.

If you have the loss of ability to earn and the injury is to a hip, neck, shoulder or back, the legal evaluation of your case takes into account your loss of physical abilities and how that affects your ability to go back to your usual occupation. If you used to earn \$20 an hour but now the best job you can do pays \$10 an hour you might have a loss of earnings of 50%. It could very well be that if you only work 20 hours a week, a court could find that you are permanently and totally disabled, even though you could work part-time.

Injured workers often get letters offering a sum of money. These offers are typically based on a physical impairment. These impairments are determined a physician using a book written by the American Medical Association and adopted by the State of Alabama. This book addresses losses suffered by people who undergo certain surgeries. An example is a neck fusion. No one really regains the full range of motion they had before a fusion and this book states percentages that address the impairment.

Don't accept these offers as true or honest. The courts are in no way bound by the physical impairment ratings given by the workers compensation doctor. In a recent case the employer had offered a settlement based on 4% valued at \$1,953.60 but based on other factors, including some further testing which documented the injured employee's difficulties, the judge in that case awarded \$29,304, which is 60%.

Remember that the judge who hears your case will make a decision based upon all the evidence, including its own observations, and must interpret the evidence, to its best judgment. The court is not bound to accept a physician's assigned impairment rating. Judges can't and won't just make up numbers without evidence. A good workers compensation attorney can tell you whether an offer is fair.

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

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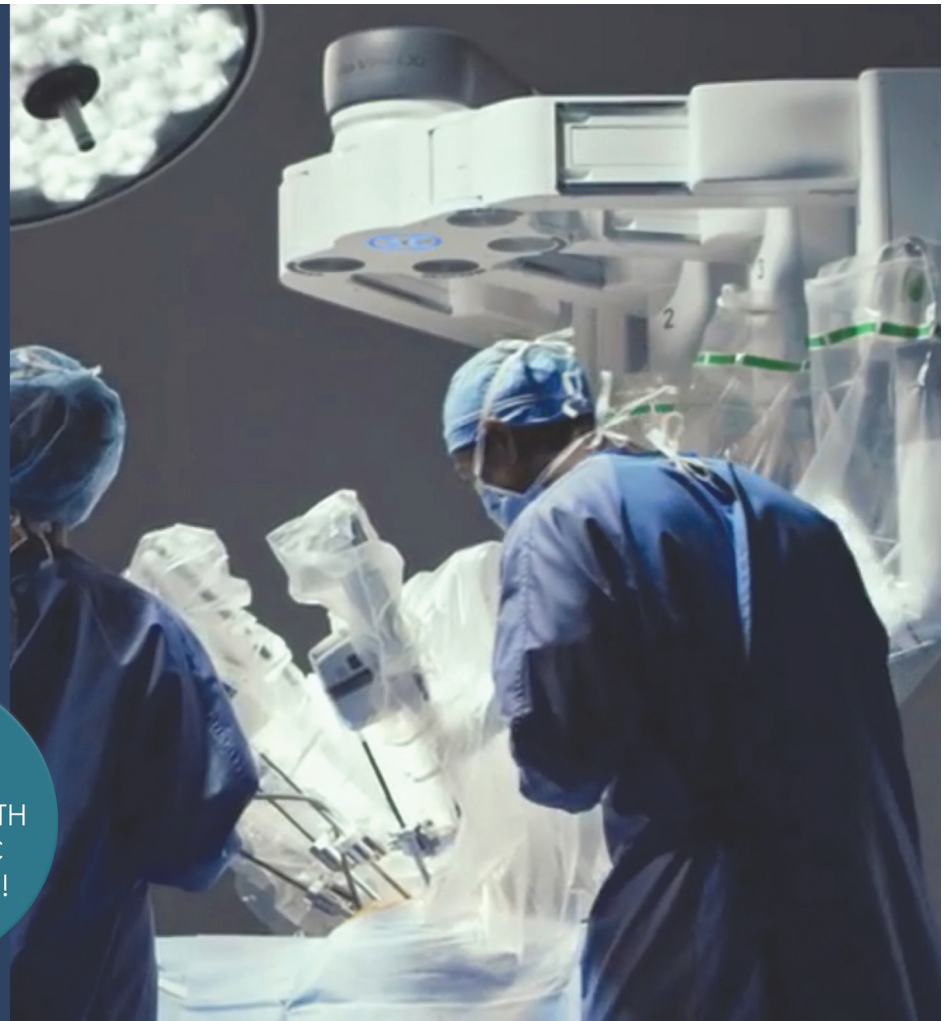
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Bus...

Continued from Page 12

making a direct impact on kids in our own community for the holiday season. When a teacher shares the story of a child in her class who doesn't own a pair of tennis shoes, and we are able to shop specifically for that child, that's when we know that Stuff the Bus matters. With radio as our foundational platform and Wal-Mart as our physical collection place, we hope to reach as many kids as we can," stated Kevin Self, Operations Manager of Singing River Media Group.

More information about the event can be found at theshoalsnow.com.



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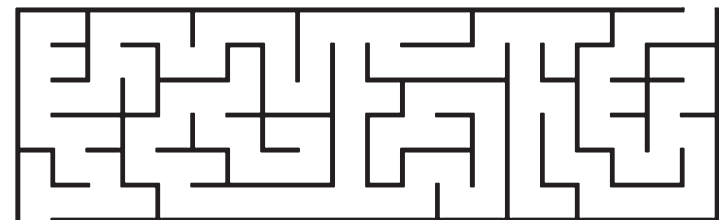
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Kids' Maze



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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. Turn red | ___ L ___ | Hair accessory | ___ R ___ |
| 2. Respond | ___ ___ T | Extend | ___ ___ H |
| 3. Pierre's country | F ___ | Cavort | P ___ |
| 4. Clothes basket | ___ P ___ | Carpenter's tool | ___ M ___ |
| 5. Barnyard baby | ___ H ___ | Use a mouse | ___ L ___ |
| 6. Circular | R ___ | Espied | F ___ |
| 7. Pasta piece | N ___ | Curly dog | P ___ |
| 8. Invigorating | ___ S ___ | The very edge | ___ N ___ |
| 9. Head wrap | ___ F | Frighten | ___ E |
| 10. Splitting image | ___ I ___ | Park warden | ___ A ___ |

Puzzle Whirl

MINI SUDOKU

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

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.

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WORD LADDERS

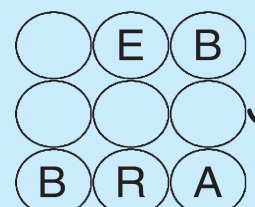
Can you go from ALOUD to FLOOD in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

aloud

flood

Answers on Page 30

WORD SPIRAL

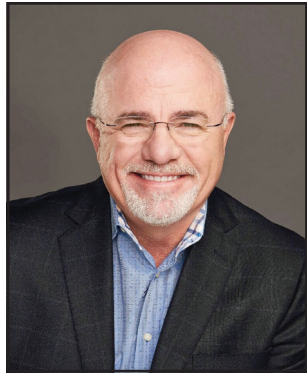


Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



GO INTO DEBT FOR A WEDDING? NOPE!

Dear Dave,
Our daughter's college education is pretty much paid for already through grants and scholarships, and my wife and I make good money. We just started your plan, so when we get to Baby Step 5, saving for college, can we substitute that with saving for a wedding?
Benton

Dear Benton,
I'm glad you're thinking ahead, buddy. And I don't have a problem with your idea. It's always a good plan to save for a wedding, if you have the financial resources to do so.

Did you know the average wedding in America this year, according to Zola.com, ran around \$29,000? Of course, you don't have to pay anything close to that amount to make a wedding a beautiful and memorable occasion. Your household income, debt, savings and other factors will all play a part in how much you can legitimately afford.

Sit down with your wife, crunch some numbers and see what makes sense in your situation. Just remember to pay cash for the wedding. If you have to go into debt to make it happen, you're spending way too much!
—Dave

DON'T PANIC, YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME

Dear Dave,
My husband and I have just \$12,000 to pay off before we're debt-free. We've paid off almost \$70,000 in debt in the last two years, and we both just turned 50. We would like to buy a house

soon, but we know we need an emergency fund. It would take us over a year to build up an emergency fund, so since we're getting older, should we make adjustments to the Baby Steps?
Debbie

Dear Debbie,
You've been making great progress, and you obviously have a good income to be able to pay off debt that quickly. But it shouldn't take you two a year to build up an emergency fund, considering the rate at which you've been paying off debt.

Yes, you need a fully funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses set aside before you start saving a down payment for a home. Maybe in your case, you could lean a little more toward the three-month side with your emergency fund. Then, after you're all moved in, you could revisit the emergency fund and beef it up to six months.

Fifty isn't old, Debbie. Just stay on course and stick with the plan. You two have plenty of time to get your finances in order and find a great home!
—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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Take Note...

of your Community.



Community Notes

Guest Commentary - Mike Gonzalez and Lindsey Burke

Insanity...

Continued from Page 12

oppressor and Palestinian terrorists as the oppressed, so prevalent on college campuses, is pure Marxism.

In the first page of *The Communist Manifesto* of 1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels explain that "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles." They add:

Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild-master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes.

Capitalism and democracy are based on competition, but competition requires compromise and that gives each side something.

In the economic sphere, buyer and seller haggle over a price (or in most cases, millions of buyers and sellers known abstractly as "the market" do) to come up with a "market-clearing price" that allows buyer and seller to walk away with some measure of satisfaction.

In a democracy, one party or side seldom gets all it wants. And if the system is correctly structured, as the founders strived to do with the American system of government, there are checks and balances. The legislature, the executive, and the judiciary check each other's powers (and



the legislature itself is divided into two chambers).

Not so in Marx's "oppressor and oppressed" view. There you end up with a "revolutionary reconstitution," which Marx himself promised would be ruthless. "This cannot be effected except by means of despotic inroads," he averred in the manifesto.

A few months later, Marx wrote, more ominously, "There is only one way in which the murderous death agonies of the old society and the bloody birth throes of the new society can be shortened, simplified and concentrated, and that way is revolutionary terror."

Blood will run—it's a feature, not a bug, of Marxism.

What we are seeing right now is no longer economic Marxism, but cultural Marxism. Engels added a footnote to the Manifesto's first page in 1888 that explained the two classes that were contending.

By bourgeoisie is meant the class of modern capitalists, owners of the means of social production and employers of wage labour. By proletariat, the class of modern wage labourers who, having no means of production of their own, are reduced to selling their labour power in order to live.

The problem was that, as Marxists from the end of World War I in 1918 to the 1960s were able to document, the actual proletariat had very little interest in "revolutionary reconstitution of society at large." In the 1920s in Europe, and in the 1960s here in America, they wanted better working conditions, and maybe a week or two at the beach every year.

But they didn't want to "abolish" the family, the nation state, property, or God, as Marx had called for. In fact, they wanted to become richer and move up a class. It turned out that Marx had never spent much time with actual workers, and didn't understand them. He was the original limousine Marxist.

In the 1960s, the Marxist theorist Herbert Marcuse derided the workers for being such bad revolutionaries.

"They find their soul in their automobile, hi-fi set, split-level home, kitchen equipment," wrote the despairing Marcuse.

But then Marcuse witnessed the riots of the 1960s, and wrote that—in his words—the revolution would come from the "ghetto population." The vanguard of the revolution, he added, would therefore have to come from "the substratum of the outcasts and outsiders, the exploited and the persecuted of other races and other colors."

Since then, the revolutionary locus has been placed not in economic classes, but in cultural identities.

Marx had written in 1859 that revolutions would inevitably come when "the material forces of production in society come into conflict with the existing relations of production." But Antonio Gramsci, one of Marcuse's cultural Marxist precursors,

added in 1930s that, "popular beliefs and similar ideas are themselves material forces."

Eric Mann, the former Weatherman terrorist who recruited Black Lives Matter founder, Patrisse Cullors, at the age of 17 to train her into Marxism, later added: "Given the social formation of the U.S. as a settler state based on virulent white supremacy, the racialization of all aspects of political life operates as a material force in itself."

That's how we get from economic Marxism to the mess we have today on U.S. campuses. "Pedagogy of the Oppressed," for example, the Marxist tract penned by Paulo Freire, has "achieved near-iconic status in America's teacher-training programs," according to Sol Stern.

Many of us have been explaining for years, in books, papers, op-eds, media interviews, and speeches, that what we are seeing is "cultural Marxism." That, too, has been dismissed. Google "cultural Marxism" and the very first entry is a Wikipedia page that informs the reader that "The term 'Cultural Marxism' refers to a far-right antisemitic conspiracy theory."

They'll have a harder time hiding the truth now.

Originally published by Fox News and at *The Daily Signal* 11.20.23

Mike Gonzalez is a senior fellow at The Heritage Foundation, is a widely experienced international correspondent, commentator, and editor who has reported from Asia, Europe, and Latin America. He served in the George W. Bush administration, first at the Securities and Exchange Commission and then at the State Department, and is the author of the book *BLM: The Making of a New Marxist Revolution*.

Lindsey M. Burke is director of The Heritage Foundation's Center for Education Policy and Mark A. Kolokotronis fellow in education.

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SIGNS OF THE PAST

PREHISTORIC NATIVE AMERICANS
(Circa 8,000 B.C. - 1500 A.D.)

This area near the mouth of Cypress Creek was inhabited by Archaic People as early as 8,000 B.C. Their main food consisted of freshwater mollusks from the river. (These mussels were the origin of the name "Muscle Shoals.") The Woodland and Copena Cultures, associated with the nearby large Florence Mound, arrived around 2,000 B.C. and remained almost 3,000 years. About 800 A.D. the Mississippian Civilization established villages here and on adjoining islands. Many of the Indian mounds in the Tennessee Valley were built by them.

(Continued on other side)

MARKER SPONSORED BY THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY AND THE CITY OF FLORENCE

Location: Originally in McFarland Park, Florence
--temporarily removed--

Native Americans have lived in this area over 10,000 years. Most of the mounds and native villages were established in the last thousand years. This marker gives more details.

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

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CAT CLAWING?
This is my method of deterring and training cats to leave my furniture alone.

I buy thick, clear plastic off a bolt at the hardware or fabric store. I tape it (with clear tape) or attach it with upholstery pins to the sides and corners of the piece. It is not horribly noticeable and spoils all the fun for the cats until they finally give up and find an appropriate place to claw like outside on a tree, a scratching post, etc. I no longer have to cover anything, as my cats just ignore the furniture. -Robin

OVEN CLEANING
I've found that I can shorten the oven cleaning cycle. I start it on the automatic cycle and turn it off after 1.5 hours. There are some ashes that I need to sweep out, but all the baked on crud is gone. -Cassie

HOME DRY CLEANING
Here's an easy, cheap way to freshen dry-clean-only clothes. Place them along with a dryer sheet into a garment bag. Put the bag into your clothes dryer for 20 minutes on low. That's it! Your clothes will be freshened and ready for wear! -Kelli

SAVING ELECTRICITY
In the winter, when I can't hang my clothes outside,

I use my dryer. To keep the costs down, I only dry clothes until they're nearly dry. To finish them, I hang them on one of the three shower rods I have over my bath tub. Often they hang without wrinkling, so I avoid ironing, too! -Beth

CLEANING NASTY POTS
With all the holiday cooking, you're bound to burn something. Here's how to clean the pan without a lot of scrubbing. Add one inch of water to the pan and put it on low heat. After 10 or 15 minutes, gently scrape it. If there's still food stuck to the pan, give it another 10 minutes and scrape again. -Sharon

CHRISTMAS GROCERY SHOPPING
Short on money for Christmas baking and cooking? Try this. Make December the time that you use up all the stuff you have in your pantry and freezer. Every meal that you make that way saves money that can be used to buy holiday ingredients. It's also a great way to clean out the pantry and freezer before things go out of date or get freezer burned. -Sandy

BETTER COOKING STOCK
If you want that beautiful golden yellow color you get from store-bought stock or broth, just throw yellow onion skins (cooking onion, sweet onion, or Spanish onion) while you make

See **DOLLAR...** page 27

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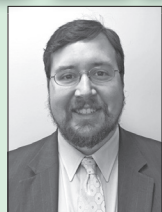
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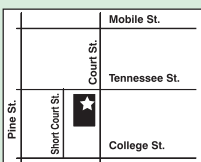


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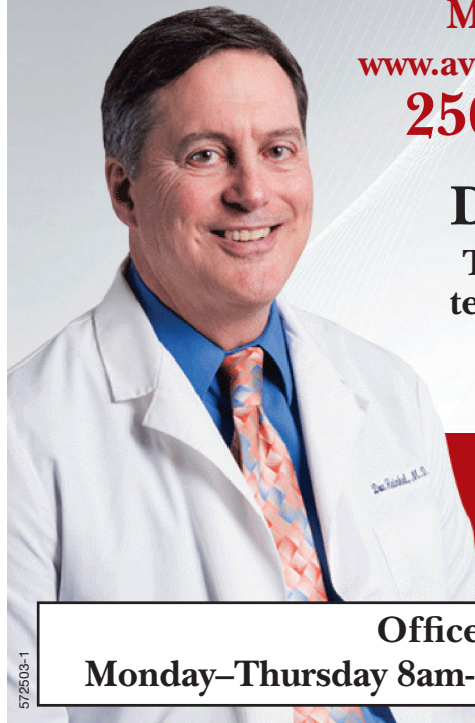


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AUCTION
Sat., Dec. 16 10AM
140 +/- Acres – Pickwick Lake
Investment Opportunity
Pickwick St., Sheffield, AL

SALE SITE: The Village School, 207 Chickamauga St, Sheffield, AL



Real Estate: This 140+/- acre tract of undeveloped land lies between Pickwick Lake and Spring Creek inside the Sheffield city limits. The property fronts 3,152+/- ft along Pickwick Lake and 6,518+/- ft along Spring Creek. The property also fronts 1,101+/- ft on Pickwick St. and adjoins Rivermont Subdivision. Public water, natural gas, electricity and sewer are available. The property will be offered in one tract consisting of 140+/- acres as a final sale.

www.kingrealityandauktion.com

Seller: Associated Developers, Inc.

TERMS: 10% down payment on day of sale. Balance due in 30 days. Seller will furnish survey, deed and owner's title insurance. Seller reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Real Estate will be sold "AS-IS" without warranties of any kind.

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Real Estate

THE DOLLAR Stretcher



Continued from Page 25

your broth, roast your poultry, or simmer your gravy. If I am simmering soup, I put them in a piece of cheesecloth for easy removal. They impart that rich, golden color as well as a bit of extra flavor. - Katie S. in Allentown, PA

PART-TIME HOLIDAY WORK
Each year, I try to find part-time work before Christmas. I use the extra income to help pay down any credit card balance I have. I also find that because I have less time, I spend less money on the holidays. My family doesn't mind since it means they don't have to do a lot of shopping for me. Therefore, I am saving myself money, and I'm helping my family members to save too! -Lauren

ENTERTAINING FOR LESS
We love to go out with friends, but meeting at a restaurant for dinner can be pricey. We now suggest other activities. We go to museums when they have a free admission day, watch school or little league baseball games, and share cheese, crackers, and a bottle of wine in the country. We keep finding more ideas and our friends love it! *Mariah*

POSTER PERFECT
My son likes to decorate his room with posters. We couldn't afford to frame them, and I didn't want to fill his room with thumbtack holes. Then we came up with the idea of using painter's tape. We bought the wider tape that's two inches. Then we framed the poster with the tape, putting half of the tape on the poster and half on the wall. We trimmed the corners to make it look neat. The tape holds the poster in place, but won't leave any marks on the poster or the wall when we take it down. It's a perfect solution! *Taylor*

ONLINE AUCTION

Begins closing at 6:00PM Thursday, Dec. 7th

— 33130 County Road 8, Florence, AL —
House on 1 Ac+/- in the Greenhill Community
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— 15255 County Road 47, Killen, Alabama —
Home & Detached Garge w/ Apartment
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Personal Property: Dining room and bedroom suites, marble top table, piano, misc. furniture, glassware, china, vinyl records, vintage items, memorabilia, pottery, stoneware jugs, misc. tools and more.

Open House: Sun. Nov. 26, 1-3PM
Pick Up: Sat. Dec. 2, 9-2PM
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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.



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WK 14 Saturday December 2

CHECK BOX BESIDE EACH WINNING TEAM

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 5PM DEC. 1

MAIL-IN ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY (vs: games at neutral location)

TIE BREAKER
Write Exact Score Below

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP
 Georgia vs Alabama

Some participants were not determined before press time. Please fill in as needed.

name _____

address _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

day phone _____ evening phone _____

WEEK 12 NOV. 18 WINNER ANTHONY MANLEY OF FLORENCE

Enter online at www.courierjournal.net
 or Mail or deliver your entry to: Courier Journal Gameday Scorecard
 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630 - Fax to: 256-760-9618
 Winners will be listed online Tuesday afternoon and in the FOLLOWING week's Courier Journal.



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Soap Opera Preview

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL Ridge struggled with some complex emotions involving Taylor and Brooke. Steffy confronted Li for all of the pain she caused by hiding the truth that Finn was alive. Taylor and Ridge reflected back to the heartfelt kiss they shared in Monaco. Later, Steffy and Taylor shared a mother-daughter moment, as Taylor confessed that she and Ridge had kissed. The electricity between Steffy and Finn was palpable as they passionately made love. Thomas was hopeful that Douglas would move back in with him. Wait to See: Detective Sanchez gives the Forresters an essential update on Sheila's whereabouts. Steffy urges Ridge to return where he belongs, with Taylor. Deacon assures Hope that Douglas will remain with her.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES Allie urged Johnny

to fight off the Devil. Maggie was faced with a difficult choice regarding Sarah. A desperate Anna took matters into her own hands. Belle had a shocking encounter at Statesville. Anna was arrested. Sarah's condition took a surprising turn. Ava moved in with Jake, and they soon realized they had a lot in common. Belle was reeling over Shawn's admission. Kate insisted Roman fire Clyde. Gabi was livid when she found Ava in Jake's bed. Ciara worried about Clyde working for her uncle. Johnny was horrified to learn what he'd done. Chanel and Nicole became alarmed when they couldn't find Allie. Shawn demanded answers from Jan. Belle opened up to EJ. Chanel was blindsided by Allie. Wait to See: Belle and Shawn's marriage hits the skids. Johnny receives an unexpected

visitor. EJ orders Clyde to leave town.

GENERAL HOSPITAL Ava was livid over what she found at Wyndemere. Britt was caught off guard. Despite Maxie's efforts, Amy made Brook Lynn uncomfortable. Brad interviewed with Terry for a job at the hospital. Selina Wu discussed a proposition with Curtis. Scott gave Ava some legal advice. Folks gathered at Curtis and Portia's new house to celebrate. Victor sent an urgent text to „Äüget it done.„Äü Sonny received an unexpected guest at Volonino's. In an exotic tropical locale, two unexpected people made contact. Harmony approached Carly at her office. Victor tried to convince skeptical Laura that they had a common goal. Anna and Felicia went undercover as they followed a new lead. Wait to See: Scott approaches Sonny. Trina connects with Marshall. Harmony is given no choice but to take a meeting on the Pier.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS Ashland stood his ground. Chelsea bonded with Rey. Elena's plans for Nate hit a detour. Victor disrupted Ashland's escape plan. Adam and

Sally plotted their next move. Jack shared a secret with Phyllis. Ashley shared her concerns about family ties with the Abbott family. Phyllis challenged Diane's agenda. Victor put the brakes on Adam's plan. Chance opened up to Abby. Nick did his best to help Victoria. *Wait to See: Victor makes a promise to Nikki. Lily gives Billy a warning. Victoria plays hardball.*

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Notes...

Continued from page 7

December 2, 2023. Call for more info or to book, Fran 256-760-6642. Trip fees are due now. There are 6 openings left. Departure on November 27 from The Club, 450 Country Club Drive in Florence.

The Club (Florence Senior Center) and Diamond Tours Diamonds in the Rough 2024 trip information. www.GroupTrips.com/TheClub

- Nashville Show Trip, April 15-17, #2089232, Double Occupancy Rate \$582, Single Rate \$672
- Niagara Falls Trip, June 23-29, #2101920, Double Occupancy Rate \$1187, Single Rate \$1421
- Mt. Rushmore and the Badlands, August 17-25, #2092162, Double Occupancy Rate \$1542, Single Rate \$1872
- Mackinac Island Trip, Sept 22-28, 2024, #209362, Double Occupancy Rate \$1086, Single Rate \$1335
- Pigeon Forge and Smokey Mountain Show Trip, November 11-15, 2024, #2076085, Double Occupancy Rate \$918, Single Rate \$1067

Personal Checks or Money Orders made to Diamond Tours. Please no cash or Credit Cards. Call 256-760-6642 come by The Club to pay for your trips. 450 Country Club Drive, Florence fdavis@florenceal.org

THESE TWO TRIPS are scheduled with a different travel company. Call Collette at 800-340-5158 to sign up directly with them. You'll be traveling with us (The Club).

- Alaska Discovery Land and Cruise, May 29-June 9, 2024. 24 spaces available.
- Magical Christmas Market Germany, December 10-17, 2024. 21 spaces available.

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Florence Parks and Recreation/The Club/Florence Senior Center, hosts a variety of activities for adults throughout the week. Chair exercise classes, line dancing, Square dancing, social dancing, BLINGO, \$1 lunch, Rummy, Rummy cubes, Rook, Mexican Train & Chicken Foot Dominoes. 9am-3:30pm. 450 Country Club Drive in Florence. Group Travel is available for the community. Call for specifics. 256-760-6420.

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

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

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

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

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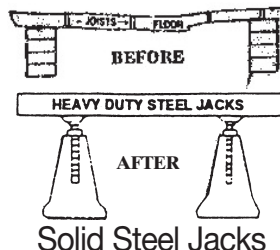
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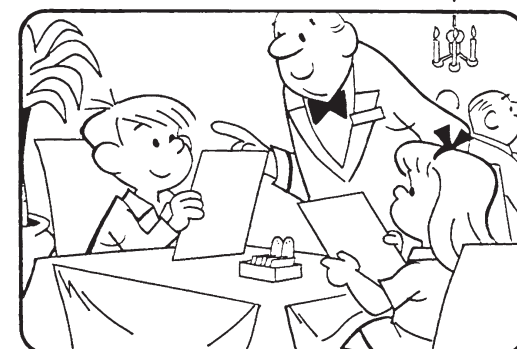
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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Doors are missing. 2. Lamp is missing. 3. Light fixture is different. 4. Elbow is concealed. 5. Sleeve is shorter. 6. Hair is concealed.



Puzzle Whirl Answers

Even Exchange answers

1. Blush, Brush
2. React, Reach
3. France, Prance
4. Hamper, Hammer
5. Chick, Click
6. Round, Found
7. Noodle, Poodle
8. Brisk, Brink
9. Scarf, Scare
10. Ringer, Ranger

Kids' Maze Solution



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WORD LADDER
Answer
ALoud, CLoud, CLouT,
FLouT, FLooR, FLooD

Word Spiral
Answer
BASEBOARD

MINI SUDOKU
Answer

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



Savvy SENIOR

Tips on Caring for an Aging Parent

Dear Savvy Senior,
Where can I turn to for caregiving help? I help take care of my 80-year-old father and work too, and it's wearing me out.
Worn Out Wendy

Dear Wendy,
Taking care of an aging parent over a period of time – especially when juggling work and other family obligations – can be exhausting. But help and resources are available. Here's what you should know.

Identify Your Needs

To help you determine and prioritize the kinds of help you need, a good first step is to make a detailed list of everything you do as your dad's caregiver and the amount of time each task takes. Identify the times when you need help the most and which tasks others might be able to do for you.

Then list the types of care needed, such as simple companionship or doing active chores, like shopping or running errands. Once you determine this, here are some tips and places you can reach out to for help.

Care Helpers

If you have siblings or other loved ones close by, start by asking them if they could come and help with specific tasks. And see if friends, neighbors or faith group members could help too.

You also need to check into local resources that may be available. Many communities offer a range of free or subsidized services that help seniors and caregivers with basic needs such as home delivered meals, transportation, senior companion services and respite services, which offers short-term care so you can take an occasional break. Call your nearby Area Aging Agency (800-677-1116) for referrals to services.

There are also a bevy of online services you can use to help you save time on certain chores. For example, online grocery shopping and home deliveries, and online pharmacy medication refills and deliveries. You can also order meal-kits or pre-made meals online through numerous meal service delivery companies and arrange needed transportation with ride sharing services like Lyft or Uber.

Or, if you can afford it, you may want to consider hiring someone a few hours a week to help with things like cooking, housekeeping or even personal care. Costs can run anywhere from \$12 up to \$25 per hour. *Care.com* or *CareLinx.com* are two good websites to help you find someone, or you can work with a local home care agency.

Financial Aids

If you're handling your dad's financial chores, make things easier by arranging for direct deposit for his income sources, and set up automatic payments for his utilities and other routine bills. You may also want to set up your dad's online banking service, so you can pay bills and monitor his account anytime. Or, if you need help, consider hiring a bill paying service like Silver Bills (*SilverBills.com*), which charges a flat fee of \$150 per month.

BenefitsCheckup.org is another excellent tool to look for financial assistance programs that may help your dad, particularly if he's lower income.

Technology Solutions

To help you keep tabs on your dad when you are away at work or if he lives alone, there are affordable technology devices that can help. For example, there are medical alert systems and smart speakers that help with communication and allow him to call for help if needed. Home video cameras with two-way speakers that allow you to monitor and talk to him when you're away. Electronic pill boxes that can notify you if he has taken his medications. And to help you coordinate his care with other members of his care team there are websites like LotsAHelpingHands.com.

Other Resources

There are also a number of other organizations you can draw on for additional information like the Family Care Alliance (Caregiver.org), which provides a state-by-state listing of caregiving programs and services; the Alzheimer's Association ([//ALZ.org/help-support/caregiving](http://ALZ.org/help-support/caregiving)) that provides information unique to the challenges of dementia caregivers; and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (*Caregiver.va.gov*), which offers caregiver support services to veterans and spouses.

Send your senior questions to:
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or visit SavvySenior.org.
Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



Letters...

Get Their Swing Back

Continued from Page 12

Ohio's voters defied the Republican Party's positions on major issues, enshrining abortion rights in the state's constitution and legalizing recreational use of marijuana.

It's not just Ohio moving in those directions. As the Libertarian Policy Institute's Nicholas Sarwark notes, "election results across the country show a clear demand for broadly libertarian policies and candidates."

Neither of the likely "major party" presidential nominees seem especially well-suited to exploit what looks like a potential "libertarian moment" (as *Reason* magazine's Nick Gillespie might put it). Nor does the Republican field of also-rans.

However, on the Democratic side, there may be room for movement ... if Joe Biden retires from the race and endorses a better candidate.

Three names come to mind: Jared Polis of Colorado, Laura Kelly of Kansas, and Andy Beshear of Kentucky. All three are Democratic governors who've proven they can beat Republicans in red (Kansas and Kentucky) or "purple" (Colorado) states, both for election to office and on the "individual freedom" side of policy issues like abortion and marijuana.

I'm not personally endorsing, nor do I expect to vote for, any of them (or for Biden or Trump). But, if the Democrats want to win America's swing states, those are the hard choices involved in getting competitive. And the clock is ticking.

Thomas L. Knapp
Director, *The William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism*
Gainesville, FL

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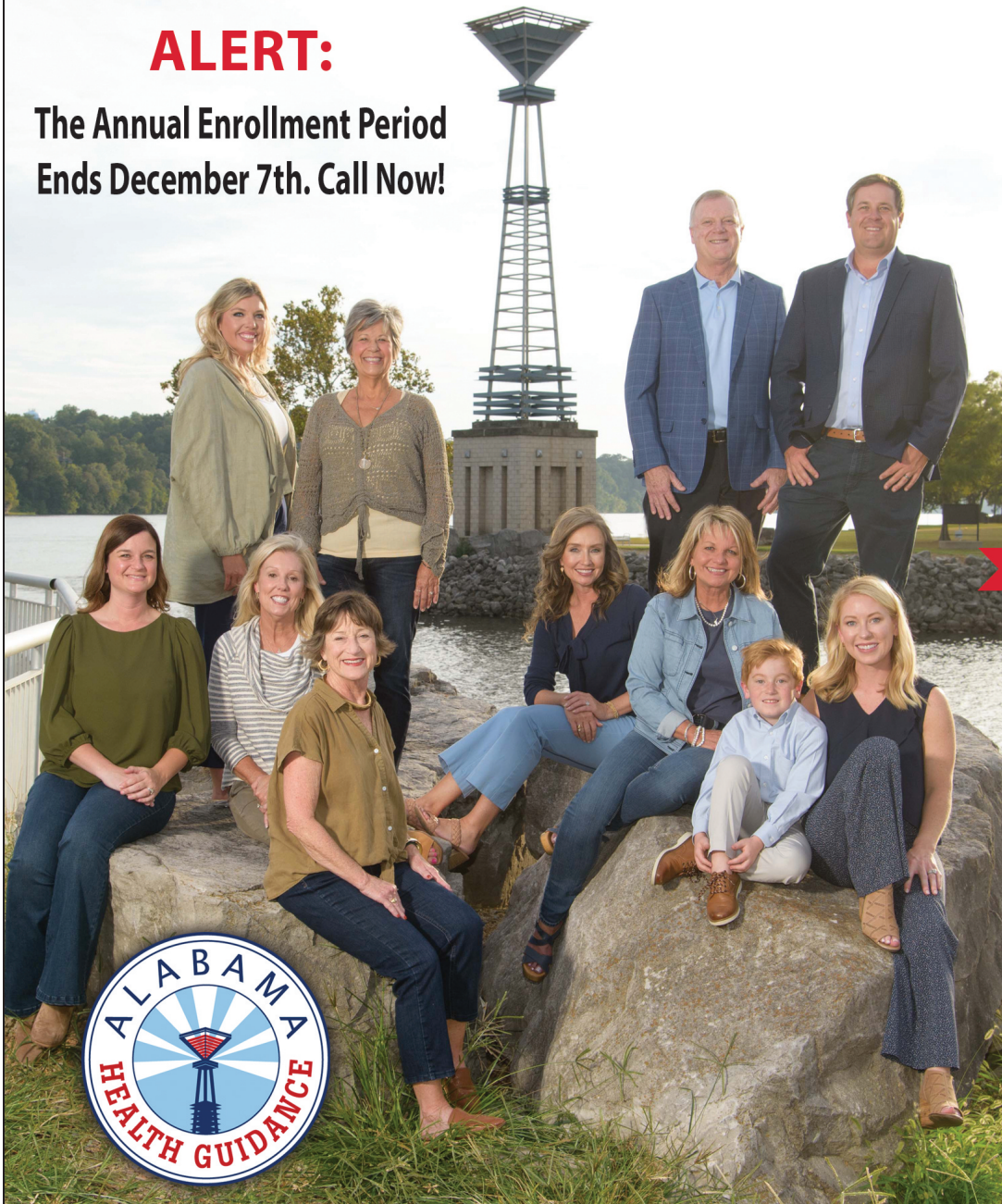
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