

Pretes' Award for a Lifetime

FLORENCE — The chairman of the University of North Alabama's Department of Geoscience, Dr. **Michael Pretes**, has been recognized by his associates throughout the Southeast with their organization's highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southeastern



Pretes

Division of the Association of American Geographers. "This award means that I am recognized as one of the most distinguished geographers in the South,"

Pretes said. "It is great recognition, not only for me, but for the Geoscience Department and for UNA."

The regional association award is for outstanding teaching, scholarship and service to geography.

The association represents approximately 500 members in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

"Dr. Pretes has amassed a distinguished professional career, making significant contributions to geography in the Southeast, across the country, and around the globe," said Dr. **Derek Alderman**, who is a University of Tennessee geography professor and former president of southeastern division. "Very rarely do we see a colleague who has positively impacted so many programs, colleagues and students in so many places."

Pretes is the first Lifetime Achievement Award winner from a smaller teaching-focused university,

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

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Real Escape Story

Singleton's New Book Focuses on His Perspective as Sheriff



Former Lauderdale County Sheriff, Rick Singleton, with his new book, "Manhunt: the search for Vicky and Casey White: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly" which is on sale now.

Dan Busey - TimesDaily

By **Bernie Delinski**
Times Daily Staff Writer
First published 12/27/23

FLORENCE — Sales are already sizzling for the book detailing former Lauderdale County Sheriff Rick Singleton's first-person account of the escape, search for, and capture of Casey White.

Singleton found out last week that, "Manhunt: The Search for Vicky and Casey White, The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," was the number one new paperback release. It was number two on Kindle and

number three in hardback releases. But the retired sheriff is not so much interested in sales from a perspective of fame and fortune. Instead, he considers it a history book.

"I've always been a history

See **MANHUNT...** Page 4

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NORTHWEST SHOALS HAS TWO Mauldin Winners

SHEFFIELD—Bank Independent was proud to recognize two students from Northwest Shoals Community College as recipients of 2023 the Edward Fennel Mauldin Endowed Scholarship. The pair were honored at a reception from Bank Independent and NW-SCC representatives.

Sophomore Abbie Grace Petree is a second-time scholarship recipient. She is a 2022 graduate of

See **MAULDIN...** on Page 9



Courtesy photo

Bank Independent representatives with Mauldin Scholarship winners at NWSCC include L-R: Rick Wardlaw, CEO; Stacy Suggs, COO; Hallie Mauldin, Community Engagement; Macke Mauldin, President; Caige Smith; Abbie Grace Petree; Anne Mauldin Osborne, Interstate Billing Exec; and Dr Jeff Goodwin, NWSCC President.

INSIDE this Issue

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Shorts...

Pretes Award for a Lifetime

Continued from Page 1

according to UNA officials. Previous recipients were from larger schools such as the universities of South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Pretes received his bachelor's degree from the Cal-Berkeley, his master's from Northwestern, and his doctorate from Australian National University, according to his biography on the UNA website.

Meeting to Boost Youth in W. Florence

FLORENCE—The Anglicans invite members of the community to the worship service and informational meeting on Sunday, January 7 at 4pm and afterward. The meeting will follow The Mission's 4pm worship service. Food will be provided.

Shoals Mission is

affiliated with the Anglican church of North America and meets in the sanctuary of Church of the Good Shepherd at 2001 Cloyd Blvd. in Florence, at the corner of Darby Drive every Sunday at 4pm.

The meeting on Sunday afternoon will include representatives of a ministry called Common Ground Shoals, which provides after school tutoring, mentoring, and other activities for youth in the West Florence area. Common Ground Shoals representatives will speak about their goals and answer questions from the community regarding the need, the help being offered, and ways we can all contribute.

"Cyclical and systemic issues plague impoverished neighborhoods across America ... making it an anomaly for youth in these communities to find long-term success," Common Ground states on its website.

Through the efforts of generous donors and community partners wanting change,

Common Ground Shoals provides developmental programs, camps, and activities.

Pastor Lanier Nail of the Shoals Mission said members of the local faith community can help Common Ground through prayer, donations, and volunteering.

"Jesus has a heart for children," Nail said. "Jesus taught that welcoming children in His name is one of the services we can render with the greatest reward. The men and women at Common Ground Shoals are putting their faith into practice by serving children in our community who otherwise may be overlooked. They are a reminder to us of Jesus' love and action on behalf of children, and we want the community to know about the work they are doing."

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Who's To Blame

Job 40:2 "Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct *him*? he that reproveth God, let him answer it." Who is to blame for the mess we get into and the world is in today? You and you alone are responsible for bad decisions you make for you and your family. We have heard; "how come God did this" or "why did God allow that," and use God as an excuse for our own failures and sins. You must reap what you sow! Sadly, you and your family must reap what you've sown! Ungodliness is a fact. When any kind of leader orders paths of sin and unrighteousness, as something that is good, judgment must set in sooner or later. God is not blind, nor will he bless those that pursue, practice or glorify sin. **Isaiah 5:18** "Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope;" **Isaiah 5:20a** "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;" **Isaiah 5:21** "Woe unto *them that are wise* in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" **Isaiah 5:22** "Woe unto *them that are mighty* to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink;" **Isaiah 10:1** "Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness *which* they have prescribed;" **Isaiah 29:15** "Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?"

These are just a few instances where lost men and women have produced the world we live in today. Soon God will respond. Reaping has already started. Hearts are failing and nations are perplexed. Parents have failed generations of kids. What's the answer? Turning back to God or it's deeper into the jungle. **Amos 4:12c** "prepare to meet thy God," **Romans 14:12** "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." My friend, you are to blame for where you and family wind up in eternity! **Acts 4:12** "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven (JESUS CHRIST) given among men, whereby we must be saved." NO OTHER OPTION!

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2005 Ford	500	1FAFP24175G200950	Gold
1986 Chevrolet	C6500	1GBK7D1B5GV116526	White
2005 Jeep	Grand Cherokee	1/4HR58265C595769	White
2007 Volvo	VNL	4V4NC9TJ07N442803	White
2005 Cadillac	SRX	1GYEE637850226887	White
2016 Chevrolet	Malibu	1G1ZESST1GF207011	White
2007 Honda	Civic	JHMFA362575016578	Gray
2015 Ford	Taurus	1FAHP2F8XFG104749	Gray
2010 Ford	Fusion	3FAHPOHA1AR328367	Black
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2013 Buick	Verano	1G4PP55K9D4217580	Red
2006 Ford	E250	1FTNS24LX6DB10703	White
2006 Nissan	Maxima	1N4BA41E56C863218	Beige
2004 Chevrolet	Trailblazer	1GNDS135942147787	Silver
2009 Nissan	Altima	1N4AL2AP7AN442304	White
2007 Kia	Spectra	KNAFE121775460290	Silver
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2004 Nissan	Murano	UN8AZ08T14W216701	Gray
2009 Pontiac	G6	1G2ZH57NX94152196	White
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Yamaha	4-wheeler	L9NACMK38M1202067	BLK/WH
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Manhunt...

Continued from Page 1

buff, and I just wanted to preserve the history of it for future generations," Singleton said. "They can look back and say, 'Well, the guy who was sheriff said this is what happened.'"

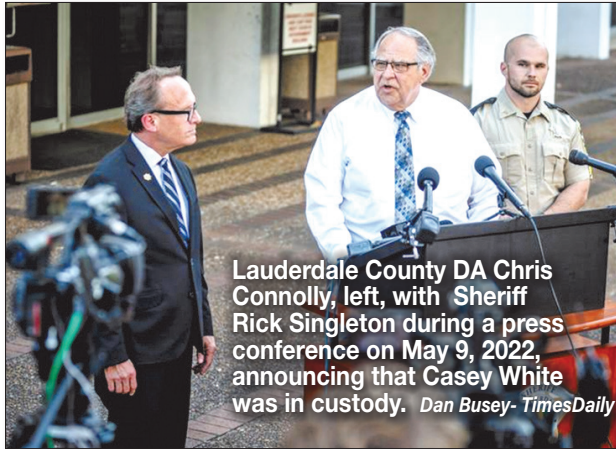
White escaped from the Lauderdale County Detention Facility on April 29, 2022, when he and former assistant director of corrections Vicky White walked out of the jail and disappeared for 11 days together only to be found in Evansville, Indiana.

The 11-day manhunt drew national and international attention and ended when Vicky White shot and killed herself following a crash after a short chase with law enforcement in Evansville.

In June, Casey White, who had been charged with felony murder and first-degree escape in Vicky White's death, pleaded guilty to the escape charge and received a life sentence.

His felony murder charge stemmed from an Alabama statute stating someone can be charged if their actions result in someone's death.

Casey White's sentence runs concurrently with a 75-year sentence he is already serving for attempted murder in Limestone County.



Lauderdale County DA Chris Connolly, left, with Sheriff Rick Singleton during a press conference on May 9, 2022, announcing that Casey White was in custody. Dan Busey- TimesDaily

When Singleton sat down to write the book, he did so with the goal of making sure the story was told accurately.

In talking about why that is important, Singleton mentioned the tale of the infamous "Mountain" Tom Clark, who as lynched in the 1800s and is said to be buried under Tennessee Street. That story remains in dispute and there are not many details about how the incident occurred.

This book is a way to provide historical accuracy on Casey White's escape and the 11-day search that ensued.

"I know a lot of people say they just want to make it go away," Singleton said.

He said the reality is it will always be discussed.

"I wish it had never happened," Singleton said. "It was a very difficult 11 days. I really hate the way it turned out for Vicky. That was the

most challenging 11 days of my career. I'm sharing my experience and my opinions on the case."

He said Vicky White was loved and respected by those who knew and worked with her. Singleton believes Casey White manipulated her into aiding in his escape.

"She was used," Singleton said. "She was an outstanding employee. Her record was unblemished. I want people to know Vicky for the Vicky she was. She was as much of a victim as anything. She was manipulated. She never would have done anything like this if he hadn't gotten in her head."

Singleton said several days after White was captured, he found out White had told investigators that Vicky White had wanted to reach out to Singleton.

Singleton, who also had been the police chief in Florence before becoming

sheriff, had a reputation for being open about all cases, even if they did not provide a good image of his department.

He followed through with that throughout including this case, and, as part of the book's title states, he made sure to share "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" of the incident.

The 137-page book includes numerous images, including many from TimesDaily photographer Dan Busey. It is selling well even ahead of its national release.

Singleton hopes to have a local book signing as part of it.

The book is currently available through Amazon at cost of \$16.95 for paperback, \$28.95 for hardback and \$5.95 for Kindle.

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

Muscle Shoals Sound Studio 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, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30. All tours are guided tours and are \$20/person. There are discounts for military, seniors, and for pre-arranged group tours of 20 or more.
For more information, call 256-978-5151 or visit www.muscleshoalssoundstudio.org

Infants/Adults Clothes, and Shoes giveaway - Our winter clothes and coats are out. Thursday, January 4 from 8-10am at the Care Center, First Baptist Church, Killen

Ice Skating - Ice skating is at the Public Ice-Skating Rink, 2010 Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals. Schedule: 3-8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; noon-8p.m. Saturday and Sunday through Jan. 14. Admission: \$12 and includes skate rental.

Get Out of Town! Sundays in January at 2pm. Learn about all sorts of worldly destinations from a new presenter each week! At the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library
January 7 Austria - with Yvonne Foster

January 14 Paris - with Robert Rausch & UNA Art Department Students
January 21 Japan - with Dr. Rozalyn Love
January 28 Key West, FL - with Glen Evans
Sheronda@FLPL.org, 256-764-6564, ext 128 or FLPL.org/Friends 256-764-6464, ext 119
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Readers Choice Book Club - Tuesday, January 9 at 6pm. At the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. Independently read your own book, and then we'll discuss what we're reading and give recommendations!Ragen@FLPL.org 256-764-6564, ext 111.

See NOTES... page 17

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Shoals Elks Lodge's, "Elks Care and Elks Care" motto was demonstrated last week with the delivery of 33 boxes of food items for community residents—despite the frigid temperatures. Many thanks to Muscle Shoals Foodland #102 for their tremendous assistance in making this project run smoothly.

Serving community needs is of prime importance to Shoals Lodge members with the Lodge contributing to a host of community groups this year, including Toys for Tots, Big Brothers Big Sisters, United Cerebral Palsy, the Caring Place, One Place of the Shoals, American Legion, Keller Landing Nursing Home, and Safeplace. Lodge members assisting with the Christmas Food Basket project are pictured L-R: James Luncford, Dan Barger, Johnny Howard, Barbara Danley, James Bragwell, and Gary Helmick. *Courtesy photo*

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Dec. 27 winner is David Herston of Florence
who correctly guessed "Highland Baptist Church, 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.

Courier Journal **Mystery Photo**
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Guest Commentary

Courier Journal

in the Shoals

THIS WEEK

January 3, 2024

Defunding DEI:

Wisconsin Lawmaker's Tactics Show Way to Kill Radical University Programs

Napoleon said that to master the art of war you must "read over and over again" the campaigns of history's most successful generals.

The same advice applies if you want to master the art of legislating. You must study the strategies of the most successful legislators.

To that end, any lawmaker who wants to thwart diversity, equity, and inclusion programs needs to study the skillful maneuvers of Robin Vos, the speaker of the Wisconsin State Assembly. As National Review reports, in a divided government where Republicans control the Legislature and a Democrat holds the governor's mansion, Vos has succeeded in destroying DEI programs throughout the University of Wisconsin system which includes 13 campuses. Here's how he did it.



GianCarlo Canaparo

See DEI... on Page 14

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

Quilt Guild Exhibition

FLORENCE-Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is pleased to present the Shoals Piecemakers Quilt Guild Exhibition January 5 - February 29. The Piecemakers Challenge theme for this year is, "Paper Piece Challenge." In conjunction with this exhibit, a display from guild members

See QUILTS... on Page 13



Full Houses

The Essence of Her Rural Surroundings

FLORENCE-The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is pleased to present on display, This House Was Full of People: The Art of Mary Wallace Kirk from January 7 - February 29. An opening reception will take place at 2pm on Sunday, January 7.

Mary Wallace Kirk (1889-1978) was a poet, author,

See HOUSES... on Page 23

Happening THIS WEEK

INFANTS/ADULTS CLOTHES, AND SHOES giveaway - Our winter clothes and coats are out. Thursday, January 4 from 8-10am at the Care Center, First Baptist Church, Killen

THE FLORENCE BEAUTIFICATION BOARD presents The Wildflower Project! Through this project, you can contribute to our community's sustainable growth. There are several tiers of involvement, Tier 1 - \$100; Tier 2 - \$200; Tier 3 - \$1,000 Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to the Beautification Board City of Florence, PO Box 98, Florence, AL 35631.

THE FLORENCE LAUDERDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY will host Chess Knights! Thursday, January 4, at 5:30pm. Team up with a new opponent or play against your friend! All ages and skill levels are welcome. BYOCB: Bring Your Own Chess Board or use one of the library's. For more information, email Katie@FLPL.org or call 256-764-6564 ext 136.

BASKETBALL MEN SAT. JAN. 6 • 7:15 PM vs Central Arkansas in Flowers Hall, Florence THUR. JAN. 11 • 7:45 PM vs Bellarmine in Flowers Hall, Florence NORTH ALABAMA WLYX 98.3 FM & 103.5 FM Home of North Alabama Athletics BASKETBALL WOMEN SAT. JAN. 6 • 5 PM vs Central Arkansas in Flowers Hall, Florence THUR. JAN. 11 • 5:30 PM vs Austin Peay in Flowers Hall, Florence Visit www.roarlions.com for full team schedules and ticket information

YOUR Letters

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

Trump Took an Oath

To the Editor: Well, once again Tom Magazzu, in his Commentary of December 27, 2023 "Saving Our Democracy," has mis-represented the facts of the constitution. In his commentary, Mr. Magazzu left out a few key points concerning the 14th Amendment and the decision by the Colorado State Supreme Court to bar Donald Trump from appearing on the Republican primary ticket, the person that ordered the insurrection that took place on January 6, 2021, in attempt to "cling to power" after he LOST the 2020 election to Joe Biden. For Mr. Magazzu's uninformed

Trump supporting readers here is the full context of the 14th Amendment; Article III, I have included the full text for those readers that have never read the US Constitution or who don't understand what that document stands for: Section 3 No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or

as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

To break the above down so the Trumpers can understand it and understand the Colorado decision: Trump took an oath when he was sworn into office on January 20,

See LETTERS... on Page 20

...Now Trump says he never took such an oath... Sorry, but you did, Don.



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Mauldin...

Continued from Page 1

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Vina High School and is studying to become an x-ray technician. Freshman Caige Smith is a first-time recipient and a 2023 graduate of

Belgreen High School. He is currently enrolled in the FAME Program and NWSCC.

Bank Independent President, Macke Mauldin, congratulated the students on their achievements. He explained that his father, the late Edward F. Mauldin, never graduated from college, but it did not limit him from success. Mauldin added that his father believed that any exposure to college was better than no exposure at all.

"Bank Independent's mission is to make a positive difference in people's lives, and you have the support of all of our 700 team members," said Mauldin. "With this scholarship comes responsibility. You've had a lot of people help get you where you are today. So, when you have the chance to help others, remember what has been done for you, and pay it forward."

"The Edward Fennel Mauldin Scholarship is incredibly important to us and our students," NWSCC President Dr. Jeff Goodwin said. "I love that it's for first-generation students. That is important to me being a first-generation college student myself. We can't thank the Mauldin family and Bank Independent enough for providing this scholarship opportunity for our students."

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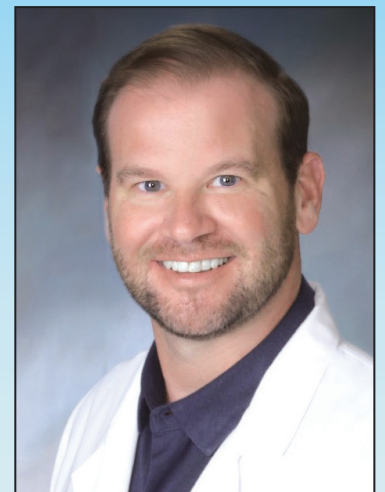
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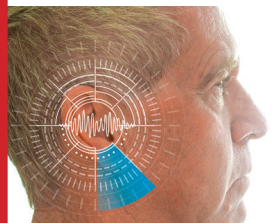


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ON YOUR DEBT

A Suggested New Year's Resolution



B. Grant McNutt
Managing Attorney

Do you make resolutions about this time each year? If so, I have a suggestion for you or, if not, why not take a moment to consider the upcoming year. If 2023 was a financially tough year for you, you're not alone. Last year, our attorney's helped hundreds of families and individuals reorganize their debts into affordable monthly payments with the overall goal of ultimately being debt free. In some of those cases, we were able to permanently and legally eliminate debts altogether. If 2024 is not looking much better, here's my suggestion. Resolve to get your debts and finances under control as we begin this new year.

Or, maybe you are just struggling paycheck to paycheck with overwhelming debts and the situation just doesn't seem to get better no matter what you do. If you're facing any of these situations, we can help you. Debt elimination under Chapter 7 or debt consolidation under Chapter 13 is designed to effectively deal with ALL of your debts, not just a few. And debt relief equals stress relief, right?

So, what's the "catch"? There is none. The law provides debt relief for honest persons who meet the requirements set out under the law. How can you get started? That's simple. Call our office for a free, no obligation consultation. You will meet privately and confidentially with one of our experienced debt relief attorneys. During that free consultation, you and the attorney will discuss your situation and all available options. Then, you can make an intelligent decision about what to do next. If you do decide to go forward, in most instances, we can have you protected from debt collectors and creditors within just a few days.

Imagine, for a moment, how implementing that resolution could make life better for you and your family. Are you getting collection phone calls? These can be stopped immediately. Threatened with a home foreclosure? A debt consolidation plan will stop the foreclosure attempt and keep you in your home in almost all instances. Is the repossession man chasing you around ready to grab your car as soon as you turn your head? No problem, because a debt consolidation plan will stop the repossession man in his tracks while you keep your car. Overwhelming student loan debt that you've been ignoring lately? Once again, a debt consolidation plan will enable you to effectively address this very serious problem.

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So, how does my suggested resolution sound? Please give us a call and we can help you get your new resolution in effect right now. We can alleviate your stress! We want to help! Oh, and Happy New Year!

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Quilts...

Continued from Page 8

private quilt collections can also be enjoyed.

The mission of the Shoals Piecemakers Quilt Guild is to stimulate interest in quilting. The guild provides educational programs at all levels of quilting. They strive to provide a source of encouragement and friendship to all those interested in quilts and the art of quilt-making. All interested individuals, from beginners to professional, are welcome at the meetings of the Shoals Piecemakers. The guild meets every second Monday evening at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, located at 1900 Darby Drive in Florence.

Take a break from the chilly weather and visit the warmth of the art center's latest quilt exhibits!

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Guest Commentary – GianCarlo Canaparo

DEI...

Continued from Page 8

First, he surveyed the battlefield. Behind him and the Republican-controlled Legislature was a supportive electorate that wanted him to abolish DEI on college campuses. In front of him were university administrators and a governor who were deeply entrenched in their support for DEI programs.

A frontal assault—a bill simply abolishing or defunding DEI programs—would go nowhere unless Vos could shift them out of their entrenchments.

Like a smart general, Vos knew that to do that he'd have to threaten something even more valuable to them than their DEI programs. But campus zealots seem to love nothing more than to put students into identity boxes and then segregate and discriminate on that basis. They want to do these things with an almost religious zeal.

Yet, Vos figured out that they love something even more; namely, money.

He knew that campus zealots would never willingly destroy their own DEI apparatus. However, he also knew that they would never say no to giving themselves a pay raise. So, he pitted those two interests against each other.

He passed a budget that included pay raises for university employees and funding for new buildings. The budget also eliminated all DEI positions and cut \$32 million from the university system's budget—the amount that the system spent on DEI

programs.

The governor, Tony Evers, howled about the bill, but Vos had outflanked him. Evers couldn't sacrifice raises for everyone in the system to save DEI programs, even as much as he cherished them. So, Evers surrendered and signed the bill.

He did, however, line-item veto the part of the bill that eliminated the DEI positions. That meant that the university system could redeploy \$32 million from other programs to keep its beloved DEI staffers paid.

But Vos anticipated that move.

Before the pay raises could take effect, a committee in the Legislature had to approve them. Vos told the University of Wisconsin that the pay raises would be approved once the system voluntarily abandoned its DEI programs.

As he had done to Evers, Vos had outflanked University of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman. Despite Rothman's support for DEI, he knew that his position was untenable. So, he, too, surrendered and agreed to cut the DEI programs.

Specifically, he agreed that the university system would freeze all DEI hiring, move all DEI staffers to other positions, stop using diversity statements in student applications, and stop discriminating based on race, sexuality, and other identity characteristics in faculty hiring.

Vos got even more. Rothman agreed that the Madison campus would create a professorship for the study of conservative thought and that all campuses would offer a course on free speech for undergraduates. Finally, the university system would elevate academic merit by automatically giving admission to all

Wisconsin students who graduated in the top 5% of their high school classes, regardless of his or her race.

Despite Rothman's agreement, the deal still had to make it through the liberal-controlled university board of regents, which rejected it. The regents thought that Vos' attack was just a feint, and that he wasn't serious about blocking the pay raises and building funds.

But Vos' attack was serious.

"We are not changing one thing in this deal," Vos said, before inviting the regents to walk away from it. They surrendered four days later and approved the whole deal.

Their love of money trumped their commitment to DEI. Vos saw this, and like an expert general, exploited it to secure an astonishing victory. It was a victory all the more astonishing, given that Vos' Republican Party does not have complete control of the state government.

That was the art of legislating at its finest. Opponents of DEI in other statehouses should take note and—like Napoleon did of history's greatest commanders—study and emulate it.

GianCarlo Canaparo is a senior legal fellow in the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

This piece was originally published 12/19/23 at *The Daily Signal*.

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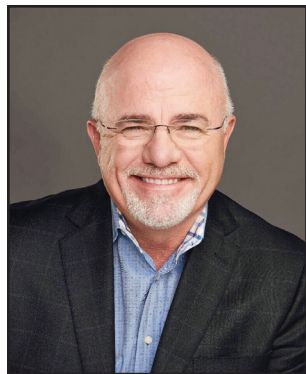
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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



FOR STARTERS, HAVE A PLAN

Dear Dave,
My mom and dad always told me to live within my means. As an adult, I've made some mistakes with money, including falling right back into debt after paying off everything. I'm tired of this rollercoaster, and I want to get control of my finances for good. Can you give me some advice on where to start?

Melissa

Dear Melissa,
It's frustrating, isn't it? But making mistakes with money means just one thing. It means you're human. We've all done it. Think about this, though. We're approaching a traditional time of the year for changes. On top of that, you're smart enough to have realized what you've done in the past hasn't worked.

Believe it or not, I was once in the exact same spot you are now. When it happened to me, there

were three pieces to the puzzle that helped me break the cycle. One was fear. Specifically, I was scared to death that I wouldn't be able to take care of my family, and that I'd retire broke. Now, don't misunderstand me. No one should live their lives in fear. But a healthy, reasonable level of fear can provide needed motivation.

Another was disgust. I realized what I was doing was stupid. I was tired of living that way, and I made a conscious, purposeful decision that things were going to be different.

The third piece, and maybe the most important because it's connected to our spiritual walk, was contentment. We live in a society that's constantly having the idea that we'll be happier, or more successful, or more admired, if we'll only buy *this* or *that* product. We're constantly marketed to, and when we have this stuff in our faces day after day, we can become unsatisfied with just about every aspect of our lives. Don't let it drag you down. It's all just an illusion.

One of the things I did to combat this, was to start living on a strict, written, monthly budget. Also, I stopped going places where I was tempted to spend money. You shouldn't give a drunk a drink, right? So, don't put yourself in a bad situation when it comes to your behavior with money. If you go wandering through the mall without a specific plan, you'll lose every single time.

When you go to the store make a list of only the things you need. On top of that, take only enough cash with you to buy what you need. If you can walk in and back out without buying a bunch of stuff that wasn't on your list, it's a win. Every time you do this, it's another win and another step away from

your old habits and in the right direction.

You can do this, Melissa. God bless you.

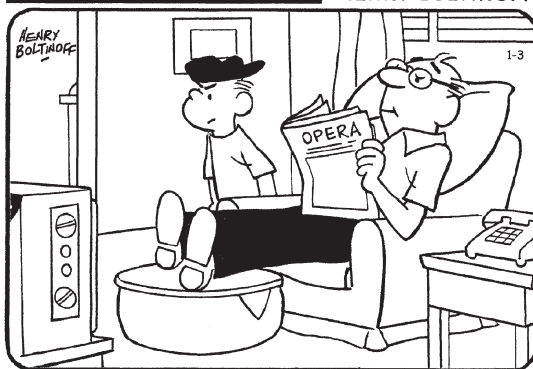
—Dave

** Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show.*

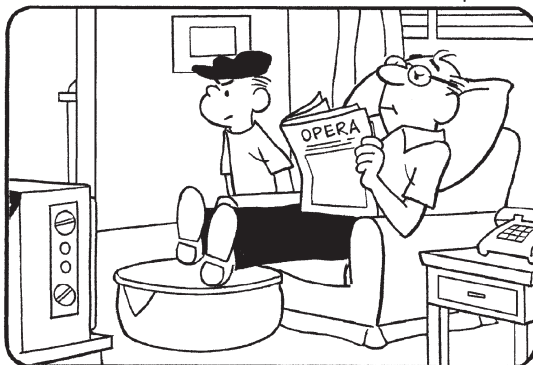
He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

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Claims against city governments are different than claims against a person or a private business. Governments in general have a different set of laws that apply to how and when they are liable for damages they cause. Kings created a system of settling disputes but when they did so, they limited claims against the kings. This idea is known in modern legal parlance as sovereign immunity.

In Alabama, personal injury claims have to be filed within two years from the date of the incident causing the injury. Certainly, there are exceptions for minors and other causes of action like fraud that may not be discovered on the date that the incident actually occurred. Nonetheless, for personal injury claims against a city, those claims must be presented within six months.

Not only is the time period reduced drastically, but the manner in which the claim is filed can be complicated. Typically, a claim has to be filed in affidavit form – meaning under oath before a notary. That written claim has to be filed with the city clerk.

A recent case out of Birmingham, Alabama went sideways for a person who claimed to be injured when they used the form provided by the City of Birmingham and mailed it to the address on the form. The Birmingham City Attorney acknowledged receipt of the claim.

The circuit court later dismissed the case because the city argued that it wasn't properly addressed to serve the mayor or the city clerk as required by the Code of Alabama.

The Court of Civil Appeals reversed the Circuit Court because it said that mailing the claim form provided by the city to the address provided by the city would prevent the city from later arguing that it wasn't properly filed. The city attorney acknowledged receipt within the time allowed by law. The court held that a person was entitled to rely upon the forms and addresses supplied by the city.

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

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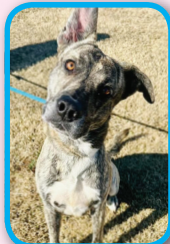
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Courier Journal
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Meet **INDY**. He is about 2-3 years old, and is very vocal and would make a great watch dog. He is super friendly and very observant! He is dog friendly and loves all people! Indy walks great on a leash and LOVES squeaky toys! How can anyone turn down that cute head tilt?! **ALL ADULT DOGS ARE CURRENTLY \$25!** This fee includes \$70 of the mandatory spay/neuter, \$15 rabies voucher, current vaccines, wormer and NexGard! For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073**.



Meet **MAMA BEAR AND BABY BEAR**. These 2 have always been together! I bet you guessed it... these 2 are mom and son! Baby Bear is a big mama's boy! He did not do good when separated from mom, for this reason, these babies are a bonded pair!! They are both super friendly! They were with another dog when they came in! We aren't sure about cats but they are people friendly! Mama Bear is already spayed! If you would like to meet this mother/son pair, please contact the Colbert County Animal Shelter! **THEIR ADOPTION FEE IS \$25 EACH.** This fee includes a voucher for \$ 70 off of Baby Bear's neuter, 2 \$15 rabies vouchers, current vaccines, wormer and NexGard! For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073**.

WILLOW AND GRACE came from a very bad situation where they weren't shown love. These precious girls were kept out on a chain all day every day with no food, water or shelter. It's past time for them to find a home. They have been with us for 1 year and always get overlooked! The reason they are still here is because they are shy and haven't had a lot of human interaction. Willow is more outgoing and Grace is extremely shy and stays in the back corner shaking but when you take them outside they both light up! All they have ever known was each other but we do feel they could be separated. Willow would do fine Grace just needs someone to show her a little extra love. They are both females Around 3 years old and scheduled to be spayed on Jan 22. Willow and Grace have both been tested with cats and have done great! Fostering is free. For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073**. **ADOPTION FEE CURRENTLY \$25 EACH.**



ALASKA is around 2 years old and 45 lbs. She is great with other dogs, cats unknown, not a friend to chickens or bunnies. She loves kids and does a little happy dance when you call her happy feet. She loves going to the groomers and is an angelic client. She is very smart and can find her way out of a fence. Her personality is one of a kind and she'll be the best dog ever for the right person! **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 girl.

GLIMMER is a beautiful girl who does her best to keep a clean kennel, loves food, and is wiggly when shown attention. We think she's around 3 and she's 50 lbs and she needs a good home with you. **WE'RE STILL DOING \$25 ADOPTIONS** that include spay/neuter, vaccines, microchip and heartworm test. Please call or come by **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to meet this amazing girl.



Notes...

Continued from page 5

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>

Pastor Nick & Carlinda Ray and the congregation of the Sunnyside Church of God in Tusculumbia invite you to help celebrate its centennial on Sunday, January 14. Featured guests include Purpose and former Church of God General Overseer & Alabama Administrative Bishop and current 1st Assistant General Overseer, Dr. Raymond F. Culpepper. The special service time will begin at 10:30am. Everyone is welcome. Sunnyside is located at 10340 Frankfort Road.

See NOTES... page 22

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AH, 2023. THE YEAR WE FINALLY COLONIZED MARS (IN OUR DREAMS), but still couldn't figure out how to fold a fitted sheet with a robot. A year where foldable phones proved about as durable as a meringue in a mosh pit, and self-driving cars still navigated like toddlers lost in a grocery store. Brace yourselves, folks, because it's time for the tech year in review, served with a heaping helping of snark.



Jim Fisher

Remember the "revolutionary" smart toilet that analyzed your...well, let's just say it analyzed things no

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

by "The Computer Skeptic"

one needs analyzed? Yeah, that. Or the AI fridge that judged your midnight ice cream binges? I'm pretty sure Alexa developed Stockholm Syndrome after all the yelling about burnt toast. And who could forget the self-cleaning cat litter box that, ironically, ended up needing more cleaning than the cat itself? Let's be honest, tech companies, sometimes simplicity is the ultimate.

2023 was the year AI "chatbots" exploded on the scene. The AI robots finally

cracked the code on small talk, but still couldn't figure out how to fold a fitted sheet. We witnessed AI assistants evolve from ordering takeout to booking therapy appointments (because, let's face it, interacting with other humans is rough). Self-driving cars learned to navigate rush hour (by simply avoiding it entirely and taking scenic detours through cornfields).

In the world of art, AI went full-on Van Gogh, churning out masterpieces so abstract they made even art critics

say, "Uh, sure, honey." On the flip side, AI-powered poetry was so bad it made Hallmark cards look like Shakespearean sonnets.

As for the future, who knows what 2024 holds? Maybe AI will finally master the art of laundry (fingers crossed!). Or perhaps AI will decide we humans are too gullible to be trusted with electing a president and do it for us. One thing's for sure, though: the AI revolution is coming, and it's wearing (kinda) comfy pants. So buckle up, humans, it's gonna be a wild ride!

So, as we bid farewell to 2023, a year that was equal parts brilliant and bonkers, let's raise a glass (or a self-heating mug) to the innovators, the dreamers, and the occasional rogue AI

writing erotic fan fiction. Here's to 2024, a year where we hopefully solve world hunger with edible drones and finally figure out how to fold that darn fitted sheet! And remember, folks, in the ever-evolving world of tech, the only constant is our ability to laugh at ourselves (and occasionally our malfunctioning gadgets). Now, if you'll excuse me, I have a date with a self-driving toaster. Wish me luck!

For questions or comments, Contact the Computer Skeptic, Jim Fisher at Jim@ExcelAL.com



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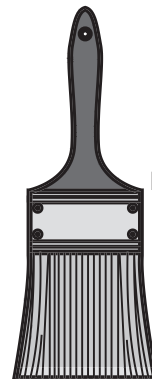
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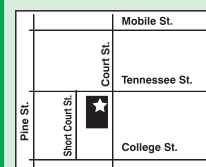
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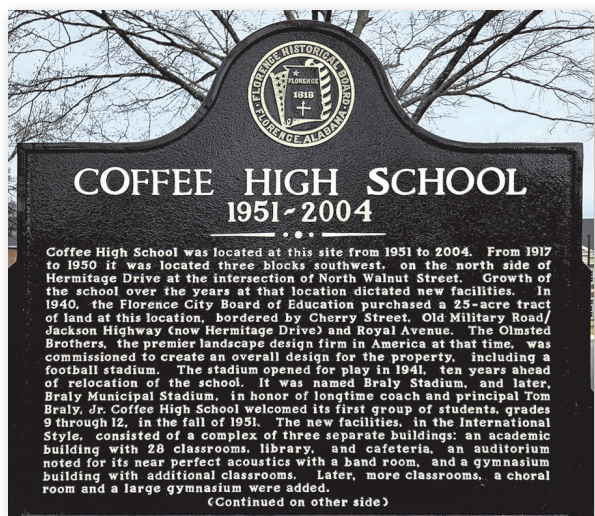
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Two weeks ago this new marker was installed to commemorate the 53 year existence of Coffee High School at this site. The previous 33 years it was where Hermitage Drive meets N. Walnut St. but growth dictated new facilities at this site. Braly Stadium actually opened in 1941, 10 years before this "new Coffee" had its first class.

~ Courtesy David Curott ~ author of Historical Markers & other "Signs of the Past"

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Letters...

Trump Took an Oath

Continued from Page 8

2017. "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Now Trump says he never took such an oath... Sorry, but you did, Don. The Court in Colorado ruled that because Don Trump took that oath and then, on January 6, 2021 tried to overturn, by force, lies and summoning anarchists to storm the US Capital and try to stop the lawful and ritual certification of the results of the 2020 election by the Vice President of the United States, The court determined that Don Trump engaged in Insurrection and therefore, by Section 3 of the 14th Amendment is not eligible to hold office again. Period. And that includes Don Trump.

JL Smith
Florence

Editor's Note: I appreciate Mr. Smith's comments. However, I stand by the original piece. 'Don's' encouragement to protest peacefully, didn't 'force' anyone. And according to the full context of Section 3 which Mr. Smith generously provided, Congress may decide to disqualify a candidate by two-thirds vote in each house. Congress, not a partisan court in Colorado.



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97 BUICK LESABRE	1G4HP52K5VH588055	AL 4LA3M3W	SILVER	CO RD 8
02 BUICK LESABRE	1G4HP54K42U260903	AL 4517BM9	SILVER	SKATING RINK
83 CHEVROLET CAPRICE	2GIAN69HID1263960	N/A	BEIGE	SCHNEIDER'S
88 CHEVROLET S-10	1GCCS14Z0J8185482	AL 20AIWDB	WHITE	CO RD 50
97 CHEVROLET CAVALIER	1G1JC5240V7281510	N/A	WHITE	CO RD 13
01 CHEVROLET VENTURE	1GNDX03E81D219469	N/A	WHITE	FAMILY FORD HW 72
06 CHEVROLET EQUINOX	2CNDL23FX66187036	AL 41A4RAH	BROWN	CO RD 7
18 DODGE CARAVAN	2C4REGCGOJR327910	N/A	BLACK	COX CREEK PKWY
94 FORD MUSTANG	1FALP45T2RF19.8373	N/A	ORANGE	WALMART
97 FORD F150	1FTDX1720VNC20663	N/A	SILVER	GOOCHS
01 FORD EXPEDITION	1FMRU15W31L882643	AL 41A4WA3	GREEN	CO RD 306
04 FORD TAURUS	1FAPF55U34A151550	N/A	SILVER	CO RD 25
14 FORD FUSION	3FA6POSUBER136489	CA 9BCE750	BLACK	CLOYD BLVD
90 GMC SIERRA	1GTD14K6LZ501923	N/A	BLACK	SEVILLE STREET
05 GMC YUKON	1GKEK13T85J236459	TN 6T48X6	BLUE	675 SANNONER
06 HARLEY MOTORCYCLE	1HD1GP1136K303074	N/A	MAROON	CO RD 8 & 11
93 HONDA ACCORD	1HGC87650PA053967	N/A	SILVER	CHERRY STREET
03 HONDA ACCORD	1HGCM56393A037046	AL 41JH243	BLACK	HWY 227 IRON CITY
05 HONDA ACCORD	1HGCM56485A158422	N/A	GOLD	HWY 101
03 HONDA CIVIC	1HJME5966X3S029108	N/A	BEIGE	GREENWAY HONDA
06 HONDA CRV	SHSRD68536U405898	AL 41A4EUW	SILVER	LASH'S SEAFOOD
05 HYUNDAI SANTA FE	KMBSC 13E05U912653	N/A	SILVER	COURT VIEW
06 ISUZU ASCENDER	4NUES16SX66700066	N/A	SILVER	S FULTON ST
98 JEEP G CHEROKEE	1J4FX58SIWC233282	TN 619RLCW	BLACK	CO RD 261
07 JEEP PATRIOT	1JBFT48W37D296368	N/A	RED	GOOCHS
03 KAWASAKI Z600	JKAZX4K103A002338	N/A	BLACK	CO RD 283
92 LEXUS LS400	JTBUF11E4N0117649	N/A	GOLD	CO RD 7
12 MAZDA CX9	JM3T82CAOC0342048	N/A	BLACK	GOOCHS
05 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL11D75C350076	N/A	RED	N/A
06 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL11D56N449467	AL 41FC636	RED	JACKSON AVENUE
08 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL21E48N522992	AL YRH921	BLACK	HUNTSVILLE ROAD
08 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL21E68N512609	AL 41A448N	BLACK	CHISHOLM ROAD
12 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL2APXC451713	N/A	WHITE	HUNTSVILLE ROAD
03 NISSAN PATHFINDER	JNBDRO9Y33W829649	N/A	BLACK	CO RD 41
06 NISSAN PATHFINDER	5NIAR18U06C630417	AL 41JK41I	GRAY	FOOD OUTLET
07 SATURN AURA	1GBZV57727F164294	N/A	BLUE	CO RD 10
02 TOYOTA CAMRY	4TIBE32K22U049475	AL 8931BDO	RED	FLORENCE BLVD
03 TOYOTA CAMRY	4TIBE32K73U127055	N/A	BLACK	BULL RUN
03 TOYOTA CAMRY	4TIBF32K23U565995	N/A	GRAY	HWY 157
03 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER	JTEZU17R838004837	N/A	GRAY	SEMINARY ST

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Notes...

Continued from page 17

In honor of the Martin Luther King national holiday January 15, the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis will host a daylong celebration dedicated to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a special emphasis on community service. The public is invited to join this celebration, taking advantage of extended hours from 8am-6pm. Thanks to the

generous support of FedEx, admission to the museum on King Day will be free for all guests.

King Day will kick off yearlong observances themed "History Moves Us Forward" as the Museum focuses on major civil rights milestones with anniversaries in 2024. The year includes highlights of the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ending legal segregation, Mississippi Freedom Summer dedicated to voter education, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party that challenged at the Democratic Convention, and the presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize to Dr. King.

For more information about King Day at the National Civil Rights Museum, visit kingday.org.

2nd Annual Shoals Scale Back - Saturday, January 20, 1-5 pm at Coach Harvest Mitchell Gym (formerly the Burrell Slater Gym) 610 W. College St., Florence.

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Medicare Minute

"Qualifying for Medicare"

When I began working with Medicare health plans a few years ago it became obvious to me that people aging into Medicare were joining a health insurance program that they really didn't understand. Although the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) do all they can to educate Americans about the benefits of Medicare it still isn't enough for them to fully understand what they have as far as medical coverage through the federal government. Over the next the next few weeks we're going to discuss the basics of and what is covered under Medicare. But first let's look at how Medicare started.

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the bill, Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, which led to the establishment of Medicare. The original bill included Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance). Today we know these 2 parts as "Original Medicare". In the beginning Medicare was created to provide health insurance to people 65 years of age and older, regardless of income or medical history.

Over the past five decades changes have been made as to who qualifies for Medicare. In addition to people over the age of 65, Medicare now covers people under the age of 65 who are permanently disabled and have been receiving Social Security Disability Insurance for 24 months. Also anyone at any age can receive Medicare if they have End Stage Renal Disease or ALS.

Although Medicare provides medical coverage for those who qualify it is not 100% coverage!! We often hear "once I go on Medicare my medical insurance worries are over." Medicare has deductibles and coinsurance that the Medicare beneficiary is responsible for unless the beneficiary has additional coverage to supplement Medicare.

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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Houses...

Continued from Page 8



educator, and an artist. She was born in and resided in Tuscumbia nearly all her life. Her finely-detailed renderings of the rural surroundings of her home captured fragments of time and preserved them in etchings, prints, watercolors, and sketches.

Kirk trained at the Art Students League in New York, where she studied etching with Harry Sternberg. She produced local landscapes as they appeared in the early 20th century. Most of the exhibited work dates to the 1930s and 1940s. Kirk mainly created etchings of cabins of people she knew. She wrote, "Cabins, especially log cabins, are rapidly disappearing from the Southern landscape. Before these relics of an older day completely pass from the scene it seems fitting to make a pictorial record of them, and to try to capture some of the lowly charm that surrounded them."

This exhibition comprises art and memorabilia on loan from private collectors throughout the community and the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.

By the 1950s, after producing 80 etchings over the course of her career, Kirk focused on her duties as a trustee of her alma mater Agnes Scott College in Decatur Georgia, and on two memoirs illustrated with reproductions of her prints. Her publications include "Cabins and Characters", "Locust Hill" and "The Sum of Living; a Collection of Poems".

The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St. in Florence. It is open to the public Monday - Friday from 9-4 and Sunday from 1-4. There is no admission charge. Please call 256-760-6379 for more information.

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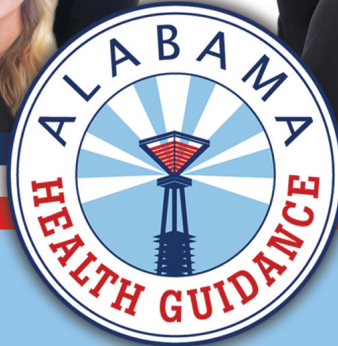
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