

**2nd Annual
Chili Cook-Off**

FLORENCE—Riverhill School's 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off will take place on Saturday, February 24 from 2-6pm at the Singin' River Brewing Co. in Florence. This is a family-friendly event with delicious food, tasty beverages, excellent entertainment, and fun for all ages!

The inaugural chili cook-off in 2023 included 16 cook teams, hundreds of attendees from across the community, and raised over \$27,000 for Riverhill School. This year, teams will vie for the approval of a small panel of judges and the guests. Sponsors and their teams will focus on participating in the chili contest, while attendees from all across the Shoals enjoy the food, fun, and good-humored rivalry. The proceeds from this fundraiser event will benefit Riverhill School.

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

Volume 140 Number 16

February 7, 2024

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Prelim Returns

The Miss
NW Shoals
Scholarship
Competition



PHIL CAMPBELL—Northwest Shoals Community College proudly announce the return of the Miss Northwest Shoals Scholarship Competition, a preliminary event to Miss Alabama, organized by NWSCC Student Life.

After nearly three decades, this prestigious pageant program will take place in the Lou B. Beville Auditorium on the Phil Campbell campus Saturday, February 17 at 5pm.

See **MISS...** on Page 4

'We Share a Heartache'



Kathy Pannell places a white rose on the granite monument in memory of her son, Will. He is among the five people who lost their lives at the low head dam.
Staff photo: TVM

By **Bernie Delinski**
Times Daily Staff Writer
First published 1/31/24

FLORENCE — Some members of Max Harlan's family wore a T-shirt Tuesday bearing an image of him enjoying a day canoeing down Cypress Creek.

"This picture was taken on Cypress Creek about a week before he passed away," said his daughter, Sibyl Stanley.

Harlan is among five people who lost their lives at a low-head dam on Cypress Creek from 1982 to 2011.

A stone structure at the Cypress Creek Kayak & Canoe Access Area now bears the names of

See **HEARTACHE...** on Page 7

Recognizing Service

The city of Florence recently recognized three employees with a combined 65 years of service. Below, from left, Leigh Anne Kidd, Assistant Purchasing Agent, completed 15 years; Ben Maharrey, Purchasing Agent Director, celebrated 20 years; and Steve Eason, Capital Projects Manager, celebrated 30 years. *Courtesy photo*



INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside



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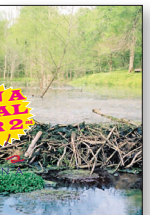
- Notes
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- Your Letters

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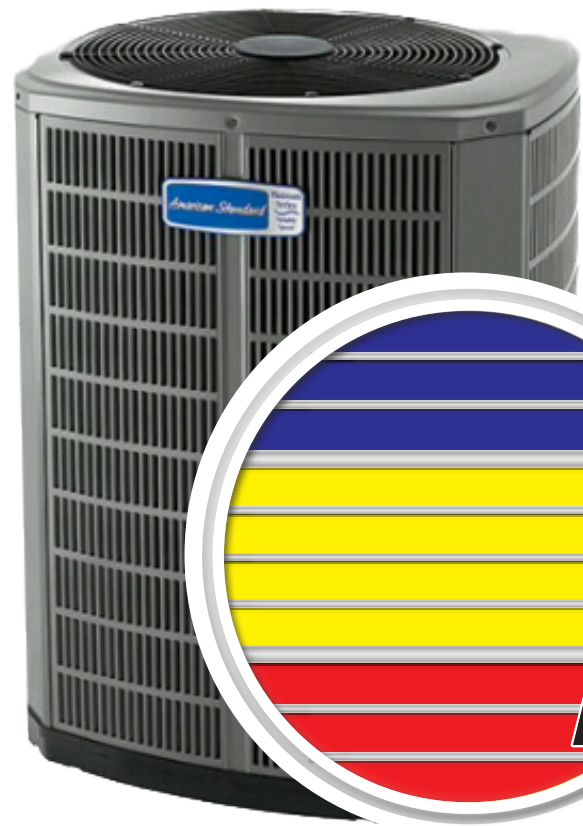
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Shorts...

2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off

Continued from Page 1

For details and sponsor opportunities, contact **Margaret Cochran** at 850-712-7412, or margaretkcochran@gmail.com or visit riverhillschool.org

Baked Goods for Chloe's

FLORENCE –The Be My Valentine Bake Sale that benefits Chloe's Fund is Saturday, February 10 from 10am-1pm at the Florence Lauderdale Animal Services Building, 3240 Roberson Rd in the Florence Industrial Park. The assortment of baked goodies will be plentiful, but only for those who order in advance. Those who only show up Saturday without pre-ordering will have a limited selection based strictly on any overages. ALL proceeds from the bake sale benefit Chloe's Fund, the non-profit that helps fund medical services for adoptable sick and injured animals at Florence-Lauderdale Animal Services.

The volunteer bakers will be preparing cakes, cookies, breads, cupcakes, pies, and various treats for you and your fur babies. The bakers are now well-known for their specialty items, and everything is made fresh to order. For the first time, homemade cat treats will be available. Remember, it's best to preorder. The Valentine's menu is posted on Facebook (Florence Lauderdale Animal Services). Bake Sale coordinator, **Lisa Wilson Rim**, can also text you the menu. Contact her on her cell, locally at 804-240-6880, call her, or Direct Message her on Facebook to place your order.

The deadline to pre-order is Wednesday, February 7 at 3pm. You can pick up your order on Saturday, February 10 from 10am-1pm at Florence Lauderdale Animal Services.

Improvements for Softball

FLORENCE – The University of North Alabama softball program is adding a turf surface to the Hilda B. Anderson Softball Stadium.

The infield will remain as natural dirt, but the outfield, backstop, and foul apron will be converted to state-of-the-art FieldTurf. The previous turf halo surrounding home plate will also be replaced with FieldTurf, which is in addition to renovated fencing and new foul poles surrounding the playing surface.

UNA's primary Lion logo will be also showcased on the center field turf.

Field renovations began in November 2023 and were led by generous donations from the Anderson family in support of the softball program. UNA's softball complex was renamed **Hilda B. Anderson Stadium** in 2019 to recognize Mrs. Anderson's impact on the growth of the program.

The turf project is scheduled to be completed in time to host UNA's home tournament March 8. The team is conducting winter practices at the Florence

Sportsplex during construction.

In addition to the turf, UNA will soon begin the first phase of a patio and pavilion project along the right field line to enhance the gameday experience for fans and everyday use for UNA softball student-athletes. Gifts from **Jordan Morgan** and **Amber Fite-Morgan** spearheaded the initial stages of the project, connecting the team area between the softball clubhouse and indoor hitting facility.

New Eagle in Guntersville

GUNTERSVILLE – A ribbon-cutting for the new eagle statue at the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge took place Friday, February 2. Local civic, government, tourism officials, and park personnel were on hand to dedicate the new statue as part of Eagle Awareness Weekend at the park.

A grant from the Alabama Tourism Department funded construction of the new statue, which was created by artist **Jenny Hendrix** and inspired by a photo taken by **Beth Cowen Drake**, a noted Alabama nature photographer.



New eagle statue unveiled at Guntersville State Park. Courtesy photo

Seniors Can Access Farms

MONTGOMERY – The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) is a federally funded program administered by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries' Farmers Market Authority


See SHORTS... on Page 9

Dr. Carlos Liotta

Anita McDonald, CRNP

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Community Notes

COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge. ASSPACE 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

Skywarn Storm Spotter Course — The National Weather Service in Huntsville will host the course 6-8 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Cherokee High School Auditorium, 850 High School Drive. The course is free and open to the public. For information, call Colbert County EMA, 256-386-8558.

Genealogy Classes Thursdays at 1pm in February at Florence - Lauderdale Public Library These classes are designed to aid beginners in using Genealogy resources offered through the library!
 1pm Thursday, February 8: Introduction to Genealogical Research & Tour of Special Collections
 1pm Thursday, February 15: Ancestry & FamilySearch.org
 1pm Thursday, February 22: Fold3 & Newspapers.com

1pm Thursday, February 29: Using the Digital Archive
 Email: Lee@FLPL.org Call: (256) 764-6564, ext. 130

Intermediate Crochet Saturday, February 10, 12pm, at FLPL. Come join us for our popular Intermediate class! Knowledge of basic crochet stitches is required. Email: Mars@FLPL.org Call: 256-764-6564, ext. 128

The Lauderdale Co. Chapter of the University of Alabama is having a Valentine Dance Party on February 10, at 6pm at FloBama in downtown Florence. The Neon Queen is an Abba Tribute Band that will help us dance the night away. Tickets \$30 each. Help the Crimson Tide Club raise scholarship money for local students to attend UA. For more information check us out on FB/ Lauderdale Crimson Tide Club.

Dentistry from the Heart - February 16, 7am-5pm. One procedure per patient • First Come, First Serve • Free Cleaning, Extraction or Filling.
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The 6th Annual Northwest Alabama Farm Toy Show takes place at Clarion Inn Hotel, 4900 Hatch Blvd in Sheffield on Friday, February 9 from 5-8:30pm, and Saturday, February 10 from 8:30am - 2pm

Admission is \$3. Kids 12 and under admitted free. The show benefits the Deshler High School FFA
 Facebook - Northwest Alabama Farm Toy Show (256) 320-7490 nwalfarmtoyshow@gmail.com

We will have vendors selling all types of farm toys from miniature to pedal tractors, trucks, and other toys. We will also have a farm display competition and have remote control farm equipment being demonstrated.

This Month in the Garden - Tuesday, February 13, 10:30am at FLPL. Preparing Now For Your Spring Garden with Master Gardener Lisa Russell. Email: Sherhonda@FLPL.org Call 256-764-6564, ext. 128.

Journaling Workshop Tuesday, February 13, 5pm at FLPL. Planners-Learn how to best organize your daily planner and what kind of planner will work best for you. Email: Ragen@FLPL.org Call: 256-764-6564, ext. 11

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Prelim...

Continued from Page 1

NWSCC will welcome Brianna Burrell, the current Miss Alabama, as the emcee and performer for the event that focuses on leadership and scholarship opportunities for women in Northwest Alabama who are part of the NWSCC community. This year, the competition expands its reach by including qualifying high school seniors participating in the Dual Enrollment program.

"The Miss Northwest Shoals Scholarship Competition is not just a beauty pageant; it's a platform for empowering and supporting the aspirations of the talented women in our community," said Savannah Liles, Miss Northwest Shoals Event Coordinator.

Contestants have until February 9, to register for the competition. Interested participants can register at the following link: <https://nwsc.edu/patriot-central/clubs-organizations/> (scroll to the bottom of the page).

For more information, please contact Liles at 256-331-8086 or savannah.liles@nwsc.edu.

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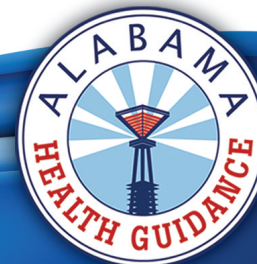
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Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

Play It!

Hey y'all, we found a new game (to us) to play over the holidays - Tenzi! It's such a fun, simple game. Basically everyone gets 10 dice. At your local bookstore, you can buy four sets of 10 dice - each set is a different color - in a game called Tenzi. Initially all the players drop their 10 dice all at the same time. In subsequent turns, it's every player for herself/himself. The first to have 10 of one number is the winner! We got so loud! We loved it!

When we got tired of making them all match, we just changed the rules to our pleasure - first to have five of one number and five of another, first with five sets of doubles, first with one-two-three-four-five, one-two-three-four-five wins! Any way we wanted to play it. And the

best thing about playing Tenzi was that around the kitchen table were players of all ages - 8 year olds to 70 plus. All talking smack and/or encouraging each other - "Come on Uncle Ron, you gotta spill faster!" And Uncle Ron hardly ever joins the festivities, but the ease and competition of Tenzi brought him to the table. And Uncle Norman might have even shouted once to let us know that he had it!

It was great to find a simple game that everyone could play. Because sometimes it is hard to play with us. I will beat you at the table games of speed, like Spit. I won Tenzi a lot. Our son, Garrett will obliterate you at word games. He has the Official Scrabble List of two letter words memorized! It's a bunch

of malarkey! His vocab is crazy-go-nuts! But I have beaten him. And our son, Randall's, patterning mind, with practice, knows all the patterns of SET and Mancala! Speedcuber! So it was great to find this simple, mindless, no skill game to play around the kitchen table while eating goodies and sharing stories. It's been wonderful to add it to our game closet. I went back and bought another Tenzi so we can have more people play all at once rather than have people looking over shoulders.

I have always had a game closet. Ours is stuffed full of puzzles, Boggle, Big Boggle, SET, Scrabble, Split Second, Mind Trap, Rummikub, Scattergories, Upwards, Jacks, Uno, etc. But my first game closet, in my growing up house, was stuffed too, with Twister, KerPlunk, The Archie Game, Operation, Monopoly, Jeopardy, Concentration, Life, Yahtzee, Connect Four, Checkers, Battleship, Hi Q, Pick Up Sticks, etc. No one else in our neighborhood had a game closet, that I know of. There were two closets in my mom's room.

The smaller closet had the games in the bottom of it. There were also paint-by-number sets and books about how to draw faces. And our two set volume library was in there - two huge books that had entries on anything from addition to physics. I learned so much out of that closet. To my mom, play was educational. We didn't go into that closet. She would lay out what she wanted us to play. Some of it was for fun. Most of it was to learn.

Whether you are learning patterns or people, playing games is foundational. If you're not playing games at your house, you're missing out on opportunities to learn, interact, compete and be your real self for a few minutes. Y'all, buy Tenzi or Mancala. But don't come to my house, because we will beat you! Play on!

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com

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Heartache...

Continued from Page 1

those victims and the year they died: Jerry Roberson, 1982; Alan Weeks, 1982; Max Harlan, 2004; Will Pannell, 2005; Daniel Smith, 2011.

Family members and friends of the victims gathered at the dedication of the Cypress Creek Memorial at the launch area.

"It's good to have some recognition in memory of those lost," Stanley said. Her sister Savannah Harlan said she also considers it a tribute to the efforts that were made to prevent another tragedy. "It's also a good recognition of the work they did to keep people safe and prevent another accident from happening," Harlan said.

The old low-head dam, built about 1980 without approval from the Corps of Engineers, was used to divert water to an intake at a city water treatment

plant. It often resulted in a tricky back-current for those traveling in kayaks and canoes.

The city completed a boater-friendly structure in 2014 so the creek no longer has the deadly current the low-head dam created, and officials decided to create the monument.

Tad Cole, manager of the Florence Gas and Water Department, said his predecessor Mike Doyle was among those who played major roles in getting this project completed.

"We are pleased that there is now a permanent and accessible home for this beautiful monument," Cole said.

Mayor Andy Betterton said the city wanted to do something special on behalf of the victims and their families.

"This is a perfect place for this," Betterton said.

"Maybe this is a way that we can, in some small way, recognize the lives that are lost."

Pannell's father Ronnie Pannell wore an Auburn University tie bearing the inscription, "Will 6-13-05" to the dedication. That was the date his son, an avid Auburn fan, drowned at the location.

Pannell said the marker helps make it easier to cope with seeing the launch area while driving along Cox Creek Parkway.

"When I drive by here, I look over and I just see the stone and it means a lot," he said. "It's just so special. It's so accessible. We live close by, and it won't be unusual for me to stop by and visit. I've already brought relatives from out of town here to see Will's name on the stone."

Pannell said he hopes it also serves as a reminder to canoers and kayakers to be careful on the creek.

He said the 6,000-pound monument will be a permanent reminder of those whose names are on it.

"One thing you don't want as a parent of a child who passed away, you don't want him to be forgotten," Pannell said.


He said he has gotten to know many family members of the victims.

"We share a heartache," Pannell said. "We share an unfortunate bond."

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Commentary

So, Biden/Trump II... Not So Fast

Donald Trump seems to have the Republican nomination wrapped up after results of the New Hampshire primary. Nicky Haley needs an overwhelming showing in her home state of South Carolina to stick it out for another few weeks. Even if Trump is railroaded through the gauntlet of blue state court appearances on these sham charges, he will still be the nominee.

The fact that Trump has a marginal lead right now over Joe Biden in a loosely tethered Breitbart poll from the swing states among registered voters (not "likely voters") should scare all Republicans.

Barely polling better than a largely incoherent, ambulatory mannequin shows us that Trump has more faults than strengths.

In a Quinnipiac poll in late January, Biden led by 6 points straight up against Trump, and by 2 when including Robert F. Kennedy,

See NOT SO FAST... on Page 16

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

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

Courier Journal

in the *Shoals*

February 7, 2024

THIS WEEK

Happening
THIS WEEK

Casablanca Screening February 9 at the Ritz

SHEFFIELD—*Casablanca* will be screened at The Ritz Theatre in downtown Sheffield on Friday, February 9. Filmed and set during World War II, it focuses on an American expatriate who must choose between his love for a woman and helping her husband, a Czechoslovak resistance leader, escape from the Vichy-controlled city of Casablanca to continue his fight against the Germans.

Concessions will be available and include fresh popcorn, wine, beer, soda, water, and candy! Tickets are \$10 in advance, available at tennesseevalleyarts.org or \$13 at the door.



FARM TOY SHOW

Friday & Saturday,
February 9-10

A FUN EVENT FOR Big Kids & Little Kids

SHEFFIELD—The 6th Annual Northwest Alabama Farm Toy Show takes place February 9 and 10 at the Clarion Inn, located at 4900 Hatch Blvd in Sheffield. Vendors from across the region now travel to Colbert County each February for this event to sell their merchandise and participate in display competitions, door prizes, and pedal tractor raffles.

Last year there were more than 30 vendors, 13 displays, remote control demonstrations, display judges, and over 800 buyers from across the southeast in attendance. Hours are 5-8:30pm Friday and 8:30am-2pm Saturday.

Admission is \$3. Kids 12 and under are admitted free with paid adult. More information may be obtained by calling 256-320-7490, emailing nwalfarmtoyshow@gmail.com, or finding the event on Northwest Alabama Farm Toy Show's Facebook page.

CYPRESS MOON STUDIOS at 1000 Alabama Ave. in Sheffield, will conduct a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Cypress Moon Productions and Studios on Friday, February 9 at noon! For more information, call 256-335-6961.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE in Huntsville will host a Skywarn Storm Spotter Course from 6-8pm Thursday, February 8 at the Cherokee High School Auditorium. The course is free and open to the public. For information, call Colbert County EMA, 256-386-8558.

DUE TO A SCHEDULING CONFLICT, 'Hi Neighbors of the Shoals' will meet on the second Tuesday of February (February 13) at 10:30am in the Florence Lauderdale Public Library. We are a women's social group, and we welcome all ladies who are current residents of the Shoals area. Come join us! Contact Berta Birch, 256-777-3119, for further details.

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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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219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630
- **e-mail:** editor@courierjournal.net
- **FAX-** 256-760-9618

You Sent the Love

Dear Editor,

Generosity throughout the Shoals area contributed to a successful shoebox gift collection season at drop-off locations for the Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child. Across the U.S., the project collected 10 million shoebox gifts in 2023. Combined with those collected from partnering countries, the ministry is now sending over 11.3 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide, including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease, and disaster.

Through shoeboxes packed with fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items, Shoals

area volunteers have brought joy to children in need around the world. These shoeboxes, a tangible expression of God's love, are often the first gift these children have ever received. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 220 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Across Alabama, shoebox packers

Shoals area volunteers have brought joy to children in need around the world.



often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year. Many also serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information regarding ways area participants can get involved year-round can also be found at samaritanspurse.org/occ or by calling 770-777-9342.

Drop off locations for shoebox gifts will reopen in November, but anyone can conveniently pack a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. In doing so, they send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Jasmin Sutton, Media Relations Associate - Samaritan's Purse
Boone, NC

See **LETTERS...** on Page 18

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Please email resumes to hollie.coella@timesdaily.com or applications may be picked up at 219 West Tennessee Street Florence, AL 35630

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TIMES DAILY Lifestyle Coordinator

The Times Daily is seeking a creative, organized journalist to plan daily coverage for and to help coordinate the production of our Lifestyle pages.

Job Description: The Lifestyle Coordinator will be responsible for managing content for the paper's Lifestyle pages, including local stories, columns, calendar items, briefs and press releases. The job also includes the pagination of the daily editorial page, and making last-minute corrections and changes to the YourLife pages and other special sections.

Requirements: We need an energetic, inquisitive and productive professional with excellent planning, reporting and writing skills.

The right candidate must be familiar with the Adobe InDesign program; have experience in handling Associated Press and feature service copy; have strong editing skills; and be capable of providing web updates and tweets. Ability to consistently meet established writing deadlines is a must.

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Apply: For more information call 256-740-5721. Candidates need to send cover letter, resume and writing clips to:
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Shorts...

Seniors Can Access Farms

Continued from Page 2

Section. The SFMNP provides eligible seniors with a \$50 benefit card to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from certified farmers at farmers markets and farm stands in the State of Alabama. "The SFMNP card allows senior citizens to purchase more local products. I want to encourage those who are eligible to apply and begin shopping local," said Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries Rick Pate. "ADAI looks forward to another year of supporting Alabama's farmers and senior citizens through the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program."

Eligibility: Must be 60 years of age or older on the day of application and an applicants' gross household income must not exceed these limits:

- \$2,248 monthly ... household of 1
- \$3,041 monthly ... household of 2

Visit agi.alabama.gov/ or agi.alabama.gov/farmersmarket/ for figures if there are more than two people in the household. Applicants must apply online at agi.alabama.gov/farmersmarket/. Unfortunately, applications CANNOT be taken over the phone or by mail. If you have a benefit card from 2023, you will need your benefit card number to renew it and submit your application. Applicants must reapply every year. However, it is important to keep the benefit card in a safe place since new benefits will be loaded on the card each year after an application is received.

Benefits can be redeemed at state sanctioned Farmers Markets, Farm Stands and U-Pick Operations for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables, honey, and cut herbs from May 1–November 27, 2024. To view a list by county of locations that accept SFMNP benefit cards, visit agi.alabama.gov/farmersmarket/locations. Benefits cannot be used at grocery stores, or any location not listed on the redemption site.

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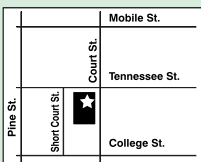
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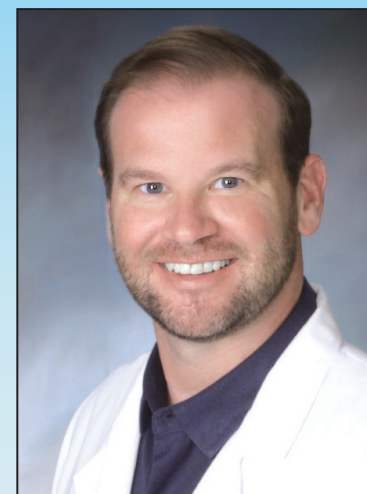
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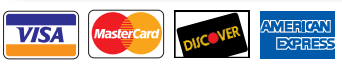
Red Baron Classic Crust Red Baron PIZZA 17-22 Oz.

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- 1. Move your vehicle to a safe place.** If possible, pull over to the side of the road, and turn on your hazard lights. If you must leave your vehicle, stay off the road and out of the way of any oncoming vehicles. Deer are most active at dusk and dawn.
- 2. Call the police.** Alert authorities if the deer is blocking traffic and creating a threat for other drivers. If the collision results in injury or property damage, you may need to fill out an official report.
- 3. Document the incident.** If it's safe to do so, take photographs of the roadway, your surroundings, damage to your vehicle and any injuries you or your passengers sustained.
- 4. Stay away from the animal.** A frightened, wounded deer could use its powerful legs and sharp hooves to harm you.
- 5. Contact your State Farm agent.** The sooner you report damage or injuries, the sooner your agent can file and process your claim. You can also report a claim online at statefarm.com®, by calling 1-800-STATE-FARM 800-782-8332 or through the State Farm mobile app.
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In some states it may be fine to leave the scene after hitting a deer and in other states it may be considered a crime, know the laws in your state. If you hit a deer and it runs away, take pictures of any blood/hair and then look at your car to inspect for damage. If there is damage, call the authorities. If there is no damage, you may drive your car.



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General Hood was known to act rashly and impulsively. He left the Civil War with an amputated left leg and a useless left arm. Hood and his wife Anna died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878 leaving ten children poverty stricken.

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

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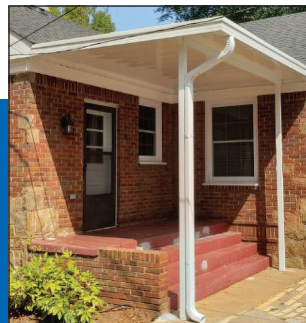
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Commentary

Not So Fast...

Continued from Page 8

Jr. Even with a small sample size and wider margin of error, what can people be thinking? Apparently, they would rather continue the international gaffes, further insult our allies, and have all constitutional rights purged than be under a Trump Presidency.

If he were more courteous, gracious, and respectful in past years, Trump would be up by 20 points. Of course, if he were more courteous, gracious, and respectful, he would have been the President this term. He wouldn't even be running in '24, and the illegal stampede would be non-existent.

That reminds me, according to a new Bloomberg News poll, 61% of voters in swing states say Biden is at least somewhat responsible for the wave of migration on the U.S.-Mexico border. 61%? The other 39% are clearly self-medicating, because who else can be responsible?

Let's face it; there is no way Biden is the democratic candidate in November. No one on the left will allow that.

So, when Biden voluntarily steps aside, is removed, or develops a medical condition that prevents him from running, Kamala Harris would have to be considered as his replacement. For a few minutes, at least. We couldn't discount the sitting VP, especially since she is a minority and would be the first female president and the second with some black heritage. There are some who believe checking those boxes is vital.

However, the main concern is that Kamala doesn't poll as well as Biden.

That is a problem, DEI as a campaign goal notwithstanding.

Gavin Newsome is a good-looking, well-spoken, much younger option who has interest in the position.

Newsome's progressiveness as mayor started the downfall of the once beautiful city of San Francisco. The city is now a crime-ridden hell hole. His poor planning as governor helped spread the misery,

got him recalled, and then the bright voters of California put him right back in. They are getting what they deserve. His gubernatorial skills are apparently no better than those he employed as mayor and have Californians in all categories vacating the state like roaches exposed to sunlight.

Unfortunately, most Democrats would probably support a similar punishment, however blindly, for the rest of the nation and support Newsome.

We also have humble Hillary who is always waiting patiently for any attention she can attract. However, outside of the 'come hell or high water' democrat base, she is not liked or trusted and would probably have only tepid support from independent voters.

Politicians in general have a reputation of being corrupt, deceitful, and disingenuous. Hillary Clinton's rhetoric and actions over the last decade do nothing to dispel those concerns.

Then, there is Michelle Obama. Some think she wants no part of the Presidency and the hassles and scrutiny that come with it. They may be right, but she also loves attention and more government. And she doesn't want to live with Donald Trump for four more years. Michelle has already been getting a feel for the situation and has been confirming resources for the political landscape. The democrats also purchased the largest political advertising package in history... for whomever runs.

Some estimates have the Obamas being 30 times richer when he left office than when he arrived in 2009. That's concerning but not surprising. They

are now 100 times richer than in 2009. God bless them in their apparent understanding of capitalism. So, one has to wonder why she so hates America. One thing about them that should be noted is that they were and are very generous in their giving and their foundational support practices. Example after example can be cited.

The only democrat who has shown no political weaknesses is Michelle. In this case, no experience at all is a blessing for her and a windfall for the democratic party with few options.

The most interesting aspect may be her pick for running mate.

I think she will do it. The momentum she will create with a Democratic Convention launch and the drooling media and talk show support would make her unbeatable in November. She may not get the swing voters who are fed up with democratic policy. However, based on race alone she would re-engage many apathetic democrat voters. This is especially true among young, black females, and would reverse much of the minority middle age and older poll losses that Biden has been accumulating.

Michelle will surpass Biden's record 81 million votes from 2020... legitimately. There is no way to predict what her overall vote total will be.

She would be a politically correct replacement for Kamala and would be a boost to the suddenly flailing DEI philosophy.

Established democratic candidates who have toiled hard for decades wouldn't like it. But they must not be paying attention. Barack Obama still wields enormous power and influence in Washington DC.

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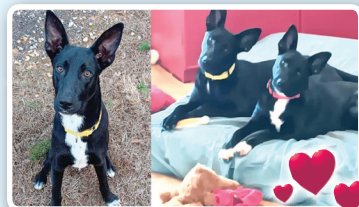
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MILA is a 2-3 year old Cur mix, who is very dog friendly and wants to play all the time!! She LOVES being petted and given attention. Mila loves to be outside and loves being able to run and play! All of her babies have now moved on and she is ready for her forever loving home. She is so deserving of the chance to have a happy life with people who love her as much as we do at the shelter! **HER ADOPTION FEE IS \$25.** The fee includes current vaccines (apart from rabies), NexGard, heartgard, \$15 rabies voucher and a voucher for \$70 off of her mandatory spay! For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073.**



Meet **APOLLO!** This sweet boy was dumped this weekend in the cold rain hungry and cold. He is such an amazing dog. Apollo loves people and other dogs. He's extremely gentle and loving. He deserves a wonderful home. Please come meet him and see for yourself how amazing he is. If you are interested in Apollo, **HE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION FOR \$25** in 5 days after the stray hold is up. He can currently be fostered until then. His fee includes a voucher for \$70 off of his neuter, \$15 rabies voucher, current shots and wormer and NexGard! For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073.**

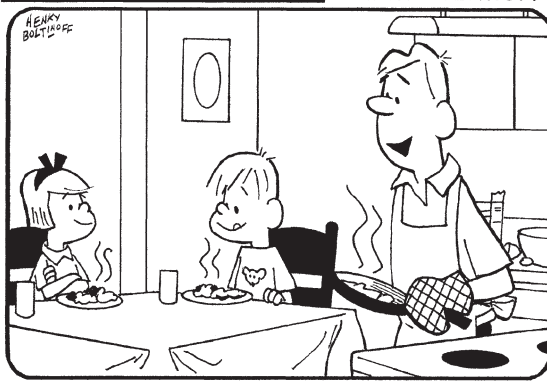
KENDALL is about 2 years old. He was dropped on the front lawn of the shelter. It took about 30 minutes to get him to trust us enough to bring him inside. He was starving to death. Fast forward 3 months and he has opened up, and is super loving and friendly! He loves kids and is ok with dogs. He loves to jump up and give lots of gentle hugs. He is looking for his forever home. **KENDALL IS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION FOR \$25!** He is already neutered and up to date on rabies vaccine, shots, wormer and NexGard! For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073.**



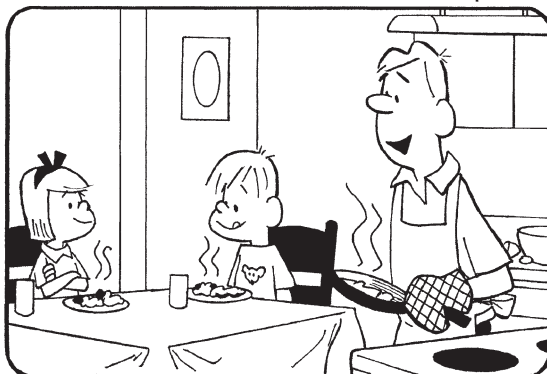
Meet **GREER, GENOVA, & GRAHAM.** This trio is the last of 7 older puppies that were brought to the shelter in mid-October. Their 2 sisters and 2 brothers have recently been adopted. They are 9-10 months old, and are anxiously awaiting forever homes with soft beds, toys, and grass to play on! The boys are about 45# and she's around 40 pounds. They won't grow much bigger than they are now, if you are looking for a medium-sized buddy. These babies have traits that suggest a small Boxer and a black German Shepherd somewhere in their family tree. They all have a short brownish-black coat and huge Shepherd ears, but behave more like Boxers. Each of them spent at least a week in a foster home in January, learning some manners and house-training. They love to play ... but not out in the cold! They love people, and get along well with other dogs, cats, and horses. Cautious and shy at first, they are learning to explore new environments and be more independent; they can be adopted separately or together. Graham, Greer & Gen-Gen are crate-trained; walking fine on the leash; and all of these cuties have done super on bath day! They are back at the shelter now, waiting for you to come meet them. **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 trio.

HOCUS - FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Burner is larger. 2. Hand is not showing. 3. Plate is moved. 4. Glass is moved. 5. Box is missing. 6. Hair is longer.

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The Indoctrination Highway Truth Vs Tradition

All information transmitted secularly or spiritually in the years to come, in every medium sent, have really one goal in mind; "to get control of your mind and your money and then your soul and in that order. People react mostly to pictures more than words or writings. It's easily seen by the dominance of tv and the sewage from Hollywood, being plugged into our homes and as the homes go, so goes the nation. As absolutes vanish, morality fades away, standards are abolished as the new age dominates. You worship what you love and vice-versa. To say that society deteriorates according to morals is an understatement. The devil's influence is easily spotted by lying and deceit of worldwide leaders, and has become the norm for most circles. See **John 8:44**. Traditionally, all men are liars! **Psa. 116:11b** Notice: truthfully: **Revelation 21:8** "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Tradition will send you to hell. Truth will point you to salvation! Jesus said in: **John 17:17** "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." Jesus also said: **John 14:6** "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus also said: **John 8:32** "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jesus again in: **John 8:36** "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Jesus also said: **Mark 7:9** "And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." Now, are you free in Christ or still bound by your own tradition? Answer! Christ is not a liar like the rest of us. Ask Christ to make you free today. I dare you. Jesus is the only one that can break the chains of darkness and unbelief. The truth is out there. It's a person and He has a name. It's The lord Jesus Christ. He gave us a book. Read it. **SEE JOHN 20:31.**

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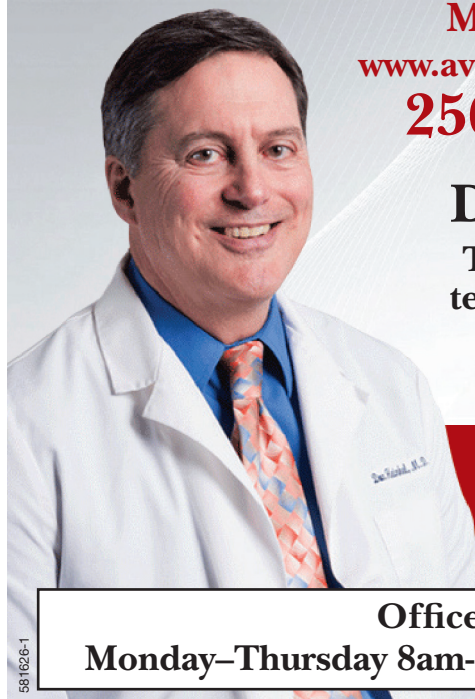
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Letters...

Continued from Page 8

Swift, Kelce, & Thorazine

Editor:

The fix, it seems, is in -- for both Super Bowl LVIII

and the 2024 presidential election.

MAGA media are alight with claims (or, in some cases, mere "just asking questions" trolling) about a plot to use a Kansas City Chiefs win in the former to drum up a Joe Biden endorsement from an "artificially culturally propped-up couple" (per Republican also-ran Vivek Ramaswamy) in the latter.

No, I'm not kidding. Real people are actually pushing this.

I'm far from personally immune to the allure "conspiracy theories." For example, I'm pretty sure US government actors participated in a conspiracy to assassinate JFK, and I doubt that Jeffrey Epstein killed himself.

But this one has me finally starting to understand a weird 21st-century youth

expression: "I can't even ..."

Consider, for starters, Ramaswamy's "artificially culturally propped-up couple" musing.

Taylor Swift released her eponymous debut album (about six million copies sold) in 2006. She picked up her first Grammy nomination in 2008. She's won a total of 12 Grammys, sold more than 200 million albums, and recorded more Number One albums than any woman in history. She's basically the most popular person in the world, and the Democratic National Committee didn't engineer that popularity. Nor, for the most part, has she ever been a very "political" celebrity.

Travis Kelce was drafted by the Chiefs in 2013 and has since become the greatest tight end in NFL history. He's broken numerous records individually, in cahoots with quarterback Patrick Mahomes, and as part of a team that's on its way to its fourth Super Bowl in five years. He'll be a first-ballot Hall of Fame inductee when the time comes for that. The only even moderately "political" endorsement I can think of that he's ever publicly made was for a COVID-19 vaccine also heartily endorsed by Donald Trump, who takes credit for its development at every opportunity.

Politics didn't make these two popular and well-known. They accomplished that themselves. Even if Joe Biden needs them, they don't need him. But if they want a reason to endorse Biden, the MAGA weirdos are giving them one in the form of truly next-level wingnuttery.

A better idea: Swift and Kelce are natural-born American citizens whose 35th birthdays fall before January 20, 2025. Instead of them endorsing Biden, maybe he should endorse THEM as the Democratic Party's 2024 presidential ticket. Right after the Chiefs win the Super Bowl. As they shall, assuming it isn't rigged.

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

ASK THE ATTORNEY SMH



Thomas McCutcheon

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

I was reviewing text message evidence in a case when I ran across the letters "SMH". I had to ask my secretaries what that meant, and they laughed and told me it meant "shaking my head". Apparently when someone says or does something and all you can do is just shake your head, you can text "SMH" and it, apparently, is understood.

Last Friday, the Alabama Supreme Court got one so wrong all I could so was shake my head.

The Alabama Legislature during the COVID-19 crisis passed a law known as the "Alabama COVID-19 Immunity Act". The ACIA provides, in relevant part, that "a covered entity shall not be liable for any damages, injury, or death suffered by any person or entity as a result of, or in connection with, a health emergency related to COVID that results from any act or omission of the covered entity." This Act provides immunity for COVID related issues.

In this case, an unintended result occurred when a lady who had COVID went to a hospital in Houston County for treatment of COVID and encountered a trip hazard in a concrete walkway that was defective. The lady fell and sustained serious injuries on her way in to seek treatment for COVID.

The hospital claimed immunity under the statute. The injured person's attorney explained to the Court that they were not injured due to COVID, they were injured due to a defect in the premises that would have injured anyone who was seeking treatment for any reason. The Supreme Court held that because they were seeking treatment for COVID and not the flu, a burn, or a broken bone but specifically COVID, the hospital was immune from suit.

"SMH"

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

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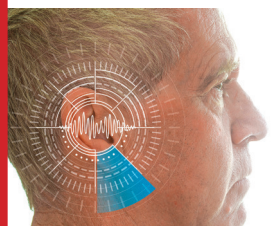


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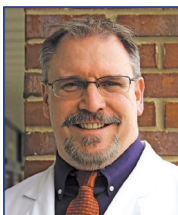


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Medicare Minute

"Medicare Part A Part 2"

Last week we discussed how Medicare Part A will cover you if you are admitted into the hospital. A hospital, under Medicare, can be acute care hospitals, critical care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long term care hospitals or mental health care.

The one aspect of Medicare Part A we get the most questions about is coverage at a skilled nursing facility (SNF). To be covered by Medicare at a SNF certain criteria has to be met. First, of course, is you must have Medicare Part A. Next your doctor has determined that you need daily skilled care given by, or under the supervision of, skilled nursing or therapy personnel. Your skilled nursing care will have to be in a SNF that is certified by Medicare.

What a lot of people don't know is that you must have a "qualifying" hospital stay to be covered at a SNF. Under Medicare a "qualifying" hospital stay is at least a 3-day inpatient stay prior to being admitted to the SNF. If you go to the ER and are held one day for observation and are admitted into the hospital for two days this does not constitute a "qualifying" hospital stay. If you are admitted on a Monday and discharged the following Wednesday this is not a "qualifying" hospital stay. In the two examples above those are 2-day inpatient stays. A good rule of thumb is you must be admitted as inpatient for at least three midnights.

You also need to know that Medicare Part A will only cover you for 100 days at a SNF and only 20 of those days are at 100%. In other words days 1-20 are covered at 100%. Days 21-100 you will pay the first \$204.00 per day and Medicare pays the rest of the cost. Starting with day 101 you will pay 100% of the bill.

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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4 2015 F150 Pick Up	1FTMF1C80FFB63051
5 2015 F150 Pick Up	1FTMF1C82FFB63052
6 2015 F250 Pick Up	1FD7X2A65FED11729
7 2017 Ford Explorer	1FM5K7D80HGD92730

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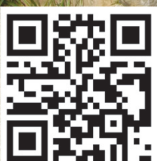
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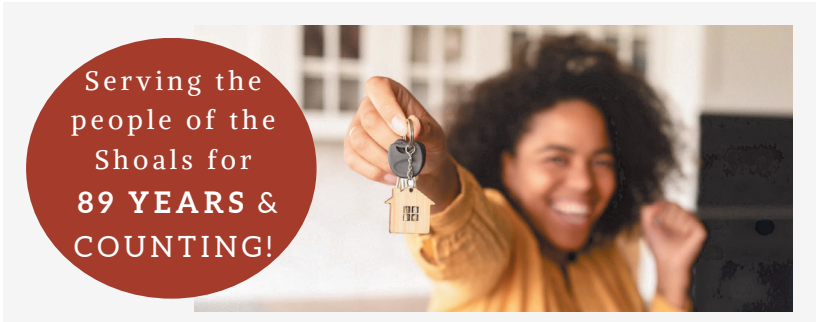
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Community Notes...

Continued from page 3

AARP will be doing free taxes again this year at The Chapel at 600 N. Columbia Ave in Sheffield. We will be open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am-3pm. Appointments are

preferred, by calling Kim at 256-483-2894.

New Rescheduled Date - 2nd Annual Shoals Royale Nonprofit Fundraiser, Saturday, February 17,

6pm-11pm at the Marriott Shoals' Conference Center, 10 Hightower Place, Florence.

All your favorite Vegas games benefiting United Way of Northwest Alabama! Marriott Shoals Conference Center, Florence AL Black Tie Optional, Heavy Hors D' Oeuvres/Cash Bar Silent Auction/Prizes Tickets: \$100 Individual/\$175 Couple Includes \$50 Playing Chips per person.

Senior meals 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday at The Club, 450 Country Club Road, Florence. \$1 donation.

Hamburger Steak Dinner Fundraiser Saturday, February 17, 3pm at the St. Joseph Civic Center - featuring music by The Cadillacs. \$14 per meal, drink and dessert included. Benefits the St. Joseph Freewill Baptist - Disciples of Hope Outreach.

Stability in an Unstable World - 2024 Kingdom Conference, February 16-18. Host the Dwelling Place, 919 W. College St., Florence, 256-412-9086. **Schedule of Events**

Friday, Feb. 16 -
- 7pm (Worship Service Doc Shell)
Saturday, Feb. 17:
- 9am-Noon: 5 Kingdom Sessions
- 12:30pm Lunch (free for attendees)
- 7pm (Worship Service Doc Shell)
Sunday, Feb. 18:
- 11am (Worship Service Larry Gray)

The 2nd Annual Riverhill School Chili Cook-Off, Heat the Street, is on Saturday, February 24 from 2-6pm at Singin' River Brewery - featuring music by The Cadillacs.

It's time to spice up your recipe and register for the Hottest event of the year! Sign up now to hold your team's spot at Riverhill Chili Cook-Off.

Ritz Theatre - The Tennessee Valley Art Association announced plays for the Ritz Theatre's 2023-24 season. Schedule: "Company," Feb. 23-25, March 1-2. Season tickets are \$75; individual plays range from \$15-\$25. The theater is at 111 W. Third St., Sheffield. Season tickets and individual play tickets are available at tennesseevalleyarts.org. 256-383-0533.

The Shoals Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) will meet at the American Legion Post 11 in Florence on Thursday, February 22 for lunch at 11:30am. We'll be hosting Capt. Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret), Senior Director, Council and Chapter Affairs from our Washington, D.C. office. He coordinates with senior headquarters staff, as well as national oversight committee and board leadership, to improve and support the vibrancy and effectiveness of MOAA's affiliate network. Michael will speak about the national legislative agenda to advocate for military service members and veterans. Please email shoalsmoaa@pm.me for more information.

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:
Wednesday, February 8 Applied Chemical Technology, 10am - 4pm
NHC Healthcare - Moulton, 300 Hospital St. 10am - 4pm
Thursday, February 14 Northwest Shoals Community College - Student Life - Muscle Shoals 9am - 3pm
Sunday, February 25 Walmart - Hwy 24 - Moulton, 10am - 4pm

Lifeguard Certification Classes The Sheffield Parks and Recreation, 2901 19th Ave., will offer Lifeguard Certification Classes this Spring. Class 1: March 11-12, March 14-16; Class 2: April 15-16, April 18-20; Class 3: June 3-4. Cost is \$230 for full certification and re-certification in \$130. Call 256-386-5615 for information or come to the Rec to sign up. Classes are limited to 10 people.



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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

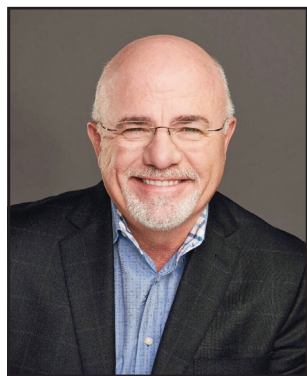
IT'S WORTH THE SACRIFICE

Dear Dave,
I switched to a debit card so that the money I spend comes directly from my checking account. But I still have a problem some months with overspending and buying things I shouldn't. Do you think I should stop using my debit card?

Debbie

Dear Debbie,
When I made the decision to get intentional with my money, I just used cash. It's hard to spend it when you don't have any on you. It's a tough thing, I know, but you have to make a conscious decision to start living differently. You've got to get mad at the things that steal your money a dollar or two at a time enough to take action.

Try looking at your life as a whole, not a moment at time. All the moments you're living right now will have either a positive



warranties, because they're not a good deal. In my mind, you're better off to self-insure against damage or things breaking down. That way, you can put what would have been profit and marketing dollars for the extended warranty company in your own pocket. I mean, think about it. If you buy something, but can't afford to fix it if something goes wrong, it's not really a smart move to buy it in the first place, is it?

I always recommend an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses to cover the unexpected things that life will throw at you. In most cases, this amount of cash—sitting in a good money market account with check writing privileges—will allow you easy access in the event of unexpected expenses or a financial emergency.

—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.

or negative effect on your future. I decided I wanted the greater, long-term good, so I gave up on the short-term stuff.

Debit cards are great tools. You can't spend money you don't have with them like you can with a credit card. But you've still got to budget very carefully for each month, and give a name and a job to every single penny of your income. Otherwise, you can still overspend.

—Dave

PUT THE MONEY IN YOUR OWN POCKET

Dear Dave,
Are home warranties a waste of money if you already have a fully-funded emergency fund containing six months, or even more, of expenses set aside?

Jodie

Dear Jodie,
I don't do extended

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+ Buick Bonus Cash \$2,750
+ Ray Miller Discount \$3,379

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21 Chevy Trax
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20 Buick Enclave
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3rd Row,
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16 GMC Yukon Denali
#24G-087A,
Loaded,
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18 Ford Explorer
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20 Buick Envision
#23B-027A, 4 Door,
Leather, Navigation,
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20 Chevy Equinox
#24B-014A, 1 Owner,
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20 Buick Envision
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1 Owner, 6yr/100k
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\$27,688

20 Buick Envision
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19 Lincoln MKC
#24B-088A, 4 Door,
Leather, Nice
Local Trade!



\$27,888

21 Buick Envision
#24B-012A, 4 Door,
Sport Touring, 6yr/100k
Limited Warranty!



\$30,988

22 Chrysler 300
24G086A 4 Door,
4WD, Nice
Local Trade!



\$32,688

18 Yukon Denali
#23G-115B,
4 Door, Leather,
Nice!



\$35,788

18 GMC Sierra Denali
#23G-162A,
Crew Cab, Leather,
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20 Ford Expedition
#23B-085A, 4 Door,
Limited, 4x4,
Nice Local Trade!



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19 GMC Sierra
#24G-124A,
1 Owner, 6yr/100k
Limited Warranty!



\$46,888

21 Chevy Silverado RST
#24G-064A,
Local Trade, 6yr/100k
Limited Warranty!



\$47,888

19 GMC Yukon Denali
#19P-3440, 1 Owner,
Sunroof, Navigation,
Loaded!



\$47,888

19 Ford F250 Supercrew
#24G-018A, Lariat,
4x4, Leather,
Nice Trade!



\$49,788

21 Chevy Tahoe
#21P-3680, High
Country, Loaded,
1 Owner!



\$53,888

20 GMC Sierra Denali 2500HD
#24G-088A, 1 Owner,
6yr/100k Limited
Warranty!



\$62,888

ALL prices DO NOT INCLUDE tax, title & fees. Some photos for illustration purposes only.