

**Southeast's
Native Plants**

FLORENCE – Pope's Tavern Museum will host an Herbal Tea Making Workshop on Sunday, February 18 at 2pm. This workshop will provide an opportunity for people to engage with **Summer McCreless**, a local herbalist to discuss the history of some native plants of the southeastern states. In this workshop, McCreless will share her knowledge of plant properties and the healthy benefits of making and drinking native herbal teas. Attendees will have the opportunity to sample fresh herbal teas and receive recipes as well.

Florence Arts and Museums is partnering with McCreless, an herbalist who specializes in regional plant and material knowledge, to conduct a series of workshops, presentations, and demonstrations where participants can explore aspects of our region's tangible history. Summer McCreless has been practicing herbalism for over 11 years, teaching herbal education and plant identification and uses in North Alabama. She has over 20 years of experience and education in plant identification in the United States.

This program is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums and the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area. Pope's Tavern is located at 203 Hermitage Drive in Florence. Call 256-760-6379 for more information. Please sign up on the website: www.florencealmuseums.com

More SHORTS on page 2

Volume 140 Number 17

February 14, 2024

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**For Renovations
and Reopening**

LEIGHTON – The Leighton-Colbert Cooperative Improvement District Board of Directors was set to attend the Leighton Town Council meeting Tuesday, February 13 at 6pm at Leighton City Hall to announce plans for Leighton Training School renovations and a proposed site for the new Leighton Senior Center.

Leighton Training School served generations of students, including prominent alumni entertainers Percy Sledge and Jimmy Hughes. Built in 1929 with funds raised and on land purchased primarily

See REOPENING... on Page 11

To Know and Protect

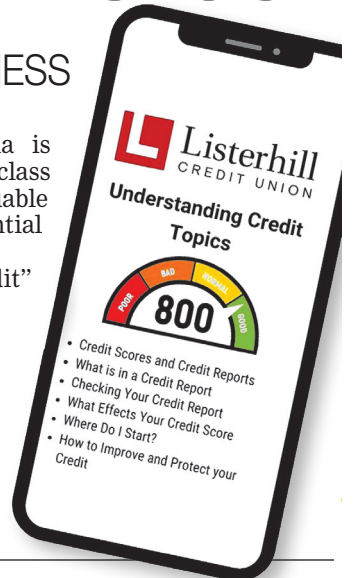
LCU – UW HOST FINANCIAL WELLNESS

FLORENCE – United Way of Northwest Alabama is excited to announce its upcoming Financial Wellness class in partnership with Listerhill Credit Union. This valuable initiative is aimed at equipping individuals with essential skills to navigate the complexities of personal finance.

This beginner course, entitled, "Understanding Credit" will cover:

- Credit Scores and Credit Reports
- What a Credit Report contains
- Checking Your Credit Report
- What Effects Your Credit Score
- Where Do I Start?
- How to Improve and Protect your Credit

See PROTECT... on Page 11



Steve Miller Band in a Classic

HUNTSVILLE – The Huntsville Hospital Foundation announced recently that the iconic Steve Miller Band will be headlining its 35th annual Huntsville Classic on Saturday, May 18, at Huntsville's Orion Amphitheater.

The blues-influenced pop/rock band is known for their distinctive catalog



that dominated radio in the mid-to-late 70s. Steve Miller Band's "Greatest Hits 1974-78" compilation album received the Recording Industry Association of America's Diamond Award with sales of more than 15 million copies. It is among the top 25 best-selling albums of all time.

See MILLER... on Page 6

INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside



- Ask the Attorney
- Medicare Minute
- Moments in Time
- Dave Ramsey
- Puzzle Whirl

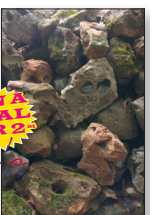
- On Your Debt
- Computer Skeptic
- Strange But True
- Adopt-a-Friend
- The Count Begins
- Notes
- Commentary
- Hocus Focus
- Your Letters

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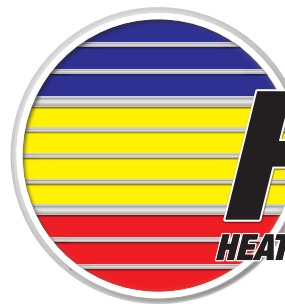
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Shorts... Continued from Page 1

New Art Adventure

FLORENCE— The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts Volunteers are pleased to present a new program series, "Art Adventures," with the next presentation scheduled for Sunday, February 18, from 2-4pm. This new series offers free art history presentations and hands-on activities that are designed for teens and adults.

Art educator **Elizabeth Renault** will partner with long-time art teacher **Barb Hendricks** to offer great presentations, combining fascinating lectures with hands-on activities. "Art Adventures" will be offered once a month, every third Sunday afternoon beginning at 2pm at the K-D Art Center. For more information on scheduled

topics, go to the KDAC website calendar www.florencealmuseums.com

The Kennedy-Douglass Center is open to the public Monday-Friday from 9-4 and on Sundays from 1-4. The art center is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St. in Florence. Admission is free. Call 256-760-6379.

Kale Gets Treatment

DECATUR – Kale, the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle in the care of Cook Museum of Natural Science in Decatur, underwent his second computed tomography (CT) scan at Decatur Morgan Hospital on Tuesday, January 30. This collaboration helped give care to one of Alabama's most endangered species. The CT scan is the best diagnostic tool to assess the progress of ongoing osteomyelitis, a bony infection, in Kale's carapace (top part of his shell).

The initial scan, taken in July 2023, gave Cook Museum's veterinarian, **Dr. Christian Keller**, and Animal Care staff a baseline of Kale's condition. This second scan will provide crucial insights into Kale's status, enabling the team to tailor his treatment accordingly.

Kale has been at his forever home with the Cook Museum since 2020, but came off display in January 2022 to address health concerns and was moved to the Museum's off-site facility. These CT scans and treatments are just some of the many steps in his hopeful return to the Oceans Tank at the

Museum and will provide a quantitative measure of the healing that still needs to occur.

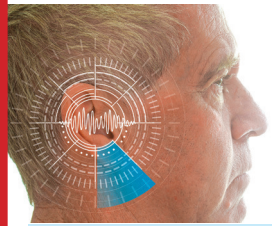
Kemp's ridley sea turtles have been protected under the Endangered Species Act since 1970, and they are currently listed as "critically endangered" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Kale is non-releasable, and he provides opportunities for public education and acts as an ambassador for his species, helping foster a connection between Museum visitors and nature. His care and conservation provide valuable scientific data and a better understanding of the species and its challenges.

The Cook Museum of Natural Science has a fund available for those interested in donating to support his recovery. If you would like to contribute to Kale's care or learn more about his story, you can visit cookmuseum.org/kale.



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Process before Kale's CT scan with Dr. Christian Keller *Courtesy photo*

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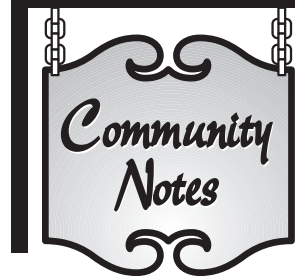
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COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE in the Courier Journal. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following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

• Email to editor@courierjournal.net

Utility Assistance for the Elderly & Disables opens Monday, February 12. We will be accepting applications/appointments from Elderly (60 & older) households, as well as Disabled households for the month of February. Appointments will open to the general public at a later time.

Starting Monday, February 12, come by the office and pick up an application. Community Action of Northwest Alabama, 745 Thompson St, Florence.

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 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

Adult Book Club Thursday, February 15 at 5:30pm at the Florence Lauderdale Public Library. Join us for great discussions and good times! We will be discussing "The Heart Mender" by Andy Andrews and "The Athropocene" Reviewed by John Green. Email: Katie@FLPL.org Call 256-764-6564, ext. 136

More than 400 Girl Scout Troops in North-Central Alabama will begin Girl Scout cookie booth sales at local businesses starting on Friday, February 16. Those who are interested in purchasing Girl Scout cookies can find a booth near them by using the Cookie Finder mobile app, or by visiting the "Find Cookies" page on our website www.girlscoutsna.org. Girls will be conducting booth sales from Friday, February 16-Sunday, March 24.

Dentistry from the Heart - February 16, 7am-5pm. One procedure per patient • First Come, First Serve • Free Cleaning, Extraction or Filling.

At Ryerson & Associates, DMD - Preventative & Sedation Dentistry - D-r James Ryerson. 1013 E. Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals, AL.

Shoals Artists Guild Meeting Friday, January 16, 10am-Noon at the Southall-Moore House, next to the Kennedy-Douglass Art Center, Downtown Florence. For more info, contact Carolyn Wear, 256-710-6854

The Shoals Writers Guild will meet at 10am Saturday, February 17 in the ground floor colonnade of the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. Jacque Rainwater, former Miss University of North Alabama and now the leader of the non-profit head injury foundation, "Living Out the Miracle," will briefly share highlights from her new book, "On a Limb and a Prayer" that details the harrowing accident in Florence during the 1994 ice storm which almost took Rainwater's life. It chronicles her long, slow recuperative period and many years of rehabilitation.

First responder Jeff Street, along with Billy Warren, a resident in the neighborhood where the accident occurred, will also speak about their experiences that day. Copies of the book will be available for purchase, with all proceeds to benefit the non-profit head injury foundation.

This event was originally scheduled for January 20, but had to be postponed. The meeting is free and open to the public. For further information, email shoalswritersguild@gmail.com

Jeff Street and Billy Warren, first responders to Jacque Rainwater's 1994 ice storm accident in downtown Florence, have been rescheduled for February 17.

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.

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

The Shoals Piecemakers Quilt Exhibition runs through February 16 at Kennedy Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence.

The K-D Center 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.

Hamburger Steak Dinner Fund-raiser 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.

The meeting of American Legion Colbert County Memorial Post 31 will take place on Monday, February 19, at 6:15pm at the Post meeting hall at 110 1/2 N. Main St. in Tusculmbia. A stair-lift is available, if needed, to the upstairs location. A meal and program will be provided. All Veterans are invited. For more info, please call 256-762-5950.

Adult Trivia Night Tuesday, February 20 at 6pm at the FLPL. Are you a fan of "The Office"? Dress up and show off your pop-culture TV knowledge at our "The Office" themed Trivia Night! Email: Ragen@FLPL.org, Call 256-764-6564, ext. 111

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.

Adult Game Night Thursday, February 22 at 5pm at the FLPL.

Play one of our board games or bring your own! Email: Katie@FLPL.org Call 256-764-6564, ext. 136

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.

See NOTES... page 17

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STRANGE but TRUE

- **In 2012, a 90-year-old Baltimore woman** named Venus Green locked a police officer in her basement when he tried searching her home without a warrant. Afterward, she brought a civil rights lawsuit and won a \$95,000 settlement.
- **“Jeopardy!” contestants** stand on adjustable platforms so that they all appear to be the same height on camera.
- **Chess is a required school subject** in Armenia.
- **Before the modern glass versions** we use today became commonplace, mirrors were made from bronze and were prized possessions of rich households in Egypt, Greece, Rome, China and Japan.
- **The Statue of Liberty’s full name** is Liberty Enlightening the World.
- **A study conducted at the University of Montreal** showed that young people who played the 1996 game Super Mario 64 for only two months increased their spatial and episodic memory, which improves brain capacity and helps to ward off dementia.
- **More than 20% of all the world’s freshwater** is in the Great Lakes.
- **While humans and giraffes** obviously have vastly different neck lengths, they still have the exact same

number (seven) of neck vertebrae.

- **Ever wonder why some cocktails** are shaken while others are stirred? Chalk it up to the level of dilution and texture required: The longer the shake or stir, the more diluted and cold the beverage gets. Hence cocktails made with spirits, tonics and bitters should be stirred, while those featuring fruit juices, egg whites, cream or cream-based liqueurs should be shaken.
- **Folks used to say “prunes”** rather than “cheese” when having their pictures taken. *First Thought for the Day: “It is not by muscle, speed or physical dexterity that great things are achieved, but by reflection, force of character and judgment, and in these qualities old age is usually not only not poorer, but is even richer.” -- Cicero*
- **A UCLA study** determined that football players with lower jersey numbers are perceived as slimmer and faster than their teammates with higher jersey digits.
- **The Sullivan Ordinance of 1908** in New York City aimed to prohibit women from smoking in public places, sparking not just widespread debate about women’s rights, but marking a symbolic battleground for female activists dedicated to

gender equality. The law was vetoed by Mayor George B. McClellan Jr. just two weeks later.

- **A study of over 10 million births** revealed that children are 4.6% more likely to be born in the same month as their mothers.
- **When Kentucky Fried Chicken** expanded its operations to China in the 1980s, the food chain’s iconic slogan -- “It’s finger-lickin’ good!” -- was mistakenly, if amusingly, translated in Mandarin to “Eat your fingers off.”
- **King Charles III** was the first British royal to go to a traditional school.
- **During the Napoleonic campaigns** in the early 19th century, French soldiers observed an odd condition among many local Egyptian men, who reported blood in their urine, leading to the misnomer label “the land of the menstruating men.” The actual cause was the parasitic disease

schistosomiasis.

- **Some scientists make a habit of consuming** the organisms they study, a practice that dates to Charles Darwin’s sampling of exotic animals such as pumas and iguanas during his voyages.

- **The word “gymnastics”** comes from the ancient Greek “gymnazein,” meaning “to exercise naked.”
- **Are you a fan of Cheetos?** If so, you might want to visit the town of Cheadle in Alberta, Canada, which

is the proud possessor of a 20-foot statue of a ... Cheeto. Bonus: It even lights up at night!

Last Thought for the Day: “It’s no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then.” -- Lewis Carroll

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

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Miller...

Continued from Page 1

The legendary group will play a variety of their greatest hits at the Huntsville Classic fundraiser. Fan favorites include, "The Joker," "Rock'n Me," "Fly Like an Eagle," "Abracadabra," and "Take the Money and Run."

The event benefits the pediatrics department at not-for-profit Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children through Huntsville Hospital Foundation. Proceeds will be used to purchase a pediatric critical care transport ambulance, renovate the Pediatric ICU, and improve lives through the Canines for Coping and Caring House programs.

"This investment will truly help us serve the whole pediatric patient by meeting their physical and emotional needs" said Huntsville Hospital Foundation President Sarah Savage-Jones. "By purchasing a concert

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BUCKLE UP, BECAUSE THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION'S angriest Luddite, Ned Ludd, is back from the dead with a message for us all: watch out for the robots! While most folks picture him as a hammer-wielding maniac smashing textile machinery, Ned wants to set the record straight. He was a concerned craftsman, not a crazed saboteur. And let's be honest, the textile industry was, well, let's just say notorious for poor working conditions.



Jim Fisher

But fear not, for Ned's ghost isn't here to haunt factories (although, a good haunting

Ned Ludd: The Original Anti-AI Activist From Beyond the Grave by "The Computer Skeptic"

never hurt productivity, am I right?). No, he's here to warn us about a new threat: artificial intelligence. Now, Ned isn't exactly a tech whiz – his idea of a computer isn't a particularly intricate abacus. But even he can see the danger of machines that can think, learn, and potentially replace all our jobs!

"Imagine it!" Ned booms in his best ghostly baritone. "No more weavers, no more cobblers, no more...um... well, whatever it is you folks do nowadays. You'll all be sitting around, fat and lazy,

while robots do all the work! And what happens then? They take over the world? Skynet becomes reality? We all start wearing jumpsuits and saying 'Affirmative' to robot overlords?"

Now, before you scoff and call Ned a Luddite relic, consider this: the man had a point. AI is advancing at breakneck speed, and its impact on the workforce is a real concern. But instead of smashing every Alexa and Roomba in sight, Ned proposes a different approach: collaboration!

"We gotta work with these machines, not against them!" he declares, his spectral form shimmering slightly. "Humans and AI, together! We can use their smarts for good, like curing diseases or cleaning up the environment. We can focus on what we do best, like... um...being creative and stuff! And who knows, maybe we can even teach them a thing or two about humor. Siri needs a serious joke upgrade, let me tell ya."

So, there you have it. Ned Ludd, the OG anti-AI activist, is back with a message of cautious optimism. Let's not repeat the mistakes of the past, but instead embrace the future with open arms (and maybe a few well-placed firewalls). And remember, even a ghost can appreciate a good laugh. Just don't tell

Alexa I said that. She might get jealous.

Disclaimer: This article is for entertainment purposes only and does not reflect the actual views of any historical figures or robots (as far as we know). Please use AI responsibly and always remember, behind every robot, there's probably a human trying to make a living (and maybe get a decent joke out of it).

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

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Reopening

Continued from Page 1

by the local African American community, Leighton Training School was placed on the Alabama Register of Historical Landmarks in 1977. Though the original school closed in 1970, it was later reopened as Leighton Middle School. Leighton Middle closed at the end of the 1993-94 school year. Leighton Training School Students hold bi-annual reunions to celebrate its heritage and legacy.

A joint venture between the Colbert County Commission and the Town of Leighton resulted in the formation of the Leighton-Colbert Cooperative Improvement District (LCCID), the purpose of which is to make capital improvements. The first project undertaken by its Board of Directors is to assist with revitalization of the community with the renovation of the Leighton Training School building. The building has been badly vandalized

but is structurally sound. Proposed usages include not only the senior center, but also a museum for the school's memorabilia, areas for workforce training, a community hall, a possible clinic, nutrition classes, and more.

Renita Jimmar Hall, president of the LCCID, said, "The possibilities are endless, and we hope to partner with others who can see the vision to transform Leighton Training School into a site that can help the town and county improve economic development, and to help future generations."

Leighton Mayor Derick Silcox, Vice President of LCCID, said that he looks forward to the school again being a place where citizens can come to learn. Colbert County Commissioner Tori Bailey said it has long been her dream to see Leighton Training School revitalized as a resource that will serve residents of the Leighton Community and those from other nearby towns.

Protect...

Continued from Page 1

"We believe that financial literacy is a key component of building strong and resilient communities," said Kerry Del Pizzo, COO at United Way. "By offering this Financial Wellness Class, we aim to empower individuals to make informed decisions about their money, ultimately fostering a more financially secure and prosperous community."

The class is open to community members who reside in Colbert, Lauderdale, Franklin, and Marion Counties. Residents of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to attend the class, which will be held on Wednesday, February

21, from 5:30-6:30pm at United Way of Northwest Alabama, 205 W College St, in Florence. There will be light refreshments provided for those who attend.

Registration is free, and participants can sign up on our website at <https://www.uwnwal.org/form/understanding-credit> or by calling 256-764-5892. Due to limited space, all attendees must register for the class.

United Way encourages local businesses, community leaders, and individuals to support this initiative, recognizing the positive impact that increased financial literacy can have on the overall well-being of the community.

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Guest Commentary

Case for Impeaching Mayorkas is Clear and Compelling

In considering the articles of impeachment against Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, it's appropriate for each House member to ask: Is his central role in precipitating our unprecedented immigration disaster and destroying the security and well-being of the American people tolerable and consistent with the rule of law?

It's not. The grounds for impeaching Mayorkas are overwhelming.

What's at issue in this impeachment is not just a policy dispute over how best to enforce the nation's immigration laws. Mayorkas is actively nullifying and undermining those laws.

It's no excuse for Mayorkas to say he's just following President Joe Biden's orders. And it can't be the case that the House's

See **IMPEACHMENT...** on Page 18

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



STEVEN G. BRADBERRY

Courier Journal

in the Shoals

THIS WEEK

February 14, 2024

Happening
THIS WEEK

The Count Begins

Birding Event Spans 200 Countries

SHOALS—The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is set for February 16–19, from locations across the globe. This year, you can make bird counts at multiple locations – from any location – including your great backyard and report the bird species and numbers via eBird. Where will you conduct your counts? Do you have a list of locations, or will you visit one location multiple days? Will you be birding solo, or sharing the GBBC fun with friends or family? The GBBC is now a worldwide event in which birders from 202 countries participated last year!

Sponsored by Audubon, Birds Canada, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Wild Birds Unlimited, you can participate solo or organize a group of friends. Although the GBBC started out as a backyard event, today it is conducted at any location you choose, at or far beyond a backyard.

It's easy to participate, and you can count

See **BIRD COUNT...** Page 20

Peregrine Falcon
Marky Mutchler



"A CONJOINING OF ANCIENT SONG", a film, produced by Willie Ruff and Yale University, will be screened at Belle Mont Mansion on Saturday, February 17, at 2pm. The documentary tells the story of Ruff's journey connecting Gaelic psalm singing and American Music. A round table discussion will follow, led by members of the Mt. Zion Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Killen, and others who traveled with Ruff to Scotland to help connect the voices of African Americans with the worship customs of Scotland. As part of this observance of Black History Month, Belle Mont will honor Ruff and his contributions as a musician, educator, and citizen of the Shoals. The public is invited. Event is free. Belle Mont is located at 1569 Cook Lane, Tuscumbia. For more info: 256-381-5052 or bellemontmansion@gmail.com

BASKETBALL - MEN -

THUR. FEB. 15 • 7:45 PM
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SAT. FEB. 17 • 7:15 PM
vs Austin Peay
Flowers Hall

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BASKETBALL - WOMEN -

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vs ECU
Flowers Hall

SAT. FEB. 17 • 5 PM
vs Bellarmine
Flowers Hall

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

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.

YOUR Letters

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

- **by Mail, in Person, or Mail Slot**
Editor-Courier Journal
219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630
- **e-mail: editor@courierjournal.net**
- **FAX- 256-760-9618**

Democracy or Dictatorship?

Editor:

Open letter to every voting American...

Do you really know your rights under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution? In part it guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom to petition our courts if we have been wrongfully accused of a crime and freedom to vote for elected officials. There is also a right of judicial process whereby a person is considered innocent until proven guilty by a court of law. Ladies your vote will be most important

during this upcoming election!

My fellow Americans, we are a few months away from the next presidential election and one of the candidates brags about retribution or to pay back or get even with those who oppose him and his ideas or demands. He also claims that that he will be a dictator from day one. Romans 12:19 says "Vengeance is mine. I will repay." says the Lord.

Friends, once a dictator assumes any office including the presidency of

the United States, all those freedoms which I mentioned above will be GONE! All of us will be at his mercy and nothing can stop him from exercising all of his authoritative mandates.

Joshua 24:15 in part says "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house we will serve the LORD."

WAKE UP AMERICA! Do you want

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

"Ladies, your vote will be most important..."



Moments in Time



• **On Feb. 12, 1912**, Hsian-T'ung, the last emperor of China, was forced to abdicate following Sun Yat-sen's republican revolution, ending 267 years of Manchu rule in China and 2,000 years of imperial rule.

• **On Feb. 13, 1958**, a four-passenger Thunderbird called the "Square Bird," made by the Ford Company, made its public debut. Considered to be a model that turned the Thunderbird from a sports car into a luxury car, it's still often referred to as simply the T-Bird and has appeared in movies such as "Grease," popular songs and music videos.

• **On Feb. 14, 1984**, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean became the highest-scoring figure skaters in history at the Olympic ice skating championship in Sarajevo with their sensual, free-dance performance of Ravel's "Bolero."

• **On Feb. 15, 1965**, the maple leaf officially became Canada's official

national flag symbol. It had already served in that capacity for more than a century, but the matter was only settled in the House of Commons the previous December, and approved by England's Queen Elizabeth II shortly afterward.

• **On Feb. 16, 2007**, British Education Secretary Alan Johnson's order for "difficult" classic authors including Jane Austen and Charles Dickens to be taught to 11- and 12-year-olds was not met with favor by teachers. They believed these classic works might prove daunting enough to turn students off of such material for life. Johnson argued that they were in fact essential to a well-rounded British education.

• **On Feb. 17, 2014**, the Saudi Gazette made Somayya Jabarti the newspaper's editor-in-chief, marking the first time a woman held that position in the country. Her successor, writing about the decision that represented a major step forward for Saudi women's rights, made

sure to state that the position was granted solely on Jabarti's merit.

• **On Feb. 18, 1943**, a small group of German students from the University of Munich known as the White Rose movement were arrested after a janitor observed and reported them for distributing leaflets with anti-Nazi propaganda. Within days, all the members, including philosophy professor Kurt Huber, were sentenced to death for treason by the People's Court and beheaded.

• **On Feb. 19, 1906**, American industrialist W.K. Kellogg teamed with Charles C. Bolin to found the Battle Creek Toasted Corn Flake Company, now known as the multinational food manufacturer Kellogg's, after 25 years of working for his brother, John Harvey Kellogg, and buying out his in-debt brother's business.

• **On Feb. 20, 1935**, Danish-Norwegian explorer Caroline Mikkelsen became the first woman to set foot on Antarctica, though whether on the mainland or on an island is disputed. A small coastal mountain discovered that day is named for her.

• **On Feb. 21, 1947**, Edwin H. Land publicly demonstrated his instant camera, called the Land Camera, which could produce a black-and-white photograph in

just 60 seconds. Two years later he put 57 Polaroid Land Cameras in Boston's Jordan Marsh department store before Christmas, and they sold out within the first day after their demonstration.

• **On Feb. 22, 1989**, Tina Turner won a Grammy award at age 49 for Best Female Rock Vocal Performance for her album "Tina Live in Europe," featuring recordings from her Private Dancer and Break Every Rule tours.

• **On Feb. 23, 2011**, 77-year-old broadcaster Larry King announced plans to conduct a one-man comedy tour after retiring from his popular talk show on CNN. The new venture was set to begin in April of that year in Connecticut and end in June in Las Vegas.

• **On Feb. 24, 1836**, showman P.T. Barnum exhibited an African American slave, Joice Heth, with the claim that she was the 161-year-old former nursemaid to George Washington. After her death from natural causes, and a public autopsy by a respected physician who claimed she was no more than 79 or 80, Barnum eventually admitted to the hoax, which was frequently mentioned by his critics and followed him for the remainder of his career.

• **On Feb. 25, 1993**, the Florida Marlins introduced their 8-foot-tall, 250-pound mascot, Billy the Marlin. Reportedly, the team's original owner, Wayne Huizenga, chose the name for the fan-friendly fish.

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The vehicle listed may be inspected at the office located at **2001 Wildwood St., Muscle Shoals**

These vehicles will be **SOLD AS IS.**

1 2014 Ford F150 Super Cab Pick Up	1FTEX1EM1EFC09514
2 2012 Ford F150 Pick Up	IFTMF1CF1CFC82124
3 2012 F150 Pick Up	IFTMF1CFXCFC82123
4 2015 F150 Pick Up	1FTMF1C80FFB63051
5 2015 F150 Pick Up	1FTMF1C82FFB63052
6 2015 F250 Pick Up	1FD7X2A65FED11729
7 2017 Ford Explorer	1FM5K7D80HGD92730

The Utilities Board City of Muscle Shoals Water & Wastewater Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in any bid, and to accept any bid considered being advantageous to the owner.

881141-1

ON YOUR DEBT

Judgments and Judicial Liens In The State of Alabama



B. Grant McNutt
Managing Attorney

What Happens When A Judgment Is Entered Against You?

In Alabama, if a judgment is entered against you, the creditor who obtained the judgment can do several things to try collecting on the judgment. The creditor can garnish wages and/or bank accounts; the creditor can force the Sherriff to seize your home, real estate and personal property; the creditor can also place a judgment lien on your home (also referred to as a judicial lien), and real estate through the Probate office. These judgment liens grow at a rate of 7.5% percent or the contract rate per year and can encumber your home and real estate for up to a ten-year period. The judgment lien can also be renewed for another ten years at the end of the first ten-year period. So that is 20 years. As a result, this could prohibit a refinance or sale of the real property unless the judgment lien plus interest is paid in full.

If you are sued in the state of Alabama, it is very important to fight any lawsuit at the beginning and to do whatever you can to prevent a judgment from being entered in the first place.

How Filing For Bankruptcy Can Avoid A Lien

Alabama State Bar requires the following: "No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

A bankruptcy filing can avoid a judgment lien/judicial lien on your real estate to the extent it impairs your allowed bankruptcy exemptions. As a result, it is of critical importance that you research at the local Probate office in the county in which you live and in which you have any real estate to see if any judgment lien has been recorded against you. If so, please make sure to get a copy of that to your bankruptcy attorney prior to filing your bankruptcy case. We cannot overstate the importance of doing so in order to make sure that you get a true fresh start if you choose to file for bankruptcy relief. All of our attorneys are well educated in this area, and we stand ready to help you.

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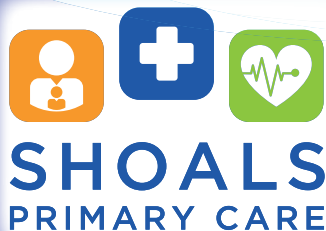
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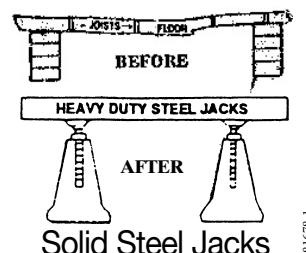
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Notes...

Continued from page 4

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:
Wednesday, February 14 Northwest Shoals Community College - Student Life, 800 George Wallace Boulevard, Muscle Shoals 9am - 3pm
Thursday, February 15 Custom Synthetic Fibers, 101 Jarvis Brewer Dr., Rogersville, 6am - 12pm
Friday, February 16 Custom Synthetic Fibers, 101 Jarvis Brewer Dr., Rogersville, 12pm - 2pm
Saturday, February 17 Greenway Kia, 4109 N Jackson Hwy., Sheffield, 10am - 4pm
Monday, February 19 IHP, LLC, 1769 Lawrence Street E, Russellville, 9am - 4pm
Tuesday, February 20 Rogers High School, Florence, 8am - 3pm
Thursday, February 22 Helen Keller Hospital, 1300 S Montgomery Ave., Sheffield, 9am - 6 pm
Friday, February 23 Will Britt State Farm Insurance Agency, 1311 Woodmont Drive, Tusculumbia, 10am - 4pm

Beginner Crochet Saturday, February 24 at 12pm at the FLPL.
Our popular Beginner Crochet Class is back! This is the class where you will learn the basic crochet stitches that will help you move to an entry intermediate level!
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Get Out of Town! Sunday, February 25 at 2pm at the FLPL. Japan with Dr. Rozalyn Love. Dr. Rozalyn Love will present tips for traveling with children as well as discuss her family's recent trip to Japan. *RESCHEDULED from January!
Email: Sherhonda@FLPL.org Call 256-764-6564, ext. 12

(Un)Settled: The Landscape in American Art is a collaborative exhibition that explores the rich, complicated, and evolving topic of the American landscape, from its origins in 19th-century painting to the present. The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is the first of the four contributing American South Consortium institutions to open the exhibition to the public, running Now-April 14. The multi-disciplinary show brings together 43 works of art that foreground multiple historic and cultural perspectives on landscape as a hallmark of national identity.

The other three institutions comprising The American South Consortium that will also display this year include; The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, CT, the Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, and the Mobile Museum of Art in Mobile, AL.

"Alabamians have always had an unmistakable relationship with the land and incredible landscapes," said Al Head,

See NOTES... page 30

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Courier Journal

Mystery Photo of the week
February 14

Enter at CourierJournal.net for your chance to **Win LUNCH FOR 2** at **Rosie's CANTINA** in Downtown Florence

Week of February 7 winner is Allison Pipkins of Cherokee who correctly guessed **"Beaver dam at Rock Springs Nature Trail"**

One entry per person. Winners will be announced each week in our paper and on our website. Winners can pick up their Gift Certificate at the Courier Journal office beginning Wednesdays after Noon.



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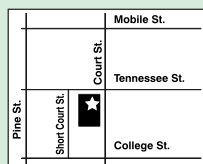
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Commentary

IMPEACHMENT...

Continued from Page 12

only proper option in the face of the current lawlessness is to impeach the president.

Biden and his White House advisers never could carry out this administration's disastrous open-border agenda on their own. Biden can do it only through the active agency of a homeland security secretary who's willing to abuse the powers of his department and violate the laws he's sworn to uphold.

As a Senate-confirmed officer of the government, Mayorkas has a duty to follow the law faithfully; he should refuse to carry out directives that are inconsistent with the law, or else resign from office.

We are a nation of laws, and our republican government cannot function if the civil officers of the government are not held to account when they act in contravention of the law, even when they do so at the behest of the president.

Some may think that Biden will just continue with his current agenda notwithstanding impeachment, and simply put another willing lackey in place if Mayorkas were to be removed from office. But the president's ability to do so would be much more constrained and subject to greater and more intense scrutiny by Congress and the public if the articles of impeachment are approved.

Border security never has been perfect and

previous secretaries of the Department of Homeland Security have exercised some degree of enforcement discretion, including regarding parole and mandatory detention. But Mayorkas clearly has crossed the line of permissible discretion into flagrant nullification and violation of the law.

It is the proper constitutional role of the House of Representatives to declare that Mayorkas has gone far beyond what is tolerable and consistent with the duties and privileges of his office.

As Justice Samuel Alito made clear in dissenting from a recent Supreme Court decision holding that Texas lacked standing to challenge Mayorkas' refusal to enforce the immigration laws, the House's prerogative of impeachment is one of the only tools available to challenge this lawlessness, short of repudiation by the people in the next presidential election.

Some have raised the specter that if Mayorkas is impeached, it may become more common for the House to attempt to impeach Cabinet secretaries. But that's a red herring.

Mayorkas' gross misconduct and violations of the law are so extraordinarily extreme and intolerable that an impeachment in this case should not create a precedent that would become the norm going forward.

If anything, it should have the effect of discouraging such extraordinary misconduct by future Cabinet members. In any event, of course, nothing the current House does or doesn't do will dictate how a future House may attempt to use its power of impeachment in other cases.

If Mayorkas is allowed to get away with the abuses and course of misconduct he has been guilty of, then it could be said that the House's power to impeach civil officers itself would become a nullity.

First published February 2 at *The Daily Signal*.

Steven G. Bradbury is a Distinguished Fellow at The Heritage Foundation.

Bradbury served as the Senate-confirmed general counsel of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) from November 2017 until January 2021 and served as the Acting Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Bradbury also served as the Principal Deputy and Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice in the Bush 43 administration from 2005-2009. He received the Edmund J. Randolph Award and the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service, among other awards.

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Bird...

Continued from Page 12

anywhere you find birds; just follow 4 simple steps.

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participate as many times as you choose, at as many locations as you wish to during the GBBC days. There are now 3 optional ways to report your GBBC results, which are described step-by-step at How to Participate – Great Backyard Bird Count.

If you are interested in birding during the GBBC as a part of a community event, or are considering organizing a group of participants, see information about Group Counting for tips about how to make your efforts seamless.

We hope you will join other birders in this year's Great Backyard Bird Count.

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The animals you see here are currently in local animal shelters or rescue facilities. Adoption fees vary and include having your new friend spayed or neutered, if necessary. Help us help these and other animals by adopting a new friend today.

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**

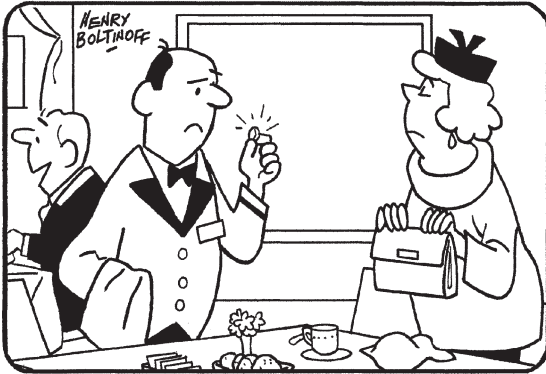
Meet **MILA** is a 2-3 year old Curr mix, who is very dog friendly and wants to play all the time!! She LOVES being petted and given attention. Mila loves to be outside and loves being able to run and play! All of her babies have now moved on and she is ready for her forever loving home. She is so deserving of the chance to have a happy life with people who love her as much as we do at the shelter! **MINA'S 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 **AVA**. This sweet older Sheppard mix is looking for her forever home with you. She is beautiful, sweet and loving. Fostering is free or come take her out for the day. **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.

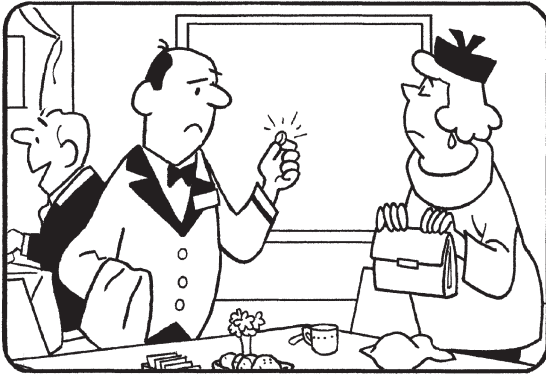
Meet **SUGAR**. This precious girl is as sweet as sugar. She is adorable, affectionate and loves to snuggle. Sugar is looking for a home to get love and attention. **ADOPTIONS ARE CURRENTLY \$85** and include everything your new pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines, a microchip, spay/neuter, and heartworm test. Please call or come by **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to meet this sweetheart.

EDDIE is a cool dude. He likes to just chill and hang out. If you are looking for a dog to hang out with or ride in the car then Eddie is your man. You can even come by and take him for a doggies day out. **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 sweet Eddie.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Purse is different. 2. Arm is missing. 3. Label is higher. 4. Hair is different. 5. Saucer is missing. 6. Nametag is higher.

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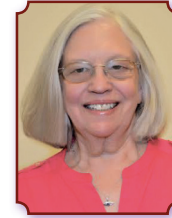
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Letters...

Democracy or Dictatorship?

Continued from Page 12

to live in a democratic society as we are enjoying today or would you prefer to live under a dictator?

In my opinion this man is a bully and I concur with Liz Chaney's statement that he is unworthy and he is unfit to be the President of the United States! He is a convicted rapist, a crook, a thief and a liar. He belongs in jail or in prison!

Let me remind all my fellow veterans who have served in any branch of the U.S. Military that this is a man who has a yellow streak down his back and wants to be Commander-In-Chief, after insulting us all by calling us suckers and losers.

My brothers-in-arms let us come together in unity this November and show this bully, who the real sucker and loser really is.

Finally friends, if this man is re-elected President of the United States, may Almighty God have mercy on us because he certainly will not.

Nathan Hale is quoted as saying, "Give me liberty or give me death." I wholeheartedly agree.

Pete Lopez
Florence

Divison not Understood

Editor:

I'll never understand how the people in America became so divided on all the important issues. I was in California in the Navy when President Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act and voting laws and the whole Southeast went from blue states to red states. I never understood the race thing until I moved to Florence from Iowa in the late 1950's and went to the movie theater across from the Post Office downtown. There were two water fountains, one said white above it, the other said colored. I had to check out the colored water, because I've never seen colored water.

I kind of like that young gal running against Trump. But when she says 'there's no racism in America', yeah right, I kind of wonder where she got that from. I don't think she has a chance to get elected. One day maybe in the future we'll see women equal to men, but not in my lifetime. I thought when Trump said that about grabbing women by the crotch, he hung himself from getting the vote, but it seem to work the other way. When I ask folks my age, why they voted for him they tell me, 'well I always vote Republican.'

This is a wake up time folks. This person only cares about himself. He could destroy this country, just like Hitler destroyed Germany. It's time to protect our democracy, please. MAGA is a cult, if you are a MAGA cultist just be careful not to drink the Kool-Aid. Joe Biden is a good man and a great President.

Tom House
Greenhill

Farming Insurance

Editor:

Crop insurance provides a safety net for farmers, protecting their operations from loss due to natural perils such as drought, frost, excess moisture, pest infestations, or disease.

While essential for many farmers, the rules regulating crop insurance have often been at odds with conservation practices. Thanks to recent changes by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (RMA), the implementation of conservation practices supported by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will no longer

See LETTERS... on Page 29



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Thomas McCutcheon

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Conversations Lawyers Have

People ask lawyers about problems they have. Frequently those questions include what can they recover when something goes wrong. A great example is Everett v. Ragan, a 25-year-old case where a professional bounty hunter "Big Mo" Everett alleged that his car had been negligently repaired and wouldn't run and as a result he claimed compensatory damages for his inability to apprehend a fugitive. The Court said that was not a reasonably

foreseeable damage as the result of a negligent auto repair and denied the claim.

The idea is that a harm must be reasonably foreseeable. The opposite result was reached when a trucking company packed their trailer with tall windows on the sides with boxes of gloves in the middle to keep the windows from falling. When the boxes of gloves were unpacked and the next worker came in, the windows fell on a worker and injured him. The Court held it was foreseeable that when the boxes of gloves were removed, what they were supporting would fall and the claim was allowed.

If your boat won't start because you have a bad battery, you might be able to have your battery replaced under warranty. But you're not going to get any money for the fishing tournament you think you would have won.

This all goes back to some pretty old cases dealing with what is foreseeable and what's not. In one of the original opinions the Court discussed that if a car ran a stop sign and caused an accident that the damages to the people inside the car were foreseeable and compensable, but if a lady some blocks away dropped a baby when she heard the wreck, those injuries would not be proximately caused by the car running the stop sign.

One of the most interesting ideas is the "rescue doctrine." The law recognizes that "danger invites rescue." A famous judge (Judge Cardozo) observed that the law does not ignore one's reaction to rescue when confronted with danger, placing it "within the range of natural and probable." "The wrongdoer may not have foreseen the coming of a deliverer. He is accountable as if he had."

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

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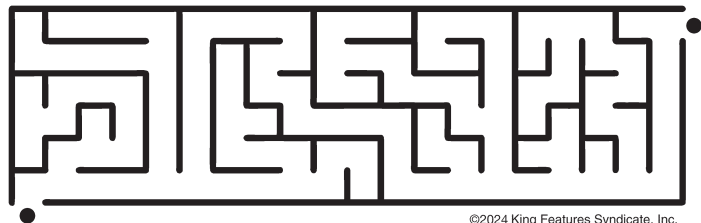
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Kids' Maze



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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Bunsen's apparatus | ___ _ _ N ___ | Fast-food order | ___ _ _ G ___ |
| 2. Am I a planet or not? | ___ U ___ | Early philosopher | ___ A ___ |
| 3. Held on to the baseball | C ___ _ _ _ | Instilled a lesson | T ___ _ _ _ |
| 4. Behave in response | ___ _ _ T | Span | ___ _ _ H |
| 5. Senior | ___ D ___ | Mr. Fudd | ___ M ___ |
| 6. Think about | ___ N ___ _ | Face dust | ___ W ___ |
| 7. Painter's garment | ___ M ___ _ | Volt jolt | ___ H ___ _ |
| 8. Shhhhhh | ___ _ _ E _ | Patchwork cover | ___ _ _ L _ |
| 9. Kit or Johnny | ___ _ _ S ___ | Milk holder | ___ _ _ T ___ |
| 10. Fail to recall | ___ _ _ _ T | Faked a signature | ___ _ _ _ _ D |

Puzzle Whirl

MINI SUDOKU

			6	
5		2		
			5	
		6		2
			4	
2	1			

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 6-box square contains all of the numbers from one to six.

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WORD LADDERS

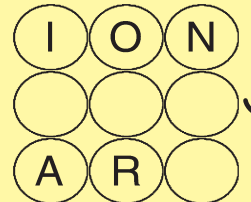
Can you go from PEAKY to PARIS in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

PEAKY

PARIS

Answers on Page 30

WORD SPIRAL



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

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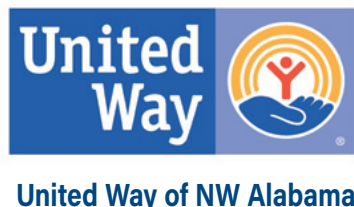
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Your link to community resources

Medicare Minute "Medicare Part B"

Before we begin talking about Medicare Part B I would like to clear up something that was in last week's article concerning Medicare Part A. As I stated in the article Part A has a deductible of \$1,632 per benefit period. I also stated that if you paid into Medicare for 40 quarters that Part A was free to you. I was referring to the fact that you would not have to pay a premium to Medicare for Part A, not that it would exclude you from paying the deductible.

Medicare Part B is the part of Medicare that is billed when you receive services as an outpatient by a Medicare approved provider, such as your primary care physician (PCP) or specialist. Although a visit to your doctor is the primary way that you will use Medicare Part B, it also covers many other services. We will discuss the other services in next week's article.

If you are turning 65 in 2024, Medicare Part B will have a premium of \$174.10/mo. Because there is a premium attached to Medicare Part B this coverage is optional. This means you are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B. There are two important things to remember about Part B being optional. First, if you opt out of Part B you will have no coverage under Medicare for your outpatient services. Second, if you decide at a later date to enroll in Part B there can be a late enrollment penalty applied that will last as long as you live and have Part B. There are exceptions to the late enrollment penalty that we will discuss in future articles.

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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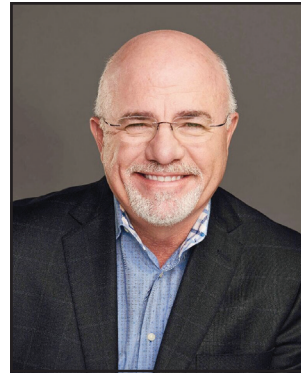
DAVE
Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

A LESSON HE'LL REMEMBER FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE

Dear Dave,
Our 21-year-old son is in college, and we've always warned him to stay away from credit cards. Despite our warnings, we recently learned he got a store-branded credit card. The good news is he has stayed under the credit limit. The bad news is he has never made any payments on the purchases he made, and now he owes about \$3,800. He's a good student, and my husband and I want to look at this as a young person's one-time mistake. Do you think we should pay off the card for him just this once?
Melinda

Dear Melinda,
Believe me, I understand you wanting to help him out. It means you've got a good heart, and you love him. No parent likes seeing their



child in a bad situation. There's a reality here, though, I hope you won't overlook. It's his debt, not yours. He knew what he was doing when he signed up for that credit card. He knew what it meant, what was expected, and he's the one who should make good on the repayment. There's nothing unfair about that. Now, you're right. This is a typical young person's mistake. And like a lot of mistakes our kids make, it's one that's bad and wonderful at the same time. It's bad because if he had just listened to you and his dad, he would've avoided the whole mess. It's wonderful, though, because it gives you two the opportunity to provide him with a real world, teachable moment. At this point, my advice is for both of you to give him a great big hug, and lovingly explain where he went wrong and why it was a bad idea. If you want, you can even go a step further, and help him find a part-time job if he doesn't have one right now,

so he can pay off his debt and get out of this mess. It'll take some planning and discipline on his part, but leave the payments to him. Hopefully, by the time he finishes working his tail off—and scrimping and saving to pay this debt—he will have learned a lesson he'll remember for the rest of his life.
—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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**Courier
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Letters...

Farming...

Continued from Page 22

impact crop insurance coverage.

To qualify for federal crop insurance, farmers must follow production methods designated as Good Farming Practices by RMA. These regulations, for example, don't allow the use of farming methods that reduce yields. Use of those practices would result in the farmer forfeiting their ability to make a claim in the event of a loss.

These limitations were troublesome for farmers deploying conservation practices that could create a temporary decrease in yield, such as cover crops. While cover crops may initially have a negative impact on yield, they benefit farmers in the long term by improving soil health and water quality. Feedback from farmers regarding this issue led RMA to adopt all NRCS practices as Good Farming Practices.

Correcting the disconnect between RMA and the conservation methods supported by NRCS is an important step toward a future where farmers can readily incorporate conservation into their operations

without putting their crop insurance coverage at risk. This change opens the door for more farmers to engage in conservation that will impact rural communities for generations to come.

Kelsey Willardson
Policy Associate
Center for Rural Affairs
Lyons, NE

Adulthood Ill-defined

Editor:

"Ethan Crumbley," Reuters reported in December, "was 15 years old when he opened fire at Oxford High School on Nov. 30, 2021," killing four and wounding seven. At 17, Crumbley was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

At the time of both the shootings and the sentencing, Crumbley was by considered a child by the state of Michigan. He couldn't legally drink. He couldn't legally vote. He couldn't enlist in the armed forces or get married without parental consent. And he couldn't legally buy a gun.

Crumbley became an adult in the state's eyes only when it concerned charging, trying, convicting, and sentencing him for murder. But then a curious thing happened. The state waved its magic wand again and his status as an adult was reversed - Benjamin Button style. He was legally classified as a child once more. Why? If Ethan was considered an adult at the time he committed his crime, then his mother wasn't responsible for his mental health status, medical treatment needs, or ownership or possession of firearms.

Since the state wanted to convict Jennifer Crumbley of involuntary manslaughter for her son's crimes, Ethan Crumbley had to be tried as a minor.

On February 6, a jury agreed with the state that Ethan Crumbley is Schrodinger's Child -- simultaneously minor child and responsible adult inside his cell, becoming whichever one of those things the state needs him to be when

there's a prosecution in progress.

There are many problems with legally defining "childhood" and "adulthood" on the basis of drawing a number out of a hat. Some 15-year-olds are more mature than others and, for that matter, sometimes more mature than some 45-year-olds.

Letting prosecutors arbitrarily drop the random number in favor of a more convenient number doesn't fix any of those problems. It just adds to them. If Ethan Crumbley had previously been allowed to take and pass some kind of competency test to unlock his rights to vote, drink, purchase and possess guns, marry, and enlist, trying him as an adult for his crimes would have been reasonable.

If Ethan Crumbley was a child for all those purposes, it would likewise be reasonable to assert some measure of parental responsibility for supervisory failures culminating in those crimes.

But it should be one or the other.

Tom Knapp
Director, The William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism
Gainesville, FL

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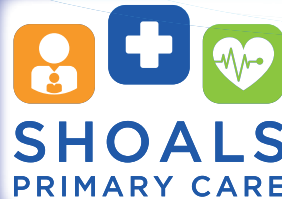
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Community Notes...

Continued from page 17

Interim Director of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. "Recognizing an opportunity to spotlight this long-standing love of the land, the MMFA is very pleased and proud to be part of the (Un)Settled: The Landscape of American Art exhibition. The Board and staff trust our viewers will identify with the artwork and find it to be an engaging trip through time and space."

(Un)Settled is arranged in sections that present historic artworks in context with modern and contemporary examples. To tell a more comprehensive history, the curatorial selection includes the voices of Native American communities, women, and artists of color. The curatorial selections also challenge the canonical narrative of American history and identity through landscape by including material culture and works by underrepresented artists.

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is located at One Museum Drive in Montgomery, AL.

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.

12th annual Run The Rolling Hills Trail Race in Campbellsville, TN.

10K, 5K & Kids 1 Mile on Saturday, April 27 at 8:30am at 10601 Campbellsville Road (HWY 166), Pulaski, TN

Day of Race Registration starts at 7:30am. Kids 1 Mile starts at 8:30am. 10K/5K starts at 9am

Online Registration: www.raceentry.com/races/run-the-rolling-hills/2024/register

Website: runtherollinghills5k.wordpress.com/

Social Dance on Tuesday Nights, 6:30-8:45,

at The Club (Florence Senior Center), 450 Country Club Drive in Florence. Music from across the decades provided by The Browns. The Club is an alcohol, drug, smoke, and weapon-free facility. 256-760-6420.

Joints in Motion, chair exercise class, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

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

Gerald Clemmons needs a kidney!

Gerald is a lifelong resident of Lauderdale County. He has kidney disease and is on dialysis. He has been told that he needs a kidney transplant, and a living donor is his best chance to survive. Please consider becoming a living kidney donor for him at Vanderbilt Hospital.

You can help! To be a donor, you will need to: know your blood type, be at least 18 years of age, be in good physical health, and have a good mental disposition. This week can provide more information: <https://bit.ly/>

VandyLivingDonor

If you can't donate, please share this information.

Dance Lessons

Florence Parks and Rec will be offering small group ballroom dance lessons at Royal Avenue Recreation Center. Beginner class 1-2pm, intermediate class 2-3pm. There are also select times available for individual/couple lessons. These lessons are perfect for weddings,

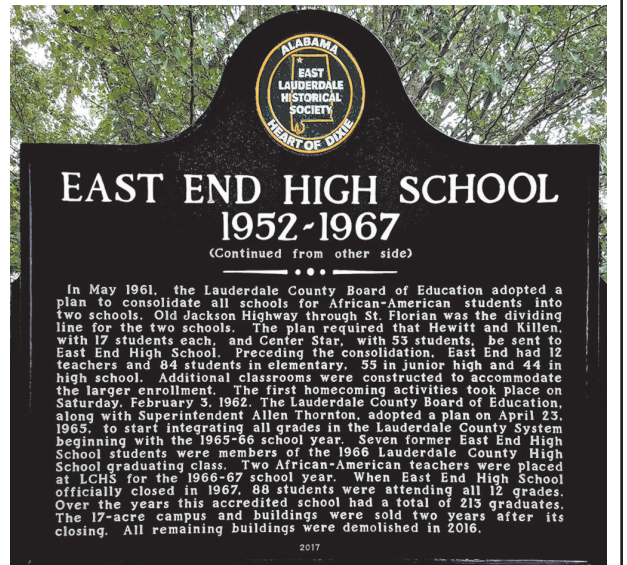
formals, proms, lead outs, cotillions etc. Space is limited. Call Royal Ave, Rec Center, 256-760-6245, to sign up.

Club (Florence Senior Center) and Diamond Tours Diamonds in the Rough 2024 trip Information. www.GroupTrips.com/TheClub
The former dates were April 15-17 and

See NOTES... page 31

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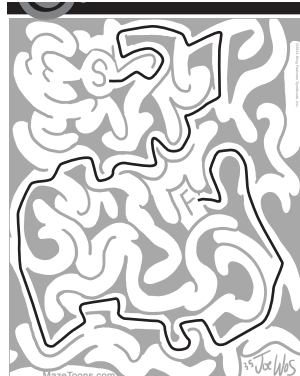
SIGNS OF THE PAST



Location: 984 Co. Rd. 610, Rogersville, AL
34.8112°N, 87.2983°W

Side 1 of this marker was featured in a July 2019 Courier. Here side 2 states that, in 1961, all Lauderdale Co. "African-American students" were consolidated into 2 schools, one west of, and the other east of, Old Jackson Hwy. Lauderdale school integration in 1965, caused closure of the 12 grades of "East End" in 1967, and buildings were demolished in 2016.

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

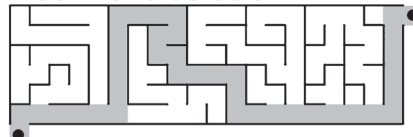


Even Exchange answers

1. Burner, Burger
2. Pluto, Plato
3. Caught, Taught
4. React, Reach
5. Elder, Elmer
6. Ponder, Powder
7. Smock, Shock
8. Quiet, Quilt
9. Carson, Carton
10. Forget, Forged

Puzzle Whirl Answers

Kids' Maze Solution



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WORD LADDER

Answer
PEAKY, PERKY, PERKS, PARKS, PARTS, PARIS

Word Spiral Answer
NARRATION

MINI SUDOKU

Answer

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

Notes...

Continued from page 30

have been changed to these NEW DATES for the Nashville Show Trip, May 20-23. 2 nights lodging in the Nashville area, 4 meals: 2 breakfast 2 dinners. Guided tour of Nashville, 2 great

shows and Admission to the GRAND OLE OPRY & NASHVILLE NIGHTLIFE DINNER THEATER. Back stage tour of the Grand Ole Opry. Admission to Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, Visit Opry Mills and a photo opportunity at the Parthenon. \$582 for double occupancy and \$672 single occupancy room. Trips are open to the public. Diamonds in the Rough trips originate at The Club, 450 Country Club

Drive, Florence. For more information, call Fran @ The Club, 256.760.6642, 9-4 Monday-Friday.

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

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

One trip is scheduled with a different travel company.

• Magical Christmas Market Germany, December 10-17, 2024. 21 spaces available.

Call Collette at 800-340-5158 to sign up directly with them. You'll be traveling with us (The Club).

Director sought — Zodiac Players of the Shoals Community Theatre is accepting director applications for the 2024-25 season. If interested in submitting a show proposal, please submit a brief proposal of the show along with application to direct and experience. Include concept of the show production. Submissions due by Jan. 1 and will be presented to the Zodiac Board for approval. Submit to: rjpettus@gmail.com, rjpettus@shoalschamber.com.

The Alabama Music Hall of Fame — Star Player exhibit will be on display at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame, 617 U.S. 72, Tusculmba. Rotating exhibits at the hall of fame highlight accomplishments of area music achievers. Details: 256-381-4417.

The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts presents This House Was Full of People: The Art of Mary Wallace Kirk through February 29.

Mary Wallace Kirk (1889-1978) was a poet, author, and educator, as well as an artist. She was born in and resided in Tusculmba 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.

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

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

institutions.

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

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

Real Church History

2 Peter 1:16 "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." See 2 Peter 3:15&16! The Baptist church didn't die for anybody and can't save a dead horse. Neither can yours! But if you are interested in church history and honest, you will check out three men and their works. 1. John Foxe, died 1587, authored "Foxes Book of Martyrs." 2. Andrew Miller, died 5.8.1883, wrote book on "Church History". 3. Dr. J. M. Carroll penned "The Trail of Blood", died 9.16.1907.

Notice the dates on these men who wrote before the evils of communication and entertainment could warp their ideas and motives. Now if you were as receptive to the Lord and truth as you are to sin and tradition, many of you "Gnostics" & cultists would have been saved years ago! Why do we have 260+ books altering one book and over 4000 cults & ways to hell on this earth today? Somebody's following a lie for money and power to control people. Are you involved? Get saved and get out now.

The Lord never said that any particular church could save anything. Notice the one man in N.T. whose life was examined from birth to death, besides (Christ.) It was the Apostle Paul. Christ is God and Lord from eternity past. Paul was the one to whom all revelations were given regarding salvation by grace, faith, and all church doctrine. All that was a mystery before it revealed to one man, the Apostle Paul. Be honest with God and yourself and get, read, study and believe a KJV and ask God to open your eyes and save your soul. If you are not really saved, you will burn forever. Is your pride worth that much?

Time is running out on this perverted generation. God's patience and long-suffering will end soon and His judgment will hit this earth. Is it so hard to admit you are lost? The whole universe will see it soon. **Hebrews 9:27** "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." You will make this judgment! You must answer for yourself. Get saved now.

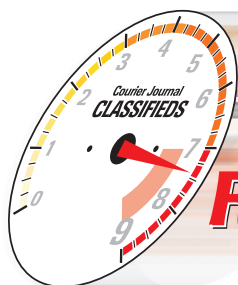
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