

Absentee Ballot Dates

MONTGOMERY—Secretary of State **Wes Allen** wants to remind Alabama voters that county absentee election managers must receive mail-in absentee ballot applications by Tuesday, February 27, 2024. The deadline to return an absentee ballot application in person is Thursday, February 29, 2024.

Absentee ballots being returned in-person must be received by the county absentee election manager by close of business on the day before the election – March 4, 2024. Absentee ballots returned by mail must be received no later than noon on Election Day – March 5, 2024.

Voters are required to present a valid form of photo identification before voting at their polling place or by absentee ballot.

For more information on absentee voting in Alabama or to request an absentee ballot application, please visit www.AlabamaVotes.gov.

Tickets for Sports HOF

FLORENCE— The Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame induction banquet takes place at 6:30pm Saturday, March 16 at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center. This year's inductees include **Colby Butler, Bob Grisham, Michelle Morris McFall, Kirk Thigpen, Frank Singleton, Corey Murks, Tony Clinton, Betty Crosby, Greg Tyon,** and **Tonya Helton Young.**

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

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Alabama State Parks Announces

Eagle Winners



GUNTERSVILLE—Alabama State Parks honored eight Eagle Award winners earlier this month during a ceremony at Lake Guntersville State Park. Among those honored with an Eagle Award was Florence resident, Dan Hendricks.

The Eagle Awards are sponsored by the Alabama State Parks Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). This is the eighth year of honoring both individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in support of Alabama State Parks. Eight

See **EAGLE AWARDS...** on Page 6

Northwest Shoals freshman, **Silvie Miller**, left, receives her crown as **Miss Northwest Shoals Community College** from **NWSCC President, Dr. Jeff Goodwin** as **Dean of Students, Dr. Crystal Reed**, looks on.

NWSCC photo



First Such Event Since 1995

Miller is Named Miss NWSCC 2024

PHIL CAMPBELL -Northwest Shoals Community College freshman, Silvie Miller was named Miss Northwest Shoals during an event on February 17 in the Lou B. Beville Center on the Phil Campbell campus. Miller's triumph marks a significant milestone, as she becomes the first student to hold the Miss Northwest Shoals title since 1995.

By winning the title of Miss Northwest Shoals, Miller is poised to represent her college and community at the upcoming Miss Alabama

competition later this year. After completing her coursework at NWSCC, she plans to continue her academic journey at the University of North Alabama in Secondary Education (Math).

"There were so many talented and qualified girls on that stage, and I am forever grateful to be chosen as Miss Northwest Shoals Community College," said the Russellville resident. "It is

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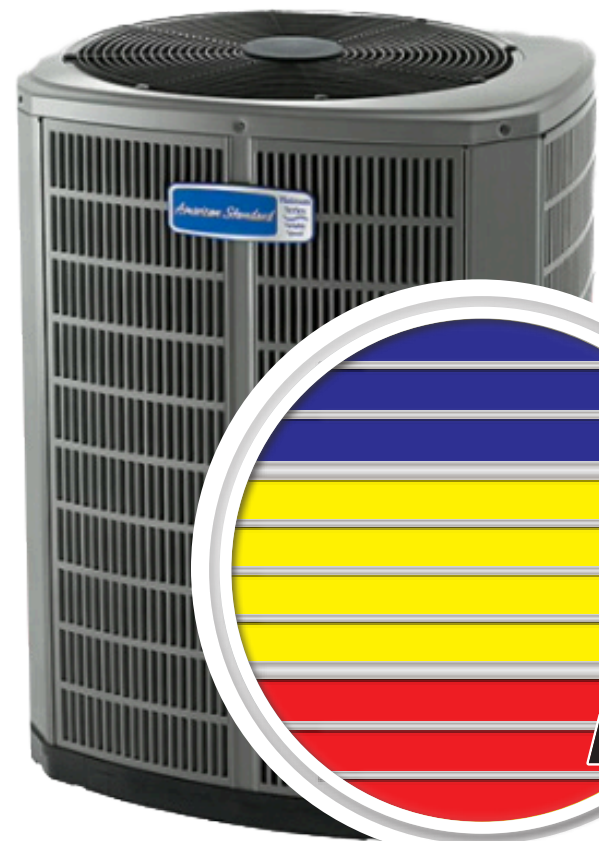
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Shorts...

Tickets for Sports HOF

Continued from Page 1

Tickets are on sale for \$40 per ticket and tables of 8 may be reserved by calling **Steve Harrison** at 256-810-3460.

Cooper Wins Miss UNA

FLORENCE – University of North Alabama junior, **Madeline Cooper**, of Russellville, was recently crowned Miss UNA 2024 during a Saturday evening program in Norton Auditorium. Cooper will now move on to compete for the title of Miss Alabama at an event that will take place later this year. Cooper is a Secondary Education and Social Science major. She performed "Don't Rain on My Parade" from Funny Girl for the talent portion of the program.

Cooper was also named as the Outstanding Service Award Winner. Cooper is the 49th student to be crowned with the title, a tradition that began in 1974 when **Pam Long** was the first



Cooper

student to serve as Miss UNA. Seventeen young women competed for the title of Miss UNA in five stages.

These stages are private interview, on-stage question, health and fitness, talent/HERstory, and evening gown. In addition, other winners include:

- **Caroline Coleman**, of Lawrenceburg, TN., as first runner-up
 - **Jada Winston**, of Pelham, as second runner-up as well as Miss Congeniality
 - **Maggie Keller**, of Alabaster, as third runner-up
 - **Keller and Tristin Williamson**, of Opp, were the Talent winners
- Miss UNA will receive a one-year tuition scholarship as well as a Miss UNA Custom Designed Ring, provided by Creative Jewelers in downtown Florence.

Music Camp - Limited Spots

FLORENCE—Muscle Shoals Music Camp, a day camp for high schoolers hosted primarily at UNA's School of the Arts and the Department of Entertainment Industry facilities, will be Monday-Friday, June 10-14.

Campers will study songwriting, recording technology, the music business, and the history of Muscle Shoals music. The curriculum includes field trips to the Alabama Music Hall of Fame and FAME and Muscle Shoals Sound recording studios plus workshops and panel discussions.

In addition, students will be formed into bands. During the week, they'll work together to write and record original songs. Students will perform their original music for the public at 5:30pm, Friday, June 14, in UNA's Mane Room.

Instructors include UNA faculty as well as local music professionals. Applications are available at muscleshoalsmusiccamp.com. The deadline to submit applications is Monday, April 1.

Cost of the camp is

\$250, which includes meals as well as transportation and admission to field-trip sites. Deadline for payment is Friday, May 10.

For more information, visit <https://www.una.edu/schoolofthearts/muscle-shoals-music-camp> or email csota@una.edu or call 256.765.4559.

Trimble with Sheffield BOE

SHEFFIELD – Sheffield City Schools recently named **Scott Trimble** to the Board of Education's District 3 seat. He replaces **Steve Nix** who has served in the position since 2021.

A lifelong Sheffield resident, Trimble retired from Muscle Shoals City Schools as a teacher and coach in 2018 after a 25-year career in education. He also coached

men's and women's Cross Country at the University of North Alabama for 15 years.

"I look forward to supporting (superintendent) Dr. Nelson, teachers and staff in Sheffield City Schools and making a positive impact on the students' lives," Trimble said. "I see great things ahead for the school system."

Trimble and his wife, **Leigh Anna**, own George's Steak Pit in Sheffield. The couple formerly owned Whole Hog Express. They have one daughter, **Mary Anna**, who will be attending UNA this fall. She will be on the cross-country team.

Kids, Veterans & Valentine's

SHEFFIELD—The VFW 8640 Auxiliary of Sheffield received Valentine's cards from students who were determined to put a smile on the face of area veterans. Students from Sheffield Head Start, W.A. Threadgill, G. W. Trenholm, and McBride

See SHORTS... on Page 4

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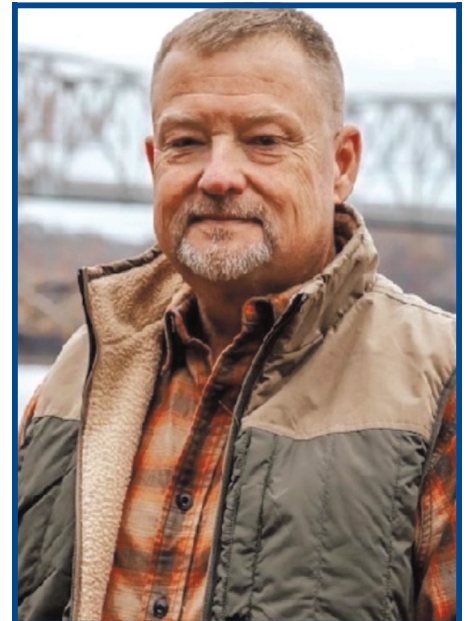
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- 10 years Service in EMS as EMT for Local Ambulance Provider (Retired)
- 4 years Service Lauderdale Sherriff Dept. Reserve Deputy (Retired)
- 11 years Central Fire Board of Directors: budget management, secured Federal grants toward purchase of new trucks and equipment
- 5 years Service: County Board of Vol. Fire Departments
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VOTE MARCH 5

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- Bobby McCormick**

Bobby McCormick



**"To the citizens of Lauderdale County;
It has been my privilege to serve as your District 2
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and the many friendships that came from it. Due to some
health issues I have decided not to seek re-election.
I would like to endorse Wesley Smith to replace me on
the commission. I feel that with his background and
experience he would be a great asset
for the people of this county."
- Fay Parker**

Fay Parker

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Community Notes

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

• Email to editor@courierjournal.net

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:

Thursday, February 29 Shoals Hospital, 201 W Avalon Ave, Muscle Shoals, 9am - 5pm

Friday, March 1 Cricket Wireless, 217 Cox Creek Parkway, Florence, 10am - 6pm

Saturday, March 2 Fashion Exchange, 1401 US Hwy 72, Killen, 10am - 4pm

Tuesday, March 5 Heritage Christian University, Florence, 9am - 4pm

Wednesday, March 6 Cherokee High School, 8am - 3pm

Thursday, March 7 Holcim Building Solutions, 393 Denton Circle, Tuscumbia, 6am - 4pm

'Hi Neighbors of the Shoals' meets at 10:30am on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Florence Public Library. (March 5th) We are a women's social group that welcomes all ladies who are current residents of the Shoals area. Come join us! Contact Berta Birch, 256-777-3119, for further details.

Church Women United invites all to World Day of Prayer, March 1 at 10am at N. Wood United Methodist Church, 1129 Willis Ave. Florence.

More than 400 Girl Scout Troops in North-Central Alabama will begin Girl Scout cookie booth sales at local businesses going on now. 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, NOW-Sunday, March 24.

Florence-Lauderdale Tourism is excited to announce that they now offer prints of The Shoals Mural at McFarland Park. They are 12 "x 36" and printed on archival paper. They are available for purchase at the visitor center during our regular business hours.

Regular prints are: \$25. Signed and numbered prints are \$50 (Limited edition of 250) Location 200 Jim Spain Drive, Florence in McFarland Park. Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, Saturday, 10am-4pm.

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 11:30am Monday-Friday at The Club, 450 Country Club Road, Florence. \$1 donation.

Jacksonburg Church of Christ will conduct a Spring Series at 7pm on Wednesdays in March and April. Schedule: March 6, Rick Collum, Sin and Temptation; March 13, Brad Adcock, Grief; March 20, Sonny Owens, Disappointments and Doubt; March 27, Jeff Abrams, Persecution; April 3, Rodney Livingston, Addiction; April 10, Scott Wright, Betrayal; April 17, Landon Willis, Financial Issues; April 24, Brian Jerrett, Family Issues. Everyone is welcome.

Jacksonburg is located at 414 Lauderdale Co. Rd. 28 in Florence.

Infants - Adults Clothes And Shoes Give Away, 8-10 am Thursday, March 7 at the Care Center, First Baptist Church in Killen. Winter Clearance - Come and fill your bag!

First Missionary Baptist Church in Florence, located at 330 South Thompson Street, will celebrate the 41st Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Joseph Marshall, on Sunday, March 10 at 11am. The guest speaker will be Rev. Bishop Dr. William Boyd, Pastor of St. Mark M. B. Church in Florence. Everyone is welcome.

Just a few months after the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, with male pilots in short supply, 28 experienced civilian women pilots volunteered to deliver newly built trainer aircraft to flight schools in the South. They formed the country's first female squadron in late summer 1942. They were pioneers in military aviation who served in the Army Air Corps as an experimental program during World War II.

Lisa Taylor, executive director of the National WASP WWII Museum in Sweetwater, TX, will recount how the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) volunteered for this thrilling and historically important opportunity to fly the leading edge, technologically advanced aircraft of the time, during her presentation on Wednesday, March 13, at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. The 5pm presentation is a free event and is open to the public.



FFW 8640 Auxiliary members pictured L-R: Sheryl Hamilton, Mary Stevens, Apriell Burgess, Paula Malone. Courtesy photo

Shorts...

Kids, Veterans & Valentine's

Continued from Page 2

Elementary School were excited to share in the LOVE Month celebration of honoring veterans.

Cards were made by students during their art classes. Many had a special note of love to the veterans to thank them for their service.

VFW 8640 Auxiliary mailed many cards to the VA Hospital, carried some cards to the local hospitals, and many churches received cards to give to their veterans. The VFW Women's Organization is led by Mrs. Mary Stevens as President.

VFW 8640 has made history for being the only black VFW group in the United States. The VFW stands proudly beside all veterans of every war who have honorably worn the uniform.

French Film Fest in March

FLORENCE—The University of North Alabama French Film Festival is set to begin March 4 and run through March 20. Each screening is scheduled to begin at 6pm in the Wesleyan Hall Auditorium. The festival, which is in its seventh year, includes six

screenings. All films are subtitled in English.

"I am delighted to see this event bring together the UNA family and the local community to enjoy films in French," said Dr. Stephanie Coker, Associate Professor of French and among the festival organizers. "Selections this year include classic films, dramas, a comedy, and a mystery/thriller. We appreciate the support from many different departments and offices across campus. We hope to have something for everyone."

The March 4 screening of *The Innocent* will also include a French-themed reception that will begin at 5pm.

Each film will begin at 6pm. The full schedule includes:

- Monday, March 4: *The Innocent* (2022)
- Wednesday, March 6: *Saint Omer* (2021)
- Monday, March 11: *Casablanca Beats* (2021)
- Wednesday, March 13: *Paris Memories* (2022)
- Monday, March 18: *Chocolate* (1988)
- Wednesday, March 20: *Last Year at Marienbad* (1961)

The Jeff Eubanks Culinary Arts Dept will prepare a special dessert for moviegoers to take home at the conclusion of the festival.

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Eagle Awards...

Continued from Page 1

winners were selected for 2024 from submitted nominations.

"Our Alabama State Parks attract millions of visitors each year, and that wouldn't be possible without the enormous contributions made by volunteers, elected officials and community partners who help us provide programs and recreational activities year-round," said Chris Blankenship, ADCNR Commissioner. "Every year, the Eagle Awards ceremony gives us a prime opportunity to show our appreciation for all of their efforts, which are aimed at bolstering outdoor recreation and making sure our State Parks System remains among the best in America. We truly thank them for their dedication and hard work."

Shoals resident, Dan Hendricks, helped create and launch the Alabama State Parks Foundation in 2018, a nonprofit dedicated to fundraising and other support of the State Parks System. He became the organization's first president and served through January 2024. Hendricks is a Florence resident, and he remains a member of the ASPF Board of Directors.

2024 Eagle Award Winners

- 1) Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth (Elected Official)
- 2) State Rep. Danny Crawford, Athens (Elected Official)
- 3 and 4) Kendra Glover, Albertville; and Jackson Colley, Alexander City; (Youth)
- 5) Raptor Ridge Wildlife Education, Eclectic (Community Partner)
- 6) Dan Hendricks, Alabama State Parks Foundation (Parks Partner)
- 7 and 8) Emily Duke and Jimmy Stiles (Volunteers in Parks)

Alabama State Parks Director Greg Lein thanked each award winner for contributing to the State Parks System's success.

"We have a simple slogan: 'Partners pay the way,'" Lein said, "and the Eagle Award winners truly are partners in every way possible. We thank them for giving their time and talent to our state parks, and we're honored that they work to make our parks better than ever."



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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF ALABAMA, COLBERT COUNTY NOTICE OF ABANDONED AND UNCLAIMED MOTOR VEHICLES

Notice is hereby given that on **04/06/2024** at **11:00am**, the following vehicles will be sold at a Dealers only auction for cash. The auction will be held at **Smitty's Wrecker Service 212 Industrial Dr. Muscle Shoals, AL 35661**. Smitty's Wrecker Service will accept proof of ownership should anyone care to submit same, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm until the day of auction. All vehicles will be sold **AS IS FOR PARTS ONLY! NO TITLES OFFERED!!**

YEAR/MAKE/MODEL	VIN#		
2002 Chevrolet Tahoe	1GNEC13Z52J170307	2015 Jeep Patriot	1C4NJPA9FD178213
2010 Hyundai Elantra	KMHUJAD9AU112655	1992 Chevrolet S10 Pickup	1GCCS19Z8N8184269
2001 Oldsmobile Aurora	1G3GR64H814277223	2011 Honda	JH2PC4006BK400978
2007 Toyota Camry	4T1BE46KX7U614305	2004 Chevrolet Impala	2G1WF52E949294470
2016 Nissan Maxima	1N4AA6APXGC378020	1999 Lincoln Town Car	1LNHM82W8XY685072
2009 Honda Accoro	2HGFA16519H532741	2009 Chevrolet Malibu	1G1ZH57B89F158710
1999 Buick Le Sabre	1G4CW52K8X4617958	2008 Chevrolet Uplander	1GNDV331X8D102409
2005 Honda Civic	1HGCM72335A015872	2012 Dodge Avenger	SCRAP
2008 Ford Explorer	1FMEU64E88UA07054	2002 Ford Expedition	1FMRU17W32LA34930
SHAMROCK CAMPER		2015 Mazda 626	JM1GJ1U5XF1205531
1998 Toyota Camry	4T1BF22K8WU056458	2007 Cadillac CTS	1G6DP577270182343
2000 Ford Taurus	1FAFP5321YA214667	2011 Chevrolet Express	1GCSGAFX4B1170549
2004 Chevrolet Monte Carlo	2G1WW12E049370702	2007 Ford Fusion	3FAHP07Z07R279274
1994 Nissan Truck	1N6SD11S4RC403538	2013 Chrysler 200	1C3CCBABXDN669471
2005 Chrysler 300	2C3JA43R95H633736	2010 Chevrolet Cobalt	1G1AF5F51A7186748
2005 Toyota Camry	4T1BE32K45025358	2009 Chevrolet Malibu	1G1ZJ577594196035
1995 Ford	1FDKE30GS68HC1929	1986 Ford F350 Pickup	2FDJF37L9GCB74961
2000 Ford Focus	1FAFP3834YW347545	2002 Mercury Grand Marquis	2MEFM74W22X627291
2001 Chevrolet Lumina	2G1WL52J311228819	2014 Toyota Camry	4T1BF1FK2EU831422
1991 Jeep Cherokee	1J4FJ28S7ML574375	2014 KIA	KNDJN2A24E7723589
2015 KIA Optima	5XXGR4A61FG460774	2006 Toyota Corolla	1NXBR32E06Z700736
		1999 Dodge Van	2B7JB21ZXXK527821

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ON YOUR DEBT

How Will Bankruptcy Hurt My Credit Score?



B. Grant McNutt
Managing Attorney

One of the most frequent questions I receive from clients involves a fear that bankruptcy will hurt their credit. While it is no secret that a bankruptcy filing will show up on your credit report, that does not always mean that it will have a negative effect on your credit score. Typically, a bankruptcy filing will remain on your credit report for a period of 7 to 10 years. However, this does not prevent an individual from responsibly financing a vehicle, getting approved for a credit card, or even working towards buying a house.

On most occasions, people in need of debt relief are in danger of foreclosure or repossession, have a judgment or garnishment against them, are past due on a large number of bills, or any combination of financial problems. In other words, many people that are in desperate need of debt relief already have problems with their credit score. Also, they are completely unable to get rid of their creditors and dig their way out of the debt they are in. Being strapped with that unshakeable debt prevents many people from increasing their credit score to begin with. This is where a chapter 7 or chapter 13 personal reorganization can be the difference maker.

Whether it is under Chapter 7 or Chapter 13, the filing will immediately stop any creditors from contacting you. It will also allow you to work towards getting your credit back on track, which is sometimes unattainable without seeking debt relief. Once you receive your discharge, you can start responsibly building your credit without having to worry about creditors from your past. What many people don't realize is debt relief does not preclude them from incurring new debt post-discharge. What it does do is allow you to get your finances under control and start over.

Every person's financial situation is different and must be analyzed carefully. The good news is our professional and experienced attorneys are here to help guide you through this process.

Contact The Bond & Botes Law Offices

Please call us for an absolutely free and confidential consultation. We'd love to discuss your finances with you if you have had a serious reduction in income or have lost your job or find yourself in financial trouble of any kind. Debt can be overwhelming. The attorneys here at Bond & Botes provide guidance on helping clients reduce or eliminate debt. We can alleviate your stress! We want to help!

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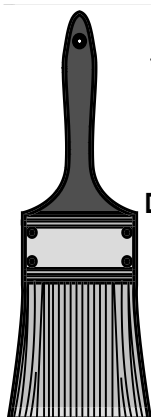
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Northwest-Shoals Community College announces the following open positions:

- Economics Instructor
- History Instructor

Detailed position announcements and applications can be requested by visiting the web page at www.nwscc.edu or by contacting the **Office of Human Resources at (256) 331-5229.**
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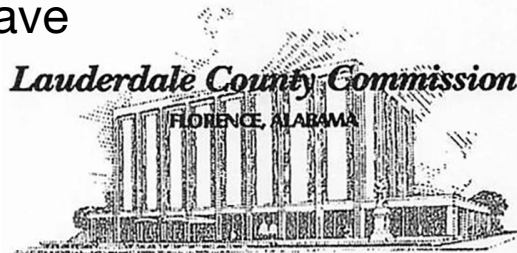
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Miller Miss NWSCC...

Continued from Page 1

an amazing and once in a lifetime scholarship opportunity to represent NWSCC at Miss Alabama. I am looking forward to a year full of events and opportunities to share my Community Service Initiative, *Gotta Have Sole*." Miller, an ambassador at NWSCC, served as a volunteer cheer coach at Belgreen High School and noticed the need for shoes. "There was a girl on the squad that her sole fell off her shoe," stated Miller. "I took it upon myself to buy her a new pair of shoes. When I took the shoes to her, she lit up with joy. This is when I discovered the *Gotta Have Sole* initiative. I never realized how much of an impact a simple pair of shoes can have on someone's life until I discovered this amazing organization."

"Silvie's win is not just a victory for her, but also a testament to her dedication, talent, and commitment to excellence," said Miss Northwest Shoals' Program Director, Savannah Liles. "We are immensely proud of all the women who competed. We

are so glad they are a part of our Northwest Shoals family."

Seven exceptional women vied for the title of Miss Northwest Shoals, showcasing their talents and grace through five stages of competition, including private interview, on-stage question, health and fitness, talent, and evening gown.

Alongside Miller, other winners were recognized:

- **Autumn Curry of Tuscumbia**, First Alternate
- **Macie Welborn of Tuscumbia**, Second Alternate
- **Faith Cook of Phil Campbell and Autumn Curry of Tuscumbia**, tied for Miss Congeniality

In addition to the prestige of the title, Miller receives a bundle of prizes, including a One-Year Tuition Scholarship.

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Your link to community resources

The Existence And Consequence Of Sin

Sin starts in Genesis and continues through Revelation. Sin and its derivatives appear in scripture over 700 times. All of us are liars and are sinners according to the Word of God! See: Psalms: 116:11 & Romans 3:23 & 5:12. Sin originally was found in the devil and from him came upon Adam and Eve and consequently death by sin entered the world through them. One thing that science and medicine and vitamins can not do is cure death! Heaven is a place where there is no death, which should make it as a vacation spot, highly attractive! Sinning is the world's favorite pastime. Sin's results are seen all over the world in disease, wars, hospitals and graveyards and funeral homes. **James 1:15** "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." Physical death is a fact of life and the final day approaches fast. Entering eternity spiritually dead is something you don't want and you can avoid it.

Jesus Christ paid the price for you to be saved. **Hebrews 2:9** "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." **2 Corinthians 5:21** "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." You need God's righteousness when you stand in front of Him. It is a free gift that God will freely give to you if you ask Him. **Romans 5:17** "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)" If you enter eternity without a Saviour, in your sins, the consequence is eternal damnation in the lake of fire. Your only way out is to receive Christ who paid your sin debt. Ask Christ to bring you to God, forgive you and save you today. Without the Saviour, you are doomed forever. **Romans 10:13** "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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Commentary

Day of Retaliation is Understandable

New York Governor, Kathy Hochul, was running her mouth with a wide grin to a media member only minutes after the \$300+ million judgement three year business ban imposed on Donald Trump and his business organization came down last week in that New York courtroom. The crime? A supposed excessive valuation of his Mar-a-Lago property in Florida.

"This sends a strong message in the state of New York, that businesses, businesspeople, who commit fraud and who hide their assets, will be caught and prosecuted, whether you are the President of the United States, a past president, or you're an ordinary businessperson, no one is above the law here in the state of New York..."

Twelve hours later, Hochul was in CYA mode on WABC radio, trying to assure other businesses that there's "nothing to worry about" because other people and businesses

See **COURT...** on Page 20

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In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

Courier Journal

in the *Shoals*

THIS WEEK

February 28, 2024

Happening THIS WEEK

Lindsey Film Festival Celebrates 27th Year

UNA Event Named for Comedic Legend

FLORENCE—The George Lindsey UNA Film Festival will kick off its 27th year Thursday, February 29 at 9am at Norton Auditorium on the University of North Alabama campus, with the festival's kick-off party slated for 7pm. It will also be held at Norton. As Alabama's longest-running film festival, the George Lindsey UNA Film Festival is a unique platform for student, emerging, local, and international filmmakers.

"The George Lindsey UNA Film Festival is a beacon for the

cinematic arts in our region, propelling the University of North Alabama onto the global film stage," said Michael Curtis Johnson, one of the festival organizers as well as Chair of the Cinematic Arts and Theatre Department.

More than 20 finalist filmmakers from across the globe will converge on the Shoals in order to showcase their work at the festival. The event will also include the Alabama theatrical premiere of the feature film, *The Sweet East*.

Sam's World and Hell of

See **FILM...** on Page 18

'HI NEIGHBORS OF THE SHOALS' MEETS

at 10:30am on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Florence Public Library (March 5). We are a women's social group that welcomes all ladies who are current residents of the Shoals area. Come join us! Contact Berta Birch, 256-777-3119, for further details.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED INVITES ALL to

World Day of Prayer, March 1 at 10am at N. Wood United Methodist Church, 1129 Willis Ave. in Florence.

JACKSONBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST WILL CONDUCT A

SPRING SERIES at 7pm on Wednesdays in March and April. Schedule: March 6, Rick Collum, Sin and Temptation; March 13, Brad Adcock, Grief; March 20, Sonny Owens, Disappointments and Doubt; March 27, Jeff Abrams, Persecution; April 3, Rodney Livingston, Addiction; April 10, Scott Wright, Betrayal; April 17, Landon Willis, Financial Issues; April 24, Brian Jerrett, Family Issues. Everyone is welcome. Jacksonburg is located at 414 Lauderdale Co. Rd. 28 in Florence.

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YOUR Letters

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

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

Mistake in Russia

Dear Editor:

Whatever fresh mischief Washington is plotting for the future, let's pray it doesn't include picking another fight with Russia. The war in eastern Ukraine is dirty, brutal, and bloody. I'm convinced most Americans want nothing to do with it. They certainly don't want their children involved in it.

To fight such a war, the Democrat and RINO warmongers in Washington will need cannon fodder from the heartland, and plenty of it. Someone should tell them it isn't there.

To my knowledge, not one of our "war" politicians has shown an interest in going to the trenches of Ukraine as

a volunteer, which any of them could do. Their mindset is as simple as it is dishonorable: "The frontline for thee, but not for me." They are no more interested in fighting on the "Eastern Front" than were "Col. Klink" and "Sgt. Schultz" in the 60's TV comedy, *Hogan's Heroes*.

The danger now is that they will set off a nuclear holocaust. Roger Wicker, a RINO senator from Mississippi,

Chaos, crime, and the denigration of people everywhere is rampant. ”

has already mentioned publicly the possibility of a first nuclear strike against Russia.

It's a pity so few of these folks served in the war of their youth: the Vietnam War. An encounter with the North Vietnamese Army might have made them more fit for public life than they are now.

Thomas Ponder Killen

Just Blame the Past

Friends,

Many Americans feel that the President of Russia was involved in

See **LETTERS...** on Page 26

Medicare Minute

"Medicare Part A & B Review"

The past couple of weeks we have discussed Medicare Parts A & B in detail. These are the two parts of Medicare that are received through the federal government. This week let's review what we have discussed.

Although Medicare Part A and Part B are great programs that cover a lot of services there are some things Medicare does not cover. They include most dental care, eye exams related to prescribing glasses, dentures, acupuncture and hearing aids.

Medicare Part A is primarily used to cover your inpatient care. Part A has a \$1,632 deductible for each benefit period, meaning the deductible can be applied more than once in a calendar year. This deductible covers hospital services, including semi-private rooms, meals, general nursing, drugs as part of your inpatient treatment, and other hospital services and supplies. Part A is "free" to most Medicare beneficiaries. "Free" meaning you may not have to pay Medicare to have Part A. It does not excuse the deductibles and co-insurance.

In most cases Part B is used to cover your outpatient services. These include visits to your primary care physician and/or specialist. It also may cover transportation by ambulance, durable medical equipment, preventive services and mental health treatment. Part B also entitles you to an annual "Wellness" visit to a qualified provider. Most Medicare beneficiaries joining Medicare Part B for the first time in 2024 pay a monthly premium to Medicare of \$174.10 (or higher depending on your income). Part B has an annual deductible of \$240 and a coinsurance the beneficiary pays of 20%, after the deductible is met.

To cover the deductibles and coinsurance that Part A and Part B have you would need to look at some type of supplemental policy sold through private insurance companies. These include Medicare supplement plans or Medicare Advantage Plans. If you want to study Part A or Part B in more detail you can look at previous Medicare Minute articles or give our office a call and we'll be glad to discuss this with you.

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.



Ikey Fowler

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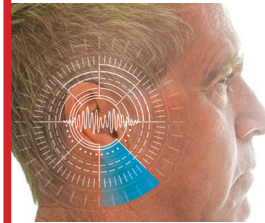
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I USUALLY SHRUG OFF THE OCCASIONAL 1-STAR REVIEW of my business as the cost of working in retail. But I received a review recently that got stuck in my craw, so that means that both of my readers get to hear about it. Here is the unedited review from Darrell:

"Don't take your Pc here they charge me 100\$ an said my window was corrupted an wiped my computer. i did what they told me to do an it was still not working right. I had to take it somewhere else because it was doing the same thing an they said my window was corrupted an they fixed



Jim Fisher

GOOD MONEY AFTER BAD

by "The Computer Skeptic"

it for the 50\$ an not try to sell me one"

There are times when I wish I had chased my childhood dream of riding on the back of a sanitation truck instead of computer repair. But here I am dealing in the complaint business 100% of the time (well, I'm retired from it but I'm still involved-which is almost the same as being there). My business model looks like this:

1. The sad client complains of a problem. 2. We fix the

problem. 3. Customer's frown is turned upside down. 4. Customer bestows us with money and 5-star reviews.

This has served our business very well over the decades. But occasionally we deal with a client who has a permanent frown that is not swayed by our charms. Darrell is one who stood out from the 1-star crowd.

Darrell brought his ancient computer to us because it wasn't working. We strongly suggested that Darrell

purchase a new or used computer instead of putting "good money after bad" on his ancient computer. Darrell was not happy with that suggestion. I get it: sometimes we get attached to our electronics. So, we told him we could make a temporary fix that might last a day or might last a year and again suggested he not spend the money. Darrell insisted that we apply the temporary fix. In my business, sometimes we just have to hush up and take the money, so we reinstalled Windows as instructed.

Just like we warned, Darrell's computer lost its mind again a couple of weeks later. But instead of bringing it back to us where he would have received credit towards the purchase of another

computer, Darrell took it somewhere else and paid again to fix his computer. Darrell's computer will certainly fail again, and he will eventually have to buy a computer. Lord knows we tried, Darrell!

Anyway, I often think of the Darrells of the world when I read star ratings for various services. I hope you will, too. Sometimes we simply can't win.

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

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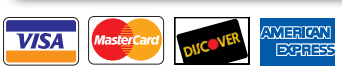
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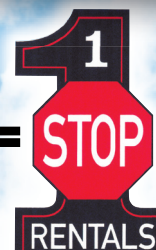


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1998 ACURA CL	19UYA3147WL001173	1991 FORD F-150	1FTDF15N4MLA03594
2003 BUICK CENTURY	2G4WS52J131156897	1997 FORD F-150	1FTDX176XVND44524
2015 CADILLAC SRX	3GYFNAE37FS611871	2011 FORD FUSION	3FAHP0JA3BR249696
2011 CHEVROLET CAMARO	2G1FK3DJ4B9190573	1997 HONDA ACCORD	JHMCD5632VC006421
2010 CHEVROLET COBALT	1G1AD5F54A7182909	1996 HONDA 300 FORETRAX	478TE1406LA207319
2010 CHEVROLET IMPALA	2G1WC5EM3A1199148	2008 HYUNDAI ACCENT	KMHNCN46C38U229280
2011 CHEVROLET IMPALA	2G1WG5EKXB1221957	2006 HYUNDAI SANTA FE	KM8SC13D16U103848
2004 CHEVROLET CAVALIER	1G1JH52F247162018	2002 HYUNDAI SONATA	KMHWF35H82A612156
2002 CHEVROLET CAVALIER	1G1JS124127347361	2001 JAGUAR S-TYPE	SAJDA01N91FM13138
1995 CHEVROLET BLAZER	1GNCS13W9SK201620	2012 JEEP LIBERTY	1C4PJLAK3CW168746
1997 CHEVROLET C/K 1500	2GCEK19R0V1267061	2000 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE	1J4G248S4YC144872
2012 CHRYSLER 300	2C3CCAPTOCH290657	2006 JEEP LIBERTY	1J4GL48K66W143067
1999 CHRYSLER 300M	2C3HE66G2XH838147	2005 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE	1J4GS48X5C634051
2014 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY	2C4RC1CG4ER224916	2010 JEEP PATRIOT	1J4NT2GB2AD570490
1998 DODGE RAM PICKUP	3B7HC12Y6WG123311	2020 KIA FORTE	3KPF24AD1LE207523
2015 DODGE DART	1C3CDFAA4FD392191	2005 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL11D55N420033
2005 FORD ESCAPE	1FMYU93125KA73135	2006 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL11D76N405597
2011 FORD CROWN VIC	2FABP7BV7BX176544	1995 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4BU31D9SC195409
1997 FORD CROWN VIC	2FALP74W1VX194472	2001 NISSAN XTERRA	5N1ED28T11C515735
2007 FORD FOCUS	1FAHP37N27W283838	2011 NISSAN MURANO	JN8AZ1MU6BW058454
2005 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCU03125KA69057	1998 OLDSMOBILE SILHOUETTE	1GHDX03EOWD104584
2003 FORD EXPEDITION	1FMRU17W73LC14641	1993 TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1SK12E6PU295380
2000 FORD EXPLORER	1FMZU62X9YUB80670	2024 TOYOTA COROLLA	5YFB4MDEORP104792
		2008 YAMAHA V STAR	JYAVM01EX8A121981

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Film...

Continued from Page 12

SE will be screened at the George Lindsey UNA Film Festival. Both are fresh off of their premiers at the Slamdance Film Festival. The directors for both films are scheduled to attend.

In the spirit of George Lindsey's comedic work, the festival will also have a Clown Workshop for actors, led by acclaimed actor Tallie Medal, renowned for their role in the Academy Award-winning film, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*.

Multiple industry panels are scheduled throughout the festival, and these offer insights into the filmmaking process and the entertainment industry. The awards show is a festival highlight and will take place March 2 at 6:30pm at the Mane Room.

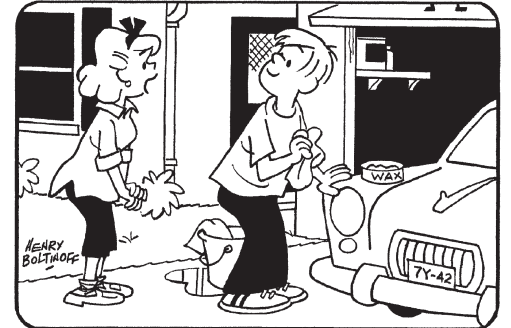
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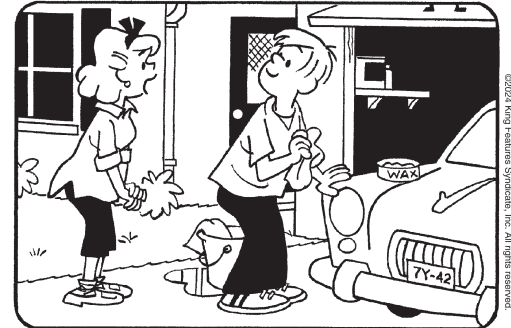
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Commentary

Court..

Continued from Page 12

are “very different than Donald Trump.”

She attempted to explain why the Trump case was an exceptional circumstance and not a typical assault for state prosecutors.

She is right. There was an exception – a huge one.

Not everyone is Donald Trump. Not everyone has spent billions in Manhattan, and not everyone is a legitimate threat to the political fortunes of Governor Hochul, the Democrats who run New York, and the blue states at large.

Politically motivated Judge Arthur Engoron ordered President Trump to pay \$355+/- million in the case brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James. Engoron made the ruling himself. James most recent election campaign in 2018 was based on prosecuting the then sitting President, Donald Trump, for whatever she could create.

The prosecution doesn't understand - or care to understand - real estate, real estate valuations, banking practices, the equity line process, or 9-10 figure business loans.

Everything in the loan



process was transparent. The banks Trump supposedly defrauded maintain their interest in the Mar-A-Lago property. Every dollar of the loan was paid back plus interest, and they would do the very same thing again. They also provided testimony in defense of Trump Hotels and the former president and the loan process during the case.

In his ruling, Engoron also added the potential for \$100 million in interest for “defrauding” banks and real estate companies in New York City real estate deals.

Yet, there are no defrauded victims in this case. No one has filed against Trump or his business empire, so there is no one for Trump to owe with either the fine or the interest.

Does the state and the DA's office get that windfall?

The 70-year-old legal rule, The New York Civil Practice Law, that Judge Engoron used as a basis for his ruling, has never been used against a person who has done no harm to any individual or entity. Close to 150 cases over those 70 years show no instance where there was a business ban instituted when there was no harm shown.

The tax assessed value if the property in Palm Beach County of only \$18-\$27 million, is a ridiculously low figure for which someone should be fired.

According to Forbes' latest evaluation of the property in March 2022, Mar-a-Lago was worth \$350 million. So, Trump's estimated and emotionally based value for the loan request easily topped \$400 million. EVERYONE and EVERY business, in EVERY loan situation puts their property in the best light. But wait, Governor Hochel's comments were that Trump was trying to “hide his assets.” Is he exaggerating them or hiding them?

Regardless, Trump's emotional valuation is irrelevant. It's a starting point to put on the application form. The bank doesn't care. It will conduct its own due diligence on any property value and discover any lien or judgement on any property connected with any loan, period.

That property, also known as the “crown jewel of Palm Beach,” is a 62,000-square-foot mansion with 126 rooms. It is a residence, a club, private beach resort, and banquet hall with a ballroom adorned in gold leaf. It is also a near 100-year-old historical artifact built in 1927 by cereal heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post and her second husband, financier E.F. Hutton. It spans 17 acres from the Atlantic Ocean to the Intracoastal Waterway.

The bank was satisfied with the arrangement.

Over one million New

See ASSETS...on Page 21

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Commentary (2)

Assets..

Continued from Page 20

Yorkers have left the state in recent years, as have 160 significant businesses. Don't think that the top companies in New York don't understand what the state is capable of if you cross the wrong people.

Turning Point USA founder, Charlie Kirk, advised New York business owners to "flee" the state after the politically motivated ruling, noting that this is the first time in American history that legal cases such as those stacked against the former president have occurred.

Whether you like him or not, the whole case is political retribution and government corruption

from the outset. And the rest of the world is watching.

AG James made it a civil case avoiding a jury and found the perfect judge to side with her interpretation.

Trump can eventually win this and other phantom cases on appeal down the road, but that will be after the November elections. They don't care if Trump wins an appeal in 2025 or 2026. He has to pay the fine now, before an appeal is filed.

Making his life a living hell of obstruction between now and then and keeping him off the ballot when possible is their objective.

Democrats will have made Trump spend hundreds of millions on defense in New York,

Atlanta, and Washington DC, and they will have spent tens of millions in taxpayer money on politically motivated wild goose chases. Trump will be permanently harmed politically and financially. Meanwhile, they will have their book deals.

And if Democrats are still in power after 2024, they will have their political appointments, and their treasonous objective of upending the freedoms of the constitution and the rule of American law in favor of socialism will still be in sight, because only one person has the stones to stop them, and they KNOW it.

And if they are NOT in power, and Trump is President, I hope to still be around to watch. He joked last month about one day for retaliation. It gets more and more understandable.

Simple jail time for these fraudulent fiascos is far too lenient of a sentence.

You may be able find them buried under these five bags of manure we are allocating here to this episode. That is where all the characters of their ilk deserve to reside.

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SIGNS OF THE PAST



Robert Hue ("Bobby") Wallace
As the Head Coach for the football team at the University of North Alabama, Robert Hue ("Bobby") Wallace's teams earned three consecutive Division II National Championships (1993-1995), and he was named Division II Coach of the Year three times.

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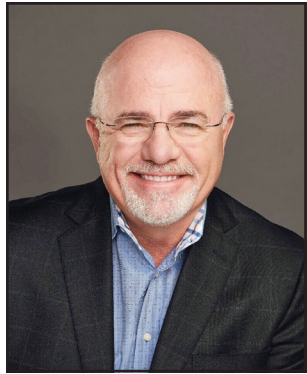
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Bobby Wallace was head football coach at UNA 1988-1997, and is fondly remembered for his three consecutive Div. II Championships. He moved to Temple Univ. 1998-2005, and then coached at the Univ of West AL 2006-2010. The name Bobby Wallace is legendary in the Shoals.

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

DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



INCREASE EXPECTATIONS GRADUALLY

Dear Dave,
I'm getting married this summer and about to become a stepmom. To be honest, I'm a little worried about the family dynamic. My fiancé's daughter from an earlier marriage seems a bit irresponsible. She's 23, has trouble holding a job and still lives at home. She seems to expect her dad to step in when she doesn't have money for her car payment. We both agree he has been too lenient with her in the past. He wants to change things, but neither of us believe suddenly pulling the rug out from under her is a good idea. Do you have any advice for handling this situation?

Susie

Dear Susie,
If you and her dad really want to show her you love her, you'll make sure she starts learning some character and discipline. It'll take a little time at this point, and it's very important that both of you are in agreement every step of the way.

Marriage counselors say you have a good chance of a successful marriage if you're in agreement on four things—religion, money, children and in-laws. I know you and your fiancé love each other, but I'd strongly suggest you two go through pre-marital counseling to make sure you're on the same page when it comes to handling this and other issues.

After that, I'd recommend letting her dad present any changes to her initially. Neither of you wants to create a scenario where you're viewed as a villain. Let her dad start the process by explaining that he feels

he made a few mistakes in terms of teaching her personal responsibility when she was younger. Then, he can begin to lay out the first few expectations.

In my opinion, there's nothing wrong with requiring her to get a job within 30 days, if she doesn't already have one. If she needs to go job hunting, the process should be an everyday thing, because if she's unemployed, finding work needs to be her job—her full-time job. It would also be a good time to start teaching her about budgeting, saving and everything else that goes into handling money responsibly.

Phase two might consist of requiring her to help around the house doing chores, or whenever help is needed. After a couple of months of this, phase three might be where she is introduced to the practice of paying a very small amount in rent each month.

Do you see what I'm doing, Susie? By stepping up expectations gradually, you're building a foundation so she'll have the tools and knowledge—to where in the sixth or seventh month—she's able to move out and live like a fully-functioning adult should.

God bless you all!

** 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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Community Notes...

Continued from page 4

Singing Into Spring, a musical exploration of Broadway, show tunes, sentimental love songs and poetry in music! The show date is Tuesday, March 19 - the first day of Spring - at 7pm at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Florence. Join us in celebrating the new season with this delightful program. Admission is free, donations are gratefully accepted!

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

United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Alabama is gearing up for its 60th Annual CP Telethon on Sunday, March 3 from 1-4pm on My 8.

UCP provides free therapy and services to children who are developmentally disabled/delayed in northwest Alabama. UCP of northwest Alabama currently serves approximately 60 children who have various delays or disabilities including cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, cleft palate, spina bifida, etc. UCP can also provide funding to families developmentally disabled children also need sitters. UCP provides preschool services through its WeeCare preschool to children of all abilities. Florence High School produces the CP Telethon each year.

All of the money raised on March 3 will stay right here in northwest Alabama to help local children and their families. We hope you'll tune in and help!

Knox Media Group, Inc. and WKAX 1500 AM present Gospel Explosion, a free gospel concert scheduled for 5pm Sunday, March 3 at Galilee M.B. Church, 23001 County Rd. 14 (Waterloo Rd.) in Florence.

This free concert promises to be a soul-stirring experience, featuring talented artists and uplifting performances, including Tyesha Rowlett, The Gray Sisters, Megan Humphrey,

Randy Gaines, Deja King White, and Gospel Comedy with Juanica Baugh. Everyone is welcome. Show at 5pm, Doors open at 4pm.

MSSA Chapter of Delta Theta Sorority Inc, is accepting Scholarship applications for high school African American Seniors with a 3.00 GPA or higher in Lauderdale, Colbert and Franklin county. Apply at <https://forms.gle/JT26HkXQTZ7EVTQ8> until March 31.

MSSA Chapter of Delta Theta Sorority Inc., is hosting an essay contest.

The essay must be 250-300 words on the topic: "African American Women are Changing the Face of History." The essay must be received by March 31.

Essay can be submitted at <https://forms.gle/yysVoJf1Ht3zZm6eX9>.

Prizes will be awarded in May. Contest is open to all high school students in Lauderdale, Colbert, and Franklin county.

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 Florence Kiwanis will host its 72nd Annual Pancake Day event on Friday, March 8 (6am-7pm) and Saturday, March 9 (6am-1pm) at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum. Tickets are available now through any Kiwanis member or can also be purchased at the following locations: First Southern Bank (201 S Court St, Florence); Harris Elder Law Office (421-B E. Tennessee St, Florence); United Community Bank (230 E. Tennessee St, Florence); or Alabama Central Credit Union (501 E. Dr. Hicks Blvd, Florence). Tickets are \$9 in advance (\$6 for children less than 12), \$11 at the door, and \$8 each in bundles of 10 or more.

See NOTES... page 29




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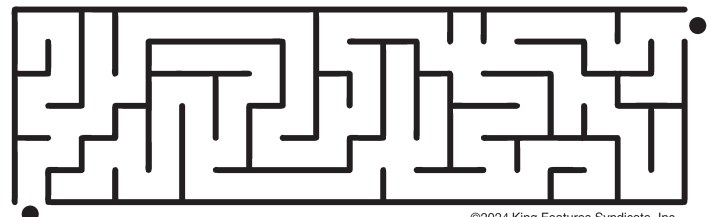
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Kids' Maze



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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. Ladle | _ I _ _ _ _ | Sporty, like Dan | _ A _ _ _ _ |
| 2. Leo's family | _ _ _ _ D _ | Trophy | _ _ _ _ Z _ |
| 3. Absorb knowledge | L _ _ _ _ _ | Long for | Y _ _ _ _ _ |
| 4. Robust | _ _ _ _ _ Y | Fireplace | _ _ _ _ _ H |
| 5. Not as old | _ _ _ W _ _ | Certainly not | _ _ _ V _ _ |
| 6. Gather up courage | _ U _ _ _ _ | Sandman | _ I _ _ _ _ |
| 7. Electrical outage | _ _ _ O _ _ | Tee or tank | _ _ _ I _ _ |
| 8. Quite severe | H _ _ _ _ _ | Swampland | M _ _ _ _ _ |
| 9. Silver or copper | _ _ _ T _ _ | Winner's decoration | _ _ _ D _ _ |
| 10. Pancake mixture | _ A _ _ _ _ | Acid-tasting | _ I _ _ _ _ |

WORD LADDERS

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

WRITE

PRIDE

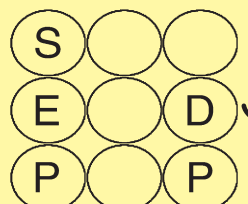
Puzzle Whirl

MINI SUDOKU

2					
		3	5		
			1		
	1				6
6					2
				3	

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 SPIRAL



Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.
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Answers on
Page 30

Courier Journal
ADOPT A FRIEND

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.

RIP and his wrinkles makes it look like he's in a constant state of thought. We are pretty sure he's just trying to figure out who will be his next best friend because Rip has only one thing on his brain....playing with his friends! He's great with all dogs and really smart. He could literally be dropped in the middle of any group of dogs and make friends! He's crated in our hallway and he doesn't have accidents overnight! Rip is about 2yrs old, neutered, heartworm negative, about 45-50lbs, and current on vaccines. **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 **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to meet this boy.



LILY has been with us since August of 2023! Lily came in with a sister, Abby who has since been adopted! She is a little over a year old! She is a little shy at first but she wants love so much! Lily is dog friendly and kid friendly! She is very gentle! **LILY IS UP FOR ADOPTION FOR \$25!** Please come by and help this girl get a great home! Her adoption fee covers \$15 rabies voucher and voucher for \$70 off of his MANDATORY spay For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073.**

RUBEN is a 2-3 year old shep mix he is full of energy and love! He also loves just laying around on the couch! Ruben can be dog selective and is a very vocal player! We would recommend bringing you furry friend along to meet him! Ruben is not good around chickens! This sweet boy loves to play ball and give hugs! He knows the command "sit". **RUBEN IS UP FOR ADOPTION FOR \$25!** His fee includes a voucher for \$70 off of his neuter, \$15 rabies voucher, current vaccines, wormer and NexGard. His adoption fee covers \$15 rabies voucher and voucher for \$70 off of his MANDATORY neuter! For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073.**



Meet **ZUKO!** This sweet boy loves to play with toys. He would love to have a home to play and snuggle when play times over. He is Neutered, 65lbs and 2 years old. He would make a fantastic best friend. **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 **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to meet this sweetheart.

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Letters... Just Blame the Past

Continued from Page 12

the untimely death of his most vocal critic, and potential opponent in Russia's next Presidential election. The press is pushing this narrative as if there were proof Putin was involved. It is hard to imagine that he was not the mastermind of the death of the imprisoned, Alexei Navalny, 47.

The Americans who proudly wear the Democrat badge insist

there was no attempt to illegally influence the 2020 presidential election and that President Trump is guilty of causing an insurrection that did not happen. The Progressive Democrats are attempting to keep their radical policies that are based on a deeply felt hatred of the US, the desire to destroy the middle class, and give total power over the individual to the federal government.

This country was founded by people who were trying to better themselves and their families. They worked hard to ensure a better future in the only country on the planet in which that was possible.

Today, the progressive leaders convince their followers that they should blame the past for their current situation and expect to earn their living by demanding payment from the government for perceived injustices that happened generations ago.

Instead of becoming a positive force to continue ensuring their individual freedoms, they are a very small but vocal group supported by the elites who use these useful idiots to enforce their impossible goal of a utopian future that the elites will control for only their advantage.

This is a plan that has taken over a century to bring to fruition. This progressive utopia that will lead to unimaginable loss of life, total redistribution of wealth, and total control of

individual rights in the hands of the bureaucrat overlords in the central government is at hand if the Democrats win another Presidential election and maintain control of the Senate. former Soviet politician, Nikita Khrushchev, was correct when he gave his speech (*I Will Bury You*) at the United Nations in 1960. Unimaginable horror would be the result of this prediction being realized.

Wake up America, we may be at the brink of the destruction of the economic system that created more individual freedom and wealth than any other. That leads us back to Putin and his tactics.

Biden and the Democrats are trying to achieve the same results as Putin, removing any serious opponents from the coming elections. If the Democrats are allowed to fully control Washington, the lives of your children and grandchildren will be filled with hopelessness, frustration, and fear.

Jim Brasfield
Florence

Needs More Research

Editor:

I'd like to address Pete Lopez's letter from February 14 entitled, "Democracy or Dictatorship."

See LETTERS... on Pg 31

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SAMPLE BALLOTS


for March 5 Primary

PLEASE NOTE: Some races have been repositioned from the actual ballot for spacing purposes in this page.

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Colbert- Republican</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL BALLOT COLBERT COUNTY, ALABAMA MARCH 5, 2024</p>		
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL <input type="radio"/> COMPLETELY! ● IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.		
CANDIDATE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (Vote for One)	FOR SUPERINTENDENT, COLBERT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION (Vote for One)	"Shall the following Amendment to the Constitution of Alabama be adopted?" PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT STATEWIDE PROPOSED STATEWIDE AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to amend Section 71.01 authorizing the Legislature to sign and transmit local laws or constitutional amendments before the transmission of basic appropriations. (Proposed by Act 2023-562)
<input type="radio"/> RYAN L. BINKLEY <input type="radio"/> CHRIS CHRISTIE <input type="radio"/> RON DeSANTIS <input type="radio"/> NIKKI HALEY <input type="radio"/> VIVEK RAMASWAMY <input type="radio"/> DAVID STUCKENBERG <input type="radio"/> DONALD J. TRUMP <input type="radio"/> UNCOMMITTED	<input type="radio"/> NATHAN FULLER <input type="radio"/> HEATHER MIZE FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> ROBERT B. ADERHOLT <input type="radio"/> JUSTIN HOLCOMB FOR CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> SARAH STEWART <input type="radio"/> BRYAN TAYLOR FOR COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE 2 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> CHAD HANSON <input type="radio"/> STEPHEN DAVIS PARKER FOR COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE 2 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> RICH ANDERSON <input type="radio"/> THOMAS GOVAN	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No FOR PRESIDENT, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> TWINKLE ANDRESS CAVANAUGH <input type="radio"/> ROBERT L. McCOLLUM FOR MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 7 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> DOUG BACHUSS <input type="radio"/> ALLEN LONG <input type="radio"/> OSCAR S. MANN

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Lauderdale- Republican</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL BALLOT LAUDERDALE COUNTY, ALABAMA MARCH 5, 2024</p>		
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL <input type="radio"/> COMPLETELY! ● IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.		
CANDIDATE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (Vote for One)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> THESE OFFICES RUN BY DISTRICT </div>	"Shall the following Amendment to the Constitution of Alabama be adopted?" PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT STATEWIDE PROPOSED STATEWIDE AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to amend Section 71.01 authorizing the Legislature to sign and transmit local laws or constitutional amendments before the transmission of basic appropriations. (Proposed by Act 2023-562)
<input type="radio"/> RYAN L. BINKLEY <input type="radio"/> CHRIS CHRISTIE <input type="radio"/> RON DeSANTIS <input type="radio"/> NIKKI HALEY <input type="radio"/> VIVEK RAMASWAMY <input type="radio"/> DAVID STUCKENBERG <input type="radio"/> DONALD J. TRUMP <input type="radio"/> UNCOMMITTED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> ROBERT B. ADERHOLT <input type="radio"/> JUSTIN HOLCOMB </div>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No FOR PRESIDENT, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> TWINKLE ANDRESS CAVANAUGH <input type="radio"/> ROBERT L. McCOLLUM FOR MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 7 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> DOUG BACHUSS <input type="radio"/> ALLEN LONG <input type="radio"/> OSCAR S. MANN
FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for One)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> FOR MEMBER, LAUDERDALE COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT NO. 2 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> TODD NIX <input type="radio"/> WESLEY SMITH </div>	
FOR CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT (Vote for One)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> FOR MEMBER, LAUDERDALE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT NO. 3 (Vote for One) <input type="radio"/> RANDY BURNS <input type="radio"/> ANITA HADDOCK OLSON </div>	
<input type="radio"/> SARAH STEWART <input type="radio"/> BRYAN TAYLOR		
FOR COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE 2 (Vote for One)		
<input type="radio"/> CHAD HANSON <input type="radio"/> STEPHEN DAVIS PARKER		
FOR COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS JUDGE, PLACE 2 (Vote for One)		
<input type="radio"/> RICH ANDERSON <input type="radio"/> THOMAS GOVAN		

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Colbert- Democratic</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL BALLOT COLBERT COUNTY, ALABAMA MARCH 5, 2024</p>		
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL <input type="radio"/> COMPLETELY! ● IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.		
CANDIDATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (Vote for One)	DELEGATE SELECTION INSTRUCTIONS After selecting your Presidential candidate, vote for not more than two (2) delegate candidates pledged to that candidate. If you selected uncommitted, vote for not more than two (2) uncommitted delegate candidates. Votes for delegate candidates pledged to someone other than your Presidential selection ARE NOT ALLOWED UNDER DEMOCRATIC PARTY RULES.	"Shall the following Amendment to the Constitution of Alabama be adopted?" PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT STATEWIDE PROPOSED STATEWIDE AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to amend Section 71.01 authorizing the Legislature to sign and transmit local laws or constitutional amendments before the transmission of basic appropriations. (Proposed by Act 2023-562)
<input type="radio"/> JOSEPH R BIDEN JR <input type="radio"/> DEAN PHILLIPS <input type="radio"/> UNCOMMITTED	FOR DELEGATES TO THE 2024 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION, 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT JOSEPH R BIDEN JR DELEGATES (Vote for no more than Two) <input type="radio"/> SUSAN McKENNEY <input type="radio"/> CURTIS TRAVIS	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Lauderdale- Democratic</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL BALLOT LAUDERDALE COUNTY, ALABAMA MARCH 5, 2024</p>		
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL <input type="radio"/> COMPLETELY! ● IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.		
CANDIDATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (Vote for One)	DELEGATE SELECTION INSTRUCTIONS After selecting your Presidential candidate, vote for not more than two (2) delegate candidates pledged to that candidate. If you selected uncommitted, vote for not more than two (2) uncommitted delegate candidates. Votes for delegate candidates pledged to someone other than your Presidential selection ARE NOT ALLOWED UNDER DEMOCRATIC PARTY RULES.	"Shall the following Amendment to the Constitution of Alabama be adopted?" PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT STATEWIDE PROPOSED STATEWIDE AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to amend Section 71.01 authorizing the Legislature to sign and transmit local laws or constitutional amendments before the transmission of basic appropriations. (Proposed by Act 2023-562)
<input type="radio"/> JOSEPH R BIDEN JR <input type="radio"/> DEAN PHILLIPS <input type="radio"/> UNCOMMITTED	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> THIS OFFICE RUNS BY DISTRICT </div>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> FOR DELEGATES TO THE 2024 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION, 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT JOSEPH R BIDEN JR DELEGATES (Vote for no more than Two) <input type="radio"/> SUSAN McKENNEY <input type="radio"/> CURTIS TRAVIS </div>	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> FOR DELEGATES TO THE 2024 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION, 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT JOSEPH R BIDEN JR DELEGATES (Vote for no more than Five) <input type="radio"/> RANDALL LEE HADLEY <input type="radio"/> LAURA HALL <input type="radio"/> APRIL HODGES <input type="radio"/> KIM CAUDLE LEWIS <input type="radio"/> BENARD SIMELTON UNCOMMITTED DELEGATES (Vote for no more than Five) <input type="radio"/> WILLIAM LEWIS KRAUSE </div>	



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Savvy SENIOR

How to Divide Your Personal Possessions Without Dividing the Family

Dear Savvy Senior,

Do you have any suggestions on divvying up my personal possessions to my kids after I'm gone without causing hard feelings or conflict? I have a lot of jewelry, art, family heirlooms and antique furniture, and four grown kids that don't always see eye-to-eye on things.

Conflicted Parent

Dear Conflicted,

Divvying up personal possessions among adult children or other loved ones can often be a tricky task. Deciding who should get what without showing favoritism, hurting someone's feelings or causing a feud can be difficult, even for close-knit families who enter the process with the best of intentions. Here are a few tips to consider that can help you divide your stuff with minimal conflict.

Sweating the Small Stuff

For starters, you need to be aware that it's usually the small, simple items of little monetary value that aren't mentioned in your will that cause the most conflicts. This is because the value we attach to the small personal possessions is usually sentimental or emotional, and because the simple items are the things that most families fail to talk about.

Family battles can also escalate over whether things are being divided fairly by monetary value. So, for items of higher value like your jewelry, antiques and art, consider getting an appraisal to assure fair distribution. To locate an appraiser in your area, try ISA-appraisers.org, Appraisers.org or AppraisersAssociation.org.

Dividing Fairly

The best solution for passing along your personal possessions is for you to go through your house with your kids or other heirs either separately or all at once to find out which items they would like to inherit and why. They may have some emotional attachment to something you're not aware of. If more than one child wants the same thing, you'll have to make the ultimate decision.

Then you need to sit down and make a list of who gets what on paper, signed, dated and referenced in your will. You can revise it anytime you want. You may also want to consider writing an additional letter or create an audio or video recording that further explains your intentions.

You can also specify a strategy for divvying up the rest of your property. Here are some popular methods that are fair and reasonable:

Take turns choosing: Use a round-robin process where your kids take turns choosing the items they would like to have. If who goes first becomes an issue, they can always flip a coin or draw straws. Also, to help simplify things, break down the dividing process room-by-room, versus tackling the entire house. To keep track of who gets what, either make a list or use adhesive dots with a color assigned to each person to tag the item.

Have a family auction: Give each person involved the same amount of play money or use virtual points or poker chips to bid on the items they want.

Use online resources: For families who want help or live far apart, there are web-based resources like FairSplit.com that can assist with the dividing process.

For more tips, see "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?" at YellowPiePlate.umn.edu. This is a resource created by the University of Minnesota Extension Service that offers a free video and detailed workbook for \$12.50 that gives pointers to help families discuss property distribution issues and lists important factors to keep in mind that can help you avoid or manage conflict.

It's also very important that you discuss your plans in advance with your kids so they can know ahead what to expect. Or you may even want to start distributing some of your items now, while you are still alive.

Send your senior questions to:

Savvy Senior,
P.O. Box 5443,
Norman, OK 73070,
or visit SavvySenior.org.
Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



Notes...

Continued from page 24

Misfit Quilters - March 10 • 1-4:30pm Come join all the fun! All Quilters, crafters, scrapbookers, knitting, crocheting, etc. welcome.

No charge to be a participant. Bring your project to work on. This is a monthly group (the 2nd Sunday of each month) Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.

The legendary Kingsmen Quartet will be at Cypress Creek Methodist Church in Florence on Sunday, March 17 at 2pm. Admission is Free, and a generous love offering will be received. The church is at 801 Lewis Bruce Lane, just off Cox Creek Pkwy N.

The 26th Annual Shoals-Area Special Olympics Charity Golf Tournament is accepting players and sponsors. Join us on April 22 at Turtle Point Yacht and Country Club! We're seeking players and sponsors to support this wonderful cause. Tee off for a day of fun and philanthropy. Sign up now and make a difference on the green! Contact Marla at 256-710-0232 for details or learn more and register online at martinsupply.com/golf.

(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.

See NOTES... page 30

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Community Notes...

Continued from page 29

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

Jacksonburg Church of Christ, 414 Lauderdale 28, Florence, will observe Homecoming with Ben Hayes and Travis Greasy on Sunday, May 5.

Bible study begins at 9am. Travis Greasy will speak at 9:45am, followed by a fellowship meal in the annex. Ben Hayes will speak at the 1:30pm service.

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.

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, rpettus@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, Tusculumbia.

Rotating exhibits at the hall of fame highlight accomplishments of area music achievers. Details: 256-381-4417.

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 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).

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/>

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Are you looking for a new church home?

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

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

The Florence Beautification Board presents The Wildflower Project!

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

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.

East Lauderdale Quilters One Day Show Saturday, April 20 at Lexington First Baptist Church, 301 Taylor-Kizer Street in Lexington. 10am-3pm. Quilts will be on display and there will be quilting demonstrations. Admission is Free.

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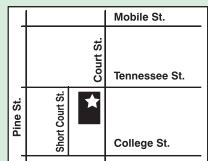
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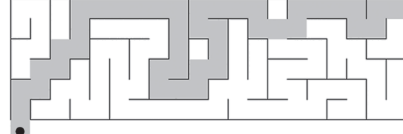


Even Exchange answers

1. Dipper, Dapper
2. Pride, Prize
3. Learn, Yearn
4. Hearty, Hearth
5. Newer, Never
6. Muster, Mister
7. Short, Shirt
8. Harsh, Marsh
9. Metal, Medal
10. Batter, Bitter

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Kids' Maze Solution



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WORD LADDER
Answer
WRITE, TRITE, TRIBE, BRIBE, BRIDE, PRIDE

Word Spiral Answer
SANDPAPER

MINI SUDOKU
Answer

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

Letters...

Needs More Research

Continued from Page 26

Apparently, Mr. Lopez is semi-aware of the freedom of speech protected by the Constitution of the United States. It also protects his right to spread misinformation about President Trump.

If he actually researched what was reported about the comment, "Losers and Suckers" by someone other than the left wing, anti-Trump media, he could get a factual semblance of knowledge. John Bolton, the former National Security Advisor, and no friend of Trump's, said that the statement reported by the press was "simply false." If it had any hint of truth, Mr. Bolton would have used it in his book and publicly to trash Trump.

Week after week, I tire of reading a left-wing hack either outright lying or misconstruing something about Trump, conservatives, or the Republicans in general. If Mr. Lopez would open his eyes, he may actually see who the dictator is.

Political persecution of citizens, parent-teacher

organizations labeled as domestic terrorists, an invasion at the border that was not there three years ago, tax money lavishly spent on illegal immigration and not on its own citizens, public media servers shadow banning opposing views are just a start. We have international scorn for the United States and a bumbling idiot in charge of the nuclear football who is often mentioned as the most corrupt President ever by some in the media and having the lowest approval ratings in modern history, and espionage on American citizens by our FBI, CIA, and foreign intelligence agencies requested by our own government.

We all thank you for voting that into office.

I am a Republican, but not by choice. After the Democrats started making it mandatory to vote in solidarity with Pelosi and Schumer, I stopped looking for fresh ideas in the Democratic Party. There simply just aren't any. I am a Republican because it clearly is the lesser of two evils. Our country is not the same and may never again be the same and that blame falls squarely on the shoulders of those who voted for Biden and

the rest of their ilk in 2020.

If you are a veteran, I thank you. But you are not much of a citizen if you support the taking down of our country and flag. Yet, our flag and nation have become the laughingstock of the world in the last three years.

Chaos, crime, and the denigration of people everywhere is rampant. Morals and values have been undermined. It's the Democratic Party that promotes showing porn to first graders, not Republicans. It's the Democrats that want gender surgery to be hidden from parents, not Republicans. And it's the Democrats that want to allow the killing of a baby, even after it has been born. People don't feel safe like they used to since Biden took office. That can't be blamed on Trump.

Robert Seaman
Killen

Border is a Priority!

Editor:

Three months ago, under the cover of darkness Hamas departed from Gaza and attacked Israel! People were killed and people were kidnapped by Hamas. Hamas was fully aware that Israel would respond but they had no concern for the safety of the innocent people of Gaza.

The above action raised my concern for me, for you, for current families and for families yet to come due to the migrants entering our country. Since President Biden has been in office at least 3,800,000 migrants have illegally entered our country. Others are legal, but millions of other illegals are likely unaccounted for. Recently, a teenage girl was raped and killed by a migrant. ABC report that the captured migrant was 'undocumented.' ABC would not state that the migrant was illegal! Why? ABC also showed a video of three or four migrants attacking a police officer in New York City. The city's Attorney General stated that evidence was not sufficient to require a bond and released the attackers.

We must control our borders to help prevent being attacked from within. I have read that some have crossed our border with the goal to attack us from within. I believe in forgiveness, but if we are attacked from within, I will not forgive our leaders.

Our safety at the borders takes priority!

Bill Smoak
Florence

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February 28

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