

**Courier Journal**

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**A Focus on Youth Cuts**

LEIGHTON—Several barbers and hairdressers will be giving free basic haircuts and hairdressing March 25-30 for boys and girls grades 7-12 as a part of Youth Family Ministry of Colbert County's Pre-Easter Celebration.

Participating barbers and stylists with their respective times and days are listed elsewhere in this issue. Call for details and reservations which MUST be made in advance. Services are conducted by appointment only and openings are limited.

Youth Family Ministry will host a cookout with FREE food on Saturday, March 30 from noon-2pm at the Leighton location on First St. There will also be five-minute inspirational and motivational message from difference speakers each half hour. Please bring your lawn chairs and children and celebrate with the Youth and Family Ministry and get a new look on life!

Music will be provided by LaVale Cooper.

**State Honor for Johnson**

SHEFFIELD—Sheffield City Schools' **Jacqueline Johnson** has been named as an honoree for the 2024 *Women Who Shape The State*. This is the second consecutive year the Shoals has had an honoree,



Johnson

See SHORTS... on Page 2



The casket for US Navy Seaman 2nd-Class, Cecil H. Thornton, is carried by Navy Reserve Center members of Nashville last week in Rogersville. Photos courtesy Dan Busey/Times Daily ©

**Finally Laid to Rest**

Rear Admiral Jeff Spivey (R), presents the casket flag to John Belew, nephew of the late Seaman 2nd-class, Cecil H. Thornton.



By **Bernie Delinski**  
TimesDaily Staff Writer

ROGERSVILLE — On December 20, 1941, U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Cecil H. Thornton's family received a dreaded notification.

A letter arrived at the Rogersville home of Lilly Foster

See SOLDIER... on Page 7

**AHC Eyes Old Railroad Bridge for Register**

By **Russ Corey**  
TimesDaily Staff Writer

SHEFFIELD — Colbert County Commissioner Tommy Barnes said adding the Old Railroad Bridge to the National Register

of Historic Places would increase its visibility as a tourist attraction.

During Tuesday's County Commission meeting, County Administrator, Roger Creekmore, presented a letter from the Alabama

Historical Commission indicating plans to nominate the Memphis & Charleston Railroad Bridge as an addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

See NAT'L REGISTER... pg 11

**INSIDE this Issue**

Automotive Inside



Ray Miller Buick- GMC Advance Auto Sales

- Insurance Insights
- Medicare Minute
- 3 Day Sale
- Easter Coloring!
- Puzzle Whirl

LAST CHANCE

- FLPL Hosts Book Signing
- Ask the Attorney
- Your Letters
- Dave Ramsey



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- Show Choir Camp
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- Hocus Focus
- SIGNS of the PAST

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**FAME Girls' Ranch**

First Metro Accepting Cash and Supplies Through April 8

MUSCLE SHOALS—First Metro Bank recently launched its annual donation drive to benefit FAME Girls' Ranch. First Metro Bank locations in Tuscumbia, Muscle Shoals, and Russellville will accept donations until April 8.

Necessary items for the ranch include laundry detergent/pods, general

See FAME... on Page 6



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## Shorts...

### State Honor for Johnson

Continued from Page 1

having been represented by UNA first lady, **Dena Kitts** in 2023.

As a bilingual social worker and the mental health services coordinator for the Sheffield City Schools district, Jacqueline Campos Johnson serves as a bridge to much-needed resources for many of her students and their families. Her passionate efforts on behalf of the school system are paramount to the overall health of the district. Through her work, Johnson has made it her mission to connect with the most vulnerable members of her community by providing the support they need. This support includes information on how to continue their education, creating self-care classes for teachers and students, and even securing funding for utility bills.

"As a Mexican American social worker, I encourage the women of Alabama to draw strength from their own

cultural identity and recognize the value of community, family and traditions," Johnson said. "We must also recognize that which does not serve us and acknowledge that trauma—if not faced head-on—is passed on. We must break down stigmas surrounding mental health by being vocal advocates and foster inclusive environments. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to do the work."

Johnson also uses her experience of more than a decade in social work to mentor students from the University of North Alabama that are enrolled in the Social Work program to help foster the next generation of community servants.

In addition, Johnson serves as the board president of the Shoals chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, regional representative for the School Social Work Association of Alabama and a Girl Scout volunteer.

### Clean-Up Day at Shiloh

SHILOH, TN—Since 1996, the American Battlefield Trust's Park Day event has brought volunteers of all ages to our nation's historic sites and battlefields. The annual spring clean-up event has become a staple in their communities, bringing community members together and fostering love for history in their backyards. During Park Day, each historic site decides what hands-on project will be performed with projects ranging from general maintenance to historic cannon paintings and more. This year, the Trust will celebrate Park Day on April 6.

For nearly three decades, Park Day has boasted a remarkable legacy of volunteerism, with 100,000 participants and more than 450,000 hours dedicated to the safeguarding of treasured community spaces. Sites tied to the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and beyond have already enlisted in this year's Park Day initiative.

Among those is Shiloh National Military Park at 1055 Pittsburg Landing Road in Shiloh, TN. Park Day at Shiloh this year will be on Saturday, March 30 from 9am–noon.

Volunteers will congregate at 8:45am at the Shiloh Visitor Center. The projects will begin at 9am but arriving early allows for any necessary paperwork to be completed before work begins.



Shiloh has two projects it would like tackled for Park Day this year. The primary goal is to paint new picnic tables. If enough volunteers are present to complete the picnic table project, they will also be constructing a split rail fence on a portion of the battlefield.

Call the Shiloh Visitor Center at 731-689-5696 to register or email **Anthony Killion** at [anthony\\_killion@nps.gov](mailto:anthony_killion@nps.gov) for more information.

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### Wright Back in Sheffield

SHEFFIELD—Sheffield City Schools Athletics recently announced that Sheffield native and former Bulldogs coach, **Johnny Wright**, will once again head the football program.

Wright replaces **Brian Dickerson**. His duties begin immediately.

Wright's coaching career spans three decades, including a highly successful previous Sheffield head coaching stint from 1987 to 1999.

During that time, nine of his teams made the playoffs and won five region titles.

Other coaching stops for Wright were likewise successful including Dora High School, Hillcrest High School and Leroy High School.

While at Dora High School, Wright was named Coach of the Year by the ASWA in 2003. He returned to Dora in 2012, going 12-2 that year and winning a region championship.

See SHORTS...on Page 5

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Chicken Drumsticks 99¢ Lb.  
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Chicken Wing Portions (L.Q.F.) \$1.99 Lb.  
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# Yard Sales

To list your sale, use the classified form on page 6.

**HUGE INDOOR YARD SALE FOR MISSION** Lexington First Baptist Church 301 Taylor Kiser St Thurs. Fri. 7-4 pm, Sat. 7-1 pm Not your average yard sale! Room full of really nice things, organized and priced. More items donated than ever before. Name brand infant sizes through adult small to 2X clothes. Lots of like new toys. Household plus so much more! Too much to list. Please check it out, and help a good cause!

**MUSCLE SHOALS MOVING SALE**, 3170 Bainbridge Road, Sat. 8am-until? Rain or Shine! Furniture, Tools, Jewelry, Glassware, Odds & Ends.

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**BENEFIT YARD SALE**  
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 137 Wildwood Trail  
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 Sat., March 23rd 9am-2pm (Numbers given out at 8:30am)  
 Sunday, March 24th 1pm-3pm

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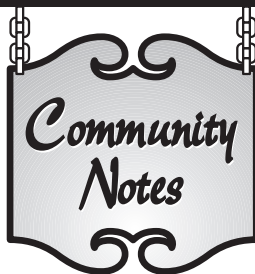
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College in the Patriot Gym.

**Benefit for April Michele Dawson, Saturday, March 23.** At CrossBrand Cowboy Church, 5255 County Road 33, Killen. (Behind Wood's Flooring)

April was diagnosed with Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (NMOSD), a rare autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system and inflicts irreversible blindness and paralysis. She has lost her vision permanently and has endured many hospital stays at Vanderbilt.

Her husband, Chris, has been by her side through these stays, while also caring for their two young children. This has affected their income and the medical bills and other expenses have been overwhelming. Any help is greatly appreciated.

**Vendor Fair 9AM** - Featuring more than 20 vendors!  
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Starting at 11AM. Pre-order contacts: Martha Michael 256-762-5721 or Marty Michael 256-710-9429.

**Live Music 2pm until ?**: April Michelle Band, Gospel Heirs, Crimson Sealed, Shades of Bluegrass and more!

**Dessert Auction** - During Music Breaks

**For more info contact:** Martha Michael 256-762-5721 or Ginger Dawson 256-366-8291.

**Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Tishomingo State Park, Saturday, March 23, 11 AM**

105 County Road 90, Tishomingo, MS. No entrance fee to the park. Lodge and nature center area.

Bring your own basket. Ages: Walkers thru age 12 - Divided into 3 age groups, Lots of Prizes and snacks provided for Kids.

**See NOTES... page 30**

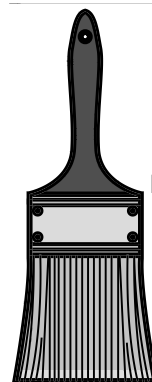
**COMMUNITY NOTES** may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge **ASSPACE IS AVAILABLE** in the Courier Journal. **Community Notes** must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following week's issue.

• Email to [editor@courierjournal.net](mailto:editor@courierjournal.net)

**A Free Concert, March 20 at 10AM., featuring Alabama A&M University's Concert Band.** Presented by the Muscle Shoals Chapter of Alabama A&M University Alumni & Northwest Shoals Community College Cultural Affairs. On the Campus of Northwest Community

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# Shorts...

## Wright Back in Sheffield

Continued from Page 2

At 69, Wright says he has much more to give and is as excited as ever about building a strong program at Sheffield.

"I'm just a fan of the school system--always have been," Wright said. "I don't want to be anywhere else and when this opportunity presented itself to come back into coaching here, I didn't hesitate. My wife even said she's not seen me this excited over a coaching position. It's where I want to be and what I want to do.

"This has always been our home and our family is here," he added.

## Volleyballs All -Academic

FLORENCE— College Sports Communicators (CSC) announced their 2023 Volleyball All-District Academic

teams recently with libero **Luana Bulara**, middle blocker **Maggie Sullivan**, and setter **Kennedey Johnson** each earning the distinctive honor.

The 2023 Academic All-District® Volleyball teams, selected by College Sports Communicators, recognize the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances on the court and in the classroom. The CSC Academic All-America® program separately recognizes volleyball honorees in four divisions — NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III and NAIA.

Bulara, pursuing her MBA with a 4.00 GPA, transferred to UNA after playing her undergraduate career at Division II Barry University. In 26 matches with the Lions, she finished the season with 434 digs with an average of 4.57 digs per set, good for third in the Atlantic Sun Conference.

Sullivan is also pursuing her MBA with a 4.00 GPA, was an ASUN All-Conference selection

in her final season with the Lions, finishing her career with an ASUN third-team selection. She ranked fifth in the ASUN and second on the team with a .326 hitting percentage, totaling 126 kills and just 32 errors on 288 attempts this season.

Bulara and Sullivan are both two-time CSC Academic All-District® winners.

Johnson was an Interior Architecture & Design major with a 3.94 GPA. Playing in all 29 matches for the Lions, Johnson led the team in assists with 633 for an average of 5.81 assists per set. and surpassed the 1,000 career assist mark this season.

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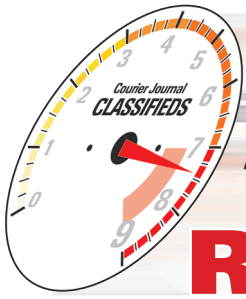
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## FAME...

Continued from Page 1

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FAME Girls' Ranch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, and Lawrence counties as part of the Alabama Sheriffs Youth Ranches Program. The mission of the ranch is to provide a family-style residential home for abandoned and abused youths in an atmosphere where they can grow spiritually and physically into productive, responsible, and happy adults.

The ranch occupies the former home of the Rick Hall family in Russellville.

## LOST

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INSERTS - 5 pm Thursday

DISPLAY ADS - 5 pm Thursday

CLASSIFIED ADS - 5 pm Friday unless otherwise specified

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# Soldier Finally Laid to Rest...

Continued from Page 1

Hudson Thornton and Malloy "Monk" Thornton, telling them their son was missing in action following the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

Thornton was among 429 sailors aboard the USS Oklahoma who died in the attack.

"My grandmother never accepted he was dead," his nephew John Belue said. "It was a terrible situation. She went to her grave thinking he was still alive somewhere."

On Monday, Belue was among a gathering of veterans and other community members who in Civitan Cemetery for a mournful but thankful homecoming, as members of the Navy carried an American flag-covered casket bearing Thornton's remains to his awaiting gravesite in the same cemetery with his parents and other family are buried.

While military honors are common at a veteran's funeral, this came complete with the rarity of a full military honors including a 21-gun salute.

"I'm just glad to get him home after all this time," Belue said afterward. "The Navy did a wonderful

job. I hope he gets to rest in peace now."

Admiral Jeff Spivey officiated at the graveside service, saying Thornton is among 35 sailors aboard the Oklahoma whose remains have been identified through DNA testing.

In 2015, a U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency program was created to attempt to identify the remains of fallen soldiers, including those that have been gathered after the attack on the Oklahoma.

Recently, they were able to match Thornton's DNA with Belue's.

During the ceremony, Spivey presented Belue with the flag that had draped Thornton's casket. The admiral said he was impressed by the attendance for the service. "I want to thank you for all coming today and bringing honor to this sailor, honor to his family and honor to this great nation," Spivey said.

Thornton had been in the Navy for two years and was 21 when he was killed. Spivey said he is an example of the bravery and dedication for the country that all military

**Above, Naval Support Activity Mid-South conducts a 21-gun salute during the funeral for Seaman 2nd Class Cecil H. Thornton last week at Civitan cemetery in Rogersville.**

Courtesy Dan Busey/  
Times Daily ©

members possess.

"They take on the duty and opportunity that lies before them," he said.

Spivey said he cannot imagine what the family went through when they received the notice that he was missing in action.

"We can't experience that emotion of the family at the time but wanted to express the desire of the Navy and military to bring him back home," he said.

Belue said he received that message.

"The Navy's been awfully good and I'm proud of the turnout we had to honor someone who's been gone for so long," he said.

bernie.delinski@  
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**Sailors aboard the battleship USS Oklahoma gather for a group photo. Over 400 crewmembers died on December 7, 1941 during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.**

US Navy photo

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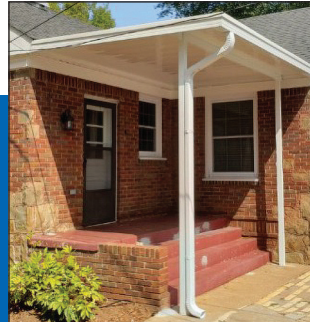
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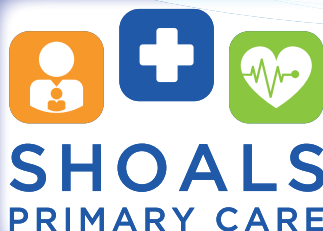
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If you begin moving about the car or making quick motions, reaching into a glovebox or under your seat, the officer can justify feeling unsafe and ask you out of the car for a "pat down".

You have the right to remain silent and conversation doesn't really help. If they tell you to get out of the car, you should step out of the car. If they feel unsafe and want to pat you down, don't resist, as you will only end up on the ground and then cuffed and stuffed.

I think the real idea here is that you are being recorded and you should verbalize what's going on. By that I mean you should probably say "I am not resisting". This is a casting call and you are on camera. It's fairly common for people to later say, look, I didn't resist but when the officer characterizes your attitude differently that creates a problem. If you are calmly saying out loud I am complying, I am not resisting, the video and the recording look and sound better.

After you are out of the car, police officers will often say something like "you don't mind if I search your car?". This is where you have to speak up. "I do not consent to you searching my car" would be the proper thing to say. If you're silent, court cases have held that that silence can be interpreted as consent.

The takeaway here is to always remember there as a recording of the stop and it's always better to handle these things after the event in court where calmer heads can solve the problem.

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

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# National Register...

Continued from Page 1

The Alabama National Register Review Board will consider the "Old Railroad Bridge" during its April 25 meeting.

The letter states individuals who have opinions on whether the property meets or does not meet National Register requirements are encouraged to write to the Historical Commission.

Barnes said he plans to write a letter of support on behalf of the historic bridge that was not only used as a railroad bridge, but also carried motor vehicle traffic across the Tennessee River between Florence and Sheffield.

"I do believe it's worthy of it," he said, especially with the ongoing preservation efforts that have taken place.

The Old Railroad Bridge Co. has over the past few years installed new deck boards to the bridge as funding becomes available.

Old Railroad Bridge Co. President Tim Wagon said he also plans to send a letter of support to the Alabama Historical Commission.

"I think it would be beneficial as far as federal and state money and as far as improving things," he said. "I just think it would enhance its reputation as a tourist attraction."

Barnes said a National Register designation could enhance the bridge's status in the Tennessee RiverLine program.

"It would bring more tourism to the location," he said.

Christy Anderson, the national register & easements coordinator for the Alabama Historical Commission, said the bridge was documented through the Historic American Engineering Record and at the time it was done, HAER resources had to be eligible for listing in the National Register. It was considered eligible, but that process isn't automatic, so it was not listed at that time. She said that provision was removed in the early 2000s.

Anderson said if the review board approves the nomination, the Alabama Historical Commission has 90 days to submit the package to the National Park Service for review and approval.

She said the NPS then has 45 days to review and render a decision, which would include listing, returning to correct technical or substantive errors, or determining the resource is not eligible.

Barnes and Wagon were not sure if being

on the National Register of Historic Places would impact future enhancements to the bridge.

Anderson said a National Register listing is an honorary designation so inherently it doesn't come with restrictions.

Sheffield Mayor Steve Stanley said he thinks the old Railroad Bridge Qualifies for inclusion in the national register.

"It would give it official status as a historic structure and help draw attention to it and might help it qualify for grant funds it might not qualify for otherwise," Stanley said. "I don't see how it could hurt anything at all."

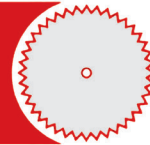
Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area Director Carrie Crawford said the MSNHA wrote the nomination, using an old nomination started by the late Sheffield Historian Richard Sheridan as their starting point.

*russ.corey@timesdaily.com*  
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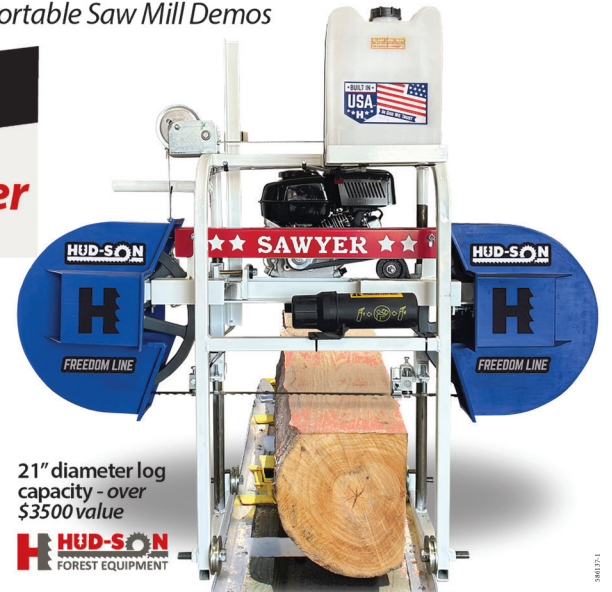
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Commentary

# 'Undocumented' Devalues 'Illegal'

**S**uch a war of words continues to fester with the comparatively recent vilification of the term, "illegal" when it comes to one's U.S. immigration status. The terms "illegal alien" or "illegal immigrant" were never meant as a personal insult or unworthy distinction to anyone until it was recent made one. It is an accurate description of a person knowingly breaking the law to be in this country. It was merely an individual's status, and it was understood by all parties. However, now the politically correct term is "undocumented."

**In A Few Words**



**TOM MAGAZZU**  
Editor

US Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) distracted President Biden during his State of the Union when she rudely interrupted him mid-sentence: "Say her name, Laken Riley," Greene blurted.

Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student, was allegedly murdered in February by an illegal immigrant from Venezuela while out for a morning run on the University of Georgia

See **ILLEGAL...** on Page 26

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

# Courier Journal

# in the Shoals

# THIS WEEK

March 20, 2024

## Happening THIS WEEK

Confidence, Character, and Community

# Learn to Shine

**TUSCUMBIA** – After 21 years of teaching theatre and show choir, retired educator Laurie Mitchell is teaming up with her former student, Jeremy Painter, to bring a unique summer camp experience to the Shoals area. Spotlighters Show Choir Camp set to debut July 8-12 at Deshler High School in Tuscumbia.

The 9am-3pm daily schedule offers a week-long opportunity for rising 1st-12th graders to explore their passion for performance.

"I missed working with students and wanted to use my creative

See **SHOW CHOIR CAMP...** Page 24

**Public Registration March 22**



**Mitchell**



**Painter**

**FLORENCE CAMERATA PRESENTS, 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!

# Cross's Life Through Old Ground



**Cross**

**FLORENCE** – Bluewater Publications recently announced the release of Dr. Randy Cross's latest book, *Through Old Ground*, a collection of stories from Dr. Cross's life, from childhood to



adulthood. These stories not only capture the experiences of a small-town Southerner turned English professor, but they also display Cross's wit and magnificent storytelling skills.

The Florence-Lauderdale Public

See **SIGNING...** on Page 19

**THE GERALD WILLIAMS COOPERATIVE GARDEN PROGRAM** offers free vegetable seeds, plants, and fertilizer to qualifying local residents wishing to grow their own gardens. SIGN UP IS AVAILABLE THROUGH MARCH 22. To participate in the program applicants must reside in Lauderdale/Colbert or Franklin counties, and income must not exceed a monthly gross. The maximum monthly household income can be: 1-person \$1,882; 2-persons \$2,555; 3-persons \$3,227; 4-persons \$3,900. For each additional person, add \$672. All applicants can call 256-248-1921 from 1-4 pm Monday-Friday for details. The Cooperative Garden Program is a partnership of the Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama, TVA Retirees, and many others.

**SOFTBALL**  
WED. MARCH 20 • 4PM  
vs Tennessee State in Florence  
SAT. MARCH 23 • 1PM  
at Queens (DH) Charlotte, N.C.  
SAT. MARCH 23 • 3PM  
at Queens (DH) Charlotte, N.C.  
SUN. MARCH 24 • 6PM  
at Queens (DH) Charlotte, N.C.

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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](mailto:editor@courierjournal.net)**
- **FAX- 256-760-9618**

## Pay Little/Nothing

Dear Editor:

First, I would like to acknowledge Pete Lopez on his great letter in the *Courier Journal* on 2-14-2024, (Democracy or Dictatorship). He brought to our attention the importance of getting out to vote Trump out before he brings this country to its knees. I watched the American people fall for Trump's line of BS. What a path he put the Republican party on, one that they may never recover from.

Whenever I see a Hitler documentary, I wonder how the German people fell for his crap.

I overheard a 10-year-old asking his folks why they didn't increase

*When I no longer saw him I asked his son where he had been, thinking he may have passed away. He told me he was at Tunica most days.*



taxes to pay for this deficit we're dealing with. It kind of caught the adults without a good answer. I think they regretted his input to their heated debate. The wisdom of children sets us all back.

Briefly, the income tax brackets back in 1960 were:

- \$0-\$4,000, 20%,
- \$32,000-\$36,000, 50%,
- \$100,000-\$120,000, 75%,
- \$300,000-\$400,000, 90%

There were no loopholes to avoid paying your share, either.

The fine folks we have sent to Washington set it up where big business and the rich pay little to nothing. That's why Congressmen and Senators spend over half their time with lobbyists, for all the money they've saved them to be donated for their re-election campaigns.

**Tom House Killen**

More **LETTERS...** on Page 18

**AUTO & TRUCK HEADLINERS INSTALLED**, mobile service available. Call 256-483-2923

**YORKIE PUPPIES**, four boys, born Jan 27th, will be ready on March 9th; Also three boys and one girl, born Feb. 16th, ready March 29th, CKC Registered, wormer & shots up to date, \$1,000. Call 205-269-0883 or 205-269-1889.

**2014 KIA FORTE**, white, 2-door, EX 2.0 liter, 38 mpg, good, sharp! 159,000 miles, \$6,900. Call 256-367-7379 Lexington, AL

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**ESTATE SALE** 137 Wildwood Trail Florence, AL 35630

Friday, March 22nd 9am-2pm (Numbers given out at 8:30am)  
Sat., March 23rd 9am-2pm (Numbers given out at 8:30am)  
Sunday, March 24th 1pm-3pm

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*The Two Spiritual Bodies*

Soon the last person to get saved will happen and complete the body of Christ and its out we go to meet Him in the air. **Song of Solomon 2:10** "My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." **Song of Solomon 2:13** "The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." It's obvious from this context that the "catching up" & "changing of our vile bodies" according to Philippians 3:21, 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, & 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, that this event will occur in the spring. Any serious bible student surely knows this. If our calendar's right, it looks like, if a generation is 80 years since 1948, that the translation could take place this spring 2024, 50 days after Pentecost and if our calendar's right, this would place the advent sometime in the fall of 2028, at the feast of tabernacles. See Deuteronomy 16:16. Soon God will begin dealing with the Jews and Israel again. See and read all of Romans 11. The second body is not a good one. It's the beast of Revelation 13:1 & 2. It's like a leopard. He is a monster made of three different colors, black, white and yellow, with feet like a bear and the mouth of a lion, and the dragon gave him his power, his seat and great authority. With the influx of millions of folks across our borders lately, from every country under heaven, by air and land, its not hard to figure out who this beast is. The bible says the beast will have the mouth of a lion; speaks English, like America and the feet of a bear, walks like Russia, and wildly enough the dragon, guess who that is, sanctions what their all doing. Read all chapter 13. Now this world has 3 world wars coming up. Revelation 6, 19, 20. Read it. Where does this leave you and your family. You can't hIde anymore. It's time to get your head out of the sand. Saved one, you are leaving soon, and taking only saved ones with you. Are you ready to meet Jesus Christ? Receive Christ today.

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1.2 miles north from red light on Hwy. 207 on left  
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**Pre-Easter CELEBRATION**  
**FREE Haircuts and Hairdressings for Boys and Girls Grades 7 – 12**  
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!!! APPOINTMENTS Limited**  
**PLEASE CALL BEFORE ARRIVAL!!!**  
**Week of March 25 – 30**

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| <b>FREE HAIRCUTS (Basic)</b><br>Richard Bates 757-235-0521 AND<br>Corey Bonds 256-284-0363<br><b>RESTORATION ROOM BARBER SHOP</b><br>Saturday, March 30 ONLY!<br>Hopewell CPCA Annex, Leighton | <b>FREE HAIRDRESSING (Basic)</b><br>Janice Thompson<br><b>JANICE'S SALON of BEAUTY</b><br>256-627-7634<br>406 E. 17th Street, Sheffield<br>Tuesday – Friday (March 26 – 29 ONLY!) |
| <b>Ronald Nelson IMPACT BARBER SHOP</b><br>316 Woodward Ave./Suite B,<br>Muscle Shoals<br>Thursday 3/28 – Friday 3/29 ONLY<br>256-412-6213   | Shatoya Stanley<br><b>ANOINT ME LUXE STUDIO</b><br>256-633-8799<br>202C S. Wilson Dam Rd., Muscle Shoals  |
| Andre McGhaee<br><b>BORN AGAIN CUTS &amp; STYLES</b><br>256-335-9511<br>2502 College St., Leighton   | Leish King<br><b>RESTORATION ROOM BARBER SHOP</b><br>205-225-2962<br>Saturday, March 30 – ONLY!<br>Hopewell CPCA Annex, Leighton  |

**Youth Family Ministry of Colbert County – 1600 First St. in Leighton**  
At the Leighton location, there will be **FREE food (cook-out) on Saturday, March 30** from noon – 2pm. There will also be inspirational, motivational speakers for 5 minutes every 30 minutes. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to get a new look on life!!! So, please bring your lawn chairs and celebrate with the Youth/Family Ministry Team of Colbert County. Music will be provided by Mr. LaVale Cooper

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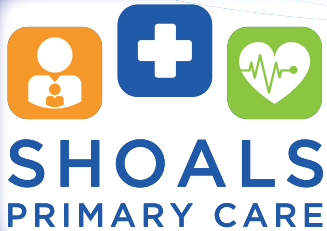
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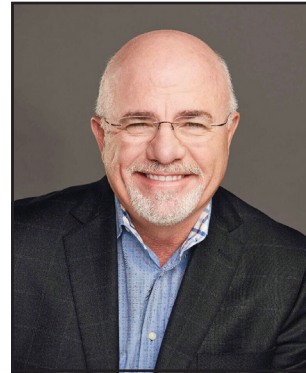
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## DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



### WELL-MEANING, BUT MISGUIDED

Dear Dave,  
Our son will be graduating from high school in May, and then heading off to college in August. He will also be working during the summer to save up money for school. When classes begin, do you think he should continue working a part-time job, or would it be better for him to focus solely on his studies?

Dear Brenda

Dear Brenda,  
There's really nothing wrong with either approach, especially during a kid's first semester in college. As a parent, though, I'd urge you not to fall into the trap of thinking his grades will go down if he holds a job while in school. Research actually shows that, on average, kids who work while in college

carry higher grade point averages than those who don't.

The reasons for this differ, depending on who you ask, but I think a lot of it has to do with them having to learn to manage their time—and their lives—more effectively. Lots of kids could pay their way through school, and not have to worry about student loans, if they just used some of the time they spend watching television and on social activities at a job.

We never required our kids to work during the school year, but they were self-starters. And when they came home for the summer, there was no such thing as just lying around the house all day. They had jobs, and they made money. Of course, some of it went toward having a little fun during

their time off. But we made sure they set some aside for the next school year, too.

Long story short, the philosophy of not wanting kids at college to work so they can spend all their time studying is well-meaning, but misguided. For the most part, kids who work while they're in school will make better grades and develop into more mature and well-rounded individuals.

I hope this helps, Brenda!  
—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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AD GOOD MAR. 20-26, 2024

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**FORD CITY STORE ONLY! RIVER RD.**

**3**

**DAY SALE**

**FRI., SAT. & SUN.**


**March 22-24, 2024 ONLY**

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 LB. **\$2.99**

**Boneless Pork Loins**  
  
 LB. **\$1.99**


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**TIANA** is the sister of sweet Tyra! She is a 5-6 month old Pyrenees mix! She is good with dogs, people and most likely scared of cats! We can test her! She isn't use to leash but would be easily trained. Tiana weighs 42 pounds, and her fur is like a blanket, so soft! **THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$50** which includes a voucher for \$70 off of her MANDATORY spay, \$15 rabies voucher, current shots, NexGard and wormer! For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073.**




**TYRA** is a beautiful 5-6 month old Pyrenees mix! Tyra is very treat motivated, good with dogs and people! She isn't use to walking on a leash but I'm sure once she completely opens up, trying would be super easy! She isn't too messy in her kennel. She is a very quiet girl who likes to just lounge around Tyra weighs 30 pounds right now. She is up to date on wormer and vaccines (minus rabies) **THE ADOPTION FEE IS \$50.** This fee includes a voucher for \$70 off of her MANDATORY spay, \$15 rabies voucher and current vaccines, wormer and NexGard for the month. For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073.**

Meet **TRUDIE**. This active girl loves outdoor activities like running, walking and playing. She has a beautiful coat and would be a fun dog to have. Please come by and meet sweet Trudie. **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 cute dog.




**HOWIE** is so sweet and good with other dogs. He is very mild mannered and loves people. Cat free home preferred. He's lovable and definitely a dog to meet. **ADOPTIONS ARE CURRENTLY \$85** and include everything your new pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines, a microchip, spay/neuter, and heartworm test. Please call or come by **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to meet this amazing dog.

# Letters...

Continued from Page 12

## The Last Sacrifice

Today we pay tribute to a special Man,  
Who walked the shores of Galilee.  
The lame walked, the dumb talked,  
The blind He made to see.

The Man who never knew any sin,  
He was only guilty of love.  
God needed a lamb without blemish,  
So He sent His Son from above.

He came to walk upon this earth,  
He was tempted like you and I.  
Though He only did His father's will,  
He knew that He must die.

There was a traitor named Judas,  
To him 30 pieces of silver was paid.  
He sat at the last supper with Jesus,  
Then our Savior, Judas betrayed.

His sweat became as drops of blood,  
As he prayed in Gethsemane.  
Father, if it be thy will,  
Let this cup pass from me.

Peter said He loved Jesus,  
And would always be by His side.  
When Peter's life was in danger,  
his Master he denied.

The soldiers came and took Jesus away,  
They found no fault when He was tried.  
Pilate wanted to set Him free,  
"Crucify Him" the multitude cried.

They drove nails in Jesus's hands,  
On His head they placed a crown of thorns.  
They spat upon the Savior,  
As He was mocked and scorned.

They put on Him a scarlet robe,  
Written over Him was "King of the Jews."  
He said, Father forgive them,  
They know not what they do.

They offered Him vinegar to drink,  
as He hung upon the cross.  
What a horrible death He died,  
that the world might not be lost.

In the sixth hour, the sky became dark,  
In the ninth He gave up the ghost,  
the earth quaked, the rocks rent,  
Many saints of the dead arose.

Not a bone would be broken.  
They pierced his side instead  
when the soldiers came to Jesus,  
to find him already dead.

He could have called 12 Legions of angels,  
And come down from that cross.  
Because He loved us so very much,  
Jesus paid the cost.

Mary went to the tomb of Jesus,  
Very early the third day.  
Her master He had risen,  
The stone was rolled away.

The angels said tell the disciples,  
The news is really true.  
Jesus of Nazareth has risen,  
Just as He said He would do.

The last sacrifice had been given,  
God gave His only Son.  
Then to heaven he ascended,  
His suffering on earth was done.

As we pay tribute to this Man,  
Who died to set us free.  
I am proud to call Him Savior,  
That man from Galilee.

Barbara Casteel ©  
Florence

More LETTERS... on Page 22

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## Signing...

Continued from Page 12

Library is hosting the book launch on March 21 at 5:30pm, at 350 N Wood Ave, in Florence (256-764-6564).

Cross has written numerous scholarly articles and reviews in academic journals like *American Literature*, *The South Atlantic Review*, and the *Mark Twain Journal*. He also co-edited the autobiography of T.S. Stribling, *Laughing Stock*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Originally from St. Joseph, Tennessee, Dr. Cross lives in Decatur, Alabama, and is a retired English professor from Calhoun Community College. Cross is a two-time Fulbright Scholar, having taught in Portugal and Brazil, and he is a retired lieutenant colonel from the Tennessee Army National Guard.

*Through Old Ground* is available for purchase in both print and digital format as well as through Audible.com.

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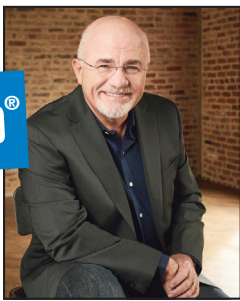
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# DAVE RAMSEY'S EntreLeadership®



himself, and I want him to be happy, but I'm not sure this is a good idea. Do you have any advice?  
Renee

Renee,  
Yes, I do have some advice. And it can be summed up in one word. Don't.

I admire your husband's spirit, but the way he wants to approach this turns the entire situation into a trap. Think about it. If his business idea doesn't work out, you guys have lost your retirement savings, and bankruptcy becomes a very real possibility. Diving head-first into opening a new business just because you're bored with your current situation, or tired of answering to others, is not a good idea.

Look, I get it. Lots of folks have an entrepreneurial spirit. And everyone I know like that wants to live their

dream. The problem is these dreams can turn into nightmares, for the entrepreneur and everyone around them, if they don't plan wisely and very carefully ahead of time.

In my mind, one definition of a nightmare in business is "going all in." When you're playing cards, this means betting everything on a single hand. You never go "all in" when it comes to business. So, for the moment, the first question he needs to ask himself is this: How can I live my dream without going all in?

For starters, he needs to find something he truly loves doing and can look forward to every single day. To have any chance of success, he'll have to live and breathe that idea. I know you love this guy and want to help. So, the best thing you can do right now is express your concerns about his idea, and offer to help him think about what he could do every day that would make him smile. Once he has the answer to that question, the next step is figuring out how to start that business without putting your entire financial world in danger. In other words, how can he save up some money—and start small—instead of blowing your entire savings or going into debt?

If you have some cash other than your emergency fund or retirement fund, it's okay to use some of that. But never, ever, go into debt to start a business, or pledge every dime you have to something that could be a complete disaster.

It's not an either/or proposition, Renee. He doesn't have to risk it all to get away from a job he hates and live his dream!

—Dave

Leadership and small-business expert Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored eight national bestselling books, including "EntreLeadership," and is a host of "The Ramsey Show" and "The EntreLeadership Podcast."

## DON'T RISK IT ALL

Dave,  
My husband is a good, hard-working man, who has been stuck in a job he really doesn't like for almost 10 years. He came to me the other day with an idea to cash out his 401(k) and using the money to open a business. He has always loved the idea of going into business for

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## Insurance Insights

### How To Protect Your Small Business Property From Damage

Consider these tips to help protect your small business property from crime, electrical surges and water damage.

You've worked hard to build your business. You've made tough decisions and dodged countless pitfalls. Nevertheless, don't let the excitement of moving forward distract you from the present.

Beyond the physical damage that burglaries, robberies, and fires cause, the interruption to your normal business operations is devastating. Luckily, many of these unexpected setbacks are preventable.

Follow these guidelines to help prevent loss as well as to help your business get up and running again, as quickly as possible.

#### Ways to prevent burglary

Building security often comes down to taking the right preventative measures. Help prevent business burglary through:

- **Good lighting** — Lighting can be an effective deterrent against crime, both inside your business and outside the building. Make sure the light fixtures are in good working order.
- **Secure windows** — Burglar-resistant glazing can help increase security. Make sure all locks and latches work.
- **Doors and door locks** — All building doors should be made of solid-core wood or metal and fit tightly into their frames. Make sure the doors have heavy-duty deadbolt locks.
- **Security systems** — Security cameras can record images along with suspicious activities.

#### Help protect against electrical surges

Make sure any surge protectors you purchase are listed as UL Standard 1449. This is a national benchmark and means the product has been thoroughly tested.

Point-of-use devices can protect particular appliances in your home. However, a more comprehensive approach to surge protection is to combine point-of-use devices with another device.

Direct lightning strikes are powerful enough to overwhelm even the best surge protection.

#### Help mitigate the risk of water and freezing damage

Water damage in the workplace can be a major problem. Not only can it cost you quite a bit to clean up, but it can also slow — or even shut down — your business operations.

Be proactive in protecting against water damage:

- Replace appliances once their age exceeds their serviceable and defined lifetime.
- Keep your thermostat set to 64 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; keep cabinet doors open to allow heat to get inside to protect against freezing pipes.
- Drip pipes to prevent freezing water in your plumbing system.
- Install insulated covers on all exterior faucets.
- Install water leak detection systems to help monitor where pipe leaks may occur, such as sinks, commodes, water heaters, washing machines, etc.
- Passive water leak detection systems are intended to alert owners to possible water leaks, using sensors that emit an audible alarm when water is present in the area.
- Active whole business water shut-off systems will automatically shut off the water supply to the entire business when a water leak is detected in the operation.

Although you can prepare for possible damage, there is still a chance that calamity will occur. As such, obtaining and maintaining the proper insurance can be crucial. A well-planned business insurance policy can help to repair or replace your damaged or destroyed equipment after a covered loss.

Through your insurance company, you may be able to expedite the claims process if you've kept an up-to-date inventory of your business equipment. Learn more about other loss control measures you can apply to your small business such as employee theft. Or talk to a State Farm® agent now to learn more about insuring your business against loss.



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## Letters...

Continued from Page 18

### Address Our Gaming Issue

Editor:

I am a Libertarian, registered as a Republican. That that means that I have voted Republican in every election I have voted in even though there are some Democrat issues that, as presented, I agree with.

I approve of all gambling and think Alabama should leave it up to the voters. The problem is that when a bill is proposed it includes all forms of gambling. Most recently, has been revised to remove sports betting and casinos in an effort to get it passed. If all forms of gambling were presented on a ballot separately, many would likely pass.

I currently go to Tennessee to buy lottery tickets and use my sports

betting app. I used to go to Birmingham to bet on greyhounds when they still had live races. The largest part of the decline of the Birmingham Race Course was the opening of casinos in Tunica.

The few times a year when I went to Birmingham, I routinely saw a certain local businessman there. When I no longer saw him I asked his son where he had been, thinking he may have passed away. He told me he was at Tunica most days.

According to Alabama law raffles are illegal, even for charity, yet I see them quite often and just found one advertised for Miner Saw in Tusculmbia in your publication for an award on Friday March 29 at 1pm. Tickets are \$50 each or 5/\$200

Just as in Bingo, pay to play is illegal as there is only a 'chance' of winning. I'd bet (if it were legal) there is a raffle to be found somewhere in Alabama every day. I often see Sheriff's departments raffling guns.

I once had a tenant that was raffling a car with half going to charity. He was shut down and had to refund the money.

Redstone Arsenal has Bingo every week. Pay to play.

I've seen Von Braun

Center host casino nights. There are even companies in Alabama that set up casinos with claims of no real cash. Next event I see advertised I'm going to try to go and find out for myself.

I was once told about poker games being shut down years ago at Tennessee Street Billiards while some of the city officials that shut it down were gambling in card games at Sweetwater

Billiards.

This issue needs to be addressed.

I enjoy reading your articles and don't remember ever reading one I disagreed with. You present the issues with facts, without bias.

I believe I would enjoy reading your take regarding gambling in Alabama.

Mike Kelly  
Florence

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STATE OF ALABAMA, LAUDERDALE COUNTY NOTICE OF ABANDONED AND UNCLAIMED MOTOR VEHICLES.

Notice is hereby given that on the 19TH DAY OF APRIL 2024 from 9:00am-3:00pm we will be accepting SEALED BIDS on the following vehicles to dealers only. Vehicles will be sold for parts only. No titles will be offered.

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Frankie's Auto & Towing will accept proof of ownership should anyone care to submit the same Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm until the day of the sale. Vehicles may be viewed starting Monday April 15th 2024 between the hours of 8:00am-5:00pm. Vehicles must be paid for by Monday April 22nd 2024. Frankie's Auto & Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

| Year/Make/Model            | VIN#              | Color |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 1999 Dodge Ram 1500        | 3B7HC13Z1XM596396 | Red   |
| 2008 GMC Yukon             | 1GKFK13098J238638 | White |
| 2013 Harley-Davidson Ultra | 1HD1KEM16DB690344 | Black |
| 2010 Ford F150             | 1FTEW1C88AFC09836 | White |
| 2001 Jeep Grand Cherokee   | 1J4GX48S41C722508 | Red   |

*Okay...Where is my*

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# Show Choir Camp...

Continued from Page 12

talents again," said Laurie Mitchell. "The rewarding work of watching students reach their confidence is what inspired me to come out of retirement and create this camp with Jeremy."

Spotlighters Show Choir Camp offers more than just a fun summer experience. "Think students are here to have fun? Absolutely. But there's more to it than that," explained Mitchell.

"In addition to being a memorable highlight

of the summer, the Spotlighters curriculum is intentionally crafted to build confidence, character, and community.

The camp is unlike any other in the area. It will be divided into age groups, allowing students to collaborate and grow together. Each group will learn 3-4 songs and choreography to prepare for a showcase on Friday night, where family members and the community are invited to witness their talents.

Jeremy Painter, once a student in Mitchell's theatre and show choir program, brings his own expertise to the camp. "I've spent the past 12 years working with Broadway national tours and nonprofit arts organizations across the United States," said Painter. "Together, we bring over 40 combined years of experience in the performing arts. But it was Laurie's mentorship and direction that ignited my passion

for performance, and our collaboration since then has only deepened our friendship and partnership."

Presales for Spotlighters Show Choir Camp began Monday, March 18. Public sales begin Friday, March 22.

The cost for the Camp is \$285 per child. More information is available on their website at [spotlighterscamp.com](http://spotlighterscamp.com) and on their Spotlighters Camp social channels on Facebook and Instagram.

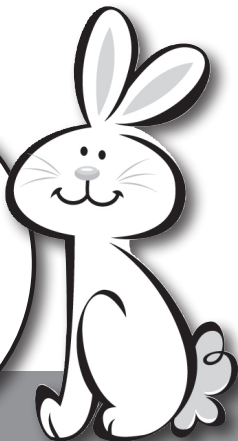
**Courier Journal** Colors of Easter Coloring Contest 2024



**LAST CHANCE!**

**ENTRY DEADLINE THURSDAY, MARCH 21, NOON**

Winners will be announced in the March 27 issue.



Mail or Bring Entries to:

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 Coloring Contest  
 219 W. Tennessee St.  
 Florence, AL 35630 Or email:  
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**Adults who color your kid's entry, will not win.** Adults can help in completing the entry form.  
 Entrant information must be completed to qualify.

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**Top 3 Winners in each Age Group Receive:**

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# Medicare Minute

## "Mail, Calls and Door Knocking 2"

Last week we began discussing ways that agents and companies market Medicare plans to people turning 65. We discussed the phone calls you may receive and the possibility of someone showing up unannounced at your door. This week we will look at online marketing and direct mail.

**Direct mail** – This is the most common way companies market their plans. When you are within 6 months of turning 65 a company will purchase a mailing list with your name and address on it. Most companies will start sending mail 6 months prior to the month you turn 65. This is because you are eligible to purchase a Medicare supplement any time during that 6 month period. In most cases direct mail is designed to initiate a response on your part. That response is to call a toll free number. You may be calling to get information but usually are connected to a sales person. If you do respond to direct mail, our advice is to never give the agent on the line your social security number until you are ready to buy. This should protect you against unknowingly signing up for a plan.

**Online marketing** – Occasionally we will have someone stop by our office that has gone online to research Medicare plans. Most online marketing companies will ask you to provide your phone number and/or email address to get pricing information. Once you enter this information you will immediately begin getting phone calls. This is because when you hit "send" that information goes out to 10 or more agents who have bought that lead. All the agents will begin reaching out to you within minutes.

Phone calls, direct mail, door knocking and online marketing are perfectly legal and compliant under Medicare guidelines for some plans but not others. If you have any questions concerning any of these you can contact our office for more information.

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](mailto: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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## Commentary

# Illegal...

**Continued from Page 12**

campus in Athens.

“Laken Riley, an innocent young woman who was killed by an illegal,” Biden responded, before extending his condolences to Riley’s parents and spinning the topic into a beneficial talking point.

Biden’s use of the term “illegal” provoked the hornets within his own party by the following morning, and it forced mainstream media networks to allow Biden the chance to retract or restate that reference.

There was a time in the not too distant past when most everyone would have agreed that the term, “Illegal” was accurate and appropriate.

These are the words of then Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) (The current Senate Majority Leader) spoken at Georgetown University in 2009:

“The American people are fundamentally pro-legal immigration and anti-illegal immigration. Illegal immigration is wrong, plain, and simple. Until the American people are convinced that we will stop future flows of illegal immigration, we will make no progress on dealing with the millions of the illegal immigrants who are here now and on rationalizing our system of legal immigration. That’s plain and simple and unavoidable.

“When we use phrases like undocumented workers, we convey a message to the American people that their government is not serious about combatting illegal immigration, which the American people overwhelmingly oppose.

If you don’t think it’s illegal, you’re not going to say it. I think it is illegal and wrong, and we have to change it.”

Which is it, Chuck? Illegal and wrong? Permissible and understandable? Or is it fluid and pending upon what is politically expedient?

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Community Action of Northwest Alabama's

## GERALD WILLIAMS COOPERATIVE GARDEN PROGRAM

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PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM MUST:

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|   |   |
|---|---|
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The Cooperative Garden Program is a partnership of the Community Action Agency NW-AL, TVA retirees, and many others.

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# Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

## Please Handle With Care

Our grandson's teacher shared her commendation of him. What a teacher! (Shortened for space.) Jericho tried on his cap and gown this morning for our May graduation. It's getting real.

To: Gaines School Elementary  
Subject: Handle with Care

Dear Gaines School Elementary Leadership and Staff,

I am writing you to share about one of your newest rising kindergarten

Eagle Scholars, Jericho Smothers.

I have had the pleasure of growing up with Jericho over the past 3, almost 4 years. To say he is special to me would be an understatement. He is truly one of a kind. He is his own uniquely authentic self every single day. The leader of my

crew. If he starts marching around chairs chanting randomness, everyone



marches around chairs chanting randomness.

He has the basics; standing in line, walking in a single file line, gathering all his things, spelling his name, recognizes numbers, colors, shapes, letters and sounds, a good bit of the circle time songs. He knows how to navigate centers, cleans up exceptionally well, transitions with little frustration, speaks up for himself and others, respects boundaries, can communicate his emotions, knows calming techniques (deep breathes,

counting, rocking, going to a safe space away from others and moving his body in ways that make his feel better), knows all the dinosaurs!!!!, can quote

fun facts about so many things, is always willing try hard things and is just a cool kid. I'm confident he will be a bright spot for the entire school community.

On shining bright; I am less concerned with his academics in school, he will get that regardless because the foundation has been set at home. I am more concerned about the breaking of his free and creative spirit our educational system tends to impose on black boys. Conforming... making me itch thinking about it. Please allow him the latitude to not have to become a robot or be labeled to make it through the system. He, like all children, deserves to feel safe, welcome, challenged, respected and educated.

Of note: Jericho is encouraged to use his own words before telling me about a dispute (communicate what happened, how it made him feel and what his boundary is to that person), is expected to move about independently, explores his creativity freely with few limits, is the oldest of the bunch, is allowed to turn everything into art, is allowed as much alone

time as he feels he needs, is NOT expected to share just to make someone else happy. He does have discernment. He doesn't have a title that "defines" him and everyday he starts fresh regardless of how the day before went. We also play. Like a lot. [Jericho] Moving into a system where saying "no" can be viewed as disrespectful, free thinking is not the status quo, and self expression is an inconvenience, my anxiety is off the charts.

More than an academic, right now, he is a creative; a deep thinker; a gentle... giant. He is a big kid; tall and solid. He does say "sorry" a lot because he bumps, falls on, or knocks down people when he is moving fast. "Sloooooow Dowwwwwn" was a thing for a while. He gets excited about an idea and has to see it through like immediately when the idea comes.

He just knows how to cheer someone up with the simplest of things; saying "you can play with me"...

Right now, it's like he is a computer just taking in all the information. He can tell you about about stuff in the Bible and doesn't shy away from the tough stuff. He listens even if you don't think he is and sometimes it becomes law for him. I know this because the church stuff comes here with him. I've learned a lot from this toddler.

His family is his everything. No exaggeration. He can tell you about each person and I feel if he had to, could defend their honor in court if it came to it.

I'm not sure if I'm suppose to keep it a secret that he's my favorite but... yeah. He's him.

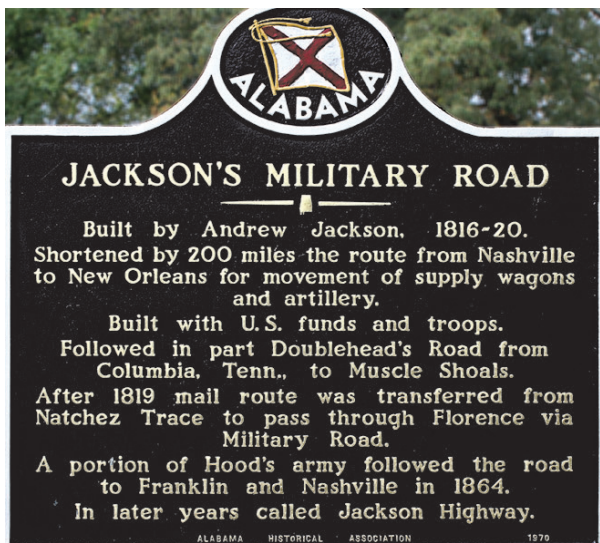
All that to say, please handle with care. His birthday is next week. I'm probably gonna cry cause that's just another sign that he will be aging out of my space.

Thank you in advance for your time, compassion, grace, and excitement.

Kirrena Gallagher

Email comments or suggestions to [CatnKids1@gmail.com](mailto:CatnKids1@gmail.com)

## SIGNS OF THE PAST



Location: 34.8134°N, 87.6711°W  
918 Military Rd, Florence

Lauderdale Co Rd 47 in Florence and Jackson Hwy in Sheffield were parts of the original Jackson's Military Road which shortened the route from Nashville to New Orleans. It played an important role in the early history of this are

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

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## Savvy SENIOR

### How to Tap Underutilized Burial Benefits for Veterans

Dear Savvy Senior,

What types of funeral benefits are available to old veterans? My 83-year-old father, who has Alzheimer's disease, served during the Vietnam War in the 1960s.

Planning Ahead

Dear Planning,

Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Cemetery Administration actually offers a variety of underutilized burial benefits to veterans as well as their spouses and dependents.

Most U.S. veterans (both combat and non-combat) who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge are eligible for burial benefits. To verify your dad's discharge, you'll need a copy of his DD Form 214 "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty." If you don't have it, you can request online at [Archives.gov/veterans](https://www.archives.gov/veterans).

Here's a rundown of some of the different benefits that are available to veterans that die a nonservice related death.

#### Military Cemetery Benefits

If your dad's eligible and would like to be buried in one of the 155 national or 119 state, territory or tribal-operated cemeteries (see [VA.gov/find-locations](https://www.va.gov/find-locations)), the VA provides a number of benefits at no cost to the family, including: a gravesite; opening and closing of the grave and perpetual gravesite care; a government headstone or marker; a United States burial flag that can be used to drape the casket or accompany the urn; and a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

If your dad is cremated, his remains will be buried or inurned in the same manner as casketed remains.

But be aware that funeral or cremation arrangements and costs are not taken care of by the VA. They are the responsibility of the veteran's family, but some veteran's survivors may be eligible for burial allowances.

The VA also offers a memorial web page called the Veterans Legacy Memorial for any veteran buried in a national, state, territorial or tribal cemetery. This allows families to post pictures and stories of their loved one online as a way to remember and honor their service.

If you're interested in this option, the VA has a pre-need burial eligibility determination program to help you plan ahead before your dad passes. See [VA.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility](https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility) or call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.

#### Private Cemetery Benefits

The VA also provides benefits to veterans buried in private cemeteries. If your dad chooses this option, the VA benefits include a free government headstone or grave marker, or a medallion that can be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker; a burial flag; and a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

Funeral or cremation arrangements and costs are again the responsibility of the family, and there are no benefits offered to spouses and dependents that are buried in private cemeteries.

#### Military Funeral Honors

Another popular benefit available to all eligible veterans buried in either a national or private cemetery is a military funeral honors ceremony. This includes an honor guard detail of at least two uniformed military persons, folding and presenting the U.S. burial flag to the veteran's survivors, and the playing of Taps.

The funeral provider you choose will be able to assist you with all VA burial requests. Depending on what you want, certain forms may need to be completed which are always better to be done in advance.

For a complete rundown of burial and memorial benefits, eligibility details and required forms visit [Cem.va.gov](https://www.cem.va.gov).

#### Burial Allowances

In addition to the burial benefits, some veteran's survivors may also qualify for a \$948 burial allowance and \$948 for a plot to those who choose to be buried in a private cemetery. And \$231 for a headstone or grave marker allowance. To find out if your dad is eligible or to apply, see [VA.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance](https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance).

Send your senior questions to:

Savvy Senior,  
P.O. Box 5443,  
Norman, OK 73070,  
or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.savvysenior.org).  
Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.





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Your medical records will continue to be handled with the utmost confidentiality and care. **If you would like to remain under the care of this office, your records will be readily available at Shoals Primary Care, where Dr. Zaman Shah and another provider will be able to assist you.**

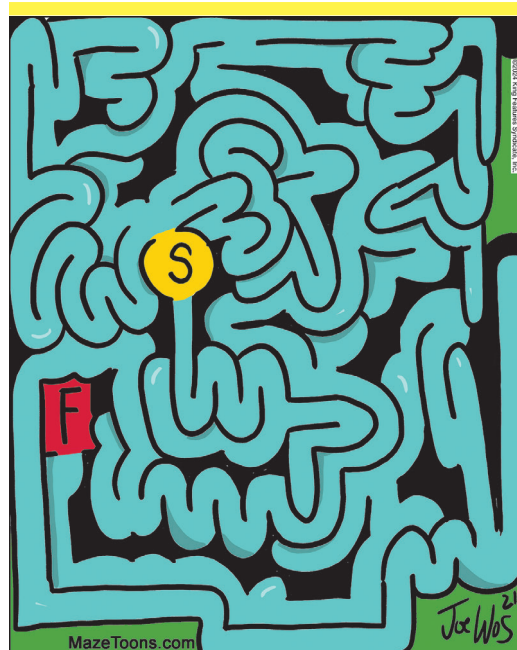
If you prefer, a copy of your records can be transferred to another provider or released to you. Please notify my office at your earliest convenience so that we can facilitate the smooth transfer of your records. 256-381-5507.

*I extend my warmest wishes for your continued health & well being.*

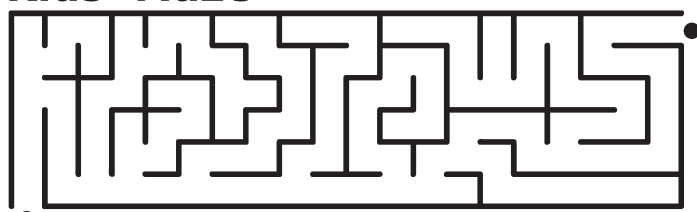
Dr. Terence Hart



Shoals Primary Care, LLC



**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. Aesop's specialty | F _ _ _ _ _         | Kitchen slat         | T _ _ _ _ _         |
| 2. Steve or Dean     | _ _ _ _ T _ _ _     | Gaye or Lee          | _ _ _ _ V _ _ _     |
| 3. Compass direction | N _ _ _ _ _         | Value                | W _ _ _ _ _         |
| 4. Pancake topping   | _ _ U _ _ _ _ _     | Improved             | _ _ E _ _ _ _ _     |
| 5. Bullwinkle, e.g.  | _ _ _ O _ _ _ _     | Mickey, e.g.         | _ _ _ U _ _ _ _     |
| 6. Dash              | _ _ _ _ _ _ T _ _ _ | Planting season      | _ _ _ _ _ _ G _ _ _ |
| 7. Larder            | _ _ _ N _ _ _ _     | Bakery treat         | _ _ _ S _ _ _ _     |
| 8. Wednesday's dad   | _ _ _ _ _ Z _ _ _ _ | Andy's pal, ___ Pyle | _ _ _ _ _ R _ _ _ _ |
| 9. Bird sanctuary    | A _ _ _ _ _         | Spooky               | E _ _ _ _ _         |
| 10. Closet accessory | _ _ A _ _ _ _ _     | Food longing         | _ _ U _ _ _ _ _     |

**WORD LADDERS**

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

CROWD

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PROPS

**Puzzle Whirl**

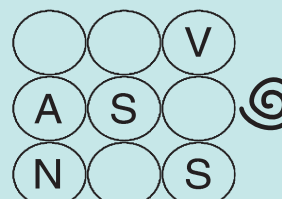
**MINI SUDOKU**

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   | 3 |
|   | 4 | 5 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 5 |
| 6 | 3 |   |   |   |
| 4 |   |   |   | 2 |
| 2 | 5 |   | 4 |   |

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**

# Community Notes...

Continued from page 4

Bring your camera and take pictures with the Easter Bunny!!  
Sponsored by the Friends of the Park.

Friday from 9am-3pm. Appointments are preferred, by calling Kim at 256-483-2894.

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

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates: Tuesday, March 19 Department of Transportation, 295 Hwy 20 E, Tusculmbia, 7:30 am - 2 pm

Wednesday, March 20 Wilson High School, 8am - 3:30 pm  
Thursday, March 21 Waterloo High School, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm  
Tuesday, March 26 Constellium, 6:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Friday, March 26 Constellium (Element 13), 6:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Thursday, March 28 Russellville Hospital, 10 am - 6 pm  
Computer and Technology Classes - Month of March, 2024

Florence Lauderdale Public Library- Microsoft Office Series  
Microsoft Excel Part 1 - Users will advance their knowledge of spreadsheets and their functions. They will learn the purpose for creating such a document and how it may be helpful in the organization of textual lists or numerical data. Thursday, March 21 10:30am-12pm  
Microsoft Excel Part 2 - This course will focus on Excel's functions and formulas. Formatting options and the process for inserting charts and graphs will be explained. Thursday, March 28, 10:30am-12pm  
All classes are FREE. Registration is required due to limited seating. Please call 256-764-6564 ext. 127 or email classes@fpl.org to sign up.

Retirees, and many others.  
Fishing Days at Deibert Park sponsored by Florence Parks and Recreation.  
Tuesday, March 26, 6:30AM - 6PM.  
Thursday, March 28, 6:30AM - 6PM.  
Tuesday, April 23, 6:30AM - 11:30AM.  
Saturday May 18, 10AM - 2PM (Kids to Parks Day)  
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TEXT Text your zip code to 898-211  
CHAT Visit 211connectsalabama.org

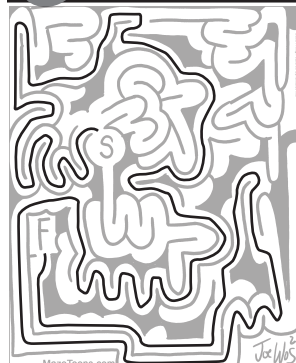


United Way of NW Alabama

### NEED HELP?

CONTACT 2-1-1  
Your link to community resources

# Puzzle Whirl Answers

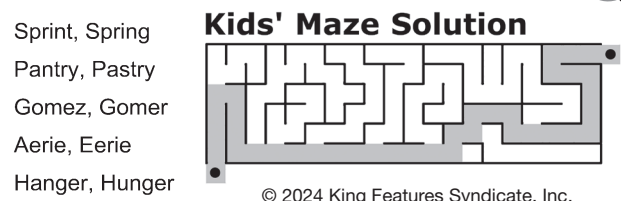


MazeToons.com

### Even Exchange answers

- Fable, Table
- Martin, Marvin
- North, Worth
- Butter, Better
- Moose, Mouse
- Sprint, Spring
- Pantry, Pastry
- Gomez, Gomer
- Aerie, Eerie
- Hanger, Hunger

### Kids' Maze Solution



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### WORD LADDER

Answer  
CROWD, CROWN, CROWS,  
CROPS, DROPS, PROPS

### Word Spiral Answer

NATIVISMS

### MINI SUDOKU

Answer

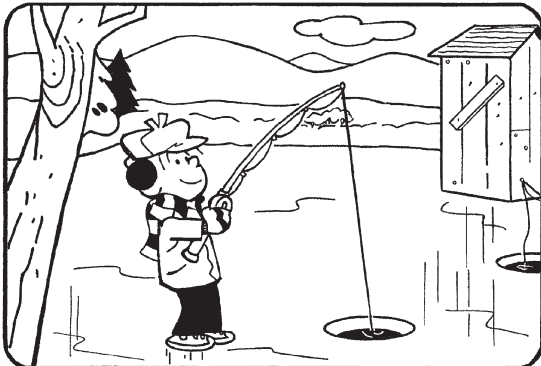
|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 |



**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fishing line is different. 2. Branch is higher. 3. Hut is different. 4. Mountain is added. 5. Cloud is larger. 6. Cap is different.

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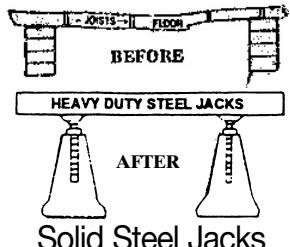
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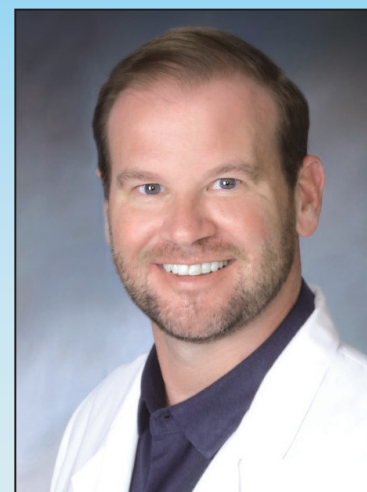
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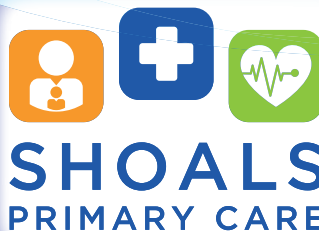
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(Must Finance) **Total Savings \$6,119** WAG



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(Must Finance) **Total Savings \$6,503** WAG



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(Must Finance) **Total Savings \$6,879** WAG



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Navigation!  
**\$21,788**



**20 Buick Enclave**  
#23B-033A, 4 Door,  
1 Owner,  
ST Model,  
Leather, V6!  
**\$22,788**



**18 Ford Explorer**  
#23B-080A,  
4 Door, XLT,  
New Tires,  
Local Trade!  
**\$21,788**



**20 Kia Telluride**  
#24G-123A, 4 Door,  
Full Power  
Nice Local  
Trade!  
**\$23,788**



Your **CARFAX**  
Advantage Dealer!



**21 Chevy Equinox**  
#21P-9124, 4 Door,  
1 Owner, 6yr/  
100k Limited  
Warranty!  
**\$24,788**



**20 Volkswagen Tiguan**  
#24G-070A, 4 Door,  
AWD, Leather,  
Sunroof,  
1 Owner!  
**\$26,788**



### GREAT Selection Of Local Trades!

**22 Chrysler 300**  
23B-048B 1 Owner,  
Leather,  
S Package,  
Nice!  
**\$31,688**



**21 Buick Envision**  
#21P-3096  
1 Owner, 6yr/  
100k Limited  
Warranty!  
**\$32,788**



**18 GMC Yukon Denali**  
#23G-115B,  
4 Door, 3rd Row,  
Leather,  
Nice!  
**\$34,788**



**21 GMC Acadia Denali**  
#23G-175A,  
1 Owner, 6yr/  
100k Limited  
Warranty!  
**\$36,888**



**19 GMC Sierra Crew Cab**  
#24G-149A,  
1 Owner,  
Leather,  
Loaded!  
**\$38,788**



**22 Jeep Grand Cherokee**  
#23B-091A,  
4 Door,  
Sunroof,  
1 Owner!  
**\$39,888**



**21 Chevy Silverado Crew Cab**  
#24G-094A, RST,  
6yr/100k  
Limited  
Warranty!  
**\$47,688**



**19 Ford F250**  
#24G-018A,  
4x4, 1 Owner,  
Crew Cab,  
Lariat!  
**\$47,788**



**21 Chevy Tahoe High Country**  
#21P-3680, Leather,  
Sunroof,  
Loaded,  
Nice!  
**\$49,788**



**21 GMC Yukon Denali**  
#21P-9187, 1 Owner,  
6yr/100k  
Limited  
Warranty!  
**\$61,888**

