

**Eleven Into
Colbert Hall**

SHEFFIELD—The 2024 Colbert County Sports Hall of Fame class will be inducted Friday, April 19 at 7pm. The Ritz Theatre in downtown Sheffield will host the event.

This year's honorees are **Kenny Aycock, Ashleigh Bowns, Bo Carter, Dominique Croom, Wayne Evans, Marcus Hill, Jasmine Horne, Hal Hughston, Jason Pruitt, Lane Roland, and Blair Woods.**

Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door. For more information, contact Leroy Willis 256-412-2184.

**Protecting by
Shredding**

SHOALS – Florence Shred Day is on Friday, April 5 from 9am–noon at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum, at 702 Veterans Drive in Florence.

The annual free on-site document shredding event for the Shoals gives local residents the opportunity to help protect their identities and the environment in a quick and easy drive-thru set up.

There is a limit of three kitchen size bags or three file storage boxes per vehicle. Only paper documents will be accepted. All other materials such as plastic, metal, and binders must be removed.

See **SHORTs...** on Page 2



**Shred Day
April 5**

Volume 140 Number 24

April 3, 2024

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Approaching the Top

United Way is
Within 55K of
its '24 Goal

SHOALS – Navigating through the heightened time of awareness during the pandemic years to what is now a constant in day-to-day life, the United Way of Northwest Alabama

has remained a consistent source of assistance to those in need. United Way has expanded programs and services and looks to

See **UNITED...** on Page 6

**Whitaker Leads
the Lady Lions**

FLORENCE –UNA Director of Athletics, Dr. Josh Looney, last week announced the hiring of Candi Whitaker as the new women's head basketball coach. Whitaker and the University agreed to terms on



Whitaker

a four-year contract to lead the Lions.

Whitaker brings 16 years of head coaching experience at multiple levels, including stints at University of Missouri-

See **COACH...** on Page 11



**Fun Easter Baskets
Happy Meals
and McBags**

In a rare occurrence, two sisters each won with entries in the Courier Journal Easter Coloring Contest this year. Hazel Mayfield, 9, (center) and Harper Mayfield, 6, (right) were winners. Harper's twin sister, Harlee, (left) also helped pick-up the Happy Meal prize bags and the loaded, colorful easter baskets. Thank you to Foodland and McDonald's of Colbert County and Russellville for sponsoring the baskets and the Happy Meals with other fun goodies. Staff photo TVM

McKelvey into the Burrell Hall

FLORENCE—Under the coaching guidance of Harvest Mitchell, the 1965–66 Burrell-Slater football team won the North, Alabama High

School Athletic Association championship. Kenneth McKelvey, who along with

See **BURRELL...** on Page 5



McKelvey

INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside



Ray Miller Buick-GMC
Advance Auto Sales

- Insurance Insights
- Ask the Attorney
- Handley at Valdosta
- Cat & Kids
- Puzzle Whirl

- Medicare Minute
- Dave Ramsey
- Your Letters
- Guest Commentary
- Adopt-a-Friend



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Shorts...

Protecting by Shredding

Continued from Page 1

Shredding will be accepted until the shred trucks reach full capacity. This year's local event sponsors are the City of Florence, Cook's Pest Control, ElderCare Services, Family Security Credit Union, and Garner-Pierce Autos, LLC in association with the Better Business Bureau of North Alabama and AARP Alabama.

For more information, call 256-533-1640 or visit BBB.org/northern-alabama

An Academic Repeat at UNA

FLORENCE. – UNA senior forward **Damian Forrest** represents the basketball team with another academic repeat honor, as he was selected to the College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District team last week.

For the second straight season, Forrest lands both Academic All-ASUN honors and CSC Academic All-District. This season, Forrest was the only unanimous selection for the eight-player ASUN academic team, which is voted on by the league's sports information directors and academic representatives.

The senior forward is currently pursuing an MBA in Finance and holds a 3.81 GPA.

Last season, Forrest was named to the Academic All-ASUN Team, the CSC Academic All-District Team and was named a 2022-23 ASUN Winter Winner for Life.

On the court, Forrest finished the regular season averaging 10.1 points per game and 8.1 rebounds per game to rank second in the conference.

CSC Honors for Pegues

FLORENCE – Sophomore guard **Rhema Pegues** earned her second academic honor of the season after being named to the College Sports

Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District team last week.

Pegues continues to add to her postseason award collection after receiving Academic All-ASUN honors from the league on March 6. The selection to the nine-player academic team was the first of her career, which is voted on by the league's sports information directors and academic representatives.

The Olive Branch, MS, native is majoring in Biology and owns a 4.0 GPA.

In her second year with the Lions, Pegues had a career year, appearing in all 30 games with five starts. The sophomore averaged 6.8 points per game on 43.7 percent shooting to go with 3.3 rebounds per game, and she was a threat from deep with a career-high 32 three-pointers. Pegues was also solid from the line, shooting 86.7 percent from the stripe to tie the team-lead on a minimum of 15 attempts.

Health Fair Set April 12

FLORENCE– Breast and cervical cancer screenings save lives. If you are a woman between the ages of 40 and 64 with low income and no health insurance, you may qualify for

the Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The Shoals Community Clinic has been a partner with this program since 2007.

The Annual Catherine Barnes Women's Health Fair takes place at the clinic April 12. Screenings, diagnostic lab work, mammograms, OB GYN referrals, and all treatments are covered under this program. Clinic staff will navigate each patient through the entire process. The best prevention for these cancers is early detection. Call the clinic for your appointment today at 256-760-4713.

See SHORTS...on Page 9

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Yard Sales

An exclusive listing of the better sales in the Shoals area.

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

WE MUST receive your ad by Friday prior to the Wednesday release date. (8 days before a Saturday sale)

DOTTY'S ESTATE SALE
1906 Edwards Ave., Muscle Shoals
Pre-Sale April 5th, 8am-1pm
Fri., April 12th, 8am-1pm
Sat., April 13th, 7am-2pm
Lots of antique items, furniture, household items, and much more!

CHEROKEE: ESTATE SALE
Queenie's Antique Shop 4490 Old Lee Hwy April 4th-6th 9am-6pm Beautiful antiques, collectibles. Everything must go.

The American Legion - Florence Post #11
318 S. COURT STREET
256-764-5122
BENEFIT YARD SALE
Fri., Apr. 19, Sat., Apr. 20, 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Donations accepted each MON. WED. & FRI. Leading up to the Sale Days. Most items are \$1- Thanks for supporting our Local Veterans

FLORENCE: NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE
Sat. 4/6 7-? Several homes on Co. Rd. 203. (North on Hwy 157 turn left onto Co. Rd. 10 and follow signs!) Vintage items, new items, knives, tools, furniture, and much more!

FLORENCE FIVE FAMILY GARAGE SALE, Heathrow Dr/113 Charing Cross, Sat. 8am-5pm, Nice Men's Ladies & Children's clothes, Home Decor, Adult Bicycles, Toys and more!

FLORENCE COMMUNITY YARD SALE
Creekview Village Apartments
104 Creekview Village Place
April 5th & 6th
Fri. & Sat., 7 am-until?
*In case of rain the sale will be the next weekend.
Equal Housing Opportunity

Killen Living Estate Sale
141 Koger St., Fri. 8am-until? and Sat. 6am-until? Household items, Furniture, Clothing and much more!

SHEFFIELD YARD SALE, 2407 E. 15th Ave., Fri. & Sat., 7am-until? Riding Lawn Mowers, Walk Behind Mower, Cast Iron, Some Antiques, Too Much To List!

TUSCUMBIA YARD SALE
2000 Bluff Canyon Road, five miles south on Hwy 43.
Sat., April 6th
7am-3pm Everything that I don't need after 56 years. **TOOLS OF ALL KINDS!** Everything Very Reasonable Prices. Sale postponed to following Saturday if raining.

MUSCLE SHOALS: MOVING SALE 280 Sycamore Dr. Friday, April 5th and Saturday, April 6th from 7 am until Furniture, lamps, child and adult clothes, comforters, lots of odds and ends, everything must go!

ESTATE SALE
506 West California Dr. Tuscumbia, AL 35674
Friday, April 5th 9am-3pm (Numbers given out at 8:30am)
Saturday, April 6th 9am-2pm (Numbers given out at 8:30am)
Sunday, April 7th 1pm-3pm

Directions: Heading West on Highway 72 (Old Lee Highway toward Memphis, turn right at Coldwater Inn onto Veterans Blvd. House will be on the left...you'll see the signs.

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CHEROKEE: Estate Sale 14015 Hwy 72 April 5th-7th Fri. Sat. 8-6 Sun. 12-5 Antiques, household items, cookware, glassware, furniture, clothes, and sewing machine, etc.

MUSCLE SHOALS: 309 W Elmhurst 4/4 thru 4/6 7-12 40 years of goods for sale! Paddle board, trampoline, misc. New stuff everyday!

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

• Email to editor@courierjournal.net

Senior Meals on Weekdays at 11:30am at The Club, 450 Country Club Road in Florence. \$1 donation

The Annual Colbert County Domestic Violence Coalition Diaper Drive is underway to help local families impacted by domestic violence. All sizes of new diapers, wipes, and pull-ups are being accepted at assorted locations throughout the county April 1-30. The healing place in muscle Shoals, Renaissance Antiques in Florence, Rio Grande Restaurant in Sheffield, Foodland Stores in Ford City, Elgin, Rogersville, Florence. and in Muscle Shoals (3413

Woodward Ave), Peoples Drug and Piggly Wiggly in Cherokee, Rain or Shine Laundromat in Florence, Studio 220 in Florence, Our Lady of the Shoals Catholic Church in Tuscumbia.

Monetary donations are also being accepted by mail at: CCDVRC - PO Box 454 Tuscumbia, AL 35674 or PAYPAL - Jenniferccdvr@gmail.com

The coalition meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Helen Keller Public Library at 12pm. Call 256-284-2284 for more information.

ABCs Under the Trees on Wednesday, April 3 at 10:30am, Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, 350 N Wood Ave,

BYOB Book Club on Wednesday, April 3 at 4pm, Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, 350 N Wood Ave,

Hi Neighbors of the Shoals meets on the 1st Tuesday (April 2) of each month at 10:30am in the Florence Lauderdale Public Library. We are a women's social group and we welcome all ladies who are current residents of the Shoals area. Come join us! Contact Berta Birch, 256-777-3119, for further details.

Infants - Adult Clothes and Shoes Giveaway on Thursday, April 4 from 8-10am at the Care Center, First Baptist Church in Killen. Spring has arrived and our Spring clothes are out!

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:
Tuesday, April 2 Helen Keller Hospital, 9am - 6pm

Wednesday, April 3 Tharptown High School, 7:30am - 3:30pm

Friday, April 5 Big Star of St. Florian, 12pm - 6pm

Monday, April 8 YMCA of the Shoals, 1pm - 6pm

Wednesday, April 10 Lauderdale County High School, 8am - 3:30pm

Wednesday, April 17 Collinwood High School, TN 8am - 3pm

Thursday, April 18 Muscle Shoals Electric Board, 10am - 4:30pm

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.

Eli Lev will return to Florence and the Lava Room in Florence at 116 West Mobile on April 8 at 6pm.

Eli Lev pens lyrics and melodies for everyday, songs that resonate because they're heartfelt, earthy, and offer the wisdom he's gained through lifelong travel and self-discovery. His latest project, an EP called 'Walk. Talk. Dance. Sing,' was inspired by the events of the pandemic and explores the range of emotions that we all went through as a society and individuals.

The rising singer-songwriter is making the world a smaller place, one song at a time. For more information, visit eli-lev.com.

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary will host the 20th Annual Empty Bowls luncheon on

Wednesday, April 10 at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center from 11am-1pm. Tickets are \$20 each in advance or at the door. They are available from any SAWA member, The Salvation Army on Huntsville Rd., the Law Office of Ralph Holt, or from Trinity Ceramic Supply.

Some 60 savory soups will be available to try. The winner of the soup competition is awarded the title of Best Soup in the Shoals. All proceeds from the Empty Bowls Luncheon go to The Salvation Army food pantry of the Shoals.

There will be a bakery available and numerous local vendors will be selling their crafts.

See NOTES... page 26

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with Him about your sin and your need for forgiveness. If you are ready to make this choice, as an affirmation of your belief, you may wish to pray a prayer like this one: *Dear God, I understand I am a sinner, but I believe Jesus died for my sins, and I now accept His gift of eternal life. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Thank You for my new life. From this day on, I choose to follow You and Your will for my life.*

Because of sin (falling short of God's righteous standard), we are separated from God and are spiritually dead (Romans 3:23). However, because God loves us, He provided a way for us to connect with Him by sending His Son, Jesus, who never sinned, to die in our place as payment for our sin. John 3:16 says, "God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

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Burrell...

Continued from Page 1

Charlie Johnson, Jr, as co-captains, helped lead the 33-man roster to a 7-1-1 record. Some impressive games spoke to that group's determination, dedication, and desire to be champions.

McKelvey's memory and that 1965-66 team will be honored during the 10th Annual Burrell-Slater Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner at 6:30pm on Friday, April 12 at the Harvest Mitchell Gym (Burrell-Slater), 610 W. College Street in Florence. Tickets are available for purchase at \$35 each from committee members or by calling 256-710-9057.

McKelvey was a 1966 graduate of Burrell-Slater,

a three-year letterman in football playing middle linebacker and offensive line and was a team captain his senior year.

That season included wins over Sterling (Sheffield), Leighton Training, Trinity (Athens), Reedtown, (Russellville) Council Training (Huntsville), Lakeside (Decatur), Trenholm (Tuscumbia), and a 13-13 tie with undefeated Central (Courtland).

McKelvey passed away in November of 2023. The US Army veteran was nominated by Stan Skipworth.

Please call 256-710-9057 for more event information.

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United...

Continued from Page 1

continue doing such. Those of greatest need have an opportunity to not merely survive, but thrive. As this year's annual campaign draws to a close at the end of April, the organization is still about \$55,000 shy of its aggressive \$1.4 million fundraising goal. With only a few weeks remaining, United Way of Northwest Alabama is making a final plea to help reach their goal.

"I never expected to return to my home state of Alabama and have the opportunity to do work that has such a positive impact on the community," said Dr. Tina Smith, fundraising and campaign director at United Way. "It was challenging at first," said the Sulligent native, "but having roots in Alabama, two degrees from the University of North Alabama, and residing in the Shoals for many years prior to returning in 2020, has assisted greatly in being able to relate and work with a great United Way staff, board members, and so many dedicated volunteers. We are remarkably close to reaching our goal."

Money raised during United Way's campaign help fund vital programs and services that improve the health, education, and financial stability of Northwest Alabamians in Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, and Marion counties. United Way currently supports over twenty area nonprofit agencies and two internal programs, Success by 6 and 2-1-1 Information & Referral. United Way's staff and board are committed to filling the service gap areas to make the biggest impact in the community.

If your company or organization has not had an opportunity to run a workplace campaign and you would like to, please contact Smith at 256-764-5892 or by emailing campaign@uwshoals.org.

You may also show your support by contributing individually on the United Way's secure website, www.uwnwal.org or you can mail a check to United Way of Northwest Alabama, 205 W. College St. Florence, AL 35630.



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EDITORIAL POLICY: Your Courier Journal accepts a variety of news releases, photos, stories, Letters to the Editor and upcoming community, church or civic events for publication as space permits. Please submit all materials in written form to:

219 W. Tennessee St. Florence, AL 35630

or email to: editor@courierjournal.net

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Shorts...

Continued from Page 2

Phi Kappa Phi Inductees

BATON ROUGE, LA-- The following people recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

- Cara Harris** of Athens (Alabama-Birmingham),
- Lily Hicks** of Florence
- Kaylie Wright** of Muscle Shoals (Alabama-Birmingham),
- Lydia Lauderback** of Athens (Samford),

- Veronica Bayles** of Florence (Samford),
- Amanda Mathis** of Florence (Samford),
- Jesiah Sherrill** of Town (Samford),
- Katie Crews** of Athens (Alabama),
- Benjamin Kiger** of Athens (Alabama),
- Allie Thorn** of Lexington (West Alabama),
- Reid Newton** of Rogersville (West Alabama),
- Jordan Bailey** of Madison (Troy),
- Madelynn Henson** of Elkmont (North Alabama),
- Richard Agyeman** of Florence (North Alabama),

Michael Stovall of Florence (North Alabama) Membership into Phi Kappa Phi is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10% of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff, and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction. Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897. Today, the society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories, and the Philippines.

opened room has been a real "game changer." The Bulldog Hangout has been in the works most of the school year and came to fruition at the beginning of this semester.

The room is equipped with comfortable furniture for electronic/digital gaming as well as numerous other game equipment and board games, all set in a comfortable relaxing environment.

SJHS guidance counselor **Melanie Culp** developed the idea as a positive behavior support program for the school, whereby students earn the opportunity to spend time in the Bulldog Hangout. She received a grant to purchase new equipment.

The Sheffield Education Foundation donated \$500 toward some game tables. "It's been a wonderful option for our students and they all love it and strive to earn time in there," Culp said. "It provides extra incentive for good student behavior."

Aluminum Carports and Patio Covers

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SJHS 'Hang Out' is Hailed

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SUNDAY – THURSDAY
April 7-11

GUEST SPEAKER:
Haston Handley



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

- Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday a.m. worship 10:30 a.m.
- Annual Singing 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday p.m. worship 5:00 p.m.
- Monday-Thursday 7:00 p.m.

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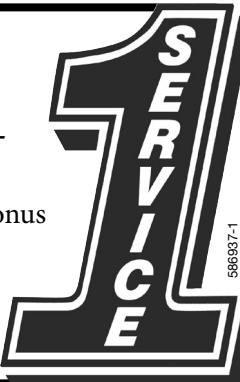
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Applications and Job Descriptions can be downloaded from our website: www.sheffieldutilities.org or picked up at 300 N. Nashville Avenue, Sheffield between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The City of Sheffield will begin taking applications for **STREET SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT**
Applications will be accepted beginning **Monday, March 25.** Applications may be obtained in person from the **City Clerks' Office** and the **City's Facebook page.** The completed application must be returned to the City Clerk's Office, **600 N. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield** by **Friday, April 5.** Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
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Coach Whitaker...

Continued from Page 1

Kansas City (2006-2012), Texas Tech, her alma mater (2013-2017), and most recently at Missouri Western (2019-2024).

This will not be the first time Looney has hired Whitaker, as he led the charge on her hire at Missouri Western in 2019. In five seasons with the Griffons, Whitaker had an overall record of 100-47 and led MWSU to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight in 2022 and the MIAA Regular Season Championship in 2024, when she was also named MIAA Coach of the Year. Her career record is 231-222. Whitaker has coached seven WNBA draftees, has produced seven nationally-ranked recruiting classes in her coaching career, and 61 players have been named academic all-conference over her time as a head coach.

"We're bringing a difference maker to North Alabama with the addition of Coach Whitaker," said Looney.

"Candi is a talented coach whose leadership impact expands beyond her basketball program... She will make a difference at UNA and her family will be an asset to the Shoals community. We're excited to welcome Candi, (husband) Matt, (and children) Westin, William, and Callahan to The Pride!"

"My family and I could not be more excited to join the UNA family and the Shoals community," said Whitaker. "I was blown away by the campus and the city of Florence on my first visit."

Before starting her coaching career, Whitaker played two seasons at Texas Tech and helped the Red Raiders to a pair of Sweet Sixteen appearances in 2001 and 2002. She was team captain both seasons after transferring from Seward Community College, where she was an NJCAA All-American and the NJCAA national assist leader in 2000.

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256-978-5691

Guest Commentary

US Auto Industry Faces Grim Future

as Biden's EPA Sets EV Mandates

Not since Prohibition has the federal government sought to ban a product as popular as the internal combustion engine. This week, the Environmental Protection Agency released its final emissions standards rule, requiring that 70% of new vehicle sales be pure battery-powered electric or hybrids by 2032.

Prohibition was a disaster and ended 13 years after it began. If implemented, this rule to take away Americans' choice in cars will be equally harmful.

This new rule comes at a time when auto manufacturers are dialing back on EV investments because EVs are left unsold on dealers' lots. EV maker Fisker has stopped production. Apple is switching from building EVs to investing in artificial intelligence. Ford has paused shipments of the new F-150

See GRIM... on Page 25

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



DIANA FURCHTGOTT-ROTH

Courier Journal

in the Shoals

THIS WEEK

April 3, 2024

Happening THIS WEEK

Handley is Familiar at Valdosta

TUSCUMBIA - Valdosta Church of Christ, at 1119 Old Lee Hwy in Tuscumbia, will host its Annual Spring Gospel Meeting and Singing beginning Sunday, April 7.



Handley

The guest speaker for the week will be Haston Handley, minister at Pine Grove Church of Christ in Fulton, MS, and a native of Tuscumbia who grew up in the Valdosta congregation.

Service times Sunday morning are at 9:30 for Bible class and 10:30 for worship.

See VALDOSTA...on Page 17



Let's Take a Walk Together

TUSCUMBIA - The Colbert County Tourism Office is pleased to announce that Sheffield and Tuscumbia will be participating in the state's Saturday Morning Walking Tours. These tours begin at 10am every Saturday morning in April they have become a beloved tradition by many who attend.

See WALKING TOURS...on Page 22

20TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS LUNCHEON, hosted by the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary takes place on April 10 at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center from 11am-1pm. The cost is \$20 per ticket with all proceeds going to The Salvation Army food pantry of the Shoals. Tickets are available from any SAWA member, the Salvation Army on Huntsville Rd., the Law Office of Ralph Holt, or from Trinity Ceramic Supply. 60 savory soups will be available to try. The winner of the soup competition is awarded the title of Best Soup in the Shoals. Bakery items will be available and numerous local vendors will be selling their crafts.

AMIE BETH SHAVER, FORMER MISS ALABAMA (1994) and Alabama State Senator Andrew Jones (Dist. 10) will be speaking to the Shoals Republican Club on Saturday, April 6 from 8-10am at the Helen Keller Public Library at 511 North Main Street in Tuscumbia. Shaver will talk about her review of Thomas Hager's book, "Electric City." Jones is sponsor of the Grocery Tax Reduction Act and Sweet Trails Alabama. Trails is a growing segment within the eco and recreational tourism market.

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YOUR Letters

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

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- e-mail: editor@courierjournal.net
- FAX- 256-760-9618

Term 'Bloodbath' is Defective News

Dear Editor:

Bill O'Reilly reported March 24 that twenty-three news agencies had taken out of context the use of the term "bloodbath" that Trump used to warn of a financial crisis in the auto industry and wrongly implied Trump guilty of using "bloodbath" as a call for actual physical violence.

O'Reilly listed on a chart the offending names of ABC, CBS, CNN,

CNBC, NBC, MSNBC, NPR, USA Today, Associated Press, Politico, LA Times, New York Times, Washington Post, and 10 other agencies. I personally listened to that part of Trump's speech and heard and compared the oppositional interpretation from several of his accusers.

My conclusion: the mainstream media is not immune from publishing deliberate misinformation, and we must now seek more balanced alternative news sources.

Baxter Graves
Florence

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Election Well Done

Attn: Editor

I would like to congratulate the Probate Judges in Colbert and Lauderdale counties for organizing and conducting a fair primary election. In Colbert County the honorable Judge Daniel Rosser, and in Lauderdale County the honorable Judge Will Motlow.

The overall winners are the average citizens in our democracy by answering the call to serve as poll workers for this primary election. I pray that these same citizens and others will answer the call to serve in the general election in November.

More LETTERS... on Page 28

ASK THE ATTORNEY

WAR STORIES WITH A PURPOSE



Thomas McCutcheon

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

Lawyers tend to tell stories that contain a lesson. A bunch of lawyers talking can be entertaining. After having practiced law for 35 years, I have a few of the stories of my own.

Thirty years ago, I represented a very nice guy who had a child by a previous marriage. During the pregnancy the parties did not get along and shortly after the child was born they divorced. After that

the two grandmothers meaning the mothers of the man and wife got together and decided it would be better for their children if they just went their separate ways. These two ladies decided it would be best for their children to get a fresh start. They decided the father would not come around to see the child and the wife would forego the \$50 a week she was due in court ordered child support. The plan worked well and both people remarried happily and had other children except for one small problem, which became a big problem.

About 14 years later, the child of the previous marriage decided she wanted to meet her daddy. And after quickly seeing how well her brothers were treated with 4-wheelers, mini-bikes, and trails to ride, she demanded her own 4-wheeler and her biological father declined. Within a month he had been sued for the child support he hadn't paid, which was about \$27,000 and an additional \$40,000 in interest. He didn't have the money and the court could not help him because the court did not approve the agreement that the parties entered into. Without court approval that agreement wasn't valid. The judge couldn't help, and the judgment was entered. I took that case to federal court and argued that although child support can't be discharged in bankruptcy, the interest should be. I found a few cases throughout the United States to support my position and I mean very few cases.

The federal judge declined to offer any relief and my client, a very nice guy, got hit with a judgment he didn't expect and couldn't pay. The lesson is that if you enter into an agreement about child support it has to be ratified by the court which is more than just mailing a letter to the judge. The court has to enter an order approving the change.

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

Please send the questions to: "Ask the Attorney,"

P. O. Box 38, Florence, Alabama 35631

or visit our website at: www.mhatty.com

facebook: McCutcheon and Hamner, P.C.

We will not print your full name in the article. We will not be able to return any written or preprinted items which are submitted.



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Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

Powerful Belief

I have a daughter, Lora, who has done some pretty amazing things. She graduated salutatorian from Mars Hill Bible School, while being the only Black girl in her class. That year, 2005, her team won the Blue Map at the AHSAA State Basketball Tournament and Lora was the MVP. She was also Lauderdale County's Junior Miss 2005. She went on to be an Emory Scholar - a scholarship worth \$250,000 to attend Emory University in Atlanta. While there, she became Emory's 3rd All-Time Highest Scorer (missed 2nd Place by 30 points while only averaging 17 minutes per game as their highest scorer.) Okay, stay with me, I'm going somewhere. At the University of Georgia, Lora graduated with her master's degree and a 3.97 GPA, even though she's only a second generation college student in our family.

"I just had to tell somebody that God must be real, because yesterday I was so depressed that I didn't want to get out of my own bed. I was awakened by my own grief at 3AM...I was low, low yesterday and...I woke up from what felt like spirit surgery. And I got that, because I asked for it. Something happens when I put my mind on Jesus - something on the inside, actually happens to me, in me...reliably this happens. I have never had an opportunity to test it like this year. Friends...I have never felt so despondent, never felt so paralyzed by anxiety or crippled by depression and defeat...And I have had acutely repeated moments where I wanted to give up and felt like I had no purpose in this world, over this project. But I didn't give up - did you notice? In those times, I went somewhere, in a dark room by myself and danced and called on the name of the Lord until I moved through it and was resurrected from hopelessness. Again and again and again..."

At age 23, Lora became the Director of Freedom to Grow Unschool, an alternative education program that gave its parents and children a way to grow outside the box. She led FTGU for five years. Lora ceased that program because she had married and had two children and wanted to make more money to support her growing family. But within the last three years Lora jumped back into business to create Joy Village School. This one year endeavor was centered on the thriving of black youth. The program she created was deep, cultural, and academically successful. It was also a tremendous struggle that she managed alone. I want to share some words that she shared last year while in the final months of the battle to keep the school open. These are words of resurrection.

Here is what I'm getting to: All those accomplishments in Lora's life pale in comparison to her growing into loving Christ within her spirit. Lora loves the Lord with understanding and belief of His power. She knows that God is real and moving. John 14:23-24. In her baby book all I wrote was, "Live for God." While she was sharing last year, Lora said in tears, "When I speak the name of Jesus I feel alive!" Lora's love for God is her most amazing accomplishment. This is what counts. Blessed!

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com

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Valdosta...

Continued from Page 12

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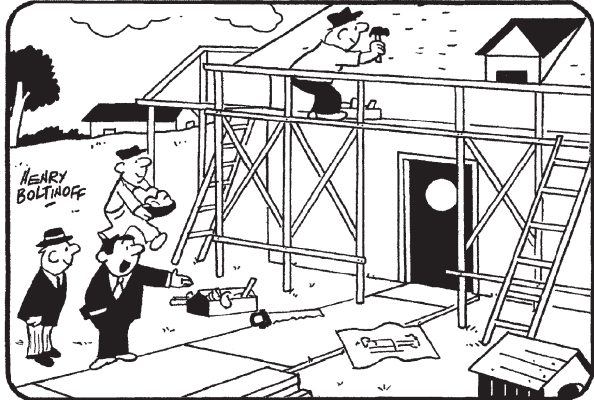
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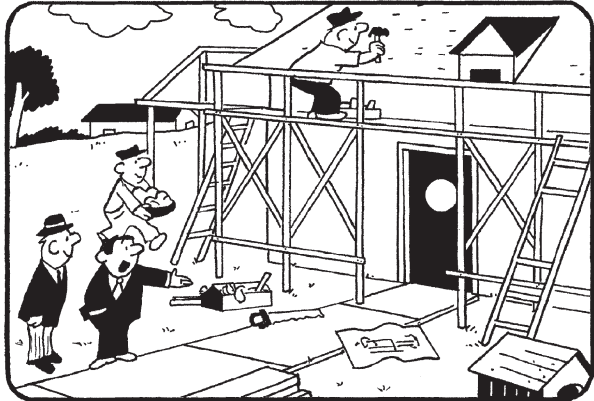
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Social Security has estimated that "Extra Help" is worth about \$5,000 per year for those who qualify. We meet with many people each year who qualify for this benefit and don't even know it. To find out if you qualify for "Extra Help" you can call or visit your local Social Security office, apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov or you can call or visit our office and we'll be glad to help. Regardless of the way you choose to apply, you will need your income and resource information available.

If you have questions regarding any aspect of Medicare or Medicare health plans feel free call us at Alabama Health Guidance (256-648-5710), stop by our office at 885 Florence Blvd (Four Lane Shopping Center) or email me at ikey@alabamahealthguidance.com. Alabama Health Guidance is an independent insurance agency and is not affiliated with Medicare or any other government agency.



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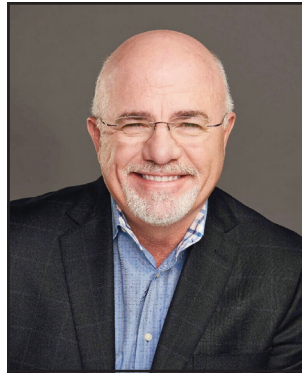
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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



YOU'RE PLAYING WITH FIRE

Dear Dave,
My wife and I owe about \$40,000 on our mortgage. My father-in-law, who is a very nice and generous man, said he wants to pay off the house for us, then let us pay him back over time. We've borrowed much smaller amounts of money from him in the past, and we were always able to repay it with no issues and no pressure. How do you feel about us taking him up on his offer?

Seth

Dear Seth,
I understand you and your wife have been fortunate in these kinds of situations over the years. And I know your father-in-law would probably be a lot easier to work with than a mortgage company when it comes to the size and frequency of payments. But I still think

you're playing with fire if you take him up on the offer. I assume your father-in-law is doing pretty well financially, since he can afford to make this offer. But the downside is just too risky. If I were him, I might offer to pay off the mortgage as a gift to my daughter and son-in-law. But a loan? No way. There are no strings attached to a gift that comes from the heart.

Don't get me wrong, Seth. I'm not bad-mouthing your father-in-law. What he's making is a very generous offer, and it's an incredibly nice thing to do. But in my mind, a very important consideration is being left out of the equation, and it's a spiritual issue. The borrower is always slave to the lender. Always. And sadly enough, nowhere is that more true than within a family.

Accepting this offer could bring instant discomfort into the relationship for you and your wife. This money situation is likely to hang over things like a dark cloud. Thanksgiving, Christmas and other special occasions will feel different—and kind of weird—when you're suddenly celebrating with your mortgage lender instead of just good, old dad.

Even if you come from a reasonable, stable family, and it sounds to me like your in-laws are very good-hearted folks, this debt will always be in the back of your mind. But if you're involved with a dysfunctional or controlling family, that tension is going to be right there—constantly.

I'd thank your father-in-law for his generosity and for the offer. But in my mind, it's just not worth the risk.

— Dave

* Dave Ramsey is an eight-time No. 1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of *The Ramsey Show*, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on *Good Morning America*, *CBS Mornings*, *Today Show*, *Fox News*, *CNN*, *Fox Business*, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions.

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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.

LEGION has been with us since her was a very young puppy! He is around 1 year old! He is a border collie/pyrenees mix! Legion is super sweet! He has a full, thick, very soft coat. Legion is great with kids, adults and dog. He hasn't been tested with cats but is so laid back that we don't think there would be a problem with cats. He is working on leash training now! He loves to be outside. He is a little shy with new people but he warms up super quick! Legion is up for adoption now. **HIS ADOPTION FEE IS \$25** This fee includes a voucher for \$70 off of her MANDATORY neuter, \$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.**

ASPEN is a very vocal, very loving, 1.5 year old Siberian Husky. She is beautiful, as we can all see. Please don't let that be all that catches your eye. You will need to KNOW this breed to be a successful husky owner! These dogs need LOTS of exercise and activity. They are not well suited for a family who likes to lounge around. She will need a VERY secure fenced yard, as Huskies are known escape artists. Aspen isn't good with other animals and not well suited for small children! She is partially blind in one eye due to trauma to her head at some point in her short life. Please note that if you live in the city, she is VERY vocal! She howls like a husky does at any sound or at the lack of attention. She is already spayed and up to date on vaccines, including rabies! **HER ADOPTION FEE IS \$25.** For more information please contact **Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073.**

Meet **TATUM**. This fun boy loves to play. He would be a good family companion. He's active but loves to stop for attention and affection. He's medium size and would love a family to spend the beautiful weather at the park or walking trails with. **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 adorable dog.

Meet **KAYTANA**. This sweet timid girl is looking for love. She is medium size and loves attention. She would make a great best friend to curl up with on the sofa. She is very loyal and loving. **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.

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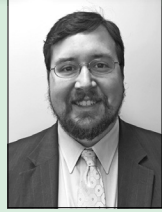
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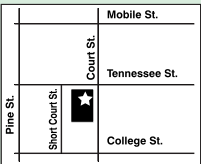
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Walking Tours...

Continued from Page 12

The walking tours offer an opportunity to explore the rich history and architecture of some of Alabama's most historic and charming towns. Knowledgeable guides will teach visitors about the local history, culture, and architecture and see some of the area's most beautiful and historic buildings.

Each week features different sites on the Tuscumbia tours. On April 6, Buddy Whitlock will showcase the First Presbyterian Church. John McWilliams will take visitors to the Winston Home on April 13. Lorie Johnson will guide guests through Locust Hill on Then, on April 20, and on the 27th, Ron Hudson will cap off the month with another visit to the First Presbyterian Church. The Tuscumbia tours will depart from the old Coldwater Books building at the corner of Main and 6th Streets

Jimmy Austin will lead tours of the North Montgomery residential area in Sheffield on April 6 and 20 and the Montgomery downtown business district on April 13 and 27. The Sheffield

tours will depart from Sheffield City Hall at 600 N. Montgomery Avenue.

Everyone is warmly invited join in for these enjoyable and informative walking tours, showcasing the rich history and beauty of two of Alabama's most historic and picturesque cities. All tours will start at 10am and last 60-90 minutes.

"We're thrilled that our communities are offering these free walking tours to highlight the incredible history and culture of our community," said Susann Hamlin, President & CEO of Colbert County Tourism. "We invite everyone to come out and explore the beautiful neighborhoods of Tuscumbia and Sheffield and learn about the stories and people that have shaped our history."

The Tuscumbia Walking Tours are sponsored by the Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation, and the Sheffield Tours are sponsored by the Sheffield Historic Commission.

For more information, please contact Colbert County Tourism at 256-383-0783.

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The Law And The Saved

TO THE CHURCH OF THE EPHESIANS: Ephesians 2:13-18 "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." How plainer can God make it? The law cannot touch the born-again child of God. Sin is still sin but; **Romans 7:7** "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Dear saved one: **Romans 7:4** "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." The Lord makes things really clear. Real doctrine is hidden to lost, religious folks. When God saves you, your eyes through proper teaching and growth will open. See Acts 26:18. IF you don't get salvation right, nothing else is either. The Apostle Paul through revelation from Christ has it perfectly correct. **2 Corinthians 3:12** "Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:" **2 Corinthians 11:3** "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." ST. John affirms: **1 John 5:12** "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." My dear religious friends, only Christ can save you, ask Him today, trust Him, receive Him, He cannot fail!

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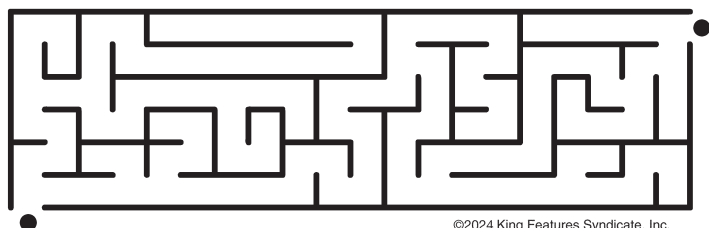
We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 9 organizations which offer 80 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) for help with plan choices.

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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. Hard-hitting | ___ _ _ G _ | Affect emotionally | ___ _ _ C _ |
| 2. Clothing get-up | ___ _ _ F _ | Get the better of | ___ _ _ W _ |
| 3. Subsequent | ___ F _ _ _ | Fall bloom | ___ S _ _ _ |
| 4. Protect | ___ _ F _ _ | Rely upon | ___ _ P _ _ |
| 5. Bit by a hive-dweller | ___ _ _ _ G | Daring act | ___ _ _ _ T |
| 6. Blue ribbon, e.g. | ___ _ _ _ Z _ | Cost | ___ _ _ C _ |
| 7. Junction | ___ _ _ _ _ R | Trumpet's kin | ___ _ _ _ _ T |
| 8. Dish | P _ _ _ _ | Election choices | S _ _ _ _ |
| 9. Take heed | ___ _ T _ _ | Apprentice | ___ _ V _ _ |
| 10. Grid | ___ _ _ R _ | Mantra | ___ _ _ N _ |

WORD LADDERS

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

BLEAK

CREAM

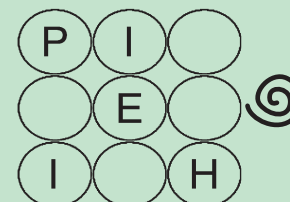
Puzzle Whirl

MINI SUDOKU

	2	6			
6				5	
		5	3		
4	3		2		
					6

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

Guest Commentary - Diana Furchtgott-Roth

Grim...

Continued from Page 12

Lightning pickup trucks. Mercedes and BMW no longer plan to go all-electric by 2030.

EVs are more expensive, take a long time to recharge, and lose battery range in cold weather—especially when car heating is used. The bestselling vehicle in America is the F-150 pickup truck, and the electric version costs \$17,000 more than the gasoline model and does not have the towing or lugging capability of the gas-powered version.

This rule will put small businesses and farmers who need gasoline-powered pickup trucks out of business. They can't do their jobs with electric vehicles, because recharging saps valuable time from a day. Consider landscapers who go from house to house improving people's yards. No charging stations are nearby, and they can't take two-hour breaks to find a charging station to recharge.

The disproportionate effect on small businesses and agriculture will result in higher prices for services and food, and upward pressures on inflation. People already follow food prices closely and complain that food costs more.

The rule will cause electricity outages because the grid, even by 2032, is unlikely to be set up for 10 million electric vehicles (70% of today's new car sales) to charge, a number that would grow over time.

Electricity outages mean that people won't be able to charge their EVs, and that other services

and appliances that rely on electricity won't be reliable either. That means scheduling homework and cooking around when the power comes on.

A companion power-plant rule from the EPA, not yet released in final form, would make electricity more expensive. The proposed rule would require the closure by 2040 of all power plants that did not sequester 90% of carbon emissions. In an act of stunning dishonesty, EPA does not mention its proposed power-plant rule in its final emissions standards rule.

EPA justifies its regulation on the grounds that America will have cleaner air. But EVs are not emissions free, and they impose costs on the environment that gasoline-powered cars do not share. Electrifying the U.S. vehicle fleet would have practically no effect on global temperatures by 2100, even as it raises inflation and lowers gross domestic product.

Electricity for battery-powered vehicles comes from coal and natural gas, rather than renewables. Solar, wind, and nuclear power are generally fully used for other purposes, and additional sources of energy to meet electricity demand come from fossil fuels and hydropower. Until emissions-free fuels are common enough to have a net environmental benefit, battery-powered vehicles will not reduce emissions.

Producing batteries causes emissions. Batteries are produced in China, using energy from coal-fired power plants. Producing batteries for electric vehicles uses carbon, and the longer the range of the battery, the more carbon is used. In addition, transporting

batteries from China to the United States generates emissions.

Mining battery ingredients causes environmental damage. EV batteries weigh about 1,000 pounds and can reach 2,000 pounds. About 100,000 pounds of ore are needed to get the lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, and copper to make the batteries function. To get the 100,000 pounds of ore, it's necessary to move 500,000 pounds of earth.

Cobalt mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is partly performed by children who are sent into the mines to retrieve the minerals. China, Chile, Argentina, and Australia are home to potentially damaging lithium mines.

When the battery is worn out, it must be disposed of. Some materials such as plastics, copper, aluminum, nickel, and cobalt are worth recycling. The remainder is disposed of in landfills, using a method to ensure that the lithium-ion batteries do not catch fire.

Raising the cost of transportation and meddling with Americans' personal mobility is never wise. EVs are not suited for most of America, a large country of wide-open spaces, where inexpensive individual car transportation is a birthright.

This sweeping industrial policy will have disastrous economic and personal effects, as manufacturers waste resources investing in products that many do not want to buy, and as the cost of transportation rises.

Banning alcohol didn't work as intended, and neither will banning the internal combustion engine.

Published 3/21/24 in The Daily Signal.

Diana Furchtgott-Roth serves as the director of the Center for Energy, Climate, and Environment and the Herbert and Joyce Morgan Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy at the Heritage Foundation.

Have an opinion about this article? To sound off, please email letters@DailySignal.com and we'll consider publishing your edited remarks in our regular "We Hear You" feature. Remember to include the article headline, your name, and town and/or state

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Community Notes...

Continued from page 4

Saturday, April 13 at 1:30pm
Historic Belle Mont's "Kids in the Forest" program takes place. This program is in partnership with the Alabama Forestry Commission and will

be presented by Forester Johnnie Everitt. "Kids in the Forest" is free and open to the public and will be conducted outside on the lawn weather permitting. The program is intended for children ages

5-12. Please call 256-381-5052 or email bellemontmansion@gmail.com with any questions. Belle Mont is located at 1569 Cook Lane in Tusculum.

Song Contest 2024 - Participants are now being accepted for the VIP - Songwriters Hall of Fame Museum's Song Contest 2024.

We accept all genres of music. Examples: Rock, Pop, Country, Christian

Rock, Contemporary Christian, Traditional Country, R&B, Blues, Alternative, Christmas, Comedy, Folk, Bluegrass, Love, Gospel etc...

Deadline to enter is May 1st. To get an entry form mailed to you call 256-604-1435. Leave your name, phone number, address and age on the answering machine if you don't get an answer.

Sand Mountain Amphitheater will host Old Crow Medicine Show at 7:30pm on Saturday April 26. Special guest, MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY.

Since getting their start busking on street corners back in 1998, Old Crow Medicine Show has emerged as one of the most potent and influential forces in American roots music. Over the last quarter-century, the two-time Grammy Award-winning band has brought their raucous live show to audiences around the world and toured with the likes of Willie Nelson and John Prine, all while amassing an acclaimed catalog that includes such standouts as their double-platinum hit single "Wagon Wheel."

Tickets are available now and may be purchased at: sandmountainamphitheater.com. Sand Mountain Amphitheater is at 700 SMPA Blvd. in Albertville.

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.

Florence Shred Day is on Friday, April 5 from 9am-noon at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum in Florence - at 702 Veterans Drive. The annual free on-site

document shredding event is brought to our community this year by Better Business Bureau of North Alabama and AARP Alabama. It will give area residents the opportunity to help protect their identities and the environment in a quick and easy drive-thru set up.

There is a limit of three kitchen size bags or three file storage boxes per vehicle. Only paper documents will be accepted. All other materials such as plastic, metal, and binders must be removed. Shredding will be accepted until the shred trucks reach full capacity.

For more information, call 256-533-1640 or visit BBB.org/northern-alabama.

Amie Beth Shaver, former Miss Alabama (1994) and Alabama State Senator Andrew Jones (Dist. 10) will be speaking to the Shoals Republican Club on Saturday, April 6 from 8-10am at the Helen Keller Library.

Shaver will talk about her review of Thomas Hager's book, "Electric City."

Jones is sponsor of the Grocery Tax Reduction Act and Sweet Trails Alabama. Trails is a growing segment within the eco and recreational tourism market.

April 6 at noon - you are invited Time Out for Theatre's Wonderland Tea Party!

Alice, the Mad Hatter, and more of your favorite characters in Wonderland will be there for photos celebrating the upcoming Time Out for Theatre Production of Alice in Wonderland on April 20. Sip tea and eat finger foods at the best unbrithday party ever! Seating is limited so be sure to register as soon. Tickets \$17; Pair \$30; Babies/infants (ages 0-2): \$5. Details and ticket info at tennesseevalleyarts.org

The 2024 Colbert County Sports Hall of Fame class will be inducted Friday, April 19 at 7pm. The Ritz Theatre in downtown Sheffield will host the event. This year's honorees are Kenny Aycock, Ashleigh Bowens, Bo Carter, Dominique Croom, Wayne Evans, Marcus Hill,

Jasmine Horne, Hal Hughston, Jason Pruitt, Lane Roland, and Blair Woods

Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door. For more information, contact Leroy Willis 256-412-2184.

The first ever Muscle Shoals Motor Madness Car Show and Concert hosted by the City of Muscle Shoals. City Hall on Saturday, April 20 from 8am-3pm. There will be food trucks, door prizes, and 50/50 raffle. Deja Vu will take the stage from noon-3pm. Judging begins at noon. We encourage everyone to bring a lawn chair, and enjoy this community event at Muscle Shoals City Hall, located at 2010 E. Avalon Ave.

For more information on participating, please email kmccollister@muscleshoalsal.org or call 256-383-5675.

(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 through 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.

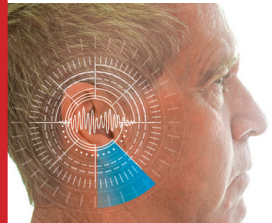
The other three institutions comprising The American South Consortium that will also display this year include; The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, CT, the Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, and the Mobile Museum of Art in Mobile, AL.

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

See NOTES... page 30



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How To Create A Retirement Income Plan

A balanced approach to retirement income strategies and retirement expenses can help you get the most out of your post-work years.

Budgeting for retirement

Budgeting for retirement can be difficult. And when it comes to post-work years, many people might not understand how to tackle budgeting for their golden years. Keep in mind that financial experts estimate you'll need between 70%–90% of your pre-retirement income to maintain your standard of living in retirement.

To help get your budget started, add up your fixed expenses — the ones you know you'll have each month in retirement.

- **Housing:** This may include property taxes, insurance, utilities, home repairs, home maintenance and household supplies.
- **Taxes:** Your income such as Social Security, 401k and IRAs, may be subject to taxes.
- **Transportation:** Daily costs in this category may decrease as the need for commutes — or even multiple cars — declines. However, budgets should still include fuel, insurance, maintenance and repairs.
- **Healthcare:** This category tends to increase with age. It encompasses health insurance but not long-term care costs.
- **Food:** As people age, food expenses might decrease as retirees may have more time to cook at home and fewer people to feed.
- **Communications:** Many retirees prefer to stay connected with family, friends and current events. Remember to include items such as cellphone service, internet and cable as part of your retirement expenses.

After you figure out your fixed expenses, add up your discretionary expenses which are the optional things you plan to spend money on.

Income planning for retirement

With a budget in hand, it's time to look at how you'll generate income in retirement. In general, retirees may expect to rely on several different savings and investment accounts as well as possibly continuing to work to help fund their retirement. Retirement income categories might include:

- **Social Security:** This is structured as a replacement of a percentage of your pre-retirement income based on lifetime earnings. Generally, you can start your withdrawals as early as age 62. However, doing so means that you'll reduce your benefits — permanently. If you wait a few years until your full retirement age, there is no reduction in benefits.
- **Pensions:** These are created and funded by some employers to provide income for employees when they retire.
- **Annuities:** An annuity can help provide additional regular income. These products provide monthly payouts for life.
- **Part-time work:** At the time of the 2020 Census it was reported that almost 27% of people aged 65-74 were still working.
- **Investment portfolios:** Several factors can impact how much income you can expect to withdraw from your retirement savings.
- **Traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or Roth IRA:** These individually funded accounts grow tax deferred. Contributions have an annual limit, but catch-up contributions are allowed for those 50 and older.
- **401k:** Offered by some employers, a 401k is a retirement savings plan offering tax benefits. Plans typically have a component for employers to match a percentage of whatever an employee contributes.
- **Life insurance:** Proceeds from policies can provide for care and living expenses for those left behind or fund legacy plans for loved ones, causes or organizations.



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Owner willing to finance
\$352,000 256-980-9559

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Letters...

Election Well Done

Continued from Page 12

I truly believe that these probate judges are strong Christian men who God has placed to serve in times like these.

Standing by our polling places were our local sheriffs of Colbert and Lauderdale counties, Sheriff Balentine and Sheriff Hamilton, respectively.

I look forward, as do the other citizens of Lauderdale County, to working with newly-elected county officials, Todd Nix and Randy Burns. Having worked with them in the city of Florence during my 20-year tenure, I know them to be knowledgeable and hardworking. Lauderdale County is in good hands with these two new additions.

As the Chairman of the

Equal Ballot Committee, I was truly blessed to receive the phone calls from the citizens of Colbert and Lauderdale counties, and I was able to direct them to select the ballot that listed their names.

Sam Pendleton, Jr.
Equal Ballot Committee
Former City Councilman
Florence

Severe Issues Are at Stake

Editor:

We understand when white evangelical and conservative Christians support Donald Trump because they expect him to appoint more pro-Christian judges to the federal bench and enact educational policies favorable to religious schools.

However, the claims by some media savvy ministers that Trump

benefits from divine help ("God's instrument on Earth") present a jarring counterpoint to the views voiced by his critics. They denounce him as an immoral grifter set on dismantling democracy and point to his inflammatory rhetoric about immigrants in the country illegally and opponents he has threatened to prosecute. Character matters they argue.

Evangelicals, representing a quarter of our population, are often fanatical partisans and cultural warriors who feel under attack. They view themselves as patriots, not maximizers of their group's standing.

Separation of church and state and welcoming all religious beliefs are our bedrocks. Democracy depends on citizens thinking for themselves and not blindly following the admonishments of religious and other influencers. No preacher should be telling

followers how to vote or glorifying any politician, much less the likes of Trump.

There are serious domestic and foreign policy issues at stake in the upcoming elections that will have a real impact on our individual and collective well-being. Let us not be distracted or sidetracked.

Dan Waterman
Killen

Farmers Benefit by Accepting

Editor:

Local farmers markets, direct-market farmers, and farm stands that are not registered to accept benefits or vouchers from customers might be leaving money on the table.

Three of these benefits are the Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). Many community members are eligible for and have these benefits and might wish to shop at farm stands or farmers markets this season. But if vendors are not registered, those sales won't happen. Farm businesses, farmers markets, and shoppers all miss out.

Producers who sell at farmers markets or through farm stands, and farmers market managers who wish to increase their sales through accepting these benefits, must register separately with each program.

A resource available to farmers and markets who wish to register to accept SNAP benefits is the MarketLink program, established by the National Association of Farmers Market

Nutrition Programs. MarketLink works nationally and provides support for completing SNAP paperwork at no cost.

State departments of agriculture manage WIC and SFMNP registration, and registration processes vary by state.

Finally, several states offer additional funding called "Double Up Food Bucks" to support direct-market farmers and farmers markets. These are funds offered at point of sale to double the value of SNAP benefits. This increases the number of local foods people can purchase, benefiting both them and the vendor. Interested farmers and markets should contact their state Department of Agriculture to learn more.

Anna Johnson
Farm and Community
Manager, Center for
Rural Affairs
Lyons, NE

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See page 6 or visit www.courierjournal.net
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We're back in all local schools and libraries with a fun-packed

April Issue!

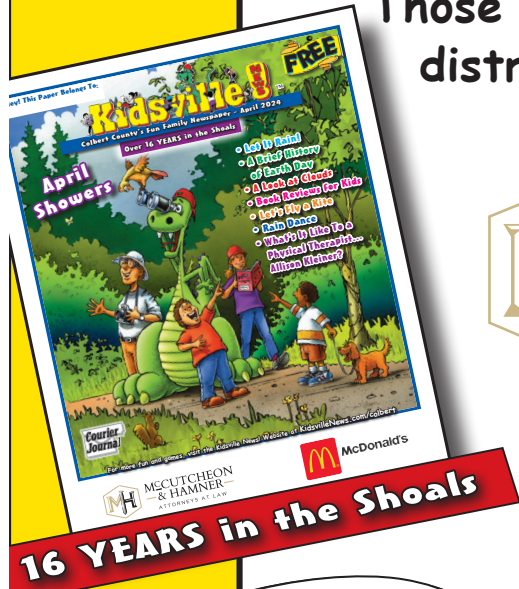
Online Page Flip versions available for each county at kidsvillenews.com/lauderdale and kidsvillenews.com/colbert

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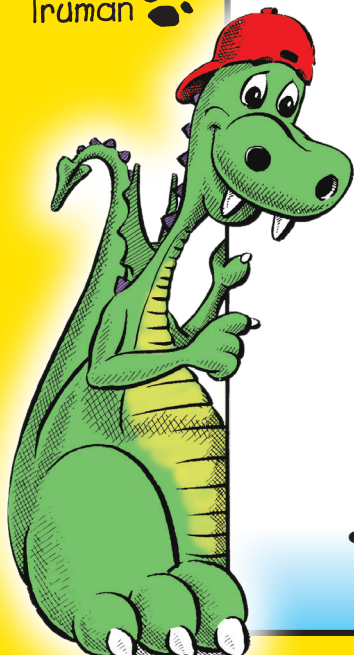
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Community Notes...

Continued from page 26

Fishing Days at Deibert Park sponsored by Florence Parks and Recreation.

Tuesday, April 23, 6:30am - 11:30am
Saturday May 18, 10am - 2pm
(Kids to Parks Day)
Catch and keep, catch and share, or catch and release. Bring your fishing tackle. No fishing licenses required.

Lifeguard Certification Classes
The Sheffield Parks and Recreation, 2901 19th Ave., will offer Lifeguard Certification Classes this Spring. 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.

Saturday, April 20 at 2pm and 6pm. Alice in Wonderland: A Time Out for Theatre Production - Based on the classic by Lewis Carroll. Tickets are \$10. Children in lap (ages 0-2) are free. Details and ticket info at tennesseevalleyarts.org
As the curtain rises, Alice slides into view at the end of her long fall down the rabbit-hole. It is a more delightful place for the audience than for Alice, who is trying desperately to get back home. She tries to get help from the Mad Hatter, the Rabbit, and from the very nice Cheshire

Cat. At 45 minutes it is Long enough to contain the most delightful incidents, yes is short enough to keep audience attention.

Adapted by Anne Coulter Martens. Directed by Laura Connolly and Andrew Maples.

Saturday, April 27 at 1:30pm please join beekeepers, Fred and Linda Joly, at Historic Belle Mont on for their presentation, "Bees of Belle Mont." This program will cover the bees that have been at Belle Mont for centuries and are still there today! The program is intended for all ages and is free and open to the public. Please call 256-381-5052 or email bellemontmansion@gmail.com with any questions. Belle Mont is located at 1569 Cook Lane in Tusculumbia.

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/

Church Women United invites everyone to May Friendship Day on Friday, May 3 at 10am at North Wood United Methodist Church, 1129 Wills Ave. in North Florence.

LifeSouth is in emergency need for blood donors. This year continues to be difficult for LifeSouth and blood centers across the country with the impact of the pandemic causing a decrease in blood donations, while the need to help patients in local hospitals continues to increase.

Regular blood donors who have not given recently and first-time donors can make a major impact by donating. One donation can save up to three lives.

Donate at the Center, 307 Veterans Drive, Florence. Schedule an appointment, 256-765-7038. www.lifesouth.org. The hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-5pm; Tuesday and Thursday 9am-7pm; Saturday 9am-3pm; Sunday 1-5pm.

Osborn Hill Cemetery - Decoration Day will be on Saturday, May 4. The first Saturday of May has been observed as Decoration Day for well over 100 years. Please make plans for that special day to come to the cemetery. If you would like to donate to the Osborn Hill Cemetery Fund, please send your donations to: Osborn Hill Cemetery Fund, c/o Mrs. Lana Duncan 2330 Colburn Mtn. Road, Tusculumbia, AL 35674.

Jacksonburg Church of Christ, 414 Lauderdale 28, Florence, will observe Homecoming with Ben Hayes and Travis Creasy on Sunday, May 5. Bible study begins at 9am. Travis Creasy will speak at 9:45am, followed by a fellowship meal in the annex. Ben Hayes will speak at the 1:30pm service.

Friday, May 10, 10am-4pm. Pre-festival "Museum Day". Hosted by Belle Mont Celtic Fest. Chamber music, demonstrations, lectures on Celtic and Early American topics will be featured along with tours of the circa 1828 home and a demo of Gordon Setters will be included.

Saturday, May 11 is The Belle Mont Celtic Fest, featuring the music and culture of Scotland and Ireland, takes place on the grounds of historic Belle Mont Mansion, 1569 Cook Lane, in Tusculumbia. The Steel City Rovers from Ontario, Canada, will headline the event, joining returning artists the Piper Jones Band and Chambless & Muse. First-time performers will be the Alabama Pipes and Drums. Food vendors, kids' activities, crafts, Celtic merchandise, and demonstrators on site. Bring blankets and chairs. Advance tickets for adults are discounted through Eventbrite or by calling 256-381-5052. Adults-\$5; Youth 13-18-\$5; Children 12 years and under, free. Gate Admission on Saturday: (Cash preferred) Adults \$10, Youth \$5, Children 12 and under free. Rain location is Northwest Shoals Community College. Belle Mont Mansion (circa 1828) is a significant Federal period home owned by

the Alabama Historical Commission. 1569 Cook Lane in Tusculumbia.

For more Information: 256-381-5052. bellemontmansion@gmail.com <https://bellemontcelticfest.godaddysites.com>

REVIVE AL - Hearts on Fire, a church growth workshop, June 12-15 at Heritage Christian University in Helton Drive in Florence. Keynote speakers for this home mission event overseen by the elders of Killen Church of Christ include Dr. Kirk Brothers, Stan Dean, Zack Martin, Matt Miller, Dr. Laws Rushing, and David Shannon.

There will be 40 "how-to" classes for men and women, panel discussions each day, and coffee and snacks provided by HCU. Visit homemission.org to view schedule; register at www.hcu.edu.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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of the week

April 3

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Puzzle Whirl

Answers

Even Exchange answers

1. Tough, Touch
2. Outfit, Outwit
3. After, Aster
4. Defend, Depend
5. Stung, Stunt
6. Prize, Price
7. Corner, Cornet
8. Plate, Slate
9. Notice, Novice
10. Chart, Chant

WORD LADDER

Answer

BLEAK, BREAK, BREAD,
DREAD, DREAM, CREAM

Word Spiral

Answer

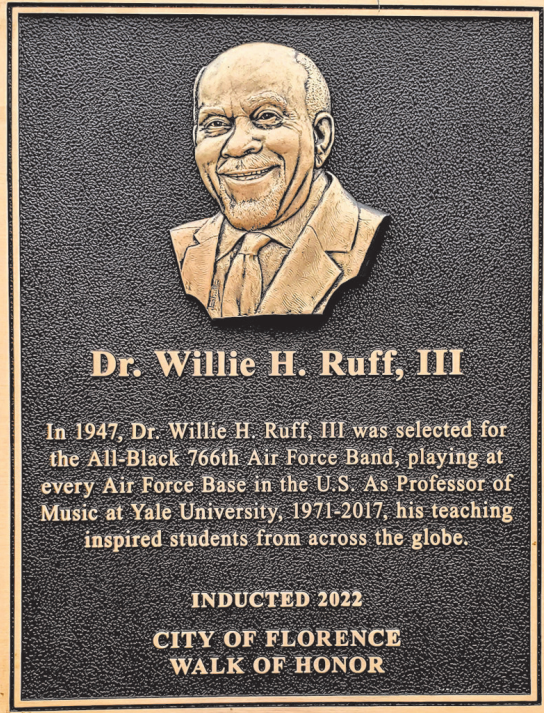
HAIRPIECE

MINI SUDOKU

Answer

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

SIGNS OF THE PAST



Dr. Willie H. Ruff, III

In 1947, Dr. Willie H. Ruff, III was selected for the All-Black 766th Air Force Band, playing at every Air Force Base in the U.S. As Professor of Music at Yale University, 1971-2017, his teaching inspired students from across the globe.

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As a jazz musician specializing in French Horn and Double Bass, Willie Ruff played opening-act for such notables as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, and Count Basie. For over 50 years Ruff played with Dwiki Mitchell in the Mitchell-Ruff Duo. He passed away on Dec 24, 2023, at age 92.

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

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(Numbers given out at 8:30am)
Sunday, April 7th 1pm-3pm

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