Shoals Shorts

A Huge Dedicated Readership!

Archaeology June Camp

FLORENCE-The Pope's Tavern Museum will host a Junior Archaeology Camp for students in ages 9-18 the week of June 3-7, Monday–Friday. The camp will be divided into two groups based on age: Group 1 will include ages 9-12 and will run from 9-11:30am each day. Group 2 will be for ages 13-18 and will take place from 1-3:30pm each day.

The camp will introduce students to the concepts of archaeology through hands-on investigation. Students will

learn how to research, plan, excavate, and process artifacts at Pope's Tavern Museum. Archaeology can help children grasp concepts relating to mathematics, history, geology, chemistry, social science, and more. This camp will utilize archaeological concepts for teaching the methods of archaeology and the history of the Pope's Tavern site, while also incorporating age-appropriate and hands-on activities that relate to these various academic subjects. Applications are available at Pope's Tavern Museum, the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, and online at www. florencealmuseums.com starting April 15.

Moundville Archaeological Park's Education Department will be facilitating this program to bring the resources and skills of archaeological practice to the Florence community. The University of Alabama Museum's Moundville

See SHORTs... on Page 6

Volume 140 Number 25

April 10, 2024

POSTAL PATRON

Courier Journal



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USPS Circulation Verification Available

Belle Mont Hosting Kids in the Forest

TUSCUMBIA-Historic Belle Mont Mansion will host a "Kids in the Forest" program on Saturday, April 13 at 1:30pm. 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 at Belle Mont 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 Tuscumbia.





Mars Hill Bible School's boys basketball coach, Jeremy Pounders, turns to acknowledge the players on his team, after he was handed the trophy affectionately termed "The Blue Map" during a presentation last week in the school gym. State championship trophies for Alabama athletics include an outline of the state with blue accents. Alabama High School Athletic Association Executive Director, Alvin Briggs and other AHSAA officials were in town to officially acknowledge the first state championship at the school for boys basketball. The Panthers defeated Highland Home 56-41 on March 1 to secure the 2A title. The team's motto all year long was, "Let's Get It!" Although this was the first championship for the boys after several near misses over the years, Mars Hill's girls have collected eight state basketball championships including one for the 2022-23 season. The girls team returned to the state championship game again this year. However, they had to settle for second place and a trophy that depicts the state of Alabama with red accents. Congratulations to both programs. They are among the best in northwest Alabama, regardless of classification.

INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside

Advance Auto Sales

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- Dave Ramsey
- Savvy Senior

 © Puzzle Whital
- Medicare Minute
- On Your Debt
- Shrek The Musical
- Hocus Focus
- Health Clinic
- Strange But True
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SIGNS of the PAST







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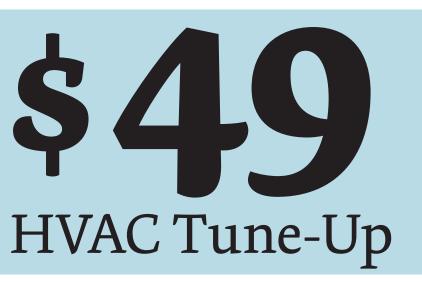
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Lb.

Delta Sigma Theta Sets May Week Schedule

DELTA SIGMA TH

SHOALS-The Muscle Shoals Alumnae Area Chapter Sigma Delta Theta Sorority recently Inc. announced its annual May

Week activities for NW Alabama residents, a celebration week-long of unity, diversity, and charitable giving.

May Week activities will begin April 24 with mental health fair Shoals Northwest Community College -Phil Campbell campus, featuring Social Work lecturer, therapist, and mental health advocate, Trinda Owens, and her message on "Forward message on with Fortitude" offering insight on resilience and self-care. Food trucks will be on hand and several mental health 2001 NISSAN XTERRA \$1500 activities stations set up by our community partnerships:

> Texas Roadhouse will feature line dancing encouraging everyone to let loose and embrace the rhythm. Back to Basics, community partner, will host activities such as karaoke and cornhole games that foster laughter. and bonds Therapeutic animals will be on hand to provide soothing companionship.

> The Gulliot Center on UNA's campus will host thought-provoking symposium on mental health May 2. Six panelists will tackle the mental health issue, "Do not Suffer in Silence: Lift me Up,"

Downtown Florence will host its a First Friday event May 3 with an international twist. "Dancing in the Street: We are Family" emerges as a vibrant celebration of

unity and diversity, with a community partner, the YMCA. There will be a live DJ and a YMCA dance instructor on hand teaching international

In collaboration with WZZA radio, there will be Gospel in the Park event on Sunday, May 4 at the Willie Green Center in Tuscumbia. "Empowering Community,' features soul-stirring tribute to the late Leonard Skipworth, a legendary beacon of inspiration in the Shoals area. The community picnic will include food trucks so neighbors can share a meal together and forge new connections.

Trinity Baptist Church will host the scholarship program May academic celebrating achievement. Esteemed Rockwell attorney. Metcalf, will be the guest speaker. Metcalf is the co-executive producer and writer of the awardco-executive winning documentary, "The Contradictions of Fair Hope.

Texas Roadhouse in Florence will host the final event on May 6, a dine-to-donate event where every plate supports scholarship recipients. Then, stick around and practice the line dances learned at the April 24 event.

All May Week events are free to the public, and everyone is welcomed and encouraged to come



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

CENTER STAR METHODIST CHURCH YARD SALE & BAKE SALE, 6293 Hwy 72, Killen, AL 35645 (next door to The Shipping Zone in Center Star), Sat., April 13, 7am-1pm, Lots of misc. 13, 7am-1pm, items and clothes

LEIGHTON MOVING SALE, 644 J McGee Road, Fri. & Sat., 7am-until? Downsizing, two builldings full of stuff!

FLORENCE: Multi-family YARD-SALE in Hickory Hills. 211 Mc-Gough Blvd Saturday, April 6th Sat. 6:30am. Clothing, houseware, small appliances and more.

FLORENCE GARAGE SALE, 203 Ashlawn Court, Fri. & Sat., 7am-until? Home Decor, Glass-ware, Costume Jewelry, Chairs,

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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

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908 N. High St., Sat., 6 am-until?
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Riverhill School Gym 2710 Darby Dr., Sat., April 13th 7 am -

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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

Kahoots! Tuesday, April 9, 3:30pm - 4:15pm at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. Calling all knowledge seekers! Join us for some fun as we test your skills on animals, music, movies, and more using Kahoots!

Singing River Church of Christ will host its 2024 Spring Gospel Meeting with Justin Roberson April 14-19. Sunday services are at 9:30am, 10:30am, and 4pm. The meeting continues Monday-riday at 7pm nightly. Everyone is invited. Singing River is located 1800 Huntsville Road in Florence.

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary will host the 20th Annual Empty Bowls luncheon takes place 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 Supoly.

Huntsville Rd., the Law Olince of Halph 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 venders will be selling their crafts.

ABC's Under the Trees Wednesday, April 10, 10:30am - 11:00am at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.

Come sing, dance, and have fun learning the alphabet. Contact the library for the letter of the week. Ages:3&4. Registration Required

Ready, Set, Read - Thursday, April 11, 1:30pm-2:15pm at the Florence-

Lauderdale Public Library.
Come sing, dance, and have fun learning the alphabet. Contact the library for the letter of the week. Ages: 3&4. Registration Required.

Adult Art Class - Thursday, April 11, 5pm - 7pm at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.

Email adults@flpl.org to register.

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 at Belle Mont Mansion 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 Tuscumbia.

Friday, April 12, 6pm – 7pm Mystery Bookclub - Heflin, at Helen Keller Public Library in Tuscumbia

This new book club for adults will focus on all things mystery - thrillers, cozies, true crime, detectives, and more. Each month the club will meet on the 2nd Friday at 6:00 p.m. and the 4th Monday at 2:00 p.m. Come to either meeting or both! Book for April: "Arsenic and Adobo? by Mia p. Manansala; Book for May: "Nine Lives" by Peter Swanson.

See NOTES... page 22

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Shorts...

Archaeology June Camp

Continued from Page 1

Archaeological Park, 15 miles South of Tuscaloosa, is one of the largest and most widely studied archaeological sites in the state of Alabama.

Sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums. this program is free, but space is limited. Pope's Tavern is located at 203 Hermitage Drive in Florence. Call 256-760-6439 for more information

McCormick at Open House **Pickett Place**

FLORENCE-The Friends of the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library will present a luncheon with Mee McCormick at noon Tuesday, May 7 at Pickett Place, 438 N. Seminary St, in Florence. Chosen as one of Southern Living's Cooks of the Year in 2020, McCormick will share her journey of healing with foods, with ranching and farming, and the importance of gut health and cooking for the microbiome.

Catering is by Jill's Sweet Memories. McCormick will also autograph and sign her cookbooks!

Tickets for Friends of



McCormick

are \$30, General admission tickets are \$35 and are in sale at the Mitchell Burford

the Library

Members

Library Bookstore or online at Eventbrite. com. Search MeeMcCormick

IFDC's 50 Year

MUSCLE SHOALS— The International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) will showcase how the Shoals has been helping feed the world for 50 years with a special Open House event on April 20 from 9-11:30am at its Muscle Shoals headquarters, 46 David Lilienthal Drive in Muscle Shoals on the TVA reservation.

IFDC invites its friends and neighbors in for guided tours, exhibits and demonstrations, and interactive sessions on

See SHORTs...on Page 7



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OFFICE HOURS:

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Your Courier Journal is published for total saturation, direct-mail delivery every Wednesday to 51,892 Shoals area and surrounding homes. It is Alabama's Largest Weekly-Mailed Direct, and enjoys a larger circulation than all local subscriber based newspapers combined.

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

well in advance of the planned event. The Editor reserves right to shorten, edit, reword or omit submissions as seen fit. All information submitted for publication becomes property of the Courier Journal. Information published does not necessarily reflect an opinion or endorsement by the Courier Journal, members of its management, or its staff. Advertisers are responsible for Advertisers are responsible for all content and claims in their advertising.

DEADLINES: Issues Published Every Wednesday INSERTS - 5 pm Thursday

DISPLAY ADS - 5 pm Thursday CLASSIFIED ADS - 5 pm Friday unless otherwise specified



Shorts...

IFDC's 50 Year Open House

Continued from Page 6

the fertilizer industry. Tours start every half hour, and participants are asked to wear closed-toe shoes. Advance registration is not required.

The Open House event will provide a unique opportunity for the Shoals community to explore IFDC's facilities, engage with scientists and agricultural experts, enjoy cultural exhibitions from Africa, and learn about groundbreaking research and projects aimed at addressing global challenges faced by smallholder farmers in Africa and Asia.

Accreditation for UNA

FLORENCE -The University of North Alabama has recently completed its reaffirmation process with its accrediting agency - the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges - with no findings and no recommendations for follow up. This is the best possible outcome for any SACSCOC institution. The reaffirmation process takes place every 10 years and entails a campus-wide effort that involves academic and non-academic areas as well as members of the community.

"I am exceedingly pleased with how well the University fared through this reaccreditation process," said UNA President Dr. Ken Kitts. "It is a major initiative that requires many hands working in concert to be a success."

SACSCOC is the body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states.

Grant for Two Programs

SHOALS-Safeplace Inc. was recently awarded a \$75,525 U.S. Department of Justice grant through the state that will allow them to support two programs that can help prevent abusive behaviors. The Peace Program offers nonviolence classes in which batterers are encouraged to examine and change the beliefs that lead them to be abusive and controlling of their partners. The Harmony Program helps victims of abuse who may be showing signs of aggression in their own behaviors. The program provides a structured setting for victims to examine and change these behaviors and improve their quality of life. These programs serve Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Marion and Winston counties.

"Domestic violence almost always irreparably harms lives and destroys families," Governor Kay Ivey noted in her announcement of the grant last week. "I am pleased to support these funds to enable trained professionals to work to prevent these cycles of violence before they forever damage lives."

The Alabama
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1GCCS1447X8196332 1GNEC13R9XJ554498 2G1WC5E34D1106424 3GNEC13T12G164954 1C3CCCAB2GN152398 1C4GP44G1YB770202 2C4RC1BGXDR605752 1B7FL23X5MS335688 1D4HD48N24F111833 1D7FL16X63S160085 1FADP3F29EL163278 1FAFP44614F226844 1FAFP53U83A266954 1FAHP35N98W195311

1G4GE5EV7AF130529

1G4HP53L9NH536130

2G4WY55J711140596

1G6DJ1E31C0136393

1G1AT69K9BB470109

1GCCS1444XK107741

YEAR/MAKE/MODEL 2011 FORD F-250

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LAUDERDALE COUNTY created Feb. 6, 1818 by Alabama Territorial Legislature (Alabama became a state in 1819). Named for Col. James Lauderdale, cavalryman under Gen. John Coffee and Andrew Jackson, War of 1812; Killed in battle of New Orleans.

Coffee planned Florence, the county seat. Jackson, President Madison owned lots.

Location: 34.7991°N, 87.6755°W W. College St & S. Court St, **Florence**

The original 1956 sign had shown its age and, half century later, was replaced and moved closer to the Lauderdale County Court House; from W. Alabama St to W. College St. and Court St.

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

THIS RE-DO OF AN OLD

ARTICLE was inspired yet again by online arguments with other computer technicians who insisted they need ultrafast internet for their TVs and tablets and such at home. I vehemently disagreed and showed them my math. Many

of you have been falling for the offers from various providers for ultra-high-speed internet and are paying far more than you need to pay for home internet.



Jim Fisher

Local internet service providers are pushing "blazing" speeds that promise to make everything faster. I have news for you: They lie. Before continuing with this

The Promise of 'Blazing' Speeds

by "The Computer Skeptic"

article, please go get your latest invoice from your internet service provider, and let's go over a couple of things. Got it? OK, now look for a heading that tells you how many megabits per second you are paying for (Mbps -- million bits per second). Common speeds around here are 50 to 100Mbps.

If you're a family of 3 or 4 and paying extra for anything over 50Mbps, you're probably throwing money out the window, and here is why: most websites deliver content to you at a

pretty slow speed. For example, a typical website sends data to you at only 1 or 2 Mbps. Online gaming systems use a surprisingly small amount of data. Thus, if all you do is visit Facebook or check your email the slowest plan you can buy is still akin to sipping from a fire hose. High-definition 1080p Netflix delivers movies at 3 Mbps so speeds faster than that won't make that high-def video any more high-def. A few of you may have "ultra high def" 4K TVs. Those require a minimum

of 15Mbps (25Mbps as a buffer) -- but only if you're watching 4k videos and most of us aren't - yet.

Households with more than one person need to consider how many users or devices are playing on the internet at the same time. If your household has 4 people who all surf the 'net at the same time, each of you may use up to 3-5 Mbps each so you'll need to opt for a 20 Mbps plan to keep everyone happy.

In my home, I have my gaming system, 6 TVs, smart doorbells, security cameras, thermostats, phones, tablets, smart washer/ dryer, and my whole-house music system all playing at the same time and I only pay for the minimal 100 Mbps plan from AT&T but I was just fine with their old 20 MBps plan before they gave me a free upgrade.

The bottom line is that if you are an average family doing

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average stuff, you should be paying no more than \$50 per month for internet and can probably pay as little as \$20 if you shop around. I recently switched from AT&T back to Comcast for \$20 per month (for a year). Their slowest speed is now 300 MBps in my neighborhood which is at least 10 times faster than what I need. Generally speaking, if you're experiencing "slow internet" issues, that's probably related to your wireless router, not your internet speed.

For questions or comments. Contact the Computer Skeptic. Jim Fisher at <u>Jim@ExcelAL.com</u>



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Commentary

The Clowns and Shenanigans

he Seattle Public School System is just one of many communities that is cutting ties with excellence in education, closing some schools and programs dedicated to challenging their best and brightest students.

The trend, concentrated in urban areas, escalated after COVID and the death of George Floyd because

The trend, concentrated in urban areas, escalated after COVID and the death of George Floyd because education officials were concerned about racial inequities. School bosses said black and Hispanic students were underrepresented at the schools. In other words, these schools have too many white and Asian students and continuing to fund them only furthers those inequities. So, if everyone

can't go from smart to brilliant, no one can elevate past "smart." That is like doing away with honors English and advanced trig because some kids don't understand it and feelings may be hurt, only on a more comprehensive scale.

According to Seattle Public School data for

TOM MAGAZZU

See CLOWNS... on Page 20

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

Courier Journal

NWSCC Featuring

Shrek the Musical

PHIL CAMPBELL -- Northwest Shoals Community College will host the upcoming production of *Shrek the Musical* April 11-14 in the Lou B. Bevill Center on NWSCC's Phil Campbell campus. The musical is based on the beloved DreamWorks Animation film and William Steig's classic book. This

See SHREK...on Page 18



Women's

Health Fair

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

See HEALTH... on Page 22

THIS WEEK

April 10, 2024

RIVERHILL SCHOOL WILL HOST A YARD SALE

Saturday, April 13 from 7 am–12 pm in the Riverhill Gym which is toward the back of the school at 2710 Darby Drive in Florence. Proceeds will go toward the 6th grade class that will be traveling to Washington D.C. in May.

THE SALVATION ARMY WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

hosts the 20th Annual Empty Bowls luncheon The luncheon takes place 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, through 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.

THE FIRST EVER KELLER KIDS COLOR RUN takes

place on Saturday, April 13, from 9am-noon. This event is a 5K fun run and fundraising event that begins in downtown Tuscumbia and ends in Spring Park. Entries are welcome up to the day of the event. This is a family-friendly event sponsored by the Helen Keller Festival committee. To register, visit www.helenkellerfestival.com



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Youk etters

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

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

Where's a Winner?

Editor:

Once again, the Powerball lottery has suspiciously had the same Powerball number 23 picked 3 times in consecutive 4 plays up to April 1, 2024, so nobody could win in order to make the jackpot bigger and to attract more buyers and players.

I find that extremely odd and suspiciously corrupt for the computer to divert a possible jackpot winner. No state or government investigation is also suspicious.

Paul Sabatino Florence

They do not follow their sworn oaths to protect the constituents who put them in

them in office...



April 12

256-760-4713

So Trump Will Win

Dear Editor,

I read your publication regularly and take interest in the "letters" section. In the April 3 issue, there was a letter from a Mr. Sam Pendleton, Jr entitled, *Election Well Done*. In the letter, Mr. Pendleton praises the recent primary election where he acknowledged two Probate Judges "for organizing and conducting a fair primary election."

I agree with that part. Most of us voted like we have since we were 18 years old. However, later in the letter he encourages average citizens in our democracy to answer the call to serve as poll workers in the November general election. I agree that serving as a poll worker is an important part of civic duty for any citizen.

However, Mr. Pendleton also called out what a wonderful job probate judges Daniel Rosser and Will Motlow did to "conduct a fair primary election."

See LETTERS... on Page 24

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Worst WMD

One would quickly think the tongue would be at the top of the list. But God always has the correct answer. Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Isaiah 59:13 "In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood." Whatever a man may be, his tongue is sure to reveal it. Matthew 12:34 "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Who said that? Jesus Christ! Hebrews 3:12 "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Now God is not talking about the pump in your chest when He mentions "the heart". He is talking about the thing that sets on your shoulders. That's where the troubles and wickedness and wars and all sin, originates. The brain reacts to what you see and hear and sends the body its orders.

Yes, the worst weapon of mass-destruction is the brain (heart) of man that brings thousands to death and perdition every day. You can't trust your heart (brain). The above passages declare why. Only God has the answer for death. Ask yourself, "where will I go after death?" Answer is: Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" Acts 17:31 "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." These appointments you will keep. Only Christ can change your lost condition. Hebrews 7:25 "Wherefore he (CHRIST) is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." 1 Peter 3:18a "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God," Ask Him, He'll bring you to God today! Jesus Christ never fails and will save and forgive you!

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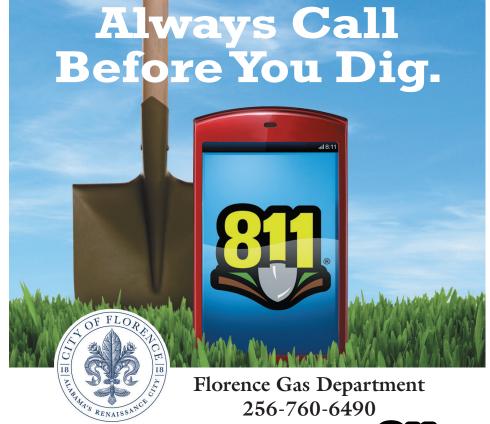


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A common question that we often require full and complete disclosure of to file for bankruptcy. The very short someone is filing for bankruptcy. and quick answer is "No." While it may sound like a good idea on the surface, can result in denial of a bankruptcy prohibit a debtor (someone who is filing to filing for bankruptcy can obviously for bankruptcy) from doing this.

make any transfers or changes to any enacted fraudulent conveyance statutes of your property in contemplation of to address this exact situation. a bankruptcy filing. Of course, if there friend. The answer to whether someone your options. should do this is an absolute "No".

Exemption planning can be very tricky and problematic in this context. The federal bankruptcy laws are very generous to people who are honest about their dealings with their property and and confidential consultation. We'd their debts. As a result, when someone love to discuss your finances with you comes to us, no matter what their if you have had a serious reduction in situation is, we essentially tell them to income or have lost your job or find freeze everything, meaning do not make yourself in financial trouble of any any changes to property, either giving kind. Debt can be overwhelming. The light of the fact that the bankruptcy laws stress! We want to help!

get asked is whether someone can give the entire financial picture of the person away or transfer property in order to that is filing, absolute honesty is an avoid their creditors if they are going absolute requirement. It is a must when

Failure to disclose transfers of property federal bankruptcy law and most discharge and, at its worst, criminal states have enacted laws which strictly charges. Full disclosure of transfers prior result in the bankruptcy court and trustee We always advise our clients to, voiding out the transfer and seizing back using a golf analogy, "Play the ball as the property. The bankruptcy laws fully it lies." That means, in essence, to not address this and most states have also

Our advice is to tread very cautiously will never be a bankruptcy filing, then when and if someone is thinking transfers or changes to property are about transferring property prior to usually acceptable. The context in which a bankruptcy filing. Before you do we see this issue, however, is when a anything like this, it is best to get a full client comes to us and has property and complete understanding of your in their name that is not exempt for situation. Therefore, we advise sitting bankruptcy purposes, and they want to down with one of our licensed attorneys save it by giving it to a family member or in a confidential setting to discuss all of

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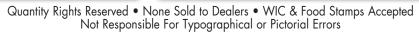












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Shrek The Musical...

Continued from Page 12

enchanting musical extravaganza, with music by Jeanine Tesori and book and lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire, promises to delight audiences of all ages with its

heartwarming story and infectious songs.

ShrekhMusicalbrings to life the adventures of everyone's favorite ogre, Shrek, as embarks he on a journey rescue to Princess Fiona with the help of his loyal companion

Donkey. Along the way, they encounter a colorful cast of characters, including the sassy Gingerbread Man, the villainous Lord Farquaad, and a host of fairytale creatures. Packed with humor, heart, and memorable tunes. this production is sure to captivate audiences from start to

finish. "This production has been a labor of love for our talented cast and crew." said Jonathon Romero, NWSCC Music Instructor and Director of the Musical. "We are

excited to showcase our students and members of the community. It's a show that will make you laugh, sing, and leave with a smile on your

face.

Experience the whimsical world of Shrek and his friends live on stage. Showtimes are at 7pm Thursday-Saturday and 2pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 each general admission. NWSCC faculty, staff, students, and children and under can enjoy free admission. Tickets can be purchased at https://shorturl.at/jkpK6.

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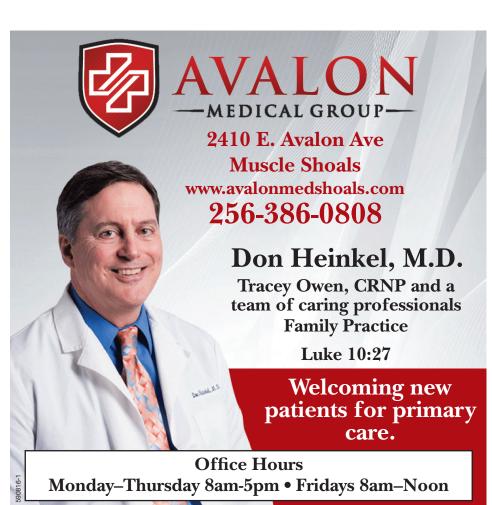
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Commentary...

Clowns...

Continued from Page 12

2022-23, 52% of "highly capable" students in the 2022-23 school year were white, 16% were Asian, and only 3.4% were black. Besides the fact that 28% of a highly capable non-white students are unlisted in this account, what happened to the idea of investing in more of the promising elementary students who could then be among those in the highly capable category in high school?

That's too much work and besides, anyone who argues that scholastic achievement should supersede a proper quota melanin content in each public classroom must be a racist.

We should all rather pursue the high end of mediocrity – in all fairness.

No wonder there is such a push for school choice and momentum building to allocate public education money where parents think it will best benefit their children.

Last week Brooklyn Federal Court Judge Nicholas Garaufis Nicholas suggested that a racist culture persists within the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) when he cited a March incident involving members of the New York City Fire Department booing state Attorney General Letitia James at an event and chanting in favor of former President Trump.

So FDNY the employees are racist simply because they boo a blatantly obvious political hack, and there happens to be a separate case unsettled against the FDNY by a Black group of firefighters.

Let's not forget that Letitia James ran for attorney general of New York in 2018 not on a platform to duly uphold the law, but one of going after a particular citizen. It was a promise of perpwalking and prosecuting Donald Trump on any charges she could, calling him "illegitimate" and "an embarrassment." She fashioned charges, the likes of which had never been prosecuted in the state's history, lined up the right judge and jury in a 90% democrat



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FDNY course. Fire Commissioner, Kavanaugh, Laura apologized profusely to James for the behavior of her department and plans on reviewing the involvement of each firefighter involved. Each firefighter should tell Kavanaugh where she can stuff one of their extension ladders.

Still in New York, regarding manufactured another sham against Trump, Judge Juan Merchan, who is overseeing the Stormy Daniels hush money trial, threw yet another gag order on President Trump a day before dismissing his presidential Immunity claim.

Merchan told Trump he cannot talk about judge's family. the That request would reasonable he and understandable in most cases. However, this is not most cases. The judge's family is currently being paid by the Biden campaign to the tune of about \$10 million for generating close to \$100 million in solicitations on this case. Trump is not allowed to point out to the public that the judge's daughter is a Democrat consultant, whose clients are fundraising from Trump's indictment. Trump Should Merchan convicted, and his family benefit further with Biden's chances of victory increasing in November. The plaintiff, the media, the judge's family can smear Trump, though he is threatened with

jail if he responds. The

media even references

"harassing or attacking"



if she is a child. Loren and actively working against the defendant while making money on the situation. Instead of accusing himself, like Trump's attorneys have requested, the judge puts a gag order on Trump, so he can't discuss it publicly. I'm not sure how there could be a more blatant conflict of interest.

In the most ironic element to date in the case, Merchan said Trump effort to delay the Stormy Daniels hush money trial until the Supreme Court rules on his presidential immunity was brought up far too late - raising "real

questions" about why.
"This court finds that defendant had myriad opportunities to raise the claim of presidential immunity," Merchan wrote.

"Further, and as an aside, the fact that the defendant waited until a mere 17 days prior to the scheduled trial ... raises questions about real the sincerity and actual purpose of the motion, the judge added.

WHAT? Does the fact that a prosecution effort was delayed for over seven years - until just before the 2024 campaign season got underway raise any suspicion about the sincerity and actual purpose of the case itself? Īs it not relevant that a previous DA passed on the opportunity to take the case to trial long ago?

The abuse of our legal system and the abuse of Trump's constitutional rights to defend himself in this case are indefensible.

Democrats worry aloud about Trump becoming a dictator and retaliating if he wins. Why? What could he possibly use from recent years to justify any type of retaliation?

The clowns still rule.

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line. Entries are welcome up to the day of the event. This is a family-friendly

event sponsored by the Helen Keller Festival committee To register visit www.

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:

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County High School, 8am - 2pm Saturday, April 13 Walmart - Hwy 43 - Russellville, 10am - 4pm Tuesday, April 16 Deshler High School, 7:30am - 3:30pm Wednesday, April 17 Collinwood High School, TN 8am - 3pm Thursday, April 18 Muscle Shoals Electric Board, 10am - 4:30pm

See NOTES... page 30

helenkellerfestival.com

Continued from page 4

Muscle Shoals Music Association esents Spring Soiree at 6pm April 11 Muscle Shoals Church of Sound, 1515 Southern Blvd, Sheffield for drinks hors d'oeuvres, and music networking! Dress is casual. Please RSVP at www.

Alabama Crappie Trail Fishing Tournament takes place April 12-13 on Pickwick and Wilson Lakes - departing form Sheffield's Riverfront Park, at 1416 Alabama Avenue.

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Tuscumbia's tours vary weekly, featuring the First Presbyterian Church, the Winston Home, Locust Hill, and others, departing from the old Coldwater Books.Sheffield's tours, led by Jimmy Austin, will explore the North Montgomery residential area and downtown business district, departing from Sheffield City Hall. Each tour lasts 60-90 minutes. Open to the public, for more details, contact Colbert County Tourism at 256-383-

The first ever Keller Kids Color Run takes place on Saturday, April 13, from 9am to noon, a 5K fun run and Health...

Continued from Page 12

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That being said, we see more and more minimum limits policies at a time when we see higher and higher medical bills for injury related treatment. There are a lot of reasons for that, including medical providers dealing with auto insurance companies rather than health insurance companies to seek higher reimbursement.

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So Trump Will Win...

Continued from Page 12

I applied to work as a poll worker for any election. I completed the application, submitted the application online and did receive a call from a person that said she was in charge of processing the poll worker applications. During that short telephone interview, she cut right to the chase when she asked me what my political party was. I told her Democrat. She then told me that they had enough Democrat workers, and thev were only interested in Republican applicants.

So much for Pendleton's praise of the recent primary election and the probate judges that seem to be preparing to make certain that Donald Trump wins Alabama.

Larry J. Smith Florence

Straight Talk from God

Editor.

Reading in God's Word...

Matthew 16:18 - Jesus built one church.

See LETTERS... Page 26

MINI SUDOKU

3

now across, each column down and all 6-box square contains all of the numbers from one to six.

1

4

1

4

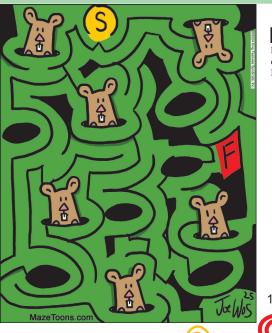
3

5 3

6

2





Even Exchange by Donna Pettma

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. Nervous, jumpy	N	Short and sweet	R
2. Gumdrop, e.g.	_ A	Model Crawford	_ '
3. Ship's kitchen	G	Glen, Dale	V
4. Large striped feline	G	Rome's river	B
5. " of the Apes"	'T	Aircraft	s
6. Negotiate	R	Witty conversation	N
7. Handbag	s	Expunge	G
8. He weighs anchor	s	Clothes maker	T
9. Actress Duke	T	Merrymaking	R
10. Shamrock	V	Last pitcher	s
	WODDIAD	DEDC	

Kids' Maze



WORD LADDERS

Can you go from PLATE to REACT in 6 words?

PLATE

REACT

Answers on



WORD SPIRAL Α

nine-letter word that starts at one of the

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ADOPTION FEE IS \$25. The fee includes current vaccines (apart from rabies), NexGard, heartgard, \$15 rabies voucher and a voucher or \$70 off of his mandatory neuter! For more information please contact Colbert County information please contact Colbert County animal shelter at 256-381-4073.



A very nice couple stopped to get them and bring them to safety! What breed you ask? Cur? Dachshund? Lab? Collie? Honestly, who knows?! But they are 100% adorable and sweet!! They have had 1st shots, wormer and NexGard! Come by or call to meet these cute pups. For more information please contact **Colbert** County animal shelter at 256-381-4073.



ANNETTE (aka Nannie) is a little over a year, spayed and up to date on vaccines. She came to us as a stray and very fearful. Thanks to her foster, Nannie is learning to



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 handsome doo



Hubba, hubbal **BLUE JAY** is the most handsome guy around! We think he's around 2 and he's 60 lbs and he needs a good home. Blue jay is super sweet and lovable. 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 sweet pup.

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With pets, you never know—especially when they're your travel buddy. Animals are creatures of habit, so try to stick with their everyday routines as much as possible. The more predictable everything is, the more they can feel like their normal selves. Even with this advice, anxiety is an unavoidable part of most trips. That's why familiarizing your pet with the different aspects of traveling is so important. Home or away, your fur baby wants to feel safe and secure. Sometimes this means protecting your pets by restraining and containing them. Other times this could mean noshing on a favorite treat. Whatever it is, Pet Supplies Plus has tips and products that'll make everyone's travel experience the best it can be.

Preparing for Travel

Take a practice trip. Most pets aren't used to long car rides, so before your excursion, go on short drives to get then comfortable traveling by car.

You should also make sure your vehicle's heat and air conditioning are working. In other countries and even Hawaii, you may have to quarantine your pet upon arrival and provide an import form. If you're going to fly, take direct flights and go on the same flights as your pet. Have your veterinarian check out your pet to see if they're fit for flight. Whether the fur is flying or traveling by car, purchase your pet's gear well before your trip. This'll give them time to get acclimated to things like wearing a car restraint or being in a travel carrier.

Pet Travel Checklist

- Identification
- Medical Information/Vaccination Records
- Food & Water (and Bowls)
- · Plan for Bathroom Breaks
- Other Travel Necessities Like your pet's medications, a good collar or harness and leash, some of their favorite toys, plus extra sheets, old towels, or blankets.

Travel Safely

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Letters...

Straight Talk from God

Continued from Page 24

Ephesians 1:22-23 Jesus is the Head of the one church (or body) that He built.

Ephesians 4:4-6There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Today, we see that man has created many different religions, faiths, and denominations. We see them all around us.

God teaches us that there is only one church, or body. Men tell us that there are many different bodies, or faiths. They hold many different, manmade doctrines, beliefs, and practices. should we believe - God, or man?

Friends, each of us will be judged by how we have obeyed and lived by the precepts and principles written in God's Word (John 12:48).

God tells us that we all must appear before the judgement seat of Christ to answer for how we have lived here on earth (II Corinthians 5:10).

My friends, there are many denominations and religious organizations built by man with long traditions. Many show support for these organizations.

However, unless one is a faithful member of the one church that Jesus built, he or she cannot be pleasing or faithful to God (Hebrews 11:6).

Dave Schmidt Florence

To Harm Us and America

Dear Editor of the Courier Journal,

What is the reason for allowing unvetted illegal migrants into our country? Could it be for the sake of compassion. Or is it to fulfil a request for a low pay work force. Or is there a more sinister reason; a total collapse of our society to pave the way for a "fundamentally changed America."

It has become obvious that this administration refuses to enforce the laws set forth by the constitution. The defines constitution and provides for our democracy. Not following the constitution damages our democracy. Thus, this administration is in fact damaging our democracy.

Most of these illegal migrants are uneducated and they can only provide tasks that do not require a skill. Given enough time these migrants will attain the necessary skills. Then competition for skilled labor will increase. This will drive down the cost of skilled labor and the income of our present skilled labor force will decrease.

Or could it be that allowing this influx is to create chaos. Partisan District Attorneys are not prosecuting criminals, which also adds to the chaos. They have become political prosecutors only prosecuting select people to gain notoriety. They do not follow their sworn oaths to protect the constituents who put them in office. Some of these DAs are even stretching or breaking existing laws for their benefits. Then add to that, disgruntled Americans due to the high cost of living caused by this administration. Now, all this adds up to a very explosive atmosphere. One spark and then the country would require Marshall Law to return order. Once our leaders have control via Marshall Law they would NEVER relinquish Remember the old saying, 'Absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Another factor must be considered is that some of these migrants since They America hate early childhood. only come here to create damage. One type of damage is a mass casualty event. The possibility of a mass casualty event from some of these unvetted migrants similar to or greater than 9-11 is a possibility. In fact, the director of the FBI stated that possibility in a recent congressional hearing. All these issues appear to be lining up for a catastrophic event. Let's all hope and pray that I am wrong.

LG Stevens

Medicare Minute

Medicare "Donut Hole"

August and September are two months we get calls on the coverage gap or "donut hole". This happens because there is a temporary limit on what your drug plan will pay while you are in the gap. The good news is not everyone will enter the coverage gap. The coverage gap begins after you and your plan have spent a certain amount on covered drugs. In 2024 once you and your plan combined have spent \$5,030 you will enter the coverage gap.

Here's the way the coverage gap works. Imagine you have a prescription that retails for \$500 per month. Your copay, hypothetically, is \$30. This means your plan would pay the rest of the cost or \$470. Medicare will track what you paid (\$30) and what your plan paid (\$470) and count the cost of the drug as \$500 for that month. Let's also say that the other prescriptions you are taking equals \$100 per month. You are now at \$600 per month. In this example you would reach the coverage gap sometime in September.

Under most plans in 2024 once you have reached the coverage gap your plan will temporarily stop paying anything on your drugs. This means you will be responsible for the entire cost of your prescriptions. The silver lining around this very dark cloud is Medicare has negotiated a discount on the drugs you use. Once you reach the coverage gap you will pay 25% of the cost of your drugs.

If you are eligible for Medicare but still on employer coverage you may wonder why you have never reach the coverage gap. This is because employer coverage does not have the "donut hole". The coverage gap only applies to Medicare prescription drug plans. Also remember that Medicare drug plans can vary which means your coverage in the gap can vary.

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





Ikey Fowler

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STRANGE but TRIJE

- Modern brunch was first proposed in 1895 as a post-hangover meal.
- Quetzalcoatlus, the largest known flying animal, was as tall as a giraffe and may have used its powerful forelimbs to pole-vault into the sky.
- Cathay Williams became the first

African-American woman to serve in the U.S. Army

in 1866. Since women were barred from joining the military at the time, she enlisted as a man under the pseudonym William Cathay.

- In Australia, weed whackers are called whipper snippers.
- Beaver College changed its name to Arcadia in 2001, partly because anti-porn filters
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(across from Underwood Elementary School)

blocked access to its website.

- The human body emits visible light, but it's not visible to the naked eye.
- The FBI dubbed Ted Kaczynski "The Unabomber" because his early mail bombs were sent to universities (UN) and airlines (A).
- As astronauts spend months traveling to Mars, their eyeballs may change shape. Some scientists believe that's due to the pressure from fluids that won't drain from their heads, thanks to the low-gravity environment.
- President Thomas Jefferson hated formal affairs so much that he would often greet foreign dignitaries in his pajamas.
- Newborn babies have nearly 100 more bones than full-grown adults.
- The Antikythera mechanism, discovered by sponge divers in 1900, is sometimes called the world's first analog computer. Designed to calculate dates and predict astronomical

phenomena, it was so advanced nothing surpassed it for nearly 1,500 years.

• Some libraries have been known to use extraordinary measures to ensure titles remained on shelves. A notable example is Marsh's Library in Dublin, Ireland, where in the 1800s, visitors desiring to peruse rare books were locked in cages until they finished reading!

First Thought for the Day: "If we open a quarrel between past and present, we shall find that we have lost the future." -- Winston Churchill

- While death by guillotine might seem like an ancient ritual, the practice was still in use in France up until 1977 -- when the original "Star Wars" was in theaters.
- Sleeping through summer is called estivation.
- The Museum of Bad Art in Somerville, Massachusetts, is pretty

much exactly what it sounds like -- a collection of really bad art! But then again, who's to judge?

• The American
Psychiatric
Association's DSM5 handbook classifies
caffeine withdrawal as a
mental disorder.

• Humans invented booze before the wheel.

• When swallowed by toads, bombardier beetles project hot, noxious chemicals from their anuses, which sometimes forces the predators to puke the beetle back up.

• The town of Baarle straddles the Dutch-Belgian border. In some places, the official borderline cuts through houses and cafes.

• There are approximately 200 feral cats roaming the grounds of Disneyland, where they help control the park's rodent population. All of them are spayed or neutered, and park staff provide them with both extra food and medical care.

• The second-half kickoff in Super Bowl I had to be done twice, as NBC didn't cut back from a commercial break in time to catch the first one on camera.

• In Japan, instead of a "Man in the Moon," people see a "Rabbit in the Moon."

• The Mobile Phone Throwing World Championships are held in Finland. One winner said he prepared for the event by "mainly drinking."

• Sometimes it snows on Mars, but the flakes are made out of carbon dioxide, not water.

• After the band OutKast sang "Shake it like a Polaroid picture," Polaroid released a statement warning that "shaking or waving can actually damage the image."

Last Thought for the Day: "The stupid neither forgive nor forget; the naive forgive and forget; the wise forgive but do not forget." -- Thomas Szasz

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by DAVE RAMSEY

YOU'RE A GREAT BIG **BROTHER!**

Dear Dave,

My mother died about a year and a half ago, and she left me and my younger sister \$75,000 each. My sister is 16, and she plans on enlisting in the military after high school, then using the G.I. Bill to pay for college afterward. She won't receive the inheritance money until she's 18. What advice can I give her to ensure she makes good decisions with the money?

Davis Dear Davis,

I'm truly sorry to hear about your mom. At the same time, I'm so proud of you for stepping up to help your little sister. You know, \$75,000 sounds like a lot of moneyespecially to a teenager. But that kind of cash can

disappear in a heartbeat if



she's not careful. And then, all she'd have left where her inheritance is concerned is a lifetime of regret.

If she'll be smart with this money, and by that, I mean investing wisely *and* having a little bit of fun, she could end up a rich, little old lady one day. Not only that, but she can honor the memory of your mother and change her family tree forever. Her family will think differently, and be able to live differently, all because she had the maturity to not blow the monev.

You said she'll get \$75,000, right? Think about this. She could just have fun with \$15,000 or so, and invest the rest in good, growth stock mutual funds. If the stock market continues to average what it has since its start, she'll be a multimillionaire-and then some—by retirement. Even if I'm half-wrong on the math, the advice still stands. She'd have millions waiting for her. The point is that investing a big lump sum of money, and leaving it there for her golden years, is a great idea.

Now, I'm going to give you some homework, Davis. I want you to talk to a bunch of rich, old folks. Learn what they did to build wealth and hang onto it. Also, make sure the friends and family you both have around you are quality people—the kind who have your best interests at heart. Remember, the Bible says, "In the multitude of counsel there is safety."

Your sister is very lucky to have a big brother like you. Walk her through this advice. Be there for her. Look out for her. She needs you right now, and she'll need you in the years to come.

God bless you both!

* 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 Ámerica, 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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Community Notes...

Continued from page 22

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 -Jenniferccdvrc@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..

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-

Shoals Artists Guild Meeting Friday, April 19, 10am-Noon at the Southall-Moore House, next to the Kennedy-Douglass Art Center, Downtown Florence. For more info, contact Carolyn Wear, 256-710-6854

Basstactix Alabama Tournament at Riverfront Park in Sheffield on Saturday, April 20. To register or for more information, visit www.basstactixalabama.

Song Contest 2024 - Participants

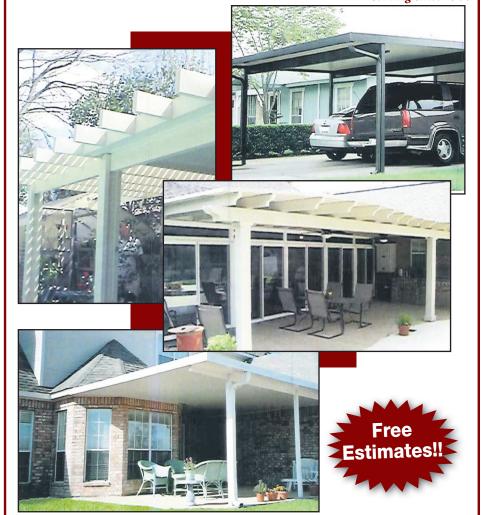
are now being accepted for the VIP
- Songwriters Hall of Fame Museum's
Song Contest 2024.
We accept all genres of music.
Examples: Rock, Pop, Country, Christian
Rock, Contemporary Christian, Traditional Country, R&B, Blues, Alternative, Christmas, Comedy, Folk, Bluegrass, Love, Gospel etc.,

Deadline to enter is May 1. 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.

Frontier Days featuring Chuckwagon Races at Rattlesnake Saloon April 25-30. There will be a variety of games for kids of all ages. Come see the Full Rodeo, Bull Riding, Chuck Wagon Racing, Live Music, all sorts of vendors, and much, much rattlesnakesaloon.net.

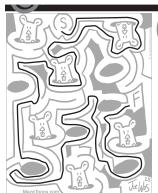
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PEACH, REACH, REACT

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Recommended Vaccines for Medicare Recipients

Dear Savvy Senior,

My husband and I recently turned 65 and would like to find out which vaccines are recommended and covered by Medicare?

New Beneficiaries

Dear New.

All recommended vaccines for adults, age 65 and older, should be covered by either Medicare Part B or Part D, but there are some coverage challenges you should be aware of. Here's a rundown of which vaccines are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and how Medicare covers them.

Covid-19: Even though Covid-19 is no longer a public health emergency, it can still cause severe illness, particularly in older adults. Because the Covid virus continues to mutate, new vaccines are being developed to keep pace, so the CDC recommends that all seniors stay up to date with the latest Covid vaccines, including booster shots.

All Covid-19 shots are covered 100 percent by Medicare Part B. Flu: Considered an annual vaccination, most people of all ages receive flu shots in the fall when flu season begins. The CDC recommends seniors, 65 and older get a high-dose flu shot for extra protection beyond what a standard flu shot offers. The Fluzone High Dose Quadrivalent, FLUAD Quadrivalent and FluBlok Quadrivalent are your three options.

Annual flu shots are covered under Medicare Part B.

Pneumonia: These vaccines help protect against pneumococcal disease, which can cause pneumonia, meningitis and other infections. The CDC recommends everyone 65 and older get a pneumococcal vaccine. There are several different vaccine options available, so talk to your doctor or pharmacists to find out which is best for you or visit the CDC's Pneumococcal Vaccination webpage at CDC.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/public/index.html.

Medicare Part B covers both single dose and two-dose pneumococcal shots once in your lifetime.

Shingles: Caused by the same virus that causes chicken pox, shingles is a painful, blistering skin rash that affects more than 1 million Americans every year. All people over age 50 are recommended to get the two-dose Shingrix vaccine, which is given two to six months apart, even if you previously received Zostavax. In 2020, Shingrix replaced Zostavax, which is no longer available in the U.S.

All Medicare Part D prescription drug plans cover shingles vaccinations, but coverage amounts, and reimbursement rules vary depending on where the shot is given. Check your plan.

Tdap: Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) are diseases caused by bacteria that can lead to serious illness and death. Therefore, a one-time dose of the Tdap vaccine is recommended to all adults. If you've already had a Tdap shot, you should get a tetanus-diphtheria (Td) booster shot every 10 years.

All Medicare Part D plans cover these vaccinations.

RSV: Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) can lead to pneumonia or bronchiolitis and can worsen other chronic conditions common among older adults, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The CDC recommends all adults, age 60 and older, talk to their doctor about getting one of the RSV vaccines (either Arexvy or Abrysvo), usually in the fall and winter months when the virus is most prevalent.

Most Medicare Part D plans cover the RSV vaccine, but not all. If your plan doesn't cover it, you can ask for a coverage exception. You can also pay for the shot out of pocket and then follow-up with your plan to get reimbursed. If you pay for the shot upfront, your plan must pay you back.

Other Vaccinations

There are other vaccines you may need depending on your health, lifestyle or travel plans. To help you get a handle on which ones are appropriate for you, take the CDC's What Vaccines Do You Need? quiz at www2.cdc.gov/nip/adultimmsched. Also, talk to your doctor during your next visit about what vaccinations you should get.

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



Notes...

Continued from page 30

Alice in Wonderland, a play based on the classic by Lewis Carroll, will be presented in two public performances, 2pm and 6pm, on Saturday, April 20 at Ritz Theatre in Sheffield.

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 rabbit, and from the very nice Cheshie. Cat. The play is long enough to contain the most delightful incidents but short enough to keep audience attention. Run time is approximately 45 minutes. This is a Time Out for Theatre

production at the Ritz, and there will be school field trip productions throughout the week. Tickets for Saturday are \$10. Children in lap (ages 0-2) are free. Tickets are available online or by calling 256-383-0533. www.tennesseevalleyarts.org

The 55th Anniversary Fundraiser Concert at Muscle Shoals Sound Studio on April 26 promises to be an unforgettable night. Join with friends at 7pm at Muscle Shoals Sound, 3614 Jackson Highway in Sheffield, for a celebratory concert featuring the band Hippies and Cowboys. More fantastic acts will be announced as well. Enjoy the evening with food trucks, vendors, and special MSSS merchandise available throughout the event. This event is part of the initiative to keep the studio running for another 55 years and beyond! For more information, visit www. muscleshoalssoundstudio.org.

The 20th Annual Swampers 5K & 1 Mile Run/Walk takes place Saturday, April 27 at the Muscle Shoals Middle School Gym, benefitting the Shoals Civic The 5k starts at 8am, the Mile Fun Run/Walk begins at 9am. Packet pickup is Friday, April 26 from 4:30-6:30pm at the gym and Saturday morning. All runners will receive a t-shirt and all 5K finishers and kids 12 and under in the 1 Mile will receive a custom finishers medal. For more information, call 256-320-7490, email runnerdude413@ aol.com, or visit www.swampers5k.com.

Earth Month Wrap-up is April 27 - Spring is one of the best times to visit Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve, at 251 Loop Rd in Tuscumbia. The waterfalls are flowing and the wildflowers are blooming. On April 27, we will wrap up Earth Month by celebrating this extraordinary property with a day of hiking, wildflowers, food, and music! While the preserve will be open at 7am as usual, there will be special events throughout the day. For more information, visit www.landtrustnal.org.

Birding Day at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, 511 N Water St, in Tuscumbia on Saturday, April 27 Join Colbert County Tourism as they host a "Day of Birding" in conjunction with Alabama's 2024 Year of Birding. There will be an assortment of family-friendly crafts and activities on the grounds of the TVMA as well as free admission to the museum. Information: 256-383-0783

The 26th Annual Shoals-Area Special Olympics Charity Golf Tournament is accepting players and sponsors for the event 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.

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, Domingue 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

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

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