### Shoals Shorts

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# A Day as a Poll Worker

MONTGOMERY-Alabama Secretary of State, **Wes Allen**, is encouraging qualified Alabamians to serve as poll workers for the November 5 General Election.

"Poll workers work hard from sunup to sundown on Election Day ensuring our



Allen

elections run smoothly and efficiently. Serving as a poll worker is a great way to get involved in the elections process," Allen said.

Alabama poll workers must be registered voters in the county where they wish to serve as a poll worker. Poll workers are selected by an appointing board consisting of their county probate judge, sheriff, and circuit clerk. They must also attend training administered by their county probate judge prior to each election.

Qualified individuals can apply for the position by filling out the form at: www. sos.alabama.gov/sites/default/ files/PollWorkerApplication. pdf.

Secretary Allen has provided counties with two poll worker recruitment tools: Lawyers for Liberty and Heroes at the Polls. These programs aim to recruit uniquely qualified individuals, Alabama attorneys and veterans, to serve as poll workers in their counties.

"As a former probate judge, I know firsthand how vital poll workers are to election administration, and I understand the struggle that

See SHORTs... on Page 2

**Automotive Inside** 

**Advance Auto Sales** 

### Volume 140 Number 48

September 25, 2024

**POSTAL PATRON** 

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# **New to the Walk**



Fowler



Four Pacesetters from Florence Honored at Marriott Event

FLORENCE—The City of Florence hosted its annual Walk of Honor Inductees ceremony on Friday, September 20 at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center. The Walk of Honor, located in the beautiful River Heritage Park next to the Marriott complex, recognizes individuals from Florence and Lauderdale County who have achieved national or international acclaim. This is a means of giving honor and perpetuating

See WALK... on Page 6

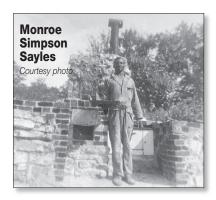
# Premier of Do Right

SHOALS – *Do Right: The Stallings Standard* is a documentary about 1992 National Championship Coach Gene Stallings. The documentary premiers this Thursday night in Tuscaloosa, and will premier here at the Shoals Theatre this Sunday afternoon.

Stallings successfully bridged the 30-year championship gap between University of Alabama

See RIGHT... on Page 4

### Two Parts for Stewart Spring



FLORENCE-Florence Arts and Museums and community members coordinated by Anita Smith Cobb invite everyone to a presentation on the history of the Stewart Spring neighborhood on Sunday, September 29 from 2:30-4:30pm at the Coach Harvest Mitchell Gymnasium, at Burrell Slater School, 610 West College Street in Florence.

A group of citizens that formerly

See STEWART SPRING... on Page 5

### **Awards for NWSCC**



Randolph

MUSCLE SHOALS – The Northwest Shoals Community College Public Relations and Marketing Department received five awards for outstanding marketing and public relations efforts by the Alabama Community College System Public Relations Association recently ACCSPRA's annual conference in Orange Beach.

NWSCC Public Relations and Marketing Director, Trent

Randolph, was alaso named the association's 2024 Communicator of the Year. Randolph oversees the branding, media relations, public relations, marketing and promotional services office for the college. He has worked in the Public Relations and Marketing office since 2003.

See NWSCC... on Page 13

Lost Pizza

### INSIDE this Issue



- Ask the Attorney
- Computer Skeptic
- Guest Commentary
- © Puzzle Whirl
- Medicare Minute
- On Your Debt
- Early Music from our Southwest
- Adopt-a-Friend





- Dave Ramsey
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### Shorts...

### A Day as a **Poll Worker**

**Continued from Page 1** 

can sometimes come with recruiting poll workers," explained Secretary Allen. "As Secretary of State, I will always support our hardworking election officials across the state and work to ensure they have everything they need to administer the most secure elections in the country.

### **Quilt Show at Belle Mont**

TUSCUMBIA-The Historic Belle Mont Mansion south of Tuscumbia is excited to bring back its annual Quilt Show during the month of October, where the historic home will be decorated in vintage and antique quilts, dating as far back as the 1800s! Every Friday at 1pm during October, Glenn Rikard will put on a Quilt Show Program discussing the various quilts on display throughout the house. Don't forget to bring your own quilt to share with the group for "Quilt Show & Tell!"

Admission to the exhibit will be at regular Belle Mont admission prices. Admission to the Quilt Show Program will be \$8/person.

Belle Mont is located at 1569 Cook Lane off US 43 in Tuscumbia. Please call 256-381-5052 or email bellemontmansion@ gmail.com with questions.

### 100 Days 'til **Christmas**

SHOALS - The Salvation Army is preparing for another demanding season of need with just 100 days until Christmas. While the economy has improved slightly, thousands of area residents face challenges during the holidays as high prices for food and housing continue.

We have found that we are receiving more requests for assistance than ever before," said Lt. Timothy Cook of the Salvation Army. "Many people are still struggling to make ends meet.

The Salvation Army of Florence anticipates requests for services to increase this holiday season over previous years.

Last year, the organization provided over 9,150 Christmas gifts to children in the area, and served 6,984 meals, while providing 6,984 nights of shelter. In addition, The Salvation Army supplied food pantry and utility assistance to over 1,500 struggling families.

"With the public's generosity, The Salvation Army will continue to provide help and hope to our neighbors in need," Cook said. "We are grateful for how the residents of Florence support us, but we need help now more than ever.

To offer more convenient giving options, The Salvation Army allows donors to support their neighbors through giving in various ways.

See SHORTs... on Pg 11





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# Yard

PETERSVILLE 3-FAMILY YARD SALE, 104 Greenfield Road Florence, Fri. & Sat., Sept. 27th & Household, Toys, Tools and more!

### FLORENCE **ESTATE SALE**

2220 N. Wood Ave., Oct. 4th & 5th, 9am-5pm and Oct. 6th. 10am-2pm Hand Tools: welder, sand blaster, drill press, table saw, cement mixer, sand blaster. welder, large compressor, etc. Original Art, Decor, Holiday, Furniture, Books, Kitchen items. Glassware, Electronics, Luggage, clothing and more! Art Supplies, Photography, Dark Room items, Graphics & Sign Making, Many vintage and unique items.

\*Come prepared to move larger items purchased.

Everything is priced to sell. Additional parking across street

MARTHA'S
VINEYARD
ESTATE SALE:
Fri. Sept. 27th and Sat. Sept.
28th 7am to 3pm 206 New Providence Ct. Furniture, Housewares, Linens, Art Work,
Crystal, Tools, Clothes, & more!
Rain or shine!

American Legion of Florence **Benefit Fundraiser** for Our Veterans 318 S. Court Street Oct. 18 and 19, 2024 7 am to 1 pm

Clothes, shoes, toys, decor, small furniture, kitchen items and more!

\*Donations accepted before sale date

### HUGE INDOOR **MISSIONS YARD SALE**

First Baptist Church 301 Taylor Kizer St., Lexington, AL 35648 Thurs., & Fri., 7am-5pm and Sat.. 7am-2pm

Boys & girls clothes sizes infant toddler & youth, Women's & Men's size sm-2XL, lots of name brands, organized by size on racks, Purses, Shoes, Christmas, Halloween, Toys, Jewelry, DVDs, Household, Apple Watch Bands and Covers \$1 each, Pictures, and so much more! More items added daily!

FLORENCE: MULTI - FAMILY SALE! 2410 Wellington St Fri. and Sat. 7 am to noon. Brand name clothes, home decor, dishes, baking supplies, and more!

FLORENCE: YARD SALE 2101 Berry Avenue Sat 8 am to 2 pm Too much to mention! Household items, bedspreads, clothes, etc.

> **Huge Estate Sale** 2105 Bower Drive Florence, AL 35630

Fri., Sept., 27th, 8am-2pm Sat., Sept. 28th,, 8am-2pm Numbers given out at 7:30am Friday & Saturday Sun., Sept. 29th 1am-3pm

Quilts. Alabama Memorabilia. Depression Era Bedroom Suite, Glassware, Armoires, King Size Bed, Mahogany Bed, Antique Mahogany Dresser, Vintage Bar Stools, Antique Cabinet (signed Wilcox and Pettus. Florence. AL), Desks, John Morgan Court Street Print, and much more!

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Community

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

The Colbert County GOP's Annual Constitution Day Dinner is at 5:45pm on Tuesday, September 24 at the historic Tuscumbia Depot and Roundhouse, 204 West 5th Street, in Tuscumbia. Doors open at 5:30pm. Alabama House of

Representatives Speaker Nathanie Ledbetter will deliver the featured keynote address. The event is casual, and admission is \$25.

More information is available online at www.colbertrepublicanparty.com. A \$25 donation covers admission, and that can be made at the door.

Drive-Thru Flu Shot Clinic at Lauderdale County Health Department on Thursday, September 9am - 2pm (while supplies last) Help Fight the Flu! 4112 Chisholm Rd, Florence.

For ages 6 months and older. • Will file BCBS, Medicaid, and Medicare. Otherwise, cost is \$5 • High-dose vaccine available for those 65 and older.

Huge Indoor Missions Yard Sale First Baptist Church 301 Taylor Kizer St. in Lexington. September 26-28. Thursday & Friday, 7am-5pm and Saturday 7am-2pm

Boys & Girls clothes sizes infant, toddler, and youth, Women's & Men's size SM-2XL, lots of name, brands, organized by size on racks, Purses, Shoes, Christmas, Halloween, Tovs.

DVDs, Household, Apple Watch bands and covers \$1 each, pictures, and so much more. More items added daily!

Shoals Business Summit - Idea Audition: Thursday, September 26,

Giveaway on Thursday, October 3, from 8-10am at the Care Center, First

Baptist Church, Killen.

We have stocked up on our Fall clothes and shoes. Infants - Adults Clothes and Shoes.

7 Points Art Crawl - Pocket Park, 7 Points, Thursday, October 3, 5-9pm, 1119 N. Royal Ave., Florence. This 7 Points Art Crawl is a self-

guided tour of art exhibits, pen studios, installations, and pop up food stands, all in 7 Points. Other shops in the area will be staying open late. Music by Dream Suite

"Putting on a Show" LCHS Homecoming 2024 - Oct. 3 & 4. Public Events

- Thursday, Oct. 3

   Jrs. vs. Srs. Powderpuff Football
  Game @ Robert Earl Grisham Stadium, 1-2:30pm. Admission \$1. Spectators are welcome.
- Street Party Pep Rally Downtown. Food trucks 5:30-until. Nashville Hot Chicken, Lash's, Smile, Kona Ice. Pep Rally Starts at 7pm.

- Friday, Oct. 4

   Homecoming Breakfast in LCHS
  Lunchroom 6:30-9am. \$5 adults,
- students eat free!

   Parade (With Food Trucks) 1:15pm; Parade floats need to be in the lineup by
- 11:45 for judging.Pregame Presentation of Elementary Homecoming Court
- Football vs Clements Kickoff at 7pm
   Halftime Presentation of High School Homecoming Court

Trekking the Trails - Tishomingo State Park - Experience Mississippi's best hiking trails with guided hikes every Sunday afternoon in October at 2:00 PM!

<u>Dates:</u> October 6th, October 13th, October 20th, October 27th

Each Sunday, we'll explore a different trail based on participant preference. Check in at the park office—normal \$2 park entrance fee applies.

Bring: Suitable hiking shoes, a camera and drinking water

All trails are rated "moderate" and range from ¾ of a mile to 3 miles in length. Pets are welcome but must remain on a leash.

Join the Friends of Tishomingo State Park. Come enjoy the beauty of Tishomingo State Park and some of Mississippi's best hiking trails with fellow nature enthusiasts!

For more information, contact Park Manager Phil Seymour at 662-438-6914 or phil.seymour@wfp.ms.gov

See NOTES... page 11

### Do Right...

### **Continued from Page 1**

coaching legends Paul "Bear" Bryant and Nick Saban while building international awareness and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in a football family encouraged to always do the right thing.

The documentary produced by University of Alabama Professors Clark Chandra and Bruce is a Michael timeless story of how Stallings and his family advocated have for individuals with special needs of all ages. The film illustrates this family's legacy of championing a better life for all.

Capturing the legacy of Gene Stallings in an hour-and-a-half-long documentary is no easy The professors feat. went to great lengths over several years to capture the coach's impact on the lives of his players and his family's advocacy for individuals of all ages with special needs. Everywhere you go someone seems to have a story about the former Alabama national championship coach. He also takes great pride in his family which includes, his wife Ruth Ann, his four daughters, and of course, his late son, John Mark.

As educators, Chandra and Michael learned there are many lessons to share from a coach who had an unfathomable love for his only son, John Mark Stallings. It is a story they are honored to produce about one of Alabama's legacy families. Thev want people to realize the importance of the decisions numerous families have to make when it comes to taking care of loved ones when healthcare issues come into play.

The Alabama Alumni, Lauderdale & Colbert Chapters, are presenting "Do Right, the The Stallings Standard," documentary, Sunday September 29 at 2pm in the Shoals Theatre, downtown Florence.

Tickets are \$30 for main level and \$20 for balcony. Proceeds benefit Rise, The Arc of The Shoals, and scholarships to support local students attending the University of Alabama.

Purchase at The Shoals Theatre.org. For more information, please call 256-483-4253.





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# Stewart Spring...

### **Continued from Page 1**

resided in Stewart Spring has collaborated with Florence Arts and Museums to record the history of this black community which no longer exists. Interviews, photographs, newspaper clippings, art. memories tell the story the neighborhood, which is compiled into two 40-minute video presentations. afternoon will include both videos, a short intermission, and a question-and-answer session.

This program is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums and is free to the public. Please call 256-760-6379 for more information.

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### Walk...

### **Continued from Page 1**

the and name achievements deserving individuals who are either current or former citizens through a form of civic recognition. Areas of accomplishment may include but are not limited to agriculture, art, athletics, business, education, government, humanities, literature, medicine, military, music, public service, religion, and science and technology.

native, **Florence** Dr. Jeffery L. Briggs, started composing at the age of 13 after developing a deep admiration for Beethoven and Prokofiev. Dr. Briggs attended the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music where he studied with Samuel Adler and Joseph Schwantner. Among other awards, Briggs was the recipient of an ASCAP Young Composer Award, MacDowell Colony Fellowship, and the 2011 International Music Prize for Excellence in Music Composition by the National Academy of Music.

While working as a professional freelance Briggs composer. accepted position designer а and composer at MicroProse Entertainment Software in 1988. His advancement

to Director of Product Development in 1993 was the result of his achievement in game design and development. created Briggs soundtrack for dozens of games at MicroProse in addition to designing and developing the iconic "Civilization", game. which has touched the lives of more than 100 million game players since its first release in 1991. In 1996, he founded Firaxis Games, and though he sold it in 2006, it is still one of the leading independent computer development studios in the world.

Currently, Dr. Briggs serves as a consultant and composer, known most recently for The (New) Beethoven String Quartets, a re-imagining of the 32 Piano Sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven for string quartet, slated for recording and worldwide release in 2025.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Allen "Skip" Butler was born in Florence in 1946. He graduated from Coffee High School, attended Florence State College, and entered the military service in 1967. He completed his distinguished and trailbreaking military service

See HONOR... on Page 8

### Courier Journal

### **Personnel**

### **EDITOR & PUBLISHER**

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or email to:
editor@courierjournal.net

well in advance of the planned 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 endorsemen by the Courier Journal, members of its management, or its staff. its management, or its staff Advertisers are responsible for all content and claims in their advertising.

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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.

### Insurance Insights

"Below is a State Farm<sup>®</sup> Simple Insights<sup>®</sup> article about Helpful car insurance tips for college students"

### Helpful Car Insurance Tips For College Students

When your child goes away to a college and leaves their car behind, there are options to lower your insurance premiums while they're away.

You have plenty of big things to worry about with your child heading off to college — room and board, textbook purchases and the frequency of late-night pizza orders — so you probably haven't done much thinking about the effect on your auto insurance. But learning how your auto insurance works when your child attends a university or college away from home is an important item to consider. If you've worked with them on being a safe driver as a teen, then they might be ready for a car at college.

### How does car insurance work when your child goes away to school?

In most cases, you need to notify your auto insurance company about your child leaving for school, even if you are leaving your car at home. Why?

### Your child's car could still be covered when they come home for weekends and breaks

College, university and trade school students are typically covered under their parents' car insurance, as long as they live at the same address as their parents when not at school. Review your specific policy to see if your child is covered.

### You might qualify for a different (and cheaper) auto insurance rate

Rates may change if your child is driving the car at school rather than leaving it back at home. For example, drivers in urban locations generally pay more for insurance than those in rural areas. If your child is going to school in an urban location, you might have to pay a higher premium if they take the car with them.

### You might receive a discount for their grades

Students with solid grades may qualify for a good student discount.

If your child is in college, or heading off to school soon, get in touch with your insurance agent today.

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### Honor...

### **Continued from Page 6**

on November 30, 1990. Butler continued dedicated support to the military as a consultant and contractor another 20 years. He is a true American hero, who, as an attack helicopter pilot. was directly responsible for saving hundreds of American soldiers on the battlefield Vietnam and, later, as the soldier responsible for funding and equipping extensive Special **Operations** modifications on U.S. Army helicopters.

Butler was properly recognized for his personal bravery with "staggering and amazing" display awards and decorations. They include the Silver Star. two Distinguished Awards, Star, 39 Flving Cross Bronze the Air Medals. and two Medals Air with (V stands for His helicopter device Valor). is on display at the Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

Almeda Fowler was born on February 27, 1886, in Florence. She was an actress, known for *Party Girl* (1930), *Fifteen Wives* (1934) and *Carolina* (1934). She was married to Alfred Henry Reeves in 1907.

Almeda had minor appearances in numerous 1930–1954, films from of which were uncredited, meaning her name was left out of the end credits. Because of this, she did not rise immediate fame. Ironically, she played Maude Lindsay in the 1930 movie Party Girl as her debut performance. Almeda was undoubtedly acquainted with another Miss Maud Lindsay, the head of the Maud Kindergarten Lindsay in her hometown of Florence. Among Almeda's other popular motion pictures were the 1933 film *Damaged* Lives; the 1935 film Clive of India, starring Ronald Colman and Loretta Young; the 1946 film *To* Each His Own; the 1948 film Mickey; and the 1954 film A Star is Born, starring Judy Garland.

William "Bill" Yoast was born in 1924 and raised in Florence. He is a United States Air Force Veteran. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education from Mercer University and Masters and EdS degrees from Peabody College (at Vanderbilt) in Nashville. Throughout his education he played football, basketball, and ran track.

Alexandria, Virginia where Yoast made the largest impact of his career. Along with Herman Boone, Bill Yoast helped unite the Williams High School football team, the "Titans," during a tense season after black and white schools in Georgia were integrated. In 1971. the team ranked second in national polls and won their state finals. Yoast and Boone are depicted in the Walt Disney feature film, *Remember* the Titans. Yoast spoke for the National Gallery for America's Young Inventors at their Annual Induction Ceremony. offering encouraging words in honor of young inventors' the successes.

After receiving nominations from the public, the Walk of Honor Selection Committee chose these inductees. four These inductees join the other individuals selected from previous years. A bronze plaque with a picture of each inductee, along with a brief inscription of their accomplishments, has been placed on Walk of Honor monuments in the park. The public is invited to visit the site.

More detailed information on these individuals is available in the Local History and Genealogy Department at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.



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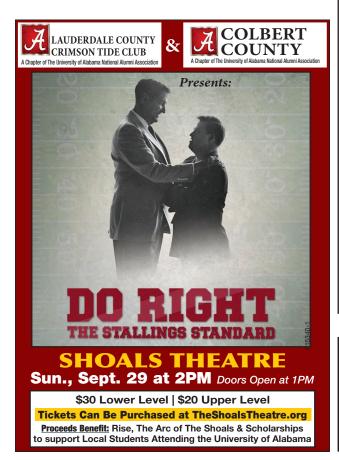
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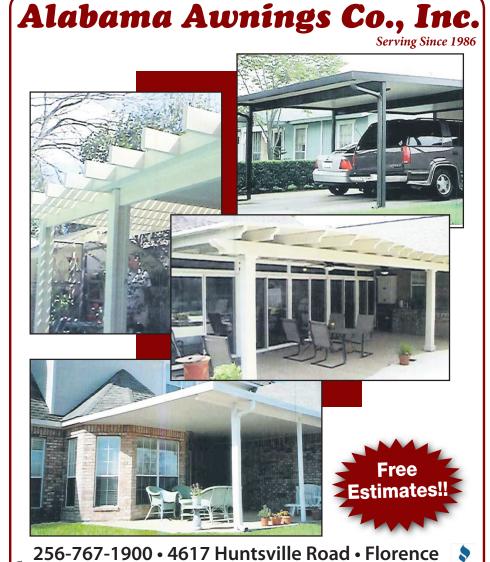
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### Shorts...

### 100 Days 'til Christmas

Continued from Page 2

- Enlist in Love's Army with a sustaining gift of \$25 per month.
- Visit https:// southernusa. salvationarmy.org/alalou-mis/florence and sign up to volunteer at a Red Kettle or Angel Tree.
- · Provide new toys and clothing through The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program.

"Every donation stays right here in the Shoals to support the local programs and services we offer," Cook added. "When you give, you are strengthening our communities by helping your neighbors right where you live."

### TN River **BBQ** Fest

SALTILLO, TN - The 2024 TN River BBQ Fest is set for September 27-28 in Saltillo, TN.

Over \$14,000 will be up for grabs in this Kansas City BBQ Society (KCBS) sanctioned cook-off event at the intersection of Main Street (Hwy, 69) and Shoreline Drive, on the bank of the beautiful TN River. Along with being KCBS sanctioned, the TN River BBQ Fest is also a state championship BBQ contest. Over 20 BBQ teams have entered including cooks from Colorado, Illinois. Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky, Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee.

On Friday night, there are three ancillary contests held which are open to the public to participate. There are Kids Que (hamburgers), Dessert, and Margarita contests. The entries must be made on-site. Several of the professional teams participate in these contests as well. The entry fee for the public is \$10.

BBQ Tasting: People's Choice - Public Food Sampling

Be sure to attend the People's Choice event on Saturday morning at 11am and sample some of this great award-winning BBQ from the champions. Afterward, vote for your favorite! Winners will be announced at 3:30pm Saturday.

New to this year's event is a corn hole tournament to be held Saturday morning at 10am. Registration starts at 9am at the stage area.

Admission to the BBQ grounds is FREE. Come enjoy great fun and the heavenly smells of some of the best BBQ in the country. Local food trucks are on site Friday night and Saturday to please all your taste buds! Live music begins on Friday afternoon starting at 4pm.

For more information contact Southwest Tennessee Tourism at 731-616-7474 or Hardin County CVB at 731-925-8181. Find more info at www.tnriverbbqfest. com or on Facebook at tnriverbbqfest.

NEED HELP? CONTACT 2-1-1

Your link to community resources

### Notes...

**Continued from page 4** 

Fall Planting: Best practices for a beautiful Spring flower garden. Saturday, October 5, 10:30am - Noon. At the Flower Chick Farm, 5648 Alabama 17, Florence. Tickets \$50. You will leave with valuable knowledge on simple planting methods which will ensure the very earliest and best Spring blooms for our zone. For more info call 256-443-4603.

Big Little Gala - Friday, October 11, 6-9pm. at Pickett Place, 438 N. Sem St., Florence. Tickets \$50 for individuals with sponsorships available.

Celebrate an evening of live and silent auction packages, food, music and special "Big" guests. Doors open at 6pm with a cocktail hour and then the silent auction to begin the night. For more information call 256-275-7037.

Join Our Reading Enrichment Program! The Community Hope **Foundation** is seeking dedicated volunteers to serve as reading tutors for K-3 graders, helping children improve their reading skills and comprehension. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a lasting impact on young learners at a critical learning stage in life!

Volunteers can include retired teachers, current teachers, aspiring teachers, and anyone with a passion for helping children succeed! Volunteers will be asked to submit an application. provide a background check, and commit at least 2 hours per week during the

If you are interested, please email us at tdpflorence@gmail.com or call/text 256-412-9086. Help us inspire the next generation of readers and lifelong

Cedar Grove Church of Christ will host its Homecoming and Gospel Meeting Sunday-Wednesday, October 6-9. The guest speaker is Brandon Grieves of Fairview church of Christ in Pulaski, TN. His theme for the week is "Jesus' Heart-Healing, Mind-Making, and Soul-Saving Parables." Cedar Grove is at 6421 Co Rd 26 (Snake Rd.) northeast of

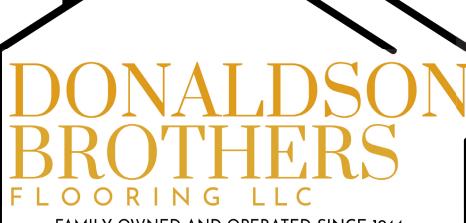
See NOTES... page 20

SOLID PINE DINING TABLE (with 3 leaves), 6 chairs, and a beautiful China cabinet. China cabinet measures 77.75" H; 57.75" W; and 18.75" D. Color: possibly chestnut (dark wood). From the Sears Open Hearth Collection in the 70's. \$450.00. Message me at 256-443-

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### **Guest Commentary**

Why Does Big Tech Oppose

# the Kids Online Safety Act?

Í

magine driving your kids through a city plastered with graphic,

SIGNAL

inappropriate billboards—images that assault their innocence at every turn.

You'd try everything to protect them – blacking out car windows, taking detours. However, no matter how hard you try, you can't shield them entirely.

Now, imagine families petitioning their city council to restrict public obscenity. Imagine people simply asking for a chance to move through public spaces without fear of exposing their children to harmful imagery.

harmful imagery. Wesley
How do you think the Hodges
billboard companies would
respond? If they're anything like Big Tech's
reaction to proposed legislation in Congress,
they'd unleash a storm of exaggerated claims,
lobbyists, and manufactured outrage.

### See KIDS ONLINE... on Page 24

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







PINK ALABAMA ANNUAL PINK RUN 2024 AND **SURVIVOR WALK** will take place at Florence High School on Saturday September 28 at 8am. Registration for the 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Run will begin at 7am. All proceeds will go toward Pink Alabama, a non-profit organization assisting local cancer patients. The event is presented by Pink Alabama and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Participants are asked to pay \$10, and survivors walk for free. Sign up at www.pink-alabama.com.

THE ROGERSVILLE FALL FESTIVAL is Saturday September 28, 2pm-10pm and is located at 33 Market Square, Rogersville. Special thanks to Bloom Winery for use of their

Live Music, Food Vendors, Craft Vendors, Car/Bike Show & More. There is No Vendor Fee or Car/Bike Fee. Event by Glenda's Rockin' It Promotions





### THE ALABAMA ALUMNI,

Lauderdale & Colbert Chapters, are presenting: "Do Right, The Stallings Standard," documentary, Sunday September 29 at 2pm in the Shoals Theatre, downtown Florence.

Tickets are \$30 for main level and \$20 for balcony. Purchase at TheShoalsTheatre.org. For more information, please call 256-483-4253.



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

### Flipping an Election

Editor.

The most efficient way to flip an election is to flip votes. A flipped vote takes one from one candidate and gives it to the other candidate. That is a change of two votes.

In the 2020 election in Georgia, 4,935,478 votes were cast. Biden won by 11,779 votes. If vote flipping

occurred, only one flipped vote in every 838 cast would have resulted in a tie. In Arizona, one in 638, Wisconsin one in 313, Pennsylvania one in 170, Michigan one in 71.

Computers and their electronic attachments can do amazing things. They can follow commands and then erase their tracks.

Jack Sullivan Florence

. . . Anyone who feels a need to reply to this letter can save sore fingers and righteous anger by not doing so. . .

### **More Dangerous**

Editor.

With all that cackling we should certainly expect some eggs.

Back in days gone by when we had a hen that was not producing, more often than not, her neck was wrung, and she was unceremoniously plucked. Then, she was served nicely fried to the visiting preacher for Sunday dinner. As a society, we should expect a return to that old custom of expecting worthwhile outcomes from our cackling hens.

Our next election is going to be closely watched by world leaders. They are looking for uncertainly,

See LETTERS...on Page 14

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### NWSCC.

**Continued from Page** 

The college was presented awards in the following categories for marketing and public relations materials and/or used created during the 2023-2024 year:

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  Award of Merit
  - (3rd place)

submitted.

Athletics

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### Letters...

### It is More Dangerous

**Continued from Page 12** 

weakness, indecisiveness, and fecklessness. When those things are seen in the elected leadership, world leaders know that an attack will be successful.

A real case can be made for the attack of 9/11 being the result of a perceived weakness in the leadership of the younger Bush. He was most probably thought to have been elected because of familial connections rather that competence. Harris is the same song, second verse - a candidate put in place because of connections, not proven ability.

Russia was invited into Ukraine by Joe Biden who said he'd tolerate "a limited incursion." China is eyeing Taiwan while North Korea is looking for any opportunity to cause trouble. Iran, flush with cash since the US isn't competing in the energy market, has obvious plans to destroy Israel. Our country will be under attack very quickly after the November elections if Kamala Harris wins.

From within, our nation is vastly more dangerous that it has ever been.

An apartment complex Aurora, Colorado, was taken over by a gang of immigrants and the local police seem unable to take control. Every evening's news carries of violence reports throughout the nation. Many of the most violent are the immigrants from the prisons of central and South America coming through open borders. Back in that days when we were plucking those cackling, nonproductive hens for Sunday dinner, we weren't even locking our front doors because we didn't have a criminal element moving into our nation in massive numbers.

**Charlotte Dean** Florence

### No Doubt, I am Correct

Editor,

A thought flew through my head the other day. A quick trip, I might add. I remembered that Christ, hanging on the cross, shouted out to His Father, asking why He had been forsaken. At that moment, for the first time in my life, I questioned if Christ was in on the plan.

I began to think of all of the turmoil, pain, anguish, and suffering in the world that, if not caused by different religions, surely contributes. So, I thought to myself that if folks would understand that most of us were taught from birth to believe in and follow one religion, the chances of changing beliefs is pretty low. Some have, but not a lot.

People who were raised in an agnostic or atheist household are probably where the most converts come from. It is interesting to consider these things because surely God, in his

infinite wisdom, couldn't really blame people for following a religion that they, and most of their friends, have followed for their entire lives.

Faith is a cool word but one would think that if God were to simply make an appearance every 10-20 years, or every century or so, most sane folks be screaming, would "Sign me up, coach!" don't judge or begrudge anyone for what religion they follow. I, myself, after many, many, years of doubts and curiosity, have decided that the only story of our origins, history, and different religions that make sense are the ones claiming extraterrestrials that are solely responsible. I know, hahaha.

However, if you keep an open mind about the world and history, ancient history, it begins to make a lot of sense. There is enough circumstantial evidence available that it becomes very clear that it is as possible as some things claimed, yet unproven, in assorted holy books. Anyone who feels a need to reply to this letter can save sore fingers and righteous anger by not doing so. There isn't a doubt in my mind that I am correct.

I expect, if anything, to hear how the hottest fires available are awaiting my arrival, unless I change. Stoke 'em, babe.

Rodney Osbirn Florence

# Get Educated on a Lottery

Editor:

On the Tennessee Lottery website, it mentions \$7.5 billion they have invested in Tennessee Education for their future.

In one year, Mississippi has raised more than \$138 million for education.

The Georgia lottery has put \$26 billion into the state's education program—from the Georgia lottery.

Florida has raised \$46 billion for education from the Florida lottery.

Someone knows something... not Alabama, but other states are educating their citizens free of charge. Higher education. Free?!

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(This is a rehash of an article from last year but I have since switched back to Comcast and only pay \$20 per month for internet. So this is a reminder to stop feeding the pig.) Way back in 2020 I gave up my AT&T internet service and switched over to Comcast after AT&T had gone

up on their rates again. Before I switched, I called to ask them to please reconsider. AT&T said, "Nah, see ya." That kinda stung, honestly. I thought AT&T and I were buds.



Anyway, I switched to Comcast's "Performance Starter" package for only \$20 per month. The 20gbps plan was plenty of bandwidth for everything I do at my home. This discount ended

### **QUIT FEEDING** THE PIG

by "The Computer Skeptic"

one year later in 2021 when my bill increased to \$60. I looked around and that was about the going rate for home internet. No one else had any specials going on so I staved put.

Another year passed (this past June or so) and Comcast decided to start charging me for the "free" TV box I received at the beginning of my service. I never use the goofy thing but it was free when they offered it so why not? I should have known better. Comcast tacked on an additional \$50 per month for

this "Broadcast TV" so my bill went from \$20, to \$60, then to \$110 per month. I called Comcast and asked them to please remove the "broadcast TV" thing to bring me back to \$60 per month. The nice lady said, "Sure, but without the bundle price, you will pay \$150 per month.'

"Waitaminute," I said, "you're going to charge me more to remove a \$50 line item from my account?" She answered in the affirmative. I don't argue with these people, I get even. So I hung up and plotted my revenge. I looked up my old buddies from AT&T, clicked a few things, and quickly agreed to their muchfaster service for \$60 per month. Included in that monthly price is a promise that the bill will never go up. Yeah, we shall see about that, but so far so good. In total, I saved \$600 per year.

I've made this cost-saving switch a few times over the years. The key to a successful. stress-free switch is to either own your own WiFi network or be sure to tell the technician to name your new WiFi exactly the same as your old WiFi name AND use the same password. This will avoid the tedium of reconnecting all your wireless devices. I have lots of smart TVs, WiFi thermostats, game consoles, watches, phones, smart curtains, and garage doors, that would all have to be re-programmed unless I

kept the same WiFi name and password. If you don't have many wireless things, then this switch is painless.

I know so many clients who never even look at their bill and just keep paying whatever amount appears on the invoice. Please quit feeding that pig! I've saved literally over \$1,200 per year over what I used to pay for TV and internet with no reduction in quality of service.

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



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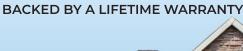
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### Music...

### **Continued from Page 12**

10am are about Native American Music of the Southwest.

Music is an artistic expression that has been shared by the tribes of the Southwest for centuries, specifically, the Pueblo Nations, the Navajo (Dine), and the Apache Nations. Music is used for self-expression, as the carrier of language, and as а catalyst for bringing people together and keeping culture alive. Today. the music of the Native American people of the Southwest continues to be celebrated and shared in many ways. Join us for this special class on Native American Music where we will make instruments and learn a dance. We hope to see you there!

This program is free and is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums and the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area. The Florence Indian Mound Museum is located at 1028 S. Court St. in Florence. Please call 256-760-6427 for more information.

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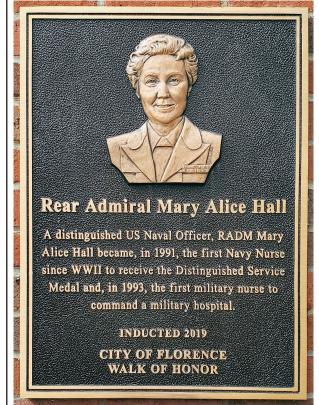
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Rear Adm Mary Hall rose in the military during a time when positions demonstrating female leadership were very limited. She persevered and broke barriers for women in the military.

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

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### Notes...

### **Continued from page 11**

The Historic Belle Mont Mansion south of Tuscumbia is excited to bring back its annual Quilt Show during the month of October, where the historic home will be decorated in vintage and antique quilts, dating as far back as the 1800s! Every Friday at 1pm during October, Quilt Show, Glenn Rikard, will put on a Quilt Show Program discussing the various quilts on display throughout the house. Don't forget to bring your own quilt to share with the group for "Quilt Show & Tell"!

Admission to the exhibit will be at

Admission to the exhibit will be at regular Belle Mont admission prices. Admission to the Quilt Show Program will be \$8/person. Belle Mont is located at 1569 Cook Lane off US 43 in Tuscumbia. Please call 256-381-5052 or email bellemontmansion@gmail.com with questions.

Florence Civitan Club Golf Tournament, October 11 – Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at the Shoals Please register by September 27.

Please register by September 27.
Entry Fee includes: cart, green fees, range balls, drinks, breakfast, lunch, & goodie bag

4-man scramble: \$500 per team Activities: Hole in one, closest to the pin, and longest drive

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd For questions or to register, contact Deanna Sledge 256-710-5497

The Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area has unveiled a new traveling exhibit titled "The Memphis & Charleston Railroad Bridge: Connecting the Shoals." The exhibit will be on display at the Helen Keller Public Library, 511 North Main Street in Tuscumbia through October 4. This exhibit explores the historic significance of the Old Railroad Bridge, a vital link between Sheffield and Florence. Scholar Clayton Davis, MSNHA historic preservationist and primary author of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the bridge, will present a thought-provoking discussion on the topic September 22. For more information, visit msnha.una.edu or call the library at (256) 383-7065.

Run for RayRay - Saturday, November 2, Starts at 2pm - Presented by LCHS Track & Field and Beta Club. At Joe Wheeler State Park, Sandy Beach Area, 100 McLean Drive, Rogersville.

Area, 100 MicLean Drive, Hogersville.
Register early to receive a t-shirt. Early registration ends on Friday, 10/11/2024.
Concessions. Medals for top finishers!
Friday 11/1 3:30-6pm Early Packet

Friday 11/1 3:30-6pm Early Packet
Pickup @ LCHS football field.
Saturday 11/2 11:30am-1:30pm

Additional registration and Packet Pickup

@ Joe Wheeler.

All 1 mile fun runners are encouraged to dress in their best Turkey or Thanksgiving theme outfits. A medal for best dressed will be sweet.

That insigning it in the divine. A media for best dressed will be given!

Choose from 1 Mile - \$20, 5K - \$30, 10K - \$35 distances.

Rain or shine, the fun-filled event is perfect for all levels of fitness. Let's come together to show our love and support for RavRav!

For information and to register, visit eventbrite.com and search for RayRay.

Tennessee Valley Museum of Art will feature the works of Dr. LaRue Harding and Muriel Harding Now through October 26.

The Hardings are both uniquely trained and inspired by modern art masters and have comfortably worked across a wide range of media – bronze sculpture, mixed-media sculpture, drawing, painting, and printmaking for more than thirty years. Their eclectic style draws upon a freely mixed integration of visual references from classical artworks and personalized approaches metamorphosed into distinctly new creations. As a pair, the Hardings' artworks comfortably play together in a harmony of forms and contrasting approaches. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 256-383-0533.

# ASK THE ATTORNEY



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

# The Decision To File Suit

While the majority of personal injury cases are settled without filing a lawsuit, some cases have to be filed in court. Sometimes evidence just is not available without a subpoena or the insurance company for whatever reason chooses a particular case for trial. When injuries require multiple surgeries and a drawn-out healing process, it's probably better to go ahead and file suit so that if the case doesn't settle you already have some of the work done and you're a little closer to resolving your claim.

For a variety of reasons, some cases just have to be filed. When

a case is filed the law gives the other side 30 days to answer and six weeks to investigate and respond to questions. This is the process of discovery. Part of the process is writing questions to the other side that ask about their claims and what basis they have for making those claims. Part of the process is issuing subpoenas to third parties (those are people not involved in the lawsuit but have evidence like medical records or video of the accident). Certain records are difficult to get, and medical records are protected by law. In fact, to issue and acquire medical records, the court has to issue an order that directs the parties to keep the records confidential and protect the privacy of the people involved.

Getting medical records used to be fairly simple. Now, there are whole industries around charging lawyers for the process of acquiring, copying, and mailing (or emailing) medical records. What used to take three weeks, now takes eight. Some healthcare providers like emergency rooms are incorporated with their business office out of state so that the process becomes extremely difficult.

Eventually, depositions will be taken and those are in person, under oath examinations that require preparation, concentration, and an understanding of the issues. All of the discovery process is done under time limits identified in the *Rules of Civil Procedure*. If a litigant does not participate in the process or doesn't follow the time limits, a judge has the duty to issue orders that a party comply with the rules and do so within a certain amount of time. In a recent case, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that when a particular person continually canceled scheduled depositions, the trial court was well within its rights to enter a default judgment against that party for failure to comply with the rules.

As long as you follow the rules and understand the process it works well for both parties. Claims are made and resolved and if the parties can't resolve the claims through settlement or mediation a jury or a judge will decide the issues.

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



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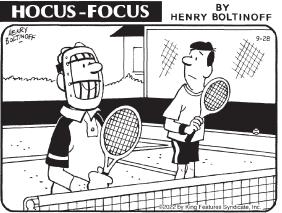
Hebrews 12:1&2 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Romans 8:26 "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the

Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." **Romans 8:34** "Who *is* he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." The saved, born-again child of God has all the best resources that heaven can offer, the entire Godhead, looking after them once they are in God's family. Staying close to and walking with God ensures that even in the worst conditions, we are never alone. Hebrews 13:5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

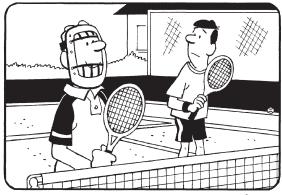
2 Corinthians 7:1 "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." Surely like today, things are not looking good but, this is not our final home. STUDY; **Hebrews 10:34** "For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance." 2 Corinthians 4:18 "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." Keep your mind on good things coming and your eyes on heaven looking for Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"

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### Medicare coverage is very personal and any changes can affect your life and finances.

That's why United Benefits is here to inform you about changes from the Federal government that will impact any standalone Medicare Prescription Drug plan or Medicare Advantage Plan that includes prescription drug coverage in 2025.

The Inflation Reduction Act was passed in 2022 and goes into effect in 2025, so this Annual Enrollment Period (AEP), which is October 15 - December 7, will be a very important time to have your Medicare Prescription coverage reviewed. The Inflation Reduction Act accomplished three major things: removal of the coverage gap, lower maximum out-of-pocket amount, and a new prescription payment plan option.

In 2025, the Coverage Gap, also known as The Donut Hole, was removed. There are now three Part D prescription drug coverage stages. The first stage is an annual deductible stage. If the plan you choose for 2025 includes a drug deductible, you will be responsible for paying the full cost of your medication during this phase. Depending on your plan, the deductible may apply to all medications or only certain tiers of medication.

The second stage is the initial coverage stage. During this stage, you will be responsible for paying copays or specific coinsurance amounts. These amounts will be based on your specific plan's design, list of formulary medications, and how your medication is covered in your plan.

If you pay a total of \$2000 in prescription drug costs, including the deductible and any copays and coinsurance amounts, you will move to the catastrophic coverage phase as you will have met the out-of-pocket maximum amount. During the catastrophic coverage phase, you will pay \$0 for Medicare Part D covered drugs for the remainder of the plan year. In 2024, the out-of-pocket maximum amount for all Medicare Part D covered drugs was \$8000, so this change resulted in a drastic savings for Medicare beneficiaries.

In 2025, there is also a new option for a Medicare Prescription Payment plan. Instead of paying all of your out of pocket medication costs at the pharmacy, you can spread your total yearly costs into equal monthly payments. This program does not lower your overall costs, but may make monthly payments easier to manage, especially if your medications are subject to the drug deductible stage. Your plan may contact you if you are likely to benefit from the program.

Although these changes are meant to lower costs for Medicare beneficiaries, 2025 plans could have higher premiums, deductibles, changes in formulary, or other plan changes. This means it is extra important to have your Medicare coverage reviewed for 2025. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a consultation with an advisor, please visit the United Benefits office at 3295 County Rd 47, Florence, AL, call us at 256-980-1744 or visit our website at <a href="http://unitedbenefits.com/">http://unitedbenefits.com/</a> shoals-medicare/



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### Notes...

### **Continued from page 20**

The Florence Camerata will resume rehearsals Thursday, October 3 at 6:30pm in the choral room at UNA for our Holiday concert Thursday, December 5. Florence Camerata is a popular community chorus that performs three major concerts each year as well as occasional smaller performances as requested. Our conductor is Rebecca Rockhill, a well-known and appreciated choral director who has worked with high school and college choirs in the area for decades. Our collaborative pianist is Karen Cantrell. She is also well-respected for her work with choirs and soloists statewide. The Florence Camerata welcomes new singers. For more information, please call 256-810-9512.

The The Full Moon Players and Cypress Moon Studios in Sheffield ve a great fall and holiday show sea

"Something Wicked This Way Comes" written by Ray Bradbury, is set for October 3-6. "The Haunting of Hill House" written by Andrew F. Leslie from the novel

by Shirley Jackson is <u>November 7-10.</u> Tickets for each of the fall shows are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

"Million Dollar Quartet Christmas" written by Colin Escot will have meet and greet with dinner for Full Moon membership Patrons and a sneak peak of the show Wednesday, December 4. The play opens December 5-8 and December 12-15. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Visit cypressmoonstudios.org or call 256-335-6961 for tickets or more information.

Carden Circus, Prepare to be amazed at Longhorn R Arena, 2576 3 Mile Ln, Tuscumbia, AL! We've got all-new, never-before-seen acts that will leave you and your family in awe. Enjoy laughter and wonder with stunning contortionists, mesmerizing aerialists, and captivating music and magic.
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Officer Eudy Live at The Ritz Theatre, Catch Kevin Eudy, the small-town police officer turned social media sensation, live at The Ritz Theatre, 111 West 3rd Street, in Sheffield September Kevin's hilarious and heartfelt TikTok videos, especially those featuring stories about his daughter. Scoot, have captivated audiences everywhere. Join us for a night of laughs and relatable humor straight from everyday life. Doors open at 7pm, with the show starting at 8pm. Tickets are available online. For more ation, visit madhattershoes.com or call 256-383-0533.

The Shoals Writers Guild meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month (January-October) from 10am-noon in the conference room at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, 350 N. Wood Avenue in Florence. Membership dues

Avenue in Froneice. Membership does are \$40/year.
The 2024 remaining calendar has:
October 19: Verlee Young's book launch, "Beyond Mother Bond " - Gary. H. Miller will present a Kindle Direct Publishing Workshop Part 2, Formatting. October 26-27: Alabama Renaissance

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See NOTES... page 30

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### Guest Commentary-Wesley Hodges

### Kids Online...

### **Continued from Page 12**

However, unlike billboards—which can't track your kids or target them based on their vulnerabilities—Big Tech knows exactly who your children are, what content grabs their attention, and how to keep them hooked.

Although kids may spend about seven hours a week in the car, they spend up to nine hours a day online. And while most cities have rules governing billboards, Big Tech's influence over our kids remains largely unchecked.

When parents rightfully ask for transparency and control over their children's digital lives, Big Tech's reaction is alarmist. It accuses concerned parents of wanting censorship, government overreach, and even poor parenting.

Why the panic? Because Big Tech knows the free pass to exploit our kids for profit is running out.

### This Bill's Critical Role

The proposed Kids Online Safety Act, or KOSA, is our best chance in a generation to improve online child safety. In July, the bill passed the Senate with a landslide 91-3 vote.

The momentum of the legislation is driven by the real stories of parents whose children might have been spared had KOSA's protections been in place.

Under the bill, greater transparency requirements would allow a mother to see the extent of cyberbullying overwhelming her son. David Molak might still be here.

A father could use direct messaging restrictions to prevent predators from harassing his daughter. Grace McComas might still be here.

And harmful design features, like algorithms pushing videos that encourage self-harm or suicide, would be prohibited. Annalee Schott might still be here. These are commonsense rules that would save lives.

### **Big Tech's False Claims**

But Big Tech is crying wolf, throwing up smokescreens with three false claims: The Kids Online Safety Act is burdensome, illegal, and unconservative.

Let's look at these arguments one by one.

Big Tech claims KOSA is too burdensome. It says that the bill mandates age verification and limits what users can search for online. However, the bill's text directly refutes these accusations:

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require a covered platform to implement an age gating or age verification functionality.

Nothing in [this Act] shall be construed to require a covered platform to prevent or preclude any minor from deliberately and independently searching for, or specifically requesting,



content.

If Big Tech were genuinely concerned with regulatory burdens, would embrace a tightly constructed, national framework such as KOSA. Without this legislation, Big Tech faces a patchwork of laws from different states, creating far more complex and compliance challenges.

Social media companies are being asked to prevent platforms their using design features promote harmful behavior to children, including suicidal behavior, substance abuse, addiction, and sexual exploitation.

This is well within their ability and wouldn't threaten their business model.

Big Tech claims KOSA violates the First Amendment. But legal precedent and societal norms long have established protections for children against certain harms.

Is it unconstitutional for your city to ban pornographic billboards? Certainly not.

The Kids Online Safety Act wouldn't require companies to restrict appropriate content on their social media platforms and wouldn't impose restrictions on individual searches.

Protecting children from exploitative digital design features is lawful, necessary, and doesn't require violating others' First Amendment rights.

Big Tech claims KOSA isn't conservative. Conservatives weigh the costs and benefits of public policy with a focus on protecting the family—the most important institution in society.

The Kids Online Safety Act embodies this principle. It was authored by conservative leaders, Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., and Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla. The bill enjoys overwhelming support from the Senate Republican Conference, movement organizations such as Heritage Action, and 87% of Republican voters.

It's no surprise that groups such as the ACLU are opposing the bill. But that opposition only highlights how deeply conservative the values behind the Kids Online Safety Act are.

Protecting a parent's sovereignty over a child's digital life isn't just conservative—it's a necessity.

### Holding Big Tech Accountable

Don't believe everything you read on the internet, especially when it's coming from the internet itself.

The Kids Online Safety Act is a reasonable, carefully constructed measure to establish commonsense rules for protecting the innocence and well-being of our children.

Big Tech is crying wolf. It's time to hold these companies accountable and fight for our kids.

Wes Hodges is an adviser for coalitions at The Heritage Foundation.





**Heather Trowbridge** of Tuscumbia

who correctly guessed

"Village One Sign in Sheffield"



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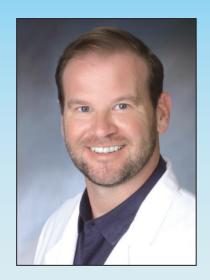
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by DAVE RAMSEY

**SEEING THINGS IN A** DIFFERENT WAY

Dear Dave. excited reading after



your books, and now he's My husband is really determined to start living on a budget. I love seeing

this kind of passion and determination in him, but I'm not sure about going all-in on everything it would take to make this happen. I guess the truth is there are just some things I don't want to give up. Do you have any advice for getting motivated?

Allison

Dear Allison,

I get what you're saying. Sometimes, when you first begin working hard to gain control of your money and get out of debt, it can seem like all the fun goes out of life. It takes a lot of hard work and discipline to change any habit.

I know budgeting sounds intimidating, but goals and dreams have a better chance of coming true if you have a written game plan. Just give it a try. Sit down with your husband at the beginning of each month and do a written budget together. Give every dollar a name on paper before you spend anything. It's not medieval torture, and it's not just a math exercise. It's a chance for you both to have input on what you want to accomplish and how to make it happen.

When two are married

they become "as one." And that's how all decisions should be made from that point forward. Some fantastic sharing is going to happen when you bring these thoughts and ideas out in the open.

Once you start doing a budget, you'll begin to see things in a whole new way. You'll see where you can cut back, where you can save and how you can make things happen that may have seemed impossible before. Sure, you may have to give up a few little things for a short while. But when you see how quickly you can make a lot of really cool stuff happen in your lives, I think you'll be excited by the possibilities! - Dave

### **VALUE SYSTEMS AND PRINCIPLES**

Dear Dave.

*In your opinion, what are* healthy boundaries when it comes to finding a job if the type of work doesn't align with your beliefs? I live near a casino, where there are several job openings that pay well. However, I believe gambling is wrong. I don't gamble, and neither does anyone in my family. I would

really appreciate thoughts on the situation. Gracelyn

Dear Gracelyn,

Work is a big part of life. And that means it's a big part of what you spend your time doing for many years. So, I think people should make a living doing something that is consistent with values and beliefs. In my mind, needing a job does not offset that. Otherwise, it would be okay to be a drug dealer, or any number of other illegal, immoral and unethical things that can provide an income.

Here's my opinion. If you don't agree with gambling on a moral basis, opinion. then you shouldn't work in a gaming establishment. If you think drinking alcohol is wrong or sinful, then you probably shouldn't work in a brewery or distillery. See where I'm going with this? Personally, I don't like gambling, either. I think it's a tax on people who can't do math and poor people.

There are other jobs that pay well out there, Gracelyn. But to be at peace with yourself, you've got to do something that's consistent with your own personal value system and

\* Dave Ramsey is a 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, CBSMornings, 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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ease call or come by Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-

puppy and would be easy to train. He's adorable with his cute ears. He will steal

your heart completely when you meet him. Come take him home for a weekend! The adoption fee is currently \$85 and

include everything your new pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines,

6676 to meet this handsome guy.

Meet Punk! Look at these amazing eves

She is a sweet cuddle buddy and loves attention. She's very good and mild mannered. She would love to go

out on doggies day out with you!
The adoption fee is currently \$85

and include everything your new tet needs to be on track for a happy,

healthy life: vaccines, a microchip, spay/neuter, and heartworm test. Please call or

### Notes...

### **Continued from page 23**

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates: Wednesday September 25, Florence High School, 7:30am - 3:30pm Thursday September 26, UNA

- Student Nurses Association, Clock Tower 10am - 5pm

Sunday September 29, Walmart Cloverdale Road - Florence, 10am - 4pm Monday September 30, Walgreens r. Hicks Blvd - Florence, Noon - 6pm **Tuesday October 1,** Tarkett

Trooper is medium sized and we

behaved. He is dog friendly, very

sweet, and energetic! He loves

to be with people and would be

extremely happy to go home with

you. This amazing guy is a sweet boy who is easily trainable. The adoption fee is currently \$85 and

include everything your new pet

needs to be on track for a happy,

West,430 County Road 30, 5am - NOON Saturday October 5, St. Florian Oktoberfest, 9am - 4pm

Ladies Day at Jacksonburg Church of Christ, will celebrate Ladies Day on Saturday, October 12, with speaker Betty Hamblen. The program begins at 10am with church doors opening at 9:30am. Lunch will be served in the annex. All ladies are welcome. Jacksonburg is at 414 County Road 28, Florence.

Shoals Area Invasive Plant Project at Deibert Park, 2810 Darby Dr, Florence. Sept. 27, 9am-Noon

Join us for the last session as part of the 2024 Shoals Area Invasive Plant Project in partnership with the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, City of Florence, TVA, and the Land Trust of North Alabama. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

To register go to: www.aces.edu/go/ shoalsinvasives

This is the last event date for 2024: <u>September 27</u> – Cane Creek Nature

eserve, Tuscumbia
For this event we will begin the morning with a 1-hour "walk and talk" to identify the invasive plant species that we see along the paved trails in the location for that day. Following this portion, we will have an optional 2-hour volunteer opportunity to gain hands on experience with controlling the invasive plant species we encounter. Your participation is encouraged for the added benefit of controlling the non-native invasive plants in our valuable community green spaces.

Please keep in mind that this event will require walking on paved and unpaved surfaces. Snacks and water will be available. Certificates of participation can be provided with advanced notice.

. Contact: Kerry Steedley kes0150@auburn.edu (334) 350-0485

Babytime Storytime (Birth to 18 months) - Friday, September 27, 10:30am - 11:30am . <u>Every Friday</u> at the Muscle Shoals Public Library. Caregivers must remain with children for all programs.

Toddlertime Storytime (Ages 18-36 months) - September 24, 10:30am – 11:30am. Every Tuesday at the Muscle Shoals Public Library. Join Ms. Amy for songs, stories, and age-appropriate activities. Caregivers must remain with children for all programs.

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3 yrs and up) - Wednesday, September 25, 10:30am - 11:30am. Every Wednesday at the Muscle Shoals Public Library. Join Ms. Amy for songs, stories, and age-appropriate activities. Caregivers must remain with children for all programs.

The Club/Florence Senior Center's Travel Club (Diamonds in the Rough) Final 2024 Trip is to Pigeon Forge, Nov.

18-22, \$1086 dbl/\$1335 single A world of motorcoach travels awaits you in 2025. Get your daily steps in with us. San Antonio, Feb. 16-22, -\$916 dbl/\$1135 single. The Ark Encounter, April 7-11, -\$815 dbl/\$1014 single. Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, Norfolk, May 4-10, \$1130 dbl/\$1419. Cape Cod & Martha's Vineyard, July 12-20, \$1370 dbl/\$1675. Beautiful Vermont, Oct. 11-19, \$1698 dbl/\$2277 single. Lancaster Show & Dutch Country, Nov.16-22, \$1130 dbl/\$1337 single.

Trips are open to the general public, no age restrictions, must be able to get off and on the bus several times as day. \$75 deposit holds your space until fina payment is due. Make checks or Money Orders payable to Diamond Tours, NO CASH PLEASE. For more information: The Club: 256.760.6642 or Fdavis@ florenceal.org. Florence Senior Center/ Florence Parks & Rec - 450 Country Club Drive, Florence, Alabama,

Applications for the Elk National Foundation's Most Valuable Student Scholarship program will be available online mow. Any high school senior who is a citizen of the United States is eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted online on or before November 12, 2024

The scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$7,500/ year to the highest-rated applicants in this year's competition. Male and female students will compete separately. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership, service, and financial need. For additional information and to apply, go to enf.elks.org/MVS or contact Dr. Jean Love, Scholarship Coordinator at Shoals Elks Lodge 2860 at 256-762-5043.

Zodiac Players season - The Zodiac Players have the following plays scheduled: "Legally Blonde the Musical Oct. 3-6, directed by Justin Nicholson; "Steel Magnolias" Jan. 16- 19, 2025, directed by Dylan Bales; "South Pacific the Musical" April 17-20, 2025, directed by Jacob Adams. The plays will be at Shoals Theatre, 123 N. Seminary St., Florence. For ticket information. become a patron, call 256-764-1700 or go to theshoalstheatre. org.

The Batting Brigade Quilt Guild meets (October 14) the second Monday of the month at: Edgemont United Methodist Church, 1330 Eauclaire Ave., Florence. Hospitality time starts at 9am and the meeting begins at 9:30am. Any questions, please call Liz at 601-590-4367 leave message if no answer.

WoodmenLife Charity Golf Tournament - Benefitting Local Elementary Schools' Back Pack Programs 8am Breakfast, 9am Shotgur Start, October 14 at Blackberry Trail Golf

2 person scramble @ \$250 per team. Prizes for Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin, 1st Place Team \$300, 2nd Place Team \$200, 3rd Place Team \$100.

Hole-in-one New Car Prize sponsored by: the Long Lewis Foundation.

Hole Sponsorships available \$100. For questions or to register... Office 256-760-1581, Rocky Beck 710-7133 or Adam Beck 762-6499.

**Chess Club –** Play Chess at the Sheffield Public Library Conference Room, 316 N. Montgomery Ave. from 4-5 p.m. Mondays. Beginners to advanced: all ages.

Over 40 and love to play basketball, but not quite as fast as you once were? Then 40up is for you. We are Christ-centered, family friendly and we meet every Sunday at: Victory Christian Fellowship Church gym, 2302 Hough Road in Florence.

At halftime Pastor Torey encourages all from the Word of God so bring a friend.

Florence Parks and Recreation/ The Club hosts the Florence Singing

### **Medicare Minute**

### "Medicare and the Marketplace"

Some of the most frequently asked questions we get from people under the age of 65 concerns the relationship between the Marketplace (Obamacare) and Medicare. There seems to be a great deal of confusion about how these two insurance programs work. Here are this week's questions:

Will my Marketplace insurance end automatically when I become eligible at age 65 for Medicare? The short answer to this question is "no". You must go to healthcare.gov or contact your Marketplace insurance carrier to cancel your plan.

Can I keep my Marketplace plan after I become eligible for Medicare? Yes, you can keep your Marketplace plan after becoming eligible for Medicare. This will not, however, exempt you from enrolling into Medicare Part A and Part B during your initial enrollment period. If you delay your enrollment into Part B, or Part A if you must pay a premium for it, you may be assessed a late enrollment penalty if you decide to sign up after the initial enrollment period.

I am receiving a tax credit to help pay for my Marketplace plan. Will I continue to receive this tax credit once I become Medicare eligible? This is a tricky one. Once you become eligible for Medicare Part A, you won't be eligible for a premium tax credit for a Marketplace plan. If you kept your Marketplace plan, you'd have to pay full price.

Can you give me an example of losing my tax credit? Let's say you are on a Marketplace plan that has a premium of \$1,100 per month. You have a tax credit of \$1,000 per month which means you would pay a monthly premium of \$100 per month for your plan. Once your Medicare Part A begins the \$1,000 tax credit goes away and you would have to pay the full premium of \$1,100 per month.

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** 

885 Florence Blvd. • 256-648-5710 (Four Lane Shopping Center)

River Squares dance every Monday Five Squares darke every informaty from 5:30-7:30pm at The Club/Florence Senior Center, 450 Country Club Drive in Florence (excluding any state or federal holidays) 256.760.6420 for more information. fdavis@florenceal. New class will begin July 8 at 5:30pm. No experience necessary. Drug. alcohol, tobacco & weapon free facility

WE BUY JUNK CARS, Trucks or Vans with or without titles, Call Joel 256-303-7609

WE BUY ZERO TURN RIDING MOWERS. All brands, Hustler, Walker, Troy-Bilt, John Deere, Cub Cadet, etc. Running or not. Any condition. Call us at 256-275-2276

ROOFING - LEAKS REPAIRED, Chimneys Flashed, Valley Repair. All Work Guaranteed. Free esti-mates, 256-383-3218

Colbert County Animal Shelter at 256short hair. Very sweet with a gorgeous coat! Use to being around other cats. Loves kids and already spayed! Available for \$85, All vaccines, de vormer and defleaing are up to date.

For more info please contact the Colbert County Animal Shelter

at 256-381-4073







### **Even Exchange**

Lurch, Lunch

Strike, Strive

Clock, Cloak

Harry, Hurry

Arcade, Arcane

6.

Baron, Aaron

Maize, Maine

Auger, Anger

Better, Butter

Throne, Throng

### **Kids' Maze Solution**

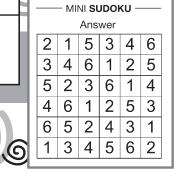


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WORD LADDER Answer 0,6 SHAKE, SHAPE, SHADE, SPADE, SPATE, SKATE

See NOTES... page 31

Word Spiral Answer WAFERLIKE



### ON YOUR DEBT

### **Tackling Financial** Struggles at the Start of **College Football Season**



B. Grant **McNutt** Managing

As fall approaches, many in Alabama and exacerbate existing financial issues. Mississippi eagerly anticipate the start of the college football season. Tailgates, team football on the forefront, student loan spirit, and the excitement of the games bring payments may also be top of mind for many communities together and offer a sense of pride and joy. But for some, financial burdens may make it hard to fully enjoy this exciting individuals are finding it harder to juggle time of year.

Just like college football requires strategy, planning, and execution, managing financial challenges can feel like preparing for a highstakes game. If you're struggling with debt or facing unexpected financial difficulties, it can overshadow the excitement of football season. However, you don't have to face these challenges alone. At the Bond & Botes debt. At the Bond & Botes Law Offices, we Law Offices, we understand the financial offer compassionate, experienced guidance stress many individuals and families are to help you overcome financial hurdles. facing, and we're here to help.

**Enjoying the Season** 

with household bills, dealing with high- Don't let debt steal your joy during football interest credit card debt, or managing season—take back control and get the fresh medical expenses, financial difficulties can creep into every aspect of your life. During football season, the stress may feel more apparent when you're trying to participate in social events, buy tickets for the big game, is not the end but rather the beginning of or simply enjoy the season without worrying a fresh start. Our attorneys will provide about your finances.

### Football Season

1. Tailgating and Game Tickets - Many fans are passionate about attending games, but the rising costs of tickets, parking, and tailgating supplies can quickly add up. While easy to spend more than your budget allows, leading to more debt.

fall also signals the beginning of flu season and other illnesses. Whether it's personal financial recovery. medical expenses or a family member's healthcare costs, these unexpected bills can help!

graduates who are fans or alumni. As federal loan repayment requirements return, many these payments along with daily living expenses.

You Don't Have to Fumble Your Finances

If you're feeling like you're on the losing side of the financial game, you have options. Just as a coach helps players navigate tough plays, a qualified bankruptcy attorney can guide you through the process of tackling

Our free initial consultation can help you How Financial Struggles Interfere with understand your options, whether it's filing for Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 bankruptcy Whether it's the pressure of keeping up or exploring alternatives to bankruptcy. start you deserve.

How We Can Help You Score a Financial Touchdown

Rebuild your financial future – Bankruptcy you with advice and resources to help you Common Financial Pressures Around rebuild your credit and secure a stronger financial future.

### Enjoy the Season, Worry-Free

You deserve to enjoy the traditions and excitement of the college football season without the cloud of financial stress hanging college football is an important tradition, it's over you. If debt is keeping you from fully enjoying this time of year, reach out to the Bond & Botes Law Offices today for a 2. Unexpected Medical Bills - The start of confidential consultation. We're here to help you get back in the game and find a path to

We can alleviate your stress! We want to

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



### Bond, Botes, Sykstus, Tanner & McNutt, P.C.

121 S. Court Street, Florence, AL 35630

Phone: 256-760-1010 • Fax: 256-760-1023 • Office Hours: Monday - Friday • 8am to 5pm

### Notes...

**Continued from page 30** 

Fran Davis at 256-760-6420 or fdavis@ florenceal.org

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

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

Dance Lessons Florence Parks and Rec will be offering small group ballroom dance lessons at Royal Avenue numbered prints are \$50 (Limited edition Recreation Center. Beginner class 1-2pm, of 250) intermediate class 2-3pm. There are also select times available for individual/couple in McFarland Park. Monday lessons. These lessons are perfect for 9am-5pm, Saturday, 10am-4pm.

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

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

Location 200 Jim Spain Drive, Florence Monday-Friday,

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE! Junk batteries, \$5 each. Ranger Battery Co. 426 Royal Avenue. 256-766-0473

### **AUTO and TRUCK HEADLINERS INSTALLED**

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### MATTHEWS TREE SERVICE

(Shoals Area)
•Stump Grinding •Tree
Trimming •Tree Removal
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BBB Accredited Steven Matthews, Owner **256-483-5918** 

Central Storage LLC, located at 8903 HWY 20, Florence, AL 35633 in accordance with the Alabama Self-Storage Act; per Section 8-15-34, Code of Alabama, 1975, legal notice is hereby given that the following units will be sold or disposed of by sealed bid after October 4, 2024. Past due charges and fees will be accepted until 5pm on October 4, 2024. A Central Storage, LLC reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale or disposal.

Name			Unit#	Contents
Birchfi	eld,	Steve	S10, G11 & L35	Household Misc.
Carr,		Jennifer	M13	Household Misc.
Creasy	1,	Pam	R37	Household Misc.
Folks,		Amanda	A53	Household Misc.
Hill,		Ricky	S6	Household Misc.
Indelic	ato,	Monica	C25	Household Misc.
Lewis,		Thomas	R34	Household Misc.
Moore	,	Ricky	N3	Household Misc.
Pyrdur	n,	Shannon	E29 & Q25	Household Misc.
Shane	s,	Tracy	A54	Household Misc.
Shook	,	Todd	D19	Household Misc.
Simmo	ns,	Totiona	G13	Household Misc.
᠘ White,		Jasmine	S12	Household Misc.
Woods	;, <u> </u>	Tonis	R21	Household Misc.

HOME IMPROVEMENT AND BUILDING: siding, additions, garages, painting, decks, Free Estimates. 256-383-3218

### **Shingle** & Metal Roofing

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2008 SUZUKI C90 BOULEVARD. saddle bag, windshield, sissy bar, running boards, 14,800 miles, \$3,600. 256-627-9671

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### FLORENCE RECYCLING ACCEPTABLE ITEMS



### PAPER

- Paper Mail, Flyers, Postcards Office Paper-any color
- Magazines, Catalogs, Books
- Newspaper

- Notebook Paper
- Bagged Shredded Paper

Please No: Loose shredded paper, laminated paper, mailers with plastic or bubble lining



### CARDBOARD AND **FOOD BOXES**

- Cardboard Boxes
- Cereal and Food Boxes-no plastic lining
- Paper Towel and Toilet Paper Rolls

Please No: Plastic or wax lined cartons or boxes, food scraps, Styrofoam or plastic interior packaging



### **PLASTIC BOTTLES**

- Water Bottles
- Soda Bottles
- Cooking Oil Bottles
- Shampoo and Body Wash Bottles
- Detergent Bottles

Please No: Liquids left in bottles, plastics other than #1 or #2 bottles and jugs, Styrofoam, hazardous materials, take-out or produce packaging, clam shell containers



### PLASTIC JUGS

- · Plastic Juice and Milk Jugs
- Motor Oil Jugs
- Detergent Jugs

Please No: Liquids left in bottles, plastics other than #1 or #2 bottles and jugs, Styrofoam, hazardous material, take out or produce packaging



### **METALS**

- Aluminum Beverage Cans
- Steel Food Cans
- Drop-off Larger Metals-Car Parts, Appliances, Lawn Mowers

Please No: Liquids in cans, aluminum foil or foil pie and baking pans Please Do: Lightly rinse food from cans.



### **ELECTRONICS DROP-OFF ONLY**

- Flat Screen TVs and Monitors
   Computer Servers
- Computer Towers
- Cell Phones
- Computer Cables
- · Lithium Ion Batteries

Please No: Small appliances, batteries other than lead acid

DROP-OFF ONLY PLEASE LABEL



**COOKING AND MOTOR OILS DROP-OFF ONLY** 

- Label Oils
- Drop-off 24/7 at 1200 Terrace Street

Please No: Unlabeled containers, no hazardous material



THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING OFTEN AND RECYCLING RIGHT! QUESTIONS OR REQUEST A TOUR/PRESENTATION 256.760.6495

