

**Celebration
in Red Bay!**

RED BAY—Happy Hollow Outdoors in Red Bay is recognizing its 1 Year Anniversary on Saturday, November 2 with a big celebration event taking place at the store, located at 985 9th St. West in Red Bay, across from Red Bay Acres.

The Anniversary event starts at 9am and runs into the evening with extended hours. Everyone is invited to this free family friendly event! They will have drawings for door prizes every 30 minutes which will include a large selection of goodies from the store.

Food trucks will also be there including Smash Burger, Oliver Creamery, and CNC Eats and Treats. And of course, they will have live entertainment with singers Kerry Gilbert, Joseph Baldwin, Analog FM, Huntergirl, and Josh Gracin.

The event will take place indoors, but they would like to remind you to bring your lawn chairs for the concert!

**Alzheimer's
Symposium**

FLORENCE—The 31st Annual Symposium on Alzheimer's and Related Disorders is Friday,

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



REMEMBER
Daylight Savings
Time ends Nov. 2.
Set your clocks
BACK one hour
before bed Sat. night.

**Watch Out
for All The
Little Goblins!**



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Volume 141 Number 1

October 30, 2024

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**We'll Collect
Toys for Tots**

SHOALS — Members of the Marine Corps League Cpl. Matthew D Conley Detachment #1477 are gearing up for this year's Toys for Tots donation drive.

Donation boxes have been placed at businesses, banks, and other locations throughout the Shoals. These locations include the lobby of the *Courier Journal/ Times Daily* building at 219 West Tennessee St. in downtown Florence.

Coordinator Curtis Griffith noted that 15 boxes are located on the property at Constellium in Muscle Shoals. Boxes are also at all locations of First Southern Bank, First Metro Bank, and Edward Jones offices, Natchez Trace Harley Davidson in Tusculumbia, Longshore Cycle Center

See **TOYS..** on Page 6



The lobby of the *Courier Journal and Times Daily* at 219 W. Tennessee St. in Florence is a drop off point for the Toys for Tots campaign.

Courtesy photo

DMS is Accredited

MUSCLE SHOALS—The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) recently notified Northwest Shoals Community College that the Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Program has been awarded initial accreditation.

NWSCC offers a DMS program that covers abdomen and obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN) in the associate degree program. The DMS program accepted its first cohort of eight students in Fall 2019 and in 2022 the program began accepting 12 students annually. According to DMS Program Director, Terri Christian,

See **SONOGRAM...** on Page 6



A NWSCC Diagnostic Medical Sonography student fine tunes her skills in a lab setting.

Compton New CFO

SHEFFIELD—Bank Independent recently appointed Adam Compton as Chief Financial Officer. Compton brings over 30 years of capital markets and operational experience, offering strategic insight and financial leadership to his new role at the bank.



Compton

“Adam’s deep expertise in financial services, combined with his strategic thinking and experience in banking, will be invaluable to Bank Independent as we continue to grow and innovate,” Bank Independent

See **CFO...** Page 10

INSIDE this Issue

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- Coloring Winners



• St. John's Hosts All Saints Service
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Shorts...

Alzheimer's Symposium

Continued from Page 1

November 1 at Cross Point Church of Christ in Florence. Registration is at 7am and the Symposium runs from 7:45am - 4:45pm. Keynote Speakers include Dr. **Rachna Valvani, MD, CMD**; Dr. **Stacy Lee, EdD**; **Jawan Olive Smith, Attorney at Law**; **Lindsey Crider, RN**; and **Cat Selman**.

This symposium is for caregivers to get the support and education to understand this disease and give them information about services in the area available to them. CEU's are provided for several professions. Caregivers and CNA's attend for free! Email Information to: c.a.r.d.nwa@gmail.com or call 256-904-0601.

The event is sponsored by The Coalition for Alzheimer's and Related Disorders of NW Alabama. (C.A.R.D.)

Early Packet pick-up for the Run for RayRay will be available Friday from 3:30-6pm at a tent located in the parking lot by the football field.

11:30am - 1:30pm Saturday-Packet pickups continue for anyone who missed early registration and would like to come join us. CASH ONLY.

Race Time is from 2-4pm. Participants in the 5k and 10k races will begin their race around the scenic state park at 2pm sharp. The 1-mile run will begin immediately after all 5K and 10K runners have cleared the starting point. Custom medals will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place finishers for each race. All 1-mile runners are encouraged to dress in their best Turkey or Thanksgiving themed outfits.

Concessions will be available from 4-5:30pm and will include hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken stew available for purchase. CASH ONLY. All profits from concession sales will go toward Lauderdale County Track and Field teams for entry fees into track meets.

A medal for best dressed will also be given! The course link is www.strava.com/routes/2923340758614096048. The 10k will run 2 laps around course. The 1 mile will be marked off at event.

The Weir family currently resides in Rogersville with Rachael and her three other siblings. All race registration fees (excluding the credit card processing fee added at checkout) will be given to the Weir Family to help with the additional medical, lodging, and travel expenses that will be incurred by the family.

The event is organized by volunteers from LCHS Track & Field Team and Beta Club. For more information, please email emily.stewart@lcschools.org.

More SHORTS... on Pg 8



Liquidation Sale

10% off

Hardware - Electrical - Plumbing
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November 1st - 14th

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Ribeye Steak 4/\$25

Filet Mignon Steak \$12⁹⁹ Lb.
Beef Chuck Roast \$5⁹⁹ Lb.

Ground Beef \$3²⁹ Lb.
Beef Patties \$3²⁹ Lb.

Country Style Pork Ribs \$1⁷⁹ Lb.
Sirloin Pork Chops \$1⁷⁹ Lb.

Whole Slab Pork Spare Ribs \$1⁹⁹ Lb.
Boston Butt Pork Roast \$1⁷⁹ Lb.

Beef Stew Meat \$4⁹⁹ Lb.
Beef Oxtails \$7⁹⁹ Lb.

Chicken Drumsticks \$1³⁹ Lb.
Pork Chitterlings (Cleaned) 5 Lb. Bag \$1⁹⁹

Chicken Tenders \$2⁹⁹ Lb.
Boneless Chicken Breast \$2⁴⁹ Lb.

Farm Raised Catfish Fillet 4 Lb. Box \$18⁹⁹
Chicken Leg Quarters 10 Lb. Bag \$8⁹⁹

Fresh Turkey Drumsticks \$1⁹⁹ Lb.
Smoked Turkey Neck, Tail, Wing & Leg \$3⁴⁹ Lb.

The Run for RayRay- Sat.

ROGERSVILLE-Run for RayRay 5K, 10K and 1-mile Fun Run is scheduled for Saturday, November 2 from 2-4pm at Joe Wheeler State Park Sandy Beach in Rogersville. This rain or shine event is ideal for all levels of fitness.

Rachael "Ray Ray" Weir was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in August of 2022 when she was just 4 years old. She has since undergone numerous rounds of intense chemotherapy and completed her first bone marrow transplant in January of 2023. Her latest bone marrow biopsy did not yield the results that were hoped for. She has signs of Leukemia still lingering in her bone marrow and a decision has been made to transfer her to MD Anderson in Houston, TX where she will start on new forms of recent study drugs (menin inhibitors).



Yard Sales

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

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

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

ROGERSVILLE (ELGIN) YARD SALE, 260 Stacey Lane, Nov. 1 & 2, Fri. & Sat., 7am-1pm, Lots of various items.

FLORENCE YARD SALE CLOVERGADE ROAD 4 MILES PAST THE DUMP 8686 AL 157 Florence 35633 SATURDAY, NOV. 2nd 7 am - until? Antiques, 1937 Jenny Lind Bedroom suite, Huge variety of chairs, art, sofas, bicycles, exercise equipment, TVs, asst. of electronics, Kitchen items, hundreds of new books (\$3 ea.), clothes, camping gear, travel bags, mirrors, picture frames, taxidermy molds, wooden chests and much more! Rescheduled if raining.

FLORENCE GARAGE SALE, Heathrow Dr., 113 Charing Cross, Sat. Nov. 2nd, 7am-4pm, Toys, Girl & Boy & Nice Adult Clothes, Home Decor, plus Trailer Full of 12 ft. long white wire shelving, 2006 1200cc Harley Davidson Motorcycle and more!

FLORENCE: Saturday Nov. 2nd 10 am to 5 pm YARD SALE 1950 Jackson Road Multiple Mix

KILLEN: 6663 Co. Rd. 31 N. of Coussi on HWY 72 Follow Signs King bed, hutch, organ, clothes, corner desk, tow bar for RV, lots of miscellaneous items. Fri. Sat. 7 am til ? Nov 1st and 2nd

SHEFFIELD: YARD SALE 905 BROADWAY ST Sat. 7 am Three Family Sale! Wreaths, flower arrangements, all kinds of things! Purses, cloth baby diapers with snaps and liners, toys, popcorn popper, clothing, jewelry, Christmas items, and lots more! And Homemade Autumn things!

KILLEN: MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE 3312 Co. Rd. 130 Fri. Sat. 7 am until Tool box, tools, hunting gear and clothes, TV stand, home decor, pipe bender, electric dog fence, jewelry, men's and women's clothes, Something for everyone!

COMMUNITY WIDE GARAGE SALE Glen Mary Sub. (Off Rasch Rd.) Sat., Nov. 2nd 8am-1pm Proceeds will go to the American Red Cross for the Hurricane Helene Victims

RUSSELLVILLE: HUGE MOVING SALE Oak Hill Subdivision Corner of Gale Ave and Gregory Fri. Sat. 8 am until Dark. Sun. After 1 pm Furniture, Nice Christmas Decor, Clothes of all sizes, plus, bed spreads, dishes, Christmas dishes, baskets, vintage glassware, lawnmower, barb wire too much to list! Everything must go! Next Weekend if Raining. Worth the drive!

Estate Sale 103 Creekwood Circle Florence, AL 35630

**Fri., Nov. 1st, 9am-3pm
Sat., Nov. 2nd., 9am-2pm
Sun., Nov. 3rd, 1am-3pm
*Numbers given out at 8:30am
Friday & Saturday**

Local History Books, Cast Iron including Martin Skillet, Jewelry, Local Yearbooks, Vintage Children's & Baby Clothing, Antique Sideboard, Quilts, Bedroom Sets-French Provincial and Link Taylor, Waterford, Corelle, Pyrex, Corningware, Designer Handbags, 100's and 100's of Books, CDs & DVDs, Office Supplies, Push Lawn Mower, Freezer/Refrigerator, **House and Garage Full!**

***Bring help to load your purchases.**

**Cypress Creek Antiques & Estate Sales 256-275-0273
Go to Estatesales.net to view pictures**

**TUSCUMBIA ANNUAL ST. JUDE FUNDRAISER 47 Rockwood Dr., Valley Grove Estates, off Old Hwy. 20E, Fri. & Sat., Nov. 1st & 2nd, 7am-until? Designer Purses, Sunglasses, Jewelry, Large Variety of Fall/Winter Infant Girl, Boy's, Girls, Women/Men's Clothing, Coats, Shoes, Hats, Christmas Trees/Wreaths/Holiday Decor, Gifts, Hair Care Products, Small Appliances, Household items and much more!
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YORKIE PUPPY One Female, 6 wks old, very small, shots and dewormed. 256-275-2794 Shoals Area

Estate Sale of Margaret Miles Marks
6752 County Rd. 6, Florence
Friday, Nov. 1 ♦ 8am-4pm
Saturday, Nov. 2 ♦ 8am-12pm ♦ 1/2 PRICE
Ladies size 10 dressy/business suits. Pendleton, Kaspar, Calvin Klein, Ruby Road, etc. Shoes size 7 1/2. Furniture, kitchen ware, bedding, tools, treadmill, 7 ft. custom made wood & glass bird cage. etc.

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HENDRIX CHAPEL Church of Christ

You may already know, but just so you do, remember our **Annual Friends and Family Day** this Sunday, November 3

BEN SIEGEL from the Glendale Church of Christ will be our guest speaker. Ben is doing a great job in his work with Glendale. He is busy in his ministry with gospel meetings / revivals, often speaking for other congregations in various formats.

Ben is one of our younger gospel preachers in this area, yet his maturity level, doctrinal soundness, educational accomplishments, good heart and example make him "a breath of fresh air" for the church of today and the future.

Friends and Family Day at Hendrix is an event when we invite all our friends and family to come and worship with us.

After worship, which will be our spiritual meal, we will enjoy a special Thanksgiving meal together, prepared by our very talented and gracious cooks at Hendrix Chapel.

Please come, let us enjoy the company, the fellowship of friends and family. Most of all let us glorify and praise God for what he has done, what he continues to do, what he shall do in time and eternity. †

**Sunday Bible Classes 9am • Worship 10am
Evening Worship 6pm**

13007 CR 8, Florence (1 mile west of the Natchez Trace) • 256-767-3629

ESTATE SALE

103 Creekwood Circle. • Florence
Friday, Nov 1 • 9am-3pm
Saturday, Nov. 2 • 9am-2pm
Numbers given out at 8:30am Friday & Saturday
Sunday, Nov. 3 • 1pm-3pm

Local History Books, Cast Iron including Martin Skillet, Jewelry, Local Yearbooks, Vintage Children's & Baby Clothing, Antique Sideboard, Quilts, Bedroom Sets - French Provincial and Link Taylor, Waterford, Corelle, Pyrex, Corningware, Designer Handbags, 100s and 100s of: Books, CDs, DVDs; Office Supplies, Push Lawn Mower, Freezer/Refrigerator, **House and Garage Full**

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Community Notes

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

• Email to editor@courierjournal.net

All Sheffield Senior Citizens, ages 60 and over, are invited to come join us at 303 2nd street in Sheffield for a free meal (\$1 donation is optional) or if you are home bound, we can deliver you a free meal Monday-Friday. The Sheffield Senior Center is open from 8AM-noon M-F. You must be present before 11am for the free meal. We play Bingo free of charge on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday and you can win an assortment of cool

items. A variety of other games are also played daily.

We have Karaoke on Monday evenings and a live dance band on Friday evenings starting at 5pm. if you do not drive or don't have a way to the Center, a Senior Center bus can pick you up and bring you home at no charge! There are also planned outings designed especially for seniors. We also go out to eat as a group once a month. We would love to have you join us!

The Florence Camerata welcomes new singers. For more information, please call 256-810-9512.

The Annual Memorial Service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tuscumbia, will take place Sunday, November 3 at 3pm. The public is invited to attend this All Saints' Day service of Evening Prayer, which will be conducted from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, by the Rev. Danielle Thompson, Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Sheffield. The historic church is located at 300 N. Dickson St. in Tuscumbia (corner of Dickson and Third Streets). The public is invited. For more information, call 256-710-9081 or 256-383-2014.

The Fall Sermon Series at Midway Church of Christ is set for November 9-13 with Guest Minister, Greg Chandler from Madison, Alabama speaking. Please join us for a series of gospel sermons that will benefit all ages and places in life. All are invited! The series will open on Saturday, November 9 at 5pm meeting at shelter #3 in KILLEN PARK with the topic, "Dealing With Our Doubts", and will resume at the Midway building Sunday, November 10 at 10:30am and 7pm on and at 7pm each

evening through Wednesday. Topics from Sunday forward include, "One Mind & Spirit", "Follow Me", Talking the Walk", "No Hometown Messiah", and "The Choice of Sergius Paulus". Everyone is welcome. Midway is located at 6000 US Hwy 43 N in the Greenhill community.

Good Stand Up Comedy Tuesday, November 5, 8pm at the LAVA Room in downtown Florence with Dan Alten plus local favorites Duell F. Aldridge, Jarrod Prestage, Joyce Liles, Kay Domer, and Morgan McRight. Just \$10.

Dan Alten is an intelligent goofball from Kentucky who has been traveling the country for the past decade bringing his charming nonsense to everywhere from theaters to punk basements to art galleries to beloved comedy clubs. Alten does over 200 shows a year bringing his tight night surreal fun to the people.

Babytime Storytime (Birth to 18 months) - Friday, November 1, 10:30am - 11:30am. Every Friday at the Muscle Shoals Public Library. Caregivers must remain with children for all programs.

See NOTES... page 7

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Savvy SENIOR

How to Arrange Your Own Cremation Service

Dear Savvy Senior, I would like to arrange a simple cremation that doesn't cost me, or my family, a lot of money. Can you offer any tips that can help me with this?

Still Kicking

Dear Kicking, If you're looking for a simple and affordable way to go, cremation is an excellent choice, and one that's become exceedingly popular in the United States. About 60 percent of Americans are now choosing cremation over a traditional burial, versus only around 20 percent in the mid-1990s.

Why the big shift? Price is a key reason. A basic cremation can cost as little as \$700 to \$1,200, depending on your location and provider, versus \$7,500 or more for a traditional funeral and cemetery burial. Geography is another factor, as many families are spread across the country, making future gravesite visits less common.

Here are a few tips to help you arrange your cremation and ensure you get a good deal.

Shop Around

You can arrange a cremation through a funeral home or a cremation-only business, but it's wise to shop around because prices vary widely. It's not unusual for one funeral home to charge \$1,000, while another charges \$4,000 or more for the same service.

Call five or six funeral homes or cremation-only businesses in your area and ask them how much they charge for a "direct cremation," which is the most affordable option there is. With direct cremation, there's no embalming, viewing or memorial service. It only includes the

essentials: transportation of the body; required paperwork such as death certificates; the cremation itself; and return of the ashes to the family, usually within a week.

If you want a viewing, memorial service or anything beyond what a direct cremation provides, ask the funeral home for an itemized price list so you know exactly what you're paying for. All funeral providers are required by law to provide this.

To locate nearby funeral homes, Google "cremation" or "funeral" followed by your city and state. You can also shop and compare prices from funeral homes in your area at Funeralocity.com.

Cheaper Urns

The urn is another item that can drive up your cremation costs. Funeral home urns usually cost around \$100 to \$350, but you aren't required to get one.

After cremation, your family will receive your ashes in a thick plastic bag inside a cardboard box. This is all they need if you intend to have your ashes scattered, but if your family wants something to display, Amazon.com and Walmart.com both sell a wide variety of urns for under \$50.

Green Cremation

If you're an environmentally conscious person, there's also a green cremation option you should know about called "alkaline hydrolysis" that chemically dissolves the body. This is a gentler, more eco-friendly process than traditional cremation, which uses combustion. It's legal in more than 20 states, and costs around \$2,000 to \$3,500. Google search "alkaline hydrolysis"

followed by your city or state to find for a provider.

Free Cremation

If you're interested in a free final farewell, you may want to consider donating your body to a university medical facility. After using your body for medical research or surgical practice they will cremate your remains for free, and either bury or scatter your ashes in a local cemetery or return them to your family, usually within a year.

To find a medical school near you that accepts body donations, the University of Florida offers an online directory at Anatbd.acb.med.ufl.edu/usprograms.

Whatever arrangements you end up making, make sure you tell your family your wishes so they will know what to do and who to call after your death. Also, if you have a written agreement with any funeral/cremation provider, give them a copy to let them know if you've prepaid or not.

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.



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Sonogram

Continued from Page 1

11 students graduated from the program in May with each of them accepting jobs as sonographers.

"The DMS team did an extraordinary job preparing and earning their initial accreditation," stated John McIntosh, Dean of Workforce Development, Institutional Effectiveness, and Advancement.

"The CAAHEP accreditation process is very rigorous. This is truly a testament to the jobs Terri (DMS Director) and Stacy (DMS Instructor) do every day in preparing our students to be very successful sonographers in workforce."

In a letter to NWSCC President, Dr. Jeff Goodwin, CAAHEP stated that, "The commission recognizes your organization's commitment to continuous quality improvement in health professions education, as demonstrated by your participation in CAAHEP programmatic accreditation."

The next evaluation of the program is scheduled to occur by 2029.

Toys...

Continued from Page 1

in Florence, and several spots in neighboring counties.

The Marine Corps League headquarters at 215 S. Montgomery Ave. in Sheffield will also have a drop box for toys that will be available 24/7.

Parents can register for Toys for Tots from 9am-6pm November 20-23 at the Marine Corps League headquarters in Sheffield.

Parents must register in person with a photo ID and provide birth certificates for each child up to 12 years old that is being registered.

Parents will be able to pick up toys at the old National Guard Armory at the corner of Avalon and S. Atlanta Ave. in Sheffield.

This year, parents accompanied by a volunteer will be allowed to go into the warehouse and select a certain number of toys for their child.



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Monday - Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm

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CLASSIFIED ADS - 5 pm Friday unless otherwise specified

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

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or email to:
editor@courierjournal.net

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Community Notes...

Continued from page 4

The Shoals Area Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be hosting Dr. Lawrence Krumenaker at our November meeting on Sunday, November 10 at 2pm at the Helen Keller Public Library in Tuscumbia. He will be speaking about the nine days that General Marquis de Lafayette spent in Alabama in 1825. Krumenaker is also the author of the book "Nine Days Traveling." The 200th anniversary of this event is next year. The meeting is open to the public.

The United Sisterhood of Alabama invites you to join us for a powerful and inspiring Women's Rally from 1-3pm Saturday, November 2 on the Front Stairs of the Alabama Capitol Building in Montgomery. Join women from across the state who will come together to raise their voices to advocate for the rights and well-being of women and families in Alabama. Guest speakers will be announced later. Mark your calendars to stand united in our commitment to equality, justice, and empowerment for women.

The 31st Annual Symposium on Alzheimer's and Related Disorders is Friday, November 1, from 7am-5pm at Cross Point Church of Christ in Florence. This symposium is for caregivers to get the support and education to understand this disease and give them information about services in the area available to them. Sponsored by Coalition for Alzheimers and Related Disorders (C.A.R.D.)

Infants - Adults Clothes And Shoes Give Away at the Care Center, First Baptist Church, Killen from 8-10am Thursday, November 7. We have stocked up on our Fall clothes and shoes. Lots of sweatshirts and sweaters.

Country Line DANCE Lessons 6:30-8pm Thursday nights Instructor: Jan Ownby, \$10/ Person
1104 US Hwy 72, Tuscumbia. Come Dance with Us! For more Info: 256-810-0973

Tom Pallardy & the O'M*G! Band will be playing from 7-11pm Friday,

November 1 at Lucy's BARge in Athens. Never a cover and plenty of fun! Tom, a resident of Town Creek, AL will be featured on saxophone, flute, keyboards and vocals. Joining Tom will be three of the Shoals' most talented and well-known musicians. Joey Flippen (Iguana Party, Howell Sledge, Pegasus Records) from Russellville will be handling the bass and vocals. Rob Malone (Drive-by Truckers, The Fiddleworms, Johnny Rotten Cash) from Rogersville is on Lead Guitar and vocals. David Casteel (LTD, the Blue Flames) from Muscle Shoals is on the drums. Follow Tom Pallardy & The O'M*G! Band on Facebook and check out the website at tompallardy.com for more information.

Applications for the Elk National Foundation's Most Valuable Student Scholarship program will be available online now. 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.

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.

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 school year.

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 learners!

Join us at Treehouse Children's Dentistry on Hwy 72 in Killen on

Thursday, November 7 from 4-6pm for a special opportunity to meet Santa Manley! This free community event allows parents to capture their own photos with Santa, creating a memorable experience for the kids. We hope to see you there!

The Annual Veterans' Day Parade will take place in Tuscumbia on Monday, November 11 at 10am. The parade will begin at Deshler High School, proceed from Main Street, south to 6th

See NOTES... page 11

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Historic
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Shorts...

Continued from Page 2

Horn Choir Places First

FLORENCE – The University of North Alabama Horn Choir has been awarded First Prize in the Kings Peak International Music Competition, the second time in three years that the Horn Choir has placed first in a competition at the international level.

“Earning first prize in any international music competition is an extraordinary feat, especially for our studio here at UNA,” said Dr. Jordan Redd, Assistant Chair of Music. “This is the second time in the last three years that our horn choir has earned first prize in a competition at the international level. We have had several students place in the solo competition as well. I am proud of the work that they have put in, but we have to continue to get one percent better each day.”

The students who participated in the competition include Abigail Brazda, William Cochran, Connell Cornelius, John Harrington, Katherine Jones, Ruben Landa, Skylar McChristian, Joshua Prestenberg, and Mallory Taylor.

historian Jimmy Austin. “We’ve had so many people express interest in experiencing Sheffield’s history, especially during the holidays,” Austin said. “The trolley tours offer an inclusive way for everyone to connect with the city’s past, whether it’s seeing the historic homes in the fall or admiring their beautiful Christmas decorations. It’s a meaningful way to see Sheffield in a new light.”

The November 3 and 17 tours will explore the historic homes and landmarks along North Montgomery Avenue. These tours begin at 2 p.m. from Sheffield City Hall. Tickets are \$15 and available at the Sheffield Public Library.

To celebrate the season, the December tours—set for December 8 and December 15—will highlight Sheffield’s holiday decor, giving guests a festive look at the city’s charm. Tickets for the December tours are also \$15 and available at the Sheffield Public Library. Seating is limited for all dates, so early booking is encouraged.

“We’re always happy when people in our community show interest in our history,” says Susann Hamlin, President and CEO of Colbert County Tourism. “These tours not only bring visitors to town but also highlight what makes our community a great place to live. The pride we see in our locals inspires others, and we’re excited to share this opportunity with folks eager to experience Sheffield.”

For tickets or more information, contact the Sheffield Public Library at 256-386-5633.

The Sheffield Trolley Tours

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More SHORTS... on Pg 13

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Sunday AM – “One Mind & Spirit”

Sunday PM – “Follow Me”

Monday PM – “Talking The Walk”

Tuesday PM – “No Hometown Messiah”

Wednesday PM – “The Choice of Sergius Paulus”

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CFO at Bank...

Continued from Page 1

CEO Rick Wardlaw said. Compton most recently served as Head of MWM Asset Management for Rockefeller Capital Management's office in Atlanta, overseeing \$1.9 billion in assets. He was responsible for investment, risk management, and business operations within the multi-family office group.

Previously, Compton held the role of Managing Director & Portfolio Manager at GMT Capital Corporation, where he spent nearly a decade managing global financial services investments. His broad experience includes serving as Head of Financial Research Services at Allianz Global Investors and as a bank regulator for the State of Florida during the banking crisis of the late 1980s and early 1990s. He has also sat on two bank boards throughout his career.

“Adam’s vast experience across financial sectors and his commitment to risk management

align perfectly with our mission to provide sound, thoughtful financial services to our community,” added Macke Mauldin, Bank Independent President.

Compton holds an MBA with a concentration in finance and accounting from Cornell University and graduated cum laude from Houghton University, where he minored in Economics and Political Science.

“There is a great history and culture here at Bank Independent that I intend to both honor and build on,” Compton said. However, I particularly see a great future and I look forward to applying my experience to further strengthen its financial stability and foster growth.”

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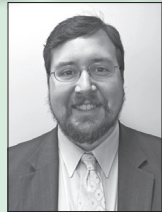


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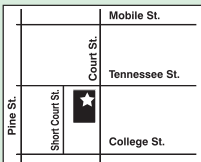
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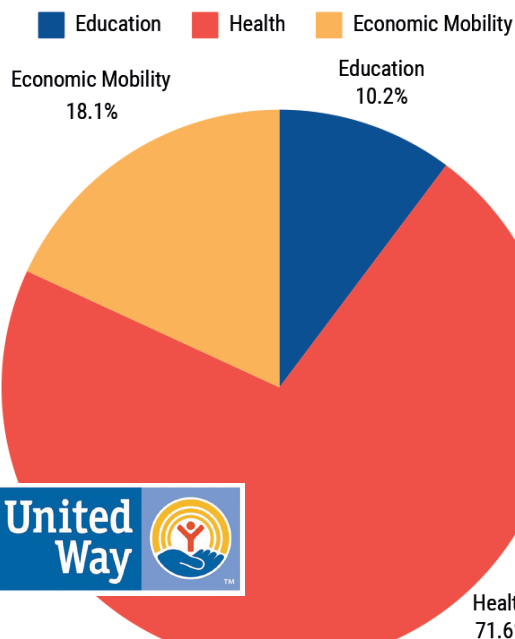
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Is your company involved in the United Way's WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN?



PROGRAM FOCUS AREA BREAKDOWN



32.5%
of children in Northwest Alabama live in families struggling to afford basic needs.

The United Way Workplace Campaign unites employees within a business or organization, across all industries to give back to the community where they live and work. By donating and volunteering, and advocating for causes that matter to them, individuals can make a difference. Campaigns go beyond, raising money for a cause; they strengthen connections between employees and their community.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR AS LITTLE AS \$2 / PAY PERIOD.

Last year, 3,619 Northwest Alabama residents received access to vital services through our community investment partners. United Way of NW Alabama invests your donations in high-performing organizations through an extensive and competitive application and grant process.

49%
of households in Northwest Alabama earn less than \$50,000 a year

For more information, call the United Way of Northwest Alabama, 256-764-5892.

Space courtesy of Courier Journal.

EMPLOYMENT Opportunities

North Alabama Neuroservices, LLC (in affiliation with North Alabama Medical Center) is looking to hire a Neuro-Hospitalist in medically underserved area at 1701 Veterans Drive, Florence AL 35630, and 201 W. Avalon Ave, Muscle Shoals, AL, 35661. Requires medical degree (U.S. or foreign equivalent), residency training in Neurology, and possess or eligible to apply for Alabama medical license. **Please mail CV to 330 Seven Springs Way, Brentwood, TN 37027 or email, Dwinna.mullins@lpnt.net.**

NIGHTSHIFT DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED

The Times Daily has immediate openings for full time and part time Non-CDL truck driving. Drivers will deliver pallets and postal bins of subscription newspapers to numerous USPS locations in Jefferson, Lawrence, Morgan and Shelby Counties in Alabama, as well as Davidson County, Tennessee. The ideal candidate must have an excellent Motor Vehicle Report and proof of personal auto insurance. Candidate must pass a DOT physical, be capable of driving up to 8 hours at a time as well as the flexibility to work days, weekends, and holidays as needed.

Please email resumes to: morgan.whitehead@timesdaily.com or pick up an application at 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630

TELLER POSITION AVAILABLE

Railway Credit Union
1604 Gusmus Ave.,
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661
Please email resume to: mmatthews@railwaycreditunion.com

The Colbert County Commission will be accepting employment applications for an **Appraisal Trainee Position** in the Revenue Commissioner's Office

Starting pay is \$31,990.40/year plus health insurance and other benefits

Job Description and Application are available at the **Alabama Career Center 500 South Montgomery Ave., Sheffield**

MUST HAVE ACCOUNT WITH CAREER CENTER AT: alabamaworks.alabama.gov

Deadline for applications is November 8, 2024
Colbert County Commission is an equal opportunity employer.

Notes...

Continued from page 7

Street, west to Water Street, then north to 4th Street, and end at the Colbert County Courthouse. Anyone with a military vehicle is asked to participate in the parade and should arrive no later than 9:30 to form the line-up. All Military Reserve and National Guard Units are encouraged to participate.

The parade will be followed at 11am by a program on the courthouse lawn, presented by the American Legion Post 31. The public is invited to attend the Veterans Day activities along with a meal, donated by Mr. L.O. Bishop, at the Church of Christ Annex located at the corner of 4th and Main Street.

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:

Tuesday October 29, Tarkett East, 1701 Mars Hill Road, Florence, 11am - 6pm

Wednesday October 30, Rogers High School, Florence, 8am - 3pm

Thursday October 31, North Alabama Medical Center, Florence, 7am - 5pm

Thursday October 31, Wheeler Hydroelectric Plant - Lawrence County, Town Creek, 8am - 4pm

Friday November 1, Sheffield High School, 7:30am - 4pm

Saturday November 2, Leighton Fall Festival, 2225 Railroad St., 12pm - 6pm

Sunday November 3, Sam's Club, Florence, 10am - 4pm

Monday November 4, Long-Lewis Volkswagen Mitsubishi, Florence, 1pm - 6pm

Tuesday November 5, Deshler High School, 200 N Commons St Library, Tusculmbia 7:30am - 3pm

Wednesday November 5, Wilson High School, Florence, 8am - 3:30 pm

Tuesday November 12, Applied Chemical Technology, Helton Dr. Florence, 10am - 4pm

Monday November 12, Alabama Department of Transportation - Tusculmbia, 7:30 am - 2pm

Computer & Technology Classes at Florence-Lauderdale Public Library in November

All computer classes are FREE. Registration is required due to limited seating. Please email classes@fpl.org or call 256-764-6564 ext. 127 to sign up.

MICROSOFT OFFICE SERIES
Basic Microsoft Word: Users will become familiar with page layout, font, copy, paste, insert, and saving documents in an orderly manner.

Wednesday, November 6, 10:30am-12pm

Basic Microsoft PowerPoint: Users will learn to create visually appealing presentations by editing slides and inserting images.

Wednesday, November 13, 10:30 am-12pm

Basic Microsoft Excel: Users will advance their knowledge of spreadsheets and their functions. They will learn the purpose for creating such a document and how it may be helpful in the organization of textual lists or numerical data.

Wednesday, November 20, 10:30am-12pm

JIMMY'S MOWER SHOP buying **ROOF REPAIR** at an affordable and selling lawn & garden equipment. Free estimates. Call 256-256-284-0364 after 668-5807 12pm daily, no text

FOR SALE: AUBURN UNIVERSITY Barbie cheerleader doll, still in the box. \$30.00 (256) 571-5996 (Douglas Community)

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November 7th 4-6pm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



See NOTES... page 28

Take Note...
of your Community.

Courier Journal Community Notes

Commentary

Not Providing Any Evidence

It's not surprising that most of the accusatory positions rendered by political activists... um -- journalists in the national media focus on Donald Trump. After all, it is their nature, and Trump has been known to stretch a figure or two if it serves a purpose. Prime example, much of the economic data from recent years is bad, but Trump likes using the term "the worst ever." The worst ever is usually an exaggeration even though he is focusing on a highly important statistic that the media often glosses over or avoids covering altogether. Suffice it to say, Trump is a master of hyperbole with a limited vocabulary.

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

Regular readers know how I stand on this election cycle. Many of us are weighing the lesser of two evils, with both major candidates carrying many faults and an abundance of excess baggage.

The incessant claims that Trump, "being a

See **EVIDENCE...** on Page 20

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

Courier Journal

in the Shoals

THIS WEEK

October 30, 2024

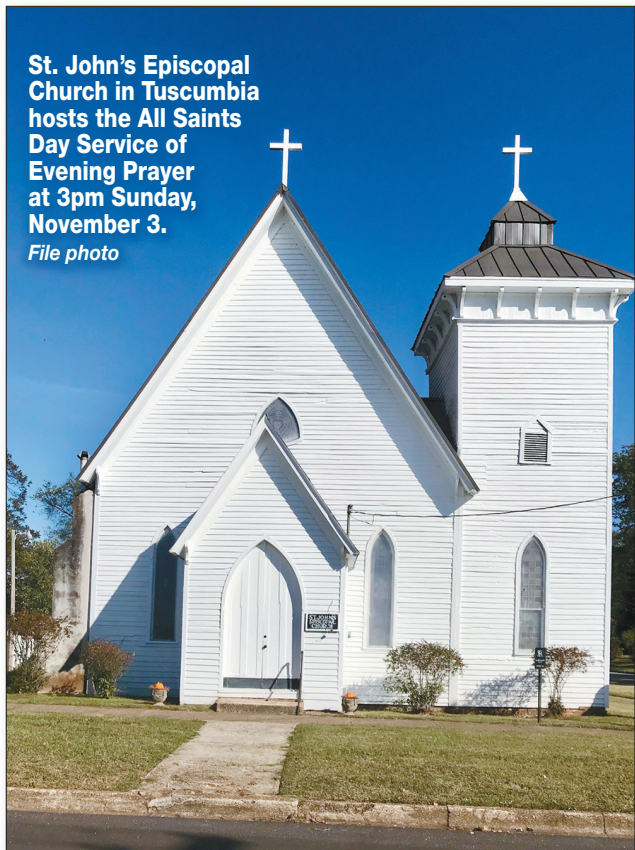
Happening THIS WEEK

History Stirs at St. John's

TUSCUMBIA—The annual Memorial Service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tuscombria will take place on Sunday, November 3, at 3pm. The public is invited to attend this All-Saints' Day service of Evening Prayer, which will be conducted from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer by the Rev. **Danielle Thompson**, Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Sheffield. The historic church is located at 300 N. Dickson St. (corner of Dickson and Third Streets).

St. John's was founded in 1839. The present building, Alabama's

See **ST. JOHN'S...** Page 24



St. John's Episcopal Church in Tuscombria hosts the All Saints Day Service of Evening Prayer at 3pm Sunday, November 3.
File photo

CHURCH HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR WAYNE KILPATRICK talks about his four latest books on Monday, November 4 at 2pm at Heritage Christian University. These books cover the beginnings of congregations of the Churches of Christ in Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison, and Jackson counties. Emeritus Professor Kilpatrick will sign books purchased at this event, which will take place in the Overton Memorial Library on the HCU campus at 3625 Helton Drive in Florence. This event is free to the community, and everyone is welcome.

A PUMPKIN BASH IS AT UNDERWOOD BAPTIST Church, 5091 Highway 157, Florence October 31 from 5-7pm. Creatively decorated car trunks for Trunk or Treat offer a safe and festive experience. A variety of food trucks will be on site, and the kids can burn off energy with our inflatables. Bring your friends and family for a night of community, laughter, and Fall fun!

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY - "Walk Humbly With God" is sponsored by Church Women United, and will take place at 10am on Friday, November 1 at Tennessee Valley Community Church, 119 N Pine St. in Florence.

FOOTBALL!

SATURDAY NOV. 2 4PM
vs Austin Peay
Florence
Senior Day

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SUN. NOV. 3 Quarterfinal

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vs Central ARK, Florence
SUN., NOV. 3 • 1PM
vs N. Florida, Florence

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YOUR Letters

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

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

Battle for Rulership

Editor,

Land of the Free.

Home of the Brave.

These are not just lyrics from a song; they are the characteristics of two nations.

America and Israel, lands set up and ordained by Almighty God, have a specific DNA infused by Him for purposes higher than our thoughts can even comprehend.

America began at Philadelphia, as the Declaration of Independence was courageously signed, sealing the fate of British colonies to become its own

nation. It happened, but not without much bravery while facing a giant enemy with an experienced and organized military force that would oppose such action.

Israel began in the heart of Yah, wanting a people to represent Himself, in a holy (set apart) land, a place where He would show Himself mightier than any other gods that mankind had decided to create and

worship. His Holy Word would abide within their DNA and bring freedom from the bondages that other gods always bring. That is true freedom, yet God's ruler ship is based upon free will and devoted love, which is the message He wanted the world to hear and see through His children of Israel.

America was designed to show the world what a "We the People" type of government would be able to do, freeing us from a human king or tyrannical figure to rule over us (as Britain desired). Such freedom came with a strict stipulation: they must be a people first governed by the Almighty, living according to His Ways and

Like many Americans, most of my family doesn't have paid leave in the event of an emergency.



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

Shorts...

Continued from Page 8

UNA/Army at Toyota Field Rehearsing for Camerata

MADISON—The North Alabama Lions and Army Black Knights will play the final baseball games on the current surface at Toyota Field.

A three-game weekend set features the first appearance by Army West Point at Toyota Field in its history. After the three game set, the field will be converted to a softball diamond for the Rocket City Softball Showcase slated to begin three days later on Wednesday, February 19.

UNA will host the series in Madison February 14-16 in a non-conference weekend tilt. Tickets start at \$10 and are on sale now at TrashPandasBaseball.com/Events or by calling 256-325-1403 ext. 1.

FLORENCE—The Florence Camerata has resumed rehearsals on Thursdays at 6:30pm in the choral room at UNA for its 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.

NEED HELP?

CONTACT 2-1-1

Your link to community resources

FIREWOOD FOR SALE:

Seasoned and Split 4x4 rick \$65 you pick up. Fire pit bundles \$10. Call 256-349-9601 or 256-443-7395 Leave Message

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JEEP: WRANGLER, 2017 \$23,000, Unlimited Sport 4x4, 4-door, 5-speed automatic, 70,700 miles, new tires, upgraded touch screen Alpine stereo receiver, amplifier and 15" subwoofer speaker cabinet, 256-415-1685 Tuscumbia

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Painting, drywall repair, minor electrical repairs, pressure washing, plumbing, bathroom remodeling, deck building, wood rot repair, floor refinishing, gutter cleaning, and more!

WANTED OLD BASEBALL CARDS, old comic books, old photos, scrapbooks, and documents. Any condition. 256-275-2276

October Special \$62.99

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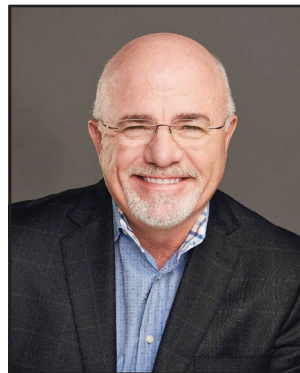
We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 9 organizations which offer 80 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) for help with plan choices.

DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

SPEND, SAVE AND GIVE

Dear Dave, My husband and I began your plan a few months ago. We love the process of living



on a budget, and how it has helped us gain control of our finances. Our kids are 14 and 13 now. Do you think it's a good idea to include teenagers in budget meetings and financial discussions?

Paula

Dear Paula, This is a great question! As long as you're not in an extreme situation, like you're looking at foreclosure or bankruptcy, or you're on the opposite end of the spectrum sitting on a pile of wealth, I think it's a wonderful idea. Teaching kids about money with a standard, regular, monthly budget is one thing. But as a parent, you don't want to put your kids into situations they aren't emotionally equipped to handle.

As long as mom and dad are having a discussion and making decisions—not fighting—it's good for kids to hear the give and take where handling money is concerned. Parents who never let their kids handle money, and never teach them proper money management techniques, run a high risk of turning financially irresponsible adults loose in the world. And that's no good for anyone.

But walking through a typical, normal budget will show them how much money is coming in and how much things cost. They'll see on paper exactly how much groceries or the electric bill costs. Then, when it's right there in front of their eyes, they'll begin to realize why mom and dad always tell them not to waste food, and to turn off the lights when they leave a room!

— Dave

HANG AROUND FOR BENEFITS?

Dear Dave, I am currently serving in the military, and I'm not sure I like the life, or what I'm doing, as much as I did a few years ago. Recently, I was approached with some exciting opportunities outside the military in a different field. I'm not sure what to do. Do you think I should make plans to take advantage of these new opportunities,

or should I stick with the military and receive full benefits when I'm eligible to retire in 10 years?

William

Dear William, There are people who absolutely love the military. It makes a great career for some folks, and I think that's awesome. God bless them—and you—for serving their country that way. But whether you're in the military or a civilian, I think you should do what you love doing.

If you were just a few months away from retirement, I'd probably tell you to bear down and tough it out. That way, it wouldn't be too long before you could explore the new opportunities and have a nice pension coming in. But 10 years is a long time to do anything when your heart's not in it.

Long story short? If you love it, stay. If you don't, get out. Serving in the armed forces is voluntary, and in a sense, that makes it a little like other jobs. Regardless, hanging around for a decade in a job where you're miserable just to collect benefits? That's not a good plan.

— Dave

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, 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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OBO, automatic 4x4, red, with leather seats, 3rd row seats, video in headrest, cold air, runs good, good tires, chrome wheels, 256-767-3519 or 256-710-8787
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PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

The Lauderdale County School System is attempting to locate any child with disabilities, Ages 0-21, who may be living in the Lauderdale County School District and who are not currently in a school program.

Anyone knowing of a child, who may be in need of Special Services, is asked to contact **Mrs. Kim Meeks, Director of Special Education** at 256-760-1324 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

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ASK THE ATTORNEY

Wills For Warriors



Thomas McCutcheon

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

Every year beginning on Veteran's Day and for the month of November McCutcheon & Hamner does Wills for Warriors. This includes veterans, fire fighters, police officers, first responders as well as active duty military personnel and their spouses.

This is a service Joel and I provide at no cost to show our appreciation for those who risk their lives to help others. It's a privilege to be able to do so.

The fact is that everyone eventually needs a Will, and a free one is a good deal. A Will provides for your property to be divided as you wish

and how you wish without payment for a bond. A Will is a way to make a difficult time in life easier for your family. It makes your wishes known and saves your family money.

Contrary to popular belief, probate is not always long or expensive. Children can't argue over who gets what if it's written down.

When you make a Will, you need to know how you want your property divided and the name of the person you want to be in charge of carrying out your decisions.

We not only want a first choice but also a second choice for the person to be in charge of your Will. These people are known as an Executor (male) or Executrix (female). We want to write a Will that will never needs to be changed or updated.

Remember that what you have now is likely not what you'll have at the time of your death. That's why we don't have to make a decision about the property or the car that you own now. You should divide it according to what your property is at the time of death.

People often leave their estate to the surviving spouse and then to the children. If a husband and wife have Wills that are mirror images, known as reciprocal Wills, they accomplish the goals of leaving everything first to the spouse and then to the children. We recommend that people consider using the phrase "per stirpes". Per stirpes simply means that in the event a child dies before a parent, and if that child had children, then those children would get what their parent would have received.

All Wills should contain a residuary clause that leaves everything, no matter what it is or where it is, to the heirs so that everything that is owned whether it's a right, an object or a piece of property is included in the Will.

For more information on the Wills for Warriors program contact McCutcheon & Hamner at 256-333-5000 or visit www.willsforwarriors.com.

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

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

P. O. Box 38, Florence, Alabama 35631 or visit our website at: www.mhatty.com

facebook: McCutcheon and Hamner, P.C.

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



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WK 10 Saturday Nov. 2

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MAIL-IN ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY (vs: games at neutral location)

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Week 8 - Saturday, October 19 Winner: JOSEPH SMITH of Florence

Enter online at www.courierjournal.net
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219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630 - Fax to: 256-760-9618
Winners will be listed online Tuesday afternoon and in the FOLLOWING week's Courier Journal.



RULES: You can only enter for yourself, not other people. Only one entry per person per week. Only one winner per week. Winners must present a photo I.D. when picking up their gift certificate(s). Check the box beside the appropriate picks for the first 11 games, then write in the exact score of the tie-breaker game and alternate game. Person with the most correct picks receives a \$50 Gift Card from Lost Pizza Co. No change will be returned for any unused portion of the certificate. Gratuity is not included. In event of a tie, the tie-breaker score will be utilized. Otherwise, it will not be considered. Closest tie-breaker score wins. Total points will be next tie breaking procedure, and a random drawing of finalists will be used to determine the winner if they are still tied after the tie-breaking procedure. ALTERNATE GAMES will only be used in cases of late postponements or forfeits, games which will then be excluded from consideration. Person with the winning card for the week, who also picks every game correctly including tie-breaker, will also win \$50 from the Courier Journal and another \$50 Lost Pizza Co. Gift Card. Judges decision is final. Mailed entries must be post-marked by deadline day. Hand-delivered, faxed or on-line entries must be submitted by exact time of deadline stated above. NO EXCEPTIONS. Winner is posted on website each Tuesday afternoon and in the paper delayed by one week. Employees and family of Courier Journal and Game Day Scorecard sponsors are ineligible to win. NOTE: If you're faxing, first make a CLEAN COPY, then FAX THAT COPY. NEWSPRINT DOES NOT REPRODUCE CLEARLY ON A FAX. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ILLEGIBLE COPIES.



Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

Better than Famous

What have you accomplished? It's different from asking if you're a rockstar or if you're famous. It took me a while to figure that out. I finally came to understand it after my mom died and I evaluated her life and heard from people whose lives she had changed. I learned from them that what matters is what we do in our everyday life to help others.

What have you accomplished in your life that you are proud of? That's a question that I asked at a recent celebration at the beach. Sometimes we don't get to say what we're proud of, so I thought my sister's 70th birthday and my other sister's 50th wedding anniversary would be a good time to share our thoughts about our lives in this way. My oldest sister, Rosalyn, was a psych nurse for 20 years and nursing manager for about 13 years, has been married to the same man forever, and has just been announced cancer free from pancreatic cancer. I would say that all of these were accomplishments. Yet she spoke of "a young man I treated on a locked unit while very ill, who years later recognized me and said, 'We're growing old together.' He was in the community living his life." She added, "We gave people a chance to realize what they needed to do to live normally." [Now, that's better than being famous.]

My other sister who turned 70 at the beach, coached the Winston-Salem State University Rams' cheerleaders in North Carolina for over 15 years. Her squad originated Stomp and Shake. They truly changed the world of cheerleading. But what Dee remembers is "helping young girls and guys realize that they could accomplish more than they thought and be proud of what they accomplished years down the road. [Helping them build] self esteem and self respect while having fun and supporting others."

wellness director at the YMCA the Shoals, I had so many opportunities to encourage others. Once a lady came through our doors not feeling well. She said that she thought she should come to the Y because she didn't want to lay down alone at her house. After assessing her situation and sending her to the hospital, this lady was in the middle of a heart attack! So many situations of people just needing a little attention. Such a blessing and honor to be available to them.

I also wanted to add here some words written to me by retired pediatrician, Dr. W. Foster Eich. Dr. Eich once responded to one of my columns about why babies cry with these beautiful words about how he felt about babies and truly, his career. "I am writing in response to your comment about a baby's cry. I am a retired pediatrician. I was often called to the delivery room to attend a baby who was at risk. How many times the obstetrician would hand me a limp, ashen colored or blue baby and I would go to work, and then the baby would pink up and cry! I knew then that the baby would be OK, I would thrill at that cry, sometimes I would tear up with joy myself. I knew that a baby's healthy cry is the most beautiful music in the world." He continued, "When I held a newborn baby in my hands, I felt like I was holding 70 or 80 or more years of the future in my hands. It was a wonderful privilege and joy!"

What a rewarding feeling! Holding the future in your hands is what happens with each measure of care that we extend to each other. Caring changes the world. Dr. Eich's love for each baby, my concern for each member, my sisters' hope for each cheerleader and vet changed the recipient's world for the better, even if only for a moment. Those were moments of true accomplishment. What have you accomplished?

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com

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Commentary Evidence

Continued from Page 12

convicted felon,” is a fascist, a Nazi, who will ban abortion nationwide, will declare himself dictator and end our democracy is a collection of unsubstantiated prairie plop. There is no evidence. In fact, just the opposite.

Dictators only surface when the civilian sector is unarmed. Which party is closer to pushing that?

Trump is also a social liberal and has been his whole adult life. So is his wife. He wanted abortion back with the states, and that is where it is. Abortion is not going anywhere, nationally. Congress wouldn't approve it, anyway.

And the last thing he wants to do is put an end to our democracy/republic. Had he wanted to do that, the pandemic at the end of his first term was a perfect opportunity to try to suspend the election. Those who claim so fear the fact that he is more of a constitutionalist than any president since Reagan.

Donald Trump may be terse and act like a horse's backside with frequency, but we know where he stands, nothing is a surprise, and there is a productive America first history.

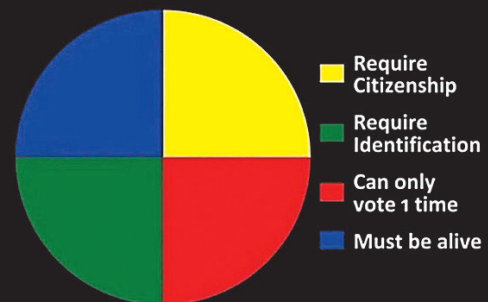
The election comes down to which philosophies we deem important. We have profound differences in values and differing ideas on what we want the country to look like, and what our policies and priorities should be.

One party thinks that that following the Constitution and its long-held tenets as much as possible are vital to the survival of the republic.

It thinks that acknowledging history and learning from it is important, and that the American ideal of free speech is vital to our independent society and agrees with our founders that most of the important decisions of government should be decided at the state and local level.

Another party thinks that the Constitution was written by patriarchal colonialists, is racist in its origins, long outdated, and needs to be replaced by a more inclusive and progressive government-friendly directive. They

How conservatives deny people their right to vote:



FOR OBJECTIVE AND UNCENSORED ANALYSIS: PATRIOTPOST.US

prioritize the correct use of each individual's personal pronouns and the correct association each person's gender or gender identity over respect for authority, personal privacy and safety, and substantive material in the classroom.

They totally misunderstand the events of October 7, 2023, and the self-preservation mode into which Israel has been thrust, and the danger to world and Mideast freedom that Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthi represents. The evidence is all around and has been for the better part of four decades.

Many don't even care to understand the privilege and concept that identification has on the process of free and fair elections. The evidence is clear, applicable, and sensible in so many other aspects of American life. They simply don't care to understand. Sowing racial division is more expedient, regardless of legitimacy.

The evidence of intent is there in the attempts to redo election laws, adding justices to reform the Supreme Court, and eliminate the electoral college so individual states have no impact in the decision, exactly what the founders wanted to avoid, power concentrated solely in densely populated areas and excluding respective regions.

We can continue to thank God that Hillary was beaten by Trump in 2016 or the Constitution would already be in shambles.

Requiring evidence to make a claim now depends on what side you are on.

There are SO many examples.

Donald Trump's recent PR stunt as a McDonald's employee in Pennsylvania

is a good starting point. (And it was a 'stunt,' brilliant, but a stunt, nonetheless.)

Donned in a company apron at a closed location, he learned how to drop some fries and glad hand with pre-selected and screened customers at drive thru window. His product presentation skills were seriously lacking, but he used the opportunity to get some good photos with employees, get days of free news coverage, and point out that worked at McDonald's 15 minutes longer than Kamala did, poking at her employment claim earlier during the campaign.

The *New York Times* writer covering the story unnecessarily added to that last point, "without presenting any evidence."

It's not Trump's burden to prove Harris didn't work at McDonald's. After all this time, there is no evidence that proves she did. No history from a store, corporate, no mention of it on a resume created soon afterward, no former supervisor/employees remembering her, no souvenir or remnant from maybe her first and only private sector job. Only a friend a few weeks ago when it was convenient, who said Harris did work there... with yet, no evidence.

As recently as last week, *The Atlantic*, a notoriously left-leaning publication threw out a pre-election hit piece on Trump. The writer, Jeffery Goldberg, used former White House Chief of Staff, General John Kelly as his source accusing Trump of speaking highly of Hitler and his generals and disparaging U.S. Army soldier, Vanessa Guillén (whose funeral Trump had just paid for).

No one else has gone on record confirming either

point. However, several others are on the record vehemently denying the account and saying the conversation never took place. It's interesting that Kelly stayed on with Trump after the supposed comments, and that he just conveniently remembered the conversation two weeks before the election.

Not mentioned in the piece is that General Kelly sits on the board of Acuity International, formerly Caliburn International LLC, the company that operates the largest unaccompanied migrant shelter for children in the US and was quietly just granted a \$341 million no-bid government contract.

Trump getting elected and closing the borders would nix those profits.

Trump has charged Democrats with supporting abortions up until birth. Democrats allege that there is no evidence to support that claim. The truth is that 21 states allow abortion until birth... and they are all blue.

In the lead-up to the Paris climate summit in 2013, President Obama tweeted, "Ninety-seven percent of scientists agree: #climate change is real, man-made and dangerous."

That is one of the most powerful and unsubstantiated claims in recent political history. His statement was a deceptive summary of statements, questions, and assumed data when respondent positions were not defined. In addition, the word "dangerous" was not included in any of the associated results or literature.

Without evidence... Obama threw out a 97% lie with purposeful manipulation, a figure that climate activists and the national media have used ever since, without evidence.

We hear that climate change and resulting snowstorms, heatwaves, and tropical catastrophes are all among the worst ever and a bi-product of excessive human-made carbon production without any corroborating evidence.

The pandemic-initiated mass mail-in options adopted by many blue states are supposed to be secure and reliable method of counting one vote per registered voter.

See ELECTION... Page 23

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Courier Journal ADOPT A FRIEND

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Meet Edwin! This 4 month puppy is a Sheppard/Labrador mix, Edwin is absolutely perfect. This cutie has energy but knows how to handle it. He loves playing and being with other dogs. He also loves being held and doesn't mind walking on a leash. He's definitely a must meet dog. Take him out for a doggie's day out! The adoption fee is currently \$50 and includes 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 pup.



Edwin



Meet Pandora! We just don't have enough words to describe this dog! She is a 10 month old boxer mix that is truly the sweetest dog. She's great on a leash and so kind to share her water with others. She loves attention, very well behaved, kids are her favorite and oh yeah...belly rubs. She's amazing in a crate. She loves going and walking in Lowe's too! The adoption fee is currently \$50 and includes 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 her.

Meet Lashelle! This adorable girl is a 2 year old basset hound mix. She went to Lowe's last weekend for an event and met every person and child she could find. She lets you know she wants love and affection. Also a great leash walker, medium in size and fantastic with other dogs. She is calm and super lovable and adorable. You must come meet her! The adoption fee is currently \$50 and includes 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 beautiful girl.



Lashelle



Meet Sully! Sully, 2 year old mix. Good with people and has been ok with dogs at the shelter. Already neutered. Available for \$85. Will include rabies and all current vaccines, defleaing and dewormer. For more info please contact the **Colbert County Animal Shelter at 256-381-4073**.

Meet Gracie! She 2 years old. Spayed. Good with everyone, including kids and cats. Available for \$85. Will include neuter, rabies and all current vaccines, defleaing and dewormer. For more info please contact the **Colbert County Animal Shelter at 256-381-4073**.



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Medicare Minute

"Medicare Advantage Plans"

Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) extends from October 15th through December 7th. This is the time of year you can sign up for or make any changes to your Medicare Advantage Plan (MA) or Prescription Drug Plan (PDP). Over the next few weeks we are going to look at MA and PDP plans and what to look for when choosing these plans.

Medicare Advantage Plans, or Part C Medicare, are offered through private insurance companies that Medicare approves. If you join a Medicare Advantage Plan you still have Medicare but will receive your Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B coverage through the private insurance company offering the MA plan you join. Medicare Advantage Plans are not Medicare supplements.

Here are a couple of rules to remember if considering a Medicare Advantage Plan. To be eligible to join a Medicare Advantage Plan you must be enrolled in Part A and Part B Medicare. You must also live in the service area of the plan. For example, if you live in Lauderdale or Colbert counties you are only eligible for plans that are offered in your county. Just because a plan is offered in Huntsville or Birmingham does not mean it's available in Lauderdale or Colbert counties. Also, you do not have to be 65 to join an Advantage Plan. If you have been on Social Security disability for 24 months and have Medicare you can join a plan.

Over the next few weeks we will begin to look at the six things to consider when choosing a Medicare Advantage Plan. Those six things are premium, copays, coinsurance, deductibles, provider networks and the drug formulary of the plan. We will also discuss the difference between your plan options such as a HMO and a PPO. In the meantime if you have any questions about Medicare Advantage Plans you can contact our office.

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




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Commentary (2) Election

Continued from Page 20

There is certainly no evidence provided with that statement because there can't be. It can't possibly be secure or reliable and only a partisan hack would say otherwise.

In what was never an issue, many now claim that requiring voters to present IDs at the polls is an effort to hinder minority voters from being counted. Not only do polls reflect that most minorities disagree with that assessment, but there is also absolutely no evidence to support it, considering that so many other elements of everyday life require us to positively identify ourselves. Yet the racism regurgitation is a democrat and left-media constant.

We were supposed to accept that the COVID-19 vaccine was genuine, effective, harmless, and needed by all age groups from 6 months forward—without a shred of supporting evidence – all while free speech

by vaccine skeptics was completely shut down as misinformation – again without a shred of evidence that the skepticism was undeserved or incorrect. And we are now seeing the evidence in reverse.

We are told that men and women who want to change their gender and reassign pronouns can do so by simple decree because they feel so inclined, and that the other 98% of society has to honor that dysphoria in the classroom, in athletic events, in the workplace setting, and in restroom/dressing room situations... without a shred of scientific validation.

So many claims from Trump – even when completely true – “lack evidence,” but when Trump is being smeared, it is Gospel truth whether anonymously sourced or unsourced.

Americans have had instantaneous vote tallies on election nights since the 1960's. It is something American voters now take for granted. In fact, election night results are commonplace worldwide.

The only issue was the

hanging chad concern in 2000, until the debacle of 2020 when counting was supposedly halted nationwide at 2am with Trump winning in a rout. Only, we woke up to a fresh set of numbers in all the swing states with no logical reason to start counting again before morning and before all parties were present.

And now we are being told that the final numbers this year may not be conclusive for days, even weeks after the election? They must want all-out civil war.

We are supposed to simply trust the party that sheltered its preferred candidate from serious primary competition for over a year while asserting that his health was perfectly fine, only to have him unceremoniously dumped in favor of someone who never earned one vote for the party's nomination in either 2020 or 2024, AND is working harder than ever to disqualify and incarcerate the opposition party candidate before the election.

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Saints...

Continued from Page 12

earliest example of "Carpenter's Gothic" church architecture, was erected in 1852. During the Federal occupation of Tuscumbia in the 1860's, the church was occupied by the Union Army to stable horses. In 1874, the church was extensively damaged by a tornado. As a result, the building was reinforced with iron rods and the later addition of buttresses. The church contains original furnishings and early stained-glass windows. St. John's Church was closed for regular services in 1955 but remains a consecrated place of worship and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the history and the service.

For more information or to donate toward the preservation of the historic church, contact Ninon Parker, Church Trustee, 106 N. Dickson St., Tuscumbia, AL 35674; or phone 256-710-9081.

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Deceiving and Being Deceived

2 Timothy 3:13 "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." **Job 12:16** "With him *is* strength and wisdom: the deceived and the deceiver *are* his." When darkness prevails over men's souls, deception and confusion enjoy their greatest moments! People today are looking for physical and eternal security which the world cannot provide! Note these scriptures above carefully and these that follow. **James 3:16** "For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work." 1 Corinthians 3:18 "Let no man deceive himself." **Ephesians 5:6a** "Let no man deceive you with vain words:" Ignorance and arrogance and the deceiver seem to hold hands. Deception brings a false sense of security and is fostered by the father of lies, the devil, who is after your soul. The one and only message Satan has is deception and the world's best is no match for him. Read: **Job 41:10** None *is* so fierce that dare stir him (Devil) up: who then is able to stand before me (GOD)? The Devil wants worship and uses religion to get it. One world cleric recently stated: "all religions are paths to God." What a blasphemous lie! No religion or church has the power to save.

1 John 5:19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness." **James 4:4** "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." **Revelation 12:9** "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 20:10 "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." We are small potatoes trying to fight Satan in our own power. **Isaiah 40:29** "He (GOD) giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have no might* he (GOD) increaseth strength." Who are you trusting for salvation and strength? SEE Ephesians 1:12 & 13!

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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Enthusiasm | ___ D ___ | Day for tree planting | ___ B ___ |
| 2. Complete travesty | ___ A ___ | Air ___ One | ___ O ___ |
| 3. Where walls meet | ___ R | Trumpet kin | ___ T |
| 4. Beauty's suitor | ___ E ___ | TNT explosion | ___ L ___ |
| 5. Billfold | W ___ | Pavlova's dance | B ___ |
| 6. Mommy's partner | ___ D ___ | Groovy | ___ N ___ |
| 7. More solidified | ___ I ___ | Agriculturalist | ___ A ___ |
| 8. Maritime | ___ A ___ | Belly-button | ___ E ___ |
| 9. Ship's load | C ___ | No. Dakota's largest | F ___ |
| 10. Rainforest | ___ N ___ | Multi task | ___ G ___ |

Puzzle Whirl

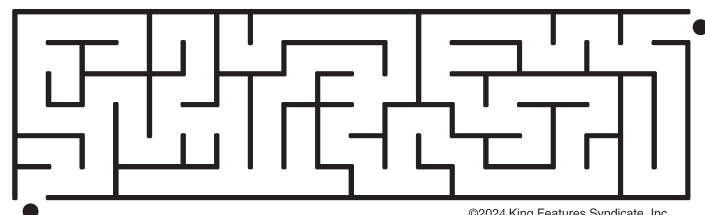
MINI SUDOKU

			2	5
2				4
	4	5		
4	6	3	2	
3				

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 6-box square contains all of the numbers from one to six.

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Kids' Maze



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WORD LADDERS

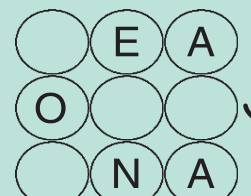
Can you go from BLANK to BRIDE in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

BLANK

BRIDE

Answers on Page 30

WORD SPIRAL



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

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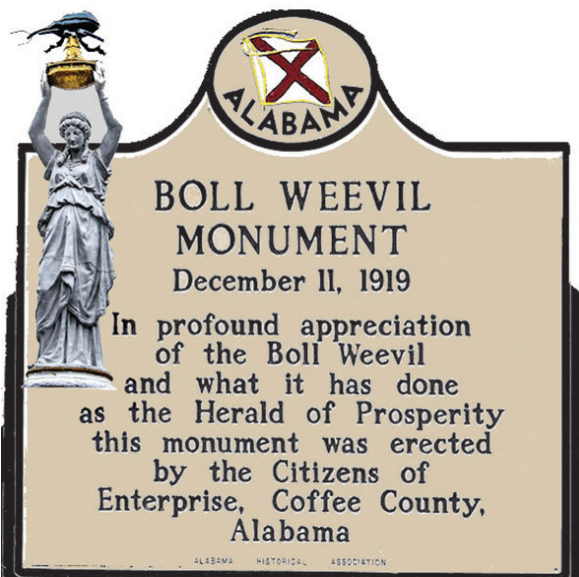
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~ Courtesy David Curott ~ author of Historical Markers & other "Signs of the Past"

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Letters...

A Battle for Rulership

Continued from Page 12

Statutes. If not, then their fate was to have a ruler that would be just like every other nation. So, America, as a non-Hebrew (Gentile) people, could have the same covenant blessings as Israel, simply by grafting into their covenant and following His Word.

Israel has flourished, despite battles against their very existence throughout history, fulfilling the words to childless Abraham that his descendants would be "more numerous than the stars of heaven."

America has flourished, with a legal system based upon the Mosaic law and a people dedicated to living out the Words of the Almighty in everyday life.

The battle we face now is for rulership – whose law will we follow and who gets to make the rules. Will we be ruled by Him, based on Truth and Justice (the Golden Rule – His 2 greatest commandments which equals true freedom)? Or will we choose to rule ourselves, following our own ways, producing bondages galore (as we already see in our lands)?

Freedom or Bondage: we get to choose. And this upcoming election makes our choices crystal clear.

Freedom = Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

Ephesians 2:14 -- For Christ himself is our way of peace. He has made peace between Jews and Gentiles by making us all one family . . .

Debra Barnes
Florence

A Truly Vile Creature

Dear Editor,

Well, here we are, at the end of a long political campaign. We vote for the next president of the United States on November 5. It may be crowded because Alabama is one of the few states that doesn't provide ample opportunities for early voting. Be that as it may, it's important for everyone to exercise this

most crucial right as a citizen.

I would like to point out that Donald Trump is truly a vile creature that doesn't have one positive character trait.

He said that Senator John McCain wasn't a hero because he was shot down and captured. That's true. He wasn't a hero for being shot down and captured. He was a hero because of how he comported himself after capture. Because his father was an Admiral, the Vietnamese offered him freedom in 1968. He refused because the Vietnamese wouldn't release the other POW's. He spent an additional five years imprisoned and tortured.

The man has no morals. No empathy for others. On television in 2015, he contorted his arms in an apparent imitation of a journalist who has a congenital joint condition called Arthrogyrosis that limits movement in his arms.

And, because of his near-total control of Republicans in Congress, he will do everything he can to see that the United States either withdraws from NATO -- which has kept the peace in most of the world for 75 years -- or refuses to come to their aid if attacked. You folks better wake up. The man is the greatest danger we have faced in our history. He wants to have concentration camps, in the beginning for undocumented people, but we know how that ends. First, undocumented, then slowly it becomes anyone who appears Hispanic. Then Jewish. Arabic. Italian. Greek.

Donald Trump uses fear and hate. That's it. Fear and/or hate of anyone whose appearance, speech, or religion is different from his idea of what is acceptable. A tiny tidbit of info—84% of aliens crossing the border are Christians.

Let's not forget he was quite vocal from 2016 that he would do everything in his power to overturn a woman's right to an abortion. And he did. Putting three right-wing nut justices on the Supreme Court which tipped the balance. So, a right that women had for fifty years was gone. Some 1-issue voters can't be persuaded to change.

I just hope every voter, regardless of party, researches and seeks out the facts and knows who, exactly, they are voting for.

Rodney Osborn
Florence

Your Tired, Your Poor

Editor,

I've been thinking. Maybe we were once a great country, and everyone knew. The entire world knew. In 1885, the Lady in the Harbor arrived. Honoring alliances. In 1903, this was added: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

How many of you want that removed? How many want to storm her bow and tear her down? Where are the true Americans? Those that honor those words written in stone.

Or legally, I believe every asylum-seeking human being could sue the pants off the Lady herself!

Lady Liberty doesn't just represent our honor, our past, and our future, but our God as well. It is written.

Linda Johnson
Florence

Its Farm to School in US

Editor,

Farm to School is a win for students, a win for farmers, and a win for communities. It strengthens our food system and our local economies, and it provides opportunities for students to develop new skills, such as agricultural or livestock production, and marketing, business, and entrepreneurship.

Over the past decade, the farm to school movement has exploded across the U.S., reaching millions of students in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and U.S. territories. School gardens, school farms, high tunnels, and

farm field trips have expanded the classroom and hands-on learning for students.

Students and farmers alike are growing local food for cafeteria trays, and farm to school practices help children learn about where food comes from and make healthier choices while also creating new markets for local and regional farmers. Farm to school also helps more students explore careers in food systems, farming, and agriculture to which they might not otherwise be exposed.

Many states celebrate National Farm to School Month with special events, such as holding local food tastings like the Great Apple Crunch, launching a Harvest of the Month program, introducing local meats and proteins, or organizing a weeklong series of activities. These special events are providing even more opportunities to get involved this October and bring the farm right into school.

Find out how your state celebrates by exploring the National Farm to School Month Events Calendar at farmtoschoolmonth.org#events

Sandra Renner
Chief People Officer
Center for Rural Affairs
Lyons, NE

All Deserve Paid Leave

Editor,

Millions of working American families are facing a crisis: how to care for loved ones. Too many Americans simply cannot afford their own care and are unable to take time off work for the birth of a child, a loved one falling ill, or an aging parent.

Most of us have no access to any sort of paid leave, and few employers provide leave to employees. This leaves more than 1 in 5 Americans, or 53 million people, working as unpaid family caregivers – providing more than \$600 billion in unpaid care annually. My family is among the millions who struggle with this every day.

See LETTERS...Pg 30



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Community Notes...

Continued from page 11

American Legion Post 31 in Tusculumbia is spearheading a drive to purchase gift bags for area Veterans in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Colbert County. Donations may be mailed to American Legion Post 31, 110 N. Main Street Tusculumbia, AL 35674, or may be given at the Church of Christ Annex during Veterans' Day festivities on Nov. 11.

Connect Group Shoals/Quad Cities Meeting • Saturday, November 23, 12pm at Sherrod Avenue Church of Christ, 1207 Sherrod Avenue, Florence. Free!!!
RSVP: connectgroupshoals@gmail.com

com Leader: Jared Culwell 256-339-8327

Jenny Morris - the managing director for Autism Support of Alabama will speak about services and programs! All are welcome to attend!

In preparation for the election of officers and executive committee members next month, the NAACP Tri-County Branch reminds all members in good standing that they are eligible to vote for nominated officers and executive committee members on Thursday, November 21 at Michael Community Center, 1001 East 17th Street in Sheffield. Polls will open and voting will

take place via email by members who are in good standing at least 30 days prior to the election. Assistants will be on hand between 5-7pm. The election will be by an emailed ballot.

For more information, visit www.NAACPTriCountyAlabama.org, call 256-383-4260, or 256-381-1862, or contact Secretary@NAACPTriCountyAlabama.org

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

Shoals Artists Guild Meeting Friday, November 15, 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.

Toddler Time Storytime (Ages 18-36 months) - October 29, 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, October 30, 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

See NOTES... page 29

2024 Halloween Coloring Contest WINNERS!

A Special Thanks to Everyone for taking part in our 2024 Halloween Coloring Contest! We Had hundreds of entries!

Ages 2-4

1st
Rhett Atencio
4
Florence



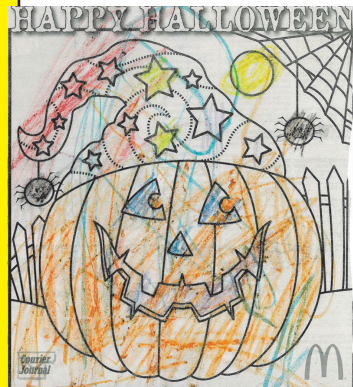
Ages 5-7

1st
Samara Smith
7
Florence



Ages 8-10

1st
Dillion Murphy
10
Florence



2nd
Alexx Henderson
3
Courtland

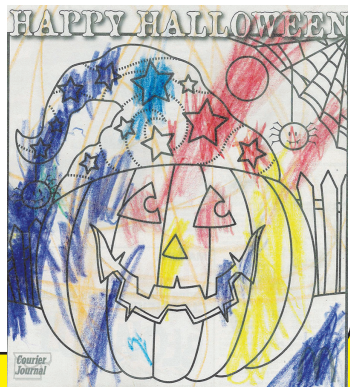


2nd
Maci Victory
6
Tuscumbia



2nd
Addi-Grace Painter
9
Florence

3rd
Apollo Wallace
2
Florence



3rd
Brook Folkwein
5
Florence



3rd
Brantley Baggett
8
Florence



Top 3 Winners In Each Age Group, Pictured Above Receive:


Happy Meal
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Halloween Goodies!



HONORABLE MENTIONS:

2-4 Age Group: Blakely Brewer, Linley Price, Colt Brocken, Natalia Gargis, Hensley Welch, Brendan Francisco.

5-7 Age Group: Robert Hite, Madeline Hasklacker, Eliza Vinson, Nolan Shedd, Micah Thompson, Zosia Schoherr, Colton McCullough, Jada Pope, Max King, Sophia Quick, Scarlet Fleming.

8-10 Age Group: Vivian Hite, Mart Bell Wylie, Justin Farrar, Dean Demastus, Virginia Hite, Nora Judson, Kaygen Puckett, Ophelia Benson, Jackson Roberson, Jacob Shaffer, Layla May Brackin, Piper Hatton, Alice Woody, Skyler Lawson, Will McAlpin, Shelby Peppers.

Pick Up Your Prizes Beginning Tues. Oct. 29

WINNERS MAY PICK UP PRIZES at the Courier Journal, 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence

Notes...

Continued from page 29

Joints in Motion, chair exercise class, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at The Club (Florence Senior Center), 9:30am. No charge. BINGO Wednesdays 10:15am until our 11:30am lunch (w/ \$1 lunch donation)! If you are 60+ you can join us for lunch and games. 256-760-6420.

The The Full Moon Players and Cypress Moon Studios in Sheffield have two great shows remaining this season, one this fall and a holiday show in December.

"The Haunting of Hill House" written by Andrew F. Leslie from the novel by Shirley Jackson is November 7-10.

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.

Free Clothes - The Samaritan House, 600 Geneva Ave., Muscle Shoals, gives away free clothing each Tuesday from 9-11am - except for every 5th Tuesday. Donations are accepted.

The Central Community Center will have breakfast 7-9am on the third Saturday of each month. Saturday, November 16, 7am - Central Community Center - 4130 Lauderdale 6, Florence.

See NOTES... page 30

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LIVES ARE FOREVER CHANGED.

The destruction, devastation and hopelessness for those experiencing the fury of Hurricane Helene and its Tropical Storm aftermath is incalculable. Recovery will take years for most of the areas affected. Hundreds are dead, towns are washed away, and some survivors have lost everything and will never fully recover.

With a slightly different storm path, this would have impacted the Tennessee Valley. We can count our blessings, pray for those involved and the ones trying to help, and when possible, donate whatever amount we can to help those in dire need.

Give today through your church, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, Americares, or any other trusted charitable organization. Research your national charity of choice at the Better Business Bureau's site, Give.org. Thank you.

A local resident helps free a car that became stranded in a stretch of flooding road as Tropical Storm Helene strikes, on the outskirts of Boone, N.C. on Sept. 27, 2024. Photo Credit: Jonathan Drake, Reuters



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Community Notes...

Continued from page 29

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
 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 final 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.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 5140 meets - Thursday, November 21, 6:30pm at 127 South Royal Ave. in Florence - (Every 3rd Thursday each month) Meetings start at 6:30pm. For more information contact vfwpost5140@gmail.com

Saint Joseph's Catholic Church will host a Craft and Bake Sale Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17. In addition to the crafts and bake sale, there will be a White Elephant Sale and a 50/50 Raffle. 203 Plum St. in Florence. Sat. 8am-7pm - Sun. 9am-3pm.

Disabled American Veterans in Sheffield meets every fourth Tuesday of each month. (November 28) at 1409 W. 11th St. in Sheffield - 256-381-8229. Dinner at 6pm - Business at 7pm. Veterans Serving Veterans. Open Monday-Wednesday 9am-1:30pm.

The Florence Senior Center (The Club) - Diamonds in the Rough Presents Fabulous Bus Tours for 2025. Fabulous Bus Tours for 2025. Planning is underway now!

The Ark Encounter & Creation Museum - Apr 07 - 11, 5 Days - 4 Nights 8 meals: 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners \$815 pp/Double Occupancy

See the Bible come to life on this amazing bus tour to The Ark Encounter, Creation Museum, and more!

San Antonio, TX-Feb 16-25, 7 days-6 nights, 10 meals: 6 breakfast and 4 dinners. \$915 pp/double occupancy.

Cruise the River Walk, tour San Antonio, The Alamo and LBJ Ranch, and more!

Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg & Historic Norfolk - May 4-10, 7 days 6 nights, 10 meals: 6 breakfast 4 dinners. \$1130 pp/double occupancy.

Visit Virginia Beach boardwalk, Norfolk Naval Base Harbor Cruise, visit battleship Nauticus and Wisconsin. Mariner's park and museum, aquarium and more!

Cape Cod & Martha's Vineyard, - July 2-20, 9 days 8 nights, 14 meals: 8 breakfast 6 dinners. \$1370 pp/double occupancy.

Escorted visit to Martha's Vineyard, historic sea side towns, "outer cape", JFK Museum, Foxwood Casino Resort and more!

Beautiful Vermont, October 11-19, - 9 days 8 nights, 14 meals: 8 breakfast 6 dinners. \$1698 pp/double occupancy.

Visit authentic Maple Farm, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Dinner Cruise/Entertainment on Lake Champlain, Sherburne Museum, Cider Mill, Quarry and more!

Lancaster Show Trip & The Dutch Country, November 16-22, 2025, 7 days 6 nights, 10 meals, 6 breakfast 4 dinners. \$1130 pp/double occupancy.

Several shows including, "NOAH", the Magic and Wonder theater, guided tour of Philadelphia, Lancaster and Kitchen Kettle Village, admission to the Amish experience & Jacob's choice at the FX theater. Holocaust Memorial, Liberty Bell and Hershey's Chocolate World and more!

For more information, visit: www.grouptrips.com/TheClub or call The Club 256.760.6642 or email Fdavis@florenceal.org

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 River Squares dance every Monday 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.org. New class will begin July 8 at 5:30pm. No experience necessary. Drug, alcohol, tobacco & weapon free facility. 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.

Zodiac Players Season - The Zodiac Players have the following plays scheduled: "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, or to become a patron, call 256-764-1700 or go to theshoalstheatre.org.

Oakdale Missionary Baptist Church 1215 E. Reeder Street in Florence welcomes all children to our new Children's Church Class! Ages "pottie trained" to 12 years. "Mrs. Trish" Robbins is Children's Director 10am Sunday School 11am Children's Church and regular Church Service with Kenneth Floyd, Pastor

See NOTES... page 31

Letters...

All Deserve Paid Leave

Continued from Page 26

My life changed in an instant a few months ago when my brother Dave, his wife Katie, and their child Mikey were involved in a terrible car accident. We lost my brother that night, and Katie was severely injured, but thankfully Mikey survived physically unscathed.

And as if that weren't enough, we discovered that Katie was pregnant. She'd planned to surprise our family with the news the next week. Instead, we were left grieving the loss of a husband, a father, and a brother, while trying to support a family that was suddenly in crisis.

Our family came together as best we could. Katie and Mikey needed care, and we all needed time to process our grief. But time wasn't something we had the luxury of affording.

Why? Because work beckoned.

Like many Americans, most of my family doesn't have paid leave in the event of an emergency. In fact, I'm the only one in my family with access to a paid leave program. My mother-in-law had to take unpaid leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act to care for Katie.

Imagine going weeks, even months, without a paycheck to care for a family member. Most people can't afford that.

The rest of my family — farmers, preschool teachers, nursing assistants, small business owners — also don't have paid leave. These are the same people we applauded and called "essential" during the pandemic.

I'm sad that we lost Dave, but I'm also angry

that when tragedy hits, our policies make life harder for families. This is a policy failure. There is no federal rule that provides paid family leave or sick days for all workers. Only a small percentage of workers have paid family leave through their jobs. Most aren't so fortunate. Millions of workers don't even have a single paid sick day.

That's why we need paid family leave for all.

This isn't just about my family. This is about all our families. It's about the kind of country we want to live in. A country where reality is acknowledged, care is valued, families are supported, and where no one faces tragedy alone. No wonder paid leave programs have massive support from voters across party lines.

It's time every politician running for office supported paid family leave. And then in 2025, let's pass paid leave for all.

For Dave, for Katie, for Mikey, and for every family like mine that's faced a moment of crisis.

Tony Iovieno
 Individual Giving Mgr
 Family Values @ Work
 Battle Creek, MI.

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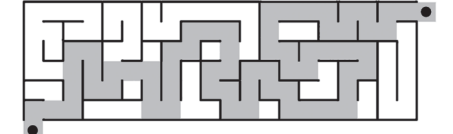


Puzzle Whirl Answers

Even Exchange answers

1. Ardor, Arbor
2. Farce, Force
3. Corner, Cornet
4. Beast, Blast
5. Wallet, Ballet
6. Daddy, Dandy
7. Firmer, Farmer
8. Naval, Navel
9. Cargo, Fargo
10. Jungle, Juggle

Kids' Maze Solution



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WORD LADDER

Answer
BLANK, BLINK, BRINK
BRING, BRINE, BRIDE

Word Spiral

Answer
ABANDONER

MINI SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Notes...

Continued from page 30

Dance Lessons Florence Parks and Rec will be offering small group ballroom dance lessons at Royal Avenue Recreation Center. Beginner class 1-2pm, intermediate class 2-3pm. There are also select times available for individual/couple lessons. These lessons are perfect for weddings, formals, proms, lead outs, cotillions etc. Space is limited. Call Royal Ave, Rec Center, 256-760-6245, to sign up.

The Alabama Music Hall of Fame – Star Player exhibit will be on display at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame, 617 U.S. 72, Tusculumbia. Rotating exhibits at the hall of fame highlight accomplishments of area music achievers. Details: 256-381-4417.

Volunteers are needed at Florence Lauderdale Animal Services. All ages and interests are sought. It's an ideal option for high school students who need service letters for scholarships, or just want to contribute, and have specific/tight windows of availability. Volunteers can be those who like to work with animals, or those who would rather just do other work around the facilities. Contact Whitney at 256-762-1124 or Carla at 256-904-0517.

There is space HERE for YOUR EVENT, and plenty of eyes to read it. Email your information to editor@CourierJournal.net.

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

Gerald Clemmons needs a kidney! Gerald is a lifelong resident of Lauderdale County. He has kidney disease and is on dialysis. He has been told that he needs a kidney transplant, and a living donor is his best chance to survive. Please consider becoming a living kidney donor for him at Vanderbilt Hospital.

You can help! To be a donor, you will need to: know your blood type, be at least 18 years of age, be in good physical health, and have a good mental disposition. This week can provide more information: <https://bit.ly/VandyLivingDonor>

If you can't donate, please share this information.

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Alabama Hospice of the Shoals is currently seeking volunteers to serve in Colbert, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Franklin, Marion, and Winston counties. For more information, contact Susan Coke at 256-314-1204.

Shoals CASA is currently looking for new CASA volunteers (Court Appointed Special Advocates) who have a passion for helping children. This is rewarding, active work with local foster children who need someone who represents THEIR interests. The CASA staff makes sure that caring community volunteers have the training, information, and support they need to give local abused and neglected children a voice within the court and child welfare system - A positive adult relationship who will demonstrate compassion and a passion to help children reach a safe and permanent home. The nature of this opportunity will require a background check, references, and six weeks of free training. Other CASA advocates have said it is the most rewarding work they have ever done. The new training class starts in late January. Please call Heather Begley, Shoals CASA's Executive Director, for more information. 256-765-0041.

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 OF THE WEEK
 October 30

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Week of Oct. 23 winner is Ashley Berrios of Florence who correctly guessed "Wok n Roll at 7 points in Florence"



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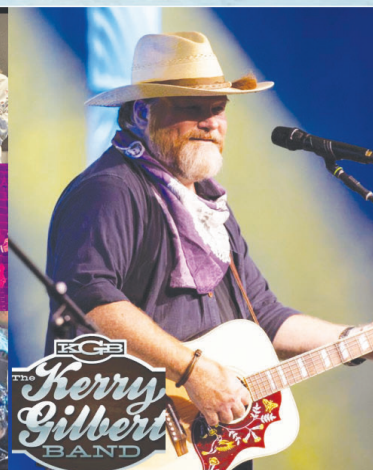
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