

**SRT Board  
Taps Potter**

MOORESVILLE—The Singing River Trail (SRT) Board of Directors recently announced the appointment of **Misti Potter** as the new Executive Director of the Singing River Trail. With over 27 years of nonprofit leadership experience, Potter's career reflects a deep



**Potter** commitment to organizational growth, resource development, and community impact. "Misti's expertise in nonprofit leadership, combined with her proven ability to deliver impactful results, positions her as the ideal choice to lead our organization," said Jared Mitchem, SRT Board Chair. "The board has full confidence in Misti's vision and dedication to furthering the mission of SRT and creating a lasting legacy for North Alabama."

"We are excited to have Misti join us in our mission to bring more opportunities to North Alabama," added Interim Executive Director, **Anna Clem**. "Misti's passion for community-building will be instrumental in driving the vision of SRT. I am confident Misti's ideas and expertise will take Singing River Trail to new heights."

Potter has driven multimillion-dollar campaigns, created award-winning programs, and built community partnerships that strengthened organizational impact across the country.

See **SHORTS...** Page 4

Volume 141 Number 13

January 22, 2025

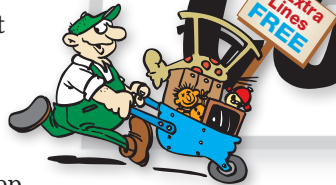
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**Commemorating  
the Walk Before**

MONTGOMERY – The inaugural Historical Marion 2 Selma Bicycle Ride on Thursday, February 20, will commemorate the 60th anniversary of one of the most important moments in Civil Rights history.

The cycling event begins in Marion and rolls 31 miles through Perry and Dallas counties in the heart of the Alabama Black Belt. A kickoff event in Marion is scheduled for February 19. The



The Marion 2 Selma Bicycle Ride on Feb. 20 commemorates the 60th anniversary of civil rights protests in Marion, events that ultimately led to passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Photo courtesy of Montgomery Bicycle Club

event also includes tours, dinners, and special events available to participants.

A peaceful civil rights march in Marion on February 18, 1965 turned violent when state troopers attacked the marchers and shot local activist Jimmie Lee Jackson, who was protecting his mother and grandmother at the time of the shooting. He died eight days later.

The violence in Marion served as

See **2 SELMA...** on Page 2

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The Excitement is Mounting for Shoals Royale

SHOALS—The 3rd Annual Shoals Royale is set to dazzle Northwest Alabama on Saturday, February 8 at the elegant Renaissance Shoals Conference Center (formerly the Marriott Shoals). This highly anticipated event

promises an unforgettable evening of sophistication and entertainment, all in support of vital community programs.

Shoals Royale is an annual casino

See **SHOALS ROYALE...** Page 7

**INSIDE this Issue**

**Automotive Inside**



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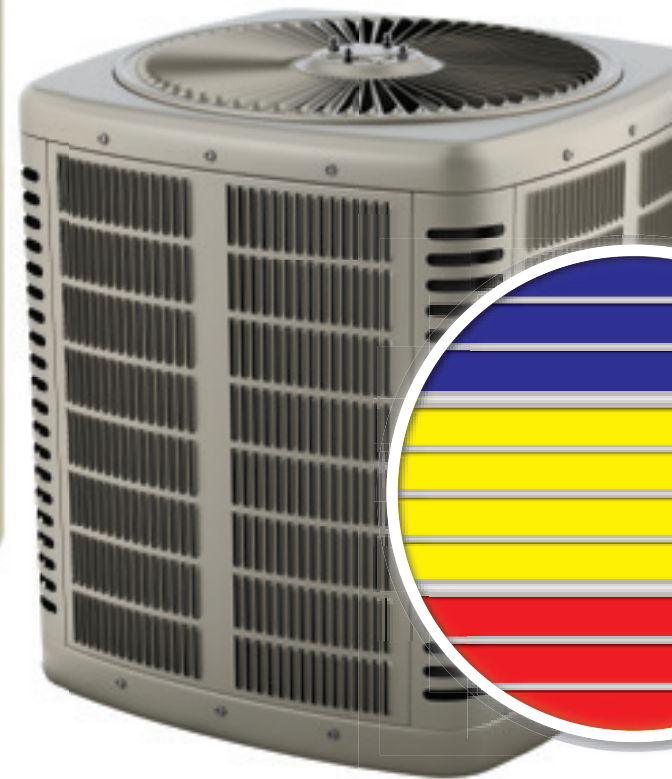


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# 2 Selma...

Continued from Page 1

a precursor to Bloody Sunday and the Selma to Montgomery March a month later, seminal Civil Rights events that galvanized nationwide support for voting rights and paved the way for Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

National television coverage of Bloody Sunday seared the Selma violence into the American consciousness, thanks largely to black-and-white video of the carnage, while Jackson's death and the violence in Marion was often lost in the fog of history.

"They're coming to ride a bike, but people can come and learn about other historical aspects in the area," said Clay Carmichael, an organizer of the Marion 2 Selma Bike Ride who serves on the Selma City Council. "While they're here, they can take tours, they can stay the night, they can visit our incredible restaurants and shops and art galleries, and they can really immerse themselves into the history of the Black Belt region and learn about its importance to American history."

"It's important to remember that what happened in Marion led to the events in Selma in March 1965," Carmichael said. "Marion sometimes gets left out of the story, and we hope the inaugural Marion 2 Selma Bicycle Ride will help spotlight the courage shown in Marion 60 years ago."

"I think we too easily forget history and the people who made the ultimate sacrifice," added Marion Mayor Dexter Hinton. "This bicycle ride allows current and past acknowledgments with some fresh air and self-reflection. History is our starting point."

The Marion 2 Selma Bicycle Ride takes place just two days before the Selma to Montgomery Bike Ride on Saturday, February 22.

The Marion 2 Selma Bike Ride costs \$25 and Carmichael emphasized that organizers are also providing transportation for out-of-town cyclists who arrive at the Montgomery airport. Online registration is available at <https://www.bikereg.com/2025m2s>.



[bikereg.com/2025m2s](https://www.bikereg.com/2025m2s).

A separate registration fee is necessary for riders wishing to participate in the Selma to Montgomery cycling event. Registration in the Selma to Montgomery ride is not required to participate in the Marion 2 Selma events.

All proceeds from the Marion 2 Selma Bike Ride will help fund bicycle infrastructure in Marion and Selma.

"We are honored to be part of the first Marion 2 Selma Bicycle Ride," Alabama Black Belt Adventures Association director Pam Swanner said. "Not only do proceeds from this event benefit an extremely worthy cause for enhancing tourism's impact in the Black Belt, but it's wonderful to play a part in acknowledging and highlighting the amazing contributions made to the Civil Rights Movement in Marion."

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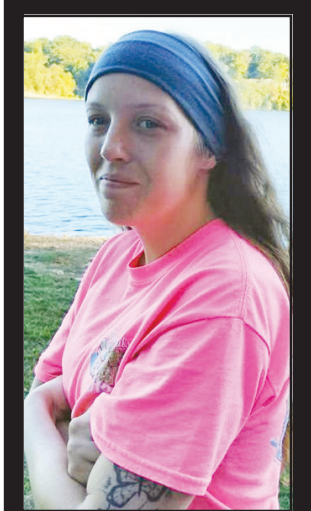
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## Shorts...

### SRT Board Taps Potter

Continued from Page 1

Her primary focus was on Alabama, Tennessee, and Texas. Misti's dedication to empowering communities has earned her accolades, including being named Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Regional and National Professional of the Year. She also holds an Ethics in Business Award and Vistage Executive Leadership Award.

Potter is a proud alumna of Athens State University, and she resides in Limestone County with her husband of 29 years and her family. When complete the SRT will span north Alabama, including the Shoals

### Britt Wants Term Limits

WASHINGTON DC -- U.S. Senator **Katie Britt** of Alabama was honored for her steadfast commitment for term limits on members of Congress. U.S. Term Limits (USTL), the nation's largest pro-term limits group, honored Britt at the capitol this week.

In addition to signing the term limits pledge, Britt cosponsored senate joint resolution a (SJR1) a measure being spearheaded through Congress by USTL. Members of the U.S. Term Limits team presented Britt with an award inscribed with her pledge vowing that, as a member of Congress, she will cosponsor and vote an amendment of three (3) house terms and (2) senate terms and no longer limit. More than 60 members of Congress have cosponsored the U.S. House and Senate resolutions.

According to the latest nationwide poll on term limits conducted by Pew Research, term limits enjoy wide bipartisan support. Pew's analysis states, "An overwhelming majority of adults (87%) favor limiting the number of terms that members of Congress are allowed to serve. This includes a majority 56% who strongly favor this proposal, just 12% are opposed."

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## Community Notes

Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following week's issue. • Email to [editor@courierjournal.net](mailto:editor@courierjournal.net)

**The TN River Bass Club fishes monthly** on Tennessee River and Bear Creek lakes. Welcome boaters or non-boaters 16 or older of all experience levels to join. Club is based in Sheffield. For more information, contact Tommy at 256-627-5662.

**Connect Group - Upcoming special needs parents group meeting** Saturday February 1 at 11am at Sherrod Ave church of Christ in Florence. This meeting will feature guest speaker, Deb Mattison, a highly respected IEP attorney from the Birmingham area. She will do a Q&A session to help answer questions from the group. No cost. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Jared at 256-339-8327 or [connectgroupshoals@gmail.com](mailto:connectgroupshoals@gmail.com).

**Hush Money - Saturday, January 25, 7pm at Champy's Famous Fried Chicken Muscle Shoals.**

Emerging from the foothills of the southern Appalachians, Hush Money is a diverse original band with a sound that is deeply rooted in vintage rock, blues, and outlaw country.

A Hush Money live show is an experience for all music enthusiasts.

**Ribbon Cutting Applause Fine Arts School** - Wednesday, January 22, Noon-12:30pm at 713 Davison Avenue, Muscle Shoals. Please join us for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!

**Max Russell and The Shakedown Kings** - The Stage at LaGrange, 1050 Duncan Lane, Leighton, will feature Max Russell and The Shakedown Kings from 5-9 p.m. Jan. 25.

**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 Camerata will resume rehearsals on Thursday, January 23 at 6:30pm** in the choral room at UNA. This cycle will feature Broadway and show tunes, as well as love songs. The concert is scheduled for March 18. Our talented conductor is Rebecca Rockhill and Karen Cantrell is our very capable accompanist. New singers are welcome. For more information, call 256-810-9512.

**Cypress Moon Studios Presents: 'Call Me Bean'** on January 23-26. Sabrina is a normal teenager. She goes to school. She loves sports. She especially loves her friends, but she does she doesn't tolerate injustice. Bean doesn't mind doing what is right to take care of something or someone that she believes in. Bean is always up for a challenge, especially when she can make a difference. For additional information, contact Cypress Moon Studios at 256-335-6961. 1000 Alabama Ave in Sheffield. Visit [etix.com/ticket/014884/cypressmoonstudios](http://etix.com/ticket/014884/cypressmoonstudios) for tickets.

**DivorceCare at First Baptist Church Center Star** meets each Tuesday night from 6-7:30pm in the youth building for the next 11 weeks. Each week is on a different topic.

Join at anytime. DivorceCare is a place to find Love and encouragement within a Christian group. For more information or to register, visit [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org) or contact Beverly Henderson at 256-762-6431.

**The Florence Duplicate Bridge Club** meets at the Royal Avenue Recreation Center, 420 N. Royal Avenue, Florence, every Monday and Wednesday (except holidays). Players new to duplicate should arrive early for guidance. Players must be fully vaccinated. 256-810-1107

**Lego Build - Tuesday, January 21, 3:30pm-4:15pm** at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. Thousands of Legos and your creativity make this program FUN!

Additional Dates: Tuesday, February 18, 3:30pm-4:15pm; Tuesday, March 18, 3:30pm-4:15pm; Tuesday, April 15, 3:30pm-4:15pm

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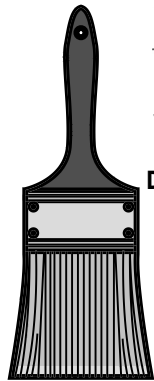
**Call or Text: 256-762-5800 • 256-710-8198**

See NOTES... page 6

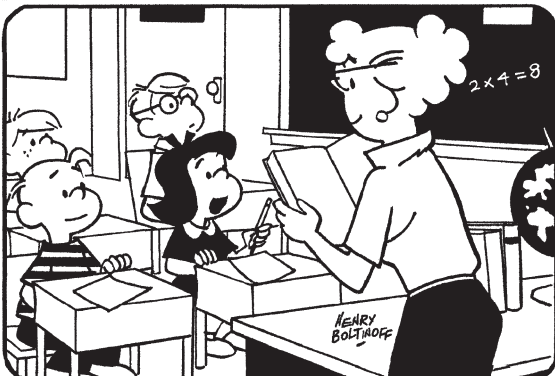
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## HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Desk leg is missing. 2. Book is missing. 3. Doorknob is higher. 4. Blackboard is wider. 5. Bow is missing. 6. Pencil is added on desk.

## Big Brothers Big Sisters OF THE SHOALS

### IGNITE. EMPOWER. DEFEND.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters creates one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. With over 80 children in the Shoals area waiting for a positive role model, will you step up to ignite their potential?**

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**Courier Journal ADOPT A FRIEND**

The animals you see here are currently in local animal shelters or rescue facilities. Adoption fees vary and include having your new friend spayed or neutered, if necessary. Help us help these and other animals by adopting a new friend today.

**Meet Jimmy Kibble!** This handsome boy wants to be sitting on your sofa because he is absolutely adorable. Jimmy is sweet, loving and playful. Come by to meet him to see how wonderful he is. He has a beautiful coat and is a very special dog. The adoption fee is currently \$85 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 handsome guy.

**Meet Bella K!** She has such a great personality and is loving and affectionate. She wants to be by your side and get a lot of your talks and attention. She would be fun to have at your house for a doggie sleepover. The adoption fee is currently \$85 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 sweet girl.

**Meet Sasha!** This vibrant girl is full of life and personality. You won't be able to stop smiling once you meet her. Fostering is free. She is medium size and energy. The adoption fee is currently \$85 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 wonderful pup.

# Notes...

Continued from page 5

**Workforce Development Classes - Friday, January 24, 9am-2pm** at Leighton Public Library, 8740 Main St. Leighton, AL. Workforce Development Classes -

Free Workforce Development Classes will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 17 and continuing every Friday for six weeks at Leighton Public Library, 8740 Main St., Leighton. Instructor is Dr. Terri Johnson.

Additional Dates: Friday, January 31, 9am-2pm; Friday, February 7, 9am-2pm

**Computer & Technology Classes in February** - will be hosted at the Florence Lauderdale Public Library.

Registration is required due to limited seating. Call 256-764-6564 ext. 127 or email [classes@fjpl.org](mailto:classes@fjpl.org) to sign up! Each class is from 10:30am-12pm and includes both iPhones and Androids

**Thursday, February 6 Smartphone/ Tablet - Basics**

Become familiar with navigating your iPhone or Android device. Learn the difference between wi-fi connections and data plans along with how to adjust text size and font. Learn basic definitions such as syncing, apps, and the Cloud. , 10:30am-12pm

**Thursday, February 13 Smartphone/ Tablet - Communications**

Set up your email account for easy access on your iPhone or Android. Learn how to communicate with your contacts via text message, Facebook message, or video chat.

**Thursday, February 20 Smartphone/ Tablet - Photos**

Learn to use your iPhone or Android camera. Edit your photos with a variety of settings and organize them into folders. Then share your photos via email, text message, or social media.

**Thursday, February 27 Smartphone/ Tablet - Streaming**

Become familiar with apps for streaming music and videos on your device. We will discuss the pricing, content, and compatibility of the popular apps and streaming services.

**D&D Tuesday, January 21, 4-5pm** at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. If you're looking for a beginner D&D campaign, this is for you!

For our nerdy teens who want a consistent campaign, join us for our Spring sessions where we continue to explore our love for all things fantasy. We will be meeting at 4:00 PM every other Tuesday and Thursday.

Please only pick ONE session to attend each week as spots are limited. Ages 13-18.

Registration is required. Email [teens@fjpl.org](mailto:teens@fjpl.org) to reserve your spot.

**Winter Wonderland Market 3-Day Event** at 1242 N Wood Ave in Florence; January 24-26; Friday 5:30-10pm, Saturday 10-4pm, Sunday 1-5pm

**Celebrate Dick Cooper's 79th birthday** on January 26 at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame with live performances, an open jam session, and a night of music and memories honoring his contributions to Alabama's music scene. Known for his passion, humor, and love for music, this free event is open to all music lovers. The celebration starts at 4pm. For more info, call the AMHoF at 256-381-4417.

**Weapons and Tools Presentation - Sunday, January 26, 1pm** at the Florence Indian Mound Museum

This event with Bill Brekeen, cultural interpreter for the Chickasaw Nation, Heritage Preservation division. This program is free and is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums and the Alabama Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association.

**Religious Abuse Support Group of the Shoals** will meet the first (February 2) and last Sunday (Jan. 26) of every month. Time and location will vary. Check Facebook for details: <https://www.facebook.com/ragschoals>

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**NACOLG POSITION AVAILABLE:**

## Case Manager I (Social Worker)

NACOLG is seeking a Case Manager for our Medicaid Waiver Dept.

**Duties:** A Case Manager assesses needs and determines eligibility of prospective clients for waiver services through home visits. The Case Manager develops care plans, coordinates and monitors services, maintains case files, records, and billing.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- \*Registered Nurse in AL or bachelor's degree in social work or related field from an accredited university.
- \*Professional work experience preferred. Previous work experience with Medicaid Waiver program preferred or any combination of education, training and experience that is commensurate with the requirements of the job.
- \*Drug screen, background checks, MVR.

**Starting Salary: \$43,867.20.** This is a full-time job with excellent benefits including paid employee insurance, paid time off, paid holidays, State of Alabama retirement and opportunity for advancement.

Job Submission Requirements: Interested applicants are required to complete a job application. Applications are available at <https://www.nacolg.org/human-resources> or NACOLG, 103 Student Drive, Muscle Shoals, AL

**Deadline to apply: January 29th, 2025**

NACOLG is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

See NOTES... page 22



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# Shoals Royale...

Continued from Page 1

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night fundraising event that unites the community in celebration and purpose. Funds raised support local United Way initiatives and partners, creating a brighter future for Northwest Alabama.

Secure your spot today for an exciting evening of gaming, dancing, and celebration. All funds raised will stay local and support programs that benefit our community.

The evening's entertainment will be provided by DJ 7 11, ensuring an active and

vibrant for all attendees. Tickets are now available for \$100 each or \$175 per couple.

Last minute sponsorships are still available for businesses and individuals looking to make a difference. Showcase your support for our community while gaining visibility among attendees and local leaders.

United Way is also looking for some dedicated volunteers for the evening to help further the evening's magic and make this event a success.

Don't miss out on this premier event that combines elegance and philanthropy.

To purchase tickets, inquire about sponsorships, or sign up to volunteer for the event, please visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/shoalsroyale3/> or contact [kerry@uwshoals.org](mailto:kerry@uwshoals.org).

## NEED HELP?

CONTACT 2-1-1

Your link to community resources

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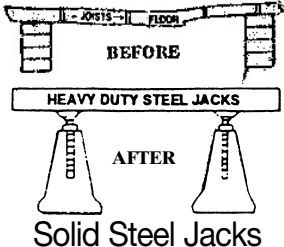
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Guest Commentary

# The Presidential Medal of Freedom

Why Biden Gave it to George Soros

**P**resident Joe Biden rewarded one of the Left's most influential and notorious donors Saturday, (January 4) giving the Presidential Medal of Freedom to George Soros.

The White House announced the honor in a list of 19 recipients, including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and LGBTQ megadonor Tim Gill.

Biden framed Soros' funding as philanthropy in service of "democracy" and "social justice."

"George Soros is an investor, philanthropist, and founder of the Open Society Foundations," the White House explained. "Through his network of foundations, partners and projects in more than 120 countries, Soros has focused on global initiatives that strengthen democracy, human rights, education, and social justice."

Soros, a Hungarian American billionaire

See **MEDAL OF FREEDOM...** on Page 18

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



Tyler O'Neil

# Courier Journal

# in the Shoals

January 22, 2025

# THIS WEEK

## Happening THIS WEEK

## Weapons and Tools

FLORENCE—Recognized Cultural interpreter, Bill Brekeen, will host a presentation about Chickasaw weapons and tools on Sunday, January 26, at 1pm at the

Florence Indian Mound Museum. Brekeen will display and discuss many of the weapons and tools used for hunting, warfare, and farming. All were under the "waste not, want not" philosophy, and required respect for life and the natural world. When harvesting animals, Chickasaws took great care to use as much as possible.

Brekeen serves as a cultural interpreter for the Chickasaw Nation, Heritage Preservation Division, in the historic Chickasaw Homeland.



See **TOOLS...** on Page 10

## Find that Open Mic

FLORENCE—Get ready for a night of heartwarming poetry at Open Mic Night at 6:30pm Wednesday, January 29 at the Kennedy-Douglass Center's Southall House, located at 209 E. Tuscaloosa St. in Florence.



Poets are invited to share their original works with a theme **The Elements: Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water.** This free event will feature readings by **Melissa DeOrazio** of **Dirty Revelers Fame** and distinguished poet **Harry Moore.** That will be followed by an open mic for audience

Weds. Jan. 29 6:30pm

See **OPEN MIC...** Page 17

**THE TENNESSEE VALLEY MUSEUM OF ART** is featuring an exhibit entitled 'Legacy: Influential Women Artists of the Shoals' through January 28. For additional information, call 256-383-0533. 511 N. Water Street in Tusculumbia.

**SHERROD AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST** will host Worshipfest: A Night of Joy-filled Praise on Sunday, January 26 at 5pm. This is going to be a powerful, joy-filled night of praising God in song, led by some very talented leaders who deeply love Christ. Come and worship with many of your favorite songs, both old and new. Be inspired. Infuse your worship with joy! 1207 Sherrod Ave in the north Florence area.

### BASKETBALL MEN

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vs Lipscomb  
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**SAT., JAN. 25 • 6PM**  
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**SAT., JAN 25 • 6PM**  
at Lipscomb  
Nashville, TN

Visit [www.roarlions.com](http://www.roarlions.com) for full team schedules and ticket information

**CELEBRATE DICK COOPER'S 79TH BIRTHDAY** on January 26 at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame with live performances, an open jam session, and a night of music and memories honoring his contributions to Alabama's music scene. Known for his passion, humor, and love for music, this free event is open to all music lovers. The celebration starts at 4pm. For more information, call the AMHoF at 256-381-4417.

## YOUR Letters

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

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

## Children (9%) Face Food Insecurity

Editor,

Child hunger should concern everyone and bridge political divides. Providing children with adequate food is a national responsibility.

The South has the highest average food insecurity and poverty rates, especially in rural areas. Alabama and six other southern states opted out of the summer 2024 federal food program that provided funds to families for children who received meals during the school year.

The summer EBT program benefited 21 million children, but another 10 million in states that

rejected the funding faced the possibility of going hungry.

Good nutrition is critical to learning and affects national security. Underfed children fall behind. That is why Congress passed the School Lunch and Child Nutrition Acts and School Breakfast

Program.

Nationally, about 9% of households with children experience food insecurity. Yet only about half of eligible families participate in SNAP and other nutrition assistance programs due to requirements, stigma, and lack of information.

About 13% of Alabama households face food insecurity. Churches and non-profits in the Shoals are working with the Food Bank to provide supplemental groceries to the many local households seeking help. More funds and volunteers are required.

But the state must act. Our politicians seem to care more about "parental rights" and helping subsidize religious, private, and home schooling than about the

... Our vet partners have really stepped up this year and kept up with our demands ...



See **LETTERS...** on Page 23

# Cold or flu?

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## Medicare Minute

### “4 Parts of Medicare”

Did you know there were four parts to Medicare not two? Did you know that two of the parts you can get through the federal government but the other two parts, if you choose to take them, must be purchased through private insurance companies? Finally, did you know most people have an option as to whether to sign up for three of the four parts of Medicare? To some these are very simple questions but to others they can be very confusing.

The four parts of Medicare are labeled Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D. Over the next few weeks we will discuss each of the four parts in detail but for today let's simplify things by saying that Part A is your inpatient or hospital care, Part B covers your outpatient services, Part C is called Medicare Advantage and Part D is your prescription drug plan.

The two parts of Medicare that you receive through the federal government are Parts A & B. The two parts that can be purchased through private insurance companies are Parts C & D. So which parts are optional for most people? That would be Parts B, C and D.

It's very important for the Medicare beneficiary to be familiar with each of the four parts of Medicare and what they cover. Here are some ways you can do that. First you can go to Medicare.gov. This is an excellent website that will tell you everything you want to know about Medicare. You can also refer to the “Medicare and You” handbook. Another way to learn about the basics of Medicare is to attend one of the Medicare Education Classes our company conducts. They are free of charge and open to the public. Just contact our office for times and dates. Of course you can also check out the “Medicare Minute” each week in the Courier Journal!!

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





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# SHOALS

## Royale

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## Tools...

Continued from Page 8

He began this position with the Chickasaw Nation in March 2015 after retiring with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks after a 30-plus year career. His duties include providing homeland tours to tribal officials, employees, Chickasaw citizens, and the public. Brekeen conducts research for general knowledge, programs, and publications, assists with the development and facilitation of educational programs

**A recent Chickasaw cultural show visitor discusses ancient tools and weapons with Bill Brekeen, at right.**

[scenictrace.com](http://scenictrace.com)



for all age groups, and provides presentations at local agencies, organizations, schools, and community outreach events. He enjoys anything outdoor-related and is passionate about sharing the rich and proud culture and history of the Chickasaw people. This program is free and is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums and the Alabama Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. The Florence Indian Mound Museum is located at 1028 S. Court St. in Florence. Call 256-760-6427 for more information.

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|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
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| 2004 CHEVROLET COLORADO    | 1GCDT136148114353 | 2017 HONDA PILOT         | 5FN9YF6H09H004912 |
| 2003 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER | 1GNDS13S332270936 | 2006 HONDA CR-V          | SHSRD78936U424864 |
| 2008 CHEVROLET IMPALA      | 2G1WT55K389140465 | 2018 HYUNDAI ELANTRA     | 5NPD84LF4JH330567 |
| 2004 CHEVROLET SILVERADO   | 2GCEK19TX41373639 | 2010 JEEP PATRIOT        | 1J4NT2GB2AD570490 |
| 2012 CHEVROLET SILVERADO   | 3GCPCSE00CG248839 | 2003 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE | 1J4GX48S93C591126 |
| 2014 CHEVROLET SILVERADO   | 3GCUKSEC0EG249993 | 2010 KIA FORTE           | KNAFU4A26A5858676 |
| 2012 CHRYSLER T&C          | 2C4RC1BGXCR313534 | 2009 KIA SPORTAGE        | KNDJF724397582787 |
| 2004 CHRYSLER SEBRING      | 1C3EL55R14N291557 | 2014 KIA SOUL            | KNDJP3A58E7072946 |
| 2000 CHRYSLER 300          | 2C3HE66G3YH184602 | 2016 KIA SPORTAGE        | KNDPB3AC1G7868934 |
| 2001 CHRYSLER T&C          | 2C8GP64LX1R404740 | 2004 LEXUS RX330         | JTJHA31U840004691 |
| 2001 DODGE 1500            | 3B7HC13Y61M265375 | 2008 MERCURY MARINER     | 4M2CU87128KJ53889 |
| 2003 FORD MUSTANG          | 1FAPP42X13F342068 | 2003 MERCEDES E-CLASS    | WDBUF65J43A188362 |
| 1995 FORD MUSTANG          | 1FALP404XSF182833 | 2009 NISSAN VERSA        | 3N1BC13E19L470456 |
| 2002 FORD EXPLORER         | 1FMZU63EX2UA54483 | 2015 NISSAN ALTIMA       | 5N1AAONE1FN617047 |
| 1987 FORD RANGER           | 1FTBR10AXHUB51574 | 2013 NISSAN ROGUE        | JN8AS5MT0DW031384 |
| 2010 FORD F-150            | 1FTEX1C87AKE25052 | 2013 NISSAN ROGUE        | JN8AS5MT3DW002834 |
| 2003 FORD RANGER           | 1FTYR10DX3PA76032 | 1993 OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS  | 1G3AG54N7P6369626 |
| 2003 FORD RANGER           | 1FTYR11U03PA93257 | 2005 PONTIAC GRANDPRIX   | 2G2WP522251292557 |
| 2008 FORD CROWN VIC        | 2FAPP71V18X147617 | 2004 SATURN VUE          | 5GZCZ63484S877901 |
| 2007 FORD FUSION           | 3FAHP07157R154152 | 2011 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA | JS3TE0D2XB4100856 |
| 2001 GMC YUKON             | 1GKEK63U91J233702 | 2017 VOLKSWAGON JETTA    | 3VW2B7AJ7HM229218 |
| 2002 HONDA ACCORD          | 1HGCG16542A079463 | 2008 VOLVO S80           | YV1AS982X81050414 |
|                            |                   | 2013 CHRYSLER T&C        | 2C4RC1BGXDR792698 |

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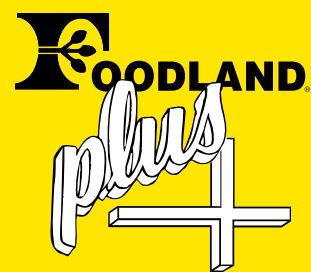
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we surrender our worries to God through prayer, trusting Him to handle what we cannot control.

When the winds of life blow fiercely, whether from personal trials or natural disasters, we can turn to God. I pray you have the courage to brave the elements finding your center in Jesus' presence allowing him to comfort you and bring you peace.

One of the most comforting scriptures is Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Here, Paul reminds us that peace comes when

Through prayer, meditating on scripture and thanksgiving, His peace steadies our hearts. Even in the fiercest storms, God's love anchors us, reminding us that we are never alone. By trusting in Him, we can navigate life's trials with courage, finding rest in His unfailing presence.

UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) and its partners are responding to disasters across the globe every day. Please join us in prayer for the affected areas and consider giving to UMCOR International Disaster Response to support these efforts. <https://umcmission.org/umcor/>



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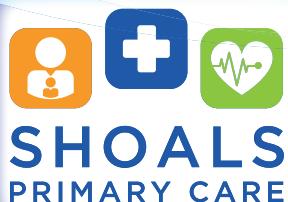
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Easy to spot folks full of God! It's an essential if you're effective in a worthy ministry. Biblical and secular history records great people doing great things with God as their friend. Today, we need men like: Noah, Moses, Abraham, Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Zachariah, the Apostles Paul & John, Stephen and Esther and Ruth and Deborah & Lois and Eunice and countless others. Many great leaders in the world and Christianity should be inspired to care for people, not to drain the life out of the church and society. Now all that we hear and see is reruns of what-was and wannabees of what used to be. Currently, God has been made fun of, forgotten, lied about and ignored and His truth has been changed to meet the criteria of the devil. You wear on your face what is in your soul.

Notice Moses who was alone with God 40 days and nights: **Exodus 34:30** "And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him." In the N.T., Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost, before the council and his last sermon: **Acts 6:15** "And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." And boy, did Stephen let it fly. He promptly was stoned. Preachers, if you are called of God, get the real Bible, get alone with God and full of Him and come sermon time, let it fly! Time is too short for buildings, social programs and entertainment. Preach the Word! Eternity's long and judgment is sure. It's time to put God and our Saviour and His Word back in their rightful place! Don't be distracted by the devil's devices. **2 Corinthians 2:11** "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." Jesus Christ is coming and the saved are leaving. Get on board or get left behind!

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# Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

## Honoring the Aunties

### Part Two - Supporters

Our children love their aunties. My sisters have no children. Our children have always been their children. The love and the joyous times that have been shared, have made our children who they are. We continue here with the tribute made to the aunties on Christmas Eve. It's Garrett's (our eldest son) turn. (Garrett reporting.) I shared "Don't Hesitate" by Mary Oliver and talked about how we can't hesitate to give into joy because life is too short. And how the aunties have always embraced joy in their walk thru life.

**DON'T HESITATE**  
by Mary Oliver

*If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it.*

*There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be.*

*We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed.*

*Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world.*

*It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins.*

*Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty.*

*Joy is not made to be a crumb.*

Then I shared "A Poem of Friendship" by Nikki Giovanni and talked about the aunties' abiding presence in our lives. More than all the things we've done together, they just being there has meant everything.

**A POEM OF FRIENDSHIP**  
by Nikki Giovanni

*We are not lovers because of the love we make but the love we have*

*We are not friends because of the laughs we spend but the tears we save*

*I don't want to be near you for the thoughts we share but the words we never have to speak*

*I will never miss you because of what we do but what we are together*

You want your children to have other adults to turn to when they need to. But that type of intimacy is cultivated. It comes from an investment of love. It comes from laughter and tears. For a young person to call on you for help or to just call you period, requires respect. Respect for your genuine devotion. Every young person comes to a time or place where they need to talk to someone other than mom or dad. When that moment comes, I hope that your children have someone like Auntie Ros or Auntie Dee. Their love swells for our children. They have been at all the things - their births, their birthdays, late night talks, state championships, vacations, holidays, graduations, weddings, new apartment decorations, etc. They gave them cars, clothes, money, time, spiritual advice, and more. The aunties have reveled with our children, partied with them, sang with them, and heartily encouraged them. Their joy has never been a crumb. Their love has never needed words!

My husband and I have been more blessed in having these relationships bloom before us than our children have been. We are so blessed to be so supported as parents. We are blessed to have the aunties love our children. It's called family, and they are the best at it! Yes! Thank you Auntie Ros and Auntie Dee. ♥

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

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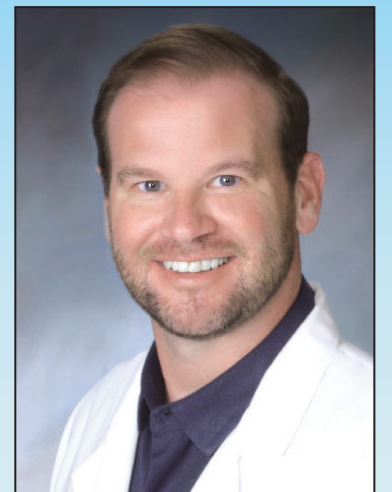
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**Open Mic...**  
Continued from Page 8

participation. The goal is to promote poetry and create a welcoming space where both published and unpublished poets can share their work within a diverse setting.

This program is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums. The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is at 217 E Tuscaloosa Street and is open Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm and Sunday 1-4pm. Please call 256-760-6379 for more information.

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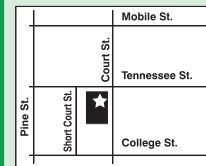
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Guest Commentary - Tyler O'Neil

# Medal of Freedom - Soros... Continued from Page 8

investor, has funneled more than \$15.2 billion through his Open Society Foundations which has awarded more than 50,000 grants worldwide, according to the World Economic Forum. The foundation is now run by his son, Alex.

Soros bankrolled the "rogue prosecutor" soft-on-crime movement by funding the campaigns of local prosecutors who oppose the death penalty and use prosecutorial discretion to avoid charging crimes they consider minor.

Cully Stimson, deputy director of the Edwin Meese III Center for

Legal and Judicial Studies at The Heritage Foundation, and Zack Smith, a senior legal fellow at Heritage, have extensively exposed this movement and how it has emboldened criminals by enabling them to avoid prosecution. Their book, "Rogue Prosecutors: How Radical Soros Lawyers Are Destroying America's Communities," was released in 2023.

Crime rates have spiked across the country, particularly in Democrat-led cities, where murder rates have increased.

Yet, it makes a perverse amount of sense that Biden would grant Soros

the highest civilian honor. Not because the billionaire has funded a movement that puts Americans in danger, but because his massive funding network enabled Biden's allies to implement their radical agenda through the administrative state.

My forthcoming book "The Woketopus: The Dark Money Cabal Manipulating the Federal Government," reveals how Soros, his son, and other major left-wing donors prop up a vast network of woke activist groups that staff and advise the federal government.

As the Competitive Enterprise Institute pointed out, during calendar year 2023, agencies in the federal government issued 3,018 rules, while Congress only enacted 68 laws, many of them ceremonial. In other words, agencies issued 44 rules for every law enacted by Congress. While the Constitution gives the people's elected representatives in Congress the ability

to make law, the administrative state issues far more rules that impact Americans' daily lives.

Activist groups, bankrolled through Soros' Open Society Foundations, have worked to remake the federal government in the image of college students, many of whom are steeped in gender studies and protesting Israel on campus.

The Biden administration has kowtowed to gender ideology, rewriting federal education law to force schools to allow boys in girls' restrooms and even directing federal law enforcement to refer to illegal aliens by their preferred pronouns. The administration opened the border after groups like the Center for American Progress urged bureaucrats to transform the Department of Homeland Security into a welcome mat for illegals. Biden signed an election executive order that had effectively been

written by the activist group Demos, and then the administration brought in Demos to help implement it!

Soros' fingerprints—along with those of his son—are all over these and other efforts to push woke ideology in the federal government.

The Open Society Foundations had funneled millions to the Center for American Progress, a hub of left-wing advocacy and woke influence in the federal government. Different arms of the Open Society Foundations have funded Demos, the LGBTQ activist group, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Southern Poverty Law Center, among many others.

Biden's decision to honor Tim Gill also echoes this woke funding. Gill has poured millions into the LGBTQ activist movement, in an effort to prevent social conservatives from opting out of celebrating same-sex weddings.

"We're going to punish the wicked," Gill told

*Rolling Stone* in 2017. After the 2015 Supreme Court decision *Obergefell v. Hodges* legalized same-sex marriage across the country, Gill turned his activism apparatus against religious freedom restoration acts and toward a legal mentality that would penalize Christians, and anyone else in business, who refuse to participate in a same-sex wedding.

Gill's mentality echoes the Human Rights Campaign, which uses a Corporate Equality Index to shame companies into taking extreme stances that alienate customers (see Target and Bud Light in 2023). When HRC asked the Biden administration to jump via a set of policy recommendations in 2021, the bureaucrats effectively responded by asking, "How high?"

It also echoes the Southern Poverty Law Center, which suggests mainstream conservative and Christian nonprofits are similarly hateful to the Ku Klux Klan. The SPLC has put religious freedom groups like Alliance Defending Freedom on a "hate map" alongside KKK chapters, and SPLC leaders have advised the Biden administration in combatting "domestic terrorism."

The vast network of woke NGOs Soros props up have enabled Biden to seed his far-left ideology throughout the federal government, and President-elect Donald Trump has his work cut out for him if he wants to root this out.

By awarding Soros this honor, Biden is rewarding one of his most influential ideological allies—a fitting if disgusting final chapter for this far-left administration.

*First published January 4, 2025 at The Daily Signal.*

*Tyler O'Neil is managing editor of The Daily Signal and the author of two books: "Making Hate Pay: The Corruption of the Southern Poverty Law Center," and "The Woketopus: The Dark Money Cabal Manipulating the Federal Government."*

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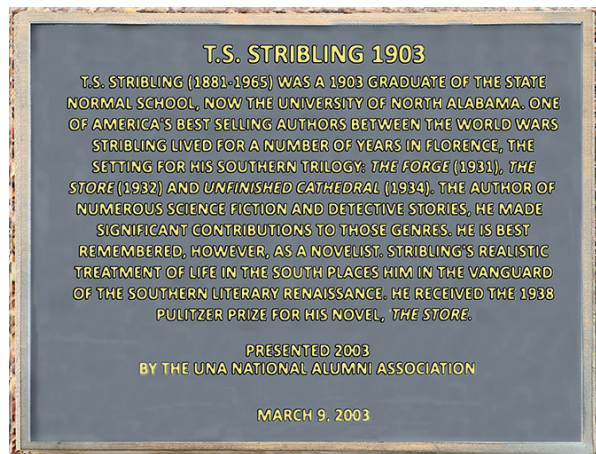
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I was in Colorado recently and saw a commercial for lawyers that promised to tell you how much your case "might" be worth. Anyone who does personal injury day in and day out knows that every case is completely different, and if a lawyer over promises, they might get the case, but they're going to end up with an unhappy client, and if they under promise, then they're not going to get a case.

The reality is that every case is entirely different. Take a broken arm; did it happen in a rear-end collision where liability is clear? Is it two people arguing over who had the green light? Those cases have different values. Was the person whose arm was broken a 32-year-old union member working an outage, or were they a retiree who had no income other than social security? Those two cases have different values. Was the person with a broken arm a new mother with a baby and a family to care for? Certainly, a jury would take that into consideration. Did the arm need plates and screws that will continue to cause pain with changes in the weather and potentially need to be removed in the future, or was the arm broken cleanly, set, and fixed? Those two cases have different values. And that's just with a broken arm.

Obviously, a drunk driver gets no sympathy, and the injured party can be awarded punitive damages. Commercial drivers are held to an entirely different standard than other drivers, and the reality is big trucks cause big injuries. Juries will and should give large verdicts against commercial drivers who don't follow the rules. Motorcyclists are often hurt very badly, and their injuries are subject to the same consideration as anyone else because other motorists are required to follow the rules of the road.

When one considers the value of a case, you have to look at how the accident happened, the impact, the injury, and how the person recovered.

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

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People don't realize how important the conduct of the people involved is. I had an 85-year-old man with broken ribs hit by a 16-year-old girl who ran a light near Seven Points in Florence. He stayed with her and told her everything was going to be fine until her parents got there, and he assured them that he was going to be fine before he went to the hospital. In the event his case would have gone to trial, the jury would have loved him. But given his conduct, he got a good settlement. I had another case years ago, where my client cursed out the driver who rear-ended him and did it loudly and publicly. We had been offered \$60,000.00, and I told my client to take the money. I told the young man that the jury would not like him because of the way he spoke to the other driver. He refused, and the jury gave him nothing.

When you think about the cases and their value, there are so many factors about how a person testifies, what effect their injuries had on them and everyone around them, whether they have lost wages, whether they lost the ability to care for their family or someone important to them. Those things really effect the value of a case. Somebody telling you what your case might be worth is not worth much.

Certainly, catastrophic injuries are worth all the money that's out there, and even then, all the money available will not bring back what someone has lost. Some people are underinsured, and when there's little or no coverage, there's little or no money to get. And that has nothing to do with how badly a person was injured.

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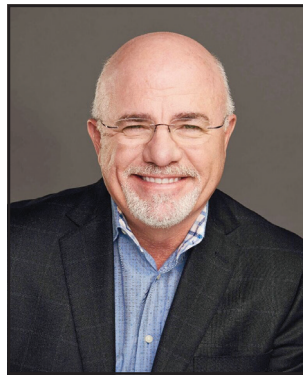


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## DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



You obviously have sales skills if you worked your way up to a manager's position. So, put those skills to work. If you're on a sales call, and the customer needs to perform some due diligence before deciding, a smart salesperson will request to schedule a follow-up. In your email, ask if checking back on a certain day in the next couple of weeks will work. You don't want to be obnoxious, but you're looking for an appointment of sorts—a time frame—so you'll know when to follow up without seeming pushy or desperate.

I hope this helps, Tiffany. Good luck!

*\*Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.*

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### APPROACH IT LIKE A SALES CALL

Dear Dave,  
 I had an interview for a sales management position during the first week of January. Since then, I've sent two follow-up emails. One was to thank the human resources representative for their time and for considering me for the job. In the second, I reiterated my interest in the position and desire to work for the company. Was this a proper and professional approach? If not, how would you suggest handling things after a first interview?  
 Tiffany

Dear Tiffany,  
 In this situation, I would recommend sending another email. You want to walk right up to that fine line that separates bold and confident from

pushy, because that's one of things a good sales manager should be able to do. Thank them again for their time, and respectfully tell them you understand any hiring decision can be a lengthy process, but you'd like to know when you can expect an answer. I'm talking about using your experience and the idea that you're a great sales person, who has transformed herself into a great sales manager. In other words, treat it almost like a professional sales call. And don't be afraid to have a little fun with it. If you're still under consideration, that means they like you and you have a shot at the position. You might even hint at the fact they don't want to hire a sales manager who doesn't know how to follow up.

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## Notes...

Continued from page 6

**Get Out of Town: Laura Butler in Costa Rica** - Sunday, January 26, 2pm-3pm at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.

**The Florence Senior Center/The Club is now offering transportation** 3 days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) for seniors, 60 years+, who are no longer driving and live within a five mile radius of The Club. For more program and transportation information please call The Club Monday-Friday, 9am-3:30pm. The Club is located at 450 Country Club Drive in Florence off of Savannah Highway next to the old landfill.

Call 256-760-6420 for more information.

**LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:**  
**Tuesday January 21**, Listerhill Credit Union - Main Office, 4790 E 2nd St., Muscle Shoals, 10am - 4:30pm

**Thursday January 23**, IHP, LLC, 1769 Lawrence Street E, Russellville, 9am - 4pm

**Friday January 24**, Colbert County High School, 8am - 3:30pm

**Saturday January 25**, Austin's Shoes - Florence, 10am - 4pm

**Monday January 27**, Terrace Manor Nursing and Rehab, 390 Underwood Road, Russellville, 9am - 5pm

**8-9-10, Thursday, January 23**, 3:30pm-4:15pm, at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.

Are you 8, 9, or 10 and looking for something fun to do after school? Join us for crafts, games, and more!

**Join the Tennessee Valley Historical Society** for our Quarterly Program at 2pm on Sunday, January 26 at the Helen Keller Public Library Annex, 511 N Main St. in Tusculmbia.

Clayton Davis, Historic Resources Manager for the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area will present a program titled "The Memphis & Charleston Railroad Bridge: Connecting the Shoals." The program will examine the historical and cultural significance of this iconic Shoals

landmark from its initial construction in 1859-60 to the present day.

This free program begins at 2pm and is open to the public.

**Hush Money - Saturday, January 25, 7pm at Champy's Famous Fried Chicken Muscle Shoals.**

Emerging from the foothills of the southern Appalachians, Hush Money is a diverse original band with a sound that is deeply rooted in vintage rock, blues, and outlaw country.

A Hush Money live show is an experience for all music enthusiasts.

**Game On! Saturday, January 25, 2-3pm** at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library

Nothing like some great board games and video games to bring some friends together! If you like either of these, come join us at Game On where we'll bring out our Switch or Monopoly to kick back after a long week.

Registration is required. Email teens@fjpl.org to reserve your spot.

**The University of North Alabama Department of Athletics** will host a free

youth clinic to celebrate National Girls and Women in Sports Day on Saturday, February 1 from 10am-noon at the UNA Rec Center. The free clinic is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama and is open to ages 4-12.

All of UNA's women's sports programs, including student-athletes and coaches, will be involved in the camp.

This will be the same night that the UNA women's basketball team hosts West Georgia at 5:30pm in Flowers Hall. Fans are invited to attend and continue in UNA's celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports.

**The First Annual Shoals Concert for a Cure** will take place from 7-10pm on Saturday, February 1 at the Shoals Theatre in Florence. It will feature a well-known lineup of local musicians, including hit songwriters James LeBlanc, Gary Baker, and Lenny LeBlanc as well as Grammy Award Winner, Gary Nichols. Together, we will celebrate the incredible talent and music of The Shoals while partnering with National Brain Tumor Society to help make a difference. All proceeds will benefit the National Brain Tumor Society in memory of Brad White.

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**2024**

**Week 21 - College Football Playoff (CFP) NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP in ATLANTA**

**Winner announced in next week's issue and online this week. Thank you for playing the Game Day Score Card!**

**Courier Journal**



# Letters...

## 9% Face Food Insecurity

Continued from Page 8

welfare and basic needs of students. The Hunger Free Alabama coalition and others are lobbying to ensure Alabama participates in the summer 2025 EBT program.

Let's support that and other efforts to help our children have sufficient food.

Dan Waterman Killen

## Vet Partners Stepped Up

Editor,

It has been quite a year here at NASANA (Northwest Alabama Spay and Neuter Assistance). Our biggest ever. We are so proud that we were able to help fix 710 animals in 2024! Of course, we could not have done it without lots of support from our community and from some grantors who believe in our mission and want to help with the severe overpopulation problem in this area.

We want to thank everyone for all the donations. Our matching donation fundraiser in November yielded a total of \$15,000. Your donations, along with grants from The Joel R. Anderson Family Foundation, Northwest Alabama RC&D Council, On Shore Foundation, and Schwab Charitable Foundation, helped us pay for an

average of 60 surgeries per month.

Our vet partners have really stepped up this year and kept up with our demands. We want to thank them for all the support.

It definitely takes a village.

Pat McGuire President, NASANA.org Florence

## No Longer Great/Good

Dear Editor,

Was it evil outside our borders that invaded Bourbon Street on New Year's Day or was it backsliding within?

People say, "America is great because she is good." Is it possible that we are no longer as great and as good as we say we are?

As soon as bad things happen, our government and police authorities immediately claim to be all over the situation. At the first press conference, we heard, "Our law enforcement are built for dealing with evil."

We immediately assure the world that all this terrorist stuff is just a blip on the radar and that we are "resilient," meaning we will bounce back quickly to greatness. Maybe what really is happening is that we are taking two steps back and then one step forward, constantly losing ground as we go.

How can we be so resilient when we are ever more anxious, fearful, irresponsible, hypocritical, dishonest,

and maybe even a little bit evil ourselves? We are always looking for foreigners to blame but we always forget to look in the mirror.

Kimball Shinkoskey Woods Cross, Utah

## Heritage Sure and Certain

Editor,

We, as new creations in Christ Jesus, have embarked onto a walk of grace that lets go of the old wine and take upon ourselves the newness from above. The new cliché that says can you wrap your mind around that is apropos. When we entered into the eternal kingdom of God, we entered the holy kingdom. That kingdom does not permit sin to hang around us that it takes us back into the clutches of death. Our Bibles say, "The wage of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Our life is an eternal one that we are called to come out from among them and "be ye separate." I hope you have heard the words of our Savior, "A little leaven leavens the whole lump." In essence, when we let a little sin in, it encompasses the whole man and should be eradicated by true repentance by confession.

Now, moving on to Romans 1:6-7, "And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Christ." Notice that we were called by the Father and all He embodies to belong to

Him. This means we no longer belong to ourselves. Look at 1 Corinthians 6:20, which notably states, "...You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." Verse 7 of Romans reads, "I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be His Holy people."

To become all that God wants for us would mean that we have to let go of the things or habits that do not pertain to holiness. When we accepted the call of God into His kingdom, we were saying no to self. There are no bargaining chips in the kingdom of light. Know that light takes away the darkness so you can move forward into His glorious light and life for those God so loved and called to Himself. Our God is the same yesterday, today and forevermore, according to Hebrews 13:8. We need to look upward to our chief shepherd of the sheep.

Barbara Gill Aiken, S.C

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