

**ASCA Tabs
SHS's Parker**

SHEFFIELD-- The American School Counselor Association recently announced Sheffield High School in Sheffield as a Recognized ASCA Model Program® (RAMP®).

Tracy Parker, school counselor, and Sheffield High School will be honored at a recognition ceremony at ASCA's Annual Conference in Long Beach, California in July.

The RAMP® designation recognizes schools that are committed to delivering an exemplary school counseling program. Honorees are awarded for

aligning their program with the criteria in the ASCA National Model®, a framework for data-informed school counseling programs that are associated with a range of positive student educational and behavioral outcomes.

"This year's RAMP® honorees have shown their commitment to students and the school counseling profession," said Jill Cook, ASCA executive director. "These schools used data to drive their program development and implementation so all students can achieve success. The RAMP® designation distinguishes these schools and encourages school counselors nationwide to strive for excellence."

See SHORTS... Page 2



Parker

Volume 141 Number 17 February 19, 2025 POSTAL PATRON

Courier Journal

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Grand Ole Opry Show in St. Joe



ST. JOSEPH, TN--The Cadillacs will present their Grand Ole Opry Show featuring, "A Tribute to the Stars," on Saturday, February 22 at the St. Joseph Civic Center in St. Joseph, TN. The show begins at 6:30pm, and admission is only \$10. A portion of the proceeds will go to the St. Joseph Jesus Mission. Look for tributes to George Jones, Tammy Wynette, Hank Williams, Loretta Lynn, The Everly Brothers, Whitney Houston, Marty Robbins, Ray Charles, Lee Greenwood, Patsy

See OLE OPRY... Page 6

Focus is on Urban Forestry

Sustainable Ecosystems: The Bubble of Life-March 7

FLORENCE-- The City of Florence Beautification Board and Tree Commission will host the 28th Annual Urban Forestry and Horticulture Conference, themed Creating Sustainable Ecosystems: A Bubble of Life, on March 7. The event will feature expert guest speakers from across the Southeast, who will cover a variety of sustainability topics, including managing native plants and trees, the importance of bees, herbalism, birding, shared habitat in landscape design, and more.

The conference will take place at Cross Point Church of Christ in Florence. Registration opens at 8am, and the conference will begin promptly at 8:45. Continuing Education Units



See FORESTRY... Page 4



NWSCC freshman Lara Gunderman

Passion for Fostering

Lara's Love was the First Initiative by Miss NWSCC

PHIL CAMPBELL -- Northwest Shoals Community College dual-enrolled freshman Lara Gunderman, of Phil Campbell, experienced a crowning moment on Saturday evening, earning the title of 2025 Miss Northwest Shoals at the Lou B. Beville Center on the Phil Campbell campus.

"Becoming Miss Northwest Shoals is a dream come true," said Gunderman. "It's an opportunity to grow personally, while growing and uniting our community."

Gunderman is passionate about helping foster children. While attending Phil Campbell High School, she launched her community service initiative, *Lara's Love*, which raises awareness of foster care needs

See FOSTERING... on Page 6

INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside

NOW

Ray Miller Buick-GMC
Advance Auto Sales
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Ask the Attorney
Basketball Was King for a Day
Brain Zone!

Medicare Minute
A Conversation with Pastor Kiki
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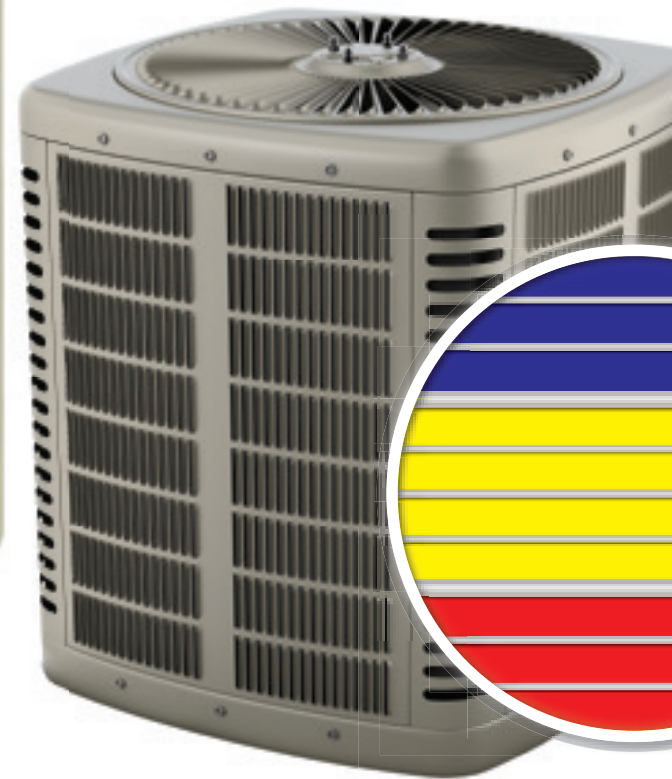
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Shorts...

Continued from Page 1

Ivey Appoints Will Motlow

FLORENCE—Governor Kay Ivey last week appointed **William D. (Will) Motlow, III**, as District Judge for the 11th Judicial Circuit in Lauderdale County, Alabama. Motlow is a graduate of the University of North Alabama and the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. He replaces **Carole C. Medley** who was elected Lauderdale County Circuit Judge.

“Will Motlow possesses a broad legal background from the private practice of law to municipal prosecutor to Acting District Judge in Lauderdale County,” said Governor Ivey. “Additionally, he has served the people of Lauderdale County as probate judge for the last ten years. His experience in local, district and circuit court handling a broad range of civil and criminal cases will enable him to serve with judicial temperament and fairness.”

Motlow has been



Motlow

probate judge for almost 10 years. He was appointed in May 2015. He was later elected to 6-year

terms in 2018 and 2024.

Motlow’s appointment to district judge leaves an opening for probate judge, so the Governor will have to appoint someone to that position.

Alzheimer’s disease and other related disorders, as well as older adults who are frail and/or functionally impaired without memory loss. Participants enjoy music, art, fitness, reminiscing, and many mini activities while making new friends and sharing the day.

For more information, call 256-335-5245, email nfults@caringplaceshoals.org, or visit www.caringplaceshoals.org

CaringPlace’s Spring Event

SHEFFIELD—Carl Casiday of Lola’s Gifts and Flowers will share his unique and celebrated insights in floral design in one special evening to benefit CaringPlace of the Shoals. Casiday’s Spring Extravaganza - Floral Design Demonstration & Auction takes place at 5:30pm on Monday, March 10 at First Presbyterian Church in Sheffield, at 130 East 5th Street.

Gather your friends and join a fun evening of food and decorating tips! Casiday will guide those in attendance through the latest trends and techniques while they sip on apple cider and enjoy delicious

hors d’oeuvres provided by a host of local restaurants and caterers.

Ticket holders will also have the opportunity to sip on wine and peruse the many display tables and designs at Lola’s prior to the event from 4-5:15pm.

Limited tickets are available in advance for \$50 at: Kennedy Douglass Art Center, First United Methodist Church of Florence, the Sheffield Public Library, Lola’s Gifts and Flowers, and CaringPlace of the Shoals. All proceeds from this charitable event benefit CaringPlace of the Shoals adult day services.

CaringPlace is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization operating an Adult Day Service program for clients with memory loss due to

UNA’s Band Has Admirer

FLORENCE – The University of North Alabama’s Marching Pride will be headed to New York City in November to participate in the annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade, in large part with the help of a significant gift from an admirer.

Briget McCabe, who was born and raised in Florence, spent time with her late husband, Edward F. Getson Jr, walking the UNA track that once encircled the practice field on campus. It was there, she said, they would “listen to band (then called “The Pride of Dixie”) practice

See SHORTS... Page 4

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Shorts...

UNA's Band Has Admirer

Continued from Page 1

in the adjacent field. We really enjoyed the music, and, over time, met and became friends with **Lloyd Jones**, the Band Director. We also had many conversations with the band members." Through those relationships, McCabe said she saw the dedication, commitment, and hard work Dr. Jones put in to make the marching band a success, whether in half-time shows, various competitions, or other local performances. As a result, she said the students respond "by wanting to do their best to make (Dr. Jones) proud, and we witnessed a tremendous rapport between Lloyd and the students over the years. "I am so proud of the entire UNA band and their well-deserved invitation to play in the 2025 Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade," McCabe said. "I am very excited to support them and cheer them on as they go forward with this once-in-a-lifetime experience." All members of the band will be traveling by bus to New York City in November, and Jones said McCabe's gift helps offset many of the costs associated with the journey and the lodgings. "We are so grateful to Ms. McCabe for her generous gift in support of the UNA Marching Pride and the trip to the 2025 Macy's Thanksgiving Parade," he said. "She will definitely have a positive effect on so many students' opportunity to learn through experiencing a new destination. Her benevolence will have a lasting effect on so many people!"

Forestry...

Continued from Page 1

(CEUs) will be available for teachers through UNA's Education and Research In-Service Center. This year's conference has been moved from October to March to align with the beginning of the growing season and to accommodate vendor schedules. In addition to the informative sessions, attendees will have the chance to win valuable door prizes and explore ideas and products from local vendors. Lunch for registered attendees will be provided, prepared onsite by the Lauderdale County Cattleman's Association. "Anyone who enjoys gardening, landscaping, or outdoor activities will find value in the knowledge shared at this conference," says Kristin Seabol, Chair of the Florence Beautification Board. "This is a great opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals while learning about

sustainable practices that can benefit our environment." Registration is now open online at <https://florenceal.org/28th-annual-urban-forestry-horticulture-conference/>, where attendees can also find a printable registration form for mailing. Registration cost is \$50

In conjunction with the conference, the Florence Tree Commission will offer a Pesticide Recertification Class on March 6, also at Cross Point Church of Christ, beginning at 8:30am. Online registration is available at the same website link. Registration cost is \$50 or discounted when attending both days.

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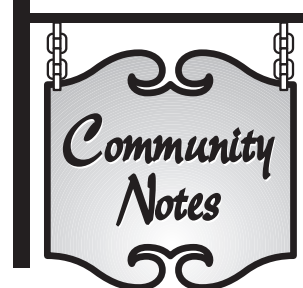
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Notes must be submitted in writing
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**Storytime at the Museum –
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**Florence Parks and Recreation
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Additional Dates: Tuesday, March 25,
3:30-4:15pm; Tuesday, April 22, 3:30-
4:15pm

Shoals Artists Guild Meeting
Every 3rd Friday of the month, (February
21) 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.

**Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian
Church will have its Annual Black
History Program on Sunday, February
23 at 11am. The guest speaker will be
Ms. Anita Cobb. Everyone is welcomed.**
Bethel is located at 408 E. Alabama
St. in Florence. For more information,
email Senior Pastor J. Cedric Adams –
JAdams1906@comcast.net.

**Post 5140 of the Veterans of
Foreign Wars in Florence is actively
seeking new members.**

We have a proud tradition of
service and care deeply about our local
community and those who have served in
our nation's wars.

The group meets every 3rd Thursday
each month at 6:30pm (February 20) at
127 South Royal Ave. in Florence.

For more information on how you can
become a member, contact Jeff Palmer,
Post Commander at 256-483-9937. If
no answer, please leave your name and
number and we will call you back or email
vfwpost5140@gmail.com

See NOTES... page 22

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Home repair, plumbing,
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786-291-3565 (Shoals area)

WE BUY RIDING MOWERS, John
Deere, Cub Cadet, Kubota, Crafts-
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**WE BUY CARS, TRUCKS, VANS,
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- Be enrolled in and agree to receive e-statements

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Qualification Information: To earn your rewards, the following enrollments must be in place and all transactions and activities must post and settle to your Kasasa Cash account during each Monthly Qualification Cycle. At least 1 ACH credit or ACH payment transaction(s). At least 15 debit card purchases. Be enrolled in and have agreed to receive e-statements rather than paper statements. Be enrolled in and log into online banking. Maintain a valid email address on record with our bank. Account transactions and activities may take one or more days to post and settle to the account and all must do so during the Monthly Qualification Cycle in order to qualify for the account's rewards. *Monthly Qualification Cycle* means a period beginning one (1) banking day prior to the first day of the current statement cycle through one (1) banking day prior to the last business day of the current statement cycle. See our website or contact one of our branch service representatives for specific Monthly Qualification Cycle dates. **Reward Information:** When your Kasasa Cash account qualifications are met during a Monthly Qualification Cycle, daily balances up to and including \$25,000 in your Kasasa Cash account earn an interest rate of 5.50% resulting in an APY of 5.50%, and daily balances over \$25,000 earn an interest rate of 0.50% on the portion of the daily balance over \$25,000, resulting in a range from 5.50% to 0.50% APY depending on the account's daily balance. When your Kasasa Cash qualifications are not met, the interest rate earned on the account's entire average daily balance will be 0.05% resulting in an annual percentage yield of 0.05%. Interest will be credited to your Kasasa Cash account on the last day of the current statement cycle. APY = Annual Percentage Yield. APYs accurate as of 04/01/2024. Rates, rewards, and bonuses, if any, are variable and may change after account is opened; rates may change without notice to you. No minimum balance is required to earn or receive the account's rewards. Rewards less than a penny cannot be distributed. Fees may reduce earnings. **Additional Information:** Account approval, conditions, qualifications, limits, timeframes, enrollments, log-ons and other requirements apply. \$50 minimum deposit is required to open the account. There are no recurring monthly maintenance charges or fees to open or close this account. Advertised information and rewards are based on all account qualifications being met during each cycle period. Contact one of our bank service representatives for additional information, account details, restrictions, reward calculations, processing limitations, cycle dates and enrollment instructions. Member FDIC. **Trademarks:** Kasasa and Kasasa Cash are trademarks of Kasasa, Ltd., registered in the U.S.A.

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Ole Opry... Fostering

Continued from Page 1

Cline, Linda Ronstadt, The Righteous Bros., James Brown, Chubby Checker, Sammi Smith, Reba, Archie and Edith Bunker and more!

The Civic Center is located at 10 Park Dr. in Saint Joseph. Those attending are also encouraged to bring a couple of canned goods to the show for the Jesus Mission.

Dennis Odom is your host again for the evening, as well as being responsible Producer, Director, and sound.

As Odom always reminds us, "You'll get your money's worth the first 15 minutes, and the rest of the show will be absolutely free!"

Continued from Page 1

in the region. "Having been a sister to 14 foster children, I have seen firsthand the impact that a foster family can have," she said.

"As Miss Northwest Shoals, I plan to use my platform to raise awareness of foster care needs. By organizing 'community closets' with Franklin County's Department of Human Resources, foster parents will have access to essential items needed to care for their foster children. My hope is that my journey will inspire people to open their minds, hearts, and homes to foster care. Everyone deserves love, especially children!"

By winning Miss Northwest Shoals,

Gunderman is now set to represent her college and community at the upcoming Miss Alabama 2025 competition later this year. She plans to pursue a nursing degree at NWSCC before transferring to the University of North Alabama.

Reflecting on Gunderman's achievement, Miss Northwest Shoals Program Director Savannah Liles stated, "Lara's win is not just a victory for her but for all the lives she will positively impact this year. We are so proud of all the women and the courage they showed in this competition. They are all amazing young women, and we are thrilled they are part of our Patriot family."

Six women competed for the Miss Northwest Shoals title, showcasing their talents through five stages of competition: private interview, on-stage question, health and fitness, talent, and evening gown.

Alongside Gunderman, other winners included: Livi Boston of Muscle Shoals, who was named first alternate and received the Outstanding Service Award, and Ellie Claire Swinney of Muscle Shoals, who was named second alternate.

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The Colbert County Commission will be accepting employment applications for a TAG CLERK

Starting pay is \$27,389.23/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 February 28, 2025
Colbert County Commission is an equal opportunity employer.

Florence Housing Authority is accepting bids for LAWN CARE

Proposals may be emailed to floaccounting@flohousing.org or mailed to:

110 S. Cypress Suite 1, Florence, AL 35630
Deadline: March 4, 2025, 11 am.

To request a bid packet, email floaccounting@flohousing.org.
For any questions, 256-740-5200.

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No titles offered!

Saturday, March 22, 2025 • Sale Starts 9am

YEAR/MAKE/MODEL	VIN	YEAR/MAKE/MODEL	VIN
2004 CHEVROLET CAVALIER	1G1JC12F647218016	2014 GMC ACADIA	1GKKRNE2EJ356236
2011 CHEVROLET IMPALA	2G1WB5EK9B1187637	1998 HONDA ACCORD	1HGCG5657WA065053
2009 CHEVROLET HHR	3GNCA13B09S600284	2000 HOND CIVIC	2HGEJ6612YH570452
2006 CHEVROLET IMPALA	2G1WC581769151873	2011 HYUNDA SONATA	5NPEB4AC1BH251759
2009 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY	2A8HR541X9R684382	2024 KIA FORTE	3KPF24AD1RE790491
2006 DODGE DAKOTA	1D7HW28K46S536617	2015 KIA OPTIMA	5XXGM4A72FG373912
2009 DODGE JOURNEY	3D4GG47B69T545986	2011 KIA RIO	KNADH4A30B6941018
2008 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCU03Z88KD23297	2004 LEXUS ES 330	JTHBA30G945041948
2005 FORD EXPLORER	1FMZU63K35UA34005	1999 LINCOLN TOWN CAR	1LNHM81W3XY642227
2008 FORD F-150	1FTPW12V18FA31469	1993 MITSUBISHI MONTERO	JA4MR51H9PJ007181
2002 FORD F-150	1FTRF17252NA36503	2006 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL11D86C249128
2001 FORD F-150	1FTZF17201NA92525	2016 NISSAN VERSA	3N1CN7AP3GL847226
2000 FORD CROWN VIC	2FAFP71W0YX187664	2005 PONT G6	1G2ZG528054109842
1999 FORD CROWN VIC	2FAFP73W8XX161020	2008 PONT G6	1G2ZH57N784277168
2005 FORD FOCUS	3FAFP37N75R138978	2003 SATURN ION	1G8AJ52F53Z106518
2011 FORD FUSION	3FAHP0HG2BR270081	2001 TOYOTA TUNDRA	5TBRT34151S153497

SIMPSON'S WRECKER SERVICE 835 Rickwood Rd., Florence, AL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: SIMPSON'S WRECKER SERVICE gives Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 3/22/2025, 09:00 AM at 835 RICKWOOD RD, FLORENCE, AL 35630-1367, pursuant to subsection 32-13-3 of the Alabama Statutes. SIMPSON'S WRECKER SERVICE reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

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Florence, AL 35633
► **Call:**
256-476-3781

The Colbert County Commission will be accepting employment applications for an **IT Director** in the County Commission Office

Starting pay is \$52,137.54 annually plus health insurance and other benefits.

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

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

Colbert County Commission is an equal opportunity employer.

Executive Assistant

Reputable Shoals company with A+ BBB rating is looking for an Executive Assistant to provide administrative and practical support to our company's management and sales team. Duties will include typical clerical and administrative duties supporting sales staff, record keeping, and other tasks as may be needed. 4-5 days M-F. BCBS Insurance, 401K, holidays, etc.

The ideal candidate will have the following skills and experience:

- Self-starter with excellent communication skills
- Creativity - Attention to detail
- Ability to work collaboratively
- Strong computer skills
- Knowledge of analytic technology applications

Please email resume with or without cover letter to:
EstablishedShoalsCompany@gmail.com

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

LAUDERDALE COUNTY AGRICULTURE CENTER AUTHORITY

is seeking to fill the following position for its Multipurpose Complex scheduled to open in Summer of 2026 on Highway 72, Florence Blvd, Florence, AL 35634

POSITION: Sports Event Manager – Full Time

CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

PAY/BENEFITS: Negotiable Based on Qualifications/Experience

POSITION SUMMARY: To promote the Multipurpose Complex destination as a premier sports tourism and athletic events location booking a diversity of sporting events and tournaments with the primary responsibility of booking events, coordinating event management, and generating revenue.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Research, recruit, schedule and book a diversity of sporting and athletic events, such as tournaments, to maximize facility usage
- Plan, direct, supervise, and coordinate all facets of the sports event/tournament
- Maintain and coordinate master calendar of sports events/tournaments/activities
- Negotiate license agreements and certificates of insurance
- Conduct and communicate pre and post event planning meetings
- Oversee facility/equipment set-up and break-down and cleanup activities
- Responsible for communication of event details, time-lines, advertising, and purchasing channels for event tickets
- Work with event personnel to plan transportation routes/lodging locations for event goers, staff, and event/tournament participants/users
- Manage business development and event budget
- Oversee hiring, assignment, scheduling, and payment of event personnel necessary for event/ tournament management
- Coordinate with emergency management, security staff and other personnel to provide coverage at events and assist with crowd control and troubleshoot
- Serve as manager on duty for sporting events and tournaments
- Perform other related duties as assigned or modified

PREFERRED EXPERIENCE/EDUCATION/SKILLS:

- Experience in youth/amateur sports/athletics
- Experience working with sports facilities destinations and venues, convention & visitors bureaus, sports commission, and/or event management organization
- Knowledge in database for prospective events owners/providers and businesses in Alabama, the surrounding region, and the nation that have the need for space at the Multipurpose Complex
- Bachelor's degree in sports administration or hospitality, sports management, recreation, event planning or event management, or other closely related field
- 5 years appropriate experience

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Organization, communication, problem solving collaboration, networking, and service skills
- Able to work flexible work schedule (nights, weekends, holidays, long hours)
- Experience in contract negotiations, sporting/athletics event/tournament creation and planning, and sports/athletics administration preferred.

Submit resume to: Lauderdale County Agriculture Event Center
P.O. Box 249, Florence, AL 35661
Only those candidates considered for an interview will be contacted

CNC Machinists Wanted

Perrico Defense, Inc. is a licensed manufacturer of firearms. We have applied for a patent on a derringer, and are in the advanced prototype stage of manufacturing. We are currently located in Huntsville, AL, but will be opening a new facility in Killen, Alabama, with the goal of beginning production later this year. We are looking for **Qualified CNC Machinists** to join our team to help us grow and produce high quality firearms.

If interested in the position, please contact us via phone or email at (256) 701-6850, or caleb@perricodefense.com.

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Commentary

Basketball Was King for a Day

The eyes college basketball world focused on the state of Alabama Saturday afternoon like no time in history as top ranked Auburn and second ranked Alabama met in Tuscaloosa. The week leading up to it was surreal.

Last week's rankings took shape after our deadline for the February 12 issue when Duke's loss on Saturday, February 8, dropped them behind Alabama. Auburn lost that weekend as well to a highly ranked Florida Gators team, but Auburn maintained the top ranking. The game this past Saturday was also played after our press deadline. The results were not known, but we know the environment was special.

Regardless of the outcome, a rematch will take place on March 8 at Auburn, the last regular season game for both teams. The two could meet again in the SEC Tournament the following week.

See KING FOR A DAY... on Page 22

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

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

Courier Journal

THIS WEEK

in the Shoals

February 19, 2025

Happening THIS WEEK

Alabama Plant Series Launch

FLORENCE – Florence Arts and Museums is excited to announce its partnership with the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area to launch the Alabama Plants Series. Hosted by Summer McCreless, this workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to

learn about herbal medicine. This event will take place on Sunday, February 23, from 1–2pm at Pope's Tavern.

McCreless is the owner of Mothering Herbs and a second-generation herbalist. She has been practicing herbalism

See PLANTS...Page 22



TAX HOLIDAY

February 21-23

SHOALS – Alabama will observe its 14th Annual Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday Friday-Sunday February 21–23. The Alabama Retail Association encourages Alabamians to restock emergency supplies in homes, workplaces and vehicles during this three-day tax holiday. Certain emergency preparedness items will be exempt from the state's 4% state sales tax, and in some cities and counties, local taxes are waived on those items as well. The tax holiday means shoppers can save as much as 10% on these items in some areas of the state.

At press time, all local communities except Anderson, Leighton, and St. Florian had confirmed participation.

BLACK MUSIC IS... a presentation by Dr. Allison Upshaw takes place on Tuesday, February 25, 5:30-7pm at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. More than you hear on the radio, Black music braids together a history, culture, and entertainment of a people. Upshaw's talk lays the historic foundation of American music in the mournful melodies of Negro spirituals, frames African American culture in the Blues, and landscapes the world through the improvisation of jazz. Interactive elements make this presentation engaging to diverse audiences.

THE ANNUAL LUNCH PLATE FUNDRAISER for Lauderdale County SPAN Program takes place February 20 and features Pop's BBQ. \$15 order includes: 1/2 chicken, potato salad, baked beans, roll and white sauce. Thursday, February 20, 11am-1pm at 610 W. College Street, Florence. Take out, eat-in or walk-in's welcome. For online ordering, or to donate, you may also visit: lauderdale-span-advisory-board.square.site (Special Achievement for Achievement Network - SPAN is a nonresidential, coeducational program that earnestly seeks to help troubled youth achieve success and become productive adults through education, counseling, and positive influences within their own communities.)

BASKETBALL MEN

TUE., FEB. 18 • 6PM
vs W. Georgia *Flowers Hall*

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Visit www.roarlions.com for full team schedules and ticket information

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**

Jittery Cowards

Mr. Editor,

With the election of President Musk and Vice President Don Trump, and the President's takeover of payment systems in the Treasury Department that process and pay monthly Social Security, I sent the following letter to our congressional representative:

With President Musk now in office and his takeover of the Treasury Department Payment systems, there is reporting that our Social Security monthly payment will be discontinued. Really Congressman? And what are you doing to ensure that thousands of your constituents continue to get their monthly Social

...We asked for all of this when we voted him back into office...



Security payment which we and others in your district depend on to pay monthly utility, health care costs and in some cases their rent.

And as you sit in your office quivering about crossing Don Trump, your salary is not in jeopardy. No, you still get paid even though you and others in congress

really have done nothing for your constituents. All you worry about is if President Musk and Vice President Don Trump will primary you. Well, you need to do your job, serve your constituents, and uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.

The congress has turned into a bunch of jittery cowards scared that they will be primaried, as the people in your Alabama District worry about living day to day. What a disgusting joke this Congress is.

Yep, cowards, shaking in their boots that they might be primaried if they step out of line.

Nope, Mr. Editor, I don't you think that Congress worries about being removed from office for failing to do

See LETTERS...on Page 14

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TOYOTA: RAV4, 2013 \$19,950. WOW! Only 39k miles (Yes 39k!) One owner, Limited model, pearl white, heated gray leather, navigation, sunroof, power lift gate, rearview camera. Just serviced including new tires. Outstanding SUV 256-527-2125

QUEEN MATTRESS BOX SPRINGS \$125, Full size mattress & box springs \$100; both in excellent condition. 256-391-6152 or 256-570-1145

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KIA: SOUL, 2015 \$5,995. All leather, sunroof, moonroof, power seats, and windows, heated seats, heated steering wheel, navigation system, USB Connections, and more. 38 mpg. 256-394-3007

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Erica Vaughn | Lisa Gargis | Judy Keenum | Heather Fowler
Beverly Stamps White | Caycee Fowler (& Easton)

256-648-5710

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



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A CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR KIKI The Gift of Community: Strengthening Faith Through Connection

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Rev. Kiki Woods-Terry,

faith is more than personal belief—it's something we live out together.

In moments of joy, community gives us people to celebrate with. In moments of struggle, it offers us hands to hold. The bonds we form in fellowship remind us of God's presence, working through the love and kindness of those around us.

On Sunday, March 9, we invite you to experience the power of community at Unity Day at North Wood United Methodist. If you've been thinking about finding a church home, this is a wonderful time to visit. Join us for worship and stay for a special fellowship lunch afterward.

Faith grows stronger when shared. If you're looking for a place to connect, serve, and grow, we welcome you. Visit our Facebook page to learn more about how we walk this journey together.



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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

IT'S NOT THE ANSWER

Dear Dave,
I just finished paying off my credit card bills from last Christmas, and I've made a resolution that it's the last time I'm going into debt for the holidays. With that in mind, how do you feel about using layaway programs when it comes to buying Christmas gifts, instead of putting purchases on credit cards?

Marty

Dear Marty,

Here's a good rule of thumb for pretty much all spending, not just Christmas gifts. If you can't buy it with cash up front, you can't afford it. The only thing I generally give folks a little wiggle room on is when it comes to buying a house. Very few people have enough money set aside to write a check for a home.

Now, sometimes there might be cases when certain popular items

are on sale, and you can set them aside through layaway if you don't have cash at the moment. I don't have a huge problem with this sort of thing, as long as it's not habitual behavior. But in general, I'm not a big fan of layaway programs. I know they seem harmless to most folks, but some stores attach hidden fees and other "gotchas" to their layaway programs. On top of that, they're not the best answer to the problem of running up a mountain of debt at Christmas.

Think about it. Christmas comes at the same time every year, right? I mean, it's not like it sneaks up on you. So, wouldn't it be a better to start living on a written budget, and saving up money for Christmas ahead of time? Set aside a little bit each month leading up to December, and by the time Christmas 2025 rolls around, you'll have a big pile of cash just waiting to be turned into Christmas gifts. And the best part? No financial hangerover in January and February from all the debt you piled up.

So, if you're not already doing this, Marty, I want you to start living on a budget. Give every dollar you bring in a job to do, on paper, before the upcoming month begins. Include

Christmas spending in your budget, too.

And always remember, Christmas is about God's love for us. Not about impressing people by spending money you don't have!

— Dave

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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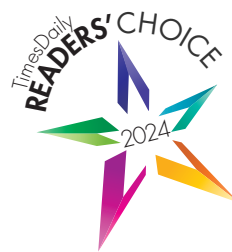
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Letters...

Jittery Cowards

Continued from Page 8

an honest day's work for an honest day's pay, something these cowards don't understand. Contact your member of Congress and let him know that We the People are tired of being lied to as congress get their pay for doing nothing.

Larry J. Smith
Florence

Greenland, Panama, Canada, and Gaza—which everyone knows will never happen—while he begins to dismantle the government and our Constitution and become our dictator.

Most of us stumble about in our little worlds. Some are waking up and can see where this is heading. When Hitler got elected it took him approximately 55 days to destroy the government in Germany and become their dictator. Keep in mind, Trump hasn't got the sense to do what you see happening. He's not that smart. His leader, Musk, is following the 2025 Plan and has bought and paid for Trump's service to follow his lead.

The people will wake up their Congressional leaders soon, I hope, and bring an end to this before the US falls. The only way to stop it is the third impeachment, or not. It will be so easy to do nothing. We asked for all of this when we voted him back into office. What a great businessman—only six bankruptcies. I think his last one was a casino

that couldn't pay for itself, a first in history.

I'm not one that wanted him locked up like so many dreamed of. I do feel he should be institutionalized to protect others from his deadly path. Once we put him out of the White House, we can begin to "Make America Great Again."

Tom House
Killen

UNA Baseball Field Ready?

Editor,

The College View Church of Christ is adjacent to UNA's new baseball and football fields that are currently under construction. If you walk or drive to the back of the church parking lot, there is an excellent view of the construction. I have done this.

UNA's first home game is scheduled for

See LETTERS...Page 20

The Third Impeachment

Dear Editor,

First, I'd like to acknowledge Larry Smith for his well-written letter in the February 5 issue. Larry, I don't think our neighbors can see where the old Republican party is taking us today since Trump got elected. The new party, the MAGA party, is letting Trump distract us with the daydream of taking over

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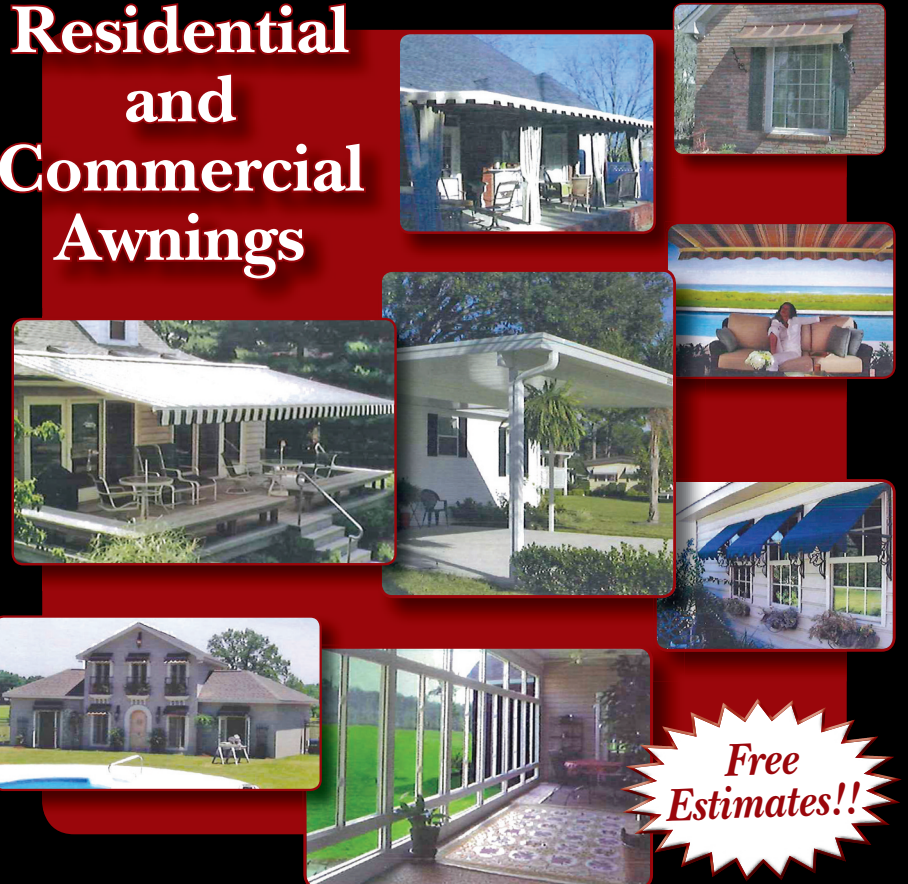
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Medical Testimony Is Required In An Injury Case

In every case we know that an accident happened, and we know how it happened. We know what the medical treatment was, who did it, and where it was done.

The severity of an injury really determines the value of a personal injury case. Obviously, there are other factors that drive the value up or down. Most personal injury lawyers would agree that the victim of a drunk driver is likely to get more money.

Often the perception that someone was on their cell phone or otherwise distracted can drive a verdict higher.

Injuries come in all different kinds from a catastrophic injury such as the loss of a limb or paralysis to bumps, cuts, and bruises. The monetary value to a large degree corresponds to the extent of the injury.

There are defenses to liability such as contributory negligence meaning that the person that got hurt was in some way at fault also. If there is a strong defense, the value of the case decreases.

In cases where there is medical treatment, the courts will not allow, by and large, an ordinary person to testify about their injuries unless and until a physician testifies that the injuries were caused by the accident that the lawsuit is about. In other words, you can have the accident report showing how the accident happened on one side and on the other side a stack of medical records showing what the treatment has been. Without a doctor's testimony to bridge the two, the medical treatment doesn't come into court unless a doctor says it was both caused by the accident and necessary for the treatment of the injuries.

Insurance companies are really using this requirement to not pay claims. Unless the medical records are really clear and the injuries are severe, insurance companies often elect not to pay or pay a very small value.

One of the problems that we see is that the court system has for many years allowed doctors the privilege of testifying by deposition and excusing them from having to come to court to testify. That privilege does not extend to physician assistants and nurse practitioners (PAs and CRNPs). We are seeing and will continue to see more treatment by nurse practitioners and physicians assistants. These professionals are certainly entitled to act as expert witnesses and testify to causation and treatment in the vast majority of cases; however, they have to testify live in court.

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

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

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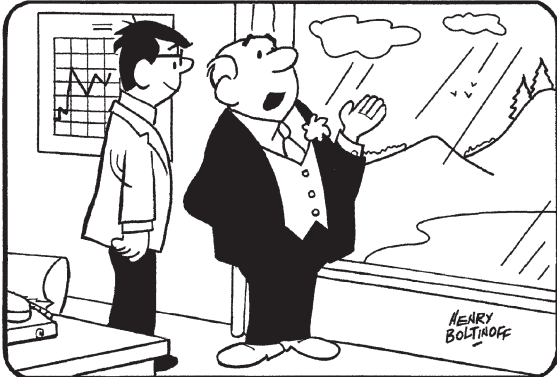
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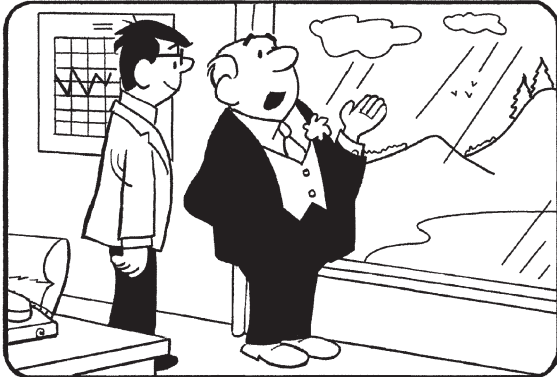
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No Excuse For Rebellion

1 Samuel 15:23ab "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." **1 Corinthians 10:13** "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." God doesn't make anyone sin. Sin is a wide-awake choice and is America's greatest enterprise. Sin is costly and billions pay \$billions annually. **2 Corinthians 4:4** "In whom the god of this world (DEVIL) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." **The devil is even after saved Christian minds**, because he knows the body follows and takes its orders from the mind. If He can control your mind, He can control you. Higher education has turned into indoctrination. This is one reason why there is so few young people in saved churches today.

You can tell who has control of your mind by the way you live. **Genesis 4:7** "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him." The flesh wants pleasure and the Devil being in control, gives it. Somehow the TEEN-AGER breaks from family-church values and has another god (SATAN) on the throne of their heart. Sin becomes as easy as breathing and becomes a lifestyle. Then it seems we no longer need God as sin controls our lives. The answer is to reverse course, change your mind about a selfish life-style and get back to God. **Romans 8:6** For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. It's an essential to get this truth! Know Jesus, know peace. No Jesus, no peace. Sin kills!

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Answers on Page 20

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. Banker, sometimes | ___ N ___ | First in line | ___ A ___ |
| 2. Saunter | ___ B ___ | Plenty | ___ P ___ |
| 3. Singer Gaye | ___ V ___ | Paper boundary | ___ G ___ |
| 4. Disposed to | ___ E ___ | Fork tine | ___ G ___ |
| 5. Military title | ___ J ___ | City official | ___ Y ___ |
| 6. Vocation | ___ R ___ | Sway recklessly | ___ N ___ |
| 7. New York island | ___ L ___ | King of rock and roll | ___ V ___ |
| 8. "Go away, cat" | ___ M ___ | Morsel | ___ P ___ |
| 9. Round map | ___ B ___ | Pitcher's mitt | ___ V ___ |
| 10. Actor Gary | ___ P ___ | Not as hot | ___ L ___ |



MINI SUDOKU

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

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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1. Who had a hit with "Down Under"?
2. Which artist is known as the "Material Girl"?
3. Who wrote and released "Can't Fight This Feeling"?
4. Who came up with the term "rock and roll"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "A place where there's just loneliness, Where dim lights bring forgetfulness, Where broken dreams and memories meet."



What is a cat's favorite color? Purrr-ple.

What song does a cat like best? Three Blind Mice.

Where did the school kittens go for their field trip? To the mew-seum.

What kind of kitten works for the Red Cross? A first-aid kit.



1. TELEVISION: Which popular spinoff series originated with the drama "Breaking Bad"?
2. HOLIDAYS: What is another name for Three Kings Day, celebrated on Jan. 6?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "bona fide" mean?
4. MOVIES: In the movie "Babe," what kind of animal is the title character?
5. MEASUREMENTS: How many grams are in a kilogram?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Which strait separates Saudi Arabia from Africa?
7. SCIENCE: What are the three layers that make up the Earth?
8. FOOD & DRINK: Which breakfast food is associated with the retro series "Stranger Things"?
9. MEDICAL: What is the common name for muscae volitantes?
10. LITERATURE: Which poet wrote a six-volume biography of President Abraham Lincoln?

Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanec
CODED RIDDLE

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

I P X E J E U I F T O P X H M P C F G F F M

B G U F S I F B S J O H B T D B S Z T U P S Z ?

B C J U T I B L F O V Q .

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WORD LADDERS

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

BLAME

STARE

THANK YOU to our Brain Zone! Sponsors!



CITY OF FLORENCE



Florence Historian
Billy Warren



Florence's State Normal High School

What is known today as the University of North Alabama began its first year in Florence (1855) operating in the Masonic Lodge on the southwest corner of Court and Tennessee Streets in downtown Florence while construction of Wesleyan Hall was being completed. The following year (1856), the college moved into the grand, Gothic-style building, with both the student body and the faculty comprised of males only. By the 1870's, though, it had both males and females within both the student body and the faculty. It became known as Florence Normal College – with the word “Normal” a derivative of *ecole normale*, a French term applied to teacher-training schools in Europe and America. Faculty and staff in Wesleyan Hall and Wesleyan Annex, which are attached by an elevated crosswalk, were devoted to the training of teachers. Conveniently, a school for students in grades 1-12 was in the same complex of buildings. The accompanying image of a report card in the early 1930's (identity of the student purposely omitted) belonged to a student in Jr. 2 (grade 8). Note, for example, the earned grade in each subject; interestingly, the grades in Latin are better than those in English. Note, also, that the grades earned in “Department” (i.e., personal behavior) are not stellar. Grades overall improved significantly, though, in semester two. By 1950, the school no longer served students in grades 7-12. Today, Kilby Laboratory School, the direct descendant of Florence Normal High School, houses students of pre-school age through grade 6. It's the only Laboratory School still attached to a public university in the State of Alabama.

STATE NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL FLORENCE, ALABAMA									
REPORT OF Junior High Department, Grades 7, 8, D. Senior High Department, Grades 10, 11, 12.									
SUBJECTS:	DATE	SEMESTER ONE			DATE	SEMESTER TWO			AVG.
		1ST WEEKS	2ND WEEKS	3RD WEEKS		1ST WEEKS	2ND WEEKS	3RD WEEKS	
English		D	C+	C		C	B+	A	B
Language		D	D	A		D	D	B+	B
Mathematics		B	B	B+		B	B	B	B
Science		B	B	B		B	B	B	B
Social Science		D	C+	C		B	A	A	A
Art									
Music									
Physical Education		C	B	A		B	B	A	B
Department		B	B	B		B	B	B	B
Days Tardy		0	0	1		0	0	1	
Days Absent		1/4	1	1/8		2	1/2	1/8	

--Billy Warren, City Historian
(brwarren@florenceal.org)

Answers on Page 20

Brain Zone!

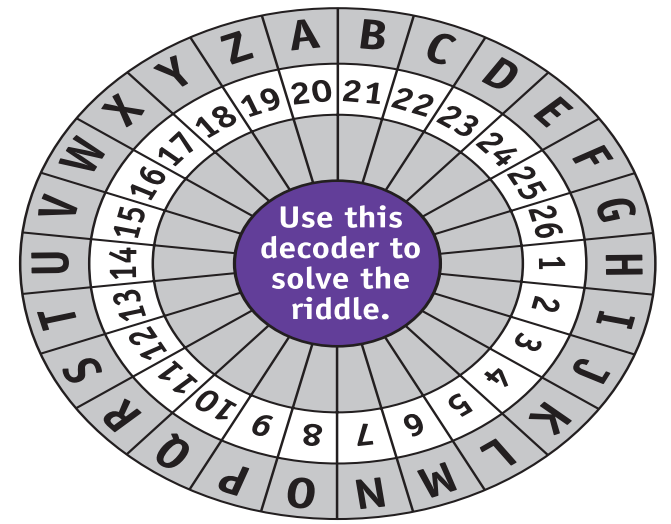
BIBLE TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ephesians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord" is found in ...? *Psalms, Proverbs, Numbers, Jeremiah*
 3. What tree did Jesus tell a parable about? *Apple, Fig, Olive, Sycamore*
 4. Who was John the Baptist's father? *Zechariah, Zacharias, Zephaniah, Zaccheus*
 5. What did the oak tree symbolize in the Bible? *Growth, Strength, Weakness, Fruitfulness*
 6. Which is not a book of the New Testament? *Revelation, Judges, Colossians, Jude*
- ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Psalms 150:6, 3) Fig, 4) Zacharias, 5) Strength, 6) Judges
- Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.
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SECRET CODE

How many months have 28 days?

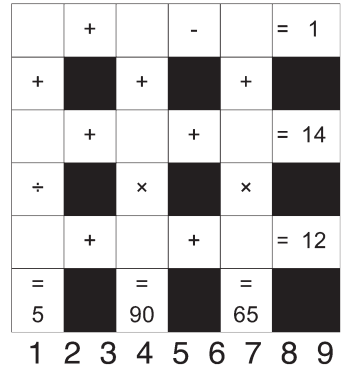
20	5	5	8	25	13	1	24	6
----	---	---	---	----	----	---	----	---



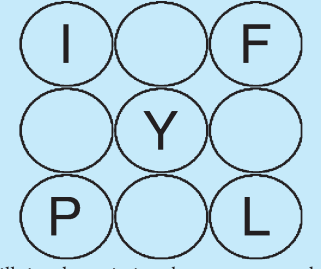
GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!



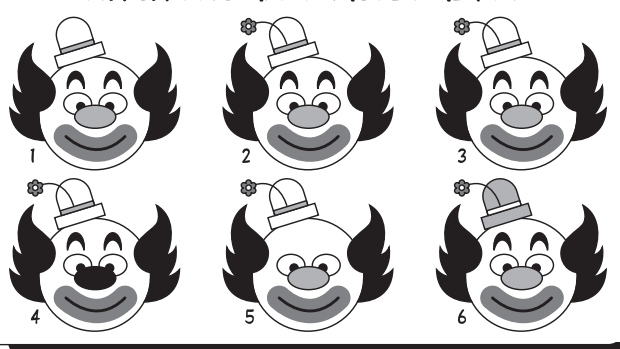
WORD SPIRAL



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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FIND THE TWINS
WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: M equals B

HPCY YOCZ-XWZWTOE MCTTDOT
VDBPY JWVO QWZDXO MO
HTCQQDAB CTWLAE C XTDVO
JXOAO? XWTEWA MZLO.

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"Your clerk will be with you again as soon as we can coax him of the window _____."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Fury

GEAR

Mystery

GEMANI

Grimace

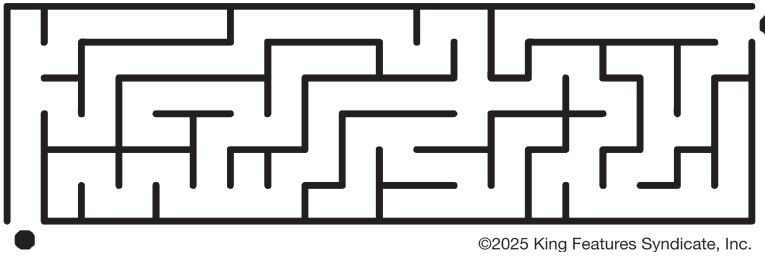
COWLS

Chaos

AMBLED

TODAY'S WORD

Kids' Maze

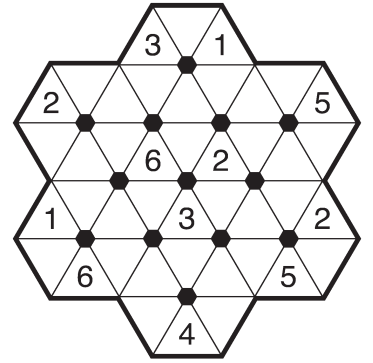


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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Letters...

UNA Baseball Field Ready?

Continued from Page 8

March 14 against Central Arkansas. Based on my observations, I don't believe the baseball facilities will be ready for play as expected. I hope I am wrong! Additionally, it has not been reported where the UNA baseball team has been practicing for the season.

The positioning of the field is changing, and the left field foul line will now be parallel to W. Cumberland Street. Because of this, the left field wall will be high and will align with the church's parking lot wall. This wall will be similar to the one at Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox. The wall in Boston is known as the Green Monster and is 37 feet, 2 inches high. The height of UNA's wall has not yet been disclosed. Furthermore, it appears the outfield fences are positioned very close to the football area. UNA has also not yet provided the seating capacity for the new baseball facilities. Will there even be room for stands?

At one time, UNA considered placing the new baseball field at Cox Creek Park, where UNA's softball and beach volleyball fields are located. The Florence City Council had donated a site at the park to UNA for the baseball field. Had UNA chosen that location,

it could have provided more parking spaces for football games—space that is now being used for the new baseball field. Roar Lions!

Bill Smoak
Florence

Simple Gifts Packed Love

Dear Editor,

The overwhelming generosity of the people in Northwest Alabama helped provide joy to children in need through Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts this season. Across the U.S., the Samaritan's Purse project collected 10.5 million shoebox gifts in 2024. Combined with those collected from partnering countries, the ministry has now sent over 11.9 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Shoebox packers brought joy and hope to children around the world through fun, full, and personalized gifts. For many children, this is the first gift they have ever received. Each shoebox gift is a tangible expression of God's love, given to children in need around the world. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 232 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Shoebox packers often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year. Many serve at a deeper level by becoming year-round volunteers. Information about ways local participants can get involved year-round is available at samaritanaspurse.org/occ. Although local drop-off locations for shoebox gifts are closed until Nov. 17-24, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline.

These simple gifts, packed with love, remind children around the world that they are loved and not forgotten.

GreenLee Smith
Samaritan's Purse
Media Relations Associate
Operation Christmas Child
Boone, NC

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NEVER MIX WATER AND ELECTRICITY.

STAY AWAY FROM POWER LINES.

STAY AWAY FROM TRANSFORMERS AND SUBSTATIONS.

Brain Zone! ANSWERS

WORD LADDER
Answer
BLAME, FLAME, FLAKE, SLAKE, STAKE, STARE

FLASHBACK TRIVIA
1. Men At Work, in 1981. The song topped the charts around the globe, including in Italy, Ireland and Denmark. It's full of Australian slang usually only understood in Australia, such as "kombi," which is a VW bus.
2. Madonna. The video of her 1985 song of that title copied the 1953 Marilyn Monroe performance of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" in the film "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes."
3. REO Speedwagon. The song was one of two the group performed at the Live Aid benefit concert in 1985. Hooked up by satellites, concerts were held around the globe and likely watched by nearly 2 billion people.
4. DJ Alan Freed in the 1950s. He was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1986.
5. "Lonely Street," by Carl Belew, in 1956. Andy Williams followed with the well-known cover in 1959. Since then, over a dozen artists have covered the song, including Patsy Cline, Bobby Vinton and the Everly Brothers.

Even Exchange answers

1. Lender, Leader	6. Career, Cerean
2. Amble, Ample	7. Ellis, Elvis
3. Marvin, Margin	8. Scram, Scrap
4. Prone, Prong	9. Globe, Glove
5. Major, Mayor	10. Cooper, Cooler

Word Spiral Answer
PAINFULLY

Kids' Maze Solution

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

Answers

- "Better Call Saul."
- Epiphany.
- "Good faith."
- Pig.
- 1,000.
- Bab-el-Mandeb.
- Crust, mantle and core.
- Eggo waffles.
- Eye floaters.
- Carl Sandburg.

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BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Psalms 150:6, 3) Fig, 4) Zacharias, 5) Strength, 6) Judges

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

Puzzles4Kids
Answer

How did the snow globe feel after hearing a scary story?
A bit shaken up.

3	+	7	-	9	=	1
+		+		+		
2	+	8	+	4	=	14
+		x		x		
1	+	6	+	5	=	12
=		=		=		
5		90		65		

CryptoQuip
answer

What teal-colored barrier might some police be wrapping around a crime scene? Cordon blue.

SCRAMBLERS
solution

- Rage
- Enigma
- Scowl
- Bedlam

Today's Word
LEDGE

FIND THE TWINS

SECRET CODE

How many months have 28 days?
All of Them

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Week of Feb. 12 winner is Tyler Scott of Killen who correctly guessed
"Mitchell Buford Science and Technology Building, UNA"
One entry per person. Winners will be announced each week in our paper and on our website. Winners can pick up their Gift Certificate at the Courier Journal office beginning Wednesdays after Noon.

ESTATE SALE
305 Nottingham Rd. (Sherwood Forest) • Florence
Friday, Feb. 21 • 9am-3pm
Saturday, Feb. 22 • 9am-2pm
Numbers given out at 8:30am Friday & Saturday
Sunday, Feb. 23 • 1pm-3pm

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Notes...

Continued from page 5

"Don't Hang Up" – To celebrate Black History Month, Dr. Eric Kirkman will present "Don't Hang Up" at 6pm Tuesday, February 18 at the Sheffield Public Library, 316 N. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield. The one-man monologue is filled with music, laughter and a few nuggets of wisdom. Small bites will be served. The event is sponsored by Friends of the Sheffield Public Library.

The Cadillacs will present their Grand Ole Opry Show featuring, "A Tribute to the Stars," on Saturday, February 22 at the St. Joseph Civic Center in St. Joseph, TN. The show begins at 6:30pm, and admission is only \$10. A portion of the proceeds will go to the St. Joseph Jesus Mission. Look for tributes to George Jones, Tammy Wynette, Hank Williams, Loretta Lynn, The Everly Brothers, Whitney Houston, Marty Robbins, Ray Charles, Lee Greenwood, Patsy Cline, Linda Ronstadt, The Righteous Bros., James Brown, Chubby Checker, Sammi Smith, Reba, Archie and Edith Bunker and more!

The Civic Center is located at 10 Park Dr. in Saint Joseph. Those attending are also encouraged to bring a couple of canned goods to the show for the Jesus Mission.

Dennis Odom is your host again for the evening, as well as being responsible Producer, Director, and sound.

As Dennis always reminds us, "You'll get your money's worth the first 15 minutes, and the rest of the show will be absolutely free!"

Game On! Saturday, February 22, 2pm-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@flpl.org to reserve your spot.

Zip City Community Center - Covered dish lunch and program, (February 20) 11:30am. Meets the 3rd Thursday of the Month. Free--Please bring a covered dish.

Religious Abuse Support Group of the Shoals will meet the first (March 2) and last Sunday (February 23) of every

month. Time and location will vary. Check Facebook for details: [https:// www.facebook.com/ragshoals](https://www.facebook.com/ragshoals)

"Junie B. Jones" - Friday, March 7, 7pm at the Shoals Community Theatre, 123 N Seminary St., Florence, 256-764-1700
Additional Dates: Saturday, March 8, 7pm and Sunday, March 9, 2pm

T. Graham Brown and Jerry Phillips: "From Memphis to Muscle Shoals" will be in concert Friday, March 21 at the Shoals Theatre in Florence. Doors open at 6pm for VIP's and 6:30pm for floor and balcony tickets. The show begins at 7pm.

VIP tickets are \$50, Floor seats are \$40, and balcony are \$35 each. The VIP Includes a Meet & Greet with the artists and an autographed poster.

Legendary country artist, T. Graham Brown and his band will share the stage with Muscle Shoals own, Jerry Phillips - with his band as well. Brown's latest record hit the top of the blues charts, and he will blend that with his monster hits for an amazing show. Phillips debuts his new album for the first time in his adopted hometown of Florence.

Tickets are available at etix.com and search "From Memphis to Muscle Shoals"

Creative Crafters wanted. This is a craft group for adult friends who draw, craft, paint, sew, quilt, embroider, crochet, etc (all artisans welcome), meeting at the Killen Library once a month. Bring your project to work on and come join the fun! The next 2025 date for this winter are Saturday, March 15 from 9-1pm. All adults welcome.

Shoals Writer's Guild, 10am the third Saturday, (March 15) Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, 350 N. Wood Ave.

See NOTES... page 23

Commentary

King for a Day...

Continued from Page 8

There is a lot of basketball left and the remaining schedule for both teams is challenging with so many good teams in the SEC this season. However, both will likely be high regional seeds in the NCAA Tournament, and if both teams work their way through the bracket, they could meet for a fourth time on a neutral court. That would be their most important matchup of the year.

Amazingly, this game was the only #1 vs. #2 matchup in Southeastern Conference basketball history.

It is also my understanding that this was only the sixth time in over 180 all-time meetings on the basketball court that Alabama and Auburn have both been ranked in the Associated Press poll when they have played.

Three of those games have been in the last three years.

The Associated Press started its weekly

basketball rankings in 1936 with 20 teams listed from '36-1960 and from 1968-1989. Only ten teams were listed each week from 1961-1967. The AP has ranked 25 teams since the beginning of the 1989-1990 season.

A few years ago, no one could have imagined this type of fanfare as both programs often struggled for respectability. Hopefully, big games will become the norm in this rivalry, and not the exception. It would be nice to partially supplant the heralded Duke/North Carolina rivalry.

Coaches Bruce Pearl at Auburn and Nate Oats at Alabama have each taken their team to the Final Four since they arrived on campus in recent years, and they don't appear to be pausing.

NEED HELP?

CONTACT 2-1-1

Your link to community resources



Plants...

Continued from Page 8

for over 17 years, teaching herbal education and plant identification and uses in North Alabama. She has over 30 years of experience and education in plant identification in the United States.

The Alabama Plant Series is a set of six free workshops hosted at Pope's Tavern Museum and sponsored by the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area. These workshops are meant to draw the connections between Native American cultures, Alabama plants, and the products created by people that are rooted in early traditions. Tickets for this event are available on Eventbrite, here: <https://tinyurl.com/229wudwt>.

Pope's Tavern is located at 203 Hermitage Drive in Florence. For questions, call 256-760-6379 or email: connect@florencealmuseums.com.

SIGNS OF THE PAST

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE MUSEUM

The Oakville Indian Mounds Museum is based on a seven sided Cherokee council house. This type of council house was used during the cooler months and an open sided rectangular pavilion during warmer weather. The descriptions used for the museum's construction came from Lt. Henry Timberlake, who visited the Cherokee capitol at Chota in 1761, and William Bartram, who visited Cove about 1765. Timberlake's description: "The townhouse, in which are transacted all public business and diversions, is raised with wood, and covered over with earth, and has all the appearance of a small mountain at a little distance. It is built in the form of a sugar loaf, and large enough to contain 500 persons, but extremely dark, having, besides the door, which is narrow that but one at a time can pass, and that after much winding and turning, but one small aperture to let the smoke out, which is so ill contrived, that most of it settles in the ancient amphitheater, the seats being raised one above another, leaving an area in the middle, in the center of which stands the fire; the seats of the head warriors are nearest it." The seven sides represent the matrilineal clans of the Cherokee: Wild Potato, Long Hair, Paint, Wolf, Deer, Bird, and Blue.

Location: 34.4440°N, 87.1785°W
Oakville Indian Mounds, Danville, AL

This complex contains not only the Oakville Mounds Museum, but also was home to five Indian mounds. Two mounds are preserved near this museum site. However three other mounds were destroyed by agricultural practices in the past.

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

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF ALABAMA, LAUDERDALE COUNTY NOTICE OF ABANDONED AND UNCLAIMED MOTOR VEHICLES.

Notice is hereby given that on the **28TH DAY OF MARCH 2025 from 9am-3pm** we will be accepting **SEALED BIDS** on the following vehicles to dealers only. Vehicles will be sold for parts only. No titles will be offered. The auction will be held at

FRANKIE'S AUTO & TOWING
990 COUNTY ROAD 28, FLORENCE, AL 35634

Frankie's Auto & Towing will accept proof of ownership should anyone care to submit the same Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm until the day of the sale. Vehicles may be viewed starting Monday March 24th 2025 between the hours of 8:00am-5:00pm. Vehicles must be paid for by Monday March 31st 2025. Frankie's Auto & Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

Year/Make/Model	VIN#	Color
2007 Dodge Charger	2B3KA43R07H642586	Gold
2001 Nissan Altima	1N4DL01D71C134083	White
2004 Chevrolet Impala	2G1WF52E249251573	White
2017 Mitsubishi Outlander Sport	JA4AP4AW6HZ021690	White
2004 Chevrolet Silverado	1GCGC24U74Z161204	White
2011 Toyota Camry	4T1BF3EK8BU157060	Gray
2000 Chrysler Grand Voyager	1C4GJ44G8YB747842	Gray
1994 Chevrolet S10	1GCCS14Z5R8121109	Blue/Purple
2000 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	1GCEC14W0YE343052	Gold
2012 Nissan Rogue	JN8AS5MTXCW603432	Silver
2008 Hyundai Santa Fe	5NMSH13E08H134209	Blue
2001 Honda Accord	JHMC656651C002195	Green/Primer
2010 Mazda 6	1YVHZ8CH8A5M11864	Black

Medicare Minute

"Medicare Part B Coverage"

Medicare Part B is most used when you visit your primary care physician or specialist. But Medicare Part B is also used for many other medically necessary services. Medicare defines medically necessary as "healthcare services or supplies needed to diagnose or treat an illness, injury, condition or disease, or its symptoms and that meet accepted standards of medicine".

One of these other services covered by Part B is transportation by ambulance. Medicare covers and helps pay for ambulance services only if other types of transportation will endanger your health and will only cover and help pay for you to be transported to the nearest medical facility that's able to give you the care you need. If you choose to be transported to a facility farther away you may have to pay more.

Another service Part B covers is Durable Medical Equipment (DME). DME must be long lasting equipment that is used in your home for medical reasons and has an expected lifetime of at least 3 years. Medicare has a long list of equipment that falls under DME.

One of the most important benefits of Medicare Part B are the preventive services that it covers. These services include health care that is used to prevent illness or detect illness at an early stage.

Medicare.gov list 23 screenings and shots that fall under preventive services. They include things such as mammogram screenings, colorectal cancer screenings and flu shots.

Part B has an annual deductible of \$257 and a coinsurance of 20%. This means that if you have Original Medicare only, with no other supplemental coverage, you will owe the first \$257 filed on Part B each year and, after the deductible is met, you will be responsible for 20% of the cost of Part B services you receive.

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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Your Host for the Evening: Dennis Odem

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Admission \$10

DANCERS WELCOME

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Notes...

Continued from page 22

The 73rd Annual Florence Kiwanis Pancake Days are scheduled for Friday, March 7 (6am-7pm) and Saturday, March 8 (6am-2pm) at the Florence Lauderdale Coliseum, 702 Veterans Drive in Florence.

Advance Tickets can be purchased for \$9 (10 or more \$8 each) for adults and \$6 for children under 12 from any club member or at any of the following locations:

- Whitten Law Firm, 206 S Pine St, suite 100;
- United Community Bank, 230 E Tennessee St;
- First Southern Bank, 201 S Court St;
- Bank Independent, 210 S Pine St;
- Wissert Coaching & Counseling, 1705 Darby Dr;
- online at TheShoalsNow.com or
- Kiwanis Club Florence, AL on FB.

Tickets at the door are \$11.

Business logo banners are also available for purchase, contact us at KiwanisClubFlo@gmail.com.

Expedition Saturday, 9-11am February 22 at Joe Wheeler State Park,

4401 McLean Drive, Rogersville. Cost \$5. Unleash your inner explorer with Park Naturalist Jennings. Uncover this hidden gem that is Joe Wheeler State Park. Meet at lodge lobby. Details: 256-247-5466.

Disabled American Veterans in Sheffield meets every fourth Tuesday of each month. (February 25) 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 Muscle Shoals Alumnae Chapter and Xi Phi Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. recently announced the opening of its annual scholarship application process. African American high school seniors with a 3.0 GPA or higher in Colbert, Lauderdale, and Franklin county are encouraged to apply. Applicants must submit an online application with current official high school transcript and three letters of recommendation with original handwritten signature, and must be present on May 4.

The essay contest is open to all high school students in Colbert, Lauderdale, and Franklin counties. Applicants must submit an original essay on topic, "My Dream of a Fair and Just World," and be present on May 4 to read the essay.

The essay must be a one page double-spaced, typed document of 250-300 words. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Applications and essays must be submitted by **MARCH 31**. Direct any questions to msaa.scholarships@gmail.com. To apply go to <https://www.dstshoals.org/>.

AARP Tax Aide is doing taxes for free again this year in Sheffield. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting at 9am - By appointment only. 600 N. Columbia Ave. Sheffield Now - April 14. Call Kim at 256-483-2894 for more info.

The 28th Annual Urban Forestry and Horticulture Conference takes place March 6-7 at Cross Point Church of Christ 1360 Cox Creek Parkway in Florence. Entitled, "A Bubble of Life" Creating Sustainable Ecosystems, attendees can choose between Pesticide Recertification Classes on Thursday or the Horticulture Conference on Friday, or you can always register for BOTH at a discount! Come discover something new, network with like-minded enthusiasts, and gain valuable knowledge to enhance your green thumb. CEU's are available to all attendees. For more details or to register, please visit: Florenceal.org/28th-annual-urban-forestry-horticulture-conference/



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