

Your Garden Seeds Here

SHOALS—The Gerald Williams Cooperative Garden Program is off and running for the 2025 growing season. The Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama offers free vegetable garden supplies to help qualifying local residents who wish to grow their own gardens. Sign-ups are underway NOW. Participants in the program must reside in Lauderdale, Colbert, or Franklin Counties. Household monthly income limits are as follows:



- 1-person household \$1,883,
 - 2-person household \$2,555,
 - 3-person household \$3,228,
 - 4-person household \$3,900,
 - Each additional, add \$672.
- All residents should call 256-248-1921. The cooperative garden program is a partnership of Community Action NW-AL, TVA retirees, and many others. [Register](#) before March 21.

Volume 141 Number 18

February 26, 2025

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Enrollment for Spring at NWSCC **Up 11%**

MUSCLE SHOALS -- Northwest Shoals Community College recently reported a significant increase in Spring 2025 semester enrollment. Total credit student enrollment has reached 4,719 students, up from 4,258 in the Spring of 2024. Last spring's numbers also reflected a 10% increase from 2023, when total enrollment was 3,882.

NWSCC President Jeff Goodwin expressed his

See UP 11%... on Page 9

At left Northwest Shoals Student Success Coach, Landon Hutcheson, meets with NWSCC sophomore, Mylene Martinez of Russellville, and discusses her career path. *NWSCC photo*

Pancakes on the Griddle

FLORENCE—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



Florence Kiwanis March 7-8

See SHORTS... on Page 2

\$10,000

Mid-Lauderdale VFD Has State Farm Safety Grant

ST. FLORIAN – The Mid-Lauderdale Volunteer Fire Department (MLVFD) recently announced that it is one of 100 volunteer fire departments across the nation to receive a \$10,000 grant through the State Farm® Good Neighbor Firefighter Safety Program.

In collaboration with the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), State Farm has awarded \$1 million in grants to help local fire departments acquire essential equipment that enhances responder safety, improves



See \$10,000... on Page 4

Miles' Single is Trending

SHOALS—A new country song from a Phenix City native and ten-year Shoals resident, Garrett Miles, celebrating one of President Donald Trump's recent political triumphs, attracted the attention of Senator Tommy Tuberville on X (formerly Twitter).

"Since his inauguration, (President of the United States) hasn't stopped winning for the American



Garrett Miles
GarretMiles.com
Texas Red Records

See MILES... on Page 7

INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside



Advance Auto Sales
Watson Auto Sales

- Medicare Minute
- Ask the Attorney
- Guest Commentary
- Computer Skeptic
- Adopt a Friend
- Dave Ramsey Notes
- Hocus Focus
- Your Letters
- Grocery Values



- Insurance Insights
- On Your Debt
- The Shoals Symphony
- Service at St. John's

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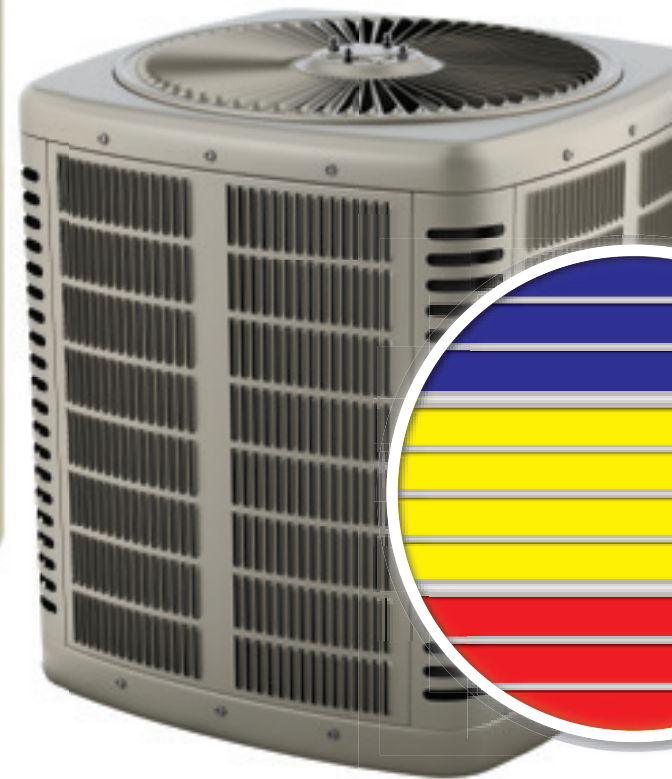
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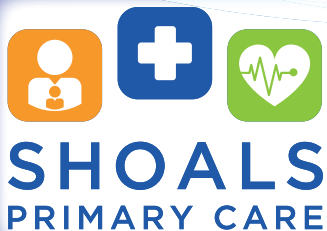
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Shorts...

Pancakes on the Griddle

Continued from Page 1

\$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 are available at the door for \$11.

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

Town Creek Sewer Grant

MONTGOMERY — A grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission will be combined with a \$400,000 Community

Development Block Grant, awarded by Governor Kay Ivey in November 2024, to overhaul the sewer system in Town Creek. Town leaders report that faulty sewer lines have caused sewage to overflow onto the ground and back up into homes, placing the town in violation of federal and state health regulations.

“This project will ensure that residents and businesses in Town Creek have a properly functioning sewer system and alleviate concerns about overflows and health risks,” Ivey said.

Funding will be used to replace and seal deficient sewer lines, install a sewage lift station monitor, and add new pumps to safely transport sewage from households and businesses to the wastewater treatment plant.

The town has pledged \$50,000 toward the project. Officials note that the sewer system becomes overburdened when groundwater seeps through porous lines and seals, straining the wastewater treatment plant. Simultaneously, sewage escapes from the deteriorating lines into the ground.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs is administering the ARC and CDBG awards.

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 <p>Ground Beef \$3⁶⁹ Lb. BBQ Whole Spare Ribs \$9⁹⁹ 2-Lb. Bag</p>	 <p>Country Style Pork Ribs \$1⁹⁹ Lb. Sirloin Pork Chops \$1⁷⁹ Lb.</p>	 <p>Pork Steak \$2⁴⁹ Lb. Boston Butt Pork Roast \$1⁷⁹ Lb.</p>	<p>We have a large variety of Tucker Milling Co. Feeds. Sold by individual bags or by the pallet (40 bags per pallet)</p>  <p>Corn 50 Lbs. \$8⁵⁰</p>  <p>Tasty 10 50 Lbs. \$8⁵⁰</p>  <p>5-Way Scratch 50 Lbs. \$12</p>  <p>Rabbit Feed 50 Lbs. \$18</p>
 <p>Split Chicken Breast \$1⁴⁹ Lb. Chicken Leg Quarters \$7⁹⁹ 10 Lb. Bag</p>	 <p>Chicken Tenders \$2⁹⁹ Lb. Boneless Chicken Breast \$2⁴⁹ Lb.</p>	 <p>Farm Raised Catfish Fillets \$18⁹⁹ 4 Lb. BOX Pork Neck Bones \$1⁷⁹ Lb.</p>	<p>639256-1</p>

Alabama A&M University Small Farms Research Center & Alabama Cooperative Extension System present

Heirs' Property

Information Session




Overview | Prevention | Resolution




Thurs. March 6,
9 AM-3:30 PM CT
Sign-in/On-site
Registration 8:30 AM

FREE WORKSHOP. FREE RESOURCES. CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED

An overview of heirs' property and the prevention and resolution of common heirs' property problems.

LOCATION: Alabama Music Hall of Fame (Banquet Hall)
617 US-72 W - Tusculumbia, AL 35674

TARGET AUDIENCE: Landowners, small farmers, agribusinesses, community gardeners, etc.

ADMISSION IS FREE: Registration is required by Monday, March 3rd, by calling 256.320.8051, emailing oppia.burke@aamu.edu, or online at www.aces.edu/go/4828.

63672-1

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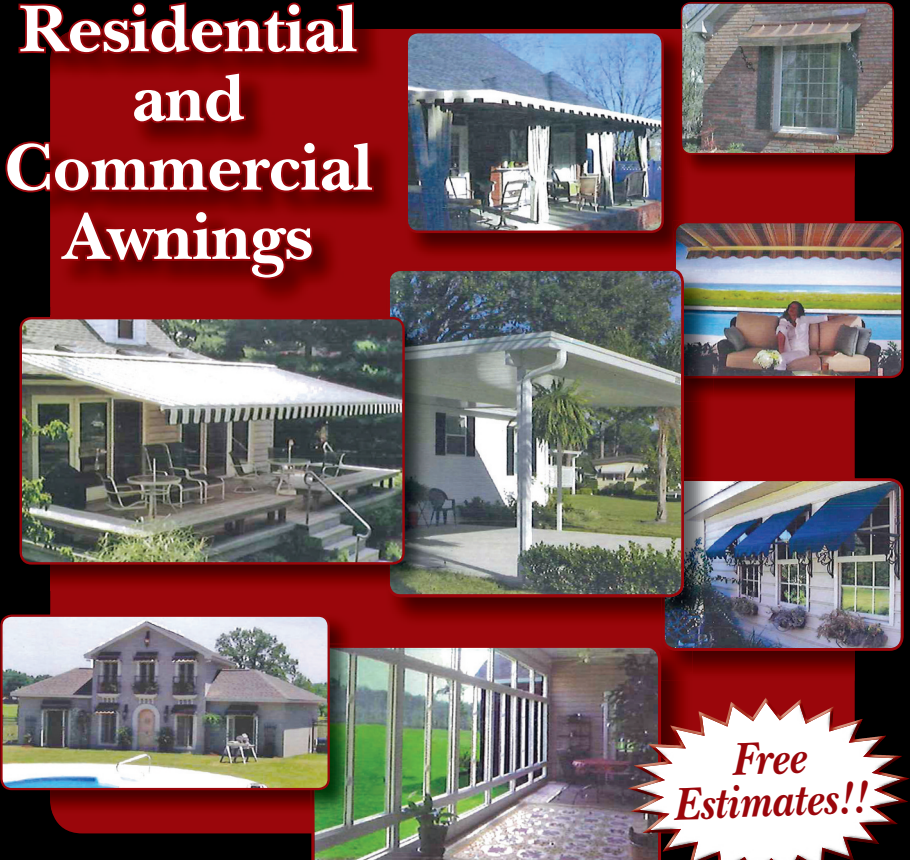
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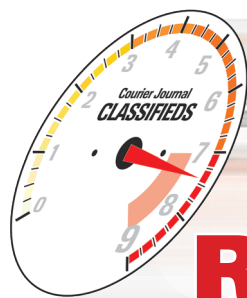
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\$10,000...

Continued from Page 1

effectiveness, and strengthens service to their communities.

With this grant, MLVFD purchased two automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and four portable suction units, both essential for treating cardiac arrest and clearing airway obstructions. The grant also funded new medical bags, standardizing medical equipment across the department's fleet. By equipping four frontline apparatus identically, with two identically stocked trucks at each station, MLVFD has improved response efficiency and ensured personnel have immediate access to life-saving tools wherever they are dispatched.

Mid-Lauderdale VFD has served the Town of St. Florian and 4,000 residents in surrounding communities since 1971, covering 30 square miles and 38.5 miles of shoreline along Shoal Creek and Wilson Lake. The department responds to medical calls, structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, and natural disasters. Mid-Lauderdale also maintains mutual aid agreements with Underwood-Petersville, Zip City, Greenhill, Killen, and Florence Fire Rescue, fostering a collaborative, county-wide emergency response effort.

"This grant has significantly increased our medical response capabilities," said Justin Bishop, a volunteer EMT and vice president of MLVFD's

board of directors. "Our volunteers work tirelessly to protect our community, and thanks to State Farm and the National Volunteer Fire Council, we are better equipped and prepared to provide life-saving care when seconds matter most."

This is the inaugural year of the State Farm Good Neighbor Firefighter Safety Program. Volunteer fire departments play a critical role in protecting communities across the country, especially in small towns and rural areas. However, they often operate on tight budgets and struggle to secure funding for essential equipment.

In collaboration with the NVFC, State Farm initially planned to award 50 grants to local fire departments. However, due to overwhelming response, the company doubled its commitment.

State Farm also provided all applicants with a National Volunteer Fire Council membership—the leading association representing volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services—ensuring access to additional tools, resources, and training.

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

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

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Community Notes

COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge ASSPACE IS AVAILABLE in the Courier Journal. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following week's issue. • Email to editor@courierjournal.net

Colbert Transportation - Wells of Hope Ministries, Inc. was recently

awarded a grant to provide transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities in Colbert County. Seniors and handicapped individuals who live in Colbert County and are in need of free transportation, please contact Mr. Wendell Plain at 256-412-5220 or Mr. Otis Johnson at 256-762-1378.

The Locust Shores Volunteer Fire Department is having a picture drive and fund raiser over the next few weeks. People will be coming around throughout the community. Please participate or contribute as this work helps the volunteers do their work with the fire dept. The Chief is Ron Stonecipher.

Community Action of Northwest Alabama is offering Utility Assistance for elderly and disabled persons during February 2025! They will be accepting applications/appointments from households with those age 60 and older,

as well as disabled household for the month of February.

Please check the appointment line for availability. 256-764-5142. The deadline is near. Appointments will open for the general public at a later date.

Artistic Renderings of Youth is a juried exhibit of artwork open students grades 7-12 from Colbert, Franklin, and Lauderdale counties. The exhibit runs April 2-May 1st Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts in Florence.

The exhibit and competition are coordinated by area art teachers. Schools may participate or students can enter on their own. Each student can enter up to three works. Entries are juried and, if accepted, are eligible for ribbons awarded in different grade level groupings. Works must be original and can be in any medium. All 2-dimensional entries must be matted or framed. Framed pieces and canvases must have hanging wire attached on the back.

The entry deadline for Artistic Renderings of Youth is Friday, March 14.

For more details on entry rules, call Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts at 256-760-6379 or email: connect@florenceal museums.com The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St.

FREE WORKSHOP: Heirs 'Property Information Session: Overview/Prevention/ Resolution Thursday, March 6 9am-3:30pm in the Alabama Music Hall of Fame (Banquet Hall) 617 US-72 W - Tusculumbia

Landowners, small farmers, agribusinesses, community gardeners, etc... Come learn how to protect and

resolve issues regarding family (heirs') property.

Sign-in/On-site Registration at 8:30am. Free Workshop. Free Resources. Continental breakfast and lunch provided.

Registration required by Monday, March 3 by calling Oppia Burke at 256-320-8051 or emailing oppia.burke@aamu.edu, or online at www.aces.edu/go/4828.

Presented by Alabama A&M University Small Farms Research Center and Alabama Cooperative Extension System'

See NOTES... page 22

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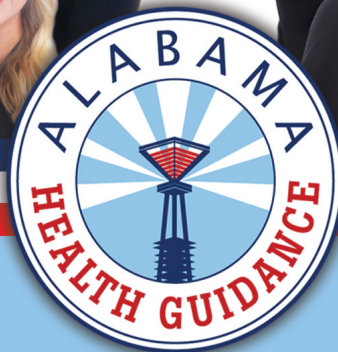
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Mon-Fri 9am-4pm for interview

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
Deadline for applications is February 28, 2025
Colbert County Commission is an equal opportunity employer.

The Utilities Board
City of Muscle Shoals
Water & Wastewater Department
will be accepting applications for
Two Positions of Distribution/Collection Crew Member
Applications and a current job description may be obtained at the Muscle Shoals Utilities Board office located at 2001 Wildwood St.
Applications with resumes will be accepted and received until
Thurs., March 20, 2025, 3:30pm

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Miles...

Continued from Page 1

people. Enjoyed hearing this new song by my friend and Phenix City, Alabama native, (Garrett Miles).

The song, titled "Gulf of America," was released last week through Texas Red Records. The new single was recently featured on YellowhammerNews.com and is available on all major music platforms.

A portion of the lyrics to "Gulf of America" can be found below.

"All the way from South Point, Texas around and down through the Florida Keys,

You can sail those Gulf Stream waters,

Catch a ride on a summer breeze.

And when the people fly, Old Glory,

Man, you couldn't ask for more on the Gulf of America, that patriotic shore."

Miles has been blind from birth, and he developed a love for music early on in his life. No one in his family was musically inclined, yet he began developing his talent through hard work

and practice.

He competed and made it to Hollywood during Season 14 of American Idol. He speaks and sings in Spanish as well and got to do a brief song for Jennifer Lopez in his American Idol Audition.

Since his memorable appearance in 2015, Miles' classic country vocals and musicality have made him a rising country star with a rapidly growing fan base. He has been calling Florence his home for the past ten years.

Miles has appeared with talents such as George Jones, Tracy Lawrence, Ray Price, Blake Shelton, and many others.

He recently did a tribute for one of his friends and heroes, the Legendary Randy Travis. Garrett will soon be touring around the US with his set of patriotic country music curated especially for the



upcoming America 250 celebrations, festivals, and events.

For more information, please visit his website, garrettmiles.com

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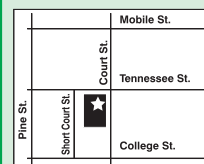
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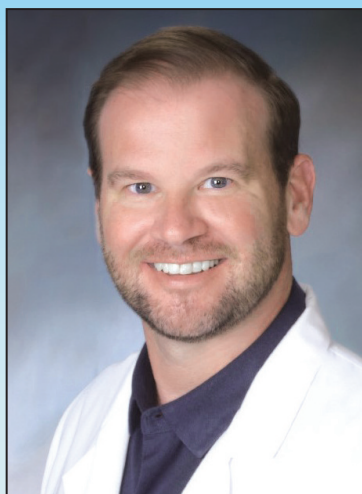
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Guest Commentary

Who's Receiving NGO Kick-Backs?

The Deep State does not understand how President Donald Trump is moving so quickly seemingly knowing precisely what to hit them with next. Within two weeks he was even auditing them—something never done before nor thought possible. Those who have studied “secret combinations” over the past 100 years (including Internationalists, the Establishment, the New World Order, Globalists, the World Order, and now the Deep State) know exactly what he is doing and why.

He had over 10 years to watch the Deep State up close and personal. He saw how they treated him as an outsider before and after his election in 2016. Then, as president, he had access to all their secret (classified) documents during his first term, followed by a coup election ending with Joe Biden as the White House resident. Biden himself

See KICK-BACKS... on Page 14

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



HAROLD PEASE, Ph.D.
History / Political Science Instructor
- Expert on the US Constitution

Courier Journal

in the Shoals

THIS WEEK

February 26, 2025

Happening THIS WEEK

Shoals Symphony Brings Audience the

City of Lights

FLORENCE— The Shoals Symphony Orchestra presents “City of Lights” on Sunday, March 2, from 3–5 p.m. at Norton Auditorium, located on North Pine Street on the UNA campus in Florence.

Experience the vibrant atmosphere of Paris

with a concert featuring Gershwin’s “An American in Paris” and other French-themed classics. Let the rich sounds and captivating melodies transport you to the heart of the City of Light.

For tickets, please visit shoalssymphony.org.



THE 3RD ANNUAL RIVERHILL SCHOOL CHILI COOK-OFF, RED HOT ROUND-UP!

is Saturday, March 1, from 2-6pm at Singing River Brewing Co. in downtown Florence. Proceeds benefit Riverhill School. More information can be found at: <https://riverhillschool.org/riverhill-chili-cook-off-2025>

FLORENCE PARKS AND RECREATION

YOUTH Baseball, Softball, and Soccer sign-ups are available now until February 26. Register online today at florenceal.org

St. John's Hosts Ashe Wednesday

TUSCUMBIA— St. John’s Church in Tuscumbia, located at 300 N. Dickson St., will host an intimate Morning Prayer service for Ash Wednesday, including the Imposition of Ashes, at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5. This Anglican tradition offers a meaningful Lenten service from the Book of Common Prayer as spiritual preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Christians of all denominations, as well as those simply wishing to learn more about Lent, are welcome to experience this Anglican Lenten tradition. The Rev. Danielle Thompson of Grace Episcopal Church will officiate.

St. John’s Episcopal Church, an area

See ASH...Page 10

‘THROUGH THE DARKNESS: ALONG THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD’

— The exhibit will be at Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St. in Florence through March 7. The K-D Center is open to the public free of charge from 9am 4pm. Monday-Friday and 1-4pm Sunday. connect@florencealmuseums.com

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YOUR Letters

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

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

DOGE Puts US First

Dear Editor,

I have recently read several letters in the *Courier Journal* from self-identified liberal Democrats, voicing their God-given American right to harshly complain and protest against the DOGE committee auditing the different branches and departments of our government. The question is: why?

Why are we having a hissy fit over an audit? I was a supervisor and manager in industry over many years. Every company I worked for conducted audits every year, and sometimes every six months.

Besides financial audits, we had internal audits of our quality

departments, and then external auditors were hired to satisfy our customer base. All our audits were freely accessible to any potential customer who wanted to review them, and I never had to lock the doors or stand guard outside while the audits were being carried out.

So, what is the big deal for the Democrats — unless they have something to hide? They are screaming that cutting foreign aid will devastate other countries. Come

on... they’re not really concerned about other countries—they care about their own pockets, and we all know it.

The Democrats are NOT concerned about the American people, and they ALWAYS put us in LAST place! That’s why they were beaten back in November, and they still don’t get it.

“AMERICA FIRST” is what

See LETTERS...on Page 18

... I will present this proposal to the City Council for approval once the details are finalized and fully expect their support. ”

Up 11%...

Continued from Page 1

excitement about the college's continued growth. "I believe this is a testament to the dedication of our faculty and staff, as well as the trust our students place in Northwest Shoals to help them achieve their educational goals," Goodwin said. "We are committed to providing opportunities for all students, from those dual-enrolled in high

school to those being trained or retrained for the local workforce. I think this growth reflects the impact we are making."

The college experienced a substantial 15% growth in dual enrollment, highlighting NWSCC's strong partnerships with local high schools.

"We are fortunate to have great high schools in our area that are always looking for ways to help students prepare for life after graduation," said Casey Eggleston,

NWSCC Assistant Dean of Dual Enrollment. "Whether through career technical training, academic courses, or health studies, we want to offer high school students the opportunity to get a head start on their career goals."

NWSCC has also seen a nearly 21% increase in students choosing a hybrid enrollment approach, taking both online and on-campus courses.

Additionally, the college has experienced growth in students taking online-only courses, with a 25% increase over last year. On-campus career technical programs have also seen notable enrollment gains, with Design Engineering Technology up 61%, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning up 35%, Child Development up 32%, Carpentry up 31%, and Salon and Spa up 11%.

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Once upon a time, there existed a computer system of immense power, UnityOS. Built with top-tier hardware and the slickest software, it was designed for speed, efficiency, and adaptability. For a good while, it ran without a hitch, garnering praise from its users. But, as time marched on, cracks began to surface.

UnityOS was a multitasking marvel, juggling countless programs simultaneously. Yet, over time, its memory became a junkyard. Outdated apps, redundant processes, and corrupted files accumulated, slowing the system to a crawl. **Tasks that once zipped by in**



Martin Dean

The Parable of UnityOS

by "The Computer Skeptic"

seconds now dragged on for minutes. Users grew testy, resorting to quick fixes that only worsened the situation.

The system's antivirus programs, DefenderX and ShieldPro, were supposed to protect UnityOS. Instead, they bickered incessantly. DefenderX called ShieldPro too aggressive, while ShieldPro deemed DefenderX too lenient. **Viruses slipped through the cracks, wreaking havoc.**

The CPU, the system's brain, was swamped. It tried to execute every command, but there were too many processes. The CPU's cooling fans whirred constantly, struggling to manage the heat. Occasionally, the system would freeze.

The memory, once reliable, became fragmented. **Files were scattered, making data retrieval a nightmare.** Important updates languished, awaiting approval that never materialized.

The firewall, meant to protect the system, was under siege. Hackers probed for weaknesses, while internal conflicts weakened its defenses.

Users grew fed up. Some installed third-party software, hoping for a better experience, but the system's architecture resisted. Others tweaked settings, but their efforts backfired. The diagnostic tool, meant to identify problems, became a source of noise, bombarding users with irrelevant alerts.

UnityOS was in dire straits. Its performance tanked, its users were disgruntled, and its future looked grim. Some experts called for a complete overhaul, others for incremental fixes.

The fate of UnityOS rested with its users.

Would they unite to debug the problems, install the right updates, and restore the system? Or would they ignore the warning signs, risking a crash that could take years to recover from?

Thus, UnityOS stands as a parable: even the most advanced systems require care, cooperation, and timely updates. Neglect and infighting lead to chaos. The question remains: Will we learn the lesson before it's too late? It's all about good practices my friends. As always, stay skeptical. Until next time.

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Ash...

Continued from Page 1

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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.

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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
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2010 Mazda 6	1YVHZ8CH8A5M11864	Black



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ON YOUR DEBT



B. Grant McNutt
Managing Attorney

The Hidden Danger of Making Only Minimum Payments on Credit Cards

A January 2025 Wall Street Journal (WSJ) report highlights a concerning trend: more consumers are making only the minimum monthly payments on their credit cards. While this may seem like a manageable short-term solution, it can have long-term financial consequences. If you're struggling with high credit card balances, it's crucial to understand the risks and explore potential solutions, including bankruptcy relief.

The True Cost of Minimum Payments
Credit card companies design minimum payments to keep consumers in debt longer. When you make only the minimum payment:

- **Interest Accumulates Rapidly** – High-interest rates, often exceeding 20%, mean that most of your payment goes toward interest rather than reducing the principal balance.
- **Debt Lasts for Years** – A balance of \$5,000 with an 18% interest rate could take over 20 years to pay off if only the minimum payment is made.
- **Credit Scores May Suffer** – High credit utilization (using most of your available credit) can negatively impact your credit score.
- **Financial Stress Increases** – The burden of long-term debt can make it harder to save, invest, or handle emergencies.

What to Do If You're Stuck in the Minimum Payment Trap

If you find yourself making minimum payments month after month, here are some steps to take.

1. Review Your Budget – Look for areas where you can cut expenses and

redirect those funds toward paying off debt faster.

2. Negotiate with Creditors – Some credit card companies may be willing to lower your interest rate or offer hardship programs if you explain your situation.

3. Explore Bankruptcy Options – If your debt has become unmanageable, Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 bankruptcy can provide legal relief and help you regain financial stability.

How Bankruptcy Can Help with Credit Card Debt

- **Chapter 7 Bankruptcy** – Eliminates most unsecured debts, including credit card balances, in as little as a few months.
- **Chapter 13 Bankruptcy** – Restructures debt into an affordable repayment plan, often reducing interest and stopping creditor harassment.

• **Stops Collection Actions** – Filing for bankruptcy immediately stops wage garnishments, lawsuits, and collection calls.

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late

If you're overwhelmed by credit card debt and struggling to make payments, seeking professional legal advice can help you make an informed decision. At the Bond & Botes Law Offices, we specialize in helping individuals find relief from financial burdens through bankruptcy and other debt solutions.

Contact The Bond & Botes Law Offices
We offer a free, confidential consultation to discuss your options and help you take control of your financial future. Don't let credit card debt dictate your life—take action today. We'd love to discuss your finances with you. We want to help!

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Guest Commentary – Dr. Harold Pease

Kick-Backs...

Continued from Page 8

ordered the raid on Trump’s home, Mar-a-Lago, and weaponized the FBI, DOJ, and the judicial system to destroy him.

Trump first placed the illegal criminal element on the run by Border Czar Tom Homan, which likely otherwise would have been used by the Deep State for street chaos. Then he took away their security passes (Biden had taken Trump’s January 2021) so they could not know and use state intel information. Then, their funding through USAID was exposed, and now their money laundering system through corrupt non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Trump took the offensive, the Deep State the defensive. It’s all coming to light. This column is on NGOs.

According to the State Department, approximately “1.5 million NGO’s are operating in the United States” - All of these feeding directly or indirectly off taxpayer dollars. (*Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the United States, Jan. 20, 2025*).

It is important to recognize that not all, probably not more than a few thousand of these are dishonest or knowingly attempting to destroy America. But NGO’s need to make certain they are not assisting the Deep State laundering system. We support Congressman Thomas Massie’s definition of an NGO. He wrote, “If cutting government funding shuts down an NGO, it is not and never was a Non Governmental Organization” (*Thomas Massie, X, Feb. 12, 2025*).

This calls to mind a statement by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn: “We know that they are stealing. They know that they are stealing. They even know that we know they are stealing. But they are still stealing.” (*X22 Report -hereafter not cited-Ep. 3570b, Feb. 12, 2025, 33:31*).

Elon Musk stated that DOGE will be investigating bureaucrats who have somehow amassed large amounts of wealth with public servant salaries now that “the scheme has been

exposed.” Highly visible examples include Nancy Pelosi, whose annual salary is \$223,000 with a net worth of \$202 million; Mitch McConnell, with an annual salary of \$200,000 and a net worth of \$95 million; Chuck Schumer, with an annual salary of \$210,000 and a net worth of \$75 million; and Elizabeth Warren, whose annual salary is \$285,000 with a net worth of \$67 million (She flies on a private jet.) (*@ Elon Musk @ DOGE, Ep. 3570b, Ibid., 37:05*).

Anthony Fauci and Schumer are of special interest to the Government Department on Efficiency. Fauci’s net worth surged during COVID, making him a multimillionaire. Meanwhile, Chuck Schumer sponsored the Inflation Reduction Act, which allotted the IRS \$80 billion to hire 87,000 agents to audit the American people. Yet, hypocritically, he objects to the audit of USAID, which is likely the source of his own financial gain. (*Ep. 3570b, Feb. 12, 2025, 38:31*).

These individuals have a net worth far beyond reason relative to their salary base. President Trump says he is ‘completely certain his administration has discovered widespread kickbacks in the federal government.’ Trump said, ‘I examined a list of 200 expenditures and found only three that look reasonable. There is no chance that there’s not kickbacks or something going on. They are taking massive amounts of money and spending it on items.’

Other, lesser-known members of Congress are also of interest to DOGE. For example, Rep. Jasmine Crockett has “a reported net worth of \$9 million despite being paid \$174,000 a year. Crockett owns a \$2 million townhouse in Dallas, a \$1.5 million loft in Austin, Texas, and a \$1.5 million lakefront cabin in Galveston, Texas. Crockett’s net worth grew substantially last year during the 2024 election, where she became an overnight star for the DNC.” Crockett says it’s “a lie” that her net worth is ‘between -\$46,997 and \$29,999.’

(*Lead Stories Fact Check, Dana Ford, 02/14/25*).

DOGE News reported with a photo: “This is the Government Accountability Office Building. They are supposed to do what DOGE does. They currently employ 3,275 people who do nothing” in “a very big building. DOGE just has a few college kids.” Then Elon observes, “It’s almost like there’s a massive ‘uniparty’ grift machine here in DC,” and shares the following analogy: “You own a store. Your store gets robbed. Elon looks at the video footage of the robbery and tells you who did it. Now, you want to arrest Elon.”

Former Democratic President Harry S. Truman put it best: “You can’t get rich in politics unless you’re a crook.” (*Ep. 3572b, Feb. 14, 2025, 34:47*).

There is extreme panic in Washington, D.C. All of this has resulted in a 400% rise since Dec. 1, 2024, in Google searches for ‘defense lawyers in the District of Columbia’— five times higher than any other place in the country (*Brooks Dailey, Ibid., 33:36*).

Google searches exploded for the following terms: RICO law, Swiss bank, IBAN, offshore bank, wire money, statute of limitations, and BleachBit (the biggest one of all).

Why BleachBit? “Hillary Clinton used BleachBit inside her home to wipe everything electronic. This way, they couldn’t be tracked.”

These individuals allegedly stole from taxpayers, with some even participating in a successful coup d’état against Donald Trump— treason. They know it. Trump knows it. And now, many other people know it.

Dr. Harold W. Pease is an expert on the United States Constitution and has dedicated his career to studying the writings of the Founding Fathers and applying that knowledge to current events. He taught history and political science from this perspective for over 30 years. Read his weekly columns at [www. LibertyUnderFire.org](http://www.LibertyUnderFire.org).

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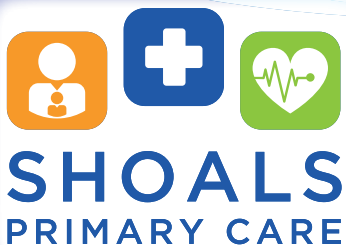
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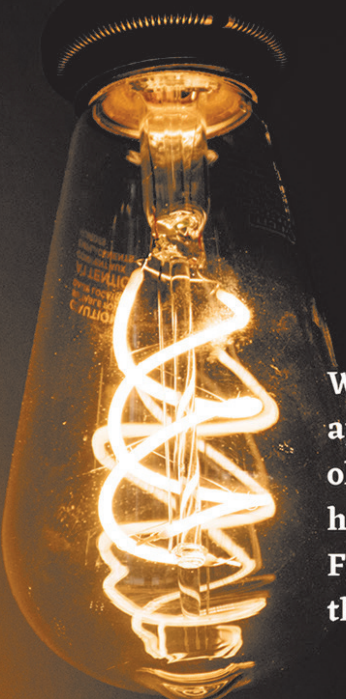
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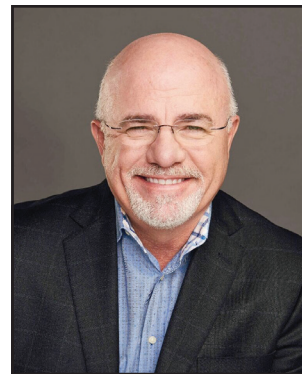
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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



A HIGH-RISK PROPOSITION

Dear Dave,
My wife and I are on Baby Step 4 of your plan. Recently, we were offered the opportunity to take part in a three-day, hands-on stock trading class. The only problem is we don't have the \$5,000 registration fee at the moment. What do you think about us temporarily taking that amount from our emergency fund, then replacing it over a few months' time? We would still have the minimum three months of expenses you recommend still there for emergencies even after taking the class.

Pete

Dear Pete,
I wouldn't waste my money on the course. And I especially wouldn't blow any of my emergency fund on something like that. Your emergency fund is for, repeat after me, emergencies only! In my mind, a short course on single stock investing is about as far from an actual emergency as you can get. Now, I don't know the exact course you're talking about, but I do know quite a bit about the concept of buying and selling stocks—or day trading—if you want to call it that. Research shows over 90% of day traders lose money over time. And I can tell

you something else, too. One hundred percent think they'll never be the ones losing out. That includes people who take courses like the one you're looking at.

I've seen no data points—none—showing that on a consistent, level basis across a broad population, that people who take courses like these make money and become wealthy as a result. Buying and selling single stocks is an ultra-high risk proposition. That's why I don't buy them. I know some people who buy and sell single stocks as a very small percentage of

their financial world. And when I say "very small percentage," I mean it's like a hobby they dabble in once in a blue moon, with a very small amount of cash.

But my best advice, Pete, is to stay away from this kind of thing. Someone might make a little money playing around like this from time to time, but it's nothing you should spend a lot of time on, or make a serious financial investment in. And it should never, ever be the main focus of an investing strategy.

— 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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Medicare Minute “Medicare Part A & B Review”

The past couple of weeks we have discussed Medicare Parts A & B in detail. These are the two parts of Medicare that are received through the federal government. This week let's review what we have discussed.

Although Medicare Part A and Part B are great programs that cover a lot of services there are some things Medicare does not cover. They include most dental care, eye exams related to prescribing glasses, dentures, acupuncture and hearing aids.

Medicare Part A is primarily used to cover your inpatient care. Part A has a \$1,676 deductible for each benefit period, meaning the deductible can be applied more than once in a calendar year. This deductible covers hospital services, including semi-private rooms, meals, general nursing, drugs as part of your inpatient treatment, and other hospital services and supplies. Part A is “free” to most Medicare beneficiaries. “Free” meaning you may not have to pay Medicare to have Part A. It does not excuse the deductibles and co-insurance.

In most cases Part B is used to cover your outpatient services. These include visits to your primary care physician and/or specialist. It also may cover transportation by ambulance, durable medical equipment, preventive services and mental health treatment. Part B also entitles you to an annual “Wellness” visit to a qualified provider. Most Medicare beneficiaries joining Medicare Part B for the first time in 2025 pay a monthly premium to Medicare of \$185.00 (or higher depending on your income). Part B has an annual deductible of \$257 and a coinsurance the beneficiary pays of 20%, after the deductible is met.

To cover the deductibles and coinsurance that Part A and Part B have you would need to look at some type of supplemental policy sold through private insurance companies. These include Medicare supplement plans or Medicare Advantage Plans. If you want to study Part A or Part B in more detail you can look at previous Medicare Minute articles or give our office a call and we'll be glad to discuss this with you.

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@alabamhealthguidance.com. Alabama Health Guidance is an independent insurance agency and is not affiliated with Medicare or any other government agency



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Letters...

DOGE Puts US First

Continued from Page 8

the American people want. The former administration was very unconcerned about the American people. I do not see one thing wrong with holding any organization accountable through audits or any other method needed to stop corruption. That includes Republicans and Democrats alike. Reagan did the same during his administration, but nobody was screaming, "It's unconstitutional!" It is NOT. It's common sense, and American citizens want and deserve accountability in Washington, D.C.

Why would these hesitant politicians be worried about our economy or the struggle to survive in America, anyway, when most of them are sitting on millions of dollars in their bank accounts?

Furthermore, the average annual salary

for a member of Congress is \$174,000. How do they become multimillionaires in just a few years? Not honestly, that's for sure!

We need our tax dollars to benefit the American worker and family. It's time to put America first again.

Sam Hall
Muscle Shoals

A Solution for the Animals

Editor,

As Mayor, I have a duty to follow city policies and to protect the city from liability. For safety and liability reasons, the City of Florence and Lauderdale County only allow employees to drive city and county vehicles, so volunteers at Animal Services simply cannot drive city vans to transport animals.

However, I firmly believe that for the benefit of the shelter and the community, we must continue the current practice of sending as many shelter animals as possible to rescue organizations.

Far too many unwanted dogs and cats end up in the shelter, largely because many residents of Florence and Lauderdale County fail to have their pets spayed or neutered. Until this changes, we should do everything we can to find loving homes for these loving animals.

In 2013, just as today, Animal Services and volunteers sought to transport shelter dogs and cats to various rescues across the country, but volunteers needed a way to drive the transport vehicle.

To solve this, the city acquired a van through a Petco grant and donated it to a local nonprofit group, allowing volunteers to drive it. At the time, I was a City Council member and voted to approve this.

To continue the transportation of shelter animals while also protecting the city, I want to donate one of the Animal Services vans to a local non-profit group as a solution. I will present this proposal to the City Council for approval once the details are finalized and fully expect their support.

Andrew 'Andy' Betterton
Mayor, City of Florence

Courage and Strength

Editor,

Rosa Parks was a woman of courage in more ways than one. She was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama. It is a remarkable coincidence that she was born during Black History Month, which was later designated by President

Gerald Ford in 1976. Some Christians believe that God had a special purpose in bringing Rosa Parks into the world. She once said, "The church, with its musical rhythms and echoes of Africa, thrilled me when I was young."

Rosa recalled that for a long time, Southern whites opposed Black Americans becoming Christians, preferring instead to pretend that slaves had no souls. However, from the Revolutionary War era

More LETTERS...Page 20

LEGAL AD

It is hereby given that on the **15TH DAY OF MARCH, 2025 AT 10AM,** the following units will be sold at **Florence Blvd. Self-Storage located in Florence, AL**
Tenant may satisfy their indebtedness prior to the time of sale.

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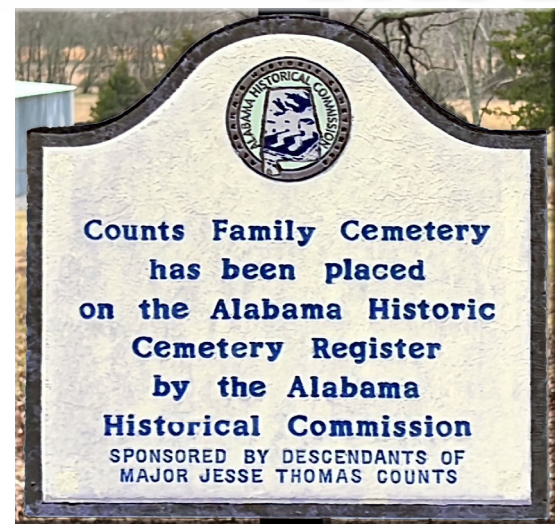
SIGNS OF THE PAST

Counts Family Cemetery has been placed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register by the Alabama Historical Commission
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Jessie Thomas Counts, born 22 July 1798 in Grainger, TN, married twice. He fathered 8 children. Jessie died in Russellville in 1878 and is buried in this cemetery. His namesake son Jessie Thomas Counts (1842-1927) was a private in Company D, 11th Alabama Cavalry.

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



Insurance Insights

"Below is a State Farm® Simple Insights® article about "Helping my neighbor" is provided by State Farm agent Rebecca Stutts Hovater.

Helping my neighbor: Signs they may be in need

Here are signs that your neighbor needs help and how to lend a hand.

Most of us have a neighbor of some sort or another. That person may live miles away or just across the hallway. But many people, particularly neighbors without family or friends nearby or senior neighbors, may be at greater risk of isolation and loneliness. These burdens can have a serious impact on well-being: Social isolation increases the risk of premature death from all causes, according to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

No matter who you live next to, it pays to learn how to be a good neighbor and look out for one another. Here are signs that your neighbor needs help — and ways you can reach out.

Unopened mail and unclaimed packages

An overstuffed mailbox, newspapers that aren't promptly retrieved and packages that sit for days or more at a front door are all signs that a neighbor is either too ill or too overwhelmed to keep up with those daily tasks.

How you can help: Ideally, when you or the neighbors first move in, you would exchange information such as phone numbers and emails as well as emergency contact information. That way you have multiple ways of trying to reach them or a loved one in case of an emergency. If you don't have this information, simply check in and say "hello." Sometimes it seems like knocking on the door can be an imposition — but the simple act of seeing your neighbor, face-to-face, builds connections.

A change in your neighbor's routine

Even if they live alone, many neighbors have well-established and visible routines, such as going for a walk at a certain time during the day. If that routine changes for more than a day or two, it may be cause for concern.

How you can help: First, take note of your neighbor's patterns — not to be nosy, but so you can notice if something is amiss and observe if your neighbor needs help. In that case, use your emergency contact information if you're unable to reach your neighbor in person.

Extremes in weather

Particularly for senior neighbors, snow, ice, heat and cold can pose dangers if they try to leave their homes.

How you can help: Talk to your neighbors in need ahead of time and offer to retrieve groceries, shovel walks or run errands should conditions in your area worsen.

Yard upkeep or home-care issues

Take note of small changes in the outward appearance of their home or yard. For example, is the typically meticulously manicured lawn in disarray? Or, have you noticed damaged gutters, broken shutters or windows or other home-care issues? This may be a sign that your neighbor needs help.

How you can help: If you're comfortable, try to gently approach the issue with your neighbor and ask if they need assistance with tasks around the house outside. You may not be able to fix the gutters, but you may be able to help with other things, like mowing the lawn or putting out the trash bins. If you're not familiar or comfortable with your neighbors, consider contacting community resources who may be able to help.



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Letters...

Courage and Strength

Continued from Page 18

onward, African Americans read the Bible, organized religious gatherings, and practiced rituals that were deeply meaningful to their hearts.

From an early age, Rosa memorized Bible verses and frequently quoted scripture. She often heard her family and friends shouting "Amen" and "Hallelujah," which strengthened her young faith. She was a devoted member of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, founded in 1816 by Bishop Richard Allen, a former slave. From its inception, the AME Church petitioned the legislature to end slavery. Other prominent members of this movement included Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth.

Rosa Parks was a strong supporter of the NAACP and served as the Youth Director of her local branch. On December 1, 2024, the Ministers' Wives and Widows of the Muscle Shoals District Missionary Baptist Association presented their first Rosa Parks Program for the Shoals area. The program aimed to teach young people the meaning of leadership and courage in today's society. Students portrayed historical figures who were either part of Parks' circle of friends or prominent figures in the civil rights movement. The Nichols brothers performed the poem "Equipment" by Edgar Guest, challenging fellow students to reflect on their goals and aspirations.

The program took place on December 1, the very day in 1955 when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott. At the same time, the event highlighted the broader significance of Black history.

The Muscle Shoals District moderator for the program was the late Dr. Jeffery Braxton. Rev. Braxton strongly believed in investing in and encouraging young people. Like Rosa Parks, he too embodied courage and strength.

Sheryl Hamilton
Ministers Wives and Widows Auxiliary
Tuscumbia

More LETTERS...Page 22

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Catastrophic Injuries

Any personal injury lawyer who handles catastrophic injury cases must understand that the goal for the client is to provide financial security for their future. That means a life care plan that fully prevents the injured person from becoming a burden on their loved ones or having to be cared for by Medicaid.

The medical bills to treat the original injury are easily proven. Sharing with a jury the effects of the

injury requires effort and creativity. It's difficult to know and understand the difficulties that catastrophic injuries cause. All parts of life from the activities of daily living to simple self-care, and transportation become difficult. There is no substitute for spending time with the injured person at their home. I always do in every case to understand first-hand what my client is going through.

A tried-and-true method is a "day-in-the-life" video, but even those must be carefully produced with all out takes preserved so that it's admissible. You certainly don't want to spend \$25,000.00 to produce a video that's not admissible.

The biggest part of a catastrophic injury case is the part that hasn't happened yet. That is planning for and paying for the future. Sure, you can look on the internet and see that a wheelchair accessible van costs \$75,000.00, but over the injured person's lifetime, how many will they need and how much will they cost? The jury better know the answer.

A thorough life care plan put together by a team of experts including a doctor to establish medical necessity and an economic expert to look at current costs, future costs and calculate inflation and other economic factors can arrive at a number that you can justify to a jury.

These plans show the true cost of care for the life of the injured person. They are often tens of millions of dollars and include home modification, future medical costs, future medication costs and other needs that catastrophically injured people will incur. These are extremely important and detailed cases and must always be approached thoroughly.

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

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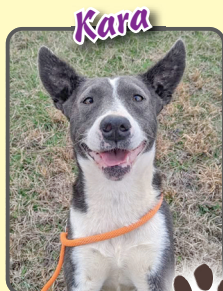
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Revelation 10:6 "And swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer." That's the God who was manifest in the flesh on the earth, suffered and shed His blood and died and went to hell and rose again to pay for your dirty rotten sins. His name is "THE LORD JESUS CHRIST", and He's the one you must face at Judgment. Have you been saved and are YOU ready to meet Him? He's staring at you right now. What have you DONE with and for Him? Without Him, you're headed for a fiery Lake forever! WAKE UP!

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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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Notes...

Continued from page 5

Florence Parks and Recreation youth Baseball, Softball, and Soccer sign-ups are taking place now until

February 26. Register online today at florenceal.org.

Spring Clothes Giveaway - INFANTS - ADULTS CLOTHES and SHOES on Thursday, March 6 from 8-10am at the Care Center, First Baptist Church, Killen

Coats Farm will be the site of the Annual Benefit Trail Ride on March 7-8 with the trail ride, auction, and yard sale at Coats Farm, 1458 County Road 298 outside of Florence. The yard sale begins at 8am March 7 in the barn. The trail ride begins at 9am March 8 (bring your own horse). The silent auction will begin at 9:30am, March 8. Chicken and goat stew, hamburgers, hotdogs, BBQ, and ham and beans will be served at 11am, March 8. All proceeds benefit the North Alabama Christian Children's Home.

Zip City Community Center - Covered dish lunch and program, (March 17) 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 (March 30) of every month. Time and location will vary. Check Facebook for details: <https://www.facebook.com/rags Shoals>

"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

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.

Florence Camerata are resuming rehearsals Thursdays, at 9:30pm 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.

Shiloh Church of Christ will host it's Friends and Family Day on Sunday, March 9. The guest speaker will be Kyle Butt, In frequent speaker and Christian evidences.

Worship is at 9am, Bible class is at 10. Lunch will follow classes and the day will conclude with a 1pm service. Shiloh is located at 2605 CR 344, just off Highway 43 north of Florence.

Everyone is welcome.
Kyle Butt has served in the Bible department at Apologetics Press for the last 20 years and is the editor of the AP children's monthly publication, Discovery. Shilohchurchofchrist.net 256-757-2456

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.

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 is 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.

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/

Jacksonburg Church of Christ, at 414 County Road 28 in Florence, will have a Wednesday night Spring Series: "Body Building" for March and April at 7pm each Wednesday. The schedule includes: Chris Moran, through caring for orphans on March 5; Matt Heupel, through caring for the aged on March 12; Rickey Collum, through encouragement on March 19; Ben Siegel, through worship in spirit and in truth on March 26; Austin Johnson, through evangelism on April 2; Ty Rhymes, through investing in youth on April 9; Justin Pannell, through a Christian example on April 16; Dr. Kirk Brothers (men) and Lori Tays (women), through submission and godly leadership on April 23; and Austin Swinea, through loving one another on April 30.

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"

Letters...

Continued from Page 20

Wrong People to Congress

Mr. Editor,

As President Musk and Don Trump dismantle our country, and congress shivers in fear as they try to please Don Trump, I have started to wonder why congress is full of cowards and those that think they are "owed" their position. As I ponder our current situation, I wonder why the American people, most of them middle class or workingpoor, continue to representatives to Congress that just don't represent their constituents.

I shop at Walmart. I see families checking prices and telling their children they can't have ice cream or cookies—or, even worse, when the children ask their parents, "Why can't I have ice cream or cookies?" the parents respond, "We can't afford that."

So, why do we keep sending members to the Congress that only represent the wealthy? Why would we not send people to congress that question the decisions being made in Congress? Many years ago, I asked myself the same question and thought about running for office. I started the process and got asked if I was qualified or if I had the experience to serve in Congress.

I have the same thoughts today. Aderholt,

Katie Britt, and Tommy Tuberville are wealthy and probably never had to tell their children, "We can't afford that." Why do we keep sending wealthy people, that are supposed to represent the working poor and middle class? Why do we do that? Because they have an (R) behind their name?

People, it is time to wake up and start sending representatives to Congress and the Senate that are like you and me. What do Aderholt, Britt, or Tommy know about raising kids on a tight budget?

I was raised by my mother. My father left us when we were young. My mom worked as a waitress and gave us a good home. There were times when we wanted something, and she said, "No, we can't afford that right now." Did we have food on our table every night? Yes. Most likely, what we had was ham, beans, and cornbread. But we had food.

It is time that 'We The People' rid ourselves of these Congressional representatives that have never had to worry about making it to the end of the month with enough money to pay the electric or gas bill. It is time to elect people that have walked in our shoes.

Larry J. Smith
Florence

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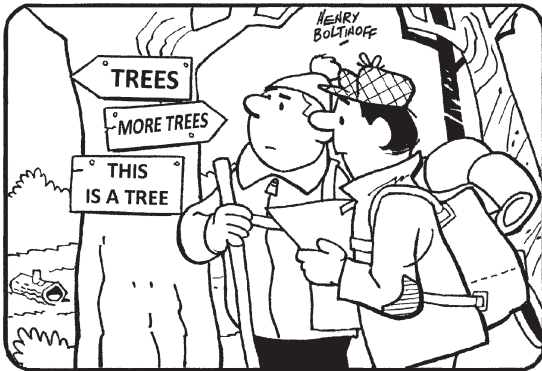


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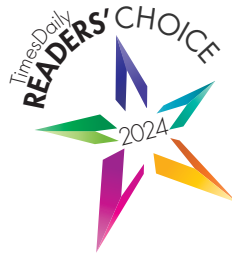
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