

Brown Show at the Shoals

FLORENCE—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 seats 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.”



Brown
Promotional

Ready Deck for Demo

FLORENCE—Contractors are making progress in preparing for the demolition of the downtown parking deck. Over the next few weeks, crews will secure

See SHORTS... on Page 2

Volume 141 Number 19

March 5, 2025

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Lauderdale County Sheriff's Deputy Reggie Goodloe and his K-9, Ace, work the area Wednesday at McFarland Park in Florence.

Dan Busey/TimesDaily

Ace Gives Lauderdale Sheriff's Office A Leg Up

By Kevin Taylor
TimesDaily City Editor

FLORENCE — The Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office can now say it has an Ace up its collective sleeve.

Ace is a 1 1/2-year-old German short-haired pointer, the latest addition to the sheriff's department.

This marks the first time in at least 10 years that the sheriff's office has had a K-9 unit on the force, according to Sheriff Joe Hamilton.

Ace is a drug/tracking dog and was

purchased from Arete Canine, LLC, which is in Yatesville, Georgia.

"I'm excited to have Ace on board," Hamilton said. "He will certainly be a great asset to have in our fight against drugs within the county."

By having a K-9 also capable of tracking, Hamilton said the dog will

See ACE... on Page 4



"Ace"
Sheriff's Dept-FB

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NWSCC Names Team Coaches



Jeffreys

MUSCLE SHOALS -- Northwest Shoals Community College has hired Jamie Jeffreys as the new women's flag football coach and Tim King as the new men and women's golf coach.



King

"These two men are exactly what we were looking for as we build our foundation with flag football and golf at Northwest Shoals," said Patriots Athletics Director Taylor Franks through a press release last week. "They are passionate about their respective sports and great teachers. I look forward to

See COACHES... on Page 6

INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside



Advance Auto Sales
Watson Auto Sales

- Medicare Minute
- Adopt a Friend
- Dave Ramsey
- Hocus Focus
- Your Letters

- A Conversation w/Pastor Kiki
- Ask the Attorney
- Cat & Kids
- Savvy Senior

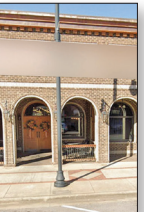
- About Kudzu
- Coats Farm Benefit Ride
- Community Notes
- Commentary

SIGNS of the PAST



Online Only:

- Mystery Photo
- Web Poll
- Alabama Outdoors



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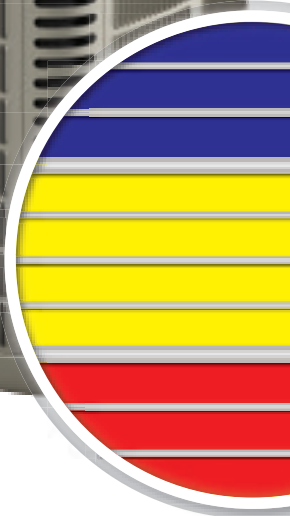
Friday, March 7 • 6am–7pm
Saturday, March 8 • 6am–2pm
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Shorts...

Ready Deck for Demo

Continued from Page 1

permits and relocate utility lines to ensure a smooth transition before demolition begins. Traffic control measures will be put in place to maintain public safety and prepare the site. The project contract is for 170 days. Demolition is anticipated to start next month.

During the demolition phase of the project, traffic flow will be impacted to ensure safety:

Pine Street from Tennessee Street to Mobile Street will be reduced to two lanes of traffic, with the north lane closed.

Tennessee Street will be shut down from Court Street to Pine Street. However, access to the municipal parking lot will remain available.

Mobile Street will be one-way westbound from Court Street to Pine Street.

The alley between Tombigbee and Tennessee Street will be open as demolition allows.

Mayor **Andy Betterton** stated, "Downtown Florence is evolving, and this project is a crucial step in shaping its future. We are dedicated to keeping downtown accessible and ensuring a positive long-term impact." District 2 Council Member **Jackie Hendrix** emphasized the importance of this project for downtown Florence, stating, "This demolition is important to maintaining our vibrant downtown area. While we understand this process may cause temporary inconveniences, the long-term benefits will be well worth it. We appreciate everyone's patience and support during this process."

Fire Forces Relocation

FLORENCE-Ritchie and Ann Gilbert lost their home in North Florence to a fire recently. The two were not home but their dog, **Coco**, was pulled out of the burning home by members of Florence Fire and Rescue, unresponsive and not breathing. However, she was resuscitated, and she spent a few days at the emergency vet because of smoke inhalation and a corneal ulcer. The Gilberts must find a new place and have set up a Go Fund Me page, asking for \$4000 to help cover the cost of moving with first month's rent and a deposit when they move. They feel blessed that Coco looks to be getting better and that no one else was at home at the time!

Here is a link to the GoFundMe page <https://gofund.me/94b387cd> and a FB post with pictures from the fire department <https://www.facebook.com/share/18h6QTy4zz/> Any assistance would be appreciated.

29 at the Mt. Moriah Family Life Center, 820 West Irvine Avenue in Florence. The speaker for the event will be the Reverend **Lyle Lee**, President of Huntsville Bible College. Rhoda P's Catering will prepare the breakfast.

Each year, the Tri-County Branch presents Freedom Awards in the categories of Leadership, Youth Service, Community Service, Civic Duty, Humanitarianism, Education, and Spiritual Guidance to local individuals, organizations, and businesses. Nomination forms are available at the NAACP Tri-County website, from the Branch officers, or at WZZA Radio.

Tables of eight are \$240. Individual tickets are \$30 each. A souvenir program for the Freedom Award Banquet will feature ads at a cost of \$35 for a quarter page, \$60 for half a page, \$100 for a full page, \$150 for the inside front or back cover, and \$200 for the back cover. Patron ads are available at \$20 each. Ads can be emailed to Secretary@NAACPTriCounty.org. Payments can be mailed to NAACP at Post Office Box 2110, Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662.

Funds raised during the Freedom Awards Banquet assist in supporting advocacy of civil rights throughout the Tri-County area. Please email toricbailey@gmail.com or call 256-383-4260 for additional information.

Shoals Primary Care Ford City Clinic Welcomes



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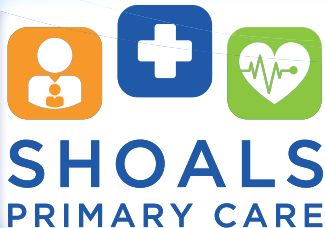
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Breakfast Set for March 29

FLORENCE-The NAACP Tri-County Branch will present its Annual NAACP Freedom Awards Breakfast at 9am Saturday, March

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

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

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

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Week of Feb. 26 winner is **Ashley Haley** of Muscle Shoals who correctly guessed "Ruby's Cantina in Muscle Shoals"



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.

Thank you for letting us care for you!



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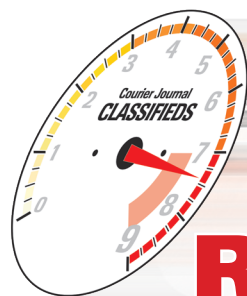
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Ace...

Continued from Page 1

save the sheriff's department valuable time when it comes to trying to locate a missing person.

"Before we acquired Ace, we were dependent on calling for assistance from Florence or St. Florian police departments if we were in need of a drug dog," Hamilton added.

After acquiring the dog, Hamilton opened applications for a handler. After weeding through the applications and doing interviews, Hamilton named Reggie Goodloe the handler for Ace.

Hamilton said he interviewed several applicants before picking Goodloe.

"First and foremost, I was looking for a great deputy and employee. I wanted someone who was proactive who would take this dog and do some great things with it," Hamilton said. "In addition to finding a proactive deputy, I made sure to select a deputy which would offer a great home life for the dog."

"This is something that I've wanted to do for a long time," Goodloe said. "I have a cousin who lives in Michigan who was a handler for a K-9. When I saw her do what she did, I knew then that was something I wanted to do"

Goodloe said he has had Ace for about a month and a half now.

"He's energetic and goofy, which matches my personality," Goodloe said with a laugh. "What I love most about Ace is his energy level. He's 90 mph 24/7 - always energetic and wanting to play and do his job."

And when it comes to the job, Goodloe feels having a dog like Ace gives the sheriff's department a leg up.



Lauderdale Deputy Reggie Goodloe and his K-9, Ace. Sheriff's Dept-FB

"It's like having an extra pair of hands when it comes to locating narcotics or missing people," he said. "Your dope dealers sometimes are a step ahead, but with a K-9, it puts us a step ahead of them."

Ace trained with certified K-9 trainers within the Madison County Sheriff's Office for four weeks before Ace and Goodloe trained together for another four weeks, Hamilton said.

German short-haired pointers are typically used by the Transportation Safety Agency for bomb and drug detection. Their typical length of service is five to eight years, according to Hamilton.

The total cost for Ace was \$25,000. Hamilton said the dog cost \$14,000. Ace's kennel for Goodloe's home cost \$4,000, and then the retrofitting for the K-9 vehicle cost an additional \$7,000.

Hamilton said almost a third of the total cost was covered by a \$7,500 grant the sheriff's office was awarded by the United States Police Canine Association. Hamilton said he applied for the grant last year and was awarded the grant in January.

The remaining funds came from the sheriff's department's discretionary money, which is funded by pistol permits, Hamilton said.



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editor@courierjournal.net

well in advance of the planned event. The Editor reserves right to shorten, edit, reword or omit submissions as seen fit. All information submitted for publication becomes property of the Courier Journal. Information published does not necessarily reflect an opinion or endorsement by the Courier Journal, members of its management, or its staff. Advertisers are responsible for all content and claims in their advertising.

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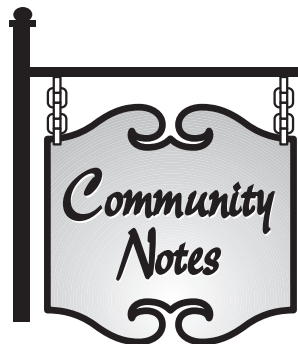
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COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge. **AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE in the Courier Journal. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following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

Huge indoor missions yard sale at First Baptist Church Lexington at 301 Taylor Kizer St - March 6-8.

Thursday and Friday 7am-5pm and Saturday 7am-noon. Not your average sale! Very organized and easy to shop. Boys and girls (infant, toddler, and youth sizes), Men's and Women's (Small to

2x) Lots of nice, name brand clothes and shoes. Toys, bedding, household, jewelry, apple watch bands (\$1 each), heaters, cast iron, garden tools, books, DVDs, mirrors, ladders, pictures, purses and so much more! Cash only please.

World Day of Prayer - "I Made You Wonderful" sponsored by Church Women United, will take place Friday, March 7 at 10am at Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 408 E. Alabama St. in Florence.

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.

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

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](https://www.facebook.com/rags Shoals)

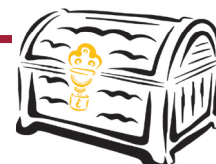
See NOTES... page 22

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Coaches...

Continued from Page 1

working with them as we go into the community to recruit future Patriots.”

Jeffreys is a resident of Hamilton and has 24 years of football coaching experience in Alabama and Mississippi high schools. He has also coached women's sports throughout his 37-year teaching career. “I'm so excited to lay the foundation for the women's flag football program at Northwest Shoals and approach the game I have been around and coached most of my life in a unique way,” stated Jeffreys. “I look forward and cherish the opportunity to teach the game of football to female student-athletes and grow the sport in Northwest Alabama.”

The launch of women's flag football as an official sport to the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) was announced in November. Northwest Shoals will begin play in the fall of 2025 with up to 15 scholarship athletes.

King is a native of Muscle Shoals and a NWSCC alum. He has over 30 years of combined experience teaching and coaching golf. Most recently he led the Talladega College golf team for two years, 2022-2024, and the University of Tennessee Southern, then known as Martin Methodist College, for three years, 2017-2020. King is known throughout Northwest Alabama as an expert golf instructor. Since 1994, he has trained over 3,000 junior golfers through his company, Fore Junior Golf Inc.

“Golf has been a major part of my life for many years,” said King. “To be able to coach my alma mater in my hometown is a dream come true. I cannot wait to get to work recruiting young men and young women in our area. I truly believe we can build Patriot golf into something special.”

Last month, NWSCC added men and women's golf bringing the total number of Patriot athletic teams to eight. The Patriot golf teams will each consist of seven men and seven women on scholarship.

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Meet Emmerson!



Oh doggie! Emmerson makes the cutest expressions. He is good with other dogs, sweet and smart as well. He loves walks and is good on a leash. Emmerson would make a good family dog and would be honored to be part of your family. The adoption fee is currently \$45 and includes everything your new pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines, a microchip, spay/neuter, and heartworm test. Please call or come by **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to meet your new best friend.

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Commentary

A Constitution in Shambles- Driven by Both Parties

Admittedly, the first few weeks of the new Trump administration were a lot of fun to watch. The insanity of the previous four years needed correcting. Several other objectives to reduce or expose skimming are in the works.

Now that much of the shock factor has been achieved, it's time to get back to work. Each administration in our lifetimes has had its share of Constitutional overreach, mostly with the use of executive orders. This one has claimed a year's worth in the first 30 days.

I understand that undoing the decades-entrenched Deep State in such a short time will be challenging. However, our constitutional republic has a procedural process even if it slows the process of creating greater good. We can't have a revised Deep State version replacing the current one.

See CONSTITUTION... on Page 16

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

in the Shoals

March 5, 2025

THIS WEEK

Riding at Coats Farm

FLORENCE- The North Alabama Christian Children's Home will have its 16th Annual Coats Farm Benefit Trail Ride and Auction on March 7-8. Between 800-1000 visitors are expected at the farm for this event.

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, ham, beans, and homemade fried pies will be served at 11am, March 8.

Coats Farm is located at 1458 CR 298 outside of Florence between Chisholm Highway and US 43.. Follow the signs.

All the money raised, supports the children and the work at the

See TRAILS... on Page 23

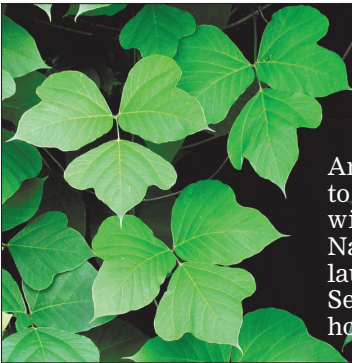


Happening THIS WEEK

FLORENCE KIWANIS PANCAKE DAYS are Friday, March 7 (6am-7pm) and Saturday, March 8 (6am-2pm) at the Florence Lauderdale Coliseum. Advance Tickets \$9 (10+/\$8) \$6 for kids under 12. Contact us at KiwansClubFlo@gmail.com. Tickets at the door for \$11.



SHILOH CHURCH OF CHRIST WILL HOST it's Friends and Family Day on Sunday, March 9. The guest speaker will be Kyle Butt, a 20-year Bible department veteran at Apologetics Press and a frequent speaker on Christian evidence. 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.



Learn About Kudzu

FLORENCE- Florence Arts and Museums is excited to announce its partnership with the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area to launch the Alabama Plants Series. This workshop, hosted by Beth Phillips, will

provide an opportunity for participants to learn about Kudzu. This event will take place on Sunday, March 9 from 1-2pm at Pope's Tavern, 203 Hermitage Drive

See KUDZU... on Page 18

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THE ANNUAL CHLOE'S FUND FERN SALE is underway for spring. Order by March 12 for early April pick up. Boston ferns in 10 inch hanging baskets (morning sun) and Kimberly Queen in 3 gallon pots (full sun or shade) are available. To order, contact Lisa Wilson Rim by text at 804-240-6680 or on Facebook Messenger. All proceeds benefit Chloe's Fund for the emergency medical needs of shelter animals.

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.

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Seeing the Takeover

Editor,

In a notice on media from Elon Musk, he says, "We have just renamed The U.S. Digital Services, created by Obama, to U.S. DOGE Services with a mandate to modernize all computer systems in the US government."

Modernize computers that control our nuclear plants, our power plants, our dams, our bridges, our electrical grid, our trains, our shipping lanes, our airports, our transportation agencies, our missiles, our treasury, our personal information, our internet, our water reservoirs, our oil reserves and refineries, pure water plants,

our banks, our military.

Do you not see a takeover of America and all of us just watching it unfold... while saying nothing?

Acting dumber than a box of rocks...

I am sincerely saddened.

Linda Johnson
Florence

... The president and/or press secretary could show up or not. . . ”

Press IS Important, Start Acting Like It

Editor,

In mid-February, the White House barred Associated Press journalists from presidential events for refusing to change the name of a body of water from "the Gulf of Mexico" to "the Gulf of America" in its reporting.

AP sued on various grounds, including due process (citing a court ruling that press access to the White House "undoubtedly qualifies as liberty which may not be denied without due process of

See LETTERS...on Page 16

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A CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR KIKI The Strength of Unity



Rev. Kiki Woods-Terry,

Unity is one of the greatest gifts we can experience in faith. It is more than just being together—it is about supporting, uplifting, and growing as one body. In a world that often feels divided, unity reminds us that we are stronger when we stand together, bound by love, faith, and a shared purpose.

True unity does not mean we are all the same; rather, it means we choose to embrace one another despite our differences. I have seen firsthand how faith is richer when we learn from one another, serve alongside each other, and share in both struggles and joys. Unity calls us to extend grace, to listen with open hearts, and to walk together even when the path is uncertain.

Faith is not meant to be lived alone. We find encouragement in community,

reassurance in shared worship, and strength in knowing we do not bear life's burdens alone. One of the most beautiful parts of ministry is witnessing the ways we lift each other up—whether in prayer, in acts of kindness, or simply by showing up for one another.

When we come together in faith, we create a space where love overcomes fear, kindness replaces division, and hope grows in the hearts of all who gather.

On Sunday, March 9, I invite you to experience this spirit of unity at Unity Day at North Wood UMC. Worship with us and stay for a special lunch in the fellowship hall immediately following the service. If you've been searching for a place to grow in faith and fellowship, we welcome you with open arms.

Visit our Facebook page to learn more about how we are building a community that brings faith to life. Let's stand together in unity, lifting one another up and celebrating the love that binds us all.



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Recognizing The Hand Of God

Everything hinges on what's being shoved down our throats, fed to us or enters in through the ear or eye gates. People are gullible and always take the easiest or most comfortable path to follow. You're following someone! Stupidity is permanent, but ignorance can be fixed. But God knows better. The weather, health, life and death, salvation, growth and wisdom are controlled by God. Notice: **Job 12:7-10** "But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this? In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind." Ignorance of the Words of the Living God are detrimental to your well-being. The animals and birds can discern what's coming, but college professors cannot! My dad taught me that!

Do you recognize when judgment is here or is coming? Why not? Do you have Godly wisdom? **1 Corinthians 1:25** "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." **Deuteronomy 31:17** "Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?" **1 Corinthians 1:20** "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" Knowing God and His workings come through the Bible, get in THAT BOOK, KJV, or get left behind! NOTHING IS RANDOM!

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Letters...

Start Acting Like It...

Continued from Page 8

law under the fifth amendment”) and First Amendment protections (citing the same ruling).

On February 24, a federal judge refused to issue a temporary restraining order restoring AP’s access while the suit awaits resolution. AP reporters and photographers still possess press passes to the White House and can attend White House briefings.

Court precedent aside, I don’t see anything in the Constitution requiring the president to speak to, or the White House to “brief,” reporters at all, or specifying which agencies, publications, and journalists are part of a special protected class entitled to that kind of access.

In fact, I suspect many Americans wish that the president (not just this one – I’m speaking of the office, not the man) acted a lot less like Dr.

Phil (loud, annoying, omnipresent) and more like Punxsutawney Phil (silent, cute, and only very occasionally demanding our attention).

That said, if the press wants to cover the presidency, I suggest that the agencies, publications, and journalists get together and turn the tables.

Just as there’s no constitutional requirement for the president or the White House to host, humor, and answer to journalists, there’s no constitutional requirement for the press to cover the president or the White House at all.

Why don’t the major newspapers, television networks, etc. get together and set up the White House “press pool” on their own terms instead of subjecting themselves to the president’s terms?

They could rent, buy, or build a small studio/auditorium facility, handle their own journalist credentialing, and let the White House and the president know when they’ll be hosting briefings.

The president and/or press secretary could show up or not. If they showed, maybe they’d get some coverage. If not, there’s always other news to report, right?

In anything resembling a free society, an independent press is far more important than any functionary in any fancy office. America’s journalists should take that truth to heart and act on it.

Thomas L. Knapp
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Worker’s Comp Versus On-The-Job Injuries

When somebody talks about worker’s comp, the implication is that there is an employer that is covered by the worker’s compensation act and an insurance company. Not all companies carry insurance, although they should, and not all employees are covered by the worker’s compensation act.

Joel and I have represented literally thousands of workers who have been injured on the job. Some on-the-job injuries simply aren’t covered by worker’s comp (scars,

minimal PTSD). If there are four or fewer employees or agricultural workers, those workers don’t have to be covered by worker’s comp. Occasionally, we’ll see truck drivers who voluntarily agree to a different sort or type of compensatory scheme.

Worker’s comp in Alabama limits the attorney’s fee to 15% and is a non-liability type of case. In almost every other type of case, you have to prove that someone did something wrong or broke a rule. It’s easy to think about a driver who runs a red light as a person who would be responsible for the harm they cause by breaking the rule that requires drivers stop on red. Under worker’s comp, if you are on the job and run a red light and are injured, your employer still owes you worker’s comp. The employer doesn’t think that’s fair. When employees see how little the employer’s worker’s compensation insurance company wants to pay, they don’t think that’s fair either.

The lack of fault and the minimal but guaranteed (and not taxed) compensation is truly the basis for worker’s comp. If a worker on the job falls off a ladder and has a serious injury, but there are only two employees, then it’s probably their fault to some degree that they fell off the ladder. There is no way to get paid (unless it’s a defective ladder case). On the other hand, if you fall off a ladder and you work for a big employer, call me.

The point of this article is to explain that all worker’s compensation cases involve an on-the-job injury, but that not all on-the-job injuries are covered by the Alabama Worker’s Compensation Act. That’s not to say that we can’t find a way to help, so if you get hurt, we will do our best to find a way to help you. Sometimes, on-the-job injuries are caused by someone who did run a red light or a safety device at work that was disconnected or not maintained. Those cases can be big money cases because you can get worker’s comp AND money from a third party.

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

Please send the questions to: “Ask the Attorney,” P. O. Box 38, Florence, Alabama 35631 or visit our website at: www.mhatty.com

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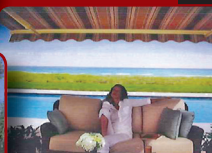
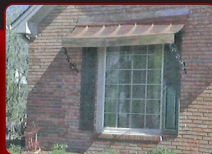
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Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

Let the Little Children

Our grandchildren (we have four) are beautiful, talented, joyous, and special - but so are yours! There are many things that we can be reminded of or learn to do by watching these glorious little people! We could learn again how to look at each and every color on a butterfly or to pay attention to each feature of the face that is talking to us. Watch the eyes of a little one who is meeting you for the first time, their eyes are just darting about to capture every nuance and facet of your face. Fascinated.

We could learn how to giggle again - a giggle-with-a-jiggle kind of giggle. The other Sunday morning at church a little one behind us was just giggling. Her mama was looking funny to her. The little one was trying to touch some part of her mom's face and her mom was trying to hold the tot's hands down - and that thing was cracking this baby up! Her whole soft little body would jiggle up then down with each giggle. That's the other thing - it doesn't take much to make little ones giggle - point a finger at them, lean in toward their belly, put a cloth over their head, kiss their ear - anything! Sometimes when I hear our grandchildren laughing, I think - "Where did my giggle go?"

Like them, we could remember to dance... In a video I got the other day, our 22-month-old grandson, Canaan, was having a play-date with his neighbors in his living room. When the music came on, he promptly got up, waddled over to his little friend girl, took her by both hands, led her to the middle of the room and started bopping up and down. And momentarily, she joined him. What toddler doesn't shimmy when some music comes on? What happened to your shimmy? How can you just sit there when good music comes on? Sing, move, dance, do something!

Our little ones could teach us how to take a good nap - sweet-faced or mouth-wide-open with dangling feet naps. Relax because

you want to, rest because you've got to, revive and go!

Our babies could teach us how to make a friend - in a restaurant, in a store, at church - everywhere. They make eye contact, they wave, they say, "Hey", they blow kisses! They see people - not problems, not profit, not prejudiced. Of course these little ones are under mature supervision. So...find some mature supervision and then start making some friends!

My granddaughter did a thousand cartwheels - incessantly - before she got a good one. And she's done a gazillion since so she can keep it. Is that how we learn?

There are things that I don't want to do like a kiddo - I don't want to poop like a baby or blow my nose without a tissue or put my hand on the eye of a hot stove - but I would love to love like our grandchildren - snuggle my nose down into somebody's body, give smoochy, wet kisses with reckless abandon, put my hand into another hand and swing and bounce, get head-to-head and nose-to-nose and grin, grab hold of a leg and never let go, even when that leg begins to move. Reckless abandon. Innocent. Sweet love. Cleaving. Unconditional. Without hypocrisy. Constant and true. With fun, laughter, and silliness. When did we stop loving like that?

May the little children teach us something.

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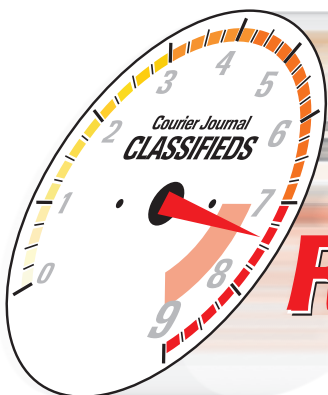
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Commentary

Constitution...

Continued from Page 8

Previous Presidents talked about respecting the rule of law and the Constitution's checks and balances while doing their best to avoid it if they felt something was too important to get bogged down or deluded.

One of Trump's executive orders was establishing a White House Faith Office. More of a concern is his choice of Tupelo, MS native, Paula White-Cain to lead it.

White-Cain, 58, is a Trump ally, his spiritual advisor, and is twice-divorced, which, in and of itself, wouldn't disqualify her from understanding and adhering to Biblical truths. However, she espouses 'prosperity theology' which teaches that the truly faithful are rewarded by God with material wealth, good health, and personal success. It is a highly flawed and materialistic spiritual perspective with no basis in Biblical fact.

White-Cain's lifestyle and actions are that of a stereotypical TV/Megachurch personality who twists the Gospel for profit and has little regard for adhering to and proclaiming what it takes to obtain forgiveness and salvation. She is a textbook example of a false teacher. Trump and everyone else would do well to distance themselves from any of her advice.

We all know that Trump's attitude is one that elevates himself above the Constitutional inconveniences.

As of this writing, the Constitution was not displayed on the White House website, whitehouse.gov.

Is that an oversight? Regardless, since Republicans control the House and the Senate, it's time they addressed the issue of rampant overreach with the President.

The taxpayer savings through DOGE are commendable, but far from being celebratory. Thinking about extending a \$5,000 refund to taxpayers is absurd.

That candy jar will add to inflationary issues and defies the logic of debt reduction. Anyway, the 20% back to taxpayers and 20% to debt leaves 60%. That too should be going to debt.

However, understanding that inflation and expenses have been hard on many US workers, if need be, rebate \$1,000 to the 30 million taxpayers who need it most.

Immediately renaming the Gulf of Mexico was a little cheesy. It has been fine as it is, and that attitude is highly contentious if trying to work with a neighbor on immigration concerns. While on the topic, assuming that Putin is in any way an ally is a mistake. In that vein, more of a presence in the Arctic circle and a solid relationship or arrangement with Greenland is highly advisable.

As I mentioned in a previous column, there is a lot of domestic overspending that reaches every corner and almost every aspect of society.

To truly address overspending and our tremendous and increasing debt, we all will have to be pinched through budgets, services, and/or conveniences.

One significant item I have never understood is Disability. Payroll deductions are taken for Social Security and Disability insurance payments - along with an employer dollar-for-dollar match. That is an earned benefit.

However, in addition to the workers who become disabled, sometimes their spouses, divorced spouses, children, grandchildren, and stepchildren are also entitled to payments - all generally up to 150-180% of the disabled's primary benefit. That is

significant, especially when considering that the current demands for the Social Security system are unsustainable.

That is just one of hundreds of budgetary issues that need to be reconsidered.

To gain some historical perspective, these are some totals for Executive Orders by each President by term compiled by the *The American Presidency Project*, a nonprofit at UC Santa Barbara*.

For example, George Washington signed eight the whole time he was in office (7.85 years). Thomas Jefferson signed four in his eight years, and James Madison signed one in his eight years as President.

Fast forward to the 1860's. Abe Lincoln signed 48 in his 4.12 years. Andrew Johnson added 79 more, finishing Lincoln's second term.

The number bumped up to 217 with the eight years of Ulysses S. Grant's Presidency.

Teddy Roosevelt reset

the bar to 1,081 in his 7.47 years, although many were hugely insignificant.

Woodrow Wilson had 1803 in his eight years. Franklin Roosevelt, 3,721 in his 12.12 years. Those last two listed are not surprising, considering the levels of socialism that they espoused.

The numbers leveled off for several terms. Jimmy Carter had 320 for his four years, Reagan, 381 in his eight years. Clinton signed 364 in his eight years, George W. Bush - 291 in his eight years, Obama 276 in his eight years.

Trump had 220 in his first term and Biden, 162 in his term. As of February 20, Trump signed 75 already.

**These figures generally do not include memorandums, actions, or directives, etc. The further back in history we go, the cloudier the interpretation might be.*

In addition, there are qualifiers - "numbered" and "unnumbered" - executive orders through Roosevelt's term in 1945.



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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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Robert Bates	D14	Larry Barnett	K28
Jamie Byrd	E1	Tubyus Shelby	L1
Donald Boggan		Patricia Acklin	L21
	D19, G10 & K20	Tonya Allen	L27
Atesha Rowell	H9	Tammy Akins	W12

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Kudzu...

Continued from Page 1

in Florence While Kudzu is not a native plant to Alabama, it thrives in our state's ecosystem. This workshop will familiarize people with examples of different types of kudzu products and recipes. There will be an in-depth talk about the uses of kudzu, non-toxic methods of control, and ways to process the plant for use in products and recipes.

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/58kwf9ad>.

Pope's Tavern Museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm. For questions, call 256-760-6379 or email: connect@florencealmuseums.com.

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SIGNS OF THE PAST



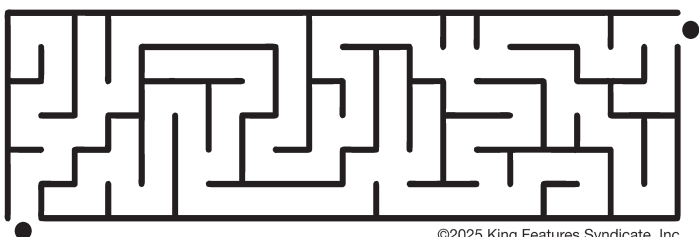
*Location: 34.5449°N, 87.5298°W
 River Heritage Park, Florence*

This turnpike followed an old buffalo and Native American trail, and became a historical toll road created just days after Alabama's statehood in 1819. The Byler toll road started in Lauderdale County and ran through Colbert County to terminate in North Port (Tuscaloosa). It facilitated movement of goods to the Black Warrior River and then southward.

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



Kids' Maze



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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Hazard | ___ G ___ | Ballerina, e.g. | ___ C ___ |
| 2. Observe | ___ A ___ | Sabrina or Wendy | ___ I ___ |
| 3. Colorado River dam | ___ V ___ | Kelly or Astaire | ___ F ___ |
| 4. Kid's dad | ___ I ___ | Playground antagonist | ___ U ___ |
| 5. Wayward | ___ T ___ | Household mission | ___ D ___ |
| 6. Agile | ___ I ___ | Paul Bunyan's product | ___ U ___ |
| 7. Gossamer | ___ R ___ | Luster | ___ N ___ |
| 8. Huck's creator | ___ W ___ | Casey Jones' vehicle | ___ R ___ |
| 9. Attic space | ___ R ___ | January birthstone | ___ N ___ |
| 10. Tempest | ___ M ___ | Tale | ___ Y ___ |

Puzzle Whirl

MINI SUDOKU

		1		
			5	2
	5			
	1	6		
	4			5
6			1	4

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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WORD LADDERS

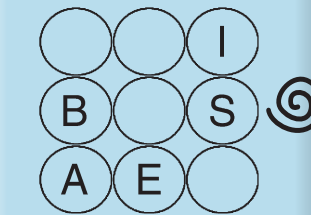
Can you go from BRAND to TRAIL in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

BRAND

TRAIL

Answers on Page 20

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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Savvy SENIOR

Service Dogs Can Help Seniors with Disabilities

Dear Savvy Senior,
 What can you tell me about service dogs for seniors with disabilities? My 67-year-old father has chronic arthritis and Parkinson's disease, and I'm wondering if an assistance dog could help make his life a little easier.

Dog Loving Leah

Dear Leah,

For people with disabilities and even medical conditions, service dogs can be fantastic help, not to mention they provide great companionship and an invaluable sense of security. But be aware that service dogs can be very expensive to purchase and the waiting list to get one can be long. Here's what you should know.

While most people are familiar with guide dogs that help people who are blind or visually impaired, there are also a variety of assistance dogs trained to help people with physical disabilities, hearing loss and various medical conditions.

Unlike most pets, assistance dogs are highly trained canine specialists – often Golden and Labrador Retrievers, and German Shepherds – that know approximately 40 to 50 commands, are amazingly well-behaved and calm, and are permitted to go anywhere the public is allowed. Here's a breakdown of the different types of assistance dogs and what they can help with.

Service dogs: These dogs are specially trained to help people with physical disabilities due to multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's disease, chronic arthritis and many other disabling conditions. They help by performing tasks their owner cannot do or has trouble doing, like carrying or retrieving items, picking up dropped items, opening and closing doors, turning light switches on and off, helping with balance, assisting with household chores, barking to indicate that help is needed and more.

Service dogs can also be trained to help people with medical conditions like epilepsy or other seizure disorders, autism, diabetes, PTSD and other psychiatric disabilities.

Guide dogs: For the blind and visually impaired, guide dogs help their owner get around safely by avoiding obstacles, stopping at curbs and steps, navigate shopping centers and buildings, find doors, seats, pedestrian crossing buttons and more.

Hearing dogs: For those who are deaf or hearing impaired, hearing dogs can alert their owner to specific sounds such as ringing phones, doorbells, alarm clocks, microwave or oven timers, smoke alarms, approaching sirens, crying babies or when someone calls out their name.

Finding a Dog

If your dad is interested in getting a service dog, contact some credible assistance dog training programs. To find them, use the Assistance Dogs International website (AssistanceDogsInternational.org) which provides a listing of around 80 accredited members and 25 candidate programs in North America.

After you locate a few, you'll need to either visit their website or call them to find out the types of training dogs they offer, the areas they serve, how long their waiting list is and what they charge. Most dog training programs charge anywhere from \$10,000 to \$40,000 or more for a fully trained service dog, however, most programs can assist with fundraising or grant applications for those in need. None of that cost is covered by health insurance or Medicare.

To get an assistance dog, your dad will need to show proof of his disability, which his physician can provide, and he'll have to complete an application and go through an interview process. He will also need to go and stay at the training facility for a week or two so he can get familiar with his dog and get training on how to handle it.

It's also important to understand that assistance dogs are not for everybody. They require time, money, and care that your dad or some other friend or family member must be able and willing to provide.

Send your senior questions to:

Savvy Senior,
 P.O. Box 5443,
 Norman, OK 73070,
 or visit SavvySenior.org.
 Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



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STRANGE but TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• **Cheerleading** was once an exclusively male sport, and the first cheers, copied from military chants, began at Princeton University around the Civil War era.

• **Porsche's first car**, in 1898, was electric.

• **Motorola has developed an FDA-approved "edible password pill"** which, once digested, is activated by the acid

in your stomach and emits an 18-bit signal that is strong enough to communicate with and unlock all your devices.

• **On Mars, no resource can be wasted** -- not even our bodily waste. Urine will be recycled into drinking water and feces into fertilizer.

• **Scientists can deduce information about a person's lifestyle**, including their grooming products, food and medications, from the chemicals found on the surface of their mobile phone.

• **The 1,400-page novel "War and Peace"** was copied around seven times by Leo Tolstoy's wife, Sophia, by hand. Now, that's love!

• **U.S. Marine John Kelly** was the last person to be awarded two Medals of Honor. He ran 100 yards in advance of the front line and attacked an enemy machine gun nest, killed the gunner with a grenade, shot another man with his pistol, and returned with eight prisoners. He was 19.

• **The only difference between a fog and a mist** comes down to visibility: If you can't see farther than 100 meters, you're in a fog.

• **As the planet heats up**, flowers are emitting less scent.

• **George Washington had one remaining tooth** in his mouth when he was sworn in as the first American president in 1789.

• **The sound of a Star Wars lightsaber** was created by pairing the sound of an idle film projector and the buzz from an old TV set.

First Thought for the Day: "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little." -- Edmund Burke

• **There is a Guinness World Record** for "most matchsticks extinguished with the tongue."

• **Jimi Hendrix** served as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army's elite 101st Airborne division, though an ankle injury

allowed him to leave the service with a welcomed honorable discharge after one year of the three he'd signed up for.

• **Medical students in 18th-century Scotland** could pay their tuition fees in corpses.

• **A statement in the end credits of the movie "Frozen"** claims that Disney does not support the consumption of boogers.

• **After Playboy founder Hugh Hefner** funded some research in the 1980s that identified a subspecies of rabbit living in the Florida Keys, it was named for him: *sylvilagus palustris hefneri*.

• **An IKEA in the Netherlands** had to cancel its one-euro breakfast special because it attracted too many customers and caused highway traffic jams.

• **Thomas Edison** invented the tattoo pen.

• **Rolax replaced, without charge, all the watches** that had been seized by the Germans

from shot-down Allied pilots during World War II.

• **In its lifetime, the International Space Station** will be hit by 100,000 meteoroids.

• **During the Columbine High School massacre** in 1999, two 20-pound propane bombs that were planted in the cafeteria failed to detonate. If they had, it is estimated that up to 488 students would have been seriously injured or killed.

• **Every year, Iceland** gets wider by 2 centimeters.

• **The U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal**, has guidelines on what to do if you should stumble across a yeti (and no, we are not talking about the cup!).

Last Thought for the Day: "In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit." -- Albert Schweitzer

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Medicare wants you to be as healthy as possible. Because of this, Medicare offers you the opportunity to receive many of your preventive screenings and tests at no out-of-pocket cost to you. If you are in the first 12 months of starting your Part B, these benefits are called "Welcome to Medicare" visits. If you have had Part B for more than 12 months, they're called "Wellness" visits. There are, however, a couple of rules that must be followed for you to receive these benefits at no cost.

The first thing to know is, **you only receive one "Wellness" visit per year.** If you go to a specialist, and they code your visit as a "Wellness" visit, you cannot go to your primary care physician and receive another "Wellness" visit. It is your responsibility to know how your visit is coded. If you do not want a visit to a specialist or primary care physician coded as a "Wellness" visit you must speak up.

The second, and maybe the most important, thing to know is; for a visit to be coded as a "Wellness" visit it must be for preventive services only. Your "Medicare and You Handbook" states; **"If your doctor or other health care provider performs additional tests or services during the same visit that aren't covered under this preventive benefit, you may have to pay coinsurance, and the Part B deductible may apply."** In other words, if you are having a medical issue and go to your doctor and discuss this issue, you probably will not be able to use your "Wellness" visit and must pay your copay or coinsurance. **"Wellness" visits are for preventive screenings and tests only!!**

If you go to your primary care physician or specialist, and they "break the news" to you that a visit is not eligible to be coded as "Wellness", please be patient with your provider. It's not that they do not want to help you; it's that Medicare will not approve it.

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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Community Notes...

Continued from page 5

The Muscle Shoals TVARA chapter meets Wednesday March 12 at 10am at 1405 Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals. Lunch will be provided and door prizes.

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.

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:
Wednesday, March 5 Colbert Heights High School, Tuscumbia, 8am - 3:30pm

Thursday, March 6 North American Lighting, Inc, 6am - 1pm

Friday, March 7 North American Lighting, Inc., 100 Counts Dr., Muscle Shoals, Noon - 7pm

Saturday, March 8 Kiwanis, Pancake Day, Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum, 702 E Veterans Drive, Bloodmobile, 8am - 2pm

Sunday, March 9 Foodland - Killen, 10am - 4pm

Saturday, March 16 Walmart - Hwy 43 - Russellville, 10am - 4pm

Thursday, March 20 Muscle Shoals High School, 8am - 4pm

St. John's Church in Tuscumbia, at 300 N. Dickson St, will host an intimate service of Morning Prayer for Ash Wednesday, including the Imposition of Ashes at 7am on **Wednesday, March 5**. The Anglican tradition offers this meaningful Lenten service from the Book of Common Prayer as preparation for the coming celebration of Easter.

Christians of all denominations or people who simply wish to learn more about Lent are welcome to experience this Anglican Lenten tradition which is observed in preparation for the coming celebration of Easter. The Rev. Danielle Thompson of Grace Episcopal Church will officiate.

St. John's Episcopal Church, an area landmark built in 1852, is closed for regular services but opens its doors from time to time for special community worship and for programming. For more information, call 256-383-2014, 931-636-4898, or 256-710-9081 or email gracesheffieldoffice@gmail.com.

The Club/Florence Senior Center at 450 Country Club Drive in Florence serves boomers and seniors of the Shoals area!

Monday-Friday 9am-3:30pm. Games (Rook, Mee, Dominoes, Mexican Train, Chickenfoot, LRC, and others. M-F Lunch served (\$1 donation), BINGO (Wednesday), Chair Exercise (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday), Rock Painting (Friday),

Local Events, Square Dance Lessons, (Mondays), Social Dance (Tuesday), and Specially Scheduled Dance Events, Master's Games, Shuffleboard (Broadway Rec. on Tuesday).

Group Travel tours this year to The Ark, Virginia Beach, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Vermont, Washington DC, and Lancaster. Trips are open to the general public. For more information, email fdavis@florenceal.org or call 256-760-6420.

"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

Caringplace of the Shoals Presents Carl Casiday's Spring Extravaganza! March 10 at Sheffield First Presbyterian Church, 130 East 5th Street in Sheffield. Guests will be treated to a captivating floral design demonstration by Casiday followed by an exciting auction of his breathtaking arrangements. The evening begins with wine and boutique shopping at Lola's Gifts and Flowers, setting a relaxed and elegant tone before transitioning to First Presbyterian Church in Sheffield for the main event. Throughout the night, guests will enjoy a delectable selection of hors d'oeuvres crafted by a local caterer. Tickets are \$50 and available for purchase at Lola's Gifts and Flowers. For more information, call 256-383-2299.

Village One Volunteer Day with Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area on March 15 10am-1pm - Village School, 200 Chickamauga St., Sheffield. The first volunteer event of the year. No experience is necessary—we'll provide all supplies and direction. Tasks may include cleaning, painting, scraping, yard work, organizing materials, and more. If

you have specialized skills to share, let us know when you sign up via email or social media. Please wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty, such as jeans and closed-toe shoes, and feel free to bring work gloves if you have them. Even if you can't stay the whole time, stop by to say hi and see what we're working on! For more information call 256-765-5028.

End Of The Line: Allman Brothers Tribute Band March 14 at The Ritz Theatre in Sheffield celebrating the music of 1970 in recognition of its 55th anniversary with the SONGS FROM THE IDLEWILD GARAGE TOUR featuring classics like Midnight Rider and In Memory of Elizabeth Reed—along with Live at Ludlow Garage 1970, which includes unforgettable performances of Dreams and one of the most electrifying renditions of Mountain Jam ever recorded. Tickets are available for purchase by visiting tennesseevalleyarts.org. For additional information, contact the Ritz Theatre at 256-383-2299.

Trail Care: Cane Creek Canyon - 251 Loop Rd, Tuscumbia. March 15. Join Cane Creek Land Stewards in trail care work such as: building natural steps and water control features, updating trail markers and assisting with trail cutbacks and clearing debris from trails. No experience required. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes. Please bring water, snacks, and work gloves. Extra water, work gloves and tools will be provided. Complete a separate registration for each individual participating (each person must sign a waiver). Guardians may sign up on behalf of minors. For more information call 256-534-5263. oration 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.

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.

'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 center is open to the public free of charge from 9am 4p. Monday-Friday and 1-4pm Sunday. connect@florenceal museums.com

Disabled American Veterans in Sheffield meets every fourth Tuesday of each month. (March 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 counties 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 m.saa.scholarships@gmail.com. To apply go to <https://www.dstshoals.org>.

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

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.

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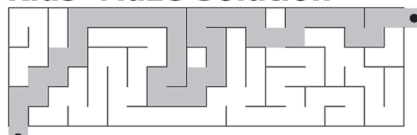


Puzzle Whirl Answers

Even Exchange answers

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Danger, Dancer | 6. Limber, Lumber |
| 2. Watch, Witch | 7. Sheer, Sheen |
| 3. Hoover, Hooper | 8. Twain, Train |
| 4. Billy, Bully | 9. Garret, Garnet |
| 5. Errant, Errand | 10. Storm, Story |

Kids' Maze Solution



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WORD LADDER Answer
BRAND, BRAID, BRAIN,
TRAIN, TRAIT, TRAIL

Word Spiral Answer
JELLYFISH

MINI SUDOKU
Answer

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

Trails...

Continued from Page 1

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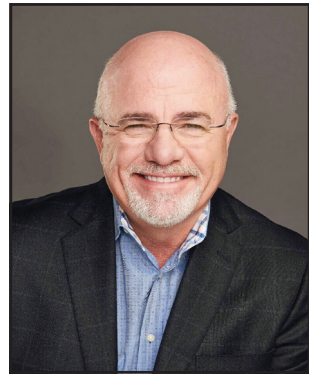
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DAVE Says
by DAVE RAMSEY

HELP, DON'T ENABLE



Dear Dave,
We've been following your plan, and it's been a real blessing to us. Last week, my mother-in-law told my wife they haven't paid their property taxes. They owe \$5,000, which was originally due in January, but she didn't say why they hadn't paid the bill. I love my in-laws. They're good people, but they're big spenders—and in my mind—a little irresponsible with their moneysometimes. We make a good living, and we could help them out. But my wife and I have talked, and we're both afraid this situation may be just the tip of the iceberg. Can you give me some advice?
Bill

where it's going, and why it became an issue in the first place. I mean, when you give someone \$5,000 to help with a problem, you automatically earn the right to have a say in exactly how the money's going to be used. Maybe your wife could go over to their house for a visit and just talk about things. In the process, she might learn some details on the situation that would help you guys make a better, more informed decision on moving forward. Chances are her mom and dad didn't raise her to have dessert first, then eat her vegetables. But in a sense, it sounds like that might be what they're doing.

Dear Bill,
My best advice is this. First of all, you shouldn't do anything. This is a really touchy situation. You and your wife definitely need to be on the same page about how you want to handle things. But your wife should be the one to address this, because she's their child. The last thing you need is to be labeled as the nosy or stingy son-in-law. Believe me, I understand and respect your position. And I agree with the notion you two don't want to enable any bad habits. But this is family we're talking about. You and your wife should try to find a way to help them if they really need help. If that includes some kind of guidance or counsel, that's fine. If it means giving money, make certain you know exactly

Long story, short? They need to pay their property taxes now. It sounds like they've got the money to take care of what needs to be done and have some fun. But if they don't, some kind of course correction needs to happen. And I mean soon! Otherwise, they're liable to see their financial dignity slip away.
— 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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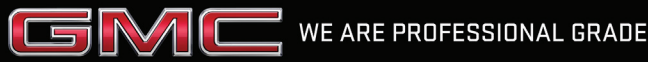





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