

BBB's Free Shred Day

FLORENCE—The Better Business Bureau of North Alabama, in partnership with Family Security Credit Union, presents Florence Shred Day on Friday, April 4, at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum on Veterans Drive. This free community event runs from 9am-noon, offering drive-thru document shredding.

Participants may bring up to three kitchen-size bags or three file storage boxes, ensuring that all plastic, metal, and binders are removed. Shredding will be accepted until trucks reach full capacity.

Benefit for FAME Ranch

MUSCLE SHOALS — First Metro Bank recently launched its annual donation drive to benefit FAME Girls' Ranch. First Metro Bank's locations in Tuscumbia, Muscle Shoals, Russellville, and Downtown Florence will accept donations until Wednesday, April 23.

Needed items for the ranch include laundry detergent/pods, paper products, general cleaning products, shampoo/conditioner, soap, body wash, sunblock, aloe, lotion, hairbrushes, and fabric stain remover. Monetary donations can also be accepted at any First Metro Bank location.

FAME Girls' Ranch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and serves

See SHORTS... on Page 2

Volume 141 Number 23

April 2, 2025

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April Walking Tours

Historic Saturday Strolls in Three Local Cities

SHOALS— Local tourism offices are again participating in the the state's Saturday Morning Walking Tours.

The state has offered this recurring program for the past dozen or so years, and it has become a beloved tradition by many who attend.

These walking tours offer a unique opportunity to explore the rich history and architecture of some of Alabama's most historic and charming towns. Knowledgeable guides will teach visitors about the local history, culture, and architecture and see some of the area's most beautiful and historic buildings.

Colbert County's Tourism Office announced that Sheffield and Tuscumbia will again be participating in these tours every Saturday morning at 10am throughout the month of April.

Jimmy Austin will be leading Sheffield walking tours through the downtown business district on April 5 and 19, and through the historic residential area on April 12 and 26. In Tuscumbia, the April 5 tour includes a visit



Saturday tours in Sheffield and Tuscumbia begin April 5. ColbertCountyTourism.org

FLORENCE Walking Tours
April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3

to First Presbyterian Church. The April 12 tour features the historic Tuscumbia Depot. On April 19, participants will tour the log cabin and The Winston Home, and the April 26 tour will return to First Presbyterian Church. Tuscumbia tour guides include Ron Hudson, John McWilliams,

See TOURS... on Page 4

Marshall Among VOCAL Speakers

FLORENCE—VOCAL of the Shoals Annual Candlelight Vigil takes place Monday, April 7 during National Victims' Rights Week at 7pm in downtown Florence's Wilson Park.

VOCAL - (Victims of Crime and Leniency) will be honoring and remembering crime victims by placing white crosses with their picture on the crosses displayed

See VOCAL... on Page 7



7pm April 7



INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside



Ray Miller GMC
Advance Auto Sales
Watson Auto Sales

- Medicare Minute
- Ask the Attorney
- Cat & Kids
- Adopt a Friend
- Hocus Focus



- A Taste of Sheffield
- Dave Ramsey
- Easter Coloring Contest Entry



- Dragons and Mythical Beasts
- A Conversation with Pastor Kiki
- SIGNS of the PAST

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- Mystery Photo
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<p>June 23-27 Pre-K Music & Art Camp Ages 3-5 • Mon-Fri 9am-12pm</p>	<p>June 3-19 Video Game/Movie Music Piano Camp Ages 6-17 • Tue-Thur 9am-10pm</p>	<p>July 1-17 Stage Band Camp Ages 6-17 • Tue-Thur 9am-10am</p>

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Shorts...

Benefit for FAME Ranch

Continued from Page 1

Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, and Lawrence counties as part of the Alabama Sheriffs Youth Ranches Program. The ranch occupies the former home of the Rick Hall family in Russellville. The mission of the ranch is to provide a family-style residential home for abandoned and abused youths in an atmosphere where they can grow spiritually and physically into productive, responsible, and happy adults. Throughout the past few years, the generosity from the Shoals community, First Metro Bank customers and employees has made a huge impact for the ranch.



LaDonna Parker, left, and Elizabeth Mitchell have FAME Girls Ranch donation tubs ready at local First Metro Bank locations.

Courtesy photo



Archaeology Kids' Camp This Summer

FLORENCE—The Pope's Tavern Museum will host a Junior Archaeology Camp for students ages 10-18 from Monday-Friday, June 2-6. The camp will be divided into two groups based on age: Group 1 will include ages 10-12, 9-11:30am; Group 2 will include ages 13-18, 1-3:30pm

The camp will introduce students to the concepts of archaeology through hands-on investigation and research. Students will learn how to research, plan, excavate, and process artifacts at Pope's Tavern Museum. Archaeology can help students grasp concepts relating to mathematics, history, geology, chemistry, social science, and more; this camp will use archaeological processes for teaching the methods of archaeology and the history of the Pope's Tavern site. Hands-on activities that relate to these subjects, including mapping, excavation, sketching, interpretation, and artifact processing, will make up the majority of the camp. Applications are available at Pope's Tavern Museum, the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, and online at www.florencealmuseums.com starting April 7.

Cost of for the program is \$25 per student. This program is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums. Pope's Tavern is located at 203 Hermitage Drive in Florence. Call 256-760-6379 for more information.

Florence. This is one of a series of workshops at Pope's Tavern that will explore history and archaeology.

Members of the Athens Forge will be on hand to demonstrate different blacksmithing techniques, including the creation of hand forged steel tools and implements. The demonstration will focus on how items recovered through archaeological testing at Pope's Tavern may have been made. The program will be held in the yard at Pope's Tavern. Please bring a lawn chair if you'd like a seat. The Athens Forge, a member of the Alabama Forge Council (www.alaforge.org), is a group of both amateur and professional individuals dedicated to preserving and promoting the knowledge and skills of the blacksmithing craft.

The program is free and is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums. Pope's Tavern Museum is a museum dedicated to the early (1800-1870) history of Florence and Lauderdale County. Archaeology at Pope's Tavern is a free, public archaeology program that has been documenting the history of the site since 2022. Pope's Tavern is located at 203 Hermitage Drive in Florence. Call 256-760-6379 for more information.

Blacksmithing Workshop

FLORENCE—Archaeology at Pope's Tavern is hosting a presentation and workshop on Saturday, April 5, at 10am at Pope's Tavern Museum in

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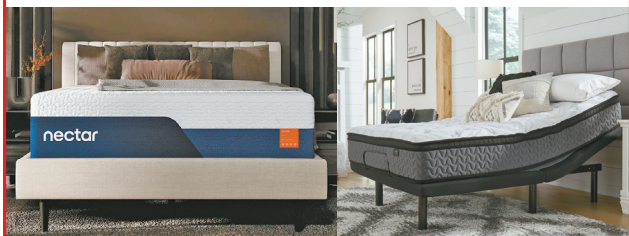
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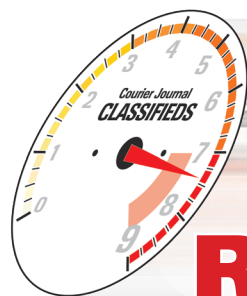
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Tours...

Continued from Page 1

Lorie Johnson, and Buddy Whitlock. These tours are a great way to explore the history and charm of two of Alabama's most storied cities.

"We're thrilled that our communities are offering these free walking tours to highlight the incredible history and culture of our community," said Susann Hamlin, President & CEO of Colbert County Tourism. "We invite everyone to come out and explore the beautiful neighborhoods of Tuscumbia and Sheffield and learn about the stories and people that

have shaped our history."

The Tuscumbia tours will depart from the old Coldwater Books building at the corner of Main and 6th Streets, while the Sheffield tours will depart from Sheffield City Hall at 600 N Montgomery Avenue. All tours will start at 10am and last 1 to 1-1/2 hours. The Tuscumbia Walking Tours are sponsored by the Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation, and the Sheffield Tours are sponsored by the Sheffield Historic Commission.

The tours are free and open to the public, so everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Colbert County Tourism at 256-383-0783.

Five Tours in Florence

The Florence Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau is hosting the Florence Historic Walking Tours beginning with a tour of the Walnut Street Historic District on Saturday, April 5 at 10am. The tour begins at the corner of Hermitage Drive and Walnut Street. Parking is available at the UNA tennis courts across the street. This tour is led by Florence City Historian, Billy Warren.

The Walnut Street Historic District boasts tree-lined sidewalks, diverse architecture and elegant homes. Walk by 29 beautifully restored houses that originally comprised the Walnut Street Historic District and were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

The April 5 tour begins on the corner of Hermitage Drive and



Historic home on Walnut Street Courtesy

Walnut Street. Parking is available across the street at UNA's tennis courts.

The balance of the 10am Florence walks include:

- Saturday, April 12, Florence City Cemetery - Harry Wallace, Guide
- Saturday, April 19, Forks of Cypress - Harry Wallace, Guide
- Saturday, April 26, Upper North Court/Upper North Seminary Streets - Billy Warren, Guide (Begins on the front lawn of Courtview/Rogers Hall)

Saturday, May 3, UNA Campus - Billy Warren, Guide (Begins at the UNA fountain)



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Community Notes

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

Swamp John's Dinner at Lexington Senior Center, 100 McGuire Lane, Tuesday, April 1, 4-7 p.m. Choice of Shrimp, Fish Or Chicken. Meal includes: Slaw, Fries, Dessert & Drink. \$15 per plate.

Misfit Quilters Wanted: This is a craft group for adult friends who draw, craft, paint, sew, quilt, embroider, crochet, etc. (all artisans welcome). Bring your project to work on and come join the fun! This group meets at the Florence Lauderdale Public Library (in the Board Room) once per month. Spring dates are Sundays, April 13, May 11 and June 8 from 1-4pm.

Join the Florence Cleanup Challenge! April is "Choose Your Own Cleanup" months—a challenge to keep Florence clean and beautiful! Gather a group, pick a location, and we'll provide the supplies. Let's work together to make a difference! Need supplies, call 256-760-6495 or 256-760-6498 or email: recycle@florenceal.org.

The 2025 Colbert County Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be Friday, April 18, at the Ritz Theatre in Sheffield, Alabama beginning at 7:00 P.M. Tickets for the induction will be available at the box office. The cost is \$10 each and the doors open at 6pm.

The Class of 2025 includes: Deion Belue, Brent Davenport, Jamie Dixon, Jody Evans, Ashley Southern Farley, Glenn Jordan, Tyrone Lowry, Tynesha Malone, Stephanie Brown Mangino, and Bill Trapp

Spring Clothes Giveaway Infants – Adults clothes and shoes on Thursday, April 3 from 8-10am at the Care Center, First Baptist Church, Killen.

The 'Hi Neighbors of the Shoals' women's social group meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month (April 1) at 10:30am in the Florence Public Library. The group welcomes all ladies who are residents of the Shoals. Come join us! Contact Berta Birch at 256-777-3119 for further details.

The Florence-Lauderdale Public Library brings Dr. Blake Scott Ball to discuss his book *Charlie Brown's America: The Popular Politics of Peanuts*. at 5:30pm on April 3. -Dr. Ball's book covers how Charles Schultz used the Peanuts comic strip to comment on the rapidly changing politics of America.

See NOTES... page 15

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Send a brief cover letter, four of your most current, relevant writing samples and resume including references to:
Eric Fleischauer,
Executive Editor,
eric@decaturdaily.com

You are invited to our Gospel Meeting

Valdosta Church of Christ
1119 Old Lee Hwy.
Tuscumbia, Alabama

April 6-10, 2025

Guest Speaker: Stan Dean

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.
Sunday a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday p.m. Worship 5:00 p.m.
Singing 2:00 p.m.
Monday - Thursday.....7:00 p.m.

640551-1

You are invited to our annual SINGING

Valdosta Church of Christ
1119 Old Lee Hwy.
Tuscumbia, Alabama

Sunday
April 6, 2025
2:00 P.M.

640550-1

A CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR KIKI A Challenging Love

The hardest love to offer is often the one we forget to practice. The love we give ourselves.

We are taught to care for others, to show up with kindness, and to extend compassion outward. But love, if it is to last and mean something real, must begin within. That is where it takes root. It begins in the quiet, everyday moments where we choose to speak gently to our own hearts.

It takes courage to look at ourselves honestly and still move toward grace. To forgive our own missteps. To show compassion not just for what we have done, but for what we have endured.

God's love meets us right there. Not when we have done everything right, but when we are honest enough to show up as we are. That love is not



Rev. Kiki Woods-Terry

distant. It does not wait for perfection. It holds steady through every season.

And when we begin to trust that we are already loved, something opens up. We begin to move through the world with softer eyes. We listen more patiently. We stop rushing to fix, and start showing up to care.

Loving others becomes less about obligation and more about presence. Loving God becomes more than tradition. It becomes relationship. Something alive and real.

This kind of love is not always easy. It asks us to be brave, to be open, to try again. But it also offers us something in return. A fuller, freer way to live.

If you are looking for a place where this kind of love is practiced, imperfectly, intentionally, and together, we invite you to worship with us at North Wood UMC. You are welcome here, just as you are.



North Wood United Methodist Church
1129 Wills Ave, Florence • 256-764-2111
Rev. Kiki Woods-Terry
nwoodumc@alo.com

635991-1

VOCAL...

Continued from Page 1

in front of the Lauderdale County Courthouse during the week.

The Keynote Speaker will be Alabama Attorney General, Steve Marshall.

Featured Speakers include Lauderdale County District Attorney, Chris Connolly, VOCAL State Director, Wanda Miller and representatives from the Lauderdale County District Attorney's Office, Florence Police Department, Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department, Cramer

Children's Center, SafePlace, The Healing Place, One Place of Shoals, and VOCAL of the Shoals.

Music will be provided by Alyssa Ashley-Guin and Gary Nichols.

This is a public event open to everyone. The RAINSITE for the Vigil is across the street at First Baptist Church of Florence. Search for VOCAL of the Shoals on Facebook. For more information: email vocaloftheshoals2024@gmail.com

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Commentary

Scammers Have Vile Intentions

Merriam-Webster defines a scam in two ways.
 1: to deceive and defraud (someone)
 2: to obtain (something, such as money) by a scam.

The proliferation of phone, text, email, and internet scams has overshadowed much of what are now basic communication functions.

It is understandable how seniors are more susceptible to financial scams and young people are more at risk of becoming victims of sexual predators and human traffickers.

Young people need to understand that meeting someone by themselves for the first time who they only 'know' through social media is NEVER a wise decision. Staying with groups in public places is vital. There is no valid reason to meander away from the group.

The elderly are usually more trusting, traditionally a favorable characteristic.

They came by it honestly. They come from

See SCAMS... on Page 14

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

THIS WEEK

April 2, 2025

Happening
THIS WEEK

Brave Heroes

FLORENCE— The Tennessee Valley Art Association is calling all brave heroes! Enter into a magical world of myths and legends in this fantastical new interactive show for all the family. The TVAA is excited to offer two performances of **Dragons and Mythical Beasts** on April 8, the new spellbinding 55-minute adventure that was nominated for the 2022 Olivier Award for Best Family Entertainment. Appropriate for children aged 3 and up, audiences will unveil a myriad of dark secrets and come face

APRIL 8
Noon and 7pm

See HEROES... on Page 10

JOIN THE FLORENCE CLEANUP CHALLENGE!
 April is "Choose Your Own Cleanup" month—a challenge to keep Florence clean and beautiful! Gather a group, pick a location, and we'll provide the supplies. Let's work together to make a difference! Need supplies? Call 256-760-6495 or 256-760-6498 or email: recycle@florenceal.org.

THE 3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY DIAPER DRIVE from the Colbert County Domestic Violence Response Coalition gets underway April 1. This diaper drive will go toward helping local families impacted by domestic violence. Community support is vital. April 1-30. All sizes of new diapers, wipes, and pull-ups. Donation locations are Rio Grande Restaurant-Sheffield; Renaissance Antiques - Florence; The Healing Place - Muscle Shoals; People's Drugs - Cherokee; Foodland - Elgin, Rogersville, Tusculmbia, and Florence; and Curtis' Restaurant - Greenhill. The CCDVRC meets at 12 noon the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Helen Keller Library Annex in Tusculmbia. Check the Facebook page: Colbert County Domestic Violence Response Coalition for more information or call 256-284-2284. Also accepting Monetary Donations: 1. CCDVRC- PO Box 434 Tusculmbia, AL 35674. Paypal-Jenniferccdvr@gmail.com

The 2nd Annual Taste of Sheffield

SHEFFIELD-- The Shoals area is invited Sheffield City Schools' 2nd Annual 'Taste of Sheffield' event on Thursday, April 3, from 5:30-7pm on the terrace behind L.E. Willson School on the bluff.

This year's event is shaping up to be bigger and better at press time

See TASTE... on Page 10



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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**

State's Job Losses

Letter to the Editor,

The *Courier Journal* published an op-ed March 19 by Justin Bogie, Sr. Director of Fiscal Policy for the Alabama Policy Council. In the article Bogie indicated that Alabama received over 66 billion dollars in funding last year.

Curious about the effect of that figure, I did some estimates. If Alabama's total GDP last year was 245 billion, and the cuts that are coming are half of that 66 billion, and we take the multiplier effect of 33 billion into account, what will our GDP be next year?

Alabama's GDP could shrink to \$196 billion next year, assuming a

... I do not believe the new facilities will be ready for any home games this season! ... ”

multiplier of 1.5. If the multiplier were lower (e.g., 1.0), the GDP would be \$212 billion; if it were higher (e.g., 2.0), the GDP could drop to \$179 billion. I hope our politicians are paying attention to this possibility.

A rule of thumb in economics is that every \$1 billion drop in GDP leads to 8,000 – 12,000 job losses. We should expect a mid-range estimate of 10,000 job losses per \$1B lost in GDP.

These job losses will be across many sectors, not just the areas the grants were designed to fund. A lot of us suspect that budget cutting like this will not work the way anyone is expecting or hoping or planning.

Jacquie Osborne
Florence

See LETTERS...on Page 17

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Heroes...

Continued from Page 8

and come face to face with some of the most magnificent monsters and terrifying beasts ever to walk the earth. Discover the colossal Stone Troll, the mysterious Indrik and Japanese Baku; the Tooth Fairy (not as sweet as you'd think), an adorable Unicorn and majestic Griffin. Take your place among

legendary heroes, just don't wake the Dragon... UNA Norton Auditorium will host two performances on Tuesday, April 8, one at noon and the other at 7pm. Please visit tennesseevalleyarts.org for tickets to either show. Please call the TVAA at 256-383-0533 with any additional questions.

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Taste...

Continued from Page 8

with 13 participating Sheffield-based restaurants serving up samples of their most popular dishes. Also, this year, everyone will enjoy the amazing music of Ed Bisquera!

Tickets are five (samples) for \$10 and are available in advance at Sheffield High School or at the door.

"Last year's event was an overwhelming success, and we expect an

even greater turnout this year," said Lisa Rickman, Sheffield City Schools career coach, and public relations coordinator.

This fundraiser is a Center of the Shoals Campaign event, whereby Sheffield City Schools is raising money to replace signage at the schools with updated, digital versions that will carry the district well into the future.

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Borden Cheese SHREDS, CHUNKS OR SLICES 6-8 Oz. 2/\$5	Stouffer's Or Lean Cuisine ENTREES 8-12 Oz. 2/\$6
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MESQUITE BBQ BABY BACK RIBS ... 1 Lb. \$4.99	TURKEY BREAST 1 Lb. \$6.49

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- TUSCUMBIA** 103 West 1st Street • 7am-11pm • 256-383-9425
- FORD CITY FOODLAND** River Road • 7am-10pm • 256-446-5842
- ELGIN CROSSROADS** ELGIN Forest Plaza • 7am-11pm • 256-247-1958
- ROGERSVILLE** Rogersville Shopping Ctr. • 7am-11pm • 256-247-1805



Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

Pay Attention

Dear Sweet Readers,
It is my intention to retire my "Cat and Kids" column in June. I tell you this now, because for the next couple of months, I will be reprinting some sample favorites. This column has advocated for the love of families and children. Here is a pointed reprint (from 3/31/10) hailing a specific cause. Thank you for making me feel free to speak freely.

She looked up at me with those big, beautiful, sad almond eyes. Eyes full of hurt. Eyes like you see in sad commercials. The whites of her eyes quickly turned pink as big, crocodile tears rolled down her cheeks. The tears came with no sounds or movements except the blink of her eyes. There were no sobs, no shrugging of the shoulders, not a whimper or a sigh - just warm, hot tears flowing down her face as she looked at me seeking help. A child's tears. Silent tears.

Silent tears hurt the worst. They choke your throat up and make it hard to breathe. We come into this world kicking, screaming and making a wail of a lot of noise to let everyone know that we are in need. We cry with sighs, sobs and sniffles when we hurt ourselves or get a childhood boo-boo. Crying brings the proper, needed attention to a child. Silent crying is a learned action.

You learn to cry silently as a child when you are laying in your bed and the adults in your life are in another room cussing, fussing and fighting. You cry silently when you hear something hit a wall and you don't know if was a thing or your brother or your sister or your mom. You lay still and cry silently because you don't want everyone else to know that you are hurting even worse than they are because you don't understand why this ugliness is happening.

You cry silent tears when you don't want the other person or people present to know that you are doing something that you do not want to do. In

the dark, you bite your lip. In the light, you turn your head. Silent tears happen when someone is hurting you and you don't want to provoke them to hurt you any worse.

She looked silently at me with those big, beautiful preteen eyes. Eyes full of tears. She looked at me with quiet tears streaming down her cheeks - too drained by abuse to have the energy to cry passionately. She looked at me for support.

What she needs to know is that she is good stuff. That I know that she has a good heart. That it is not her fault. That, yes, adults (even ones that she loves) have problems. She needs to know that I will love her unconditionally. She needs to know that life can be different and better than her present circumstance. She needs to know that I will do grown up things to get her help.

Her tears remind me that there are still many children suffering silently, keeping secrets. I pray that someone along the way creates relationship enough that they can confide in them. I hope that someone will pay attention to the children who are acting out or whose grades suddenly drop or such like. We have to pay attention. Then maybe we can break their silence.

Silent tears show a hurt soul. But it doesn't have to go that far, if we would all just live right or admit it when we don't. Make some noise. Talk to somebody. Save the children!

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com

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Commentary

Scams...

Continued from Page 8

generations that had greater overall character; from a time when they could trust someone based on a handshake.

While we are all looking to save money, the scammers are counting on our thriftiness to think we are being offered a deal that is too good to pass up.

They play on our urge to not let an opportunity get by.

- Don't let anyone pressure you with an urgent pending deadline or guilt you into a credit/debit card donation over the phone because they are "raising money for a nonprofit."

- Don't give ANYONE personal information who you did not contact first, including birth date, social security number, financial account numbers, credit card numbers or passwords.

- Remember, anyone calling or emailing you from one of your financial institutions will already have any information they need. They won't be asking you for it again to prove who you are.

At any age, we have to trust our better judgement and not be

tempted by the thought we may be missing out.

We are never out anything and we never get into trouble when our answer is, "No."

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CITY OF FLORENCE PUBLIC NOTICE
2025 – 2029 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CONSOLIDATED PLAN

An essential component of determining the need for government action is obtaining input from the local public, emphasizing involvement by low—and moderate-income persons. The City recognizes that citizen involvement in the CDBG program planning and development is essential. The public is invited to attend a public hearing related to CDBG funding and the 2025 – 2029 Consolidated Plan process. Information about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the 2025 – 2029 Consolidated Plan will be presented at the Public Hearings listed below.

Public Hearings: Mon., April 21, 2025 • 3-5 p.m.
309-B Handy Homes, Handy Community Center

Tues., April 22, 2025 • 5-7 p.m.
Broadway Recreation Center, 300 North Broadway St.

All requests for accommodations are considered and should be submitted to the Florence Community Development Division no later than 10:00 a.m. Monday, April 21, 2025. Requests for accommodations and questions regarding this public notice and public hearing may be sent to the City of Florence, Community Development Division, Attn: Lyndsey Borden, 110 W College Street, Suite 115, Florence, AL 35630 or via email at cdbg@florenceal.org.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025.

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2025

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FLORENCE SHRED DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 4	FLORENCE-LAUDERDALE COLISEUM 702 VETERANS DRIVE, FLORENCE, AL 35630	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
-----------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------

Free Community Event • Drive Thru Service

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There is a limit of 3 kitchen size bags or 3 file storage boxes.

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HOCUS - FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Plank is missing. 2. Pencil is missing. 3. Paper is added. 4. Screwdriver is longer. 5. Pan is smaller. 6. Box is missing.

Community Notes...

Continued from page 5

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

Clean Campus Poster Contest - Deadline: April 3.

- Two Categories: K-3rd and 4th-6th
 - Theme: Help the Shoals Thrive! Clean Up in 2025!
 - Submit to: The Shoals Chamber (20 Hightower Place Florence)
 - Standard White Poster or Foam Core Board
 - All mediums are accepted
 - Back of Poster include: student name, school, grade, phone number and email for parent.
- Sponsored By: Alabama PALS (People Against a Littered State) and Keep the Shoals Beautiful (a Keep America Beautiful Affiliate.)

April 6-10 You are invited to our Gospel Meeting, at Valdosta Church of Christ, 1119 Old Lee Hwy., Tusculumia. Guest Speaker: Stan Dean

Schedule of Services: Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.; Sunday a.m. worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday p.m. worship 5 p.m.; Singing 2 p.m.; Monday - Thursday 7 p.m.

April 6, 2:00 p.m. You Are Invited To Our Annual SINGING - at Valdosta Church Of Christ, 1119 Old Lee Hwy., Tusculumia.

VOCAL of the Shoals Annual Candlelight Vigil takes place Monday, April 7 during National Victims' Rights Week at 7pm in downtown Florence's Wilson Park.

VOCAL will be honoring and remembering crime victims by placing white crosses with their picture on the crosses displayed in front of the Lauderdale County Courthouse during the week.

The Keynote Speaker will be Alabama Attorney General, Steve Marshall. Featured Speakers include Lauderdale County District Attorney, Chris Connolly, VOCAL State Director, Wanda Miller and Representatives from the Lauderdale County District Attorney's Office, Florence Police Department, Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department, Cramer Children's

Center, SafePlace, The Healing Place, One Place of Shoals, and VOCAL of the Shoals.

Music will be provided by Alyssa Ashley-Guin and Gary Nichols.

This is a public event open to everyone. The RAINSITE for the Vigil is across the street at First Baptist Church of Florence

Search for VOCAL of the Shoals on Facebook. For more information: email vocaloftheshoals2024@gmail.com

Senior Meals on Weekdays at 11:30am at The Club, 450 Country Club Road in Florence. \$1 donation.

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.

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates: Wednesday, April 2 Wilson High School, Florence, 8am - 3:30pm

Thursday, April 3 Sam's Club, Florence, 10am - 4pm

Saturday, April 5 Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, 606 Marietta St, Florence, 9am - 3pm

Sunday, April 6 Cross Point Church of Christ, Florence, 8am - 1pm

Monday, April 7 UNA - Kappa Alpha Order, One Harrison Plaza, 9am - 3pm

Tuesday, April 8 TVA Power Service Shops, 526 Reservation Rd., Muscle Shoals, 10am - 5:30pm

Wednesday, April 9 Shoals Christian School, 8am - 3:30pm

Thursday, April 10 Lexington High School, 8am - 3pm

Friday, April 11 Genesis Healthcare - Glenwood Center, 211 Ana Drive, Florence, 10am - 4pm

Quad Cities Photography Club, 6:30pm, second Tuesday, (April 8) Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence.

See NOTES... page 19

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Anyone who is on Medicare has the option of signing up for prescription drug coverage. This is also known as Medicare Part D. Some people with limited income and resources may be able to get "Extra Help" with the costs related to their Medicare prescription drug plan. This includes help with monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments.

To qualify for "Extra Help" your annual income must not exceed \$23,475 for an individual or \$31,725 for a married couple living together. Some of the things that count as income are: Social Security benefits, Railroad Retirement benefits, Veterans benefits, pensions or annuities and any wages you are earning from a job or self-employment.

You also must not exceed the resource limit to qualify for "Extra Help". Resources would include: bank accounts (including checking, savings and CDs), stocks, bonds, mutual funds, IRAs or any other investments. Cash and any real estate other than your home also counts. The amount of your resources must not exceed \$17,600 for an individual or \$35,130 for a married couple. The amounts listed for both the income and resource limits are for 2025.

Social Security has estimated that "Extra Help" is worth about \$5,000 per year for those who qualify. We meet with many people each year who qualify for this benefit and don't even know it. To find out if you qualify for "Extra Help" you can call or visit your local Social Security office, apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov or you can call or visit our office and we'll be glad to help. Regardless of the way you choose to apply, you will need your income and resource information available.

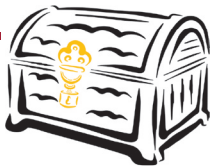
If you have questions regarding any aspect of Medicare or Medicare health plans feel free call us at Alabama Health Guidance (256-648-5710), stop by our office at 885 Florence Blvd (Four Lane Shopping Center) or email me at ikey@alabamahealthguidance.com. Alabama Health Guidance is an independent insurance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



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Back Row: Joshua Vacik, MD; Robert Dickson, DO; Anthony Horton, DO; Brad McAnalley, MD

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Letters...

Continued from Page 8

Ball Field is Progressing Slowly

Editor,

In a prior letter, after visiting the construction site of the new UNA football and baseball fields, an opinion was offered that the new baseball facilities would not be ready for play at a home game against Central Arkansas on March 14.

That three game series, in fact, was played at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. UNA will also play four games at Northwest Shoals Community College Field in Muscle Shoals during April, - home games scheduled for April 17, 18, and 19 against Bellarmine and another on April 22 against Murray State.

A second visit has been made to the parking lot at College View Church of Christ, which is above the construction site. I do not believe the new facilities will be ready for any home games this season! Though I do hope

I am wrong.

A screen fence about 40 ft high been added to the high left field wall. It appears that the fence is needed to protect vehicles from baseballs hit over the wall into the church parking lot.

It's clear that there will be a very short left field. Hopefully, this wall and fence has been discussed with church officials.

Roar Lions!
Bill Smoak
 Florence

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Courier Journal ADOPT A FRIEND

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

Meet Ty! Ty he is a young dog very energetic with a fun outgoing personality. You will be smiling all day everyday with Ty in your life. He is fun, sweet, and amazing. He is medium in size and energy. Not ready to adopt? Fostering is free! The adoption fee is currently \$85 and includes everything your new pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines, a microchip, spay/neuter, and heartworm test. Please call or come by **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to meet Ty.



Meet Cedar! Cedar is dog friendly shy at first very sweet. Cedar is a must meet dog that will steal your heart. She likes to go on walks and play. Fostering is free. Come by and meet this amazing dog or take her out for the day. The adoption fee is currently \$85 and includes everything your new pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines, a microchip, spay/neuter, and heartworm test. Please call or come by **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to meet this sweet girl.



Meet Sadie! This girl is full of energy and loves to play. She is good with other dog but maybe a lot for some dogs around her if the energy doesn't match. She is adorable and super sweet. Small spaces aren't her favorite. The adoption fee is currently \$85 and includes everything your new pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccines, a microchip, spay/neuter, and heartworm test. Please call or come by **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to meet your new best friend.



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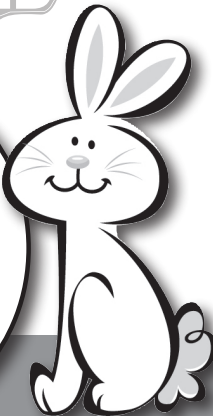
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Courier Journal Colors of Easter Coloring Contest 2025

3 Age Groups:
2-4 • 5-7 • 8-10

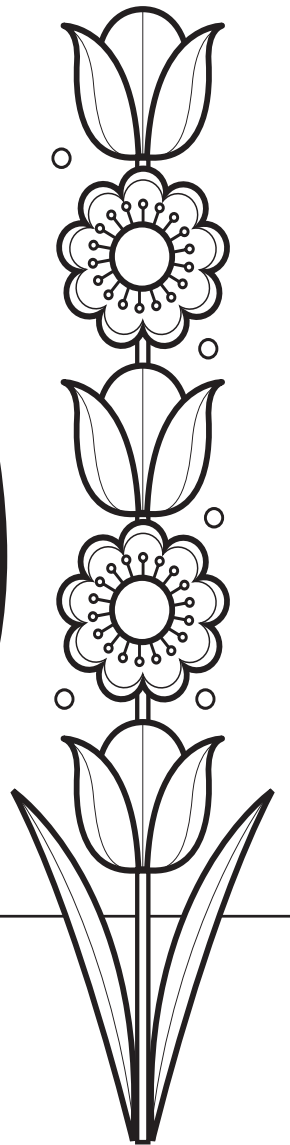
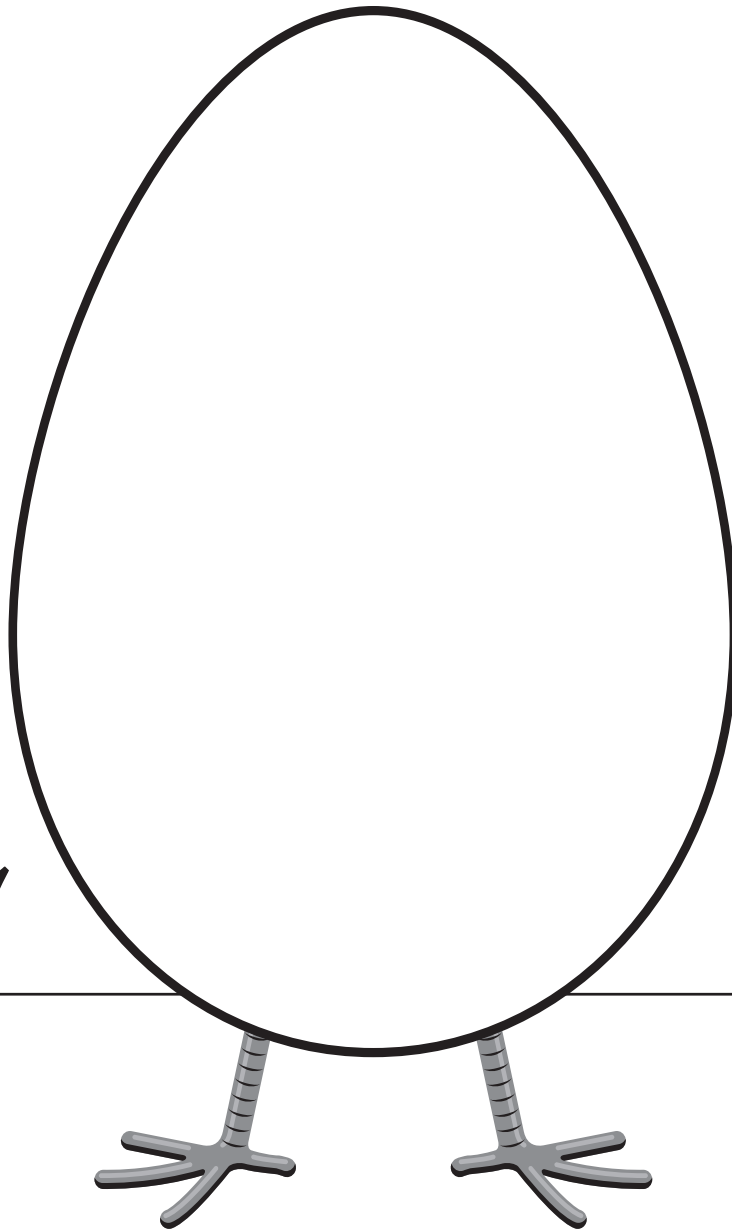
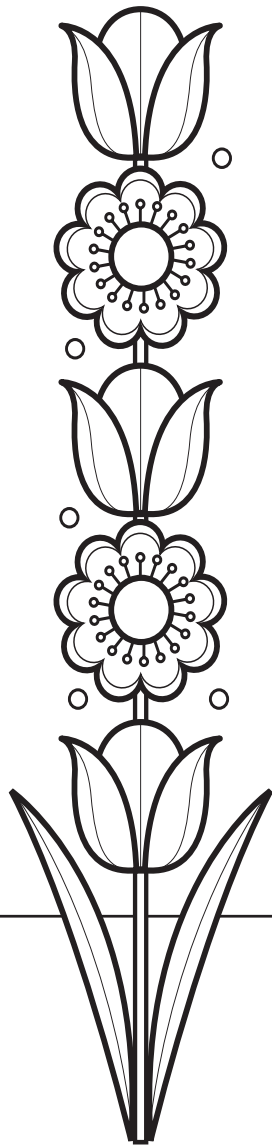


**ENTRY
DEADLINE
THURSDAY,
APRIL 10,
NOON**
Winners will be
announced in the
April 16
issue.



Mail or Bring Entries to:
Courier Journal
Coloring Contest
219 W. Tennessee St.
Florence, AL 35630
Or email:
andrea@courierjournal.net

Decorate This Egg for Easter!



Adults who color your kid's entry, will not win.

Adults can help in completing the entry form. Entrant information must be completed to qualify.

First & Last Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number _____

**Top 3 Winners in each Age
Group Receive...**

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**1st Place Winners
Also Receive ...**

**1 Large 1 Topping
Pizza from**



Community Notes...

Continued from page 15

American Legion Post No. 31, 6:30pm., third Monday, (April 21) Legion Hall, 110 1/2 N. Main St., Tuscumbia. Meal and program. Ardel Hollis, 256-710-7097

April 12: Order Deadline: Egg My Yard: A Magical Easter Surprise!

The Shoals Area Lions Club is bringing the magic of Easter straight to residents' yards with "Egg My Yard." Families can wake up to a delightful Easter morning surprise with colorful, candy-filled eggs scattered throughout their yards.

Participants can choose between delivery or a special pick-up option at UNA from April 14-18. Orders require a minimum of 20 eggs, priced at \$1 per egg, with a deadline to order by April 12th.

All proceeds from this event support the Shoals Area Lions Club's mission of vision care, disaster relief, and community service. The Lions Club will be assisting the Easter Bunny within the Florence city limits and in the Mountain Brook community in Killen. To order, visit www.zeffy.com/ticketing/egg-my-yard-11.

Jacksonburg Church of Christ, at 414 County Road 28 in Florence, will have a Wednesday night Spring Series: 'Body Building' for April at 7pm each Wednesday. The schedule includes: 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.

Historical Plaques Again Available

- After a few years of unavailability, the plaques to mark individual historical homes and buildings in Florence are being offered once again by popular demand.

To be eligible for a plaque, the home or building must be at least fifty (50) years old and must not have had its streetside facade significantly altered. Heritage Preservation, Inc., a local non-profit organization, is producing the plaques in lots of 50 or more, and the cost is \$100 each, prepaid. Therefore, when as many as 50 have been ordered, the company will go to press. To receive an application for ordering a new plaque or replacing an existing one, please contact Billy Warren at 256-718-5020 or by email at: brwarren@florenceal.org.

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

Zodiac Players Season - The Zodiac Players have the following plays

scheduled: "South Pacific the Musical" April 17-20, 2025, directed by Jacob Adams. The plays will be at Shoals Theatre, 123 N. Seminary St., Florence. For ticket information, or to become a patron, call 256-764-1700 or go to theshoalstheatre.org

The Colbert County Domestic Violence Response Coalition will host its Spring Vendor Fundraiser Event Saturday and Sunday, April 12-13 at the Roundhouse, 110 North Indian St. in Tuscumbia. Vendors and crafters are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

The "Love Shouldn't Hurt" Vendor Market is from 9am-5pm Saturday and 12-4pm Sunday.

More than two dozen vendors are expected to take part at this indoor event. Join us and enjoy shopping including handmade crafts, boutique clothing, Tupperware, food trucks, sweets/ treats, and much more!!

Funds raised by booth rentals and donations will go directly to the local community through the Colbert County Domestic Violence Response Coalition's "Starting Over Project."

8 x 8 vendor spaces are available for \$40 each in advance. (nonrefundable) Food trucks can take part for \$100 each. Vendor set up is from 4-6pm Friday, April 11. Breakdown is from 4-5pm Sunday

For vendor details or more information about the CCDVRC, please call 256-284-2284, email: colbertdvrc@aol.com. Facebook: Colbert County Domestic Violence Response Coalition.

The Alabama A&M Wind Ensemble will present a Free Concert at 7pm on Thursday, April 17 at Florence Middle School Auditorium (Cherry St.) in Florence. In addition, local student, Nevaeh Jones will be performing.

Artistic Renderings of Youth -

The exhibit is open now and runs through May 1 at Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence. A reception will be 5:30-8:30 p.m. April 2. The display is a juried exhibit of work by seventh through twelfth grade artists from Colbert, Franklin and Lauderdale counties. The center is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. 256-760-7379, connect@florencealmuseums.com

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See NOTES... page 22

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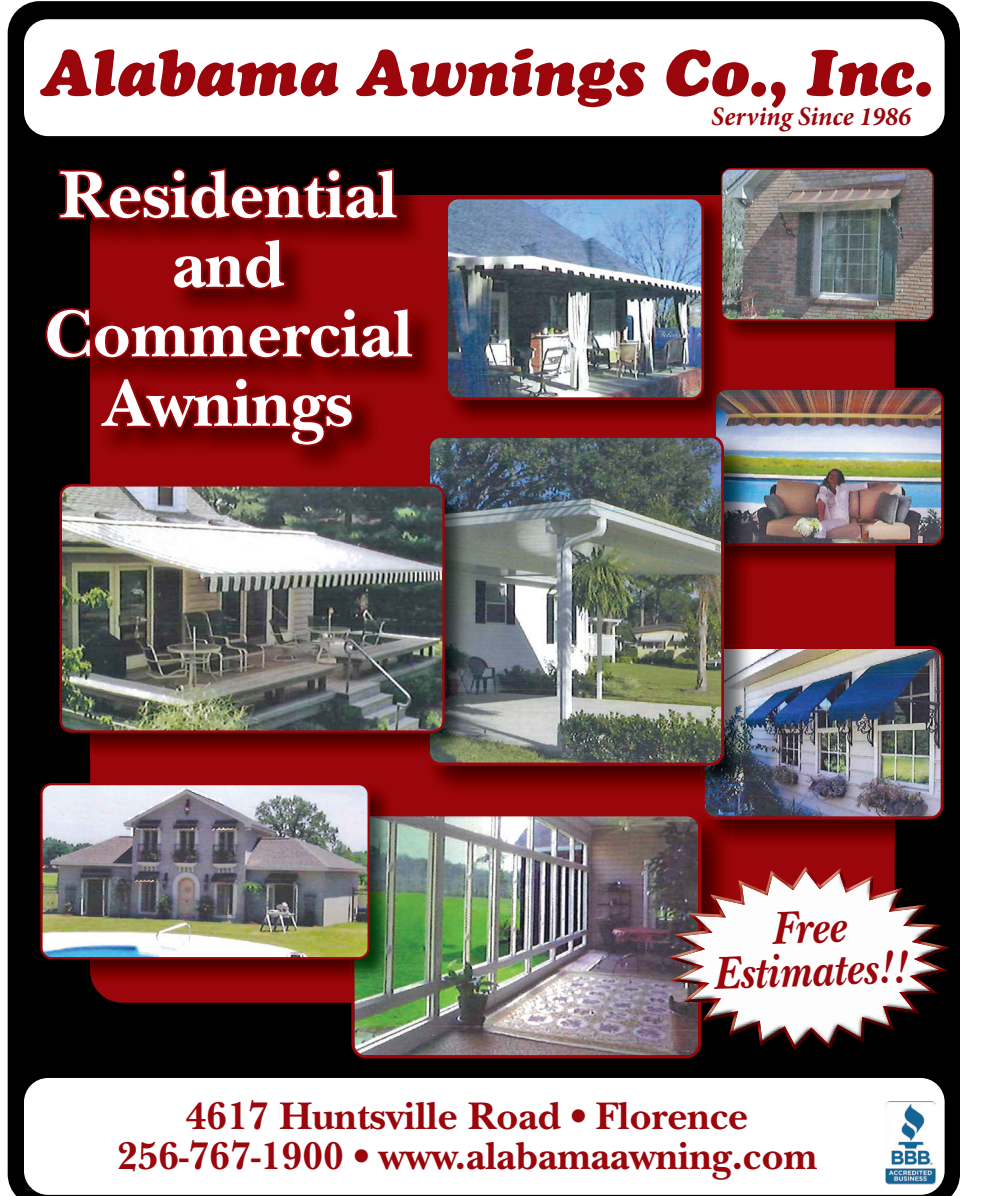
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TERMS OF SALE: REAL ESTATE: requires a 10% non-refundable deposit day of sale. Balance due at closing on or before May 5, 2025. Taxes for 2024 will be prorated day of closing. Possession with deed day of closing. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** Driver's license required for registration, cash, cashier's check, certified check or personal check. Possession with confirmation of good check. No cards accepted. **ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS DAY OF SALE TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL PRIOR ADVERTISEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLAT & PICTURES GO TO WWW.AUCTIONZIP.COM (36040), OR CONTACT HOOD & HESTER AUCTION.**



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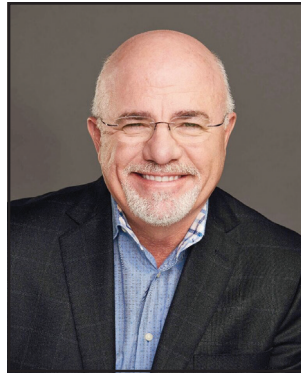
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by DAVE RAMSEY



HE'S GOING TO NEED YOU IN HIS LIFE

Dear Dave,
My wife and I are going through a divorce, and she just had our first child. Under the circumstances, I feel it's my responsibility to take care of her for a while longer, and to put her and our son in a safe, new vehicle. She's driving a 2002 Chevy Prizm right now with lots of miles on it. I'm afraid any kind of accident could result in a disaster. Do you think I should buy her a bigger, safer new car?
Ewan

Dear Ewan,
God bless you both. And that little boy. I'm truly sorry you're going through a mess like this, and I appreciate your attitude and concern about things. Divorce carries a lot of emotional stress and worry for everyone involved, but honestly? I don't think buying her a new car will solve anything.

My guess is the truth of the matter is this: The whole situation is breaking your heart, and you're worried sick about your son. This is 100% natural, buddy, and it means you love that little baby with all your heart. But if it were me, I'd find a little bit larger used car—a good, reliable one—that either one of you, or both of you combined, can pay for with cash. No payments, no leases.

But Ewan, here's the important thing. Spend every second you can get hugging and loving on that little boy. And let his mom know you want to be part of his life as much as possible. He's going to need his daddy around.

— Dave

IT'S NOT ABOUT GREED, IT'S ABOUT DOING GOOD

Dear Dave,
On your show, you're always talking about accumulating piles of cash. I've gone to church my entire life, and I know for a fact the Bible says not to lay up treasures on earth. Doesn't that mean

we shouldn't be greedy or accumulate wealth?
Lawrence

Dear Lawrence,
The Bible also says in Proverbs that in the house of the wise there are stores of choice food and oil. I appreciate your concern, but when I talk about "piles of cash," my frame of reference is that we're to handle our money and other possessions for good and for God. It's not about greed, or to show off or to use it just to buy bigger and better things for ourselves.

If you look back through scripture, you'll find many of the Bible's major characters were wealthy people, who understood they were not the owners of the money and wealth. They understood God owned it all, and their job was to manage it all properly for God's glory.

But here's the thing. You can't do good if you don't have the resources to do good.

— 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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Notes...

Continued from page 19

Holy Week Service Times at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Florence Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10:30am; Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 6:30pm; Good Friday, April 18 at 6:30pm; Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10:30am. Everyone is welcome. 630 N Poplar St. in Florence • 256-764-3902.

Shoals Artists Guild Meeting Every 3rd Friday of the month, (April 18), 10am-Noon at the Southall-Moore House, next to the Kennedy-Douglass Art Center, Downtown Florence. For more info, contact Carolyn Wear, 256-710-6854.

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 davis@florenceal.org or call 256-760-6420.

Florence Fly Fisher & Tyers meets the 1st Tuesday (April 1) of every month from 6:30-8pm at St Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 1900 Darby Dr. in Florence. Anyone interested is welcome and encouraged to attend.

2025's Fishing Days at Deibert Park presented by Florence Parks and Recreation Department.

Sign In. Catch and keep, Catch and share, Catch and release. Mark your calendars. No fishing license is required. Bring your own chair, snacks, tackle, and enjoy park fishing days.

Please adhere to the times on the schedule. Parents, please keep a close eye on your young ones who are fishing. Sign in with your phone number and we'll send you a reminder of fishing dates.

FRIDAY, April 25, 7am-5pm No School
TUESDAY, June 17, 6:30-11:30am Summer Day

THURSDAY, September 18, 6:30-11:30am Fall Day

SATURDAY, October 4, 8am-5pm Fall Weekend

Deceiving The Simple

Romans 16:18 "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." Why people avoid the book of Romans? It rips apart every cult and religious setup known by the world today, with strong, impeccable, simple truthful DOCTRINE! STRONG doctrine divides, truth from error, real salvation from the devilish dogma of 4000 cults out there today. Romans contains doctrine, the simplicity and truth of salvation explained perfectly. Anyone that holds church attendance and membership over your head, to ensure your salvation, is making a slave out of you. READ AND STUDY DILIGENTLY ROMANS! Real freedom comes from receiving and knowing Jesus Christ. Romans plainly reveals salvation is the free gift of God, through Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:15** "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many."

John 8:36 "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Pulpits in America have become platforms of fancy and fair speeches set up to enforce doctrinal errors, and deceive the hearts of the simple. Are you one of them? Are you free? Are you worried about eternity? If so, you don't have the salvation that God has freely provided that is fully explained in the great book of Romans. Get a KJV and read the book of Romans and ask God to open your eyes to the truth! Christ is the truth! Are you afraid to ask Him to save you for fear He might? What's your excuse for refusing to trust Him for salvation? Christ came to set you free. Are you free and happy?

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SIGNS OF THE PAST

MITCHELL TOWN COMMUNITY
(Continued from other side)

Gabriel Butler, an early settler, built the first Bluewater Primitive Baptist Church in 1823 on his land near the present-day Butler Cemetery. The church moved from there to Mitchell Town near the Bluewater Cemetery, established in 1836. Around 1913, the church moved to CR35 across from Mitchell's Mill and in 1940 it was rebuilt near the Bluewater Cemetery, where it stands today. An early school was conducted in the Bluewater Primitive Baptist Church. It was moved to the Missionary Baptist Church, located near Dog Branch alongside what is now CR50, and was known as Dog Branch School. In 1913, a site near the church was donated for a one-room school. It was named New Hope School and grades 1-6 were taught by one teacher until around 1935. Eventually, commercial trade in Mitchell Town declined resulting in businesses closing. The cotton gin was the last visible reminder of Mitchell Town's commercial past. It proudly stood and functioned until the mid-1950s and collapsed in 1960. The stately old home built by Jim Mitchell was vacated in the early 1960s and torn down in 1996. It was one of the last reminders of the once thriving business community known as Mitchell Town.

2014

Location: 34.8604°N, 87.4402°W
7387 US-72, Killen, AL

Mitchell Town was once a thriving community 1.5 miles north of Bluewater Creek, named for the Mitchells who lived here. A gin was there before the Civil War. Later a gristmill and general merchandise store, sawmill, and blacksmith shop operated there. Eventually businesses declined and nothing remains today.

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

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