



Honored in District Art

HANCEVILLE – Congressman Robert Aderholt proudly announced the winners of the 2025 4th Congressional District Art Competition during a special awards ceremony last week at Wallace State Community College.

The top honor, Best of Show, was awarded to **Natalie Jones**, a junior at DAR School in Grant. Jones' exceptional piece - a colorful 3D crocheted tree - will be displayed in the United States Capitol for the next year as part of the national Congressional Art Competition exhibit. In addition, she has been awarded a full two-year scholarship to Wallace State Community College.

"Each year I continue to be amazed at the level of artistic ability we see from students across the 4th District," Aderholt said. "The imagination and dedication these young artists pour into their work is truly inspiring."

Three Florence High School students also placed in the competition.

Yumiya Xie placed 3rd in Paintings.

Holt Hurt placed 1st in Prints.

Stacy Johnson placed 2nd in Photography.

More SHORTs... on Page 2

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Allan Slusher, at left, with his Digital Media Design students at SHS after their Campus Tour video took to honors.
SCS photo

National Reach



SHEFFIELD-- Sheffield High School's Digital Media Design class has won the national Reach and Teach Campus Tour Video Contest. The win carries a \$1,000 prize for instructor Allan Slusher's class.

SHS prevailed over entries from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Tennessee and Alabama.

The students' entry was judged based on content in three areas: video editing, creativity and viewership.

The video highlights students' talents and a fun side of campus life featuring various segments

See REACH... on Page 6

Kilby Tops 52 Others

FLORENCE-- Kilby Laboratory School, on the UNA campus, had a top finish at the Alabama VEX IQ Championship, competing against 52 of the best teams from across the state. The exceptional skill, creativity, and teamwork

demonstrated by the Kilby team earned the members a number of prestigious awards as well as a spot in the World IQ Championship in Dallas in May.

See KILBY... on Page 6

Mills Takes District Teaching Honor



Mills

FLORENCE-- Florence Middle School Choir Teacher, Andrew Mills, has been named the Alabama District 7 Teacher of the Year.

Mills was initially named Florence Middle School's Teacher of the Year at the Veterans Day ceremony in November 2024. He went on to be named the Florence City Schools Secondary Teacher of the Year at the district's annual Falcons of the Year Banquet in February.

When asked about the District 7 honor, Mills said, "I'm honored to represent the hard-working teachers in my school system!"

Mills teaches choir, guitar, and general music at FMS. He said he was surprised when Principal, Dr. Ashley Bowling, announced the school honor.

District 7 encompasses ten counties in northwest Alabama and portions of two others,

See MILLS... on Page 8

INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside



Ray Miller GMC
Advance Auto Sales
Watson Auto Sales

• Medicare Minute
• A Conversation with Pastor Kiki



• Ask the Attorney
• Savvy Senior
• HOT Easter
• Grocery Specials
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• Into The Woods
• Cat & Kids
• Easter Coloring
• Contest Winners

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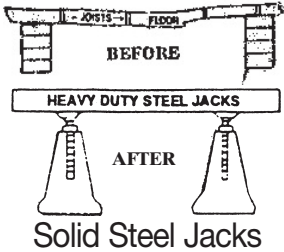
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Shorts...

Continued from Page 1

UTD's New Treating Plant

MUSCLE SHOALS – United Treating & Distribution (UTD), a leader in the treated lumber and building materials industry, is proud to announce and official opening of its newest treating plant located in Ringgold, Georgia.

This expansion marks a significant step forward in UTD's commitment to serving its growing customer base across the Southeast. Strategically located, the new Ringgold facility will allow UTD to better serve Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, and the surrounding markets with the same trusted service, quality products, and dependable delivery that customers have come to expect from the Muscle Shoals-based company.

"We're excited about this new chapter for UTD," said **Chad Epperson**, CEO of UTD. "This expansion not only strengthens our presence in the region but also allows us to serve

our customers more efficiently."

The Ringgold location is now fully operational, offering shipping and receiving, as well as full access to UTD's broad inventory of both treated and untreated lumber, along with various building materials like aluminum railing and composite decking. Customers and suppliers will continue to work with the same dedicated sales and freight teams (256-248-0944), now with two facilities working together to meet demand with increased speed and flexibility.

For more information, visit www.utddelivers.com.

Bernie Adding Qualifications

FLORENCE– **Bernie**, a favorite visitor for the residents at The Renaissance of Florence, is on the brink of earning his Canine Good Citizenship certification. Since joining the community in 2023, Bernie has been a steady presence that offers comfort and support through his interactions with residents.

Bernie was donated by a breeder to the senior living community when he was three months old. When he's not at work, he lives with Community Sales Director, **Amanda Simpson**. After months of training, he is now another step closer to becoming a therapy dog. Bernie just turned two years old, and he is now allowed to begin working towards



Bernie

his therapy dog certifications.

"Bernie has truly become a member of our family," said **Laura Fithian**, Executive Director of The Renaissance of Florence. "His presence has made a difference for our residents."

Bernie's calming demeanor has had a lasting impact on the lives of many residents. His visits have provided moments of peace, and his friendly nature has helped establish meaningful connections. For those who benefit from the companionship of the beloved puppy, Bernie's role has been particularly valuable. In addition to his work at The Renaissance, Bernie also visits local rehabilitation and nursing home facilities through friendly and supportive visits, further extending his reach in the community.

Bernie is currently being trained through the Sharp K9 Academy which is based in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

STEAM Camp at FLPL in July

FLORENCE– Florence Arts and Museums is thrilled to partner with the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library to launch a STEAM Camp for students in ages 11-18 from Monday–Friday, July 14–18. The camp will be divided into two groups based on age: Group 1: ages 11-14, 9am-12:30pm; Group 2: ages 15-18, 1-4:30pm. This camp will offer students the chance to develop projects focused on Claymation, graphic

design, printmaking, and historical artifacts.

In the Claymation class on Monday and Tuesday, students will create an original story using Claymation characters. They'll have the chance to write a script, design characters, and film their own short film. Following the Claymation class, students will dive into the world of graphic design by learning design principles, creating mood boards, and developing projects like book covers, posters, and social media graphics.

Students will explore printmaking and artifact creation on Wednesday and Thursday. In the printmaking class, students will learn about different techniques and use materials like bubble wrap, cardboard, and ink to design their own masterpieces. They will also design 3D printed stamps to incorporate into their artwork. Following that, in the artifact making class, students will identify artifacts from Pope's Tavern to research. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to create 3D replicas of their artifacts.

On Friday, both groups will meet from 9am-12:30pm to conclude the camp with an exhibit showcase for parents and community members at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.

Registration is \$25 per student and the fee is nonrefundable. Registration opened on April 14 at www.florencealmuseums.com/steam.

This program is sponsored by the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library and Florence Arts and Museums.

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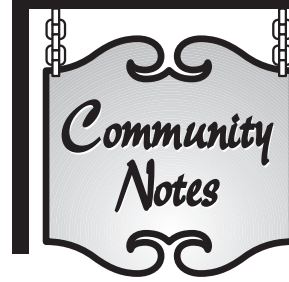
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COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge. **ASSPACE IS AVAILABLE** in the Courier Journal. **Community Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following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

The 21st Annual Empty Bowls Luncheon To Feed The Hungry is on Wednesday, April 16, 11am-1pm at the Renaissance Shoals Hotel Conference Center, 800 Cox Creek Parkway South, Florence. Hosted by the Salvation Women's Auxiliary.

Tickets available from any SAWA Member or the following: Salvation Army (Huntsville Rd., Florence) Or Trinity Ceramic Supply (3107 Northington Court, Florence Industrial Park) \$20 in Advance or at the Door.

Our shuttle buses will take you from your car to the door. For more information call: 256-764-4432 or 256-810-6175

FBC Tuscumbia Egg Hunt - Wednesday, April 16, 5:30pm at First Baptist Church of Tuscumbia, 203 N. Dickson St. Join us for an egg hunt. We

will have food, fun and Bible truths. For info, go to FBC Tuscumbia Easter Egg Hunt Facebook page.

Killen Egg Hunt Wednesday, April 16, 6pm at Killen Park. Join us for a community-wide Easter egg hunt for all ages. Everyone is invited.

April 19 - Free Easter Egg Hunt at Lewis Field. Crossroads Community Outreach invites families to a Free Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th from 2-5pm at Lewis Field in West Florence. This fun-filled afternoon will include food, games, and activities for all ages. For more info, visit www.crossroadsco.org or call 256-284-2218.

Saturday, April 19 - Easter Egg Hunt at First Christian Church - First Christian Church will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19 from 2-4 p.m. at 700 North Wood Avenue in Florence. Children ages 12 and under are invited to join the fun. The event will include hot dogs, chips, drinks, and Easter crafts. Don't forget to bring your basket!

Saturday, April 19 - Easter Egg Hunt Underwood Baptist Church 10am, 5091 Hwy. 157 in Florence. Children in preschool through grade 6 are invited to bring their baskets and take part in fun activities celebrating Easter.

Sunday April 20, 2-7pm Easter at Veterans Park shelter #1 in Florence. The event will feature a potluck, an Easter egg hunt, photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny, and lots more family fun. For info, visit Easter at Veterans Park Shelter #1 on Facebook.

Westside Easter Worship Sunday April 20, 10:45am at Westside Baptist Church in Tuscumbia. Join us for Easter Worship Service.

Easter at Christ Chapel 9am and 11am, Sunday April 20, 3051 Cloverdale Road in Florence. Two family-friendly worship experiences with an egg hunt following each service. For info, visit the Easter at Chapel Facebook page.

Mountain Springs Baptist Church at 575 Mt Mills Rd in Tuscumbia will host an Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast Sunday, April 20 at 7am. Speaker: Bro Jesse Hunt. Sunday School 9:30am, Easter Worship 10:30am

The 13th Annual Run the Rolling Hills Trail Race 10K, 5K & Kids 1 Mile takes place Saturday, April 26 @ 8:30am in Pulaski, TN at 10601 Campbellsville Road (Hwy 166).

Day of Race Registration starts at 7:30am. Kids 1 Mile starts at 8:30am. 10K/5K starts at 9am


Online Registration: <https://www.raceentry.com/races/run-the-rolling-hills/2025/register> Website: <http://runtherollinghills5k.wordpress.com/>

See NOTES... page 11

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This week, let the story hold you. Not as something to understand, but as something to sit with. Let it remind you that love is not loud. It is steady. That presence is not performance. It is a gift.

If your heart is seeking stillness, reflection, or simply the company of others doing their best to live with love, we welcome you. Join us for Holy Week: 4/17 Maundy Thursday 6 pm; 4/19 Kids' Egg Hunt & Hot Dog Lunch 11am; Easter Sunday Service 10:45 am.

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Kilby...

Continued from Page 1

"One of the most exciting moments for Kilby came when our robotics team earned 2nd Place in the Teamwork Challenge," said Misty Buerhaus, the Kilby Robotics sponsor and Library Media Specialist at the school. "This achievement is a testament to the strong collaboration and communication within our team, as well as our ability to strategize and perform under pressure." In addition to the Teamwork Challenge, Kilby's team received the Thinks Award, which celebrates the team's outstanding problem-solving skills, engineering, and innovative thinking throughout the competition. The team also received the Amaze Award, which highlights the team's creativity and technical expertise.

The culmination of all of the awards is the Overall Excellence Award, which acknowledges the Kilby Queens, an all-girls team, for all-around excellence in design, performance,

and teamwork.

The accomplishments earned three Kilby teams the opportunity to represent the State of Alabama along with the U.S. at the VEX IQ World Championship in Dallas in May. VEX Worlds is a prestigious event that will bring together teams from around the globe. In 2024, more than 480 teams from 70 countries competed.

"I am so thrilled for our entire Kilby community as we, once again, spread the UNA and Kilby footprint across this country and with others from around the world," said Dr. Eric Kirkman, Director of Kilby. "I truly hope the rest of our community can rally around our amazing students and support them as they raise fund to get to Dallas."

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

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Reach...

Continued from Page 1

produced by multiple student crews and hosts.

Sheffield High School is committed to enhancing all its career technical offerings. Slusher's program began last year working with the new StreamVu Digital System which has been a catalyst for students interested in all aspects of digital engagement.

"The students worked for about two months to put the video all together, then entered the promotion part," Slusher said. "We got a lot of help with promotion from the students and teachers here and elsewhere around the Shoals, as well as from the public to put us over the top in viewership."

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To begin a personal relationship with God, agree

with Him about your sin and your need for forgiveness. If you are ready to make this choice, as an affirmation of your belief, you may wish to pray a prayer like this one: *Dear God, I understand I am a sinner, but I believe Jesus died for my sins, and I now accept His gift of eternal life. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Thank You for my new life. From this day on, I choose to follow You and Your will for my life.*

If you choose to begin a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus, please share this with the person of church that gave you this. To learn more, visit sbc.net/knowjesus.

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Mills...

Continued from Page 1

stretching to just outside of Tuscaloosa and Birmingham to the south.

"I was just enjoying the program, enjoying the speaker, and then at the very end of the program, Dr. Bowling announced Teacher of the Year, and it happened to be me," Mills said. "I had no clue that I was in the running for that, but it's a great honor to be selected."

He added that school administrators and his family were "really good at keeping it a secret."

"Never has a student asked to leave chorus once they met Drew Mills," Bowling said. "He has a 100% success rate

of keeping students and growing their interest in music. He can embrace all students, regardless their level and talent. He keeps them and makes them just fantastic musicians."

Mills said that education and music have always been central to his life, making his career path feel like a natural fit. "Education has kind of been a part of my family for a long time," he said. "When I started band in sixth grade, I kind of knew then, 'alright, this is what I want to do.' I feel like I'm exactly where I want to be and where I need to be."

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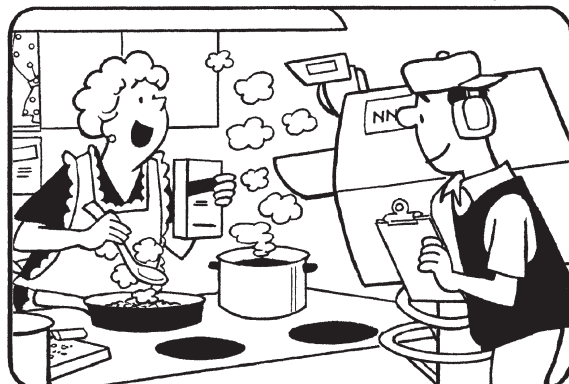
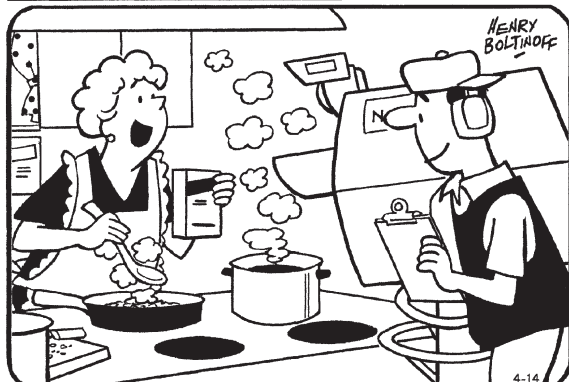
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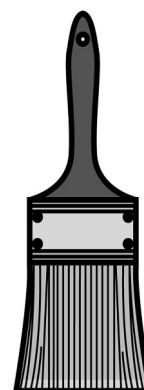
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Savvy SENIOR

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,
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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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Notes...

Continued from page 4

The meeting of American Legion Colbert County Memorial Post 31 takes place on Monday, April 21, at 6pm at the Post meeting hall located at 110 1/2 N. Main St. Tuscumbia. A stair-lift is available, if needed, to the upstairs location. A meal will be provided. All Veterans are invited. For more information, please call 256-762-5950.

The Central Community Center Breakfast 7-9am, the third Saturday of each month. Located at 4130 Lauderdale County Rd. 6, Florence.

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 public is invited to attend a book signing by author, John Young, at 6pm Monday, April 28, who will discuss his latest book, "Silly Songs, Surprising Stories and Supreme Court Justices." The signing will take place in the Overton Memorial Library on the campus of Heritage Christian University, 3625 Helton Drive in Florence. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

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.

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 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.

The Colbert County Sports Hall of Fame will host its 2025 Induction Ceremony on **Friday, April 18**, at the Ritz Theatre in Sheffield. Doors open at 6pm. The event will begin at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the box office before the event. 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. For more information, call at 256-412-2184 or visit ccsportshof.org.

See NOTES... page 30

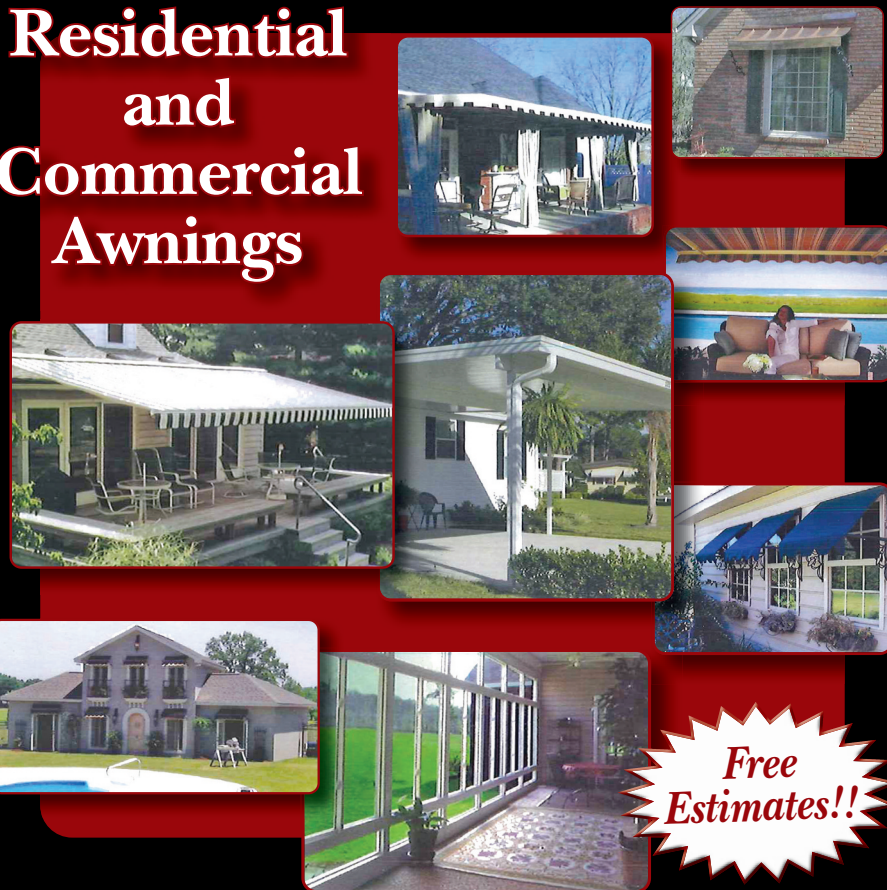
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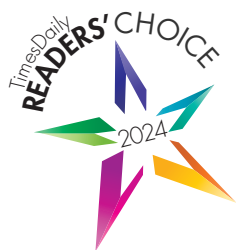
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Guest Commentary

Teachers Unions Oppose Phonics Reintroduction

For decades, K-12 schools have wandered away from a time-tested, research-based method of teaching reading: phonics. Student scores have plunged to historic lows, but some states are turning back to the practice of teaching letter sounds—if teacher unions do not spoil the efforts first.

Phonics instructs children to identify letters and their pronunciation to construct words, supplying the tools needed to tackle combinations of letters. “Cueing” and its related methods, such as “look-say” and “whole word,” show children a picture with a word beneath it (such as a picture of a dog with the letters “d-o-g” beneath).

See **PHONICS...** on Page 26

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



Jonathan Butcher



Emma Horn

Courier Journal

in the *Shoals*

THIS WEEK

April 16, 2025

Happening
THIS WEEK

NWSCC MUSIC DEPT VENTURES

Into the Woods

PHIL CAMPBELL -- The Northwest Shoals Community College Music Department will present the beloved musical *Into the Woods* with Thursday, April 17 at 7pm and Saturday, April 19 at 2:30pm in the Lou B. Beville Center on the Phil Campbell campus.

Originally debuting in 1986, *Into the Woods* features music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and a book by James Lapine. The musical intricately weaves together classic fairy tale characters, including

Cinderella, Jack (from *Jack and the Beanstalk*), and a baker and his wife, all of whom set off on journeys to fulfill their deepest wishes. However, as the story unfolds, they soon discover that achieving their dreams comes with unforeseen consequences.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our students to showcase their talent while bringing such a compelling and thought-provoking production to the community,”

See **WOODS...** on Page 24

April 17, 7pm • April 19, 2:30pm

THE ZODIAC PLAYERS WILL PERFORM

“South Pacific the Musical” April 17-20, 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 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.

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will host its 2025 Induction Ceremony on Friday, April 18, at the Ritz Theatre in Sheffield. Doors open at 6pm. The event will begin at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the box office before the event. 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. For more information, call at 256-412-2184 or visit ccsportshof.org.

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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

...Trump's strong-arming is making Congress more marginal than ever before in American history. . .

”

Making Them Rich, Us Poor

Dear Editor,

In his dealings with the European Union, President Trump should keep in mind Winston Churchill's observation of the Germans: “They are either at your throat or at your feet!” In fact, that statement should apply to almost all EU countries, including its former member, Great Britain. They are intensely duplicitous and self-centered.

The trade arrangement prior to President Trump's

reciprocal tariffs is a case in point. As one administration official put it, “It was designed to make them rich and us poor.” The President's call for fair and free trade doesn't sit well with them, because under the current system, they were ripping us off. Practically the entire splintered history of Europe is built on backstabbing and double-dealing. “Their ingratitude should astonish us.”

Secondly, the President needs to be careful about making “commitments” to NATO and the EU, that the American people disagree with, and won't fulfill. The claim of “shared values” has a

hollow ring in the light of the suppression of conservatives in Europe.

Is Europe worth Americans dying for? Not in my opinion.

Thomas Ponder Killen.

As Loyalty Trumps All

Editor,

The Trump Administration seeks to govern through executive orders, brazenly ignoring federal spending

See **LETTERS...** on Page 19

Medicare Minute

"Durable Medical Equipment"

Durable Medical Equipment are items such as walkers, wheelchairs, and hospital beds that are used in the home. Medicare will cover certain durable medical equipment only if your physician prescribes it. To be prescribed the durable medical equipment must be: durable, or reusable, used for a medical purpose, and primarily used at home. Durable medical equipment is covered under Medicare Part B.

Some examples of items that qualify as durable medical equipment are, but not limited to: Oxygen equipment and supplies, walkers, wheelchairs, hospital beds, infusion supplies, and patient lifts. Remember, these items should be used primarily at home. If you are residing in a nursing home or hospital, and that facility is providing you with Medicare covered care, it may not be considered your home. If you are staying in a skilled nursing facility, that facility will usually provide the durable medical equipment you need.

If you need durable medical equipment, make sure your doctor and durable medical equipment supplier are enrolled in Medicare. If your doctor or supplier is not enrolled, Medicare will not pay the claims they submit. Without any type of supplemental insurance, you typically will be responsible for 20% of the Medicare approved amount. Also, if you are on a Medicare Advantage Plan you may have copays or coinsurance.

One last thing. There are companies out there that will place outbound calls to Medicare beneficiaries offering to send you durable medical equipment or other items for free. A lady told us just last week this happened to her. The company offered to send her a knee brace at no cost. She didn't need the knee brace but they wanted to send it anyway. These companies will send you the item, then bill Medicare. Remember, nothing is free!! Someone is always paying.

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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ASK THE ATTORNEY

Issues To Consider In An On-The- Job Injury Settlement



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Workers' compensation pays for
medical bills related to an on-the-
job injury, temporary total disability
benefits, vocational disability, future
medical services and permanent
partial or permanent total disability.

Those are a lot of issues to
consider. Often there are other
issues that an employer will want

to consider such as a voluntary resignation and
occasionally they want the settlement to be confidential.
An important consideration is the inclusion of "social
security language" which can and does protect social
security benefits from being reduced if the injured
worker obtains social security disability also.

It seems difficult and overly complicated, and it
can be. One of the issues that lawyers occasionally
encounter are judges who have different standards
for approving a settlement. Some judges just will not
close future medical benefits and other judges require
future medical benefits be handled by a third-party
administrator. All judges advise injured workers of their
rights in a settlement. Some judges do it very simply
by telling the injured worker that if they get better, they
keep the money, but if they get worse, they don't get any
more money. They generally advise them about their
rights to keep their future medical benefits open for life.
I've never seen a judge do a really bad job, but I have
seen different standards applied by different courts.

Sometimes it's extremely advantageous to close future
medical benefits simply because there is no future
medical treatment related to the injury. If someone
is on expensive medication or has hardware that can
potentially cause problems, then leave medicals open.
On the other hand, the next time that worker has a fall
or a car accident, the workers compensation carrier
will deny treatment and the injured worker won't get
medical treatment and may not be entitled to it.

There are other ways to get settlements approved,
but the important point is that the injured workers
understand their rights and make the decision that is
best for them.

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

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Letters...

As Loyalty Trumps All

Continued from Page 12

statutes and daring courts to try to stop him. Congress – paralyzed by decades of partisan gridlock – had already ceded too much of its power to the executive branch.

As Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency chainsaws through congressionally mandated federal spending, Trump is now threatening to push the legislature from ineffectiveness to obsolescence.

Congress, stymied by gridlock, has increasingly failed to exercise even its most vital prerogative.

Namely, the authority to control taxation and spending, which is the legislature's main leverage over the executive.

Trump's strong-arming is making Congress more marginal than ever before in American history. When factional loyalty supersedes all, a President whose party controls Congress hardly needs to worry about the courts which, comparatively, have little enforcement muscle of their own. Instead of standing up for judges, Congress is trying to weaken their power to enforce laws and constitutional protections.

The legal basis of the president's "emergency" tariffs is questionable. If the courts order him to undo them, would he

comply? The Economist magazine called Donald Trump's disastrous tariff announcement "ruination day" and noted "many who should be trying to constrain the madness of King Donald—in Congress, in the administration and beyond—instead enable him."

Alabama Republicans in Congress merely recite the Trump/Musk line. They are not representing or even meeting with us. They are not protecting critical funding and federal workers who serve and protect our health and future well-being. Let them know.

Dan Waterman
Killen

More LETTERS...Page 24

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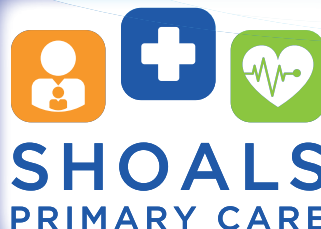


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A Self-Sufficient Nation

King David in **Psalms 86:1** "Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for **I am poor and needy.**" King David again: **Psalms 51:3** "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." Now that's the kind of man that will get help from God and he did. Great example. Sadly today, we've a world full of churches that have no need or time for God, the bible, prayer, preaching or salvation. Notice: **Ezekiel 16:49** "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom (Samaria), pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." And in the final church age Laodicea: **Revelation 3:17(a)** "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; (b) and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." History repeats. That's the church and America's position (a), and then (b) follows God 'expose' of that wretched mess. America fits the bill. No needs? Really? We'll soon see. Study the verses.

Professing saved folk are following the position and examples of the world, like the parable of the tares and the wheat. It's very hard to tell them apart, unless judged and examined by God, which God will do. The book says: **Psalms 14:1** "The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God.* They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is none that doeth good.*" Are you ready to meet the one you cussed and so often ignored and rejected? You can only escape if you have a Saviour. You got one? He's Jesus Christ. When your world caves in and you pass on, you're at God's mercy. Don't be surprised when God treats you like you've treated Him. "I never knew you." See Matthew 7:23. See Romans 8:9. If you're saved, you'd better get your act together. **Ecclesiastes 10:1a** "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour." Churches are filled with dead flies. Don't be one!

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Cat & Kids by Cathy Turner

Keep Your Head

As I ready the column for retirement, I am reminded of a subject that I have spoken of many times – marital sex. It's the best! And it is the only – Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled [pure]..." So, other shared beds are tainted. Marriage beds give room for intimacy, growth and commitment. This bed gives rise to the love that should not be separated – love that is one. But I am afraid that parents have given up on this teaching. Sex has lost its original purpose. Teen pregnancy, abortion and divorce are high. We don't prepare our children for the power of sex, or help them create any options. Please commit to talking to your children. Otherwise, what God has made to be beautiful can get mired in heartbreak and hardship. Here is a column that I printed 7/14/2004, and reprinted before. Maybe you will remember it.

to hear a story or a joke before we went to sleep. We would always choose the joke. Then, my dad would proceed to tell us goofy or risqué jokes. My mom would be in the kitchen yelling for him to come out of our room talking that way. We would be laughing so hard.

With a point in mind, I would like to share one of those jokes today. It goes like this. One day a cat was down by the railroad tracks sniffing around for food. He was so busy with what he was doing that a train came by and chopped off his tail, and he didn't even know. As he went further down the track, he discovered that his tail was missing. So he backtracked to where he thought he might have lost his tail. He was again so engrossed in looking for his tail that he didn't hear a train coming.

Well, the train came and whacked off his head. The moral of the story is: Don't lose your head over a piece of tail.

We need to share this joke or at least its lesson with our young teens. Our teens need to have a pre-plan, so that they might exercise good judgment in sexual situations. Emotions can make you lose your head. Perhaps emotions could be held down if your child already has a plan. Talk about it. Practice reactions. What does she say if a hand starts up her blouse? What situations should he stay away from to help contain his desires? What do you do if, at a party, your friends all disappear into dark corners or bedrooms? A plan in their heads is better than nothing but emotions.

Help them sort it out before it happens. The bottom line of this plan should be the desire to remain sexually inactive before marriage. Even though the joke is funny, when a young person loses his or her head over a piece of tail, the results can be devastating.

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com



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**Courier
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Colors of Easter Coloring Contest 2025 Winners



**Age
2-4**

**1st
Riley
Almon
4 -
Florence**



**Age
5-7**

**1st
Charlotte
Worley
7 -
Muscle
Shoals**



**Age
8-10**

**1st
Tani
Patel
9 -
Rogersville**



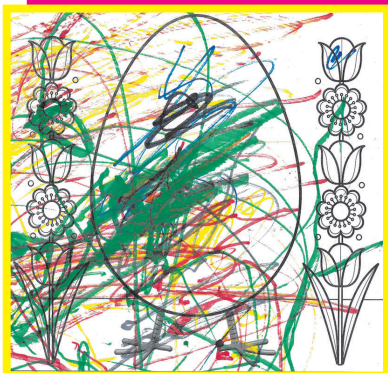
**2nd
Rhea
Taylor
3 -
Sheffield**



**2nd
Lola
McGee
6 -
Rogersville**



**2nd
Charlotte
St. Clair
10 -
Sheffield**



**3rd
Steele
Bowman
2 -
Muscle
Shoals**



**3rd
Elijah
Cross
5 -
Town
Creek**



**3rd
Kolby
Austill
8 -
Muscle
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2-4 Age Group: Florence: Sophia Almon, Zion Fuqua, Millieanna Horton, Blakely Brewer **Cypress Inn, TN:** Maelynn Mason **Sheffield:** Ryder Taylor

5-7 Age Group: Sheffield: Kingsley Kalbach, Reggie Gray, Zajayah Martin-Lewis, Rae Borden, Niylee Brewis, Kasten Owens, **Town Creek:** S **Tuscumbia:** Ann Carver Hirton, Sophia Quick **Muscle Shoals:** Adalynne Barker, Nenry Haley **Killen:** Darby Kate Cooper, Alliyah Parras, Mia Brown

8-10 Age Group: Cherokee: Kenslee Cosbie **Florence:** Kylan Willis, Isaac Risner, Amery Williams, Addi Painter, Katelynn Golden, Kennedy Herman, Kaylee McGee, Ophelia Benson, Jasper Davis, Lily Rickard **Killen:** Kennedy Taylor, Harper Hardy, Brighton Sheehan, Assison Kershaw **Muscle Shoals:** Aria Kimbril **Tuscumbia:** Hazel Krott, Audree Snow, **Rogersville:** Brooklyn Johns **Sheffield:** Catherine St. Clair

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Continued from Page 12

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Letters...

Continued from Page 19

Sports Can Empower

Editor,

We're lucky to have more female sports stars than ever. But in terms of athletic participation, American girls are still considerably less likely to play a sport than boys. Each year, boys get about 1.13 million more sports opportunities than girls.

As someone who has spent a career studying the impact of athletics

on mental and physical health, I see a strong correlation between this disparity and a troubling trend. In recent years, girls have experienced substantial declines in mental health relative to boys. Between 2011 and 2021, the number of girls who felt persistently sad or hopeless increased from 36% to 57%, nearly double the number for boys.

Boosting the number of girls in sports could go a long way toward improving their mental and physical health, along with their general well-being.

A recent report from the Women's Sports Foundation looked at data from several academic studies. Mental health disorders were 1.5 to 2.5 times less common

for girls who currently play a sport compared to those who never have. Girls who participate in athletics also reported significantly higher levels of meaning and purpose, as well as stronger peer relationships.

As a doctor and former collegiate athlete myself, I can attest that sports are a great way to help young people develop emotional resilience. Whether it's learning a new skill, working through a tough loss, or coming back from an injury, young athletes learn what it's like to become goal-oriented and overcome setbacks in a supportive environment that is challenging and fun.

The gender disparity

See **LETTERS...Page 30**



Do you know a woman who is making a positive impact in our community?
We want to meet her, as we celebrate
Shoals Woman of the YEAR 2025!

This is your chance to nominate the next Shoals Woman of the Year.
All nominations must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. April 23, 2025.

Nomination Guidelines:

- In a 200-300 word summary tell us your nominee's story and specifically how it relates to your nominee being selected for Shoals Woman of the YEAR along with how she has given back to the community including her involvement in the Organization representing courage, determination, heritage, heroism, initiative and vision. (Please detail on a separate sheet)
- Please start with a clear, concise and specific opening statement about why your nominee is deserving of the award.
- Nominee Name/Address/Phone/Email
- Nominated by Name/Contact Phone
- Name/Describe your nominee's Organization (list Professional positions held within the last 2-5 years and general responsibilities)
- List all civic/community activities, clubs, groups and or boards they have served on within the last 2-5 years. Any awards received.

For **USPS Mail**, send nomination letter to:
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219 W. Tennessee Street
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For **Email**, send nomination letter to:
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To nominate online:

For online entry visit https://www.timesdaily.com/site/shoals_woman_of_the_year_nomination_form.html

For more information on Shoals Woman of the Year nominations or the event, please contact Mara Beth Cravens at 256-740-5811 (marabeth.cravens@timesdaily.com) or Renita Jimmar at 256-740-5815 (renita.jimmar@timesdaily.com).

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Sausage!



Meet Sausage! You can't help but love this guy. He's a 5 year old hound mix and shows it. He was so fascinated at Petsmart by the birds and guinea pigs. Sausage is a good leash walker and great with kids and other dogs. He likes to go on walks and be outside. Sausage might not be great with cats or small animals but likes being around dogs. He is funny and will definitely make you smile. This sweet fella needs his forever home.

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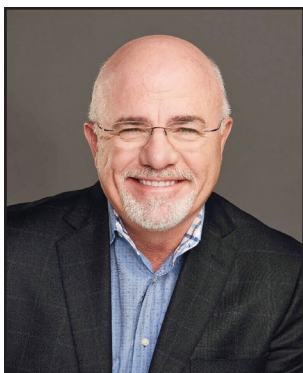


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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



THINK WITH YOUR HEAD (AND A CALCULATOR), NOT YOUR HEART

Dear Dave,
How do you feel about the leasing programs automotive manufacturers offer their employees? I've listened to your show enough to know you don't recommend leasing the traditional way through a dealership.

Baker

Dear Baker,
I'd advise investigating the details of any deal like this very carefully. Some manufacturer offers, even ones to employees, are nothing more than another way for the company to fleece more drivers. But some manufacturers offer their employees decent programs that aren't a traditional lease. I assume this is the kind of deal you're talking about.

A few of them offer the use of a newer, high-quality car for very little money per month, with no hidden catches. In cases like these, things can work out pretty

well for the employee and the company. I've even heard of a few companies offering gas and more in these employee deals.

Now, you're right. I don't recommend leasing in a normal scenario. For the average buyer walking onto a car lot, leasing is a complete rip-off. I tend to call it "fleecing" because getting "fleeced" means getting taken advantage of financially. And that's exactly what happens with consumer auto leases. Basically, a car lease is a contract where, instead of buying a car, you pay in monthly installments to drive it for a set amount of time—usually two to three years. It's basically a glorified rental car. But unlike a rental, leasing is a form of debt. And on top of all that, leasing is also the overall most expensive way to own a car.

Again, just make sure you check *all* the details *very* thoroughly, Baker. Use your head and a calculator, not your heart, when making a decision on something like this.

— 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.

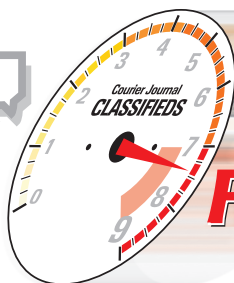
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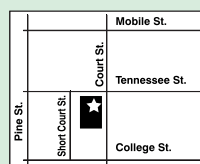
B. Grant McNutt
Attorney at Law



Nicholas H. Gajewski
Attorney at Law



Tanya McCalpin
Attorney at Law



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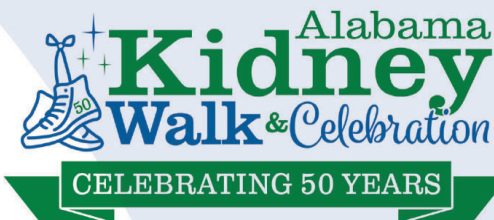
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Promotional space courtesy of the Courier Journal

Guest Commentary - Jonathan Butcher, Emma Horn

Phonics...

Continued from Page 12

Students are supposed to connect the visual with the word below. *American Public Media* reporter and podcaster Emily Hanford has documented the widespread failure of cueing that has haunted schools and students nationwide for generations.

In addition to Hanford's crucial work, research finds that part of cueing's problem is that the teacher guides given to instructors to help

teach cueing do not train teachers to regularly correct students when they misidentify a word. In fact, cueing allows for students to be "close enough" sometimes—say, using "wolf" for a picture of a dog, even if the letters do not spell wolf. This imprecision is not the only problem, but researchers have identified this tendency for years, which means the technique helps explain the low scores today.

One of the authors of this piece, Emma, is the daughter of an elementary school teacher who knew the value of phonics and the importance of accuracy in recognizing letters. Emma learned to read in grade school using "Junie B. Jones," a children's book series that follows Junie B., an "almost six-year-old." Each book began with a daily journal entry, riddled with crossed-out words with the correct spelling written above. For example, Junie B. might spell "vacation" as "vakatium" which, when sounded out, would make sense to an early reader. But as the book series progresses to more advanced levels and Junie B. grows up in the books, these mistakes appear less often, helping readers to distinguish between correct and incorrect spellings.

These phonics-style methods have decades of research to support them. Repeatedly, research has found that phonics helps students to identify words faster and more accurately than look-say methods. As recently as 2020, research on cueing found that the method "is in direct opposition to an enormous body of settled research ... that support the teaching of phonics."

Despite the nation's reading crisis, a 2019 Education Week study found that only 25% of schoolteachers use phonics to teach reading. Most teachers still use cueing or "whole word," a combination of cueing and phonics that relies heavily on the former.

Teachers' unions are among the most influential opponents of phonics and have advocated against the reintroduction of phonics in some states. Last year, the California Teachers Union opposed

a legislative proposal that would have added phonics back to teacher training materials. State lawmakers reintroduced the proposal earlier this month, and the union remains opposed. Unions claim the California proposal "may impede [teachers'] effectiveness in the classroom." But given the evidence in favor of phonics and California's long history using whole word—to the detriment of students—unions are adhering to a key plank in the progressive education lexicon.

Officials in other states are already reforming their methods, with positive effects in some places. Louisiana's Department of Education has made available teacher training materials based on what is termed the "science of reading," a combination of strategies that includes phonics. The state has also adopted a policy that does not advance third graders if they cannot demonstrate reading proficiency.

Remarkably, Louisiana's average reading score for fourth graders jumped 12 points from 1998, and the state moved 11 spots in the overall rankings between 2022 and 2024. These are some of the biggest gains in the entire country. Mississippi has adopted similar reforms over the last 15 years, and students there have also seen some of the biggest improvements in the nation.

The tides are changing. Despite teachers' unions' opposition, states are acknowledging the science behind reading and its effects on children's success. For policymakers in states behind the curve, Louisiana and Mississippi provide examples to follow. On the home front, a parent's most powerful tool is still reading to their children.

Jonathan Butcher is the Will Skillman fellow in education at The Heritage Foundation and the author of "Splintered: Critical Race Theory and the Progressive War on Truth"

Emma Horn is a member of the Young Leaders Program at The Heritage Foundation.

First published in The Daily Signal 3.25.25

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Real Estate: This 519± acre farm is part of the former Cunningham Plantation in the Center Star Community of Lauderdale Co. The farm lies 2 miles south of Hwy 72, offering easy access to the Shoals, Huntsville, and Decatur. This farm fronts CR-31, CR-33, and CR-415 and lies just north of the TN River. The property consists of 420± acres of open ground with the balance in woods. The property will be offered in tracts, parcels and combinations.

kingrealtyauction.com

Seller: Bobo Family Group, LLC

Terms: 10% down payment, balance due within 45 days. Possession upon delivery of deed subject to the farm lease which expires 12/31/25. Seller will furnish survey, deed and owner's title insurance. Property sold subject to two cemeteries and the rights of others for ingress and egress. Seller reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

All information contained in this ad is believed to be correct, but not guaranteed. Announcements made by the Auction Company on day of sale supersede any printed material

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On-Line AUCTION



"Linda Hennigan Steele Estate" Begins Ending Friday, April 25 @ 5PM
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2 Story, 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, 2,422 sq. ft. ±, Built 1979, 2.17 Acres±

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Auctioneer - Daniel Patterson CAI, AMM, AARE 256-394-2921 • Auction Coordinator - Alicia Black 256-366-20434



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ONLINE AUCTION
April 24 Thru May 6
8 Parcels – Separate Locations
Commercial & Residential Properties
Florence & Muscle Shoals



Real Estate: The Gary Simpson estate is liquidating its excess properties consisting of 8 parcels, 5 in Florence and 3 in Muscle Shoals. Each parcel will be a final sale and will not be combined with other parcels.

Parcel 1 – 2.64± Acres across from Jack's restaurant on Florence Blvd near downtown Florence.

Parcel 2 – 2.3± Acres of various lots fronting Florence Blvd., Highland Ave., Virginia Ave., Sunnyside Ave., and Georgia Av across Florence Blvd from Four-Lane Shopping Center.

Parcel 3 – 3.85± Acres fronting Helton Dr. inside the Florence Lauderdale Industrial Park, just north of Rose Dr.

Parcel 4 – 3.3± Acres located at 4510 Starkey Dr inside the Florence Lauderdale Industrial Park. The property consists of a 7,125± sq. ft. building that is currently leased to Ryder Truck Rental, Inc. The lease will be assigned to the purchaser at closing.

Parcel 5 – 0.14± Acre being a 50 ft. by 125 ft. lot at 810 E. Tuscaloosa St, one block west of Royal Ave., in downtown Florence.

Parcel 6 – 0.25± Acre vacant lot fronting 120± ft. on Gate 6 Rd., just south of River Rd.

Parcel 7 – 0.39± Acre vacant lot fronting Woodward Ave., one block south of Avalon Ave. and across from KFC.

Parcel 8 – 3.42± Acres of vacant land fronting State St. behind Aldi's and both sides of undeveloped Highland Ave. This parcel consists of 4 tracts that will be offered as 1 unit only.

kingrealtyauction.com

Terms: 10% down payment due upon signing of the contract within 24 hours from end of sale. Balance due upon delivery of deed within 45 days from day of sale. Seller will provide deed and owner's title insurance. Seller reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Real Estate will be sold "AS-IS" without warranties of any kind..

All information contained in this ad is believed to be correct, but not guaranteed. Announcements made by the Auction Company on day of sale supersede any printed material

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Take Note...
of your Community.



Community Notes



Answers on Page 30

Brain Zone!

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Pearl collector | ___ I ___ | White Cliffs location | ___ O ___ |
| 2. Plain Scrabble tile | ___ ___ K | Tasteless | ___ ___ D |
| 3. Make public | ___ V ___ | Overturn in Congress | ___ P ___ |
| 4. Toast topping | ___ E ___ | Like St Nick | ___ O ___ |
| 5. Door decoration | W ___ | Intake of air | B ___ |
| 6. Bullwinkle, e.g. | ___ S ___ | Mandy or Roger | ___ R ___ |
| 7. Halloween gifts | ___ S | Peace pact | ___ Y |
| 8. Wisconsin mascot | ___ D ___ | Grocery store employee | ___ G ___ |
| 9. Arms and legs | ___ S | Caribbean dance | ___ O |
| 10. At no time | ___ V ___ | More recent | ___ W |

MINI SUDOKU

3	6			4	
		5			
		6	3	1	
			2		
	4				5
				3	

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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Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanec

WORD FUN

Study the two words on each line to find the ONE letter in the left column that is NOT in the word in the right column. Write the extra letter on the blank space. Then read DOWN to answer this riddle:

WHAT FOOD HELPS YOU PLAY WORD GAMES?

SAUCES	___	CAUSE	AGREED	___	GRADE
CABLED	___	BLADE	GATHER	___	EARTH
SILVER	___	LIVES	SINGER	___	RINSE
GIANTS	___	STING	TASSEL	___	LEAST
BASKET	___	SKATE			
MARBLE	___	REALM			
LAWYER	___	WEARY			
PRESTO	___	SPORT			
TOURED	___	ROUTE			

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FLASHBACK POP, ROCK & SOUL TRIVIA BY MICK HARPER

1. Name the theme song from the film "Same Time Next Year."
2. The Supremes had five No. 1 songs in 1964. What were the songs?
3. Which Lady Gaga song was used in the 2011 animated film "Puss in Boots"?
4. Who was the first to release "What a Fool Believes"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "People put me down cause that's the side of town I was born in."

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What do you call a person who has lived to the age of 100 years?
2. HISTORY: When were cigarette commercials banned from American television?
3. MOVIES: Whose life is depicted in the movie "Raging Bull"?
4. U.S. STATES: In which state are the Catskill Mountains located?
5. TELEVISION: Which long-running TV drama was set in Cabot Cove, Maine?
6. MEASUREMENTS: How long is the ancient measurement called a cubit?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is a dish called Cullen Skink?
8. CHEMISTRY: A diamond is composed of which single element?
9. GEOGRAPHY: What country is home to the Baffin, Victoria and Ellesmere islands?
10. ANATOMY: What is another name for the condition called "pilo-erection"?

GO FIGURE!

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

	+		-	8	=	1		
+		+		-				
	+		x		=	30		
+		x		+				
	+		-		=	7		
=		=		=				
8		96		9				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Just Joking

Why are cats good at video games?
Because they have nine lives.

What did the cat say when he fell off the table? "Me-ow."

What is the difference between a cat that got photocopied and a cat that follows you?
One is a cat copy; the other is a copy cat.

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Florence Historian Billy Warren



Intelligence Row

John Coffee, Hunter Peel and Ferdinand Sannoner, the three men who, in 1818, designed what is now primarily downtown Florence, planned a Courthouse Square since Florence was to be the seat of Lauderdale County. The first Courthouse, which sat where the City-County Government building is today, was completed in 1822. It was bounded on the north by Tennessee Street, on the east by Court Street, on the south by College Street, and on the west by Short Court Street – the latter, itself just one block long. On Short Court Street, as time passed, a collection of buildings began to appear (see accompanying photograph). As might be expected, several of these buildings became offices for lawyers and leaders in related fields since the proximity to the Courthouse was advantageous for such professionals. Eventually, citizens of Florence named this group of buildings “Intelligence Row” since they housed mainly educated leaders of the town. Records show that, among the well-known local lawyers whose office was in the Row, the firm of Emmet O’Neal (who was later the Governor of Alabama) occupied one of the buildings. Interestingly, a clerk in his office for a short period was T.S. Stribling who, in 1933, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his book, *The Store*, one of the books in the trilogy – all three with their setting in the City of Florence. The buildings comprising Intelligence Row were razed in the early 1950’s to make room for the current City Hall.



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

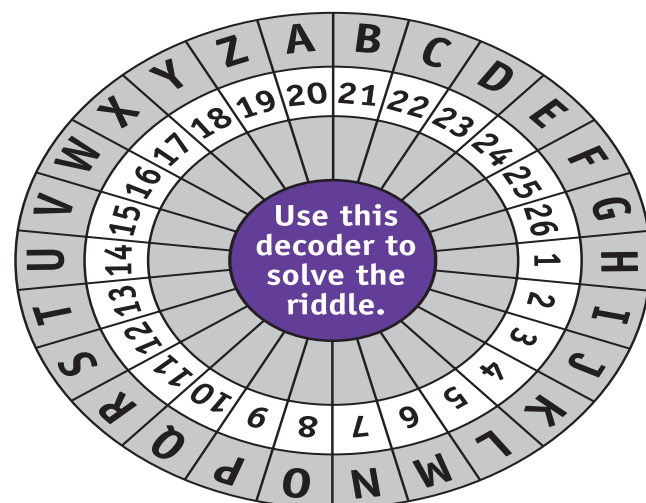
Answers
on Page 30



SECRET CODE

What do spiders do
on the computer?

6	20	4	24	16	24	21	9	20	26	24	12
---	----	---	----	----	----	----	---	----	----	----	----



BIBLE TRIVIA

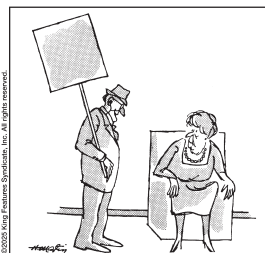
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Gethsemane (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the only book of the Bible that mentions Christ's tomb being sealed? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*
3. From Matthew 28:2, who rolled back the stone from the door of Jesus' tomb and sat upon it? *Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples*
4. When Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” came upon the risen Jesus, who did He ask them to inform? *Priests, Disciples, No one, Villagers*
5. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? *Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus*
6. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? *Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Matthew, 3) An angel, 4) Disciples, 5) Thomas (called Didymus), 6) 40 days

SCRAMBLERS

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



“Care to join the senior citizens’ march on City Hall? It’s good _____!”

Approve
RECTIFY _____

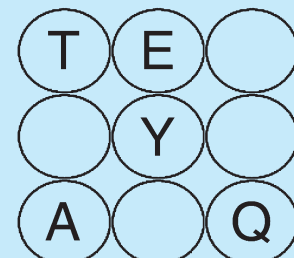
Pure
CHEATS _____

Increase
DENTEX _____

Outlook
PECOS _____

TODAY'S WORD

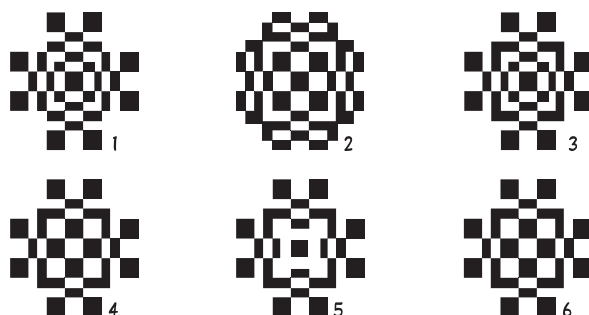
WORD SPIRAL



Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.
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FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



CryptoQuip

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

Clue: U equals L

TZFS YZNHUE XNH YFX TZMV
F XNHVR BZGUE CFGUY FS
CFYSMVGVR ZGY YZNMUFBMY?

“SGM, SGM FRFGV.”

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by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Dan Gable, a freestyle wrestler who won gold at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, hailed from what U.S. state?
2. Name the Major League Baseball first baseman/outfielder who wrote the 1994 book “I Ain’t an Athlete, Lady ...” and penned an ESPN.com column titled “Chewing the Fat.”
3. Who was crew chief of the Hendrick Motorsports No. 48 car driven

by Jimmie Johnson that won seven NASCAR Cup Series championships from 2006-16?

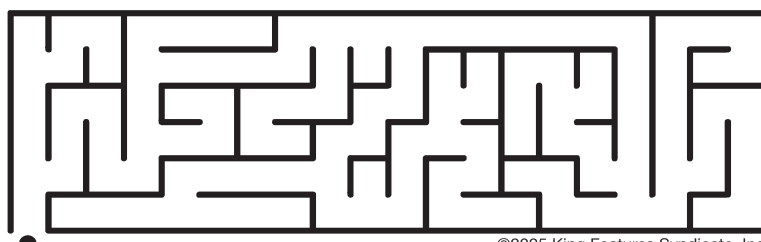
4. Before his careers playing in Major League Baseball (1942-49) and broadcasting, Buddy Blattner was a 1936-37 world champion in what sport?

5. Italian brothers Piero and Raimondo D’Inzeo competed in what sport in eight straight Olympics from 1948-76?

6. What is the name of Japan’s Nippon Professional Baseball Central League team based in Hiroshima?

7. Holly Manthei, the NCAA women’s soccer all-time assists leader with 129, played for what college team?

Kids' Maze

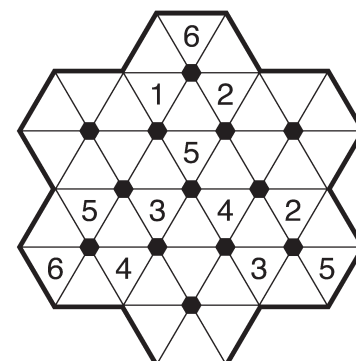


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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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SIGNS OF THE PAST



HISTORY OF TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA

(Continued from other side)

During the antebellum period, Tuscumbia thrived with commerce aided by its agrarian base and the incorporation of the Tuscumbia Railroad Company, the first railroad west of the Appalachian Mountains. The railroad connected the town with its steamboat landing on the Tennessee River. Later, it was extended through Courtland to Decatur. Several large bands of Cherokees and Creeks passed through Tuscumbia on the "Trail of Tears" during the Indian Removal in the late 1830s. During the Civil War, the town was occupied several times by Union troops with sharp skirmishes being fought. In 1867, Colbert County was formed from the northern half of Franklin County and was named for prominent Chickasaw leaders George and Levi Colbert. Tuscumbia became the county seat. Helen Keller, the internationally known blind and deaf humanitarian, was born here in 1880 at Ivy Green. Tuscumbia is one of Alabama's oldest towns with more than 100 antebellum commercial buildings, churches and homes. Tuscumbia Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ERECTED BY THE ALABAMA TOURISM DEPARTMENT AND THE CITY OF TUSCUMBIA
JUNE 2010

Location 34. 7313°N, 87.7037°W

This other side of the Tuscumbia History marker describes Tuscumbia's history since antebellum period. Helen Keller is mentioned in the lower half. Looking forward to a future historical marker dedicated entirely to the life and accomplishments of Tuscumbia's most famous citizen.

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

Community Notes...

Continued from page 11

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.

The Colbert County Domestic Violence Response Coalition's 3rd Annual Community Diaper Drive. Community support is vital. April 1-30. This diaper drive will go toward helping local families impacted by domestic violence.

- All sizes of new diapers, wipes, and pull-ups. Join us in our mission. We have meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month @12pm at the Helen Keller Library Annex in Tuscumbia. Check our 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 Tuscumbia, AL 35674. Paypal- Jennifercdvrc@gmail.com Donation locations are: Rio Grande Restaurant- Sheffield; Renaissance Antiques- Florence; The Healing Place- Muscle Shoals; People's Drugs -Cherokee, AL; Foodland- Elgin, Rogersville, Tuscumbia, and Florence; and Curtis' Restaurant- Greenhill.

The Annual Chloe's Fund Easter Bake Sale takes place this year on Saturday, April 19 from 10am-1pm at the Florence-Lauderdale Animal Services (FLAS) Building in the Florence Industrial Park. Volunteer bakers are diligently at work preparing cakes, cookies, breads, Easter cupcakes, pies, and various treats for humans AND their fur babies.

Preorder to Lisa at 804-240-6880 (local call or text) by Tuesday, April 15 at 3pm is preferred with orders being picked up on Saturday from 10am-1pm at FLAS, located at 3240 Roberson Rd.

However, there should be a few Easter goodies left on Saturday if you missed the order deadline.

All proceeds from the Bake Sale go directly into Chloe's Fund which helps sick and injured animals at FLAS recover and allowing them to be adopted.

A powerhouse lineup of seasoned musicians is coming together to celebrate the legendary John Prine on

Saturday, April 19 at the Ritz Theater in downtown Sheffield. Featuring Rick Carter (Rollin in the Hay, Telluride), Stan Foster (Rollin In The Hay, Phil and Foster), Donna Hall (Wet Willie), and William "Moose" Harrell (Jason Ringenberg, Telluride), this group of Alabama music veterans has toured the world and beyond. Carter brings authenticity to his role as one of his musical heroes, while Donna Hall—an Alabama and Georgia local fame inductee—stuns with her mastery of Prine's iconic duets. With Foster on bass and harmony vocals and Harrell on acoustic, electric, and lap steel guitars, this show promises a powerful and heartfelt tribute to an American music treasure. For those looking for an exclusive experience, VIP Sponsorship tickets are available offering premium seating, drink tickets, sponsorship recognition, and access to a VIP afterparty. Ticket packages range from \$100 to \$1,000, with seating arranged personally for VIP guests. For more information or to purchase VIP tickets, call TVAA at 256-383-0533.

Game Day at Bartholomew's Episcopal Church - 1900 Darby Drive, Florence on Thursday, April 24 from 1-3pm. Games provided or bring your favorite. All are welcome for fun and fellowship. For more info, call 678-372-3526

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: Thursday, April 17 Muscle Shoals Electric Board, 1015 Avalon Av., Muscle Shoals, 10am - 4:30pm

Tuesday, April 22 Russellville Utilities, 721 Jackson Avenue S., 9am - 4pm

Letters...

Sports Can Empower

Continued from Page 24

in athletic participation points to an opportunity. More sports involvement can help girls improve their physical and emotional health.

Most forms of physical activity will have a positive impact, but studies suggest some will do more good than others.

For example, an extensive study in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings looked at the impact on longevity of eight popular sports. As compared to participants who remained sedentary, everyone who took up a sport experienced health benefits. But tennis came in first by a wide margin, increasing life expectancy by 9.7 years, ahead of badminton, soccer, and cycling.

A separate study found that just three hours of racquet sports (specifically tennis, badminton and squash -- and not pickleball) a week reduces a person's risk of death from cardiovascular disease by 56% -- and the risk of death from all causes by 47%. A 2016 study found that college students who trained at tennis for 90 minutes a week had

lower levels of anxiety and depression.

Tennis has no shortage of female role models who have overcome personal challenges. Serena Williams, winner of 23 Grand Slam singles titles, has spoken about her struggles with body image, and Coco Gauff, the third-ranked WTA player at just 20, has talked about her mental health challenges. Their openness helps make them inspirational figures.

Whatever sport a girl chooses, it will have a positive impact on her health, while building confidence, self-sufficiency, and discipline. Closing the gender gap in sports participation could go a long way toward ensuring young boys and girls can develop skills to live healthy and rewarding lives.

Brian Hainline, MD
Immediate Past
President United States
Tennis Association and
former NCAA Chief
Medical Officer
New York, NY

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Brain Zone! ANSWERS



Answers

1. "The Last Time I Felt Like This," by Johnny Mathis and Jane Olivior in the 1978 film.
2. "Back in My Arms Again," "Baby Love," "Come See About Me," "Stop! In the Name of Love," "Where Did Our Love Go?"
3. "Americano." The song was used at the end of the film when Puss and Kitty Softpaws are dancing across rooftops and then through the credits.
4. The Doobie Brothers, in 1978. The song ended up with a Grammy for Song of the Year and was later inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.
5. "Down in the Boondocks," by Billy Joe Royal, in 1965. Royal's version was meant to be a demo to be sent to Gene Pitney, but the song was good enough for a record company to promote it.

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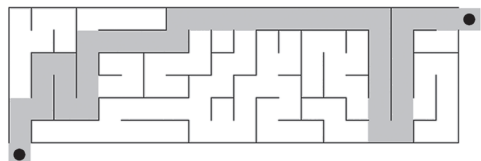
Even Exchange answers

1. Diver, Dover
2. Blank, Bland
3. Reveal, Repeal
4. Jelly, Jolly
5. Wreath, Breath
6. Moose, Moore
7. Treats, Treaty
8. Badger, Bagger
9. Limbs, Limbo
10. Never, Newer

Puzzles4Kids Answer

SAUCES	S	CAUSE
CABLED	C	BLADE
SILVER	R	LIVES
GIANTS	A	STING
BASKET	B	SKATE
MARBLE	B	REALM
LAWYER	L	WEARY
PRESTO	E	SPORT
TOURED	D	ROUTE
AGREED	E	GRADE
GATHER	G	EARTH
SINGER	G	RINSE
TASSEL	S	LEAST

Kids' Maze Solution



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

Answers

1. A centenarian.
2. Jan. 2, 1971.
3. Jake LaMotta (played by Robert De Niro).
4. New York.
5. "Murder, She Wrote."
6. 1.5 feet.
7. Scottish soup made of smoked haddock, potatoes and onions.
8. Carbon.
9. Canada.
10. Goosebumps.

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BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Matthew, 3) An angel, 4) Disciples, 5) Thomas (called Didymus), 6) 40 days

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com.

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



Answers

1. Iowa.
2. John Kruk.
3. Chad Knaus.
4. Table tennis.
5. Equestrian show jumping.
6. The Hiroshima Toyo Carp.
7. The University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

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CryptoQuip answer

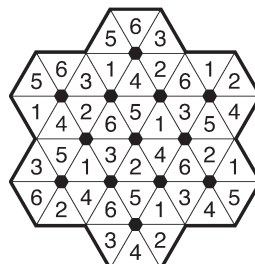
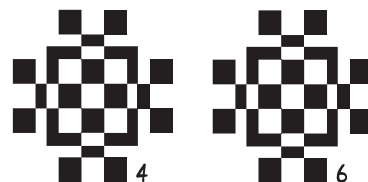
What should you say when a young child fails at fastening his shoelaces?
"Tie, tie again."

SCRAMBLERS solution

1. Certify
2. Chaste;
3. Extend;
4. Scope

Today's Word
EXERCISE

FIND THE TWINS



SECRET CODE

What do spiders do on the computer?

Make Web Pages

Word Spiral
Answer
QUARTERLY

STRANGE but TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• **A party boat carrying 60 men and women**

capsized in Texas in 2012 after all the passengers rushed to one side when the boat passed a nude beach.

• **The world's first underwater mailbox** was installed just off the shore of Susami, Japan.

• **Rocker Chuck Berry** had a degree in hairdressing.

• **The shark on the "Jaws" poster** and the T. rex on the "Jurassic Park" poster were both modeled after exhibits at the American Museum of Natural History.

• **A single strand of spaghetti** is called a "spaghettio."

• **Most Americans can buy an AR-15 rifle** before they can legally buy a beer.

• **Beer cans in Japan** have braille on them so blind people don't confuse alcoholic drinks with soft drinks.

• **If you spent merely a day** on each of the islands in the Philippines, it would take you nearly 21 years to visit all of them.

• **Henry Heimlich** used the Heimlich maneuver for the first time at age 96.

• **Vertebrates with larger brains** and more neurons, such as humans and owls, tend to have longer yawns, which help cool the brain and support cognitive function.

• **The term "scientist"** didn't come into usage until 1834, when it was coined by University of Cambridge historian and philosopher of science William Whewell, who wanted to create a unifying noun for people engaged in various scientific fields.

• **Citizens of the small town Kamikatsu** in Japan's Tokushima prefecture are expected to

separate their recycling into no fewer than 45 different categories.

• **The Atlantic bluefin tuna** can experience such high bursts of muscular activity while fighting a fisherman that it cooks its own flesh.

• **Reese's Peanut Butter Cups** were originally named "Penny Cups" after the amount they cost at the time.

First Thought for the Day: "Age wrinkles the body. Quitting wrinkles the soul." -- Douglas MacArthur

• **When the Apostle Paul** wrote about seeing "through a glass darkly," there were no glass windows in the Greco-Roman world.

• **There are more trees on earth** than stars in our galaxy.

• **The Roman Empire** didn't have a Foreign

Office, but they did boast a "Bureau of Barbarians."

• **Canada has a strategic maple syrup reserve** to ensure global supply in case of emergency.

• **Actress Angelina Jolie** once attempted to hire a hitman to kill her, instead of committing suicide. Fortunately, the would-be assassin successfully talked her out of it by asking her to wait a month.

• **The largest print photograph** ever taken was 111 feet wide and 32 feet high.

• **In 2008, the Municipality of Florence** officially apologized for expelling Dante Alighieri seven centuries earlier.

• **A cat's ability to see well at night** is due to its tapetum lucidum, a structure that reflects visible light back through the cat's retina. It's also

what causes the eyes' weird "glowing" effect in the dark.

• **Records suggest that between 1529 and 1532**, King Henry VIII gambled away nearly a million pounds, by modern standards.

• **Retired Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt** was offered the position of wide receiver in the NFL but declined it due to the hits that NFL players typically take.

• **"Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch"** is the world's longest train station name. Located in Wales, the moniker has no historical significance, but was created in the 1880s as a marketing ploy to attract tourists!

• **More germs are transferred by shaking hands** than kissing.

• **Fearing someone would murder him at Alcatraz**, Al Capone practiced his banjo in the shower room.

Last Thought for the Day: "Wars and elections are both too big and too small to matter in the long run. The daily work -- that goes on, it adds up." -- Barbara Kingsolver
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The Muscle Shoals Utilities Board, Water and Wastewater Department
will be accepting QUOTES for

Lawn Maintenance The quote will be effective for a period of **TWO YEARS** beginning May 1, 2025 and ending May 31, 2027.
Interested parties must be licensed and insured.

A detailed job description of work to be performed will be available at the Muscle Shoals Utilities Board office located at 2001 Wildwood St., between 7am-3:30pm

QUOTES will be accepted until
Thurs., April 17, 2025, 3:30pm

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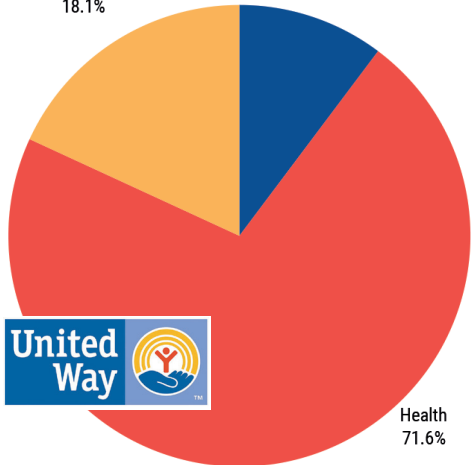
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+ GM Bonus Cash \$1,000+ GM Trade-In Allowance \$2,500
+ Ray Miller GMC Discount \$3,315**up to Total Savings \$9,565**

Stk #25G038 (WAC)

**2025 GMC SIERRA 1500**

GM Consumer Cash \$2,750

+ GMC Purchase Loyalty \$2,500

+ Ray Miller GMC Discount \$6,515

up to Total Savings \$11,765

Stk #25G026 (WAC)

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up to Total Savings \$1,983

Stk #25G080 (WAC)

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Nice!**\$19,888****23 Buick Encore GX**#24B-069A, 1 Owner,
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AT4, Loaded!**\$41,888****21 GMC Yukon XL Denali**#24G-299A, 1 Owner,
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1 Owner, Diesel,
Loaded, Low Miles!**\$76,988**

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