

HHO Opens  
in Florence

FLORENCE-Happy Hollow Outdoors is celebrating the opening of its new location at 3815 Florence Blvd in Florence on Saturday, April 26 at 9am. Those familiar with the flagship location in Red Bay know Happy Hollow as a one-stop go to for all your sporting goods and retail needs, including home decor, gifts, a women's boutique, men's apparel, and more. Follow them on FB and get updates @ HappyHollowFlorence.

National Day  
of Prayer 5.1

FLORENCE-National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 1 and will be recognized locally beginning at 12pm in Wilson Park, downtown Florence. Several local ministers and religious leaders will be on hand to lead the event. Everyone is welcome. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." ~ Romans 15:13 The National Day of Prayer coordinator is Justin Pannell, Minister at Sherrod Avenue Church of Christ.

2025 Ace for  
CASA Event

MUSCLE SHOALS - The 2025 Ace for CASA Golf Tournament is scheduled for See SHORTs... on Page 2

Volume 141 Number 26

April 23, 2025

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May Week

Delta Sigma Theta's Annual Service Series Getting Underway

SHOALS-The Muscle Shoals Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc, is a sorority committed to service, social action, sisterhood, and scholarship. The sorority has announced its annual May Week activities which promise to captivate the hearts and minds

See WEEK... on Page 6

UW is Near  
its Goal

Local Branch Can Reach \$700K with a Strong Final Week

FLORENCE - United Way of Northwest Alabama's 2024-25 fundraising campaign is nearing its end, having raised more than 96% of its \$700,000 goal. With less than \$30,000 left to reach by the April 30 deadline, the organization is celebrating the community's strong support and making a final push for donations to help cross the finish line. The importance of community fundraising has grown significantly. With federal grants being reduced or eliminated, and the future of such support uncertain, there can also be a ripple effect on state funding. This year, United Way is also being asked to fund nearly \$500,000 in local community grants. "We are committed to supporting initiatives that align with United Way's mission, and with your

See GOALS... on Page 6



Winner

Seven year old Charlotte Worley was among the nine winners in the Courier Journal's 2025 Easter Coloring Contest. We took this photo of her last week while she was picking up her Easter Basket at our office. Many thanks to Foodland for another great-looking set of Easter Baskets for our winners.

Staff photo: Gina O'Kelley

THE CIVIC TRUST

National Civics Bee

2025 National Civics Bee

Shoals Regional April 26 1pm Muscle Shoals City Hall

Shoals Chamber Hosts Bee

MUSCLE SHOALS - The Shoals Chamber of Commerce proudly announces the launch of the 2025 National Civics Bee® Regional Competition, an initiative aimed at encouraging more young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. In partnership with The Civic Trust® of the U.S. See CIVICS... on Page 4

INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside

NOV

Advance Auto Sales

- Computer Skeptic
- Medicare Minute
- Ask the Attorney
- Adopt-a Friend
- Hocus Focus
- On Your Debt
- Insurance Insights
- Dave Ramsey
- Commentary
- Your Letters

Alabama Kidney Walk & Celebration

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Alabama Kidney Walk & Celebration

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## at Shoals Primary Care is Accepting New Patients

### Primary Care Physician



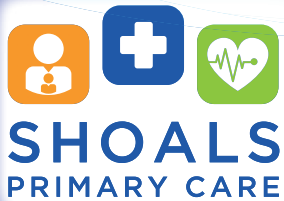
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## Shorts...

### 2025 Ace for CASA Event

**Continued from Page 1**

Monday, May 19, at Cypress Lakes Golf Club (1311 E. 6th St. in Muscle Shoals). Tee-off is at 8:30am. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

- Cost: \$400 per team
- Hole sponsorships- \$500 - also includes team entry.
- Shotgun start - all teams begin play simultaneously from different holes.

At check-in, each group will receive carts, playing cards, and additional information about the rules. Awards will be given at the end of play.

All proceeds benefit the work of Shoals CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

For more information or to register, email [contact@shoalscasa.org](mailto:contact@shoalscasa.org) or call Shoals CASA at 256-765-0041.

### Child Abuse Conference

SHOALS - The 6th Annual Child Abuse Conference Virtual CEU

event is Friday, April 25, from 8:30am-3pm.

- Cost: \$40
- CEUs: 6 (5 Clinical, 1 Ethics)

Topics Include:

- Child Abuse Laws and Ethics: Lawyer's Perspective on Child Abuse - Assistant Attorney General
- Talking to Teens about Drugs - Bradford Health Services
- Children and Teens: Bullying - UNA Field Instructor
- Trauma-Informed Therapy - Cramer Children's Center
- Child Trafficking - CCDVRC
- "Good Grief" - The Healing Place

To register, call 256-284-2284 for a registration form. Send the completed form to [colbertdvrc@aol.com](mailto:colbertdvrc@aol.com).

There is not enough time for postal mail, so payment can be sent via Venmo to @Jennifer-Churchwell-3.

### Storytime at the Museum

FLORENCE- Florence Arts & Museums

continues its "Storytime at the Museum" series on Friday, April 25 at 3:30pm at Pope's Tavern Museum. Join in for a read-along, followed by a hands-on activity.

The Museum Educator will share the read, *Kid Scientist: Archaeologists on a Dig* written by Sue Fleiss and illustrated by Mia Powell. Discover the world of archaeology through the story of four children who go on an archaeological dig at Angkor Wat. Afterward, participants will explore archaeology in the backyard with a hands-on activity! This event is free and recommended for children ages 5-8, but all are welcome.

Pope's Tavern is located at 203 Hermitage Drive in Florence. Weather permitting, Storytime will take place outside the museum on the porch. In case of rain, Storytime will be moved inside.

For questions about Florence Arts & Museums events and

programming, call our office at 256-760-6379.

### ASUN Tennis Awards-Men and Women

JACKSONVILLE, FL- The Atlantic Sun Conference announced their 2025 postseason awards for Women's and Men's Tennis last week and The UNA Lions dominated the headlines, highlighted by honors for senior **Stanislava Bobrovnikova** and junior **Eeva Ristola**. Head women's coach, **Olaya Garrido-Rivas** was named ASUN Coach of the Year, sharing the honor with Stetson head coach, **Travis Sandlant**.

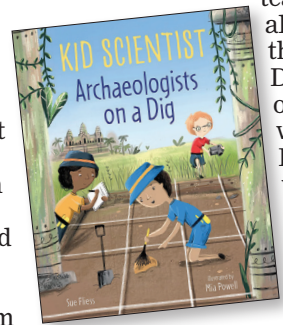
Garrido-Rivas led the Lions to a 15-4 overall record with a 7-2 ASUN record this regular season. She also helped establish a program-record win streak with 11 straight wins, going unbeaten for over a month from Feb. 22 to March 28.

Bobrovnikova was named to the conference's first

team while also sharing the ASUN's Double Pair of the Year with Ristola. Bobrovnikova was also named to the conference's All-Academic team last week.

Men's tennis coach Aitor Reparaz also earned the ASUN Coach of the Year distinction, one of five postseason honors for the men's team. In his second season, Reparaz led the Lions to a 17-3 overall record while unbeaten in ASUN play at 8-0. UNA was also 9-0 in home duals on the season. He guided North Alabama to its first ASUN Regular Season Championship in program history and helped win the program's first conference championship since the 1981 season as part of Division II's Gulf South Conference. It marks the most decorated postseason for UNA Men's Tennis in the Division I era. The Lions

**See SHORTS... Page 4**



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# Yard Sales

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

**FLORENCE HUGE INDOOR ESTATE SALE**  
137 Bayless Ave., Fri. & Sat., April 25th & 26th, 9am-3pm, Household items, Furniture and more! Everything must go! CASH ONLY

**CENTER STAR CHURCH YARD & BAKE SALE**  
Center Star Methodist Church, 6293 Hwy 72, Killen, AL 35645 (next door to The Shipping Zone)  
**Sat. April 29th 7am-1pm**  
Something For Everyone!  
Household items, books, clothes, variety!

## Estate Sale

**2218 Jackson Road  
Florence, AL 35660**

**Sat., April 26th, 9am-2pm  
(Numbers given out 8:30am)  
Sun., April 27th, 1am-4pm**

- Alabama Football Memorabilia
- Bear Bryant autographed books
- Daniel Moore, "The Tradition Continues" •Ray Perkins and Nick Saban Prints •Shirley Temple Stamp Panels •Quilts
- Tools, including Craftsman
- Fishing Tackle Boxes, Rods and Reels •Washer and Dryer
- Curios •Patio Furniture
- Wrought Iron.

**House and Garage full!**

\*Bring help to load your purchases.

- Please do not block driveways or mailboxes
- Not responsible for accidents
- Items sold "As Is"

**Cypress Creek Antiques & Estate Sales**  
**256-275-0273**

**Go to Estatesales.net to view pictures**

**FLORENCE NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE**  
Plantation Springs Subdivision  
Co. Rd. 61 (Middle Road)  
Sat., April 26th, 7am-until?  
"Many Families"

**FLORENCE SALE ESTATE**  
**Indoor/Outdoor** 103  
Buckingham Cir, (Dead End street off Mars Hill Road)  
Fri. 7am-3pm and Sat., 8am-3pm.

**FLORENCE: GARAGE SALE**  
Bellemeade Subdivision 7217  
Courtwood St. April 25 and 26 Lots of good stuff. Priced to sell.

**KILLLEN: TURTLE POINT VILLAGE ANNUAL YARD SALE**  
Saturday only May 3rd. Rain or Shine. Gates open 6 am.



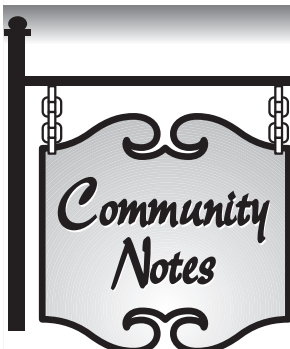

*Chisholm Hills  
Church of Christ  
Homecoming*  
"A Legacy of Faith"

**COME JOIN US**

**Sunday, May 4th**  
2810 Chisholm Rd.  
Florence

**10AM Worship Service**  
Fellowship Meal To Follow

**Speaker: Landon Willis**



**Join us for the Florence District 4 Community Clean-Up** on Saturday, April 26, from 8-11am. Meet at the UNA East Campus Parking Lot (former Powell School) at 8am to collect supplies, connect with neighbors, and take part in making a cleaner, greener tomorrow. For more information or to register a group, call 256-606-2033.

**Financial Literacy Networking event** at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library on Sunday, April 27 from 3-5pm. Community leaders will come together for this free event that features expert insights on credit, investing, housing, and more. Sponsored by local organizations committed to financial empowerment.

**A Confederate Memorial Day ceremony** will take place on Sunday, April 27 at 2pm at the Confederate Rest at Oakwood Cemetery in Tusculumbia. Sponsored by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Col. Wm. A. Johnson Camp #898, Tusculumbia. The United Daughters of the Confederacy and Order of Confederate Rose will also participate. The Guest Speaker will be Robert Jewellson, SCV, North East Brigade Commander, of Decatur, AL. Period music will be provided by Muscle Shoals violinist, Lamar Hunter, and Lance Underwood, Tusculumbia. For more information, call Lanny at 256-577-3894.

**See NOTES... page 4**

**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

**The Wheels at Wilson Car Show** takes place Saturday, April 26 from 9am-noon on the campus at Wilson High School, 7601 Highway 17, north of Florence. The entry fee is \$20 per vehicle. The event will also include food trucks, raffle, door, prizes, and awards.

The show is sponsored by the Wilson High School Robotics Program, and event proceeds benefit the students in that program. For registration or more information, contact Caroline Smith at 256-764-8470 or caroline.smith@lcschools.org

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**Free parking**  
**Armbands are \$30.**  
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**There are concessions, games, and rides for everyone!**  
**Come out Wednesday-Friday 5-10pm and Saturday & Sunday noon-11pm.**

**For more information, see the North Alabama State Fair Facebook page or the website [NorthAlabamaStateFair.org](http://NorthAlabamaStateFair.org)**

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## Civics...

Continued from Page 1

Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Shoals regional competition will inspire middle schoolers to become better informed about American's democratic republic form of government, to engage respectfully and constructively in the community, and to build greater trust in others and institutions.

Middle school students in grades 6-8 from public, private, charter, and home schools were invited to take part in the first-round civics essay competition. After a nationwide panel of judges reviewed the essays, the top students were selected for the Shoals regional competition: an in-person, live event with two rounds of questions and a Q&A round. The Shoals Chamber will host the regional competition on Saturday, April 26 at 1pm at the Muscle Shoals City Hall. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The regional finalists and top winners will receive various prizes, including \$500 for the first-place student!

Shoals Regional Finalists include Lucy Avery, Gracie Gargis, Abby Hinton, Carson Kelly, Anna Collins Karr, Ava Parker, Molly Ramseyer, Megan Sharp and Shelby Schurfeld.

"We are excited to bring this opportunity to the middle school students across northwest Alabama," said Sam Mashburn, Director of Business Advocacy at the Shoals Chamber. "Civic knowledge and engagement are key to the long-term prosperity of the region. The earlier our students begin understanding the important role they play in that process, the more our communities will benefit from their future engagement."

The top three winners at the regional level will advance to the Alabama State Finals on July 18 in Montgomery where more awards and prizes await, including \$5,000 for the first-place winner, and an all expenses paid trip to the National Civics Bee® Championship in Washington, DC in Fall 2025. The first-place winner at the national championship will win a \$100,000 scholarship, and other prizes!

The local event is sponsored by the City of Muscle Shoals, North Alabama Gas District, Butler Construction, Tasus, United Lumber & Reman, and Dynamic Dentistry.

For more information about the National Civics Bee® Regional Competition in The Shoals visit: [https://www.shoalschamber.com/priorities-initiatives/civics\\_bee/](https://www.shoalschamber.com/priorities-initiatives/civics_bee/).

## Shorts...

### ASUN Tennis Awards- Men and Women

Continued from Page 2

ended the regular season with 11 straight wins.

Junior **Lachlan Brain** earns his second career first team honor after also being named to the 2024 ASUN First Team. He won a total of 17 matches this season across singles and doubles, sporting a 10-5 singles record and 7-7 doubles record.

Sophomore **Alberto Altur's** stellar 2025 campaign resulted in the his selection to the ALL ASUN second-team. He ended the regular season winning 22 matches this season across singles and doubles. He went 13-1 in singles, also going 9-5 in doubles.

Sophomore **Izan Orgiles** also earned the second team All ASUN honors, his third-career ASUN postseason honor after being named the 2024 Freshman of the Year and All-Freshman team selection last season.

Freshman **Satoru Nakajima** was an All-Freshman Team selection. He won 17 matches this season across singles and doubles, sporting a 13-2 singles record while adding four doubles victories.

Coaches Garrido-Rivas and Reparaz become two of the three ASUN Coach of the Year honorees from North Alabama Athletics since UNA moved to Division I. UNA Beach Volleyball Coach, **Kaleb Vandeperre**, won the award in 2024.

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**BEAUTIFUL CHINA CABINET \$285**, Call 256-874-7576 Athens

**IT'S YARD SALE SEASON!** Get a free yard sale kit with your prepaid red lined yard sale ad. Deadline Friday: 8 days prior to a Saturday sale. See this page or visit [www.courierjournal.net](http://www.courierjournal.net).

## Notes...

Continued from page 3

**The Shoals Master Gardeners' Annual Spring Plant Sale** is Friday, April 25 • 7:30am-6pm and Saturday, April 26 • 7:30am-1:30pm at the Farmers Market, 451 Fairground Rd, in Florence (Cox Creek Parkway at Chisholm Road beside the UNA Softball Complex) Free Admission • Free Parking - Cash & Checks Accepted

Funds raised benefit public gardens and facilities throughout the Shoals area - [www.shoalsmastergardeners.org](http://www.shoalsmastergardeners.org)

**The Baha'is of the Shoals** will take part in a livestream from the National Convention of the Baha'is of the United States on Saturday, April 26 at 4pm at the Florence Public Library. The purpose will be to unite diverse voices to explore the critical strategies and transformative perspectives guiding America's future. Together, we can illuminate the path of hope and shared understanding.

**Disabled American Veterans** in Sheffield meets every fourth Tuesday of each month. (April 22) at 1409 W. 11th St. in Sheffield - 256-381-8229. Dinner at 6pm - Business at 7pm. Veterans Serving Veterans. Open Monday-Wednesday 9am-1:30pm.

**Join the Tennessee Valley Historical Society** on Sunday, April 27 at 2pm in the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library when local artist and author Kurt Vettors will present a program entitled The Engagement at Little Bear Creek. Vettors will discuss the history of this important October, 1863 skirmish which took place west of Tusculumbia and will then discuss how he incorporated the historical data into his painting of the same name, which is one of several pieces of artwork Kurt has created for the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Areas Civil War Trail.

This trail was the brainchild of several members of the North Alabama Civil War Round Table and they've been working for a couple of years with the MSNHA in researching it thoroughly and putting it together.

**Thursday, April 24: Girl Scouts to Host Hands-On STEM Event**

The Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama invite local youth to an exciting free STEM event on Thursday, April 24 at 5pm at the Underwood-Petersville Community Center, located at 840 County Road 7 in Florence.

**Shoals Kidney Walk & Celebration - Saturday, April 26, 9am-11:30am**


The annual Shoals Kidney Walk & Celebration is the Alabama Kidney Foundation's premier fundraising event. Proceeds assist kidney patients in need through the Foundation's Financial Assistance Program. The Financial Assistance Program serves low-income dialysis patients in Alabama by helping them with necessities such as prescription medications and transportation to and from dialysis treatments. There will be food; music; vendor tables; children's area; door prizes and prizes for top fundraising teams and individuals. Best T-shirt design will also receive a special prize!

**159th Anniversary — Sunday, April 27 at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church**, 1806 Poplar St., Muscle Shoals, will have its 159th church anniversary program at 11:30 a.m. April 27. Guest church will be Zion No. 1 Missionary Baptist Church, Barton, where the Rev. Karlos Felton is the pastor.

**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.

**See NOTES... page 21**

# SIGNS OF THE PAST



**Petrified Conifer Tree**  
85-90 Million Years Old

Possibly a Bald Cypress from the Cretaceous Period or the Age of Dinosaurs

Donated by the Keeton Family  
Neal and Debbie

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**Spring Park, Tusculumbia**

As ground water deposited minerals in the spaces between cells of a buried conifer tree, we were left with a mineralized copy of the tree. A visit to the amazing Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona should be on everyone's "bucket list". The last Friday in April is the National Historical Marker Day.

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



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

**219 W. Tennessee St.**  
**Florence, AL 35630**

or email to:  
**editor@courierjournal.net**

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## Insurance Insights

"Below is a State Farm® Simple Insights® article about "Questions About Social Security Survivor Benefits" is provided by State Farm agent Rebecca Stutts Hovater.

### Questions About Social Security Survivor Benefits



#### Understanding eligibility and how to apply for survivor benefits.

The death of a loved one is an emotional challenge, but it can also carry a real financial impact. Because of the effect it can have on household finances and retirement savings, Social Security provides survivor benefits (sometimes called a Social Security death benefit). Almost 6 million Americans were receiving Social Security survivor benefits as of May 2021 — two-thirds of whom were bereaved spouses. Here are a few common questions people ask about how survivor benefits work:

#### What happens to Social Security after death?

When someone who is eligible for Social Security dies, their spouse could receive monthly payments in the form of survivor benefits, provided they themselves have reached their full retirement age. If the survivor qualifies for Social Security on their own earnings record, they'll receive whichever monthly amount is greater.

#### How do you collect Social Security death benefits?

This process typically happens automatically for those already receiving spousal benefits, but others may have to apply for their survivor benefits by phone or in person at a Social Security office.

#### Who qualifies for Social Security survivor benefits?

The list of those who qualify for Social Security survivor benefits includes surviving spouses, remarried spouses, divorced spouses, minor or disabled children, and dependent parents. The Social Security website provides a description of the eligibility criteria.

#### How long does a spouse get survivor benefits?

In general, survivor benefits are payable for life. A widow or widower can apply for benefits starting at age 60, but applying for benefits early (i.e., before reaching full retirement age) can lead to a reduction in the benefit amount.



State Farm® Insurance Agent  
Rebecca Stutts Hovater



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## Goals...

Continued from Page 1

continued contributions, we can make a significant impact together," the organization stated.

Throughout the campaign, individuals, families, and local businesses across the Shoals have demonstrated remarkable generosity. Hundreds of donors have contributed to this year's effort, showing their commitment to improving lives in Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, and Marion counties. United Way officials emphasized that this overwhelming response highlights the spirit of unity in northwest Alabama.

"Our community has truly stepped up to show what it means to Live United," said Jennifer McNulty, President and CEO of United Way of Northwest Alabama. "Reaching 96% of our goal is a testament to the Shoals' commitment to taking care of our neighbors. With just a little way to go, we encourage anyone who hasn't yet made a gift to join us now. Or, if you have already given but are able to do more, every donation will help put us over the top and make a lasting impact right here at home."

Local businesses have also been a driving force behind the campaign's success. Many area employers ran workplace giving campaigns, rallying their employees to donate through payroll deductions and special events. The enthusiastic participation from the business community not only boosted this year's totals but has also sparked interest from new companies eager to get involved.

Donations can be made securely online at [www.uwnwal.org](http://www.uwnwal.org), by mail, or in person at the United Way of Northwest Alabama office (205 W. College Street in downtown Florence). All gifts remain local, funding vital programs and services that help children, families, and seniors in need across the four-county region.

To learn more or to get involved, visit [www.uwnwal.org](http://www.uwnwal.org) or call 256-764-5892.

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*Your link to community resources*

## Week...

Continued from Page 1

of Shoals area residents with a series of events April 24 - May 6 designed to engage and uplift the community.

May Week 2025 events kick off April 24 at the University of North Alabama as the UNA Student Counseling Service hosts a Mental Health Fair, "It's Okay to Say I Am Not Okay."

The on-campus event will include information for students about mental health resources offered by the university.

Later that evening the Guillot Center at UNA will be the site of a thought-provoking panel discussion on mental health. "Do not Suffer in Silence: My Struggle is Real and Yours is Too," will include six panelists tackling various mental health issues. This year's moderator will be WAAY 31 Morning News anchor, Demetria Green.

The first week of May, events will highlight charitable causes, cultural enrichment, and community service.

• **May 1** - "Strike Cancer Pin Down for St. Jude" Charity Bowling Event at Lauderdale Lanes, Florence.

• **May 2** - "Dancing in the Street: Dance with Me Tonight," in downtown Sheffield. There will be a live DJ and a YMCA dance instructor on hand teaching international dances.

• **May 3** - "Gospel in the Park: Never Lost a Battle, A tribute to Indigo Fort," at the Willie Green Center in Tuscumbia sponsored by WZZA radio. The year's event will feature the Orr Sisters along with many gospel groups, and several food trucks.

• **May 4** - Scholarship and essay award recipients will be recognized during the scholarship program, "Be Encouraged, there is Hope," at First Baptist Church in Tuscumbia.

• **May 5** - "Eat Wings, Raise Funds" at Buffalo Wild Wings in Florence.

• **May 6** - The Florence-Lauderdale Public Library will be the site of a no social media challenge, "I Can Make You Put Your Phone Down," a Biblical discussion from Proverbs 15.

All events are free to the public, and everyone is welcomed and encouraged to take part.

## EMPLOYMENT Opportunities

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Alright, listen up, because we need to talk about that ol' reliable computer of yours that's probably running **Windows 10**. You know, the one you've had for ages, maybe even since 2015 when it first came out. Well, Microsoft, the folks who brought us this operating system, have officially said that **support for Windows 10 will end on October 14, 2025**. The clock is ticking!

Now, what does "end of support" mean in plain English? It means that after that date in 2025, your Windows 10 machine will no longer receive those all-important security updates, bug fixes, or even technical help from Microsoft. Think of it like this: those updates are the digital equivalent of regular



Martin Dean

# Windows 10 Support Ends October 14, '25

by "The Computer Skeptic"

check-ups for your car. Without them, your PC becomes more and more vulnerable to all sorts of nasty digital bugs – malware, viruses, the whole scary shebang. Plus, it might not work with newer software.

Why is Microsoft doing this? Well, software also has a lifespan. Microsoft is focusing on newer stuff. Windows 11 comes with fancier security features and is built for more modern computers. It's all about keeping up with the times and making sure our devices can handle the latest threats. Trying to keep an old system running is like trying to watch

the latest 4K movies on that old 13 inch TV you used to have in your kitchen, it's not going to work.

So, what are your options if you're still using an older operating system? Don't worry, here are some options:

- **Upgrade to Windows 11 (if your computer can):** Your machine needs to meet certain requirements to handle Windows 11. Microsoft has a tool called the "PC Health Check Tool" to help you figure this out. If your PC is eligible, you might be able to upgrade for free. Not a bad deal, eh?
- **Think about getting a new PC:** Let's be honest, if your

computer is ancient, it might not have the guts for Windows 11. Newer computers are faster, secure, and work better. It might be time for an upgrade, kind of like trading in that flip phone for a smartphone.

- **Consider Extended Security Updates (ESUs):** For those who need a bit more time, Microsoft will offer paid security updates for Windows 10 until 2028. But keep in mind, this will cost you per device, and the price might go up each year. This is a temporary solution.

- **Explore other operating systems:** If you're feeling adventurous, you could look into something like Linux. If you are an internet only user, this could be a viable solution for you..

- **Just keep using Windows 10 without updates (not recommended):** This is like leaving your front door unlocked – it makes you an easy target for trouble. Your personal information

could be at risk, and nobody wants that headache.

The important thing, folks, is **don't wait until the last minute**. Start thinking about your options now. **Backup all your important files**, do a little research on the upgrade path, and start saving if you think a new computer is in your future. Businesses especially need to plan their moves early.

Saying goodbye to an old friend like Windows 10 might feel a bit strange, but upgrading is about staying safe and keeping up with the ever-changing world of technology. So, take a breath, do your homework, and make a plan. Your digital life will thank you for it.



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## Commentary

# Stepping Off the Pronoun Wagon

The post from the White House Press Secretary, Karoline Leavitt, offered a good laugh and was a welcome sight. She was confirming that President Donald Trump's press office does not respond to emails from journalists who include "preferred" pronouns in their email sig area. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Leavitt recently replied to a headline that read, "Trump press secretary doesn't engage with reporters using pronouns in emails, says they deny reality."

"Fact Check: True," she wrote. Can her attitude be viewed as contentious? Sure. Is it appropriate? Many think so.

I have several complaints that I can lodge against the current President. He is overstepping his bounds and saying some stupid things that are needlessly stunting the equity markets, costing rank and file Americans \$thousands in their IRAs and 401-Ks. However, his overall frankness

See PRONOUN... on Page 16

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

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU  
Editor

## Courier Journal

# THIS WEEK

in the Shoals

April 23, 2025

Happening  
THIS WEEK

## A Healthier Tomorrow

5th Local AKF Walk Celebrates 50 Years of Hope and Support

FLORENCE — The Alabama Kidney Foundation is a beacon of hope for patients and families affected by kidney disease. The AKF is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year with a powerful message: Early detection saves lives. The Foundation invites the community to join in that mission at the Shoals Kidney Walk, taking place Saturday, April 26 from 9-11am at River Heritage Park in Florence.

The event is a free, family-friendly celebration and fundraiser, complete with entertainment, face painting, health screenings,



Two young participants at last year's AKF Walk.  
Courtesy photo

and community resource tables. It's more than a walk — it's a show of support for thousands of Alabamians affected by kidney disease and a step toward improving lives across the state.



**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**  
**9-11am**  
**River Heritage Park**

### The Silent Epidemic

Kidney disease is often called a "silent killer" because symptoms may not appear until the disease has reached advanced stages. One in seven adults in the United States is living with kidney disease — and most don't even know it. Even more alarming is that 86% of people on the national transplant waiting list are

See KIDNEY... on Page 18

**CYPRESS MOON STUDIOS WE WILL HOST THE PLAY, "GODSPELL"** from April 24-27. This exciting production, produced by Tonya Suzanne Holly, directed by Macy Ladner, and assisted by Michael Green, features music direction by Trevor Blood and choreography by Mary Beth Hulsizer. Don't miss the chance to experience this iconic musical in the heart of Sheffield at one of the most renowned venues in the area: 1000 Alabama Avenue at the riverfront. Tickets available — call 256-335-6961 for more information!

**THE 16TH ANNUAL LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE 5K RUN** is Saturday, April 26, 8am at Heritage Park in Rogersville. The Fun Run/Walk starts around 9:15am at the park, 1609 Lee St, (at the 4-way stop with Hwy 207). Registration open: <https://runsignup.com/Race/AL/Rogersville/LittleRedSchoolHouse5KFunRun>. Contact: [irsh@rogersvilleumc.org](mailto:irsh@rogersvilleumc.org), 256-710-0422.

**HAM AND BEAN DAY** at Elgin Senior Center is on Monday, April 28 from 11am on Alabama 101 in Rogersville. Ham and Bean day is every fourth Monday. Please help meet the students' needs at LCHS and Lauderdale County Elementary.

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

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## Student Housing?

Editor,

UNA is leasing apartments and converting them to student housing within our city! A *TimesDaily* article back in May of 2023, by staff writer Bernie Delinski, reported on one of these transactions—Gilbert Court Apartments.

The opening statement in that article was, "Many residents of Gilbert Court Apartments are scrambling to find new housing by the end of the month after being informed they must move out to accommodate an agreement between Gilbert's owners and the University of North Alabama." It was also stated that UNA was converting the

apartments into student housing.

Did the Florence City Council approve a zoning change to allow UNA to convert apartments open to all into UNA student housing? Based on a review of the Council's agendas, my answer is NO! If I missed it, wouldn't it still be wrong?

The article also stated, "UNA's

*We navigate boundaries and etiquette rules through embarrassing moments . . .*



enrollment has been booming in recent years, and the University had difficulty finding housing for students last year, so it leased some apartments." University spokesperson, Michelle Eubanks, (also a City Council member), said this contract is the same as those contracts.

Why did the UNA Board of Trustees approve this action? Many of the trustees live in the Florence area! How many such contracts does UNA have? What is the length of these contracts? Per the article the Gilbert contract added 98 beds to the university's inventory! How many beds did the other contracts provide?

It is clear that the Florence City

See LETTERS...on Page 22

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Desmond Brown	B16	Charles May	H49
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# ON YOUR DEBT

## Have You Been Laid Off Recently? Here's How to Start Fresh Financially



**B. Grant McNutt**  
Managing Attorney

Losing your job unexpectedly can feel like a punch to the gut. If you're among the many hardworking people in Alabama recently affected by layoffs, know this — you're not alone. This kind of life change brings a wave of uncertainty, especially when it comes to your finances.

**Feeling the Pinch After a Layoff? You've Got Options.**

When the steady paycheck stops, it can be tough to keep up with bills like your mortgage, car payments, and credit cards. If you're struggling to make ends meet after a layoff, it's important to know that there are steps you can take to regain control and build a stronger financial future.

**Could Bankruptcy Offer a Fresh Start?**

Bankruptcy is a legal tool designed to help people manage overwhelming debt. Think of it as a way to get a financial reset under the protection of the courts. For individuals, the two most common types are:

- **Chapter 7 Bankruptcy:** A Clean Slate. Often called "liquidation bankruptcy," Chapter 7 allows you to wipe out many unsecured debts, like credit card balances and medical bills. Whether you qualify depends on a "means test" which reviews your income and ability to repay your debts. If you qualify, Chapter 7 can offer a powerful opportunity to start over.
- **Chapter 13 Bankruptcy:** A Plan to Catch Up. Known as "reorganization bankruptcy," Chapter 13 is good for people who have a regular income and can pay back some debts over a set period, usually three to five years, through a structured repayment plan. This option can help you keep valuable assets, like your home or car, while you get back on your feet.

Alabama State Bar requires the following: "No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

**What Alabama Residents Need to Know About Bankruptcy**

If you're considering bankruptcy after a layoff, here are a few key points specific to Alabama:

- **Protecting What Matters Most:** Alabama has its own set of "exemptions" that determine which of your belongings you can protect during a bankruptcy. Understanding these exemptions is crucial for protecting your property, like your home, vehicle, and personal belongings.
- **Navigating the Legal Maze:** The Importance of Local Expertise. Bankruptcy laws can be complex, and the rules can have their own nuances. Talking to a bankruptcy attorney who knows the laws in your state is the best way to get personalized advice for your specific situation. They can help guide you through the process and avoid costly missteps.

**Finding Your Financial Footing After a Layoff**

Dealing with the financial fallout of a layoff is incredibly tough, but you don't have to go through it alone. Exploring your options, including the possibility of bankruptcy, can be the first step toward regaining control of your financial future. Help is available – and a fresh start might be closer than you think.

**Contact The Bond & Botes Law Offices Today**

If you've recently lost your and are worried about your finances, our experienced legal team at Bond & Botes are here to help. We understand the challenges you're facing and can provide confidential guidance on bankruptcy and other debt relief options. Contact us today for a free consultation to discuss your situation and explore the best path forward for you. We'd love to discuss your finances with you. We want to help!

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**ASK YOURSELF:** If God and Jesus Christ love me, and Christ shed His blood and died for my sins, and rose again for my justification, and is able and wants to save me and came for that purpose, why am I not saved? God is not to blame if you die and bust hell wide open. Have you received Christ and asked Him to save you and forgive your sin of unbelief and take you to heaven when you die? Churches are full of miserable, scared, folks uncertain of their future. Why? The truth and salvation are perfectly clear in the Book. KJV. See John 1:12 & Romans 10:13 & Ephesians 2:8&9 & Ephesians 1:12&13, and admit you are wrong, or are you afraid He might save you and you might lose your religion?

What's more important to you, getting saved and going to heaven, happy and free from sin now, or dying without hope here, miserable and lost and suffering in the lake of fire forever? **ASK YOURSELF: WHO IS IN CHARGE AND CONTROL OF MY SOUL'S SALVATION?** Your answer will reveal to you why you do or do not have the real peace of God and assurance of salvation. Only God can save and give real peace and forgive sin. The question is: "who are you going to believe, God and the book, KJV, or what your taught or told? Your misery or joy for eternity depends on your answer. **1 Corinthians 1:30** "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:" If you have Him, you have it all!

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414 County Road 28, Florence

# HOMECOMING

## Sunday, May 4



Speaker –  
Doug Jackson

- Bible Study **9am**
- Morning Worship **9:45am**
- Afternoon Service **1:30pm**

There will be a fellowship meal following the morning worship.

**Everyone Welcome!**

6/28/19-1

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Torts result in a civil lawsuit when someone is careless in doing or failing to do something like yielding the right of way. The injured person sues in tort for money damages. In our country the scales of justice are balanced with money, which may not be perfect, but it's certainly better than inflicting the same injury on

the person who caused the injury, which is what they actually do in some other countries.

A crime is a different kind of wrong. It is a wrong against the state rather than against some other particular person. It is tried in the criminal courts, which are quite different than civil courts. Criminal cases have their own rules of procedure, a different burden of proof, and are geared towards making sure that an innocent person is not convicted. A tort and a crime may be the result of the same act (a hit, an injury, a blow). Our law, based on Common-law traditions, requires separate trials in separate courts.

Personal injury lawsuits arise from a duty to act or not act in a particular way that causes harm to another person. Those duties arise from common-law ideas of what a reasonable person would do under the same or similar circumstances. Driving the speed limit in fog so thick you can't see five feet in front of your car is not reasonable. Sure, you're driving the speed limit, but you can't see and that's not reasonable.

Certain automobile accident cases are governed by statute as well. For every 10 mph there has to be 20 feet of distance between you and the car ahead of you. If there is a rear-end collision that particular statute creates a duty that was breached.

Crimes are statutory in nature. Crimes generally require criminal intent to commit a crime. There are some crimes such as statutory rape that are crimes simply because the Legislature says they are. The age of consent in Alabama is 16 years of age and it doesn't matter if her mother said she was 25 years old and had a birth certificate to prove it. I do imagine the court would take that into consideration at sentencing though.

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

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

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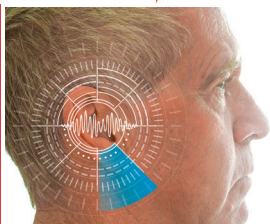
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## Commentary

### Pronoun...

Continued from Page 8

regarding gender foolishness gets a thumbs-up.

I receive hundreds of emails every business day. Much of it is junk, much of it is daily updates on topics of choice. However, many senders, including some from agencies and government/education entities representing specific clients, interests, or nonprofits, incorporate their preferred pronouns in closing details.

It's hard to imagine a more nonsensical inclusion on a professional piece of communication, one that is supposed to be taken seriously and is often making a request of the recipient. Equally befuddling is that the represented organization often encourages/ requires such irrelevance from its employees.

Personal subject and object pronouns like they/ them, xe/xem, or ze/zim confer a gender neutral or non-binary status. One's preferred pronouns can also change from time to time. A person may use multiple pronouns, either interchangeably or in different contexts, and we're all supposed to keep up with the latest preference. To some advocates, no pronoun can be considered grammatically incorrect if the person wants to use it.

Who has the time to keep up with that and who really cares about the most recent whim?

However, preferred pronouns are observed by social workers, educational institutions, medical professionals, and more, like those fields don't already have enough realities to keep track of.

Frankly, that's comparable to my requiring someone to remember what my favorite cereal was back in second grade. It's little more than a whimsical memory that carries no weight outside my own mind.

Yet, public educators across the country have lost their jobs for incorrect pronoun usage or worse yet, purposely avoiding the use of pronouns in class altogether.

When that kind of authoritative foolishness

takes precedence in the classroom, it is easy to see why our educational level on the world stage is deteriorating. A March 5, 2025, article published at ilsurec.com, a website for practical information about education in the United States, reported that the U.S. has dropped to #31 in world education rankings. That's behind South Korea (#1), Singapore (#11), China (#13), Russia (#22), Latvia (#25), and Hungary (#30). Meanwhile, despite spending just over \$14,300 per student in 2020, the U.S. ranked #2 in overall spending.

I also see where Apple has incorporated

the option to include pronouns for those in your iPhone contact list. Several social media websites also have dedicated pronoun fields for user profile pages. I hope all that offers some solace to people living in their own reality.

Thankfully, people can have any view of themselves that they wish. That doesn't mean that we all have to agree with and/or conform to their perspectives.

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Your link to community resources



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.

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#### Sausage!



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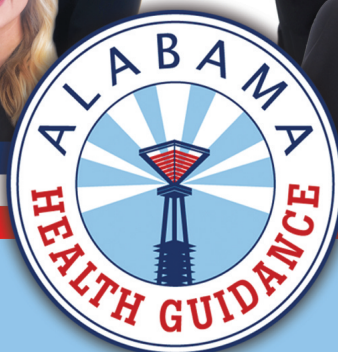
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## Kidney Walk...

Continued from Page 8

waiting for a kidney, and someone is added to that list every 10 minutes. Despite being home to one of the top transplant hospitals by volume — UAB, Alabama ranks among the states with the longest wait times for kidney transplants.

“Kidney disease is largely manageable with early detection,” says Dr. N. Rao Boorgu, a respected nephrologist serving patients in North Alabama. “Hypertension and diabetes are the two biggest risk factors. Managing those conditions through lifestyle changes and medication is critical. But we must also raise awareness and increase access to screening — especially in rural and underserved communities.

### Fifty Years of Fighting Back

Since 1975, the Alabama Kidney Foundation has provided direct assistance to patients across the state, including help with transportation to dialysis, high utility bills, and critical medications. In the last year alone, AKF provided over 172,800 roundtrip rides to treatment for patients who would otherwise struggle to get to their life-saving dialysis appointments.

In recent years, the Shoals region played a key role in launching AKF's children's education initiative, designed to help prevent kidney disease before it starts. The program — which

includes the engaging and educational coloring book “Katie Gets a Kidney” — was developed in the Shoals and has since grown into a statewide initiative, reaching schools and after-school programs across Alabama. Children learn about kidney health, risk avoidance, nutrition, volunteerism, and the importance of organ donation in an age-appropriate and inspiring way.

The Foundation's outreach continues to grow thanks to passionate volunteers like Mary Thigpen, a longtime walk captain who has raised more than \$100,000 in a decade. “When I started walking, I just wanted to honor my husband, who battled kidney disease,” says Thigpen. “But then I saw how much good this organization was doing, and I couldn't stop. The walk is joyful, but the mission is serious. We need more people to get involved — especially before someone in their family is affected.”

### A Patient's Perspective

For Angela Martin, a mother of three who was diagnosed with end-stage renal disease at age

38, the Foundation has been life-changing.

“I was scared, overwhelmed, and couldn't work for a while. But AKF stepped in,” Martin shares. “They helped me with rides, prescriptions, and even connected me to support groups. The Walk is my way of giving back. When I see that crowd at the park, I remember that I'm not alone.”

### How to Join the Movement

It's not too late to form a team, donate, or volunteer. Every step taken and every dollar raised supports local patients and helps fight the rising tide of kidney disease in Alabama. And this year, to celebrate the 50th anniversary, anyone who donates \$50 or more will receive a limited-edition long sleeve shirt — while supplies last.

To learn more, visit [www.shoalskidneywalk.org](http://www.shoalskidneywalk.org) or email JoHelene Patrick at [johelene@alkidney.org](mailto:johelene@alkidney.org).

Whether you walk for someone you love, someone you lost, or someone you've yet to meet — every step brings us closer to a future with fewer patients and more survivors.

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- Check Capacitor
- Tighten Electrical Connections
- Check Condenser Cleanliness
- Check Freon Pressures and Temps
- Check T-stat Operations
- Check Indoor Blower Motor
- Clear Drains
- Check Evaporator Coil for Cleanliness
- Check Blower Motor Capacitor

**1-VISIT**

**PMA \$119**

- Check Condenser Fan Motor
- Amp Compressor
- Check Capacitor
- Tighten Electrical Connections
- Check Condenser Cleanliness
- Check Freon Pressures and Temps
- Check T-stat Operations
- Check Indoor Blower Motor
- Clear Drains
- Check Evaporator Coil for Cleanliness
- Check Blower Motor Capacitor

**2-VISITS**

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Air Purification • Financing Options Available • AL LIC# 83391



# ESTATE SALE

**2218 Jackson Road**  
**Muscle Shoals, AL 35660**  
**Saturday, April 26 • 9am-2pm**  
 (Numbers given out at 8:30am)  
**Sunday, April 27 • 1pm-4pm**

Alabama Football memorabilia, Bear Bryant autographed books, Daniel Moore - "The Tradition Continues," Ray Perkins and Nick Saban prints, Shirley Temple stamp panels, quilts, tools including Craftsman, fishing tackle boxes, rods and reels, washer and dryer, curios, patio furniture; wrought iron, house and garage full!

Go to [www.estatesales.net](http://www.estatesales.net) to view photos

**Cypress Creek Antiques & Estate Sales**  
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**2007 SUZUKI XL7 SUV**, leather, sunroof, runs great! \$3,900. Call 256-648-6221 Florence

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 Buckingham Cir, (Dead End street off Mars Hill Road)  
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Depending on your family size and household income,  
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 We are independent agents of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



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**30**  
**Years**  
**Caring for**  
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 Back Row: Joshua Vacik, MD; Robert Dickson, DO; Anthony Horton, DO; Brad McAnalley, MD

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**FOR SALE BY OWNER:** 2 bdrm., 2 bath house, 2706 Cloverdale Rd., Florence, \$170,000. Residential or Commercial, 256-335-5367

**LAND AVAILABLE FOR HAY or FARMING,** Woodmont Dr., Tuscumbia, if interested call 256-436-4419

# 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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**LANDMARK RV 2013 41'** fifth wheel, dual air, king size bed, 3 slide outs, propane generator, automatic satellite \$25,000 Very good shape. 256-777-8926 or 256-595-2437

**GRASS CUTTING:** Fair Prices, Quality Work, Colbert County area. Call 256-633-2765

# Real Estate

**HOUSE FOR RENT**  
2205 Haviland Dr., Florence,  
fully furnished, 3 bdrm.,  
2 ba., central heat/air,  
\$1,200 per month,  
Call 256-394-0065

**FLORENCE COMMERCIAL  
PROPERTY FOR LEASE**  
3710 Cloverdale Road,  
Building is Excellent for  
Business or Office Space,  
Kairos Property Mgt.  
256-656-3578

**IT'S YARD SALE SEASON!**  
Get a free yard sale kit with your  
prepaid red lined yard sale ad.  
Deadline Friday: 8 days prior to  
a Saturday sale. See Page 4 or  
visit [www.courierjournal.net](http://www.courierjournal.net).

**RV LOTS FOR RENT  
GREAT LOCATION**  
Hwy. 72 & Mulberry Lane  
Intersection, 12500 Hwy.  
72 Barton, AL, 30 or 50  
amp, WI-FI, sewer, electric,  
TV Room, washer & dryer  
included, sheds with picnic  
tables, walking trail,  
Tennessee River boat  
ramps nearby, \$400 first  
month special!  
256-810-1950 call or text

**HOME FOR RENT**  
4 bdrm., 2 bath, 2006 Shade  
Ave., Florence, totally reno-  
vated, all new appliances,  
\$1,825 per month, + deposit,  
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**Courtview  
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Opportunity  
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## AUCTION



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**3 Bedroom / 2 Bath Home 2,117 +/- sq ft**  
**Close to the TN River & HWY 72**  
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**SAT. APRIL 26TH 10 AM**  
**65 CO RD 111 KILLEN, AL 35645** **3+/- ACRE LOT**



**LIVE AUCTION**  
65 CO RD 111  
Killen, AL 35645

From Hwy 72, turn S onto Houstontown Rd - Houstontown Rd turns L and becomes Belview Rd - Turn L onto Bluewater Rd (CO RD 111) - House on Left  
Watch for signs! Call Troy Elmore (256)777-3710 for more info.





**TROY ELMORE**  
REALTY AND AUCTION

**FOR MORE INFO VISIT:**  
[# 29747](http://auctionzip.com)  
[# 10767](http://gotoauction.com)

**www.TroyElmoreRealtyandAuction.com**

Terms of sale: 10% non-refundable earnest money required day of sale balance due on or before 45 days at close. A 10% Buyers Premium will be added to final bid to determine ultimate final sales price. Taxes will be prorated. Possession given

**Call: Troy Elmore**  
**256-777-3710**  
Steve Sandlin RLSL#5684  
Troy Elmore RLSL# 5137

with deed. As in all auctions this property is being offered in "as is where is" condition. The Auction Company or sellers make no warranty either implied or expressed as to property size or condition. Buyer purchases property based solely on their own inspection and estimation of value. In all instances the Auctioneer is acting as agent to the seller. Announcements made day of sale take precedence over all printed materials.

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643312-1

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**FLORENDALE  
APARTMENTS**  
**TAKING APPLICATIONS**  
1 bdrm. - \$400;  
2 bdrm. - \$450;  
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application fee per adult,  
for background check  
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APARTMENTS**  
1850 Darby Dr.,  
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**Accepting  
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**1st Month's  
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Seniors 62 and over or  
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One Bedroom,  
Rent Based on Income  
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 Equal Housing  
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## On-Line AUCTION



**Open House  
Friday, April 25  
from 2:00-4:00pm**

**"Linda Hennigan Steele Estate" Begins Ending Friday, April 25 @ 5PM**  
**(With Soft Close) 11610 River Road, Leighton, AL**

**2 Story, 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, 2,422 sq. ft. ±, Built 1979, 2.17 Acres±**

**Brick home sitting on 2.17 acres± with attached and detached garage, outbuildings, and in ground pool.**

• 2002 Cadillac DeVille • 1987 Ford Mustang Convertible • 1981 Chevrolet Truck  
• Antique Furniture • Grandfather Clock • Glassware • Silverware • Dishes • Women's Hats from 50's & 60's • Kodak Projector • Antique Rotary Push Mower • Washboard  
• Murray 46" Mower • Metal Milk Cans • Hand Tools • Table Saw • **MUCH MORE**

Real Estate Terms: There will be a 10% internet fee added to final bid to make purchase price. A 10% down payment is due by the purchaser by Noon April 26, 2025 and to sign real estate purchase contract. The down payment is non-refundable should the purchaser not fulfill their contractual obligations and close the sale. The balance is due on or before May 30, 2025. The seller will provide a good merchantable general warranty deed, preliminary title search and property taxes will be prorated between purchaser and sellers at closing. Purchasers are responsible for all other closing cost. Title insurance is available at purchasers' expense. Property being sold AS-IS WHERE-IS with no warranties expressed or implied. Patterson Properties & Auctions are agents for the seller but may assist the purchaser as a transactional broker. Seller reserves the right to accept or deny any or all bids, being the high bidder does not guarantee the sale of the property. Personal Property - There will be a 10% buyer's premium added to final bid to determine selling price. Payment accepted Cash, local checks credit and debit cards. There will be a 3% charge will be added to credit and debit card payments.

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

 **A New Direction**

**Batterson**  
**Properties & Auctions, Inc.**

**256-394-2921**  
[Pattersonauctions.com](http://Pattersonauctions.com)

## Notes...

Continued from page 4

**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. No fishing license is required. Bring your own chair, snacks, tackle, and enjoy park fishing days. **FRIDAY, April 25, 7am-5pm No School**

**Support the Florence High School Show Choir's "Dream On" production!** Sponsorships range from \$250 to \$2,500 and include program listings, social media recognition, and show tickets. Get your tickets today: <https://gofan.co/event/3453035>

**Sunday, April 27 - United States Air Force Band** - Helen Keller Public Library, 511 North Main Street, Tuscumbia. The United States Air Force Band will be performing on April 27, 2PM at the Helen Keller Library. This exceptional concert is

open to the public with free admission, offering a memorable afternoon of powerful and inspiring music. Whether a long-time fan of military bands or new to their music, this performance is one not to be missed. For more information, contact (256) 383-7065.

**F3 Shoals: Fitness Fellowship Faith.** F3 is a free workout group that is open to all men, is always held outdoors, has rotating leadership, and it ends in a time of fellowship and prayer. The mission of F3 is to plant and grow men's

small workout groups to invigorate male community leadership. Our weekly schedule is Monday/ Thursday at Gattman Park in Muscle Shoals, Tuesday/ Friday at Diebert Park in Florence, and Wednesday at TVA Trails Thunder Rd trailhead. All workouts begin at 5:30am. Look for the planted American shovel flag! <https://map.f3nation.com/> or call for more info 256-394-2326.

**Saturday, April 26 - Bass Tactix Fishing Tournament** - Riverfront Park, 1416 Alabama Avenue Sheffield.

Anglers of all levels are invited to participate in this exciting event, where the thrill of competition meets the beauty of the riverfront. For more information, contact Shane Mansell, Alabama Director, at 205-765-8020 or via email at [shane.mansell@basstactixalabama.com](mailto:shane.mansell@basstactixalabama.com) or Colbert County Tourism 256-383-0783.

**Saturday, April 26 at 1pm - Bees of Belle Mont Mansion**, 1569 Cook Lane, Tuscumbia. An engaging talk by Belle Mont's beekeepers, Fred and Linda

Joly, all about beekeeping, bees, and honey. After the presentation, attendees are invited to tour the historic Belle Mont Mansion. This program is free and open to the public, and it's designed for all ages. For questions, please call 256-381-5052 or email [bellemontmansion@gmail.com](mailto:bellemontmansion@gmail.com).

**Cane Creek Hike Night Saturday, April 26** - Cane Creek Canyon, 251

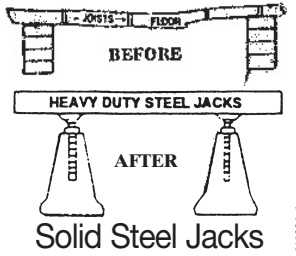
**See NOTES... page 23**

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**Let Us Add Stability to Your Flooring**

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 37 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
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## Letters...

### Student Housing?

Continued from Page 8

Council and the Mayor have shown they do not care about the life of many citizens by allowing the leasing!

Their inaction has played a role in the increased rent for apartment dwellers, especially for senior citizens.

City elections are in August.

Bill Smoak  
 Florence

### Embarrassed No More

Editor:

A gas station clerk greeted me with a smile when I entered to pay for gas. She was in mid-sentence when I walked in, but since no one else was there, I assumed she was talking to me. After an awkward moment, she gestured that she was speaking to someone on her hands-free phone.

Awkward for me, not her. It wasn't always that way, was it? Ten years ago, a person appearing to be talking mindlessly to herself might have said, with a trace of

embarrassment, "Oh, sorry, I'm talking to someone on the phone." Not anymore. The "burden of embarrassment," as I call it, has shifted from the hands-free talker to the "unsophisticated," well-meaning observer (me).

Experience is the best teacher. We navigate boundaries and etiquette rules through embarrassing moments. But sometimes embarrassment doesn't just shift, it's gone before it can educate us. This assumes it existed in the first place. In 2025, embarrassment and humility are filtered out early.

Between measles madness, tariff tensions, and more Congressional incrimination than insight, it's hard to tell where noxious conduct ends, and embarrassment begins. Worse, this behavior is trending as if humility is a lost human trait.

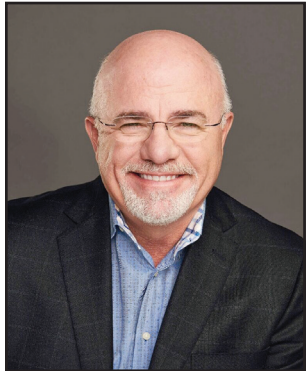
Therapists remind us that "Pain is weakness leaving the body." The teaching-moment pain of embarrassment is almost gone today leaving us intellectually and civilly weaker.

When qualities like kindness, courtesy, and humility become anachronisms, how do we replace them?

Jim Newton  
 Itasca, IL

## DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



### NOW'S THE TIME TO INVEST IN YOU

Dear Dave,

I'm a sophomore in college studying agriculture business. I grew up on a farm, and recently I decided it's time to sell a small cattle herd my dad helped me start growing when I was a kid. I don't have any student loan debt, and I'm paying for school with lots of scholarships and some help from my parents. I can sell the herd for about \$20,000, and I was wondering how you think I should invest that money for the future.

Colby

though that \$20,000 might not grow a ton in two or three years, it *will* grow. And if you don't need it for school, it'll be sitting there waiting for you when you're ready to set up house and start your new life after graduation.

Colby, in your case, finishing school and getting a valuable degree — one you can actually use to make a future for yourself — is going to give you a better mathematical return than a mutual fund. Why? Because you are a better investment than a mutual fund. Literally. I'm not talking about just in a philosophical or spiritual sense, but financially. What you'll be able to do with your life and the money you'll make in the process is a great return on your hard work and tuition dollars.

I can tell you grew upon a farm, young man. You're definitely no stranger to real work, planning ahead and thinking about the future. I'm proud of you, buddy!

— 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.

Dear Colby,

You know what? I think the best investment Colby can make right now is in Colby. By that, I mean I want you to finish your degree debt-free more than I want you to become a professional investor.

If I were in your shoes, I'd park the proceeds from your cattle sale in a high-yield savings account. Think of it as an insurance policy that will enable you to finish up school without taking out a bunch of student loans. I know that doesn't sound as glamorous as investing, but think about this: Even

### The Professor Says To Spread The Word! "Shop Smarter!"

If you really want to know what you're getting, get it from someone local.

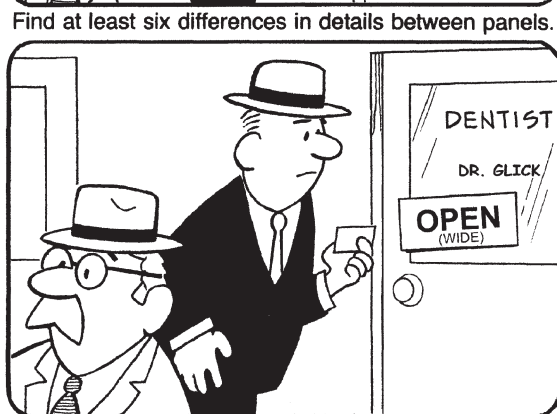
### Buy Local, Sell Local



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### HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Eyes are different. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Label is different. 4. Door is not as wide. 5. Name on door is lower. 6. Tie is thinner.

## Medicare Minute

### "Medicare vs Medicaid"

It seems like potential cuts to Medicaid are all over the news lately. People who confuse Medicare and Medicaid are obviously concerned. This is easy to do because they both can be related to a person's health insurance. Although they coordinate in many ways, they are two distinctive programs.

Medicare is a federal health insurance program. There are three ways to qualify for Medicare. The first way is to be 65 years of age or older. The second way is to have been on Social Security disability for at least 24 months. The third way to qualify for Medicare is to be any age and have either end-stage renal disease or ALS. Medicare is not income based as far as qualifying. As long as you meet one of the three requirements above you will qualify for Medicare. Your income, however, can affect the amount you pay for your Part B premium.

Medicaid is a state health insurance program. Medicaid is income and resource based, meaning you will qualify or not according to how much money you make and/or how much money you have saved. In 2025 if you made less than \$1,325 as an individual or \$1,783 as a couple you could qualify for Medicaid. Whereas Medicare has deductibles and coinsurance, Medicaid will take care of most of your healthcare cost. A person on Medicaid can also get a break on how much they pay on their prescription drugs.

Medicare and Medicaid will coordinate in a couple of ways. In some counties in north Alabama there is a Medicare plan that will coordinate with Medicaid. To qualify for this plan you must be on Medicare and Medicaid. This is referred to as "dual eligible". Also, if you make more than the Medicaid limits but are under \$1,976 as an individual or \$2,664 as a couple you may qualify for "extra help". This would help you on your prescription drug cost.

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](mailto:ikey@alabamahealthguidance.com). Alabama Health Guidance is an independent insurance agency and is not affiliated with Medicare or any other government agency.



Ikey Fowler

885 Florence Blvd. • 256-648-5710  
 (Four Lane Shopping Center)



# Notes...

Continued from page 21

Rd, Tuscumbia. Experience the magic of Cane Creek Canyon at night with a guided hike to see the glow worms! This leisurely trek over relatively flat terrain offers a unique opportunity to witness these glowing creatures in their natural habitat. Donations are requested to attend, with all proceeds supporting the upkeep of Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve. Led by Patrick Shremshock, the hike is subject to weather and trail conditions, with notifications sent to the email used for registration in case of cancellation. For more information, call 256-534-5263.

**Spring and Summer Clothes Giveaway** - Infants to Adults Clothes and Shoes from 8-10am Thursday, May 1 at the Care Center, First Baptist Church, in Killen.

**Shoals Christian Spring Market** - Saturday, May 3, 9am-4pm. Join us, once again, for some marketplace shopping fun! With over 60 vendors, food trucks, oldies music, and TONS of door prizes, there will be something for everybody. Our local crafters will be stocked up for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and 'any ol day' gifts. Admission is \$3 for (12 and under FREE). Located at Shoals Christian School on Heathrow Drive in Florence, Alabama. Doors open at 9! Come see us!

**Chisholm Hills Church of Christ** will celebrate Homecoming on Sunday, May 4 at it's 10am Worship Service. The guest speaker Landon Willis' topic is "A Legacy of Faith." A Fellowship Meal will follow the service. Everyone is welcome. Chisholm Hills is located at 2810 Chisholm Rd. in Florence.

**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

**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-Jenniferccdvr@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.

**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.

**GriefShare, a grief recovery support group** where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. It will take place on consecutive Monday evenings now through April 28 at 6pm at First Baptist Church Colbert Heights. Call 256-383-8016 for more information.

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**Friday, April 25 • 7:30am-6pm**  
**Saturday, April 26 • 7:30am-1:30pm**

**Farmers Market, 451 Fairground Rd, Florence**  
(at Cox Creek Parkway & Chisholm Road)

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Wide selection of annuals, perennials, vegetables, natives, grasses, and more such as lenten roses, cannas, rudbeckia, daylilies, a variety of tomatoes and herbs, Iris, Oakleaf hydrangeas, 3' blueberry bushes (Tif-blue, Climax and Premier) and more.

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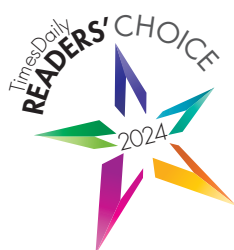


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