

Brewer Dist. 7 Elem. TOY

MUSCLE SHOALS—Muscle Shoals City Schools is proud to announce that **Deidra Brewer**, librarian at Highland Park Elementary School, has been named the District 7 Elementary Teacher of the Year for Alabama. This prestigious



recognition places Mrs. Brewer among the top 16 educators in the state, each representing one of the state's eight districts for both elementary and secondary levels.

District 7 includes ten counties in northwest Alabama and portions of two others, including Tuscaloosa and Birmingham. Being selected as the District 7 honoree highlights Brewer's exceptional dedication, innovation, and impact in the classroom and beyond.

Brewer will be honored at special ceremonies during May in Montgomery alongside the other 15 district finalists. One elementary and one secondary finalist will be named Alabama's Teacher of the Year. The two winners will go on to serve as ambassadors for public education across the state.

"I am incredibly honored and excited to be named a finalist for Alabama Teacher of the Year," Brewer stated. "It's truly humbling to have my name mentioned with these amazing educators from across our state. I can't wait for the opportunity to represent my students, my

See **SHORTs...** on Page 2

Volume 141 Number 27

April 30, 2025

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Courier Journal

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Living Life Then



LEFT:
Children get a hands on view of what Wash Day meant in the mid-1800's

BELOW:
Men prepare for the reenactment of the distillery raid.

Courtesy photos

Recall LaGrange Brings It All Back

LEIGHTON— The LaGrange Living Historical Association invites visitors to step back in time during Recall LaGrange, taking place Friday and Saturday, May 2-3 at LaGrange College Site Park. The free, family-friendly event will run from 10am-4pm both days and features living history presentations, reenactments,

traditional arts and crafts, music, and more.

LaGrange College, chartered in 1830 as Alabama's first state college, later became a military institute before being burned by Union forces in 1863. Since 1988, the LaGrange Living Historical



See **RECALL...** on Page 6



NWSCC Students Take 2 of 3 Places

MONTGOMERY—Last week, sixteen students from across the state competed in the first-ever Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) competition at the Alabama SkillsUSA state championships. The three-day event April 21-23 represented over a year of planning and collaboration between the Alabama Community College System's Innovation Center, Thompson Tractor Company, and dozens of high schools and career tech centers throughout Alabama.

"This all started with a phone call about a year and a half ago," said the ACCS Innovation Center's Career Readiness Manager Matt



McDaniel



Vasquez

See **SKILLS USA...** on Page 4

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Automotive Inside



Advance Auto Sales

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- Medicare Minute
- Adopt-a Friend
- Hocus Focus
- Cat & Kids

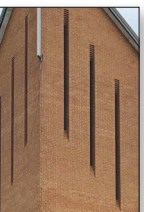
- A Conversation with Pastor Kiki
- Dave Ramsey
- Commentary
- Your Letters

- Music in the Park is Back
- Community Notes
- SIGNS of the PAST



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Shorts...

Brewer Dist. 7 Elem. TOY

Continued from Page 1

schools, and Muscle Shoals City Schools in this journey!"

Brewer's recognition is a testament not only to her passion for literacy and student engagement but also to the strength of the Muscle Shoals City Schools community and its commitment to excellence in education.

SHS Students Recognized

SHEFFIELD-- Months of planning on the parts of Sheffield High School's project management students came to fruition last Wednesday with the production of a full-scale rock concert featuring the popular cover band, The Velcro Pygmies. Sheffield High School and junior high students participated in the Reach

and Teach, Inc. concert, which was a school fundraiser.

Highlights from the event included the presentation of a \$1,000 check to **Allan Slusher's** digital media class for their win in the national Reach and Teach Campus Tour contest and the presentation of a \$5,000 scholarship from Full Sail University to 11th grader **Aubrie Moss**. In addition, 11th grader **Rylik Woodward** won

a custom-designed Sheffield guitar and 11th grader **Marcus Rosales** shared his guitar skills on stage with the band.



Arts Alive Festival Set May 17-18

FLORENCE -- The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts Volunteers are pleased to announce the return of the annual Arts Alive Festival on Saturday, May 17 from 9am-5pm and Sunday, May 18 from 10am-4pm in Wilson Park and the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts in downtown Florence.

This juried arts and fine crafts festival will feature a diverse array of national, regional, and local artists specializing in painting, stained glass, jewelry, sculpture, pottery, fiber art, woodwork, photography, and more. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the artists, purchase unique treasures, and enjoy a variety of food offerings. In addition to the

outdoor art market in Wilson Park, the Arts Alive juried gallery exhibition will be on display at the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts from May 17-June 26.

Arts Alive is a project of the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts. Volunteers nonprofit organization. The goal is to bring art to the community and to raise funds for workshops and scholarships benefiting art teachers and students in northwest Alabama.

Admission to the festival is free, making it a family-friendly event that encourages community participation and support for the arts.

For more information, please visit the official Arts Alive website at www.alabamaartsalive.com or contact the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts at 256-760-6379.

visited national park is a treasure trove of misty peaks, waterfalls, and wildlife.

#2 Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

This world wonder offers jaw-dropping views and easy trails that hug the rim — perfect for families with little ones. It's big, bold, and surprisingly accessible for such an epic destination.

#3 Yellowstone National Park, Montana

While most of Yellowstone lies in Wyoming, Montana's gateway offers quieter access and stunning scenery. It's America's first national park, and still one of its best.

#4 Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii

Walk through lava tubes, witness steaming craters, and learn how new land is formed in real time.

#5 Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky

Explore the world's longest cave system on a guided tour that's equal parts thrilling and educational.

Favorite Parks to Visit Now

COCONUT CREEK, FL--National Park week just concluded April 27. To mark the occasion, and as a tribute to the hundreds of destinations visited each year by Americans and international tourists, Gunther Volvo in Coconut Creek, FL recently launched a family-focused poll, asking:

Which National Park would most want to visit this National Park Week, if distance was not a factor?

For many families, the journey is just as important as the destination, and nothing says adventure like packing up the car and hitting the road. By polling 3,004 traveling families across the country, they uncovered the most dreamed-of parks for a spring getaway. Nationally, the top 5 were as follows:

#1 Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee

America's most-

Alabama had 5 national parks that made the rankings:

#52 Little River Canyon National Preserve

#128 Oak Mountain State Park

#133 Gulf State Park

#152 Cheaha State Park

#235 DeSoto State Park

An infographic at www.gunthervolvocars.net/park-pursuits.htm includes of the top national park per state.



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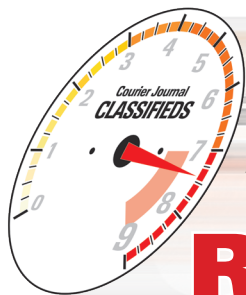
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Skills USA

Continued from Page 1

Heaton. "Several high school career tech centers reached out asking if we could help make heavy equipment operation an official SkillsUSA competition for Alabama students."

The three winners of the inaugural Alabama SkillsUSA Heavy Equipment Operation Competition included two students representing Northwest Shoals Community College.

GOLD –
Jackson Baker,
Hillcrest CTE and Shelton State CC

SILVER –
Cameron McDaniel
Lawrence County Career Tech Center and NWSCC

BRONZE –
Junior Vasquez,
Haleyville Center of Technology and NWSCC.

Each winner received a prize package that includes a Red Wing Shoes gift card, plus essential safety gear like a vest, safety glasses, and a boot care kit—thanks to the generous support of Paths for Success Foundation and Red Wing Shoes.

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DEADLINES: Issues Published Every Wednesday
INSERTS - 5 pm Thursday
DISPLAY ADS - 5 pm Thursday
CLASSIFIED ADS - 5 pm Friday unless otherwise specified

219 W. Tennessee St.

Florence, AL 35630
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Fax: 256-760-9618

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Community Notes

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

Taco 'Bout A Fun Night for Holo's Hope on Saturday, May 3 from 5-8pm at 1954 Jackson Rd. in Florence.

Silent Auction - Dinner - Lizzie's Coffee Bar - Live Music

Join us for a fun evening Cinco de Mayo style! Dinner will be catered by Rosie's. Auction begins at 5pm. Dinner begins at 6.

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This event benefits Holo's Hope, a nonprofit providing Freedom, Restoration, and Purpose to Women Survivors.

North Alabama State Fairgrounds presents its Spring Carnival with Fun Time Shows April 30-May 4, Wednesday-Sunday at the Fairgrounds in Muscle Shoals.

There is free parking and gate admission is only \$5-13 and up. Armbands are \$30. 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 website NorthAlabamaStateFair.org.

The 14th Annual Shoals Earth Day Fest is Saturday, May 3, from 11am-5pm in the 400 block of Montgomery Ave., in downtown Sheffield. The festival includes live music, drumming, earth-friendly displays, children's activities, and more.

Steve Trash will perform from 12-3:30pm at Montgomery Place, located at 406 N. Montgomery Ave in Sheffield. The event is FREE. Rain location to be determined. Call 256-710-8718 for vendor/display registration information.

The Tennessee Valley Art Association welcomes Live in Concert Angela Hacker and the Symphony of Funk at 7pm on Saturday, May 10, at the historic Ritz Theatre in downtown Sheffield. Doors open at 6pm. Tickets are \$20, \$25, and \$30 and available online at <https://tennesseevalleyarts.ticketspice.com/angela-hacker>. Call 256-383-05334 for ADA seating.

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>

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.

Jacksonburg Church of Christ, at 414 County Road 28 in Florence, will have a Wednesday night Spring Series: 'Body Building' for April at 7pm each Wednesday. The schedule concludes with: Austin Swinea, "Through Loving One Another" on April 30.

National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 1 and will be recognized locally beginning at 12pm in Wilson Park, downtown Florence.

"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.

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.

"Strike Cancer, Pin Down for St. Jude" Children's Research Hospital. May 1, 5-10pm. Charity Bowl @ Lauderdale Lanes in Florence. Presented by the Muscle Shoals Area Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Voter registration available.

May Friendship Day - "Friends Love at All Times," sponsored by Church Women United, takes place Friday, May 2 at 10am at North Wood United Methodist Church in north Florence, 1129 Wills Ave.

How To Homeschool Confidently - Thursday, May 1 at 1pm, there will be a Q&A discussion called, "How to Homeschool Confidently" at Redemption Shoals Church Multipurpose Room, at 503 S Wilson Dam Road in Muscle Shoals. The event is organized by Celeste Coffman, author of "Super Simple Homeschooling for Any Family". Parents of any faith or belief system are invited to learn more about homeschooling resources in the Shoals area. There will also be discussion of how to begin homeschooling, how to choose curriculum, and more. Both current homeschooling families and those who are simply curious are welcome to share ideas and meet new friends. This event is tailored to parents, but children are permitted to attend if needed. No childcare or children's activities will be provided. Questions can be answered in our Facebook group: Super Simple Homeschooling Parents

The Shoals Christian Spring Market is Saturday, May 3 from 9am-4pm at Shoals Christian School on Heathrow Drive in Florence. Marketplace shopping fun will include over 60 vendors, food trucks, oldies music, and tons of door prizes, - something for everybody. Local crafters will be stocked up for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and 'any of day' gifts. Admission is \$3. Ages 12 and under are Free. Doors open at 9!

Gospel in the Park - May 3, Willie Green, 3-6pm. Featuring the Orr Sisters "Never lose a battle: a Tribute to Indigo Fort." Presented by the Muscle Shoals Area Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and WZZA Radio. Food Trucks and Voter Registration.

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.

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.

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Gospel in the Park

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Recall LaGrange...

Continued from Page 1

Association has honored this history through events like the annual Recall LaGrange, which brings the past to life through immersive experiences and historical interpretation.

Activities scheduled both days include hay-

wagon rides, horse-
buggy rides, blacksmith
demonstrations, musical
entertainment, arts
and crafts vendors, food
vendors and bake sales,
book sales, and tours
of the Pioneer Village.
Visitors can also explore
the open observatory and

visit the Country Store.
Special one-day-only
events will take place on
Saturday, May 3:

• **The Distillery
Raid** reenactment
will begin at 2pm in
the Pioneer Village,
offering a dramatic look
at a Prohibition-era

moonshine raid. Visitors
can witness a lively
skirmish between lawmen
and locals in a historically
inspired performance.

• **The First
Impression Cemetery
Drama** will run from
11:30am to 12:30pm at
the LaGrange Cemetery,
featuring costumed
interpreters who bring
to life stories from the
region's past.

• **Civil War
demonstrations**
and displays of war
memorabilia, including
cannon firings by
SCV reenactors from
Tuscumbia and Winston
County, will also take
place throughout the day.

"We are thrilled to
offer visitors a chance
to step back in time
and experience the
Prohibition Era raid,"
said Louise Lenz of
the LaGrange Living
Historical Association.
"This event not only
entertains but also



educates attendees
about the storied past of
LaGrange College."

Admission is free, and
donations are welcomed
at the gate to support the
ongoing preservation of
the historic cemetery and
park.

The LaGrange College
Site Park is located at 1491
LaGrange College Road,
just off Highway 157,
eight miles southeast of
Muscle Shoals. For more
information, contact
Colbert County Tourism
at 256-383-0783 or LLHA
at 256-702-6953. Updates
and announcements can
be found on the LaGrange

College Site Park
Facebook page.

While you're out
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The Dawson family has
been crafting moonshine
in the area for generations,
using traditional copper
pots and time-honored
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about their process, hear
a few stories, and even
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REPORTER
General Assignment

The Decatur Daily, a five-day daily covering three counties in north Alabama, is investing in its newsroom as it seeks to produce more quality journalism. We are looking for a general assignment reporter who is able to develop sources, dig for stories of importance to our readers, handle hard news and tell a compelling story. The successful candidate will cover a wide range of topics, including police, local government, education and enterprise stories. Accuracy is essential.

The Daily is an award-winning, family-owned newspaper founded in 1912.

The newspaper covers Morgan, Limestone and Lawrence counties.

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

EMPLOYMENT Opportunities

The Colbert County Rural Water Department
will be accepting applications for the following position:

WATER TECH I

Qualifications: Must be at least 18 years of age and possess valid driver's license. Experience in water distribution maintenance and backhoe operation preferred.

Special Requirements: Required to obtain an A-class CDL license issued by the Alabama Department of Public Safety within the first 3 months of employment.
AVAILABLE FOR CALL OUT 24 HRS / 7 DAYS A WEEK.

Hourly Rate: \$23.69 (Full Time Employment)

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Applications, including a job description, will be made available and received from:

4/28/25 thru 5/12/25 at the
Alabama Career Center
500 S. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield

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alabamaworks.alabama.gov

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The Town of Cherokee Water and Gas Dept. is accepting applications for the position of

Distribution System Operator
(water and gas general laborer)

through the end of the business day on May 9, 2025.

This is a full time position that will consist of water, gas, sewer and town maintenance. Experience working with natural gas and or a water utility is preferred. Applicants must possess a valid driver's license. Benefits will include BCBS health/dental insurance and State Retirement. Salary will be based on experience.

Applications are available at Cherokee Town Hall during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Mon. through Fri. 3780 Old Lee Highway, Cherokee, AL 35616.

Applicants can also email their resume or application to townhall@cherokeetel.net. Equal opportunity employer. For more information contact Town Hall at 256-359-4959.

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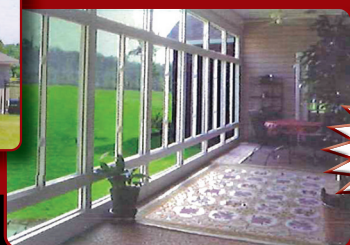
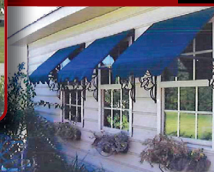
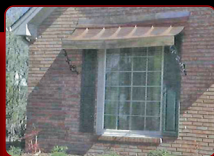
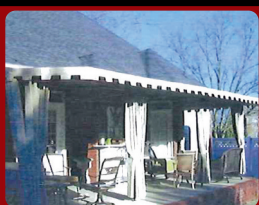
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Commentary

Women Are Not 200 Rows Behind

With Florida and UConn having recently won college basketball's Division I national championships for the men and women respectively and the NBA playoffs underway, I looked up some comparisons. I marveled at the wage disparities between the NBA (men's) and WNBA (women's) professional game.

The first overall pick in last year's NBA draft, Zaccharie Risacher from France, automatically received a contract worth \$57 million over four years. He is making \$12.6 million this season as a rookie. The average NBA contract (excluding 10 day and 2-way contracts) is \$9.6 million per year.

On the other side of the coin, we have the recent WNBA draft, UConn's Paige Bueckers was selected by the Dallas Wings with the number one overall pick. She is clearly the top player in this year's draft, as Caitlin Clark was last year.

See **WOMEN...** on Page 9

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 30, 2025

Happening THIS WEEK

Music in the Park

MUSIC IN THE PARK CONCERT SERIES: Wednesdays in May 11:30am-1:30pm

- May 7 – Shannon Knight
- May 14 – Joseph Baldwin
- May 21 – Jacob Adams
- May 28 – The Cadillacs

statue of W.C. Handy, the "Father of the Blues," who was born in Florence in 1873. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy a relaxed, family-friendly environment filled with music and community spirit. The May series offers a perfect break during the workday, while the June concerts provide an ideal way to enjoy warm summer nights.

This concert series is made possible through the support of generous sponsors, including the Florence Parks & Recreation Foundation, Alabama Council on the Arts, Florence-Lauderdale Convention & Visitors

See **MUSIC...** on Page 9

FLORENCE—Florence Parks and Recreation proudly announces the return of the popular "Music in the Park" summer concert series that brings live music to Wilson Park during in May and June. This free community tradition invites residents and visitors to enjoy outstanding local talent in one of Florence's most scenic and historic settings.

"Our Music in the Park series has become a cornerstone summer tradition in Florence," said Bill Jordan, Director of Florence Parks and Recreation. "With both lunchtime and evening

concerts, we're offering our community multiple ways to enjoy live music in a beautiful, welcoming setting—completely free of charge."

Each session of Music in the Park unfolds at Wilson Park, home to the iconic

STARS AND GUITARS CONCERT SERIES: Fridays in June at 7pm

- June 6 – Dixie Mafia
- June 13 – CC Jags
- June 20 (Make Music Day Kick-off)– The Midnighters
- June 27 – Howell Sledge & The Revue

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HOMECOMING AT JACKSONBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST is Sunday, May 4 with special Guest Speaker, Doug Jackson. Bible Study at 9am, Worship at 9:45am and 1:30pm. There will be a fellowship meal following the morning service. Everyone is Welcome! Jacksonburg is located at 414 County Road 28, north of Florence.

THE SHOALS CHRISTIAN SPRING MARKET is Saturday, May 3 from 9am-4pm at Shoals Christian School on Heathrow Drive in Florence. Marketplace shopping fun will include over 60 vendors, food trucks, oldies music, and tons of door prizes. There's something for everybody. Local crafters will be stocked up for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and 'any ole day' gifts. Admission is \$3. Ages 12 and under are Free. Doors open at 9!

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.

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

Confident Decision Will Be Corrected

Editor,

The findings in the Inspector General's report (on April 11) confirm what many of us in Alabama have long suspected — that the Biden Administration's decision to move U.S. Space Command to Colorado Springs was driven by politics, not merit. This revelation is deeply troubling and represents a clear deviation from the rigorous, objective process that initially ranked Huntsville as the top choice.

While the redactions contained in this public report make for obscure reading, the conclusion

...Do as Peter did and step out of the boat and go to Jesus on the waters with your faith. . .

”

could not be clearer: Huntsville earned its ranking fair and square, based on strategic value, existing infrastructure, and quality of life in North Alabama. To disregard those facts for political reasons

not only undermines public trust but also compromises our military readiness.

However, I remain confident that with new leadership at the Department of the Air Force, we will see this wrong decision corrected. I believe the new Secretary of the Air Force will take a fresh, apolitical look at the facts and restore integrity to this process.

I will continue working with my colleagues to ensure that national security decisions are made on the merits, not political convenience.

Robert Aderholt
US Congressman (AL-4)
Washington, DC

More **LETTERS...** on Page 14

Commentary

Women...

Continued from Page 8

each of them making under \$81,000 playing basketball in the WNBA this coming season.

The league probably generated ten times that amount within 24 hours of Bueckers #5 jersey becoming available and many times more than that with Clark's.

According to *SportingNews.com*, rookies who were the Nos. 1-4 draft picks in 2025 WNBA draft will be paid \$78,831 their first season, \$80,408 their second, \$88,449 their third, and \$100,510 their fourth. Rookies drafted at spots 5-8 are paid \$3,000-\$4,000 less in years 1-4.

Granted, most will have endorsement deals that increase their income significantly, but that's not the point.

In addition, the average WNBA salary is \$147,745 this year, up from about \$113,000 in 2023.

I understand the WNBA league is much newer (founded in 1996) and doesn't generate revenue close the that of the NBA. I also don't begrudge the NBA players from getting all that team owners are willing to pay (even if the trajectory is unsustainable), but the payroll comparisons are still embarrassing. The highest paid WNBA player will make \$253,000 in the coming 2025 season. Conversely, there are five players in the NBA who make over \$50 million/year in salary alone, led by Steph Curry at \$55 million.

The WNBA salaries for each year are determined by the overall salary cap for the league. This year that is \$60 million, just a little over what Curry gets paid on his own.

As we pointed out in this space last year, the women's game has grown exponentially thanks to the attention generated by Clark and a few others. Bueckers is not going to hurt that excitement in the least.

The WNBA's collective bargaining agreement expires after the 2025 season, and a professional sports career is short. It is time for those ladies to get a lot more respect at the bank for their efforts on the court.

Music...

Continued from Page 8

Bureau, First Metro Bank, and Big River Broadcasting – WQLT & KIX96.

For more information, follow the City of Florence Parks and Recreation on Facebook or call 256-760-6389.

NEED HELP?

CONTACT 2-1-1

Your link to community resources

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A Losing Battle

Once saved, the real fight begins. Many saved folks who were never taught anything after they were saved, still find themselves sinning and wonder why! You never worried about sin before, why now? Sin now causes a light to come on in your brain and you worry. I experienced this in my early saved years. But every baby should grow and when it doesn't, IT stays a baby. The Apostle Paul outlines this so perfectly in God's letters to the churches. Frustration comes sometimes through ignorance. I had to dig in the Bible and find out for myself what I now had in order to get assurance and security, and I did! Salvation is of God, not you, me, a church or your religion! I have been saved ~62 years and God has never lost me one time. I studied and it paid off. I found out that when I got saved, God saved only my soul, not my rotten flesh. MY flesh and YOUR flesh will still sin until its planted or CHANGED!

Quit pretending you're perfect. If you as a saved person, expect to grow as a born-again child of God, you must die to sin, world, flesh and self and dictates of the devil. See and study: **Romans 7:18** "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not." **Romans 6:2** "God forbid. How shall we, that are **dead to sin**, live any longer therein?" **Galatians 2:19** "For I through the law am **dead to the law**, that I might live unto God." **Colossians 3:3** "For ye are **dead**, and your life is hid with Christ in God." **Romans 6:11** Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be **dead indeed unto sin**, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. **1 Corinthians 15:31** "I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily." Paul had to **die daily**, you do too, wake up and start growing, or get saved, then grow. See Galatians 2:20.

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Letters...

Continued from Page 8

And You Shall Have

Editor,

I am neither trying to condemn nor judge anyone. I want to help people live victoriously in Christ. I overheard someone recently say that as we age things begin to happen. Lord Jesus has said "life and death are in the power of the tongue." He also said, "as a man thinketh in his heart so is he." It is straight from Mark 11:23, that we are told, "...he SHALL HAVE whatsoever he saith." If we keep speaking the doubt and unbelief of the mindset of the world, then we short ourselves and we are left with all that can ail the human mind, body, soul and spirit.

Change your confession from the negative and you change your life. Look at Job 22:28, which states, "thou shalt decree a thing and the light shall shine upon thou path." God wants us to decree those things wherein there is life and light. It behooves us to think the positive and decree the positive. One cannot find anywhere in the Bible where God does not want us to be blessed. If you look at Deuteronomy 30:19, you find, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore, choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

Also look at 3 John 1:2, "Beloved, I wish above ALL THINGS that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospers." We need to align our faith and trust with Almighty God and confess accordingly.

Do as Peter did and step out of the boat and go to Jesus on the waters with your faith.

Believe and you do not have to live with societal strongholds that bind you to unbelief. Take the Lord at His recommendation and choose life.

Barbara Gill
Aiken, S.C

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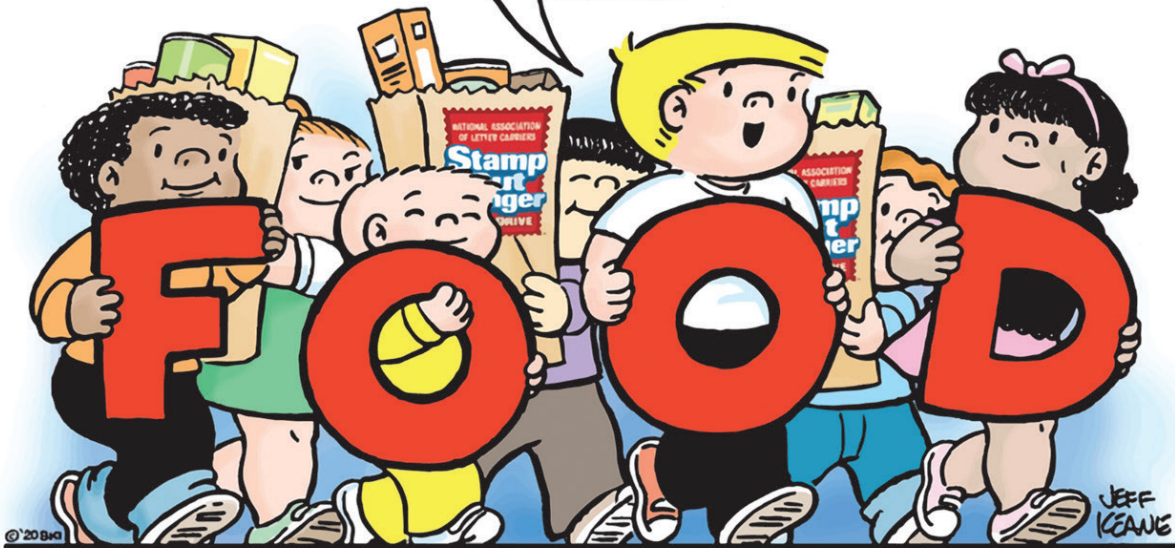
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Medicare Minute

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



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Cat & Kids
by Cathy Turner

On My Front Porch

Through the years, I have written about my small town, inner city childhood. As you read this 6/01/2005 column, I hope that we will all be reminded to wave at our neighbors, remember the wonderful times of our childhoods, and the hard times, share our stories and be grateful for the memories that made us who we are. Because here we stand.

There is a photo of my brother and me on our front porch when we were probably 8 and 10. Between us there are the broken pieces of a tricycle long outgrown. Somehow, together we had managed to mangle that toy and had drug it onto the front porch to show mama, like a pair of cats proudly bringing home a dead bird. Mom snapped that picture of me with a plait hanging down, knobby knees, teeth too big for my face, grinning ear-to-ear with my brother on

my front porch.

On my front porch there were gray, metal chairs that barely rocked back with a hard lean. The seat backs had scalloped flower cut-outs. I remember screaming on the matching glider rocker when mama put a slab of butter (the cure of the day) on the burned hand with which I had decided to check the eyes of the stove to see if they were on. Afterward, I marveled at the seared rings in the palm of my hand as I sat on my front porch.

On my front porch, I squirmed and wiggled as mama tried to pull a comb through my tangled, knotted hair. She would pay me no mind as she visited with neighbors or made plans with my sisters for the day.

On my front porch, we would sit and watch as the feather-crowned ladies would walk down the sidewalk on the way home from the Star of Bethel

Baptist Church up the street. The Baptist would always stay long enough for us to make it home for the fashion parade and hat show.

My front porch was always loud with a crowd of kids or adults sharing stories, opinions, and life. People always knew that Mrs. Ruby would come out and sit whenever they knocked on the screen door. Many a kid would wander our way to see their teacher and have some Kool-Aid™. Lots of life plans were discussed on that porch, and no judgments passed.

There were also quiet times on our small wooden veranda. Plenty of silent waves were shared with friends and neighbors headed down Third Avenue on the way to town. Mr. Clint (my dad) was good for a wave and a smile for passersby. He would throw up his hand as he added a nod. Quiet times – I sat on the porch on the morning of my wedding contemplating the end of my childhood. Sometimes at night, we would just sit and smell the honeysuckles.

That porch housed more events than I can tell. I have one now, yet it is not the same – no sidewalk visitors and no screen door. But the other day, my son and I ate lunch on the porch and talked about

life and things. We waved at the cars going slow enough to see us. The other night, my husband and I had International Coffee™ and watched the lighting bug show. Yeah, a porch is still a good thing - a place to be yourself and relax for a while. I guess a deck will do, but I still prefer to see the street. There's no fashion parade, but once in a while, a friend will pass by and I will throw up my hand. And once again, I find myself grinning ear-to-ear on my front porch.

E-mail comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com

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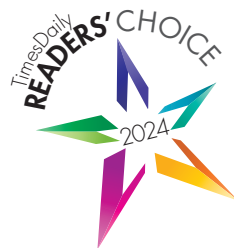


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Community Notes...

Continued from page 5

May Friendship Day - "Friends Love at All Times," sponsored by Church Women United, takes place Friday, May 2 at 10am at North Wood United Methodist Church in north Florence, 1129 Wills Ave.

Dance With Me Tonight - Dancing in the street Friday May 2, 6-9pm Downtown Sheffield. Presented by the Muscle Shoals Area Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Food Trucks, Live D.J., Dance Instructor, Voter registration available. *Alternate Rain Location Rhoda P's*

Killer Beaz Comedian Saturday, May 3, 7pm at the Shoals Theatre, 123 N Seminary St., Florence, 256-764-1700 Celebrating his ninth season on Discovery Channel's hit series,

"Moonshiners", comedian Killer Beaz is touring the nation when not filming. With decades of comedy clubs, theatres, television, and radio, Killer Beaz is legendary in the comedy industry. Beaz continues to make regular stops to The Grand Ole Opry, and his outrageously funny and clean comedy show will be on stage at The Shoals Theatre. Tickets and information for the tour are available at www.KillerBeaz.com.

Florence Exchange Club meets at noon every Thursday at the Royal Avenue Recreation Center, 421 N Royal Avenue in Florence. Contact for information is: <https://www.facebook.com/ExchangeClubOfFlorenceAlabama>

The Shoals Christian School Drama Department presents Peter Pan

JR. Thursday-Saturday, May 8-10 at 7:30pm at the school. The 60-minute musical based on J.M. Barrie's classic tale features the iconic songs, "I'm Flying," "I've Gotta Crow," "I Won't Grow Up" and "Never Never Land," and is filled with the adventures of revengeful pirates, brave girls, and lost boys. Peter Pan JR. is the perfect show for the child in all of us who has dreamed of soaring high and never growing up. The Shoals Christian School talented cast consists of 72 students.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students/children, and \$6 for ages 5 and under. Families/Groups of 5 or more are \$8 per ticket. Advance tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling Shoals Christian School Drama at 256-710-4956. Tickets will also be available for sale at the door the night of each performance. Shoals Christian is located at 301 Heathrow Drive in Florence, off Cloverdale Rd.

Florence Exchange Club's updated Meeting information: Noon on Tuesdays

at the Royal Avenue Recreation Center, 421 N Royal Avenue, Florence. Contact for information is: <https://www.facebook.com/ExchangeClubOfFlorenceAlabama>

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.

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:
Tuesday, April 29 Tarkett East, 1701 Mars Hill Road, Florence, 11am - 6pm
Wednesday, April 30 Walmart - Avalon Avenue - Muscle Shoals, 10am

- 4pm

Thursday, May 1 Central Jr. High School of Clay County, 1 Bob Riley Drive, Muscle Shoals, 8am - 3pm

Thursday, May 1 Shoals Technologies - 211 Industrial Drive, Muscle Shoals, 9am - 3:30pm

Sunday, May 4 Walmart - Hough Road - Florence, 10am - 4pm

Thursday, May 8 Pilgrims - 2045 County Rd 244, Russellville, 6am - 2 pm

Homecoming at Jacksonburg Church of Christ is Sunday, May 4 with special Guest Speaker, Doug Jackson Bible Study at 9am, Worship at 9:45am and 1:30pm. There will be a fellowship meal following the morning service. Everyone Welcome! Jacksonburg is located at 414 County Road 28, Florence.

LaGrange Living Historical Association will meet Sunday, May 4, 2pm. (The first Sunday every month, at the LaGrange College Site,

1491 LaGrange College Road Leighton. Contact L C. Lenz 256-702-6953.

The 'Hi Neighbors of the Shoals' women's social group meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month (May 6) at 10:30am in the Florence Public Library. The group welcomes all ladies who are residents of the Shoals. Come join us! Contact Berta Birch at 256-777-3119 for further details.

Crafternoon - Tuesday, May 6, 3:30pm-4:15pm at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Librar Join us for a fun crafternoon! Each month we will work on a different art project or craft.

Leadership Shoals Thirty-Fifth Year Alumni Celebration - Tuesday, May 6, 5pm, located at 310 E Tennessee St., Florence.

Let's come together to celebrate

See NOTES... page 21

The Courier Journal is THE BENCHMARK of effective local advertising for 40 years running; - An industry standard for results- driven, direct-mail consistency.



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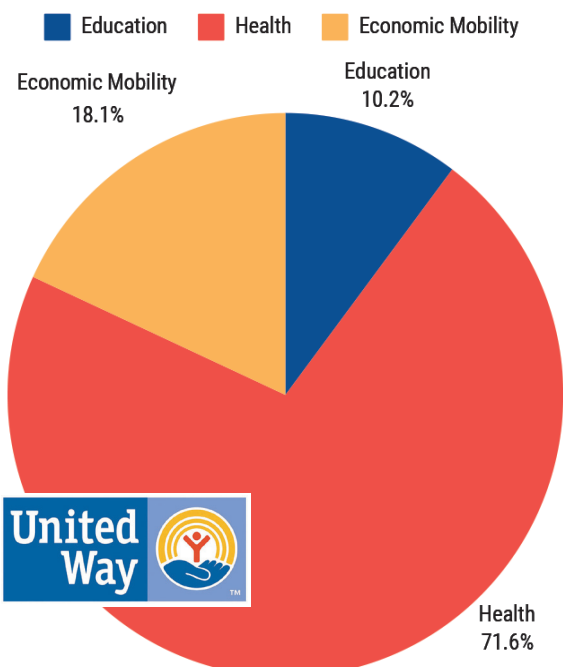
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Space courtesy of Courier Journal.

A CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR KIKI

The Quiet Joy of Resurrection

Easter may have passed on the calendar, but its meaning lingers. Resurrection is not a moment we leave behind. It is something that continues to rise within us, quietly and steadily, in the rhythm of our lives.

Not all resurrection is grand. Sometimes it is the slow breath after sorrow. The moment we feel even a flicker of hope after a long stretch of heaviness. The choice to keep going, not because we have to, but because something deep within us says, There is more.

We often expect healing to be big and bold. But in truth, it usually begins unnoticed. It begins in stillness. In the way we speak more kindly to ourselves. In the softness that starts to return where we once felt numb.

The beauty of resurrection is that it



Rev. Kiki Woods-Terry

does not demand perfection. It does not rush us. It meets us gently, wherever we are, hurting or hopeful, unsure or quietly ready. It is not about fixing. It is about unfolding.

Even now, that promise remains. That love can still reach us. That joy can still return. That we are allowed to begin again, no matter how many times we have had to start over.

Resurrection lives in everyday moments. In laughter we thought we had lost. In forgiveness we did not think we could give. In the quiet sense that life is still sacred, even in its messiest places.

If you are moving slowly, quietly, or somewhere in between, know this: you are not behind. You are not alone.

We invite you to join us at North Wood UMC. No expectations, just open hearts and a space to breathe. Come be part of a community where love leads and there is always room for you.



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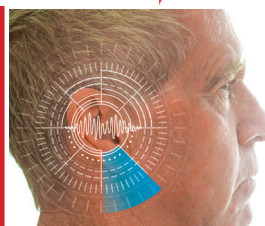
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Savvy SENIOR

Strategies for Paying Off Credit Card Debt

Dear Savvy Senior,
My husband and I, who are retired, have accumulated about \$7,000 in credit card debt over the past few years and need some help paying it off. What can you tell us?
Living Underwater

Dear Living,
I'm sorry to hear about your financial woes but know that you're not alone. Credit card debt has become a big problem in this country for millions of older Americans. According to a recent AARP report, 52 percent of adults ages 50 to 64 have credit card debt, along with 42 percent of those ages 65 to 74. Rising costs of basic expenses like food, housing, utilities and health care are the main culprits. But now, new tariffs on products made in China and other foreign countries will make many goods more expensive, which could make this problem worse. Of older adults carrying a balance, nearly half owe \$5,000 or more, and nearly a third owe upwards of \$10,000. While paying off credit card debt can feel overwhelming, it's doable with a solid plan and a bit of belt-tightening and persistence. Here are some strategies to help you tackle it:

Create a Budget

Start by taking a close look at your income and expenses to see where you can free up money to put toward your credit card debt. Also look for areas to reduce spending, such as dining out, entertainment or subscriptions. And see if you're eligible for any financial assistance programs (see BenefitsCheckUp.org) that can help boost your budget by paying for things like food, utilities, medicine and health care.

Call the Card Company

While the average credit-card interest rate is more than 20 percent, some credit card companies may be willing to lower your interest rate or work out a payment plan, especially if you're struggling. It doesn't hurt to ask.

Pay More Than the Minimum

Credit card companies only require the minimum payment, but it's usually mostly interest. Try to pay more than the minimum every month to make a dent in the principal balance.

Choose a Repayment Strategy

If you have more than one credit card, pick one and get serious about paying it off. Start with the card that carries the highest interest rate, or the one with the smallest balance.

If you focus on paying off the card with the highest interest rate first, you'll pay less interest over time, saving yourself a lot of money. Once the highest-interest card is paid off, move to the next highest, and so on.

Or you may want to start with the card with the smallest balance. Paying off smaller debts quickly can give you a sense of accomplishment and motivate you to keep going.

Consolidate Your Debt

If you have multiple high-interest cards, look into consolidating your debt with a low-interest personal loan from your bank or credit union. Or consider moving your debts to a balance transfer credit card with 0 percent interest for an introductory period, which is usually 15, 18 or 21 months. This will eliminate the amount of interest you're paying temporarily. But be careful! Once the introductory promotion ends, the card company will charge interest on any remaining balance.

Consider a Debt Management Plan

If you need more help, use a nonprofit credit counseling agency (see NFCC.org) to create a debt management plan for you. At no cost, a counselor will go over your income and debts and determine what's workable. The counselor will then negotiate with your lenders, to get a payment plan that will lower your interest and monthly payments and maybe forgive some debt.

If you accept their negotiated offer, you'll start making one monthly payment to the counseling service, which will in turn pay the issuers. You'll likely pay the agency a small fee and give up the cards included in the plan, but over time you'll be able to pay off your debt.

Send your senior questions to:
Savvy Senior,
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Norman, OK 73070,
or visit SavvySenior.org.
Jim Miller is a contributor to the
NBC Today show and author of
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This beautiful girl is very sweet and loving. She is looking for her forever home and life long love. She would love to be fostered or taken out for doggie day out. Luna Z is good with other dogs, loves to play ball too. Call or come by meet this beautiful dog.

Meet Sadie!

This girl is full of energy and loves to play. She is good with other dog but maybe a lot for some dogs around her if the energy doesn't match. Sadie is adorable and super sweet. Small spaces aren't her favorite. Call or Come by to meet your new best friend.



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Please call or come by **Florence Lauderdale animal services 256-760-6676** to meet these wonderful companions.

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

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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.

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Notes...

Continued from page 17

leadership, community, and the future of the Shoals! Tickets are \$20 and include two drink tickets.

Internet Searching - Thursday, May 8, 10:30am-12pm, at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.

Various websites will be viewed and explained, including information regarding weather, maps, health, and news, so that users become familiar with navigating from one website to another and searching for basic information.

"Peter Pan Jr." – Shoals Christian Drama Department will present "Peter Pan Jr." at 7:30 p.m. May 8-10 at the school, 301 Heathrow Drive, Florence. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and \$6 for ages 5 and younger. Families/groups of five or more are \$8 per ticket. Tickets available at the school or at the door the day of the event.

Senior Appreciation Day - Friday, May 9, 10am-2pm, at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum, 702 Veterans Drive. FREE. Event Contact: 256-760-6642.

"The Mummy" at the Shoals Theatre - Friday, May 9, 7pm, at the Shoals Community Theatre, 123 N Seminary St., Florence, 256-764-1700

The Mummy is a rousing, suspenseful and horrifying epic about an expedition of treasure-seeking explorers in the Sahara Desert in 1925. Stumbling upon an ancient tomb, the hunters unwittingly set loose a 3,000-year-old legacy of terror, which is embodied in the vengeful reincarnation of an Egyptian priest who had been sentenced to an eternity as one of the living dead.

The Lauderdale County ADC (Alabama Democratic Conference) meets at 1pm each second Saturday (May 10) at Florence Public Library room 1, 350 N. Wood Ave. Chairwoman Joyce Nelson, 256-760-9236.

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

The Shoals Piecemakers Quilt Guild meets the second Monday (May 12) each month at 7 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 1900 Darby Drive, Florence.

Pancake Breakfast – Monday, May 12, 7am, at the Elgin Senior Center, Alabama 101, Rogersville. Elgin Senior Center has a pancake breakfast the 2nd Monday of each month. 256-762-2104.

Quad Cities Photography Club, 6:30pm, second Tuesday, (May 13) Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence.

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

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

Spring Community Yard Sale at The Club (Florence Senior Center) at 450 Country Club Drive in Florence on Saturday, May 17, from 6:30-11:30am in the parking lot at The Club. Call 256.760.6420 to reserve your \$10 spot to sell your items off the back of your truck, out of your trunk, off of tables or quilts, etc. Set up at 6:30am. Closing up 11:30am. Rain Date will be May 31. Proceeds benefit programming at Florence Senior Center, The Club.

The 2025 Ace for CASA Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, May 19 at Cypress Lakes Golf Club, 1311 E 6th St in Muscle Shoals. Tee off at 8:30am (breakfast and lunch are provided). \$100 per player (\$400 per team) Hole sponsorships available for \$500 total - includes team entry and hole sponsorship. This tournament is a shotgun start where all teams begin play simultaneously from different holes. Each group will be assigned a starting hole. At check in, each group will get carts, playing cards, and additional information about the rules. Awards will be given at the end of play. All proceeds from this event benefit the work of Shoals CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

For more information or to register, email contact@shoalscasa.org or call Shoals CASA at 256-765-0041.

The 2nd Annual Cramer Kids Classic at the beautiful Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail of the Shoals takes place on Friday, May 23 from 8am-1pm.

Grab your friends and form a 4-person team or become a sponsor – either way, you'll be supporting the kids served by the Cramer Children's Center, children in NW Alabama who've experienced abuse or witnessed violence. Four-person teams are \$550. Registration includes greens fees and cart; gift item at registration; Breakfast box; Lunch and Awards ceremony; Opportunity to win amazing packages at our prize raffle

- Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place
- Awards for Longest Yard and Closest to the Pin
- A \$10,000 Hole-in-One Prize

Sign up your team or become a sponsor at www.cramerchildrenscenter.com/kidsclassic or call 256-760-1140.

Trinity M. B. Church welcomes ladies to view the Cece Winans Generation Live Conference via simulcast on May 16 at 5:30pm and May 17 at 8:30am. Registration is \$25 for adults and free for ladies in college. Lunch is included. The church is located at 606 Marietta St. in Florence. To register by May 9, please text Rev. Kim Garner at 256-288-4814 or Sis. Sharon Smith at 443-838-8606

Jacksonburg Church of Christ at 414 County Road 28 in Florence, will have its Homecoming with Doug Jackson as the speaker on May 4. Bible Study begins at 9 am, Worship at 9:45 am and 1:30 pm. There will be a fellowship meal following the morning service.

Mhoontown Methodist Church is having it's Annual Homecoming - Sunday, May 18. Located at 1135 Mhoontown Road, Cherokee. Worship service at 11am. Lunch at Noon and Unity Four of luka, MS will be our featured guests to sing at 1:10pm/ Pastor Sammy Waddell and the congregation invite you to attend.

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

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

Continued on page 22

Puzzle, Quizzes & Interesting Local History

The Brain Zone!

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Community Notes...

Continued from page 21

Master's Games, Shuffleboard (Broadway Rec. on Tuesday),

Group Travel tours this year to The Ark, Virginia Beach, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Vermont, Washington DC, and Lancaster. Trips are open to the general public. For more information,

email fdavis@florencel.org or call 256-760-6420.

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

The Lauderdale County ADC (Alabama Democratic Conference) meets at 1pm each second Saturday (May 10, 1pm) at Florence Public Library room 1, 350 N. Wood Ave., Florence. Chairwoman Joyce Nelson, 256-760-9236.

Lego Build - the third Tuesday of each month, 3:30pm-4:15pm at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. Thousands of Legos and your creativity make this program FUN!

Day by Day Grief Support Group, second Sunday of each month, 2pm, Woodmont Baptist Church, Darby Drive, Florence.

Shoals Piecemakers Quilt Guild, 7pm, second Monday, Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Darby Drive, Florence.

CaringPlace Caregiver Support Group, second Monday of each month, 10-11 a.m., CaringPlace Center, 216 Marengo St., Suite 1, Florence. Grief Group follows, 11-11:30am. Information, Eileen Nunnally, 256-762-1166.

Underwood-Petersville Neighborhood Watch meets at 2pm the 2nd Sunday of each month at Underwood-Petersville Community Center, 840 Lauderdale 7, Florence.

Alzheimer's Support Group, 2-3pm third Mondays, (May 19) Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, 350 N. Wood Ave. Adheres to CDC guidelines. 404-663-1544

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

May 16: Police Week Tournament - The 2nd Annual Police Week Tournament will take place on May 16 at Blackberry Trail Golf Course in Florence, with a 9AM shotgun start.

This four-man scramble supports the Florence Alabama Police Foundation. Registration is \$500 per team and includes breakfast, lunch, green and cart fees, a goodie bag, range balls, and a tournament t-shirt (if registered by May 1). Contests include closest to the pin, longest drive, and putting. Sponsorships are available. For more information, contact 256-366-5725 or jmeza@florencel.org.

Arts Alive Returns to Wilson Park in May 2025! The annual Arts Alive Festival, sponsored by the Kennedy-Douglass Volunteers, is set to bring another vibrant weekend of art, music, and community to Wilson Park in downtown Florence. For over 35 years, this juried arts festival has supported art education and programs in the area.

Held every third weekend in May, the event attracts thousands of visitors who enjoy browsing and purchasing artwork from regional artists. With live music, food trucks, and a gallery exhibit, there's something for everyone.

Mark your calendars for Arts Alive 2025 on May 17 & 18 and experience this beloved tradition!

May 16-18: Big Brothers Big Sisters Join us in 2025 for two incredible events supporting local youth in the Shoals area. These events directly benefit the children and families served by Big Brothers Big Sisters. Stay tuned for more details! For more information, email Nicole Hall at nicole@bbbsshoals.org.

Bowl for Kids' Sake: May 16-18, 2025
Big Little Gala: November 7, 2025

Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club, 10am, third Wednesday, at Helen Keller

Public Library, 511 Main St., Tuscumbia. nancy537481@yahoo.com

Muscle Shoals Amateur Radio Club, 7pm the third Thursday, Colbert County EMA, annex basement, 120 W. Fifth St., Tuscumbia, info@msarc.org.

Religious Abuse Support Group of the Shoals will meet the first (April 6) and last Sunday (April 27) of every month. Time and location will vary. Check Facebook for details: https://www.facebook.com/ragshoals

May 15-17, Shoals Storytelling Festival Returns to Florence - The 14th Anniversary of the Shoals Storytelling Festival is set to bring captivating tales and talented storytellers to Florence, Alabama. Known for its rich tradition of oral storytelling, the festival offers a unique experience filled with humor, history, and heartwarming narratives. At Shoals Theatre - 123 N Seminary St. - Florence.

The festival begins on Thurs from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Doors will be open at 6:00 pm

Friday 9am - 9pm. Doors open at 8am.

Saturday 9am - 5pm. Doors open at 8am.

Go to shoalsstorytelling.com/festival-2025/ for ticket

Join us this summer for Gross Out Camp at Wildwood Park. Campers enjoy a full day of exploring outdoors in a safe environment. The outdoor science for kids.

They will experience hunting for bugs, worms, roly-polies, millipedes, and salamanders. Science experiments make polymers (slime), study Newton's laws (Oobleck), and study photosynthesis. They may build forts and bird nests. If there is a creek nearby, they will be wading, hunting for crawdads, and fishing. We guarantee tired, dirty children!

Camp Dates the weeks of: June 9-13 and July 7-11. Monday - Friday 8am-6pm available for ages 6-12*

*Campers must have completed Kindergarten to register. CIT's (Counselors in Training) must have completed 4th grade.

Financial aid available. To register and for more information, visit: GrossOutCamp.org

The Florence Senior Center/The Club is now offering transportation 3 days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) for seniors, 60 years+, who are no longer driving and live within a five mile radius of The Club. For more program and transportation information please call The Club Monday-Friday, 9am-3:30pm.

The Club is located at 450 Country Club Drive in Florence off of Savannah Highway next to the old landfill.

Call 256-760-6420 for more information.

Al Anon Men's Group meets every Thursday night 6:30-7:30pm at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 1900 Darby Dr in Florence. All are welcome.

Saturday Stories - Every Saturday, 11am-11:30am, at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, Join us for fun stories and crafts for the entire family! All Ages

Ready, Set, Read - Every Thursday, 1:30pm-2:15pm at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library

This fun class is designed to help students prepare for kindergarten. We practice motor skills (pencil grip, tracing, cutting), letter identification and sounds, and beginner sight words.

This program is for children that are 4-year-olds that will enter Kindergarten the following fall. Registration is required. Contact Youth Services for more details or to register.

Over 40 and love to play basketball, but not quite as fast as you once were? Then 40up is for you. We are Christ-centered, family friendly and we meet every Sunday at: Victory Christian Fellowship Church gym, 2302 Hough Road in Florence.

At halftime, Pastor Torey encourages all from the Word of God so bring a friend.

The TN River Bass Club fishes monthly on Tennessee River and Bear Creek lakes. Welcome boaters or non-boaters 16 or older of all experience levels to join. Club is based in Sheffield. For more information, contact Tommy at 256-627-5662.

The Florence Duplicate Bridge Club meets at the Royal Avenue Recreation Center, 420 N. Royal Avenue, Florence, every Monday and Wednesday (except holidays). Players new to duplicate should arrive early for guidance. Players must be fully vaccinated. 256-810-1107

Babytime Storytime (Birth to 18 months) - 10:30am - 11:30am. Every Friday at the Muscle Shoals Public Library. Caregivers must remain with children for all programs.

Shoals Model Railroaders meeting, 6pm., first Tuesday 206 W. Fifth St., Tuscumbia

Continued on page 23

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

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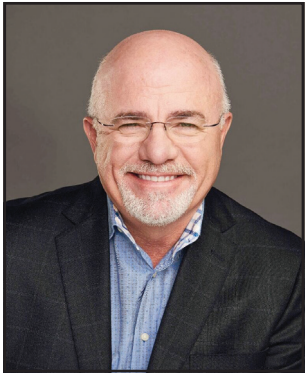
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DAVE

Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



YOU'VE GOT TO GET ON THE SAME PAGE

Dear Dave,
My wife has run her own small business for the last three years. I try to be positive, and help whenever I can, but the truth is things aren't going very well. In fact, the business has never really shown signs of getting off the ground. Over the last several months, we've been putting part of what I make at my job into the business to help keep it open. We've also taken money out of savings to bolster things, and now our savings account is pretty low. I want to support her, because she loves what she's doing. But we have three kids, and I make about \$60,000 a year. Things have been pretty tight financially for a while. What do you think we should do?
Isaac

Dear Isaac,
I'm an entrepreneur and business owner. So, trust me, I totally understand the excitement and allure that goes along with having your own business. But your own household and its immediate financial responsibilities should come first.
Here's the thing. If you're putting other money into a business account, that's a decent sign you're not making money in the business. The only money that should go into the business account is income the business creates. So, at this point, I think you and your wife need to sit down together, and have a serious, but gentle, talk about things.
Set aside time—together—and complete a written profit and loss statement on her business. While you're at it, you also

need to make a written household budget. The numbers won't lie, and it's going to be your job to be loving and understanding during all this. But the main thing you folks need is to get on the same page financially before the situation gets any worse.
Again, when it comes to the business, put all her expenses on the profit and loss statement in detail. Then, write out what it would take for her to break even each month. I hate that things have turned out this way, Isaac. But with everything that's been going on in your finances, if she's not, at a bare minimum, breaking even at this point, then I'm afraid it's time for her to do something else.
— 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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Washington Masonic Lodge No. 36, 207 W. Fifth St., Tuscumbia, meets the second and fourth Monday at 7pm.; practice at 7pm Thursday. 256-856-3852

Toddler Time Storytime (Ages 18-36 months) - Every Tuesday at the Muscle Shoals Public Library. Join Ms. Amy for songs, stories, and age-appropriate activities. Caregivers must remain with children for all programs.

Sheffield Kiwanis Club, Noon Wednesdays, Park Place, 500 N. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield.

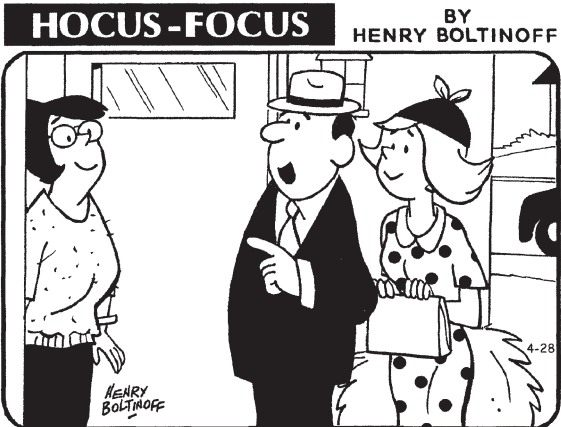
Florence Kiwanis Club, Noon Fridays, Shoals Marriott Conference Center, 10 Hightower Place, Florence.

Tuscumbia Kiwanis Club, Noon Tuesdays, Helen Keller Public Library annex, 511 N. Main St., Tuscumbia. Lunch and speaker. Joel Parris, 256-577-6968

Florence Rotary Club, Noon, Mondays, Marriott Shoals Conference Center, 10 Hightower Place, Florence. Lunch: 11:30 a.m.

Florence Exchange Club's updated info Noon, Tuesdays - We now meet at the Royal Avenue Recreation Center, 421 N Royal Avenue, Florence. Contact for information is: <https://www.facebook.com/ExchangeClubOfFlorenceAlabama>

Tuscumbia Civitan Club, Noon Thursdays, Helen Keller Public Library Annex, 511 N. Main St., Tuscumbia. Lunch and speaker. Richard Sheridan, 256-381-2298.



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