

ASUN Tabs 3 at UNA

JACKSONVILLE— Three UNA baseball players were honored with postseason awards from the Atlantic Sun Conference last week.

Senior catcher **Matthew Delgado** was named Second Team All-ASUN, while



redshirt freshman first baseman **Petey Craska** made third team. Craska and freshman right-handed pitcher **Luke Davenport**, both

earned a spot on the ASUN All-Freshman Team. All three players were selected in a vote of the league's head coaches.

All three players that won awards this season are first year Lions —

two by way of transfer and one incoming freshman. Delgado, a junior college transfer catcher from Pasadena City College, turned in a

.300 batting average for the season. He played in 50 games with 48 starts, accumulating 312 putouts for a fielding percentage of .980. He allowed only one passed ball all season long.

Craska, a transfer first baseman from Georgia Tech, led the Lions in nearly every statistical category this season, including

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Tribute to Travis



Travis Wammack and singer-songwriter Candi Staton share a hug at the Muscle Shoals 100th Birthday Bash in 2023. Courtesy

Musicians Gather to Establish a Music Scholarship

By Russ Corey
TimesDaily Staff Writer
First published on 5/24/25

Travis Wammack has literally been in the music business since he was a kid.

At 11 years old he became the youngest member of the musicians union.

Now 78, Wammack has some simple advice for young people interested in a career in music.

"Get used to the word, 'no,'" Wammack said. "You'll hear it a lot."

Wammack didn't take "no" for an answer when he was pursuing a career

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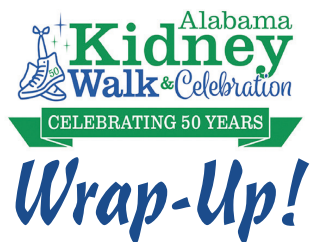
Huge AKF Event

Shoals Kidney Walk Celebrates Successful Day

FLORENCE—The Shoals community came together in a big way recently for the 2025 Alabama Kidney Foundation (AKF) Shoals Kidney Walk & Celebration, raising more than \$292,000 – well above

the Foundation's \$225,000 goal. This incredible achievement comes during AKF's 50th Anniversary which marks five decades of hope, support,

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Tribute to Travis...

Continued from Page 1

Player in the South," but will raise money for the Travis Wammack Endowed Scholarship.

Wammack said his son, Travis Junior, known as Monkee Wammack, and Snakeman Band drummer Chris Forrest put together the scholarship, and brought FAME Music Publishing Co-Owner Rodney Hall into the equation.

"I told them it would be nice," Wammack said. "They were trying to keep it a secret."

The concert will feature a house band that includes some of the top musicians in the Shoals, plus special guests who have shared stages, studios, and stories with Wammack throughout his decades in the business.

The all-star house band will include guitarists Will McFarland, Mitch Mann and Kelvin Holly, bassists Jimbo Hart and Bob Wray, keyboardists Clayton Ivey and Randy McCormick, Muscle Shoals Horns alumnus Ronnie Eades, vocalists Marie Lewey and Cindy Walker, Snakeman Band drummer Chris Forrest, Jimmy Whitehead and Mike Lawley.

Guest vocalists/musicians include Wayne Chaney, Jerry

Phillips, Mickey Buckins, Lenny LeBlanc, Monkee Wammack, Dave "Microwave" Gallaher, The Midnighters, the Cartee Brothers, and others.

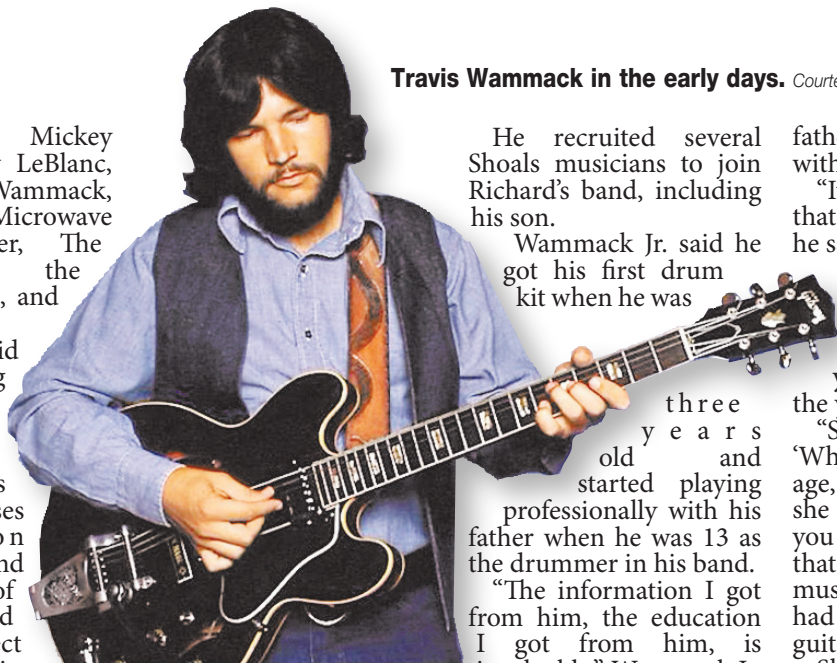
Wammack said he's been dealing with the impact of Ankylosing spondylitis, a type of arthritis that causes inflammation in the joints and ligaments of the spine, and can also affect peripheral joints like the knees, ankles and hips.

"I can't play a lick," Wammack said, "or sing."

He is using a walker to get around.

His wife, Mitzi, said her husband has probably had the disease since he was in his 40s, but he was so active, "climbing mountains and hunting," that it didn't impact him as much as it does now that he's older.

"It's just one of those things," Wammack said, adding that he's keeping a positive attitude. "I've had a good 70 years in the music business. I've done everything I wanted to do in the music business."



Travis Wammack in the early days. Courtesy

He recruited several Shoals musicians to join Richard's band, including his son.

Wammack Jr. said he got his first drum kit when he was

three years old and started playing professionally with his father when he was 13 as the drummer in his band.

"The information I got from him, the education I got from him, is invaluable," Wammack Jr. said.

Wammack Jr. said his father would take him to the studio where he'd sit in the control room at FAME and take in everything that was going on.

"He'd put me in front of so many other professional musicians," he said.

While he was a a rock music fan when he was younger, Wammack Jr. said his father told him he needed to learn how to play drums for all genres.

"For me, it was learn everything," Wammack Jr. said. "If I went into the studio, it might be a country session, might be a R&B session."

Wammack Jr. said his

father set up the audition with Little Richard.

"It was dad who created that opportunity for me," he said.

Mitzi Wammack said her husband has given away numerous guitars to young musicians over the years.

"Someone will say, 'When I was such and such age, you gave me a guitar,'" she said. "I can't even tell you how many. Anybody that was interested in music, he made sure he had an instrument or a guitar."

Shoals bassist Jimbo Hart said he's honored to be a part of and grateful to do a small part in tribute of one of the Shoals's many local heroes.

Hart said he was a recipient of one of those instruments from Wammack.

"His influence is far-reaching for many, yet close to home for me," Hart said. "I got my first Fender P Bass from him when I was a kid and never looked back. Travis rules."

Janna Malone, chair of the UNA Entertainment Industry Department, said she was contacted in February and said Wammack wanted the proceeds from the tribute show to endow a scholarship in his name for students majoring in Entertainment Industry.

"This degree prepares students for careers in the music industry whether it be on the business or technology side of music," Malone said.

Malone said other than the requirement of being a UNA Entertainment Industry major, the criteria for the scholarship has not been completely established.

Malone said she said the University Advancement Office look forward to sitting down with Wammack to discuss specific criteria for the scholarship.

The scholarship should be available for the 2026-27 academic year.

"The higher the amount contributed the higher the amount awarded," Malone said.

Malone said singer/songwriter John Paul White, bassist Norbert Putnam and the late guitarist and Fiddleworms co-founder Chris Quillen, have music scholarships at UNA in their name.

"The Travis Wammack Entertainment Industry Endowed Scholarship will ensure students for generations will know the impact Travis had not only on the Shoals music community but the world," Malone said. "This scholarship is an investment in the future of the music industry. It empowers talented students to pursue their passion without the burden of financial strain, allowing them to focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership."

She thanked Wammack, his family, and everyone involved with the concert, including fans who attend, for helping make the scholarship a reality.

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ESTATE SALE BY RARE ANTIQUES 329 E Lakeside Dr. Florence May 29, 30, 31 9 am to 4 pm House full of furniture, tools, pool table, a little bit of everything. Pictures at estate-sales.net and Kathy Oliver Grisom Facebook. 256-627-9246

FLORENCE: YARD SALE 4704 Chisholm Rd Apt. 806 Back Corner of Double Creek Apartments. Sat. 7am Household items, crafts, some furniture, clothes, lamps.

YARD SALE Huge sale starts at 7am 5/29-6/1 also next week 6/5-6/8. Located at 4385 Co Rd. 94. Approx. 4.5 miles from Happy Hollow. NASCAR Collection, Hickory Hills Sofa, 4 trail bikes, oak dining table, 10-200 gallon aquariums with stands, toys, hot wheels, antique bureau, genuine 4 leaf clover key chains, and much much more. Come see!

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SHEFFIELD MULTI-FAMILY INDOOR CHURCH YARD SALE
Grace Episcopal Church, 103 Darby Ave., Sat., June 7th, 8am-2pm. Furniture, Electronics, Clothes, DVDs, Bicycles, Tools, Kitchen items, and more! Benefits go to Church Community Outreach. CASH ONLY. Rain or Shine. No early birds!

FLORENCE FOUR FAMILY YARD SALE, 2359 Parc Place, Sat., May 31st, 7am-until? Household items, Printer, Clothes, Men's Suits, DVDs, Washer/Dryer, Boots, Flower Pots, & more!

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

To list your sale, use the classified form on page 4.

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

FLORENCE: Yard Sale to benefit Chloe's Fund 312 Congress St Fri & Sat 8am til 1pm clothes, jewelry, much more

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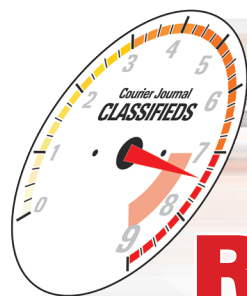
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Seminary St., Florence. 256-764-1700. For More Info, Visit Shoals Community Theatre.

Summer Reading Sign Up Day - Friday, May 30, 8am. At the Muscle Shoals Public Library, 1918 E. Avalon Ave. For more information call 256-386-9212.

May – Buy One, Get One Free at Mitchell Burford Bookstore - During the month of May, the Mitchell Burford Bookstore at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library is offering a buy one, get one free deal on religion books and related items. Purchases support library programming.

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates: Tuesday, May 27 Colbert County Health Dept, 1000 S Jackson Hwy, Sheffield, 9am - 3pm

Wednesday, May 28 Certain Teed Saint-Gobain, 1000 S Jackson Hwy., Sheffield, 10am - 4pm

Friday, May 30 Ray Miller GMC, Florence, 10am - 4pm

Saturday, May 31 Walmart - Hwy 43 - Russellville, 10am - 4pm

Sunday, June 1 Stony Point Church of Christ, 11am - 4:30pm

Monday, June 2 Bowling Family Medical Clinic, 1755 County Road 24, Florence, 9am - 4pm

Tuesday, June 3 Helen Keller Hospital 1300 S Montgomery Ave., Sheffield, 10am - 6pm

Join us for this incredible event supporting local youth in the Shoals area. Big Little Gala: November 7, 2025 This event directly benefits the children and families served by Big Brothers Big Sisters. For more information, email Nicole Hall at nicole@bbbsshoals.org.

May - Music In The Park. Enjoy lunch in Wilson Park on Wednesday, May 28. Music begins at 11:30.

June brings "Stars and Guitars" on Friday nights.

Southern Native presents "Oh Brother Where Art Thou" at the Shoals Theatre Friday, May 30, 7pm at the Shoals Community Theatre, 123 N

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Walk...

Continued from Page 1

and advocacy for kidney patients across the state of Alabama.

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Justin and Katie Faires served as this year's Walk Co-Chairs. A special thanks goes to Katie and Pounders & Associates for their amazing contributions as a sponsor and a team, contributing to the walk bags, and their many volunteers at the event. Matt Beresford, this year's Patient Chair and captain of the Spare Parts, brought both passion and purpose to the role alongside his family.

The continued leadership of TNT Tributes, the Shoals Kidney Walk's top corporate fundraising team and longtime community champion

– Led by Team Captain, Cindy Moon – exemplifies the spirit of service, combining generous fundraising with hands-on volunteerism year after year.

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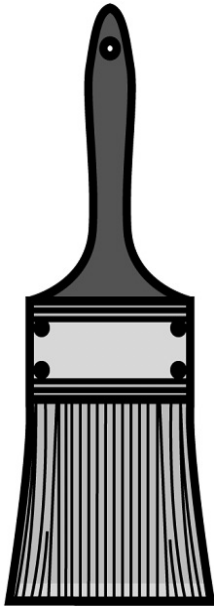
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Electronic applications are not available at this time.

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Shorts...

ASUN Tabs 3 at UNA

Continued from Page 1

batting average (.360), OPS (1.077), slugging percentage (.562), on-base percentage (.515), runs scored (32), hits (64), RBI (33), doubles (18), total bases (100), walks (43), hit by pitch (15), putouts (394) and fielding percentage (.995).

Davenport, a freshman that attended James Clemens high school, appeared in 13 games this season with one start. He posted three wins and three saves during those games with a 3.52 ERA in 30.2 innings pitched. He allowed only 17 hits this season and struck out 35 different batters. When faced, opponents had a dismal .162 batting average against the freshman.

This trio led the Lions to their first Division I 20-win season, and their most conference wins during the Division I era, and the first post season tournament win since the transition.

Part Time Job this Summer

--MUSCLE SHOALS -- Northwest Shoals Community College has partnered with the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) to provide summer employment to youth in the area starting June 2. NWSCC plans to fill up to 30 part-time positions on the Phil Campbell and Shoals campus combined. To be eligible, youth must meet Alabama Department of Human Resources Family Assistance Income Guidelines. Eligible participants must be ages 16-24 and have a household income that meets the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines, which considers gross annual income and the size of the family unit. Eligibility is not contingent on NWSCC enrollment.

Participants will be placed with supervisors in various departments such as athletics, maintenance, information technology, student services, and grant programs.

Students will be paid \$10/ hour for 19 hours/ week, and the program will

continue through August 15.

Applicants must complete an application and provide required supporting documentation to verify income eligibility. To apply, visit nwsc.edu/community-matters. Completed applications and income verification

documents can be sent via email or dropped off in person at either campus. If eligible, you will be contacted

with the next steps to begin the hiring process.

For additional information, please contact **Amanda Peters**, NWSCC Community Partners Liaison, at 256-331-8121 or amanda.terry@nwsc.edu or Erica Malone at 256-331-6353 or erica.malone@nwsc.edu.

Race Amity Day is Two

SHOALS--Race Amity calls attention to the power of cross-racial friendships as a force for social change by promoting activities where everyone can talk, listen, and grow together. Race Amity weekend in the Shoals is Saturday and Sunday, June 7-8. The local Race Amity committee has representatives from Florence, Sheffield, Tuscumbia, Muscle Shoals, and Russellville.

Events are scheduled as follows. All are free and open to the public.

Saturday, June 7, 10am and 11am -- History Tours of West Florence at starting at W.C. Handy Museum on West College St. in Florence.

Saturday, June 7, 2pm -- Florence Library: Book Talk by Dennis Balch: "The Other Madisons" documents the bi-racial history of U.S. President, James Madison's family.

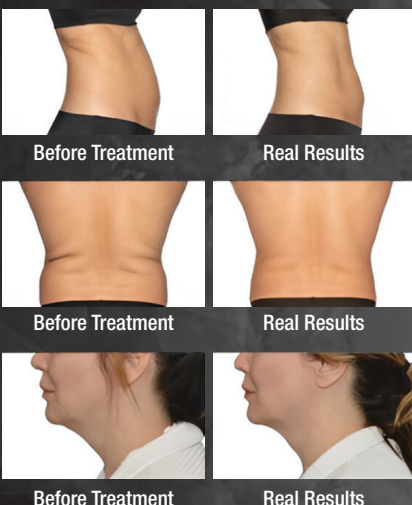
Sunday, June 8, 2pm -- there will be an Amity Concert entitled "Lifting Our Voices for Unity and Friendship" in the Performance Center at UNA's Guillot Center featuring combined choirs.

In addition, there will be book displays at the Florence, Tuscumbia, and Russellville public libraries from June 2-13 that support the themes of understanding and friendship among the many peoples who make up this great nation.



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A CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR KIKI

The Spirit That Walks With Us

Faith is not always something we carry with ease. Some days it is strong and reassuring. Other days, it feels distant or quiet. But even then, something steady walks with us, even when we do not have the strength to name it.

There is a sacred presence that does not leave us. A holy companion that does not require us to have perfect words or unwavering belief. It simply remains, even when we feel uncertain or worn thin.



Rev. Kiki Woods-Terry

It understands our pauses. This presence reminds us that our faith is not measured by how strong we appear. It reminds us that being held is as holy as holding on. It does not compare our journey to someone else's. It meets us with compassion and grace right where we are.

The Spirit does not require perfection. Only presence. It meets us where we are and stays with us as we grow, as we heal, as we learn how to trust again.

When we come together in faith, we remember that we are not alone. We gather in the quiet strength of community. In prayer, in song, in shared moments of grace and kindness.

If you are longing for a deeper connection, a sense of belonging, or simply space to breathe, we invite you to join us for worship at North Wood UMC.

You are welcome here. You are wanted here. Come walk with us, grow with us, and find peace in a church where the Spirit still speaks and love leads the way.



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Commentary

Cancer Discovery Was a 2022 Gaffe?

And the national media, largely aligned with democrat ideals, still doesn't understand why they are distrusted.

Where can we start? Ten years ago?

Interchangeably referring to MAGA supporters as racists when all the evidence shows that racism is a democrat tendency stretching back literally for centuries.

Proliferating the Russia collusion hoax based on hearsay from politically compromised players without any concrete evidence.

Denying that security concerns and evidence surrounding Hunter Biden's laptop had any semblance of legitimacy.

They ran with the farce that COVID-19 being created in a lab was a right-wing conspiracy theory, that mRNA was "the miracle cure" with no long-term drawbacks, and that children would be fine wearing masks and without in-person schooling for two years.

See GAFFE?... on Page 10

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*

May 28, 2025

Happening THIS WEEK



TUPELO, MS — As warmer temperatures return and motorcycle riders take to the scenic byways of the South, the Natchez Trace Parkway is joining the National Park Service's "Different Road, Different Ride" campaign this May to highlight motorcycle safety during Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

The 444-mile parkway stretches through Mississippi,

Alabama, and Tennessee, offering a peaceful and picturesque ride through historical landscapes and wooded terrain. While the Natchez Trace Parkway may seem like an easy cruise, it presents unique challenges that demand caution—even for experienced riders.

The National Park Service

See RIDING... on Page 23

The New Summer \$ Boost

MONTGOMERY— The Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) plans to distribute Alabama SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) benefits to eligible children this summer, as part of a new federal program.

See BUCKS... Page 14



WESLEY CHAPEL'S HOMECOMING AND DECORATION DAY is Sunday, June 1. Worship is at 11am followed by fellowship meal in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend. Wesley Chapel is located in the Central Heights Community north of Florence at 11025 County Road 15.

THE DISTRICT 1 MASTERS' GAMES — The Masters' Games for people 50 and older will be at 9am Tuesday, June 3 at Broadway Recreation Center. The event includes shuffleboard and soft ball throw with lunch and corn hole, nerf ball toss, frisbee toss, and basketball throw at the Coliseum. Sign up at 8:30am at Broadway or call The Club/Florence Senior Center, 256-760-6642.

WRITE YOUR ART - IS ON MONDAY, JUNE 2, FROM 1-2PM at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, Art isn't just paintings, sculptures, and photographs. Art is also theatre, stories, and movies! Here at Write Your Art, we celebrate the written word and use art to inspire our minds. Join Mr. Caleb as he leads us through different styles of writing, a scavenger hunt, and poetry! Additional Dates: Monday, June 9; Monday, June 16; June 23. 256-764-6564.

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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.

- **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

China's Economy is Us

Dear Editor,

Amid all the far left and RINO squawking about President Trump's "apocalyptic" tariffs, some of your readers may have missed the revealing knee-jerk rhetoric coming out of Communist China. It left me with the impression that the President put these people into a state of shock. Evidently, the Chinese Communist Party's future is effectively tied to Walmart shoppers!

China is a country of 1.4 billion people. According to one commentator, it is ruled over and spied on by about 100,000 communist bigwigs. It can produce millions of trinkets and doodads, but it has no

... Are you trying to show contempt for this court?" a judge asked Mae West in her 1927 obscenity trial. . .

place to sell most of them except here. America is the richest consumer market in the world for the time being, and perhaps the most wasteful.

Hence, what amounted to a hair-on-fire panic by the CCP: It announced that the Chinese people would "eat grass" before they would kowtow to President Trump's "bullying." Unsurprisingly, far left and RINO media outlets chimed in with a silly attempt to scare the American public. A "reporter" on one of Alabama Public Television's "news" programs warned

us of possible price increases for Halloween and Christmas decorations!

This is not to say that China doesn't make a product of real value. However, if we are dependent on Chinese technology, it is because our country has been ruled by bad governments. I think this was one of the points our President was trying to make.

Thomas Ponder
Killen

More LETTERS...on Page 16

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Commentary

Gaffe? Continued from Page 8

Then we have covering up Biden's cognitive abilities for years leading up to the Presidential debate, and still covering in many quarters until the last couple of weeks.

Now, with so much scrutiny on them for being wrong about the economy tanking because of tariffs, wrong about inflation ramping up, wrong about retail, grocery, gas, and wholesale prices, they suddenly find a story that can project the sympathy card for Joe Biden, which they hope will also extend back to themselves by proxy.

Last weekend's revelation that the 82-year-old former President was diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer that has already infiltrated the bone but is treatable with hormone therapy was no revelation at all.

Where are all the real questions?

There is no medical avenue to discover and surmise all that detail in a few days. That is an extended process.

Almost three years ago, during a July 2022 press conference in Somerset, Massachusetts, while discussing climate and environmental issues, Biden admitted that he had already had cancer.

"And because it was a four-lane highway that was accessible, My mother drove us rather than us being able to walk. My mother drove us rather than us being able to walk. And guess what? The first frost you knew what was happening. You had to put on your windshield wipers to get literally the oil slick off the window. That's why I and (so many) other people I grew up (with) have cancer. And why, for the longest time, Delaware had the highest cancer rate in the nation."

And that statement was

apparently a year before a routine physical exam in 2023 discovered a small skin lesion on his chest determined to be basal cell carcinoma.

Granted, the 2022 statement could have been fabrication for emphasis, or another misspoken "gaffe" like his handlers claimed. If that was the case, then we must look at last week.

How can it be possible that doctors for the sitting U.S. President, could not have known that he had arguably the most easily definable and diagnosable form of cancer for a male, one that produces elevated PSA readings through part of standard blood test that many average Joes receive twice yearly through their regular medical provider?

Yes, it's usually slow growing. In fact, men over 70 are often told not to even be tested.

However, the leader of the free world is not your average person, especially when there is a family

history of aggressive cancers. A slow-growing cancer doesn't get into the bone overnight.

Either it was a cover up then, or it is a cover-up now. Either way, the media's lack of fire in wanting to find the truth tells us everything we need to know.

Anyone with a degree of non-partisan sense has to agree it was a bad idea for Joe Biden to run for a second term that could last until he was into his mid-eighties, based on cognitive impairment alone.

Just as it did with his cognitive decline, it seems as if the legacy media did everything in its power to keep video and audio evidence of this diagnosis under wraps.

Once again, I feel the outside of my leg getting wet, and I know it's not raining.

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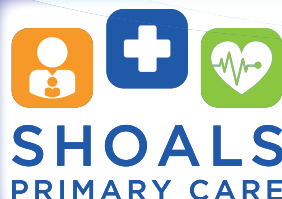
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**Dr. Whitney C. Terrell, DVM**
Rabies Inspector, Lauderdale County

Saturday, June 7
8-9:45am.....Wilson High School
10:15-11:30am.....Central High School
12-1:15pm.....Cloverdale Elementary School/Cloverdale Fire Dept.
1:30-2:45pm.....Underwood Elementary School

Monday, June 9
3-4pm.....Elgin Fire Department
4:14-5:15pm.....Center Star Baptist Church
5:30-7pm.....Brooks High School

Tuesday, June 10
3-3:45pm.....Waterloo High School
4-4:45pm.....Waterloo Fire Department Station 2
5-5:30pm.....Gravelly Springs
5:45-6:30pm.....Oakland Community Church
6:45-7:45pm.....Threets Crossroad/Liberty Baptist Church

Thursday, June 12
3-4pm.....Lexington High School
4:15-5:15pm.....Grassy Baptist Church
5:30-6:30pm.....Old Ball Field on Bayles Street
6:45-7:45pm.....Lauderdale County High School

Friday, June 13
3-4:15pm.....Rogers High School
4:30-5:30pm.....Lone Cedar Church
5:45-6:30pm.....Mt. Zion Church
6:45-8pm.....St. Florian Park

Saturday, June 14
8:45-9:15am.....Handy Recreation Center
9:30-10:30am.....Lauderdale County Co-Op
10:45-12pm.....Broadway Recreation Center
12:15-1:15pm.....Royal Avenue Recreation Center
1:30-3pm.....Cox Creek Farmer's Market

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Bucks...

Continued from Page 8

will provide a one-time issuance of \$120 per school-aged child for summer grocery benefits to low-income families.

Alabama SUN Bucks will be automatically issued to school-aged children who have been approved by application or direct certification and attending a school that offers the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs. Children who are directly certified through the ALSDE in programs such as SNAP, TANF or Medicaid will be automatically eligible.

If not automatically enrolled, each student may apply for Alabama SUN Bucks. Students receiving free meals through the Community Eligibility Provision will not automatically qualify; however, students may still be eligible for the benefits based on the household's income. Households should visit www.alabama-sunbucks.com to apply or receive additional information.

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In God We Trust

It's amazing that we have so little interest in practicing the slogan on something we love so much, money. Notice: **Ecclesiastes 10:19** "A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things." Maybe in this life, but what about the next? Many have sold their soul for fame, fortune and talents for a few lousy bucks, supposing gain is Godliness. **1 Timothy 6:5** "Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." Imagine folks carrying around a lie in their wallets or purses an entire lifetime! Are you trusting God every day? Are you trusting Jesus Christ to save your soul and take you to heaven when you die? If not, you are carrying a lie around in your pocket every day. That word "TRUST" is in the Bible 134 times. Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh. See **1 Timothy 3:16**. **Acts 2:36** "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Are you really trusting God? What for and with what? Trust means relying on or depending on someone for something! Are you trusting yourself or church to save you? Bad choices! Only Jesus has that power! **Hebrews 7:25** "Wherefore he (CHRIST) is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." **Romans 10:13** "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Here's your chance to make me out a liar. I challenge you to sincerely call upon Jesus Christ today, to forgive you your sins and receive Him and save your soul and trust Him alone for heaven! If Jesus the Lord doesn't do it, call me. If He does, call me. I'll be waiting to hear from you. Leave a message. Jesus cannot lie or fail. Jesus paid it all, all to Him we owe!

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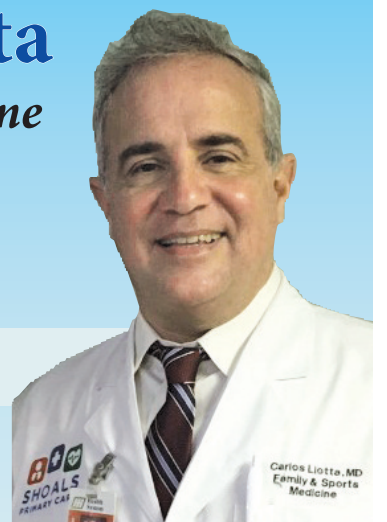
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Medicare Minute

"Choosing a Medigap Plan"

Choosing the Medicare supplement, or Medigap plan, that's right for you can be a difficult task. As mentioned in a prior article the most common Medigap plans sold in Alabama are Plan A, Plan B, Plan F, Plan G and Plan N. Each of these plans are "standardized" by Medicare. "Standardized" means that each of these individual plans must contain the same basic benefits regardless of the insurance company you purchase it from. For example, Plan G with company XYZ must contain the exact same benefits as Plan F with company WXY. The one thing that can be different is the premium each company charges for the exact same coverage.

The plan letters (A, B, F, G, & N) represent different levels of coverage that a person can purchase. Plan A is the most basic Medigap plan. It does not cover the Part A or Part B deductibles or Skilled Nursing Facility coinsurance but does pick up the Part A and Part B coinsurance after the deductibles are met. On the other hand, Plan F is the "cadillac" of Medigap plans. Plan F will cover all deductibles, coinsurance and/or copays that is due after Medicare pays its part. Plan F can only be sold to individuals who became eligible for Medicare prior to January 1, 2020.

The most popular Medigap plan our company offers has been Plan G. Plan G covers everything Plan F covers except the Part B deductible of \$257. When talking to a company or agent about Medigap policies you may benefit by talking to someone who offers ALL the plans. Every company selling Medigap policies does not offer all the plan options. If you are speaking with an agent or company that does not offer a particular plan, such as Plan G, you may never hear about this plan.

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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Letters...

Continued from Page 8

Keep on Praying

Editor,

Here is one of Apostle Paul's prayers which he wrote in 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12: "So we KEEP on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of His call. May He give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do. Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with Him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ."

I am sharing these prayers so that you can pray for yourself and others.

Barbara Gill
 Aiken, S.C

Qataris Not Corrupting Trump

Editor,

"WELCOME TO QATAR-A-LAGO."

Thus read a sky banner dragged behind a small plane over US president Donald Trump's Palm Beach resort/home on May 14 as Trump toured the Middle East and spent some media time defending his \$3 billion golf resort deal with, and planned acceptance of a \$400 million luxury 747 (to use as Air Force One for the remainder of his term, then deed to his presidential library) from, the Qatari regime.

Public furor (to the extent such exists) over Trump's business ties with, and acceptance of constitutionally prohibited "emoluments" from, the Qataris centers around the notion that what we're dealing here with is "corruption."

I disagree.

To "corrupt" a person or thing (per the 1913 edition of Webster's Dictionary) is to "draw aside from the path of rectitude and duty ... debase or render impure by alterations or innovations."

In order for the Qataris to "corrupt" Trump, he'd necessarily have displayed

some semblance of "rectitude" prior to their interactions.

Americans knew that was far from the case before they elected him to the presidency the first time in 2016, and gathered eight more years of demonstration proofs to the contrary before electing him a second time in 2024.

The golf resort deal and the 747 "donation" may be immoral and illegal, but that's just the story of Trump's entire adult life in business, entertainment, and politics. There's nothing honest or dutiful there for the Qataris TO corrupt. They're just cashing in on his best-known character trait.

See LETTERS... Page 18



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Courier Journal ADOPT A FRIEND

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

Meet Carly Rea!

Carly Rea is an adorable puppy with a heart full of sweetness and so much potential! Like any young pup, she's still learning the ropes and would thrive with a family who's ready to guide her as she grows. She's already doing well on a leash and loves to play with other dogs. Carly Rea is friendly, playful, and just needs a little training and structure to blossom into the perfect companion.



Pickles



Meet Pickles!

Pickles is a sweet and gentle soul who's ready to find her forever family! She's calm, affectionate, and incredibly loving — the perfect companion for a cozy night in or an adventure in the park. Pickles is intelligent and attentive, and she absolutely adores car rides, snuggling up in bed (especially on her back!), and spending time with children. One of her favorite things is lounging at the park and soaking up all the love and attention — she'll even sit quietly and enjoy watching a baseball game with you.

While Pickles prefers to be the star of the show when it comes to mealtime and may be a bit territorial with other dogs around food, she would thrive as the only pet in a home where she can get all the love she deserves.

Meet Alexander!

This resilient and loving boy may be small to medium in size, but he has a huge heart and an inspiring story. Alexander has been through a lot this past year — he was hit by a car and suffered a spinal injury. But thanks to his incredible spirit, he's made an amazing recovery and is now ready to find a forever home full of love, safety, and snuggles.

Because of his past, Alexander needs a home where he's given time, patience, and reassurance. He's still learning that it's okay to trust people again, and he may try to escape if left unsupervised outdoors — not because he doesn't love you, but because he's afraid of being left behind. He's also a certified couch potato and would love nothing more than to curl up beside you all day long.



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Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

Double-Dippin'

I need to thank our children for growing up in the paper and being the catalyst through which I have shared, clarified, and explained how to have a wonderful family. They have allowed me to share so many of their experiences, their words, and their love for life. They've been my inspiration! I have shared mostly everything. And the other things, God has brought us through to this point. And I thank Him for all that He has done for us. Our children have made motherhood a blessing for me. All the words that I have shared fall far short of truly expressing the unspeakable joy that I've experienced through our children. May God continue

to bless them now and for generations to come. Thank you, Lora, Garrett, and Randall for all that you have given us. Blessed! Here's a reprint proof text from 9/27/2006. I love y'all to heaven!

Hey, just the other night we had a TallCake at Ruby Tuesday. You want to know why? Because our son had just performed in a fantastic show choir program. We always celebrate victories with TallCakes. It's what our family does. This is not a shameless plug for TallCakes. We have done Molten's at Chili's, Blondies from Applebee's, Hot Fudge Cake Sundaes from Sonic. (It always involves

chocolate), and others; but TallCakes seem to fill the bill (not literally), our bellies (very literally), and the occasion of celebration. There is just something about those five spoons dipping into the same goblet with our foreheads almost touching, maneuvering and strategizing about how to get the best bite, and leaving the last bite for the honoree. It brings us closer. We revel over whatever the accomplishment has been - all A's, solos, state championships. We have huddled around many a TallCake. As the dessert disappears, love grows.

I know that you are not supposed to reward with food, but there's just something about not going straight home after a win or success. It's so much fun to go to a public place and laugh and make noise with others doing the same. Maybe it's the going out that's still special to me. Growing up we did not go out to eat much, mostly because our little mountain town did not have very many restaurants. But every now and then, when someone did something good, Mom would take us to the Daisy Queen for ice cream. That's not a typo. At that time, our hometown did not have any brand name restaurants. Local owners called the restaurants names that were close to the franchise names. We didn't have a Burger King, but we had a King-O-Burger. Our Daisy Queen was just as good as the Dairy Queen that was 30 miles away. Mom would splurge and we would get soft serve vanilla cones hand-dipped in chocolate hard shell (there had to be chocolate). We spent great times at the Daisy Queen celebrating good grades and ballgame wins.

Well, okay. I must admit that there is some comfort in this comfort food, but passing a tradition of revering success has to be a good thing. Those Daisy Queen cones and our TallCakes are more than chocolate indulgences. They say to the celebrated that we are proud enough that we want to dedicate time to you. When the cake comes out and everybody

says, "Wow!", that same sentiment is being expressed to the honoree. "Wow, you are awesome!" The cake disappears and the confidence builds.

For a \$1 cone or a \$7 cake, you get family, fortitude, and fudge. Now that's double dipping in victory.

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

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Letters...

Qataris Not Corrupting Trump

Continued from Page 16

Nor is Trump an outlier in American politics.

Mark Twain once noted in Pudd'nhead Wilson's New Calendar, "it could probably be shown by facts and figures that there is no distinctly native American criminal class except Congress." He should have included the entire political class.

When members of Congress aren't getting caught with bribe cash in their freezers (William Jefferson of Louisiana) or their boots (Robert Menendez of New Jersey), they're getting suspiciously wealthy versus their government salaries by e.g. trading stocks affected by the legislation they consider.

When members of the Supreme Court get caught accepting bribes ... er, gifts ... from billionaires with business before the Court, it's just

a "paperwork error," but we know better, don't we?

If there's a difference between Trump and other politicians, it's that Trump just smirks his way through the "scandals" instead of denying what he's up to with anything resembling seeming sincerity.

Are you trying to show contempt for this court?" a judge asked Mae West in her 1927 obscenity trial.

"On the contrary, your honor," she replied. "I was doin' my best to conceal it."

Trump is a modern Mae West minus the entertainment value. We know when he's lying. He knows we know when he's lying. His superpower is just not caring.

Thomas L. Knapp
The William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism
Gainesville, FL

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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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ASK THE ATTORNEY

War Stories with a Purpose



Thomas McCutcheon

Ask the Attorney is sponsored by local attorneys, McCutcheon & Hamner, P.C., as a service to the residents of NW Alabama.

Lawyers tend to tell stories that contain a lesson. A bunch of lawyers talking can be entertaining. After having practiced law for 35 years, I have a few stories of my own.

Thirty years ago, I represented a very nice guy who had a child by a previous marriage. During the pregnancy the parties did not get along and shortly after the child was born, they divorced. After that the two grandmothers (meaning the

mothers of the man and wife) got together and decided it would be better for their children if they just went their separate ways. These two ladies decided it would be best for their children to get a fresh start. They decided the father would not come around to see the child and the wife would forego the \$50 a week she was due in court ordered child support. The plan worked well and both people happily remarried and had other children except for one small problem, which became a big problem.

About 14 years later, the child of the previous marriage decided she wanted to meet her father. And after quickly seeing how well her brothers were treated with 4-wheelers, mini-bikes, and trails to ride, she demanded her own 4-wheeler, and her biological father declined. Within a month he had been sued for the child support he hadn't paid, which was about \$27,000.00 and an additional \$40,000.00 in interest. He didn't have the money, and the court could not help him because the court did not approve the agreement that the parties entered into. Without court approval that agreement wasn't valid. The judge couldn't help, and the judgment was entered. I took that case to federal court and argued that although child support can't be discharged in bankruptcy, the interest should be. I found a few cases throughout the United States to support my position, and I mean very few cases.

The federal judge declined to offer any relief, and my client got hit with a judgment he didn't expect and couldn't pay. The lesson is that if you enter into an agreement about child support it has to be ratified by the court which is more than just mailing a letter to the judge. The court has to enter an order approving the change.

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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Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

THE FACE IN THE MIRROR

Dear Dave,
How do you feel about moving credit card balances to other companies to get lower rates when you're trying to get out of debt? I just paid off my first credit card, and a friend suggested this idea for paying off the others faster.

Von
Dear Von,
Lots of people think they've really done something big to solve their debt problems when they do this. And I'm sure your friend is trying to help with this suggestion, but you've got to remember that getting out of debt, and gaining control of your finances, is all about changing the habits of the person you see in the mirror every day. You've got to make a commitment to a lifestyle change that includes getting out of debt, staying out of debt, and sticking to a written, monthly budget. That includes keeping track of every, single dollar, giving it a job to do and living on less than you make. Now, your friend's idea might help speed up the process a tiny bit. But the habits that got you

into debt in the first place won't change just because you've switched credit card companies. What you're talking about is an easy way to lower the interest rates—temporarily, in most cases—but it doesn't change your everyday behavior with money. When people have problems with debt, it's often the result of dumb financial choices and living above their means. I've run into so many folks who got into trouble with money just because they wanted to impress other people. But guess what? When you change, interest rates don't matter nearly as much. And when you shift your mindset about money, it will make a huge difference in a way that changing credit card companies and chasing lower interest rates can't. I hope this helps, Von. And take a look at my Baby Steps plan while you're at it. I promise, if you follow those steps, it will help you move forward, get ahead and put you on the road to a debt-free life and financial peace!

— 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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~ Courtesy David Curott ~ author of
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Community Notes...

Continued from page 4

Ceramics Hand-building Workshop with Aaron Benson. The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is pleased to present an opportunity to participate in a ceramics hand-building workshop with Aaron Benson, UNA Chair of Visual Arts and Design, Associate Professor and Director of Ceramic and Sculpture. Join us 9a.m.-3p.m. on Saturday, May 31st and learn more about clay by building and glazing your own work in this one-day class! Registration is limited, so sign-up soon! For more information call 256-760-6379.

Register online: <https://www.florencealmuseums.com/calendar>

Register in person: Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence, AL (Note: payments at Art Center can only be made with cash or check; deadline to register is May 30th).

Truth Seminar - Saturday, May 31, 10am-Noon. Topic "Body Building - Church Growth & Evangelism Outreach." At High Street Church of Christ, 500 South High Street, Tusculumbia. 256-762-7793 RSVP or micsrob@gmail.com

Future Seminars: "God, Israel And the Land Promise!" and "How We Got the English Bible!"

Wesley Chapel Homecoming and Decoration Day will be Sunday, June 1. Worship is at 11am followed by fellowship meal in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Wesley Chapel is located in the Central Heights Community north of Florence at 11025 County Road 15.

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

Archaeology Day - Pope's Tavern Museum, 203 Hermitage Drive, Florence, will host its third annual Archaeology Day from 9am-2pm June 7. Archaeology Day will give anyone interested an opportunity to learn more about archaeology at an active archaeological site. The free event includes artifact drawing, Plant Identification 101, blacksmith demonstration and flintknapping.

June 2-6 Junior Archaeology Camp - The Pope's Tavern, 203 Hermitage Drive, Florence, will host a Junior Archaeology Camp from June 2-6. The camp will introduce students to the concepts of archaeology through hands-on investigation and research. Cost is \$25 per student. Schedule: Group 1, ages 10-12 will be 9-11:30 a.m.; Group 2, ages 13-18, 1-3:30 p.m. Applications are available at www.florencealmuseums.com. 256-760-6379.

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>

First Metro presents "Toy Story" at the Shoals Theatre - Sunday, June 8, 2pm. 123 N Seminary St, Florence, 256-764-1700.

Summer Reading Event: Hoop for Fitness - Monday, June 2, 10am-11am. At the Sheffield Public Library, 316 N Montgomery Ave., Sheffield, 256-386-5633. Hoop for Fitness is a inter active Hula Hoop Show. For More Info Visit Sheffield Public Library.

Elgin Senior Center has a pancake breakfast the 2nd Monday of each month (Monday, June 9, 7am) Located at Alabama 101, Rogersville. Event Contact: 256-762-2104

Summer Reading Event - Friday, June 6, 10am-12pm at Riverfront Park, 321 Park Blvd, Sheffield. Tiny Hiney's Travelin' Farm (live animals), Wacky Wascals Balloon Art, Chubby Hubby Ice Cream Truck

Muscle Shoals Area Street Rods Alabama will have the 54th Rod Run on June 7 at Spring Park in Tusculumbia. Registration is \$20 at the gate. Gates open at 7 a.m. with show until 2 p.m. 256-710-6959, 256-412-4573, 256-366-9130

You're Invited to a Gospel Sermon Series - At Midway church of Christ with Kasey Harbin at 6000 U.S. Highway 43, Florence. June 8-13. Times of Assembly: Sunday 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. and Monday-Friday 7 p.m.

Please make plans to come... and bring someone with you! Facebook.com/midwaychurchofchrist.org

Gospel Meeting - Pine Hill Church of Christ, 1024 County Road 10, Waterloo, will have a Gospel Meeting on June 8-11, with guest speaker Dr. Laws Rushing, president of Mars Hill Bible School. He will speak on "the mission of Christ and the church." Sunday morning Bible study will be 9 a.m., with worship at 10 a.m., followed by a fellowship meal. There will be a 1 p.m. Sunday service. Services June 9-11 will be 7 p.m.

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.

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.

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

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

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

Mystery Photo

WEEK OF May 28

WIN LUNCH FOR 2

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Week of May 21 winner is Monty Shelton of Florence
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One entry per person. Winners will be announced each week in our paper and on our website. Winners can pick up their Gift Certificate at the Courier Journal office beginning Wednesdays after Noon.



Riding...

Continued from Page 8

welcomes motorcycle riders to experience the parkway and wants them to be safe so they can ride for the long haul. The roads are designed to blend into the natural environment, and that makes them beautiful—but that also means that they are different from what most riders are used to.

- Tight curves, often one after the other
 - Narrow lanes
 - Limited shoulders with little space to correct if riders go off the road
 - Wildlife often at the edge of the road or crossing, especially deer and turkey
- The parkway averages 50 motorcycle crashes each

year. It is essential that all riders, even experienced ones, adjust their riding style to the unique features of the parkway and maneuver safely.

Key Safety Tips for Motorcyclists on the Natchez Trace Parkway:

- Slow down on curves - Be prepared for decreasing radius curves that tighten as you go through them.
- Ride in the center of the lane and in single file - This position and riding formation gives riders more space to maneuver on narrow lanes.
- Scan the road for wildlife - Wildlife like deer and turkeys can often be found feeding on the side of the road and unexpectedly crossing it, especially at dusk and dawn.
- Check weather conditions - Avoid riding in adverse weather, which can make road surfaces slippery.

The parkway will be sharing safety tips on its website and social media channels. Every mile on the Trace tells a story—from ancient travel routes to Civil War history—but parkway employees want the most important story to be that every visitor made it home safely. For more information, visit the Natchez Trace Parkway Safe Driving Press Kit and NPS Motorcycle Safety page.

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Ask about specific enrollment times for those who qualify.

Colbert County Rabies Clinic - 2025

State law requires all dogs and cats over 3 months of age be vaccinated against rabies each year. **The fee is \$12 per animal.** We appreciate the local school boards and community centers for their cooperation. We are excited to be able to serve the community in this way for another year.

Any questions please call us at 256-386-9800.

Below are the dates and locations for this year's Rabies Clinics.

Randall B. Davis, DVM - Colbert County Rabies Officer

Monday, June 2
5-6:30 pm: Muscle Shoals HS Lot

Tuesday, June 3
5-6 pm: Cherokee HS Lot
6:30-7 pm: Tuscumbia Multipurpose Center

Wednesday, June 4
5-6:30 pm: Colbert Heights HS Lot

Thursday, June 5
5-6pm: Colbert County HS Lot
6:30-7pm: Sheffield Park & Rec Dept. Parking Lot

Saturday, June 7
8-10am: TN Valley Animal Clinic Lot

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at

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