

## Nominate a Worthy One

FLORENCE— United Way of Northwest Alabama has opened nominations for the **Clyde W. Anderson Award**, a prestigious honor recognizing individuals, groups, or organizations that have made a significant and lasting impact on the Northwest Alabama community. Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond for the betterment of marginalized and underserved groups and demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and commitment to the betterment of the Shoals and beyond? Then they should be nominated!

Current employees, board members, immediate family members associated with United Way of Northwest Alabama and past winners are ineligible. To nominate a deserving individual, group, or organization, please complete the nomination form by July 7, 2025. Nominations must include the nominee's name and contact information, a detailed description of their contributions and impact, specific examples of leadership and dedication to philanthropy, and any optional supporting documents, such as letters of recommendation, photos, articles, etc. Visit [surveymonkey.com/r/AndersonAward](https://surveymonkey.com/r/AndersonAward) to nominate.

### CLARIFICATION

## Leon Bates

IN CLARIFYING some of the information in last week's issue recognizing Leon Bates' work with the city of Florence, a memorial bench

See SHORTs... on Page 2

Volume 141 Number 33

June 11, 2025

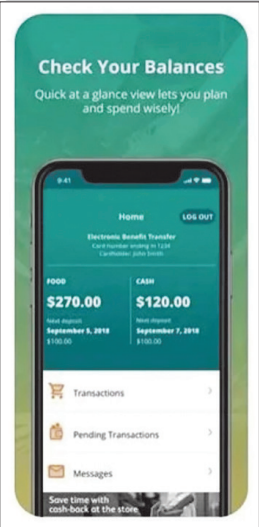
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## Lock that EBT

Electronic Fraud Targets All Users

MONTGOMERY,-- The Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) is strongly recommending all EBT users to utilize the new Lock/Unlock feature on the ConnectEBT app and website, especially the "Lock Card Everywhere" option which will help block out of state fraud.

From May 2023 -December 20, 2024, Alabama DHR replaced \$15.9 million of SNAP benefits from EBT fraud. From October-December 20, 2024, over 26,000 reimbursements were approved for \$10.5 million.

Officials believe 100% of these funds were stolen outside of Alabama.

See EBT... on Page 7

## NWSCC First Graduate

Benefiting from West Florence Scholarship

MUSCLE SHOALS - Former Northwest Shoals Community College student, K'Nesha Hudson is now the first graduate to benefit from the West Florence Scholarship. Hudson graduated this spring with an Associate in Applied Science, majoring in Salon and Spa Management with a Cosmetology option.

"We are so proud of K'Nesha," said Katie Smith, NWSCC's Director of Advancement. "Her hard work, determination, and commitment to success are truly inspiring, and it's an honor to have supported her journey through the West Florence Scholarship Fund."



Hudson

See THE 1ST... on Page 4

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## Catch the Spirit in Florence June 12

FLORENCE - The Florence City Council, Department heads, and Mayor Andy Betterton invite the Florence community to the 2025 State of the City program on Thursday, June 12, at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum. This year's theme, "Celebrate Florence: Catch the Spirit!" encourages the celebration of the momentum, spirit, and shared success of the city and offers additional information on



THURSDAY  
June 12

See CITY... on Page 4

## INSIDE this Issue

### Automotive Inside



Advance Auto Sales

- Ask the Attorney
- Medicare Minute
- Cat & Kids
- Savvy Senior
- Rabies Clinic



- Letters
- Moments in Time
- Flag Retirement Ceremony June 14



- Hocus Focus
- Moments in Time
- UNA Sports Camps
- Adopt-a-Friend
- SIGNS of the PAST



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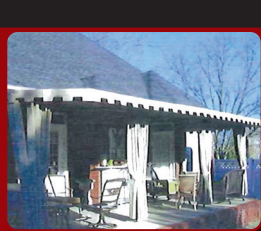
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## Community Notes

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](mailto:editor@courierjournal.net)

**The Summer Gospel Sermon Series** at Midway church of Christ with Kasey Harbin continues through June 13 at 7pm each night

Please make plans to come... and bring someone with you! Facebook.com/midwaychurchofchrist.org. 6000 U.S. Highway 43, Florence.

**The Lauderdale County ADC** (Alabama Democratic Conference) meets at 1pm each second Saturday (June 14) 1pm at Florence Public Library room 1, 350 N. Wood Ave., Florence. Chairwoman Joyce Nelson, 256-760-9236.

**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.

See NOTES... page 18

**LOST MALE CHIHUAHUA** near Sterling Blvd., Sheffield. He is fixed, light brown, no collar. **REWARD! Please Call 256-856-1799**

## Shorts...

### Leon Bates...

Continued from Page 1

and tree were dedicated May 19 at Deibert Park in his name. The ceremony was hosted by the City of Florence Tree Commission. Bates served as the Florence City Urban Forester/ Horticulture Director from 1997-2005 and was responsible for the planning and development of Deibert Park.

Attendees included Florence Mayor **Andy Betterton**, the Florence Beautification Board, friends, and family. In addition, a memorial tribute to Bates was presented by Florence Tree Commission advisor, Steve McEachron.

We regret any confusion that may have resulted from previous information that we received.

### Lilley Earns State Award

MUSCLE SHOALS- Northwest Shoals Community College's Executive Director of Student Financial Services, **Lisa Lilley**, was recently awarded the 2024-2025 M. Cecil Padgett Outstanding Achievement Award by the Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (AASFAA).

The annual award was presented to Lilley at the recent Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators conference in Atmore. It is one of the highest honors conferred by that financial aid organization.

Lilley has served in her current role as NWSCC Executive Director of Student Financial Services for the past seven years. She has worked an additional 32 years in financial aid offices for other colleges and universities in the state. Lilley holds a Master of Education degree from Auburn University at Montgomery and a Bachelor of Science degree from Liberty University.

The prestigious award is named for the distinguished financial aid director at Spring Hill College in Mobile who passed away in April 1999. It recognizes individuals who have provided exemplary service in the

field of student financial aid over a sustained period. Recipients demonstrate outstanding dedication, significant contributions, and remarkable achievements in advancing student financial aid and higher education in Alabama.



Lilley

Lilley. This recognition reflects on our team at Northwest Shoals and our passion to help our students realize that their dreams are possible."

### Lion Men Top ASUN Points

JACKSONVILLE, FL - The University of North Alabama was recognized with a major Atlantic Sun Conference award for the first time this season, winning the **Jesse C. Fletcher Trophy** during the recent ASUN Awards Banquet at One Ocean Resort in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Fletcher Trophy is the ASUN's men's all-sports trophy, presented each season to the athletic department that achieves the highest point percentage across the men's sports it sponsors.

The Lions finished the 2024-25 season with 124.5 out of a possible 153 points for an 81.3 success percentage. The rest of the top five included Lipscomb (70.5%), FGCU (70.3%), Stetson (68.6%) and North Florida (64.3%).

The UNA men's basketball and men's tennis programs led the way, as basketball netted 34.5 points with a shared regular season title and tennis earned 27 points with an outright regular season championship and tournament title.

Men's golf program earned 27 points after a fourth place finish in the 2025 ASUN Championship. Men's cross country had a fifth place finish in the 2024 ASUN Championship, led by individual champion, **Brian Bett**, and earned 24 points.

UNA baseball team

See SHORTS... on Page 3

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# Shorts...

## Lion Men Top ASUN Points

Continued from Page 2

rounded out the scoring with 12 points, finishing third in the ASUN Gold

Division and earning its first trip to the ASUN postseason tournament. All five programs finished with record seasons, earning their highest point totals of the ASUN era. The Lions joined the league in 2018.

# Yard Sales

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)

**KILLEN: GARAGE AND PLANT SALE** 379 Woodfern Dr. Fri. Sat. Counter top convection oven, grinder, lots more! Perennials, hydrangeas, peonies, hostas, beauty berry, too many to list.

**TUSCUMBIA MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE** 282 Stone Ridge Dr., Sat., June 7th, 7am-until? Furniture, Wedding Decor, and much more!

**FLORIAN: YARD SALE** 2232 Co Rd. 61. Middle Road. Sat. 6:30 until Furniture, clothes, tools, too much to mention.

**KILLEN MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE** 4959 Co. Rd. 73, Fri. & Sat., June 13th & 14th, 7 am-until? Furniture, Clothing, and much more! Rain or Shine!

**LEIGHTON: YARD SALE** 6891 6th St., June 14, Sat. 7 a.m., Boys clothes (3mo. to 7/8) Toys, Adult clothes (name brands), furniture, household items, tools, hunting equipment and more!

**RUSSELLVILLE: ESTATE SALE** 161 Hunterwood Cir Thurs. Fri. Sat. 9 am to 4 pm Glassware Galore, Christmas Dishes, Fine China, Silver & Silver plate, House Full Of Treasures! Check out pics on Facebook/search Kathy Oliver Grissom, or call 256-627-9246

**SHEFFIELD: MULTI-FAMILY BACK YARD SALE** Fri. June 13, Sat. June 14 8:00 am 103 W. 10th St Wood bar stools, vintage jewelry, tools, household items, new Acura 2020 RDX rims, Christmas decor, nutcrackers

**FORD CITY: YARD SALE** 305 East Lake Drive Sat. June 14th 8 am to 1 pm Houseware, hand and yard electric tools, futon, appliances, treadmill, tables, lamps, tv stand, adult clothes. Turn at Alabama Shores Rd off River Rd at Ford City.

**KILLEN: THREE-FAMILY YARD SALE** 409 Phillips Dr. Fri. and Sat. 8 am until Tools, clothes, kids things, miscellaneous from the garage.

**TUSCUMBIA GARAGE SALE** 47 Rockwood Dr., Valley Grove Estates off Old Hwy. 20E, Fri. & Sat., June 13th & 14th, 7am-until? Designer Purses, King & Queen Beds, Full Size Toddler Bed with Mattress, Loveseat, furniture, Large variety of Summer Clothing: Girls (6 months & up), Men's, Missy and Women's (SM-XL), Shoes, Sneakers (7-12), Designer Sunglasses, Jewelry, Plant stands, Car seat, Household items and more! All in Good condition! CASH Only.



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**The Florence, AL Compassus Hospice program recently received Hospice Program of the Year for 2024!**

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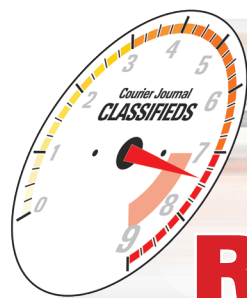
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## City...

Continued from Page 1

the city's status.

The doors open at 5pm for the public with food trucks including Sparks Sweet Smokes BBQ, Donut NV, Nashville Hot, and Oliver Creamery as well as cornhole and outdoor games. Interactive displays hosted by City departments and local nonprofit organizations will feature a creative, educational, and party-style atmosphere. The official program will begin at 6pm and will include remarks from Mayor Betterton highlighting the city's progress and plans.

Admission is free and the public is invited and encouraged to attend. Representatives from many local nonprofits and each city department will be available to answer questions and provide additional information before and after the presentation.

Attendees will have a chance to win a Renaissance Shoals giveaway, including a one-night stay at the hotel, a \$200 spa voucher, and a \$150 voucher for dinner at the 360 Grille. Stop by the Mayor's table during the event to register. The winner will be announced at the end of the evening. Come early and Catch the Spirit!

## The First...

Continued from Page 1

The West Florence Scholarship Fund was established and announced in November of 2021 through a generous \$100,000 private donation to the Northwest Shoals Community College Foundation. The scholarship supports residents living in public and income-based housing in West Florence, helping ease some financial barriers to higher education.

Hudson is a resident of Florence, credits the scholarship with helping her overcome financial barriers and staying focused on her goals.

"The West Florence Scholarship made it possible for me to follow my dream of becoming a cosmetologist," she said. "It lifted a huge burden off my shoulders and allowed me to fully commit to my education. I'm so grateful for the support and hope others in our community take advantage of this opportunity."

The West Florence Scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors and adults seeking to further their education. Recipients may enroll full- or part-time, and the scholarship is renewable. The application is available each November, on the college's Foundation webpage, [nwscf.edu/about-nw-scc/foundation/](http://nwscf.edu/about-nw-scc/foundation/)

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

**219 W. Tennessee St.  
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well in advance of the planned event. The Editor reserves right to shorten, edit, reword or omit submissions as seen fit. All information submitted for publication becomes property of the Courier Journal. Information published does not necessarily reflect an opinion or endorsement by the Courier Journal, members of its management, or its staff. Advertisers are responsible for all content and claims in their advertising.

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### CITY OF FLORENCE PUBLIC NOTICE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2025-2029 CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2025 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

The City of Florence is working on its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) plan — and your voice matters. We're especially looking to hear from residents with low to moderate incomes to help guide how these funds are used. You can view the draft plan online at [florenceal.org/planning-and-community-development/plans](http://florenceal.org/planning-and-community-development/plans) or in person at the Florence Planning and Community Development Department.

**The public comment period runs from Tuesday, June 10, 2025, through Thursday, July 10, 2025.**

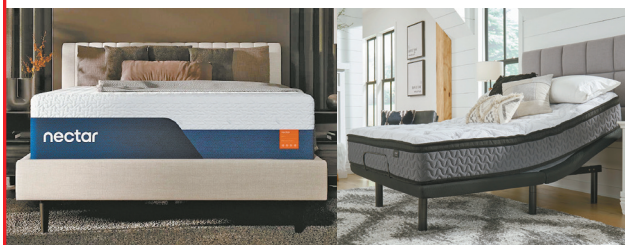
Please share your feedback by:

- Emailing us at [cdbg@florenceal.org](mailto:cdbg@florenceal.org), or
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# A CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR KIKI

## Entering Into Rest

We live in a world that praises motion. The more we do, the more we are seen. The more we achieve, the more we believe we are worth. But eventually, all that running begins to wear us thin.

Rest is not weakness. It is not laziness. It is needed. It is healing. It is how we reconnect to what is real and meaningful in our lives.

There is something powerful about slowing down. About making space to simply be. Not to produce. Not to prove. But to breathe. To reflect. To notice what we usually pass by.



Rev. Kiki Woods-Terry

In many traditions, this pause has a name: Sabbath. Not just a day, but a way of returning. A reminder that our value is not tied to what we accomplish, but to who we are. Sabbath is an invitation to stop reaching and start receiving.

Rest can feel unfamiliar at first. Many of us have spent so long moving that slowing down can feel like failure. But it is often in the stillness that something deeper begins to speak. It is in quiet that we begin to remember

ourselves again.

Taking time to rest is not about checking a box. It is about finding rhythm. A chance to step away from the noise and return to something quieter, more grounded, more true.

Rest allows our spirits to catch up with our lives. It gives us permission to pause and be honest with ourselves. It helps us hear the voice we often tune out. The one that reminds us we are already enough.

We do not need to earn rest. We were never meant to live burned out or always behind. And yet, many of us forget how to stop. We forget that rest is not a luxury—it is part of being human, and part of being whole.

At North Wood UMC, we believe in honoring that space. We believe rest is an act of love. Not only for ourselves, but for one another. We gather each Sunday not out of obligation, but to reconnect with peace, with purpose, and with each other. There is no pressure to be perfect, only an invitation to be present.



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Rev. Kiki Woods-Terry  
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## Now Open in Killen

Valley Credit Union celebrated the recent opening of its newest branch on Highway 72 in Killen with a ribbon cutting in May. Community members, local leaders, Shoals Chamber of Commerce representatives, and staff gathered to tour the new space, enjoy refreshments, and hear from Valley Credit Union CEO Dawn Truitt.

"This building is beautiful, but what matters most is what happens inside of it," said Truitt. "We're here to build trust, to serve with heart, and to be a place where people feel known. That's what sets Valley apart."

The Killen branch is now open. For more information, visit them online at [valleycreditunion.net](http://valleycreditunion.net). *Courtesy photo*

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EBT...

Continued from Page 1

Last month, data showed that approximately \$1.8 million in Alabama EBT expenditure occurred in the state of New York and approximately \$2.2 million was spent in Pennsylvania. We believe most, if not all, of this is fraud.

"The very best thing our SNAP clients can do is lock their card when they aren't using it," said Alabama DHR Commissioner Nancy Buckner. "With the funds being stolen by utilizing out of state EBT terminals, we believe using our newest feature on ConnectEBT and locking the EBT card will

truly combat this type of fraud."

Clients can choose from two options when locking their card: "Lock Card Everywhere" or "Lock Card". "Lock Card Everywhere" completely locks cards to ALL purchases anywhere. The "Lock Card" option will lock cards from purchases outside of Alabama, but it does allow online purchases. DHR strongly recommends the "Lock Card Everywhere" option when the card is not in use.

EBT cardholders may also sign up for alerts through the ConnectEBT app and website. These alerts include account activity alerts through the app, text, and/or email.



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645241-1



## Commentary

# Irresponsibility a Primary Culprit

**T**he news last week that animal shelters in Colbert and Lauderdale counties are far exceeding capacity is expected each year. However, it is usually weeks later in the summer before such an upsurge occurs.

There were over 500 pets needing be housed at the end of May with plenty of others already in local foster homes.

Many of us only want a certain type of dog, so we seek out breeders or puppy mills. I understand that drive. My family used to love German Shepherds when I was a kid. We still do, but that was a different era and was not in the pet-populated South. Patronizing puppy mills only encourages them to create and sell more litters.

We need to give much greater thought to adopting a shelter animal when your household has the room, can show commitment, and has the love to spare. Most of the time, there is a fee, but that fee covers a lot of expenses that otherwise would exceed

See **IRRESPONSIBILITY...** on Page 18

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

## Summer Camps

### Seven Lion Programs Welcome Our Youth

**FLORENCE**— The University of North Alabama Department of Athletics announced summer camp information for seven of its athletic programs last week, spanning from June–August. All UNA camps are open to everyone, limited by number, age, grade level, and sex.

Below is a comprehensive list of camps hosted by UNA programs this summer.

**Baseball** at Florence Sportsplex

Youth Camp Session 1: June 23-26, 9am-2pm, Ages 6-12.

See **CAMPS...** on Page 20

## Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 14



**TUSCUMBIA**—Colbert County American Legion Post #31 will hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony at 9am on Flag Day, Saturday, June 14 in Tuscumbia's Spring Park. The ceremony will be conducted by the American Legion Honor Guard and Post Commander, Doug Hargett. The public is invited to bring flags for disposal, and it is welcome to remain for a cook-out picnic to follow. Veterans, especially, are encouraged to attend.

See **FLAGS...** on Page 22

## in the Shoals

June 11, 2025

## Happening THIS WEEK



**UNA head football coach, Brent Dearmon**  
[RoarLions.com](http://RoarLions.com)

**BALANCE IN A TILTED WORLD** Men's Conference is June 13, 6pm at the Cowboy Church of Franklin County, 25100 Hwy. 24 in Russellville. The speaker is Bobby Martin. Meal provided, and the event itself is free. For more information, contact Jean 256-275-0730 or our Facebook page.

**THE WEST FLORENCE MUSIC FESTIVAL & Awards** Ceremony takes place Saturday, June 14 at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum for a night of musical celebration, spotlighting Mr. "Prince" Phillip Mitchell accompanied by the Members Only Band of North Alabama.

**SLEDGEFEST 2025 IN LEIGHTON** is set for June 13–15. This annual festival celebrates the rich musical heritage of Leighton, honoring local legends such as Percy Sledge and Jimmy Hughes. The event begins on Friday evening, continues through Saturday afternoon and evening, and concludes with a Gospel Afternoon on Sunday. The festival features a variety of activities, including live music performances, food trucks, artisan vendors, and special events like the Leighton Farmer's Market and the Leighton Museum. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call -256-446-8477.

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**Program: 6 PM**

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## YOUR Letters

Your Courier Journal welcomes tastefully presented typed or neatly written letters to be published as space allows. Letters may refer to timely matters of local, state, or national interest or any topic of concern or interest. Letters must include name, address and phone number for verification. (Only name and town will be published.) Letters are subject to editing. Please limit 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](mailto:editor@courierjournal.net)
- **FAX-** 256-760-9618

## Buy FROM America!

Editor,

After 77 years of life, I wonder what has happened to our republic. President Trump and the GOP message to the people of America is "AMERICA FIRST," but the American people run to the stores to buy all the things made in foreign countries that hate America! In the case of one (China), we are supporting

their quest to dominate every country on the face of the earth. China, Russia, India, and other countries are in serious financial trouble, and our continued purchase of products from countries that hate America only strengthen their continued desire for world domination!

In the past, I have goods made in China only to find them to be defective. In one case I bought a rechargeable battery-operated massager at a local superstore, I charged it to directions and then began to use it, and 20

minutes later it died. After recharging it again, the charge lasted less than 15 minutes. I called the store to see how to get a refund and return it, and was told my credit card charge would be refunded and they didn't want it back and I could either keep it or throw it out! I went out and bought a massager made in AMERICA that plugged into the wall, and it continues to work for long periods of time and still does. No more buying JUNK. I will buy goods made in AMERICA whenever possible.

In the past few weeks, I have seen recalls for toys made in China over lead paint issues! The government says 97% of the toy's imported come from China. I then saw a recall for a baby stroller which was made in

...There is no need for violence today, but there is plenty of need for courage...



See **LETTERS...** on Page 14





# Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

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## Who? and Why?

The next "Cat and Kids" column will be the last one. I will retire from this writing on June 24, 2025. I wrote the words below twenty-three years and three months ago. To put that into perspective, our children are now 37, 35, and 31. From that writing to now, I am fundamentally still the same. I have experienced and matured, and along the way, you have allowed me to be myself and share my experiences.

Dear readers, I want to thank you. You have been gracious, encouraging, and inspiring. Thank you for reading. I hope that I have done for you, at least once, what I set out to do. I love you. Here is my first Courier Journal column from March 20, 2002.

Today's column covers the basic questions of Who? And Why? I will answer these questions using phrases that I have heard or that I have said before.

Who am I?  
"Clint and Ruby's daughter" – progressive, strong, open, and fun.

"The Baby" – youngest of four, protected, optimistic, always wanting to 'bunch up' and do something. "College graduate" – University of Tennessee – don't hold it against me.

"Kevin's wife" – Twenty years and growing.

"Mother of three" – Lora, 14, Garrett, 12, Randall, 8. With this comes soccer mom, basketball fan, cheerleader, guide, chief cook and bottle washer, chauffeur, etc, and indescribable love.

"Child of God" – had to put this on the list, but it really encompasses the list.

"G.R.I.T.S." – definitely a girl raised in the South. It means that I cook green beans with drippings, I love fried corn and there's always sweet tea in my frig. Someone once said to me, "You are more Southern than you are black."

"African American" – my flavor.

"Teacher/Encourager" – "Teach them when you sit in your house, when you walk in the way, when you lie down and when you rise up."


"Writer" – "You should write that down."

Why do I write? I write because I always have. It's in my head and I have to put it on paper, or I will lose sleep.

I share the same happenings that you do, but I write them down. I am stimulated by good times and bad – by big events and little movements.

In my columns to come, I hope to present topics and describe scenes that will make you think back about your family, and that will encourage you to think ahead for your family and that will help you and your family to enjoy this moment.

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



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**What Does Sin Really Do?**

Sin separates, KILLS, and causes death, wars, famines, diseases, divorces, crimes, lust and wickedness and evils that entertain the world today. **James 1:15** "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." Nothing good comes from the world's pursuit of sin! The flesh doesn't know how to satisfy its appetite for sin! Every sin has a hook in it! And a dollar! There is no fear of what sin will do in this generation or lost folks eyes! Sin will cost you more than you can afford to pay! **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." **1 Corinthians 15:56** "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law." **1 John 3:8A** "He that committeth sin is of the devil;" **James 4:17** "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." **1 John 5:17a** "All unrighteousness is sin." Heaven, are you going? At death, without Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you will receive the shock of eternity as the devil moves in to claim your lost soul. Indescribable torment lies ahead.

**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" **BUT: Romans 5:8** "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." **1 Peter 3:18** "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." **1 Peter 2:24a** "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree," To get rid of your sin, now; ask Christ to forgive your sin, save you and bring you to God and at death you will be escorted by angels into His presence forever! Christ cannot fail! Trust Him! See **Ephesians 1:12&13**. HEAVEN, no death or sin there! See **1 Corinthians 2:9**.

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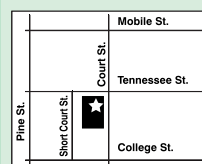
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# DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

**LOVE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, BUT THAT'S NOT AN EMERGENCY**

Dear Dave,  
What do you think about the idea of taking money out of your emergency fund in order to pay off your home early?  
Evans

Dear Evans,  
Trust me, I understand how it can be very tempting to throw a bunch of money at your house, get rid of the



mortgage payments and own it outright. Especially if you're plowing through the Baby Steps, and you feel like you're making great progress in terms of gaining control of your money.

But, I wouldn't drain my emergency fund to make it happen—even if it meant being completely debt-free sooner. To be honest, I wouldn't even deplete it to pay off the house. You know how life always seems to throw a curveball at you when you least expect it? The moment you write that big check and weaken your emergency fund, your car will develop transmission issues, the central unit will go out and your roof will spring a leak.

Okay, so maybe I'm having a little fun with you in order to make a point. But the truth is the only time I would even consider dipping into your emergency fund—for anything that isn't an actual emergency—is

if your emergency fund has become *way* too big, and you have a *very* small amount left to pay on the house. Keep in mind, your emergency fund should be three to six months of total household *expenses*, not three to six months of *income*. Besides, paying off the house is nothing even close to an emergency. The fact that you have to make payments on your home every month doesn't catch anyone with a mortgage by surprise.

Remember Murphy's Law, and how it says if something can go wrong it *will* go wrong? Evans, when you do things like your suggesting, you're just begging for Murphy to come visit for long, long time. And buddy, that's not *my* definition of 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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## Letters...

### Buy FROM America

Continued from Page 8

China! When are we going to learn that buying AMERICA supports hard working Americans and helps grow American businesses?

Buy American and from countries that don't hate us but NEED our dollars! God Bless America.

Phillip Goodale  
Florence

### But Bill Was Dead Wrong

Editor,

Many Democrats have decided to wait out Trump and do their best to get back to the White House in 2028.

That's the strategy ancient democrats adopted when Julius Caesar came to power in Rome. They were still waiting for their turn back in power 500 years later when the Roman emperors were finally

overthrown by the barbarians.

Our ancestors did more than just sit on their hands and say "pretty please" to the British king. There is no need for violence today, but there is plenty of need for courage.

There is also a need for rapid and sophisticated education of the citizenry in the provisions of our constitutional law. In addition, media, local government, and universities need to provide the country with a vivid rundown of the disastrous political history of kings and tyrants throughout time.

Former President Bill Clinton once said, "There is nothing wrong with America that can't be cured by what is right with America." He was dead wrong.

What is wrong with America has already clearly overpowered what is right with America, as government, corporations, and churches bend the knee to America's first ever king.

Kimball Shinkoskey  
Woods Cross, UT

### Tariffs Snarl Energy, Rural Development

Editor,

Despite record-high wind and solar generation, the U.S. renewable energy sector faces uncertainty. Tariffs and potential repeals of federal funding are creating roadblocks to the further buildout of energy projects.

Wind, solar, and other renewable energy projects have helped revitalize rural communities by creating jobs, generating new tax revenues, and providing lease payments to landowners.

However, energy projects rely on globally sourced components due to the U.S. supply chain's inability to meet rising demand. To avoid tariffs, solar developers are stockpiling panels, but the impact is only delayed. Battery storage is critical for grid reliability and faces tariffs of up to 65%.

The rising costs are forcing companies to

delay or cancel plans.

For example, the Plum Creek Wind Project in Minnesota was cleared for construction this fall, but the project developer, National Grid Renewables, has pressed pause due to escalating costs tied to tariffs.

The slowdown threatens rural economies by halting the local jobs and long-term positions in operations and maintenance that new construction brings. Tax revenues from energy projects fund vital infrastructure and critical public services like schools, emergency services, and roads. In Iowa's Howard County, 147 wind turbines account for 14.5% of the county's total annual tax revenue.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about 85% of U.S. farm households earned the majority of their income from off-farm sources. Hosting wind turbines or solar panels offers a stable source of income through

lease payments, but the additional income is at risk if renewable energy development declines.

Rural economies have grown thanks to renewable energy development, but without continued investment, many communities will not be able to unlock those economic benefits.

Contact your congressional representatives. Tell them to support federal funding for renewable energy development and oppose tariffs that will affect future development in rural communities.

Mallory Tope  
Policy Associate  
Center for Rural Affairs  
Lyons, NE

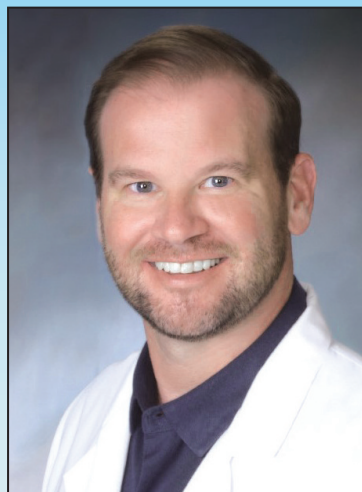
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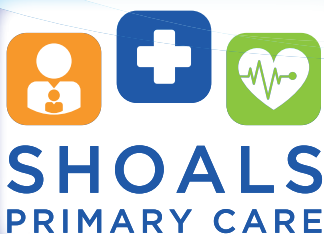
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**Thomas McCutcheon**

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## HIPAA Violation

We get calls on a fairly routine basis about HIPAA violations. HIPAA violations are serious, and they are an invasion of privacy. The law is designed to protect confidentiality of medical records which contain far more information than diagnosis and treatment. Healthcare providers are required to safeguard medical records and make sure that the information given to healthcare providers is not at risk of being shared without proper consent.

What is not widely understood is that the HIPAA Act does not really provide money damages to the person whose information was disclosed. Penalties are assessed against the healthcare provider but not paid to the person whose information was impermissibly disclosed. It could very well be that a person could sue for an invasion of privacy or a failure to safeguard their information adequately and recover damages (put money in your pocket) but the Act itself is designed to be enforced by the Health and Human Services Office or a State Attorney General.

There is a structure of fines that range from violations that the healthcare provider did not know about and could not have realistically avoided as the very first level of monetary penalties. The highest fines (level 4) are assessed against providers who willfully neglect the privacy of their patients and make no effort to correct or follow the privacy, security, and breach notification rules.

We do know that we have to use HIPAA compliant release of information language, and we also can use HIPAA to have access to our clients' medical information when healthcare providers occasionally want to hold it to attempt to coerce payment. There are also rules under the HITECH Act that allow us to get medical records in digital form for a very low cost. Sometimes medical records will be thousands of dollars in large cases.

Certainly, if someone's information was wrongfully given out, it could result in fines and it could result in a suspension or termination of the employee of the healthcare provider who violated HIPAA. The main enforcement actions of HIPAA deal with fines of the healthcare provider who breaks the rules, but not necessarily payment to the person whose information was disclosed.

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

Please send the questions to:  
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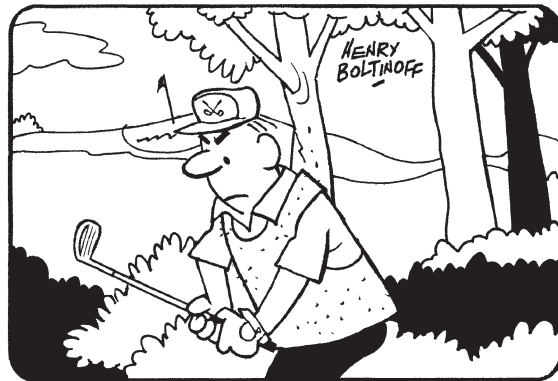
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Club is longer. 2. Tree trunk is thinner. 3. Vest neckline is different. 4. Cap is larger. 5. Cloud is larger. 6. Leaves are missing from tree.

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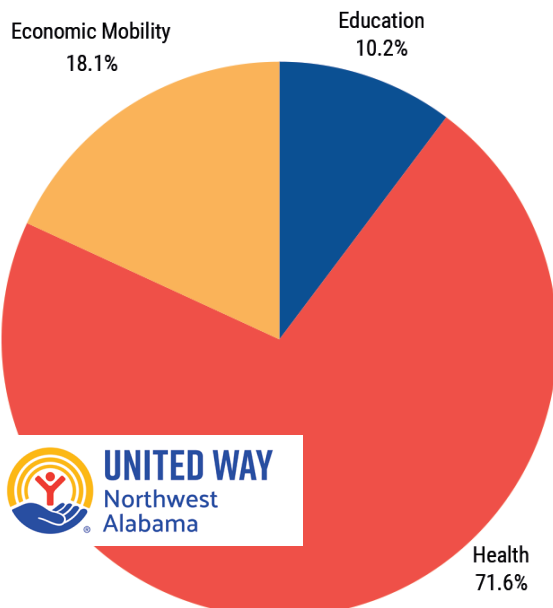


# Is your company involved in the United Way's WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN?



## PROGRAM FOCUS AREA BREAKDOWN

Education Health Economic Mobility



**32.5%**

of children in  
Northwest Alabama  
live in families  
struggling to afford  
basic needs.

**The United Way Workplace Campaign** unites employees within a business or organization, across all industries to give back to the community where they live and work. By donating and volunteering, and advocating for causes that matter to them, individuals can make a difference. Campaigns go beyond raising money for a cause; they strengthen connections between employees and their community.

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Last year, 3,619 Northwest Alabama residents received access to vital services through our community investment partners. United Way of NW Alabama invests your donations in high-performing organizations through an extensive and competitive application and grant process.

**49%**

of households in  
Northwest Alabama  
earn less than \$50,000  
a year

For more information, call the United Way of Northwest Alabama, 256-764-5892.

Space courtesy of Courier Journal.





# Savvy SENIOR

## Essential Legal Documents All Seniors Should Have

Dear Savvy Senior,  
What kinds of legal documents do I need to help my family take care of me in my elder years? I would like to get my affairs in order but could use some help.  
Approaching 80

Dear Approaching,  
All adults, especially an older adult like yourself, should have at least five legal documents to protect yourself and your family. These documents will make sure your wishes regarding your estate are legal and clear and will help minimize any conflicts and confusion with your family and your health care providers if you become seriously ill or when you die. Here are the key documents you need, along with some tips to help you create them.

**Durable Power of Attorney:** This document allows you to designate someone you trust to handle your financial affairs if you become incapacitated.

**Advance Directive:** This includes two documents that spell out your wishes regarding your end-of-life medical treatment. The two documents are a "living will" which tells your doctor what kind of care you want to receive if you become incapacitated. And a "health care power of attorney" (or health care proxy), which names a person you authorize to make medical decisions on your behalf if you're unable.

To complement your advance directive, you should also consider getting a Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment – see [POLST.org](http://POLST.org). This is a state specific form that your doctor would fill out that translates your end-of-life wishes into medical orders to ensure your wishes are carried out.

**A Will:** This lets you spell out your wishes of how you'd like your property and assets distributed after you die, whether it's to family, friends or a charity. It also allows you to designate an executor to ensure your wishes are carried out and allows you to name guardians if you have dependent children.

In addition to a will, if you own real estate or have considerable assets, another option you may want to consider is a "revocable living trust." This functions like a will but allows your estate to avoid the time and expense of probate (the public legal process that examines your estate after you die) and helps ensure your estate's privacy.

**HIPAA Release:** This form gives your healthcare provider permission to discuss your medical care and medical bills with those you designate. You may need specific HIPAA release forms for each medical professional or health care establishment you deal with.

### Do-It-Yourself

If you have a simple estate and an uncomplicated family situation, there are do-it-yourself resources that can help you create all these documents for a few hundred dollars. Some top-rated options to consider include Quicken WillMaker & Trust software (see [WillMaker.com](http://WillMaker.com)), Trust & Will ([TrustandWill.com](http://TrustandWill.com)) and Legal Zoom ([LegalZoom.com](http://LegalZoom.com)).

### Get Help

If, however, you want or need assistance or if you have a complicated financial situation, blended family or have considerable assets, you should hire an attorney. An experienced lawyer can make sure you cover all your bases – especially when writing a will or living trust – which can help avoid family confusion and squabbles after you're gone.

Costs will vary depending on where you reside, but you can expect to pay somewhere between \$500 and \$2,000 for a basic estate plan that includes a will, power of attorney and advance directive. If you want your estate plan to include a living trust, that can run anywhere between \$1,500 and \$5,000.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys ([NAELA.org](http://NAELA.org)) and the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils ([NAEPC.org](http://NAEPC.org)) are two good resources that have directories on their websites to help you find someone in your area.

If money is tight, check with your state's bar association (see [FindLegalHelp.org](http://FindLegalHelp.org)) to find low-cost legal help in your area. Or call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 for a referral.

Send your senior questions to:  
Savvy Senior,  
P.O. Box 5443,  
Norman, OK 73070,  
or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org).  
Jim Miller is a contributor to the  
NBC Today show and author of  
"The Savvy Senior" book.



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# STRANGE but TRUE

• A Bangkok restaurant has been serving customers from a "perpetual stew" that has been cooking for more than four decades.

• Each year, Americans spend more on beauty than education.

• The Empire State Building generates more revenue from its observation decks than from its 85 floors of office space.

• Vincent van Gogh fell in love with his cousin Kee Vos Stricker, and on one occasion proposed marriage, even putting his hand over a candle and saying he wouldn't remove it until they could marry. Kee's disapproving father, however, had other ideas: He blew out the candle and banned the artist from the house.

• The stiletto heel was inspired by a dagger.

• A convicted con man once sold a "solar-powered clothes dryer" in national magazines for the bargain price of \$49.95. Of course, buyers probably didn't consider it such a bar-gain when all they

got for their money was a length of clothesline.

• Actor Mark Ruffalo dreamed he had a brain tumor. The next day, a CT scan revealed a benign growth behind his ear.

• The town of Idyllwild, California, elected their first, and most unusual, mayor in 2012 -- a golden retriever named Max. After he passed away the following year, he was succeeded by Maximus Mighty-Dog Mueller, aka Mayor Max II.

• A study claims that falling in love comes at the cost of losing two close friends.

• In 1996, two neighbors in Devon, England, hooted at each other for an entire year while believing they were actually communicating with owls.

• In medieval Europe, butter was a luxury item that only the rich could afford to use regularly in their cooking.

*Thought for the Day:*  
"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals." -- Zig Ziglar

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## Dr. Andrew Williams has just joined

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Our **"Third Thursday" Medicare Education Classes**, offered each month, allow you the opportunity to learn more. Call to register now to attend one of these classes!



**EXPERIENCE MATTERS!**

Meet with a Medicare Plan Expert:

**Ikey Fowler**  
or  
**Beverly Stamps White**

**256-648-5710**

Our next Medicare Class will be  
**Thursday, June 19th**  
11am-Noon @ Alabama Health Guidance

For accomodation of persons with special needs at meetings, call 256-648-5710

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 9 organizations which offer 80 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) for help with plan choices.



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## Notes...

Continued from page 2

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

**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 are 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

**Wood Avenue Church of Christ** renews its Annual Wednesday Summer Series with guest speakers each Wednesday at 7pm through August 27. The theme this summer is The Book of Job: Finding God During Suffering. Everyone is welcome to any all services. Wood Avenue is located at 400 North Wood Ave. in Florence (Northeast corner from Wilson Park).

June 11- Finding God Because He is the Creator of Life: David Smith (Chattanooga)

June 16-18 - VBS: James Senn (Florence)

June 25- Finding God Because the Devil is Real: Brian Giselbach (Hebron, KY)

July 2- Finding God Before Suffering Begins: Kerry Richardson (Northport)

July 9- Finding God When You Lose Everything: Andy Kizer (Florence)

July 16- Finding God When A Loved One Dies: Mike Gifford (Florence)

July 23- Finding God During Personal Health Problems: Bill Bagents (Florence)

July 30- Finding God When Suffering Causes Family Problems: Roy Williams (Jasper)

August 6- How To Be A True Comforter When Someone Suffers: Neal Pollard (Bowling Green, KY)

August 13- Worshipping God Through the Pain: Lonnie Jones (Meridianville, AL)

August 20- Job's Covenant to Remain Pure (Self-justification and Suffering): Matthew Crosswhite (Tusculum)

August 27- Future Blessings from God: David Barker (Moulton)

**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>

**Playwright William Gibson's renowned drama "The Miracle Worker"** will be performed outdoors on the grounds of Ivy Green, Helen Keller's birthplace in Tusculum, at 300 N. Commons in Tusculum on weekends from June-mid-July (June 13,14,20,21,27,28). Celebrating over 60 years of performances, the play follows Helen Keller's journey from illness and isolation to her breakthrough under the guidance of Anne Sullivan. Produced by the Helen Keller Foundation, Inc. and directed by Caroline Self, the show features authentic period costumes and professional acting. For tickets or to request special seating accommodations (with at least two weeks' notice), contact 256-383-4066 or email [helenkellerbirthplace@comcast.net](mailto:helenkellerbirthplace@comcast.net).

**LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:**  
**Tuesday, June 10** Muscle Shoals Public Library, 9am - Noon  
**Tuesday, June 10** AT&T - Muscle Shoals, 233 Avalon Ave, Suite E, 1pm - 5pm

**LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:**  
**Tuesday, June 10** Muscle Shoals Public Library, 9am - Noon  
**Tuesday, June 10** AT&T - Muscle Shoals, 233 Avalon Ave, Suite E, 1pm - 5pm

See NOTES... page 22

## Commentary

### Irresponsibility...

Continued from Page 8

\$200 or more.

If you can't make that full-time commitment, think about becoming a foster home to a pet or two. That can help relieve some short-term housing burdens at local shelters.

And many from breeds that are flat labeled "dangerous" or "aggressive" such as pit mixes are big softies looking for a lap and a real life with loving people.

As humans, our pets should be a big part of our lives. As pets, their humans ARE their lives. We are their everything. There are times when age or health issues of the pet require tough quality of life decisions be made. Those are always hard.

There are very few acceptable reasons that justify taking a family dog to animal control and none that justify dumping one (or a litter) off somewhere away from home and driving off. That selfish and callous mindset requires some serious self-reflection.

The economy is certainly an issue. Pet ownership is not inexpensive, and prospective pet owners need to understand that it's more than some dry food, a brush, some cat litter, and a \$12 rabies shot annually. Those cute little puppies and kittens grow up into adult pets that need upkeep.

Sometimes senior pet owners pass away or are displaced from his/her home to a care facility or new living arrangement where pets are not welcome. That is unfortunate, and often heartbreaking, for the pet and the owner. New environments are strenuous enough, but that loss of the mutual companionship between the pet and owner doubles the heartache. Arrangements often can and should be made to keep both together, even if more concerted efforts need to be made by the custodial agents.

It's hard to envision my giving away a pet or taking it to the shelter because we are moving to a place that doesn't accept pets. Find a different place. If they don't accept the furry family members, they don't get the rest of us.

All that aside, irresponsibility is the

biggest culprit for overcrowded shelters.

Some people let their dogs run loose. Some refuse to get their animal spayed or neutered, relying on an assortment of flimsy excuses and justifications.

Frankly, being chained out or boxed into an 8 x 8 space outside - winter or summer - is no life for any mammal, especially one that loves its family and close contact so much.

As a community we MUST accept greater responsibility that comes with pet care and ownership. We must be better stewards of those lives that depend on us so.

Spaying and neutering should be a priority, as should having appropriate space, water, and activities for outside dogs. We can't tell pets that are in heat to simply resist the advances of other animals.

No dogs or cats should roam neighborhoods, city or county, EXPECIALLY around sunrise, dusk, or at night. Safety is a concern for animals, drivers, pedestrians, and homeowners. In addition, with wooded habitats being so aggressively eliminated by urban sprawl, coyotes are everywhere, including local subdivisions. They are patient, keen hunters, and very organized. They WILL find food, wild or not. Don't kid yourself into believing otherwise.

If you already own a pet that is not "fixed," there is a local nonprofit that can help if the cost of spaying or neutering honestly presents a financial hardship, Northwest Alabama Spay and Neuter Assistance - [nasana2015@yahoo.com](mailto:nasana2015@yahoo.com). Another, Shoals Spay and Neuter Coalition, [shoalsspayandneutercoalition@gmail.com](mailto:shoalsspayandneutercoalition@gmail.com), should soon be active.

One or two apathetic pet owners can unknowingly help create hundreds of additional dogs or cats in a few short years, animals that will place even greater burdens on the system. We are better than that. We must remain concerned.

If we think about it long enough, we can understand how our small actions (or inactions) can impact the quality of life for so many furry friends.

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# Medicare Minute

## "Medicare vs Employer Coverage"

We meet weekly with individuals who are currently working but becoming eligible for Medicare. Their dilemma is often whether to stay on their employer coverage past the age of 65 or go on Medicare.

Here are a few things to think about. For those of you who are married you will want to know how it will affect your spouse if you leave employer coverage. If your spouse is not old enough for Medicare it may affect your decision differently than someone whose spouse is also Medicare eligible. If your spouse is also Medicare eligible you will want to know what your exact premium will be for you and your spouse together and separately. If that cost is high you may benefit by looking at a Medicare plan outside the company.

One important factor is the prescription drugs, if any, that you are taking. Often employer coverage will cover expensive prescription drugs better than Medicare. Also, employer coverage does not have the "donut hole" or coverage gap that Medicare drug plans have.

How Medicare works and how it coordinates with other Medicare plans can be very confusing. Some companies require their employees to go through a third-party call center to obtain their Medicare health plan. The biggest disadvantage with going through a call center outside of the area is you lose the ability to have a local agent explain your coverage face-to-face and that can go to the insurance company on your behalf if you have a problem.

In most cases it's best to stay on your employer sponsored plan. I would never encourage anyone to leave their employer coverage but the decision to do so is an individual one. What's best for your former coworker may not be what's best for you. Feel free to contact our office anytime if we can be of assistance.

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



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The following vehicle will be sold by auction at Bacon Auto & Alignment, 225 S Wood Ave., Florence, AL 35630, at 8:30 a.m. July 7th, 2025. If redeemed, must pay the cost of the new motor, installation of the motor, and all fees. 256-766-6500

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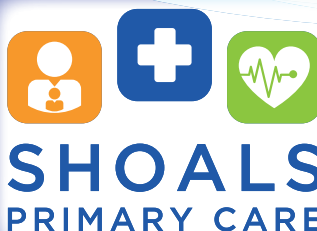
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**\$34,500**, SR5 pkg., 28,600

one owner miles, adult driven, garage kept., Like New condition. Hard Tonneau bed cover, BF Goodrich All Terrain Tires with 2" level kit. Serious inquiries only with approved funds to purchase before any test drives. Call 256-227-5472 Decatur

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**NISSAN: ALTIMA, 2006 \$6,450.** 2.5 S model. 1 owner, only 77k miles. 5-Speed manual. Full power. Michelin tires. Just serviced. Excellent condition. 256-527-2125

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## Camps...

Continued from Page 8

Session 2: July 14-17, Ages 6-12,

**Men's Basketball:** UNA Student Rec. Center (333 Covington St, Florence)

Tony Pujol Basketball Camp Day 2: July 15-18, 9am-3pm, Grades K-6th.  
Day 3: July 22-25 from 9am-3pm, Grades K-6th

**Women's Basketball:** Flowers Hall (Camps includes a T-Shirt and parent seating is available.

Skills Camp: June 4-6, 1-4pm, K-8th Grade  
Elite Camp: June 22, 1-4pm, 9th-12th Grade  
Little Lions Camp: July 23-24, 9-11am, Ages 2-5  
Elite Camp: August 3 from 1-4pm, 9th-12th Grade

**Football:** Brent Dearmon Camps (Local)  
QB Camp, Cox Creek Sports Complex, June 10 from 11am-3:15pm, Rising 8th-12th Grade  
Specialist Camp, Cox Creek Sports Complex, June 12 from 11am-3 pm, Rising 8th-12th Grade  
Elite Camp 1, June 13 from 5-8:30pm, Rising 8th-12th Grade, Braly Stadium  
Future Lions Youth Camp, June 16-18 from 8am-12pm, Ages 6-12, Cox Creek Sports Complex

The Shoals Shootout 7-on-7, July 17 from 9:30am-6pm, High School Teams / Rising 8th-12th, Florence Sportsplex. Each team guaranteed four pool play games and entry into single game elimination tournament.  
Elite Camp 2, July 18 from 10am-1:30pm, Rising 8th-12th Grade

**Soccer:** Cox Creek Sports Complex  
Chris Walker Lion Soccer ID Camp: July 27 from 10am- 3:30pm, 9th-12th Grade

**Softball**  
Little Lions Camp: June 2-4 (Registration Closed)  
Elite Camp: Anderson Softball Stadium at Cox Creek, Eight Available Dates, 7th-12th Grade.

**Volleyball:** Flowers Hall  
College Prospect Camp, June 14, 9th-12th Grade  
Positional Camp: July 7, 6th-12th Grade  
Serving Clinic: July 7, 6th-12th Grade  
All Skills Camp: July 8, 5th-12th Grade

Serving Clinic: July 8, 5th-12th Grade

More information, pricing, and registration details can be found at [www.roarlions.com](http://www.roarlions.com) and click on the "fan zone" tab.



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**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. 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 plays well with most dogs.



**Meet Luna!**

Birthday girl coming soon — Luna turns 2 years old on July 2nd! Luna is a joyful, affectionate, and intelligent pup who's ready to find her forever home. She's playful, adaptable, and absolutely adores being in the water — pools are her happy place! She also loves to be held and snuggled, and she'll soak up all the love you have to give. Whether you're looking for a dog to play fetch with, a snuggle buddy for movie nights, or a companion for kids and other pets, Luna is the full package.

**Meet Alexander!**

This sweet, resilient boy is small to medium in size and full of love to give. Alexander has been through a tough year—he was hit by a car and suffered a spinal injury. But thanks to his incredible spirit, he's made a remarkable recovery and is now ready for a forever home filled with love and stability.

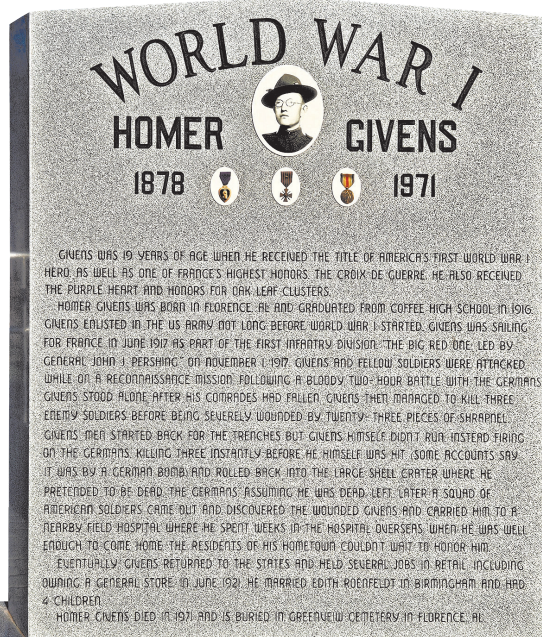


Alexander does need to be kept on a leash at all times, as he's been known to try and make an escape. He's still learning to trust people fully and needs reassurance that he won't be abandoned again. With a little patience and a lot of love, Alexander will be the most devoted couch potato and cuddle buddy you could ask for.

**The adoption fee is \$85 and includes everything your new pet needs to be on track for a happy, healthy life: vaccinations, a microchip, spay/neuter, and heartworm test.**

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

## SIGNS OF THE PAST



**Location: 34.8121°N, 87.6237°W**  
**Veterans Memorial Park, Florence**

Fittingly this memorial was erected in the Veterans Memorial Park in Florence. At the age of 19, he was America's first WWI hero and received France's highest honor after being severely wounded. Homer died in 1971 and is buried in Greenview Cemetery, Florence.

~ Courtesy David Curott ~ author of  
"Historical Markers and Other Signs of the Past"



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**HOME FOR RENT**  
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Kairos Property Mgt.  
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Water Included, \$25  
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man, etc, We will buy it running or  
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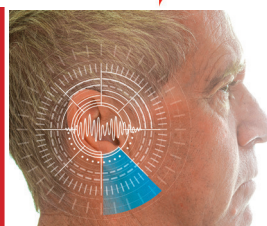
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grey interior, 3rd row seat, power windows.  
Automatic transmission, 8 cyl. Never in an  
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## ESTATE AUCTION

**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 21**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**NICE BRICK HOUSE ON 5± AC.,  
CARPORT, JEEP SUV, PERSONAL PROPERTY**

**SELLING FOR THE ESTATE OF JUDY DANIEL**  
**8768 MIDDLE BUTLER ROAD • IRON CITY, TN**

**DIRECTIONS:** From Florence travel Hwy. 13 North toward Collinwood to Middle Butler Rd. Turn right and go about 3 miles to sale site on left. From Collinwood travel Hwy. 13 South to Middle Butler Rd. Turn left & go about 3 miles to sale site on left. **WATCH FOR HOOD AND HESTER AUCTION SIGNS AND ARROWS.**

**TERMS OF SALE:** REAL ESTATE: requires a 10% non-refundable deposit day of sale. Balance due at closing on or before July 21, 2025. Taxes for 2024 will be prorated day of closing. Possession with deed day of closing. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** Driver's license required for registration, cash, cashier's check, certified check or personal check. Possession with confirmation of good check. No cards accepted. **ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS DAY OF SALE TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL PRIOR ADVERTISEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLAT & PICTURES GO TO WWW.AUCTIONZIP.COM (36040), OR CONTACT HOOD & HESTER AUCTION.**



**REAL ESTATE WILL SELL @ 10:00 A.M.**

Homes built prior to 1978 are subject to have lead base paint. In accordance with federal law all potential buyers will be allowed 10 days, prior to the sale, to have house inspected at their expense. A form may be signed day of auction waiving this right.

## Hood & Hester Realty & Auction

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# Flags...

Continued from Page 8

Flag Day was established in 1916 through an Act of Congress, when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as a day to honor the and what it represents. Properly disposing of faded and tattered American flags is essential to show respect for our country and its symbols. In this way commitment to the values and principles which the flag represents is demonstrated. The Veterans of American Legion Post #31 will provide this simple, yet meaningful flag retirement ceremony by solemnly burning the flags.

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American flags is essential to show respect for our country and its symbols. In this way commitment to the values and principles which the flag represents is demonstrated. The Veterans of American Legion Post #31 will provide this simple, yet meaningful flag retirement ceremony by solemnly burning the flags. Worn flags may be offered in advance by placing them in the “mail-type” bin located on Main Street beneath the flagpole in front of Emily Cooper Art Studio and the American Legion Post Hall.

For more information, contact Post Commander Doug Hargett, 256-483-0610.

# Community Notes...

Continued from page 18

**The acclaimed Southern rock band OTIS** will perform in Muscle Shoals at Champy's on June 14. This is a rescheduled show from March 15.

Kentucky born and bred, OTIS is a young, hard rocking quartet that performs and plays their exciting original music like they've been around for 40 years. The band blends roots music, blues, classic rock, soul, and Southern rock, creating an original sound reminiscent of some of the great classic rock/Southern rock bands from back in the day.

OTIS' new single, entitled Last Fool in Line, is a bluesy, groove-infused original rocker, their first new original song in seven years.

Visit the band's website: [theotisband.com](http://theotisband.com).

**District 1 Community Cleanup 8-11am** in West Florence on Saturday, June 21. Meet at Mt. Moriah PB Church (Life Center parking lot) 820 W Irvine Ave. Let's make a difference by cleaning up our streets and public spaces. Register a group or just meet there! The city of Florence will provide the gloves, bags, and litter grabber.

**Colbert County American Legion Post #31 will hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony** at 9am on Flag Day, Saturday, June 14 in Tuscumbia's Spring Park. The ceremony will be conducted by the American Legion Honor Guard and Post Commander, Doug Hargett. The public is invited to bring flags for disposal and is welcome to remain for a cook-out picnic to follow. Veterans, especially, are encouraged to attend.

Flag Day was established in 1916 through an Act of Congress, when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14th as a day to honor the and what it represents. Properly disposing of faded and tattered American flags is essential to show respect for our country and its symbols. In this way commitment to the values and principles which the flag represents is demonstrated. The Veterans of American Legion Post #31 will provide this simple, yet meaningful flag retirement ceremony by solemnly burning the flags.

Worn flags may be offered in advance by placing them in the "mail-type" bin located on Main Street beneath the flagpole in front of Emily Cooper Art Studio and the American Legion Post Hall.

For more information contact Post Commander Doug Hargett at 256-483-0610.

**Superhero Chefs in Tuscumbia will host a Main Street Network Community Introduction** on Wednesday, June 11 from 9-10am. Presented by Main Street Alabama and Downtown Tuscumbia, Inc., this event welcomes community members to learn about the opportunities and benefits that come with Tuscumbia's new designation as a Main Street Alabama Network Community. All are invited to attend and take part in this exciting step for downtown development. For more information, visit [DowntownTuscumbia.com](http://DowntownTuscumbia.com) on Facebook.

**The Third Annual Make Music Day Florence is set for Saturday, June 21**, bringing a citywide celebration of sound to parks, porches, shops, and stages throughout the community. Held each year on the summer solstice, Make Music Day Florence is part of a global movement that spans more than 1,000 cities worldwide.

This year's theme — "Make Music Day: There's Something in the Water" — pays tribute to Florence's rich cultural current and the wave of local talent flowing through the Shoals.

What to Expect: Free performances "Performed by Anyone, Enjoyed by Everyone" across Florence.

Open to musicians of all ages, genres, and experience levels.

Venues—including businesses, parks, churches, and more—can register and request live performers.

Performers can register to be matched with a venue.

Already have a location and performer? Register your event!

Presented by Mayor Betterton & City Council in collaboration with the Florence Academy of Fine Arts, Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, Florence Arts & Museums, Florence Parks & Recreation, Shoals Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Florence Alliance.

**Florence Camerata will sponsor a Cabaret-style fundraising event** featuring many talented local soloists and small groups on Sunday afternoon, June 29 at 2pm. The performance, entitled "BY POPULAR DEMAND," will be on in the basement annex of the First Presbyterian Church in Florence. This will be a casual, intimate setting with table seating and refreshments. It is a fundraiser for Florence Camerata, so donations will be solicited. For more information, call 256-810-9512, or check our Facebook page (Florence Camerata) or visit [www.FlorenceCamerata.com](http://www.FlorenceCamerata.com).

**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](mailto:fdavis@florenceal.org) or call 256-760-6420.

**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.

**Religious Abuse Support Group of the Shoals** will meet the first (June 8) and last Sunday (June 29) of every month. Time and location will vary. Check Facebook for details: <https://www.facebook.com/ragshoals>

**Pancake Breakfast — Monday, July 17**, 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.

**Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club**, 10am, third Wednesday, (June 18) at Helen Keller Public Library, 511 Main St., Tuscumbia. [nancy537481@yahoo.com](mailto:nancy537481@yahoo.com)



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No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

## Lauderdale Co. Rabies Clinic June 10-14, 2025

Alabama State law requires that all dogs and cats three months of age or older be vaccinated against rabies each year. **THE FEE IS \$12 (CASH ONLY) PER ANIMAL** at any given stop on the notices. We will attempt to follow this schedule rain or shine. Please be patient if we run late. For all stops, please have your cat confined in a pet taxi or other type of box. **LEAVE ALL CATS** in the vehicle and the Veterinarian will come to your vehicle and give the vaccine. **Dogs MUST** be leashed or confined to a pet taxi, or left in your vehicle. Please bring water with you for your pets, so that they remain hydrated.

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

**Tuesday, June 10**

3:00-3:45pm ..... Waterloo High School

4:00-4:45pm .....Waterloo Fire Department Station 2

5:00-5:30pm ..... Gravely Springs

5:45-6:30pm .....Oakland Community Church

6:45-7:45pm .....Threets Crossroad/Liberty Baptist Church

**Thursday, June 12**

3:00-4:00pm .....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**

3:00-4:15pm ..... Rogers High School

4:30-5:30pm .....Lone Cedar Church

5:45-6:30pm .....Mt. Zion Church

6:45-8:00pm .....St Florian Park

**Saturday, June 14**

8:45-9:15am ..... Handy Recreation Center

9:30-10:30am .....Lauderdale County Co-Op

10:45-12:00pm ..... Broadway Recreation Center

12:15-1:15PM .....Royal Avenue Recreation Center

1:30-3:00PM .....Cox Creek Farmer's Market



• **On June 9, 1934**, Donald Duck made his cinema debut in Disney's “The Wise Little Hen,” along with his pal Peter Pig. The pair do their best to get out of helping Mrs. Hen plant corn by faking tummy troubles, but she teaches them a lesson (not to mention repentance) with the help of some castor oil.

• **On June 10, 2015**, Juan Felipe Herrera, a prize-winning author and the son of migrant farmworkers, whose mother recited poetry and taught him songs from the Mexican Revolution, became America's first Latino poet laureate.

• **On June 11, 1949**, country singer Hank Williams Sr. delivered such an electrifying performance when he made his first Grand Ole Opry radio broadcast that he was called out for six encores and the audience had to be implored not to call for any more in order for the show to continue.

• **On June 12, 1975**, India's prime minister, Indira Gandhi, was found guilty of electoral corruption in her 1971 campaign. Despite calls for her resignation, she refused to resign and later declared martial law after public demonstrations threatened to overturn her

administration.

• **On June 13, 2006**, jurors began deliberations in the trial of Susan Polk for the 2002 murder of her husband, psychotherapist Felix Polk. The couple had raised three sons together and were in the middle of a contentious divorce at the time of his death. Two of the sons testified against their mother at the trial, which ended in her conviction and incarceration.

• **On June 14, 1777**, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution stating that “the flag of the United States be 13 alternate stripes red and white” and that “the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.” Known eventually as the “Stars and Stripes,” it was based on the Grand Union flag, which was carried by the Continental Army in 1776 and also contained 13 red-and-white stripes.

• **On June 15, 1667**, French physician Jean-Baptiste Denis performed the first blood transfusion on a feverish boy, using lamb's blood. The boy recovered, but two other patients died after the procedure, leading to centuries-long bans on it.

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Extra Mile Brick  
**ALL MASONRY REPAIR**  
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**TOYOTA: HIGHLANDER, 2017 \$22,450.** SLE 1 owner, navigation, sunroof, heated leather, blind spot, just serviced including new tires and breaks. Like new condition. 256-527-2125

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



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Wednesday

June 11th

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Don't miss these incredible cost savings we're passing on to you!

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WHOLE  
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Lb.



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PRODUCTS  
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6 PK. HALF LITER BOTTLES

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Russet  
Potatoes  
5 Lb. Bag

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LITTLE DEBBIE  
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8.62-10.5 Oz.

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SWEET TEA  
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128 OZ. {GALLON}

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BAR-S  
SKINLESS  
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FAMILY PACK  
3 LBS. OR MORE  
BLACK CANYON ANGUS  
80% LEAN  
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USDA, Grade A  
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\$35.60  
Ea.

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MARINADE  
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TIDE SIMPLY  
DETERGENT,  
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OR BOUNCE  
DRYER SHEETS  
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12.2-117 OZ. OR 240 CT.



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what is cost-plus pricing?

Product cost is determined by the total expense it takes to buy, receive, and transport products from our suppliers (including freight, fuel, surcharge, labor, warehouse & overhead) to our store shelves. Only 10% added at checkout.

Just Add

10%

at checkout





**To my amazing customers,**

I am writing you this letter in thanks for the kindness and support that you have shown me and my family over the last twenty years. It means a lot to me that you invited us into your homes and trusted me with your air conditioning needs. It has been an honor, and a privilege to serve you! It is with a heavy heart, and only after much consideration, that we have decided to close our doors. I'd understand if this comes as a surprise to many of you, so I want to be transparent. The current economic conditions, the cost of doing business, and the increasing product costs, have been the driving force behind this difficult decision.

I am dedicated to making sure that you all get the service that you deserve, the warranties that you are entitled to, and excellent customer service moving forward. It's for those reasons that I have proudly accepted a position with a trusted and reliable company here in our area, Fuller Services. Fuller has been in business for over thirty years, and they are committed to customer satisfaction. They have been kind enough to honor the memberships of our Comfort Club customers without any additional fees. They have also agreed to honor our first year Quality Pledge on all newly installed systems. The Fuller family was under no obligation to do this, but they have been very gracious to me, in helping make this change as easy as possible, with all of you in mind. So, it's my hope that you'll trust Fuller Services with your future needs. They are fully staffed with very friendly and skilled professionals in three trades, air conditioning, plumbing, and electrical.

I think that it's reasonable to assume that most of us have experienced some form of change in direction in our lives, at some point. God's word tells us that to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose. We might not understand the reason or the timing of change, but the beautiful thing about faith is that we don't have to. I am confident that this next chapter at Fuller Services will be a great one, and I hope that you all will join me. Thank you again for the support you've shown me.

Sincerely,

*Brennen Shores*



**Welcome Aboard!**

**We're proud to welcome** Brennen and Southern Comfort Services to our Fuller Services family! Brennen's industry knowledge and attention to customer service makes this a fantastic team.

**Our Commitment to our Customers** Like Southern Comfort, here at Fuller Services we put customer service first. And don't just take our word for it – check out our hundreds of Google five-star reviews from your neighbors all over the Shoals area.

**We're More than Heating and Air Conditioning** That's right! In addition to heating and air conditioning, we offer residential plumbing and electrical services as well. Our fully trained and certified technicians are ready to help you seven days a week.

**Call Us!** Have questions or concerns? Need immediate service? Call us any time. We'd love the opportunity to earn your business. Our 24-hour number is **256-381-7195**.

Sincerely,

**Cody, Blake, & Randal Fuller**