

Fireworks in Cherokee

CHEROKEE—Cherokee Parks and Recreation invites everyone to celebrate Independence Day with them on Saturday, July 12 at 6pm on Main Street in Downtown Cherokee. Enjoy live music from the band Stray Bullet and a variety of delicious food options from local favorites including Gholston's BBQ, Flashy Funnel Cakes, Circle Bar C Snackwagon, and more. The evening will end with a festive fireworks show, so be sure to stick around for the grand finale. For more information, call 256-359-4959.

Wild Plans at Jacksonville

FLORENCE—Jacksonburg Church of Christ invites everyone to their 2025 Vacation Bible School in the Jacksonville Jungle as they get *Untangled and Wild About God's Divine Plan*, July 14-17 from 6:30-8:30pm each night. Children attending will discover encouraging lessons about God's Creation, The Garden of Eden, Abraham, and Jesus. - Puppets, Bible skits, games, crafts. Refreshments will be served. There are classes for teens and adults as well. **Laws Rushing** is teaching the teens and **Mike Tays** will be teaching the adults! Stop by Monday-Thursday, and bring a friend!

More SHORTs... on Page 2

Volume 141 Number 37

July 9, 2025

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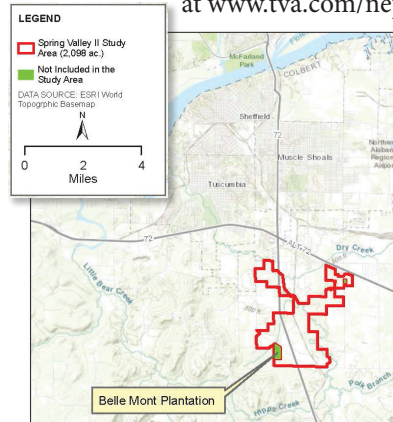


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Comments Sought on TVA Solar Plan

TUSCUMBIA – The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is asking the public to provide input on a draft Environmental Assessment for a proposed Colbert County solar project. TVA's Spring Valley Solar Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is posted for review at www.tva.com/nepa. TVA has entered into a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Spring Valley, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Urban Grid, to



See SOLAR... on Page 4

MUSCLE SHOALS — Muscle Shoals High School student, Diamond Eggleston, raised \$3,050 for Crisis Center, Inc. located in Birmingham. She raised the funds through her Annual Singing River 5K and 1-Mile Run, an event held each year at McFarland Park in Florence as part of her ongoing mission to support youth mental health awareness and suicide prevention across Alabama.

Eggleston is the founder of Sharing Hope Inspiration Now Everywhere (SHINE), SHINE's mission is to educate, advocate, and fundraise for youth mental health support and suicide prevention.

Eggleston has now raised more than \$5,100 for Crisis Center, Inc. over halfway to her personal goal of \$10,000 for the 988 Lifeline – a goal she set in 2022 after touring



the Crisis Center and witnessing its life-saving work firsthand.

"From the moment I visited the Crisis Center, I knew I wanted to help," Eggleston said. "Raising money for the 988 Lifeline

See 988... on Page 6

Diamond Eggleston, center right, flanked on each side by (L-R), Ann Sullivan, Executive Director of Crisis Center, and Leen Murad and Layce Jemison, staff members at Crisis Center. Courtesy photo

INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside



Advance Auto Sales

- Medicare Minute
- Ask the Attorney
- 5-Year-Old Needs Your Vote by July 10
- In A Few Words



- Hocus Focus
- Dave Says
- Old N. Florence Neighborhoods



- Adopt-a-Friend
- Rotten! & Riveting
- In A Few Words

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Shorts...

Continued from Page 1

5-Year-Old in Jr. Ranger Competition

MUSCLE SHOALS/HELENA, AL – Five-year-old Cooper Nelson is capturing hearts across the country as he advances in the Next Junior Ranger Competition, a nationwide event hosted by Colossal in partnership with Ranger Rick Magazine. With his passion for nature and big heart for wildlife, Cooper has already made it to the quarterfinals — a remarkable feat for one of the youngest contestants in the competition. His father, Daniel Nelson, is a Muscle Shoals native, and so many of Cooper's relatives still live here.

The Next Junior Ranger Competition encourages children to showcase their love of the outdoors, their conservation efforts, and their commitment to protecting the planet. Cooper's journey began with a simple love for animals and exploring the outdoors. Whether its identifying bird calls on family hikes or picking up trash at his local park, Cooper has proven himself a natural steward of the environment.

If Cooper advances beyond the quarterfinals,



Cooper Nelson Courtesy

he will move on to the semifinals from July 11–17, followed by the finals taking place July 18–24. The stakes are high. The winner of the competition will receive \$20,000, a professional photo shoot, and a feature in *Ranger Rick Magazine*. Most exciting of all, the winner will also get the rare opportunity to learn one-on-one from world-renowned conservationist, Jeff Corwin.

Supporters can follow and vote for Cooper through his official profile at: <https://jr-ranger.org/2025/cooper-3338> But hurry! Voting for Semi-Finalists ends Thursday, July 10 at 9pm CDT!

With his boundless enthusiasm, bright spirit, and dedication to nature, Cooper is showing the world that you're never

too young to make a difference. Let's help this young ranger reach the next round and inspire even more kids to protect our planet.

From Several Communities in N. Florence

FLORENCE—Florence Arts and Museums and community members coordinated by Ms. Anita Smith Cobb for a free presentation on the history of North Florence on Sunday, July 13 from 2-3pm at the Coach Harvest Mitchell Gymnasium at Burrell Slater School, 610 West College Street. A group of African American citizens from different North Florence neighborhoods have collaborated with Florence Arts and Museums to record their history. Interviews, photographs, newspaper clippings, art and memories tell the story of these neighborhoods, which include Woodland Road; Chisholm Drive; Napier Heights; and Norwood Park. The project is compiled into an hour-long presentation. This presentation follows Cobb's completion of the "East End" and "Stewart Spring" projects, the latter of which is available on

See SHORTS... on Page 9

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TUSCUMBIA: YARD SALE 1511 Joe Wheeler Dr Thurs. Fri. Sat. 7 am to noon. Furniture, refrigerator, household and kitchen items, Christmas tree and decor, clothes, shoes, puzzles, and lots more.

FLORENCE: 5-FAMILY GARAGE SALE 361 Ridgecliff Dr. and Neighbors, Side-by-Side Sat. July 12th 7 am Patio/Pool furniture, large umbrella, dishes, name brand toys, bike, boys and girls clothes, over 200 pairs of jeans, coats, shoes, boots, girls size 7/8, ladies' size 4-10, men's clothing, pictures, mirrors, antique furniture, 12 Christmas wreaths, ladies' and men's shoes, dollhouses, household items/decor, books, kid luggage, canvas prints, mowers, weed eaters, and edgers. Free Lemonade! Rain or Shine!

SHEFFIELD: YARD SALE 237 Meadow Hill Rd Fri and Sat 7 am to noon. Rain or Shine!

MUSCLE SHOALS: YARD SALE 225 Mary Ellen Drive Fri. July 11 and Sat. July 12 7 am to noon Nathan Estates.

RUSSELLVILLE: ESTATE SALE 218 Kim Lane Thurs. July 10th and Fri. July 11th 9 am to 4 pm. Furniture, lots of tools, Check out pics on Facebook/search Kathy Oliver Grissom, or call 256-627-9246

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KILLEN: ESTATE SALE 5438 Co Rd 34 Fri. July 11th and Sat. July 12th 7:30 am Furniture, antiques, small appliances, Christmas, glassware, old vinyl albums and 45s, cookware, China, silver, and collectibles, tvs and much more. No pre-sales. Rain or shine.

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KILLEN: FOUR-FAMILY GARAGE SALE 930 Co Rd 394 Fri. Sat. 6:30 to 1 Rain or shine. Clothes for all, household, electronics, and lots more.

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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.

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Solar...

Continued from Page 1

purchase the power generated by the proposed Spring Valley Solar Project in Colbert County, along U.S. Highway 43. The DEIS includes two alternatives: a no action alternative and an action alternative.

• **No Action Alternative:** TVA would not purchase the power generated by the project under the 20-year PPA with Spring Valley Solar, LLC, and TVA would not be involved with the project.

• **Action Alternative:** Spring Valley Solar, LLC, would construct, maintain, and operate a 178-MW AC single-axis tracking photovoltaic (PV) solar power facility. The facility would occupy approximately 943 acres of a 1,629-acre Project Site.

To keep the community informed on this proposed project, TVA will host a public meeting from 6pm to 8pm CT on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at Colbert Heights High School, 6825 Woodmont Dr. in Tusculumbia.

Comments must be received or postmarked no later than August 11, 2025, and the public is encouraged to submit comments in person at the public meeting or via email to nepa@tva.gov. Written comments should be sent to Tennessee Valley Authority, ATTN: Elizabeth Smith, NEPA Specialist, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT-11D, Knoxville, TN 37902.

TVA's Spring Valley Solar Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is posted for review at www.tva.com/nepa along with an online comment form.

All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and will be available for public inspection.

To address the region's load growth due to growing population, industrial electrification and onshoring of manufacturing, TVA is making some of the largest capital investments in the agency's history to ensure the region has reliable, affordable energy to power American jobs. TVA's current planning assumption includes building about 6,200+ megawatts of new firm, dispatchable generation, pending required approvals and environmental reviews. Over 3,500 megawatts are already under construction – enough energy to power two million homes.



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INSERTS - 5 pm Thursday
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CLASSIFIED ADS - 5 pm Friday unless otherwise specified

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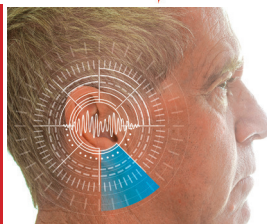
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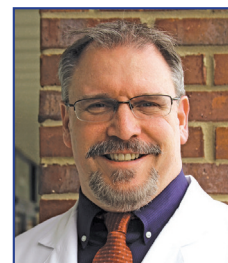
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Community Notes

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

"The Miracle Worker" – Ivy Green, 300 N. Commons W., Tuscumbia. Experience an inspiring evening at The Miracle Worker Play, performed live at the outdoor theater on the grounds of the historic Helen Keller Birthplace. Performances are held on Friday and Saturday evenings July 11, 12 and 18, 19 at 8pm, with gates opening at 7pm. Reserved seats are \$20, and general admission is \$15. For more information,

on the play and the Birthplace, visit www.helenkellerbirthplace.org. For ticket reservations, please call 256-383-4066.

Treasurer Hunters - Are You Ready? Vacation Bible School for ages 5-12 at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, 11025 County Road 15, in Florence is July 9 & 16. 5:30pm meal, 6-8pm - Stories, Crafts, Music, Games, Science Experiments. You may preregister by calling 256-767-0017.

Bad Art Fridays - Friday, July 11, 3pm-4pm at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. Sometimes our biggest critic is ourselves, and that can hinder creativity. Here at Bad Art Fridays, we strive to create bad art so our inner perfectionist can leave us alone! You don't have to try too hard here, but you do have to have fun!

Call for TVAA Member Artists – It's time to submit your artwork for our upcoming ArtWorks Member Show at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art! Each member may submit up to 2 pieces. All media accepted. Work must be ready to hang. Deliver to: Tennessee Valley Museum of Art 511 N Water St in Tuscumbia. Deadline: Deliver by Wednesday, July 15th

Gourmet Gallery at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library – Wednesday, July 9, 3pm-4pm

The great artists of old used wonderful techniques to create their masterpieces. You only have food! Every week, we'll learn about a new artist and try to replicate a masterpiece of theirs through the medium of candy. Now you get to eat artwork: a dream come true!
Additional Date: July 16.

Middle-Grade DND: at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library Thursday, July 10, 3pm-4pm

It's time for our Summer Campaign! Filled with travel, art, and humor, our Summer DND program is not one to be missed. Do you have what it takes to find art for your museum? Ages 11-14.

Calling all Class of 1975 Deshler Classmates! It's time to celebrate our 50 Year Class Reunion! Reminisce and reconnect with old friends August 2, 2025. If you, or someone you know from the DHS Class of '75 has not been contacted, we are looking forward to talking to you. More detailed information provided upon request at Crimsonsue4bama@gmail.com or by texting 256-710-5499.

Second Saturday on July 12 in Downtown Tuscumbia! Happening on the second Saturday of July, and August from 10am-2pm, this family-friendly event features hand-crafted goods and art from local makers, live music, delicious food, and fun entertainment for all ages. For more information, contact logandis1@comcast.net.

See NOTES... page 7

RIVER ZURINSKY: An Undercurrent of Change for Florence - District 2!

My name is River Zurinsky, and I am asking for your vote for Florence City Council District 2.

I'm running for office because I want to serve the citizens of Florence and inspire our next generation of leaders. I was born at Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital (ECM) in 1999 and have spent my entire life as a citizen of District 2, where I've lived in the McFarland Heights neighborhood for 26 years. I attended W.C. Handy Head Start, Kilby Laboratory School, Shoals Christian School, and graduated from Faith Academy. I'm a member of the Florence Beautification Board, a SKYWARN Storm Spotter, and an advocate for people with disabilities.

As the first person with autism to run for public office in Florence, Alabama, I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to have their voice heard and express their opinions. For the past three years, I've regularly attended and advocated for citizens of Florence at city council meetings and I'm one of only four private citizens who submitted a redistricting proposal in 2023 to the Alabama State Legislature following the Allen vs Milligan Supreme Court decision in an effort to protect African American representation. In 2025, I was the only citizen in Florence who submitted a redistricting proposal to the Florence City Council as an alternative to NACOG's proposal which took away our only black majority district. If I'm elected to the Florence City Council on August 26th, I will seek to restore the comments section on the City Of Florence, Alabama - Government Facebook page so that the elderly, parents with small children, people with disabilities, and all citizens who are unable to attend city council meetings in person can bring their concerns to the attention of the Florence City Council prior to agenda items being voted on.

Another top priority of mine is safety. I have a friend on Chisholm Road whose son has autism. Cars speed past his son's school bus stop, and I believe it's urgent

to address this before children are killed while boarding or exiting the school bus. Our city could purchase 50 yellow school bus stop signs for \$3,500, and I will push for this if elected. I have also made numerous presentations to the Florence City Council concerning the broken pedestrian signals downtown that particularly impact parents walking with small children, senior citizens and the disabled. If I'm elected to the Florence City Council on August 26th, I will continue to advocate for fixing the broken pedestrian signals on Court and Tennessee streets and adding additional pedestrian signals on Pine Street. I also support raising the salaries of our firefighters and police officers to increase safety on a city-wide level and I propose building a new fire station on Darby Drive in District 4, along with the new station that is currently being built at the intersection of Franklin Street and Mahogany Avenue. I've been speaking for the last three years at Florence City Council meetings regarding the need for a fire station in proximity to Deibert Park, Riverhill School, and the Children's Museum. Florence has six districts, but only five fire stations, and I want citizens of all districts to have a rapid response during emergencies.

As a Christian, I believe it's important for us as a city to honor God and love our neighbors as ourselves. I support putting the phrase "In God We Trust" on our fire trucks and police cars and want to establish an annual Veterans Day Parade to honor and recognize the men and women of Florence who have served our country. I believe that Florence City Council members should be truthful, ethical stewards of taxpayer funds who prioritize the everyday needs of their citizens. This can be demonstrated by addressing repairs to existing infrastructure and roads, budgeting annually for ongoing maintenance, and reserving money each year for future expenses such as the estimated 115+ million-dollar federal water treatment regulations that the city



River Zurinsky

must meet within a few years. Additionally, I believe it's a necessity to work with the Lauderdale County Commission to increase the annual budget for the animal shelter to maintain our no kill status.

I would also like to work with TVA to improve McFarland Park, where I propose the additions of an amphitheater, dog park, skate park, and a splash pad. A permanent venue for live music would bring about more opportunities for our local musicians to showcase their songs. A dog park would give the many dog owners that live in District 2 a place to bring their dogs and socialize. A skate park would encourage teenagers and young adults to be active outdoors and provide the opportunity for the City of Florence to host skating tournaments. Skating tournaments would provide a new source of revenue for the City of Florence and attract tourists when baseball and

softball are not in season. A splash pad would provide a place for young children to play and cool off during the summer. I also support adding additional covered pavilions and improving the picnic areas. Another priority is replacing the bulbs in the McFarland Park Lighthouse to showcase the entrance to our city and make the Florence Harbor and Marina more welcoming and well-lit at night. All these improvements would benefit Florence citizens and visitors alike.



I am hosting a Town Hall at **COMPANION COFFEE ROASTERS** 1210 N. Wood Ave. (in 7 Points) on Saturday, July 12th at 6 PM and invite everyone to attend.
I hope to see you there!

You can also reach out to me on Facebook or Instagram where you can find me @riverzurinskystar or by emailing me at electriverzurinsky@yahoo.com.

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988...

Continued from Page 1

is my way of making sure someone is always there when people call."

The 4th Annual Singing River 5K and 1-mile Fun Run is Saturday, July 12 at Pavilion 1. The 5K starts at 8:30, the Fun Run at 9:30 and the Car Show and Music is underway at 10. Proceeds from the event benefit Crisis

Center, Inc.'s 988 suicide and crisis lifeline, which is a free, confidential 24/7 support service for those in emotional distress or experiencing a mental health crisis. The 5K will be officially timed by River City Runners. Register online at <https://freedom5k1milerun.itsyourrace.com/register/>

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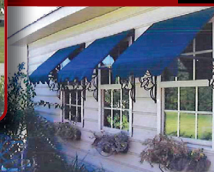
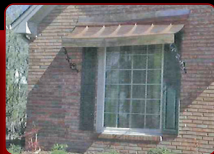
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Community Notes...

Continued from page 5

The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts in Florence will present a fiber exhibition, "Holding on to Past & Present Memories" by Mississippi artist Lukise Swanigan from Now – August 21. A reception for the artist will take place Sunday, July 13, from 1-4 pm in conjunction with the opening of the "Mostly Blues Invitational" exhibit. A 'Meet & Greet' opportunity with Swanigan will take place at 2:30pm where she will briefly discuss her creative process with fiber art.

The Aberdeen, MS native is a self-taught artist inspired by nature and childhood memories.

Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts tours are free and open to the public. The KD Art Center is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St. in Florence and can be reached by calling 256-760-6379.

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:
Thursday, July 10 Krispy Kreme, 110 Cox Creek Pkwy, Florence, 9am - 3pm
Friday, July 11 Walmart Neighborhood Market - Florence Blvd, 10am - 4pm
Saturday, July 12 In Loving Memory of Kimberly Smith - Saint Food Mart, 8899 AL Hwy 101, Town Creek, 10am - 4pm

Saturday, July 12 Second Saturdays - 116 E 6th St, Tusculmbia 4:45 pm - 8pm
Sunday, July 13 Tusculmbia Church of Christ, 102 E 4th St, Tusculmbia, 10am - 2pm
Monday, July 14 Listerhill Credit Union - Main Office, 4790 E 2nd St., Muscle Shoals, 10am - 4:30 pm

Mt. Moriah P.B. Church, 820 West Irvine Ave, Florence, will celebrate Pastor, Elder William Rowell Jr.'s 1st Anniversary July 12-13.
Community Fun Day – Saturday, July 12 | 12-5pm. Food, games, DJ, and family fun for everyone!
Pastoral Anniversary Worship Service – Sunday, July 13 | 11am. Guest Speaker: Pastor James Edwards from Houston, TX

Prepare for an uproarious evening of laughter at the Ritz Theatre with "Something Rotten!," a hilarious, high-energy musical comedy set in 1595. The story follows the Bottom brothers, Nick and Nigel, as they struggle to make a name for themselves in the shadow of William Shakespeare, who is treated like a rock star. Performances are scheduled for July 11, 12, 18, and 19 at 7pm and July 13 at 2pm. The musical will be performed at The Ritz Theatre. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25. For more information, please call 253-383-0533.

The 4th Annual Singing River 5K & 1 Mile Fun/Run, Saturday, July 12, McFarland Park. 5K - 8:30am, 1 Mile - 9:30am, Car Show & Music - 10am. Honoring First Responders & Veterans! (Race Discount)* Register at <https://freedom5k1milerunitsyourrace.com/register/>
5K - \$23 & 1 Mile - \$18. Food Trucks & Vendors.
*Proceeds Support S.H.I.N.E. Outreaches & #988 Suicide Lifeline.

See NOTES... page 9

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Commentary

Huge 2 Weeks Has Some Screaming

President Donald Trump had a hugely impressive late June run, arguably the strongest two weeks in modern U.S. Presidential history. Operation Midnight Hammer, a surprise series of apparently successful strikes on Iran's most secretive and stable nuclear enrichment facilities, took place overnight June 21. For once, moles within the administration were kept unaware. The secrecy, plans, and precision for the 37-hour mission were simply impeccable. Democrats tried to undercut the reported success with unsubstantiated claims of underperformance. However, the experts agree that Iran's key facilities at Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan have been set back for years. Now, of primary concern are the terror cells already in the US.

Trump started the next work week with the Supreme Court ruling favorably on third-country deportations, while he was brokering a ceasefire between Iran and Israel that, at least has temporarily, ended the 12-day war.

See 2 WEEKS... on Page 16

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

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

Courier Journal

THIS WEEK

in the *Shoals*

July 9, 2025

ROTTEN! & Riveting

SHEFFIELD – SummerStock at the Ritz presents *Something Rotten!* July 11–13, 18,–19 at the Ritz Theatre in downtown Sheffield.

This hilarious, high-energy musical comedy set in 1595 follows

the brothers, Nick and Nigel, as they

struggle to make a name for themselves in the shadow of William Shakespeare who is treated like a rock star. Desperate to outshine the Bard, they consult a soothsayer who predicts that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing, and acting all at once: the musical.

Determined to write the world's first, the brothers dive into outrageous situations, wild misunderstandings, and over-the-top numbers. Packed with clever humor, Renaissance-era absurdity, and endless Broadway references, it's a joyful, irreverent celebration of theatre itself.

"Something Rotten! is a spectacular show that I've



See ROTTEN!... on Page 20

FLORENCE CAMERATA'S ANNUAL SUMMER CONCERT, 'America Sings!'

, will help kick off Handy Week on Tuesday, July 15 at 7pm at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Florence. A variety of music by American composers will be featured including folk, spirituals, Americana, patriotic, show music styles. There is no admission charge. However, donations are appreciated! For more information, call 256-810-9512, or check our Facebook page (Florence Camerata).

THERE IS A PANCAKE BREAKFAST

at the Elgin Senior Center on Monday, July 14 beginning at 7am, Alabama 101, Rogersville. The Center hosts a pancake breakfast the 2nd Monday of each month. 256-762-2104.

THE MITCHELL BURFORD BOOKSTORE

at the Florence Lauderdale Public library is hosting a Buy One Get Two sale through the month of July on VHS tapes and music on CDs. Located on the first floor and operated completely by volunteers, the Friends' Bookstore offers used books and magazines at next-to-nothing prices. The bookstore accepts donations of used books, magazines, and other materials. Hours are Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm, SUNDAY 1-4pm For more information, contact the bookstore at 256-764-6564, ext. 119.



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Murders: Crimes Against All People

Editor:

Just hours ago, this nation was stunned to learn that prosecutors in Idaho have agreed with accused Bryan Kohberger to accept his plea deal to guilty of four counts of murder in exchange for a sentence of life in prison without parole. As is well known, Kohberger was charged with brutally murdering four University of Idaho students in 2022 in Moscow, Idaho.

Much of the nation as well as several of the victim's families are outraged that Kohberger will not face the death penalty case involving

"life without parole"

It is incredibly ironic that this Idaho Murder case is coming to a head at a time when we are seeing another high-profile case hinging on "life without parole" sentence from California: The Erik and Kyle Menendez Case. If there was ever

... The fact remains that the Senate legislation will make it harder for those who are currently enrolled in or eligible for benefits to sign up and maintain access to care.

”

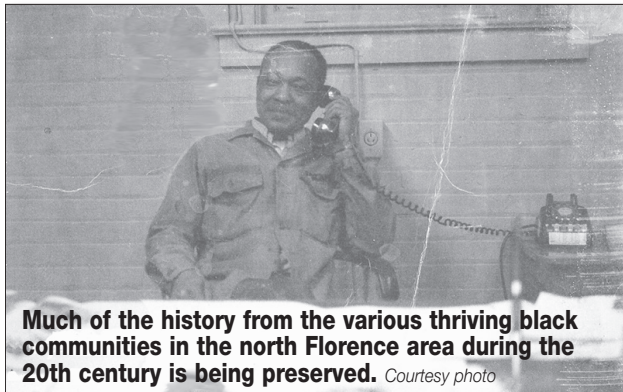
an example of when "life without parole" does not guarantee the accused will never get out, it is the Menendez case. After serving more than 30 years in prison, it appears likely that the Menendez brothers will soon be freed for "time served."

There is always a segment of the public who cry foul and demand that the convicted be freed. As we see in the Menendez Case, the punishment experienced by the accused depends on politics and the current political climate. That is NOT justice!

What is plaguing our judicial system? It is incompetence, laziness, corruption or just gutter politics.

Let us never forget that while the feelings and desires of the four Idaho

See LETTERS... on Page 14



Shorts...

From Several Communities in N. Florence

Continued from Page 2

the Florence Arts & Museums' website, www.florencealmuseums.com.

This program is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums and the Alabama Humanities Alliance. This event is free to the public. Call 256-760-6379 for more information.



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Notes...

Continued from page 7

Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, July 12, at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum (702 Veterans Drive) for Florence and Lauderdale County residents. hosted by: Keep Florence Beautiful, in partnership with Lauderdale County, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area.

This drive-thru event will run from 8a.m. until 1p.m., or until available funds are depleted. This event is for residents only and materials will not be accepted from businesses or farms.

The event provides Florence and Lauderdale County residents a safe and responsible way to dispose of household hazardous materials that should not be placed in regular garbage collection. Items accepted include:

- Oil-based and latex paint
- Gasoline, turpentine, and paint-related materials
- Pool chemicals, household cleaners, and adhesives
- Pesticides, herbicides, and fuel additives
- Motor oil, antifreeze, aerosol cans, and batteries
- Mercury-containing items

Please note: Items not accepted include commercial or industrial waste, 55-gallon drums, ammunition, explosives, medical waste, radioactive material, or materials from businesses.

For more information, please call 256-760-6495.

Classics on the Mountain Car Show - Colbert Heights First Baptist Church at 6000 Woodmont Drive in Tusculum will host the Classics on Saturday, July 14 from 9am-2pm. This family-friendly car show is free for the public to attend, with \$20 vehicle registration available from 9-10:30am. The first 50 registered vehicles will receive a dash plaque, and awards will be given for Pastor's Choice, Best Car, Best Truck, and Best Bike. All proceeds from the event will go to support church mission work. For more information, contact John Spires at 256-762-3772, Terry Thompson at 256-349-9312, or the church office at 256-383-8016.

Shoals Artists Guild Meeting Every 3rd Friday of the month, (July 18), 10am-Noon at the Southall-Moore House, next to the Kennedy-Douglass Art Center, Downtown Florence. For more info, contact Carolyn Wear, 256-710-6854.

Tuesday night Social Dance at The Club/ Florence Senior Center, 450 Country Club Drive, in Florence. \$6. Doors open at 6pm.

Dance from 6:30-8:45pm. Texas two step, waltz, line dance, fox trot and more! The Browns provide the music from across the decades!

Summer Games and Daytime Dancing at The Club (Florence Senior Center) Noon-2pm on the 1st, 3rd (and 5th) Wednesdays of July, August, and September. - 450 Country Club Drive in Florence (the former Florence Country Club property).

Summer Daytime Fun - Dress accordingly, Finger food welcomed. \$5, proceeds go for the state Masters Games in Trussville in October 2025. Supporting our athletes 50+ years young! The Club, Florence Senior Center, Florence Parks and Recreation Department. 256-760-6642 or 256.760.6420.

Clip and Save the Dates and Themes Who can be the most creative?????

July 16, Beach Party - Summer attire at the BEACH

July 30, Cowboys and Cowgirls - Welcome to The Club

August 6, Luau at The Club - Grass skirts, bright colors, Leis

August 20, Picnic today - We'll have hot dogs, and chips - summer attire,

September 3, 50's & 60's Sock Hop, Remember when?

September 17, Tail Gate Party - Support your favorite team attire

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

See NOTES... page 21

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Special Education records for students who graduated or should have graduated during the school year of 2019-2020 are going to be destroyed. Persons interested in receiving their records should contact the Special Education Department at 256-768-3070 before July 18, 2025.

Please Help Us Locate Children in Florence Who Have Disabilities

If you know of a child between the ages of three to 21 who has a disability and lives in the Florence city limits, please contact the Florence City Board of Education at 256-768-3070 or call the State Child find phone number at 1-800-543-3098.

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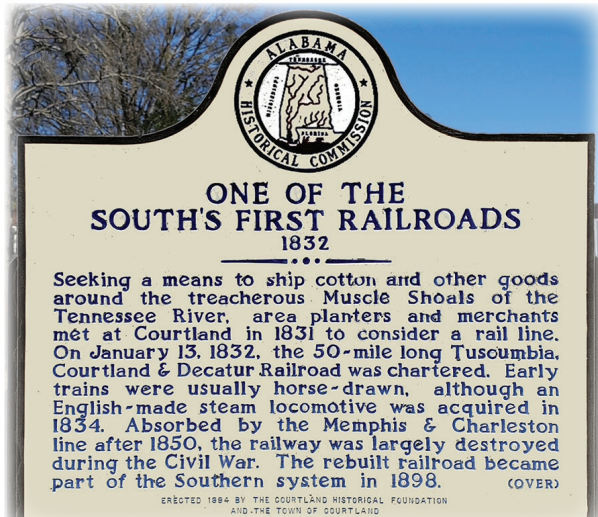
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Location: 34.6668°N, 87.3107°W
361 College St, Courtland, AL

This historical marker relates the origin and early history of the 50 mile long Tuscumbia-Courtland-Decatur Railroad.

~ Courtesy David Curott ~ author of
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Just Horsing Around

One of the best defenses to an on-the-job injury case is horseplay. The most common way that people lose their case is a failure to report an injury within the prescribed time. Often employers refuse to play by the rules and deny treatment and in some cases that's effective, even when it should not be.

The rules of the game in some ways favor the employee but also completely limit the recovery of the injured person. By that I mean this. If they deny a claim or don't pay the claim or pay too little or don't pay on time, there's nothing that an injured worker can do about it other than sue for the benefits that you did not lawfully receive. The employer/insurance company is protected from what would otherwise be a bad faith lawsuit.

The defense of horseplay deals with the concept of scope. Sounds fancy, but it's really simple. If you look at the job that the employee is supposed to be doing as if through a scope and what they are doing doesn't have anything to do with the job, they're outside the scope of their employment. Sometimes it's going outside to pick some blackberries (the leading case came out of Lauderdale County over some nice, ripe blackberries). Occasionally, it's a personal errand having to do with grabbing lunch.

What we really see in a few cases are acts that are defined as horseplay. We had a case a number of years ago where one guy picked up a cardboard tube and, using it like a sword, playing with his friend who fell off a curb and broke his ankle. We had to fight that case and eventually won because our guy was sort of the victim of the horseplay and not engaging in it himself. Obviously, if someone brings a curiosity into the workplace to show others, that's not within the scope of employment. Think about what the job is and the tasks that have to be done to accomplish it. That's the idea of scope. Horseplay is a very tough defense to beat.

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

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Letters...

Crimes Against All People

Continued from Page 8

student's families are foremost, these crimes are, in fact, crimes against ALL the people of Idaho and all the citizens of the United States. The prosecutors and judges who made the Kohberger decision to accept his deal have violated the trust bestowed in them and have let us all down!

James W. Anderson
Talladega

Far Short of What We Need

Editor:

When the House passed its reconciliation bill, the AMA made clear that any legislation Congress passes must not result in millions of Medicaid patients losing access to coverage. The fact remains that the Senate legislation will make it harder for those who are currently enrolled in or eligible for benefits to sign up and maintain access to care.

"The cuts to federal health care programs, including Medicaid and CHIP, will shift costs to the states and specifically to physicians and hospitals to provide uncompensated care at a time when rural hospitals and physician practices are struggling to keep their doors open.

While we appreciate that the bill provides a temporary lift for Medicare payments in 2026, it falls short of the House-passed language tying Medicare updates to the Medicare Economic Index and far short of what is needed to preserve access to care for America's seniors.

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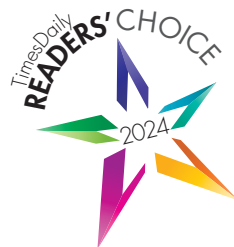
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If you have questions regarding any aspect of Medicare or Medicare health plans feel free call us at Alabama Health Guidance (256-648-5710), stop by our office at 885 Florence Blvd (Four Lane Shopping Center) or email me at ikey@alabamahealthguidance.com.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



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Commentary

2 Weeks...

Continued from Page 8

Having recently secured a huge funding boost with shared security costs from virtually all member nations, Trump was treated like a rock star as he arrived at the NATO summit in the Netherlands,

Then he and Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, met in the Oval Office to announce that he had brokered an end to the murderous 30-year Congo-Rwanda war and negotiated a mineral rights deal with Congo.

On that Friday morning, the Supreme Court handed Trump a resounding win ruling against judicial tyranny and undemocratic nationwide injunctions.

He closed the work week achieving a key trade breakthrough with China that will ensure that vital rare earth materials would start flowing back to the U.S.

Then last week, the US senate hammered out a heavily bastardized

version of Trump's signature One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The bill was seriously flawed to start with with important gaps and oversights, and there is no cost savings after all the supposed DOGE victories. We'll be able to separate truths from falsehoods once the ink dries. It's certainly big and hardly beautiful, but it is Trump's.

With all his flaws, and rough edges, his presidential brand is by far the biggest ever. Trump is frank and he carries a big stick.

The left is up in arms that Trump is out of control, when in actuality, he's only out of *their* control.

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2024 Water Quality Report - CHISHOLM HEIGHTS WATER AUTHORITY

The Board of Directors of Chisholm Heights Water along with the City of Florence Water Department monitors for contaminants in your drinking water. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. We purchase our water from the City of Florence and redistribute in our area; Florence Water Department's water source is Wilson Lake and Cypress Creek. This provides an abundant supply of quality water for all customers.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and met or surpassed all federal and state requirements during 2024.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning the quality of your water you can contact our office number 256-718-0301. Members of the board are Trent Butler, Jimmy Risner and Steve Watkins. If you have problems or concerns you can attend our scheduled meetings. Please call the office to be placed on the agenda for the meeting.

The Board of Directors of Chisholm Heights Water along with the Florence Water Department monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The following tables shows the results of the monitoring by Florence Water from the period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. It is important to remember that the presence of some contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The Florence Water Department utilizes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration in their process. Also, chlorine is used for disinfection, fluoride for dental protection and lime for pH treatment.

In the testing that Chisholm Heights Water are required to do each month, total coliform bacteria, we did not collect all the samples in August 2024 and had a violation. CHW was late sending in three of our monthly operation reports during 2024. Disinfection By-Product Monitoring (DBP) done every 3 months, with no problems. Lead/Cooper testing was done in 2024. CHW was late sending in the Lead/Cooper service line inventory list. This was completed February 2025.

In 2014 Florence Water added the MIEX system as a simple solution for meeting U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) disinfection by-product (DBP) removal by employing a continuous ion exchange process. The process removes dissolved organic carbon (DOC) allowing for improved drinking water quality and regulatory compliance.

Included are tables of the testing from Florence Water. What do these tables mean? Our water is tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. The Table of Primary Contaminants provides an overview of some primary contaminants that are known to pose a health risk to humans. The Table of Secondary Contaminants is contaminants that generally pose no health risk, but are monitored for reasons of aesthetics. In the Table of Detected Contaminants, the column marked Amount Detected shows the highest test results during the year. Sources of contaminant level show where this substance usually originates. Columns headed MCL and MCLG refer to:

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Key to Table
AL = Action Level, **Paci/l** = Picocuries per liter,
CL = Maximum Contaminant Level, **PPM**=Parts per Million,
CLG = Max. Contaminant Level Goal, **PPB** = Parts per Billion, **NTU** = Nephelometric Turbidity Units,
TT = Treatment Technique, **ND** = Not Detected

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

The Florence Water Department nor Chisholm Heights Water tested for, nor was it required to test, for Radon during 2024. However, there are other unregulated contaminants that were tested for in 2024.

ASBESTOS AND DIOXIN

Based on a study conducted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA, a statewide waiver for the monitoring of asbestos and dioxin was issued. Thus, monitoring for these contaminants is not required.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENTS

Florence Water Department has performed source water assessments for the Wilson Lake Treatment Plant and the Cypress Creek Treatment Plant. This information may be viewed at Florence Water Department office between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Appointments for reviewing are recommende

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM & GIARDIA

Cryptosporidium and Giardia are microscopic organisms found in surface water throughout the U.S. Although filtration removes Cryptosporidium and Giardia the most commonly used filtration methods cannot guarantee 100 percent removal. Ingestion causes an abdominal infection. Symptoms of the infection include nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Most healthy individuals can overcome the disease within a few weeks. However, immuno-compromised individuals, infants, small children and the elderly are at greater risk of developing

life-threatening illness. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctor regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infections. Cryptosporidium and Giardia must be ingested to cause disease, and it may be spread through means other than drinking water. Florence Water currently monitors for Cryptosporidium and Giardia and is removed and/or treated by effective filtration and disinfection processes.

LEAD

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Chisholm Heights Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but can not control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

LEAD AND COPPER RULE MONITORING

Lead and copper Rule (LCR) was developed to protect public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water. The LCR established an action level of 0.015 mg/l for lead and 1.3 mg/l for copper based on the 90th percentile level of tap water samples collected. Lead and copper are sampled on a mandated three-year testing cycle with sampling conducted at customer's tap. Our 90thpercentile for lead was 0.005 mg/L. Our 90th percentile for copper was 0.102 mg/L.

TABLE OF NON-DECTED SUSATANCES

Isopropylbenzene; Methylene Chloride; Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate; 1,2 Dichlorobenzene; 4-Isopropyltoluene; Bromobbenzene; 1,3 Dichlorobenzene; Methyl tert-butyl ether; Bromochloromerhane; 1,4 Dichlorobenzene; Naphthalene; Bromoform; Dichlorodifluoromethane; n-Propylbenzene; Bromomethane; 1,1 Dishloroethane; 1,1,1,2 Tetrachloroethane; n-Butylbenzene; 1,1 Dishloroethene; 1,1,2,2 Tetrachloroethane; sec-Butylbenzene; cis-1,2 Dichloroethene; Tetrachloroethene; tert-Butylbenzene; trans-1,2Dichloroethene; Trichlorfloromethane; Chloroethane; 1,3 Dichloropropane; Trichloroethene; Chloromethane; 2,2 Dichloropropane; 1,2,3 Trichlorobenzene; 2- Chlorotoluene; 1,1 Dichloropropene; 1,2,3 Trichloropropane; 4-Chlorotoluene; 1,3 Dichloropropene; 1,2,4 Trimethylbenzene; Dibromomethane; Hexaclorobutadiene; 1,3,5 Trimethylbenzene;

REQUIRED ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or from human activity. Contaminants that may be presenting the source water include:

(A) Microbiological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts, and metals, which can be natural occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, storm runoff, and residential use.

(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems

(E) Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than is the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATION COMPLIANCE

This Annual Water Quality Report was prepared by Steve Watkins using technical assistance and guidance from Florence Water/Wastewater Department, Alabama Rural Water Association (ARWA), United States Environment Protection Agency (EPA), and the

Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), American Water Works Association (AWWA), National Rural Water Association (NRWA).

Table of Primary Contaminants

CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED	CONTAMINANT	MCL	AMOUNT DETECTED
Bacteriological			2,4-D	70	ND
Total Coliform Bacteria	<5%	1.15%	Dalapon (ppb)	200	ND
Turbidity	TT	0.20	Dibromochloropropane (ppt)	200	ND
Fecal Coliform & E. Coli	0	ND	o-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	600	ND
			p-Dichlorobenzene (ppb)	75	ND
Radiological			1,2 Dichloroethane (ppb)	5	ND
Beta photon emitters(mrem/yr)	4	ND	1,1 Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	ND
			cis1,2 Dichloroethylene (ppb)	70	ND
Alpha emitters (pCi/l)	15	ND	Trans1,2 Dichloroethylene (ppb)	100	ND
			Dichloromethane (ppb)	5	ND
Combined radium (pci/l)	5	ND	1,2-Dichloropropane (ppb)	5	ND
			Di-(2-ethylhexyl)adipate (ppb)	400	ND
Uranium	30	ND	Di-(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (ppb)	6	ND
Inorganic			Dinoseb (ppb)	7	ND
Antimony (ppb)	6	ND	Dixon (2,3,7,8-TCDD) (ppg)	30	ND
Arsenic (ppb)	10	ND	Diquate (ppb)	20	ND
Asbestos (MFL)	7	ND	Endothall (ppb)	100	ND
Barium (ppm)	2	0.02	Endrin (ppb)	2	ND
Beryllium (ppb)	4	ND	Epichlorohydrin	TT	ND
Bromate (ppb)	10	ND	Ethylbenzene (ppb)	700	ND
Cadmium (ppb)	5	ND	Ethtlene dibromide (ppt)	50	ND
Chloramines (ppm)	4	ND	Glyphosate (ppb)	70	ND
Chlorine (ppm)	4	2.1	HAA5	60	22.6
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	800	ND	Heptachlor (ppt)	400	ND
Chlorite (ppm)	1	ND	Heptachlor epoxide (ppt)	200	ND
Chromium (ppb)	1	ND	Hexachlorobenzene (ppb)	1	ND
Copper (ppm)	1.3	.05	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppm)	50	ND
Cyanide (ppb)	2	ND	Lindane (ppt)	200	ND
Fluoride (ppm)	4	.68	Methoxychlor ppb)	40	ND
Lead (ppb)	15	.00033	Oxamyl (Vydate) (ppb)	200	ND
Mercury (ppb)	2	ND	Pentachlorophenol (ppb)	1	ND
Nitrate (ppm)	10	.49	Picloram (ppb)	500	ND
Nitrite (ppm)	1	ND	PCBs (ppt)	500	ND
Total Nitrate & Nitrite	10	.49	Simazine (ppb)	4	ND
Selenium (ppb)	50	ND	Styrene (ppb)	100	ND
Thallium (ppb)	2	ND	Tetrachloroethylene (ppb)	5	ND
Organic Chemicals			Toluene (ppm)	1	ND
Acrylamide	TT	ND	TOC	TT	.65
Alachlor (ppb)	2	ND	TTHM (ppb)	80	32.0
Atrazine (ppb)	3	ND	Toxaphene (ppb)	3	ND
Benzene (ppv)	5	ND	2,4,5-TP (Silvex) (ppb)	50	ND
Benzo(a)pyrene[PHAs] (ppt)	200	ND	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene (ppb)	70	ND
Crabofuran (ppb)	40	ND	1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ppb)	200	ND
Carbon Tetrachloride (ppb)	5	ND	1,1,2-Trichloroethane (ppb)	5	ND
Chlordane (ppb)	2	ND	Trichloroethylene (ppb)	5	ND
Chlorobenzene(ppb)	100	ND	Vinyl Chloride (ppb)	2	ND
			Xylenes (ppm)	10	ND

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Range	Violation	Amount Detected	Likely Source of Contamination
Bacteriological			1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024			
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	<5%		NO		Naturally Present in the environment
Turbidity	0	TT	.01 - .40	NO	.20 NTU	Soil runoff
Inorganic Chemicals						
Chorine	4	4	1.7 – 2.7		2.01 ppm	Disinfectant
						Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth;
Fluoride	4	4	0 - .68	NO	.68 ppm	Discharge from fertlize and aluminum factories
Nitrate	10	10	0 – .31	NO	.31 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Organic Chemicals						
HAA5	NA	60	12.0 – 34.0	NO	22.6 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TOC	NA	TT	.5 – .8 16.0 – 48.0	NO	.65 ppb	Naturally present in the environment
TTHM	NA	80		NO	32.0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Table of Secondary Contaminants

Contaminant	MCL	Units	Amount Detected
Calcium	NA	Ppm	23.35
Carbon Dioxide	NA	Ppm	ND
Chloride	250	Ppm	29.3
Color	15	Units	ND
Surfactants (MBAs)	0.5	Ppm	ND
Hardness	NA	Ppm	69.35
Iron	0.30	Ppm	.01
Magnesium	NA	Ppm	2.7
Manganese	0.05	Ppm	.008
Ph	NA	Ppm	7.81
Sodium, as Na	NA	Ppm	5.8
Sulfate	500	Ppm	4.4
Specific Conductance		umhos/cm	186
Total Dissolves Solids	500	Ppm	121
Langelier Index	NA		-1.36

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by DAVE RAMSEY

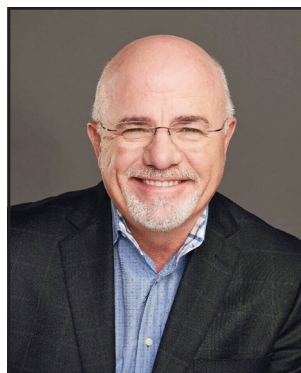
INVESTING OR STUDENT LOAN DEBT?

Dear Dave,
Our daughter is a student, and she has \$10,000 in student loan debt. She works part-time, and has a couple of scholarships, but she has borrowed a little along the way to bridge gaps. Her uncle recently sold his business, and he told us he would like to give her a gift of \$10,000. We've talked to her about this, and we'd like to guide her in the smartest possible direction. Should she begin planning for the future, and use this gift to start investing, or should she use it to pay off her student loans?
Gilbert

Dear Gilbert,
I really appreciate you two trying to help your daughter do the very best thing with her finances and her future. Her uncle sounds like a pretty generous guy. So, let's take a minute and give this situation a good look.
We'll start by pretending she doesn't have any student loan debt. In a case like that, would it be wise for her to borrow money on a student loan in order to invest? Of course not. It's a dumb question, but I want to get you thinking. If you don't pay off the loans, and invest it instead, it's just like you borrowed money to invest. See what I mean? That would be a pretty bad plan.

In my opinion, your daughter needs to get her student loan mess cleaned up as soon as possible. And this gift from her uncle represents the perfect opportunity to do just that. Listen to me, Gilbert. The last thing in the world your daughter needs is big pile of debt waiting on her when she gets out of school. I want her to start investing at some point down the road, but she's just not in a good position to be an investor right now. She needs to pay off all those student loans. I'm talking about wiping out all that debt the minute she gets this wonderful gift in her hands.

And the second after she pays off those student loans, she should get to work on saving a pile of money,



so she can complete her studies without racking up any more debt!
— 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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Rotten!...

Continued from Page 8

dreamed of putting on for years, and it takes a special group of artists to tackle it," said artistic director, Suzanne Reese-Mills. "My SummerStock at The Ritz team is so lucky to work with local actors and musicians who are both beautifully thoughtful and hilariously playful in their approach to scripts and scores. This seeming contradiction is mirrored in *Something Rotten!*, which is an absurd and irreverent comedy that somehow also rings strikingly true.

"One reason I was drawn to *Something Rotten!* is that it is a huge crowd pleaser for theatre regulars and theatre novices alike. The writing is clever and self-referential, with lots of jokes and allusions to other musicals that the die-hard fans will recognize. *Something Rotten!* is a show I would encourage anyone to see any time it is playing."

Tickets start at \$15. All showtimes are 7pm except for July 13 at 2pm. For more information or tickets, visit tennesseevalleyarts.org or call 256-383-0533.

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Courier Journal
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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 Young Blood!

This sweet mixed-breed pup is full of heart and ready for a forever home. Friendly, lovable, and eager to please, he is sure to bring joy to any family. Visit at Florence Lauderdale Animal Services. Stop by and say hello! Give Young Blood a chance — he's got a lot of love to give!



Diesel



Meet Diesel!

This sweet, goofy boy is ready to steal your heart—and maybe your couch too! Diesel is full of love, energy, and personality. He's playful, loves water, and is always down for a good cuddle. If you're looking for a dog who will be your loyal shadow, Diesel is your guy.

Personality Highlights: Goofy and fun-loving, Water enthusiast, Big-time cuddler, Great with other playful, high-energy dogs; Respectful in group play — loves Carly Rae and Prescott! Bonds deeply with his person and listens well once trust is built. Doesn't start trouble but will stand his ground if needed Diesel is currently heartworm positive, so he is available as a foster or foster-to-adopt until treatment is complete. Don't worry—heartworms are not contagious, and once treatment begins, his energy may mellow out a bit. Give Diesel the chance he deserves—he'll give you unconditional love in return.

Meet Adonis!

Adonis is a fun-loving, playful, and absolutely beautiful dog who's ready to become part of your family! He's full of life and affection—just waiting for the right person to give him a forever home. Whether it's playtime in the yard or snuggles on the couch, Adonis is always up for making memories with his new best friend. Come meet him—you might just fall in love! Visit Florence Lauderdale Animal Services to meet Adonis today!



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.

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Notes...

Continued from page 9

TVAA Art Camp – The Ritz Theatre, 111 3rd Street, Sheffield. Join the Tennessee Valley Art Association for their 2025 Summer Camp weeks at The Ritz Theatre facility. Both Acting and Art camps are available, with timing designed to allow your child to participate in multiple camps. This camp caters to ages 5-17 and will take place July 21-25. The cost for participation is \$150. For more information or to register your child, please visit tennesseevalleyarts.org/events/2025-summer-camps/ or call 256-383-0533.

July 14-18: STEAM Camp - The Florence-Lauderdale Public Library and Florence Arts and Museums are teaming up to host STEAM Camp from July 14-18 for students ages 11-18. Campers will explore creative, hands-on projects in claymation, graphic design, artifact making, and printmaking.
At the end of the week, participants will have a chance to showcase their work during a special exhibit at the library. It's a fun, engaging way to learn, create, and be inspired!

Blues at the Ritz- Mark "Muleman" Massey, July 24 at Ritz Theatre in Sheffield. Born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, Muleman learned his craft as an inmate at Parchman Farm while performing in the prison band. He's lived the blues, paid his dues, and now his time has come. His latest album, *Been a Long, Long Time*, was produced and recorded by Billy Lawson at Wishbone Studio. It has earned him five Number 1 singles and a Number 1 album on the Roots Soul and Blues Charts. Sponsored by Colbert Tourism. Concessions available. Limited seating in the Ritz Studio. Tickets (\$15): tennesseevalleyarts.org or 256-383-0533

Martha Carpenter Portrait Workshop July 24-26 at the Tennessee Valley Art Center. During the 3-day workshop, Martha Carpenter will demonstrate canvas preparation, materials usage, color mixture, and a basic layout of the bust portrait using a live model. For a complete description of the workshop and supply list, please visit our website. Info: tennesseevalleyarts.org or 256-383-0533.

Real Estate

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See NOTES... page 22





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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](https://www.medicare.gov), 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) for help with plan choices.

Community Notes...

Continued from page 21

The 4th Annual Stayin' Alive Disco Dodgeball for St. Jude will be 10am Saturday, August 16 at the Mars Hill Bible School old gymnasium. All proceeds benefit St. Jude. \$15 per person to play dodgeball. Youth and adult teams (church groups, family and/or business teams). Donation for admission. Register, donate, purchase event shirt and/or livestream at benandtravis.com/dodgeball.

Doreen Ntim Boateng, a rising author, criminologist, and nursing advocate, is set to launch and book signing of two powerful books—"Through New Eyes" and "Stepping into Womanhood"—at 2pm Saturday, July 26 at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. Rooted in themes of growth, healing, and identity, both books reflect Doreen's commitment to social change,

faith, and empowerment. Drawing from her background in criminal justice and healthcare, she weaves powerful storytelling with practical insights for women, professionals, and young adults navigating life's defining seasons. In alignment with her mission to give back, Doreen has pledged 10% of book proceeds to two impactful causes:

- Anchored in Truth, a church-based mission at Grace Life Church focused on spreading the gospel and supporting local ministries.
- Organizations that support forensic nurses and survivors of abuse, victimization, and trauma in Alabama.

Books will be available in both print and digital formats on Amazon. To learn more, purchase copies, or attend the July 26th book launch, kindly email : goldensolacepublishing@gmail.com Follow on Instagram@ntim_waa @ Nursefix_01

"Hi Neighbors of the Shoals" meets at the Florence Public Library on the first Tuesday of each month (August 5) at 10:30am. We are a women's social group welcoming all ladies who are residents of the Shoals area. Come join us! Contact Christina Dickinson, 262-930-7762, for further details.

Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club, 10am, third Wednesday, (July 16) at Helen Keller Public Library, 511 Main St., Tusculumbia. nancy537481@yahoo.com

Game Day at St. Bartholomew's Church, 1900 Darby Drive, Florence, the 3rd Thursday of the month. (July 17) 1-3pm. Games provided or bring your own. For more info, call 678-372-3526. All are welcome, for fun and fellowship.

Underwood-Petersville Neighborhood Watch meets at 2pm the 4th Sunday (July 27) of each month at Underwood-Petersville Community Center, 840 Lauderdale 7, Florence.

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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!

Our next Medicare Class will be Thursday, July 17th 11am-Noon @ Alabama Health Guidance

256-648-5710

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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256-383-4447 (option 2) www.medshoals.com/medspa

CaringPlace Caregiver Support Group, second Monday (August 4) of each month, 10-11 a.m., CaringPlace Center, 216 Marengo St., Suite I, Florence. Grief Group follows, 11-11: 30am. Information, Eileen Nunnally, 256-762-1166.

Summer Reading Event: James Quad Cities Photography Club, 6:30pm, second Tuesday, (August 12) Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence.

Vendors Wanted for the Fall 2025 Love Shouldn't Hurt Vendor Market set for Saturday and Sunday, September 6-7 at the Roundhouse at Tusculumbia, 110 North Indian St. — Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday 12-4pm
Vendor setup is 4pm-6pm Friday, September 5. 8x8 spaces are available for \$40 each (non-refundable). Food Trucks available. Limited spaces are available so reserve yours early.
For more information: Call CCDVRC: 256-284-2284; Email: colbertdvrc@aol.com
Facebook: Colbert County Domestic Violence Response Coalition
(These are the only contact options. Please do not respond to other/unknown contacts, especially on Facebook.)

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.

Open registration for Community Bible Study, a women's interdenominational Bible study, will take place in the chapel at our host church, Woodmont Baptist Church, on Wednesday, August 6 from 9-11am. The classes will meet in-person at Woodmont on Wednesdays from 9:45am-noon beginning September 3. Please join us for an exciting, in-depth study of the book of Psalms. Space is limited so please register as soon as possible. The registration fee is \$35 for adults (scholarships available) and \$10 for children (infants – grade 12). If you prefer, you can register on-line at <http://florenceal.cbclass.org/>

Florence Fly Fisher & Tyers meets the 1st Tuesday of every month (August 5) from 6:30-8pm at St Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 1900 Darby Dr. in Florence. Anyone interested is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Thursday, August 7 - Sunday, August 10, The "Sweet Delilah Swim Club" play follows five Southern women whose friendship began on their college swim team. They meet every summer for a reunion at the same beach cottage in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The play focuses on four of these weekends and spans 33 years, highlighting their evolving lives, friendships, and relationships.
At the Ritz Theatre in Sheffield. Directed by: Andrew Maples & Laura Ringnell

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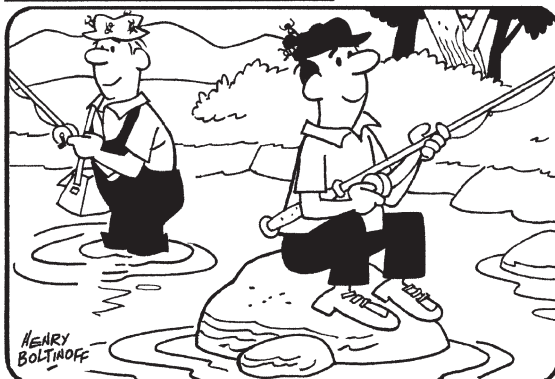
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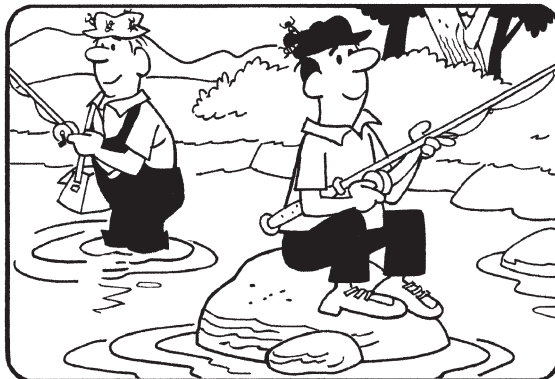
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IT'S YARD SALE SEASON! Get a free yard sale kit with your prepaid red lined yard sale ad. Deadline Friday: 8 days prior to a Saturday sale. See Page 4 or visit www.courierjournal.net.

A 7000 Year Run

The earth being here for billions of years and sustainable as is, is a horselaugh. I have noticed for years a steady deterioration of everything. This earth has nothing new on it or in it since it was created, except daily sunshine. Everything is dying. WHY? There's a curse on it! **James 1:15** "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." The truthful answers to all questions of life and death are contained in the Holy Bible, KJV. The sun shines everyday and renews life on this planet. The holy bible shows that God works in sevens. Seven is a finisher. **2 Peter 3:8** "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." The dates back to Christ and Adam are easily calculated by the years and events they lived and died. We have ~4000 years from Adam to Christ, and from Christ to present, ~2025 years. That's six days or 6025 years. Creation took six days, God rested on the seventh day. Sabbath rest.

Hebrews 4:9 "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." This earth now has ~8,200,000,000 inhabitants. ~A doubled population by 2100AD on earth, cannot be sustained by its continued drain of resources and the ground wearing out, without the hand of God on it! The last day, or the seventh day of rest (1000 years) will only come after the saved are caught up to meet the Lord in the air and judged, and the great tribulation ~7 years has been finished. The 2nd Advent will come and with it the King of Glory and his saints and set up the kingdom and reign for the last 1000 years or seventh day of rest. During that time, Satan will be bound and peace will finally come on this earth. What a future the saved have!!! **COMPARED TO ETERNITY, 7000 YEARS IS REALLY SHORT.** See Romans 9:28 & Hebrews 11:25.

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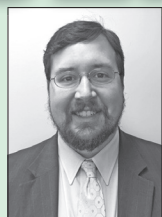
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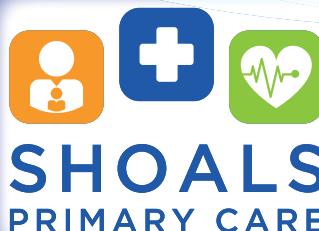
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EASTON CORBIN
SATURDAY, JULY 19



T. GRAHAM BROWN
SATURDAY, JULY 18



DEANA CARTER
SATURDAY, JULY 17

It all started with a phone call. St. Jude Hospital, seeking to stamp out childhood cancer, had an idea to identify influential and dedicated people to start local fundraisers for St. Jude in their respective communities. One of these fundraisers was called Saddle Up For St. Jude and was designed around horseback riding. Through research, St. Jude placed a phone call to Mr. Jimmy King of Leighton, Alabama. Jimmy was 62 years old and a long time passionate horse and cattle rancher in Northwest Alabama. Without hesitation, Jimmy King said yes to act as coordinator for the ride, and just like that the Northwest Alabama Saddle Up for St. Jude was born!

Gardiner Farms has been fortunate to host this event since its 2nd year and like everyone we are so thankful that Jimmy King said yes to St. Jude! We have the best volunteers in the world, and with your help we have raised over 4 Million Dollars for St. Jude hospital with a goal of \$400,000 this year.

Hope to see you there!
Jimmy Gardiner



Jimmy King - Founder

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, July 17

- 12:00 p.m. Farm open for campers & riders
- 6:00 p.m. Kid Zone opens
- 6:00 p.m. **Colbert County Cowboy Church Band** on stage
- 7:15 p.m. Drive on stage
- 8:30 p.m. **Deana Carter** on stage

Friday, July 18

- 7:00 a.m. Gates Open
- 11:00 a.m. Concessions Open
- 6:00 p.m. Kid Zone Opens
- 6:30 p.m. **Rewind of the Shoals** on stage
- 7:30 p.m. **Amanda Brewer** on stage
- 8:30 p.m. **T. Graham Brown** on stage

Saturday, July 19

- 7:00 a.m. Gates Open
- 10:00 a.m. Concessions Open
- 11:30 a.m. **Grace Anne Underwood** on stage
- 11:45 a.m. **Bella Hodge** on stage
- 12:00 p.m. **Jax Greenhill** on stage
- 12:30 p.m. **Deja Vu** on stage
- 1:45 p.m. **Josh Brannon Band** on stage
- 3:00 p.m. Live Auction
- 8:30 p.m. **Easton Corbin** on stage

Sunday, July 20

- 4:00 p.m. Farm Closes

Print promotion sponsored in part by the Courier Journal.

RAFFLES

**Exmark Lazer Z 60 in. cut
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donation ticket chances



available at Singing River Dentistry, Circle 5 Outfit, & St. Jude volunteers)

**Drawing will be held
Saturday, July 19.**

You do not have to be present to win.

**Directions to Gardiner Farms
85 Underwood Road, Tuscumbia**

- From Hwy 72 West, turn left at Colbert Farmer's Co-op
- Go 1 block and turn left on Frankfort Rd.
- Go 1.7 miles and take left fork on Underwood Mtn.
- Go 3.1 miles and turn left on County Farm Rd.
- Go 1 block and veer right on Dead End Rd to Gardiner Farm
- FOLLOW THE SIGNS!**

ADMISSION

Primitive camping sites available for **\$25**, contact Ann Jones 256-446-5392

\$60 donation for weekend pass,

\$20 for Thursday & Friday

\$40 for Saturday

SCAN TO BUY TICKETS



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Circle 5 Outfit



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SaddleUp4Kids.org