

Promotion for Holder

SHEFFIELD— Bank Independent recently announced the promotion of **Cody Holder** to Vice President – Sales Officer. Holder has been a vital member of the Bank Independent team since 2010. Starting as a part-time teller, he steadily advanced through positions including Personal Banker, Treasury



Holder

Solutions Sales Specialist, Real Estate Specialist, and Sales Manager. Since 2019, he has served with distinction as Sales Officer. “Cody’s journey at Bank Independent is a testament to hard work, perseverance, and a passion for serving others,” said **Jason Windham**, President of Bank Independent. “His leadership, both within the bank and in our communities, reflects the values we hold dear.” In his new role, Holder will continue to serve customers through Bank Independent’s Cox Creek Sales Office in Florence. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from UNA and has furthered his professional growth through Leadership Shoals and the Alabama Banking School.

Guild’s Art Expressions

FLORENCE—Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is pleased to present “Art Expressions,” an annual

See SHORTS... on Page 2

Volume 141 Number 51

October 15, 2025

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Active at 111 Years Young



Lillie Cunningham Courtesy photo

FLORENCE—Ms. Lillie Cunningham of Florence recently celebrated her 111th birthday with several private parties, a lunch at Newbern’s, and one public celebration at the W.C. Handy Recreation Center in Florence September 28. The Lauderdale county native voluntarily doesn’t drive, now, but she still can physically. Instead, she allows her many family members and

friends to take her places. Ms Cunningham is still very independent. She lives at home, takes care of herself, cooks and cleans on her own, attends church every Sunday. She enjoys reading her Bible, working puzzles, and remembers well.

She had major hip surgery at age 102, and her family and friends say that she was up and walking around after less than a week.

With the March 2025 passing of 111-year-old, Emma Robinson from Goodwater, AL, Cunningham may well be the oldest living Alabamian.

See AT 111... on Page 9

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Artists Have a Street Canvas

SHEFFIELD – Watch the pavement, be transformed into a living canvas at Paint the Street, an interactive outdoor arts festival celebrating creativity, community, and color! This exciting event has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 18. The event invites visual artists to “paint the street” with temporary murals using chalk or other removable media, while local



See STREET... on Page 10

10 YEAR CELEBRATION

Guild Will Honor Dr. Tom Ott

FLORENCE—The Shoals Writers Guild turns ten with a celebratory meeting honoring Dr. Thomas Oliver Ott, retired UNA history professor and author of “The Haitian Revolution” and “Saturday and the Witch Woman.”



Ott

The first Shoals Writers Guild meeting was held on October 17, 2015, at Coldwater Books in Tuscumbia. Founded by Joy Willow, the group voted to move the meetings to a more central location at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. The Guild meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month from January-October, and hosts two speakers at each meeting. “Dr. Ott has been a

See WRITERS... on Page 6

INSIDE this Issue

GAME DAY
SCORE CARD 2025



Online Only:

Automotive Inside



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- Savvy Senior
- Your Letters

- Ask the Attorney
- Alzheimer’s Symposium
- Rogersville
- Fall Festival
- Hocus Focus



- Storytime at the Museum
- Your Halloween Coloring Contest
- SIGNS of the PAST



- Outdoors
- Web Poll
- Pet Talk
- Mystery Photo



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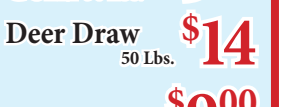
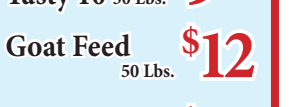
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 Boneless Chicken Breast \$2.99 Lb.	 Chicken Leg Quarters 10 Lb. Bag \$7.99	 Whole Rabbits \$15.99 Each	 Goat Feed 50 Lbs. \$12
			 5-Way Scratch 50 Lbs. \$12

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Shorts...

Guild's Art Expressions

Continued from Page 1

exhibition of the latest works by the Shoals Artists Guild members from October 19–November 17. An opening reception takes place on Sunday, October 19 from 2–4pm. The public is invited to attend this community-inspired event and enjoy the opportunity to meet the talented members of the Shoals Artists Guild.

The purpose of this artistic group is to foster an interest in sketching and painting in the Quad-Cities and surrounding areas. The members organize field trips to places of artistic interest to sketch or paint, as well as offer monthly art demonstrations. Currently, they meet every third Friday of each month. For more information, contact the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts.

The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is free and open to the public Monday-Friday from 9-4 and on Sundays from 1-4. The art center is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa in St. Florence and can be reached by calling 256-760-6379.

Local Speaks at Conference

MONTERREY, MEXICO –International President of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG), Dr. **Beverly Hall-Maughan** of Florence, shared a stage recently with distinguished leaders such as Dr. **Fernando Reimers**, Director of the Global Education Innovation Initiative at Harvard



Hall-Maughan

University, and **Sofialeticia Morales**, Secretary of Education for Nuevo León, Mexico. Hall-Maughan was invited to serve as a guest panelist at the XVII Encuentro Mundial de Valores (World Meeting of Values), held in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, September 25–26. The theme for the annual event was “Paths of Peace and Compassion.”

Together, they highlighted the importance of empowering educators, advancing universal values, and making a positive impact on global education. As a panelist, Hall-Maughan emphasized the importance of leading with purpose from the mind and passion from the heart, noting that peace and compassion play vital roles in developing the next

generation of educational leaders.

Founded in 1929, DKG is an honor society for women educators with over 50,000 members in 17 countries. Its vision, Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide, continues to guide its initiatives and global outreach.

Baking Chloe's Howl-O-Ween

FLORENCE—Chloe's Fund is getting ready to pack the Florence Lauderdale Animal Services Classroom on Saturday, October 25 with baked goods, assorted, decorated and fun treats and delicious homemade bread(s) – all for its Howl-O-Ween Bake Sale! Most of those items will be pre-ordered from the menu, and that is always the best way to be sure you can get exactly what you want.

The menu for pre-order sales is on the following Facebook Pages: Chloe's Fund for Medical Needs of Florence Shelter Animals, Florence Lauderdale Animal Services, and Friends of Florence Lauderdale Animal Services.

Bake Sale coordinator, **Lisa Wilson Rim**, can text the menu to you. Contact her locally at 804-240-6880. You can also call her or Direct Message her on Facebook to place your order.

See SHORTS... on Page 5



SHOALS COMMUNITY OCT. 19 6-8PM

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Yard Sales

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

To list your sale, use the classified form on page 6.

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

MUSCLE SHOALS MOVING SALE: 213 Highpoint Ave Thurs. Fri. 7 am until Lots of Christmas decoration, quilts and bedding, outdoor furniture, a come-along tool, and lots more. Priced to sale.

FLORENCE YARD / ESTATE SALE
3409 Chisholm Rd.,
Sat., Oct. 18th, 7 am-until?
Furniture, Crystal, Antiques,
no clothes!

FLORENCE MOVING SALE

102 Birch Run Dr., Oak Hills Sub., Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 2nd & 3rd, 9am-4pm, Lot of Rare Antique Furniture, Clocks, and much more! Check out pics on Facebook/search Kathy Oliver Grissom, or call 256-627-9246

FLORENCE: MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE 1004 Mars Hill Rd Sat., Oct 18 7am-2pm Home decor, women's clothes, shoes, elect supplies, electronics, medical equipment supplies, furniture, CDs, storm door, lots more.

TUSCUMBIA SHED SALE, 600 S. Hickory St., Sat., Oct. 18th 6am-until? Garden Tiller with newly rebuilt motor \$250; Men's XL Camouflage Clothing, like new, Fishing Equipment including Rods & Reels, Hand Tools, Small Tools, too much to list!

FLORENCE: CWM COMMUNITY YARD SALE 2118 Helton Dr Sat. 8am-2pm Multi-Family, household items, etc.

FLORENCE YARD SALE, 612 E. Tuscaloosa St., Fri. & Sat., 7am-until? Collectibles, Clothes, Books and more! "Rain or Shine"

FLORENCE: GARAGE SALE 210 Sherborne Ct Fri. Sat. 8am Barbie dolls, ornaments, glass, clocks, silverware, a large number of collectibles.

MUSCLE SHOALS: YARD SALE 331 Lee Dr. Sat. Oct. 18th 8am-3pm (River Rd to Bainbridge Rd. North on Bainbridge to Lee Dr.) Lots of good stuff for everyone. Clothes, household, miscellaneous.

FLORENCE: ESTATE SALE
157 Silverleaf Lane
October 18th 9am-2pm
October 19th 12pm-3pm

Thomasville Dining Room Table with 8 chairs, very nice China Cabinet, Twin bed with bedspread and pillows, Mahogany night stand, lamps, rolling desk chair, awesome rolltop desk, monogram machine with cabinet, real potted plants, twin wicker beds with bed linens, wicker lamp table, seashell lamps, awesome conch shells, wicker 3 drawer night stand, small wood rocker, oval gold mirror, awesome metal fish wall decor, conch vases with seashells, white 2 door wardrobe, full size bed with 2 drawers and mattress, great framed pictures.

YARD SALE

TUSCUMBIA: MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE. 1520 3 Mile Lane Arrowhead Estate Sat. 6am until. Name brand clothing - Men, Women, and Kids. Household decor. Furniture. Appliances. Lots of misc!

FLORENCE: YARD SALE Spanish Oak Ct (Green Space) Sat. 8am-3pm Unique household items: antiques, freezer, sleigh bed, bikes, pet supplies, small appliances.

SHEFFIELD ESTATE SALE, 1620 Hillcrest Ave., Sat., Oct. 18th, 7am-until? Glassware, Small Appliances, Lamps, Christmas items, Shoes, Clothes, and much more!

KILLEN MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE, 6063 Co. Rd. 33, Off of Hwy 72, (3rd drive on left past Elkin's East Funeral Home) Fri., Oct. 17th, 7am-4pm and Sat., Oct. 18th, 7am-2pm, Boy's & Girl's, Infant, Toddler & Youth Clothing, Men's & Women's (SM-3XL), Shoes, Purses, DVDs, Halloween Costumes, Christmas items, Toys, Apple Watch Bands, Household items, Decor and lots more! Cancelled if Raining.

ESTATE SALE

839 West Alabama St.,
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Saturday, Oct. 18th
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Numbers given out at 8:30 am

Sunday, Oct. 19th,
1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Jewelry, Antique Bedroom Set with Carved Indian Head on headboard, Antique Bookcase, Cast Iron Skillets, Griswold Waffle Iron, Antique Oak Wardrobe, Fostoria, Libbey Glass, Stenciled Tea Cart, Oil Paints by Billie Mangas, Mahogany Bedroom Set, China, New Sheet Sets, unopened, And More!

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Kristi Nicole Dowdy

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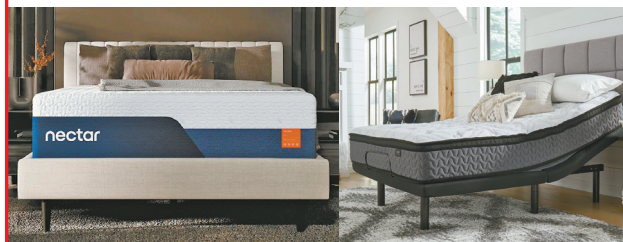
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Love, Mom, Jason, Ronny and family



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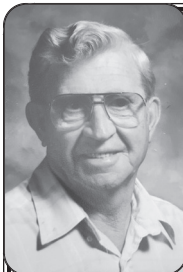
2-18-32 to 10-11-22

Three years have passed since
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You were a wonderful, husband,
father and grandfather.

We will see you again in Heaven.

Love, Earline, Denise, Janet, Lisa
and their families.

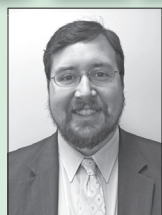


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Community Notes

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

October 18 - Boo Fest at the Children's Museum of the Shoals on Saturday, October 18, from 11am-1pm. The family-friendly event will feature games, candy, fun activities, and a costume contest.

Admission is free for members and for children under 18 months old. Non-member admission is \$10.

For more information, call -256-284-7107.

Shoals Community Trunk Or Treat - October 19 from 6-8pm at Mars Hill Bible School, 698 Cox Creek Parkway, Florence. **FREE** entry. The event sponsored by the Shoals Area Churches of Christ and Mars Hill Bible School.

Catherine Barnes Women's Health Fair - October 20 & October 24 at the Shoals Community Clinic, 309-B WC Handy Place, Florence.

FREE to the community by appointment, 256-760-4713.

- Pap Smear Screenings
- Clinical Breast & Cervical Exams
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Patients should be: women ages of 40-64, without insurance and low income.

Presented by: the UNA Anderson College Of Nursing And Health Professions, Florence Pathology Services, Tri-State Center for Breast Health, Lauderdale County Radiology, ABCCDEP and the Shoals Community Clinic's **WELL WOMAN PROJECT.**

Property Taxes Explained - 11:30am Thursday, Oct. 23. Essential

knowledge for Lauderdale County homeowners & landowners, with Q&A led by Lauderdale County Revenue Commissioner Billy Hammock

Registration required by Friday, Oct. 17! Lunch will be served!

2 ways to register: email: adults@fjpl.org OR online at: www.aces.edu/go/5267

Florence City Schools' LAUNCH Program has been recognized with the Governor's Award as the 2025-2026 Alabama Work-Based Learning Best Practices Winner by the Alabama Office of Apprenticeship.

This honor highlights the incredible opportunities the LAUNCH program provides including real-world, hands-on experience that equips our students with the skills and confidence to succeed in today's workforce.

City of Florence Leaf collection Attention All Early Birds: We need to test our equipment as we anticipate the heavy leaf fall of November and December. **Already have a pile of leaves?** You can call us at 256-760-6460 for leaf pick up.

Starting November 1, we will work the regular leaf collection schedule and **will NOT accept call-ins.**

Florence Police Department Patch Coloring Contest! Kids of all ages are invited to design our patch! **Deadline: Friday, October 25 at 4PM.** Come vote for the top entries at our Frights and Lights event later this month!

The winning artwork will:

1. Be our Facebook profile picture for all of November
2. Earn a behind-the-scenes tour of the Florence Police Department
3. Photo op with FPD Officers and the Chief of Police

How to get the coloring sheet:

1. Pick up at the Florence PD lobby
2. Download from here: <https://florenceal.org/63651-2/>

How to submit?

1. Drop off at the Florence PD lobby
2. Email to jhein@florenceal.org
3. Hand it to any FPD Officer

James Quad Cities Photography Club, 6:30pm, second Tuesday, (October 14) Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence.

See **NOTES...** page 7

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Shorts...

Baking Chloe's Howl-O-Ween

Continued from Page 2

Pre-order sales end Tuesday, October 21 at 3pm. Remember, the Howl-O-Ween Bake Sale is Saturday, October 25 from 10am-1pm at Florence Lauderdale Animal Services, 3240 Roberson Rd. in Florence. If you forget to order, drop by the sale, anyway. There are usually some items left over because Many of the volunteer bakers make a few extras just in case.

All proceeds go help as many sick and injured Florence Lauderdale Animal Services animals as possible, with the goal of getting them adopted.

Distinguished School-Apple

FLORENCE – The University of North Alabama's Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for the 2025-2028 program term.

"We are honored to be named an Apple Distinguished School," said Dr. Tera Kirkman, Dean of the College. "We are committed to the success of our students. It is our belief that the use of technology is one way to offer them an enriched educational experience, ensuring they are practice-ready healthcare providers."

Schools apply and are selected for this distinction based on their commitment to continuous innovation in education and using Apple products to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning. Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of leadership and educational excellence, with a clear vision for how technology-rich environments support learning goals.

In Apple Distinguished schools, forward-thinking leaders and their communities work to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning, and they have documented results of academic accomplishments. Schools all over the world are using iPad and Mac to transform learning.

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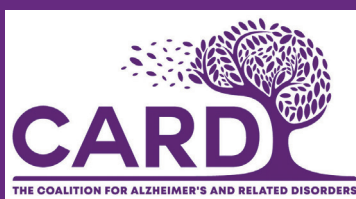
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1360 Cox Creek Pkwy., Florence

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Keynote Speakers:

Troy Skipworth, J.D.

Beth Butler, RN

Sandra Dembrowski

Abby Whitlock, MT-BC, NMT

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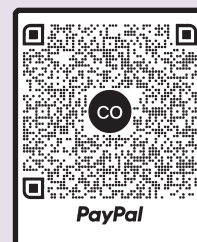
***If you register before 9/1/25 your registration fee
will be \$10



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also online at **TNValleyStuff.com**.

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Go to **www.courierjournal.net**
and click **"Place a Classified"**

PHONE – 8AM-5PM Mon-Fri
Charge to Credit/Debit Card
by calling **256-764-4268**

FAX – 24 HRS - Charge to Credit
/ Debit Card by faxing an ad to **256-760-9618**. Include exp. date. List
how many weeks the ad is to run.

MAIL – Mail your written ad to
address at right. Include your phone
number. We will call to finalize your ad.
List how many weeks the ad is to run.

OFFICE – Drop by our office
at your convenience 8-5 Monday-
Friday and write/submit it there.

ADVANCE PAYMENT IS REQUIRED in
cash, check or Credit/Debit Card.
Phone-in Ads MUST be Charged to
Credit/Debit Card! NO EXCEPTIONS!
NO REFUNDS!

DEADLINE: Friday 5pm

Private Party Rate

4 LINES Each additional line - \$1.50 - Prepay -
NO REAL ESTATE • 1 item per ad - 4 Weeks/4 lines 1 ITEM \$16 Each additional line - add \$4.50

\$5⁵⁰
Week

Commercial Rate

4 LINES Each additional line add \$1.50 – applies to anyone engaged
in sale of goods/services on a recurring basis or for profit, licensed or not – including pets. 6 Weeks \$39
- Each additional line - add \$7.50 total

\$8⁰⁰
Week

Real Estate Rate

5 LINES Each additional line add \$1.50 – applies to agencies, individual,
developers and anyone engage in selling, renting, leasing structures and/or properties in Real Estate or
General section. 6 Weeks \$36 Each additional line - add \$7.50 total

\$8⁰⁰
Week

Yard Sales

6 LINES Each additional line - \$1.50

YARD SALES – An exclusive listing of the area's better sales prominently placed

\$14⁵⁰
Week

Employment

6 LINES Each additional line - \$2.25

EMPLOYMENT - Looking for employment or Businesses looking for employees

\$16⁰⁰
Week

Private Party Auto Rate

Up to 8 LINES for 4 weeks.

Each additional line - \$2.25

\$17⁰⁰
4 wks

*one line is approx. 30 characters

Name

Address

City

State

Phone



HOW MANY WEEKS?

Multiply the number of weeks - X - the cost of the ad....

YES! RED LINE MY AD!



only \$4 additional

MAILING ADDRESS: Courier Journal, 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630

Please Print Ad Clearly. NOT RESPONSIBLE for illegible handwriting

Questions? Call our office at 256-764-4268.

**Courier
Journal**

Personnel

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Thomas V. Magazzu

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES

Gregg Scott
Heather Ridinger

GRAPHIC COORDINATORS

Russell Roden
Andrea L. Gray

OFFICE STAFF/CLASSIFIED

Erin Gilbert

OFFICE STAFF/SALES ASST.

Tina Hill

CIRCULATION

Ted Fallin

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm

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DEADLINES: Issues Published Every Wednesday

INSERTS - 5 pm Thursday

DISPLAY ADS - 5 pm Thursday

CLASSIFIED ADS - 5 pm Friday unless otherwise specified

219 W. Tennessee St.

Florence, AL 35630
256-764-4268

Fax: 256-760-9618

Your Courier Journal is
published for total saturation,
direct-mail delivery every
Wednesday to **51,892** Shoals
area and surrounding homes. It
is Alabama's Largest Weekly-
Mailed Direct, and enjoys a larger
circulation than all local subscriber
based newspapers combined.

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

219 W. Tennessee St.
Florence, AL 35630

or email to:
editor@courierjournal.net

well in advance of the planned
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Vans with or without titles, Call Joel
256-303-7609

**I WANT TO BUY A USED ELEC-
TRIC WHEELCHAIR** In good con-
dition. 256-386-7196

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Chimneys Flashed, Valley Repair.
All Work Guaranteed. Free esti-
mates, 256-383-3218

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Bravo Properties LLC will conduct a public
auction of the contents inside Storage Units on
Saturday, October 25, 2025
at 9:00 AM to satisfy outstanding debts.

Management reserves the right to withdraw any from
the sale. Call 256-765-9983 for more information.

STARTING LOCATION: 3131 Cloverdale Rd., Florence, AL

#26 Chris Brewer

#37 Andrea Goodson

#43 Noah Holmes

#45 Debra Thorstenson

#47 James Austin Jr

#52 Thomas Gean

#56 Racheal Mathis

#64 Louis McCroskey

#78 Kim Ellis

#84 Kim Ellis

#86 Willie Griggs

#101 Mary C Wells

#103 Abbie Brown

#106 Selina Thompson

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING: 205 Roberts St., Florence, AL

#57 Richard Shoults

#82 Alicia Durham Haraway

#85 Margie Flippo

#86 Elizabeth Anders

Writers Guild...

Continued from Page 1

member since February
2016," said Joy Willow. She
explained that honorary
members are recognized
for their contributions
to the Guild, and Dr. Ott
has been an exemplary
supporter since the
beginning. Other
honorary members
include Billy Warren,
Lee Freeman, Dr. George
Makowski, Dr. Carol
Behel, Dr. John Ford,
Bonnie Gibbs Roberts,
Peter Guralnick, and
Jacque Rainwater.

Dr. Ott was born in
LaGrange, Georgia and
raised in Spartanburg,
South Carolina. He moved
to Florence in 1967,
where he taught history
at the University of North
Alabama until 2010.
His first book, Haitian
Revolution, was a "spin-
off" from his dissertation,
which he wrote for his
PhD at the University of
Tennessee. The university
wanted to publish his
writing, and according
to Dr. Ott, "it turned out
to be very profitable and
well-received." His most
recent work is a historical

fiction book called
"Saturday and the Witch
Woman." It is available
for purchase on Amazon
and can be listened to in
audiobook form as well.
Narrating his own book,
Ott was the first person to
record an audiobook at
Fame Studios in Muscle
Shoals.

In addition to the
induction to the new
honorary member, the
Guild will host authors
Anna Grace Miller,
a multi-genre local
author, and psychologist
Carol Shaw, formerly of
Florence.

The meeting will start
at 10am downstairs in the
conference room.

The Shoals Writers
Guild is not a writing
group but focuses on
the publishing aspect of
writing. Their motto is
"Educate, Motivate, and
Inspire." Membership
dues are \$40/year. New
member applications can
be made at the meeting on
October 18.

For more information
email: Shoalswritersguild
@gmail.com

Advertise Your Business With Us

Why Follow Paul

Paul has a doctrine. Paul has a gospel. Paul is THE
gentle AND CHURCH Apostle. Paul got his doctrine
from the Lord Himself. Paul, under inspiration, wrote
to the early churches and to the preachers to straighten
them out, doctrinally! Paul went to the Lord's school in
Arabia three years. **Note these verses: Galatians 1:11-12**
"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was
preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it
of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of
Jesus Christ." **Galatians 2:4-6** "And that because of false
brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out
our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring
us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not
for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with
you. But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever
they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's
person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference
added nothing to me." Did you get that?

2 Timothy 3:10 "But thou hast fully known my doctrine,
manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,"
Romans 16:25 "Now to him that is of power to stablish you
according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept
secret since the world began," **Romans 11:13** "For I speak to
you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles,
I magnify mine office." **2 Timothy 4:2** "Preach the word; be
instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with
all longsuffering and doctrine." Preachers, it's pretty simple,
isn't it? No, there's not two gospels, there's ten! A little study
will reveal them! **2 Peter 3:9** "The Lord is not slack concerning
his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering
to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all
should come to repentance." It's God's will that you get saved.
Speakers, teachers, church members and anyone out there, you
like Peter, see 1 Peter 3:18, and let Christ bring you to God.
Don't let your pride walk you into hell.

Beacon Baptist Church

Bill Bishop, Pastor • Rogersville • 256-247-7733

1.2 miles north from red light on Hwy. 207 on left

Sunday services at 10am and 11am and 6pm

Visitors welcome!

Community Notes...

Continued from page 4

Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club, 10am, third Wednesday, (October 15) at Helen Keller Public Library, 511 Main St., Tusculumbia. nancy537481@yahoo.com

There will be a Fall Revival at the Cypress Creek Methodist Church, 801 Lewis Bruce Lane in Florence (off Cox Creek Pkwy) Wednesday-Sunday, October 15-19. Wednesday-Darrin English; Thursday-

Jacky Ward; Friday-Donnie McDaniel; Sunday-Cypress Creek's own Blayne McCafferty. Everyone welcome.

Opening reception 2-4 p.m. Oct. 19 - Shoals Artist Guild Member Exhibition at Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence. The exhibit will go from Oct. 19 to Nov. 17. The center is free and open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

Somewhere in Time - A social support group for Widow/Widowers in their new life journey after the loss of a spouse. Call for schedule 256-791-5569.

The United Way Witches Ride (Thursday Oct 16, 5-10pm) is a whimsical, family-friendly Halloween parade hosted annually in downtown Florence, Alabama to raise funds for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Participants dress as witches and ride decorated bicycles, golf carts, and floats along a festive route, tossing candy and spreading joy to cheering spectators.

What began as a fun community event has grown into a beloved local tradition with a powerful purpose:

promoting early childhood literacy. All proceeds from the Witches Ride support monthly book deliveries to children from birth to age five, helping ensure that every child in our community has access to books and the opportunity to develop strong reading skills from an early age.

The parade is followed by a lively after party, with local restaurants and businesses joining in the celebration. Whether riding, volunteering, or simply watching the fun unfold, everyone plays a part in making this spooky, sparkly night a success for literacy in the Shoals.

The cost for each participant is \$35 (which is the cost to sponsor one child for one year for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library), whether you choose to walk,

ride a bike, or bring a golf cart! Each participant on a golf cart must pay a registration fee.

Sponsorships are also available! Join us for a fun night for a worthy cause!

Shoals Artists Guild Meeting Every 3rd Friday of the month, (October 17), 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.

"Frankenstein" at Cypress Moon Studios Thursday-Sunday, October 16-19. In this new twist on the classic drama/tragedy, a mysterious laboratory, a dark cemetery and a university

classroom provide the setting for Victor Frankenstein and his university friends, students who dabble in the mystical science of regeneration. The full-length play is written by Ric Averill, adapted from the book by Mary Shelley, produced by Tonya Holly, and directed by Amanda Perry.

October 16-18 at 7pm, and October 18-19 at 2pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Visit cypressmoonstudios.org for tickets. The Full Moon Theatre at Cypress Moon Studios is located at 1000 Alabama Avenue in Sheffield.

See NOTES... page 24

IN YOUR CORNER.

FROM SCREENING TO SURVIVORSHIP.



The Keller Breast Center logo is written in a stylized, cursive font. To its right are two red boxing gloves with black laces, positioned as if they are about to fight. The background of the entire section is a blurred image of a boxing ring with blue and red ropes.

BREAST NAVIGATION PROGRAM

At the Keller Breast Center, *your fight is our fight*. Our comprehensive Breast Health Program ensures that care is seamless — from routine screenings and diagnosis, to treatment, recovery and survivorship. Located on the campus of Helen Keller Hospital, patients have access to a full team of specialists, including radiologists, oncologists, surgeons and other experts who collaborate to provide **comprehensive and individualized care**.

\$40 MAMMOGRAMS
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IN OCTOBER

For women over the age of 40 with no previous history of breast cancer. Not covered by insurance or Medicare.

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We have an immediate opening for an Advertising Executive

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- Ability to nurture existing and new client relationships
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Good creative, editing, and interpersonal skills
- Ability to multitask and stay organized
- Ability to work both as part of a team and independently
- Minimum HS or GED
- Some sales and/or customer service experience.

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 6 or visit www.courierjournal.net.

RETIRED MECHANIC WITH 50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE Doing minor auto repairs, brakes, AC, computer scanning diagnostics, and more 256-810-2337

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MECHANIC SPECIAL
2013 MERCEDES-BENZ SUV, Sharp! 450 Turbo Engine, new battery, needs left rear shock replaced, \$2,000. Call 256-710-2196 Florence

JR. LAWSON TREE SERVICE, tree trimming, stump grinding, removal. Licensed & Bonded, Free estimates, 256-856-7028

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MUSCLE SHOALS MUSCADINES You pick them, \$1.00 per pound, 256-412-1270.

HAY FOR SALE 4X5 Net wrapped, Bermuda rolls \$55, and mixed grass \$45 per roll. We can deliver. 256-412-4242 or 256-460-2230

WE BUY RIDING MOWERS, John Deere, Cub Cadet, Kubota, Craftsman, etc. We will buy it running or not. Give us a call at 256-275-2276

HOME IMPROVEMENT AND BUILDING: siding, additions, garages, painting, decks, Free Estimates. 256-383-3218

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No Job Too Big or Too Small
Best Prices in Town!
256-627-0448 or 256-415-8192

C.A.S.E. WALNUT LUXURY VINYL PLANK FLOORING. 8 unopened boxes, 24 sq. ft. per box, \$50 per box. 1 box with 7 planks, 1 box with planks of various cuts. Both FREE., \$400 Firm. Cash Only. 256-810-4097

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Late model and low mileage motors and transmissions. 90 day guarantee. Call Gary or Brian, 256-332-5366. 256-460-0662

FUSE BOX OR ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS?

Call American Electric
In Florence, AL.
We have over 30 years experience, with friendly, dependable and affordable service. Locally and Veteran Owned, 256-760-1152

MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP during our Anniversary Month CLASSIFIED BLOWOUT Celebrating 43 years! Get 2 extra lines free, even if you have 6-week business or 4-week private party packages. Valid on all Private Party, Commercial, Yard Sale, and Real Estate Classified ads. NO LIMIT to number of ads or weeks placed! Other restrictions apply. Call 256-764-4268. Not available online. 2 EXTRA Lines FREE. Offer valid through Friday, October 31, 2025

The Colbert County Commission

will be accepting employment applications for a
Real Property Appraisal Trainee
in the Revenue Commissioner's Office

Starting pay is \$31,990.40 per year, plus health insurance and other benefits

Job Description and Application are available at the
Alabama Career Center
500 S. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield

MUST HAVE ACCOUNT WITH CAREER CENTER AT:
alabamaworks.alabama.gov

Deadline for applications is October 24, 2025

Colbert County Commission is an equal opportunity employer.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Utilities Board, City of Muscle Shoals Water & Wastewater Department
will be accepting applications for

the Position of ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Applications and a current job description may be obtained at the Muscle Shoals Utilities Board office located at 2001 Wildwood St.

Applications **with** resumes will be accepted and received until
Wed., October 15, 2025, 3:30pm

The Utilities Board is an EOE.

Full-Time Machine Operator

The TimesDaily is seeking a printing press operator to join our northwestern Alabama printing facility.
Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Performing standard set up of printing press
- Operating the press
- Making adjustments to maintain quality control
- Performing preventative maintenance and repairs.

Hands-on experience with a Goss Urbanite or DGM 850 is a plus, but not required. We are ready to hire and will train for the position.

This position offers benefits including:

- 401(k) matching
- Medical Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Disability Insurance
- Additional Insurance Coverage Options
- Flexible Spending Account
- Paid Time Off (Vacation, Holidays, Sick Time)

Qualified candidates will be available to work nights, weekends.

Applications are available at the TimesDaily office
219 W. Tennessee St.,
Florence, AL 35630
Questions or resumes may be emailed to:
Kevin.Blurton@timesdaily.com

At 111...

Continued from Page 1

"I'm feeling okay, I feel like always, I feel old, I don't have no secrets," Cunningham said. "I worked all my life until up about 2003."

She does better than many people forty years her junior. Her niece, Marcia Abernathy, sums it up, "We're blessed that she is here."

We wish Ms. Lillie Cunningham more rewarding and healthy years!

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ELECTRIC TANKLESS HOT WATER HEATER, Still in box. Bosch Trionic 4000 C, \$210 256-246-8307 Florence

FLORENCE: ESTATE SALE
157 Silverleaf Lane
October 18th 9am-2pm
October 19th 12apm-3pm
Thomasville Dining Room Table with 8 chairs, very nice China Cabinet, Twin bed with bedspread and pillows, Mahogany night stand, lamps, rolling desk chair, awesome roltop desk, monogram machine with cabinet, real potted plants, twin wicker beds with bed linens, wicker lamp table, seashell lamps, awesome conch shells, wicker 3 drawer night stand, small wood rocker, oval gold mirror, awesome metal fish wall decor, conch vases with seashells, white 2 door wardrobe, full size bed with 2 drawers and mattress, great framed pictures.

ESTATE SALE
839 West Alabama St.,
Florence, AL 35630

Saturday, Oct. 18th
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Numbers given out at 8:30 am

Sunday, Oct. 19th,
1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Jewelry, Antique Bedroom Set with Carved Indian Head on headboard, Antique Bookcase, Cast Iron Skillets, Griswold Waffle Iron, Antique Oak Wardrobe, Fostoria, Libbey Glass, Stenciled Tea Cart, Oil Paints by Billie Mangas, Mahogany Bedroom Set, China, New Sheet Sets, unopened, And More!

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* ON BALANCES UP TO AND INCLUDING \$25,000 IF QUALIFICATIONS ARE MET

0.05% APY*

* ON ALL BALANCES, EVEN IF QUALIFICATIONS ARE NOT MET



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Qualification Information: To earn your rewards, the following enrollments must be in place and all transactions and activities must post and settle to your Kasasa Cash account during each Monthly Qualification Cycle: At least 1 ACH credit or ACH payment transaction(s). At least 15 debit card purchases. Be enrolled in and have agreed to receive e-statements rather than paper statements. Be enrolled in and log into online banking. Maintain a valid email address on record with our bank. - Account transactions and activities may take one or more days to post and settle to the account and all must do so during the Monthly Qualification Cycle in order to qualify for the account's rewards. "Monthly Qualification Cycle" means a period beginning one (1) banking day prior to the first day of the current statement cycle through one (1) banking day prior to the last business day of the current statement cycle. See our website or contact one of our branch service representatives for specific Monthly Qualification Cycle dates. Reward Information: When your Kasasa Cash account qualifications are met during a Monthly Qualification Cycle, daily balances up to and including \$25,000 in your Kasasa Cash account earn an interest rate of 5.50% resulting in an APY of 5.50%; and daily balances over \$25,000 earn an interest rate of 0.50% on the portion of the daily balance over \$25,000, resulting in a range from 5.50% to 0.50% APY depending on the account's daily balance. When your Kasasa Cash qualifications are not met, the interest rate earned on the account's entire average daily balance will be 0.05% resulting in an annual percentage yield of 0.05%. Interest will be credited to your Kasasa Cash account on the last day of the current statement cycle. APY = Annual Percentage Yield. APYS accurate as of 04/04/2024. Rates, rewards, and bonuses, if any, are variable and may change after account is opened; rates may change without notice to you. No minimum balance is required to earn or receive the account's rewards. Rewards less than a penny cannot be distributed. Fees may reduce earnings. Additional Information: Account approval, conditions, qualifications, limits, timeframes, enrollments, log-ons and other requirements apply. \$50 minimum deposit is required to open the account. There are no recurring monthly maintenance charges or fees to open or close this account. Advertised information and rewards are based on all account qualifications being met during each cycle period. Contact one of our bank service representatives for additional information, account details, restrictions, reward calculations, processing limitations, cycle dates and enrollment instructions. Member FDIC. Trademarks: Kasasa and Kasasa Cash are trademarks of Kasasa, Ltd., registered in the U.S.A.

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 Jarrell Weight Management Specialists  @JarrellWeightSpecialists



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the Storm Drainage Pipe Annual Bid.

Bid No. 005-25

will be received by the City of Muscle Shoals at the office of the Owner at 2010 Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661 **until 11:00 am on Thursday, October 30, 2025,** and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The City of Muscle Shoals, is seeking bids for qualified bidders to provide storm drainage pipe. The Invitation to Bid can be examined at the office of the Owner listed above. A copy of the Invitation to Bid can be obtained from the office of the Owner listed above or at the City's website: cityofmuscleshoals.com.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids. Each bidder must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the Invitation to Bid. No Bidder may withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Kym Osborn, Procurement Officer
City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama

HEADLINER IN YOUR HAIR?

We Can Fix It! (Most colors in stock) Call 256-483-2923 Shoals area.

LIBERTY CUSTOM HOMES & RENOVATION, LLC Kitchens, bathrooms, garages, additions, decks, home repairs, lawncare. Licensed & Insured. References upon request. Free estimates. Call or text. 256-366-9884

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JR. LAWSON TREE SERVICE, tree trimming, stump grinding, removal. Licensed & Bonded, Free estimates, 256-856-7028

RV TOY HAULER, 40 ft., \$6,000. Also 40 ft. Fifth Wheel Camper \$10,000. Purchase both for \$12,500. Call 205-717-9060.

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Street...

Continued from Page 1

makers, crafters, and food vendors line the sidewalks with handmade treasures and delicious treats.

Whether you're a painter, potter, jeweler, or baker, this is your chance to showcase your work to hundreds of art-loving attendees in a vibrant, family-friendly atmosphere. Live music and community performances will take place throughout the day!

A morning car show kicks off the festivities at 10am. Food trucks will be on site and alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase at The Ritz Theatre. A special screening of *Pretty in Pink* will also be part of the festivities at 6pm at The Ritz Theatre.

Artists can claim a square and create a temporary mural on the street. Chalk or removable materials are required – supplies provided or bring your own. Prize money awarded to the winning mural!

Vendor booths are still available for arts, crafts, and handmade goods, as are food trucks and cottage food vendor spots. Live music and community performances throughout the day! Interested vendors may call 256-383-0533.

NEED HELP?

CONTACT 2-1-1

Your link to community resources

DIAL- 2-1-1

TEXT- your zip code to 898-211

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Virtual Landlord Briefing

The Landlord Briefing provides a great opportunity for new and prospective landlords, current landlords, and/or former landlords to obtain important information about the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, and learn about HCV Program requirements, the move and lease-up processes, program updates, and more. Landlords must register to attend the virtual Briefing in advance. The next Landlord Briefing is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 22, 10am-Noon**

To register please email section8@flohousing.org with your name, company and email address you want to receive the zoom invite.



* Please note that the Landlord Briefing date and time are subject to change.

WEEK OF October 15

Rosie's CANTINA
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in Downtown Florence
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Week of October 8 winner is Rita Nelson of Muscle Shoals who correctly guessed "Taco Bell on Court Street, Florence"

One entry per person. Winners will be announced each week in our paper and on our website. Winners can pick up their Gift Certificate at the Courier Journal office beginning Wednesdays after Noon.

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Guest Commentary

Weaponized DOJ? Say It Ain't So!

Democrats are masters at gaslighting, doing one thing and blaming the other side. They engage in what the Clintons derided as "the politics of personal destruction," and then they complain that Republicans are the ones doing it. They shut down the government by blocking a continuing resolution, and they blame Republicans for not saving ObamaCare. They weaponized not only the Justice Department but many other government agencies, and now they're agast that Donald Trump is giving them a dose of their own medicine.

The big difference? Trump is up front and open about what he's doing and how he's going about it. Democrats pretend they're holier than thou while they stab thou in the back.

Trump beats Democrats at their own game and they just can't stand it.

Whereas they invented crimes to wage

See WEAPONIZED?... on Page 20

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



Nate Jackson
PatriotPost.us

Courier Journal

THIS WEEK

in the *Shoals*

October 15, 2025

Happening THIS WEEK

CONTINUING THE MUSEUM SERIES

Storytime and The Leaf Thief

FLORENCE – Florence Arts & Museums is happy to announce a continuation of our Storytime at the Museum series. Our Museum Educator is inviting young children, ages 4–8, to celebrate autumn and how animals in nature prepare for the new season, on Friday October 17th from 10-11am at Pope's Tavern Museum. This event will feature a reading of "The



Leaf Thief," written by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater with a special squirrel friend

See LEAF... on Pg 18



ROGERSVILLE – The Rogersville community is once again coming together for a day of fun, fellowship, and giving back at the 5th Annual Rogersville Gives Back Fall Festival, taking place on Saturday, October 18 from 10am-2pm at Rogersville Park.

This family-friendly event includes free admission and promises something for everyone, including a car show, live music, food trucks with delicious assortments, local vendors, inflatables, and other children's activities. Guests are encouraged to bring a lawn chair, enjoy live entertainment, and shop locally

See FALL FEST... on Page 14

Shoals CASA Children Benefit from 5th Annual Rogersville Event on October 18

SHOALS COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT -

October 19 from 6-8pm at Mars Hill Bible School, 698 Cox Creek Parkway, Florence. FREE entry. The event is sponsored by the Shoals Area Churches of Christ and Mars Hill Bible School.

BOO FEST AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE SHOALS on Saturday,

October 18, from 11am-1pm. The family-friendly event will feature games, candy, fun activities, and a costume contest. Admission is free for members and for children under 18 months old. Non-member admission is \$10. For more information, call -256-284-7107.

EXPERIENCE THE CLASSIC TALE OF TERROR AT THE PLAY, FRANKENSTEIN,

October 16-19 presented by Cypress Moon Studios and the Full Moon Players. The performance, written by Ric Averill, produced by Tonya Holly, and directed by Amanda Perry, will have evening shows on October 16-18 at 7pm, and matinee performances on October 18 and 19 at 2pm. All shows take place at the Cypress Moon Studios Full Moon Theatre, located at 1000 Alabama Ave. in Sheffield. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. You can purchase tickets and find more information at <https://cypressmoonstudios.org/>.

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SATURDAY

OCT. 18 • 6PM

vs. Eastern Kentucky

Homecoming - Braly Stadium

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OCT. 19 • NOON at Queens U. of Charlotte

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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
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Celebration Ceremony Say Grats at Dinner

Editor,

We the people of the Shoals area need to stick together, no Democrat no Republican just the people of the Shoals. Let's celebrate each other and help those who are just less fortunate. I love the Shoals area, and I love the people in it. We need to have a celebration ceremony. We can call it, "The People of the Shoals."

Stanley Carter
Muscle Shoals

Dear Editor:

When we read about problems and tragedies it's easy to become distressed. To increase happiness, think about things for which you have gratitude. My family does this at the end of dinner when we say "grats." This involves one person telling us three things for which she or he is grateful.

Then we have a conversation about what was said. Being the old guy at the table, I often discuss how one of those things was different in earlier times. For

example, if televisions are cited, I might talk about how, when I was young, we didn't have one, and that the first TV's had small screens and took a while to "warm up" before a low-quality black and white image grudgingly appeared.

The only rule we have is that grats shouldn't involve a person at the table. Otherwise, they can be anything – big or small. Some examples might include freedom of speech, paper towels, email, volunteers, toothbrushes, friends, pie, plastic, sunshine, living in America, etc.

Grats has sparked a lot of good conversation and made us more appreciative of the lives we have. Try it. You'll like it.

Gary Jump
Itasca, IL

See LETTERS... on Page 26

... Elon Musk DOES pay Social Security exactly like regular workers do ...



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until **2PM on November 4, 2025.**

A mandatory pre-bid conference
will be held at the address above at
9AM on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025 -
at which time a detailed scope of work will
be made available and to receive questions
from interested parties.

All interested parties must be licensed and insured. The
scope of work and bid documents are currently available
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Any inquires can be sent to dwigginton@florencek12.org
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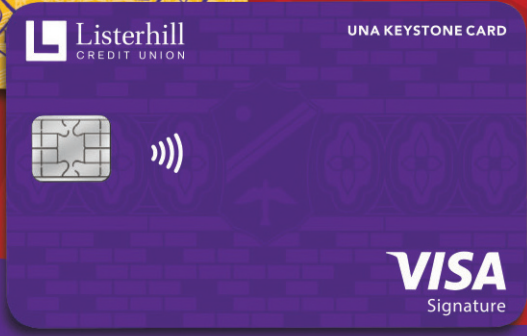
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Food Trucks Scooby the Brahma Bull

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Fall Fest...

Continued from Page 12

while supporting a meaningful cause.

Proceeds from the festival will benefit foster children and teens in Lauderdale and Colbert Counties, with a special emphasis on ensuring that teens in foster care — often overlooked during the holiday season — experience a meaningful Christmas. Funds will also support Shoals CASA and Kids Helping Kids** as they provide year-round advocacy services for abused and neglected children in the community.

Over the past five years, the Rogersville Gives Back Fall Festival has helped provide Christmas gifts and support for more than 700 children in foster care, a number that continues to grow yearly thanks to generous community sponsors, vendors, and participants.

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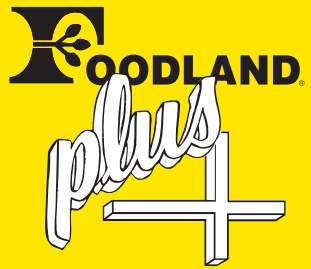


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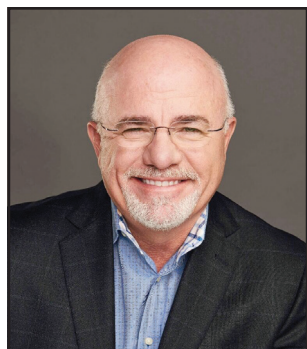
by DAVE RAMSEY

EATING OUT? YOU'RE SPENDING MORE THAN YOU THINK

Dear Dave,
What's one unique step you took at any point in your life to save money that anyone is capable of doing if they put their mind to it?

Jeff

Dear Jeff,
As I always say, living on a written, monthly budget is a key factor in getting out of debt, staying out of debt and saving money. As for a "unique" step we took to save money — maybe it wasn't that unique — but after going broke, we stopped eating out at restaurants. I mean completely. No pizza nights and no drive-thrus. Not even little things off the value menu. During the work week, we ate breakfast



and dinner at home, and for lunch, I brown-bagged it. Every. Single. Day. On weekends, we ate all three meals at home both days. Nothing fancy, just good, simple food.

And it made a huge difference. Most folks don't realize how much money they spend eating out. A quick breakfast here, a fast-food lunch there ... it'll drain your bank account fast if you're not careful. But when you're broke, you're broke. You've got to look at that person you see in the mirror every morning and admit it. Then, you have to start living like it.

In other words, stop acting rich when you're broke. That means doing basic, common sense things like I said earlier. Cut down on your spending, and learn to live on a written, monthly

budget — one where every dollar is accounted for and has a job to do — before the month begins. Otherwise, you're just digging yourself deeper and deeper into a financial hole.

Anybody can take control of their finances once they become intentional about changing their behavior with money and motivated about changing their lives. Then, when you've gotten control of your money, you can go out and celebrate with a really nice steak dinner. But until then, if you're struggling financially, the only time you should see the inside of a restaurant is if you're working there.

To make money.
To get out of debt.
And save!
- Dave

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an interactive outdoor arts festival celebrating creativity, community, and color!

This exciting event invites visual artists to "paint the street" with temporary murals using chalk or other removable media, while local makers, crafters, and food vendors line the sidewalks with handmade treasures and delicious treats.

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THE DAY ALSO INCLUDES:

- A morning car show to kick off the festivities
- Food trucks and alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase at The Ritz Theatre
- A special screening of Pretty in Pink at 6pm at The Ritz Theatre – perfect for a girls' night out!

ARTISTS:

- Claim a square and create a temporary mural on the street.
- Chalk or removable materials are required – supplies provided or bring your own.
- Prize money awarded to the winning mural!



The historic Ritz Theatre hosts the beloved cult classic musical, "Little Shop of Horrors."

Offering audiences a chance to experience the darkly comedic tale of love, ambition, and a man-eating plant in the heart of downtown Sheffield.

This fan favorite is a hilarious and heartfelt experience for theatergoers of all ages (recommended PG-13 for thematic elements).

Thursday, October 23, 7pm
Friday, October 24, 7pm
Saturday, October 25:
2pm & 6pm

The Ritz Theatre
111 W. 3rd St., Sheffield

Find tickets and event information:
tennesseevalleyarts.org
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Leaf...

Continued from Page 12

to help read the story on the reading rug inside of the museum. The read-aloud will be followed by hands-on activities including a nature walk outside of the museum and a leaf rubbing art activity on the porch.

This program is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums. This event will be free to the public. Pope's Tavern Museum is located at 203 Hermitage Dr. Florence, AL 35630. Pope's Tavern Museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm. Regular cost of admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. Contact us at 256-760-6439 with any questions you may have regarding this specific event.

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with Q&A led by Lauderdale County Revenue Commissioner Billy Hammock

What is property tax & how is it calculated?

Tax exemptions & understanding your bill

Payments, deadlines, resources & assistance



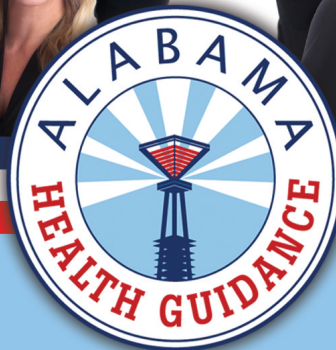
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If you are hurt tell a doctor or medical provider. Do what they ask you to do. If that means taking medicine or going to physical therapy, then take the medicine or go to physical therapy. If you don't, you can't really say you did everything you could to be fully healed. If you don't do everything you could to be better, then a jury could think that maybe you could be better than you are and hold that

against you. It creates an issue that can be avoided.

- Do what the doctor says.
- Do get photos of the vehicles.
- Don't post on social media.

People believe they know how the legal system works and they don't. People tend to think that what they believe happened will be accepted as fact. It will not be. People lose rear-end collision cases all the time because they try to hide prior medical problems. Hire a good lawyer with experience and do it quickly. We are finding more and more video from stores, dashcams, and doorbell cameras, but you have to act quickly, or they are gone.

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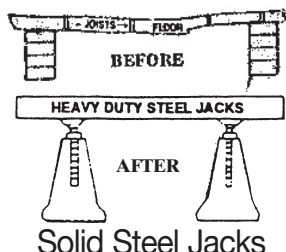
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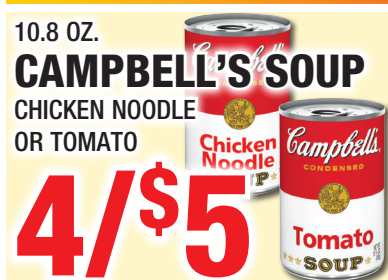
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Guest Commentary – Nate Jackson

Weaponized DOJ? Say It Ain't So!

Continued from Page 12

lawfare against him, he is ensuring the DOJ prosecutes those who unlawfully weaponized the previous DOJ to undermine his administration.

Now let's turn to the *New York Times*, which featured a story yesterday titled "How Trump Is Using the Justice Department to Target His Enemies." The story doesn't use the word "unprecedented," but it's strongly implied: "His calls for prosecutors to file criminal charges against his adversaries have eroded the Justice Department's decades long tradition of independence from the White House and threatened the rule of law."

Gosh, this has never happened before!

The story opens with a graphic showing the

four people and one organization that Trump has indicted, investigated, or otherwise "targeted." Leading that list is former FBI Director James Comey, who was arraigned in Virginia yesterday and pleaded not guilty of lying to Congress. The DOJ's case isn't exactly air-tight, and Comey will likely be acquitted, but that doesn't mean he didn't disgrace himself and the FBI in his politically weaponized tenure.

The *Times* huffs, "Each of the targets Mr. Trump has pursued through the Justice Department has denied wrongdoing, in statements or through lawyers."

Criminals protest their innocence; film at 11.

Comey isn't some angel who was minding his own business, looking for

seashells when mean old Trump came along and targeted him. He was at the center of the cabal that conspired to launch a coup against President Trump in his first term, lying all the way about it.

The other subjects of Trump's ire were likewise not innocent. New York Attorney General Letitia James waged lawfare against Candidate Trump on trumped-up charges. Now-Senator Adam Schiff was an architect of the impeachment efforts; two cases have been built on lies and distortions.

The day before the *Times*'s blockbuster, at least three Democrats expressed horror about all the norms Trump's DOJ is supposedly breaking.

Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) is "gravely concerned" at the idea that Trump may demand prosecution of "opponents or enemies." Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Anyplace But Vietnam) fretted that Trump "embodies" weaponization. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Chicago Mob) warned of "Trump's long crusade to weaponize the federal government against his perceived political enemies."

Durbin hysterically continued, "Never in the history of our country has a president so brazenly demanded the baseless prosecution of his rivals." And then he accidentally admitted something: "And he doesn't even try to hide it."

Yeah, that's what I said. Democrats hide it, but that doesn't mean they don't do it. Trump doesn't mess with the pretense of trying to hide anything.

Missouri Republican Senator Josh Hawley expected Democrats to make such claims, and he was ready for them.

"I've heard them say that Joe Biden never targeted his political enemies," Hawley began. "Joe Biden never directed his attorney general to target his political opponents. Huh? That's interesting because I could have sworn that yesterday we learned that the FBI tapped my phone."

Democrats think they can get away with their "unprecedented" hysterics because that phone tapping and so many other shenanigans were carried out by cutouts. It wasn't Joe Biden who

weaponized the DOJ, they insist. It wasn't even Attorney General Merrick Garland. If anything happened, it was Special Counsel Jack Smith.

Well, Smith reported to Garland who then reported to Biden.

Hawley noted the weaponization of the DOJ and FBI against Catholics, pro-lifers, and parents at school board meetings, too. He added that "92 conservative organizations [were] put under surveillance." In other words, it wasn't the Trump DOJ targeting powerful people; it was the Biden DOJ targeting the defenseless.

It was Democrats screaming about "democracy" while trying to arrest, jail, and remove from the ballot the Republican presidential candidate.

"Gee, I don't know," Hawley said sarcastically to Attorney General Pam Bondi, "would you call that an example of weaponization?"

Bondi agreed, calling it "the ultimate weaponization" and promising it has ended.

I don't always love the way Trump operates, and I'd love to see the president show much more constitutional and political restraint. I wish he wouldn't stoop to the Democrats' level. He certainly doesn't embody Erika Kirk's model of grace and forgiveness.

But he didn't start us down this path. Spare me the outrage of this supposedly unprecedented assault on our institutions. Democrats weaponized and/or destroyed those institutions a long time ago, and now they don't want to play the game by the rules they created. That's laughably and outrageously hypocritical.

Initially published October 9 at PatriotPost.us

Nate Jackson's career in political analysis began in arguments about Reaganomics with his eighth grade American History teacher. His study of history and politics continued through school and work, and he finally landed at *The Patriot Post* in 2004. He's been managing editor since 2007. X@NatriotJackson

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• **Lobsters** pee out of their face.

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• **The Towel Museum in Japan** showcases a vast collection of towels from different countries, each with its unique designs and cultural significance.

• **A crow funeral** is much like a human funeral -- the birds gather around a fallen fellow crow, call to each other and pay close attention to their late peer.

• **The tradition of a wedding cake topper** originated in ancient Rome, where figurines depicting the bride and groom were used for good luck.

• **Female turkeys** don't gobble.

• **Matthias Buchinger**, known as the Little Man of Nuremberg, was born without hands or feet and was only 29 inches tall, but still managed to perform numerous magic feats and illusions, including the famous cups-and-balls routine.

• **The first knitting union**, founded in Paris in 1527, allowed only men as members.

• **Will Shortz**, a crossword editor for The New York Times, designed a degree program at Indiana University in enigmatology, or the study and science of puzzles.

• **Ancient Romans** gargled with urine to whiten their teeth.

• **Since the prosthetics Heath Ledger wore** on his mouth during filming of "The Joker" would loosen as he spoke, he kept them on by frequently licking his lips, a trait that suited his character and was therefore incorporated into the film.

First Thought for the Day: "The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself -- the invisible battles inside all of us -- that's where it's at." -- Jesse Owens

• **In Birmingham, England**, 2.5 million Mills & Boon books were pulped to create the top layer of the M6 toll road.

• **A dog that had been kicked by a driver** returned with a bunch of its friends and proceeded to trash the man's car, chewing up the fenders and wipers.

• **Arnold Schwarzenegger** once eloquently said: "I love Thanksgiving turkey. It's the only time in Los Angeles that you see natural breasts."

• **Alcatraz** holds an annual Indigenous Peoples' Thanksgiving Sunrise Gathering, also known as Unthanksgiving Day, to commemorate the 1969 occupation of Alcatraz and to protest the colonialist history of Thanksgiving.

• **Instead of saying something** like "the cat's pajamas" or "the bee's knees," the French

say "the baby Jesus in velvet shorts."

• **Charles Joughin**, the chief baker on the Titanic, allegedly treaded water for two hours before being rescued from the sunken vessel. He later claimed that the copious amounts of whiskey he consumed before the ship went down kept his body warm enough to survive the subfreezing ocean temperature.

• **The red parasol moss** *Splachnum rubrum* grows only on moose poop.

• **In 2013, an American man** named Ashrita Furman took the title of "the most bananas sliced with a sword on a slackline in one minute" by slicing 36 of them in 60 seconds.

• **Some birds** change the size of their brain every winter.

• **In the 1970s**, the NFL team now called the Seattle Seahawks opened a competition in which the public could suggest and vote on a name for them. About 1,750 suggestions and 20,000 entries were received.

• **"Subdermatoglyphic"** is the longest word without duplicate letters.

Last Thought for the Day: "Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn't matter to me. Going to bed at night saying we've done something wonderful, that's what matters to me." -- Steve Jobs

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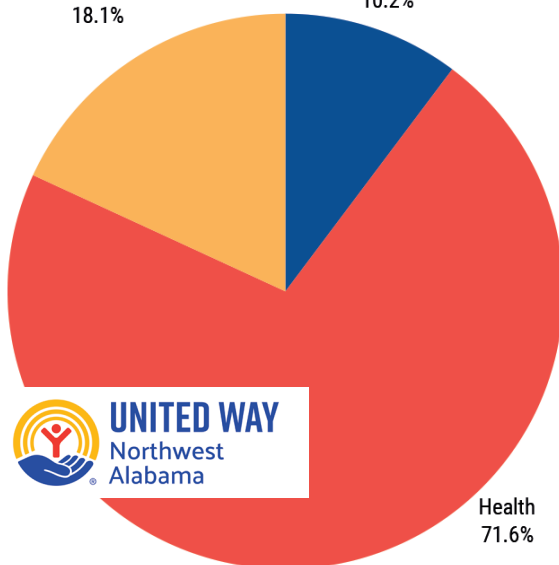
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If you want to deal directly with a particular insurance company you can do that online or over the phone. All insurance companies now have a website and toll free number to call. Some people feel as though they need help in choosing a plan. They will call on a friend, family member or non-insurance person to help them. All three of these methods are perfectly acceptable under Medicare guidelines. If you choose to enroll without the help of an insurance agent it will be up to you to read and understand the plan's summary of benefits, assure that the doctors, hospitals and pharmacies you want to use are in the plan's network and make sure your drugs are covered on the plan's drug formulary.

There's an important question you'll want to ask yourself; "If I have a problem with my plan can the person helping me enroll go to the insurance company on my behalf to help me solve it?" If the answer is "no" then you will be on your own to deal with the company. Your local insurance agent must be appointed by the company they enroll you with. Therefore, if you have a problem with your plan the agent that enrolled you can go to the company on your behalf. Next week we will look specifically at the value of a local agent and how an agent earning a commission can actually be a good thing for you!!

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.



Ikey Fowler

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Community Notes...

Continued from page 7

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:
Thursday, October 16 Muscle Shoals Electric Board, 1015 Avalon Avenue, 10am - 4:30pm
Saturday, October 18 Fashion Exchange - 405 N Military St., Loretto, TN, 10am - 4pm
Sunday, October 19 Foodland - Elgin, 2861 AL-101, Rogersville, 10am - 4pm
Monday, October 20
• Hatton High School - AL Hwy 101 - Hatton, 8am - 2pm
• United Lumber & Reman, 980 Ford Rd., Muscle Shoals, 10am - 6pm
Friday, October 17: Sunset Sessions - 5PM - 8PM, Mobile Street Plaza, Florence. Join the Downtown

Florence Alliance for an evening of live music under the lights at Mobile Street Plaza! Bring your friends, grab a bite, and enjoy great music as the sun sets over our city! Special thanks to our sponsors: Lost Pizza Co., The Carriage Wine & Market, Wildwood Tavern, and Downtown Florence Alliance.
Game Day at St. Bartholomew's Church, 1900 Darby Drive, Florence, the 3rd Thursday of the month. (October 18) 1-3pm. Games provided or bring your own. For more info, call 678-372-3526. All are welcome, for fun and fellowship.
Misfit Quilters Wanted - This is a craft group for adult friends who draw,

craft, paint, sew, quilt, embroider, crochet, etc. (all adult artisans are welcome). Bring your project to work on and come join the fun! This group will meet at the Florence Lauderdale Public Library (in the Board Room) once a month. 2025 dates for this summer/fall are from 1-4pm on Sundays: Oct 19, Nov 16, and Dec 7.

There will be an afternoon of Gospel Quartet music with the Dixie Echoes at 2pm on October 19 at Cypress Creek Methodist Church, 801 Lewis Bruce Lane in Florence. (off Cox Creek Pkwy)

FRIGHTS & LIGHTS: First Responder Truck-or-Treat, Tuesday, October 28, 5-8pm at the Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum Parking Lot.
Frights & Lights - Florence Parks And Recreation is excited to partner with the Florence Police Department and Shoals Area First Responders for an incredible family-friendly Halloween event!

Bring the whole family for a FANG-tastic, fun night of SPOOK-tacular giveaways! Meet our local heroes, check out their awesome vehicles, and load up on FREE candy!
Wear your best costume, bring your biggest scream, and don't forget your sweet tooth! Ghouls, goblins, and families are all welcome!

Thursday, December 11, 7PM. Downtown Florence Christmas Parade. Save the Date! 2025 Theme: A Hometown Holiday. Presented By Bank Independent.
To register to be in the parade go to downtownflorencealliance.com/christmas-parade
The 39th Annual Alabama Renaissance Faire is a free event in downtown Wilson Park, Florence. Saturday, October 25, 10AM. - 6PM and Sunday, October 26, Noon - 6PM
The Faire is family-friendly with 80+

vendors, 17+ performers, and many! activities for children and adults!
Free Admission! No ticket required! Details are on the website: www.thealrenfaire.org
October 31: Purple Mile Walk - Safeplace will host the 1st Annual Purple Mile Walk in Lauderdale County at 9:00 AM at the Lauderdale County Courthouse. The walk honors victims and survivors of domestic violence and raises awareness across the community. Purple Mile T-shirts will be available for purchase at the event.
For more information, contact Kim Smith at 256-460-6832 or ksmith@nwalasafeplace.org
The Walker Ranch Farm Fall Festival is back for the entire month of October! at 16402 County Road 2, just 1 mile west of the Florence Sportsplex
Hours: Thursdays & Fridays, 3-7pm

Saturdays, 10am-7pm
Bring the family out to enjoy fall fun with animals, pumpkins, sunflowers, and more at Walker Ranch.
The Sheffield Fire Department is trying to set up an historic display, and organizers are hoping to obtain any firefighting tools, turnouts, fire trucks, former fire truck locations, old unique fire station equipment, etc. that were part of the Sheffield fire department at one time. They have a surplus of photos dated from the 1950's and later. Copies or documentation of anything historical before that time would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Sheffield Fire if you have any questions or antique items. John at 256-460-2010 or Johngregory9619@gmail.com

See NOTES... page 30

GAME DAY SCORE CARD



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WK 8 Saturday Oct. 18

CHECK BOX BESIDE EACH WINNING TEAM

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 5PM OCT. 17

MAIL-IN ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY AND RECEIVED BY MONDAY! (vs: games at neutral location)

TIE BREAKER
Write Exact Score Below

	Ole Miss at
	Georgia

name _____

address _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

day phone _____ evening phone _____

Week 6 WINNER - BLAKE BURNS of Town Creek
Week 7 Winner online by 4pm Tuesday and in the Oct. 15 paper.

Enter online at www.courierjournal.net
or Mail or deliver your entry to: Courier Journal Gameday Scorecard
219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630 - Fax to: 256-760-9618
Winners will be listed online Tuesday afternoon and in the FOLLOWING week's Courier Journal.

RULES: You can only enter for yourself, not other people. Only one entry per person per week. Only one winner per week. Winners must present a photo I.D. when picking up their gift certificate(s). Check the box beside the appropriate picks for the first 11 games, then write in the exact score of the tie-breaker game and alternate game. Person with the most correct picks receives a \$50 Gift Card from Lost Pizza Co. No change will be returned for any unused portion of the certificate. Gratuity is not included. In event of a tie, the tie-breaker score will be utilized. Otherwise, it will not be considered. Closest tie-breaker score wins. Total points will be next tie breaking procedure, and a random drawing of finalists will be used to determine the winner if they are still tied after the tie-breaking procedure. ALTERNATE GAMES will only be used in cases of late postponements or forfeits, games which will then be excluded from consideration. Person with the winning card for the week, who also picks every game correctly including tie-breaker, will also win \$50 from the Courier Journal and another \$50 Lost Pizza Co. Gift Card. Judges decision is final. Mailed entries must be post-marked by deadline day. Hand-delivered, faxed or on-line entries must be submitted by exact time of deadline stated above. NO EXCEPTIONS. Winner is posted on website each Tuesday afternoon and in the paper delayed by one week. Employees and family of Courier Journal and Game Day Scorecard sponsors are ineligible to win. NOTE: If you're faxing, first make a CLEAN COPY, then FAX THAT COPY. NEWSPRINT DOES NOT REPRODUCE CLEARLY ON A FAX. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ILLEGIBLE COPIES.



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Letters...

Continued from Page 12

Stop Fleecing the Regular Workers

Editor,

"Rather than letting billionaires like Elon Musk put practically none of their massive incomes into" Social Security, Jim Hightower writes at *CounterPunch*, "make them pay Social Security taxes exactly like regular workers do."

As is always nearly the case when discussing Social Security, there's quite a bit to unpack, but let's start by

congratulating Hightower on the fulfillment of his wish, long before he even expressed it:

Elon Musk DOES pay Social Security exactly like regular workers do.

Regular workers pay 12.4% -- half directly and half theoretically from their employers, but thereby reducing the money available for wages -- in Social Security tax on every dollar of income they earn up to \$176,000.

Elon Musk and other billionaires also pay 12.4% in Social Security tax on every dollar of income they earn up to \$176,000.

\$176,000 isn't the only Social Security "cap." There's also a maximum benefit amount. Elon Musk and other billionaires, just like regular workers, can potentially receive a maximum monthly payout of \$5,108 if they wait until the age of 70 to retire.

Hightower doesn't really want to treat Elon Musk just like a regular worker. He wants Musk to pay more, without receiving a commensurate increase in return, so as to subsidize the retirements of those regular workers.

He wants, in the common parlance, to "redistribute wealth," in the form of retirement income.

Social Security already does that, but in a different direction: It forces black men to subsidize the retirements of white women.

The average life expectancy of a black man in America is 68 years, which means that the black man who doesn't retire early receives a whopping one year of Social Security checks before shuffling off this mortal coil. Kind of a raw deal, huh?

The average life expectancy of a white woman in America is 81.1 years, which means that even the white woman who works to the maximum retirement age of 70 receives more than 11 years of those payments. Sweet deal, huh?

To add insult to injury, the labor participation rate of white women is lower than that of black men -- in part because our culture still encourages "one-income households" after marriage with the man as "breadwinner" -- so white women work fewer years before retirement, but enjoy more years after retirement, at the financial expense of black men.

If Hightower merely

suggested reversing the flow of wealth redistribution -- from bottom-up to top-down -- I'd still call shenanigans, but he instead characterizes the Social Security Ponzi scheme as "an egalitarian effort to provide a decent retirement for all," which it isn't now and never has been.

The best thing to do with Social Security, if "decent retirements" is the goal -- and, more importantly, if individual freedom and choice are the criteria -- is eliminate it.

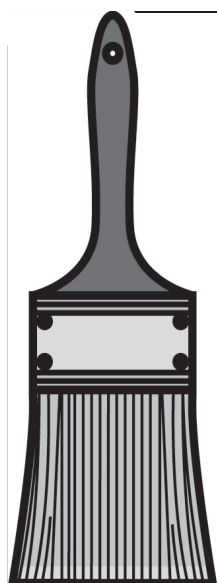
"Regular workers" and their households earn an average annual return on their involuntary Social Security "investment" of 1.23%. Actually investing that 12.4% of income in an S&P 500 indexed mutual

fund produces an average annual return of 10%.

Instead of taxing the multi-billionaires more, tax everyone at 0% and let the market make them prosperous.

Thomas L. Knapp
Director - The William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism
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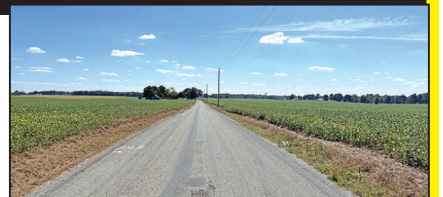
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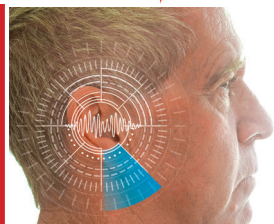
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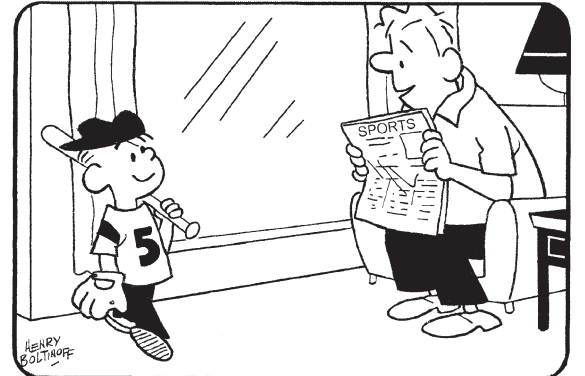
PLAY THE GAME DAY SCORE CARD Contest every week during the football season. Win a \$50 gift card from Lost Pizza Co. for the best card and another \$50 gift card, plus \$50 cash if it is a perfect card. Only in the Courier Journal and at CourierJournal.net.

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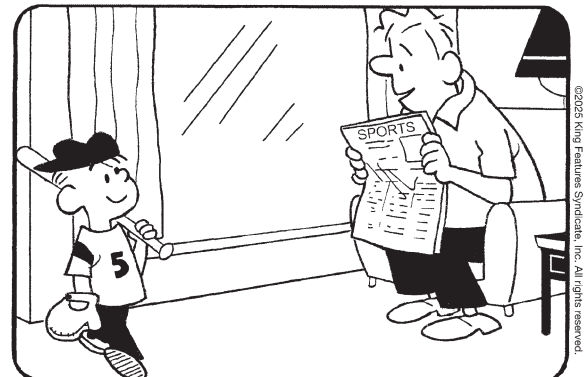
MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP during our Anniversary Month CLASSIFIED BLOWOUT Celebrating 43 years! Get 2 extra lines free, even if you have 6-week business or 4-week private party packages. Valid on all Private Party, Commercial, Yard Sale, and Real Estate Classified ads. NO LIMIT to number of ads or weeks placed! Other restrictions apply. Call 256-764-4268. Not available online. 2 EXTRA Lines FREE. Offer valid through Friday, October 31, 2025

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy is wearing a glove. 2. Table is smaller. 3. Newspaper is longer. 4. Glove is a catcher's mitt. 5. Number on shirt is smaller. 6. Curtain is wider on left side.

Take Note... of your Community.

Courier Journal

Community Notes

MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP
during our Anniversary Month
CLASSIFIED BLOWOUT

If charging classifieds by phone, say
"I'd like the 2 EXTRA FREE LINES in
a Courier Journal ad." or visit us in
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219 W. Tennessee St.
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NO LIMIT to number of ads or weeks placed!

*Offer valid on all private party, commercial, yard sale, and real estate classified ads. Not valid in combination with any other discounts, offers, ad packages, or on previous ad placements. No copy changes. Extra lines do not apply to Employment ads or mdse ads that are free. Regular rates apply to all other ad upgrades or attention-getters. Offer expires after October 31, 2025.



2 Extra Lines FREE

Offer valid through Friday, October 31, 2025

Moments in Time



• **On Oct. 13, 1773**, French astronomer Charles Messier discovered the first-known spiral galaxy and named it the Whirlpool Galaxy. It would be another three centuries before scientists confirmed that our own galaxy, the Milky Way, is also spiral shaped.

• **On Oct. 14, 1977**, pop singer, former beauty queen and spokesperson for Florida orange juice Anita Bryant was hit in the face with a pie by gay rights activist Tom Higgins while speaking at an Iowa event to promote her campaign to repeal

anti-discrimination laws protecting LGBTQ people.

• **On Oct. 15, 1864**, the world's first successful combat submarine, the H.L. Hunley, went down in Charleston Harbor during a demo run, killing its inventor and namesake along with seven crew members. The vessel was recovered and performed its only successful mission the following year when it sank the Yankee ship Housatonic, but sank again, taking its third ill-fated crew with it. Raised again in 2000, it is currently on exhibit in

Charleston.

• **On Oct. 16, 1964**, after conducting a successful nuclear test, China became the fifth nation with atomic bomb capability, after the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France.

• **On Oct. 17, 1985**, magicians Penn & Teller notably responded to "Late Night" host David Letterman's invitation to "surprise" him on their next appearance on his show by unleashing hundreds of cockroaches from a top hat onto his desk. While Letterman was unsurprisingly hardly pleased, he later admitted the stunt made "great TV."

• **On Oct. 18, 1974**, singer Al Green was attacked by his former girlfriend, Mary Woodson, in his Memphis home while taking a bath. Woodson dumped a pot of scalding grits on his back before retreating to a bedroom where she killed herself with Green's gun.

• **On Oct. 19, 1994**, Jesse Timmendequas was charged with killing 7-year-old Megan Kanka in New Jersey. The crime inspired Megan's Law, a statute requiring that information about convicted sex felons be made available to the public. Versions of Megan's Law have been passed in many states since her death.

• **On Oct. 20, 1967**, the mythical Bigfoot was believed to have been filmed in northern California, firing the imaginations of numerous enthusiasts. However, when a prominent researcher sent the FBI a supposed hair sample, agents concluded that it was, sadly, of "deer family origin."

• **On Oct. 21, 1797**, the USS Constitution launched in Boston Harbor. A 44-gun U.S. Navy frigate, it was constructed to fight Barbary pirates off the coast of Tripoli, and performed admirably during those conflicts. In 1805, a peace treaty with Tripoli was signed on the Constitution's deck.

• **On Oct. 22, 1895**, a train with a faulty brake tore through the Gare Montparnasse in Paris and out the front before landing nose down in the street. Onlookers purchased train tickets just to see the damage.

• **On Oct. 23, 1958**, Boris Pasternak was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for "Doctor Zhivago," a romance set during the Russian Revolution and World War I. The book was banned in the

Soviet Union, and the Soviet government forced Pasternak to renounce the honor, but his admirers smuggled the manuscript out of Russia in pieces and the CIA helped with distribution behind the scenes. Appearing in numerous translations around the world, it was hailed as a classic, but Pasternak was banished from the Soviet Writers Union, ending his literary career.

• **On Oct. 24, 1921**, in the French town of Chalons-sur-Marne, an American sergeant chose the body of the first "Unknown Soldier" to be honored among the approximately 77,000 American servicemen who died on the Western Front during World War I.

• **On Oct. 25, 1964**, Minnesota Vikings star defensive end Jim Marshall ran 66 yards in the wrong direction into his own end zone after recovering a fumble against the 49ers in San Francisco. Despite the gaffe, the Vikings won.

• **On Oct. 26, 1984**, 19-year-old John McCollum was found shot to death on

his bed in Indio, California. The boy's parents believed that singer Ozzy Osbourne was responsible, because John was listening to Osbourne's album "Blizzard of Oz," which contained the song "Suicide Solution," when he died, but the suit was dismissed in 1988.

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SIGNS OF THE PAST

Dewey ("Spooner") Oldham

Musician and songwriter Dewey ("Spooner") Oldham toured with major artists in the U.S., the UK, Europe and Japan. Winner of the prestigious UK Roots Award in 2006, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2009.

INDUCTED 2025

CITY OF FLORENCE

WALK OF HONOR

Location: 34.8063°N, 87.6313°W
River Heritage Park, Florence

Born in Center Star, "Spooner" went on to be a member of the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section, otherwise known as the "Swampers". As a young child he was blinded in his right eye by a spoon knocked off a shelf. Schoolmates gave him the nickname "Spooner" and the name stuck.

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

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Community Notes...

Continued from page 24

Lego Build - the third Tuesday of each month, (October 21) 3:30-4:15pm at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. Thousands of Legos and your creativity make this program FUN!

Trekking the Trails - Every Sunday in October from 2-3:30pm. Tishomingo State Park, 105 County Road 90, Tishomingo, MS

Join the Friends of Tishomingo State Park for a guided hike through some of Mississippi's Best Hiking Trails, for a scenic hike through the park's rugged beauty and famous rock formations. Trail selection will be based on participant interest, trail conditions, and weather.

Check in before 2pm at the Park Office for parking instructions and trail location.

The guided hike is free with paid park admission. For more information:

Phil Seymour at 662-438-6914 or phil.seymour@wfp.ms.gov

Monarch Retrospective – Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence will look back on a decade of Monarch Tile National Ceramics Competition now through Oct. 23. The center is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

Art Workshops at The Ritz - All workshops for adults age 21+ **Wine & Canvas Series** \$40/class. All supplies provided.

11/21: Snowman Family Portraits 6:30 - 8pm
I Can't Draw! \$100. Thursday 10/16
Watercolor Class \$120. Students to purchase supply list. 10/27 Monday from

6 - 7:30pm
I Can't Paint! \$100. Students to purchase supply list. Tuesdays - 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18 6:30 - 8pm

For more details on each class and to register, visit TennesseeValleyArts.org. Call 256-383-0533 with any questions.

Tuesday, November 4: "One Nation Under God Prayer Breakfast"

- Mark your calendars for this year's One Nation Under God breakfast featuring guest speaker, Coach Bobby Wallace. 6:30 AM at the Renaissance Shoals Conference Center.

Ticket Information: 256-648-3470. Tickets are available for purchase (\$35 each or \$300 for a table of eight) and proceeds support our financial contribution towards scholarships and nonprofit support!

Saturday, November 15: Shoals Salsa Showdown. The Florence Education Foundation is turning up the flavor with this fun and flavorful community competition. Local participants will

showcase their best homemade salsas, and attendees will have the chance to taste, vote, and celebrate the creativity of our area's finest salsa makers.

All proceeds from the event benefit the Florence Education Foundation, supporting programs that enhance educational opportunities for Florence City Schools students.

Join us at 6:30pm on Tuesday, October 28 in the Southall House at the Kennedy-Douglass Art Center for the next Open Mic Night where our theme will be Consuming, featuring original poetry by Miriam Calleja.

Our goal is to promote poetry and create a welcoming space where both published and unpublished poets can share their work while bringing together our diverse communities.

This program is free and is sponsored by the Florence Arts & Museums. The Southall House is located at 209 E. Tuscaloosa St, next to the main K-D Center house. Call 256-760-6379 for more information.

The Grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Tennis & Pickleball Complex at Veterans Memorial Park. Thursday, October 30, 2PM, Florence. Mayor Andrew Betterton, the Florence City Council, and the Florence Parks & Recreation Department invite you to attend.

The premier facility is already surpassing expectations and represents a significant advancement for our community. It includes 12 hard tennis courts (including a championship court), 6 clay tennis courts, 14 covered pickleball courts (also including a championship court), and 6 outdoor pickleball courts, in addition to fully equipped pro shops and rest rooms. Join us as we celebrate the opening of this top-tier recreational destination for Florence and the Shoals.

BMC Studios at 711 Thompson St. - Suite D in Florence is offering a Senior's Beginning Tap Class Starting the week of October 6. Great fun and good exercise! Come and join the fun!

No Experience necessary! Contact BMC Studios at 256-349-9707 for more information!

City of Florence Leaf collection routes begin November 1! Please follow the guidelines and help us avoid time-consuming truck repairs.

Leaf Collection Guidelines For City of Florence Residents:

Leaves should be raked curb side, but NOT in the street or gutter.

Keep leaf piles away from obstacles like cars, trees, fences, and mailboxes.

Don't cover your WATER METER.

Limbs, pinecones, sticks, and rocks DAMAGE EQUIPMENT and slow the collection process.

BAGGED LEAVES will be picked up weekly with curb side trash.

Starting November 1, we will work the regular leaf collection schedule and will NOT accept call-ins.

See NOTES... page 31

2025 Halloween Coloring Contest

Courier Journal

3 Age Groups: 2-4 • 5-7 • 8-10

Entry Deadline: THURS., OCT. 23 NOON

Winners will be announced in the Courier Journal Oct. 29 issue. Drawings are judged by our staff on the basis of talent of the child's age ability.

It must be colored by the child, or it will be disqualified.

Winners are not selected at random. One entry per person. One winner per family. You may also download and print this entry form from our website: www.courierjournal.net

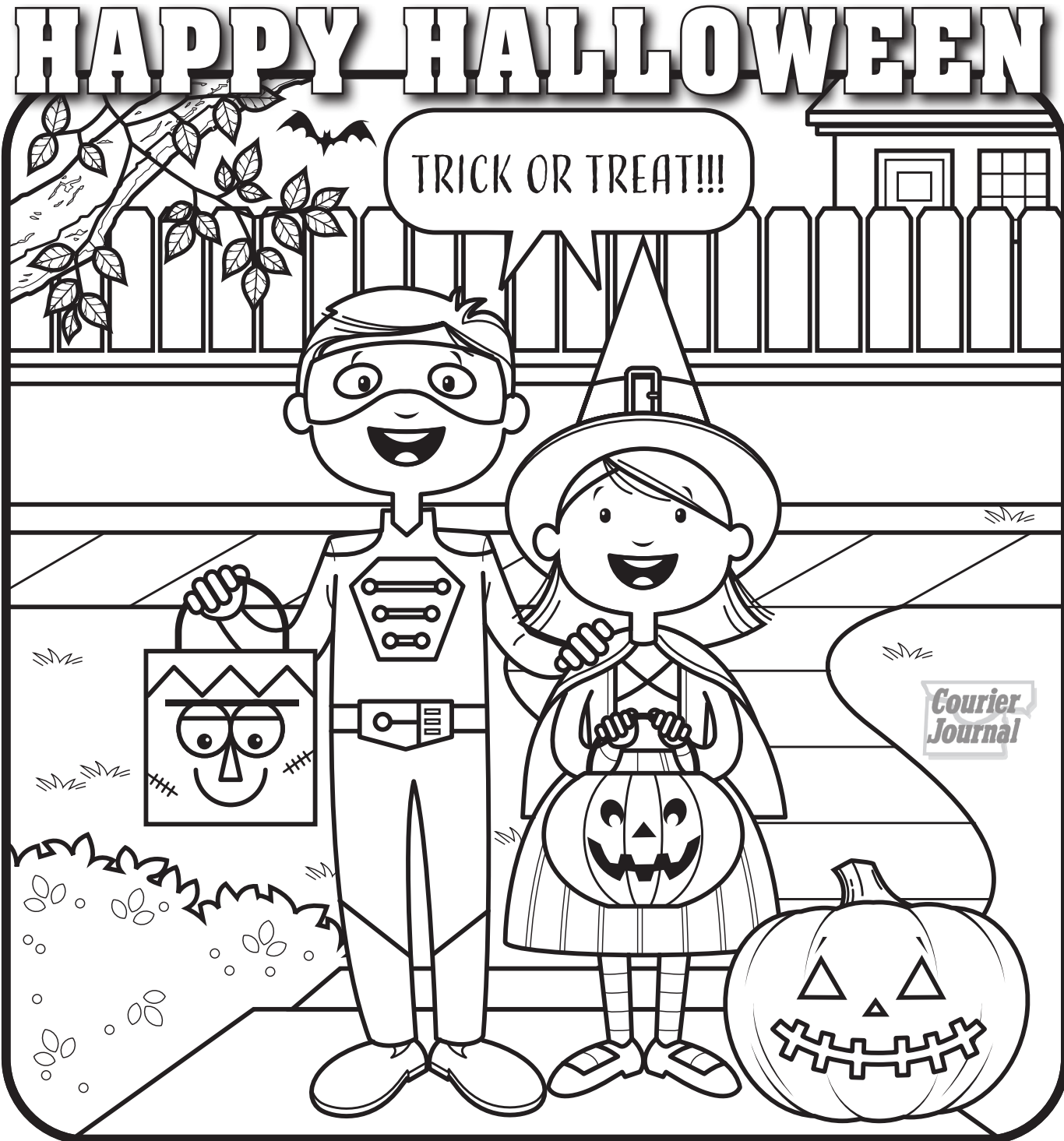
TOP 3 WINNERS IN EACH AGE GROUP RECEIVE:

Large 1 Topping Pizzas And

Halloween Goodies!

Courier Journal

Entry form below must be completed to to qualify.



Child's Name	Age	Address
Phone Number	City	State

Mail or Bring Entries to: Halloween Coloring Contest • Courier Journal • 219 W. Tennessee St. • Florence, AL 35630



Savvy SENIOR

How to Stave Off Cognitive Decline as You Age

Dear Savvy Senior,
Are there any proven strategies to preventing cognitive decline?
I have a family history of dementia and worry about my own memory and cognitive abilities as I grow older.
Forgetful at 55

Dear Forgetful,
For most people, starting in their fifties and sixties, the brain's ability to remember names, multi-task or learn something new starts declining. While our genes (which we can't control) play a key role in determining our cognitive aging, our general health (which we do have some control over) plays a big factor too. Here are some healthy lifestyle strategies – recommended by medical experts – you can employ that can help stave off cognitive loss and maybe even build a stronger brain.

Manage health problems: Studies have shown that cognitive problems are related to health conditions, like diabetes, heart disease and even depression. So, if you have high blood pressure, high cholesterol or diabetes you need to treat them with lifestyle changes and medication (if necessary) and get them under control. And if you have a history of depression, talk to your doctor about treatment options.

Exercise: Aerobic exercise increases blood flow to all parts of your body, including your brain, to keep the brain cells well nourished. So, choose an aerobic activity you enjoy like walking, cycling, dancing, swimming, etc., that elevates your heart rate and do it for at least 30 to 40 minutes three times a week.

Eat healthy: A heart-healthy diet, like the Mediterranean diet, will also help protect the brain. A Mediterranean diet includes relatively little red meat and emphasizes whole grains, fruits and vegetables, fish and shellfish, and nuts, olive oil and other healthy fats. Also keep processed foods and sweets to a minimum.

Get plenty of sleep: Quality, restful sleep contributes to brain health too. Typically, adults should get between seven and nine hours of sleep daily. If you have persistent problems sleeping, you need to identify and address the problem. Medications, late-night exercise and alcohol can interfere with sleep quality and length, as can arthritis pain, sleep apnea and restless leg syndrome.

If you need help, make an appointment with a sleep specialist who will probably recommend an overnight diagnostic sleep test.

Challenge your mind: Some research suggests that mind challenging activities can help improve memory, and slow age-related mental decline. But be aware that these activities consist of things you aren't accustomed to doing. In other words, crossword puzzles aren't enough to challenge your brain, if you're already a regular puzzle doer. Instead, you need to pick up a new skill like learning to dance, play a musical instrument, study a new language or do math problems – something that's challenging and a little outside your comfort zone.

Brain-training websites like Lumosity, Elevate and Peak are good mind exercising tools because they continually adapt to your skill level to keep you challenged.

Socializing and interacting with other people is another important way to stimulate the brain. So, make a point to reach out and stay connected to friends, family and neighbors. Join a club, take a class or even volunteer – anything that enhances your social life.

Don't smoke or drink: Smoking and regular alcohol consumption both effect the brain in a negative way, so kick the habit if you smoke and, if you drink, do so only occasionally.

Check your eyes and ears: A growing body of evidence shows that vision and hearing loss, which affects brain stimulation, can also increase the risk of cognitive decline. So, get your eyes and ears checked regularly and treat any issues promptly.

Reduce stress: Some stress is good for the brain, but too much can be toxic. There's evidence that things like mindfulness meditation, yoga and tai chi are all good ways to help reduce stress.

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



Notes...

Continued from page 30

Christmas for Kids - It's that time of year again. We are in need of sponsors for children during Christmas. These children have one or both parents in either jail or prison.

These are innocent children who have done nothing but are certainly affected because of their parent's wrongdoing.

If you or your organization would like to sponsor one or more of these children who do deserve a beautiful Christmas or would like more details call or write me.

Debbie Dixon 256-443-1297, P.O. Box 2234, Florence, AL 35630. Tax ID # 27-20011583

2nd Annual Blessing Of The Animals Event - Saturday, November 8, 10AM- 2PM at the West Lauderdale Cowboy Church, 100033 AL Hwy 20 In Florence. Hosted by West Lauderdale Cowboy Church and the Shoals Spay & Neuter Coalition.

Come spend time with us for family fun and activities. Test your skills at the inflatable sports event, free Chuck-wagon lunch (while supplies last), snacks, a chance of winning some fabulous prizes, live music and a whole lot more.

Bring your companion animals (safely on a leash) or pictures for a special blessing and yummy treat for them.

American Legion Colbert County Memorial Post 31 will meet at 6pm on Monday, October 20 at the Post meeting hall located at 110 1/2 N. Main St. in Tusculumbia. A stair-lift is available if needed to the upstairs location. A meal will be provided. All Veterans are invited. For more information, please call 256-762-5950.

Swamp John's Fundraiser - Monday, October 20, 3:30-6:30pm. Sponsored by the Pilot Club of Florence. Proceeds benefit our community projects. At the Fashion Exchange Parking Lot - 1401 US-72, Killen (Old Big Star) \$15 per plate (Fish, Chicken Or Shrimp, French Fries, Coleslaw, Hushpuppies & Tea.

Northwest RC&D Council invites you to attend our upcoming "Annual Council & Outreach Meeting" on Friday, October 24. Registration: 9:30am Meeting: 10am at the AVW Todd Center 201 S Washington Ave in Russellville.

The Muscle Shoals Gun & Knife Show takes place on October 25-26 at the North Alabama State Fairgrounds, 65 Sportsplex Drive in Muscle Shoals. Event hours are 9am-5pm Saturday and 10am-4pm Sunday. The gun show is hosted by A.G. Gun Shows. All federal and local firearm laws and ordinances must be obeyed. For additional information, contact 423-664-2715 or aggunshows@yahoo.com.

The 2nd Annual Swing for the Arts Golf Tournament tees-off on Friday, October 24 at the stunning RTJ Golf Trail – Muscle Shoals! Hosted by the Tennessee Valley Arts Association and Shoals Symphony Orchestra, the fun begins with an 8:30am shotgun start and includes lunch, prizes, and plenty of friendly competition.

Team Registration: \$600/team of 4. Entry includes a full round of golf, Prizes for First and Second and A and B, flights, Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive contests, 50-50 raffle on Hole 10, and more prizes, and lots of chances to support the arts in our community.

Sponsorships are also available: Get recognized with hole signage, program listings, and more!

Visit TennesseeValleyArts.org to register and see about sponsorship details, or call 256-383-0533.

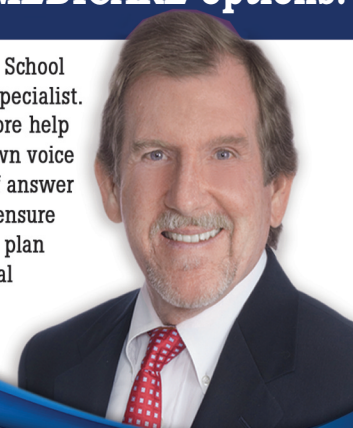
Greater St. Paul AME Church October Fest! Sunday October 26, beginning at 12:30pm. Bingo for only \$5 donation! Winners will receive a prize! Trunk Treats, Food and Fellowship. You don't want to miss it! 129 Cherokee Street, Florence.

Let's Talk!

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