

Toys for Tots Box in Office

SHEFFIELD — The annual Toys for Tots drive was officially launched earlier this month with over 160 decorated corrugated boxes placed in businesses across the five-county area of northwest Alabama.

The Marine Corps League Cpl. **Matthew D Conley** Detachment #1477 is now in its fifth year of managing the Toys for Tots program in the Shoals.

One of those boxes is located at the *Courier Journal/Times Daily* office at 219 West Tennessee St. in downtown Florence.

The public can drop off new unwrapped toys safely in our lobby from 8am-5pm M-F and they are collected for secure keeping each day.

There are also three heavy metal outdoor boxes around the Shoals For the convenience of those who can't participate during standard business hours.

- Outside Muscle Shoals Fire Station #1 1002 E. Avalon Ave.

- Outside the Marine Corps League headquarters at 215 S. Montgomery Ave. in Sheffield.

- In front of Ollie's Bargain Outlet at 1700 Darby Drive in Florence.

Parents can register their children for the annual Toys for Tots distribution from November 19-22 at the Marine Corps League headquarters, located at 215 South Montgomery

See **SHORTS...** on Page 2

Celebrating Our 142nd Year in the Shoals, 44 by Direct Mail!



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Volume 142 Number 1

October 29, 2025

POSTAL PATRON

Courier Journal

Serving Northwest Alabama and beyond with direct mail, saturation coverage

219 W. Tennessee St. Florence, AL. 35630 256-764-4268

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Rotary's Success on Book Drive



Jackie Poole, of
the Shoals Alumni
Chapter of Delta
Sigma Theta
Sorority, Inc.
Rotary photo

FLORENCE—The Rotary Club of Florence recently completed a book donation drive to benefit Safeplace of Northwest Alabama, an organization that provides shelter and support to individuals and families affected by domestic violence.

Rotary members collected more than 100 new and gently used books throughout the month of September, offering children's stories, young

ROTARY... on Page 7

A Lifetime of Landscapes

Local Artist Saw
Subject Matter for
Art Everywhere

FLORENCE — The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is pleased to present Mary Linville: Retrospective, a memorial exhibition that features the paintings and drawings of the late Mary Linville (1941 - 2024) from November 2-January 5.

Linville was a long-time member of the Shoals Artist Guild, and



she was prolific in sharing her amazing talents with her community, through numerous watercolor

classes and demonstrations throughout her artistic

See **LANDSCAPES...** Pg 6

Halloween Safety for Kids & Pets

SHOALS—Halloween is not just for kids anymore. The holiday has become one of the most popular in the U.S. with people of all ages taking part in things like trick-or-treating, decorating homes, and attending parties.

However, children are more than twice as likely to be

See **HALLOWEEN...** on Page 11



Automotive Inside



Advance Auto Sales

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- Dave Ramsey
- Hocus Focus
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- Commentary
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- Founders Day in Tuscumbia
- Moments in Time



- All Saints at St. John's
- Strange, But True
- Coloring Contest Winners
- SIGNS of the PAST

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Shorts...

Toys for Tots Box in Office

Continued from Page 1

Ave. in Sheffield. To register, parents will need to supply photo identification, proof of residence, such as a utility bill, a birth certificate, and Social Security card for each child they want to register.

According to officials, last year's Toys for Tots campaign assisted 572 families and 1,851 individual children in the five-county area.

Hope for the Holidays

MUSCLE SHOALS — The Healing Place invites the community to attend Hope for the Holidays, a special evening program on Tuesday, November 4, from 6–7:30pm at The Healing Place.

The holiday season can be a difficult time for individuals and families who have experienced the death of a loved one. Hope for the Holidays is designed to provide encouragement, support, and practical tools to help participants not only cope with the holidays but also find moments of peace and joy. Guest speakers include Chad Hess, Pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church, and Mary Jane Darby from Day by Day, who will share compassionate insights and strategies for navigating grief during the holiday season.

Childcare will be provided for children ages 3 and up. Families are asked to RSVP at 256-383-7133 if childcare is needed.

This event is free and open to the public.

A New Day for Area Pickleball

FLORENCE – Florence Parks & Recreation Department, Mayor **Andy Betterton**, and the City Council invite you will celebrate the grand opening and ribbon-cutting for the new Tennis & Pickleball Complex at Veterans Memorial Park at 2pm, Thursday, October 30 and the public is invited.

Reports are that this premier facility is represents a significant



advancement for our community and is already surpassing expectations. The complex includes 12 hard tennis courts, a championship court, 6 clay tennis courts, 14 covered pickleball courts with a championship court, and 6 outdoor pickleball courts. Fully equipped pro shops and restrooms are also on site.

Pickleball has accelerated in popularity like no sport in recent memory. The player website Pickleheads has over 500,000 followers and reports that Alabama has 242 locations with 1,072 public and private courts. Now, the Shoals has a top tier complex. Stop by for the celebration and familiarize yourself with this premier recreational destination for Florence and the surrounding area.

Retiring Flags in Tuscumbia

TUSCUMBIA — The American Legion Post 31 will host a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Saturday, November 1, at 9am in Spring Park, located in downtown Tuscumbia.

The ceremony will provide the community with an opportunity to properly retire worn, faded, or damaged American flags in accordance with the U.S. Flag Code, which calls for unserviceable flags to be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.

Members of American Legion Post 31 will conduct the ceremony, which will include a brief program explaining the significance of flag retirement and the respect owed to the nation's emblem. Local veterans, civic groups, and residents are invited to attend.

Community members who have flags in need of retirement may bring them to the ceremony or drop them off beforehand to the postal-type receptacle located at

See SHORTs... on Page 8

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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)

ROGERSVILLE / ELGIN GARAGE / MOVING SALE
931 Co. Rd. 581, Oct. 30-Nov. 9th, 8am-3pm Indoor & Outdoor Furniture, Housewares, small appliances, dishes, Pfaltzgraff Winterberry stoneware, faux Ficus trees & plants, decor, Women's clothing, & craft items.

Tuscumbia Annual St. Jude Fundraiser Oct. 31st, Nov. 1st, 7th, and 8th, 7am-until?
47 Rockwood Dr., Valley Grove Estates off Old Hwy. 20E. Designer Purses, Sunglasses, Jewelry, Large Variety of Fall/Winter: Infant-2X, Girls, Boys, Women's & Men's clothing, Shoes, Sneakers, Boots, Hats, Christmas Decor & Gifts, Household items and more! Thank You for Your Support!

FLORENCE YARD SALE, 2032 Alpine Dr., Sat., Nov. 1st, 7am-until? Gently used Infant to 1 year old clothes, knick-knacks, still gathering stuff, something for everyone. Rain or Shine!

FLORENCE GARAGE SALE
282 Plantation Springs Dr., Oct 31st & Nov 1st, 8 am-? Lots of Christmas items, Women's Clothing, Kitchen items, Carpet Cleaning Machine, Home Decor items and much more!

MUSCLE SHOALS: YARD SALE
325 Lonnie Dr. Sat. Clothes, furniture, dishware, kids items, miscellaneous.

ESTATE SALE
110 Holland Dr.
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Saturday, Nov. 1st
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Numbers given out at 8:30 am

Sunday, Nov. 2nd
1:00 pm-3:00 pm

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TUSCUMBIA: BUILDING CLEAN OUT SALE - 1106 Wm F Gardiner Ave Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 Thurs. 1 pm-5 pm, Fri. 7 am-3 pm, Sat. 7 am-1 pm, Sports Cards & Memorabilia, Vintage Items & Clothes, Books, Furniture, Artwork, Household items, and lots more. This is an ISH sale with And Beyond Sales. Name your price, no reasonable offer refused, Everything must go!

LEIGHTON: MULTIFAMILY ESTATE / YARD SALE 8515 2nd St Sat. 7am until? Antique furniture, bedroom suite, antique glass, and much more!

TUSCUMBIA MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE
812 Rebel Dr., Sat., Nov. 1st, 7am-3pm, Household items, Clothes, Gas Grill, Furniture and much more!
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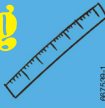
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3rd Overall Bred and Champion

Brylee Goode of Lauderdale County exhibited the 3rd overall bred and owned breeding heifer during the Alabama National Fair Youth Beef Show earlier this month at the Teague Arena in Montgomery. It was also the champion bred and owned AOB British heifer. The show was sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance. Goode is pictured with Federation and Alfa President, Jimmy Parnell. ALFA courtesy photo

Community Notes

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

The 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.

Get ready for a night of spooky fun at the Florence Mall's annual Malloween Celebration! Join us on Friday, October 31, 2025, at 6pm for trick-or-treating at participating stores, free candy (while supplies last), and plenty of chances to show off your best costumes. Kids will fill their buckets with

candy, while guests can also scan QR codes around the mall for a chance to win a \$100 gift card to their favorite store. This free, family-friendly event is the perfect way to celebrate Halloween safely and in style, so bring your little ghouls, goblins, and superheroes for a frightfully good time!

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:

Wednesday, October 29 Colbert Heights High School, 6825 Woodmont Drive, Tusculumbia, 8:30am - 2:30pm

Friday, October 31 Till Death Do Us Art, 4190 Cloverdale Rd, Florence, 11:30am - 4:30pm

Thursday, October 30 Wilson High School, 7601 Hwy 17, Florence, 8:30am - 2:30pm

Saturday, November 1 Walmart - Avalon Avenue - Muscle Shoals, 10am - 4pm

Monday, November 3 Lauderdale

County High School, 201 Cedar St. AV Room, Rogersville, 8:30am - 3:30pm

TVAA Quilt Exhibit — Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, 511 W. Water St., Tusculumbia, will celebrate the rich tradition and creativity of quilting through this vibrant exhibit of intricate designs, titled "Call for Quilts." The Quilt Exhibit will be on display at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art from Nov. 8. 256-383-0533

Day of the Dead — Florence Arts and Museums will host a community program so visitors can learn about the Latin holiday of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) from 1-4 p.m. Nov. 1. The free event will be at Southall House, 209 E. Tusculumbia St., Florence. 256-760-6379

See NOTES... page 8

Layering for Fall!

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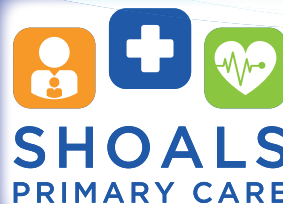


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for details!**



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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.

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

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

Landscapes..

Continued from Page 1

career. She had an amazing passion for art and generously shared her creativity with others. Mary Linville truly exemplified a life artfully lived! An opening reception for this memorial exhibition takes place Sunday, November 2 from 2-4pm at the Kennedy-Douglas Center for the Arts.



Linville was first inspired by her simple, rural surroundings in her native Wayne County, Tennessee. She was stirred by the beauty she saw around her and the works of other artists, such as Andrew Wyeth, Winslow Homer, and Edgar Whitney. She said that she paints because of a need inside her to express the beauty and wonder she sees, which provides fulfillment of her inner self.

Linville produced a wide variety of work, including florals, local historic places, abstracts, and landscapes. She stated, "Subject matter is no problem, art is everywhere. Landscapes are my favorite and everywhere you look there are landscapes."

Though she considered herself to be a self-taught artist, she studied and participated in numerous workshops with accomplished artists across the country, such as Tony Couch of Georgia, Zolton Szabo of North Carolina, and Margaret Martin of New York. She studied oil with Billy Kirk of Mississippi and with Hedi Moran of Arizona. As a private instructor, she conducted workshops across

Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Watercolor was her first love, but she also worked in oils, acrylic, mixed media, and pastels. Her interests also included pottery and photography. She felt that all media is linked together. She was always learning new ways to create art!

Linville once described some of her artwork as mood paintings, "This I do, with nothing sketched on paper. Sometimes I don't have any particular thing in mind when I begin, I just follow whatever is happening with the paint to form the landscape. This can be very exciting."

Linville received countless awards throughout the span of her artistic career, and her artwork can be found in collections across the US and on several other continents. Potential collectors will be pleased to learn that many of the works displayed in this retrospective exhibit will be available for sale.

For more information, contact the Kennedy-Douglas Center for the Arts.

The Art Center is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St. and can be reached by calling 256-760-6379.

**Courier
Journal**

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

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Local members of the Muscle Shoals Area Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. contributed significantly to Florence Rotary's recent book drive. Rotary photo

Rotary...

Continued from Page 1

adult novels, and inspiring reads for adults. The donated books will help fill Safeplace's family rooms and library areas, creating a more comforting space for residents.

"Each book we collected represents more than just a story — it's a piece of someone's heart being shared with a child in need. Hearing our members talk about the books that shaped their own childhoods made this drive especially meaningful. Together, we're helping Safeplace nurture hope, comfort, and imagination through the power of reading," said Minnette Ellis, Service Chair of the Rotary Club of Florence.

The Rotary Club of Florence continues to serve the Shoals area through local projects that promote literacy, leadership, and community well-being. If you or your organization needs goods, services, or volunteers, please contact the Club Service Chair at minnette.ellis@gmail.com or visit florencerotaryclub.net.

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Notes...

Continued from page 4

"Come to the Lord's Table"
Women's Fall Conference at Forest Hills Baptist Church, 110 Stovall Dr., Florence.
Saturday, November 1, 10am-3:30pm.
Speakers: Pam Mize Windle and Trina Ross. Lunch included—Tickets \$10.
Contact the church office at 256-766-0721 or admin@foresthillsbaptist.net to reserve your spot.

Sheffield Remembers — The Clarion, 4900 Hatch Blvd., Sheffield, will welcome multiple tribute artists at 10 a.m. Nov. 1. Tickets are \$20 at the door. A free Friday night meet and greet is 5 p.m. Oct. 31. Open mic signup for artists and guests.

FHBS Women's Fall Retreat, Saturday, November 1, 10am-3:30pm. At Forest Hills Baptist Church, 110 Stivakk Dr., Florence. Tickets \$10. Age 12+, Lunch Provided.

"Lessons from Jesus' Table • Strength • Humility • Sense of Belonging" Special Guests Pam Windle and Trina Ross. To register, visit <https://subspla.sh/k939dbz>

Art Workshops at The Ritz - All workshops for adults age 21+
Wine & Canvas Series \$40/class. All supplies provided. Nov. 21: Snowman Family Portraits 6:30-8pm

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

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

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.

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!

7 Points Press will be hosting a book release celebration 6pm, Thursday, November 6 at Southall House. Admission is free for this event.

See NOTES... page 9

Shorts...

Retiring Flags in Tuscumbia

Continued from Page 2

American Legion Post 31 headquarters, 110 ½ North Main Street, Tuscumbia.

The event honors the traditions of patriotism and respect for the flag, while offering an educational moment for younger generations to understand the meaning behind the ceremony.

For more information, contact American Legion Post 31, **Richard Parker** at 256-762-5950.

Coalition Gets its 501(c)(3)

FLORENCE — The Shoals Spay and Neuter Coalition has reached a milestone with the confirmation of its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

Vice Chair, Chapel King, said in February that the coalition's plan involves building a spay and neuter clinic that can fix animals housed in the Florence/Lauderdale Animal Shelter before they are adopted.

King said the nonprofit designation will give the coalition the ability to accept tax deductible donations that will be used to develop the clinic.

"We needed that step in order to be able to make this work," King said. "We can't take donations or ask for grants without that nonprofit status. It's the icing on the cake."

King, the incoming District 6 Florence City Council member, also mentioned that the clinic will be available to the public in the Shoals and beyond.

The coalition will be accepting donations sometime in the near future to get this process rolling.

Coalition member Cheryl Jones, director of the Florence-Lauderdale Animal Services, said renovating an existing building is more cost effective than new construction.

"There are a couple of buildings we're looking at," Jones said. "We want it to be in Florence because we want Florence to get the benefit of the revenue from people coming into town to get animals spayed and neutered."

Florence-Lauderdale

Animal Services takes in about 5,000 animals per year.

FLPL Classes on Security

FLORENCE—Computer & Technology Classes at Florence Lauderdale Public Library in November will feature a series on Computer and Internet Security.

All classes are free. Registration is required due to limited seating. Register by emailing classes@flpl.org or calling 256-764-6564 (ext. 127).

Microsoft Windows Computer Security (Thursday, November 6, 1-2:30pm): Learn basic definitions of cookies, viruses, firewalls, antivirus software, and how to maintain security on your computer.

Shopping Safely Online (Thursday, November 13, 1-2:30pm): This class will cover safety tips for making purchases online and how to identify when a product or company may not be credible or reliable. We will also discuss the usage of apps like Venmo, Cash App, Apple Pay, PayPal, etc.

Email and Social Media Safety (Thursday, November 20, 1-2:30pm): Increase your ability to identify spam or impersonators online. Implement additional safety measures to prevent hacking and verify authentic usage of your accounts.



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Community Notes...

Continued from page 8

Authors include Donna Geise, J. D. Manders, Jeanie Thompson, and Wayne Sides. The authors will read and discuss their work, and books will be available for sale.

Donna Geise began writing after her recent retirement as a literature and composition teacher.

J. D. Manders is an author, historian, and poet who deployed three times to the Middle East with the U.S. Army National Guard.

Jeanie Thompson (Montgomery) is an award-winning poet and literary arts leader. She is the retired founding Director of the Alabama Writers' Forum.

Wayne Sides is Professor Emeritus at the University of North Alabama Department of Art and has been a force for more than 40 years in the Shoals area community art scene.

Southall House is next door to the Kennedy-Douglass Art Center's main building, at 209 E. Tuscaloosa St. Call 256-760-6379 for more information.

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.

Alabama A&M Small Farms Research Center and AL Cooperative Extension System present "Learning and Growing with Us" Agriculture Workshop on Thursday, November 6 from 9:30am-2:30pm. Sign in at 9am at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame Banquet Hall, 617 Hwy 72 West in Tuscumbia.

The presenter is Marcus Garner, Urban Regional Extension Agent (Home Horticulture) Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Refreshments/Lunch served. Registration is required to attend: email oppia.burke@aamu.edu; call/text 256-320-8051

A tribute to Muscle Shoals music is set for Thursday, November 6 at the Ritz Theatre in Sheffield. The concert will bring together nationally known performers, headed by T. Graham Brown, whose career spans more than 40 years. local songwriters, and international talent connected to the area's music legacy. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 6:30 p.m.

Billy Lawson and the Wishbone Band will also perform, as will Angela Hacker and James LeBlanc. International recording artist Eve Graham will make a rare U.S. appearance as part of the show. As the original lead singer of The New Seekers, she was the voice behind several international hits in the early 1970s, including "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing," "Free to Be," "Beg, Steal or Borrow," and "Circles."

The concert is part of Alabama's recognition of America's upcoming 250th birthday and will highlight the ongoing impact of Muscle Shoals music. The Ritz Theatre in downtown Sheffield provides a setting tied to local history and live performance.

Tickets are available NOW at tennesseevalleyarts.org. Orchestra/Floor seating \$35, Balcony seating \$30. For more information, call 256-383-0783.

For details on upcoming events and things to do in Colbert County, visit colbertcountytourism.org.

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The TimesDaily is seeking a printing press operator to join our northwestern Alabama printing facility.

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Halloween Safety for Kids & Pets.....

Continued from Page 1

hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year

The American Red Cross wants everyone to enjoy the festivities safely, so they offer tips on how to have a great Halloween and stay safe while doing so.

COSTUME SAFETY Trick-or-Treaters need to see and be seen.

- Use face makeup instead of masks.
- Add reflective tape to costumes and trick-or-treat bags.
- Wear light-colored clothing if possible.
- Use flame-resistant costumes and wigs.
- Stay away from long trailing fabric so no one trips and falls.
- Avoid using decorative contact lenses to avoid vision issues
- If carving pumpkins, don't use candles to light them. Instead, try battery-operated lights or glow sticks.
- Walk only on sidewalks, not in the street. If there are no sidewalks, walk at the edge of the roadway, facing traffic.
- Don't cross streets between parked cars, and don't cut across yards or use alleys.
- Drivers watch for children in dark clothing at dusk/sunset.
- Give trick-or-treaters a flashlight to light their

way.

- A parent or responsible adult should accompany young children
- Visit homes that have a porch light on to accept treats at the door
- Never go inside.
- Be cautious around animals, especially dogs. Walk, don't run.
- Check all goodies before the kids dig in. Remove loose candy, open packages, and any choking hazards.
- If you are welcoming trick-or-treaters at your place, light the area well and sweep leaves from your sidewalks and steps.
- Clear obstacles someone could trip over.

YOUR PETS AND HALLOWEEN

If you are going to welcome trick-or-treaters or host a party, trustedhousesitters.com recommends keeping your pets in a separate area away from noise and the festivities.

To help owners ensure their pets' safety this season, TrustedHousesitters worked with veterinary surgeon Dr. Lily Richards (BSc Hons BVSc MRCVS) to reveal hidden dangers that pet owners should be aware of this Halloween.

Pet toxicology hotline calls spike 12% during the week of Halloween.



Make sure pets can't get at any Halloween treats – the treats can be toxic for animals. If you're considering a costume for your pet, make sure the animal is okay with the idea and that the costume doesn't limit their movement or hamper their breathing or sight. Halloween can spook your pets, causing them to run away. Make sure your pet wears a pet ID. If they are going out after dark, make sure they wear a reflective collar and are securely leashed.

Sugar-free candies, chocolates, Glowsticks, and fall plants pose risks to pets.

Even the most placid of cats might get anxious due to flashing lights, eerie noises, strangers dressed as characters, and the continuous doorbell. While chocolate is one of the more well-known dangers for pets, vets

highlight other common items that pose fatal consequences.

Like humans, dogs have taste buds that crave sweet foods. However, while sugar isn't poisonous to cats and dogs, it isn't healthy for them.

"Although sugars like honey, brown, and white sugar are generally safe for dogs and cats, foods high in sugar often cause vomiting and diarrhea in pets," said Dr. Richards.

Watch out, particularly for sugar-free treats containing xylitol. This common ingredient is very dangerous for pets and can lead to sudden life-threatening changes in blood sugar and liver toxicity."

Pets can enjoy pumpkin this year without fear of poisoning. However, raw pumpkin is harder to digest and should be avoided for both cats and dogs.

While decorating, Dr Richards encourages pet parents to be mindful of what plants are placed around the house. 'Mums' or chrysanthemums, holly and certain types of ornamental berries can all be toxic to pets with ingestion leading to vomiting, diarrhea, and skin irritation," she said.

One of the most common Halloween accessories used for children's safety and costumes can also be dangerous for pets.

The bright liquid inside glow sticks contains various chemicals that can be toxic to pets if ingested, especially for their digestive system.

Cocoa contains the compound theobromine, which is toxic to animals at certain doses. While most pet owners are aware that chocolate is dangerous for dogs, it's lesser known how dangerous chocolate is for cats.

Symptoms of toxicity vary from vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, coma, seizures, or even death.

In addition to the potential health risks, pets may experience stress during Halloween. Costumed strangers, loud knocking, or a ringing doorbell can all cause anxiety or fear in dogs and cats. Normally

docile animals can turn defensive/aggressive in unfamiliar and often chaotic situations.

Consider creating a peaceful, secure space for pets to withdraw to

To learn more about the TrustedHousesitters platform, please visit <https://www.trustedhousesitters.com/blog/owners/halloween-safety-tips/>



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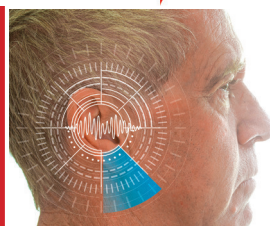
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Commentary

About Kings, Queens, & The Many Jokers

A second installment of "No Kings" rallies earlier this month spread across some 2,700 locations, attracting 6-7 million participants by some estimations, including one here in Florence attended by several hundred.

Sure, it creates a story for the news media to eat up, and it creates a memorable time of celebration for people taking part in the peaceful public protests.

They even came out to a No Kings event outside the American Embassy in the UK. Were they protesting the existence of their king? Are they wanting to do away with Charles, or are they too just looking for a chance to party and show of some questionable costumes?

Overwhelmingly white Boomer ex-hippies and gender-confused Gen Z'ers seemed to dominate most of the crowds.

Tyranny, Fascism, Dictator, Zionism and Democracy were still the popular terms, what we have been hearing for the last 8-9 months.

See **KINGS...** on Page 24

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

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

Courier Journal

THIS WEEK

in the *Shoals*
October 29, 2025

Happening THIS WEEK

All Saints Service at St. Johns

TUSCUMBIA – The Annual Memorial Service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tuscumbia will take place on Sunday, November 2, at 3pm. The public is invited to attend this All-Saints' Day service of Evening Prayer, which will be conducted from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer by the Rev. Danielle Thompson, Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Sheffield.

St. John's Church was founded in 1839. The present building, located at 300 N. Dickson St, is Alabama's earliest example of "Carpenter's Gothic" church architecture, erected in 1852.

During the Federal occupation of Tuscumbia in the 1860's,

See **ST. JOHN'S...** on Page 26



Founders Day Celebrated at Stagecoach Stop

TUSCUMBIA – The pioneer log cabin that reputedly served as a stagecoach stop in the early days of Tuscumbia's history will come alive with music, food, crafts and living history demonstrations on Saturday, November 1 in celebration of the founding of the city, first known as Coldwater.

The Founders Day celebration, hosted by the city of

See **FOUNDERS...** on Page 28

THE ONE NATION UNDER GOD PRAYER BREAKFAST is at 6:30am Tuesday, November 4 at the Renaissance Shoals Conference Center featuring guest speaker, retired UNA head football coach, Bobby Wallace. 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. 256-648-3470.

SAFEPLACE WILL HOST THE 1ST ANNUAL PURPLE MILE WALK in Lauderdale County on Friday, October 31 at 9am 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 ANNUAL CHICKEN TRUCKLOAD SALE at Pleasant Hill Church \$1.75/lb or less. Please visit: PH.Church.com to order or order at the church office, 2705 Co. Rd. 222 in Florence. 256-643-2020 ext. 5. The deadline to order is Sunday, November 2 with pick up on Saturday, November 8. Order while quantities last. Proceeds will go toward the Women's conference.

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Your Courier Journal welcomes tastefully presented typed or neatly written letters to be published as space allows. Letters may refer to timely matters of local, state, or national interest or any topic of concern or interest. Letters must include name, address and phone number for verification. (Only name and town will be published.) Letters are subject to editing. Please limit 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.

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Where is Your Path?

Editor,

I was reading where the Help Center will now also run the homeless shelter. The statement was that instead of 4 nights of being able to get shelter each week, the homeless would only be able to have 2 nights, unless the temperature dropped to freezing. It used to be 4 nights. There are 16 local churches in this effort. You can't throw a rock in the Shoals area without hitting a church. I'd say there were more than 100 churches. 16 churches helping.

God said Let there be light. Here's a light for you, there are mega churches being built here with 20-30,000 sq. ft. of space for their congregation. One

... As early as the 20th century, the U.S. military had already relied heavily on asbestos. . . ”

was just built in Florence that was also able to get the road paved in front of it. No further than in front of the church. One such church in Muscle Shoals has police stopping traffic on Sundays and Wednesdays so they can go forth.

I'm not sure exactly where in the Word of God it reads, "Build an edifice

to house my congregation so they will be out of the storm, to keep them from the sun's rays and cool them with air conditioning and heating for the long winter months." Or the Words that say, "Build the preacher a big home for himself with heating and cooling so he might have a bed to sleep peacefully at night and put a means of transportation in the garage so he can travel to and fro. And a salary commiserates with the edifice built for Me."

Sixteen churches. Two nights a week. For the homeless and hungry. There are no sinners such as I. Maybe those homeless believed the churches would help them. Probably not. Would your congregation allow a homeless person to sit beside you? Probably not.

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

ASK THE ATTORNEY



Thomas McCutcheon

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

Probate V. Administration

When a loved one passes away, handling the business of the estate can be complex. Joel and I handle cases where people are killed in accidents and have to set up an estate to handle the lawsuit for the family. Those proceeds are distributed according to state law and not in accordance with any Will that may have been written.

There are major differences between handling estates that have valid Wills and estates that do not. Generally, a Will does not require a bond or a formal inventory and is self-proving, meaning that there are two witnesses and a notary that witnessed the signing (execution) of the instrument.

With an administration, people must qualify and pay for a bond. Often people do not qualify for a bond. Credit issues, past criminal charges, and other problems can prevent a bond company from issuing a bond. No one wants to pay the cost of a bond. Most people want their property divided as they wish, and a Will avoids many of those problems.

That said, both administration and probate open a door for those who hold claims against the estate of the person who died (the decedent) for a specified period of time and then the opportunity to file a claim is closed. This allows for the transfer or sale of property and other items of the estate to be passed to third parties without the worry of claims being asserted against the property.

Before distributing assets or the money that is available through the sale of assets, the executor or administrator must ensure that all outstanding debts including taxes are paid from the estate.

With a Will, a person may designate to whom they want their property given and they may make specific designations of property such as items that have some sentimental value, usually guns or jewelry. Without a Will, the property or the proceeds of the property is distributed according to intestate succession which is the Will that the state wrote for you. It's not particularly complicated and it's reasonably well thought out, but it's generally not what people would choose, if given a choice.

Writing a Will begins with choosing who you want to handle your estate and how you want your estate to be divided.

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

Please send the questions to: "Ask the Attorney," P. O. Box 38, Florence, Alabama 35631 or visit our website at: www.mhatty.com  **MCCUTCHEON & HAMNER** ATTORNEYS AT LAW facebook: McCutcheon and Hamner, P.C.

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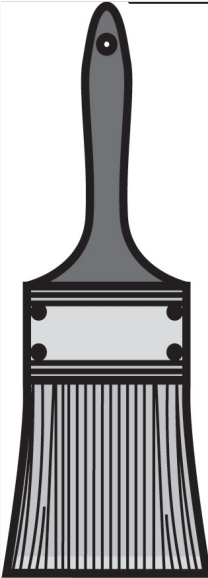
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Letters...

Where is Your Path?

Continued from Page 12

Would you personally feed and clothe a homeless person without witnesses? Probably not.

All of us are sinners and we are all homeless until God calls us Home. We are all hungry until God feeds us with His word. We are all in darkness until God shows us the Light.

Jesus said feed the hungry. Jesus said give shelter to the homeless and asylum seekers. Jesus said heal the sick. Jesus said take care of the poor, the elderly, and the disabled.

Jesus said a lot you don't or won't do. Two nights. And you have to stand in line for help. Outside in the cold or rain or sleet. For hours. And you actually have to travel to get there. You ever been? Probably not. You ever called 211? Probably not. Would you call 911 if you saw a homeless person?

Probably. When you see a homeless person do you turn away? Or do you go back and give them blessings? Because you are supposed to be their blessing.

I'm not the one asking you to do anything. Jesus is.

It's cold at night. Blankets? Coats? Hats? Gloves? No? Even used ones.

For those of you that help silently, may God Bless You. Or if you yell "I helped!" from the mountain tops, may God bless you too. It might encourage others to help as well.

With the government shutdown, there won't be food benefits given to the poorest of God's children. How do we help? Build another church.

It's not about the preacher's words. It's about God's Word.

It's not about the tithes to God. It's what you do with them. God has all He needs.

It is not about the Destination. It is about the Path you take to get there.

My path is Jesus. Is yours?

Linda Johnson
Florence

Mesothelioma Registry Needed for Veterans

Editor,

Honoring Service, Protecting Health: Why Alabama Veterans Need a National Mesothelioma Registry

As early as the 20th century, the U.S. military had already relied heavily on asbestos, a natural mineral once valued for its exemplary fireproofing qualities and durability. In fact, this material has become a staple in the construction and maintenance of armaments, tanks, aircraft, vessels, and numerous other facilities. However, this extensive utilization came at a

See LETTERS... Page 19

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Sunday, November 9th

10:30 a.m. – “Monday Is Coming”

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Monday, November 10th

7:00 p.m. – “Surviving 21st Century Sodom”

Tuesday, November 11th

7:00 p.m. – “Lord, I Believe – Help My Unbelief”

Wednesday, November 12th

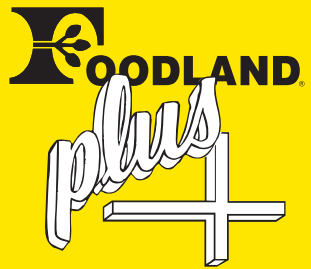
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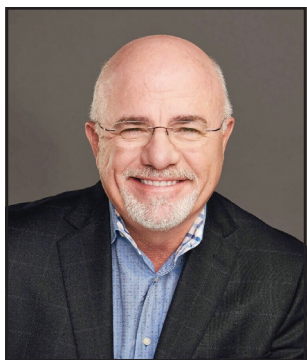
by DAVE RAMSEY

LEARNING TO DELAY GRATIFICATION IS PART OF MATURING EMOTIONALLY

Dear Dave,
I know a big part of your teaching centers around the importance of learning to delay gratification. You seem to believe reaching a level of maturity where you can do this is essential to attain the things in life that are really important. But this can be hard sometimes, no matter how old you are or how mature you happen to be. Do you have any suggestions for someone struggling to reach this point?

Brent

Dear Brent,
You're right, it is hard. Sometimes it's very difficult to leave the dinner table when



someone's asking if you want another piece of pie. And harder still to go from there to taking a nice, long walk instead. But learning to delay pleasure is part of the process when it comes to growing up emotionally.

When you've practiced it long enough, I think your mind starts to make the connection. You begin to realize that what's waiting down the road—if you'll just apply some forethought and discipline—is way better than whatever happens to be sitting in front of you at the moment.

Here's a quick personal example. The last thing I wanted to do today was get up really early, and go for a long walk. But the thing is, I know in my

mind that I feel so much better the entire day when I get in a little roadwork first thing in the morning. That's why I made myself get out of bed before sunrise, and just do it.

I think the whole process starts in the brain, then works its way to the heart, where it promotes understanding—and mature actions. So, if you think about it, it's really an intellectual behavior that influences will. You have to logically and intellectually grasp the concept, then think about where you're going, and where you'll end up, as a result of your actions.

It works for me, Brent. I hope it helps you, too!

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

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If works of righteousness help us or put us in heaven, then tell me which work of righteousness actually did the job? **Titus 3:5** "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" **Romans 4:14** "For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect." **1 Corinthians 1:17** "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect." Which great work have you done that could atone for one sin? Now, just how many sins have you committed in your lifetime? The bible says we must have his righteousness because our righteousnesses are as filthy rags! **Isaiah 64:6** "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Friend, your insecurity, misery, doubt and uncertainty about eternity shows on your face.

It takes the shedding of blood to cleanse you of your sin, and your blood and works aren't good enough. **Hebrews 9:22** "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." **Hebrews 9:12** "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." That's why Christ died! Dah! **Philippians 3:9** "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:" How simple does God have to make it? Ask Christ to forgive you and give you His righteousness now while your breathing! **1 Peter 3:18** "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:" Ask Him now, or are you afraid He might do it and embarrass you?

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WK 10 Saturday
Nov. 1

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EACH WINNING TEAM

DEADLINE: FRIDAY,
5PM OCT. 31

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

TIE BREAKER
Write Exact Score Below

☐ Vanderbilt at
☐ Texas

name _____

address _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

day phone _____ evening phone _____

Week 8 WINNER - WILL HAWKINS of Town Creek
Week 9 Winner online by 4pm Tuesday and in the Nov. 5 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...

Mesothelioma Registry Needed for Veterans

Continued from Page 14

steep cost, as in Alabama alone, a large chunk of over 300,000 veterans — including those in Lauderdale County — were potentially exposed to toxic asbestos fibers. Over time, the consequences of such a hazard have begun surfacing, among which is a fatal malignant tumor called mesothelioma. Without a systemic tool tracking susceptible individuals, the crisis persists and continues to impact more veterans each year. Mesothelioma is an unusual but devastating form of cancer that typically grows in the protective tissue of the lungs, abdomen, or heart. The problem is that detecting it earlier remains one of the toughest challenges in modern medicine. Its initial symptoms often take up to 40 years or more to manifest. And when they finally do, they are frequently misdiagnosed for other ailments like thoracic emphysema or pus in the chest, delaying life-saving treatments.

Tragically, such diagnostic failures have severely affected Alabama. Data indicate that between 1999 and

2017, the state recorded 3,845 asbestos-related deaths, of which 616 were mesothelioma cases. Lauderdale County, in particular, logged 151 fatalities. Veterans are specifically vulnerable because of their prolonged asbestos exposure. Currently, this occupational group accounts for a third of the annual 3,000 mesothelioma diagnoses reported nationally. Early diagnosis is vital to improve survival rates for mesothelioma patients; however, this is not the reality now, especially with the prevalent misdiagnosis. A national mesothelioma registry could nonetheless make a difference by systematically monitoring and encouraging screenings for susceptible veterans for accurate diagnosis and treatment. Additionally, such a system would likewise provide real-time data to researchers working on new diagnostic tools and refined treatment protocols. With this, the federal government and concerned stakeholders should unite to prioritize this registry, ensuring no veteran has to face mesothelioma again, shrouded in uncertainty and insufficient help.

Jonathan Sharp,
CFO, Environmental
Litigation Group P.C.
Birmingham

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6 PACK 1/2 LITERS COKE PRODUCTS 3/\$13

Community Notes...

Continued from page 9

Rummage Sale for Missions: Russellville First Methodist Church Friday, November 7, 7am-5pm, and Saturday, Nov. 8, 7-11am.

Furniture, baked goods, kitchen items, household goods, jewelry, books, and more - 311 N Jackson Ave. Russellville.

World Community Day - "Be Kind at All Times" sponsored by Church Women United, will takes place at 10am Friday, Nov. 7 at Armstead Chapel, 121 Simpson St., Florence.

Friday, November 7, - Shoals Habitat for Humanity 1st Annual Trap Shoot Join Shoals Habitat for Humanity for their first annual Trap Shoot at the Muscle

Shoals Skeet & Trap Club, 1301 County Rd 346, Florence, AL 35634. Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m., and the shoot starts at 9:00 a.m. Teams of two can compete for prizes across three rounds, with breakfast and lunch provided.

Ear and eye protection are required, and participants must supply their own ammo. The event will also feature a raffle and silent auction. Rain-out date: November 14. For more information or to register, contact Deanna Sledge at 256-710-5497 or dsledge@bibank.com

Clothes Giveaway infants - adults, clothes and shoes Thursday, November 6 from 8-10am at the Care Center, First Baptist Church in Killen.

Colbert County Domestic Violence Response Coalition (CCDVRC) 1st Annual Memory Walk - In honor of those that we have lost to Domestic Violence. Saturday, November 8. Sign-in is at 9:30am on the Colbert County Courthouse lawn. Walk starts at 10am through Downtown Tuscumbia into Spring Park, where we kick off the Celebration of Life! For more info contact 256-815-5136.

Colbert County Domestic Violence Response Coalition Presents "SILENCED NO MORE!" Celebrating Survivors of Domestic Violence - Music Fest, Saturday, November 8, 11am-4pm at Spring Park, Tuscumbia. Vendors & Music: Taylor Grace, Chris Garner, Wasted Time, Titus Bozeman Band, Hailey White featuring Mctazz Band. This will be live on WFMC Jams.com. Contact CCDVRC colbertdvrc@aol.com, 256-284-2284. Lisa T 256-815-5136, Chris Garner 256-654-3344 or Nick Hatton 256-602-6806.

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.

The Batting Brigade Quilt Guild has hospitality at 9am the second

Monday of the month, (Nov. 10) with a meeting at 9:30am, at Edgemont United Methodist Church, Florence. For information, call Liz at 601-590-4367.

All veterans and friends are invited to the Florence-Lauderdale Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11 at 11AM at Veterans Park. (301 Veterans Park Drive, Florence) Group photographs will be taken of veterans according to time served to preserve veteran history in the Veterans Memorial Museum.

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

Free Clothes - The Samaritan House, 600 Geneva Ave., Muscle Shoals, gives away free clothing each Tuesday from 9-11am - except for every 5th Tuesday. Donations are accepted.

Arts/Crafts/Vendors applications are available now for the 36th Anniversary of CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY at LaGrange College Site Park from 10am-4pm each day, November 21 and 22. Contact: louiselenz9324@gmail.com or 256-702-9799. 1491 LaGrange College Rd. in Leighton.

See NOTES... page 23

2025 Halloween Coloring Contest WINNERS!

A Special Thanks to Everyone for taking part in our 2025 Halloween Coloring Contest! We had hundreds of entries!

Ages 2-4

1st
Riley Harbin
4 Killen



Ages 5-7

1st
Selena Guterrez
7 Tuscumbia



Ages 8-10

1st
Brooklyn Johns
10 Rogersville



2nd
Nova Pickett
3 Killen



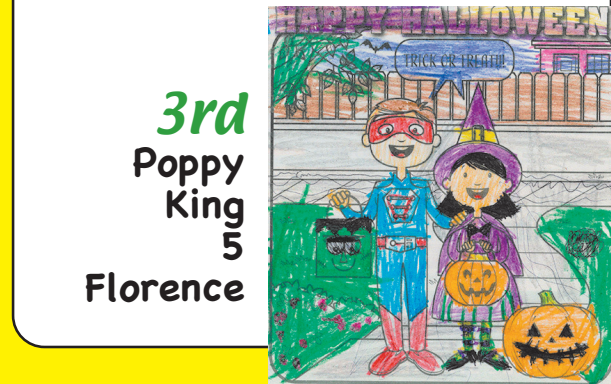
2nd
Nate Osborn - 6
Muscle Shoals



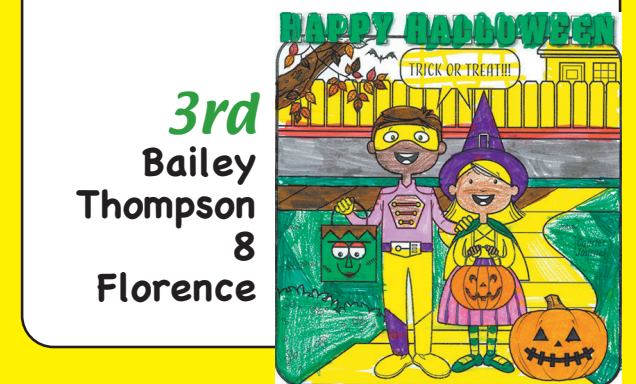
2nd
Mackenna Hudson - 9
Muscle Shoals



3rd
Mylah Painter
2 Florence



3rd
Poppy King
5 Florence



3rd
Bailey Thompson
8 Florence

Top 3 Winners In Each Age Group, Pictured Above Receive:

Large
1 Topping
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HONORABLE MENTIONS:

2-4 Age Group: Elijah Mason, Ella Kate Dobbs, Jasper Levi Logan, Shiloh Hall, Reece Austill, Shiloh Brown, Jagger Hodges.

5-7 Age Group: River Aldridge, Nathan Helms, Reagan Duke, Rowen Womble, Mia Loudy, River Rhode, Liam Thomason, Ramsey Logan, Reese Rhodes, Lydia Talley, Aliyah Parras.

8-10 Age Group: Walden McGee, Wyatt Beck, Colton McCullough, Lillie Sutherland, Mia Brown, Harper Scott, Dodger Flippo, Naomi Taylor, Ansley Womble, Cash Smith, Kolby Austill, Mabel Greer, Samar Guterrez, Addison Painter, Abby Gray, Charlotte St. Clair, Michael Ayden Caudill, Jasper Davis, Emmett Corbett, Roderick J. Ford, Elora Francisco.

Pick Up Your Prizes Beginning Wednesday, Oct. 29

WINNERS MAY PICK UP PRIZES at the Courier Journal, 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence



Moments in Time

• **On Oct. 27, 1873**, Joseph Glidden, a farmer in DeKalb, Illinois, submitted an application to the U.S. Patent Office for his new design for a fencing wire with sharp barbs. His version, using two strands of wire twisted together, was an improvement on the single-strand version created by Henry Rose and became the best-selling such wire in the country.

• **On Oct. 28, 1787**, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart worked all night to complete the overture of his opera “Don Giovanni,” which was scheduled to debut in Prague the next day. The orchestra had no time to rehearse, but sight-read it in the concert hall to a most enthusiastic response from the crowd.

• **On Oct. 29, 1618**, Sir Walter Raleigh, an English adventurer, writer and favorite courtier of Queen Elizabeth I, was beheaded in London under a sentence brought against him 15 years earlier for conspiracy against King James I.

• **On Oct. 30, 1905**, George Bernard Shaw’s play “Mrs. Warren’s Profession,” which dealt frankly with prostitution and had already been banned

in Britain, was staged at New York’s Garrick Theater, but was closed by authorities after a single performance. The next day the producer and players were arrested for obscenity, but no one (including Shaw) was convicted. The play would not be legally performed in Britain for another 21 years.

• **On Oct. 31, 1950**, 21-year-old Earl Lloyd became the first African American to play in an NBA game when he took to the court in the season opener for the Washington Capitols. While he would describe joining an all-white team as “intimidating,” his teammates were welcoming, though not all fans approved.

• **On Nov. 1, 1800**, President John Adams moved into the newly constructed President’s House, the original name for what we today call the White House.

• **On Nov. 2, 2000**, the first residential crew arrived aboard the International Space Station, marking both the beginning of a new era of international cooperation in space and the longest continuous human habitation in low Earth orbit, which continues to this day.

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BUICK LESABRE	1G4HR54K944135375	2008 GMC ENVOY	1GKDT13S282125940
2015 BUICK VERANO	1G4PR5SK5F4124066	1998 HONDA ACCORD	1HGCG1658WA041255
2013 BUICK REGAL	2G4GV5GV3D9213577	1997 HONDA ACCORD	1HGCD7151VA019440
2005 CHEVROLET IMPALA	2G1WF52E259260226	2016 JEEP CHEROKEE	1C4RJFBMXGC367083
2007 CHEVROLET MALIBU	1G1ZT68N37F212733	2007 KIA OPTIMA	KNAGE123975153788
2003 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO	2G1WX12K439274105	2009 MAZDA 6	1YVHP81H795M51261
1993 CHEVROLET S-10	1GCCS14Z5P8163406	2012 MAZDA 3	JM1BL1L86C1643538
2001 CHEVROLET TAHOE	1GNEC13TX1J114406	2020 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE	ML32A3HJ0LH006118
2005 CHRYSLER PACIFICA	2C8GM684X5R651967	2003 NISSAN MAXIMA	JN1DA31AX3T429305
2005 DODGE CARAVAN	1D4GP45R55B337562	1998 NISSAN MAXIMA	JN1CA21D4WM916725
2014 DODGE CHARGER	2C3CDXHG0EH237669	2015 NISSAN MURANO	5N1AZ2MH5FN230551
1999 FORD EXPEDITION	1FMPU18LXXLB92961	2011 NISSAN SENTRA	3N1AB6AP5BL623989
2010 FORD FUSION	3FAHPOHAOAR138298	2009 SATURN VUE	3GSCL33P59S567569
2015 FORD MUSTANG	1FA6P8CF8F5309270	2012 TOYOTA COROLLA	5YFBU4EE7CP052809
2004 FORD TAURUS	1FAFP55S34G165931	2010 VOLKSWAGON JETTA	3VWJZ7AJ2AM080939
		2009 VOLVO S60	YV1RS592792734469

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CLASSIFIED FORM ON PAGE 6

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2 Extra Lines FREE

Offer valid through Friday, October 31, 2025

Medicare Minute

Medicare Advantage Plans

Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) extends from October 15th through December 7th. This is the time of year you can sign up for or make any changes to your Medicare Advantage Plan (MA) or Prescription Drug Plan (PDP). Over the next few weeks we are going to look at MA and PDP plans and what to look for when choosing these plans.

Medicare Advantage Plans, or Part C Medicare, are offered through private insurance companies that Medicare approves. If you join a Medicare Advantage Plan you still have Medicare but will receive your Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B coverage through the private insurance company offering the MA plan you join. Medicare Advantage Plans are not Medicare supplements.

Here are a couple of rules to remember if considering a Medicare Advantage Plan. To be eligible to join a Medicare Advantage Plan you must be enrolled in Part A and Part B Medicare. You must also live in the service area of the plan. For example, if you live in Lauderdale or Colbert counties you are only eligible for plans that are offered in your county. Just because a plan is offered in Huntsville or Birmingham does not mean it's available in Lauderdale or Colbert counties. Also, you do not have to be 65 to join an Advantage Plan. If you have been on Social Security disability for 24 months and have Medicare you can join a plan.

Over the next few weeks we will begin to look at the six things to consider when choosing a Medicare Advantage Plan. Those six things are premium, copays, coinsurance, deductibles, provider networks and the drug formulary of the plan. We will also discuss the difference between your plan options such as a HMO and a PPO. In the meantime if you have any questions about Medicare Advantage Plans you can contact our office.

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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(Four Lane Shopping Center)



Notes...

Continued from page 20

Florence Fly Fisher & Tyers meets the 1st Tuesday of every month (Nov. 4) from 6:30-8pm at St Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 1900 Darby Dr. in Florence. Anyone interested is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Sunday, November 16 - Thanksgiving in the Park. Knox Media Group, Inc. and Florence Park & Recreation will host Thanksgiving in the Park: Let's Share & Care on Sunday, November 16, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Wilson Park, 250 E. Tuscaloosa Street, Florence, Alabama.

The community event will feature free cooked meals and the distribution of coats, hats, gloves, socks, household supplies, and more while supplies last.

For more information or to participate, call 256-712-2887.

Are you a UNA Graduate that owns a Small business? Sign up to be featured on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 30.

This is your chance to:

- Be spotlighted in a special social media campaign.

- Collaborate with the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, UNA's Mane Agency, and the Small Business Development Center.

The Town and Gown Task Force, a partnership between the University of North Alabama and the City of Florence, is inviting local business owners to participate in an exciting new initiative ahead of Small Business Saturday on November 30th!

Friday, November 7 - The 2025 Special Olympics will now take place at the Florence Sportsplex (1 Sportsplex Dr., Florence, AL 35633) This change comes as a result of the exciting growth and attendance projections for this year's event, along with parking and accessibility improvements for athletes, families, and fans.

Parents and fans are encouraged to bring their own chairs. Seating will be provided for athletes and staff attending with the athletes. We look forward to a great day celebrating inclusion, sportsmanship, and achievement.

Randy Burns, City of Florence: "I am excited about hosting this event at the Florence Sportsplex. It's the perfect place to celebrate our athletes and the incredible spirit of the Special Olympics."

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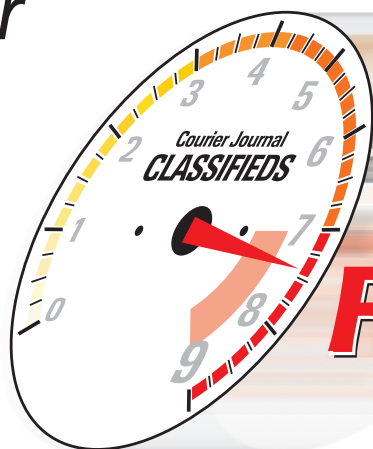
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Commentary

About Kings...

Continued from Page 12

However, I can understand utilizing the "No Kings" theme. It's catchy, easy to remember, and makes for quick signage.

Yet, nothing about either event reflected kings, dictatorships, or democracy. They were outward tantrums from the group want a return of their political power.

And I can certainly understand some of the angst and frustration.

Donald Trump hit the ground running, accomplishing a month's worth of work on day before Joe Biden got up from his nap. And he has been a whirlwind since, not always making the right moves, but keeping his foot on the gas. It's why he was voted in.

Trump is far from the dictator or furor that many want to portray him. However, his aggressive use of presidential edict in many cases to avoid the government red tape is past being humorous.

Blowing up boats off the coast of Venezuela because they are suspected drug traffickers? That is a long way from the U.S. shore. The intelligence and accusations may be accurate, but in what U.S. (or international maritime) realm do people arbitrarily get blown into next week?

Even though Venezuelan cartels are not among the major players in US drug concerns, those actions may act as a deterrent when others see what can happen. In a year's time, it may put a large dent in the drug importation figures that would otherwise take 20 years, cost \$billions in manpower, and take hundreds of law enforcement lives stateside. That said, how are those types of gangster cyber-actions remotely acceptable?

What would we think if another country blew up a boat of Americans speeding away from our shores because they were suspected of doing something illegal? That would be an act of war.

The often aggressive "clear a building, ask questions later" tactics by ICE agents that impact legal immigrants and other Americans is also out of hand. It's obvious that crime in many major U.S. cities is escalating, and many of those are considered "sanctuary cities," where

illegal and undocumented but productive migrants are protected by local officials from being hassled/arrested because of their immigration status. The federal government/law enforcement is immune to those limitations and is aggressively looking for criminals. It is one thing to aggressively look for legal and illegal criminals who are a scourge to society. It's another to ratchet up the police state to where injuries are sustained and private property is destroyed which happens too often when they get overzealous. Ransacking homes, damaging private property, and manhandling of law-abiding citizens who sometimes get caught-up in the stings is unacceptable and violates several constitutional boundaries. As mentioned previously in this space, folks on the right who have the president's ear need to find the gumption to rail on him together about these examples of recklessness.

That said, placing the moniker of "King" on Trump like he just wrested the presidency away from someone else is a little awkward since he legally won every single swing state, the electoral college and popular vote in a fair democratic election.

That can't be said for those on the other side who tried to have Trump incarcerated for the better part of eight years, then tried to have him erased from primary ballots in many states while their side backed an incumbent who barely had a pulse, then arbitrarily decided to bypass the party's primary election, instantly crowning a party nominee who had never earned a single primary vote in two election cycles.

A lot of underlying communistic subterfuge has to be undone in four years, but there is still the US Constitution to which we are supposedly aligned. Considering he was having to play defense for most of his first term and could get very little straightened out from Obama's first two terms, President Trump is showing that he can abuse Constitutional principles with transparency even quicker than democrats were artfully doing it with stealth for 16 years.

Neither bodes well for America's future.

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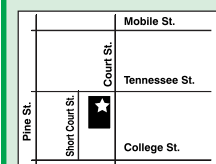
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STRANGE but TRUE

- **Assembling the International Space Station** took more than 200 spacewalks.
- **The average freediver** can hold their breath for approximately 10 minutes, much longer than the average healthy, fit human but well short of the Guinness World Record time of 22 minutes.
- **During the Middle Ages**, the majority of western maps placed east rather than north at the top.
- **Diamonds are the only gem** made of a single element, at nearly 99.95% carbon, the most commonly found element on Earth.
- **After the axle**, the first wheels did not appear on any mode of transportation, but on a child's toy. Scholars estimate that it took another three centuries after wheels were used in pottery and toymaking for them to be applied to transportation.
- **The Great Pyramid at Giza** has over 2 million stone blocks, each with an average weight of more than 2 tons.
- **Two days after Alexander Graham Bell** died at his summer home

- in Nova Scotia on Aug. 2, 1922, all telephone service in the United States and Canada was suspended for a full minute at the precise moment when he was lowered into his grave.
- **Just 10% of an incandescent light bulb's** energy produces light. The remaining 90% produces heat.
 - **At the 2007 French Open**, Venus Williams' serve sent the ball flying at 129 miles per hour, the second fastest serve by a woman ever recorded. It was also the fastest recorded in a main draw match at that time.
 - **Most people think you gain 5 to 10 pounds** over Thanksgiving, but you'll be glad to know the average amount is really just a single pound.

- he wanted to pummel the culprit, and Martin, who was a boxing instructor at a local gym, advised him to learn how to fight.
- **American school buses** are yellow because the color is easier to see in poor light and bad weather.
 - **Helium** was the first chemical element not initially discovered on Earth.
 - **On average, Google.com** processes about 63,000 search queries every second, or more than 5.5 billion searches per day, and 2 trillion per year.
 - A common garden spider can produce as many as seven types of silk, each made up of a different sequence of proteins.

Last Thought for the Day: "The successful warrior is the average man, with laser-like focus." -- Bruce Lee

First Thought for the Day: "I'd rather attempt to do something great and fail than to attempt to do nothing and succeed." -- Robert H. Schuller

- **One spark** of static electricity can generate as much as 3,000 volts.
- **Hockey pucks** are frozen before each game to prevent bouncing in and out of play and other potentially dangerous and uncontrolled movements.
- **According to the National Turkey Federation**, around 88% of Americans enjoy the bird as part of their annual holiday feast each year. That adds up to a belly-busting 46 million-plus turkeys, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Yep, we don't call it Turkey Day for nothing!
- **The phrase "United States of America"** was first published anonymously in the Virginia Gazette newspaper in Williamsburg, Virginia, on April 6, 1776.
- **When he was a teenager**, physicist Stephen Hawking's friends called him "Einstein" after they created a computer using telephone switchboards, old clock parts and additional items meant for recycling.
- **Nearly 500 animal species** have documented homosexual behaviors.
- **The Atlantic** is the saltiest of Earth's five major oceans, primarily due to the Antarctic ice sheet and global mountain ranges.
- **Muhammad Ali** started boxing at age 12 after someone stole his bike. The tearful boy told police officer Joe Martin that



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Courier Journal
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Freddie

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Babs

Meet **Babs**. This precious girl is Babs, and she's ready to melt your heart! Babs is a gentle, smaller-sized dog with the sweetest eyes and a soft, shy nature. She may be a little timid at first, but once she feels safe, her loving personality shines through. She's the kind of companion who just wants to be by your side and feel loved. Babs would do best with someone patient who can give her time to open up — and when she does, you'll have a loyal best friend for life. Come meet Babs and let her steal your heart today!

Hitman

Meet **Hitman**. He is a 2-year-old, 55 lb sweetheart who's ready to find his forever home! This handsome guy loves to follow you around and be part of whatever you're doing — he just wants to be your loyal companion. He's great on a leash, crate trained, and gets along well with others. Hitman has a calm, friendly personality that makes him a perfect fit for just about any home. Come meet Hitman today — or try fostering him for free to see how amazing he is!

Diego

Looking for a Little Love? Meet **Diego**. This adorable smaller pup is looking for a safe place to land and a family to call his own! He may be tiny, but he's full of heart and ready to soak up all the love and attention you can give. Perfect size for snuggles, car rides, and cozy naps — he just wants to be your sidekick. **Not ready to adopt? Fostering is free!** Take him out for the day or even a **sleepover** — it's a great way to help him find his forever home. Come meet this sweet little guy today — he's ready to

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Notes...

Continued from page 23

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

James Quad Cities Photography Club, 6:30pm, second Tuesday, (November 11) Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, 217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence

The Holos Hope Christmas Market of 2025 will be hosted on Saturday, November 15 from 10am-3pm at 1954 Jackson Rd in Florence. Entry fee is \$5. Holos Hope is a nonprofit located at an undisclosed location in Florence committed to supporting the recovery of survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence. Proceeds go towards funding our residential program from women survivors. This is an opportunity for the community to get involved in the mission to serve this population and to make a difference. We would love to see you there! holoshope.org

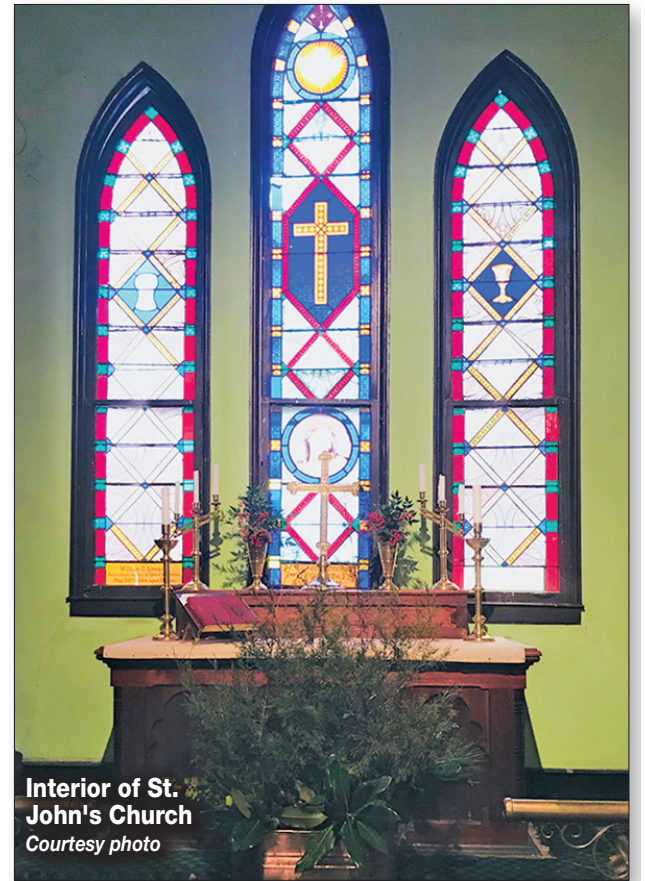
Saturday, November 15: Shoals Salsa Showdown. The Florence Education Foundation is turning up the flavor with this fun and flavorful community competition. Local participants will showcase their best homemade salsas, and attendees will have the chance to taste, vote, and celebrate the creativity of our 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.

Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club, 10am, third Wednesday, (November 19) at Helen Keller Public Library, 511 Main St., Tuscumbia. nancy537481@yahoo.com

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

See NOTES... page 28



Interior of St. John's Church
Courtesy photo

St. John's...

Continued from Page 12

The church was occupied by the Union Army to stable horses during the Civil War and was extensively damaged by the tornado that struck Tuscumbia in 1874. As a result, the building was reinforced with iron rods and the later addition of buttresses.

St. John's Church was closed for regular services in 1955 but remains a consecrated place of worship today. The church contains original furnishings with early stained-glass windows and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Everyone is invited to be part of this inspiring annual event.

For more information or to donate toward the preservation of the historic church, contact Ninon Parker, Church Trustee, 106 N. Dickson St., Tuscumbia, AL 35674; telephone: 256-710-9081.

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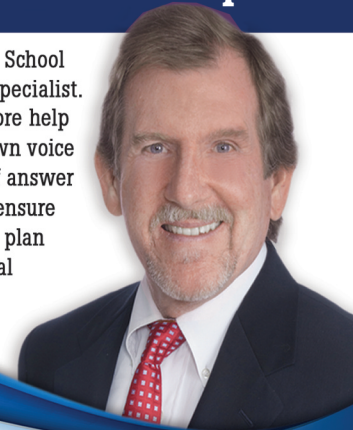
Check Condenser Fan Motor
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PLAY THE GAME DAY SCORE CARD Contest every week during the football season. Win a \$50 gift card from Lost Pizza Co. for the best card and another \$50 gift card, plus \$50 cash if it is a perfect card. Only in the Courier Journal and at CourierJournal.net.

ONLINE AUCTION NOVEMBER 4-11 4 Tracts - Separate Locations Muscle Shoals & Sheffield



Real Estate: The Gary Simpson estate is liquidating its excess properties consisting of 4 tracts, 1 in Sheffield and 3 in Muscle Shoals. Each tract will be a final sale and will not be combined with other parcels.

Tract 1 - 1.2± Acres at 1410 Second St. The majority of the property is a gravel parking with chain link fence.

Tract 2 - 0.3± Acres fronting Glendale Av, just south of Second St in Muscle Shoals. This property is currently leased to a cell tower. Lease will be assigned to buyer at closing.

Tract 3 - 0.29± Acres of undeveloped land fronting Florence Av between Gusmus Av and Glendale Av, one block south of Second St.

Tract 4 - 7.6± Acres located at 202 Cox Blvd, Sheffield. This tract consists of 7 properties separated by undeveloped streets and alleys. The tract features a 15,000± sf building with 3 +/- acres fenced.

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Terms: 10% down payment due upon signing of the contract within 24 hours from end of sale. Balance due upon delivery of deed within 30 days from day of sale. Seller will provide deed and owner's title insurance. Seller reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Real Estate will be sold "AS-IS" without warranties of any kind. All information contained in this ad is believed to be correct but not guaranteed. Changes made by the Auction Company during the online auction supersede any printed material.



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Real Estate:

This 207 +/- acre farm has been in the Hollmann family for over 100 years.

The property is predominately in row crop production and includes two farmhouses, barns and sheds.

The property has an abundance of road frontage and lies just outside the Loretto city limits. The farm will be offered in 5 separate parcels ranging from 24 acres to 65 acres.

Open House: Sun. Oct. 26th 1-3PM

www.kingrealtyandauktion.com

Seller: Mary Elenora Simbeck Estate

Terms: 10% down with balance due in 45 days. Possession upon the delivery of the deed subject to the 2025 crop harvest. Seller will provide survey, deed and owner's title insurance. Seller reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. The real estate will be sold "AS-IS" without warranties of any kind. All information contained in this ad is believed to be correct, but not guaranteed.



AUCTION

Saturday, November 8th • 10 a.m.
2625 Smokey Road, Savannah, TN



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Notes...

Continued from page 26

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.

Shoals Artists Guild Meeting Every 3rd Friday of the month, (November 21), 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.

November 23: Tree Lighting - The City of Florence, AL Beautification Board invites you to a Florence holiday tradition! The North Court Street Tree Lighting will take place on Sunday, November 23, at 5PM.

This festive evening will feature performances by the Shoals Symphony, seasonal treats from UNA Culinary, and joyful music from community carolers. Gather with family and friends as we light the tree and welcome the holiday season in downtown Florence.

Thursday, November 27 - Crossroads Community Outreach will host its annual FriendsGiving Thanksgiving Lunch on Thursday, November 27, 2025, from 11AM to 1PM at the Handy Recreation Center, located at 1105 Beale Street, Florence.

The event, sponsored by the Long-Lewis Foundation and the Florence Parks & Recreation Department, will provide a warm meal and fellowship for the West Florence community.

To volunteer or donate, text 256-284-2218

See NOTES... page 30

Founders...

Continued from Page 12

Tuscumbia and Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation, will take place from 10am-3pm at the Coldwater Stagecoach Stop, which is the log cabin located at 300 N. Dickson Street, across from the Police Station in Tuscumbia.

The event is free and open to the public.

The annual Founders Day celebration will include live music from the Cane Creek Cliff Dwellers, spinning and textile weaving by the Shoals Weavers Guild and chair caning and basket weaving by Glen Rikard. Tours of the log cabin, formerly an important stagecoach stop, will be offered. Books published by local historians will be sold, along with chicken stew and baked goods.

Mug Life food truck uses only a premium brand of coffee from Central America that is 100% organic, no GMOs, no pesticides, and low acidity. They sell coffee, lattes, frappes, cold brew, fruit teas, and smoothies.

Historical tours of the

city led by local historians will be offered at 10am-2pm. A walking tour of downtown Tuscumbia will begin at 10am at the log cabin. A trolley tour sponsored by Colbert Tourism will depart at 2pm from the corner of 6th and Main Streets.

"We are honored to partner with the city of Tuscumbia to host our annual Founders Day celebration of our beloved town," CCHLF president Lorie Johnson said. "We invite everyone to join us for a fun day of music, history, food and fellowship."

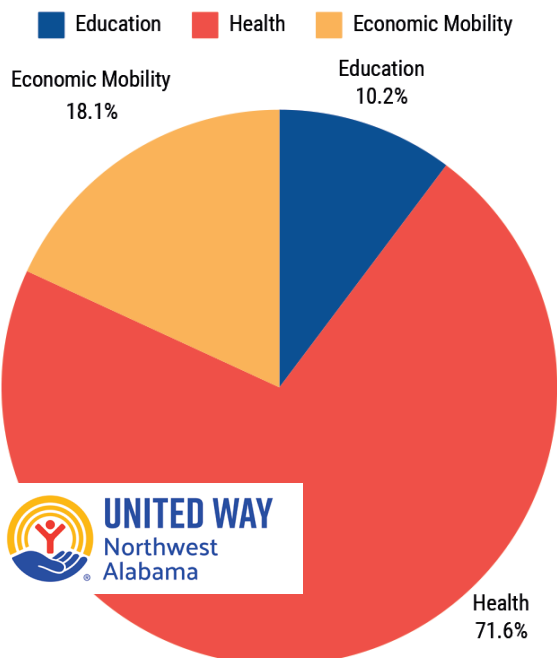
Tuscumbia was settled by American citizens from Tennessee around 1815, shortly before Alabama was recognized as one of the United States. These early settlers worked closely with the Chickasaw Indians, who were already living in the area.

By 1817, there were already houses erected and business being conducted, making Tuscumbia the oldest of the Quad Cities in the Shoals.

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



PROGRAM FOCUS AREA BREAKDOWN



32.5%

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

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

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

49%

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

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

Space courtesy of Courier Journal.



Savvy SENIOR

How to Make a Home Safer and More Accessible as You Age

Dear Savvy Senior,
What simple tips can you recommend for making a home age friendly? My husband and I are in our late-sixties and want to remain living in our home for as long as possible.
Homebody Hanna

Dear Hanna,
Many older adults, like you and your husband, want to stay living in their own home for as long as possible. But being able to do so will depend on how easy it is to maneuver your living space as you get older. There are literally dozens of simple adjustments and modifications you can do to help make your home safer and more accessible for aging-in-place. Here's a summary of tips from the National Institute on Aging and AARP, which offers a free room-by-room guide with practical suggestions for older adults living independently.

ENTRANCE WAY:
Have at least one exterior doorway with step-free access. If not possible, consider a ramp.
Add a bench in the foyer to sit on when removing shoes or to set down items while locking or unlocking the door.

BATHROOM:
Install a walk-in shower with a bench and nonskid decals or mats to prevent falls.
Add a hand-held nozzle to the shower head to facilitate rinsing off while seated.
Install grab bars on the shower wall and near the toilet
Put in a taller toilet or add a toiler riser.
Consider plugging in a nightlight.

BEDROOM:
If stairs are too difficult to manage, create a bedroom on the main level by transforming a den or an office.
Make sure the bed is easy to get in and out of. Purchase bed risers, if needed.
Invest in an adjustable bed for extra comfort.

KITCHEN:
Purchase a stove with safety features that alert the resident when a burner is on or have automatic shutoffs.
Relocate major appliances to make them easier to reach.
Add slide-out drawers or trays to existing cabinets for better access.
Install a lever-style, light-touch or sensor faucet, which is easier to use than a faucet with turn-style knobs or handles.

FURNITURE & RUGS:
Get rid of furniture and clutter to make rooms easier to move around in.
Use chairs with armrests, which makes sitting and standing easier.
Avoid furniture with sharp corners, which can cause bruises and cuts when bumped up against.
Hide cords out of pathways — but don't put them under rugs.
Area rugs, if used, should be secured to the floor with a nonslip mat or anti-slip rug tape.

For more tips, get a copy of AARP's "HomeFit Guide" which is a 36-page fully illustrated guide and has more than 100 aging-in-place tips and suggestions that can be made to an existing house or apartment or incorporated into designs for a new residence. It explains how a smartly designed or modified home can meet the varied and changing needs of its older residents. It also features easy-to-do, low-cost and no-cost fixes that lessen the risk of trip hazards and increase the safety of high-use areas like the bathroom, kitchen and stairway.
In addition, AARP also offer videos and a HomeFit AR app (available for iPhone and iPad) that can scan a room and suggest improvements to help turn your house into a "lifelong home," free from safety and mobility risks.
Visit AARP.org/HomeFit to order or download a free copy of this guide, or to watch their videos. You don't need to be an AARP member to access this content.
If you'd like more hands-on help, you could also hire an occupational or physical therapist that works with older adults. He or she can come in, evaluate your home and recommend aging-in-place solutions. And if you get a referral from your doctor, Medicare will usually cover a home walk-through.

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.



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Renita Jimmar 256-740-5815 • Mara Beth Cravens 256-740-5811

Community Notes...

Continued from page 28

December 3: John Paul White's "Home for the Holidays" Concert

John Paul White returns to Norton Auditorium for his Home for the Holidays concert on December 3. Ticket information will be released soon. Stay tuned for details.

Wednesday, December 12, 7p.m. —Tim Lowry, a nationally known storyteller, will perform Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. The program is free and open to the public.

the Holidays concert on December 3. Ticket information will be released soon. Stay tuned for details.

The Crossroads Christmas Community Event will take place on Saturday, December 20 1PM to 4:00 PM at the Handy Recreation Center, located at 1105 Beale Street, West Florence.

This festive afternoon will feature meals, prizes, and fun for the entire community. The event is sponsored by Florence Parks & Recreation and Long Lewis. To volunteer or donate, text 256-284-2218.

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

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

The Florence Senior Center (The Club) - Diamonds in the Rough presents Fabulous Bus Tours for 2025. Fabulous Bus Tours for 2025. Planning is underway now!

Lancaster Show Trip & The Dutch Country, November 16-22, 2025, 7 days 6 nights, 10 meals, 6 breakfast 4 dinners. \$1130 pp/double occupancy.

Several shows including, "NOAH", the Magic and Wonder theater, guided tour of Philadelphia, Lancaster and Kitchen Kettle Village, admission to the Amish experience & Jacob's choice at the F/X theater. Holocaust Memorial, Liberty Bell and Hershey's Chocolate World and more!

For more information, visit: www.grouptrips.com/TheClub or call The Club 256.760.6642 or email Fdavis@florenceal.org

Tuesday night Social Dance at The Club/ Florence Senior Center, 450

Country Club Drive, in Florence. \$6. Doors open at 6pm.

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

The NACOLG SENIORx Medication Assistance Program supplies free and low cost medications for anyone in Alabama with a disability or a chronic illness regardless of age that requires daily medication. Medicare recipients may also be eligible.

For more information contact NACOLG SENIORx today. There is no charge for this service. 1-800-AGELINE (1-800-243-5463) Paula Pardue 256-389-0529

This program is in partnership with the State of Alabama and Alabama Department of Senior Services.

Applications for the Elk National Foundation's (ENF) Most Valuable Student Scholarship program opened online August 1, 2025. Any high school senior who is a citizen of the United States is eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted online on or before November 12, 2025.

The scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$7,500 per year to the highest-rated applicants in this year's competition. Male and female students will compete separately. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership, service and financial need. For additional information and to apply, go to enf.elks.org/MVS or contact Dr. Jean Love, Scholarship Coordinator, Shoals Elks Lodge 2860 at 256-762-5043 or email djeanlove@comcast.net.

Florence Camerata Holiday Concert set for December 4.

Directed by Rebecca Rockhill and accompanied by Karen Cantrell, the choir offers the opportunity to participate in choral music in a cordial setting with people who love to sing. For information, call or text 256-910-9512.

The Florence Senior Center/The Club is now offering transportation 3 days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) for seniors, 60 years+, who are no longer driving and live within a five mile radius of The Club. For more program and transportation information please call The Club Monday-Friday, 9am-3:30pm. The Club is located at 450 Country Club Drive in Florence off of Savannah Highway next to the old landfill.

Call 256-760-6420 for more information.

F3 Shoals: Fitness Fellowship Faith.

F3 is a free workout group that is open to all men, is always held outdoors, has rotating leadership, and it ends in a time of fellowship and prayer. The mission of F3 is to plant and grow men's small workout groups to invigorate male community leadership. Our weekly schedule is Monday & Thursday at Gattman Park in Muscle Shoals, Tuesday & Friday at Diebert Park in Florence, and Wednesday at TVA Trails Thunder Rd trailhead. All workouts begin at 5:30am. Look for the planted American shovel flag! <https://map.f3nation.com/> or call for more info 256-394-2326.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is space HERE for YOUR EVENT, and plenty of eyes to read it. Email your information to editor@CourierJournal.net.

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

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

Joints in Motion, chair exercise class, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at The Club (Florence Senior Center), 9:30am. No charge. BINGO Wednesdays 10:15am until our 11:30am lunch (w/ \$1 lunch donation)! If you are 60+ you can join us for lunch and games. 256-760-6420.

See NOTES... page 31

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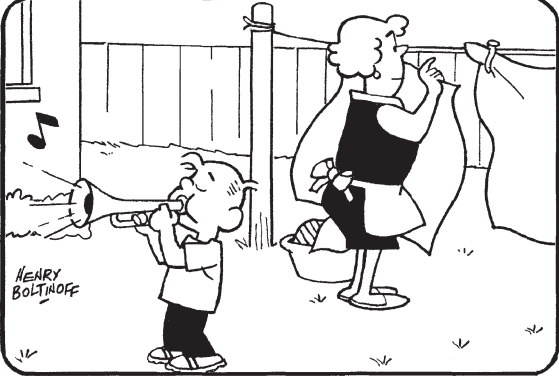
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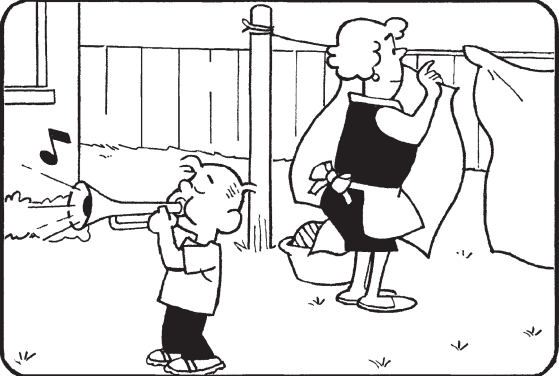
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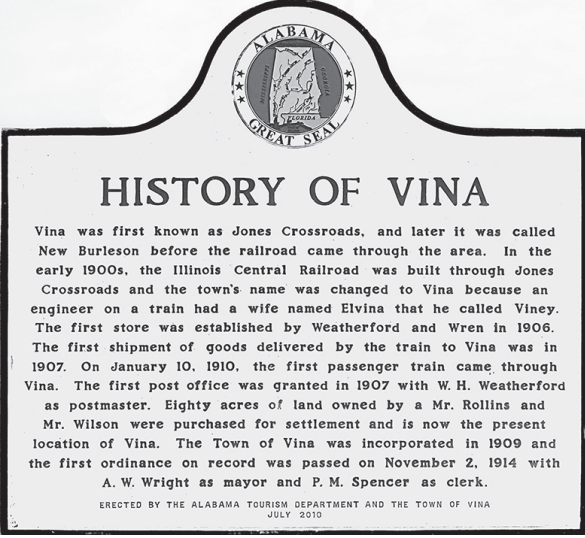
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Music note is moved. 2. Leg is wider. 3. Clothespin is missing. 4. Sheet is longer. 5. Window is wider. 6. Arm is not showing.

SIGNS OF THE PAST



Location: 34.3768°N, 88.0587°W
just N. of AL-19 on AL-23, Vina, AL

As the marker explains, the engineer on the Railroad that passed through Jones Crossroads, changed the town's name to Vina because his wife's name was Elvina and he called her Viney. The train brought growth to the town in the early 1900s. The population is 400 more or less.

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

Community Notes...

Continued from page 30

Religious Abuse Support Group of the Shoals will meet the first and last Sunday of every month. Time and location will vary. Check Facebook for details: www.facebook.com/rags Shoals

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

Washington Masonic Lodge No. 36, 207 W. Fifth St., Tuscumbia, meets the second and fourth Monday at 7pm.; practice at 7pm Thursday. 256-856-3852

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Florence Parks and Recreation/ The Club hosts the Florence Singing River Squares dance every Monday from 5:30-7:30pm at The Club/Florence Senior Center, 450 Country Club Drive in Florence (excluding any state or federal holidays) 256.760.6420 for more information. fdavis@florenceal.org. No experience necessary. Drug, alcohol, tobacco & weapon free facility. Fran Davis at 256-760-6420 or fdavis@florenceal.org

Chess Club - Play Chess at the Sheffield Public Library Conference Room, 316 N. Montgomery Ave., from 4-5pm. Mondays. Beginners to advanced; all ages.

Social Dance on Tuesday Nights, 6:30-8:45pm, at The Club (Florence Senior Center), 450 Country Club Drive in Florence. Music from across the decades provided by The Browns. The Club is an alcohol, drug, smoke, and weapon-free facility. 256-760-6420.

Dance Lessons Florence Parks and Rec will be offering small group ballroom dance lessons at Royal Avenue Recreation Center. Beginner class 1-2pm, intermediate class 2-3pm. There are also select times available for individual/couple lessons. These lessons are perfect for weddings, formal, proms, lead outs, cotillions etc. Space is limited. Call Royal Ave, Rec Center, 256-760-6245, to sign up.

Country Line DANCE Lessons 6:30-8pm Thursday nights Instructor: Jan Ownby, \$10/ Person
1104 US Hwy 72, Tuscumbia. Come Dance with Us! For more Info: 256-810-0973.

The Community Hope Foundation is seeking dedicated volunteers to serve as reading tutors for K-3 graders, helping children improve their reading skills and comprehension. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a lasting impact on young learners at a critical learning stage in life! Join Our Reading Enrichment Program!

Volunteers can include retired teachers, current teachers, aspiring teachers, and anyone with a passion for helping children succeed! Volunteers will be asked to submit an application, provide a background check, and commit at least 2 hours per week during the school year.

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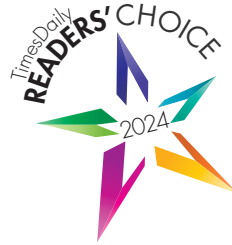
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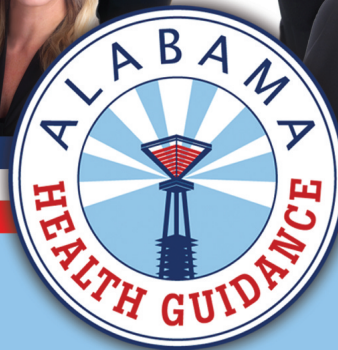
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