

New Colbert VA Office

TUSCUMBIA – The Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) officially opened a new Veterans Service Office in Tuscumbia on Veterans Day last week. The ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Colbert County Courthouse, 201 N Main St. in Tuscumbia, celebrates expanded access to benefits and services for Colbert County veterans and their families.

The new office supports the VA's ongoing mission to ensure that Alabama's 400,000 veterans receive the benefits available to them. Each of the 63 ADVA offices is staffed by dually accredited Veterans Service Officers who provide personal, one-on-one assistance at no cost and serve as a vital link between veterans, their families, and the benefits they've earned through service.

On Finding Your Place

SHOALS – Five local nonprofits recently launched the "Find Your Place Project," a collaboration between agencies that have an important 'Place' in our area and have come together to help make the community aware of the services available to clients.

The goal is to make sure that people know where to get the

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

Volume 143 Number 4

November 19, 2025

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Courier Journal

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For information about advertising in premium positions like this, please call 256-740-4701.

OUR THANKSGIVING THANK YOU
2ND WEEK 1/2 PRICE
on all classified ads placed this week,
November 17-21.



Attention-getter upsells are included in 2nd week discounts. Ads must be phoned in to 256-764-4268 before Friday at 4:30pm. Valid for stand-alone CJ ads placed Monday-Friday. No limit to the number of ads, no changes are allowed for the 2nd week. 1st week runs next week, Nov. 26. 2nd week runs Dec. 3. The ad deadline for the Dec. 3 issue will be Weds, Nov. 26. Ads placed Friday, after Thanksgiving will be in the Dec. 10 issue.



Turkey Trot in 5th Year

FLORENCE – The Trax4MAX Turkey Trot 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run returns to downtown Florence on Thanksgiving morning, November 27. The races start at Florence First Baptist Church.

Max Barnett was a long-time friend, board member, and supporter of the YMCA. Born and raised in the Shoals, he was instrumental in

See **TRAX...** on Page 5



WORK UNDERWAY FOR A NEW Playground at Wheeler

ROGERSVILLE – A new state-of-the-art, accessible playground will be built at Joe Wheeler State Park in Rogersville, adding a new amenity to one of the Tennessee Valley's most popular parks.

Contributions of \$100,000 from the Daniel Foundation, \$50,000 from the Thompson Foundation, and \$50,000 from the Alabama State

Parks Foundation's unrestricted funds are making the playground possible.

"We can't thank the Alabama Parks Foundation, the Thompson Foundation, and the Daniel Foundation enough for their generosity and passion for this project at Joe Wheeler State Park,"

See **PLAY...** on Page 6

INSIDE this Issue

Automotive Inside

NOV

Ray Miller GMC
Advance Auto Sales

- Computer Skeptic
- On Your Debt
- Medicare Minute
- Hocus Focus
- Adopt-a-Friend

- Insurance Insights
- Ask the Attorney
- Dave Ramsey
- Christmas in the Country

- Community Crisis Fund
- Commentary
- Best Grocery Values for Your Thanksgiving
- SIGNS of the PAST

- Pet Talk
- Outdoors
- Web Poll
- Mystery Photo



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new installation!**

Call for Details

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EXPIRES:11/30/2025

al Perma-Note

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Your Trade-In Values

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Conditioner.....\$500
Water Heater for
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GUTTER WORKS, Seamless gutters, gutter guards, clean out and more! Free estimates. Guaranteed work. Best prices in town! Call 256-394-3497.

OUR THANKSGIVING THANK YOU 2ND WEEK 1/2 PRICE on all classified ads placed THIS WEEK, M-F Nov. 17-21. Ads must be phoned in to 256-764-4268 before Friday at 4pm. Valid for stand-alone CJ ads placed before close of business Friday. 1st week runs next week, Nov. 26. 2nd week runs Dec. 3. No limit to the number of ads. NO CHANGES are allowed for the 2nd week. Discounts include Redlines and attention-getters. The ad deadline for the Dec. 3 issue will be Weds, Nov. 26. Ads placed Friday, after Thanksgiving will be in the Dec. 10 issue.

Shorts...

On Finding Your Place...

Continued from Page 1

support they need. Subsequent issues will feature more details about each entity and what assets each Place offers.

The five participants include:
CARINGPLACE - An adult day service for clients with memory loss due to Alzheimer's disease and other related disorders, as well as older adults who are frail and/or functionally impaired. 216 Marengo St, Florence. 256-335-5245.

DAISY'S PLACE - Provides caregivers with a place to stay when family members are in the hospital or other approved medical facilities. info@Daisys-Place.org. 256-629-6729.

ONE PLACE OF THE SHOALS - Provides services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and elder abuse. 200 West Tennessee St, Florence. 256-284-7600.

THYE HEALING PLACE - Provides individual and group support after the loss of a loved one for children and their families. 2409 Wildwood St, Muscle Shoals. 256-383-7133.

SAFEPLACE - Provides shelter and other services to victims of domestic violence. 256-767-6210.

Bailey is Top Preceptor

FLORENCE - North Alabama Surgery's Dr. Robert Bailey has been named the North Regional Preceptor of the Year by the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM). Bailey performs surgeries at North Alabama Medical Center and has been a preceptor since 2014. A preceptor is an experienced practitioner who provides supervision during clinical practice and facilitates the application of theory to practice for students and staff learners.

The award was presented by **Jonathan Howell**, Executive Director of Clinical Resources at ACOM, during a ceremony attended by colleagues, students, and family

members. "Dr. Bailey's influence ensures students are prepared to meet the challenges of modern medicine with empathy and professionalism," said **Mike Howard**, CEO and Market President of North Alabama Medical Center. "By sharing his clinical knowledge, he helps shape the next generation of physicians who will carry forward the values of patient-centered care." The ACOM Regional Preceptor of the Year Award recognizes

one preceptor from each of the four primary Regions (South, Southeast, Central, North) who embodies the attributes of an outstanding physician educator.

"I really appreciate ACOM, as well as all of the medical students," said Bailey. "They work hard every day and put in a lot of effort. That makes my job easier."



Toys for Tots Box in Office

SHEFFIELD — The *Courier Journal* / *TimesDaily* office is an official drop-off point for the annual Toys for Tots drive in the Shoals. We are located at 219 West Tennessee St. in downtown Florence.

The public can drop off new unwrapped toys safely in our lobby from 8am-5pm Monday-Friday where they will be secured for the campaign.

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 Ave. in Sheffield.

Parents will need to supply photo ID, proof of residence, (utility bill will suffice), a birth certificate, and Social Security card for each child registered.



See SHORTS... on Page 8

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HOURS: M-F 6-10; Sat. & Sun. 7-10

T-Bone Steak \$6 ⁹⁹ Lb. T-Bone Steak 4/\$26 ⁹⁹	New York Strip Steak \$7 ⁹⁹ Lb. New York Strip Steak 4/\$27 ⁹⁹	Ribeye Steak \$10 ⁹⁹ Lb. Ribeye Steak 4/\$29 ⁹⁹	Filet Mignon Steak \$12 ⁹⁹ Lb. Beef Stew Meat \$5 ⁹⁹ Lb.
Ground Beef \$3 ⁹⁹ Lb. Chicken Split Breast \$1 ⁹⁹ Lb.	Sirloin Pork Chops \$1 ⁹⁹ Lb. Fresh Neck Bones \$1 ⁷⁹ Lb.	Fresh Turkey Wing or Drumstick \$2 ⁴⁹ Lb. Frozen Pig Tail or Pig Ears \$2 ⁹⁹ Lb.	Chitterlings (Cleaned) \$15 ⁹⁹ 5 Lb. Bag Hog Maws \$3 ⁹⁹ Lb.
Boneless Chicken Breast \$2 ⁹⁹ Lb. Chicken Drumsticks \$1 ²⁹ Lb.	Chicken Leg Quarters \$7 ⁹⁹ 10 Lb. Bag Farm Raised Catfish Fillet \$18 ⁹⁹ 4 Lb. Box	Smoked Neckbones, Smoked Ham Hoc, Smoked Turkey Draw, Smoked Turkey Legs \$3 ⁹⁹ Lb.	Whole Corn \$9 ⁰⁰ 50 Lbs. Deer Draw \$14 50 Lbs. Tasty 10 \$9 ⁰⁰ 50 Lbs. 5-Way Scratch \$12 50 Lbs.

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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)

ESTATE SALE
1200 County Road 428
Killen, AL 35645

HUGE KILLEN VEHICLE SALE

Friday, Nov. 21st
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 22nd
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Numbers given out at 8:30 am
Sunday, Nov. 23rd
1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Toyota Tundra, Wolf Pup RV, Ford SUV, Letric 3-Wheel Bike, Bushhog, Tractor for parts, Star Wars Collection, Playstations, Pennsbury Pottery, Curio Cabinet, Hallmark Ornaments, Quarter Collection, Storage Building for sale, Tools to Nice Furniture!
More pictures added each day!
Directions: from Florence turn left just after Arx Mortis Haunted House (The Old Uncle Charlie's Flea Market), go to County Road 428, turn right, house will be on the right. Watch for signs.

**Remember to bring help to load your purchases.*

Cypress Creek Antiques and Estate Sales
(256) 275-0273
EstateSales.net for pictures



Happy Birthday Darryl

Darryl Keith Kimbrel

11-22-1967 - 11-21-1999

Darryl, we love and miss you so much each day!

Mom & Dad

A "Roll Tide, Roll!"



6TH ANNUAL CHLOE'S FUND
For Emergency Medical Needs Of
Florence-Lauderdale Shelter Animals

Santa Paws Christmas Market

Fri. & Sat. • Dec. 5-6
10am-6pm

.....

First United Methodist Church
Downtown Florence
Fellowship Hall (Basement)

Enter via alley from
Tuscaloosa St,
Between the Church
& PNC Bank

Look for Our Signs!



MEDICARE INSURANCE Questions?



Get Answers!

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We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 5 organizations which offer 56 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800- MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to get information on all of your options.

Community Notes

COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge AS SPACE

IS AVAILABLE in the Courier Journal. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following week's issue. • Email to editor@courierjournal.net

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:
Wednesday, November 19 Florence High School, 7:30am - 3:30pm
Thursday, November 20 Lexington High School, 8am - 2:30pm
Friday, November 21 TriGreen Equipment - Leighton, 9am - 3pm
Saturday, November 22 PetSmart, Cox Creek Pkwy., Florence, 10am - 4pm

Sunday, November 23 Walmart - Hwy 43 - Russellville, 10am - 4pm
Monday, November 24 Colbert County Health Dept, Jackson Hwy., Sheffield, 9am - 3pm
Tuesday, November 25 AT&T - Russellville, 10am - 4pm

The City of Florence 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.

Thanks to a generous supporter and in honor of Giving Tuesday, Northwest Alabama Spay & Neuter Assistance will be able to match all donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000 between now and December 2 (Giving Tuesday). That means that your donation to NASANA will be doubled, whether it is \$5, \$10, \$50 or more. NASANA is a 501c3 organization that helps pay for the cost of having animals spayed and neutered to help control the overpopulation of pets in our area. Therefore, every donation is tax deductible.

Donations can be mailed to NASANA, 2701 Mall Drive, PMB 266, Florence, AL 35630 or donations can be made through PayPal at donate@nasana.org or through PayPal Giving Fund by clicking on the "donate" button on their website, nasana.org. Donations through the PayPal Giving Fund will also give NASANA the full payment amount and PayPal covers the fees). Since is an all-volunteer organization, all funds we receive go directly to surgical expenses.

The Crossroads Community Outreach will host its annual FriendsGiving Thanksgiving Lunch on Thursday, November 27 from 11am-1pm at the Handy Recreation Center, located at 1105 Beale Street in Florence.

The event is sponsored by the Long-Lewis Foundation and the Florence Parks & Recreation Department, and it provides a warm meal and fellowship for those in and around the West Florence community. To volunteer or donate, text 256-284-2218.

The 2025 Kiwanis Community Thanksgiving Service in the Colbert County area will take place at Tuscumbia First Methodist on Wednesday, November

23 at 5pm, 104 E. 3rd St. in Tuscumbia. Area ministers will lead the services with the featured speaker this year being Sunnyside Church of God's lead pastor, Dr. Nick Ray. An offering for the Colbert Care Center will be taken. All are invited to attend.

The 58th Annual Turkey Shoot - presented by Knights of Columbus Council 3989, Two Saturdays - November 22 and December 20, 7am-1pm at Langer Hall, 4051 Co. Rd. 30 in St. Florian. Test your marksmanship at this Family-Friendly event (shotgun and .22 rifle) Target shooting against 9 others for a chance to win a turkey or ham. Firearms and ammo are provided. Concessions are available.

The Tennessee Valley Art Association presents its 6th Annual Winter Art Market from November 29-December 24, from 10am-5pm. This thoughtfully curated seasonal showcase about 40 local and regional artisans exhibiting distinctive fine art, jewelry, pottery, and gifts. Admission is \$5. 511 N. Water St. For more information, please call 256-383-0533.

The 6th Annual Chloe's Fund Santa Paws Christmas Market will be held Friday and Saturday, December 5-6, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in downtown Florence (Fellowship Hall, basement level).

Proceeds benefit Chloe's Fund, which supports the emergency medical needs of Florence-Lauderdale Animal Shelter animals.

Visitors may enter through the alley from Tuscaloosa St between the church and PNC Bank. Look for the signs and come shop for a cause!

A German Christmas Service will take place at 6pm on Sunday, December 7 at Church of the Good Shepherd, 2001 Cloyd Blvd in Florence.

The service will be conducted mostly in German with the sermon in English. Several traditional German Christmas carols will be featured as will reading parts of the Christmas story in German, much like a Lessons & Carols service. The UNA saxophone trio will play German Christmas carols in the foyer before the service. After the service, German snacks and cookies will be available to try. The service will be conducted by Pastor Lanier Nail from Good Shepherd. Lectors are from the UNA German Club and the newly-formed North Alabama German Club.

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.

The Florence Beautification Board invites you to a Florence holiday tradition, the North Court Street Tree Lighting 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.

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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 7

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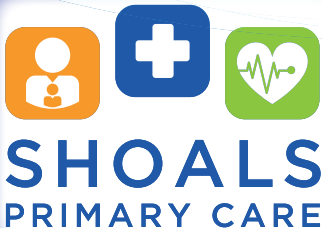
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RED LINE YOUR ADS. SEE PAGE 6

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256-483-5918

WE BUY JUNK CARS, Trucks or
Vans with or without titles, Call Joel
256-303-7609

TRAX...

Continued from Page 1

numerous fundraising efforts through the Board of Directors providing funding and services to members in need. Barnett was also an avid runner. He passed away in 2020, a victim of glioblastoma.

Towards the end, Max found solace and peace in his daily runs. Through it all, he kept his positive outlook and insisted on paying it forward. Max's widow, Whitney, helped to establish Trax4MAX the

next year and she chose the YMCA of the Shoals as the primary beneficiary of the Trax4MAX proceeds.

Regular Registration through November 25 is \$35 for either race.

Race Day is \$40.

The 5k gets underway at 8am. The 1 Mile Family Fun Run will start approximately 10 minutes after the 5K starts.

Many people choose to take part in the 1-mile walk, so those interested in that option will have plenty of company!

There are plenty of free parking spaces in surrounding lots and many more along the streets at no cost.

Strollers, wheelchairs, and well-socialized and leashed dogs are welcome to walk as well at the back of the pack. However, bikes, scooters, skateboards, etc., are not allowed.

Early Packet Pickup for the Race will be at Solid Rock Running Company on the Wednesday before the race from 10am-6pm, or you can pick up your race packet starting at 7am Thanksgiving morning.

The top three female and male 5K finishers in each of the 5-year age groups will receive medals. The top overall female and male runners will receive an additional trophy and prize.

Visit Trax4MAX.com for more details and to register.



W. Barnett



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58th Annual

TURKEY SHOOT

Saturdays -
Nov. 22 & Dec. 20

7am - Until we run out of shooters

Shoot a target for a chance to
WIN A TURKEY OR HAM!

Test your marksmanship against 9 other shooters



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OF COLUMBUS
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The Need For A New Body

It's obvious this one is wearing out. The saved are promised a new eternal body like Christ. This one to come will last for eternity. This old sinful flesh couldn't stand the trip to heaven for the body would deteriorate in seconds. That is why we have to die to live! A saved man still dwells in a sinful body. Paul illustrates: **Romans 7:20-22** "Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:" **Romans 7:24-25** "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." **Romans 8:23** "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." **Philippians 3:21** "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

1 John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

Those saints that have passed will simply receive their new bodies with us at the translation of the SAVED. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Easy to see, isn't it?

See vs 18!

Beacon Baptist Church

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

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

Sunday services at 10am and 11am and 6pm

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628716-1

**Courier
Journal**

Classifieds

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OUR THANKSGIVING THANK YOU!


**CLASSIFIED ADS
THIS WEEK ONLY**
**2nd
Week**
**1/2
Price!**

Buy 1 ad - Get the 2nd ad 1/2-Price ON CLASSIFIEDS NOV 17-21 ONLY

All Private Party, Commercial, Real Estate & Yard Sale ads. 1/2 Price ad will run Dec. 3. **OFFER EXPIRES at 4:30pm FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21.** RED LINE ADS are INCLUDED. Excludes other discounts. **MUST CALL to receive discount.**

Our schedule for ad-taking Thanksgiving week will be Monday-Wednesday. **DEADLINE** for placing any ads for Dec. 3 issue will be Wednesday, Nov. 26. Anything submitted on Friday, Nov. 28 will be published in the December 10 issue.

Private Party Rate \$5⁵⁰
3 LINES for 1 item

Prepay - No REAL ESTATE, FIREWOOD, or TICKETS. Each additional line - \$1.50 - CASH DISCOUNT - 4 Weeks/3 LINES for 1 item \$16 - Each additional line - \$4.50 no credits

Commercial Rate \$8⁰⁰

4 LINES Prepay - applies to all REAL ESTATE and anyone engaged in sale of goods/services on a recurring basis or for profit, licensed or not. 1 vehicle per ad. Each additional line - \$1.50 CASH DISCOUNT - 6 Weeks/4 lines \$39.00. Each additional line - \$7.50

Yard Sales \$14⁵⁰

5 LINES Prepay Each additional line - \$1.50 YARD SALES - An exclusive listing of the area's better sales prominently placed

Employment \$16⁰⁰

5 LINES Prepay Each additional line - \$2.25 EMPLOYMENT - Looking for employment or Businesses looking for employees

Private Party Auto Rate

Up to 8 LINES for 4 weeks. Prepay Each additional line - \$2.00 **\$17⁰⁰** 4 wks

☐ **YES, I WANT THE 2ND WEEK 1/2 OFF FOR MY AD.**
*one line is approx. 30 characters

Name

Address

City

State

Phone

➔ **HOW MANY WEEKS?** Multiply the number of weeks - X - the cost of the ad....

YES! RED LINE MY AD!

☐ PLEASE CHECK THE BOX

RED LINE: Add \$3 per ad per week. Buy 5 weeks of RED LINE, get the 6th free (\$15 plus cost of ads). Only the top line of each classified ad can be red, 24 characters and spaces MAX. - 20 characters & spaces MAX for Real Estate ads.

**DO NOT
MAIL FOR
1/2 PRICE
SPECIAL**

MAILING ADDRESS: Courier Journal, 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630
Please Print Ad Clearly. NOT RESPONSIBLE for illegible handwriting
Questions? Call our office at 256-764-4268.

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Play...

Continued from Page 1

said State Parks Director, Matthew Capps. "We are committed to helping every state park visitor enjoy a first-class experience, and it's gratifying to know that we have partners who are willing to step forward and help us accomplish that goal."

The playground project carries a total price tag of nearly \$450,000, and the Foundation continues its fund-raising efforts to transform the playground project from dream into reality.

"We are actively seeking donations from individual and corporate donors, and we'd love to find additional corporate partners from the Shoals to be part of this project," said Alex McCrary, president of the Foundation's board of directors.

Donations to the Foundation can be made online at <https://asparksfoundation.org/individual-donations/>.

The State Parks System is currently renovating and upgrading parks throughout the state, thanks to voters' overwhelming approval of an \$80 million bond issue for state parks in 2022.

While the bond funding helps address a long list of deferred maintenance and fund critical enhancement projects around the state, the Foundation remains committed to raising funds for other targeted projects like the new playground at Joe Wheeler State Park.

"Playgrounds have always been among the most used facilities in our State Parks," Capps said, "and that's why we're committed to building a new one at Joe Wheeler State Park."

Alabama's State Parks attract millions of visitors every year, and Joe Wheeler State Park welcomed more than 236,000 people in fiscal year 2023-24, the most recent year that figures are available.

Online reservations at Joe Wheeler and all State Parks can be made at Alapark.com through the "Plan Your Alabama State Parks Adventure Online" portal, and guests are reminded to make reservations in advance to secure preferred dates.

NEED HELP?

CONTACT 2-1-1

Your link to community resources

**Courier
Journal**

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Heather Ridinger

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OFFICE STAFF/SALES ASST.

Tina Hill

CIRCULATION

Ted Fallin

OFFICE HOURS:

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

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DEADLINES: Issues Published Every Wednesday
INSERTS - 5 pm Thursday
DISPLAY ADS - 5 pm Thursday
CLASSIFIED ADS - 5 pm Friday unless otherwise specified

219 W. Tennessee St.

 Florence, AL 35630
256-764-4268

Fax: 256-760-9618

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

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

**219 W. Tennessee St.
Florence, AL 35630**

 or email to:
editor@courierjournal.net

well in advance of the planned 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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Notes...

Continued from page 4

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.

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.

This annual 5K and 1-mile fun run benefits the YMCA of the Shoals and honors the memory of Max Barnett, whose heart and soul inspired this event.

Florence Camerata Holiday Concert is 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.

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

Wednesday, December 12, 7p.m. —**Tim Lowry, a nationally known storyteller**, will perform Charles Dickens' "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.

Art Workshop 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

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

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

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.

Mary Linville: Retrospective - at the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts. This Memorial Exhibition, continuing through January 5 features the paintings and drawings of the late Mary Linville who produced a wide variety of work, including florals, local historic places, abstracts and landscapes.

Although she was mainly a watercolorist, she also worked in oils, acrylic, mixed media and pastels.

The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St. in Florence and is open to the public Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm and on Sundays from 1-4pm. Admission is free. Call 256-760-6379.

Drive-thru Live Nativity Friday-Saturday, December 5-6 from 6-8pm at Bethsaida Missionary Baptist Church, Hwy 48 in Russellville.

The Shoals Symphony at UNA is rolling out the red carpet for "Holidays on the Silver Screen" Saturday, December 6 at 7pm! Step into the magic as they perform music from The Polar Express, It's a Wonderful Life, White Christmas, Home Alone, Love Actually, Harry Potter, and more - all paired with classic clips on the big screen.

Walk the red carpet in the lobby and have your photo taken paparazzi-style. Between piece short, fun recreations of iconic holiday movie moments featuring

members of our community will be shown. And, of course, there will be plenty of music, magic, and holiday cheer for the whole family.

The concert will run around 90 minutes including a 15-20 minute intermission. It is the perfect way to kick off the holiday season. For more information and tickets -from \$19-\$39- visit shoalssymphony.org or call 256-710-1623.

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.

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!

A German Christmas Service will take place on Sunday, December 7 at 6pm at Church of the Good Shepherd at 2001 Cloyd Blvd in Florence.

The service will be conducted mostly in German with the sermon in English. Several traditional German Christmas carols will be featured as will reading parts of the Christmas story in German, much like a Lessons & Carols service.

See NOTES... page 11

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Directions: from Florence turn left just after Arx Mortis Haunted House (The Old Uncle Charlie's Flea Market), go to County Road 428, turn right, house will be on the right. Watch for signs.

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EstateSales.net for pictures

Shorts...

Continued from Page 2



Cluckin' for a Cause on Sat.

ROGERSVILLE— The Cramer's Children's Center's Cluckin' for a Cause Throwdown is Saturday, November 22 from 11am-5pm at the Cotton Gin at Roberson Farms, in Rogersville. The day will feature Twiggys, the water skiing-squirrel! Also included is a chicken stew cook off, fall vendor market, chicken drop, live music, a gun raffle, and a petting zoo.

This is a fundraiser event Benefitting Cramer Children's Center - serving children who have been abused or witnessed abuse.

Tickets are \$12 and kids 5 and under get in free!

Get tickets now at cramerchildrenscenter.com or at the gate.

Indian Mound Hosts Sue Fish

FLORENCE—The Florence Indian Mound Museum will host a beginner basket weaving workshop with **Sue Fish** on Saturday, November 22 from 10am-1pm. This event will be limited to 20 participants (ages 13 and older), and participants will leave with the basket they created.

Registration for this event is \$20 and is on the Florence Arts & Museums website, florencealmuseums.com.

Sue Fish's passion for basketmaking began 30 years ago. She learned the skill during a Chickasaw Nation art class that was offered in the late 1980s. Since that time, she has continued to hone her craft and share the gift of basket making through classes at schools, universities, museums and various events. She also assists other tribes in basket preservation. Fish serves as vice president of the Oklahoma Native American Basket Weaver's Association and is a member of the Oklahoma Basketweavers Guild.

This program is hosted by Florence Arts & Museums. For more

information, call the Florence Indian Mound Museum desk at 256-760-6427.

Matching \$\$ for Donations

SHOALS—Thanks to a generous supporter and in honor of Giving Tuesday, Northwest Alabama Spay & Neuter Assistance will be able to match all donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000 between now and December 2 (Giving Tuesday). That means that your donation to NASANA will be doubled, whether it is \$5, \$10, \$50 or more. NASANA is a 501c3 organization that helps pay for the cost of



help control the over-population of pets in our area. Therefore, every donation is tax deductible.

Donations can be mailed to NASANA, 2701 Mall Drive, PMB 266, Florence, AL 35630 or donations can be made through PayPal at donate@nasana.org or through PayPal Giving Fund by clicking on the "donate" button on their website, nasana.org. Donations through the PayPal Giving Fund will also give NASANA the full payment amount and PayPal covers the fees). Since is an all-volunteer organization, all funds we receive go directly to surgical expenses.

Final Game at Braly is on 48

FLORENCE — UNA's Dept of Athletics and WAFF 48 in Huntsville have reached an agreement to air UNA's final football game at historic Braly Stadium on local television as the Lions host Southern Utah at 1pm Saturday, November 22.

As usual, the game will also be available on ESPN+.

To commemorate the final game at Braly Stadium, WAFF will also produce a one-hour pregame show called "A Farewell to Braly" with an inside look at the history

See SHORTs... on Page 10

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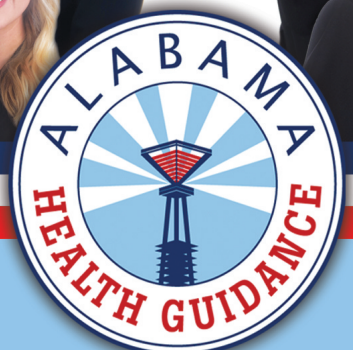
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NURSERY ATTENDANT

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Florence is hiring a Nursery Attendant for Sunday morning worship service. Knowledge and experience working with children ages 0-6. Willingness to work special events as needed. Hours Sunday 9am-12pm. Pay \$50 per shift. Contact Lynn at 256-627-0672 (9am-5pm).

Full-Time Machine Operator

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

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Questions or resumes may be emailed to: Kevin.Blurton@timesdaily.com

Administrative Sales Assistant / Event Coordinator

The TimesDaily has an immediate opening for a full-time Advertising Administrative Sales Assistant / Event Coordinator

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Scheduling advertising insertions
- Assisting with training staff on computer ticket entry
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- Send resumes to: Renita.Jimmar@timesdaily.com or applications can be picked up at TimesDaily 219 W. Tennessee Street, Florence, AL 35630.

Shorts...

Final Game at Braly is on 48

Continued from Page 8

of Braly and a sneak-peak inside Bobby Wallace Field at Bank Independent Stadium that will host UNA games next season. Longtime WAFF Sports Director, **Carl Prather**, will host the pregame show.

WAFF will also broadcast the game on Tennessee Valley Sports Entertainment Network, which can be found over the air on 48.3 or by checking with your cable provider. "Voice of the Lions" **Benjamin Ray, Bryan Neece and Arielle Schaffer** will be on the call of the game.

Braly Stadium has been home to the UNA football team since the full restart of the program in 1949. The venue was previously known as Coffee Stadium, adjacent to the former Coffee High School. It was renamed in 1964 in honor of **Tom Braly, Jr.** who coached in the 1940s and 1950s.

With a major renovation to the facility in 1980, the stadium was renamed Braly Municipal Stadium, signifying the partnership between the University of North Alabama, the Florence School Board and the Florence Parks and Recreation Department.

Renovated again in 1998, the stadium now seats 14,215 and has an artificial ProGrass playing surface.

From 1986-2013, Braly Stadium hosted the NCAA Division II Football National Championship Game. Since the Division II title game was created in 1972, no city had served as the host for more than five years until the Shoals area and Braly Stadium did it for 28 straight years. It is the second longest continuous period that any site had hosted any NCAA championship in any sport on any level.

The Lions have a record of 281-134-8 in the stadium for a 68.7%-win percentage. In playoff games at Braly Stadium, the Lions were tough to beat with a 26-8 record. UNA also has a 41-25 record against ranked opponents inside Braly.

The Christmas Child is Now

SHOALS—Volunteers are busy collecting Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts this week (National Collection Week), November 17-24. Nearly 5,000 drop-off locations are open across the country, including here in and around the Shoals.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to children including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Operation Christmas Child hopes to reach another 12 million children this year with the hope of Jesus.

Shoobox packing is fun for individuals, families and groups! Participants can also donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

Participants can find the nearest drop-off location and hours of operation (SamaritansPurse.org) as they make plans to

drop off their shoebox gifts. The online lookup tool is searchable by City or ZIP code. Signs at each location will identify drop-offs.

• First Baptist Church of Florence
• South Highland Church in Muscle Shoals
• Clements Baptist Church west of Athens

"Samaritan's Purse works around the world to help people in need, but it's not about good works—it's about the Gospel," said **Franklin Graham**, president of Samaritan's Purse. "Please prayerfully consider packing a shoebox this year with Operation Christmas Child. These simple gifts open the door for us to share the true meaning of Christmas."

NEED HELP?
CONTACT 2-1-1

Your link to community resources

DIAL- 2-1-1

TEXT- your zip code to 898-211

CHAT- 211connectsAlabama.org



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- Treat Incontinence
- Improve Sexual Wellness
- Non-Invasive
- Stay Fully Clothed



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Some Of The Benefits For Men:

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- Increase Control Erection
- Increase Staying Power
- Restore Confidence
- Reduce Stress & Anxiety



HELPING HANDS

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Across from Infants & Children's



Notes...

Continued from page 7

The UNA saxophone trio will play German Christmas carols in the foyer before the service. After the service,

German snacks and cookies will be available to try. The service will be conducted by Pastor Lanier Nail from Good Shepherd. Lectors are from the UNA German Club and the newly-formed North Alabama German Club.

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).

City of Florence Leaf collection routes began 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 in the city.

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 30.

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.

CaringPlace of the Shoals will usher in the 2025 holiday season with an exciting new twist on our annual Holiday Tour of Homes. On Friday, December 12 from 5-9pm. and Saturday, December 13 from 1-6pm, tour ticketholders will be invited into 10 distinctive properties in Florence and Muscle Shoals:

For the first time in the history of this event, the CaringPlace Tour of Homes will open the doors to historically significant sites and some of the area's

most stunning contemporary homes and venues.

Also new to the 2025 Tour will be a live online auction for seven of the 12 Christmas trees fashioned by prominent Shoals area designers and florists that will be on display at Mapleton in Florence.

Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at Kennedy-Douglass Art Center, Sheffield Public Library, and First United Methodist Church of Florence. Each ticket allows ticketholders one visit to each tour stop during the event, and stops can be made on one or both days of the event.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and property owners, ALL proceeds from ticket, tree, and basket sales will go to CaringPlace of the Shoals, a 501(c)3 adult day center.

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.

Shoals Christian School is having it's Annual "Shoals Christian Spring Market" on Saturday, December 6 from 9am-4pm at Shoals Christian School, 301 Heathrow Dr. in Florence. Shopping, food trucks, Christmas music, and more.

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.

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.

See NOTES... page 19

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Commentary

Kids Still Having Fun?— Revisited

Over two decades ago I ran a column in this space entitled, Are the Kids Still Having Fun?

I remember it was about the diminishing entertainment values of playgrounds and to a lesser extent, swimming pools. "Real" playgrounds were disappearing in favor of smaller swing sets and slides. Looking back, those were for daredevils compared to what we see today.

Some may remember when the Holiday Inn was located on South Court St. where Hampton Inn and Taco Bell are now. I was blessed to be new in town one summer and staying there as a kid while my parents were looking for a house. Inside the courtyard was a 25-meter pool with 1-meter and 3-meter springboards in the deep end, a young male adolescent paradise.

The 3-meter springboard flanked by the two 1-meter boards once at the Royal Avenue Rec Center pool are long gone. For many, springboards WERE the fun at public pools.

See **HAVING FUN?...** on Page 30

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

in the Shoals

THIS WEEK

November 19, 2025

Happening THIS WEEK



AT LEFT: Kenneth Wade, artisan (center) is one of the special attractions during Christmas in the Country this year. Few are as skilled in the art of blacksmithing as Wade.

BELOW: Natural items adorn the Christmas displays inside the log plantation kitchen expressing the sentiment of Christmas' past.

Courtesy photos - LaGrange Living Historical Association

LaGrange Site Nov. 22-23

Christmas in the Country

LEIGHTON – Celebrate the 36th anniversary of LaGrange College Site Park's *Christmas In The Country* event on November 22-23 when the historic park transforms into a site of Christmas past. Located off Hwy 157, near White Oak on 'Little Mountain', the 400 ft. elevation

overlooks much of the Tennessee Valley. Stunning views and vibrant autumn foliage enhance the visitor experience as they enjoy special music by the Stampede band, along with new vendors, food trucks, Blacksmith

See **COUNTRY...** on Page 19

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS - It's that time of year again. We are in need of sponsors for children during Christmas. These innocent children who have done nothing have one or both parents in jail or prison. and are adversely affected because of their parent's wrongdoing. If you or your organization would like would like more details on sponsoring one or more of these children who deserve a beautiful Christmas, please call or write me. Debbie Dixon 256-443-1297, P.O. Box 2234, Florence, AL 35630. Tax ID # 27-20011583

JOIN PINK ALABAMA FOR THEIR ANNUAL BAKE SALE

Fundraiser on Friday, November 21 from 8am-2pm at the Lauderdale County Federal Government Building, 102 S. Court Street in Florence. All proceeds help local cancer patients and survivors. Cash only. For more information or to participate, call 256-712-2887. Pink Alabama is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

THE 58TH ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT

- presented by Knights of Columbus Council 3989, Two Saturdays - November 22 and December 20, 7am-1pm at Langer Hall, 4051 Co. Rd. 30 in St. Florian. Test your marksmanship at this Family-Friendly event (shotgun and .22 rifle) Target shooting against 9 others for a chance to win a turkey or ham. Firearms and ammo are provided. Concessions are available.

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SATURDAY
NOV. 22 • 4PM
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

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TUE., NOV. 25 • NOON
vs UT Southern at Flowers Hall

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WED., NOV. 19 • 6PM
at TN State in Nashville, TN
SAT., NOV. 22 • 6PM
vs West Alabama, Flowers Hall

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YOUR Letters

Your Courier Journal welcomes tastefully presented typed or neatly written letters to be published as space allows. Letters may refer to timely matters of local, state, or national interest or any topic of concern or interest. Letters must include name, address and phone number for verification. (Only name and town will be published.) Letters are subject to editing. Please limit to 400 words. All letters become the property of the Courier Journal and may not necessarily reflect opinions of the Courier Journal staff, its advertisers, or a majority of readers.

- by Mail, in Person, or Mail Slot
Editor-Courier Journal
219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630
- e-mail: editor@courierjournal.net
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The One God as Three

Editor,

Recently, a letter in agreement with a preacher claimed that a godly trinity was unexplainable and then stated, "There is not a trinity Godhead."

I've been around a long time and never heard of the organizations mentioned by this writer. That makes neither of us guaranteed to have the "right" answers to the exclusion of all others.

The writer is half right; the word "Trinity" does not exist in any translation of the Bible; neither does the word "cat." The doesn't invalidate the existence of either.

All Old Testament translations, hundreds of times, refer to God and

... Does it matter that innocent people may die in this Latin American manhunt? ...

”

Spirit as two separate entities. When Jesus physically steps on the historical scene, doesn't that make three entities, and all well before Catholics chose to formalize the word?

Various Scripture writers indicate that God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit exist at the same time. See: Proverbs 30:4; Matthew 28:19; John 14:26; John 15:26; Acts

7:55; Acts 10:38; 2 Corinthians 13:13.

The 1966 Reader's Digest Encyclopedic Dictionary defines "trinity" as "any union of three parts or elements in one." It is defined as "a threefold consubstantial personality existing in the one divine being or substance; the union in one God of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three infinite persons."

Years ago, a highly respected theologian suggested something that made sense to me.

Take any married person whose mother, wife, and children are all living and note that this person in many, many ways, is a temporary "trinity." He is one person and within that person he is a son, husband, and father. He relates to his mother differently than he

See **LETTERS...** on Page 26

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 the Sheffield Housing Authority will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 10:00 AM** at the main office located at 505 N. Columbia Ave., Sheffield, AL 35660.

The purpose of this hearing is to solicit public comment on the Annual PHA Plan, the Moving to Work Supplement and the Capital Fund Five Year Action Plan. This hearing is open to all citizens of Sheffield. Any citizen with a physical disability or other special need may contact the Housing Authority at (256) 383-4773 so that we can make arrangements to get you there. In addition, effective with the publication of this notice, the Public Housing Agency Plan will be available for public review prior to the Public Hearing at the Housing Authority main office.

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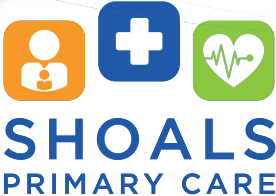


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These days, our screens are like front doors to the world—full of family photos, news from old friends, and fascinating stories. It's wonderful, but just like we've learned to be careful about who we let into our homes, it's smart to be mindful of what we let through our screens. Lately, a new kind of trickster has appeared, using something called Artificial Intelligence, or AI, to create lies that can look and sound incredibly real.

It can feel a little overwhelming, but please, don't let it worry you. The solution isn't to close that front door and disconnect. Instead, it's about learning a few new habits, the same way we all learned to use a



Martin Dean

Your Guide to a Safer Online World: Spotting Today's Tricky Fakes

by "The Computer Skeptic"

remote control or a microwave. It just takes a little practice. Let's walk through four simple ideas that can make you feel more secure.

First, play detective by looking sideways. In the past, if a newspaper looked legitimate, we tended to trust it. Now, slick-looking fake news sites can be created in an instant. So, when you see a story that makes you raise an eyebrow, try this: instead of just studying the website itself, open a new tab on your internet browser. Type the main idea of the

headline into Google and see what other sources—like your trusted local news channel or a major network—have to say about it. If you can't find any mention of it, or if they are calling it false, you've just uncovered a great clue.

Second, listen to your gut when things feel too urgent. Have you ever gotten an email that made your heart race? Or seen a post that made you incredibly angry? That's exactly what these tricksters are counting on. They use our strong emotions—fear, outrage, even excitement—to get us to react

before we think. So, if a message gets your pulse up, consider that your internal alarm bell. Take a deep breath. That feeling is your cue to slow down and double-check, not to click or share.

Third, let go of the old saying, "seeing is believing." I know, it's a tough one. We've always trusted our eyes and ears. But this new technology can create a video of a politician giving a speech they never gave, or a photo of a tornado that never touched down. So, when you come across an image or video that seems too shocking to be true, it just might be. A little gentle skepticism is your friend here. Wait to see if reliable news sources you've known for years confirm it before you believe it.

And finally, the old-fashioned phone call is your best friend. Here's a scary one: scammers can now use a short clip from a

social media video to clone your grandchild's voice and call you in a panic, asking for money. If you ever get a call that feels wrong, even if the voice sounds spot-on, just hang up. Then, call the person back on the number you have saved in your own address book, or ring another family member to check on things. That simple, separate phone call is your best defense.

Remember, we're all navigating this new landscape together. By adding these few simple tools to your routine, you can browse with more confidence and peace of mind, leaving you free to enjoy the very best parts of being connected.

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Or Jennie-O
Grade A
Self-Basting
YOUNG
TURKEY**
10 Lbs. & Up
Brand May Vary
By Location

99¢ Lb.



**Family Pack
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**Preferred
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STEAKS**
Family Pack

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WHOLE OR HALF
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PAGE FOR
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AND USE IN
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31/40 Cooked, Peeled &
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ROAST**

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**Sanderson Farms
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Mild Italian,
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OR ROAST BEEF**



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OR DRIED
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99¢

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**Del Monte
FRUIT**
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2/\$5

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BROWNIE
MIX**
18 Oz.



\$1.29

**Pet
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**Kraft
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**Hellmann's
MAYO**
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**Karo
SYRUP**
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Shells MAC & CHEESE
DINNERS** 12-14 Oz.



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Or Yellow & White CORN**
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2/\$3

**Stove Top
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\$1.99

**Idahoan
POTATOES**
4 Oz.



4/\$5

**Hefty Easy Grip
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18 Oz. - 30 Ct.



2/\$6

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**PictSweet Select
VEGETABLES**
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2/\$3

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ROLLS**
10-13 Oz.

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PIE SHELLS**
9 Inch - 2 Ct.

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to Bake
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Or Celery SOUP** 10 Oz.



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SWEET POTATOES
OR YAMS** 29 Oz.



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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.

CHURCH LAW (Or Lack Thereof)

Churches branch off and form new congregations with some regularity. Given the sheer number of different religions and denominations it is not surprising that people will disagree. Courts will not resolve these conflicts.

Recently, a nonprofit group of members from Auburn United Methodist Church, calling itself Auburn Methodist Coalition sued the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Coalition

sought an order requiring a vote of the entire church membership on whether the congregation should disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church, and a declaration that the Conference and denomination held no right in the local church. The Conference moved to dismiss, arguing that the ecclesiastical-abstention doctrine deprived the trial court of jurisdiction. The trial court denied the motion, and the Conference petitioned the Alabama Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus directing dismissal.

The Alabama Supreme Court ordered the trial court to dismiss the action, holding that civil court lacks authority to compel or oversee a church disaffiliation vote because such matters fall squarely within ecclesiastical governance. The Court explained that under long-standing precedent, Alabama courts cannot adjudicate issues of internal church polity. Polity in this context means a form of process of civil government or constitution.

The opinion reiterated that, under the ecclesiastical-abstention doctrine, civil courts must defer to a denomination's own procedures for internal decision-making. The process of disaffiliation, including who may call for and vote on separation, is governed by the denomination's ecclesiastical law in this case, the United Methodist Church's Book of Discipline. Any attempt by a civil court to direct that process would entangle the judiciary in religious governance, contrary to the First Amendment.

The First Amendment prohibits the government from establishing a religion AND interfering with the free exercise thereof which are two separate things. The practical reality is that the court system will not involve itself with church matters.

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

facebook: McCutcheon and Hamner, P.C.

We will not print your full name in the article. We will not be able to return any written or preprinted items which are submitted.

Notes...

Continued from page 11

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.

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

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>

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

See NOTES... page 23

Country...

Continued from Page 12



demonstrations, and the sale of their iron-crafted art at the old Country Store. The event captures the sights, sounds, and smells of an old-fashioned Christmas, attracting locals and visitors of all ages for two days of traditional decorations, entertainment, and free family fun.

The LaGrange Living Historical Association hosts Christmas in the Country from 10am-4pm on both days. LaGrange College Site Park is located at 1491 LaGrange College Road in Leighton. Admission is free, and donations for the upkeep and maintenance of the facilities at the park are always welcomed.

"Locals love Christmas in the Country," said Colbert County Tourism President, Susann Hamlin. "It always comes early, just when we are getting into the Christmas spirit

and reminding us of Christmases from our childhood or stories from our parents and grandparents about Christmases gone by."

Christmas in the Country takes place each year on the weekend before Thanksgiving. The fundraising event for the park began as a Christmas open house where natural, hand-made decorations were on display, reflecting the olden days. Today, the event has become much more than an open house, including a bake sale, arts and crafts, entertainment, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, hayrides, and tours of the pioneer village decked out in traditional Christmas decorations.

Visitors are invited to explore the rich history of LaGrange College Site, including guided tours of the log buildings, which

will run throughout the day on Saturday. The log kitchen, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, once stood at The Oaks in Tuscumbia, adding a unique layer of history to the park. For young stargazers, the Shoals Astronomy Club will host a special stargazing tour at the LaGrange Observatory, located within the park.

The LaGrange College Site is listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. LaGrange College was Alabama's first chartered college and the forerunner of the University of North Alabama. Union forces burned it during the Civil War.

For more information on the LaGrange College Site Park, visit www.lagrangehistoricsite.org or call Colbert County Tourism at 256-383-0783.

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SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS



United Way Community Crisis Fund Established

FLORENCE — United Way of Northwest Alabama has established the Northwest Alabama Community Crisis Fund to provide emergency financial assistance to local families and individuals affected by recent interruptions in income, including reduced SNAP benefits and delayed federal paychecks.

The fund, created in partnership with the Northwest Alabama VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), will serve as a centralized resource to help households meet critical needs such as food, housing, and utilities.

Thanks to VOAD's leadership and compassion, an initial \$37,000 in emergency funding has been contributed to launch the first round of crisis grants. Applications are now open for individuals and agencies seeking assistance.

"This fund is about

neighbors helping neighbors," said Jennifer McNulty, President & CEO of United Way of Northwest Alabama. "When local families are faced with lost wages or reduced benefits, we want to make sure there's a place they can turn for immediate, dignified support."

Individuals and nonprofit agencies serving affected residents can now apply for emergency relief through a brief online application form. Potential applicants should call 2-1-1 to obtain the link for the appropriate application. There is one application for organizations that distribute food to community members, and a second application for federal employees and contract workers who need assistance due to lost wages.

Applicants may also call 2-1-1 for free, confidential help in completing applications or finding other available community resources.

Additional Support is Needed

While the VOAD's \$37,000 contribution provides vital initial relief, the demand for assistance is expected to exceed available resources. United Way is calling on businesses, foundations, and individual donors to contribute to the Northwest Alabama Community Crisis Fund to ensure continued support throughout the region.

"Every dollar donated stays right here in Northwest Alabama," said Kerry Del Pizzo, Chief Operating Officer. "Together, we can stabilize families, strengthen our local safety net, and help our community recover more quickly."

Donations can be made securely online at <https://givebutter.com/NWALCCF> or by mailing a check to: United Way of NW AL, Attn: Crisis Fund, 205 W College Street, Florence, AL 35630

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Medicare Minute

Types of Medicare Advantage Plans

There are basically two types of Medicare Advantage Plans. One type is a HMO. HMO stands for Health Maintenance Organization. The other type is a PPO or Preferred Provider Organization. Although both are Medicare Advantage Plans there are some distinct differences in the two.

In most HMO plans you generally can only go to doctors, health care facilities or hospitals that are on the provider list of the plan except in emergency. HMO plans require you to name a primary care provider (PCP). Your PCP becomes the quarterback of your health care. This means you may have to have a referral from your PCP if you want to see a specialist or another health care provider. All HMO plans do not require a referral, so this is a question you will want to ask of considering an HMO.

In a PPO plan, you also have a defined network of providers. You will pay less if you use a provider in the plan's network but, unlike a HMO, you may have some coverage if you go to an out-of-network provider. You will pay more for using an out-of-network provider versus an in-network provider. Also a PPO plan may give you the option of getting your health care from a provider outside your immediate geographical area whereas a HMO can be more limited.

HMO and PPO plans are similar in many ways. They both have a defined network of providers, both have a copay on most services you receive and except for a few exceptions will both include prescription drug coverage. Finding a Medicare health plan is about finding the plan that is right for you. It's a good idea to research both HMO and PPO plans if you are considering a Medicare Advantage Plan.

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



Ikey Fowler

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ON YOUR DEBT

U.S. Household Debt Hits Record High as Bankruptcy Filings Rise — What It Means for You



**B. Grant
McNutt**
Managing Attorney

Debt in America has reached an all-time high. According to the Federal Reserve, U.S. household debt has now climbed past \$18.6 trillion. That figure includes credit cards, auto loans, student loans, and mortgages, with the cost of carrying such debts climbing as interest rates remain elevated.

At the same time, personal bankruptcy filings are up across the country. More families are finding that they simply can't keep up with rising bills, no matter how hard they try. Here in Alabama, we talk to people every day who are juggling credit cards, car notes, and medical bills while wondering how they got here.

Why It's Becoming Harder to Stay Ahead

For most people, financial trouble doesn't happen all at once. It builds slowly — a missed payment here, an unexpected expense there — until it feels like there's no way out.

Right now, several factors are making things especially tough:

- High interest rates mean even minimum payments stretch budgets thin.

- Inflation continues to raise the cost of everyday essentials.
- Medical debt still lingers long after an illness or surgery.
- Student loan payments have resumed, hitting younger borrowers the hardest.

These pressures are adding up, and many Americans are realizing that their paychecks just don't go as far as they used to.

Why More People Are Turning to Bankruptcy

The word "bankruptcy" can sound scary, but it's simply a legal tool — one that exists to give honest people a fair chance to start over. When handled properly, it's often the most responsible way to deal with unmanageable debt.

Chapter 7 allows you to wipe out most unsecured debts and move forward debt-free. Chapter 13 lets you reorganize what you owe and make one affordable monthly payment while keeping your home, car, and other property.

At Bond & Botes, we've been helping families take advantage of these protections for more than 35 years. We've seen time and again that bankruptcy doesn't ruin lives — it helps rebuild them.

When It's Time to Ask for Help

If you're constantly behind on payments or getting calls from collectors, that's a sign it's time to give us a call. A consultation with one of our experienced bankruptcy attorneys can help you:

- Understand your rights and what creditors can and cannot do.
- Protect your income and assets from garnishment or repossession.
- Compare all your options, including non-bankruptcy debt relief.
- Create a plan that restores peace of mind and financial stability.

At Bond & Botes Law Offices, our attorneys meet clients across Alabama by phone, video, or in person. Every conversation is confidential, and there's never a charge for the initial consultation.

Alabama State Bar requires the following: "No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

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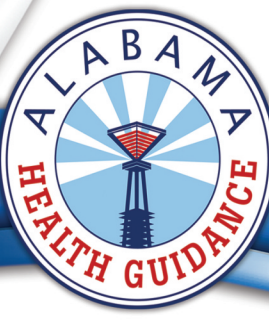
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Notes...

Continued from page 19

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/ragshoals

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.

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.

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.

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, formals, 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.

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

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See NOTES... page 24



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Notes...

Continued from page 23

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.

If you are interested, please email us at tdpflorence@gmail.com or call/text

256-412-9086. Help us inspire the next generation of readers and lifelong learners!

The Florence Beautification Board presents The Wildflower Project! Through this project, you can contribute to the future of our community's sustainable growth. There are several tiers of involvement, Tier 1- \$100; Tier 2 - \$200; Tier 3 - \$1,000. To donate, you may give checks to the Beautification Board City of Florence, PO Box 98, Florence, AL 35631. Contributions are tax-deductible.

All Sheffield Senior Citizens, ages 60 and over, are invited to come join us at 303 2nd street in Sheffield for a free meal (\$1 donation is optional) or if you are home bound, we can deliver you a free meal Monday-Friday. The Sheffield Senior Center is open from 8AM-noon M-F. You must be present before 11am for the free meal. We play Bingo free of charge on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday and you can

win an assortment of cool items. A variety of other games are also played daily.

We have Karaoke on Monday evenings and a live dance band on Friday evenings starting at 5pm. If you do not drive or don't have a way to the Center, a Senior Center bus can pick you up and bring you home at no charge! There are also planned outings designed especially for seniors. We also go out to eat as a group once a month. We would love to have you join us!

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Call for more information. SSG Candie Flanagan at 251-459-4309.

Alabama Hospice of the Shoals is currently seeking volunteers to serve in Colbert, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Franklin,

Marion, and Winston counties. For more information, contact Susan Coke at 256-314-1204.

Volunteers are needed at Florence Lauderdale Animal Services. All ages and interests are sought. It's an ideal option for high school students who need service letters for scholarships, or just want to contribute, and have specific/tight windows of availability. Volunteers can be those who like to work with animals, or those who would rather just do other work around the facilities.

Contact Whitney at 256-762-1124 or Carla at 256-904-0517.

Shoals CASA is currently looking for new CASA volunteers (Court Appointed Special Advocates) who have a passion for helping children. This is rewarding, active work with local foster children who need someone who represents THEIR interests. The CASA

staff makes sure that caring community volunteers have the training, information, and support they need to give local abused and neglected children a voice within the court and child welfare system - A positive adult relationship who will demonstrate compassion and a passion to help children reach a safe and permanent home. The nature of this opportunity will require a background check, references, and six weeks of free training. Other CASA advocates have said it is the most rewarding work they have ever done. The new training class starts in late January.

Please call Heather Begley, Shoals CASA's Executive Director, for more information. 256-765-0041.

Florence Parks and Recreation/The Club/Florence Senior Center hosts a variety of activities for adults throughout the week. Chair exercise classes, line dancing, Square dancing, social dancing, BINGO, \$1 lunch, Rummy, Rummy cubes,

Rook, Mexican Train & Chicken Foot Dominoes. 9am-3:30pm. 450 Country Club Drive in Florence. Group Travel is available for the community. Call for specifics. 256-760-6420.

LifeSouth is in emergency need for blood donors. This year continues to be difficult for LifeSouth and blood centers across the country with the impact of the pandemic causing a decrease in blood donations, while the need to help patients in local hospitals continues to increase.

Regular blood donors who have not given recently and first-time donors can make a major impact by donating. One donation can save up to three lives.

Donate at the Center, 307 Veterans Drive, Florence. Schedule an appointment, 256-765-7038. www.lifesouth.org. The hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-5pm; Tuesday and Thursday 9am-7pm; Saturday 9am-3pm; Sunday 1-5pm.

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WK 13 Saturday
Nov. 22

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Enter online at www.courierjournal.net
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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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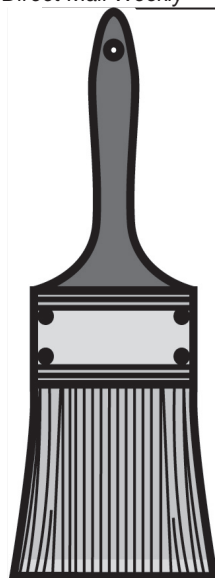
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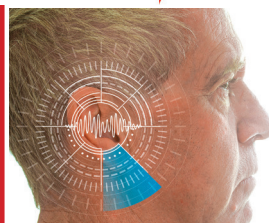
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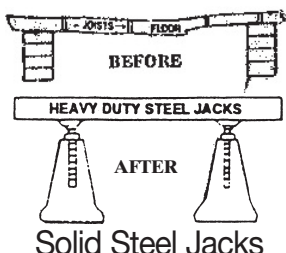
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SETH JARRELL, MD

Letters...

The One God as Three...

Continued from Page 12

relates to his wife, relates to his wife differently than to mother or child, and relates to the child differently than to mother or wife.

Floyd Price
Florence

Invest in the Transmission

Editor,

In recent years, the U.S. has shifted to using a wider mix of energy sources located across the country. These resources help make our electric grid stronger, keep power flowing during disruptions, and create new jobs and

business opportunities.

However, a sharp increase in energy demand is on the horizon. According to the Brattle Group, it is estimated that by 2035, the amount of electricity Americans use each year will increase by about 53% compared to 2024, while the highest levels of electricity needed at any one time will grow by around 36%. This means continued investment in the electric grid must be a priority.

One of the greatest challenges when meeting growth in both electricity usage and peak demand is the lack of necessary transmission infrastructure to connect generation to the electric grid. The electric transmission system in the U.S. was originally designed to connect centralized sources of generation to places where demand for energy was high.

A notable example is the growth of renewable energy, such as wind and solar. Electricity produced from renewable energy resources exceeded those produced by nuclear and coal in 2021 and 2022 respectively, according to

the Energy Information Administration. The development of these renewable resources has not only diversified the country's generation mix, but has also brought numerous economic benefits, especially to rural areas where these projects are most often located.

Wind and solar projects can boost local economies by generating new tax revenues that bolster rural county budgets, provide an additional source of income to landowners, and create jobs throughout their development and operation.

Investing in the transmission system is essential to meet growing electricity demand, connect consumers to affordable electric sources like renewables, and make the electric system more resilient.

Cora Hoffer
Senior Policy Associate
Center for Rural Affairs
Lyons, NE

President's Jungle Law

Editor,

A journalist recently asked President Trump about legal authority to blow up Caribbean boats. He answered that authority comes from the fact illegal drugs kill people in America.

This shows that #47 does not recognize sources of authority other than his own right hand.

The President made no mention of statutory law, constitutional law, international law, treaty agreements, the Supreme Court, rules of engagement . . . just his own peculiar brand of animal instinct. He must do it because "I alone can fix it."

Does it matter that innocent people may die in this Latin American manhunt? Nope.

Does it matter that the American people and their elected representatives have no say in the new system of rule by the king of the jungle? Nope.

Is it sad that nobody else but him is smart enough to get things done?

Yes, it is very sad.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, UT

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Seymour

Seymour is a cute, happy, playful boy who's ready to bring fun and love into your life! His beautiful brown coat and sweet personality make him irresistible. Seymour loves attention, playtime, and making new friends — he's just an all-around good boy! Adoption fee: \$85 — includes vaccinations, spay/neuter, microchip, and heartworm test. Come meet Seymour today and see why he's such a favorite! Call Florence-Lauderdale Animal Services at 256-760-6676 for more info.

Services at 256-760-6676 for more info.

Buckeye

Buckeye is a handsome chocolate Lab mix pup with a heart as sweet as his name! This loving boy just wants to be your best friend — whether that means playtime in the yard or cuddles on the couch. He's friendly, affectionate, and ready to find his forever home. Adoption fee: \$85 — includes vaccinations, neuter, microchip, and heartworm test. Come meet Buckeye and let him steal your heart! Call Florence-Lauderdale Animal Services at 256-760-6676 for more info.



Clyde R



Clyde R is one handsome boy with a smile that can light up any room! He's friendly, full of personality, and absolutely loves attention. Whether you're going for a walk or hanging out at home, Clyde R will be right by your side, happy to be part of the fun. Adoption fee: \$85 — includes vaccinations, neuter, microchip, and heartworm test. Come meet this charming guy today and let him win you over! Call Florence-Lauderdale Animal Services at 256-760-6676 for more info.

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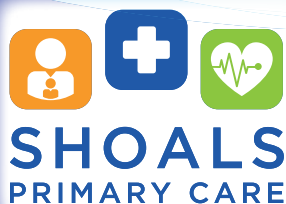


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FOR SALE: 3 BDRM. 1 BA. Brick Houses, Maud Road \$60,000 Cherokee, AL. 256-702-8345

MUSCLE SHOALS 213 MARKATE AVE, two bedroom house, appliances, HVAC, private driveway, NO PETS. \$750 month, \$750 deposit. 256-349-0301. Leave a Text or voicemail message.

MUSCLE SHOALS - 206 MARY MACK AVE, two bedroom, two bath mobile home, appliances, HVAC, covered parking and storage room. NO PETS. \$750 month, \$750 deposit, 256-349-0301. Leave a Text or voicemail.

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Two story, 3 bdrm., 2 ba., Colbert Heights, one year lease, you pay utilities, pet friendly, 256-263-8716 or email: eamondeck@yahoo.com

THANK YOU for reading the Courier Journal!

\$ALE

91 PIN HOOK ROAD 2 bed, 1 bath home on a half acre lot. For sale \$150,000 (256)483-8570.

HOME FOR LEASE, 512 Conner St., Florence. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, unfurnished, \$950 rent, \$950 deposit, Call 256-394-1400 or 256-415-0301

PUBLIC AUCTION

Thursday Evening December 4 at 6pm

James Larry Tune Estate, Carol Ann Nantt, Rep. 410 WOODLAND DRIVE, TUSCUMBIA, AL. 35674

OFFERING A 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH 2520+ SQ. FT. MOBILE/MODULAR HOME, Selling AS-IS, FIXER-UPPER, on Lot # 9 Woodland Estates 3+acres on the MOUNTAIN!



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IPHONE 13 CASES \$5 each OBO. Still in box. All colors, brand names. 256-263-7636 Russellville

STILL SMELLS NEW! - 2022 Bumper Pull Heartland North Trail Camper, pulled 250 miles from dealership to covered carport, never been in the weather, appliances never used, king size bed, comes with lots of extras. Call 334-300-0129. No texts.



OUR THANKSGIVING THANK YOU 2ND WEEK 1/2 PRICE on all classified ads placed THIS WEEK, M-F Nov. 17-21. Ads must be phoned in to 256-764-4268 before Friday at 4pm. Valid for stand-alone CJ ads placed before close of business Friday. 1st week runs next week, Nov. 26. 2nd week runs Dec. 3. No limit to the number of ads. NO CHANGES are allowed for the 2nd week. Discounts include Redlines and attention-getters. The ad deadline for the Dec. 3 issue will be Weds, Nov. 26. Ads placed Friday, after Thanksgiving will be in the Dec. 10 issue.

PFAFF INDUSTRIAL SEWING MACHING, Moving Must Sell \$300, 423-227-8936 Courtland

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

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SELL IT, and sell it faster with an ad in the Courier Journal. It's easy...See page 6 for details.

HOLIDAY SPECIAL, Gutter clean out, seamless gutters, gutter guards, Call GUTTER WORKS 256-394-3497

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CLASSIFIED FORM ON PAGE 6

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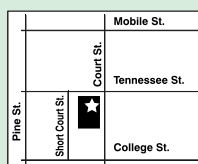
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COCKTAIL TABLE, DARK BROWN \$175; Jewelry Armoire with mirror \$125, 256-476-3467 Moulton

CLASSIFIED FORM ON PAGE 6

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY **HENRY BOLTINGOFF**



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Club is missing. 2. Man has less hair. 3. Cap is different. 4. Nose is different. 5. Shoe is different. 6. Golf bag strap is different.

VETERANS

with 50% or more service-related disability may qualify for a \$6,800 grant for a walk-in shower. Call Patrick today! **256-627-8007**

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SMELL GAS?

Get Out FAST & Call 911

FLORENCE GAS DEPARTMENT

OUR THANKSGIVING THANK YOU!

1/2 Price
on your second week
on ALL Classified Ads PLACED THIS WEEK

AD DEADLINE
For the Dec. 3 issue is **WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26**
(Weds. before Thanksgiving)

Any ads placed on Friday, Nov. 28 will be in the Dec. 10 issue

ALL Private Party ads Commercial, Real Estate Employment & Yard Sales placed NOVEMBER 17-21 ONLY.
1st ad runs November 26
Same Half price ad runs December 3

2nd Week 1/2 Price!

All Attention Getters are also INCLUDED!
OFFER EXPIRES at 4:30pm FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21.

Remember, the early DEADLINE for placing any ads in the Dec. 3 issue will be Wednesday, Nov. 26. So place them this week and get that 1/2 price deal as well! To place your ads, call 256-764-4268 or email to classified@courierjournal.net along with your name, address and phone number. You will receive a call in return.

Insurance Insights

"Below is a State Farm® Simple Insights® article about "Help make your commute safe and sane" is provided by State Farm agent Rebecca Stutts Hovater.

Help Make Your Commute Safe and Sane

Written by State Farm® Editorial Team

Driving to work is a necessary evil for many. Try these hints for navigating rush hour.

Rush hour roadways are busy by definition. Stay cautious with these tips for getting to work safely:

Leave early

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, speeding plays a role in approximately a quarter of traffic deaths each year. If you have a long commute, build a few extra minutes into your schedule so you can stick to the speed limit and accommodate for heavy traffic. And stay alert throughout the drive — even if it's a familiar commute.

Be prepared for your exits, make lane changes early so you're in the correct turning lane, and listen to traffic reports to be prepared for situations that could cause delays.

Wear appropriate footwear

Your shoes could affect your ability to control your car in some situations. Open-heel shoes can slip off and wedge under pedals, while high heels can catch on floor mats, delaying acceleration or braking. Wear sneakers or low-heeled shoes while driving — and slip on your work shoes once you've arrived.

Drive distraction-free

Avoid anything that takes your hands off the wheel, your eyes off the road and your mind off driving. This includes using your cell phone (even hands-free devices), grooming, changing radio stations and other common distractions.

Avoid aggressive driving

Mornings can sometimes be stressful. Add a busy roadway and that can compound aggression in some drivers. Avoid aggressive driving and be watchful for possible aggression in other drivers.

Shield against harsh sunlight

Morning and evening commutes sometimes coincide with sunrise or sunset. In addition to using the car's sun visor, wear a pair of polarized sunglasses and keep your windshield clean to maximize visibility. Also reduce your speed, leave extra space between you and the car ahead of you and turn your headlights on so other drivers can see you better.

Choose the safest route

Typically, there are multiple ways to get to your destination. Choosing a familiar safe route may mean you travel the same route day in and day out, but it may provide you safety. In addition, it never hurts to know some alternate routes or backroads to take in case there are delays or road construction.

Maintain your vehicle

Proper vehicle maintenance may reduce the risk of a breakdown during your daily commute. Simple ways to help maintain your vehicle include regular oil changes and routinely checking the tire pressure and wear.

Car safety features

Many of the new vehicle safety features, such as blind spot detection, forward collision warning, back-up assist cameras along with lane departure warning help provide additional safety protection during your travels.

WE PAY TOP PRICES for Junk Cars, Tractors and Equipment, with or without titles, 256-577-7911.

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

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: Seasoned and Split 4x4 rick \$60 you pick up. Fire pit bundles \$10. Call 256-349-9601 or 256-443-7395 Leave Message

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1965 FORD F-100, Black in color, 2nd Owner, 37,308 miles, All Original. Garage Kept. Nice! \$60,000. Call 256-762-2646

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DECKS AND FENCES - FREE Estimates. Call me at 256-856-4662. References available.

DOBERMAN PUPPIES AKC Registered Born 9/27. Tails docked, dew claws removed, shots, dewormed. \$1,200 256-366-6919 Huntsville. Will travel. 2 males, 4 females left. Red/tan, black/tan.

HOLIDAY STOVE \$75 MINI Fridge \$25 256-898-5303 Decatur

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GRAY QUEEN SLEEPER SOFA \$50; Tan Full Sleeper Sofa \$50; Two Teal Green Queen Anne Formal Chairs \$70 for both or \$50 each. Call Larry 931-242-2631 Lexington area

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Gift Certificates Available

w/coupon only. Wednesday only.

*Limited Pickup & Delivery Area. Expires Tuesday, 11/25/2025

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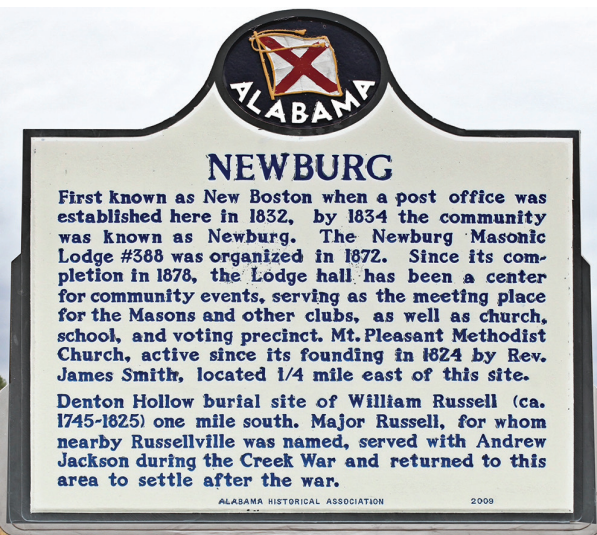
Chuck Cabaniss
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LEGAL AD

It is hereby given that on the
6TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025 AT 10AM,
the following units will be sold at
Florence Blvd. Self Storage
2526 Florence Blvd. Florence, AL
Tenant may satisfy their indebtedness prior to the time of sale.

NAME	UNIT
Laketia Doxie	C12
Ashley Franko	F56
Charles May	H49
Dennis Ahnemann Jr.	J22
Emily Portugues	K32

SIGNS OF THE PAST



Location: 34.4864°N, 87.5826°W
8 mi E of Russellville on CR24

Contrary to the directions on the Newburg marker, William Russell's burial is 2 miles south at 34.4561°N, 87.5714°W because the marker was relocated when a new highway was built.

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

Commentary

Having Fun?

Continued from Page 12

Those boards have been replaced with a wide foot print tube slide that's respectable, yet underwhelming.

Another less discussed but equally important factor in the disappearance of diving boards is the evolution of how people use pools, lifestyle changes, and harsh legal/safety liabilities in pool settings, both public and private.

Backyard pool owners today are more likely to opt for a holistic "yard resort" vibe that prioritizes aesthetics, hydrotherapy features, lap swimming, and aqua aerobics over splashing, recreation, kid noise, cannon balls, and competitive skills like diving. A diving board in such a setting can be viewed as unnecessary, disruptive, even dangerous.

But are the kids having fun? Maybe, since many have never seen a diving board, and they don't know what they are missing.

The feature article and photo in this week's issue about the new playground planned for Joe Wheeler State Park demonstrates how drastically the equipment has changed in two generations, even from the turn of the century, and what can be considered "a playground" these days.

In the 1960s and 70s for example, before mounting safety regulations, cautious parents, and the ever-growing liability and litigation markets redefined a "playground," parks were filled with jungle gyms, metal slides, invigorating swing sets, teeter totters, spinning merry-go-rounds, and children screaming their lungs out with joy.

Sure, we got some scrapes and bruises from time to time back in the day, and yes, in summer, the slides would get hot. Most kids knew when the slides might be hot. And if they didn't, they knew for next time. There were greater dangers in a kid licking a filthy piece of playground metal when frozen, than finding the hot slide.

Some did not want to swing as high or did not want to stray far from the middle of the merry-go-round. Tall spiral slides

were great for young thrill-seekers, but the ladders required kids to use the sturdy hand rails on the way up. Each playground element regardless of the challenge incorporated science while honing agility and resilience. There was often a rubberized base on the ground, but the equipment didn't come with cushioned padding or protective covers, so the bars would have lasted for a century.

We also created our own bike trails, knew the dangers of traffic, dug tunnels in dirt for matchbox car cities, made our own car noises, made/modified our own forts, swam in the creek, baited our own hooks, played tackle football in an open lot, filled sidewalks with chalk art, and were masters at jumping rope.

However, there were no participation trophies being handed out then. So, when we tumbled, fell, or got knocked off, we wiped off the dirt, ran some fountain water on any scrapes, and got back to it. Playgrounds of that era created a generation of tough, often fearless kids. Bruises, scrapes, and occasional broken bones were just part of childhood. Success and fun created confidence. Now, one misstep has someone looking for a lawsuit.

The large metal slides got smaller and were soon replaced with even smaller plastic alternatives. They were cooler to the touch, didn't work as well, and they created static shock. And in 2025, the equipment stature has been reduced even further. It's neither invigorating, entertaining, nor engaging.

I'm sorry, but from my perspective, I simply cannot imagine spending nearly a half-million dollars on some glorified Little Tikes equipment that will fade in a few years, succumb to weather in a few more, and offers few thrills and no chills. Yet, we still call it a playground.

We are in such a push to get kids outside into the sunshine and away from the screens, yet is this all we can offer? When plastic slides that don't slide and walled walkways with 4 ft. elevation are all we can create for their enjoyment, it's easy to see why the kids don't want to waste their time outside.



BUICK: LACROSSE CX 2007, Showroom condition with only 46k miles, 3800 engine, recent service, \$10,900 Firm. Call 256-436-8755

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Professionally painted homes and stained cabinets. Trim Carpentry. Military and Senior Discounts
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STILL SMELLS NEW! - 2022 Bumper Pull Heartland North Trail Camper, pulled 250 miles from dealership to covered carport, never been in the weather, appliances never used, king size bed, comes with lots of extras. Call 334-300-0129. No texts.



JIMMY'S MOWER SHOP buying and selling lawn & garden equipment. Call 256-284-0364 after 12pm daily, no text

MINI DACHSHUND PUPPY, 6 months old, \$300, 931-724-9390 Iron City, TN

FIREWOOD OAK-HICKORY Seasoned, \$150 load, delivered 256-412-4840 or 256-602-7510 Tusculumbia, **Also two 18 ton Feed Bins For Sale**

HARLEY DAVIDSON XL JACKET AND VEST \$120 Good shape. 256-542-7400 256-536-1438 Huntsville

FORD: MUSTANG, 1999 \$2,800. 35th Anniversary GT, Good body, paint is peeling. Needs Intake or-ings. Text me at 938-216-4213 more info and photos.



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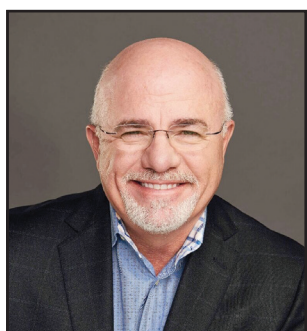
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One entry per person. Winners will be announced each week in our paper and on our website. Winners can pick up their Gift Certificate at the Courier Journal office beginning Wednesdays after Noon.

DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



LACK OF KNOWLEDGE, IMMATURITY OR WORSE?

Dear Dave,
My girlfriend and I have been dating seriously for a little over a year. We're both 28, and I know I love her, but there's something that worries me. She's very smart, but at the same time, she's not very responsible with money. I know that no one is perfect, but sometimes she'll get behind on her bills in order to do things like buy clothes or go to concerts. How should I approach talking to her and explaining my concern about this? I'd like to ask her to marry me sometime next year.

Lincoln

Dear Lincoln,
Congratulations on finding the lady you want to marry! I'm also glad you're looking at things from a mature point of view where the future is concerned.

Dating is fun. And marriage is wonderful, when you've found the right person to spend your life with. But there's something I want you to keep in mind. In a marriage, real life shows up in a hurry. That's why it's so important that couples be on the same page when it comes to their lives together, their hopes and dreams—and their finances. Unexpected things can arise that make life hard, even when you're with someone you love.

If I were you, I'd move slowly and see if she starts showing some signs of getting her spending under control. To be honest, her financial behavior is

pretty immature right now. Sometimes when folks act this way, it's just a phase. Or, it's a case where they weren't taught how to properly manage money when they were younger.

If this is the case here, I'd recommend talking to her about it gently, explaining your concern and maybe introducing her to the idea of living on a monthly budget. If you're already doing this, it would be the perfect opportunity to demonstrate how it works for you, and how it would make handling finances as a couple easier in the future. That way, once she understands the process—and the value of having a plan for spending money on paper before the month begins—it will be easier for her to stick to it.

But if it doesn't work, and this way of living turns out to be a character flaw, I promise you it will cause issues later on. And those issues will begin to cloud every other aspect of your relationship.

Best of luck, Lincoln. God bless you both!
— Dave

Dave Ramsey is a nine-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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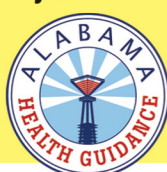
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