

Trail Blazers Recognized

ROGERSVILLE — Joe Wheeler State Park dedicated a portion of a park trail in memory of long-time park ranger **Howard Fuqua** and unveiled a historical marker at the park's First Creek Boat Ramp on Saturday, November 15.

The historical marker chronicles the history of the pre-civil rights era at Joe Wheeler State Park and the contributions of Fuqua, the first black park ranger in the Alabama State Parks System, and longtime ranger **Samuel Harden Sr.**, the second black ranger who replaced Fuqua, who served 38 years at Joe Wheeler State Park.

A portion of the Awesome Trail was officially named in Harden's memory, and members of his family attended the ceremony.

The historical marker, installed near the park's main entrance on U.S. 72 in Rogersville, also commemorates Camp Drake. That site, within what is now the park's day-use area, hosted African-American Boy Scouts of the Tennessee Valley Council for many years prior to the civil rights movement.

The project is a partnership between Alabama State Parks and the East Lauderdale Historical Society.

Honors for 3 in Academics

JACKSONVILLE — The Atlantic Sun Conference announced last week that three

See SHORTS... on Page 2

Volume 143 Number 5

November 26, 2025

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Lions Ready for Macy's Parade

by Alyssa Sutherland
TimesDaily Staff Writer

Adapted from original TimesDaily article,
published November 19, 2025

FLORENCE — The 275 University of North Alabama Marching Pride band and auxiliary members, along with 310 family members and friends, boarded buses at 2am Sunday to begin a 21-hour trek to New York City and a performance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thursday.

Everything was business as usual as band members marched through the final few days of practice in Florence.

However, there were a few unusual aspects to rehearse ahead of the band's 34th Street performance.



Dr. Lloyd Jones
at band practice

See PARADE... on Page 4

For instance, Thursday morning when the band arrives at its designated West Central Park starting point, they have exactly three minutes to unload their buses — all 275 members, instruments and equipment.

"When we first heard, we were like, how is that going to work," said clarinet player Allie Simpson.

Band Director Dr. Lloyd Jones said the plan involves certain students carrying their instruments while others quickly move through an unloading pattern.

The logistics are not really phasing Simpson, however.

She said she has never been to New York before, and she



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SHOALS — This holiday season, The Salvation Army invites the community to Give with Joy, turning small acts of generosity into year-round help for neighbors in need.



Courtesy/stock photo

The Red Kettle Campaign is underway, and every dollar given in the campaign stays local, funding food, emergency financial assistance, and pathways to stability.

See KETTLE... Pg 10

INSIDE this Issue

GAME DAY
SCORE CARD



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Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade...

Continued from Page 1

cannot wait for the experience.

"I grew up watching the parade every year, and this is the perfect time to go because it's Christmas," Simpson said. "Getting to have this opportunity with the people we love so

much is amazing.

"This band means so much to each one of us. Our families are going and it's a great experience to have with our best friends."

Auxiliary member Ellie Claire Swinney has

never been to the Big Apple before, and the opportunity to perform in the parade is beyond her biggest dreams.

"Going to the Macy's Parade just to watch has always been a dream of mine — getting to be in it is crazy," Swinney said. "It's a dream trip, literally."

Though clarinet player Janelle Parks and drum major Kaylie Hendrix have both visited the city before, they agree this visit will be the experience of a lifetime.

"I've been watching the parade ever since I was little on TV with my family," Parks said. "This is a once in a lifetime experience."

"This is a dream come true," Hendrix added. "We will never get to do this again."

Jones said about 25 of the band members have travelled to New York City before, so the plan



Members of the UNA Marching Pride practice in preparation for Thanksgiving Day.

is to make the trip as "experiential" as possible.

"We arrive at 11pm on Sunday, and we practice at Herald Square Monday night," Jones said before the band departed.

"Most of these students have never been out of the region, so we're going to hit a Broadway show ("Wicked"), see the Rockettes, visit the 9/11 memorial, visit One World Trade Center, go to Top of the Rock and Times Square, and then have a Thanksgiving dinner cruise on the Hudson River."

As Jones worked to prepare the students for their trip, he said he took a poll to find out how many had real winter coats. He quickly realized most band members were not prepared for New York City weather.

"Our alumni chipped in and started buying winter coats," he said.

Despite some unusual preparation, Jones is charging forward as normal.

He made sure students focused on the fact they were also rehearsing for the final performance

ever in Braly Stadium (Saturday, Nov. 22) before they practiced their Macy's show.

The Macy's show, he said, features a mix of Muscle Shoals-based music, like "Land of 1,000 Dances," "Mustang Sally," "Brown Sugar," and "Old Time Rock and Roll."

"Hopefully, Al Roker will like what we play," Jones said. "We're really trying to focus on that Herald Square rehearsal Monday, because if we show up great there, we have a better chance to get TV time."

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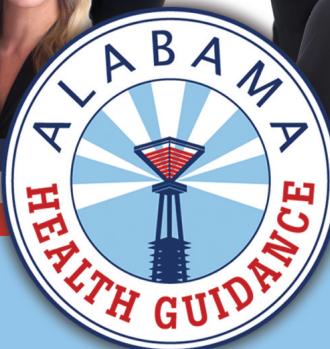
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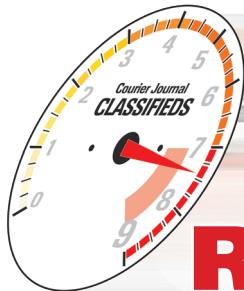
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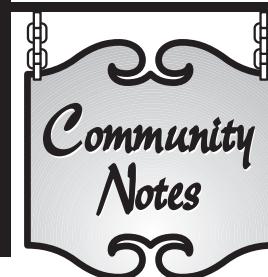
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Planes, Trains, and Automobiles Friday, November 28, 7pm at The Shoals Theatre on the big screen, 123 N Seminary St. in Florence.

Easily excitable Neal Page (Steve Martin) is somewhat of a control freak. Trying to get home to Chicago to spend Thanksgiving with his wife (Laila Robins) and kids, his flight is rerouted to a distant city in Kansas because of a freak snowstorm, and his sanity begins to fray. Worse yet, he is forced to bunk up with talkative Del Griffith (John Candy), whom he finds extremely annoying. Together they must overcome the insanity of holiday travel to reach their intended destination.

Tickets are \$5. Concessions are available. 256-764-1700.

Christmas Concert — Shoals Community Band will present a concert at 3 p.m. Nov. 30 at York Bluff Baptist Church, 301 N. Atlanta Ave., Sheffield. The concert is free.

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 'Hi Neighbors of the Shoals' women's social group meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month (Dec. 2) at 10:30am in the Florence Public Library, 256-764-6564. The group welcomes all ladies who are residents of the Shoals. Come join us!

Gospel Music - Friday, November 28, 7pm at the Lauderdale Coliseum, 702 Veterans Dr., Florence.

See NOTES... page 24

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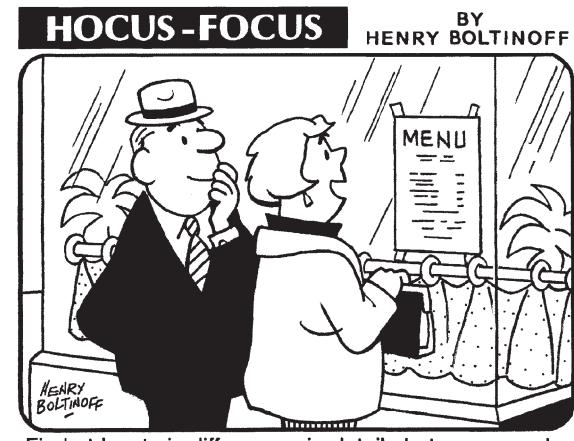
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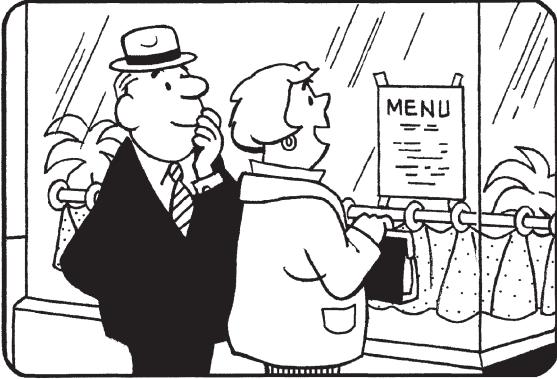
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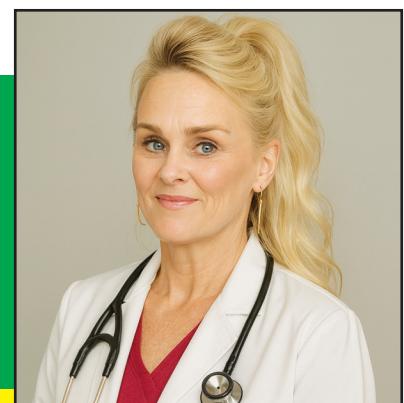
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"Wonderland Under Warrior" Underway at Rickwood Caverns

M O N T G O M E R Y
Rickwood Caverns State Park will again offer a magical holiday experience by transforming the cave into an underground winter wonderland.

For the ninth straight year, the cave will become a walkable extravaganza known as "Wonderland Under Warrior," an immersive attraction filled with holiday lights and characters designed to captivate the imagination of children of all ages.

"This is the most exciting time of the year at Rickwood Caverns State Park," Rickwood Caverns State Park Manager Emily Davis said. "Every year, we see the impact of 'Wonderland Under Warrior' through the smiles of children and their parents. This attraction showcases the magic of the holiday season in a truly unique way. We can't wait for people to see what we have for them this year."

"Wonderland Under Warrior" begins on Saturday, Nov. 22 and runs through Jan. 4, 2026. Santa Claus will be available



"Wonderland Under Warrior" at Rickwood Caverns State Park features holiday light displays that can be seen through self-guided walk through the park's underground cave system.

Photos by Josh Bean/
Alabama State Parks

for photos in the park's Nature Center beginning Friday, Nov. 28, the day after Thanksgiving, and is scheduled to be there daily through Dec. 22.

This year, "Wonderland Under Warrior" will be open on New Year's Day, which is Thursday, Jan. 1.

Reservations can be made online, and a complete schedule for this year's "Wonderland Under Warrior" can be found on Rickwood Caverns State Park's website. Reservations can also be secured by calling the

park at (205) 647-9692.

All regular cave tours are suspended for the duration of "Wonderland Under Warrior" and will resume in January 2026.

"If you and your family have never experienced 'Wonderland Under Warrior,' we encourage you to make the trip this year," Davis said. "You won't be disappointed."

"Wonderland Under Warrior" offers a self-guided tour through a series of holiday-themed rooms, featuring a winter wonderland filled with elf villages, dancing lights, glacier ice caverns and more. Different characters fill each room to provide unique holiday adventure.

The "Wonderland" experience begins when visitors enter the park, with an incredible display of holiday lights outside the cave system and leading to the cave entrance. Many guests prefer to arrive after dark, allowing time to enjoy the full splendor of the outdoor light display.

Once inside, the self-guided tour goes for about a half mile into the cave system before returning. Park officials encourage visitors to wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes suitable for hiking and to make reservations in advance.

"This really is a must-see holiday experience," said Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner Chris Blankenship. "It's hard to describe how the holiday lights combine with the cave's natural beauty to create a truly magical experience."

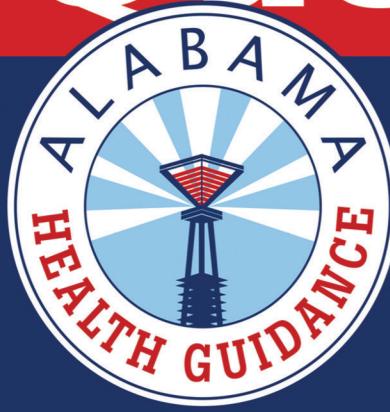
The attraction will be closed on some days, including Thanksgiving Day, which is Thursday, Nov. 27; Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; New Year's Eve, Dec. 31; and most Mondays and Tuesdays in December.

Rickwood Caverns State Park is located just off Interstate 65 in Warrior, about 30 miles north of downtown Birmingham and about 75 miles south of Huntsville.

You never know which holiday characters you will encounter at "Wonderland Under Warrior" at Rickwood Caverns.



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Kettle...

Continued from Page 1

long after the holidays end.

"As living costs continue to rise and food prices surge, many working families are facing tough decisions in very uncertain times," said Lieutenant Michelle Cook, Commanding Officer of The Salvation Army. "In fact, we are seeing a sharp rise in families coming to us for help for the very first time."

The funds raised at Christmas through red kettles, online kettles, and corporate partners help sustain The Salvation Army's local programs throughout the year. These gifts make a direct impact on the community, as all dollars raised stay local to feed struggling families, help keep seniors safe and warm, and provide single parents with tools to get back on their feet.

The Salvation Army offers year-round assistance, including food pantry, food distribution, emergency shelter services, transitional housing,



housing assistance, utility assistance, and more.

A simple plan to help — today and all year.

Give at a Kettle:

Look for our iconic Red Kettles at local stores and businesses throughout the Christmas season.

Give Online:

Donate securely at ShoalsKettle.org.

Volunteer:

Every hour of ringing can feed four families a meal this holiday season. Register at RegisterToRing.com or email FlorenceAL@uss.

salvationarmy.org for more information.

This year's local goal is \$300,000. Meeting it means more families keep the heat on, more seniors have groceries, and more children sleep in their own beds — not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.

"The kettle tradition began in 1891 when a Salvation Army Captain set out a simple 'crab pot' to feed those in need," said Lieutenant Cook. "Today, Give with Joy carries that same heart — your gift, given gladly, meets a real need right here at home. And we still have so many open volunteer spots available throughout the season to help with our kettles!"

To donate, volunteer, or host a kettle site, visit SalvationArmyFlorence.org, or call 256-764-4432.

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SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS



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Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Assisting with training staff on computer ticket entry
- Interacting with customers and other departments on a regular basis
- Assisting management with scheduling special sections
- Filing daily newspapers
- Answering phone calls and emails
- Helping service all walk-ins
- Event Coordinator, plans, organizes and oversees all aspects of an event to ensure it runs smoothly and meets objectives, from initial planning to execution and breakdown.
- Completing various other administrative duties

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

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Qualified candidates will be available to work nights and weekends.

Applications are available at the TimesDaily Office
219 W. Tennessee St.,
Florence, AL 35630
Questions or resumes may be emailed to:
Kevin.Burton@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
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- Helping service all walk-ins
- Event Coordinator, plans, organizes and oversees all aspects of an event to ensure it runs smoothly and meets objectives, from initial planning to execution and breakdown.
- Completing various other administrative duties

The ideal candidate for this position is highly organized, has strong attention to detail, and

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This position requires a high school degree or equivalent, administrative assistant experience, and proficiency with computers, phones, and office equipment.

The job will require availability Monday – Friday and is 37.5 hours a week plus commission.

Benefits include:

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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.

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ASK THE ATTORNEY



Distracted Driving

Over the past several years, distracted driving has been one of the leading causes of car accidents throughout the United States.

Using a phone while driving is the most prevalent distracted driving activity that motorists engage in, but there are also other ways in which drivers are distracted such as eating or drinking, grooming themselves, and using entertainment systems.

If you are texting and driving down the highway at 55 mph, that's like traveling the length of a football field with your eyes closed. You can only drive safely when your full attention is on the road. Any activity that isn't related to driving is a potential distraction and increases your risk of a collision.

Distracted driving accidents are always preventable. Driving can become mundane at times, but it's important to distract yourself safely so that no one gets hurt. For example, listening to podcasts or music so that your primary focus is on driving.

If you are a parent, it is critical that you avoid distracted driving at all times, but especially in front of your children. Children will pick up on your actions much quicker than your words.

It's important to practice safe habits behind the wheel. You want to make sure that your passengers know how serious you are about driving without distractions. One of the most effective ways to lead is through example. Be a good example for your friends and family by avoiding driving while you're distracted.

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

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Commentary

Losing Traditions
We Held Fondly

While Thanksgiving weekend approaches, those of us who aren't neck deep in meal prep can often take a deep breath, knowing we've made it to another one. Hopefully, most of us will spend some time with family and friends, and giving thanks for so many blessings we take for granted and possibly reflecting on the real trials and challenges experienced by the earliest colonists four centuries ago.

It is a time where we are also reflecting on prior years with cherished memories of lost loved ones and some of the great times shared.

Of course, football fans know it's Alabama/Auburn weekend. In addition, some of us (middle aged and older) who followed UNA football back in the day fondly recall another Thanksgiving weekend tradition, one that seemed almost as regular as sitting down for Thursday's meal.

Plans could be made for Thursday-Sunday, but everything had to be scheduled

In A Few Words

TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

See LOSING TRADITIONS... on Page 22

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

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MEN

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WED., DEC. 3 • TBA
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Your Courier Journal welcomes tastefully presented typed or neatly written letters to be published as space allows. Letters may refer to timely matters of local, state, or national interest or any topic of concern or interest. Letters must include name, address and phone number for verification. (Only name and town will be published.) Letters are subject to editing. Please limit to 400 words. All letters become the property of the Courier Journal and may not necessarily reflect opinions of the Courier Journal staff, its advertisers, or a majority of readers.

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- e-mail: editor@courierjournal.net
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Courier Journal

in the Shoals

November 26, 2025

THIS WEEK

Happening
THIS WEEKCherished Museum
is Civitan Ornament

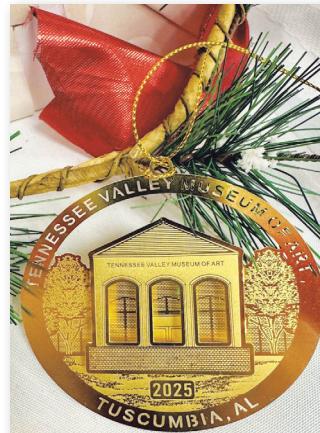
TUSCUMBIA - The 2025 Tuscumbia Civitan Christmas ornament is now available, featuring the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art. This is the 30th annual ornament produced by the club, marking a milestone! When the first Tuscumbia Civitan ornament was sold in 1996, the club hoped it would be something that might have a run of about 12 years. Due to the popularity and collectability of the landmark ornaments, the demand has far surpassed that initial desire!

Club president Fred Joly said that the museum was the unanimous choice of club members. These members hold a process each year to nominate and select the site to feature.

Since 1962, the Tennessee

Valley Art Association has drawn artists from across three counties and has been offering opportunities for the artists to exhibit their work. The Tennessee

See ORNAMENT... Page 14



Shown at reduced size. Courtesy photo

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SHOALS COMMUNITY

See Band's 2nd Show

SHEFFIELD - The Shoals Community Band kicks off the Christmas season with the second of two concerts in November, this one at York Bluff Baptist Church in Sheffield on Sunday, November 30 at 3pm. The concert is free and open to the public and will include familiar holiday classics, medleys, and a few lesser-known pieces. In Shoals

See BAND... Page 25

PLANES, TRAINS, AND AUTOMOBILES plays on the big screen Friday, November 28, 7pm at The Shoals Theatre, 123 N Seminary St. in Florence. Easily excitable Neal Page (Steve Martin) is somewhat of a control freak. Trying to get home to Chicago to spend Thanksgiving with his wife (Laila Robins) and kids, his flight is rerouted to a distant city in Kansas because of a freak snowstorm, and his sanity begins to fray. Worse yet, he is forced to bunk up with talkative Del Griffith (John Candy), whom he finds extremely annoying. Together they must overcome the insanity of holiday travel to reach their intended destination. Tickets are \$5. Concessions are available. 256-764-1700.

T.A.G. (TEEN ADVISORY GROUP) MEETS at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library first Monday of each month (December 1, 4:15pm-5:15pm).

Are you a young adult brimming with creative ideas and looking to help your community? Do you love books and the teen events here at the library? Join T.A.G. and give us feedback on our YA collection, contribute programming ideas, and lead your fellow teens through book-oriented discussions! You'll even earn volunteer hours. Ages 14-18. Registration is required. Email teens@flpl.org to reserve your spot.

BASKETBALL
WOMEN

MON., DEC. 1 • 6PM
vs Arkansas-Pine Bluff
at Flowers Hall

SUN., DEC. 7 • 3PM
at Samford
Birmingham, AL



Pull into Intersection

Editor,

There is no law in Alabama which states that a motorist must stay behind the third white line waiting for oncoming traffic to clear before pulling into the intersection for a left turn.

In fact, it can be a hazard for pedestrians to hover near the crosswalk waiting for all traffic to stop coming from the opposite direction.

It is also a courtesy for drivers behind you who expect your car to get into the intersection on a green light so that they can follow in a like manner and not get stopped when your car is the only one that gets through the light. Or worse yet, you don't get out far enough to turn, and everyone is stuck through another signal series.

Charles Van Heyden
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... You must decide where to draw your line. Boycott ...

“

Prices Are Still High

Editor,

It's the Covid dynasty. During Covid customers paid ridiculously high prices. They didn't balk as prices skyrocketed. Corporate America loved the fallout.

Businesses made so much profit they couldn't let the prices drop back. So, they keep increasing prices on what customers buy most. They want to see where the line stops. Until demand (want) stops outpacing need, prices will continue to rise.

Boycotting meat and colas and all those things we 'want' but don't need is the only way to stop rising prices.

See LETTERS... on Page 20

Dr. Zaman Shah

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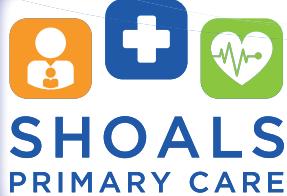


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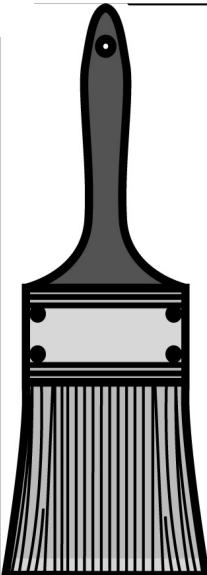
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Ornament

Continued from Page 12

Valley Museum of Art was built in 1972 to serve these purposes, taking its place on the historic Commons of Tuscumbia. Today it is the site of visual art exhibits, special programming, and is headquarters for performances at the Ritz Theatre in Sheffield.

The ornaments are \$20 each and are available at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, Coldwater Seed & Supply, Helen Keller Library, Fiddledee D! gift shop, and at local financial institutions in the town.

The Civitan ornaments will also be available at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art during the "Winter Art Market," November 29 - December 23 which features the handmade goods of approximately 34 artisans.

Purchases of ornaments may also be made using PayPal, by sending an email request to Tuscumbiacivitan@gmail.com. Remaining stock from previous years may also be purchased at a reduced price of \$15 at the library or at Fiddledee D!

Joly added, "It also wouldn't be Christmas without fruitcake!" Traditional Claxton Fruitcakes, made available during the holiday season by the Civitan Club, may be found at various local grocery stores.

Proceeds from all sales benefit local charities supported by the Tuscumbia Civitan Club. For more information, call 256-710-1440, contact Helen Keller Library at 256-383-7065, or Fiddledee D! at 256-383-9797.

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Things Freely Given At Salvation

Hebrews 5:9 "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;" **Romans 10:16** "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?" Obeying the gospel is "believing the report," read it. 1. **Eternal security!** **John 10:28** "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." 2. **Peace.** **Romans 5:1** "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;" **Philippians 4:7** "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." 3. **Comfort.** **2 Corinthians 1:4** "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." 4. **An infallible teacher.** **John 14:26** "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." There are countless other things that accompany salvation, but until you get saved, they are unrecognizable to you.

Hebrews 6:9 "But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak." **Hebrews 2:3** "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;" Lost folk, you must be saved! Dear saved saint: "sometimes the only time the lost will see Jesus Christ is in your character and your face!" Display Him well! The world is looking for a living hope that sometimes we can only bring through our living and loving! God has left you here for a purpose, fulfil it! **Philippians 4:13** "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." **Philippians 4:19** "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Accept Christ, He only can fill that void and change your world!

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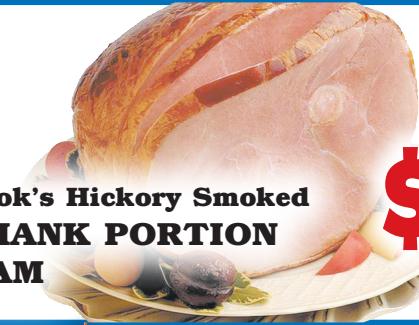


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Medicare Minute

Prescription Drug Plans

October 15th through December 7th is a period of time that Medicare has set aside to make changes to your Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) or Medicare Advantage Plan (MA) if you want. Whether you have a Medicare supplement and a stand-alone drug plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan with prescription drug coverage now is the time to review your drug plan for 2026. Like MA plans, drug plans have certain things you want to look at when considering which PDP is best for you. Those things are premium, deductibles, copays, coinsurance and the plan's provider network.

Although the things listed above are most important so are the tiers that drugs are placed into. So before we discuss the cost of the plans let's look at drug plan tiers. Normally there are five tiers to a drug plan. Tier 1 and Tier 2 drugs are usually your most common generic drugs. Tier 3 drugs are preferred brand, Tier 4 drugs are non-preferred brand and Tier 5 drugs are specialty drugs. One of the most misunderstood parts of a drug plan is the tier a person's drug is in.

Many people we meet with think that if their drug is listed in a certain tier under their current PDP it's the same on all plans. This is not always true. Sometimes, for example, a drug may be listed a Tier 2 under one plan but may be a Tier 3 under another plan. Why is this important? Because in most drug plans the copays are higher for Tier 3 than Tier 2.

You can check the tiers of your drugs by looking at the plan's formulary. The formulary is a list of the drugs that are covered by the plan. You can get the formulary of the plan you are considering by going to the plan's website, going online to Medicare.gov or you can visit our office and we can help. If you have questions regarding any aspect of Medicare or Medicare health plans feel free call us at Alabama Health Guidance (256-648-5710), stop by our office at 885 Florence Blvd (Four Lane Shopping Center) or email me at ikey@alabamahealthguidance.com. Alabama Health Guidance is an independent insurance agency and is not affiliated with Medicare or any other government agency.



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Mystery Photo WEEK of Nov. 26

WIN LUNCH FOR 2 at **Rosie's CANTINA** in Downtown Florence ENTER at www.courierjournal.net

Week of Nov. 19 winner is **Jeff Smith of Florence** who correctly guessed "Umi Japanese Steakhouse on Florence Blvd."

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.

Moments in Time

- On Nov. 24, 1947, the House of Representatives voted 346 to 17 to approve citations of contempt against 10 Hollywood writers, directors and producers who'd refused to cooperate at hearings dealing with communism in the movie industry held by the House Un-American Activities Committee. The men were sentenced to one year in jail.

- On Nov. 25, 2000, after passing a resolution earlier in the year, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the first International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The resolution marked the anniversary of the death of three sisters -- Patria, Minerva and Maria Teresa Mirabal -- who were murdered in the Dominican Republic in 1960.

- On Nov. 26, 1968, Air Force 1st Lt. James P. Fleming and four other Bell UH-1F helicopter pilots received an urgent message from an Army Special Forces team pinned down by enemy fire. While the first rescue effort failed, Fleming, accompanied by a second pilot, managed to land and pick up the team before discovering upon return to his base that he was nearly out of fuel. He was eventually awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

- On Nov. 27, 2015, Pope Francis released a progressive-rock album titled "Pope Francis: Wake Up!" featuring excerpts of the pontiff sermonizing on subjects including peace, the environment and family, and hymns rearranged with guitar and synthesizer.

- On Nov. 28, 1929, a month after the stock market crash, Ernie Nevers, of the Chicago Cardinals, scored a record 40 points in a single game, playing against the Chicago Bears.

- On Nov. 29, 2004, Japanese movie monster Godzilla, a mutant born of nuclear radiation fallout, got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame -- quite a present on his 50th birthday.

- On Nov. 30, 1965, attorney Ralph Nader

published "Unsafe at Any Speed: The Designed-in Dangers of the American Automobile." An immediate best-seller, it also launched the passage of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, seatbelt laws in 49 states and other road-safety initiatives.

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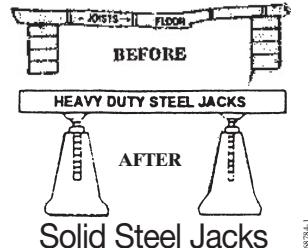
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you and has a purpose for your
life.

Because of sin (falling short of God's righteous standard), we are separated from God and are spiritually dead (Romans 3:23). However, because God loves us, He provided a way for us to connect with Him by sending His Son, Jesus, who never sinned, to die in our place as payment for our sin. John 3:16 says, "God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

To begin a personal relationship with God, agree

with Him about your sin and your need for forgiveness. If you are ready to make this choice, as an affirmation of your belief, you may wish to pray a prayer like this one: *Dear God, I understand I am a sinner, but I believe Jesus died for my sins, and I now accept His gift of eternal life. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Thank You for my new life. From this day on, I choose to follow You and Your will for my life.*

If you choose to begin a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus, please share this with the person of church that gave you this. To learn more, visit sbc.net/knowjesus.

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Letters...

Prices Are Still High...

Continued from Page 12

Much like brand name detergent, the bottle is substantially smaller, and the directions say put in 2 oz. Before, it was like a cup. Detergent does not clean the clothes, water does—along with a few enzymes. But the smell is what sells it. Gags me.

People are paying 8.50 for 12 canned colas. Want, not need. Demand, not supply. Corporations know that almost everyone that's on food stamps buys hamburger meat, a versatile meat. So, they raise prices to see where need and want meet. Not buying is the only way to get it down. The mom-and-pop stores still sell hamburger meat at \$4/lb but before Covid it was \$2/lb. Big chain stores sometimes sell hamburger meat for \$9/lb or more.

Eggs are still high but steady because they found the need/want line.

Even I bought a dozen eggs last month. I know the chicken farmer isn't getting much in profit.

You must decide where to draw your line. Boycott. This is not a political battle. It's a battle against greed.

Linda Johnson
Florence

Seek the Safe, Secure Banks

To the Editor:

Is your bank on the FDIC 66 endangered banks list?

Just how safe and secure is your bank?

If there is a failure, would the FDIC Deposit Insurance of 250,000 adequately protect your money?

These are vitally serious issues we must be concerned about!

For the last reporting period of the FDIC ending 12/31/24, the bank agency identified 66 U. S. institutions considered

as being vulnerable to failure! Regulatory agencies employ widely used evaluation criteria for such projections. The CAMEL method includes capital adequacy, asset quality, management effectiveness, earnings, liquidity, and sensitivity to market risks. The higher the bank scores in CAMEL (rating 4 or 5) the more likely it is banks listed to fail.

The obvious question lingers: what banks are named? The actual identities of those named are closely held information, publishing bank names could likely prove damaging to any bank's future performance.

Stay alert, ask questions of your financial institution.

Sources: (FDIC) 2/25/25
Franknez.com 3/25/25

James W. Anderson
Talladega

See LETTERS... Page 26

David Christopher's

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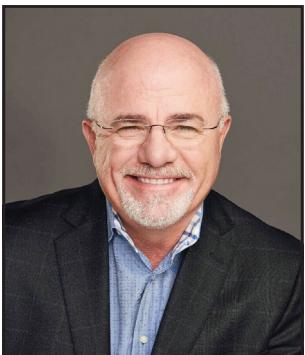
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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



TALKED ABOUT, DEALT WITH, AGREED UPON

Dear Dave,
My girlfriend and I dated exclusively for three years before I asked her to marry me. Before that, we were great friends for almost 10 years. It seems like we know everything there is to know about each other. In our situation, would you still recommend pre-marital counseling before the wedding?

Grant

Dear Grant,
I'm a big believer in pre-marital counseling, no matter how long a couple has been dating or how long they've known each other. In my mind, in-depth, detailed pre-marital counseling is an absolute must. I mean, you wouldn't try to run a marathon without adequate preparation, right? So, why on earth would you promise yourself to someone else in something that's supposed to last a lifetime without properly preparing yourself?

Please understand, when I say pre-marital counseling, I'm not talking about one hour-long meeting, shaking hands with the preacher and everything's good to go. I mean getting into the important parts of life that every couple should agree on. It's been my experience that most couples stand a really good chance of having a successful marriage when they agree in detail on four things ahead of time. I'm talking about money, kids, religion and in-laws.

When it comes to money, find out who's the spender and who's the saver. Be

honest, no matter how embarrassing everything may be, and construct a game plan for your finances you both agree on that includes living on a written, monthly budget. With kids, the big question is do you want them or not? If so, how many? When? Are you on the same page when it comes to teaching them and applying discipline?

Next, be in agreement on religion. Statistically speaking, two people from the same faith have a much better chance of making a marriage work. And finally, when it comes to your future in-laws, you both need to know what you're getting into. What are they *really* like—the good and the bad—and where are the boundaries when it comes to their influence in your lives?

Grant, everyone has a past. And we all have opinions. But to have the best chance at a long, strong and happy marriage, these issues should be talked about, dealt with and agreed upon before you're pronounced husband and wife.

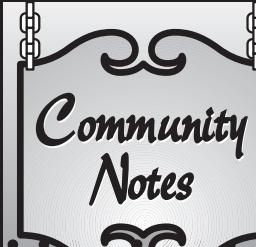
— Dave

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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STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LEA Financial System
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Funds
Budget and Actual
For Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2025

Exhibit F-III-A

Description	GENERAL		VARIANCE Favorable (Unfavorable)	SPECIAL REVENUE		VARIANCE Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual	
Revenues						
Other Sources	\$154,006.62	\$48,048.14	(\$105,958.48)	\$173,942.66	\$158,124.38	(\$15,818.28)
State Sources	\$40,672,601.89	\$41,035,988.18	\$363,386.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Federal Sources	\$1,500.00	\$26,135.23	\$24,635.23	\$7,799,635.23	\$7,179,983.86	(\$619,651.37)
Local Sources	\$27,205,290.00	\$29,268,610.36	\$2,063,320.36	\$1,501,788.75	\$1,691,793.88	\$190,005.13
Total Revenues:	\$68,033,398.51	\$70,378,781.91	\$2,345,383.40	\$9,475,366.64	\$9,029,902.12	(\$445,464.52)
Expenditures						
Instructional Services	\$38,639,764.34	\$36,909,431.84	\$1,730,332.50	\$3,801,685.36	\$4,855,026.33	(\$1,053,340.97)
Instructional Support Services	\$11,066,115.17	\$11,251,368.19	(\$185,253.02)	\$1,250,946.16	\$1,226,950.65	\$23,995.51
Operation & Maintenance Services	\$8,380,784.00	\$8,893,699.97	(\$512,915.97)	\$70,242.00	\$69,559.35	\$682.65
Auxiliary Services	\$2,343,775.13	\$2,751,087.34	(\$407,312.21)	\$4,225,348.82	\$4,573,301.09	(\$347,952.27)
General Administrative Services	\$2,245,098.50	\$2,572,001.18	(\$326,902.68)	\$217,933.95	\$219,906.45	(\$1,972.50)
Special Revenue Outlay	\$4,452,947.00	\$4,452,947.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
General Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Expenditures	\$2,634,951.00	\$2,721,164.23	(\$86,213.23)	\$436,865.35	\$335,591.40	\$101,273.95
Total Expenditures:	\$69,763,435.14	\$69,551,699.75	\$211,735.39	\$10,003,021.64	\$11,280,335.27	(\$1,277,313.63)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)						
Other Financing Sources:	\$779,765.77	\$231,847.96	(\$547,917.81)	\$888,461.00	\$623,243.32	(\$265,217.68)
Other Financing Uses:	\$1,418,926.15	\$580,561.36	\$838,364.79	\$19,136.00	\$201,048.03	(\$181,912.03)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses):	(\$639,160.38)	(\$348,713.40)	\$290,446.98	\$869,325.00	\$422,195.29	(\$447,129.71)
Excess Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses:						
	(\$2,369,197.01)	\$478,368.76	\$2,847,565.77	\$341,670.00	(\$1,828,237.86)	(\$2,169,907.86)
Beginning Fund Balance - Oct. 1:	\$38,142,104.35	\$33,739,859.35	(\$4,402,245.00)	\$1,089,406.97	\$1,437,107.78	\$347,700.81
Ending Fund Balance - Sept. 30:	\$35,772,907.34	\$34,218,228.11	(\$1,554,679.23)	\$1,431,076.97	(\$391,130.08)	(\$1,822,207.05)

Commentary

Losing Traditions We Held...

Continued from Page 12

around UNA's second round playoff game on Saturday at noon or 1pm, most of which were played in the friendly confines of Braly Municipal Stadium.

UNA's run of playoff consistency as a member of the Gulf South Conference in Division II began in the early 90's and continued through the 2016 season with only brief groupings of seasonal missteps. The games on those weekends were memorable with the Lions often advancing.

UNA's choice to step up to Division I was a risky move, but was supported by those who count, many of whom thought it should have been pursued 20 years earlier.

The move has produced a few competitive bright spots, none of which have taken place on the football field at the FCS level (formerly Div. I-AA). There were two seven-win seasons to start a probationary period (with a mixed schedule), but no winning seasons since 2020, not even close.

Perhaps this year

has been the most disappointing. The Lions were sitting at 2-9 with the season's final game pending on Saturday, November 22, a day after our press deadline for this issue. Prospects for a win weren't encouraging against a Southern Utah team that had won five straight entering the contest.

Regardless, the most recent effort before this writing was a 61-0 shellacking at the hands of United Athletic Conference co-leader Tarleton St. It represents the worst loss in UNA football program history, and at least for that week had the Lions tied for last place in the conference.

Several other losses this season have also been embarrassing in nature - 52-23, 49-21, 56-28, among them.

Ironically, the Southern Utah game was UNA's last game at Braly. The Lions will open the new Bank Independent Stadium on campus next season.

The university was

also paying tribute to the 1990's at the game and recognizing part of the Lions' heyday, the 30th anniversary of their third-straight Division II National Championship in 1995.

Unfortunately, losing IS often part of the growing process in football. However, consistent losses and numerous blowouts are unacceptable. Tarleton St. made the Division I move about the time UNA did, and they play winning football every year. So UNA has a lot to consider this off season.

Is it time for a change at the top? UNA Athletics Director, Dr. Josh Looney publicly stated his support for head coach Brent Dearmon after another recent loss. Is he still committed?

The new stadium notwithstanding, UNA is in the lowest FCS tier when it comes to investing in the football program. New NIL (Name-Image-Likeness) parameters create a de facto pay-for-play environment at all NCAA levels. Will they be able to compete for quality FCS athletes and at least become competitive in most games? Or will the new stadium be a big splash in seasons one and two, and then drift into obscurity with half of the 10,000 seats empty in seasons to follow?

One big off field change this season was no radio broadcast for UNA games, instead opting for The Varsity Network, touted as "the fastest growing digital radio platform in college football."

That may be the future and offer added features but today, in some people's mind, if a college football team doesn't have a radio broadcast, it doesn't have a "presence."

At this point, we'd settle for a respectable presence on the field.

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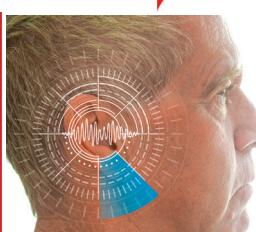
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Community Notes...

Continued from page 6

The 30th Annual Tuscmibia Civilian Christmas Ornaments feature the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art for the 2025 season. The ornaments are \$20 each and are available at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, Coldwater Seed & Supply, Helen Keller Library, Fiddledee D! gift shop, and at local financial institutions in the town. Purchases of ornaments may also be made using PayPal, by sending an email request to Tuscmibacivitan@gmail.com. Select previous years' ornaments are also available for \$15 each.

Proceeds benefit local charities supported by the Civilian Club. For more information, call 256-710-1440. Helen Keller Library 256-383-7065 or Fiddledee D! 256-383-9797.

LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:
Wednesday, November 26 Franklin County Courthouse, 10am - 4pm

Friday, November 28 Sam's Club, Florence, 10am - 4pm

Saturday, November 29 AT&T - Muscle Shoals, 12pm - 6pm

Monday, December 1 Pilgrims Pride - Russellville, 2045 County Rd 244, 9am - 4pm

Monday, December 8 Rogers High School, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Tuesday, December 23 AT&T - Russellville, 10am - 4pm

Christmas for Kids - It's that time of year again. We are in need of sponsors for children during Christmas. These children

have one or both parents in either jail or prison.

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

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

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

Santa visit - Sheffield Public Library, 316 N. Montgomery Ave., will have a visit from Santa Claus from 3-4:30 p.m. Dec. 3. Meet Santa and have a picture with him. One free picture per child.

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

John Paul White And Friends return to Norton Auditorium for their "Home

for the Holidays" concert on December 3 in Florence, Alabama. The special holiday show will benefit the John Paul White Entertainment Industry Endowed Scholarship at the University of North Alabama.

Purchase tickets at www.una.edu/entertainment/jpw.html

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.

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!

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

Pottery Show - Friday, December 5, 10am-5pm and Saturday, December 6, 10am-4pm at 1809 North Wood Ave., Florence.

There will be a pottery show featuring local artists Susan Campbell, Dru Hites, Martha Plylar and Beverly Wigington at 1809 North Wood Ave., Florence.

The Lauderdale County ADC and Blueprint Alabama will host a Community Dialogue with former United States Senator Doug Jones on Saturday, December 6 from 12-2:30pm at Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church in Florence - 820 W. Irvine Ave.

The gathering with Jones will open with a listening session, then Senator Jones will answer audience questions. Jones has recently hinted at a possible run for governor, so it will be an opportunity for people in the community to share issues that are important and ideas about how we can work together to improve Alabama. This event is free and open to all.

See NOTES... page 25

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<input type="checkbox"/> Washington	<input type="checkbox"/> Louisville	MAIL-IN ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY AND RECEIVED BY MONDAY! (vs: games at neutral location)
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Week 13 WINNER - DARYL TERRY of Rogersville
Week 14 Winner online by 4pm Tuesday and in the Dec. 3 paper.

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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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Notes...

Continued from page 24

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 shoalsymphony.org or call 256-710-1623.

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

Shoals Christian School is having its 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.

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 well 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.

The LaGrange Living Historical Association meets the first Sunday (December 7) at 2PM at the LaGrange College Site Park 1491 LaGrange College Rd. Leighton. Contact L.C. Lenz 256-702-6953.

The Batting Brigade Quilt Guild has hospitality at 9 a.m. the second Monday of the month, (December 7) with a meeting at 9:30 a.m., at Edgemont United Methodist Church, Florence. For information, call Liz at 601-590-4367.

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.

Wednesday, December 12, 7pm. - 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.

See NOTES... page 27



Band...

Continued from Page 12

Community Band tradition, the performance will close with Leroy Anderson's rousing "Sleigh Ride."

The Shoals Community Band is part of a long tradition of "town bands" that perform for the public. It has existed off and on since the 1960s and was originally sponsored by Florence State College (now UNA) and the Florence Parks and Recreation Department. It is now a freestanding organization with weekly rehearsals and several public performances each year.

All local musicians are welcome to join the band at any time. The Shoals Community Band is the perfect way for current or former musicians to practice and perform in a friendly, low-pressure environment. Musicians interested in learning more can contact any current member of the band, or they can contact director, James Ed Champion, at 256-710-8489.

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Letters...

Continued from Page 20

Lessen Tension and Mistrust

Editor,

In his last speech before leaving the presidency in 1989, Ronald Reagan said, "We must keep up our guard, but we must also continue to work together to lessen and eliminate tension and mistrust." If Reagan lived in 2025, how popular would he be in MAGA circles?

Jim Newton
Itasca, IL

Support and Celebrate Small Business

Editor,

This holiday season, will you shop at one of the 33.2 million small businesses that make up 99% of all businesses in the U.S.?

Up and down rural main streets in rural America, shopkeepers are readying their stores for the season. Business owners are stocking special gifts and rolls of wrapping paper to provide added value when you spend your money with a local retailer.

Independently owned businesses are what keep our rural communities thriving. They rely on our patronage during the crucial holiday season as well as year-round.

This year, more than ever, small businesses need our support. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Index, 79% of independent business owners say this upcoming holiday season is important for their overall profit this year, up from 70% last year.

When you shop local, you support your community by paying sales tax. You are also helping out a small business owner who in turn might sponsor a school activity or host a community event, showing just how important main street businesses are as part of our life in rural America.

Shopping local is good for consumers as well. During this holiday season, more than half of small businesses, 56%, say they are planning to offer seasonal discounts and 48% say they will extend regular business hours (up

from 39% last year).

On average, shoppers plan to do 41% of their holiday shopping at small businesses, increased 5% from last year. I am one of these shoppers. Are you?

Small Business Saturday is on Nov. 29, a nationally recognized day to show your appreciation for local retailers. During this holiday season, and year round, #ShopSmall. Support your community, your friends, and your way of life.

When local businesses succeed, we all win.

Rhea Landholm
Communications Mgr.
Center for Rural Affairs
Lyons, NE

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The animals you see here are currently in local animal shelters or rescue facilities. Adoption fees vary and include having your new friend spayed or neutered, if necessary. Help us help these and other animals by adopting a new friend today.

Tootles



Tootles is a super sweet girl who loves cuddles, walks, and being close to her people. She does have some anxiety and can get a little worried when left alone. She likes to chew some when bored and having separation anxiety, it's not misbehavior. With structure, exercise, and love, she really thrives.

If you're looking for a loyal, loving companion who just wants to feel safe and included, Tootles could be your perfect match.

Emerald



Emerald is a beautiful, sweet girl who came in with her friend Azaria. She's dog-friendly and enjoys being around other pups. However, she will need a home without chickens. Emerald loves attention, companionship, and would thrive with someone who can give her a safe, loving home and a good routine. If you're looking for a loyal, loving dog who does great with other pups, Emerald might be the perfect addition to your family!

Azaria



Azaria is a smaller black-and-white sweetheart who came in with her friend Emerald. She's a timid girl at first, but once she feels safe, her gentle and loving personality really shines. Azaria just wants someone who will give her patience, kindness, and a quiet place to bloom.

If you're looking for a soft, sweet companion who will love you with her whole heart, Azaria may be the perfect match.

Adoption Info: • Fee: \$85 • Includes: Spay/neuter, vaccinations, microchip, and heartworm test
• Location: Florence Lauderdale Animal Services
• Contact: 256-760-6676



Notes...

Continued from page 25

Marketing Beef Directly to Consumers - Wednesday, December 10, 3pm-7pm at the Northwest Alabama Livestock Auction, AL HWY 243 South, Russellville,

This program will cover topics of cattle nutrition, local beef marketing, tackling farmers markets and a panel discussion. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or free language access services, contact Ali Gotcher at 334-752-1718 or acg0134@aces.edu by 11/19/2025. Address: Northwest Alabama Livestock Auction 14330 AL HWY 243 South Russellville, AL 35654 Contact: Ali Gotcher acg0134@aces.edu (334) 752-1718 Register Online View this event online: <https://www.aces.edu/event/marketing-beef-directly-to-consumers/>

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.

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.

All Saints College Ministry presents "A Christmas Story" at The Shoals Theatre, Friday, December 12, 7pm 123 N Seminary St., Florence, 256-764-1700

Based on the humorous writings of author Jean Shepherd, this beloved holiday movie follows the wintry exploits of youngster Ralphie Parker (Peter Billingsley), who spends most of his time dodging a bully (Zack Ward) and dreaming of his ideal Christmas gift, a "Red Ryder air rifle." Frequently at odds with his cranky dad (Darren McGavin) but comforted by his doting mother (Melinda Dillon), Ralphie struggles to make it to Christmas Day with his glasses and his hopes intact.

Tickets are \$5. Concessions will be available.

Odette presents the movie "Gremlins" at the Shoals Theatre, Friday, December 12, 9pm, 123 N Seminary St., Florence

A gadget salesman is looking for a special gift for his son and finds one at a store in Chinatown. The shopkeeper is reluctant to sell him the 'mogwai' but sells it to him with the warning to never expose him to bright light, water, or to feed him after midnight. All of this happens and the result is a gang of gremlins that decide to tear up the town on Christmas Eve.

Nowhere - To - Run Wrestling Fundraiser for the Sheffield Bulldog Football Team, Saturday, December 13 at Sheffield Recreation Center, 2800 E. 19th Ave, in Sheffield - across from the school. Doors open at 6pm, Bell time 7pm. Floor Seats \$20 - Bleachers \$10.

Bank Independent Mortgage Lending presents "The Muppet Christmas Carol" movie at The Shoals Theatre, Sunday, December 14, 2pm

The Muppets perform the classic Dickens holiday tale, with Kermit the Frog playing Bob Cratchit, the put-upon clerk of stingy Ebenezer Scrooge (Michael Caine). Other Muppets -- Miss Piggy, Gonzo, Fozzie Bear and Sam the Eagle -- weave in and out of the story, while Scrooge receives visits from spirits of three Christmases -- past, present and future. They show him the error of his self-serving ways, but the miserable old man seems to be past any hope of redemption and happiness.

Tickets are \$5. Concessions will be available.

Colbert County Tourism and the Alabama Music Hall of Fame are excited to welcome Mark Narmore, Bobby Tomberlin, and Tess Frizzell back to the stage for one of our community's favorite holiday traditions, the Shoals Holiday Concert on Tuesday, December 16. Doors at the HOF open at 6pm and music begins at 6:30. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame, Colbert County Tourism, or call the HOF at 256-381-4417.

Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club, 10am, third Wednesday, (December 17) at Helen Keller Public Library, 511 Main St., Tuscaloosa. nancy537481@yahoo.com

See NOTES... page 30

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December 2 - December 11



Real Estate: This 3BR/2BA brick home with basement was built circa 1972 and sits on 12.7 ± acres. The property fronts 1,152ft ± along Lexington Highway (TN 227) and is predominantly pastureland. The property will be offered in 2 tracts and again as 1 unit.

Personal Property: 2006 Nissan Sentra (93K miles), Tractors (not running): John Deere 1010 (2,419 hrs), Massey Ferguson 135 (1,031 hrs), 5030 Allis-Chalmers (880 hrs), 3-pt hitch rotary cutters, disc, cultivator, Snapper riding mowers, car dolly, 8ft bumper trailer, Honda XL185S motorcycle (not running), various tools, and household items.

Seller: Patsy Sue Mattox Estate

Open House: Dec 7th, 1-3PM

Pick Up: Sat, Dec 13 9-2PM

Terms: Real Estate - 10% down payment with balance due within 45 days. Personal Property - Cash or good check day of item pickup. Seller reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Real Estate and Personal Property will be sold "AS-IS" without warranties of any kind.



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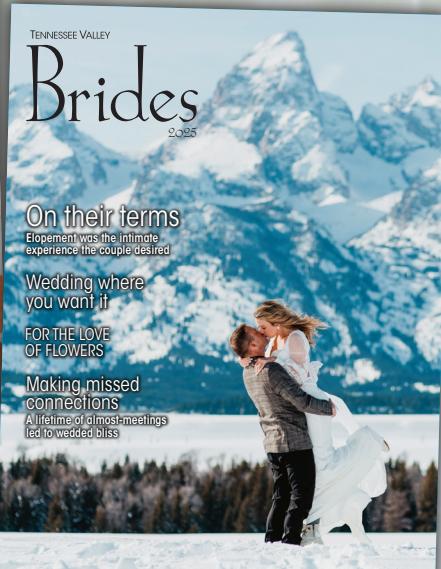
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Savvy SENIOR

How to Prepare Your Online Accounts Before You Die

Dear Savvy Senior,

I recently had an estate plan drafted, including a will, power of attorney and advance directive, but I'm not sure what to do about all my online accounts – email, banking, and social media. What can I do to make sure my family can access what they need and protect my digital information after I'm gone.

Almost 80

Dear Almost,

In addition to creating an estate plan, you should also make a “digital will” that lists all your online accounts and login information. This will help your loved ones access your electronic devices and online accounts more easily so they can manage your electronic affairs, according to your wishes, after you’re gone.

Montana State University offers a Digital Assets Inventory Worksheet (see Montana.edu/estateplanning/digitalassetsworksheet.pdf) to help you get started. Or consider purchasing a “password book” on Amazon for a few dollars. This will let you record and organize your online account information alphabetically. Here are a few other tips to help you prepare your digital life for your survivors.

Apple: If you’re an iPhone, iPad or Mac user, you should nominate a “legacy contact” who can access your Apple account’s data after you die. This is a secure way to give trusted people access to photos, files and messages. To set it up you’ll need an Apple device with a fairly recent operating system. iPhones and iPads need iOS or iPadOS 15.2 and MacBooks need macOS Monterey 12.1.

For iPhones, go to settings, tap Sign-in & Security and then Legacy Contact. You can name one or more people, and they don’t need an Apple ID or device.

You’ll have to share an access key with your contact. It can be a digital version sent electronically, or you can print a copy or save it as a screenshot or PDF.

Take note that there are some types of files you won’t be able to pass on – including digital rights-protected music, movies and passwords stored in Apple’s password manager. Legacy contacts can only access a deceased user’s account for three years before Apple deletes the account.

Google: Google takes a different approach with its Inactive Account Manager (see Support.google.com/accounts/answer/3036546), which allows you to share your data with someone if it notices that you’ve stopped using your account. When setting it up, you need to decide how long Google should wait – from three to 18 months – before considering your account inactive. Once that time is up, Google can notify up to 10 people.

You can choose what types of data they can access – including emails, photos, calendar entries and YouTube videos.

There’s also an option to automatically delete your account after three months of inactivity, so your contacts will have to download any data before that deadline.

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



Facebook and Instagram: If you’re on Facebook or Instagram, both of which are owned by the parent company Meta, you can have your accounts either memorialized or deleted after you die if the companies get a valid request from a family member or friend. See Facebook.com/help/1111566045566400 or Help.Instagram.com/264154560391256 for details.

Meta also strongly recommends Facebook users add a legacy contact to look after your memorial accounts – see Facebook.com/help/1070665206293088. Legacy contacts can do things like respond to new friend requests and update pinned posts, but they can’t read private messages or remove or alter previous posts. You can only choose one person, who also must have a Facebook account.

Passwords: If you use a password manager – a service that creates, saves and manages passwords for all your online accounts – see if it has an emergency access feature. Some services, like Keeper, Bitwarden and NordPass, allow users to nominate one or more trusted contacts who can access your keys in case of an emergency or death.

STRANGE but TRUE

- The blocks of the Washington Monument are held together by gravity and friction, rather than mortar.
- Ancient Romans gave a hard “no” to the practice of eating butter, with Pliny the Elder referring to butter as “the choicest food among barbarian tribes.” Why? Mainly because they used it for treating burns and thus thought of it as a medicinal salve rather than food.
- Pencils have never been made from lead.
- The leather diamond patch on the outside of backpacks, called a “lash tab,” was initially used by mountaineers to secure their gear.
- Harvard University is older than calculus.
- Some research has shown that up to 40% of a worker ant colony may remain idle while their comrades soldier on with the labor. But before you label them lazy, one theory, based on scientific observation, is that keeping a team of workers on standby allows the colonies to stay productive.
- Heinz Ketchup has a “speed limit” of .028 miles per hour, set by the company as an indicator of the product’s consistency.
- The tradition of serving ham at Christmas comes from the Norse festival of Yule, where a boar was sacrificed to honor the deity Freyr.
- “Watching paint dry” is an actual occupation for some folks, requiring an observation of the changing colors and particles of the substance as it dries, both on walls and under a microscope.
- Manhattan, New York’s most popular transportation hub, Grand Central Terminal, is radioactive.

Thought for the Day:
“A strong nation, like a strong person, can afford to be gentle, firm, thoughtful and restrained. It can afford to extend a helping hand to others. It’s a weak nation, like a weak person, that must behave with bluster and boasting and rashness and other signs of insecurity.” -- Jimmy Carter

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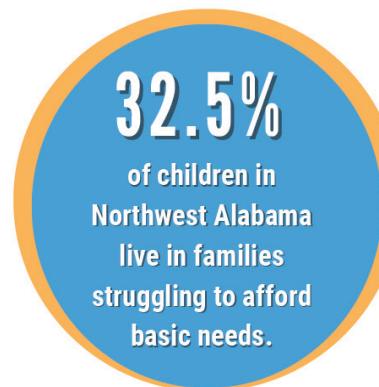
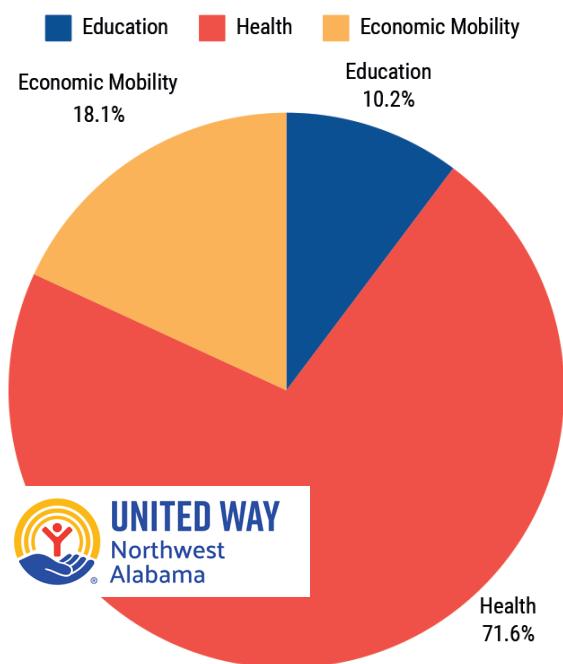
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Is your company involved in the United Way's WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN?



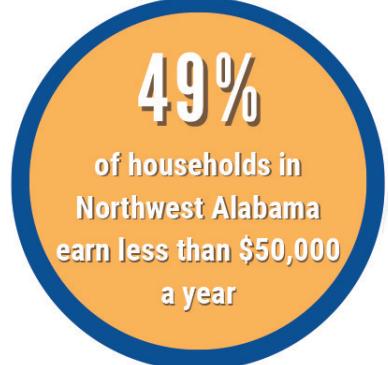
PROGRAM FOCUS AREA BREAKDOWN



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

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



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

Space courtesy of Courier Journal.

Community Notes...

Continued from page 27

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

Shoals Artists Guild Meeting will NOT TAKE PLACE on Friday, December 19 this month, due to the holidays.

Lost Pizza Co. Shoals presents "Christmas Vacation" movie at The Shoals Theatre, Friday, December 19, 7pm.

As the holidays approach, Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) wants to have a perfect family Christmas, so he pesters his wife, Ellen (Beverly D'Angelo), and children, as he tries to make sure everything is in line, including the tree and house decorations. However, things go awry quickly. His hick cousin, Eddie (Randy Quaid), and his family show up unplanned and start living in their camper on the Griswold property. Even worse,

Clark's employers renege on the holiday bonus he needs.

Tickets are \$5. Concessions will be available.

The Crossroads Christmas Community Event will take place on Saturday, December 20, 1-4pm 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.

Singers in the Round - Saturday, December 20, 7pm at Abraham Rowe Photography, Cypress Mill Studio, 204 Cypress Mill Rd., Florence. Caleb Elliott & Doc Dailey & Magnolia Devil & The Polleys & The Wanda Band. Tickets at bandsintown.com

Kelli Lambert RE/MAX Tri-State presents the "Elf" movie at the Shoals Theatre, Saturday, December 20, 2pm.

Come enjoy this instant Christmas classic with a special appearance by Santa Creel in the lobby starting at 1pm for photos before the movie!

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.

Hours: 307 Veterans Drive, Florence, 256-765-7038 Hours of Operation: Monday: 9am - 5pm, Tuesday: 9am - 7pm, Wednesday: 9am - 5pm, Thursday: 9am - 7pm, Friday: 9am - 5pm, Saturday: 9am - 3pm and Sunday: 1 - 5pm

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!

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"It's a Dickens Christmas, Y'all"

returns to downtown Tuscaloosa on Saturday, December 13, 10am-4pm. The free downtown festival will have Dickens characters, carolers, and brass bands along Main Street throughout the day.

Expect "snow", carriage rides, trolley tours, Victorian dancers, an arts and crafts market tent, food vendors and themed specials at downtown shops and eateries. Special events (some with modest admission charges) are: "Scones and Moans", Breakfast with Rudolph, Poetry and Music at St. John's Church, Milk and Cookies with Tiny Tim, S'mores Firepit, Cookie Decorating, Ornament Making, Story-telling by Delores Hydock, and a Holiday Tea in Deshler's historic Winston Home. Santa will make his annual visit to Tuscaloosa during the event. The Dickens themed Christmas Festival is sponsored with community participation by

Tuscaloosa Retail Development, Inc. For info: call 256-383-9797 or 256-383-0783. Follow on Facebook - 15th Annual It's A Dickens Christmas Y'all.

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. 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.

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.

The Florence Senior Center/The Club is now offering transportation

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

Call 256-760-6420 for more information.

F3 Shoals: Fitness Fellowship

Faith. F3 is a free workout group that is open to all men, is always held outdoors, has rotating leadership, and it ends in a time of fellowship and prayer. The mission of F3 is to plant and grow men's small workout groups to invigorate male community leadership. Our weekly schedule is Monday & Thursday at

Gatman Park in Muscle Shoals, Tuesday & Friday at Diebert Park in Florence, and Wednesday at TVA Trails Thunder Rd trailhead. All workouts begin at 5:30am. Look for the planted American shovel flag! <https://map.f3nation.com/> or call for more info 256-394-2326.

Historical Plaques Again Available

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

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

Billy Warren at 256-718-5020 or by email: 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>

See NOTES... page 31

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THE COURIER JOURNAL WILL CONCLUDE BUSINESS on Wednesday this week for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

THE AD DEADLINE for the November Dec. 3 issue is 4pm WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26

(The Wednesday before Thanksgiving) Call 256-764-4268

Classified ads placed on Friday, November 28 online or through the call center will publish Dec. 10.



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SIGNS OF THE PAST

**Jason Isbell**

Winner of national and international music awards, including multiple Grammys in various categories and the UK Americana Award, Jason Isbell was judged the best in three categories of the U.S. Americana Awards in 2014.

INDUCTED 2025**CITY OF FLORENCE
WALK OF HONOR**

Location:
34.8066°N, 87.6314°W
**River Heritage Park,
Florence**

Jason was born in Greenhill and grew up in North Alabama. He attended the Univ. of Memphis and received a bachelor's degree in English. He worked for FAME studios from ages 21 to 36. In addition to an impressive musical career, Jason Isbell has starred in several movies, and maintains an active political life.

~ Courtesy David Curott ~

author of

**"Historical Markers and
Other Signs of the Past"**

Notes...

Continued from page 30

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>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

WE BUY ZERO TURN RIDING MOWERS. All brands, Hustler, tree trimming, stump grinding, Walker, Troy-Bilt, John Deere, Cub Cadet, etc. Running or not. Any condition 256-275-2276

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\$1.29 LB.**Jennie-O Turkey**
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\$4.99 BAG**Tennessee Pride Sausage**
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