

## UNA's 3 Phi Kappa Phi's

BATON ROUGE, LA-- Three local UNA students - Jessica Wiley, Mattley Carpenter, and Sarah Lauderdale, all of Florence - recently were elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi

See SHORTS... on Page 2

## Revenue Tax Deadline Nears

By **Bernie Delinski**  
Times Daily Staff Writer  
First published 12/17/25

FLORENCE — The number of days remaining to file property taxes is winding down and Lauderdale County Revenue Commissioner, Billy Hammock, said that number may be fewer than many people realize.

Hammock said the combination of days when the Lauderdale County Courthouse will be closed, and the fact the U.S. Postal Service routes local mail through the Birmingham is

limiting the window for filings.

That also applies to filing for a new



**Hammock**

amount they paid the prior year.

See PROPERTY... on Page 4



Residents pay property taxes at the counter last week inside the Lauderdale County Courthouse in Florence as the deadline approaches.

Dan Busey/TimesDaily

# Season's Greetings

Volume 143 Number 9

December 24, 2025

POSTAL PATRON

## Courier Journal

### SERIOUS INJURIES



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.

## 25 Years Free Dental Work



**Pieroni**

FLORENCE – The Shoals Community Clinic in Florence celebrated 25 years of its Dental Clinic program last week with a reception honoring founding members and current volunteers. Over those 25 years, 55 volunteer dentists from around the area have helped over 7,000 people relieve pain from bad teeth or chronic oral infection.

"The Dental Clinic's mission is to provide emergency care and alleviate pain by offering tooth extractions

See DENTAL WORK... on Page 6

A 1997 U.S. \$50 gold coin dropped anonymously into a Salvation Army red kettle recently was appraised at \$4,225.

Dan Busey/TimesDaily

## SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE FIND

## Gold Coin Boosts Match Day Event

By **Alyssa Sutherland**  
Times Daily Staff Writer  
First published 12/13/25

FLORENCE — Salvation Army of the Shoals Human Resources Director Carly Stoltz felt her heart jump while helping count Red Kettle donations from the annual match day.

The reason: She spotted a glimmer of gold.

"Someone dumped out a bucket of change, and I saw the flash," she said. "I was like, 'oh my gosh!'"

"I reached over and held it up, and I was just so excited, because I knew immediately it would be valuable."

The flash of gold was a 1997 U.S. \$50 gold coin.

If taken to the bank, the

See GOLD COIN...on Page 24

## INSIDE this Issue

### Automotive Inside



Ray Miller GMC  
Advance Auto Sales

- Ask the Attorney
- Medicare Minute
- Your Letters
- Savvy Senior
- Hocus Focus

- 30 Hr. Aclothon
- Commentary
- Dave Ramsey
- Coloring Winners
- Strange, But True



- Moments in Time



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### Take Advantage of These Tax Credits Before It's Too Late!

Shoals homeowners can claim up to \$2,000 in federal tax credits toward a HVAC system. AND - stack that credit with additional equipment rebates and EnergyRight cash incentives from TVA.

Federal tax credits end on December 31, 2025.



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# Take Advantage Credits Before

Shoals homeowners  
\$2,000 in federal tax  
HVAC system. AND  
with additional equ  
EnergyRight cash in

Federal tax cr  
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## Shorts...

### UNA's 3 Phi Kappa Phi's

Continued from Page 1

Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

The three are among a select number of students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership.

**NEED HELP?**  
CONTACT 2-1-1

*Your link to community resources*

### Proposals for Pope's Mural

FLORENCE – Thanks to a grant from the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, Florence Arts & Museums is seeking proposals from local artists for a mural at Pope's Tavern Museum. The objective of the project is to enhance the historic site at Pope's Tavern with a creative expression of historical events relevant to the Shoals area. Organizers seek to encourage learning, contemplation, and discovery, while bringing people together through an exploration of the area's past, present, and future. We are hoping this project will add to the interpretation at the Museum, which focuses on 19th century history of Florence and Lauderdale County, including domestic life, slavery, and the Civil War. The deadline for submissions will be January 30, 2026. The request for proposal

form can be downloaded from our website ([www.florencealmuseums.com](http://www.florencealmuseums.com)).

The design that will go on the building will be chosen by a selection committee; if you are interested in serving on this committee, please send a resume, CV, or short cover letter to: [connect@florencealmuseums.com](mailto:connect@florencealmuseums.com) with the subject line: PT Mural Selection Committee.

Call 256-760-6379 or email [connect@florencealmuseums.com](mailto:connect@florencealmuseums.com) for more information.

### UNA's Second Game with AU

AUBURN – Last year, UNA announced a football game with Auburn during the 2028 season. The game was previously announced for September but has since moved to later in the season.

Now, in a recent joint announcement, a second

game has been scheduled at Jordan-Hare Stadium for the 2032 season.

Future games between UNA and Auburn will take place on November 4, 2028, and October 30, 2032.

"Adding a second future game with Auburn is an exciting opportunity for the University of North Alabama," said UNA Director of Athletics Dr. **Josh Looney**. "Opportunities to face premier in-state opponents are invaluable for our program, and we appreciate Auburn's commitment to these matchups by extending a second invitation to visit Jordan-Hare Stadium."

Jordan-Hare Stadium will be the largest venue that North Alabama has visited with a seating capacity of 88,043.

**Courier  
Journal**

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## 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](mailto:editor@courierjournal.net)

**The Lauderdale County Solid Waste Department and the landfill** will close at 1pm Wednesday, December 24 and will be closed all day Christmas Day - Thursday, December 25. Household garbage pickup will be delayed by one day late in the week due to the Christmas Holiday. The solid waste office will also be closed Friday, December 26, however the landfill will be open Friday and Saturday December 26 and 27 for normal operating hours.

The department will also be closed New Year's Day Thursday, January 1, with household collections delayed by one day late in the week.

### Muscle Shoals Sounds Studio Holiday Schedule:

Closed over the holidays, reopening Tuesday, January 6.

Hours in 2026 will still be 10am-4pm, Tuesday-Saturday with guided tours 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30. Tours last 45 minutes.

Prices maintained for 2026: \$25 for adults, children 5 and under free. Special discounts for military and senior citizens.

The studio is available for rental for private events, weddings and is a pet friendly attraction.

Tours can be purchased online at [www.muscleshoalsoundstudio.org](http://www.muscleshoalsoundstudio.org) or in the gift shop. 256-978-5151. 3614 Jackson Highway, Sheffield

**The Underwood-Petersville Community Center** is open and available. Let us host your event. Contact us at 256-764-1388 or by email [UPCC.info@yahoo.com](mailto:UPCC.info@yahoo.com)

**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.

### LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:

**Friday, December 26** Sam's Club, Florence, 10am - 4pm

**Saturday, December 27** Walmart - Cloverdale Road - Florence, 10am - 4pm

**Sunday, December 28** Foodland - Killen, 10am - 4pm

**Tuesday, December 30** Easter Seals Rehabilitation, 1615 Trojan Drive, Muscle Shoals, AL 9am - 1pm

**Saturday, January 3** Foodland - Rogersville, 10am - 4pm

**Monday, January 12** Liberty Finance of Athens, 9am - 4pm

**Tuesday, January 13** Terrace Manor Nursing and Rehab, 9am - 5pm

**There is space HERE for YOUR EVENT**, and plenty of eyes to read it. Email your information to [editor@courierjournal.net](mailto:editor@courierjournal.net)

**Game Day - Thursday, January 15, 1-3pm** at Bartholomew's Church, 1900 Darby Drive, Florence, every third Thursday of each month. Games provided or bring some. 678-372-3526

**Additional 2026 Dates:** February 19, March 19, at Bartholomew's Church, 1900 Darby Drive, Florence.

## Property Tax...

Continued from Page 1

Hammock cautions those paying by mail the payment must be postmarked by December 31. He said the mail goes through Birmingham and then is taken to Florence, which can take several days.

"We have seen them take as long as five days and we've seen them in one day," Hammock said. "That's my concern. It doesn't matter when we work it. It must be postmarked before the end of the year."

Payments also can be made in person and online for Lauderdale County residents, he said.

To pay online, go to [alproptax.com](http://alproptax.com) and enter your county in the box that pops up and follow instructions. Hammock said a 2.5% online fee is added for the transaction.

Residents also can come to the revenue commissioner's office on the first floor of the Lauderdale County Courthouse to file in person. Hammock said work on the heating and air conditioning system is underway, so he recommends dressing warmly.

Those who file late incur a cost of \$20 per account and 1% of what they owe, Hammock said.

He said the courthouse is open Thursday, Friday, Monday and Tuesday and then closes starting Wednesday, December 24, for Christmas.

It reopens December 29 and remains open through December 31. That is a total of seven business

days for filing. Courthouse hours are 8am-5pm.

The Colbert County Courthouse will close on December 24, December 25, and December 26. Its hours are 8am-4:30pm.

Lauderdale County homeowners 65 and older who have lived at the same location at least five years can fill out a senior property tax exemption, Hammock said.

He said there are no income restrictions on the program. Homeowners must reapply for the program each year.

A bill authorizing the freeze was introduced during the 2024 legislative session by District 1 State Rep. Phillip Pettus, R-Greenhill. It was signed into law by Gov. Kay Ivey on April 30, 2024.

Lauderdale County voters overwhelmingly approved of the local referendum, which received 95% of the vote in the 2024 general election.

Anyone who wants to file for the exemption can come to the revenue commissioner's office on the first floor of the courthouse and show proof of ownership of the home for at least five years and that you are at least 65.

## NEED HELP? CONTACT 2-1-1

Your link to community resources

DIAL- 2-1-1

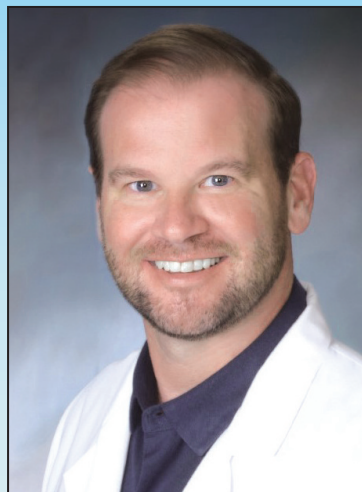
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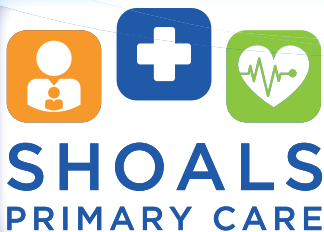
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See NOTES... page 5



# Notes...

Continued from page 4

**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](http://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

**The 30th Annual Tuscumbia Civitan 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, Fiddleddee 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 [Tuscumbiacivitan@gmail.com](mailto:Tuscumbiacivitan@gmail.com). Select previous years' ornaments are also available for \$15 each.

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

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

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

**The LaGrange Living Historical Association meets** the first Sunday (January 4) at 2pm at the LaGrange College Site Park 1491 LaGrange College Rd. Leighton. Contact L.C. Lenz 256-702-6953.

**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.

**The 'Hi Neighbors of the Shoals' women's social group** meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month (January 6) 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!

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church still has a few open spots** remaining for its **FREE CPR TRAINING CLASS** on January 10. If you would like to gain these valuable, life-saving skills, please register. This class is completely free, offered by the church as a service to our community. 10am Saturday, January 10 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall (basement), 630 N Poplar St. in Florence. Free and open to the public. Child Care: Provided on-site at no cost. Registration Link: <https://warriorcprfa.enrollware.com/enroll?id=12288846>

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

**The Batting Brigade Quilt Guild** has hospitality at 9am the second Monday of the month, (January 12) with a meeting at 9:30am, at Edgemont United Methodist Church, Florence. For information, call Liz at 601-590-4367.

**The Batting Brigade Quilt Guild** has hospitality at 9am the second Monday of the month, (January 12) with a meeting at 9:30 a.m., at Edgemont United Methodist Church, Florence. For information, call Liz at 601-590-4367.

**Shoals Artists Guild Meeting** Every 3rd Friday of the month, (January 16), 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.

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).

**Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club**, 10am, third Wednesday, (January 21) at Helen Keller Public Library, 511 Main St., Tuscumbia. [nancy537481@yahoo.com](mailto:nancy537481@yahoo.com)

See NOTES... page 6

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As an added bonus for our advertisers, all classified ads placed in the Courier Journal are also online at [TNValleyStuff.com](http://TNValleyStuff.com).

**ONLINE** — at our Website...  
Go to [www.courierjournal.net](http://www.courierjournal.net) and click **"Place a Classified"**

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

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

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

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

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

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**Commercial Rate** 4 LINES Each additional line add \$1.50 — applies to anyone engaged in sale of goods/services on a recurring basis or for profit, licensed or not — including pets. 6 Weeks \$39 - Each additional line - add \$7.50 total **\$8.00** Week

**Real Estate Rate** 5 LINES Each additional line add \$1.50 — applies to agencies, individual, developers and anyone engage in selling, renting, leasing structures and/or properties in Real Estate or General section. 6 Weeks \$36 Each additional line - add \$7.50 total **\$8.00** Week

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\*one line is approx. 30 characters


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City

State

Phone

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

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**Please Print Ad Clearly.** NOT RESPONSIBLE for illegible handwriting

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



Longtime volunteer Dental Director at the Shoals Community Clinic, Dr. H. Gilman Griggs, cuts the ribbon on a dental exam room named in his honor.

Photos by Angela Bailey

## Dental Work...

Continued from Page 1

to those who do not have dental insurance and who cannot afford this service otherwise," said volunteer dental director, Dr. Gil Griggs. "Many of our patients are referred to us from Emergency Rooms or from other dental offices."

Special recognition was given to Dr. Griggs at the event for his 25 years of volunteering as dental director. Also honored was Dr. Nicholas Pieroni who provided 52% of the program's dental clinics over that period. Each was honored by dedicating the dental exam rooms in their honor.

"I don't want or need any special recognition," Pieroni commented, "I am proud to be able to assist those in need in our community. I hope other dentists will carry on this mission."

The Shoals Community

Clinic is a nonprofit health and dental clinic that serves the underserved. They provide primary healthcare for uninsured adults in our community and offer tooth extractions on Fridays when a volunteer dentist is available.

"We would like to be able to offer two or three dental clinics a month, but this depends on having volunteer dentists available," Clinic Executive Director, Bonita McCay. "If every dentist in the area would volunteer one clinic a year to this charity service, we would be able to fill the schedule."

The Dental Clinic schedule can be found on the clinic's Facebook page. More information about clinic programs and services is available by calling the clinic at 256-760-4713, Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm.

**Courier  
Journal**

### Personnel

#### EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Thomas V. Magazzu

#### ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES

Gregg Scott  
Heather Ridinger

#### GRAPHIC COORDINATORS

Russell Roden  
Andrea L. Gray

#### OFFICE STAFF/CLASSIFIED

Erin Gilbert

#### OFFICE STAFF/SALES ASST.

Tina Hill

#### CIRCULATION

Ted Fallin

#### OFFICE HOURS:

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

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

### 219 W. Tennessee St.

Florence, AL 35630

256-764-4268

Fax: 256-760-9618

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

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

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

or email to:  
[editor@courierjournal.net](mailto: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.

## Community Notes...

Continued from page 5

#### *Diamonds in the Rough/The Club* (Florence Senior Center)

**2026 Travel Schedule:**

New Orleans, March 16-20, \$790 double occupancy \$990 single occupancy. \$75 deposit now, final payment due Jan. 9.

Smokey Mountains, May 18-22, \$845 double, \$1004 single, final payment due March 11.

Niagara Falls/Canada, passport required, July 19-25, \$1199 double, \$1504 single, final payment May 12.

Mackinac Island, August 23-29, \$1195 double, \$1464 single, final payment due June 16.

Maine, October 10-18, \$1675 double, \$2134 single, final payment due Aug. 3.

Branson, December 7-11, \$915 double, \$1070 single, final payment due Sept. 30. \$75 deposit holds your space.

Make checks payable to Diamond Tours (NO CASH), Sign up at The Club, 256-760-6642, 450 Country Club Drive, Florence, AL 35633.

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**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.

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

**The 'Hi Neighbors of the Shoals' women's social group** meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month (January 6) 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!

**Wanna have some fun? Join the Creative Crafters** This is a craft group for adult friends who draw, craft, paint, sew, quilt, embroidery, crochet, etc. (all artisans welcome.) Bring your project to work on and come join us!

This group will meet at the Killen Library once a month. Here are the dates for the first quarter of the new year 2026. All Saturday Mornings: Feb. 21, March 21 and April 18 from 9am-12:45pm. All Adults Welcome!

See NOTES... page 7

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### The Greatest Giver and The Greatest Gift

**Acts 17:24-25** "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;" "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." **Romans 5:12** "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." **2 Corinthians 5:21** "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." **Hebrews 9:12** "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." **2 Corinthians 9:15** "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

**Romans 5:16** "And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification." **Romans 5:18** "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." **John 1:11-12** "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" **Romans 10:13** "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." The greatest giver, GOD, the greatest gift, salvation in Christ! Call on Christ for forgiveness and ask Him to save you today and receive the greatest Giver (CHRIST) and Gift (SALVATION) instantly, and have a Merry Christmas!

**Beacon Baptist Church**  
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1.2 miles north from red light on Hwy. 207 on left  
Sunday services at 10am and 11am and 6pm  
*Visitors welcome!*

**Notes...**  
Continued from page 6

**Florence-Lauderdale Public Library Computer & Technology Classes for January 2026**  
All classes are free. Registration is required due to limited seating. To register, please call 256-764-6564 ext. 127 or email [classes@fjpl.org](mailto:classes@fjpl.org).  
**Smartphone Series (iPhone and Android)** Thursday, January 8, 10:30am-12pm - Smartphone/Tablet Basics  
Become familiar with navigating your iPhone or Android device. Learn the difference between wi-fi connections and data plans along with how to adjust text size and font. Learn basic definitions such as syncing, apps, and the Cloud.  
**Thursday, January 15, 10:30am-12pm Smartphone / Tablet Communications**  
Set up your email account for easy access on your iPhone or Android. Learn how to communicate with your contacts via text message, Facebook message, or video chat.  
**Thursday, January 22, 10:30am-12pm Smartphone/Tablet Photos**  
Learn to use your iPhone or Android camera. Edit your photos with a variety of settings and organize them into folders. Then share your photos via email, text message, or social media.  
**Thursday, January 29, 10:30am-12pm Smartphone/Tablet Streaming**  
Become familiar with apps for streaming music and videos on your device. We will discuss the pricing, content, and compatibility of the popular apps and streaming services.

**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  
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**The Florence Senior Center/The Club is now offering transportation** 3 days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) for seniors, 60 years+, who are no longer driving and live within a five mile radius of The Club. For more program and transportation information please call The Club Monday-Friday, 9am-3:30pm. The Club is located at 450 Country Club Drive in Florence off of Savannah Highway next to the old landfill.  
Call 256-760-6420 for more information.

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

**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 30**

### Are you a diabetic?

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- Check Capacitor
- Tighten Electrical Connections
- Check Condenser Cleanliness
- Check Freon Pressures and Temps
- Check T-stat Operations
- Check Indoor Blower Motor
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- Check Evaporator Coil for Cleanliness
- Check Blower Motor Capacitor

1 VISIT

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The ideal candidate for this position is highly organized, has strong attention to detail, and must be able to multitask, prioritize deadlines, and keep information strictly confidential. We are looking for someone with a desire to go the extra mile.

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.

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Questions or resumes may be emailed to: [Kevin.Blurton@timesdaily.com](mailto:Kevin.Blurton@timesdaily.com)

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meaningful moments  
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every corner of your heart and  
home entering 2026 and always.



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## Commentary

# Food, Visits, Love, and Opportunities

Elements taken and adapted from similar but separate columns in this space from Christmas weeks in 2016 and 2022 and appropriate in 2025

**M**any people have mentioned that 2025 has flown by like no other year. I'm glad that other people feel the same way I do. The year has simply blown past.

It's good to reflect on the past year with all its ups and downs. Those who have experienced more than their fair share of downs can really appreciate the good, uneventful times.

It is easy and understandable for us to get absorbed in our own lives and the lives of our immediate family during the holiday season. The accelerated pace of the season can leave time for little else.

Even little things, like Christmas lights not working properly, can be a source of frustration. Others wish they had a strand of lights to hang and the opportunity to notice they don't work properly.

See **FOOD, VISITS...** on Page 17

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

## In A Few Words



**TOM MAGAZZU**  
Editor

## Courier Journal

# THIS WEEK

in the *Shoals*

December 24, 2025

## Happening THIS WEEK

# Assuaging Alcohol's Attraction

**SHEFFIELD**—District 1 / Shoals Area Alcoholics Anonymous is once again conducting their annual Alcotthon: 30 hours of nonstop AA meetings. The 2024 Alcotthon is hosted by The Sheffield AA Group, located at 201 E. Second St. in Sheffield. The event runs from noon on Wednesday, December 24 through 6pm on Thursday, December 25.

See **ALCOTHON...** on Page 30



**ANNUAL ALCOTHON:**  
**DECEMBER 24-25**  
**30 HOURS OF NONSTOP A.A. MEETINGS**

**AREA 1 - DISTRICT 1:**  
**Northwest Alabama counties of**  
**Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, and Lawrence**

**24 Hour Hotline:**  
**256-415-7719**  
For up-to-date speakers, events, and schedule changes, visit the local web page at [www.shoalsaa.org](http://www.shoalsaa.org)

**THE LAUDERDALE COUNTY SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT** and the landfill will close at 1pm Wednesday, December 24 and will be closed all day Christmas Day - Thursday, December 25. Household garbage pickup will be delayed by one day late in the week due to the Christmas Holiday. The solid waste office will also be closed Friday, December 26, however the landfill will be open Friday and Saturday December 26 and 27 for normal operating hours. The department will also be closed New Year's Day Thursday, January 1, with household collections delayed by one day late in the week.

**LIFESOUTH BLOODMOBILE HAS SCHEDULED** the following dates after the holidays:  
Friday, December 26 Sam's Club, Florence, 10am - 4pm  
Saturday, December 27 Walmart - Cloverdale Road - Florence, 10am - 4pm  
Sunday, December 28 Foodland - Killen, 10am - 4pm  
Tuesday, December 30 Easter Seals Rehabilitation, 1615 Trojan Drive, Muscle Shoals, AL 9am - 1pm  
Saturday, January 3 Foodland - Rogersville, 10am - 4pm  
Monday, January 12 Liberty Finance of Athens, 9am - 4pm  
Tuesday, January 13 Terrace Manor Nursing and Rehab, 9am - 5pm

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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](mailto:editor@courierjournal.net)
- **FAX:** 256-760-9618

## About Christmas

Editor,

All the toys for the children,  
All the gifts, for everyone,  
All the ads and commercials,  
Telling us to buy for fun.  
When shopping for your treasures,  
Just remember, when you are,  
In the midst of holiday pleasures,  
There's a spirit from afar.

Chorus  
He's the reason for the season,

Don't forget, wherever you go,  
Christ came down to earth to save us,  
Teach your children  
what they should know.

Through the hassle and the bustle  
and the holiday cheer,  
Keep your thoughts on the sacrifice  
of our savior, dear.  
He's the reason for the season,  
Happy birthday once again,  
He's the reason for the season,  
Born and died for all our sins.

Written by **Paul W. Sabatino**  
Florence

## A Christmas Stranger Early 1960's Memory

Dear Editor,

Christmas Eve morning, there's snow!

White Christmas, sledding - wait, no presents, no ham, no candy!

Mother and Dad got in the old car and off to town they went. It seemed like hours, but really it was no more than two. They returned with everything we needed for a family Christmas and things were right.

Christmas dinner was perfect. Family and a few friends were

More **LETTERS...** on Page 20

...The ride home was so weird,  
no one said anything ...





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**FORD: TAURUS, 2013 \$7,500.**  
2013 Ford Taurus SHO, Twin Turbo V6, AWD. This car is in very good condition inside and out, and has been very well cared for. •Mileage: 144,772 •PTU recently replaced (common issue taken care of) • It has very nice features such as remote start, heated and cooled seats (both front and rear), massaging front seats, automatic high beams and a few more features that I was very surprised to see it have. It runs perfect.



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## EKKLESIA MINISTRIES REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR EPA BROWNFIELD CLEAN UP GRANT

Proposal Due By: January 12, 2026

### Introduction/Background

Ekklesia Ministries exists to equip, empower, and edify believers to live out their God-given purpose through biblical teaching, discipleship, community engagement, and Christ-centered service. Ekklesia Ministries would typically fall under the category of a 501(c)(3) religious nonprofit organization, focused on advancing Christian values, strengthening families, and serving its community.

Ekklesia Ministries is in the northwest region of the State of Alabama. The address where the scope of the work will be performed is located at 146 Arthur E. Morgan Loop, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661. This RFQ is being prepared as part of an EPA Brownfield Grant.

The proposed project seeks funding to support the environmental cleanup and safe restoration of a designated Brownfield property currently affected by hazardous building materials, specifically asbestos-containing materials (ACM), and lead-based paint (LBP). These contaminants present significant health and environmental risks, including respiratory hazards, soil contamination, and threats to the surrounding community.

The cleanup grant will enable the property owner to conduct professional treatment, removal, and disposal of asbestos and lead in full compliance with EPA Brownfields Program standards, OSHA regulations, and state environmental guidelines. Certified environmental contractors will conduct all work to ensure public safety and regulatory compliance.

The overall goal of this project is to eliminate environmental hazards, restore the site to a safe condition, and prepare the property for redevelopment that benefits the local community. Once remediated, this Brownfield property will serve as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization, economic growth, and improved public health outcomes.

### PURPOSE OF RFQ

This RFQ seeks a qualified firm to assist with writing of the EPA Brownfield Cleanup grant application. If awarded the grant, the selection firm will implement the cleanup scope of work, which will include hazardous building materials, abatement oversight, architectural/engineering planning, regulatory compliance, and redevelopment project management.

### Proposal Schedule:

The tentative schedule has been proposed for this RFQ: Public Release of RFQ: December 10, 2025  
Deadline for RFQ Questions: January 5, 2026  
Deadline for Submitting Proposals to Ekklesia Ministries January 12, 2026

**For more details and specific requirements, please contact**  
Ekklesia Missionary Baptist  
Katenia Fitzgerald, Vice-President  
3007Hatch Blvd.  
Sheffield, AL 35660  
256-314-1700  
Kateniafitzgerald@iamekkleia.org

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256-383-4447 (option 2) [www.medshoals.com/medspa](http://www.medshoals.com/medspa)



# Moments in Time



• On Dec. 22, 2001, the world's first cloned cat, appropriately named CC, or Copy Cat, made her debut in a Texas biomedical lab. She lived for 18 years, possessed all the attributes of a normal cat, and her

birth jumpstarted a pet-cloning industry around the world.

• On Dec. 23, 1982, the Missouri Department of Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control told residents of Times

Beach, Missouri, that their town was contaminated by the chemical dioxin sprayed on its unpaved roads, with the unfortunate result that the town would have to be demolished. By February, the federal and state governments had spent \$36 million to buy all the town's houses, with the exception of one that the owners refused to sell, and the city was officially disincorporated.

• On Dec. 24, 1801, British inventor Richard Trevithick took seven of his friends for a test ride in his "Puffing Devil," aka "Puffer,"

the first steam-powered passenger vehicle.

• On Dec. 25, 1971, Garo Yepremian punted a 37-yard field goal in the second overtime of an AFC playoff game, giving the Miami Dolphins a 27-24 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in the longest game in NFL history: 82 minutes and 40 seconds.

• On Dec. 26, 1946, mobster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel opened the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Singer/comedian Jimmy Durante headlined the entertainment, with music by band leader

Xavier Cugat. The opening flopped, however, due to bad weather that kept away many Hollywood guests, and as gamblers didn't have rooms at the hotel, they took their winnings and gambled elsewhere. The casino lost \$300,000 in its first week.

• On Dec. 27, 1935, Regina Jonas became the first woman ordained as a rabbi. After many male rabbis fled Germany during World War II, she stepped into the void, though synagogues, at least, would not welcome her. She died in Auschwitz.

• On Dec. 28, 1917, writer/

satirist H.L. Mencken published a history of the bathtub, including a claim that bathing was unlawful in Boston between 1845 and 1862. The story, which was a spoof designed to test reader gullibility, was widely shared by newspapers and historians.

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## 2025 WINNERS



**Courier  
Journal**

We had hundreds of creative entries! *A Special Thanks To Everyone* for taking part in our 2025 Christmas Coloring Contest!

### Top 3 Winners In Each Age Group Pictured To The Right Receive:

a Large 1 Topping  
Pizza  
And

Holiday  
Goodies

**Courier  
Journal**

2-4



**1st Shiloh Brown**  
Age 4 - Florence



**2nd Willow McCullar**  
Age 3 - Muscle Shoals



**3rd Reese Austill**  
Age 2 - Muscle Shoals

The 9 Winners Pictured to the Right May Pick Up Their Prizes at the Courier Journal 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence Beginning at NOON Tuesday, Dec. 23

5-7



**1st Magnolia Hamm**  
Age 7 - Killen



**2nd Daniel Nevarez**  
Age 6 - Tuscumbia



**3rd Poppy King**  
Age 5 - Tuscumbia

### HONORABLE MENTIONS:

**2-4 Age Group:** Mylah Painter, Eleanor Quick, Scottie Elliott, Carson Loudy, Blakely Brewer, Aly Joy Brewer, Rhea Taylor, and Alexx Henderson

**5-7 Age Group:** Carter Nix, Ryder Taylor, Lyla Demastus, Nevaeh Troupe, Cayliegh Higginbotham, Hazel Peppers, Madeline Reeder, Margaret Cassady, Kamryn Fuqua, Corbin Tidwell, Yado Hirbo and Paislee Johns

**8-10 Age Group:** Mia Brown, Annie Pelt, Aria Reaves, Everly Baker, Konner Wilson, Kolby Austill, Samara Guterrez, Eva Howard, Ellie Westbrook, Ansley Womble, Dean Demastus, Bryant-Tide Thigpen, Elora Francisco, Levi White and Mary Martin

8-10



**1st Brooklyn Johns**  
Age 10 - Rogersville



**2nd Kylyn Willis**  
Age 9 - Florence



**3rd Sophia Quick**  
Age 8 - Tuscumbia





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**Fresh GROUND BEEF 73% Lean Family Pack**

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Lb.



**Prairie Fresh BONELESS PORK LOINS Family Pack**

**Family Pack BONELESS PORK CHOPS**  
**\$2.99**  
Lb.

**\$2.19**  
Lb.



**Large Bunch COLLARDS 6 Ct.**

**\$2.99**



**U.S. #1 Colorado RUSSET POTATOES 5 Lbs.**

**\$1.69**



**BROCCOLI CROWNS**  
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**\$1.99**



**Hothouse BEEFSTEAK TOMATOES**  
Lb.

**\$1.59**



**Food Club BLACKEYE PEAS 15 Oz.**

**2/\$1**



**Bush's PEAS OR BEANS 14-15 Oz.**

**5/\$5**



**Margaret Holmes GREENS 27 Oz.**

**2/\$5**



**Food Club Select VEGETABLES 14-15 Oz.**

**69¢**



**Duncan Hines FROSTING 16 Oz.**



**Duncan Hines CAKE MIX 14-15 Oz.**

**2/\$3**  
**99¢**



**Crisco VEGETABLE OR CANOLA OIL 40 Oz.**

**\$2.99**



**Food Club CHEESE Shreds, Chunks Or Cubes 8 Oz.**

**\$1.99**



**Pillsbury GRANDS!, CRESCENT ROLLS OR CINNAMON ROLLS 8 Ct.**

**2/\$4**



**Blue Bell ICE CREAM 1/2 Gallon Or 12 Pk. Cups Or That's Smart Gallon Pail**

**\$5.99**



**White Lily  
FLOUR  
OR MEAL**  
5 Lbs.

**2/\$5**



**Kraft  
MAYO**  
30 Oz.

**\$4.99**



**Hellmann's  
MAYO**  
30 Oz.

**Campbell's  
CREAM OF Chicken,  
Mushroom Or Celery  
SOUPS** 10 Oz.

**\$1.09**



**Swanson  
BROTH**  
32 Oz.

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**Premium  
SALTINES**  
2/\$7  
16 Oz.



**BISQUICK**  
40 Oz.

**\$3.99**



**Domino  
SUGAR**  
4 Lbs.

**2/\$6**



**Ritz,  
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Town House  
Club Crackers Or  
TRISCUTS**  
\$3.99  
7-12 Oz.



**Hefty  
EASY GRIP  
CUPS**  
18 Oz. 30 Ct.

**2/\$6**

**Mtn. Dew, Sunkist  
Starry Or  
PEPSI**  
2 Liters

**2/\$4**



**Mtn. Dew, Sunkist  
Starry Or  
PEPSI**  
12 Pk. 12 Oz. Cans

**2/\$15**



**Mtn. Dew,  
Sunkist, Starry  
Or PEPSI**  
3/\$12  
10 Pk. Mini Cans

**Mtn. Dew, Sunkist  
Starry Or  
PEPSI**  
6 Pk. .5 Liters

**3/\$10**



**Mtn. Dew, Sunkist  
Starry Or  
PEPSI**  
8 Pk. 12 Oz.

**2/\$12**



**Lay's  
CHIPS**  
7-8 Oz.

**2/\$5**



**TOSTITOS**  
9-14 Oz.

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**Golden Flake, UTZ Or  
Zapp's  
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**2/\$5**



**On the Border  
TORTILLA  
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## DAIRY & FROZEN

**PictSweet Select  
VEGETABLES**  
12-14 Oz.

**2/\$3**

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MARGARINE**  
1 Lb.

**99¢**

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ROLLS**  
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CREAM CHEESE**  
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SOUR CREAM**  
16 Oz.

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Mild, Hot  
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BREAST**

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Lb.

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WINGS**

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**Preferred Angus Beef Fam. Pk.  
Boneless RIBEYE  
STEAK**

**\$16.99**  
Lb.

**Preferred Angus Beef Bottom  
ROUND  
ROAST**

**\$5.99**  
Lb.

**Peeled & Deveined  
COOKED  
SHRIMP** 31/40

**\$8.99**  
1 Lb.

**Family Pack - Bottom  
ROUND  
STEAK**

**\$6.49**  
Lb.

**Jimmy Dean  
BACON**  
Regular, Applewood  
Or Thick

**\$3.99**



**Bryan  
COCKTAIL  
SMOKIES**  
Regular Or Beef

**2/\$7**



**Tennessee Pride  
SAUSAGE  
BALLS**

**\$4.99**



**Armour  
ORIGINAL  
MEATBALLS**

**\$10.99**



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## Commentary

# Food, Visits, Love, and Opportunities

Continued from Page 12

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We can easily lose sight of the bigger picture and forget the plight of others. Inflation continues to squeeze the food and energy budgets for many of our friends and neighbors, some tighter than you realize – tighter than they want to let on.

Since Christmas is a season of giving, we should be cognizant of those around us who need assistance to some degree. People who give and look to give regularly almost always

feel a greater blessing and at least as fulfilled as the recipients. Whether directed at individuals or worthy organizations, it's a feeling of happiness and contentment that is irreplaceable. That is especially true when dealing with people or animals or associated groups.

Local Food Banks like Shoals Dreamcenter (previously known as Loaves and Fishes) help to provide groceries to under-resourced families in the Shoals area. That list is ever-growing. And through the leveraging of federal programs like Feeding America that help to curb food waste, they can often use our dollars much more efficiently than we can as individuals.

Some people are in a nursing home, may have recently lost a long-time spouse or be otherwise secluded or separated from familiar surroundings and loved ones for the first time. They may never again see a bustling shopping center or a big family event. Some may have a terminal disease, and this could be their last Christmas. A random visit during the holidays and the months after can go a long way in lifting the spirits of older people. For that matter, a box full of personal or hygiene products could be the best present some nursing home residents will receive, and the most needed.

And while it's good to personally witness so much generosity during the holiday season and to see a lot of it publicized, we need to be mindful that there are twelve months in the year. After

the holidays, it is easy to forget about the plights of others with whom we may not regularly interact. Needs don't subside after the holidays. That true Christmas Spirit knows all seasons.

We can always give or mail an anonymous grocery gift card to someone who we know can use it, or we can help pay on someone's utility bill. Give your elderly neighbor a ride to the store on occasion if they don't drive and don't

have easily accessible transportation. When that mother of three in the grocery line comes up a little short with her debit card, cover those last few items for her. Take a neighbor's trash can back up the driveway after the garbage truck runs.

A small gesture that may seem insignificant to some can mean the world to others.

Regardless of our position, there is ALWAYS someone who has a greater need.

Who can we help today? Next month? In the summer?

We should always look for any opportunity that lifts someone else physically, mentally, or spiritually. We're all made richer for it.

*Thank you for reading. I wish everyone the utmost in health and personal blessings this Christmas season and in the year to follow.*

# Mystery Photo

**OF THE WEEK**

**December 24**

**WIN LUNCH FOR 2 at**

## Rosie's CANTINA

www.rosiesmexicancantina.com

in Downtown Florence

**ENTER ONLINE @**

**www.CourierJournal.net**

**Week of December 17 winner is**

**Ginny Brown of Tusculmbia**

who correctly guessed "Greasy Hands Barber Shop"

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.

# Dr. Carlos Liotta

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**Walk-ins are Also Welcome**

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Co.**



**A "Perfect" Winning Card ALSO wins \$50 CASH  
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Lyndsay Warren  
256-383-7077



**INDEPENDENCE BOWL**  
☐ Coastal Carolina at  
☐ Louisiana Tech

**MUSIC CITY BOWL**  
☐ Tennessee vs  
☐ Illinois

**ALAMO BOWL**  
☐ USC vs  
☐ TCU

**RELIAQUEST BOWL**  
☐ Iowa vs  
☐ Vanderbilt

**SUN BOWL**  
☐ Arizona St. vs  
☐ Duke

**CITRUS BOWL**  
☐ Michigan vs  
☐ Texas

**LAS VEGAS BOWL**  
☐ Nebraska vs  
☐ Utah

**CFP QTR FINAL - COTTON BOWL**  
☐ Miami/Texas A&M  
☐ vs Ohio St.

**CFP QTR FINAL - ORANGE BOWL**  
☐ James Madison/Oregon  
☐ at Texas Tech

**CFP QTR FINAL - SUGAR BOWL**  
☐ Tulane/Ole Miss  
☐ at Georgia

**WEEK 18 Tue.,  
December 30**

CHECK BOX BESIDE  
EACH WINNING TEAM

**DEADLINE: MONDAY,  
5PM DEC. 29**

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

**TIE BREAKER**  
Write Exact Score Below

**CFP QTR FINAL - ROSE BOWL**

☐ Alabama/Oklahoma  
☐ at Indiana



**Alabama  
Spine & Pain**



**Hamilton Family  
URGENT CARE**  
Walk-In Urgent and Family Care



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**Week 16 WINNER - OFF WEEK Week 17 Winner online by Dec. 24 and in the Dec. 31  
paper. Week 18 Winner online by Fri. Jan. 2 and in the Jan. 7 paper.**

**Enter online at [www.courierjournal.net](http://www.courierjournal.net)**

or Mail or deliver your entry to: **Courier Journal Gameday Scorecard**  
219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630 - Fax to: 256-760-9618

Winners will be listed online Tuesday afternoon and in the FOLLOWING week's Courier Journal.

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



# Medicare Minute Year-end Reminders

We have spent the past two months discussing the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period. We have talked about Medicare health plans. We have covered the different types of health plans and how to choose the one that may be best for you. We also discussed Medicare prescription drug plans and how they can change and need to be reviewed each year. But, just because the Annual Enrollment Period is over doesn't mean you can go to sleep at the wheel. There are some things you need to stay on top of.

To begin with you should make sure you have received your enrollment card from each insurance company you signed up with. If you enrolled into a Medicare Supplement and prescription drug plan you should have received two cards. One card from the company handling your supplement and another card from the company handling your drug plan. If you enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan you should have received one card and that's from the company your Advantage plan is with.

The second thing to verify is your premium is coming from the appropriate place such as your bank account or Social Security check. You may not know this until January. If the premium is taken out of your bank account, for example, and you don't see it deducted in January you will want to contact the company. You don't want to go two or three months without paying the premium and then have to pay those months at one time. It's better to address it up front.

On behalf of Lee, Hope, Beverly, Erica, Anah, Nicole, Caycee, Heather, Lisa, Mia and myself, I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! We would also like to thank each of you who read our column each week. We have had many calls and visits from our readers and it's always appreciated!!

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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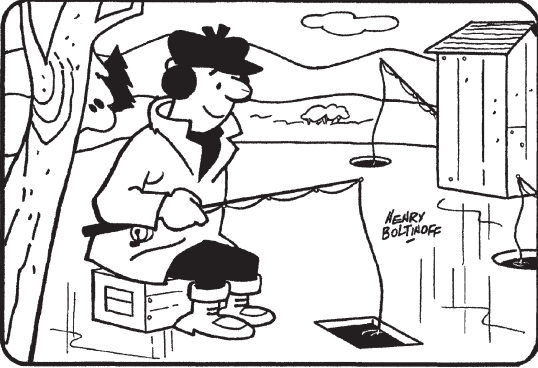
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<b>14 OZ. EAGLE BRAND SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK</b> <b>2/\$5</b>	<b>16 OZ. FOOD CLUB DRY BLACKEYE PEAS</b> <b>2/\$3</b>	<b>30 OZ. KRAFT MAYO</b> <b>\$4.98</b>	
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<b>16 OZ. DAIRY SOUR CREAM</b> <b>2/\$5</b>	<b>3 LB. BAG HALOS MANDARINS</b> <b>\$4.98</b>	<b>25-32 OZ. EDWARDS PIES PECAN OR CREAM</b> <b>\$5.98</b>	
<b>8 OZ. DUTCH FARMS CHEESE SHREDS</b> <b>2/\$4</b>	<b>5 LB. BAG RUSSET POTATOES</b> <b>\$2.28</b>	<b>8 OZ. COOL WHIP TOPPING</b> <b>2/\$4</b>	
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**HOCUS-FOCUS**BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hut is taller. 2. Laces are missing. 3. Crate is different. 4. Cloud is lower. 5. Reel is lower. 6. Fishing line is different.

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**Letters...****A Christmas Stranger**

Continued from Page 12

enjoying the holiday feast. The front doorbell rang (Sixteen bells). No one we knew ever came to the front door. I opened the door to see a visitor I didn't know. He was an elderly gentleman in a ruffled dark suit. He wore a black derby-like hat with a long overcoat.

He asked for my parents, so I let him in. He carried a small satchel like a salesman. As far as I know, his name never came up. My folks quickly made room for him at the big table.

When the meal was over my dad asked him where he was going. He said the bus station. That was in downtown Sheffield, opposite the old hospital.

We all piled into the car and off to the bus station we went. The stranger had a sack full of leftovers and dad gave him money for a bus ticket. We didn't really know where he was going or who he was. He thanked as all for our kindness and asked God to bless us all.

The bus pulled away onto the wet street and disappeared. The ride home was so weird, no one said anything. To this day, we all had our own ideas about that

Christmas. Who was the stranger? Why did he choose our house? All I can think was, "I was hungry and you fed me." We have all been blessed.

**Larry Lewis**  
Tuscumbia born and raised (DHS '69)

**Minutes Still Not Accurate**

Editor,

I spoke at the November 4, 2025, Florence City Council meeting. The Council, at their November 18 meeting, approved the minutes for the November 4 meeting. On November 19, I secured a copy of the minutes for the November 4 meeting. I found that my comments were not fully recorded in the minutes. I am assuming that the six Council members and the City Clerk/City Treasurer reviewed the November 4 meeting minutes prior to the November 18 meeting. No one noticed the omissions!

The omitted comments were:

1. Under the Consent Agenda two payments were shown. I asked the Council if they were aware how the vendors were selected? I added, if yes, please explain to the citizens. If not, please

pull these items from the agenda.

2. Also under the Consent Agenda was a resolution to reappoint an individual to the Florence/Lauderdale County Tourist Board (FLCTB). I spoke against the resolution due to the FLCTB scheduling a softball tournament without first checking with Parks and Recreation to make sure the fields were available.

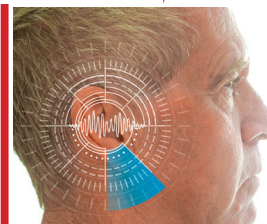
The FLCTB only shows total community benefits for sponsored events, without a breakdown on the items (food costs, hotel cost, etc.). I also mentioned that I believed the Director of the FLCTB, is a Canadian citizen. I asked if the director had met the rules to remain in this country, and I asked if prior to the meeting if the opening on FLCTB had been announced to allow other citizens to apply.

In addition, at the December 2 Council meeting there was no mention of any revisions to the November 4 meeting minutes, even though, prior to this meeting, I alerted the Council to the omissions from November 4.

**Bill Smoak**  
Florence



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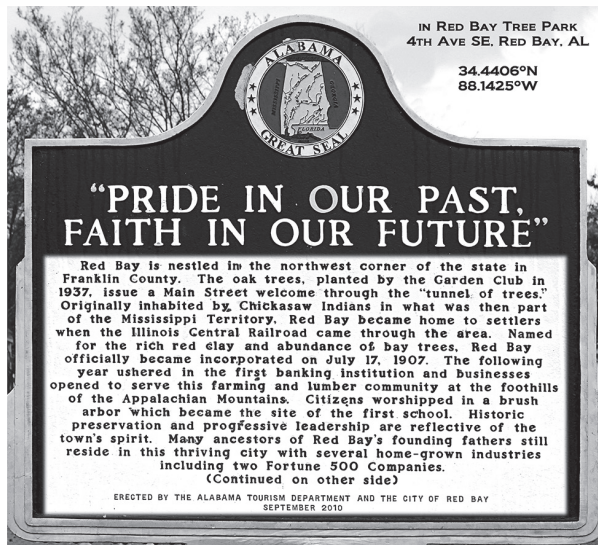
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4th Ave SE, Red Bay, AL

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~ Courtesy David Curott ~ author of  
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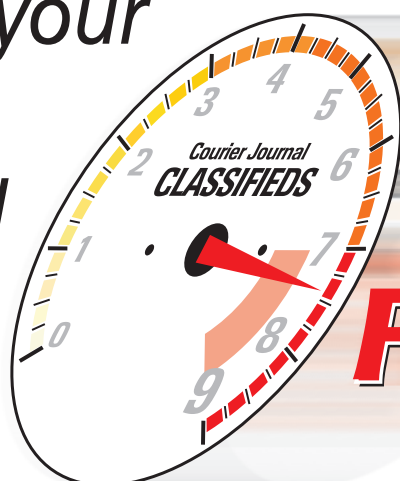
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Jill's Sweet Memories	The Venue at Overton Farm
Jut's Weddings and Special Events	TN Valley Brides Magazine
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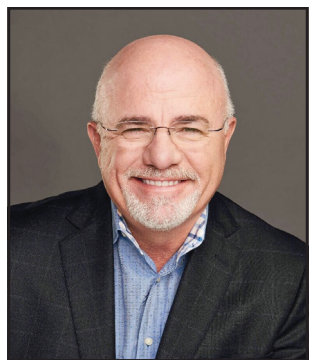


# DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

## THE HEALING PROCESS WILL TAKE TIME

Dear Dave,  
I started following your plan at the first of the year. It was one of my New Year's resolutions. I even budgeted for Christmas each month. I've already gotten my holiday shopping done early, but in the process, I went a little crazy and overspent. Realistically, I know things will be okay. I stayed on track all year until now, but I'm still feeling ashamed about blowing my budget this month after doing so well the rest of the year. Do you have any suggestions for dealing with the guilt and getting motivated again?  
Madelyn



Dear Madelyn,  
You decided to take control of your finances nearly a year ago. And up until just recently it sounds like you were doing a great job. Lots of folks make mistakes in the first year. It's only natural when you're trying on a completely new behavior, whether it's with money or something else.  
You've already made the decision to change your life, and a few spending mistakes this month doesn't change that. It also doesn't wipe out nearly a year's worth of discipline and hard work. So, I'm proud of you! And for what it's worth, I give you permission to stop beating

yourself up, and start moving forward again.  
Most people don't take time to identify where they want to go in life, or how to get there. They just shuffle along. They blame situations, circumstances, and even other people, for where they are. Some even think it's someone else's job to take care of them. That's called being a child. Children do what's fun in the moment, and they don't plan ahead. Adults devise a plan. They stick to it. And, they don't let one little mistake ruin a whole year's worth of work.  
After I went broke years ago, I made plenty of mistakes in the process of learning a new, and better, way of handling money. Do yourself a favor, okay? Think back to all those months when you were doing so well. You've already proven you can make this thing work. So please, don't let one bad month overshadow a year's worth of great work. Kicking a bad habit is hard. It's tough. And no one—I repeat, no one—does it perfectly.

I want you to focus on the future, Madelyn. Clean up this one, little mess. Then put it behind you, and promise yourself you'll pay more attention going forward to your spending when the holidays and special occasions come

around.  
You can do it!  
— 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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# Happy HOLIDAYS

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INSURANCE INSIGHTS

## Gold Coin...

Continued from Page 1

coin would only be worth its assigned \$50. However, to someone who understands the value of gold, the coin is worth much, much more.

"I dabble in collecting silver and precious metals, so I knew it would be worth something," Stoltz said. "This is my first year being part of the Army, and I was expecting to count some folded-up bills and loose change, but we have a very generous area."

Salvation Army Lts. Tim and Michelle Cook said this is not the first time they have encountered a gold coin in a Red Kettle.

They were formerly stationed in Louisville, Kentucky, and they said a donor would drop one in a kettle each year still wrapped in its plastic packaging.

So, they knew that it was important to have the coin appraised.

"I went in just wanting to get it checked out and wanting to talk to someone more knowledgeable," Michelle Cook said. "The coin is valued at \$4,225. I was just trying to keep my composure."

She added the coin was so valuable because of its condition. Per the appraiser, it is nearly perfect with no evidence of wear.

"You can still feel all the ridges," she said. "It looks like the donor took it out of the case and put it directly in the kettle."

The appraiser intends to purchase the coin, and the anonymous match day donor has agreed to include the appraised value of the coin in the match amount.

A total of \$26,000.55 was raised on match day, including the coin's appraised value.

Once the anonymous donor provides the match, that will bring the match day total to \$52,001.10. The 2025 Red Kettle campaign total through December 13 was \$103,000.55.

"Kettle season is one of our biggest funding sources for programming and social services," Tim Cook said. "This is the time of year when people are more outwardly generous, and it's the same time when... because it's the end of the year, a lot of belts get tightened with the Christmas season and the season turning colder. More funding is being used to support the community, but the community is also donating more."

"The Salvation Army had a slogan a few years ago: 'Hope knows no season,'" said Michelle Cook. "It's true. The more money we raise during Red Kettle, the longer we can help the community."

The Red Kettle campaign goal is \$300,000 this year.

Red Kettles will be available in the Shoals through Christmas Eve.



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## Take Note...

of your Community.

**Courier Journal**

**Community Notes**



# STRANGE but TRUE

• **Picasso was once suspected of stealing** the “Mona Lisa” from the Louvre. He was brought to court, where it was determined that he was indeed in possession of stolen art, but not da Vinci’s masterpiece, and was let off with a warning.

• **Ice from seawater** melts into fresh water.

• **The modern sense of the term “Black Friday”** likely originated in the 1950s when Philadelphia police began using it to describe the chaotic traffic of shoppers and sports fans after Thanksgiving and before the Army-Navy football game on Saturday.

• **Jimmy Carter** was the first American president born in a hospital.

• **Pepsi** was originally called “Brad’s Drink,” after its creator, pharmacist Caleb Bradham, who believed it had digestive benefits.

• **Volcanoes** can create lightning.

• **Ulysses S. Grant’s middle initial** doesn’t stand for anything. He was christened Hiram Ulysses Grant, and the initial was added by Congressman Thomas Hamer when he nominated Grant for West Point, thinking it stood for

Grant’s mother’s maiden name.

• **Fewer than one in 10,000** people possess the gift of perfect pitch.

• **The world’s largest beaver dam**, located in Canada’s Wood Buffalo National Park and boasting a length estimated at more than 2,600 feet, is visible from space via satellite imagery.

• **Memorial Day’s date** was first chosen because it was when flowers would be in full bloom.

• **In 2012, Susan Warren, who owned a cleaning business**, broke into a house but stole nothing. Instead, she washed coffee cups, vacuumed, took out the garbage, and dusted ... then left the homeowners, who were asleep upstairs, her phone number and a bill for her services on a napkin.

• **In 1997, a woman from Louisville, Kentucky**, left actor Charles Bronson all of her money, a total of about \$300,000, in a handwritten will. She didn’t know him, but it can be deduced that she was a fan.

• **The Woolsey Hall auditorium** at Yale contains an extra-wide seat built to fit alumnus and former professor William Howard Taft.

• **The corpse flower** was the official flower of the Bronx for 60 years.

• **Adults typically produce** about 2 pints of gas each day, in an average of 14 farts. However, it’s apparently quite normal to pass gas up to 21 times per day.

• **At his inauguration**, Teddy Roosevelt wore a ring with a lock of Abraham Lincoln’s hair.

• **In 1866, Cathay Williams** became the first African American woman to serve in the U.S. Army. Women were barred from joining the military at the time, so she enlisted as a man under the pseudonym William Cathay.

• **Crime novelist James Patterson** co-wrote the famous “I’m a Toys ‘R’ Us Kid” jingle.

• **The American Psychiatric Association’s** DSM-5 handbook classifies caffeine withdrawal as a mental disorder.

• **Because Lancaster, Pennsylvania**, is home to a large Amish population, Costco constructed a livestock parking stall for customers arriving via horse and buggy, with a rail for the animals and a roof to shield them from bad weather.

• **When that “inner voice”** speaks in your head, it triggers small muscle movements in your larynx.

• **Michelangelo** may have accidentally left a thumbprint on a wax sculpture’s butt.

• **Sometimes it snows on Mars**, but the snowflakes are made out of carbon dioxide rather than water. The flakes don’t fall, but create a fog-like effect.

*Thought for the Day: “The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.” -- Aristotle*  
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STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LEA Financial System							Exhibit F-II-A
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Funds For Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2025							
192 - Sheffield City Schools	GOVERNMENTAL			FIDUCIARY			
	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Total	
<b>Revenues</b>							
State Sources	\$9,569,311.46	\$0.00	\$71,964.90	\$236,911.10	\$0.00	\$9,878,187.46	
Federal Sources	\$680.00	\$2,952,402.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,953,082.65	
Local Sources	\$4,183,203.27	\$255,827.74	\$25,799.01	\$29,209.00	\$1,138,441.14	\$5,632,480.16	
Other Sources	\$73,031.29	\$21,083.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$94,114.29	
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>\$13,826,226.02</b>	<b>\$3,229,313.39</b>	<b>\$97,763.91</b>	<b>\$266,120.10</b>	<b>\$1,138,441.14</b>	<b>\$18,557,864.56</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>							
Instructional Services	\$7,472,931.97	\$900,843.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$69,471.41	\$8,443,247.28	
Instructional Support Services	\$2,815,465.50	\$622,043.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$128,989.81	\$3,566,498.43	
Operation & Maintenance Services	\$2,288,385.12	\$53,225.23	\$0.00	\$9,557.00	\$3,908.71	\$2,355,076.06	
Auxiliary Services	\$273,845.08	\$1,156,357.68	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,430,202.76	
General Administrative Services	\$1,185,654.62	\$176,915.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49,253.66	\$1,411,823.70	
Capital Outlay	\$276,116.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,142.48	\$303,258.89	
Debt Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,802.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,802.90	
Other Expenditures	\$439,800.43	\$281,878.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$208,120.26	\$929,799.23	
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$14,752,199.13</b>	<b>\$3,191,263.89</b>	<b>\$56,802.90</b>	<b>\$9,557.00</b>	<b>\$486,886.33</b>	<b>\$18,496,709.25</b>	
<b>Other Fund Sources (Uses)</b>							
Other Fund Sources:	\$63,862.69	\$56,905.91	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,400.00	\$341,168.60	
Other Fund Uses:	\$24,168.57	\$43,788.91	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$55,536.28	\$323,493.76	
<b>Total Other Fund Sources (Uses):</b>	<b>\$39,694.12</b>	<b>\$13,117.00</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>	<b>(\$200,000.00)</b>	<b>(\$35,136.28)</b>	<b>\$17,674.84</b>	
<b>Excess Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Fund Uses:</b>	<b>(\$886,278.99)</b>	<b>\$51,166.50</b>	<b>\$240,961.01</b>	<b>\$56,563.10</b>	<b>\$616,418.53</b>	<b>\$78,830.15</b>	
<b>Beginning Fund Balance - October 1:</b>	<b>\$5,297,621.79</b>	<b>\$442,645.24</b>	<b>\$2,132,940.85</b>	<b>\$284,916.39</b>	<b>\$6,157,850.23</b>	<b>\$14,315,974.50</b>	
<b>Ending Fund Balance - September 30:</b>	<b>\$4,411,342.80</b>	<b>\$493,811.74</b>	<b>\$2,373,901.86</b>	<b>\$341,479.49</b>	<b>\$6,774,268.76</b>	<b>\$14,394,804.65</b>	



MERRY MILEAGE

# Shoppers Will Travel 3+ Hours for Court St. Christmas Charm

Across America, certain towns transform into picture-perfect holiday shopping destinations - the kind of Main Streets lined with independent boutiques, twinkling lights, and storefronts that feel far more magical than the nearest convenient mall.

However, with Christmas crowds growing and travel habits shifting, how far are people really willing to drive for that nostalgic, small-town shopping experience? CashforCars.com commissioned a survey of 3,004 shoppers to find out, asking them how many miles they would drive to reach their favorite festive shopping street.

Fairhope and Florence, Alabama made the national list.

**The Top 10 Most "Drive-Worthy" Christmas Shopping Streets:**

#1. **Market Square**, Portsmouth, New Hampshire — 6 hours

#2. **Main Street**, Hanover, New Hampshire — 5 hours 34 minutes

#3. **Broadway**, Fargo, North Dakota — 5 hours

#4. **Spring Street**, Eureka Springs, Arkansas — 4 hours 44 minutes

#5. **Main Street**, Bar Harbor, Maine — 4 hours 40 minutes

#6. **Main Street**, Medora, North Dakota — 4 hours 39 minutes

#7. **Oklahoma Avenue**, Guthrie, Oklahoma — 4 hours 36 minutes

#8. **Main Street**, Blue Ridge, Georgia — 4 hours 24 minutes

#9. **Central Avenue**, Nebraska City, Nebraska — 4 hours 20 minutes

#10. **Dock Square**, Kennebunkport, Maine — 4 hours 19 minutes

Two Alabama main streets also earned spots



**Data compiled for Cashforcars.com show that Court St. in Florence is a Top 50 nationwide driving time destination for nostalgic Christmas shoppers.**

florencehistory.org

Even with the above frustrations... Would people drive to a different town purely for the atmosphere?

77% say yes. Turns out, Americans will absolutely travel for vibe alone.

**Which would they choose?**

A magical Christmas town, even if it's farther: 68%

A convenient but charm-free mall: 32%

Two-thirds of shoppers are willing to trade convenience for magic — a promising sign for small-town Main Streets everywhere.

**Loyalty runs deep...**

- 37% visit the same festive town every year
- 77% say Christmas shopping simply feels "better" in a small-town setting

**What Motivates These Holiday Pilgrimages?**

When asked why they hit the road each December, respondents said:

- Cute shops: 30%
  - Instagrammable decorations: 6%
  - Food & drink: 21%
  - The "movie set" feeling: 12%
  - Family tradition: 31%
- Family rituals and independent shops clearly power most of the mileage - but there's still a small, devoted group chasing the perfect festive photo.

*Thanks to CashforCars.com for this look at hometown Christmases.*

among the country's most travel-worthy Christmas shopping destinations:

#24. **Fairhope Avenue**, Fairhope — 3 hours 48 minutes

Fairhope Avenue downtown turns into a small-town Christmas postcard each December, with glowing lights,

boutique window displays, and a festive, walkable stretch that feels made for holiday browsing. People happily make the drive for its mix of charming local shops and that unmistakable Fairhope sparkle.

#49. **Court Street**, Florence — 3 hours 22 minutes

Court Street becomes the heart of Florence's holiday spirit, lined with independent stores, warm window displays, and a cheerfully decorated downtown. Shoppers travel in for the atmosphere as much as the gifts, knowing this stretch always delivers a cozy, quintessential Christmas shopping day.

After seeing just how far Americans were willing to drive for a Christmas-card Main Street, the CashforCars.com decided to dig deeper — not just where people go, but why. This is what they found:

**What matters most**

**when choosing a festive shopping town?**

- 26% -Overall holiday atmosphere (lights, music, decorations):
- 21% - Independent/local shops:
- 25% -Food and drink options:
- 14% - Special holiday events (parades, markets, tree lightings)
- 14% - Avoiding big-box malls:

Moreover, a quarter of Alabamians admit that a town's snacks and drinks are just as important as its shops - proof that gingerbread lattes and mulled wine still have a powerful pull.

**What discourages people the most?**

- Traffic/parking headaches: 15%
- High prices: 25%
- Large crowds: 21%
- Distance: 14%
- Bad weather: 24%

**How Far Will Alabamians Go for Holiday Charm?**

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2004 FORD TAURUS	1FAFP52U14A133360	2014 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL3AP5EC190284
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2007 FORD 500	1FAHP25167G134983	2005 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4BL11E85C955219
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2008 FORD EXPLORER	1FMFU64E38UB09961	2006 PONTIAC G6	1G2ZF55B264248737
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2008 GMC ACADIA	1GKER23718J293675	2009 TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1BE46K79U806882
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### Hercules

**Hercules** is a sweet, funny, low-to-the-ground little guy with a big personality. He walks great on a leash, loves kids, and brings pure joy everywhere he goes. This happy, fun-loving pup is ready to brighten someone's home for the holidays and beyond! He's available for adoption or temporary foster — and fostering is completely FREE. All supplies are provided! If you've been looking for a loyal companion full of love and laughter, Hercules is your boy!



### Earl Ray

**Earl Ray** is a sweet, older, medium-sized dog who would love nothing more than a quiet, loving place to spend his golden years. He has a gentle soul and a calm presence, making him the perfect companion for someone looking for a loyal friend to share peaceful days and cozy nights. Earl Ray is patiently waiting for a family to give him the comfort and love he deserves for the rest of his life. If you can open your heart and home to a senior dog, Earl Ray will repay you with endless love and gratitude.



### JR

**JR** is a younger, medium-sized dog with a playful spirit and a heart full of sweetness. He loves to have fun, enjoys being around people, and is always ready to make new friends. With his happy energy and loving nature, JR would be a wonderful addition to an active family or anyone looking for a loyal companion. JR is ready right now to find his forever home! Come meet JR and see for yourself just how special he is. He's waiting to go home with you!

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



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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.*

## How To Help Yourself If You Are Hurt In An Accident

Personal injury law is an area of the law where caring about a client and hoping that the law provides a solution is important. People get hurt and there's tons of lawyers who want the case and it looks like it's all about profit for the lawyer. People don't know what to do or who to hire when they get hurt. There ought to be statistics on lawyers like there are on baseball players so you can see who really gets the job done, but there's not.

One mistake that we see that does hurt someone's case, whether they try and resolve the case themselves or whether they call a personal injury firm like ours, is failing to tell the doctor or nurse that you were hurt in an accident. Obviously, telling a doctor or a nurse that you were in an accident can change the way you are perceived, and I understand that. However, at the end of the day, if whoever evaluates your claim looks at the medical records and there's no mention of an accident, then it hurts whatever case you may have had.

The nuts and bolts of this area of the law primarily consists of three areas:

- 1) Did somebody break a rule like running a stop sign?
- 2) Was someone hurt as a result?
- 3) How did the injury affect them?

In other words, if a person who is working 40 hours a week supporting their family is hurt, can't do their job, and has lost wages, that's a valid claim. That is a different claim than someone who's retired and on a fixed income would have. Could be the same facts and injury, but a different result.

In every personal injury case, if it comes down to a contest, the doctor has to say that the accident caused the injury and the treatment. If you don't tell them, they don't know. The doctors are simply lost at that point.

Help yourself by telling your healthcare providers that you were involved in an accident and that your injuries are related to that accident. From a medical standpoint, doctors rely on an accurate history to diagnose and treat injuries. When a doctor knows the injury resulted from a car accident, they are more likely to order imaging and properly document the injury correctly. Medical records are one of the strongest forms of evidence in a personal injury case. If your records don't link your injuries to the accident, the insurance companies will argue that your condition is unrelated to the accident.

Telling your doctor that you were in a car accident protects both your health and your rights. What you say to your doctor matters. If that doctor doesn't want to treat you, there's one down the street who does.

*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](http://www.mhatty.com)

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## Community Notes...

Continued from page 7

### 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: [bwarren@florenceal.org](mailto:bwarren@florenceal.org).

**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.

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

**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., Tusculumbia, meets the second and fourth Monday at 7pm.; practice at 7pm Thursday. 256-856-3852

### Toddler 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.

### There is space HERE for YOUR EVENT

, and plenty of eyes to read it. Email your information to [editor@CourierJournal.net](mailto:editor@CourierJournal.net).

### Florence Kiwanis Club,

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

See NOTES... page 31

## Alcothon...

Continued from Page 12

Alcoholism impacts physical and mental health, finances, and relationships of all types. Don't let the jolly turn into drunken folly this year. If you have a problem with drinking, you are not alone!

Alcoholism impacts physical and mental health, finances, and relationships of all types. Don't let the jolly turn into a drunken folly this year. If you have a problem with drinking, you are not alone!

The holidays can be challenging for people with alcohol issues – from recovered alcoholics to those who are trying to find a way to stop drinking for the first time. Since 1935, Alcoholics Anonymous has been a pathway to sobriety and hope. AA's primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

For more information about Alcoholics Anonymous, check out [www.shoalsaa.org](http://www.shoalsaa.org) or call the Shoals AA 24-hour hotline at 256-415-7719.

## Show Me Your Glory Available Worldwide this Holiday Season

### NASHVILLE –

The transformative documentary drama, *Show Me Your Glory*, featured in this publication on May 7, 2025 has been internationally released on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, YouTube, Google TV, and Fandango at Home worldwide this holiday season.

Created/directed/produced and filmed in the Shoals with local actors, *Show Me Your Glory* takes audiences on an eye-opening journey through eight true stories where the supernatural crashes into human suffering, making God's presence undeniable and real.

In a time when the world is grappling with unrelenting tragedy, conflict, uncertainty, and skepticism, *Show Me Your Glory* offers a powerful reminder that hope and faith can still shine through. The movie tackles life's deepest



question - "If there is a loving God, why is there so much suffering and evil in the world?"

During *Show Me Your Glory's* limited theatrical release through Fathom Entertainment in May 2025, reviews from audiences were overwhelmingly positive, with the film carrying a 98% rating on Rotten Tomatoes and 9.3 rating on IMDb.

"This documentary drama is not just a film—it's a conversation that

the world desperately needs right now," says filmmaker Eric Swithin, who created, directed, and executive produced the film alongside his wife, Kameron Swithin. "Amid global turmoil and personal struggles, we hope this film will challenge audiences to see the Divine in the midst of hardship, whether they receive their miracle or not."

The trailer can be seen at [youtube.com/watch?v=5CWv4BmTL\\_A](https://youtube.com/watch?v=5CWv4BmTL_A)

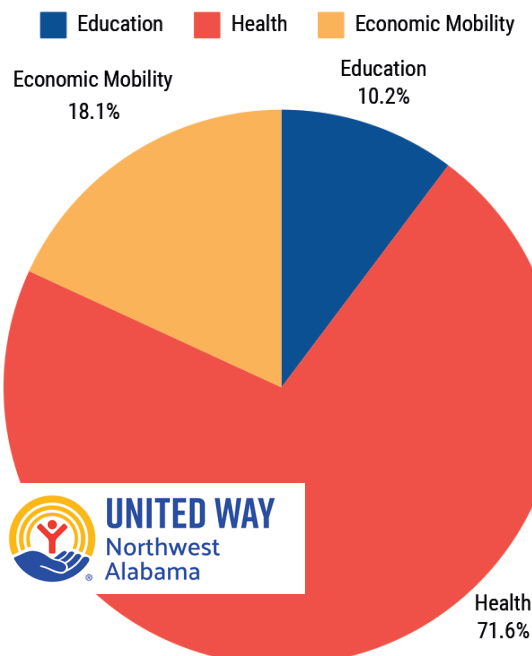
Accompanying the film's release, the two also authored a companion book, *Show Me Your Glory*, a compilation of 16 supernatural stories, as well as an in-depth theological and apologetic analysis of why God allows humanity to suffer. *Show Me Your Glory* is available to purchase on Amazon in Paperback, Kindle and Audible.

Follow the movie on Facebook/Instagram at @ShowMeYourGloryMovie;

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



### PROGRAM FOCUS AREA BREAKDOWN



32.5%

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

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

**YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR AS LITTLE AS \$2 / PAY PERIOD.**

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

49%

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

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

Space courtesy of Courier Journal.





# Savvy SENIOR

## How To Find a Quality Nursing Home for Your Loved One

*Dear Savvy Senior,*  
Can you give me some tips on picking a good nursing home for my father? Since his stroke, I've been taking care of him at home, but he's gotten to the point where it's too much for me to handle. Exhausted Daughter

Dear Exhausted,  
Choosing a nursing home for a loved one that provides quality is a very important decision that requires careful evaluation and some homework. Here are some steps you can take that can help you find a good facility and avoid a bad one.

**Make a list:** There are several sources you can turn to for referrals to top nursing homes in your area including the Area Agency on Aging (call 800-677-1116 or visit [Eldercare.acl.gov](http://Eldercare.acl.gov) for contact information); your dad's doctor or nearby hospital discharge planner; friends or neighbors who may have had a loved one in a nursing home; and online at Medicare's nursing home compare tool at [Medicare.gov/care-compare](http://Medicare.gov/care-compare). This tool will not only help you locate nursing homes in your area, but it also provides a 5-star rating system on recent health inspections, staffing, quality of care, and overall rating.

Also, keep in mind that it's always best to choose a nursing home that's close to family members and friends who can visit often, because residents with frequent visitors usually get better care.

**Call your long-term care ombudsman:** This is a government official who investigates nursing home complaints and advocates for residents

and their families. This person can tell you which nursing homes have had complaints or problems in the past and can help you locate a good facility. Visit [LTCombudsman.org](http://LTCombudsman.org) for local contact information.

**Contact the nursing homes:** Once you've narrowed your search, call the nursing homes you're interested in to verify that they can facilitate your dad's needs. Also, find out if they have any vacancies, what they charge, and if they accept Medicaid.

**Tour your top choices:** During your nursing home visit, notice the cleanliness and smell of the facility. Is it homey and inviting? Does the staff seem responsive and kind to its residents? Additionally, be sure to taste the food, and talk to the residents and their family members, if available. It's also a good idea to visit several times at different times of the day and different days of the week to get a broader perspective.

And be sure to find out about their staff screening and training procedures, staff-to-patient ratio, and the staff turnover rate.

To help you rate your visit, Medicare offers a helpful checklist of questions to ask at [Medicare.gov/media/document/12130nursing-home-checklist508.pdf](http://Medicare.gov/media/document/12130nursing-home-checklist508.pdf) that you can print and take with you on your visit.

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

**Paying for Care**  
With nursing home costs now averaging \$324 per day nationally for a semi-private room and nearly \$371 for a private room, paying for care is another area you may have questions about or need assistance with. Medicare only helps pay up to 100 days of rehabilitative nursing home care, which must occur after a hospital stay of at least three days.

Most nursing home residents pay for care from either personal savings, a long-term care insurance policy, or through Medicaid once their savings are depleted. Or, if your dad is a veteran, he may be able to get funds through the VA's Aid and Attendance benefit (see [VA.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound](http://VA.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound)).

To learn more about the payment options, ask the nursing home director. You can also get help from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free counseling on all Medicare and Medicaid issues. To find a local SHIP counselor visit [ShipHelp.org](http://ShipHelp.org) or call 877-839-2675.

And for more information, see Medicare's booklet "Your Guide to Choosing a Nursing Home" (product # 02174). You can view it online at [Medicare.gov/Publications](http://Medicare.gov/Publications).



## Notes...

Continued from page 30

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

**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](mailto:fdavis@florenceal.org). No experience necessary. Drug, alcohol, tobacco & weapon free facility. Fran Davis at 256-760-6420 or [fdavis@florenceal.org](mailto:fdavis@florenceal.org)

**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 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.

**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.

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#24P5101, 1 Owner, 6yr/100k Limited Warranty!

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**24 GMC Sierra Denali**  
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