

Annual Eagle Awareness

GUNTERSVILLE—Lake Guntersville State Park's 40th Annual Eagle Awareness Weekend is January 30-February 1.

It is the second of two scheduled weekends, the first of which was cancelled because of weather conditions. This is Awards Weekend and the event will offer an exciting blend of adventure and education, perfect for both returning friends and new visitors. Enjoy guided eagle safari tours, live birds of prey presentations, guaranteed daily eagle sightings, and more!

Eagle Awareness Weekend was created to coincide with Alabama's Bald Eagle Restoration Program in 1985 and steeped in the tradition of birding lore and legend, Eagle Awareness Weekend is a big hit annually at Lake Guntersville State Park.

Featuring live bird demonstrations and programs provided by notable speakers, guided safaris for viewing eagles in their natural habitat, and the natural beauty of the mountains and Lake Guntersville, Eagle Awareness Weekends create opportunities annually for hundreds of guests to experience and learn about the natural history of majestic eagles, wild creatures, and other birds of prey.

For more information and a schedule, please visit <https://www.alapark.com/EagleAwarenessWeekends>

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Clean Closets!
CLASSIFIED SPECIAL



SEE PAGE 4

Automotive Inside



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Volume 143 Number 14

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Fashion show participants will again be on stage at this year's Happily Ever After Spring Bridal Show on Sunday.



photo Dan Busey/TimesDaily

Annual Bridal Show Offers

A Spark of Inspiration

By Alyssa Sutherland
TimesDaily Staff Writer
first published Friday, January 23

FLORENCE — Love is in the air, February is just around the corner, and so is the 2026 Happily Ever After Spring Bridal Show presented by the *TimesDaily*.

The annual event will take place from 12-4pm on Sunday, February 1, at the Florence-

See BRIDAL SHOW... on Page 6



photos Jerry Woolfolk
Brother sister duo, Laney and Josh Tucker, sing "Open Arms" at impulse Show Choir.

Renovated Auditorium at MSHS

MUSCLE SHOALS -- The Muscle Shoals High School auditorium was designed strictly for use as an instrumental/band stage when it was built in 1999. In fact, Stratford Auditorium was named for Charles Stratford, the band director who started the Trojan Marching Band at Muscle Shoals High School.

Hannah Bradford saw a lot more potential for that stage when she was hired in 2012 to teach concert choir.

"Our students also had

See RENOVATED... Page 4

NWSCC/Jax St. Agreement

MUSCLE SHOALS -- Northwest Shoals Community College and Jacksonville State University signed a new articulation agreement recently supporting the education and training of diagnostic medical sonographers.

The agreement allows NWSCC graduates who have earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) to seamlessly transfer into Jax State's Integrated Studies program, making

JSU President, Dr. Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., left, and NWSCC President Dr. Jeff Goodwin



See AGREEMENT... on Page 7

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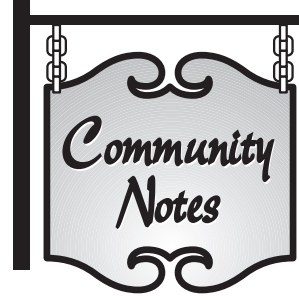
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Kirbi Concert at FloBama - Friday, January 30, 6:30-9:30 PM. FloBama Music Hall 311 North Court Street Florence
Shoals Native and The Voice contestant, Kirbi, will be having a live show at FloBama. This show will be a dinner concert with food and great fun. It will be streamed for her fan club and there will be limited tickets available with some limited meet and greet after the show.

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@flpl.org.

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.

A Black History Educational Luncheon takes place at noon January 31 at the Harvest Mitchell Gym at Burrell Slater.

Three local residents will speak at the event, including Ansley Quiros, a professor of African American studies at UNA and the chair of the Department of History; Roderick Sheppard, deputy superintendent of the Florence City Schools; and Thaddeus E. Rowell, a local activist and entrepreneur.

Luncheon tickets are \$10 for students and \$20 for adults and can be purchased at Something EleGant Florals and Gifts or by contacting Diane C. Rowell at 256-764-7780.

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Shorts... Continued from Page 1



Girl Scouts are ready to sell up a storm this year. Courtesy

Girl Scouts Cookie Sale

SHOALS – Girl Scouts in Northwest Alabama are getting ready for the start of the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie season. They will be out in their neighborhoods selling cookies at booths set up at shopping centers, local stores, and community events beginning February 6. Cookie booths give customers the chance to meet local Girl Scouts and support their activities while stocking up on favorite treats. Cookies are priced at \$6/package.

This year's cookie lineup includes well-loved favorites like Thin Mints® and Samoas®, along with a brand-new cookie called Exploremores™, inspired by the flavor of rocky road ice cream.

Most importantly, money raised through cookie sales stays local and helps Girl Scouts pay for trips, outdoor adventures, and community service projects, and learn how to set goals, manage money, talk with customers, and make decisions, skills they'll use long after cookie season.

Customers can also choose to donate cookies through the council's Care to Share program.

To find a cookie

booth near you or to purchase cookies online, visit girlscoutsnca.org/cookiefinder. Businesses interested in hosting a cookie booth or making bulk purchases may contact customercare@girlscoutsnca.org.

Scholarship Support is Up

FLORENCE – Scholarship support from endowed scholarships awarded through the UNA Foundation are on the rise after an outstanding year of fundraising for FY 2024-2025. The total spent from the UNA Foundation Endowment for the year that ended Sept. 30, 2025, was \$2.245 million.

"These funds were spent on scholarships, student support, faculty support, and program support," said Kevin Haslam, Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the UNA Foundation.

The amount of scholarship awards available to award from the UNA Endowment for Academic Year 2026-2027 increased by \$283,852 from the previous academic year.

There were 18 current-use and 35 endowment scholarship funds opened between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2025.

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Renovated

Continued from Page 1

interests in show choir, musical theater, guitar, drama, and more," Bradford stated. "So, the Muscle Shoals Chorus morphed into the Muscle Shoals Performing Arts Program, and we have been doing large productions for the last 13 years. Right now, the four shows annually bring in thousands of people with each show."

For the shows to reach the level of professionalism that the department desires, the school had to rent about \$35,000 worth of lighting and sound equipment each school year.

"Our former principal, Dr. Kevin Davis, saw this need and he applied for a \$1.5 million grant in order to buy the equipment for our productions so that we would no longer have to rent them."

The grant was awarded, and in June of 2025 and was completed in early December—two

Fluorescent drop lighting in the auditorium was replaced with a drop ceiling, painted black, with modern LED recessed can lighting.

months late—so special arrangements and cast reductions had to be made for the three performances of, "To Kill a Mockingbird," that took place in late November at The Ritz Theater in Sheffield.

"We also had to push our annual show choir production back to January 8, 9, and 11, 2026. Show choir was the first production in the original building, so we wanted to make sure that show choir was the first performance in the new updated auditorium."

The new auditorium includes LED recess lighting and a black drop ceiling for modern elegance. The accent walls surrounding the stage in the auditorium have also been painted black to match the curtains on stage. This gives the whole stage a new look. LED screens have replaced projectors and projector screens. Most of the upgrades are in sound, lighting, and video. All the sound equipment has been replaced/updated/expanded, including the addition of 16 new wireless mics and 16 wireless headset mics, new stands, storage units, and battery chargers.

Two very old stage monitors were replaced by seven new subwoofers, and three new stacks of speakers hanging above the stage. All the lighting is new from the house of the auditorium to the backstage area, and through the stage batons. Three cameras have been added in the house that will record what is happening on stage for live stream recording purposes and so that performers backstage can see what is happening on stage from the new screens in their dressing room.



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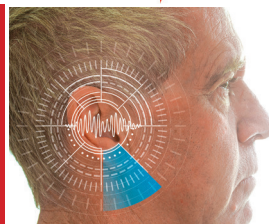
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ON YOUR DEBT

A New Year's Resolution Worth Considering: Getting Clear About Your Debt Options



B. Grant McNutt
Managing Attorney

The beginning of a new year causes a lot of people to stop and take stock. We think about health, family, work, and—often quietly—money. For many Alabama and families, financial stress is not new. It has simply followed them from one year into the next.

If dealing with debt is on your list of resolutions this year, there is one step that almost always makes sense and costs nothing: having a free, confidential conversation with one of our experienced bankruptcy attorneys.

That step does not mean filing a case. It does not lock you into a decision. It simply gives you reliable information about where you stand and what options are available.

Consulting a Bankruptcy Attorney Is About Understanding, Not Filing

One of the most common misconceptions we hear is that calling a bankruptcy lawyer automatically leads to bankruptcy. In reality, that should never be the starting point.

A good bankruptcy attorney does more than explain the filing process. They look at the full picture—income, expenses, types of debt, timing issues, and goals—and help you understand all of the available paths forward.

Depending on the situation, that discussion may involve:

- Whether bankruptcy makes sense now, later, or not at all
- How wage garnishments, lawsuits, or collection activity can be addressed
- Differences between secured and unsecured debts
- Alternatives that may be available outside of bankruptcy

Sometimes the best advice is simply knowing what not to do.

Why Information Alone Can Make a Difference

Debt often causes stress not just because of the numbers, but because of the uncertainty. Collection calls, letters, and threats of legal action leave people feeling stuck and unsure of what comes next.

A consultation replaces that uncertainty with clarity. Even when no immediate action is taken, understanding how the law works and what protections exist allows people to make better decisions and avoid costly mistakes.

We regularly hear from clients that they wish they had come in sooner—not because they should have filed earlier, but because they would have worried less.

Free and Confidential Means No Pressure

At the Bond & Botes Law Offices, we offer free and confidential consultations because people should be able to explore their options without fear of being pushed in a direction that does not feel right.

There is no obligation to move forward. There is no requirement to file. And there is nothing to lose by asking questions.

A Practical Way to Start the Year

Most New Year's resolutions involve big promises and quick burnout. This one is different. It is not about committing to a particular solution—it is about understanding your situation before it gets worse.

Take the First Step Without Commitment

If debt is something you have carried into the new year, consider starting with information rather than worry. So please give us a call. We want to help!

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



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Bridal Show...

Continued from Page 1

-Lauderdale Coliseum. With the list of vendors ranging from photography and videography to venues, live music and food, brides-to-be are sure to find inspiration for their special day.

"Happily ever after begins here at our bridal show," said Renita Jimmar, who is coordinating the event for the *Times Daily*. "We invite all brides along with their family and friends to come out and speak with our wedding professionals."

Many vendors are annual attendees of the Bridal Show, like Promenade and Dillard's, who together put on a fashion show filled with dresses, tuxes, and formal wear.

Josh Johnston, Vice President of Party Pros USA, said the company attends the Bridal Show every year, because it offers a way to directly connect with brides.

"What we look forward to most is making those connections, hearing the stories of how they got engaged, if they have a venue and why they picked it," Johnston said. "It's just really great to connect with the brides."

He said because Party Pros USA is a full-service special events company rather than just a rental company, he will come prepared with everything a bride needs to see how her day can be everything she dreams.

Some of the items brides might see at the Party Pros USA booth include tuxedo options, draperies, table linens and chairs, including two brand new chair styles trending this spring. Having the chance to see new trends, according to Johnston, is one of the benefits of attending the bridal show.

"I believe the bridal show helps spark ideas," he said. "There might be things the bride hasn't

Cindy Causey Harrison, right, discusses wedding plans with a young couple at last year's Happily Ever After Bridal Show.

Dan Busey/TimesDaily

even thought about, and this makes her say, 'Oh, we do need this.'

"It allows her to see some new trends and make a connection with her vendors, because she wants to make sure she's choosing the right vendor that fits with her personality, the look or feel of the wedding, and the budget," Johnston added.

Derrick Gargis is with the band "REWIND of the Shoals," and this is the first year the group has been part of the bridal show.

"A lot of people who run wedding venues tell us people ask a lot if they have suggestions for bands," he said. "This will help brides looking for live bands. We're local, and they can hear what we do."

Gargis said the band will have some laptops at their booth so brides can see videos and samples of their music.

The band generally performs Motown, '60s, '70s, and '80s music like the Bee Gees; Earth, Wind and Fire; the Doobie Brothers; and more.

Brides attend the show for free, and plenty of prizes will be given away.

Brides attend free, but a ticket is required. All others are \$8 per person. Ticket proceeds benefit Shoals Scholar Dollars and the Kruzn for a Kure Foundation.

Please call Renita at 256-740-5815 for tickets or more information.

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Agreement

Continued from Page 1

them eligible for scholarships, and gives sonography professionals an opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

"Northwest Shoals takes great pride in how we prepare and train our students for successful health science careers," said NWSCC President Dr. Jeff Goodwin. "This new partnership with Jacksonville State gives our Diagnostic Medical Sonography graduates a clear, affordable path to a bachelor's degree. We hope this will open more doors to advanced roles in health care."

The Northwest Shoals DMS program provides students with the knowledge and hands-on training needed to succeed in the sonography industry, including abdomen, small parts, obstetrics-gynecology and vascular sonography.

Through the new partnership, eligible NWSCC graduates may be awarded up to 36 hours of technical credit

for their DMS courses, which will be applied as Integrated Studies electives at Jax State. Students may transfer up to 52 credit hours from NWSCC, including general education courses and electives.

Jacksonville State University's Integrated Studies program is designed as a flexible degree-completion option in which students work with advisors to design their own interdisciplinary curriculum. The Bachelor of Arts program allows students to build an individualized course of study that integrates academic coursework with prior technical training and professional experience.

Through the new partnership, eligible NWSCC graduates may be awarded up to 36 hours of technical credit for their DMS courses, which will be applied as Integrated Studies electives at Jax State. Students may transfer up to 52 credit hours

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A New Year's miracle would be still fitting into my clothes in January!



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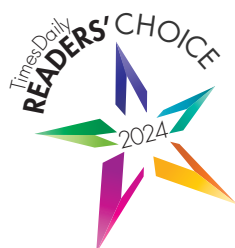
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Guest Commentary

The Two Most Consequential News Stories of 2025 Are About Treason

The Kennedy Files were released by President Trump in March 2025 despite INTENSE opposition. Had he not insisted, they likely never would have been released, and we would never have learned that our own CIA was linked to JFK's assassination.

These files prove the 1963 existence of a Deep State powerful enough—over years of development and secrecy—to assassinate the U.S. President and keep their involvement hidden for 62 years, through multiple congressional hearings, until all responsible for his death were unpunished and safely dead.

The 2,000 newly released files also document that Lee Harvey Oswald was in fact, a CIA asset, recruited, trained, and groomed by the CIA in Japan while he was in the service at the Naval Air Facility at Atsugi in the late 1950s. Obviously, others were involved or they would not have hidden this fact. Every president prior to Trump could also have released these files but feared to.

See ABOUT TREASON... on Page 18

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



HAROLD PEASE, Ph.D.

History / Political Science Instructor
U.S. Constitution Expert

Courier Journal

in the *Shoals*

January 28, 2026

THIS WEEK

A Chance to Create

Happening
THIS WEEK

TVAA Hosts Classes for Kids and Adults

TUSCUMBIA— The Tennessee Valley Art Association is presenting an assortment of Art and Dance classes this semester that tailored for children and adults.

Both the Children and Adult art classes offer engaging instruction and a welcoming community for artists of all backgrounds and skill levels.

Dance Classes will help build confidence, coordination, and performance skills through musical theatre-inspired movement in a fun, supportive environment. *Scholarships are available. Offering details are below. For more information or to register, visit TennesseeValleyArts.org or call 256-383-0533.



Kids Art Classes:

• **Kids Ceramics Class**
(Ages 6+) Wednesdays 4-5pm, February 11-March 18

Join artist and educator Stephanie Standish for a 6-week hands-on ceramics class introduces kids to clay through fun, age-appropriate projects. Students will learn basic hand-building techniques while exploring creativity, texture, and form. (Ages 6-18yrs).

• Kids Watercolor Class

(Ages 6+) Tuesdays 4-5pm, February 11-March 18

In this 6-week watercolor class, kids will experiment with color, brush techniques, and composition. Students will create

See ART CLASSES... on Page 16

FLORENCE ART & MUSEUMS' OPEN MIC NIGHT

is happening at 6:30pm on Tuesday, January 27 at the Southall House, 209 E. Tuscaloosa St. in Florence. Poets are invited to share their original works for this event that explore the theme of "Frequencies." Matt Layne, a multiple Hackney Award winning write, will also be sharing some of his original poetry. Layne's poetry collection, *Miracle Strip*, was named 2023 Book of the Year by the Alabama State Poetry Society and received a 2025 Alabama Author Award for Poetry from the Alabama Library Association. The program is sponsored by the City of Florence Department of Arts and Museums and is free to attend. The Southall House is located next to the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts across from Wilson Park. Call 256-760-6379 for more information.

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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
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Not One Positive...

Dear editor,

I suppose the best way to describe the events of the past year would be 'unusual'.

We have a president who prefers to mingle with autocrats and dictators. The Supreme Court has made it virtually impossible to check the executive branch's power. A Republican-controlled Congress ensures that the normal checks-and-balances are non-existent. The elected politicians are scared to death that Donald Trump will finance someone else in the 2026 primaries, and they will lose what appears to be a very lucrative position. Honor has fallen by the wayside, it seems.

YOUR OPINION Matters Too!

Where is YOUR letter? Email to: editor@courierjournal.net

Trump has mentioned taking over Venezuela. (Nothing has been taken over there, just a kidnapping and a second-in-command being elevated.) He wants to take over Columbia, Panama, Cuba, and Mexico. And now, he has figured out how to please his best friend, Putin. Putin has wanted to break up NATO for 40 years, and Trump toyed around with the idea during his first term. However, he received too much pushback from traditional Republicans.

Now, he's doing it in a backhanded sort of way. Insisting that Greenland belongs to us will show our lack of reliability and honor, and the other NATO countries will toss us out.

Then Putin can do whatever he wants and China can take Taiwan.

It reminds me, in a vague sort of way, of King Henry II of England in 1170 AD.

I have said on many occasions that Donald Trump doesn't have one positive character trait. He is now saying that because he didn't get the Nobel peace prize, he can be less peaceful about Greenland. So, there's no misunderstanding, the above reference is Putin (the king), Trump (a knight), and NATO (Thomas Becket).

Rodney Osborn
Florence

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.

Workers Comp Retaliatory Discharge and Unemployment Compensation

Alabama does not offer very much in the way of job protection. In fact, the only protection offered (in addition to those offered under federal law) is protection against being fired in retaliation for making a workers compensation claim.

What that means is that it is illegal in Alabama to fire a worker for making a workers compensation claim. Over the last 25 or 30 years the Courts have consistently ruled more in favor of the employers than the employees. But these cases are decided by juries and juries seem to understand the situation, the law and generally reach the right result. Sure, it affects the injured worker, but it also affects (chills) people who get hurt in the future. They know what happens if they report a claim.

Where the court system really treated workers badly is by allowing an unemployment compensation hearing to substitute for a jury. A worker who loses their unemployment hearing also just lost their retaliatory discharge case.

The Supreme Court of Alabama, in a poorly thought-out decision, allowed the hearing officer who determines whether or not a worker gets unemployment compensation to substitute for a jury's decision in a retaliatory discharge case.

An unemployment hearing is a hearing for an employee who has never been to a hearing, is not prepared, and typically doesn't have a witness or evidence. The employer has probably been through several unemployment compensation hearings and has both evidence and a witness.

They're typically held over the phone.

If the worker loses that unemployment hearing, the Alabama Supreme Court says that that hearing was the equivalent of a jury trial for a retaliatory discharge, and they no longer have the right to bring a retaliatory discharge case.

The secret sauce here is *do not bring an unemployment compensation claim for your unemployment benefits if you think you have a retaliatory discharge claim without talking to a lawyer first.*

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



Please send the questions to:

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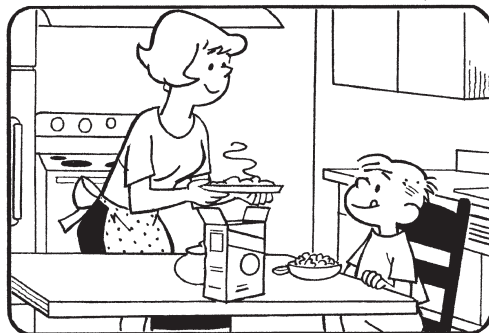
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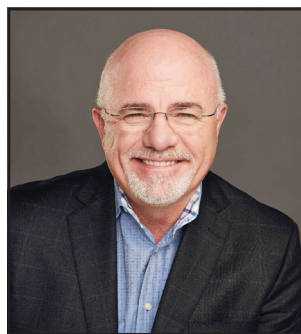
by DAVE RAMSEY

SICK AND TIRED OF BEING SICK AND TIRED

Dear Dave,
I've been listening to your radio show, and as a result I've decided I'm tired of living paycheck-to-paycheck and being broke all the time. I know Baby Step 1 is saving a beginner emergency fund of \$1,000. But do you recommend getting current on past due bills before starting the Baby Steps?

Edward

Dear Edward,
I love it! When people decide to change their lives, and they talk about



it the way you have, I know they're serious about making something good happen. You're sick and tired of being sick and tired, and you're going to get control of your money and your life. Let's get started!

First things first. Make sure you're up to date with all the necessities. I'm talking about food, clothing, shelter, transportation and utilities. Next, either get current—or make payment arrangements—for any consumer debt you have, including credit cards. This doesn't include your home, but we'll get to that part in a minute.

You're spot-on with Baby Step 1. After that comes the debt snowball and Baby Step 2. Start paying off all debts, except your home, from smallest to largest. Once you've paid off this debt, you'll be able to save more and increase your beginner emergency fund to a fully-funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses pretty quickly. This is Baby Step 3.

At this point, you can really start planning for the future. In Baby Step 4, you'll start investing 15 percent of your income for retirement. If you have kids, setting aside something to help

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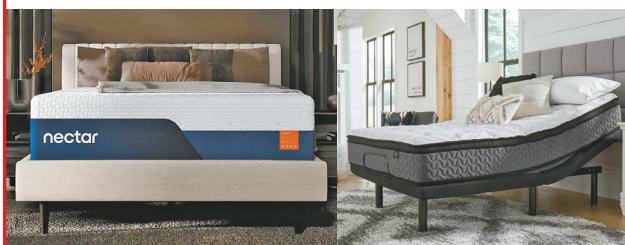
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Listening To The Wrong Voice

Sadly, worldwide, 7.5~ billion souls are lost by either following or listening to voices that are in error about their eternal destiny. Fancy names and feelgood strange doctrines have deceived billions of people, who don't check the truth for themselves. **John 17:17** "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." There's only one God, one Holy Spirit, one Saviour, the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and one book. The KJV tells the absolute truth about eternity, doctrine, hell, creation, sin, death, devil, heaven and salvation and how to get it! God will stand the test of His own word. **Romans 3:4** "God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." That's why at judgment your words are uncovered. **Matthew 12:37** "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Not your baptism.

The Holy Spirit filled preacher knows where his power comes from. He knows the right book to get his messages from because he knows; **Psalms 138:2** "I will worship toward thy (GOD'S) holy temple, and praise thy (GOD'S) name for thy (GOD'S) lovingkindness and for thy (GOD'S) truth: for thou (GOD) hast magnified thy (GOD'S) word above all thy (GOD'S) name." There's a heap of trouble coming to Gnostics, scholars, revisors and translators, when they stand in front of our mighty God! 300+ editions of the bible? Aw c'mon! See 1Timothy 6:10 and repent while you still can! Why do you think we have so many cults and confusions in America? What's coming? **Romans 2:16** "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel." **Hebrews 4:12** "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Are you judgment ready? You can depend on God righteously judging you soon!

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See DAVE... page 23

Insurance Insights

"Below is a State Farm® Simple Insights® article about "What are the best tires for winter driving?" is provided by State Farm agent Rebecca Stutts Hovater.

What are the best tires for winter driving?

Written by State Farm® Editorial Team

Know the tires you need for winter driving, and how to maintain them for increased tire safety.

All tires are not created equal — they're designed for different road and weather conditions. Know what's on your car before you head out this winter.

Types Of Tires

All season tires offer moderate traction in a variety of conditions, from rain to light snow, but are not as effective in extreme weather. All season tires are a good choice for climates where temperatures generally remain above freezing; but they start to harden and provide less traction at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or colder. Because they are made of harder compounds, these tires typically have a long life.

All weather tires are available in two primary models: one for rain or light snow and another for more challenging conditions, such as mud and moderate snow. The tread of all weather tires expels water, making their traction better than all season tires. They stay relatively supple in cold temperatures but don't provide as much traction as true snow tires.

Snow tires provide the most effective traction, braking and handling control for winter driving on snow and ice. Snow tires are made of compounds that remain pliable in cold temperatures, allowing them to grip the road better. Drivers in extremely snowy areas may choose studded snow tires, which are tires with surface openings where metal studs can be anchored. Unlike other tires, snow tires must be put on at the beginning of the snow season and removed when warmer weather returns.

Winter Tire Safety Tips

Look for tires with a mountain and snowflake icon. They will provide traction and function well at low temperatures.

Always install four snow tires instead of two. Cars with only two snow tires have less traction and tend to spin out of control.

Keep tires properly inflated. Winter's cold temperatures can cause the air in your tires to contract, leading to lower tire pressure. Your vehicle's tire pressure should be checked at least once a month using an accurate pressure gauge.

Remember that vehicle safety systems, like antilock braking systems (ABS), traction control and other advanced stability control systems, cannot compensate for poor tire traction. The best way to maximize your safety is to make sure your tires are suitable for the conditions you must drive in.

Learn more about tire safety from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



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Art Classes...

Continued from Page 8

vibrant artworks while learning the basics of watercolor painting in a supportive environment.

• **Seeing Differently: Cell Phone Photography** (Ages 10-18) Wednesdays 4-5pm, February 4-March 11

This after-school photography class introduces preteens and teens to creative image-making using cell phones. Students learn how to see the world more intentionally by exploring composition, light, color, and storytelling through hands-on activities and guided photo challenges. Using the museum galleries and outdoor spaces, participants discover how different times of day affect mood and meaning in photographs while building confidence, creativity, and visual awareness. No prior photography experience is required.

• **Homeschool Art Class** (Ages 6+) Wednesdays 1-2pm, February 11-March 18

Designed for homeschool students, this 6-week art class explores a variety of mediums including drawing, painting, and mixed media. Lessons connect creativity with skill-building and artistic exploration.

• **Homeschool Photography Program-** Foundations of Photography: Tools, Light & Story (Ages 11-17) Wednesdays 12-1pm, February 4-March 11

This photography course for homeschooled students offers a structured, progressive introduction to photography for those using either cameras or cell phones. Each week builds on the previous skills, guiding students through camera fundamentals, light, composition, and visual storytelling. Through museum-based learning, discussion, and hands-on assignments, students develop critical observation skills and creative confidence while producing a final portfolio

of images. The course encourages curiosity, experimentation, and thoughtful reflection.

Adult Art Classes:

• **Adult Ceramics Class** – Mondays 6-7pm, March 2, 9, 16, 30

This 4-week ceramics class for adults focuses on hand-building and beginner techniques. Perfect for all skill levels, students will enjoy a creative, relaxed space while creating functional and decorative pieces.

• **Photography & Light: Seeing Across the Day** (Ages 18+) 1st Meeting Date: Monday, Feb 23 6pm, Future Times/Days to be discussed, 4 sessions

Designed for working adults, this four-session photography course focuses on understanding and using light at different times of day. Participants explore natural, interior, and artificial lighting while developing both technical and creative skills. The course supports DSLR, mirrorless, and cell phone users and emphasizes intentional seeing, experimentation, and thoughtful critique. Students leave with a cohesive mini photo series and a deeper understanding of how light shapes visual storytelling.

Dance Classes:

• **Musical Theatre Dance Classes** – Wednesdays 4-5pm, February 4 - March 11 (Ages 18+)

• **Ballet/Pointe** (Intermediate/Advanced), Mondays 3:45-5:45pm, Instructor: Tonya King, \$100/month

• **Jazz Techniques** (Intermediate/Advanced) Tuesdays 4:30-5:30pm, Instructor: Tonya King, \$100/month

For more information or to register, visit the TVAA website at TennesseeValleyArts.org or call 256-383-0533.

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Medicare Minute

4 Parts of Medicare

Did you know there were four parts to Medicare not two? Did you know that two of the parts you can get through the federal government but the other two parts, if you choose to take them, must be purchased through private insurance companies? Finally, did you know most people have an option as to whether to sign up for three of the four parts of Medicare? To some these are very simple questions but to others they can be very confusing.

The four parts of Medicare are labeled Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D. Over the next few weeks we will discuss each of the four parts in detail but for today let's simplify things by saying that Part A is your inpatient or hospital care, Part B covers your outpatient services, Part C is called Medicare Advantage and Part D is your prescription drug plan.

The two parts of Medicare that you receive through the federal government are Parts A & B. The two parts that can be purchased through private insurance companies are Parts C & D. So which parts are optional for most people? That would be Parts B, C and D.

It's very important for the Medicare beneficiary to be familiar with each of the four parts of Medicare and what they cover. Here are some ways you can do that. First you can go to Medicare.gov. This is an excellent website that will tell you everything you want to know about Medicare. You can also refer to the "Medicare and You" handbook. Another way to learn about the basics of Medicare is to attend one of the Medicare Education Classes our company conducts. They are free of charge and open to the public. Just contact our office for times and dates. Of course you can also check out the "Medicare Minute" each week in the Courier Journal!!

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



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Guest Commentary - Harold Pease / Liberty Under Fire

Two About Treason... Continued from Page 8

There is no organization more "Deep State" than the CIA. Since the Deep State was never fully revealed, removed, or punished then, it is still in place.

LibertyUnderFire.org published two columns in March 2025: 1) "John F. Kennedy Assassination Files Revealed 'A State Within a State'" and 2) "UNBELIEVABLY Most Presses Missed the Most Important JFK Assassination File Finding." The State Within a State was the CIA. Both Kennedy and Trump fought their Deep States and worked to expose them, and both took a bullet to the head area for

doing so.

Trump has dealt with this "State Within a State" issue continuously since 2015, but most clearly on Sept. 30, 2025, when he, and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, summoned hundreds of the nation's top military officers to Marine Corps Base Quantico. Attendance was not optional. His two principal messages given to the generals and admirals was that the enemy is within this country, and the military must remember it's oath to protect and defend the Constitution from "all enemies foreign and domestic." This time they were domestic.

He said, "This is going to be a big thing for the people in this room because it's the enemy from within and we have to handle it before it gets out of control. It won't get out of control once you're involved" ("Trump Discloses to the U.S. Generals 'The Enemy is From Within,'" LibertyUnderFire.org, 10 October 2025).

In April 2025, the FBI Crossfire Hurricane documents went public revealing Deep State treason by Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and Joe Biden. By May it was clear that the FBI was linked to a secret plan, a Coup d'etat to prevent Donald Trump from being elected president in 2016, and once elected, to NOT allow his inauguration. The new FBI Director, Kash Patel sent members of Congress nearly 700 pages of the declassified

records called, "Crossfire Hurricane," debunking the baseless Trump-Russia saga. Congress knows! The release was labeled the Crossfire Hurricane Redacted Binder.

This was the lost binder the Biden FBI expected, but failed to find, in their Mar-A-Largo raid on Trump's home on August 9, 2022. These documents are devastating to Democrats. **There was no Trump/Russia collusion.** Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden have the most to worry from the, long suppressed, FBI Crossfire Hurricane documents having been the most heavily involved in the fraud. Each has played a major role in the present Deep State hold on America ("Newly Released FBI Crossfire Hurricane Documents Reveal Deep State Treason," LibertyUnderFire.org 7 May 2025).

New CIA director, John Radcliffe in July released ICA's Tradecraft Review of the 2016 Intelligence Community Assessment (ICA), revealing the CIA, FBI, and DNI's unsuccessful attempt to nullify Trump's 2016 election victory over Hillary Clinton because of alleged Russian collusion in the election. Outgoing President, Barack Obama, and then CIA Director, John Brennan, played major and intentional roles in both.

The reassessment magnified the Crossfire Hurricane documents. **The Russian Hoax and its cover-up are now the biggest political scandal in American history.** "Never has a president left office to collude with others to impede the next sitting president of the United States of America until Obama! ("Bombshell Declassified ICA Report on 2016 Plot to Overthrow Elected President," 9 July 2025, LibertyUnderFire.org).

Tulsi Gabbard was interviewed by Rob Schmitt July 22 on Newsmax. The US Director of National Intelligence (DNI) alleged that former President Barack Obama "manufactured" evidence to "suggest Russia helped Donald Trump win the 2016 presidential election." Gabbard "announced that she was referring Obama administration officials

– including FBI director James Comey, ex-CIA director John Brennan, and her own predecessor, James Clapper, to the Justice Department over their roles in the alleged plot to undermine Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton. Gabbard subsequently accused Obama of orchestrating a "year-long coup" against Trump during an interview with Maria Bartiromo on Fox News Sunday Morning.

The DNI declassified "Obama administration treasonous conspiracy" which consisted of two plots: 1) Obama created a fake issue mid-summer 2016 to ensure the people voted for Hillary Clinton and 2) when Trump was elected anyway, he used his office, on December 9, 2016, just before vacating, to "cook up Intel" to not seat the peoples' choice for president, both treasonable. The evidence was found in a secret room, in a "burn bag" at FBI headquarters. **There was never a Trump/Russia collusion to elect Trump.**

No president has been referred to the Department of Justice for criminal behavior and potential prosecution for treason. This is by Tulsi Gabbard, a lifelong Democrat, former Democrat member of Congress from Hawaii, and Democrat candidate herself for president in 2024, and presently serving as Trump's US Director of National Intelligence. She accused Obama of treason, presenting "over 100 pages of declassified, memos, assessments, and emails, including whistleblower claims."

The two most consequential stories of 2025 are about treason. However, they also document the existence of a secret Deep State government in both parties since some years before 1963.

Dr. Harold Pease is an expert on the United States Constitution and a syndicated columnist on current events. He has dedicated his career to studying the writings of the Founding Fathers and applying that knowledge to current events. He taught history and political science from this perspective for over 30 years

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF ALABAMA, LAUDERDALE COUNTY NOTICE OF ABANDONED AND UNCLAIMED MOTOR VEHICLES.

Notice is hereby given that on the **27TH DAY OF FEB 2026 FROM 9AM-3PM** we will be accepting sealed bids on the following vehicles to dealers only. Vehicles will be sold for parts only. No titles will be offered. The auction will be held at

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Frankie's Auto & Towing will accept proof of ownership should anyone care to submit the same Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm until the day of the sale. Vehicles may be viewed starting Monday February 23rd 2026 between the hours of 8:00am-5:00pm. Vehicles must be paid for by Monday March 2nd 2026. Frankie's Auto & Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

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2009 Ford Focus	1FAHP37N19W249585	Silver
2001 Buick LeSabre	1G4HP54K01U266695	White
2005 Ford Focus	1FAFP34N75W139713	Gray
2013 Chrysler 200	1C3CCBBG5DN703410	Red
2005 Toyota Corolla	1NXBR32EX5Z440554	Dark Blue
2009 Ford Fusion	3FAHP08179R203692	Black
2003 Lincoln LS	1LNHM86S63Y665341	Black/Blue
1998 Yamaha XV1100	JYA1TEE08WA080678	Blue/Beige
2010 Honda Accord	1HGCP2F47AA160288	Maroon
1993 Ford Ranger	1FTCR10U6PPB09172	Primer/Black
1992 Plymouth Acclaim	1P3XA4631NF260416	Unknown
2024 Bella Ascend Scooter	HZ2TABGH1R1000843	White/Black
2014 Honda CR-V	3CZRM3H36EG715342	Gray
2001 Honda Odyssey	2HKRL18641H566213	Gold
2001 Toyota 4Runner	JT3GN87R710203931	Black

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Courier Journal
Community Notes

Courier Journal
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Larry

Larry is a happy, affectionate little guy who loves attention and being near his people. He has a calm, thoughtful look but a playful puppy heart. Larry enjoys cuddles, short bursts of play, and discovering new things. With consistent training, love, and routine, he will grow into a loyal and loving companion. He's ready to be someone's best friend for life.

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2014 ACURA RDX	5J8TB3H3XEL009478	2005 HONDA ACCORD	1HGCM567X5A181369
2004 BMW 5 SERIES	WBANA535X4B851141	2006 HONDA CBR 600	JH2PC37076M301807
2002 CHEVROLET TRACKER	2CNBE634526920417	2006 JAGUAR X	SAJWA51A36WE98328
2008 CHEVROLET MALIBU	1G1ZH57BX8F226245	2009 JEEP PATRIOT	1J4FT28B49D122279
2011 CHEVROLET CAMERO	2G1FA1ED4B9111757	1998 KAWASAKI VN800	JKBVNCA18WB500765
2014 CHEVROLET SILVERADO	3GCUKREC3EG386936	2016 KIA SORENTO	5XYPG4A33GG035050
2008 CHEVROLET TAHOE	1GNFC13C08R113040	2011 KIA SOUL	KNDJT2A2XB7262156
1998 DODGE 1500	3B7HC16Z7WM200627	2001 LEXUS ES 300	JT8BF28G515112381
2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN	2C4RDGBG0DR518068	2002 LINCOLN LS	1LNHM87A62Y697159
2011 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN	2D4RN5DG9BR688590	2004 MERCURY GRAND MARQUISE	2MHFM75W94X688688
2009 DODGE AVENGER	1B3LC46B69N526171	2019 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4BL4CV8KN325327
2011 DODGE CHARGER	2B3CL3CG0BH544030	2016 NISSAN MAXIMA	1N4AA6AP8GC417705
2004 FORD EXPLORER	1FMZU62K94UC24875	2007 NISSAN QUEST	5N1BV28U57N114534
2012 FORD F-150	1FTFW1ET5CFB32058	2014 NISSAN ROGUE	JN8AS5MT3EW605431
2007 FORD FUSION	3FAHP08177R112595	2012 NISSAN ALTIMA	1N4AL2AP6CC165899
1998 FORD CROWN VIC	2FAFP74WXX120627	2007 PONTIAC G6	1G2ZH58N974218913
2003 FORD F-150	1FTRX17W23NA20437	2004 SUZUKI XL7	JS3TY92V444108351
2006 FORD FUSION	3FAFP07Z96R173086	2006 TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1BE32K56U682770
1999 FORD EXPEDITION	1FMPU18L7XLC07772	2007 TOYOTA COROLLA	2T1BR32E47C765348
2022 FORD ESCAPE	1FMCU0G62NUA10424	2012 TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1BF1FK1CU172830
2004 HD ELECTRA GLIDE	1HD1FCW324Y617119	2005 TOYOTA SCION	JTKDE177250014140
2001 HD DYNA GLIDE	1HD1GHV111Y328982	1997 TOYOTA CAMRY	4T1BG22K1VU112350

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835 Rickwood Rd.,
Florence, AL



Answers
on Page 22

Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| 1. Stand up for | ___ F ___ | Rely upon | ___ P ___ |
| 2. Iron or pewter | ___ T ___ | Olympic award | ___ D ___ |
| 3. Oak fruit | ___ C ___ | Decorate | ___ D ___ |
| 4. Airplane garage | ___ A ___ | Closet implement | ___ E ___ |
| 5. Burn down | ___ R ___ | Physical contact | ___ U ___ |
| 6. Weather prediction | ___ R | Spic-and-span | ___ N |
| 7. Florida citrus | O ___ | Rural homestead | G ___ |
| 8. Snap into | ___ R ___ | Dismal | ___ L ___ |
| 9. Barrister | L ___ | Finn's buddy | S ___ |
| 10. Remove whiskers | ___ H ___ | Sophisticated | ___ U ___ |

Micro Crossword

By Elizabeth C. Gorski

Across

- 1 Feel angry
6 14th-century Russian ruler
7 "It's Always Something" author Radner
8 "Stillwater" star Matt
9 "A Doll's House" protagonist

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
	9			

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Down

- 1 Fort Worth neighbor, familiarly
2 Mineral water brand
3 Sweden's third-largest city
4 Conjunction with a slash
5 "The People's Princess"



- Who wrote and released "Forever in Blue Jeans"?
- Which group wrote and released "Catch Us if You Can"?
- Who wrote and released "I Won't Back Down"?
- Which artist released "Hit Me With Your Best Shot"?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "I realize the way your eyes deceived me, With tender looks that I mistook for love."



"Well, it's that time again to regret you didn't marry a _____ woman!"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Mean	LIMPY	___	___	___	___
Hue	DEASH	___	___	___	___
Bask	LOWLAW	___	___	___	___
Garb	TRAITE	___	___	___	___

TODAY'S WORD



- LITERATURE: Who was the first Canadian to win the Nobel Prize in Literature?
- MYTHOLOGY: What is the home of the Greek gods?
- LANGUAGE: Which language is the second most spoken in Canada?
- HISTORY: Which explorer sailed around Africa to discover a trade route between Europe and India?
- MOVIES: What is the name of Elle Woods' Chihuahua in "Legally Blonde"?
- GAMES: In what year was the original Pac-Man video game released?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the town where "Hart of Dixie" is set?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which popular fruit has seeds on the outside?
- MEDICAL TERMS: What is the common name for alopecia?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which country are the Cliffs of Moher located?

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Florence Historian
Billy Warren



Answers
on Page 22

New Houses Reflect Both Quality And Quantity

From the late 1800's to well into the twentieth century, local newspapers in Florence would routinely list the location of houses under construction and/or those recently built, along with the name(s) of the proud new owner(s). It was a major way to let the world know that the City of Florence was: (1) thriving, (2) being chosen by people of means as a great place to live, and (3) rapidly filling all vacant properties with structures of substance. Generally, such a public notice would not appear in the newspaper for a single home's construction; instead, it would be included in a listing that contained multiple new houses.

Note, for example, the accompanying list that was proudly posted in the Florence Herald on June 3, 1897. Within the six entries are the following: (1) Mr. J.T. Potterfield's work-in-progress is on Walnut Street "back of J.W. Nichols' new residence"; (2) Messrs. Jim White and Jim Angel have built "two neat cottages on Cherry Street, opposite C.C. Chapin's house" [The southeast corner of North Cherry and East Tuscaloosa Streets is still, today, known as "Angel's Corner."]; and Mrs. Lipscomb has made "extensive improvements on her residence west of the City Park." [The "City Park" was later named "Wilson Park" in honor of President Woodrow Wilson.] No doubt, these periodic listings of new homes and/or extensive renovations of existing properties did, indeed, encourage more of the same to continue as Florence has had to expand its city boundaries many times over the years.

- **Billy Warren**, *City Historian* (brwarren@florenceal.org)

IMPROVEMENT NOTES.	
Mr. J. T. Potterfield is building a residence on Walnut street back of J. W. Nichols new residence.	
Noaman Morrison is finishing a very fine cottage on Tombigbee street near Poplar street.	
Messrs. Jim White and Jim Angel have built two neat cottages on Cherry street, opposite C. C. Chapin's house.	
Mrs. Lipscomb has made extensive improvements on her residence west of the City Park.	
S. W. Lipscomb is preparing to build a residence on the corner of Cherry and Tennessee streets.	
A two-story warehouse is being added to the rear of M. Coplan's store on Court street.	

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

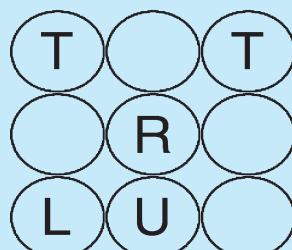
1. Is the book of James (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Joshua 10, the sun stood still while Joshua's army destroyed what people? *Amorites, Midianites, Egyptians, Philistines*
3. How old was Abram when God changed his name to Abraham? *12, 17, 40, 99*
4. From Genesis 9, who saw a rainbow in the sky? *Adam, Moses, Noah, Abraham*
5. Who was David's oldest brother? *Jonah, Eliab, Joel, Agrippa*
6. From 1 Samuel 2, how many more children did Hannah have? *5, 10, 15, 20*



by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Name the Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher, known as "The Heater From Van Meter," who had his No. 19 retired by the Cleveland Indians in 1956.
2. What U.S. city was awarded the 1976 Winter Olympics but then had to back out after voters rejected using state tax revenues to support the Games in a 1972 referendum?
3. Florida-based sports radio personality and podcaster Jon Weiner is better known by what professional name?
4. How old was Julia Hawkins when she became the first female runner in her age category to record a time in the 100-meter sprint when she ran at the 2021 Louisiana Senior Games?
5. What Hockey Hall of Famer for the Chicago Blackhawks had a brief, uncredited cameo in the 1992 comedy movie "Wayne's World"?
6. In November 1988, which Canadian boxer did Sugar Ray Leonard defeat to win the WBC light heavy-weight championship?
7. On Nov. 13, 1934, the St. Louis Eagles' Ralph "Scotty" Bowman became the first player in NHL history to do what?

WORD SPIRAL



Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

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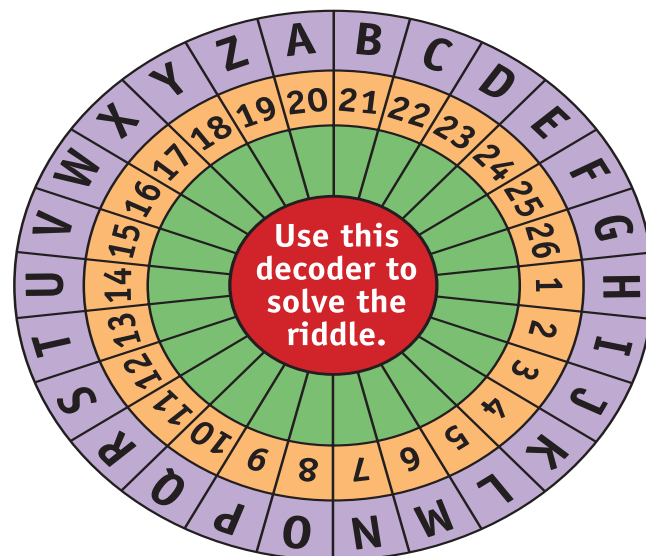


SECRET CODE

Why was six afraid of seven?

21	24	22	20	14	12	24	12	24	15	24	7
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

20	13	24	7	2	7	24
----	----	----	---	---	---	----



GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

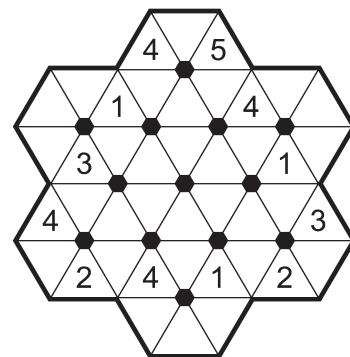
	+		-		= 15			
+		+		+				
	+		×		= 39			
÷		×		÷				
	+		÷		= 1			
=		=		=				
15		60		1				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦♦ Difficult

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CryptoQuip

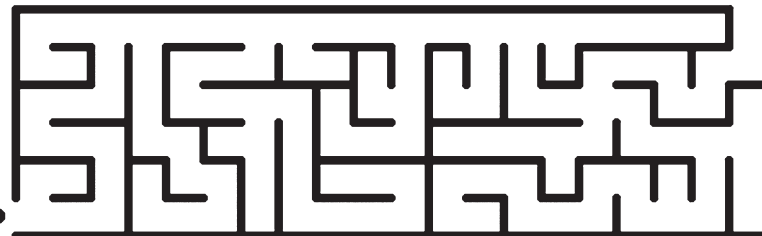
This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: L equals U

HTBI RUL GBXMLDCB ADIR
GBUGQB WU AUOB WU
LVXDEIB'M JDGEWDQ, HTDW
CU RUL CU? WTEJVBI VEBO.

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Kids' Maze



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Notes...

Continued from page 2

The Spring Bridal Show will be noon to 4 p.m. Feb. 1 at Florence Lauderdale Coliseum, 701 Veterans Drive. There will be vendors, fashion show, prizes and more. Tickets are available at the "TimesDaily," 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, or at the door on day of show. Brides ticket is free, all other attendees \$8. Proceeds benefit Shoals Scholar Dollars and Kruzn' 4 A Kure Foundation. 256-740-5815.

Groundhog Coffee's 2nd annual Hogapalooza will be held on February 1st, 1pm-6pm. They will have special menu items, giveaways, our second annual coffee sack race, live music, and MORE. Groundhog Coffee is located at 320 North Montgomery Avenue, Sheffield.

Misfit Quilters meets at the Florence Lauderdale Public Library (board room) once a month on Sundays - February 1, March 1, and April 5 from 1-4pm. Misfit Quilters is a craft group for adult friends who draw, craft, paint, sew, quilt, embroider, crochet, etc. (all

artisans welcome). Bring your project to work on and come join the fun! All adults are welcome.

The LaGrange Living Historical Association meets the first Sunday (February 1) at 2pm at the LaGrange College Site Park 1491 LaGrange College Rd. Leighton. Contact L. C. Lenz 256-702-6953.

Rosenbaum Book Club - Florence Arts & Museums is pleased to announce the revival of the Rosenbaum House Book Club! We will meet at 6:30pm every Thursday during the

month of February inside the Rosenbaum House, located at 601 Riverview Dr. here in Florence. The first meeting will be February 5th 2026.

We will be discussing "Frank Lloyd Wright: A Biography" by Myrle Secrest. This in-depth portrait of America's most famous architect includes personal letters, first-hand accounts, and colorful stories of Frank Lloyd Wright, his family, and his friends. Secrest tells the story of his life so beautifully and honestly - this is a MUST READ! Copies of the book are available in our Gift Shop.

The February Book Club will be led by Dorlea Rikard, who currently serves as a docent at the FLW Rosenbaum House. As a retired educator, she still shares her love of learning any chance she gets. Dorlea has organized several events at the Rosenbaum House, including the previous iterations of the Book Club as well as Tea on the Terrace. We are happy to have her returning to host the 2026 FLW Book Club at the Rosenbaum House.

To sign up for Book Club, visit our website calendar page at www.florenceartsmuseums.com/calendar or call the Rosenbaum House at 256-718-5050. We look forward to hearing from you.

This program is free and is sponsored by Florence Arts & Museums. The Rosenbaum House is located at 601 Riverview Dr. Florence, AL 35630. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday from 10-4 and Sunday from 1-4. For tour information, visit our website www.wrightinlabama.com, call our office at 256-718-5050, or visit our admissions office.

Author visit - Walt Merrell, author of "Shepherding Outdoors," will be at The Logan Room, 307 N. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield, Feb. 2, with small bites and music by Randy O'Dell at 5:30 p.m. and the program at 6:30 p.m.

Free event but attendees must sign up at the library or call 256-386-5633. Sponsored by the Friends of Sheffield Public Library.

The 4th Annual Shoals Scale Back - Feb 21 from 1PM-4:30PM at Coach Harvest Mitchell Gym. The theme is "Love your city, love yourself."

Hosted by Council President Kaytrina Simmons, Susan Bently, Dr. Javar Myatt-Jones, and City of Florence Parks & Rec. For more info contact: Council President Kaytrina Simmons: 256-349-8379 or Susan Bently: 256-856-3918

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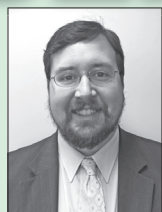
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Mystery Photo

WIN LUNCH FOR 2 **OF THE WEEK**
January 28

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Week of Jan 21 winner:
Joyce Hutchens of Florence
who correctly guessed
"Solid Waste and Recycling Administration Office in Florence"

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

Brain Zone! ANSWERS



1. Neil Diamond, in 1979. The single was first released on his "You Don't Bring Me Flowers" album the year before. Tommy Overstreet released a country cover in 1979.
2. The Dave Clark Five, in 1965. They were the second British band to appear on "The Ed Sullivan Show," and would eventually appear 17 more times. The Beatles only appeared on the show four times.
3. Tom Petty, in 1989, on his "Full Moon Fever" album. It topped the rock chart for five weeks.
4. Pat Benatar, in 1980.
5. "Paper Roses," by Anita Bryant, in 1960. The song was Bryant's best success, going to No. 5 on the charts in the U.S. but reaching No. 1 in Canada. In 1973 Marie Osmond released a country cover that topped the chart — when she was just 14 years old.

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Word Spiral Answer
TABULATOR

Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

1. Defend, Depend
2. Metal, Medal
3. Acorn, Adorn
4. Hangar, Hanger
5. Torch, Touch
6. Clear, Clean
7. Orange, Grange
8. Break, Bleak
9. Lawyer, Sawyer
10. Shave, Suave



ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Amorites, 3) 99, 4) Noah, 5) Eliab, 6) Five

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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CryptoQuip answer

When you persuade many people to move to Ukraine's capital, what do you do? Thicken Kiev.

Kids' Maze Solution



Answers

1. Short story author Alice Munro, 2013.
2. Mount Olympus.
3. French.
4. Vasco da Gama.
5. Bruiser.
6. 1980.
7. Bluebell, Alabama.
8. Strawberries.
9. Hair loss.
10. Ireland.

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8	+	9	-	2	=	15
+		+		+		
7	+	6	x	3	=	39
÷		x		÷		
1	+	4	÷	5	=	1
=		=		=		
15		60		1		

SECRET CODE

Why was six afraid of seven?
Because seven "ate" nine

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Imply; 2. Shade;
3. Wallow; 4. Attire

Today's Word
WEALTHY



Answers

1. Bob Feller.
2. Denver.
3. Stugotz.
4. 105 (her time was 1:02.95).
5. Stan Mikita.
6. Donny Lalonde.
7. Score a penalty shot goal.

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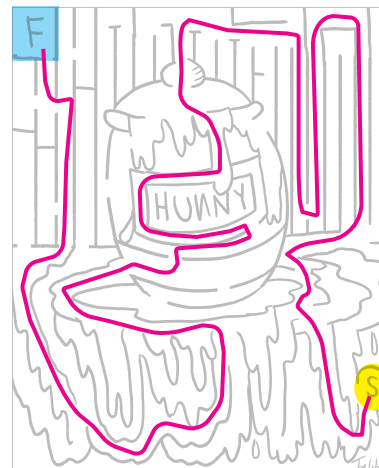
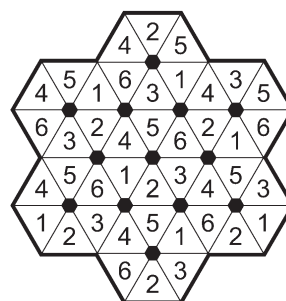
Micro Crossword

Answer

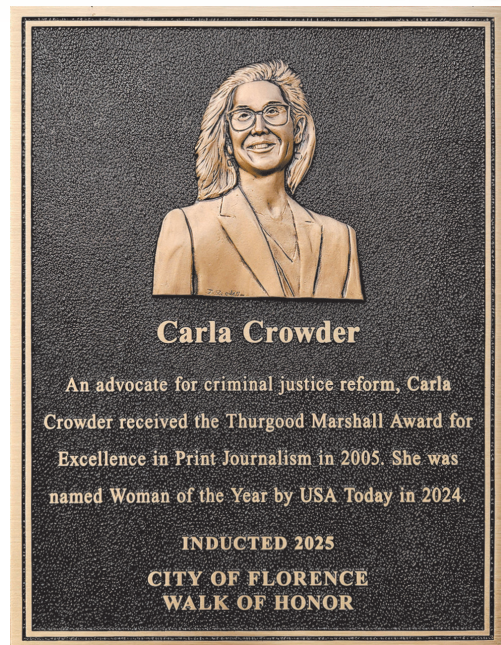
B	E	M	A	D
I	V	A	N	I
G	I	L	D	A
D	A	M	O	N
	N	O	R	A

SNOWFLAKES

solution



SIGNS OF THE PAST



Location: 34.8066°N, 87.6313°W
River Heritage Park, Florence

Carla Crowder is executive director of the Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice. Carla began as a reporter for the *Montgomery Advertiser*. She tirelessly advocated for the downtrodden and sought justice for those whose voices must be heard. With a law degree from the University of Alabama, she continues to fight for those without power and resources. Carla was inducted in 2025.

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

Dave...

Continued from page 14

them with college comes next in Baby Step 5. Baby Step 6 is a milestone. This is when you start throwing tons of cash at your mortgage, and pay off your home early. I told you we'd get back to this, didn't I?

But Edward, the real deal is Baby Step 7. Why? Because this is when all your hard work, discipline and wise financial decisions have put you in a place where you can build wealth like crazy. Not only that, you can give and help others by being outrageously generous. At this point, you're securing your future and helping others in a big way.

Go make it happen, dude. Take control of your finances, your life and be a blessing to others!

— Dave

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



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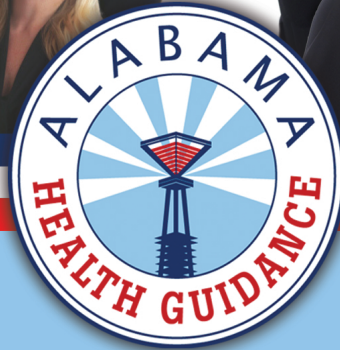
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GAME DAY SCORE CARD 2025

Courier Journal

**BEST ENTRY WINS
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Week 21 - Jan 19 Winner: SHEILA WILLIS of Florence PERFECT CARD!

Sheila's perfect card wins TWO \$50 Lost Pizza Gift Cards and a \$50 check from the Courier Journal!

As a special consolation, **GEORGIA PRIEST** of Town Creek will also receive a \$50 Gift Card from Lost Pizza Shoals for picking the exact score correctly.

Thank you to everyone who played in the 2025/'26 Game Day Score Card and to Lost Pizza Shoals for being our Prize Sponsor every week for a second year!

Previous Winners of 2025

- Week 1 - August 30 Winner: CHRIS SEAL of Muscle Shoals
- Week 2 - September 6 Winner: JEREMY CROWSON of Florence
- Week 3 - September 14 Winner: JORDAN WALDREP of Hartselle
- Week 4 - September 20 Winner: JOHNNY SMITH of Town Creek
- Week 5 - September 27 Winner: MARK HOLLEY of Florence
- Week 6 - October 5 Winner: BLAKE BURNS of Florence
- Week 7 - October 11 Winner: DAN SIDES of Killen
- Week 8 - October 18 Winner: WILL HAWKINS of Florence
- Week 9 - October 25 Winner: KENNETH TAYLOR of Florence (PERFECT CARD)
- Week 10 - November 1 Winner: RUSTIN COX of Florence
- Week 11 - November 8 Winner: JAY BENDALL of Muscle Shoals (PERFECT CARD)
- Week 12 - November 15 Winner: DARYL TERRY of Rogersville
- Week 13 - November 22 Winner: ANTHONY MANLEY of Tusculmbia (PERFECT CARD)
- Week 14 - November 29 Winner: SABRINA SEAL of Muscle Shoals
- Week 15 - December 7 Winner: GARY GALLOWAY of Florence
- Week 16 - OFF WEEK
- Week 17 - December 20 Winner: JO LYNN TAYLOR of Florence
- Week 18 - December 30 Winner: BRIAN MILLS of Nolensville, TN
- Week 19 - Fri. - Sat., Jan 2 - 9 Winner: TURNER A. HANNAH of Rogersville
- Week 20 - OFF WEEK

