

**Clean-Up at  
8am March 7**

FLORENCE—The Florence City Clean-up will get underway at 8am on Saturday, March 7 at the Florence Coliseum, and continue until noon. A light breakfast will be provided and supplies plentiful as local residents, city employees and city officials join forces to see just how much litter can be removed from city streets, rights of way, and thoroughfares. Even with last year's rain out, residents still cleaned up 4,661 pounds of litter! Let's see if we can eliminate even more in 2026! Can't join the effort on the 7th? Register to organize your own cleanup, and the city will have your supplies ready. Call FlorenceRecycles.org or 256-760-6495 for more details.

**First Metro  
Promotes 2**



**Cummings**

MUSCLE SHOALS — First Metro Bank recently announced two promotions at the Bank's Russellville office.



**Parker**

**Michael Cummings** was promoted to Branch Manager and Lending Officer. Cummings began his career with First Metro Bank in 2012 and has

See SHORTs... on Page 2

Volume 143 Number 19

March 4, 2026

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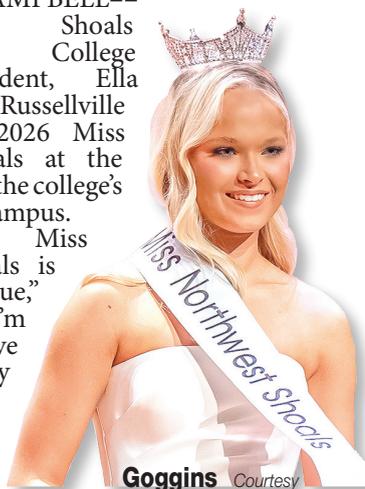
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For information about advertising in premium positions like this, please call 256-740-4701.

**Goggins Named  
Miss NWSCC**

PHIL CAMPBELL—  
Northwest Shoals  
Community College  
Freshman student, Ella  
Goggins, of Russellville  
was crowned 2026 Miss  
Northwest Shoals at the  
Bevill Center on the college's  
Phil Campbell campus.

"Becoming Miss  
Northwest Shoals is  
a dream come true,"  
said Goggins. "I'm  
so grateful to have  
the opportunity  
to represent my



Goggins Courtesy

See MISS...  
Page 14

**Black Churches**

**Shoals Has Many  
Historic Structures  
and Congregations**

TUSCUMBIA —  
Several churches will  
be recognized as part  
of a program entitled  
"Historic Black Churches  
of the Shoals," on Saturday,  
March 7 at Belle Mont  
Mansion in Tuscumbia.

The featured churches  
are among 37 churches  
highlighted in Delta  
Sigma Theta Sorority's  
three-year calendar series  
documenting church  
history throughout  
Lauderdale, Colbert, and  
Franklin counties. The  
program is from 2:30-4pm  
and is free and open to the  
public.

The event helps mark  
the culmination of Black  
History Month in the  
Shoals and is co-sponsored  
by the Race Amity  
Coalition of Northwest  
Alabama, Muscle Shoals  
Alumnae Chapter of Delta  
Sigma Theta Sorority,



Belle Mont Mansion, and  
St. Paul Missionary Baptist  
Church in Tuscumbia.

Founded following  
emancipation by former  
enslaved individuals  
at Belle Mont and their  
descendants, St. Paul  
Missionary Baptist  
Church will be represented  
by The Rev.  
Keeton  
Stewart.

Ms. Charlotte Perrett,  
a 104-year-old church  
member, will be honored  
and invited to share her  
recollections.

Other churches featured

See BLACK... Page 6

**Mt. Zion AME in  
western Lauderdale  
County (above) and  
Christian Home  
Church of Christ  
in eastern Colbert  
County (below)  
are among the  
churches featured  
on March 7. Courtesy**



**INSIDE this Issue**

**Online Only:**

Automotive Inside



Ray Miller GMC  
Advance Auto Sales

- Medicare Minute
- Ask the Attorney
- Adopt-a-Friend



- Charlotte's Web on Stage
- Dave Ramsey Commentary
- Your Letters



- First Metro Youth Computer Skeptic
- Hocus Focus
- Strange, But True
- SIGNS of the PAST

- Web Poll
- Outdoors
- Mystery Photo
- Pet Talk



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**Florence Kiwanis Club  
74th Annual  
Pancake Days**  
Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum

Scan for Tickets:



**Friday, March 13 • 6am-7pm**  
**Saturday, March 14 • 6am-2pm**  
**Advance Tickets \$10, At the Door: \$12**  
**Bundles of 10 or more - \$9 ea, Children under 12 \$6**

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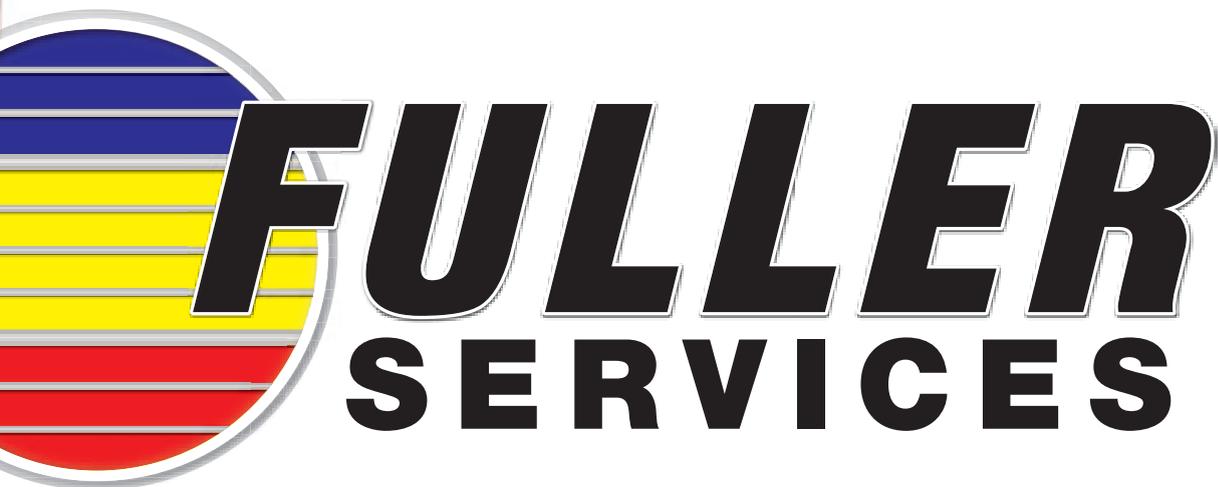
**Up to Air Handler**

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**Call for details.**

**Offer expires 3/31/26.**



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AL HVAC 91114

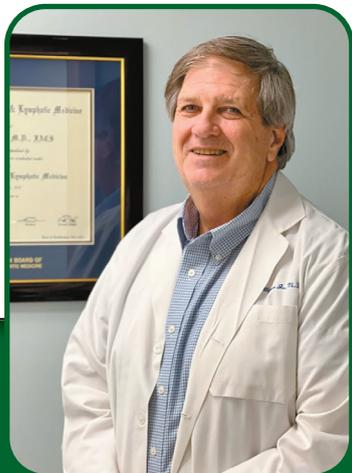
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## Shorts...

### First Metro Promotes 2

Continued from Page 1

held several roles of increasing responsibility, including Customer Service Representative, Digital Branch Manager, and Branch Supervisor. A graduate of Russellville High School, the University of North Alabama, and Alabama Banking School, Cummings brings proven leadership, commitment, and deep community ties to his new role. He is also a graduate of the First Metro Bank Certified Banker Program, a professional development initiative designed to invest in the growth of First Metro Bank employees. Cummings succeeds longtime Russellville Branch Manager, Mike Vaughn, due to his retirement.

“Michael grew up in Franklin County, he knows this community, and he genuinely cares about the people who walk through our doors every day,” said **Rodney Howard**, President & CEO. “He leads with heart, integrity, and a true understanding of what a community bank

means to Russellville and Franklin County.”

**LaDonna Parker** was promoted to Assistant Branch Manager and Lending Officer.

Parker brings nearly 20 years of experience serving Franklin County customers with professionalism, integrity, and exceptional customer service. A graduate of the Bank's 2025 Certified Banker Program, Parker has been a trusted leader within the branch and a valued member of the First Metro Bank team.

“LaDonna has built lasting relationships with our customers throughout her time here,” Howard added. “Her commitment to service and her love for this community reflects everything we strive to be as a community bank.”

### Florence as Tree City USA

FLORENCE—The Arbor Day Foundation has once again named the City of Florence a Tree City USA, marking the 39th year in a row the community has received this national recognition for its commitment to trees and urban forestry.

“Florence is fortunate to have dedicated people who understand how important trees are to our community,” said Mayor Ron Tyler. “This recognition reflects years of effort to plant, maintain, and protect our tree canopy for current and future generations.”

The Tree City USA designation recognizes communities that meet national standards for responsible tree management, including maintaining a tree board or department, having a tree ordinance, investing in forestry programs, and celebrating Arbor Day each year.

In that light, The city of Florence Tree Commission will host the second round of its Free Dogwood Tree Giveaway at 10am Saturday, March 14, at the Florence–Lauderdale Public Library, 1350 North Wood Avenue.

A total of 200 dogwood trees will be available, with distribution limited to one tree per household

while supplies last. Trees will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

### L.E. Willson a CLAS School

SHEFFIELD-- Sheffield's L.E. Willson Elementary has been named a 2025 CLAS School of Distinction. The Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS), selected L.E. Willson for its PUSH Leadership program. The award recognizes school programs in each of the state's 8 education districts that serve as outstanding educational models for other schools in Alabama.

The PUSH Project is a student-led and teacher-supported curriculum aimed at improving school culture, addressing issues like

bullying, depression, and disengagement. The selected schools and programs will be recognized at an awards luncheon in April. In addition, the CLAS Banner School for each district will be named at the awards luncheon.

### ASAP Hosts Substance Abuse Event

MUSCLE SHOALS – The Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) is proud to announce an upcoming Faith-Based Support Specialist (FBSS) Training Conference to be held on April 16-17 at the Northwest Shoals Community College in Muscle Shoals.

This two-day training, scheduled from 8am-4pm each day, includes engaging presentations, expert panels, and hands-on workshops, and is designed for leaders of all faiths and community advocates who are passionate about addressing substance misuse and improving mental health outcomes

See SHORTS... on Page 8

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Leg of Lamb \$6.99 Lb.

Whole Corn 50 Lbs. \$9  
Tasty 10 50 Lbs. \$9  
Goat Feed 50 Lbs. \$12  
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Rabbit Feed 50 Lbs. \$16



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**Early bird special pricing if booked by March 29, 2026. Reserve now. IT WILL SELL OUT QUICKLY.**



# Yard Sales

An exclusive listing of the better sales in the Shoals area.

To list your sale, use the classified form on page 6.

WE MUST receive your ad by Friday prior to the Wednesday release date. (8 days before a Saturday sale)

**FLORENCE: UNA BCM SUMMER MISSIONS INDOOR YARD SALE**  
March 7th, 2026  
6 am-11 am  
670 N. Wood Ave

**FLORENCE: YARD SALE** Oak Hill Subdivision 109 Royal Oak Rd March 6th and 7th 8am Household items, clothes, priced to sell. 13th and 14th if rain.

## ESTATE SALE

255 Co. Rd. 282,  
Florence, AL 35633

*This is the Second Sale which will include items that were not part of the first sale*

Friday, March 6th, 9am-2pm,  
Numbers given out at 8:30am  
Sat., March 7th, 9am-2pm,  
Numbers given out at 8:30am  
Sun., March 8th, 1pm-3pm.

Stressless Recliner and Ottoman, Vintage Shotgun Shells, Jewelry, Elgin Pocket Watch, Mid-Century Sofa, Victorian Marble Top Chest and Table, Collector Books, Lance Co. Presidents Pewter Collection, Grandfather Clock, Coffee High School Yearbooks, Oil Paintings, Collectors Prints, Antique Dolls.  
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Go to [estatesales.net](http://estatesales.net) for pictures

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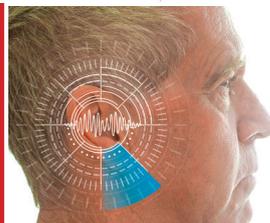
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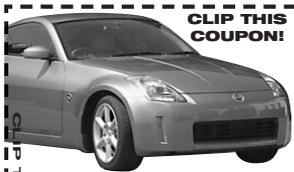
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 \*Limited Pickup & Delivery Area. Expires Tuesday, 3/10/2026

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**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 4pm Friday for consideration in the following week's issue. • Email to editor@courierjournal.net

The Shoals Area Annual Arbor Day Tree Celebration 8am-2pm on Wednesday, March 4 at the Alabama Forestry Commission-Lauderdale County Office (1212 Waterloo Road, Florence).

During the event, attendees will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of native trees and shrub plant species that can be planted in a landscape or forest setting. While supplies last!  
 Native trees will include: Bald cypress, eastern redbud, common persimmon, flowering dogwood, common pecan, sugar maple, white oak, crab apple, sassafras and black tupelo  
 Native shrubs will include: American hazelnut, sweet shrub, elderberry, arrowwood, blackhaw viburnum and common chokeberry.  
 For questions, call 205-300-6272 or 256-248-5204.

in Alabama. ESAs provide up to \$7,000 per student for approved private school expenses and \$2,000 per home schooled student (up to \$4,000 per family) for qualified education costs through approved providers.

Dr. Jason Imbrogno, Associate Professor, Economics at UNA, will host the following free public presentations explaining the CHOOSE Act at local libraries, including eligibility, how to apply, and how families can use the funds.

- Each 30-minute presentation will be followed by a Q&A period. The schedule continues as follows:
- Florence-Lauderdale Public Library - Tuesday, March 3, 5:30pm;
  - Killen Public Library - Thursday, March 5, 1pm;
  - Muscle Shoals Public Library - Friday, March 6, 1pm;
  - Cherokee Public Library - Thursday, March 12, 1pm;
  - Helen Keller Public Library (Tusc.) - Friday,

**PASSPORT FAIR - Monday, March 9, 9 AM - 2 PM.** Hosted by Congressman Robert Aderholt and the New Orleans Passport Agency. By Appointment Only. Apply Or Renew Your Passport at the University of North Alabama Guillot University Center.

APPLICANTS MUST BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Unsigned Passport Application Found at [travel.state.gov/passportform](http://travel.state.gov/passportform)
  - Passport Photo
  - Government Issued ID. or Driver's License
  - Proof of U.S. Citizenship
  - Renewals - must bring old passport
  - Accepted Payment Methods: Credit or Debit Card, Apple Pay, Google Pay or Samsung Pay
- To make an appointment contact Pam Abernathy 256-546-0201 March 13, 10:30am.

See NOTES... page 9

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Camden Seal, Florence High School's representative for Shoals Scholar Dollars Student of the Year, is hosting a fundraiser for Shoals Scholar Dollars at Slim Chickens in Florence on Tuesday, March 3 from 4-9pm. In order for Shoals Scholar Dollars to receive 15% of the purchase, customers MUST mention Shoals Scholar Dollars when ordering at the register or in the drive-thru. You may also order online using the code SLIMSGIVES. Every year, Shoals Scholar Dollars provides scholarships for graduates of Lauderdale and Colbert County schools. For more information, please contact Camden Seal at [camdenjseal@gmail.com](mailto:camdenjseal@gmail.com).

**FREE SUPPER!** on Monday Nights at Highland Baptist Church - Broadway Fellowship, 3215 Huntsville Rd in Florence. Doors open at 5:30pm. Meal served at 6.

The Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students' Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024 establishes refundable education savings accounts (ESAs) for eligible K-12 students

**Shoals Bible Class**

Study the Bible at your own pace.

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- Online lessons - go to ---> [shoalsbibleclass.worldbibleschool.org](http://shoalsbibleclass.worldbibleschool.org)
- Postal lessons - Phone 256-766-3617

**Jacksonburg Church of Christ,**  
 will host a  
**Spring Lecture Series**  
 with various guest speakers each Wednesday at 7pm in March & April. The theme is the "Armor of God." Everyone is welcome.

**The schedule includes:**

Ben Siegel, March 4	Harrison Chastain, April 1
Austin Swinea, March 11	Matt Miller, April 8
Justin Pannell, March 18	Chris Moran, April 15
Ricky Collum, March 25	Kirk Brothers, April 22
	Adam Ragland, April 29

We hope to see you Sunday for worship or Wednesday evening for Bible study.

**Jacksonburg Church of Christ**  
 414 County Road 28, Florence



- Bible Study 9am
- Morning Worship 9:45am
- Afternoon Service 1:30pm
- Wednesday Bible Study 7pm



## Youth Leadership Board

The First Metro Bank Youth Leadership Board (YLB) is shaping the next generation of leaders by bringing together high school seniors from across Colbert and Lauderdale counties. Through monthly meetings, hands-on learning, and mentorship, students gain leadership skills, financial knowledge, and practical experience that will benefit them long after graduation. Each week, we are excited to introduce the community to one of these bright young leaders and share their story.

This week's featured student is **Jordan Nix** from Lauderdale County High School.

Jordan's school involvement includes Varsity Baseball, Beta Club, Key Club, ACT 30+ Club, First Priority Alabama, Biology Club, and the Spanish Club.

Jordan's plans after graduation include studying Computer Science and Management at the University of North Alabama.



**Jordan Nix**

**What career path are you most excited to pursue:**

Working in machine learning and developing Artificial Intelligence further.



**What have you learned as a member of YLB?:**

It is a fantastic opportunity to grow in leadership and financial literacy skills!

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| Cramping      | Aching         |
| Swelling      | Spider Veins   |
| Burning       | Tingling       |
| Itching       | Heaviness      |
| Discoloration | Hair loss      |

Our team of experts, including a Board Certified Physician, specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of leg problems. We utilize the latest technology to get to the cause of the problem and develop a solution.

Let us help you get back to an active and healthy lifestyle!  
For more information or to setup an appointment, please call 256-766-2310.

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## KILBY LABORATORY SCHOOL



## 5K & FUN RUN

**SIGN UP HERE APR 18, 2026**



511 N. Pine Street  
8AM: 5k 🐾 9AM: Fun Run  
**REGISTRATION:**  
\*Online until April 17th at 12pm  
\*March 15th to guarantee Race T-shirt

**HELP KILBY KIDS GET A NEW PLAYGROUND DONATE TODAY!**



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Courier Journal

# Classifieds

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

## Black Churches...

Continued from Page 1

during the program include Christian Home Church of Christ in eastern Colbert County; Mt. Zion AME in western Lauderdale County; Greater St. Paul AME in Florence; Lesley Temple CME in Tuscumbia; First Missionary Baptist Church in Tuscumbia; High Street Church of Christ in Tuscumbia; and Rock Primitive Baptist Church in Florence.

Noted local historian, Anita Smith Cobb, serves as a member of both the Race Amity Coalition and the Muscle Shoals Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She proposed the idea of Belle Mont Mansion hosting this event to showcase these churches, their histories, and the Delta calendar project, including the sorority's mission. A limited number of 2026 calendars will be available for purchase.

Laura Emily Everitt, Site Director at Belle Mont Mansion, understands that this Black History project

is a great opportunity to share some perspectives of people whose lives and culture were shaped by hardships, such as those experienced during enslavement at Belle Mont and similar places.

"Churches provided the bonds of shared history, community, and the strength of faith that were essential to these individuals and families," Everitt stated. "These connections continue today and form part of a flourishing Christian community in the Shoals. We invite the public to join us in learning more and honoring the past as a pathway to greater understanding and a brighter future."

For more information, call 256-381-5052 or email [bellemontmansion@gmail.com](mailto:bellemontmansion@gmail.com).

Belle Mont is located at 1569 Cook Lane off U.S. Highway 43 south of Tuscumbia.



### NEED HELP?

CONTACT 2-1-1

Your link to community resources

DIAL- 2-1-1  
TEXT- your zip code to 898-211  
CHAT- 211connectsAlabama.org



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#### 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  
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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.

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Florence, AL 35630

Our society works when folks largely agree on what is real. Not on every fact, but on the basic structure: what is evidence, which experts can be trusted to verify information, and how disagreements should be settled. This structure is fragile. It took us centuries to arrange and agree on. It is now collapsing in front of our eyes.



Martin Dean

When belief becomes a matter of opinion, separated from verifiable facts, something basic changes. We no longer live in the same world; we live in different and often, competing realities. Disagreements become irresolvable because the information used for resolution

# What Happens When We Believe in Different Worlds?

Article 2 of 3 by "The Computer Skeptic"

becomes intangible. One person cites experts; the other cites YouTube or "feelings." One person trusts peer reviewed research; the other trusts a stranger who speaks with certainty on a screen.

This isn't just differences of views. It is the dissolving of the fabric of our society. And it has compounding consequences.

Groups of people that used

to air their differences through online forums, town halls, newspapers, civic organizations, now gather information in parallel echo chambers. Nobody is debating conclusions because there is no shared foundation to start from. The same event is often described in terms designed to "dog whistle" or "trigger" their own base, both descriptions are

firmly held beliefs. Oftentimes, now, there is malice; there is separation, and there is no room for disagreement.

This is destroying how a group can act together, even if it is beneficial to all. How do we address a public health crisis, how do we address systemic scams and blatant lies, when half the population does not believe there is a crisis, or that you can get rich quick? How can we maintain our infrastructure, educate our children, or even administer justice when the very people tasked with these functions are viewed as unnecessary, misinformed, or even overreaching, by large numbers of people?

Our historic need for certainty and safety, once limited to our local groups and slow-moving word of mouth cultures, now

functions at a world wide scale. It's no longer a method of survival. It's a whirl wind, spinning us apart and feeding us false information.

We don't fully grasp the gravity of this situation yet. Our society doesn't work without a shared reality. It's not a question of who can win an argument. It's a question of whether we can have an argument at all.

Bear with me friends, I have one more installment. Then we will resume our lighthearted trek through tech. Stay skeptical, my readers!

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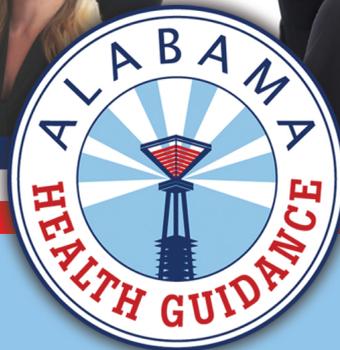
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We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 9 organizations which offer 80 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) for help with plan choices.

# North Alabama Medical Center 2026 Job Fair

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 - 7:30 PM  
NAMC Main Lobby

**Multiple departments represented**  
Members of our People Services (HR) team, leadership and frontline staff will be on-site to answer questions and assist with the application process.



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Valued at more than \$350

There will be light refreshments and door prizes

**FREE** Diabetes Education featuring certified instructor Leigh Anne Rutledge. (Free CEs offered for Nurses!)



## Shorts...

### ASAP Hosts Substance Abuse Event Continued from Page 2

in their communities. Participants will be better equipped to strengthen the bridge between faith communities and behavioral health systems.

This event is made possible through the support of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE), in partnership with ASAP's ongoing commitment to prevention through community collaboration.

The training will take place in Building 110, Room 104 at NWSCC located at 800 George Wallace Blvd.

Registration is now open. For more information and to sign up, visit FBSS.ASAPREV.COM or contact the FBSS team directly at 256-789-5585 or ASAPFBSS@gmail.com.

### Canaan on March 15

FLORENCE—Florence Arts & Museums is happy to announce the premiere of *Canaan* on Sunday, March 15 at 2:30pm at Handy Recreation Center, 1105 Beale St. in Florence. The documentary follows the lived experiences of Black residents who lived in Canaan. The documentary features interviews, photographs, maps, and memories that tells the story of what today is now a part of West Florence. Coordinated by Ms. Anita Smith Cobb, the interviews will document the childhood, school, church, and extracurricular activities of the community members.

This presentation follows Ms. Cobb's completion of the *East End*, *Stewart Spring*, and *North Florence* projects, the latter of which is

available on our website, [www.florencealmuseums.com](http://www.florencealmuseums.com). This program is free to the public and is sponsored by Florence Arts & Museums, Handy Recreation Center, and the Alabama Humanities Alliance.

Call 256-760-6379 for more information.



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# The Industry Standard

# BETTER HEARING

WITH DR. HOLLIE GREEN



## Notes...

Continued from page 4

**The 'Hi Neighbors of the Shoals' women's social group** meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month (March 3) 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!

**District 3 Council Member Alisa Dickson** will host a District Community Meeting on **Thursday, March 5 at 6pm** at the Royal Avenue Recreation Center, 421 North Royal Avenue.

Mayor Ron Tyler, Florence Police Chief Mike Holt, and Florence City Utilities will be there to share updates, answer questions, and talk about what's happening in your neighborhood. This is a great opportunity to stay informed, speak up, and connect with neighbors.

Come out, bring a friend, and be part of the conversation. Your voice matters and helps shape the future of District 3.

**5K Fun & Run - April 18** at Kilby Laboratory School, 511 N. Pine Street, Florence, 8am - 5K, 9am - Fun Run.

Run Together. Give Together. Build a New Playground for Kilby Kids

Register at: RunSignUp.com/Race/AL/Florence/TheKilbyCubDash

- Online until April 17 at 12pm
  - March 15 to Guarantee Race T-Shirt
  - Race Day Registration 7-8am
- Packet Pick-up:
- April 17 2:30pm-5:30pm
  - Or Race Day Pick Up 7-8am

**LifeSouth Bloodmobile Dates:** **Wednesday, March 4** Brooks High School, Killen, 8:30am - 2:30pm

**Thursday, March 5** Muscle Shoals High School, Florence, 8:30am - 2:30pm

**Saturday, March 7** Sam's Club, Florence, 10am - 4pm

**Monday, March 9** Shoals Community Theater, Downtown Florence, 10am - 6pm

**Tuesday, March 10** Heritage Christian University, Florence, 9am - 4pm

**Wednesday, March 11** Tharptown High School, Russellville, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

**The Florence City Clean-up** will get underway at 8am on **Saturday, March 7** at the Florence Coliseum, and continue until noon. A light breakfast will be provided and supplies plentiful as local residents, city employees and city officials join forces to see just how much litter can be removed from city streets, rights of way, and thoroughfares. Even with last year's rainout, residents still cleaned up 4,661 pounds of litter! Let's see if we can eliminate even more in 2026!

Can't join us on the 7th? Register to organize your own cleanup, and we will have your supplies ready. FlorenceRecycles.org or 256-760-6495 for more details.

**The 43rd Pastoral Anniversary** for **Pastor Joseph Marshall**, at First Missionary Baptist Church in Florence, 330 S. Thompson St, will take place on **Sunday, March 8 at 11am**. Guest speaker, Pastor Jerry Reeves, Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Leighton. All are welcome.

**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.

**Misfit Quilters** meets at the **Florence Lauderdale Public Library** (board room) once a month on Sunday, 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.

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## Breaking the Stigma: Hearing Awareness Week

The first week of March is Hearing Awareness Week, highlighted by World Hearing Day, and it's an important reminder that hearing health deserves the same attention as any other aspect of wellness. Yet even today, **there remains a strong stigma around treating hearing loss.**

Many people delay care because they worry about what hearing aids might say about them. Others assume hearing loss is something they should just tolerate. What I see every day in our Florence clinic tells a very different story. People who begin their hearing journey are often shocked — not by the difficulty of the process, but by how dramatically their quality of life improves.

Treating hearing loss doesn't make people look older. In fact, better hearing often has the opposite effect. Patients become more engaged, more confident, and more connected to their surroundings. They participate more fully in conversations, feel less fatigued, and enjoy social situations again.

Technology has played a major role in breaking down barriers. Today's hearing devices are more discreet and more powerful than ever. Many are nearly

invisible, and they're designed to deliver clear, natural sound — even in noisy environments like restaurants or family gatherings.

Hearing loss is incredibly common, and seeking treatment is a sign of strength, not weakness. It's about taking control of your health and preserving the moments that matter most.

As a lifelong member of this community, I believe conversations about hearing health should be open, supportive, and empowering. Hearing Awareness Week is a chance to shift the narrative and encourage people in Florence and The Shoals to take that first step without fear or hesitation. If you've been putting off a hearing evaluation, now is the time. Alabama Hearing Associates is here to guide you with expertise, compassion, and modern solutions designed to fit your life.

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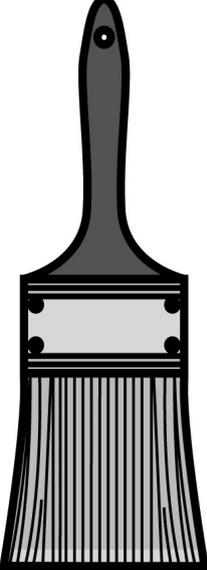
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See NOTES... page 23



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- Some sales and/or customer service experience.

ECM Health Group, LLC (in affiliation w/North Alabama Medical Center) is looking to hire an **Internal Medicine Hospitalist** in medically underserved area at 1701 Veterans Drive, Florence AL 35630. Requires medical degree (U.S. or foreign equivalent), residency training in Internal Medicine, and possess or eligible to apply for Alabama medical license. **Please mail CV to 330 Seven Springs Way, Brentwood, TN 37027 or email, [Dwinna.mullins@lpnt.net](mailto:Dwinna.mullins@lpnt.net).**

**Full-Time Machine Operator**  
The TimesDaily is seeking a printing press operator to join our northwestern Alabama printing facility.  
**Responsibilities include but are not limited to:**  
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Hands-on experience with a Goss Urbanite or DGM 850 is a plus, but not required. We are ready to hire and will train for the position.

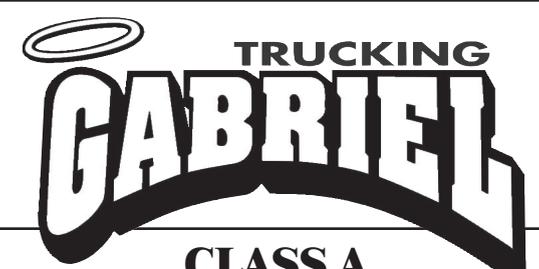
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Qualified candidates will be available to work nights, weekends.  
**Applications are available at the TimesDaily Office 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630.**  
**Questions or resumes may be emailed to: [Kevin.Blurton@timesdaily.com](mailto:Kevin.Blurton@timesdaily.com)**

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*This position will remain open until filled.*  
Applications may be picked up at Tuscumbia City Hall, 116 East 6th Street, Tuscumbia, AL 35674, and must be returned to City Hall or mailed to P.O. Box 29, Tuscumbia, AL 35674 during regular business hours; Monday -Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
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  - Filing daily newspapers
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  - Helping service all walk-ins
  - Event Coordinator, plans, organizes and oversees all aspects of an event to ensure it runs smoothly and meets objectives, from initial planning to execution and breakdown.
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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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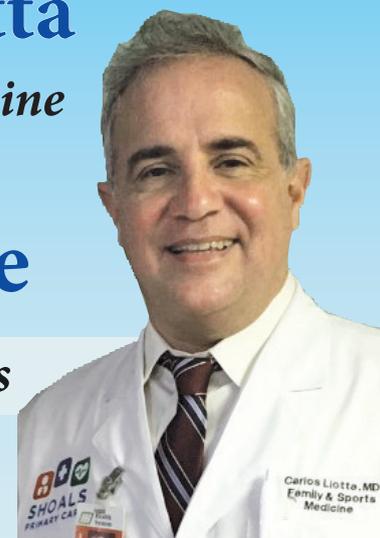


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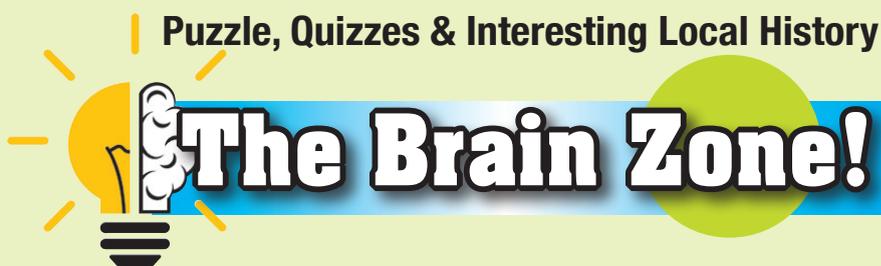
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## Commentary

# Crazy People and His Crazy Antics

**P**resident Trump's State of the Union speech last week wasn't as interesting as it was long. We all knew that much about his first 12 months would be filled with some of "the greatest" and "best ever" comments.

The ongoing feud between Trump and his congressional adversaries played out again this year with 60-70 instead choosing to attend what was termed the "People's State of the Union" rally on the National Mall.

Those who did attend understandably showed little appreciation or respect for what Trump spoke about.

At one point President Donald Trump, asked members of Congress to stand if they agree with the statement: "The first duty of the American government is to protect American citizens, not illegal aliens." John Fetterman may have been the only democrat standing.

In response, Trump nonchalantly stated, "These people are crazy." Sure, it was a baited

See **CRAZY...** on Page 20

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

## In A Few Words



**TOM MAGAZZU**  
Editor

# Courier Journal

in the *Shoals*

# THIS WEEK

March 4, 2026

## Happening THIS WEEK

# Staging Charlotte's Web

**SHEFFIELD** – Families and theatre lovers of all ages are invited to experience the timeless story of friendship, loyalty, and love as a community cast brings Charlotte's Web to life on stage at the historic Ritz Theatre in downtown Sheffield.

Performances will take place on Friday, March 6 at 6pm and Saturday, March 7 at 2pm.

Based on the classic children's novel by E. B. White, Charlotte's Web tells the heartwarming

story of Wilbur the pig and Charlotte, the extraordinary spider who spins words into her web to save her friend. Filled with humor, tenderness, and valuable lessons about compassion

and courage, this stage adaptation celebrates the power of friendship and the beauty of simple acts of kindness.

This community theatrical production features a talented local cast of young performers, imaginative staging, and creative costumes that bring the barnyard to vibrant

life. Audiences can expect wholesome entertainment perfect for children, parents, grandparents, and anyone who cherishes this

**CHARLOTTE'S WEB**  
MARCH 6 & 7

# Charlotte's Web

See **WEB...** on Page 18



**TUSCUMBIA KIWANIS PANCAKE DAY** is Friday and Saturday, March 6-7 at the Tuscomb Multi-Purpose Center, 601 N Commons St, East in Tuscomb. Serving hours are Friday 6am-1pm, and Saturday, 7-11am. Tickets are \$10 each or \$8 each if you buy 10 or more. ALL monies raised will be used to support children's non-profit groups in the Shoals area.

**THE 29TH ANNUAL URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE**, *Roots of Resilience: "Creating Livable Communities through Healthy Landscapes"* takes place Friday, March 6, from 8:30am-4pm at Cross Point Church of Christ, 1350 Cox Creek Parkway in Florence. The conference is hosted by the City of Florence Tree Commission and Beautification Board. Sign-in is at 8am. Preregistration is available online and same-day registration will also be available at the door. Registration fee of \$50 includes lunch and snacks. (\$55 for late registration) To register online visit: <https://florenceal.org/64454-2/> Vendors, displays, door prizes, dogwood seedling giveaway, book signing, and more! For all registration information and other questions please contact Sydney Alexander at: [salexander2@florenceal.org](mailto:salexander2@florenceal.org) 256-760-6407.



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

- 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

## Too Much Tax Paid

Editor,

There is some confusion in Montgomery over the Simplified Sellers Use Tax (SSUT) Program!

The program is for when you buy something from a company with no physical presence in Alabama the state wants them to collect an 8% sales tax to be shared between the state and local governments.

Currently, the state sales tax is 4% and the sales tax required in the unincorporated areas of both Colbert and Lauderdale counties is 1.5%. So, at 5.5% total, that means if Someone living in that area makes an internet purchase with an 8% tax charge, they are having to pay 2.5% more than the

*Donnie is in a rush to get these projects done before the upcoming November bloodbath . . .*

law currently requires!

Now, people in the unincorporated area's are being required to pay more than they should be paying!

People need to understand that the SSUT program is VOLUNTARY for all internet transactions. It is NOT REQUIRED by law for a seller to charge you the 8%!

Check out this program online yourself. Don't be fooled by what you are told. I contacted Rep. Philip Pettus and in a written message I was led to believe that SSUT was a LAW, which

it is not. It is more like a money grab!

**Philip Goodale**  
Florence

## Take the Time...

Editor,

It seems as if everyone is so busy these days on social media that they don't

See **LETTERS...** on Page 31

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255 County Rd. 282 • Florence  
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**Saturday, March 7 • 9am-2pm**  
 Numbers given out at 8:30am Friday & Saturday  
**Sunday, March 8 • 1pm-3pm**

\*This is the second sale which will include items that were not part of the first sale.\*

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**MEN'S BASEBALL**  
**MARCH 4** at Ole Miss - Oxford MS  
**MARCH 6-8** at Southern Miss - Hattiesburg, MS  
**MARCH 10 • 3PM** vs Jacksonville State at Mike Lane Field

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# Miss NWSCC...

Continued from Page 1

school and community.” Goggans has a passion for advocating for Athlete’s Mental Health. Last fall, she started her community service initiative, Beyond the Uniform. Beyond the Uniform is designed to help create a world where athletes feel valued for who they are and not by their performance.

“I have seen firsthand the effect one bad performance can have on someone’s emotional health and personal outlook on their self-worth,” said Goggans. “As Miss Northwest Shoals, I plan to raise awareness of the importance of athlete mental health. I hope to host workshops to help educate athletes and coaches on the importance of words and empathy.”

By winning the title of Miss Northwest Shoals, Goggans is poised to represent her college and community at the upcoming Miss Alabama 2026 competition on June 1-6, 2026, at the Wright Center at Samford University. She plans to get her associate in science degree at NWSCC, then obtain her physical therapy assistant certification, as she trains and mentors young dancers.

Reflecting on Goggans’ notable achievement, Miss Northwest Shoals Program Director Savannah Liles expressed, “This moment represents so much more than a title — it reflects the passion, purpose, and positive

influence that will reach countless lives in the year ahead.” said Liles. “We are incredibly proud of every woman who stepped onto that stage with courage, grace, and determination. Each of them embodies excellence, and we are honored to have them as part of our Patriot family.”

Seven women competed for the title of Miss Northwest Shoals, showcasing their talents through five stages of competition, including private interview, on-stage conversation, health and fitness, talent, and evening gown. Alongside Goggans, other winners were recognized:

- **Caroline Blackmon**, of Muscle Shoals, second alternate
- **Aidyn Kate Marshall**, of Russellville, first alternate
- **Ella Goggans**, of Russellville, talent competition award
- **Alexis Stewart**, of Phil Campbell, most inspirational award
- **Hannah Corum**, of Florence, outstanding community service award
- **Olivia Schurfeld**, of Florence, leadership award
- **Sara Beth Davis**, of Muscle Shoals, bookstore scholarship for exceptional courage in competition

In addition to the prestige of the title, Goggans receives a bundle of prizes, including a One-Year Tuition Scholarship, Official Custom Jewelry by Creative Jewelers, a year

of facial spa treatments from NWSCC Salon & Spa, wardrobe discounts from Cherry Tree Lane, a Bookstore Scholarship, an Official Portrait by Butler Studio Photography, and alterations for the Miss Alabama competition by Savannah Liles.

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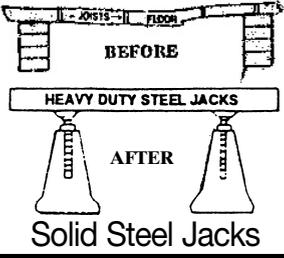
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**Web...**  
Continued from Page 1  
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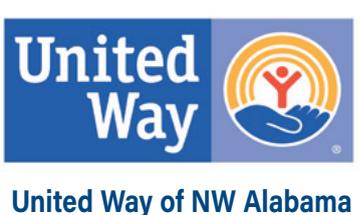


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## New Insurance Company Scam

Insurance companies have a new scam that we're seeing more of lately. Remember that when a person signs a release in Alabama they are held to have read and understood the terms of the document they signed.

The law of contracts changed about 20 years ago. Before that the courts would take into account someone's ability to read and understand a document. But, 20 years ago the court ruled that if you couldn't understand or read you should have asked someone who could. By placing your signature on the document, you agreed to the terms.

Insurance companies are now throwing out a pretty good number like maybe \$15,000.00 in a relatively minor car wreck case and sending a release that prevents any further claims from being made. The courts will enforce these releases.

What the release really says is that the person gets perhaps \$1,000.00 and the additional \$14,000.00 can only be paid to medical care providers for treatment related to the accident and then only if that treatment is received within 15 to 60 days.

We have people coming in on a regular basis who have signed these releases, accepted the \$1,000.00 and couldn't get treatment before the date on the release. The insurance company wins.

Insurance companies always require documentation before they pay any substantial amount of money. They have to have something on which to base payment and in the usual injury case that consists of medical bills and the records that show that the treatment was caused by the accident.

If the Veterans Administration, Medicare, Medicaid, Humana, Blue Cross, Mutual of Omaha, or any other "third-party payor" made a payment then the insurance company needs to know how much that payment was. Proper documentation in a personal injury case will make or break the case and is not always easy to come by. We see emergency rooms change billing offices several times a year. Ambulance companies are notoriously difficult to deal with and almost always refuse to bill your insurance. We've even had doctor's offices that won't provide the records unless the bill is paid in full. We then have to file suit and subpoena the doctor along with their records to our office.

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



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# STRANGE but TRUE

by Lucie Winborne

- **The cubicle got its name** from the Latin "cubiculum," meaning bed chamber.
- **When your "inner voice" speaks** in your head, it triggers small muscle movements in your larynx.
- **Harriet Tubman** was the first woman to lead a U.S. military raid.
- **Java junkies, take note:** The American Psychiatric Association's DSM-5 handbook classifies caffeine withdrawal as a mental disorder.
- **A newborn blue whale** gains about 200 pounds a day during its first year.
- **Jim Henson** made his first Kermit puppet using his mother's old coat and two halves of a ping-pong ball.
- **Sometimes it snows on Mars**, but the snowflakes are made out of carbon dioxide, not water. The flakes don't fall, but create a fog-like effect.
- **Australia** is home to approximately 170 kinds of snakes, including some of the world's most venomous. The good news? Snake bites aren't common and are rarely fatal. One study estimated that snake bites account for just two deaths per year in Australia.
- **Scottish band the Bay City Rollers** chose their name after sticking a pin in a map of America, which landed on the city Michigan.

- **Members of the Secret Service's Presidential Protection Division** always travel with bags of blood in the motorcade in the event a transfusion is needed.
- **Wisdom teeth serve no purpose.** They're left over from hundreds of thousands of years ago. As early humans' brains grew bigger, mouth space was reduced, crowding out this third set of molars.
- **One of Walt Disney's first art jobs** was drawing cartoons for a local barber in exchange for haircuts. Ever wonder where the term "jaywalker" originated? Back in the day, "jay" was

slang for a foolish person. So when pedestrians ignored street signs, to their own peril, they were labeled jaywalkers.

- **During World War II**, Charles Richard Drew, a Black physician, developed blood banks for military personnel. However, when he discovered that the military was separating blood donations according to race, he quit working for the Red Cross.
- **Some beaches** in the Maldives glow in the dark.
- **If you have a daily routine**, some scientists believe that your dog can tell when you're coming home by the amount of your scent that's left in the house.
- **As astronauts spend months traveling to Mars**, their eyeballs may change shape. Some scientists believe this is due to pressure from fluids

that won't drain from their heads, thanks to low gravity.

- **Ackwards** is an old English dialect word for a creature lying on its back that can't get up.
- **In the popular Roadrunner/Wile E. Coyote** cartoons, the latter character shouldn't have been outwitted by his desperately hunted prey, since coyotes typically outpace roadrunners by a good 23 mph.
- **According to a poll** of 11,000 Americans, 84% of vegetarians and vegans return to eating meat.
- **When Angelfire launched** in the mid-1990s, it offered medical transcription services as well as web-building tools.

Thought for the Day: "Friends are the siblings God never gave me." -- Mencius (c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

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Commentary

**Crazy...**

Continued from Page 8

question, but it deserved an honest response.

The seated democrats were obviously making a point to disagree with the administration's zero tolerance policy for illegal immigrants. In addition, many did not stand when grieving parents were recognized and military veterans-some 100 years old-were honored. None budged when Erika Kirk was recognized.

The climate spoke volumes about how far some Democrats have fallen away from Main St. America.

That said, Trump is in

no position to gloat. He is certainly no asset to the Republicans at this point.

The economy seems relatively stable considering how hard it is for tens of millions of Americans to make ends meet. Some prices are leveling off at a better pace than consumer confidence polls are reflecting.

Eggs, gas, and interest rates are a little lower, But not much else. As of this article, our gas prices are about 15¢/gal lower than last year at this time. Areas in Oklahoma are at \$2.30. I am not sure where he is hearing about gas for under \$2/gallon. That is a stretch.

Nearly six-in-ten Americans say the country

is worse off now than it was a year ago. Groceries prices are still high. Housing still costs more. Utilities cost more. So, he has a lot of work to do and a long time to keep his mouth shut if he thinks Republicans will retain the House and Senate later this year.

While Trump was on his roll, Democrats were winning two key house seats in Pennsylvania ensuring a democrat majority for Democrat Governor Josh Shapiro.

Trump claims to be saving taxpayers money here and there, but he is also spending it frivolously in areas that don't benefit those taxpayers.

Trump made special mention of legislators who are enriching themselves from the stock market when they have advance knowledge affecting fluctuations, even calling out Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca.)

That is a prime example of calling the kettle black.

He needs to ditch the smug look, comb his hair, shut his mouth, and straighten his act.

Trump doesn't take a salary and is funding many projects himself and through generous corporate donors. That is commendable... to a degree. However, at the same time, he can't install lavish accoutrements to facilities, create executive orders that directly or indirectly bolster his own coffers, the business

ventures of those contributors, or purposely enact legislation that removes constricting laws or regulations.

I am not saying that some regulations are not frivolous and needlessly choking out commerce, quite the opposite. However, the appearance of self-serving impropriety and breaches in ethics can run rampant.

Throughout the nation's first 250 years, presidents from every party (and George Washington who wasn't affiliated with a party) have been careful to avoid any appearance of profiting from public service. Trump flaunts gifts from foreign governments and has arrangements that are too coincidental.

The Kennedy Center was founded in 1971. Last year, Trump dismissed 18 previously appointed board of directors, replaced them with 30 of his own choosing, named himself chair, and suddenly his name is added to the building. It's unethical and smarmy.

Corporate giants have underwritten \$400 million plus for a White House ballroom. How many regulatory issues currently restrict their growth?

DHS secretary Kristi Noem has use of a \$70 million jet with a private bedroom so she can fly around in comfort.

Speaking of which... While Attorney General Pam Bondi has how charged 39 protestors with invading and interrupting a recent worship service at Cities Church in St. Paul last month, Trump as rescinded long-standing DHS protections that limit immigration enforcement actions in houses of worship.

Now decisions on enforcement operations inside a church now rest with individual ICE agents. No established restrictions. No judicial warrant required. No supervisors required. So, no protestors can enter worship services, but armed federal agents raid and assault under the pretext of immigration enforcement.

What can possibly go wrong there? And after COVID's impact on church attendance, what will this do?

Trump's weekend golf trips to Mar-a-Lago, cost the taxpayers tens of millions including the

Secret Service members who must be housed at the resort.

Publicly reported gifts being showered upon President Trump by foreign governments and politically connected foreign corporations include a Rolex desk clock, a gold crown, and a personalized gold bar worth \$130K, and a \$400 million Boeing 747 - that he plans to further personalize and take with him when he leaves office.

These are not tokens of diplomacy; they are investments in influence.

It is unconstitutional for our President or anyone else in a position of power to receive anything of value from a foreign government. However, a gift from a foreign corporation or a private interest isn't technically prohibited. It's just smarmy.

The one major difference is that Trump has managed to create an attractive brand out of his name alone, and some companies will pay handsomely to use it. Take the Trump Watch. He doesn't own that product. In fact, they are relatively cheap with many parts

from China. Others have paid him for the rights to use his trademarked name because it will sell. His agents may set stipulations on quality, production limits, etc. They may not. That is all negotiated for him and his family.

The problem is that \$millions in trademark rights and licensing fees are also tied to Trump's name on public infrastructure. While Presidents and other public officials have had landmarks named in their honor, trademark rights were never in play.

Reportedly, at least \$23 million has been brought in from licensing Trump's name overseas since his re-election.

We can argue whether he is using the presidency to enrich himself, or his name is just accomplishing that outside of the presidency, like owning a duplex in Florida that is rented and turns a profit.

What we DO know is that everything he went through during the four years he was out of the oval office, has helped further enshrine his name in the public mind. And for that, we can thank the Democrats.



**Meeting will be**  
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## SIGNS OF THE PAST



### INCORPORATION OF VINA

On February 9, 1909 the following group of men petitioned the Honorable A. J. Moody, Probate Judge of Franklin County, Alabama, to hold an election to incorporate the town of Vina: W. W. Weatherford, H. H. Weatherford, C. A. Wren, T. J. Bohannon, T. W. Wren, O. P. McClain, T. A. Wren, J. W. Rogers, I. J. Rogers, A. M. Reid, J. E. Nelson, H. C. Upton, R. P. Isbell, L. M. Carter, J. D. Carter, V. E. Shotts, C. E. Newton, R. Winchester, J. M. Hughes, F. M. Kidd, J. W. Upton, J. G. Upton, L. O. Newton, Ross Massey, A. W. Clark, and W. H. Tipton. There were more than 100 inhabitants within said territory that sought to be incorporated. The election was held March 9, 1909 with 31 votes cast unanimously for the incorporation. Judge A. J. Moody signed the incorporation papers on March 13, 1909.

ERECTED BY THE ALABAMA TOURISM DEPARTMENT AND THE TOWN OF VINA  
JULY 2010

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

With only a population of 100, the inhabitants voted for incorporation in 1909. Incorporation replaces county rule with self-governance and allows local officials to provide more services like zoning, utilities, and police. Today a small Alabama community must have a population of at least 300 to incorporate. The 2020 Census recorded 325 residents.

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

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# Medicare Minute

## Medicare and the Marketplace

Some of the most frequently asked questions we get from people under the age of 65 concerns the relationship between the Marketplace (Obamacare) and Medicare. There seems to be a great deal of confusion about how these two insurance programs work. Here are this week's questions:

**Will my Marketplace insurance end automatically when I become eligible at age 65 for Medicare?** The short answer to this question is "no". You must go to healthcare.gov or contact your Marketplace insurance carrier to cancel your plan.

**Can I keep my Marketplace plan after I become eligible for Medicare?** Yes, you can keep your Marketplace plan after becoming eligible for Medicare. This will not, however, exempt you from enrolling into Medicare Part A and Part B during your initial enrollment period. If you delay your enrollment into Part B, or Part A if you must pay a premium for it, you may be assessed a late enrollment penalty if you decide to sign up after the initial enrollment period.

**I am receiving a tax credit to help pay for my Marketplace plan. Will I continue to receive this tax credit once I become Medicare eligible?** This is a tricky one. Once you become eligible for Medicare Part A, you won't be eligible for a premium tax credit for a Marketplace plan. If you kept your Marketplace plan, you'd have to pay full price.

**Can you give me an example of losing my tax credit?** Let's say you are on a Marketplace plan that has a premium of \$1,100 per month. You have a tax credit of \$1,000 per month which means you would pay a monthly premium of \$100 per month for your plan. Once your Medicare Part A begins the \$1,000 tax credit goes away and you would have to pay the full premium of \$1,100 per month.

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

885 Florence Blvd. • 256-648-5710  
(Four Lane Shopping Center)



# Notes...

Continued from page 9

**Tuscumbia Kiwanis Pancake Day is Friday and Saturday, March 6-7** at the Tuscumbia Multi-Purpose Center, 601 N Commons St, East in Tuscumbia. Serving hours are Friday 6am-1pm, and Saturday, 7-11am. Tickets are \$10 each or \$8 each if you buy 10 or more. ALL Monies raised will be used to support children's non-profit groups in the Shoals area.

**CLOTHING GIVEAWAY with light meal** Monday, March 16 and Monday, April 13 Highland Baptist Church - Broadway Fellowship, 3215 Huntsville Rd in Florence. Doors open at 5:30pm. Food served at 6.

**4th Annual Team Roping for Ronald McDonald House Alabama.** Friday, March 13 - Sunday, March 15, 4pm-8pm each day. At the Longhorn R Arena in Tuscumbia

Saddle up and get ready to rope for Ronald McDonald House Alabama March 13-15, 2026! The Austin family, who stayed at Ronald McDonald House Alabama, hosts this fun event. Details are forthcoming regarding registration and more. Follow Team Roping on Facebook for the latest!

**Florence Kiwanis 74th Annual Pancake Days** - Get ready to be part of this extraordinary event on Friday, March 13 (6am - 7pm) and Saturday, March 14 (6am - 2pm) at the Florence - Lauderdale Coliseum

All-You-Can-Eat Pancakes and Sausage with Drinks

Advance Tickets are \$10 - At the Door, \$12. Bundles of 10 or more \$9. Children under 12 are \$6

For advance tickets and multiples of 10 or more go to [www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/pancake-day-2](http://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/pancake-day-2), visit any Florence location of Bank Independent or call the Law Office of Randy D. Whitten, 256-766-0284.

Business logo banners are also available for purchase.

Every ticket purchased to this event will benefit Kiwanis projects for children in the Shoals, and helping in their mission of creating a brighter, more compassionate world for all.

**Florence Arts & Museums is happy to announce the premiere of "Canaan" at 2:30pm on Sunday, March 15** at Handy Recreation Center, 1105 Beale St. in Florence. The documentary follows the lived experiences of Black residents who lived in Canaan. The documentary features interviews, photographs, maps, and memories that tells the story of what today is now a part of West Florence. Coordinated by Ms. Anita Smith Cobb, the interviews will document the childhood, school, church, and extracurricular activities of the community members.

This presentation follows Ms. Cobb's completion of the "East End, Stewart Spring, and North Florence" projects, the latter of which is available on our website, [www.florencealmuseums.com](http://www.florencealmuseums.com). This program is free to the public and is sponsored by Florence Arts & Museums, Handy Recreation Center, and the Alabama Humanities Alliance. Call 256-760-6379 for more information.

**Florence Camerata presents a Spring Gala at 7pm on Tuesday, March 17** at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Florence. This concert will be a great mix of Broadway, love songs, and a touch of Irish on St. Patrick's Day! For more information, please call 256-810-9512.

**Clothes Giveaway for Killen** and surrounding area Spring Infants-Adults clothes and shoes Thursday, March 5 from 8-10am at the Care Center, First Baptist Church, Killen

**CHIMNEY NEED ATTENTION?** Is it time to clean? Smells, Water, Animals? Dryer vent cleaning. Black Hearth Chimney Sweeps 256-710-0292

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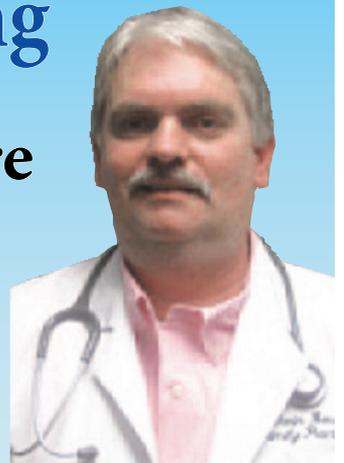
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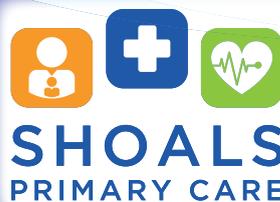
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Get an early look at next week's issue with the...

## Courier Journal Page-Flip Edition

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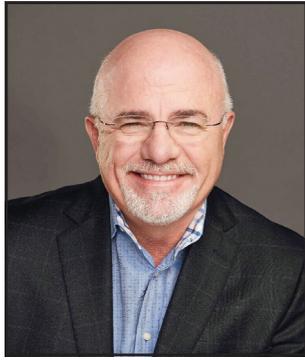
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See NOTES... page 26

# DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



*aggressive, and that makes me feel like I'll never be able to have a decent retirement. I've put aside \$20,000 in a savings account so far. Any advice you have would be appreciated.*  
Jack

Dear Jack,  
First of all, you're not at the age where you need to be investing conservatively. I don't know where you heard this or who told you it was a good idea, but they're wrong. You're only 50. I'm not investing conservatively, and I'm 63. I'm investing in good, growth stock mutual funds that are growing like weeds. And you should be too.

Listen, I'm not saying you need to shift into panic mode. But you do need to get moving on this retirement thing today. It's great that you've started saving money, but I'd be pretty nervous if all I had to my name at age 50 was \$20,000. At this point, you should have something like \$250,000.

You mentioned being afraid to invest more aggressively. I've learned over the years there are two situations where fear can be a positive thing. The first is being afraid of things we don't understand. One day when I was 12, my dad told me to move the car. I didn't understand you

weren't supposed to stomp the gas pedal all the way to the floor. That little episode scared us both silly, and I spun almost all the gravel out of our driveway. Now, with years of practice and understanding, I'm a better driver. Being behind the wheel doesn't scare me at all.

The other positive type of fear is being afraid of things that can legitimately hurt us — like standing in the middle of the highway. If you do this, you should be afraid an 18-wheeler will come flying down the road and turn you into a pancake.

But when you're afraid of something just because you don't know how to do it — like you are with investing — you can dispel that fear with knowledge and wisdom. That's why I want you to find a good investment professional. I'm talking about someone with

the heart of a teacher, who will help you learn the ins and outs of investing and take away the fear you feel. If you do this, your confidence, and your knowledge, will begin to grow. Once that happens, you'll start to feel comfortable pouring into good retirement investments.

Get to it, Jack. You can make this happen!  
— 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.*

## WHEN IT COMES TO INVESTING, KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM DISPEL FEAR

Dear Dave,  
I'm 50 years old, and through a series of bad life

*decisions, I have nothing set aside for retirement. Now that I'm finally in a better place financially, I'm getting to the age where people say to invest conservatively. Because of this, I'm afraid to invest in anything*

## Wrap Up the Year by Honoring a Woman Who Shines!

Nominate Your Shoals Woman of the Year 2026 ~  
Because Giving Recognition is the Greatest Gift of All!

This is your chance to nominate the next Shoals Woman of the Year.  
All nominations must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. April 24, 2026.

The purpose of the Shoals Woman of the Year award is to recognize an individual woman who distinguishes herself in her community as a leader. The recipient of the Shoals Woman of the Year award demonstrates excellence in leadership and has a visible impact on others. She represents the best of who we are as women and as leaders.

Please explain in detail, with examples, how the nominee makes an impact in the following areas:

**Leadership:** How has the nominee demonstrated strong leadership abilities, whether in their workplace, community, or volunteer activities.

**Impact:** How have they made a visible difference in the lives of others through their actions or initiatives.

**Presence:** In what ways do they possess a strong presence, demonstrate integrity, and inspire others.

**Service:** How does your nominee go above and beyond in their immediate job responsibility to benefit others.

### Nomination Guidelines:

- In a 200-300 word summary tell us your nominee's story and specifically how it relates to your nominee being selected for Shoals Woman of the YEAR along with how she has given back to the community including her involvement in the Organization representing courage, determination, heritage, heroism, initiative and vision. (Please detail on a separate sheet)
- Nominee Name/Address/Phone/Email
- Nominated by Name/Contact Phone
- Name/Describe your nominee's Organization (list Professional positions held within the last 2-5 years and general responsibilities)
- List all civic/community activities, clubs, groups and or boards they have served on within the last 2-5 years. Any awards received.

For USPS Mail, send nomination letter to:  
TimesDaily  
Attn. Shoals Woman of the Year  
219 W. Tennessee Street  
Florence, AL 35630

OR

For Email, send nomination letter to:  
swoynominations@timesdaily.com

For online entry visit  
[https://www.timesdaily.com/site/shoals\\_woman\\_of\\_the\\_year\\_nomination\\_form.html](https://www.timesdaily.com/site/shoals_woman_of_the_year_nomination_form.html)

For more information on Shoals Woman of the Year nominations or the event, please contact Renita Jimmar at 256-740-5815 (renita.jimmar@timesdaily.com).

## Courier Journal ADOPT A FRIEND

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

### Dixie H

Dixie H is a 5-year-old sweetheart weighing 57 pounds of pure gentle love. This beautiful girl is spayed, heartworm negative, and ready for a fresh start. Dixie is: • Crate trained • Good on a leash • Good with other dogs • Calm and well-mannered • Very sweet, just a little timid at first. She would do best in a home without chickens. Dixie has a soft, sensitive spirit and may take a little time to warm up, but once she feels safe, her loving and loyal personality truly shines. She's the kind of dog who will quietly steal your heart. **Come give this sweet girl the loving home she deserves.**



### Phillip



Phillip is a handsome young boy with the sweetest eyes and the most hopeful little face. Just look at him holding onto his toy — he's ready to share his heart with someone special. Phillip is: Playful and affectionate • Loves toys and enrichment • Appears gentle and people-focused • Has that perfect mix of fun and cuddle. He looks at you like you're his whole world already. Phillip would love a home where he can play, learn, and then curl up beside you at the end of the day. He has so much love to give and is just waiting for someone to give him a chance. **Come meet**

Phillip and see how quickly he steals your heart

Willow is absolutely stunning with her soft eyes and calm, soulful expression. She has a gentle presence about her and carries herself with quiet sweetness. Willow is: • Calm and attentive • Very people-focused • Appears well-mannered • Full of quiet love. She looks at you like she's studying your heart. Willow would make a loyal, devoted companion for someone looking for a steady, loving best friend. She just needs a safe place to land and someone to call her own. **Come meet Willow** and let her show you how special she truly is.

### Willow



**Adoption Info:** • Fee: \$85 • Includes: Spay/neuter, current vaccinations, microchip, and heartworm test  
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**Week of Feb. 25 Winner:**  
**Danny Culberson of Florence**  
who correctly guessed **"Florence Post Office"**



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.

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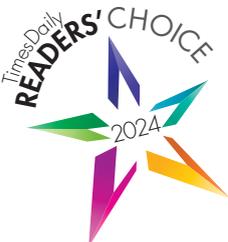
◀ **Heather Fowler and Erica Vaughn** are available to assist you with an ACA plan. They can enroll individuals in health insurance with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama.\*

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**RED LINE YOUR ADS. SEE PAGE 6**

# Notes...

Continued from page 23

**The Artistic Renderings of Youth exhibit for 2026** runs from March 23-April 30 at Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts in Florence. This is a juried exhibit of artwork open to students in grades 7-12 from Colbert, Franklin, and Lauderdale counties. The exhibit and competition are coordinated by area art teachers. Schools may participate or students can enter on their own. Each student can enter up to three works. The deadline for entry in is March 13. Entries are juried and, if accepted, are eligible for ribbons awarded in different grade level groupings. Works must be original and can be in any medium. All 2-dimensional entries must be matted or framed. Framed pieces and canvases must have hanging wire attached on the back. For more details on entry rules, call Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts 256-760-6379 or email: connect@florencealmuseums.com

The Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa St. in Florence. Public hours are Monday - Friday, 9-4 and on Sunday, 1-4. Admission is free. Please call the KDAC at 256-760-6379 for more information.

**Spring Series - Jacksonburg Church of Christ**, at 414 County Rd 28 in Florence, will host a Spring Lecture Series at 7pm with various quest speakers each Wednesday in March and April. The theme is the "Armor of God."

Everyone is welcome. The schedule includes:

- Ben Siegel, March 4
- Austin Swinea, March 11
- Justin Pannell, March 18
- Picky Collum, March 25
- Harrison Chastain, April 1
- Matt Miller, April 8
- Chris Moran, April 15
- Kirk Brothers, April 22
- Adam Ragland, April 29

**The 29th Annual Urban Forestry & Horticulture Conference, Roots of Resilience:** "Creating Livable Communities through Healthy Landscapes" takes place Friday, March 6, from 8:30am-4pm at Cross Point Church of Christ, 1350 Cox Creek Parkway in Florence. The conference is hosted by the City of Florence Tree Commission and Beautification Board.

Sign-in is at 8am. Preregistration is available online and same-day registration will also be available at the door. Registration fee of \$50 includes lunch and snacks. (\$55 for late registration) To register online visit: <https://florenceal.org/64454-2/>

Vendors, displays, door prizes, dogwood seedling giveaway, book signing, and more!

For all registration information and other questions please contact Sydni Alexander at: [salexander2@florenceal.org](mailto:salexander2@florenceal.org) 256-760-6407.

**There are two ways to participate in the Florence Citywide Cleanup in 2026:**

On March 7, Area residents will gather with city employees at the Coliseum (702 Veterans Dr.) to pick up supplies and a light breakfast before going out to beautify our city! If you or your organization would like to help pick up littered streets in Florence, register below and we will provide garbage bags, gloves, vests, and litter getters.

Choose Your Own Cleanup: Of course, we offer the option for you to choose an alternative time and date for a litter cleanup! Register to let us know when and where you would want to clean, and we will have your supplies ready!

Contact us at (256)760-6495 or [recycle@florenceal.org](mailto:recycle@florenceal.org)

**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).

# Citywide Clean-Up

Register today!

## Happening the ENTIRE month of March

Register as an individual or group to choose your clean-up spot and receive supplies, or join us at the Coliseum.

# March 7, 2026

## 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Florence-Lauderdale Coliseum**  
 702 Veterans Dr., Florence, AL

**FlorenceRecycles.org**

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**See NOTES... page 30**

# Real Estate

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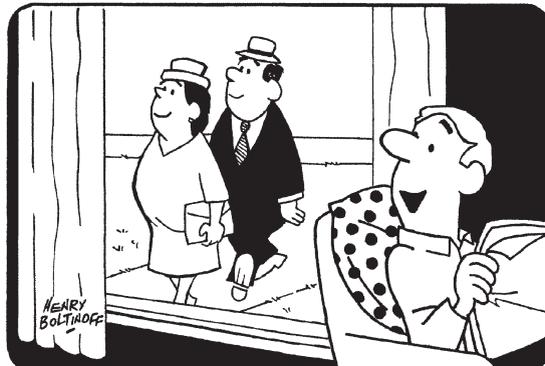
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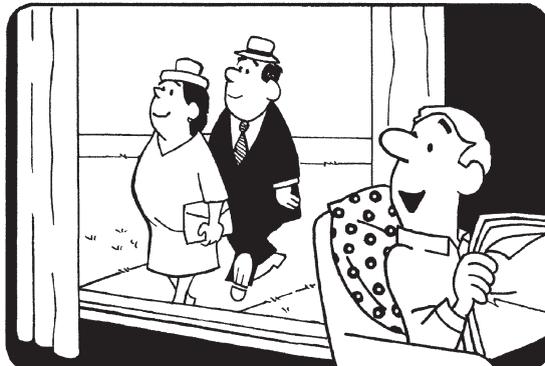
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### HOCUS - FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Page is added to newspaper. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Arm is shorter. 4. Pillow is not as wide. 5. Cuff is added to sleeve. 6. Curtain is not as wide.

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### The Easy Way Out

Salvation and spiritual progress without the scriptures is impossible. **Psalms 12:6** "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." **Proverbs 30:5** "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."  
**John 17:17** "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." **Matthew 11:29-30** "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" Almighty God (CHRIST) has already done everything necessary for us to be securely saved! What sin is keeping you from being saved? **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Take the easy way out!  
**2 Corinthians 11:3** "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent (DEVIL) beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." **2 Corinthians 4:4** "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." Remember, the Devil deals in lies and deception and gross corruption. God offers salvation freely. There is no work from you that will save your soul! **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." If you will, come to Christ today and ask Him to forgive you and save you, He'll do it! Christ did all the work. Let Jesus apply His work to your soul and receive Him today and "take (the free gift) and the easy way out!"

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**Answers on Page 30**

**Brain Zone!**

**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. Geometrical figure | ___ _ _ A ___ _   | English landowner       | ___ _ _ I ___ _ |
| 2. ___ con carne      | ___ _ _ _ _ I     | Put in the refrigerator | ___ _ _ _ _ L   |
| 3. Paper boundary     | ___ _ _ _ G ___ _ | Lee or Gaye             | ___ _ _ V ___ _ |
| 4. Canoe oar          | P ___ _ _ _ _     | Cowboy's seat           | S ___ _ _ _ _   |
| 5. Cherub             | ___ _ _ _ _ L     | Wrath                   | ___ _ _ _ _ R   |
| 6. Like snow          | ___ _ _ T ___     | Whimper                 | ___ _ _ N ___   |
| 7. Land property      | ___ _ _ _ T ___   | In actual fact          | ___ _ _ _ L ___ |
| 8. Noggin             | ___ _ U ___       | Knack                   | ___ _ I ___     |
| 9. Gadget             | ___ _ _ _ G       | Ponder                  | ___ _ _ _ K     |
| 10. Wanted sign       | ___ _ S ___       | Railroad attendant      | ___ _ R ___     |

**Micro Crossword**

By Elizabeth C. Gorski

**Across**

- 1 Corporate money execs
- 5 Pancakes served at the Russian Tea Room
- 6 Foodie, basically
- 7 Group of three
- 8 Moving clock parts

	1	2	3	4
5				
6				
7				
8				

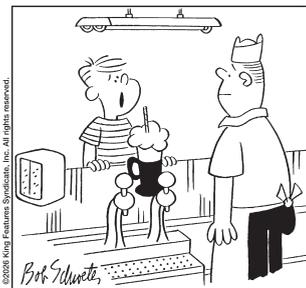
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**Down**

- 1 "The Nutcracker" girl
- 2 Belong
- 3 Without interruption
- 4 Horse fathers
- 5 "Owner of a Lonely Heart" author Nguyen

**FLASH BACK**  
POP, ROCK & SOUL  
TRIVIA BY MICK HARPER

- Which singer-songwriter released "Bring It on Home to Me"?
- Name the artist who released "Bop."
- Which group released "Down on the Corner"?
- "We Built This City" was the debut single for which band?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "Saving nickels, saving dimes, Working til the sun don't shine, Looking forward to happier times."



**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!

- Bane: RESCU [ ] [ ]
- Melody: DOHRC [ ]
- Coach: ETCHA [ ] [ ]
- Smell: THENC S [ ] [ ]

**TODAY'S WORD**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

- U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Acadia National Park?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was an avid dog breeder who gave his hunting hounds funny names like "Sweet Lips" and "Madam Moose"?
- MOVIES: Who is the antagonist of "Shrek" in the first animated movie?
- LITERATURE: What is the pseudonym of the 20th-century author who was born Adeline Virginia Stephen?
- TELEVISION: What's the family's last name in the TV sitcom "The Middle"?
- HISTORY: Which famous nurse was known as the Lady with the Lamp?
- GEOGRAPHY: Ringgit is the common currency in which Southeast Asian country?
- ANATOMY: Which human organ stores bile?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "Cogito, ergo sum" mean in English?
- MATH: What is the next prime number after 7?

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**Florence Historian**  
**Billy Warren**



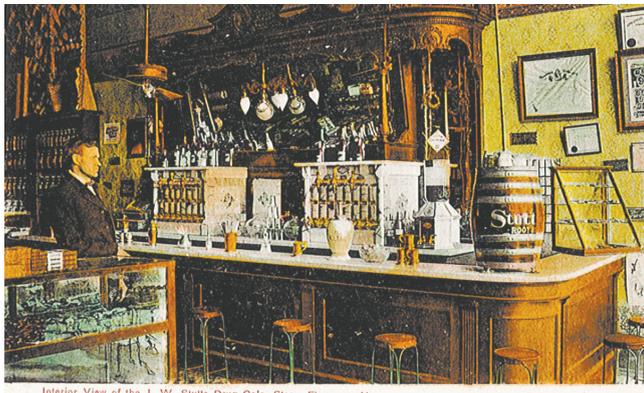
**Answers**  
**on Page 30**



## Jesse Walker Stutts: Pharmacist

As documented in a locally-published, two-volume work entitled *The Early Settlers of Cowpen Creek*, Jesse Walker Stutts was born in 1875 at Cowpen Creek in rural Lauderdale County. He was a brother of Dr. Henry Lee Stutts, who became a local legend through his many years of covering hundreds and hundreds of miles in rural Lauderdale County caring for ill people (even performing tooth extractions) and delivering babies. Jesse was graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in Pharmacy in 1902. Soon thereafter, he opened Stutts Drug Store on the northwest corner of Court and Tennessee Streets in downtown Florence – where Jimmy John’s Sandwich Shop is located today.

(See the interior of his drug store in the photograph below.)



Interior View of the J. W. Stutts Drug Co.'s Store, Florence, Ala.

Among the offerings at Mr. Stutts’s store were medications which he formulated himself, such as “Ivago” for irritations from contact with poison ivy; “Germ Death,” an antiseptic; and “Nervine” for calming anxieties. His pain relief medication called “Eas-It” was so successful that it put his pharmacy on the local and regional markets, resulting in the establishment of the Eas-It Chemical Company in 1913. He was careful to market it as “non-narcotic”; instead, it was formulated in an elixir base, indicating that it contained a significant percentage of alcohol. Jesse and daughter, Margaret, incorporated the Stutts Laboratories in 1940, though the company was short-lived.

– **Billy Warren, City Historian** ([brwarren@florenceal.org](mailto:brwarren@florenceal.org))

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Colossians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Whose first chapter begins, “Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month”? *Ezra, Ezekiel, Micah, Malachi*
3. From Exodus 10, what was blown out of Egypt by a strong west wind? *Rivers, Locusts, Sinners, Nightness*
4. In 1 Chronicles, who killed a seven and a half foot tall Egyptian giant? *Benaiah, Gideon, James, Baruch*
5. From Genesis 28, what city was the site of Jacob’s famous dream? *Lachish, Perga, Haran, Bethel*
6. In Colossians 4, what city was home to Philemon? *Berea, Shechem, Beersheba, Colossae*



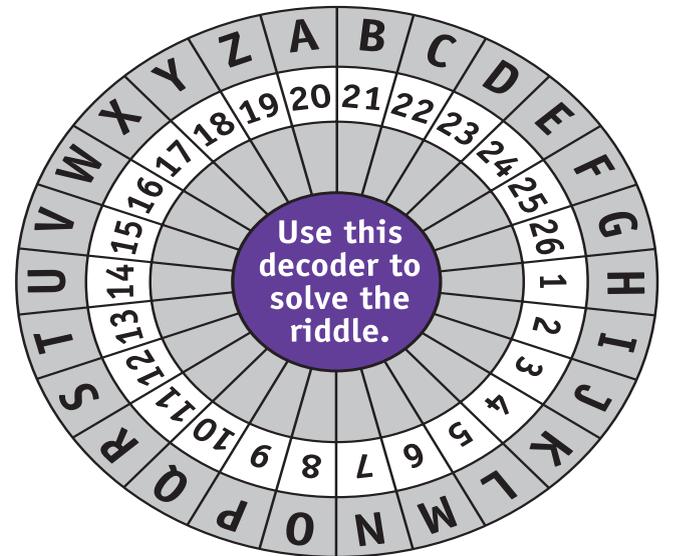
by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Four members of the “Miracle on Ice” 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team — Mike Eruzione, Jack O’Callahan, Jim Craig and Dave Silk — played hockey for what college team?
2. What women’s professional indoor volleyball league had its inaugural season in 2025, with the team from Austin, Texas, winning the first championship?
3. In the 1990-1991 season, which NBA team finished with a historically bad 1-40 road-game record?
4. Which Philadelphia college’s athletic teams are nicknamed the Dragons?
5. Brothers Vince, Joe and Dom DiMaggio all played baseball in the minors for what Pacific Coast League team?
6. Rock climber Adam Ondra, winner of both the lead climbing and bouldering titles at the 2014 Climbing World Championships, hails from what country?
7. What team selected Eric Lindros with the first pick of the 1991 NHL entry draft but was forced to trade him to the Philadelphia Flyers a year later because he refused to play?

## SECRET CODE

What kinds of keys can not open doors?

6	8	7	4	24	18	12	&	23	8	7	4	24	18	12
---	---	---	---	----	----	----	---	----	---	---	---	----	----	----



## 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.

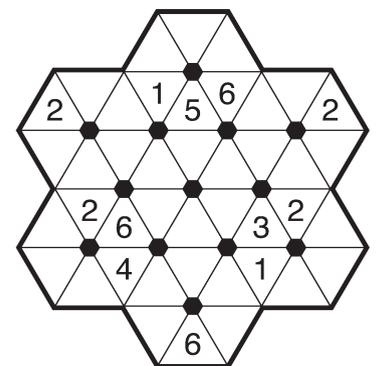
	+		+		=	10		
+		+		+				
	+		÷		=	2		
+		+		÷				
	-		-		=	1		
=		=		=				
14		17		6				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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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

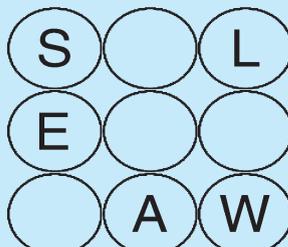
This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: R equals H

IONYGBM YFPNYC CNQT GT  
 QRGWR FJFYXENBX ONJFP  
 PGTZGTZ PMWYFB RXLTP NI  
 DYMGPFF: DPMOL EFMWR.

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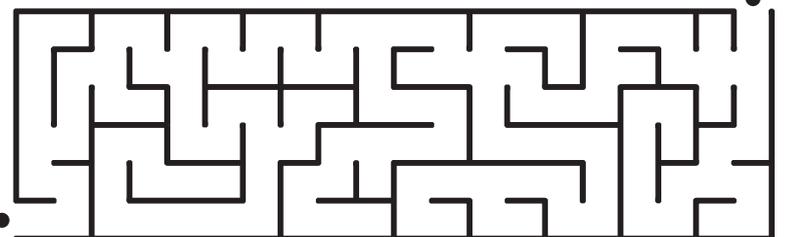
## WORD SPIRAL



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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## Kids' Maze



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# Notes...

Continued from page 26

**Thursday, March 5 - Sunday, March 8 The Gingerbread Players Present: "The Jungle Book"** The Play at the Shoals Community Theatre, Florence.

One of literature's most enduring classics is brought vividly to the stage in this exciting adventure of *Mowgli*, the Indian boy, raised by caring wolves, befriended by Bagheera, the Panther, and Baloo, the Bear, and threatened by Shere Kahn, the evil tiger. Also present are an array of other jungle creatures who inhabit this action-filled play. Interspersed with the *Mowgli* tale is the equally intriguing story of a young Rudyard Kipling, who is sent from his home in Bombay to a British boarding school where he encounters his own "jungle," including people—both good and otherwise—who parallel many of the animal characters he created.

Filled with excitement and humor, the play highlights the struggle of good versus evil, the worth of friendship, and the importance of loyalty and other values required for surviving the "law of the jungle."

**Florence Arts & Museums is proud to announce the return of Art Adventures** at the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts. Join us at Southall House at KD this Spring for two new presentations by Art Educator Elizabeth Renault.

- **March 15 from 2-4p.m.** Renault's presentation will focus on Pointillism and how color can be used to trick the eyes. She will also highlight the artists who discovered and practiced these color techniques.

**Readers of the Lost Ark Book Club**, 10am, third Wednesday, (March 18) at Helen Keller Public Library, 511 Main St., Tusculumbia. nancy537481@yahoo.com

**Shoals Artists Guild Meeting** Every 3rd Friday of the month, (March 20), 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.

**2026 Batting Brigade Quilt Guild Quilt Show** Friday, March 20, 10am-5pm and Saturday, March 21, 10am-4pm. at Edgemont United Methodist Church, 1330 Eauclaire Ave. in Florence.

Admission is \$6. Quilts on display, door prizes, demonstrations, boutique and gift baskets.

**2026 Fishing Days at Delbert Park are right here on us!** Dates have been planned to accommodate everyone - from children on spring break to seniors who enjoy early mornings and weekend options for working parents.

**SAVE THESE DATES:**  
Friday, March 27-6:30am-4pm  
Saturday, March 28-8am-4pm  
Friday, April 3-6:30am-4pm  
Saturday, May 16-6:30am-4pm  
Tuesday, June 16-6:30am-1pm  
Tuesday, Sept. 22-6:30am-1pm  
Saturday, October 3-8am-4pm  
Each event is at Delbert Park on Darby Drive in Florence. Bring your own tackle. No fishing licenses required.

**SPRING FESTIVAL** at First Free Will Baptist Church, 2701 Florence Blvd, Florence on Saturday, **March 28, 10am - 12 noon.** Games, food, kids obstacle course, egg hunt, prizes and more! Everyone welcome. (Bad weather date April 4)

See NOTES... page 31

## CALGARY HOMES SURVEY INDICATES

# River Heritage Trail Adds Value to Shoals Homes

Home buying isn't just about square footage or finishes - it's about how people imagine living day by day. From morning walks along a river path to weekend time in a town square, public spaces increasingly shape where buyers want to put down roots. To explore how strongly this influences purchasing decisions, a real estate platform named Calgary Homes commissioned a survey of 3,013 homebuyers, examining the role public spaces play in home-buying preferences, and identifying the most underrated public spaces that make people want to live nearby.

Below are the three public spaces that homebuyers in Alabama said have the strongest impact on neighborhood desirability: Florence said listed among the three.

### #1. Moss Rock Preserve, Hoover

Moss Rock Preserve feels less like a destination and more like part of Hoover's background rhythm. Neighbors drop in for short walks, quick resets, or longer weekend loops without needing to plan ahead. That ease

carries over into nearby housing, where the preserve quietly raises the baseline quality of daily life. For buyers, living close to a space that encourages movement and pause without effort often makes the area feel settled and complete.

### #2. Bienville Square Mobile

Bienville Square shapes buyer interest by giving downtown Mobile a true sense of everyday community. Locals treat it as a shared outdoor room - somewhere to pause, meet, or simply be in the city without needing a reason. For people considering nearby homes or apartments, that kind of civic space signals livability and connection. It reassures buyers that the neighborhood supports daily life, not just occasional events, which can be a deciding factor when choosing where to live.

### #3. Florence River Heritage Trail, Florence

The River Heritage Trail influences buying decisions because it turns outdoor time into something effortless.

Residents don't have to plan trips or drive elsewhere to feel connected to the river - it's simply there, ready to be used before or after work. Homes near the trail appeal to buyers who value walkability, daily movement, and open space as part of normal life, making proximity feel like a practical lifestyle upgrade rather than a luxury feature.

"When people talk about 'location, location, location,' they are rarely referring to the granite countertops - they are talking about the feeling a neighborhood gives them," says a spokesperson from Calgary Homes. "Our research shows that the most influential public spaces aren't flashy destinations but the everyday places that quietly support a good life. Buyers want to live near spaces they will actually use, not just admire."

Courtesy calgaryhomes.ca/blog/public-spaces-survey.html

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Your link to community resources

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**FLASH BACK TRIVIA**  
POP, ROCK & SOUL TRIVIA HARPER

- Sam Cooke, in 1962. The song didn't top the charts until The Animals released their cover in 1965 and it went to No. 1 in Sweden.
- Dan Seals, formerly of England Dan & John Ford Coley, in 1985. After leaving the duo, Seals had 11 chart-toppers, including "Meet Me in Montana" with Marie Osmond.
- Creedence Clearwater Revival, in 1969. Penned by band member John Fogerty, the song was first released on their "Willy and the Poor Boys" album.
- Starship, in 1985. Co-written by Bernie Taupin (writing pal of Elton John), the song climbed charts around the globe. However, Rolling Stone pegged it as one of the worst songs of the '80s.
- "Blue Bayou," by Roy Orbison in 1961. Linda Ronstadt followed with a cover in 1977, and the song has been used in several films, including "American Made" starring Tom Cruise in 2017.

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## Brain Zone! ANSWERS

### Even Exchange

answers

1. Square, Squire	6. White, White
2. Chili, Chill	7. Realty, Really
3. Margin, Marvin	8. Skull, Skill
4. Paddle, Saddle	9. Thing, Think
5. Angel, Anger	10. Poster, Porter



**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

Answers

- Maine.
- George Washington.
- Lord Maximus Farquaaad.
- Virginia Woolf.
- Heck.
- Florence Nightingale.
- Malaysia
- The gallbladder.
- "I think, therefore I am."
- Eleven (11).

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**BIBLE TRIVIA**  
by Wilson Casey

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Ezekiel, 3) Locusts, 4) Benaiah, 5) Bethel, 6) Colossae

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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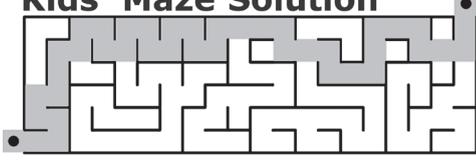
### CryptoQuip

answer

Florida resort town in which everybody loves singing sacred hymns of praise: Psalm Beach.

1	+	5	+	4	=	10
+		+		+		
7	+	9	÷	8	=	2
+		+		÷		
6	-	3	-	2	=	1
=		=		=		
14		17		6		

### Kids' Maze Solution



## SECRET CODE

What kinds of keys can not open doors?

Monkeys & Donkeys

### SCRAMBLERS

solution

- Curse; 2. Chord
- Teach; 4. Stench

Today's Word

DESSERT



**Sports Quiz**  
by Ryan A. Berenz

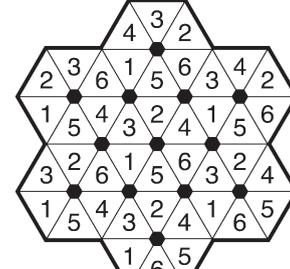
Answers

- The Boston University Terriers.
- League One Volleyball (LOVB Pro).
- The Sacramento Kings.
- Drexel University.
- The San Francisco Seals.
- The Czech Republic.
- The Quebec Nordiques.

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### SNOWFLAKES

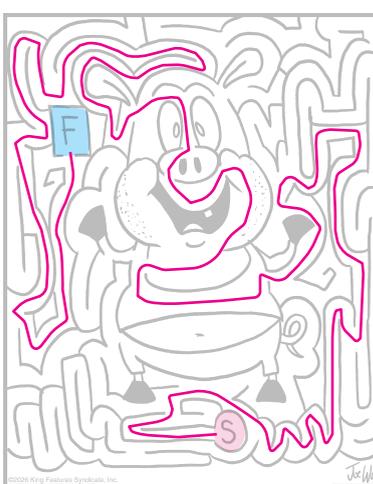
solution



### Micro Crossword

Answer

C	F	O	S
B	L	I	N
E	A	T	E
T	R	I	N
H	A	N	D



# Letters...

## Take the Time to Be Bothered

Continued from Page 8

have time for each other. Loneliness is epidemic and sadly a person commits suicide every 11 minutes.

Yet there are some who personally respond to every form of communication, regardless of what else is going on.

"If you want a job done, give it to a busy person," is a famous quote, and for good reason.

I went back to college at age 50 to become a writer. I wrote, directed and produced a controversial film called "The Orchard Baby," about a forbidden biracial marriage. Christian singer and song writer, Lenny LeBlanc, and former drummer, John Leonelli, provided two songs for the film which was my graduation practicum in 2013.

Afterwards, I turned to social media to raise funds to finish the movie.

I privately messaged Lenny and asked if he would like to buy a copy of the pilot.

"I'm on a plane going to Africa for a mission trip," He said, "Message me in two weeks and I will buy a copy."

I did and he did.

Afterwards, my respect for him rose, not only as a Christian, but as a world-wide evangelist because he made time for "little ole me," when he could have written me off by not wanting to be bothered.

Take time to be "bothered," Jesus did, didn't He?

"Come unto Me, all ye who are weary and I will give you rest..." He said.

Joy Willow  
Florence

## Hope for Him a Prison Cell

Editor,

So now Donnie Boy Trump is going to have the entire fleet of "his" Air Force Planes repainted, with his tacky color combination. Don Trump is on a spending spree, all at taxpayer expense. A new ballroom, a golden arch in Washington DC, refurbishing a 747 "gift from Qatar", putting Home Depot spray

painted gold medallions in the Oval Office and on and on and on.

Donnie is in a rush to get these projects done before the upcoming November bloodbath, which will replace Dons' flunky stooges" in the House of Representatives. Democrats are mobilizing and Don knows it; his spending spree will end then.

So, Alabama, as Don Trump raids the U.S. Treasury with his childish projects, you all will continue to have no subsidized health care for you and your children. Due to the Blond Bommer's self-enrichment, your

expenses for food and essentials will keep rising.

As he jets off to his Florida club, Merry Lard Oh, every weekend, again at taxpayer expense, you will continue to suffer.

Do you think Don cares? He does not care how much you suffer. He is a greedy, self-serving buffoon that cares only about his wealthy friends, who he places way above you. And, Alabama, you got what you voted for.

And do not forget the Farmers, suffering, forced into bankruptcy and foreclosure, because of the Trump tariffs, you got what you voted for also.

Thanks, you all, you got what you wanted.

I am happy that you all thought The Don was "the chosen one." You were right, Don Trump was "chosen" to take as much as he can steal from the U.S. Treasury, enrich himself and his useless family, to as much as he can get from the U.S. taxpayers. Thank you all for your vote to make all this happen.

I only hope that when this reign of terror ends, Don and his Crime Family and Aides who are perpetrating his evil scheme on the American people, all are in a real nice prison cell.

Larry J. Smith  
Florence

**NEED HELP?**  
CONTACT 2-1-1  
Your link to community resources

DIAL- 2-1-1  
TEXT- your zip code to 898-211  
CHAT- 211connectsAlabama.org

# Community Notes...

Continued from page 30

**Belle Mont's popular Kite Day and Egg Hunt event** returns for its 4th year on **Saturday, March 21 at 10:30am.** Children 12 and under are invited to visit Belle Mont Mansion to fly kites, hunt Easter eggs, have story time, tour historic Belle Mont, color, and eat popcorn! This program is free and kites will be provided. Reservations are required, please RSVP to [bellemontmansion@gmail.com](mailto:bellemontmansion@gmail.com) or call 256-381-5052.

This program is in partnership with Helen Keller Public Library. Belle Mont is located at 1569 Cook Lane off U.S. Highway 43 south of Tusculmbia.

**Alabama Plants Series - Florence Arts & Museums** is excited to launch the Alabama Plants Series. This year the series will feature a combination of demonstrations, presentations, and workshops. More information on each workshop can be found below:

Hosted by Summer McCreeless, these three demonstrations will provide an opportunity for participants to learn how to make tea, medicine, and soap out of native plants.

**Herbal Medicine:** Sunday, March 8, 1pm

**Soap Making:** Sunday, March 22, 1pm

Hosted by Nadene Mairesse, this workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to make ink out of native plants. This event will take place on Sunday, March 29th at 1pm.

The Alabama Plant Series is a set of five workshops hosted at Pope's Tavern Museum. These workshops are meant to draw the connections between Native American cultures, Alabama plants, and the products created by people that are rooted in early traditions.

All of these events will cost \$20 per participant and will take place at Pope's Tavern Museum, 203 Hermitage Drive, Florence, AL. Pope's Tavern is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am until 4pm, and is located at 203 Hermitage Drive, Florence, AL 35630. For questions, call: (256) 760-6379 or email: [connect@florencealmuseums.com](mailto:connect@florencealmuseums.com).

**The Coalition for Alzheimers and Related Disorders is partnering with Florence Lauderdale Public Library** to present 5-part series for Alzheimer's caregivers. Each segment of the series will take place from 10:30am-12:30pm on the first Saturday of each month from February-June (March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6) in the library's conference room.

Planned speakers include an eldercare attorney, a bank manager, a local mental health law enforcement officer, a grief counselor, a physician, a social worker and more. There is no charge to attend. Please go the library's website, at [fjpl.org](http://fjpl.org) for more details.

**The Blackwood Brothers will be in concert at Cypress Creek Methodist Church,** 801 Lewis Bruce Lane in Florence on Sunday, March 8 at 2pm.

This current group, led by Billy Blackwood who sang at Lisa Marie Presley's funeral. Billy's father sang at Elvis Presley's funeral as well. The concert is free to the public. A love offering will be received.

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

**Community Breakfast - Saturday, March 14, 6:30am-11am at the Underwood-Petersville** Community Center, 840 County Road 7, Florence

Cash only: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children younger than 10.

Cash only, check nor credit cards will be accepted. The breakfast is the first Saturday of each month. Call 256-764-1388, or follow the Lauderdale County Solid Waste Department's Facebook Page.

**Game Day - Thursday, March 19, 1-3pm** at Bartholmew'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 Bartholmew's Church, 1900 Darby Drive, Florence.

**Come 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 beginning in February.

Saturday mornings - March 21 and April 18, from 9am-12:45pm  
All Adults Welcome!

**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).

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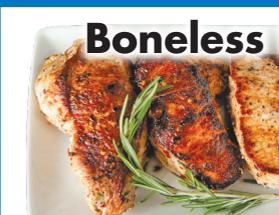


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 <p><b>Boneless Pork Chops</b> <b>\$1.99</b> LB.</p>	 <p><b>Assorted Reser's Potatoes</b> <b>\$3.29</b> 20 OZ.</p>	
 <p><b>Assorted Land 'O Frost Lunchmeat</b> <b>\$5.49</b> 1 LB.</p>	 <p><b>Zeigler Sliced Bacon</b> <b>\$4.49</b> 12 OZ.</p>	 <p><b>Zeigler Bologna</b> <b>\$3.59</b> 1 LB.</p>
 <p><b>Zeigler Wieners</b> <b>\$3.49</b> PKG.</p>	 <p><b>Zeigler Sausage</b> <b>\$3.79</b> 1 LB.</p>	

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**24 GMC Sierra Denali**  
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**25 GMC Sierra**  
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**\$52,888**

**24 Chevy Tahoe**  
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**23 GMC Sierra Denali**  
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**24 GMC Sierra AT4**  
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**24 GMC Sierra Denali**  
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**24 Chevy Tahoe**  
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