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Art Works - Meet July 24

TUSCUMBIA - Art Works 2016, the Tennessee Valley Art Association's member's show, takes place July 24 - September 2 at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art.

There will be a "Meet the Artists" opening reception on Sunday, July 24 from 1-3pm with musical entertainment by Doctors, Lawyers & Such. At the reception you can vote for your four favorite artists. You do not have to be a member to come to the exhibit on opening day. Admission is free, so tell your friends!

7th Place at Skills USA

MUSCLE SHOALS - The Muscle Shoals Career Academy announced that May 2016 graduate, **Cody Hovater**, placed 7th in the nation in Customer Service Competition at the 52nd National Leadership and Skills USA Competition in Lexington, Kentucky recently.



Hovater

National judges evaluated students' proficiency in their ability to provide exceptional customer service. The contest involves live, role-playing situations. Contestants demonstrate their ability to perform customer service in both written and oral forms including telephone and computer skills, communications, problem solving, conflict resolution, and business etiquette.

The Muscle Shoals Career Academy Skills USA advisor is **Kim Tidwell**. Hovater will be attending National Guard Boot Camp this summer and then pursuing an engineering degree.

Hood Earns HEPP Status

SHEFFIELD - **Ronda Hood**, Director of Cardiopulmonary Services and Safety for Helen Keller Hospital, recently completed the Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Professional (HEPP) Certificate Program. This program is offered through the University of South Alabama.



Hood

See SHORTS... on Page 3

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Classes Start August 22

Northwest-Shoals Community College

nwsc.edu (256) 331.5200

For information about advertising in this spot, call 256-740-4701

Grainger Focus on Labor and Delivery

SHEFFIELD - The Grainger Foundation, an independent, private foundation based in Lake Forest, Illinois, has donated a generous contribution to the Helen Keller Hospital Foundation in support of the Labor and Delivery Program.

"This donation will be used to purchase equipment for the Labor and Delivery department," said Pam Fleming, Foundation

See GRAINGER... on Page 6



Northwest Alabama and beyond with direct mail, total market coverage

JULY 22-31

Handy is Spry at 35

SHOALS - Each year the city of Florence and the Shoals area pay tribute to the Father of the Blues and Florence native, W.C. Handy, with a ten day family-friendly festival. The W.C. Handy Music Festival happens July 22-31 and offers a live musical performances, street parties, art exhibits, and more.

Over 200 activities and musical events are planned for this year's W.C. Handy Music Festival with activities planned each day and night during the ten-day festival. Activities include a street strut and parade, songwriter showcases, a car and truck show, a three-state bike ride, and great jazz and Blues music featuring popular local performers that can be heard throughout the Shoals at local eateries, malls, parks and other establishments.



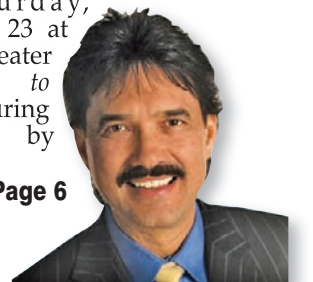
W.C. Handy Music Festival Schedule INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The popular Courtin' the Blues Parade hits the streets of downtown Florence on Friday, July 22 at 7pm and slated for Saturday, July 23 at

the Shoals Theater is *A Night to Remember* featuring performances by

See HANDY... Page 6

Ivan Parker



Florence Makes Best Small-Towns List

FLORENCE - *Southern Living* magazine recently selected its favorite small college towns, some true hidden gems of the South. Editors looked for schools beloved by their fan bases and their alumni, and schools exploring truly exciting academics and research that promise to reach the wider world. They defined

"small town" as a city of 350,000 people or less: places in which the college is a driving force in the character of the town.

The University of North Alabama and Florence placed fourth on the list.

See TOWNS.. on Page 11

Inside this Issue

- Adopt-A-Friend
- Pet Connection
- Honoring The Blues
- Cat & Kids
- Handy Schedule
- Hocus
- Dave Ramsey
- Shoals Dining
- Ask the Attorney
- Soaps
- Dr's Quiz
- Carousel Musical
- Medicare Minute



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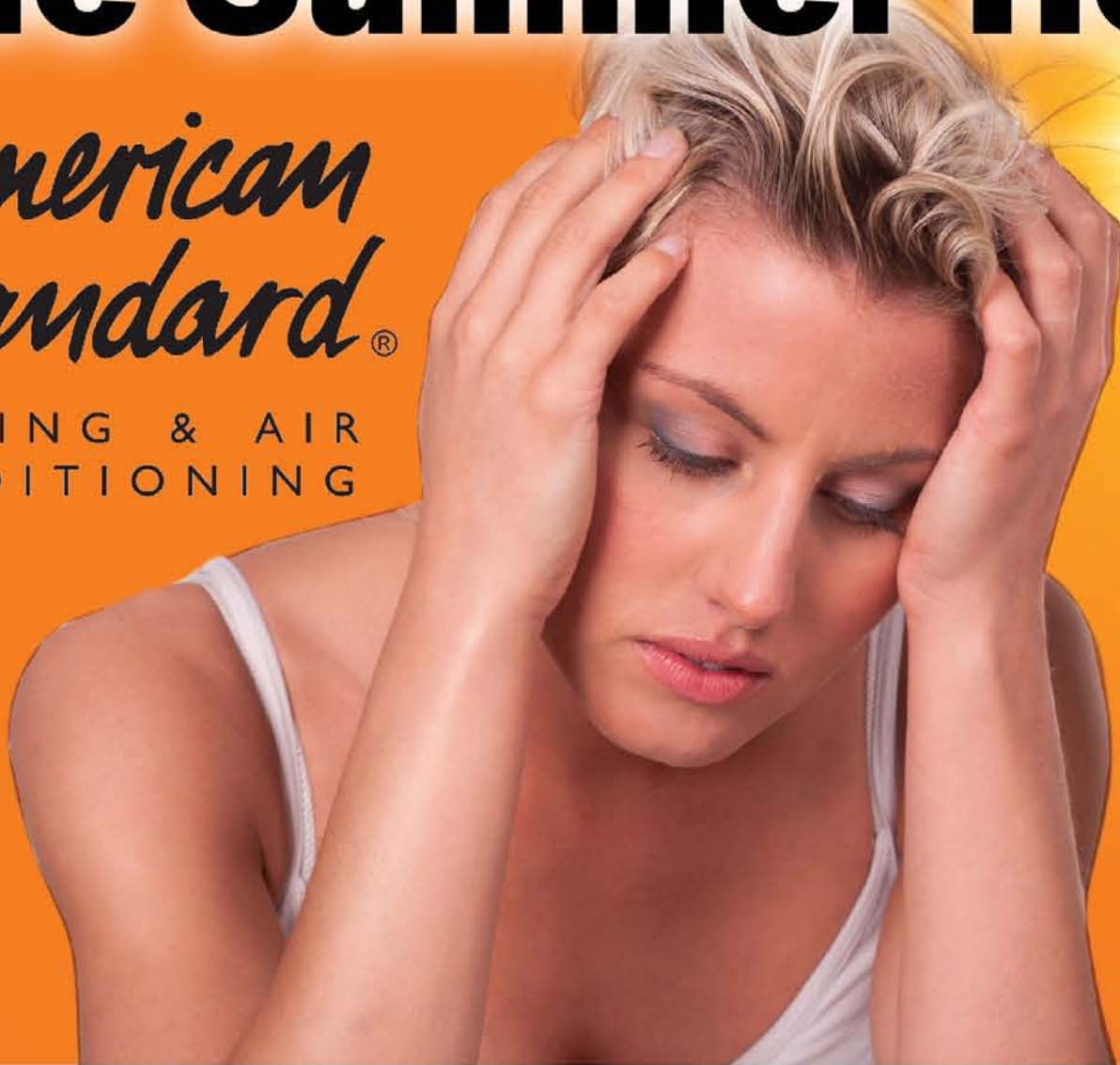
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SHORTS...

Hood Earns HEPP Status

Continued from Page 1

Hood voluntarily participated in the eleven month online course from July 2015-June 2016. Hood completed more than 250 hours of instruction, research, and practical application to further her capabilities to prepare and respond to emergencies and all-hazards events within healthcare settings.

Hood demonstrated dedication and excellence in advancing her knowledge and awareness of emergency preparedness through her participation and completion of assignments.

"Ronda's certification and education in emergency preparedness will be a huge benefit to Helen Keller Hospital's safety efforts," said Paul Storey, Helen Keller Hospital CEO. "It is important that we are constantly ready for any emergency or event, and this keeps us on that track."

Womack is a State Finalist

MONTGOMERY - At its monthly Alabama State Board of Education meeting last week, the Board of Education selected six finalists to interview for the post of Alabama's next State Superintendent of Education.

The finalists include Dr. Janet Womack, Superintendent of Florence City Schools. Others finalists include: Dr. Williamson Evers, Research Fellow, Hoover

Institution, Stanford University, Dr. Dee Fowler, Superintendent, Madison City Schools, Dr. Craig Pouncey, Superintendent, Jefferson County Schools,

Ms. Jeana Ross, Secretary, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education, Mr. Michael Sentance, Consultant, Education Policy and Improvement.

The State Board of Education will interview the finalists on August 4. The Board will vote to select the new Superintendent at its August 11 board meeting.

Mayors Debate to be Streamed

FLORENCE- NextGen Shoals, a young professionals organization of the Shoals Chamber of Commerce will host the first Shoals-wide mayoral debate for all qualified candidates of Florence, Sheffield, Tuscumbia, and Muscle Shoals at UNA's Norton Auditorium on Tuesday, July 19 at 6pm.

The event will also be streamed on Facebook Live from the NextGen Shoals Facebook page. Questions will be fielded based off comments posted on the live video feed. There will also be a live broadcast of this event aired on 102.7 KISS FM.

The debate for the Tuscumbia candidates, currently including David Cole and Kerry "Bubba" Underwood, will begin at 6pm. The Florence debate, currently including Susan Goode, Mayor Mickey Haddock, Steve Holt, and Billy Ray Simpson, will follow.

After those debates, all

candidates, including the uncontested Mayor Ian Sanford from Sheffield and Mayor David Bradford from Muscle Shoals, will take part in a question and answer period based off of

questions via social media. Closing statements for all candidates will be made at this time.

The 2016 Shoals Mayoral Debate is a free event open to the public.

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Items labeled Fall are not included in Home Decor sale.

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<p>FLORAL 50% OFF</p> <p>Most Categories Listed Does not include seasonal department or items labeled "floral accents"</p> <p>Stem Naturals Bouquets, sticks, pods, grains, fillers and grasses Does not include feathers</p> <p>Flowering & Greenery Bushes Does not include potted trees</p> <p>Floral Stems Floral and greenery stems Does not include feathers</p>	<p>Potted Trees & Floor Plants 4ft-8ft</p> <p>ALWAYS 30% OFF THE MARKED PRICE*</p>	<p>FURNITURE 30% OFF</p> <p>ALWAYS THE MARKED PRICE*</p>	<p>YARN & NEEDLE ART</p> <p>Baby Bee® Baby Yarns Hushabye, Sweet Delight™ and Sweet Delight™ Pomp 3 & 4 oz 4.22</p> <p>Crafter's Secret™ Cotton 2 & 2.5 oz 1.87</p> <p>Yarn Bee® Soft Secret™ 4 & 6 oz 3.33</p> <p>Packaged Quilt Battings & Pillow Forms 30% OFF</p>
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<p>FRAMES 50% OFF</p> <p>Categories Listed</p> <p>Ready-Made Open Frames</p> <p>Shadow Boxes, Display Cases & Flag Cases</p> <p>Posters Always 50% off the marked price*</p> <p>Photo Frames Always 50% off the marked price* Our entire selection of basic & fashion tabletop frames and wooden photo storage</p>	<p>Custom Frames</p> <p>ALWAYS 50% OFF THE MARKED PRICE*</p> <p>Applies to frame only</p>	<p>CRAFTS 30% OFF</p> <p>Categories Listed</p> <p>Chalkboards, Corkboards & Dry-Erase Boards</p> <p>Clay Modeling, oven-bake, air-dry & jewelry clay</p> <p>T-Shirts Always 30% off the marked price* Youth & adult t-shirts, tank tops, infant & toddler t-shirts, creepers and dresses</p> <p>Basically Yours® Aprons, bags and caps</p> <p>Leather & Leather Kits Priced \$4.99 & Up</p> <p>EVA Foam Packaged Shapes & Sheets Priced \$2.99 & Up</p>
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What is Your Plan?

Television commercials remind us to invest for the future, to be smart with our money, or better yet, to spend our savings and buy gold. I know many people who worry about what they'll be doing when they are 70 or 80. Man is constantly worried about the later years of life. Nothing is wrong with planning for the future, but God warns us about missing the true picture.

No matter how wealthy we become, we will all decorate the hillside the same way. Rich or poor, the grave yard doesn't discriminate. The rich man in Luke 16:19 was clothed in purple and fine linen. The Bible says he fared "sumptuously" every day. It sounds like he had very few needs -- until he died. Jesus said that in Hell, the rich man lifted up his eyes, being in torment. Most people I know think that right after they die, there will be a meeting between them and God: a sit down or discussion on how they did on earth. Some believe they'll just explain everything to God and talk their way out of it. In reality, there will be no meeting if you're lost. As Luke 16 states, you'll either be in Heaven or in Hell.

My friend, if you don't know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you are just like the rich man. Your house, car, and bank account mean nothing to God. It all belongs to him. When we die, it all stays here. All God sees is if you are covered in Christ. John 14:6 says "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh to the father but by me." Jesus claims the authority over our future, but we choose where we go. Jesus was seen publicly. He healed men and women publicly. He preached publicly, and He died publicly. Thousands met Him and watched Him triumph over the grave, proving His power over death, yet there are many who deny his authority or see him as just another prophet. As a Christian, I have no greater friend. Accepting Christ, asking the Lord to cover my sins and live within me, was the easiest decision to make. It's truly transformational. It's where I put my hope and future. Without this plan, life is meaningless.

Bill Bishop, Pastor
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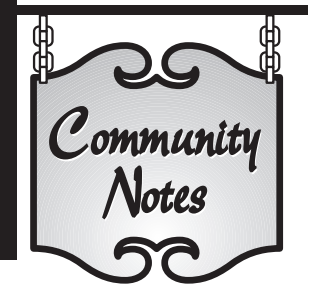
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Prior to the official kick-off of the 35th Annual W.C. Handy Music Festival Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) will host a W.C. Handy Music Festival event featuring Microwave Dave and The Nukes Tuesday, July 19 at 11:30am outside the Hospitality Center on the Shoals campus. Microwave Dave and The Nukes have been a staple performer in the annual W.C. Handy Festival and have established themselves with performances throughout the United States and Europe over the past 27 years. The trio has produced seven albums with the most recent debuting in late 2011, "Last Time I Saw You". For more information on Microwave Dave and The Nukes, visit www.microwavedave.com The event will be FREE and open to the public. The NW-SCC Business Department will be selling food with all proceeds benefitting the Shoals Scholar Dollars Scholarship Foundation.

Monthly Covered Dis Luncheon and Program at the Zip City Community Center, 10511 Hwy 17, Florence, on Thursday, July 21 at 11:30am. Please bring a covered dish. Everyone is welcome.

Fish Fry Thursday, July 21, 4-7pm at Central Volunteer Fire Department. Fish, shrimp, and chicken catered by Swamp John's. Plates \$10. Proceeds go to fire department.

Sons of Confederate Veterans, E. A. O'Neal Camp No. 478 Meeting at 6:30pm July 21 (every 3rd Thursday of the month) at Pope's Tavern & Museum, 203 Hermitage Drive in Florence. 256-764-4945

Hot BBQ! Cool Blues! will be presented on Thursday, July 21, from 6-8pm at GAS Design Center, 109 W. 6th St., Tuscumbia. Music by Max Russell Trio. BBQ by L.O. Bishop. Tickets: \$12.50; purchase in advance at Fiddledee D! 111 S. Main St., Tuscumbia. Sponsored by Tuscumbia Retail Development with proceeds benefitting business growth. For info: 256-383-9797.

Hundreds of alumni and former students of the old Burrell-Slater High School will be in Florence in town July 21-24 to celebrate the legacy of this great school. The schedule includes Registration at the gym on College Street Thursday, July 21 11am-3pm; Golf Tournament-Blackberry Course at 8am Friday, and a Meet & Greet at 6pm in the gym; Saturday- Downtown parade at 10am and banquet at 6pm at the Marriott Shoals. The reunion concludes with a worship service at 2:30pm on Sunday at Greater St. Paul AME Church. Outstanding graduates will be featured on the program. For more information, please contact Anita Cobb 256-446-5202, brmoweme@gmail.com, Ann Thompson, chair, at 256-766-2423, or Dave Smith 256-627-7271

"A Girl's Dream" presented by Beauty by Brittany - A launch party and ribbon cutting celebration on Friday, July 22 at 5:30pm at the Nelson Place, 965 County Road 57, Florence. Hosted by Lashay B. Performing live Billy D. Allen & Dusty. Tickets are \$15. Contact 256-554-2893 or 256-366-9112 for tickets. Sponsored by Blessed Assurance Benefit Group.

The Barnett Brothers Band will be at West Side Village Community Center, Hwy 99 in the Owens Community, Friday, July 22, 7pm. Admission is \$5. All ages are welcome. No smoking allowed, no drugs or alcohol permitted. Bring finger foods to share at break. For more information call 256-771-0586.

The Florence Parks & Recreation Department is Registering for:

Youth Football - Now until August 7 for ages 7-12 years old. Registration fee is \$45.

Adult Softball - Now until August 10. Team registration for Men, Men's Church, & Coed Leagues. Team fee is \$400.

Youth Cheerleading - Now until August 14 for ages 6-12 years old. Registration fee is \$35.

Fall Youth Soccer - Now until August 14 for ages 4-14 years old. Registration fee is \$45.

Flag Football - Now until August 21 for ages 5-12 years old. Registration fee is \$45.

Register online at www.fpard.com. For more information contact athletic office at 256-760-6628.

See NOTES... page 34

AD VALID JULY 20-26, 2016
HWY. 200 CENTRAL HEIGHTS
SAVE 3% ON SALES TAX
 We Accept Food Stamps & WIC

VALUABLE COUPON
Senior Citizen Coupon
5% Discount
On Total Food Bill
VALID JULY 26, 2016

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BONELESS BEEF
Sirloin Tip Roast
2.69 LB.

BONELESS BEEF
Rib Eye Steak
7.89 LB.

VALUE PACK
Split Fryer Breast
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BONELESS
Sirloin Pork Chops
1.79 LB.

Boneless Beef Sirloin Tip Steak	lb. 2.99
Boneless Country Style Pork Ribs	lb. 1.79
Armour Hot Dogs	12 oz. pkg. 89¢
Gwaltney Sliced Bologna	12 oz. pkg. 1.09
Gwaltney Sliced Bacon	12 oz. pkg. 2.99
John Morrell Sliced Ham or Turkey	7 oz. tub 2.49
John Morrell Smoked Or Polish Sausage	7 oz. pkg. 99¢

FRESH PRODUCE

<p>SEEDLESS Watermelons 3.99 EACH</p> <p>MISSISSIPPI Sweet Potatoes 69¢ LB.</p> <p>NORTHERN Quilted Bath Tissue 3.99 6 ROLL-PACK</p> <p>PIGGLY WIGGLY Peanut Butter 3.59 40 OZ. JAR</p> <p>GRAVY TRAIN Dog Food 2/89¢ 13 OZ. CAN</p> <p>PIGGLY WIGGLY BUTTER ME NOT OR TEXAS STYLE Biscuits 99¢ 10 CT. CANS</p>	<p>RED OR GOLD Apples 2.99 3 LB. BAG</p> <p>RED OR GREEN Seedless Grapes 1.99 LB.</p> <p>PIGGLY WIGGLY Ketchup 1.39 34 OZ. SQUEEZE/BTL.</p> <p>PIGGLY WIGGLY Spring Water 3.59 24 PK. 1/2 LITER BTLs</p> <p>PIGGLY WIGGLY Instant Light Charcoal 2/\$8 7 LB. BAG</p> <p>PIGGLY WIGGLY Soft Margarine 2/\$4 45 OZ. TUB</p>
---	---

PIGGLY WIGGLY Bread or Buns
 PKG. OR LOAF
89¢

PEPSI AND ALL Pepsi Products

4/\$5 Your Choice 3/\$10

2 LITER BTLs. 12 PACK, 12 OZ. CANS

PIGGLY WIGGLY Vegetable Cooking Oil
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TOTINO'S Frozen Pizza
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2/\$3

PIGGLY WIGGLY Frozen Crinkle Cut French Fries
 2 LB. BAG
2/\$4

PIGGLY WIGGLY Frozen Whipped Topping
 12 OZ. TUB
2/\$4

TINA'S Frozen Burritos
 5 OZ. PKG.
2/\$1

PIGGLY WIGGLY Apple Juice
 64 OZ. BTL.
1.79

PIGGLY WIGGLY ALL VARIETIES Shredded Cheese
 8 OZ. BAG
1.69

PIGGLY WIGGLY Ice Cream
 4 QUART PAIL
3.99

PIGGLY WIGGLY 2 Ply Paper Towels
 8 ROLL PK.
4.49

ARMOUR Chili w/Beans
 15 OZ. CAN
\$1

VAN CAMP'S Pork And Beans
 28 OZ. CAN
2/\$3

PIGGLY WIGGLY All Varieties Salad Dressing
 16 OZ. BTL.
1.63

SHUR SAVER Hamburger Pickles
 32 OZ. JAR
1.69

LUCKY'S Pinto, Great Northern Or Mixed Beans
 15 OZ. CAN
59¢

PIGGLY WIGGLY Deluxe Mac & Cheese Or Shells & Cheddar
 12 OZ. OR 14 OZ. BOX
1.59

CASTLEBERRY'S Hot Dog Chili Sauce
 10 OZ. CAN
79¢

PIGGLY WIGGLY Medium Eggs
 DOZEN CARTON
69¢

PIGGLY WIGGLY Frozen Pizza
 5.2 OZ. BOX
69¢



Yard Sales

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

To list your sale, fill out the form on page 6.

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

ANDERSON: 293 CO. RD. 523 Fri - Sat Big 2 Family Yard Sale! 7 a.m. until. Children's toys, clothes, men's and women's, GM car parts, and glassware.

LEXINGTON: 4989 CO RD 89, Saturday, July 23rd, 7a.m.-Until "Grassy Community" Tools, chairs, loveseat, treadmill, glassware, clothes and much more!!

KILLEN YARD SALE: 245 Briarwood Dr. Saturday, 6 a.m. until. Toys, clothes and much more!

MOVING SALE: EXECUTIVE DESK, living room furniture; small appliances, glassware, etc. Sat 7/23. 8 AM - Noon. 50 E Lakeside Dr, Florence.



FULL SIZE SOLID OAK bdrm. suite, high head board dresser with mirror, just like brand new, \$600. 256-351-9390

ROOFING - LEAKS REPAIRED, chimneys flashed, valley repair. All work guaranteed. Free estimates. 256-383-3218

WANT TO BUY THREE Wheel Bicycle; Also have men's and women's Leather Motorcycle clothing (size L/XL) Call 256-314-2269

AKC REGISTERED YELLOW LAB Puppies, Champion Bloodlines, 2 Male, 3 Female, Shots and Wormer UTD, \$450, 256-566-2326

MITSUBISHI: LANCER, 2015 \$11,988. ES, cloth, auto, 39k, financing available, call Brandon 256-710-4598 or 256-764-3351

DODGE: RAM, 2016 \$25,986. SLT Quad Cab, 4x2 auto, 21k, Financing available, call Matt 256-810-0283 or 256-764-3351

CLASSIFIED FORM ON PAGE 6

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET still in factory plastic, \$200. Full size, \$185. Kings, \$300. Delivery possible. Eric 256-710-7325.

SATURN: ION, 2005 \$2,850. 4 door, auto, 2.2 Echo Tech Engine, all power, 155k mi. & cruise. Gets great mileage. 256-332-6304

2 MAUSOLEUMS, FIRST LEVEL, Tri-Cities Memorial Gardens, side by side, \$9,500. 256-383-8007

FREE PUPPIES, 6 WEEKS old, weaned, mixed, part Lab, 256-252-5853.

2006 EQUINOX LT, 134K, leather, silver, \$4,650. 2000 XTerra, 167K, red, leather, sunroof, \$3,000. 1994 Ranger PU, 5 speed, short bed. 256-412-1331.

ELECTRIC RECLINER (NOT LIFT Chair), dark brown leather, works great \$100, 256-350-3093

GREENE'S LAWN CARE, CUTTING, trim shrubs, edging, pruning. Colbert County, 256-627-3586

DRIVEWAY ROCKS AND GRAVEL dump truck loads delivered and spread. 256-740-7406. www.BamaDirt.com



LANDAU PONTOON BOAT (1988)W trailer, new battery & tires, depth finder, trolling motor, & Bimini top - \$4,500 OBO. CALL: 256-350-0409

9 DOBERMAN/BLUE PIT PUPPIES, Parents on premises. \$30 each. 256-702-7042

CLEAN TOPSOIL DUMP TRUCK loads Big/Small Delivered and spread. 256-740-7406 www.BamaDirt.com

GUTTER CLEAN OUT AND Covers Fascia, soffit, gutter installation and repair. Sidley Exteriors 256-335-9650.

PONTIAC PARTS, HOOD FOR Trans Am 70-76 \$250; Headliner \$40; 15" Honeycomb Wheels \$400 OBO, 256-710-4102

FORD: FUSION SEL, 2012 \$7,850. real nice, loaded, heat/cooled seat, good shape, sun roof, super nice. 256-335-0702.

FORD TRACTORS WANTED, PREFER diesels with power steering, looks do not matter. Muscle Shoals, 256-200-0122.

TOYOTA: COROLLA, 1989 SR5, sharp, sporty body style, no rust, needs engine work. \$1,100. 256-757-9270.

HARLEY DAVIDSON 2012 TRIKE, TRI-GLIDE, RED WITH TRAILER and too many EXTRAS TO MENTION, 7500 MI. \$27,500. OBO 256-637-0265

GENERATOR, 5,000 WATT, COLEMAN Powermate, 120/240 volt, \$200. 256-729-0911 Athens

I BUY JUNK, AND Repairable Trucks, Cars, Vans with / title. I Pay Cash. 256-702-2067

FREE TO A GOOD home: Neutered, gray and black Tabby (Tiger). Friendly and lovable. Vet checked 06/16, all shots up-to-date and healthy. Great for an elderly person. Fully house trained. Call 256-773-6283 or 256-318-6179. Leave message.

MITSUBISHI: MIRAGE, 2015 \$9,444. DE, cloth, auto, 12k. Financing available Call Matt 256-810-0283 or 256-764-3351

MANSELL ROOFING, DISCOUNTS TO Veterans, and Seniors, all work guaranteed, Free estimates, 256-383-3218

BABCO ROOFING COMPANY WE Fabricate and Install Customized Copper and Prefinished Metal, Bay Windows, Chimney Caps, Fascia and Trim. Serving The Shoals for 48 years. We Specialize in Commercial Roofing. Call 256-383-4331


NISSAN: ROGUE, 2012 \$12,988. S Special Edition cloth, Auto, 68k, financing available, Call Matt 256-810-0283 or 256-764-3351

JR. LAWSON TREE SERVICE- tree trimming, stump grinding, removal. licensed/ bonded, free estimates, 256-856-7028

FORD: E350, 1991 \$2,750. automatic deisel box truck, Must Sell! 256-710-2556

ALL TYPES OF HOME Improvements, Painting, Siding, Roofing, Remodeling, Decks, FREE Estimates, 256-383-3218

DISHES, EIGHT PLACE SETTINGS, all extra pieces (marmalade pattern), \$125. 256-768-2994



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Everything in the Store (Without 3-Tier Pricing)

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Marcus Smith, PT

We are rooted in the Shoals since 1952 and can offer everyone expertise service when filling your prescriptions and offer FREE prescription delivery and pick up as needed to the Quad Cities Area

Since 1952



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Steven Barnes, Owner

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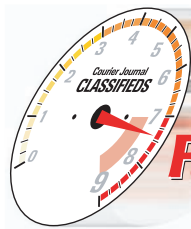
Financing Available



1. Loans provided by EnerBank USA (1245 Brickyard Rd. Suite 600, Salt Lake City, UT 84106) on approved credit, for a limited time. Repayment terms vary from 24 to 120 months. Interest waived if repaid in 365 days. 16.83% fixed APR, effective as of September 1, 2014, subject to change.
2. Repayment term is 84 months. 6.99% fixed APR, effective as of September 1, 2014, subject to change. The first monthly payment will be due 30 days after the loan closes.

Courier Journal

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Attract the most attention and sell your items red line fast when you choose to Red Line your Classified Ad. THE FIRST LINE OF YOUR AD APPEARS IN RED CAPS, catching the eye of your buyer faster than any other classified advertising in the Shoals Area!

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

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

Mail

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

Office

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

TNValleyStuff.com

As an added bonus for our advertisers, all classified ads placed in the Courier Journal are also online at TNValleyStuff.com. This provides even greater impact than the 70,000 home circulation which the Courier Journal reaches every week.

- Private Party Rate** 3 LINES for 1 item Prepay - No REAL ESTATE, FIREWOOD, or TICKETS. Each additional line - \$1.25 - CASH DISCOUNT - 4 Weeks/3 LINES for 1 item \$13.50 - Each additional line - \$5.00 no credits..... **\$4⁵⁰** Week
- Commercial Rate** 4 LINES Prepay - applies to all REAL ESTATE and anyone engaged in sale of goods/services on a recurring basis or for profit, licensed or not. 1 vehicle per ad. Each additional line - \$1.25 CASH DISCOUNT - 6 Weeks/4 lines \$35.00. Each additional line - \$7.50 **\$7⁰⁰** Week
- Yard Sales** 5 LINES Prepay Each additional line - \$1.25 YARD SALES - An exclusive listing of the area's better sales prominently placed **\$11⁰⁰** Week
- Employment** 5 LINES Prepay Each additional line - \$2.25 EMPLOYMENT - Looking for employment or Businesses looking for employees **\$12⁵⁰** Week
- Private Party Auto Rate** Up to 8 LINES for 4 weeks. Prepay Each additional line - \$2.00 **\$15⁰⁰** Week

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Phone _____

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

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

MAILING ADDRESS:

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

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

DEADLINE: Friday 5pm

Handy...

Continued from Page 1

to Remember featuring performances by Grammy-nominated music producer/singer/songwriter Prince Damons and Howard Hewett, lead singer of



Iron Horse

Shalamar along with special guest Latimore and the Midnights. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$35 at the door.

The UNA Summer Theatre presents *I'll Take You There, The Music of Muscle Shoals*, featuring actor George Wendt, writer/director Randal Myler and actor/singer Felicia Fields. The headliner for the W.C. Handy Festival premieres July 23 with a VIP event. Show time is 7:30pm and following the performance, ticketholders are invited to join the cast for hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$100 per person. For more information, visit www.una.edu/summertheatre.

On Monday, July 25 there will be two performances of "Determined: The Life of William Christopher Handy," a play written by Dolores Swoopes Nash. Showtimes are at 6pm and 8pm at the Historic Shoals Theatre in Florence. For more information, call 256-648-1713

On Friday, July 29 FAME presents *A Handy Shoals Revival* featuring the Muscle Shoals All-Star Band at the Historic Shoals Theatre. Come meet and mingle with Billy D. Allen, Holli Mosley and Christine Ohlman, The Beehive Queen (from SNL) at the VIP Reception. Tickets

are \$50 each or general admission \$25 per person. VIP Reception is at 6 p.m. Doors open at 7pm with showtime at 8pm. A portion of proceeds will be donated

to the Muscle Shoals Music Foundation. Tickets may be purchased at handysoul.eventbee.com.



C. Ohlman

W. C. Handy presented to the world the sounds of rhythm-and-blues, jazz, and soul with famous tunes such as "St. Louis Blues," "Memphis Blues," and "Beale Street Blues". He was born in Florence in 1873. Today, his home located at 620 West College Street is open 10am-4pm. Tuesday-Saturday for tours.

A schedule of events is inside this issue. Complete and up to date information can be found at www.wchandymusicfestival.org. Souvenir shirts in sizes child S - adult 4x are available at Florence-Lauderdale Tourism.

Brochures are available at the Handy office in Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts from 10am-6pm. Starting Friday July 22 hours will be 10am-10pm Monday-Saturday and 12-6pm on

Sundays. Additional information may be obtained by calling 256-766-7642.



T. Wammack

Courier Journal

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

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 Florence, AL 35630
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Your Courier Journal is published for total saturation, direct-mail delivery every Wednesday to 70,173 Shoals area and surrounding homes. It is Alabama's Largest Weekly-Mailed Direct, and enjoys a larger circulation than all local subscriber based newspapers combined.

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

219 W. Tennessee St.
 Florence, AL 35630
 or email to: editor@courierjournal.net

well in advance of the planned event. The Editor reserves right to shorten, edit, reword or omit submissions as seen fit. All information submitted for publication becomes property of the Courier Journal. Information published does not necessarily reflect an opinion or endorsement by the Courier Journal, members of its management, or its staff. Advertisers are responsible for all content and claims in their advertising.

Grainger...

Continued from Page 1

Director. "These items increase the quality of life for our newborn babies. We are grateful to the Grainger Foundation for its generosity."

The Grainger Foundation is an independent private foundation based in Lake Forest, Illinois. It was established in 1949 by William W. Grainger, founder of W.W. Grainger, Inc.

The Helen Keller Hospital Foundation was founded in 2000. The purpose of this non-profit organization is to allow the hospital to continue to provide the most advanced healthcare possible to this community. For more information on the Foundation, please contact Pam Fleming at 256-386-4747.

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We're Not Comfortable Until You Are

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

Medicare Minute

"Medicare Part A Part 2"

Last week we discussed how Medicare Part A will cover you if you are admitted into the hospital. A hospital, under Medicare, can be acute care hospitals, critical care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long term care hospitals or mental health care.

The one aspect of Medicare Part A we get the most questions about is coverage at a skilled nursing facility (SNF). To be covered by Medicare at a SNF certain criteria has to be met. First, of course, is you have to have Medicare Part A. Next your doctor has determined that you need daily skilled care given by, or under the supervision of, skilled nursing or therapy personnel. Your skilled nursing care will have to be in a SNF that is certified by Medicare.

What a lot of people don't know is that you must have a "qualifying" hospital stay to be covered at a SNF. Under Medicare a "qualifying" hospital stay is at least a 3-day inpatient stay prior to being admitted to the SNF. If you go to the ER and are held one day for observation and are admitted into the hospital for two days this does not constitute a "qualifying" hospital stay. If you are admitted on a Monday and discharged the following Wednesday this is not a "qualifying" hospital stay. In the two examples above those are 2-day inpatient stays. A good rule of thumb is you must be admitted as inpatient for at least three midnights.

You also need to know that Medicare Part A will only cover you for 100 days at a SNF and only 20 of those days are at 100%. In other words days 1-20 are covered at 100%. Days 21-100 you will pay the first \$161 per day and Medicare pays the rest of the cost. Starting with day 101 you will pay 100% of the bill.

If you have questions regarding any aspect of Medicare or Medicare health plans feel free call us at Alabama Health Guidance (256-284-7249), stop by our office at 879 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



Alabama Health Guidance

879 Florence Blvd. • 256-284-7249
(Four Lane Shopping Center)

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE!
Junk batteries, \$5 each. Ranger Battery Co. 426 Royal Avenue. 256-766-0473

RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT, AND FIXTURES. 519 W. Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals, during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

I CAN GET YOU financed on your next vehicle, call JD 256-577-1056 or 256-764-3351

SHANE PROCTOR HEATING AND COOLING \$50 SERVICE CALLS. AL # 11050. 256-415-3758.

2002 HARLEY ULTRA CLASSIC, like new, 28,000 miles, many extras. \$12,500 Firm. Phone 256-627-8997.

FORD: TAURUS, 2011 \$12,886. Limited, leather, navigation, 84k. Financing available, call Hoke 256-740-197 or 256-764-3351

ROOFING - LEAKS REPAIRED, chimneys flashed, valley repair. All work guaranteed. Free estimates. 256-383-3218

BOSTICH HARDWOOD FLOOR NAILER, used twice, \$150 firm. Guntersville 256-506-4600.

2013 YAMAHA VLX 1500, 245 miles, red/black, \$12,500. 815-483-7568.

NEW MOON ANTIQUES
Antique Furniture, Collectibles, Vintage Linens, Ect. 14,000 sq. ft., 60 Plus Booths. Great Food Next Door, Public Restrooms, Lawrenceburg Square, Lawrenceburg TN. Open Monday -Saturday. 931-762-1269

I BUY JUNK VEHICLES- Cars, trucks & vans. Pay cash. Call Chris 256-856-0577

OLD ROCKING CHAIR \$30; Old Cross Cut Saw \$65; Antique folding table \$50. 256-353-3902.

FORD: FUSION, 2013 \$12,988. SE cloth, auto, 76k, financing available, call Brandon 256-710-4598 or 256-764-3351

MANSSELL ROOFING, DISCOUNTS TO Veterans, and Seniors, all work guaranteed, Free estimates, 256-383-3218

VINTAGE/ GERMAN KINDERWAGEN, EXCELLENT condition. Light navy fabric., \$150. 256-520-7258

VACUUM CLEANER REPAIR, MOST makes & models. Free estimates. Ken's Sewing & Vacuum Center, 256-381-0161.

BLUEBERRIES ARE RIPE. ELGIN area. \$1.60 per lb., 256-247-3524 or 256-810-3836.

CLEAN TOPSOIL DUMP TRUCK loads Big/Small Delivered and spread. 256-740-7406 www.BamaDirt.com

BUICK: ENCORE, 2014 \$17,900. Back up camera, auto everything, 21K miles, 10 months FREE Onstar, 256-710-0303.

FRANK'S LAWN SERVICE MOW, trim, edge, garden and shrub. Free estimates and reasonable rates 251-408-2014. (Lauderdale/Northern Colbert Co)

19" TV FOR SALE, \$15. Call 256-479-7325.

LIKE NEW CAMPBELL HAUSFIELD, air nailers and Brad tools with case. \$275. 256-483-3551

"SKID STEER WORK" DIRT Work, Lots Cleared and Leveled, Gravel Spread plus Driveways built. 256-710-9407

ROOFING - LEAKS REPAIRED, chimneys flashed, valley repair. All work guaranteed. Free estimates. 256-383-3218

LAND CLEARING BY SHREDDER Mower. Lots, acreage or fence row. Free estimates. 256-366-0966.

UPRIGHT PIANO, TIGER OAK, \$50 obo. 256-990-5748. Toney, AL

LATE MODEL USED ENGINES and transmissions, 90 day guarantee, also brake work & tuneups. Call Gary 256-332-5366

GREAT BUY

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

SOLID OAK DINING ROOM table center pedestal with claw feet. Comfortably seats 6 \$99.
2 SOLID MAHAGONY NIGHT standsneeds some repair. \$75 each.
L.L. BEAN MISSION STYLE futon solid ash wood comes with bolsters and pillows. \$125 256-263-7421.

INFINITI: G35, 2004 \$6,900. Sedan, 110k mi. good tires and new battery. Sunroof, leather interior, Bose stereo and very nice car. 256-331-3508

BEE EQUIPMENT, EXTRACTORS, UNCAPPER, lumber for supers. 256-668-4670.

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Joel Hamner

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"WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE TOTO!"

Typically Tom and I use this column to respond to one of the many questions we receive from our readers each week. We appreciate every question and try to answer as many as we can. We view this article as a teaching opportunity and hope our readers have a better understanding of the law and how it affects their day to day lives.

Recently, I met with a couple who had hired one of these "turn your wreck into a check" attorneys and after listening to a few minutes of their story my blood was boiling and I was embarrassed for my profession. I was so angry, I suggested that this couple report this attorney and his firm to the Alabama State Bar.

In short, this very nice man had been injured in a wreck involving a commercial truck. Now most of the time we think of a commercial truck as a tractor trailer truck but that is not the only type of commercial vehicle. Delivery trucks, company vans, company trucks and cars, these are all commercial vehicles. In this case, the man had been struck by a delivery truck owned by a commercial heating and air company. He had suffered severe injuries and been hospitalized for several days. Furthermore, he had missed months of work and his injuries were permanent and he would never be the same again.

The reason the family wanted to talk to me was based on the "rest of the story" as Paul Harvey used to say. The family told me that after their case was settled, they were still receiving calls from collection agencies concerning unpaid medical bills. When I asked what the amount of the settlement was, to say I was shocked would be an understatement! The amount was so small, I thought that surely there had to be facts that I did not know. I then begin questioning whether suit had been filed, was any discovery undertaken, did their attorney take the truck drivers deposition, did their attorney ever learn of the policy limits of the insurance covering the delivery truck and if so did he disclose those limits to the family. As I suspected, the attorney never filed suit and simply settled with an insurance adjustor for a ridiculously small amount. Of course the attorney took his fee and left this family holding the bag.

It used to be that attorneys prided themselves on their trial skills. The older lawyers knew that in order to maximize the recovery for their clients, they had to be willing to file suit and "go to the mat" if it was required. A lawyer can only truly represent the best interests of his clients if he is absolutely willing to try their case before a jury. Insurance companies know which lawyers are willing to go to trial and those who will basically give a case away because they have never tried case and never will. The insurance companies' offers of settlement reflect the attorney's willingness to try a case. I was recently told that one of the well known television lawyers stated that he was not a trial lawyer but a "businessman with a law degree"! When hiring an attorney, ask how many cases like yours he has tried to a jury. Ask for proof of the successful cases he has tried and the amount of the jury verdict. Because like this unfortunate family learned, when hiring a personal injury attorney these days, you are not in Kansas anymore.

Please send the questions to:

"Ask the Attorney,"

P. O. Box 38, Florence, Alabama 35631

or visit our website at: www.mhatty.com

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- 1. Maintaining your current sleep schedule is a key aspect of good sleep hygiene.** If you go to bed at ten during the work week, try to match that while you're on vacation.
- 2. Avoid evening sugar rushes by indulging in that ice cream cone or key lime pie with your lunch - not your dinner.**
- 3. Cap off your early evening dinners with decaf instead of regular.**
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Towns...

Continued from Page 1

The magazine cited highly affordable tuition rates, strong academics, small class sizes, and a focus on faculty mentoring as strong points for the school. The artistic creativity in the surrounding community with music, fashion, festivals, and unique culinary and nightlife options highlighted the community's assets.

Also listed in the rankings were UA-Huntsville at #1, Auburn at #3 and Alabama at #5

ABANDONED VEHICLE NOTICE, ORIGINALLY abandoned at T & K Automotive, Muscle Shoals. The following vehicles will be auctioned on Colbert County Courthouse steps on August 25, 2016, Friday, at 11:00 AM. Any or all bids may be rejected. One - 1996 red Chevy Blazer, VIN: 1GNDT13W4T2181523. One - 2002 Toyota Camry, VIN #4T1BE32K624016172.

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Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

Relieve the Pressure

Writer's note: Recently, I was asked for a copy of the following column that I wrote in 2009. As I re-read it, I thought that these words could be read again. The labels change, but the tactics remain the same. There are always people preying to steal the innocence of our young people. My young friends, don't be fooled by the pressure. Just because you messed up doesn't mean that you are messed up. Try again. Resist again and again. I am cheering for you.

You have been on my heart. I want you to know from the outset that this letter is about pressure and forgiveness. I know that it is hard to be a teenager.

You have so many voices pressing you. That is why I decided to write you, so that when you want to you may glance at these words.

There are things that you have done about which you are ashamed. And now that you have done them, you don't know what to think about yourself. And your newfound, so-called "friends" have put a label on you and are trying to convince you that there is no turning back. They say that now you are a (insert label here).

Just because someone enticed you to try a joint more than once, does not mean that you are a druggie.

Just because your "friends" have coerced you into drinking on the weekends, does not mean that you have to be a binge drinker.

Just because that girl lured you into the girls' bathroom and kissed you, does not mean that you are a lesbian.

Just because that boy slid his hands up your blouse, does not mean that you are a slut.

My dear sweet young person, don't buy into your peers' pressure of saying, "Oh, you did it, now you are a (whatever noun goes in the blank)." Doing something does not make you something.

Sweetheart, I, Cathy Turner, am a black person. Nothing I do makes me a black person. Nothing I can stop doing will make me not be a black person. The things that you have done that have gone against your conscience or made you feel ashamed or uncomfortable, these actions, you can stop doing. You do not have to pick up that label that those "friends" are trying to put on you or that perhaps you are trying to put on yourself.

Forgive yourself. Change your friends. Walk away from the person who is applying the pressure. Tell your struggle to an old friend who you know will forgive you. Ask for their support. If there is a physical addiction involved, take a deep breath and tell your folks. Seek counsel. Seek help. Tell the principal. Tell an adult that you need help.

You don't have to be a

You don't have to succumb to the pressure.

There are people in this world, like me, who care about you.

I know that it is not easy being you. But in one moment of strength, courage and resolve, you could start all over.

Relieve the pressure.
Sincerely, Cat

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com

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Doctor's Weekly Quiz - Topic: Hero

- Sergeant Alvin York was the Medal of Honor winner in which war?
A.) WWI B.) WWII
C.) Korean D.) Vietman
- A Hero Sandwich is also known as a what?
A.) Grinder B.) Wedge
C.) Hoagie D.) A, B, & C
- "My Heros Have Always Been Cowboys" was written by Willie Nelson.
True or False
- Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier in WWII was born in which state?
A.) Texas B.) Oklahoma
C.) Nevada D.) Arizona
- Civil rights activist, Rosa Parks, refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in which Alabama city?
A.) Birmingham B.) Mobile
C.) Tuskegee D.) Montgomery

Answers: 1: A 2: D 3: False (Sharon Vaughn) 4: A 5: D

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Ian Teaches Aaron

Aaron: "I've heard that we are saved by faith."

Ian: "That's true, but faith is only one of the things that saves us."


Aaron: "You mean there are more?"

Ian: "Yes, the Bible says we are saved by:

- Jesus** (John 3:17),
 - Belief** (Luke 8:12),
 - Words** (Acts 11:14),
 - His blood** (Rom. 5:9),
 - Hope** (Rom. 8:24),
 - Repentance** (Acts 2:38),
 - Confession** (Rom. 10:9),
 - Baptism** (1 Peter 3:21),
 - Calling on His Name** (Rom. 10:13),
 - Grace through faith** (Eph. 2:8),
 - Works** (Phil. 2:12),
 - Endurance** (Matt. 10:22),
- And there are others."

Aaron: "From this it's plain to see that salvation is not just faith alone, or works alone."

Ian: "That's right. These and more are involved in being saved."



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Commentary

Inciting Minorities and Vilifying Cops

President Obama's agenda of unity in 2008 seems to have been anything but. In spite of improved race relations in the country, this guy looks for every opportunity to fuel racial animosity. I know, it's all part of the Democratic party platform to align itself as arbiter for assorted disgruntled constituencies. However, this piece of work takes it to new heights.

Repeatedly throwing law enforcement to the wolves is the President's primary method of aligning himself with the minority community, a majority of which think he is acting in their best interests simply because Obama looks somewhat like them. In fact he is purposefully creating animosity and channeling it for his own agenda.

We can start way back in 2009 with reaction to the arrest of Henry Louis Gates in Cambridge MA when Obama stated publicly that police "acted stupidly" before he had any corroborative information.

Obama also co-opted the deaths Eric Garner in New York, Michael Brown in Ferguson, and Freddie Gray in Baltimore, all of which were explainable if not completely justifiable. Obama and the media were arrogant in accusations with each incident. The false narrative "Hands Up Don't Shoot" was exacerbated by Obama and created "Black Lives Matter" protests which has set minority

See **VILLIFYING...** on Page 28

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

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

Courier Journal

THIS WEEK

in the

Shoals
July 20, 2016

Happening
THIS WEEK

Visually Honoring the Blues

FLORENCE—Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts presents *Mostly Blues*, a soulful exhibition of paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures, and mixed media pieces by area artists that visually interpret and pay homage to the power of music. Invited artists from Colbert, Franklin, and Lauderdale counties have distinct interpretations that celebrate this area's ties to the music world. The exhibit is on display through August 11.

The annual exhibit, *Mostly Blues*, began in 1994 to honor W.C. Handy, the Father of the Blues. Music-themed fine art, folk art, and design will fill the art center's main gallery as we gear up for the annual W.C. Handy Music Festival.

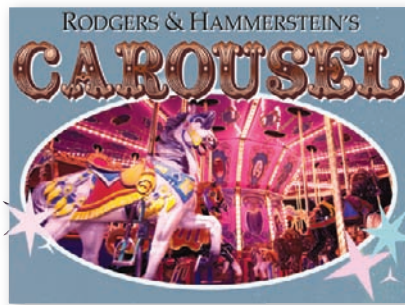


Mark Chamblee

This year we welcome emerging artists like Josh Johnston with his traveling Shoals Guitar sculpture as well as established Shoals area artists we all love. This *Mostly Blues* exhibit will feature art by Toby Britt, Ree Shannon,

See **MOSTLY..** on Page 15

Classic Musical *Carousel* at the Ritz



SHEFFIELD—The Tennessee Valley Art Association's SummerStock Theatre Company opens *Carousel* on July 21 at the historic Ritz Theatre in downtown Sheffield. Additional performances will take place July 22, 23, 28 and 29. Curtain time each evening is 7:35pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students.

This classic 1945 musical by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II has produced some of the most well-known songs in musical theatre.

See **CAROUSEL...** on Page 22

BRADSHAW HIGH SCHOOL'S 50 YEAR CELEBRATION will be held on Saturday, July 23 from 3-6pm at Woodmont Baptist Church, East Campus. The celebration is open to everyone who attended the school. Walk-through of school is from 4-5pm. Friday, July 22 with a Bradshaw section in Wilson Park at 7pm. The event is free. Head count is needed. Email Bill Norvell at wknorv@gmail.com if planning on attending.

FLORENCE/LAUDERDALE TOURISM AND CRAZY CHESTER RECORDS will once again present the Swamp Fest Songwriters Series during this year's W.C. Handy Music Festival.

Several famous Shoals songwriters and entertainers from the past and present will perform in the Gallery from 3-5pm on four dates at Florence/Lauderdale Tourism located in McFarland Park in Florence. July 22 - Angela Hacker and James LeBlanc; July 23 - Mitch Mann and Mark Narmore; July 29 - Scott Boyer and Donnie Fritts; July 30 - Travis Wammack and Microwave Dave. Seating is limited in the Gallery so participants are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat. For more information, call the Tourism office at 256-740-4141.

UP FROM SLAVERY: THE BLACK HISTORY EXPERIENCE IN FLORENCE. A tour of black Historical Sites in Downtown Florence on Saturday, July 23 at 1:30pm. Tour leaves Florence-Lauderdale Tourism Center. \$15 adults, \$10 students, small children ride free. Limited seating. To reserve a seat, call 256-740-4141. Sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Historical Society and Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.

Good for the Sherrods.

Good for the Shoals.



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YOUR Letters

Your Courier Journal welcomes tastefully presented 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 subject to editing. Please limit letters 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. Please submit typed or neatly written letters to: Editor-Courier Journal

by Mail or in Person
219 W. Tennessee St., Florence, AL 35630
• e-mail: editor@courierjournal.net
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'Turn Signal' in Owner's Manual

Editor:

Some people don't know what a turn signal is for and it causes a lot of wrecks.

If you don't know where your turn signal is located on your vehicle, please read your owner's manual.

Nancy Johnson
Florence

And We Expect God's Blessings

Editor:

At the memorial in Dallas for the five fallen officers every speaker including our president asked God to

bless us and spoke of real devotion to God and how we are living our lives, beliefs and examples. Think about it. Leaders are passing laws that the Bible says are against God, and then we expect God to allow us to live our sinful lifestyles without retribution against ourselves as a society. I know we all fall short of God's grace. However, if we as a nation are going to talk the talk, we should walk the walk. God is not going to shed grace on me or any nation that is living against His will. Was last week's memorial (as well intended as it was) hypocritical? Yes. Everything from extreme sexual lifestyles now being approved by our lawmakers and our society to sneaky, dishonest politicians, etc, is taking us further and further from God's blessings.

I could go on and on about her good character, her pleasant demeanor, and her excellent work ethic... ”

Paul Sabatino
Florence

Needed the Legal System

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your comments (July 13) in reference to justice in a local case where a 47 year-old single, black mother of two was killed in a 2015 traffic accident. At the time of the accident the white male defendant had drugs in his system, one that was

illegal. He had previously been involved in four traffic accidents. All were his fault.

I and many others would like to know what the hand-picked jury of twelve white males was thinking when they handed down the verdict of negligent homicide without the presence of drugs. Perhaps was their thinking convinced by the way the prosecution presented facts, which apparently was not very convincing to the jury. The prosecutor also commented

See **LETTERS...** on Page 15



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HONDA: ACCORD, 2015 \$19,968. Sport, cloth, auto, 28k, financing available, call Tony 931-213-1386 or 256-764-3351

SQUIRREL DOG PUPPIES - Mother is a hound and father is a ladder black mouth cur. Puppies whelped on May 21st. \$50 each. Call 256-856-3138.

Mostly...

Continued from Page 14

Chris James, Jean Schulman, Marianthe Snyder, Taylor Dockery, Martha Beadle, Lane Emerson, The Shoals Artist Guild, Krena Poole, Helen Allman, Brian Dean, Terry McGee, Jeanie Chenault, Rachel Wakefield, Sarah Murray, Mark Chamblee, Tara Bullington, Lucas Stokes, Josh Johnston, Tim Stevenson, Amita Bhakta, Larue Harding, Muriel Harding, and Jonathan Cain.

Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts is located at 217 E. Tuscaloosa Street and is open, free of charge, from 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday. This event is sponsored by the Florence Department of Arts and Museums. Call 256-760-6379 for more information.

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FORD: FUSION, 2013 \$11,986. SE Leather, Moonroof, 106k, Financing available, call Tony 931-213-1386 or 256-764-3351

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Letters...

Needed the Legal System

Continued from Page 14

that he let the family of the deceased down.

Why have we not heard from the jury? Not one public word has been uttered from any member of this jury.

We as citizens of Lauderdale County cannot sit idly by and let something like this happen again.

I admire Judge Jones, for his words to the defendant. I too am sorry that the hands of the judge were tied.

This mother of two was my co-worker. I could go on and on about her good character, her pleasant demeanor, and her excellent work ethic. Her family has demonstrated great strength and character during this most difficult time, when they truly did experience, "A Let Down," when they needed the legal system to take a stand for them.

Patricia Flynt Weaver Killen

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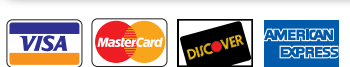
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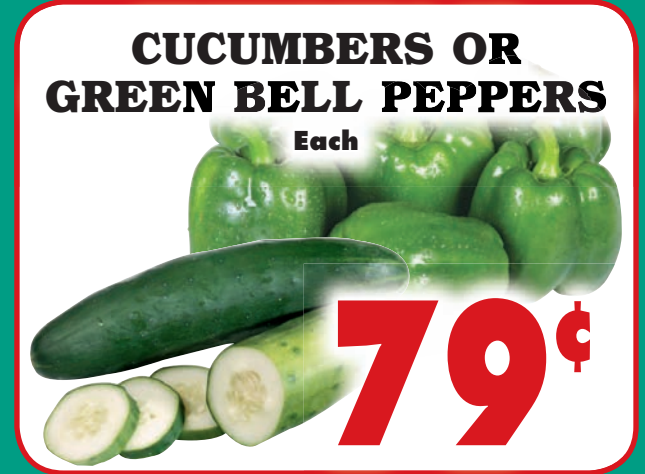
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Carousel...

Continued from Page 14

"It's Rodgers and Hammerstein's most recognizable score," said director Dr. David S. Sollish. "It's about love, and not only between the two lead couples, but the ensemble — the fishermen and mill girls — finding their first loves. It's about the sacrifices we make for our wives, husbands, children, family, friends, etc."

Sollish is the chair of the Theatre Department at Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi. He has performed in *Carousel* twice and directed it once before.

"There's a tradition of this show that's been around for 70 years," Sollish said. "So I bring the history and tradition that comes with the show but also an ability to make the show unique to this theatre."

Carousel tells the story of Billy Bigelow and Julie Jordan, loners that fall in love and get married in a small fishing town in New England, 1873. Billy, however, turns to a life of crime after he and his wife lose their jobs, which ends up costing Billy his life. Billy is allowed to return to earth for one day fifteen years later to meet his daughter he never knew.

Songs from the show include "If I Loved You," "Mister Snow," "June is Bustin' Out All Over" and the iconic "You'll Never Walk Alone."

The large ensemble of talented, young cast members in *Carousel* includes Jessica Bailey, Scott Coats, Jaleesa Escott, Amari Gamble, Grace Glasgow, Evan Hammond, Madeline Hammond, Maeleigh Hammond, Samantha Hammond, Logan Hill, Samantha Jo Hodges, Courtney Holifield, Betty Holt, Scott Lakey, Hannah McClure, Hunter Mitchell, Emma O'Steen, Meghan Raney, Jessica Rice, Anna Robertson, Isabella Robertson, Jesse Ryan, April Simone, Ben South, Will Stanfield, Adam Thomas, Sara Vance, Oscar Villalobos, Joey Wright, and Macy Wright.

The production team includes David Hope, artistic director; Dr. David S. Sollish, director; Gene Ann Gifford, musical director; Matthew Kiel, choreographer; Pat Stegall, orchestra conductor; Michael Winkelman, scenic designer and Michaela Bowen, assistant director and stage manager.

A pre-show fundraiser takes place in the theatre's Encore Room prior to July 21, 22 and 23 performances. The seated dinner features a choice of chicken or filet mignon catered by George's Steak Pit, with a salad, baked potato, dessert, tea and coffee. Vegetarian entrees and sugar-free desserts are available on request and a cash wine and beer bar will be available. The fundraiser supports the Ritz Theatre's current facilities expansion and renovation. Dinner tickets are \$30 per plate. Advanced reservations are required.

For tickets or more information, please contact the TVAA at 256-383-0533 or tvaa.net.



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By Kim Campbell Thornton
Universal Uclick

Cozy or noir? Thriller or mystery? Talking cat or working dog? Whatever your poison in literary murder and mayhem, there's a book for you. And chances are good that a dog or cat is a character in his own right, either as a four-footed detective or as a sidekick to a human protagonist. Think Lilian Jackson Braun's Siamese sleuths Koko and Yum Yum, who first made an appearance some 50 years ago; or feline Mrs. Murphy, her Persian nemesis Pewter and their corgi buddy Tee Tucker in the Mrs. Murphy series by Rita Mae Brown and Sneaky Pie Brown.

Editors and agents used to tell authors that a "pet viewpoint" worked only for children's books, but from Braun on, writers have proven them wrong.

"It takes having a well-known and successful 'name' author to take the plunge and show it's something readers like before it becomes a trend," says Amy Shojai, author of three thrillers featuring German shepherd service dog Shadow. "James Rollins (a veterinarian-turned-writer) was one of the first best-selling thriller authors to include an animal viewpoint in his work, with a war dog partnered with an ex-military man. Robert Crais followed with a similar war dog-type character partnered with a damaged-cop character."

In her own series, Shojai, drawing on her background as a behavior consultant, wanted a viewpoint dog character with some chapters told from his perspective.

"Not as a human-in-a-fur-suit, but as I perceived a dog might truly think and

behave and with motivations suitable to a canine," she says.

Shojai's fellow author Clea Simon has written 20 mysteries, all featuring cats. Simon began her career as a journalist, and along the way she realized she could combine her love of writing with her interest in and appreciation for cats. Her third nonfiction book, "The Feline Mystique," explored the relationship between women and cats.

"That was sort of the kickoff for my cat-related mysteries," she says.

At first, Simon went the traditional route. In her first series, featuring music journalist Theda Krakow and her cat Musetta, cats didn't talk — at least, not in English.

"But after that, I realized that we all talk to our pets, and we all imagine how our animals respond," she says.

That led her to explore different ways of including a cat's viewpoint. One is her Dulcie Schwartz mystery series, which lead with the information that the character's cat, Mr. Gray, has died. He returns to her as a friendly ghost who is a comforting and wise presence.

Simon's newest mystery, "The Ninth Life," is narrated by a feral black cat who



Mysteries and thrillers featuring animals are popular with readers.

is saved from drowning by a homeless girl. It's a dark tale with a mean-streets vibe, a transition from the cozy, amateur-sleuth territory of her first books. In both instances, Simon explores her interest in the relationship between people and cats.

If you read Shojai or Simon — or other authors who include animals in their plots — it's not unusual to find arcana about dog shows, training or animal behavior. Many writers find their work to be a way of delving into some of the issues or controversies surrounding animals. Shojai covered dog fighting in her latest, "Show and Tell," and Simon addressed animal hoarding in "Mew Is for Murder" and puppy and kitten mills in "Cattery Row."

"One of the rules I live by, though, is that I could never seriously hurt or kill an animal in a book," Simon says.

Shojai is on the same page. "I don't write dog abuse scenes," she says. Instead, she highlights the setting, fight paraphernalia and laws and issues surrounding the crime.

What's the pleasure in reading a mystery with purr-sonality or canine charisma?

"I think mysteries that feature or involve animals mirror real life," Shojai says. "Readers identify with the hero of the book who cares deeply about a pet."

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Dog's motto: Lick it good Q&A

Q One of my dogs goes around licking the other dogs' empty bowls for several minutes after eating. He also likes to lick one of our area rugs and sometimes the sofa upholstery. My other dog has a foot fetish: She loves to lick my feet. What's going on with them?
— via email

A Compulsive licking sounds like it should be an underlying behavioral problem, doesn't it? That's certainly a possibility, but it can also be a sign of a physical problem. My colleague Gary Landsberg, a veterinary behaviorist, says a large proportion of these environmental licking behaviors are due to underlying health issues that cause gastrointestinal upset.

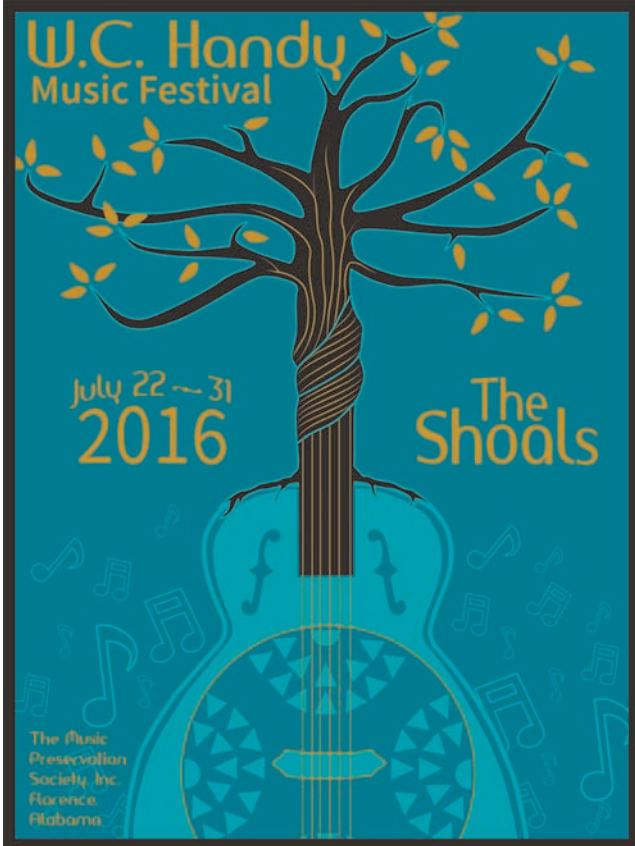
Among the conditions that might be causing a dog to feel nauseated are adrenal disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, intestinal lymphosarcoma and liver disease. Some dogs lick because they have dental or other mouth pain. Excessive licking can also be a sign of hunger — it's called an appetitive behavior. On the behavior side of things, excessive licking might signal anxiety or some type of conflict.

Obviously, a veterinary exam can be a good idea. Consider filming the behavior so your veterinarian can see what's going on.

"A colleague did a study a couple of years ago and found that many dogs were improved when gastrointestinal signs were treated," Dr. Landsberg says. "However, licking can arise in situations of anxiety and conflict, can be a reinforced behavior and can be a compulsive disorder. Therefore, look for behavioral, but rule out gastrointestinal or medical first."

And if it turns out that there's nothing physically or mentally wrong with your dogs, well, maybe one just likes to make sure he's getting every last molecule of food from his dish and the other simply loves the taste of your feet.

— Dr. Marty Becker



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7:30pm The Mane Room, 110 North Pine Street, Florence
 Featuring: UNA Summer Theatre historical musical revue
 Cost: \$25

SUNDAY, JULY 31
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7:30pm The Mane Room, 110 North Pine Street, Florence
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 Cost: \$25

COLLEGE STREET GOSPEL
2-4pm Southwest Corner of W College Street and Beverly Avenue, Florence
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FRIDAY, JULY 22

6-9pm Legends, Florence – Christian Turner
6:30-9:30pm Flobama, Florence – Rewind
7pm Rivertown, Florence – Red Mouth • Della Ray
7-10pm Ami's, Sheffield – Lovell-Sledge Band
7-10pm Ricatoni's Italian Grill, Florence – Julia Rich & Friends
8pm until Champy's, Muscle Shoals – Decoys with David Hood
8pm until Swampers/Marriott Shoals, Florence – Chris Terry
9pm-1am French Quarter, Sheffield – Jeff Henson Band
9pm-1am On The Rocks, Florence – Trick Zipper
10:30pm-1:30am Flobama, Florence – Springs

SATURDAY, JULY 23

6-9pm Legends, Florence – Michael Curtis
6-9pm Stephano's Southland, Sheffield – Truitt Williams & Friends
6:30-9:30pm Flobama, Florence – Darryl Aldridge
7-10pm Ami's, Sheffield – The Shadows
7-10pm City Hardware, Florence – Julia Rich & Friends
7-11pm Ricatoni's Italian Grill, Florence – Tasha Hill Band
8pm until Champy's, Muscle Shoals – Microwave Dave & The Nukes
8-11pm Swampers/Marriott Shoals, Florence – Rusty & The Relics
8:30pm-12:30am French Quarter, Sheffield – Emily Joseph Band
9pm-1am On The Rocks, Florence – Aaron Blades Band
10:30pm-1:30am Flobama, Florence – Sean Rivers Band

SUNDAY, JULY 24

6-9pm Stephano's Southland, Sheffield – Travis Wammack & The Snakeman Band featuring Christine Ohlman
6-10pm City Hardware, Florence – Kent DuChaine
7:30pm Champy's, Muscle Shoals – McKenzie Lockhart
8-11pm Swampers/ Marriott Shoals, Florence – Tim Cannon
8pm-12am On The Rocks, Florence – Big Mike Griffin

MONDAY, JULY 25

6-9pm Legends, Florence – Travis Wammack
6-10pm City Hardware, Florence – Tasha Hill Band
6-10pm Pie Factory, Florence – Drumb & Drummer
6:30-9:30pm Flobama, Florence – Pine Hill Haints
7pm until Champy's, Muscle Shoals – Big Mike Griffin
7-11pm Ricatoni's Italian Grill, Florence – Rob Aldridge
8-11pm Swampers/ Marriott Shoals, Florence – Amber's Drive
9pm-1am On The Rocks, Florence – The Pollies
10:30pm-1:30am Flobama, Florence – Dusty French & Billy Allen (acoustic)

TUESDAY, JULY 26

6-9pm Legend's Steakhouse, Florence – Microwave Dave
6-9pm Singin' River Brewing and Winery, Florence – Lovell Sledge Band
6-10pm Pie Factory, Florence – Gary Nichols
6:30-10pm Flobama, Florence – Travis Wammack Band & The Snakeman Band
7pm until Champy's, Muscle Shoals – Col. Bruce Hampton & The Madrid Express

Handy Nights - Tuesday, July 26 cont.

7-11pm City Hardware, Florence – Rob Aldridge
7-11pm Ricatoni's Italian Grill, Florence – Mary Mason Band
8-11pm Swampers/ Marriott Shoals, Florence – Dave Anderson
8pm-12am French Quarter, Sheffield – Five O'Clock Charlie
9pm-1am On The Rocks, Florence – Sonny Moorman Group
10:30pm-1:30am Flobama, Florence – The Pollies

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

6-9pm Rosie's, Florence – Kerry Gilbert Band
6-9pm Legends Steakhouse, Florence – Mary Mason Band
6-9pm Stephano's Southland, Sheffield – Max Russell Trio
6-9pm Singin' River Brewing and Winery, Florence – Cactus Cowboys
6-10pm Pie Factory, Florence – Rob Aldridge
6:30-9:30pm Flobama, Florence – James LeBlanc & Angela Hacker
6:30-9:30pm UMI's, Florence – The Midnighters
7-10pm Ami's, Sheffield – Rewind
7pm until Champy's, Muscle Shoals – Sonny Moorman Group
7-11pm City Hardware, Florence – Michael "Supe" Granda (of the Ozark Mtn. Daredevils)
7-11pm Ricatoni's Italian Grill, Florence – The Pine Hill Haints
8-11pm Swampers/ Marriott Shoals, Florence – Brandon Whyde & The Devil's Keep
8pm-12am French Quarter, Sheffield – Jay Edwards Band
9pm-1am On The Rocks, Florence – Bad Brad & The Sipsy Slims
10:30pm-1:30am Flobama, Florence – Gary Nichols Band

THURSDAY, JULY 28

6-9pm Rosie's, Florence – The Midnighters
6-9pm Legends Steakhouse, Florence – Denise Thimes & Friends
6-9pm Stephano's Southland, Sheffield – Late Blumers (John Blumer, Will McFarlane, Rob Malone)
6-9pm Singin' River Brewing and Winery, Florence – Big Al & The Heavyweights
6:30-9:30pm Flobama, Florence – 3 Wheel Drive
6:30-9:30pm UMI's, Florence – Kozmic Mama
7pm until Champy's, Muscle Shoals – Daddy featuring Will Kimbrough & Tommy Womack
7-11pm Ricatoni's Italian Grill, Florence – Kent DuChaine
7-11pm City Hardware, Florence – Microwave Dave
8-11pm Swampers/ Marriott Shoals, Florence – Gary Nichols
8:30pm-12:30am French Quarter, Sheffield – Big Mike Griffin
9pm-1am On The Rocks, Florence – Chinese Connection Dub Embassy
10:30pm-1:30am I – Johnny Holland & The Bama Jammers

FRIDAY, JULY 29

6-9pm Rosie's, Florence – Tremayne
6-9pm Legends, Florence – Kent Duchaine
6pm until Cajuns, Sheffield – Big Joe & The Catfish Junkies
6pm until Singin' River Brewing and Winery, Florence – Electric Zen • Drumb & Drummer • Gary Nichols Band
6:30-9:30pm Flobama, Florence – Big Mike Griffin
7-10pm Ami's, Sheffield – The Midnighters
7-11pm City Hardware, Florence – Pine Hill Haints
8pm until Champy's Muscle Shoals – Alvin Youngblood Hart's Muscle Theory
8pm until Ricatoni's Italian Grill, Florence – Microwave Dave
8pm until Swampers/Marriott Shoals, Florence – Matt Prater Trio
9pm-1am French Quarter, Sheffield – Kozmic Mama
9pm-1am On The Rocks, Florence – The Shags
9pm-1am P.J.'s, Muscle Shoals – Dixie Mafia featuring Darryl Worley
10:30pm-1:30am Flobama, Florence – Spunk Monkees

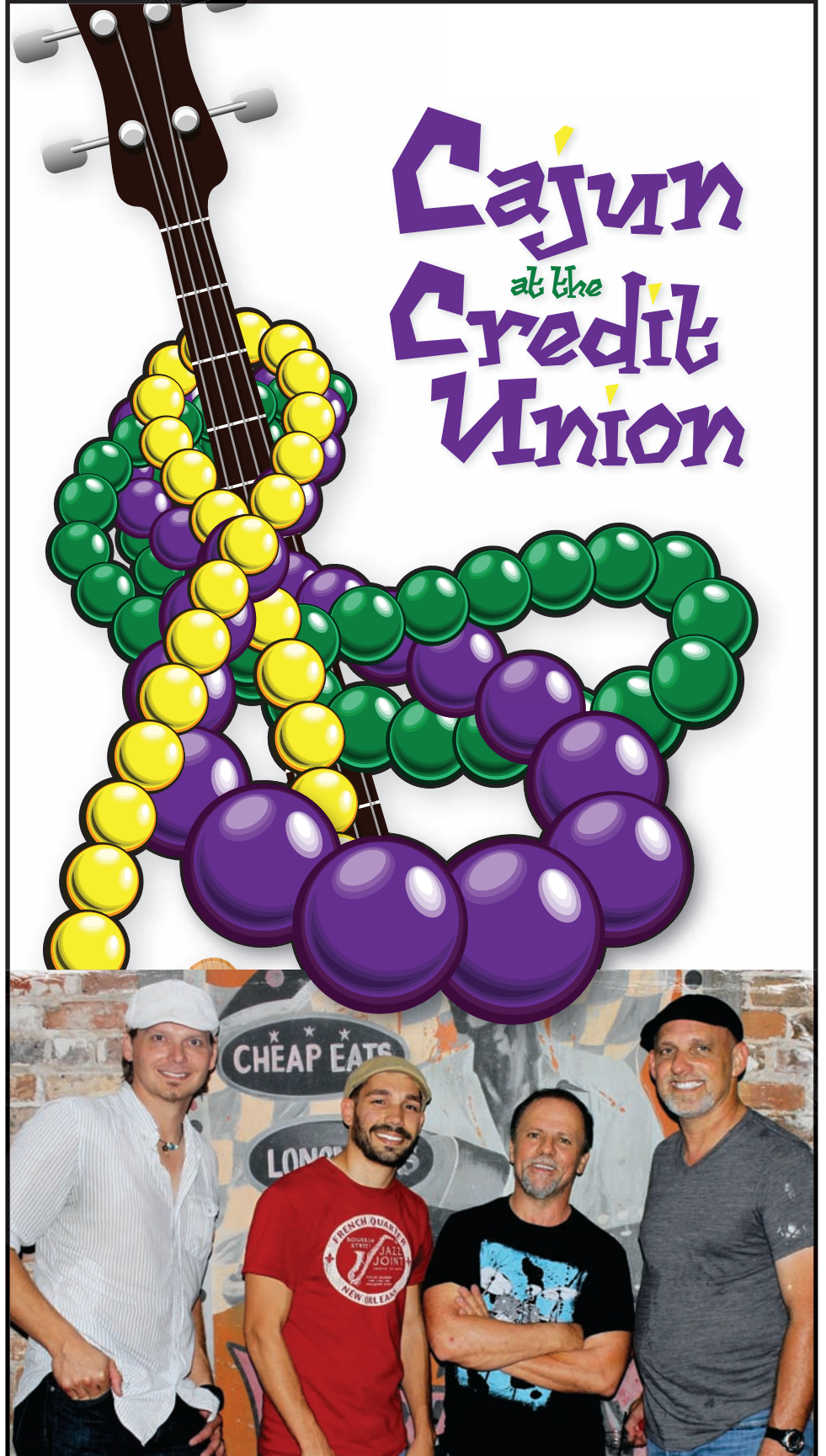
SATURDAY, JULY 30

6-9pm Legend's Steakhouse, Florence – Mojo Rising
6-9pm Rosie's, Florence – The Decoys
6-9pm Stephano's Southland, Sheffield – Max Russell, songwriter
6:30-9:30pm Flobama, Florence – Kent Duchaine
7-10pm Ami's, Sheffield – The Late Blumers
8pm until Champy's, Muscle Shoals – Sugarcane Jane
8pm until Swampers/Marriott Shoals, Florence – Josh Allison & The Corner Pocket
8pm-12am City Hardware, Florence – Christian Turner
9pm-1am Ricatoni's Italian Grill, Florence – ALL-STAR JAM
9pm-1am French Quarter, Sheffield – Midnighters
9pm-1am On The Rocks, Florence – CBDB
10:30pm-1:30am Flobama, Florence – Second Creek

SUNDAY, JULY 31

8-11pm Swampers/ Marriott Shoals, Florence – Farris, York, & Sledge

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Commentary

Vilifying...

Continued from Page 14

and law enforcement relations back a decade.

The recent deaths of Philandro Castile in Minnesota by a Hispanic officer and Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge by a white officer only add to the flames. By all indications the

officer in Castile's case was apparently overwhelmed by a supposed legal handgun that Castile declared when approached for a traffic stop.

Yet contrary to media reports, Castile was no angel. His Facebook page/pics and his Crips gang membership testify to that.

Sterling was shot and killed Tuesday just after midnight in Baton Rouge as he was being unruly. The video clip on it's own with him on the ground looked bad. However, Sterling had just threatened a homeless man with a gun when the homeless man asked him if he had any spare change. The homeless man made the 911 call. After police arrived, Sterling resisted arrest, and appeared to be reaching for his gun while on the ground - which he was also prohibited from possessing.

He is not the loving, nurturing father of five as depicted in the media. Police records show he was a felon with gang membership and an extensive list of priors - assaults, battery, drugs, and weapons charges, and \$25,000 in unpaid child support. Apparently Sterling also impregnated a 14 year-old girl when he was 20.

These deaths like the others are tragic and unnecessary. The victims all have people who loved them and their losses will be felt for decades. Those should all be non-life-threatening situations. When being questioned, detained, or directed by law

enforcement, smart mouths or belligerence is not demonstrating cooperation.

Too bad we can't ask the 19 year-old white kid in Fresno a few weeks ago what he was thinking when he defied orders and continued walking towards police with his hand behind his back.

South Carolina senator, Tim Scott, acknowledges that profiling takes place. He was the first black senator to be elected from the South since reconstruction and the first black person in U.S. history to be elected to both the house and the senate. Scott is courteous, upstanding, well-dressed, and should be recognizable by now. However, he is hassled regularly by Washington DC police. He was stopped seven times last year, including once when trying to access a building on Capital Hill by police who did not believe he was a senator. Scott could really have been fed up with the years of profiling, yet at no time did any traffic stop devolve to the point of confrontation.

It is also fraudulent on the part of the media to portray all these victims as upstanding, productive members of the community. The false narrative draws attention along with website, Twitter, and Facebook traffic for them, but it is also an incendiary brand of disinformation.

As with virtually every high-profile altercation between police and members of the black community, Obama ignores fact and comes to the rescue of black instead of right, color instead of character. He chooses to see situations from the perspective of a persecuted black activist instead of a mature leader of the entire nation.

Three hours before the murders in Dallas, Obama said, "Right now the big concern is the fact that the data shows black folks are more vulnerable to these kinds of incidents." That's a flat-out lie that cannot be verified by police shooting data. His claim that "African Americans are arrested at twice the rate of whites" distorts the fact that blacks commit murder at almost six times the rate of whites.

Black political analyst, Jason Riley, noted in *The Wall Street Journal*, "Obama has denounced what happened in Dallas, but he has also been winking at a Black Lives Matter movement that has spent the past two years holding rallies that call for (and sometimes feature) violence against cops. [He] has made a habit of minimizing or ignoring the high black crime rates that obviously underlie tensions between poor minority communities and cops."

The figures are telling. The assault rate for the general public in the United States is 229 per 100,000 people. That same year police were assaulted at the rate of 9,300 per 100,000 officers - 41 times higher than the general public. It seems as if police have

the excuses to fire their weapon, yet, the attackers are killed in fewer than 1% of the incidences proving that police rarely resort to killing their attackers.

A Harvard study lead by professor Roland Fryer Jr., "Empirical Analysis of Racial Differences in Police Use of Force," noted, "On the most extreme use of force — officer-involved shootings — we find no racial differences in either the raw data or when contextual factors are taken into account." As a black man with a preconceived mindset, Fryer noted that the findings were the most surprising result of his career.

And when assailants are killed by police, Bureau of Justice Statistics show the rate of black officers who kill black offenders is 32 per 100,000 black officers, more than twice the rate of white officers who kill black offenders, 14 per 100,000 white officers.

At the interfaith memorial last week for the slain officers in Dallas, Police Chief David Brown spoke for three minutes. Former President George W. Bush spoke for seven minutes. Egotistical Obama spoke for 40 minutes.

Between the jokes and his 45 personal references, Obama acted as if he were saddened by the killings of Dallas police officers Lorne Ahrens, Michael Krol, Michael Smith, Brent Thompson and Patrick Zamarripa. He then had the audacity to blame the shooters access to guns. When materially Obama's history of comments emboldening the Black Lives Matter movement, and the media's consistently jaded portrayals are what caused Dallas. The days following the Dallas police killings saw attempts develop to injure or murder police in Tennessee, Louisiana, Washington, DC, Texas, Georgia, and Missouri. Instead of racial progress, we have progressive deterioration.

Obama said of Dallas, "I think it's very hard to untangle the motives of this shooter."

Is that right? It's not hard for anyone else.

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News & Tips on the Shoals Market

Home Buyer's Perspective

Last time we talked about what it looks like for you and your Realtor to be "all in". Now let's look at things from a home *buyer's* perspective. Obviously, you want to make sure you're seeing everything in your price range that meets your criteria, and you want to get the best deal possible on the home you choose. This takes a certain level of commitment from you and your Realtor. When the right things happen, this can be a beautiful process.

Commitment on your Realtor's part is easy to recognize. They indicate that they're all in by devoting time, effort, and money to helping you find the right home. Whether you realize it or not, there's a lot of homework behind that list of homes they sent you that meet your criteria. Both alone and with you in tow, they drive all over town searching for just the right house in just the right location. While no one can be completely at your beck and call, a committed agent will do everything they can to schedule showings for you, often after hours or on weekends. If your agent is committed, you can trust them to pay attention to details, execute negotiations, and see the contract through to protect your interests.

The first thing a buyer needs to do to indicate that they are a committed, serious buyer is to obtain preapproval to purchase a home. A preapproval letter was once only necessary in some instances. Not so anymore. It is now common practice to submit a buyer's preapproval letter (or verification of funds in a cash transaction) with any initial offer. Besides telling the seller that yours is a valid offer and worthy of their consideration, preapproval lets you know for certain how much money you have to spend.

Another way to do your part in the buying process is to communicate with your Realtor. If "you" is a couple, then both you and your significant other should discuss what you want with your agent. Almost always, a couple ends up purchasing a home that represents a compromise between their ideals.

In the end, perhaps the most important aspect of commitment is loyalty, on behalf of both the buyer and the Realtor. Just as you would expect your agent to call you if they found your dream home, you should honor them in the same respect. Here's to building long-lasting relationships based on trust and mutual respect. - *mr*

Please feel free to send your questions.

Rest assured I will only use your first name when I answer your questions. Email to: questions@mikerandallhomes.com or mail to:

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Soap Opera Preview

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL Ridge and Brooke came to an understanding. Brooke chose her sister over her lover when it came to Katie's struggle with Bill over their son. Ridge acknowledged Thomas and Caroline's feelings. Zende and Nicole took their relationship to the next level. Katie found Bill and Brooke together in the office. Steffy persuaded Eric to go to Monte Carlo to announce that he was Forrester's new CEO. Wyatt demanded to know why Quinn snuck into

Forrester's headquarters. On the Spencer jet, Liam opened up to Eric about his feelings for Steffy, Wyatt and Quinn. Brooke demanded that Bill do what Katie asked. *Wait to See: A jilted lover vents to an unlikely source about the cause of his anger.*

DAYS OF OUR LIVES A frantic Shawn continued his search for Hope and Rafe. Maggie opened up to Julie. Brady and Theresa confronted Summer in Las Vegas. Hope's condition worsened as she and Rafe remained trapped. Aiden stood by his innocence. Brady questioned Victor's involvement in Tate's kidnapping. Summer made an emotional appeal to Theresa. Rafe experienced an intense nightmare. Later, his love for Hope was put to the test. Kate moved out of the mansion. *Wait to See: Deimos asks Nicole for a fresh start.*

GENERAL HOSPITAL A confrontation ended tragically. Andre left a puzzling message. Nina noticed that Curtis seemed preoccupied with Jordan. Griffin was fast on his feet in helping Julian. Meanwhile, Sonny had his suspicions. Carly was surprised to learn that Kiki and Dillon might still be together. An update from Parker changed Kristina's course of action. Michael and Sabrina grew even closer. Sonny and Finn made a deal that benefited them both. Carly sensed duplicity. Naomi had a huge reaction to a name from Port Charles's past. Franco defended himself from Lucy's insinuations. Later, Franco, Michael and Sabrina were left shocked and dismayed. *Wait to See: Nina thwarts Julian's plan.*

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS Devon asked Dr. Neville not to treat Hilary anymore. Meanwhile, Jack apologized to Hilary for accusing her of faking her illness. Sharon assured Mariah that she was doing better and not to worry about her. Dylan confronted Victor about the evidence that would exonerate Adam, but Victor feigned ignorance. Later, Dylan asked Kevin to pull the security footage at the bus station. Dr. Shelby wouldn't allow Dr. Neville anywhere near Hilary. Nick told Luca to leave town -- and Summer -- behind. Mariah felt that Sharon was stable enough to move out. Jack stumbled upon some unexpected information about Phyllis. *Wait to See: Victoria receives a tempting proposition.*

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My Turn,

by Major Euell White, U.S. Army, (retired)

Promotion of Pedophilia

Several years ago I predicted that the acceptance and promotion of sodomy would ultimately lead to the acceptance of pedophilia. The move for this acceptance is not new, but it is intensifying. Back in the 1970s, respected author and playwright, Gore Vidal, appeared on the Dick Cavett show and cursed Christ while promoting the acceptance of sex between men and consenting boys. What surprised me most was that Dick Cavett did not respond to Vidal's comments and had him on the program again soon afterward with the same agenda.

Pedophiles are actively seeking to lower the age of consent laws when it comes to lawful sexual behavior with another. They claim that sex with children is not only a natural desire felt by adult males, but that in many cases the children affected may actually benefit from it as opposed to experiencing harm.

The reality is that children who have suffered from child sexual abuse experience severe trauma from the event. Feelings of sexual confusion, worthlessness, depression, and suicidal thoughts are associated with sexual abuse. I have personally dealt with this issue during many years as a Christian counselor. Many homosexual rights activists also push the idea that child sexual abuse committed against young boys is not a homosexual problem but one of heterosexual males instead. This is a sick twisted agenda being pushed under the guise of human rights by a human rights campaign backed up by phony research supporting the desires of sodomites.

Pedophilia is now considered more of a "sexual orientation" among many in the scientific community. Homosexual rights groups are actively seeking to lessen the penalties for sexual activity with underage boys, claiming that is a violation of civil rights. The fact is that attraction to young boys is almost exclusively a homosexual problem. According to the journal, Archives of Sexual Behavior, 86% of pedophiles considered themselves to be homosexual. In today's society people have become so concerned with not being judgmental that the safety of our children is not foremost in their concerns. Those who support and encourage the acceptance of homosexuality are helping to pave the way for the acceptance of child abuse. If nothing is done to stop this movement we will in the not-too-distant future, see the celebration of pedophilia and it will be politically incorrect to even criticize it, as it is with homosexuality today.

Those who vote for the Democratic candidate in the next election-- whoever it turns out to be-- will be aiding in bringing this about.

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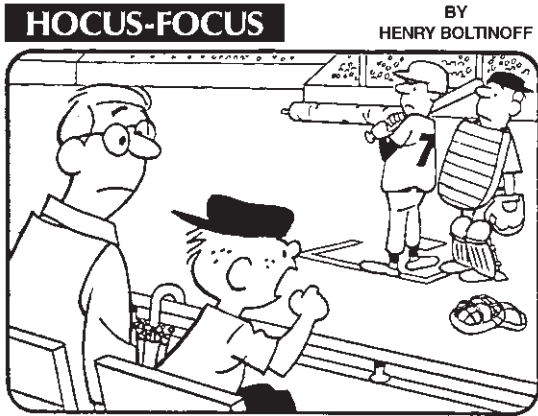
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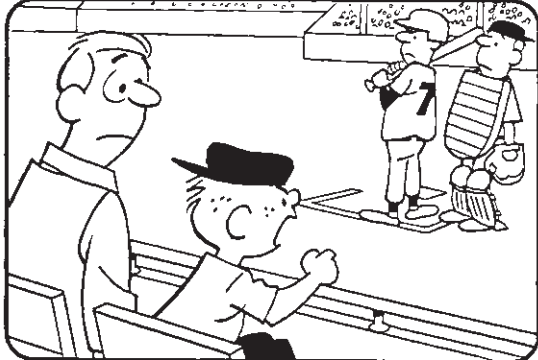
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JULY 20 - Benjamin Giselbach (Lightwood Church of Christ; Millbrook, AL)

1. Why did you create me?
2. Why should I believe Jesus is your Son?
3. You've asked Abraham whether there is anything you cannot do and, when he didn't know anything to reply, you implied that you're omnipotent. That being said. Can you build a wall high enough that you can't climb it?

JULY 27 - Andy Erwin (Gospel Gleaner)

1. Will Heaven be on earth someday?
2. What will happen to people who have never heard of Jesus?
3. Why are you such a deceitful, genocidal, infanticidal, slavery sanctioning, child molester protecting, tax avoiding, capricious murderer?

Note: Location designation next to the speaker's name indicates the congregation where he ministers.
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