

219 West Tennessee St. Florence, AL 35630 256-764-4268

Volume 133 Number 15

February 8, 2017

POSTAL PATRON

Hodge's Top T-Design

PHIL CAMPBELL -- Northwest-Shoals Community College sophomore student, **Clay Hodge**, was recently notified that he won the 2017 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Convention t-shirt design competition. Hodge's design will be used for the official event t-shirt, and he will receive a \$500 scholarship.

Hodge is a native of Tharptown. He also placed in the top ten of the PTK international convention pin design competition. According to Hodge, he got the inspiration for his two designs from the location of this year's convention. "With the convention being in Nashville, I knew I wanted to do something music related," said Hodge. "I looked at some of the winners in the past and they used the city as the basis for their design. So, I just started there."



Hodge

Hodge currently serves as the Vice President of Fellowship for the Alpha Zeta Iota chapter (Phil Campbell campus) of PTK at NW-SCC. He plans to graduate in May and transfer to the University of Alabama in Huntsville or the



University of Alabama. He will pursue a degree in Animation or Graphic

Design and Web Development. Hodge has a clear passion for design and winning this competition affirms his career plans. "Knowing I was able to design something that won a competition of this magnitude is so gratifying," stated Hodge. "It helps reassure me that I am going into the career that is meant for me."

While at the PTK International Convention, he will also be running for Vice President of Division 2 which covers the southeastern states. The PTK International Convention will be held in Nashville April 6-8.

Forestry and Horticulture

FLORENCE-The 22nd Annual Urban Forestry and Horticulture Conference takes place Friday, March 17 from 8am-3pm at Cross Point Church of Christ 1350 Cox Creek Parkway in Florence. The theme of this year's event is, "Shade Tree Mechanics" (Mechanics: The Practicalities & Details of Growing the Shade Under the Shade). The keynote speaker is

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Garner

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See INTERNET... on Page 6

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Do You Have Game?

AWF's Annual Wild Game Cook-Off

Saturday, March 18



TUSCUMBIA - Those who enjoy cooking on a grill and think they have some game are invited to fire it up and do battle with some of the best backyard chefs from the Shoals area.

If you think you have what it takes, join us on Saturday, March 18 at 4pm as the Alabama Wildlife Federation hosts their Wild Game Cook-Off at the Longhorn Arena. This annual event continues to grow; with well over 500

members and guests expected to attend.

Cook teams are needed, so grab your apron and best recipes and get ready to battle! Entry for the cook teams is free, but teams must pre-register prior to the day of the event at www.alabamawildlife.org. Categories include wild game, fish and fowl. Prizes will be awarded to first through third place in each division, as well as

See COOK-OFF... on Page 6

Shoals Community Theatre's Cat

FLORENCE-Cat On A Hot Tin Roof was written by Tennessee Williams in 1955 from the terrace of Sun Beach Bar in Tangiers/Morocco. This self-proclaimed favorite of Tennessee Williams opened on Broadway March 24, 1955 and won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama within the same year.

Shoals Community Theatre will be presenting the play Thursday, February 9, Friday, February 10, Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12 at 7:30pm curtain time nightly and 2pm Sunday. Tickets are \$9, \$12 and \$15 and are available at www.shoalscommunitytheatre.com.



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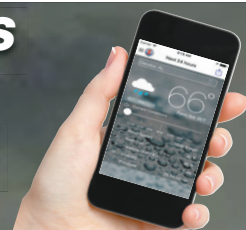


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Forestry and Horticulture

Continued from Page 1

Chris Francis, Certified Master Arborist. The early registration cost is \$45 and includes lunch.

In addition, recertification classes for Green Industry Professionals will be held on Thursday, March 16 from noon-4:30pm. Participants can receive recertification points and CEU's. The public is invited. On-site registration starts at 7:30am and the cost is \$50.

The conference is sponsored by the City of Florence Mayor and City Council, the Florence Beautification Board, the Florence Tree Commission, and the City's Urban Forestry/Horticultural Department.

Registration forms may be found at www.florenceal.org. For more information, please call 256-760-6400.

UNA Names Department for McKinney

FLORENCE – The University of North Alabama College of Education and Human Sciences announced today that the Human Environmental Sciences Department will now be known as the **Connie D. McKinney** Department of Human Sciences, Hospitality, and Design.

The new name was approved Thursday during a special executive committee meeting called by the UNA Board of Trustees. The naming was made possible by a \$1 million gift from **Chester McKinney, Jr.** and **Joe McKinney** in their desire to honor their late mother, Connie. The McKinney's gift will continue by matching future donations for many remaining naming opportunities in the department's new location to inspire additional donors. University officials say the name change will better represent the department and the areas it encompasses.

Connie McKinney studied Home Economics at Florence State Teachers College, which is now UNA, graduating in 1950. The department houses two stand-alone degree programs: a B.S. in Culinary, Nutrition, and Hospitality Management (CNH) and a B.S. in Human Environmental Sciences (HES). Additionally, the department actively supports the Family and Consumer Sciences secondary education program and offers a total of nine academic minors. For more information, visit <https://www.una.edu/hes/>

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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. All properly submitted Community Notes which are dated will be posted weekly at www.courierjournal.net. Visit our website for a complete list. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by noon Friday for consideration in the following week's issue. Fax to 256-760-9618; mail to 219 W. Tennessee Street, Florence, AL 35630; bring in person; email to editor@courierjournal.net; or "Submit News" on our website at www.courierjournal.net.

Seed Program Sign Up, February 6 - March 17. Community Action Northwest's Free seeds/plants for qualifying households with low incomes begins February 6th.

Must live in Colbert/Lauderdale, call 1-4 pm 256-762-9330, or Franklin County, call 1-4 pm 256-332-7534 M-Thur.

LifeSouth Community Blood Drives for February

Keller Center - Monday thru Friday 9am - 5pm, 1208 South Jackson Highway, Sheffield - 256-383-3535

ECM Center - Monday thru Friday 9am - 5pm, 205 Marengo St., Florence, 256-765-7038

Wednesday, February 8, Noon - 6pm, Supreme Beverage Company, 106 West Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals

Thursday, February 9, 10am - 5pm, Shoals Technologies, 211 Industrial Drive, Muscle Shoals

Friday, February 10, Noon - 6pm, Mars Hill Bible School, 698 Cox Creek Parkway, Florence

Saturday, February 11, 10am-2pm, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, 925 Upsilon Omega Chapter, Town Creek

Sunday, February 12, 11am - 5pm, Lowe's, 3415 Woodward Avenue, Muscle Shoals

Monday, February 13, 11am - 6pm, Kmart, 3401 Woodward Avenue, Muscle Shoals

Tuesday, February 14, 7:30am - 4pm, Phil Campbell High School, 65 School Street, Phil Campbell

Wednesday, February 15, 10am - 5pm, Sunshine Mills, 500 6th Street SW, Red Bay

Tennessee Valley Museum of Art hosts a Contemporary Textile and Mixed Media Exhibit

by Herb Reith will be on display January 22-March 10. The museum is at 511 N. Water St., Tusculumbia, and is open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday, and 1-3pm on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students. Admission is free on Sundays and for Tennessee Valley Art Association members. For more information, call 256-383-0533 or tva.net.

Free Dentistry - February 10,

7am-5pm at Ryerson & Associates, DMD, 1013 E. Avalon Ave., Muscle Shoals. 1st come, 1st serve basis, one procedure per patient. Free cleaning, filling or extraction.

Florence Parks & Recreations Department will be conducting registration for:

- Youth Baseball for boys and girls ages 3-12. Registration fee is \$35 per player.

- Youth Softball for girls ages 5-12. Registration fee is \$35 per player

Register through February 26 at www.ipard.com. For more information contact David Dolan at 256-760-6628.

Florence Parks & Recreations Department will be conducting online registration for:

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

- Adult Softball - teams for men, men church, or coed leagues. Team fee is \$400.

Register through March 5 at www.ipard.com. For more information, 256-760-6628.

The "Hi Neighbors of the Shoals" meeting will be Tuesday, February 7 at 10am at the Florence Public Library.

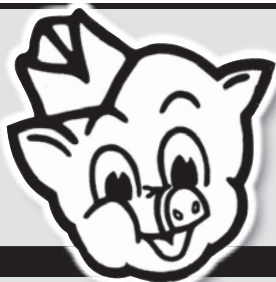
The group welcomes all newcomers to the Shoals area.

Contact Janice Hilborn, 256 247-1077 for further information.

Swamp John at Cherokee Lions' Den

Friday February 10 from 3-7pm. Fish, chicken tenders, shrimp or combination plates with fries, slaw, hush puppies and drink for \$10. Dine in or carry out.

See NOTES... page 34



piggly wiggly

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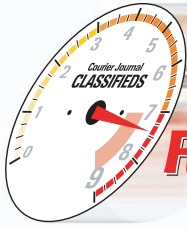
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Cook-Off...

Continued from Page 1

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enthusiasts to enjoy some good old-fashioned fun, food and fellowship.

A major highlight of the cook-off will be shotgun and rifle raffles and a huge silent auction. Tickets are available online at www.alabamawildlife.org or at the door for \$35 per person/per couple. Proceeds benefit Alabama Wildlife Federation's programs and projects. The ticket price includes one Alabama Wildlife Federation membership, a subscription to the Alabama Wildlife magazine, and all of the food you can eat! Tickets are available online at alabamawildlife.org or contact Greg Burgess at (256) 764-0078 or the Alabama Wildlife Federation at 1-800-822-WILD.

The Alabama Wildlife Federation, established by sportsmen in 1935. The 501 (c) 3 non-profit group is the state's oldest and largest citizens' conservation organization.

Hot Tin...

Continued from Page 1

org or by calling 256-764-1700.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof is the story of a Southern family in crisis, especially the husband Brick and wife Margaret usually called Maggie or Maggie the Cat. The story follows their interaction with Brick's family over the course of one evening gathering at the family estate in Mississippi. The party is to celebrate the birthday of patriarch Big Daddy Pollitt ("the Delta's biggest cotton-planter") and his return from the Ochsner Clinic with what he has been told is a clean bill of health. All family members except Big Daddy and his wife, Big Mama are aware of Big Daddy's true diagnosis: he is dying of

cancer. His family has lied to Big Daddy and Big Mama to spare the aging couple from pain on the patriarch's birthday. However, throughout the course of the play it becomes clear that the Pollitt family has long constructed a web of deceit for itself. Through the evening, Brick, Big Daddy and Maggie—and the entire family—separately must face down the issues which they have bottled up inside. Big Daddy attempts a reconciliation with the alcoholic Brick. Big Daddy and Maggie separately confront Brick about the true nature of his relationship with his pro football buddy Skipper which appears to be the source of Brick's sorrow and the cause of his alcoholism.

Call 256-764-1700 for the Shoals Theatre Box Office.



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Continued from Page 1

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ASK THE ATTORNEY



Thomas McCutcheon

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Q My wife and I divorced several years ago and my son will be 14 in June. He wants to live with me and does not have a good relationship with the man my ex-wife married. I have had to speak to this fellow about how he better not put his hands on my son. This is not a good situation. When will my child be old enough to decide where he wants to live?

David, Athens, AL

A It is widely believed that there is a certain age at which a child can decide with which parent they want to live.

There is no such age. The court system does not allow, wisely, children to make that decision. The courts believe that children would be lobbied and catered to and bribed and pressured

if at a certain age they could simply choose for themselves which parent was going to raise them.

The law in Alabama is that the wishes of a child are a factor to be considered but are not binding on the court.

It simply isn't fair to ask a child to decide between two parents who both love the child. It isn't fair to place the burden of making that choice on a child. Obviously, if a child is mature and can explain to the court a good reason for living with one parent rather than the other, then the court will listen and give weight to the child's wishes in proportion to the child's maturity and reasons for asking the court to rule in a particular way.

A child who wants to live with a parent who is going to allow more freedom is probably not going to be listened to by the court. An athletic child whose parent is moving out of the district in a way that would prevent that child from continuing in a particular sport with a particular team would certainly be listened to carefully by the judge.

Both parties would have to consent before the child could speak with the judge privately and either party could make the child state his wishes in open court if they chose to do so.

I think that as a practical matter that when teenagers begin to drive and act with some level of maturity, these decisions sort themselves out. As I point out from time to time, remember that agreements to modify child support based on new and different living arrangements will not be honored by the court. The party responsible for paying child support will almost certainly still be responsible for that support even if the child moves in with that parent without an agreement filed with the court and approved by the judge.

Buckle up and drive safely.

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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Full-time position: 80 hours/pay period. Scheduled 2:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m., Monday–Friday and as needed on weekends. This position will lead and supervise housekeeping employees and will instruct new employees with routine cleaning tasks in the housekeeping department of the hospital. Requires High School Diploma or equivalent. Prior supervisory experience preferred.

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LPN

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Minimum requirements:

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Job duties includes but not limited to:

Assisting with daily living skills, cooking, cleaning, hygiene (including bending, stooping, lifting, transfer, etc.), medication passes, community outings, etc.

How to Apply:

Send resume to: employment@arcoftheshoals.com.

Applications can be completed at:
The Arc of the Shoals 100 West Lamar Avenue
(Old Lee Highway) Tusculumbia, AL
on Monday – Friday, 9:30am-1:30pm.

You are encouraged to present your proof of education and your current valid driver's license when applying.

EEOC and eVerify.

95538-1

Shoals

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- High School Diploma or Equivalent
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Monday-Friday • 9AM-4PM
256-383-8158

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- Forklift Operators
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- CNC Operators

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2011 CHEVROLET 4X4, V8, AUTO, leather, 4-door \$13,900. 256-710-8120.

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GUN AND KNIFE SHOW. Feb. 11th and 12th, Fri. and Sat: 9am-5pm and Sun: 10am-4pm. North Alabama State Fairgrounds, Valley Productions. 256-381-0506

GMC: SIERRA, 2012 SLE, Extended Cab, 4x4, dark green metallic, leather interior, factory running boards, sprayed-in Rhino bedliner. 21,890 miles, \$20,200. 256-764-0926.

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DODGE: AVENGER SE, 2014 \$10,988. 59k mi., cloth, auto Financing available. Call Shannon 256-412-1551 or 256-764-3351.

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Commentary

Quick Reaction to Trump Travel Ban

Let's have a toast to all those who have grown fond of terms like fascism, totalitarian, dystopianism, hate, and bigotry in the last couple of weeks. Remind them to take their blood pressure medicine as well.

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

President Trump opened his term the way he said he would during his campaign, with expediency and clarity. The executive order entitled, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States," briefly halts the entry of additional immigrants and refugees from seven prime terror-sponsoring nations including Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Iran, Iraq, Libya and Yemen.

The order sent shock waves of hysteria through the progressive masses. Most in the media love to include "from majority Muslim nations" in the news reports. It's a convenient blanket condemnation that presses all the right religious discrimination buttons. However, it's not a "Muslim ban" to any extent that the leftists would have everyone believe. It is actually a strengthening of a policy that the Obama administration established years ago with one caveat: this one has teeth. Acting Attorney General, Sally Yates, refused to enforce the ban, so Trump fired her. Some state she was in the right because the order discriminates against either one's religion or one's nationality. The 1965 Immigration and

See **TRAVEL BAN...** on Page 31

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Courier Journal

in the *Shoals*

February 8, 2017

THIS WEEK

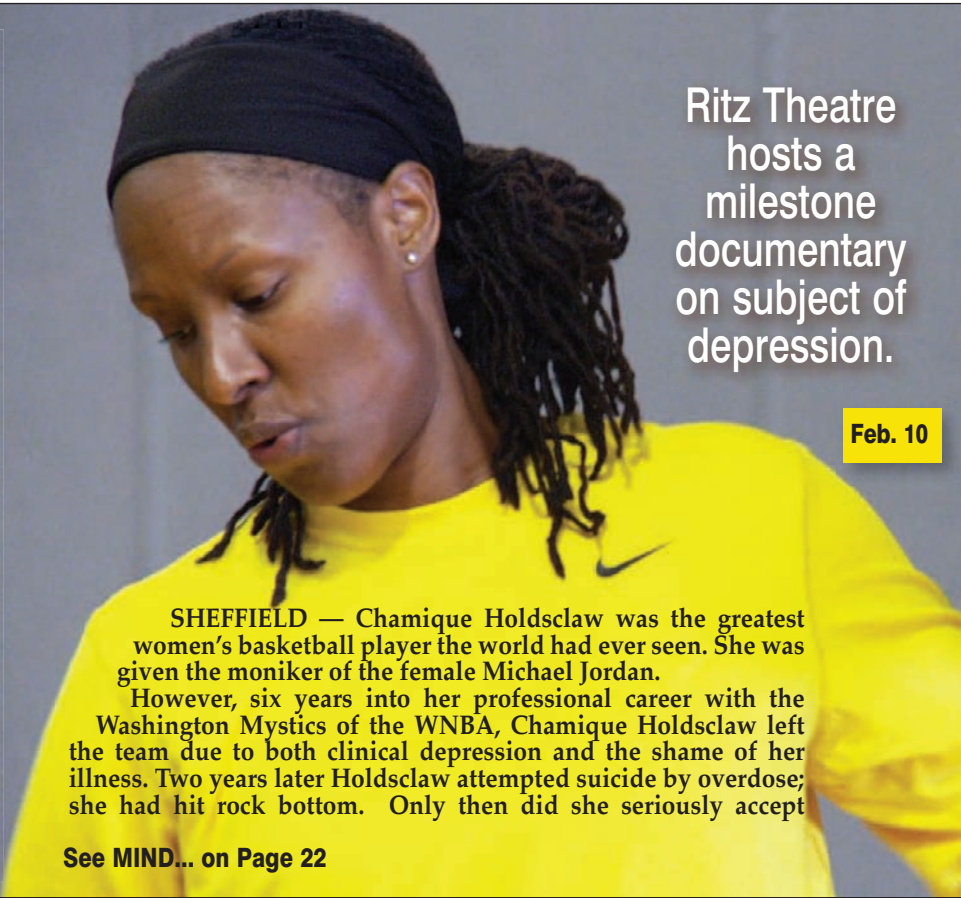
Happening
THIS WEEK



THE ANNUAL JAKE LANDERS BLUEGRASS CONCERT takes place on Saturday, February 11 at the Ritz Theatre in Sheffield. This year there will be a free songwriting workshop from 5-6:30pm with Carl Jackson followed by a 7pm concert with headliner, the Claire Lynch Band. There will also be performances by Jake Landers, Iron Horse, and Carl Jackson. Don't miss this amazing evening of entertainment!



A MIND GAME



Ritz Theatre hosts a milestone documentary on subject of depression.

Feb. 10

SHEFFIELD — Chamique Holdsclaw was the greatest women's basketball player the world had ever seen. She was given the moniker of the female Michael Jordan. However, six years into her professional career with the Washington Mystics of the WNBA, Chamique Holdsclaw left the team due to both clinical depression and the shame of her illness. Two years later Holdsclaw attempted suicide by overdose; she had hit rock bottom. Only then did she seriously accept

See **MIND...** on Page 22

Clinic Walk for Healthy Hearts

FLORENCE - Shoals in Florence. The event will include a free Zumba Dance Class and a Cool-Down Walk. Group walks will be scheduled with members of the Health, Physical Education, Baptist Church Christian Life Center at 219 Simpson Street

Feb. 7

See **WALKS...** on Page 22

THE KENNEDY-DOUGLASS MEETING takes place from 11:30am-1pm on Friday, February 10 at the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts at 217 East Tuscaloosa St. in Florence. Light refreshments will be furnished and a door prize will be given. The speaker at 12pm will be Pat Burney talking about the 200th Birthday Celebration for Florence.

THE DAY BY DAY GRIEF SUPPORT for Bereaved Parents meets Sunday, February 12, at 2pm at Woodmont Baptist East Campus on Darby Drive in Florence. The theme is: Remember: "A Breaking Heart Still Beats" For more information, email anita.watkins@comcast.net or nhargett@comcast.net

Tickets: call the Ticket Office 256-765-5466 or Benjamin Ray UNA Athletics Director of Ticketing & Marketing 256-765-5467 • Baray@una.edu

BASEBALL
February 11 & 12
vs Bellarmine
at Mike D. Lane Field, Florence

SOFTBALL
February 10-12
Montevallo Falcon Frenzy
at Montevallo, AL

GO LIONS!

BASKETBALL
Thursday, February 9
5:30pm (EST) Women • 7:30pm (EST) Men
vs West Georgia
at Carrollton, GA

Saturday, February 11
2pm Women • 4pm Men
vs West Alabama
Livingston, AL

Check www.roarlions for complete schedules

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
• FAX- 256-760-9618

In Our Best Interest

Editor:

When the President of the United States issues an executive order that is to protect us from refugees who for the most part cannot speak our language, may have criminal charges from their own country, are poorly educated, and take jobs from our citizens, it would be in our best interest to adhere to that. Don't wait to ask, "Just how high do you want me to jump, Mr President?" We should fully support and stand by his decision to do this for us. If not, then join the unemployment line. In other words, "You are FIRED!!" So ends the career of one stand-in (acting) Attorney General. I sure hope his appointee, Jeff Sessions, gets the message and steers a straight course on anything he is directed toward. Don't ask questions because he does know how to interpret the legal instructions

with whatever comes across his desk and act out the responsibility that comes from that job because the 50 other Attorney Generals will have to abide as well. They will also be able to remain as their state's Attorney General rather than be fired as in this case. We will just have to wait and see if they have learned their lesson. So watch out for Donald J. Trump and Jeff Sessions.

Joe Fairer
Muscle Shoals

Their Plan To Expand

Dear Editor:

We presently have an almost uninformed or misinformed America. This includes our government leaders, news people, educators, and the rest of us. Those who knew about the Muslim

See **LETTERS...** on Page 25

...They automatically reject any emergent facts or realities that do not fit their pre-conceived cognitive pattern of belief. They watch too much television...



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Students Encouraged to Enter State-Fish Art Contest

Deadline for entries is March 31

MONTGOMERY—Each year, K-12 students from across the country can enter their artwork in the Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest. The contest requires student artists to depict a state fish. Prizes are awarded at the state and national levels in four categories: K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12, with students in grades 4-12 writing a one-page essay about the fish, its natural habitat and the importance of that habitat in addition to the artwork. Complete contest rules and the entry form can be found on Wildlife Forever's website, www.wildlifeforever.org/ contest.

Artists can choose to depict either of Alabama's state fish – the largemouth bass or the fighting tarpon. Participants can also choose to draw state fish from other states, which are listed on the Wildlife Forever website. Entries must be postmarked by March 31, 2017, and mailed to Wildlife Forever, 2700 Freeway Blvd., No. 1000, Brooklyn Center, MN, 55430.

For 19 years, the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) has promoted this art contest for the students of Alabama.

"This contest uses art as a medium for teaching conservation education," said Doug Darr, WFF Aquatic Education Coordinator. "Teachers can request information and a lesson plan specific to aquatic natural resources by visiting Wildlife Forever's website."

Wildlife Forever is a non-profit organization working to preserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and scientific management of fish and wildlife species. Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states. To learn more, visit www.wildlifeforever.org.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural



"Deadly Beauty" acrylic painting of striped bass with invasive lionfish
wildlifeforever.org

Resources (ADCNR) promotes stewardship, and enjoyment of Alabama's Marine Resources, State Parks, State Lands, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries.

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Barbara Gail Thompson
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The moment that you died my heart was torn in two, one side filled with heartache, the other died with you. I often lie awake at night, when the world is fast asleep, and take a walk down memorylane, with tears upon my cheeks. Remembering you is easy, I do it everyday, But missing you is heartache that never goes away. I hold you tightly within my heart and there you will remain. Until the joyous day arrives, that we will meet again.

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 Cliff, Terry, Lorie, Christy, Alishia, Josh & Families

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DEAR READER. Please don't take this the wrong way as I do this out of love. I've written about this before but you're still not paying attention. I need you to look me in the eyes and really listen. Do your friends a favor and make copies of this or print it from the Courier-Journal website and give it to a friend. Call a friend and warn them, especially your friends "of a certain age" who seem to be the most popular victims. Ok, ready? Here goes:



Fisher

MICROSOFT WILL NOT CALL YOU. YOU CANNOT CALL MICROSOFT. EVER!

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by "The Computer Skeptic"

If you receive a phone call informing you that your computer is infected, IGNORE IT. No matter what they say, it is a lie. It doesn't matter that you were coincidentally just online reading an email. You're always doing that. It doesn't matter if you've gotten 3 or more urgent messages to call. MICROSOFT WILL NOT AND DOES NOT CALL ANYONE.

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being stolen, IGNORE IT. They lie! It is a scam! Microsoft does not even have a published number that a home user can call for help. They just don't. Your computer is probably not even infected. If you see this, simply restart your computer and DON'T DO WHATEVER YOU WERE DOING WHEN YOU GOT THE MESSAGE.

Seriously, this is an epidemic. Not a single day goes by that someone doesn't call my shop and fearfully explain their conversation with Microsoft

or say they saw a big, scary warning on their computer. Not a day goes by where a client doesn't say, "But he told me my banking information is stolen!" or "But he said I was infected!" Every day, someone comes in to show us a picture they took of the big, scary warning on their computer and we have to explain this over and over and over.

It takes me entirely too long to convince you that you are being scammed. Lied to. You seem to want to believe the scam. The saddest thing is that every day many of you actually whip out your credit card and hand these animals your money! Many of you who do this admit to reading my articles. **You should know better!**

I'm so sorry for yelling but I really need to make myself clear. So let's review. If you get a phone call or a scary warning on your computer: **HANG UP ON THEM! RESTART YOUR COMPUTER. DON'T LISTEN TO THEM!**

Whew. Thank you. I feel so much better. I love you. I really do.

Jim Fisher owns Excel Computer Services in Florence. Reach him at www.ExcelAL.com

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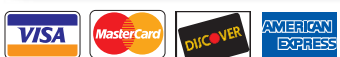
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NWSCC's Fall President's, Dean's Lists

MUSCLE SHOALS-- Northwest Shoals Community College has announced its President's and Dean's Lists for the Fall Semester 2016.

Requirements for the President's List are a semester grade point average of 4.0 and completion of a minimum semester course load of 12 semester credit hours of college-level work.

Earning President's Honors were:
Athens - Lela Ball, Bailey Carpenter, Allyson Holmes, Donna McPherson, Emily Moss, and Elizabeth Usery
Birmingham - Destiny

Gartman **Cherokee** - Shanice Campbell, Morgan Sennett, and Mary Young

Double Springs - Alex Tidwell
Five Points, TN - Trenton Stewart

Florence - Jessica Barnes, Natalie Clingan, Orlandas Corbin, Magen Creasy, Steven Daniel II, Amanda Darby, Charles Freeman, David Greenhill, Robert Huitt, Donavon Kelly, Lesa King, Joseph Luna, Chloe Moothart, Olivia Murphy, Stephen Richards, Jaelyn Sibley, Michael Simpson, Marcus Smith, Chance Snyder, Katelyn Stegall,

Ronald Tank, Logan Trousdale, Randy Vann, Michael Vaughn, and Jeremy Villar

Hackelburg - Madeline Randolph and Shawn Randolph

Haleyville - Joshua Aderholt, Hunter Bales, Heather Comeens, Sarah Ann Hoadley, Vaudine Hyde, Anthony Lawler, and Maggie Reams

Hamilton - Kyle Evans, Sandra Jackson, and Makayla Yeoman

Hartselle - Madison Langston

Hodges - Hannah Baggett
Huntsville - Kirstie Harrison and Adam Irslinger

Killen - Baylee Bevis, Bracken Camp, Hunter Collier, John David Elliott, Gera Evers, Mason Jackson, Tiffany Moreland, Rowan O'Connor, Hannah Richardson, Nicholas Richardson, and Lesa Rose

Leighton - Damarrious Swoope

Lexington - Jacob Sewell and Mitchell McCafferty

Loretto, TN - April Tucker

Madison - Elizabeth Romine

Moulton - Jesse Long and Lane McAbee

Muscle Shoals - Leoma Agee, Erica Bohannon, Teiara Granville, Brianna Hester, Wesley Lawrimore, and Benjamin Letsinger

Phil Campbell - Jonathan Crumpton, Hannah Kent, Adam Lowery, Kody Lowery, Lex May, Lex May, and Natasha Reeves

Rogersville - Blake Bryan

and John Greer

Russellville - Megan Brockway, Dixie Chavez, Tracey Chavez, Emiliano Chavez-Hernandez, Bridget Cleghorn, Bethany Cook, Jeffery Dill, MaKayla Franks, Michael Hodge, Austin James, Daniel Jenkins, Savannah Mills, Michael Mitchell, Mason Montgomery, Caitlyn Morgan, Lacey Oliver, Madelyn Price, Trenton Roden, Gregory Taylor, Kirstie Williams, Maggie Williams, and Christopher Yancey

Sheffield - James Bates Jr., Phoenix Britnell, Jacob Cantrell, Ivy Clark, Mathew Mayes, Trace Morris, and Larry Pennington

Spruce Pine - Elijah Crandall and Austin Hester

Town Creek - Samantha Culver and Taylor Tallant

Trinity - Mackenzie Thrasher

Tuscumbia - Heather Boes, Jonathan Boston, Cheyenne Childers, Brittney Davis, Cynthia Franks, Kimberly Hegler, Emilee Moseley, Victoria Riner, and Morgan Sanderson

Vina - Kaitlin Burks, MacKenzie Hulsey, Savannah Smith, Luke Stanford, and Lacey Wilson

Requirements for the Dean's List are a semester grade point average of 3.5 or above, but below a 4.0, and completion of a minimum semester course load of 12 semester credit

See DEAN'S...on Page 24

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My dad left this earth about 39 years ago. But I still think about him quite often, especially when I cross over the river or a near-by creek. He probably loved fishing as much as anyone I have ever known. That old adage that "He had rather fish than eat," was more truth than exaggeration in his case. And those that knew him would also agree that he was good at it.

He knew what all good anglers know, that using the right tackle and proper technique is only part of being successful at fishing. Equally important for filling the live well is also knowing *where* to fish. My dad had fished the river and creeks in this area most of his life and had learned where fish usually hung out at any given time of the year. He also had a gift for being able to mark and remember countless fishing holes by lining up various trees, rocks and towers from the shore.

After all these years, though, most of those fishing holes cannot be located by the same means because many of those trees, rocks and the like are no longer there. But now most fishermen have a better way of finding and marking fishing spots with a Global Positioning System (or simply called a GPS). A GPS is sophisticated enough that it does not rely on temporary landmarks to determine its accuracy.

As I ponder these things it occurs to me that God has provided a kind of GPS for mankind by means of the Bible. It is sophisticated, accurate and is not affected by change over time. By its own claim: "The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

My dad was good with his methods, but he was not always 100%. Sometimes his ways failed. In truth, man's ways in anything are never fail proof. The ancient prophet penned, "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

On the other hand, God's ways are always good and right. Solomon wrote, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

Rely on God's GPS! It never needs updating and it will never become obsolete!

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Mind...

Continued from Page 12

professional help. Holdsclaw's journey is documented in *Mind/ Game: The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdsclaw*. It presents a rich character study that debunks myths and misconceptions, revealing a more complete and truthful picture of mental illness and the toll it takes.

Mind/Game will screen at 7pm on Friday February 10 at the Ritz Theatre in Sheffield. The film is presented by SouthArts' Southern Circuit of Independent Filmmakers and Tennessee Valley Art Association's Ritz Cinema Society. The film's producer and director Rick Goldsmith will attend the screening at the Ritz for a question and answer session following the film.

"Mind/Game" has won numerous awards, including the Nashville Film Festival "Tennessee First" Audience Award, the Voice Award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and Best Documentary at the D.C. Independent Film Festival. It was shown at the Honolulu African-American Film Festival and given a special screening with First Lady Rosalynn Carter at the Carter Center in Atlanta.

The Ritz Theatre is located at 111 W. Third Street in Sheffield. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$7 for students and can be purchased at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art located at 511 N. Water St. in Tusculumbia, ritztheatre.ticketleap.com or at 256-383-0533.

Walks...

Continued from Page 12

and Recreation Department at UNA who will be on hand for tips and information on leading a physically active lifestyle. Weekly walks take place on Thursdays from 6-7pm at the Highland Baptist Christian Life Center in-door track. Daily walks on the UNA campus will be led by Patrick Shremshock, Director of the UNA Outdoor Adventure Center.

The event is in conjunction with the Healthy Heart Project of the Shoals Community Clinic and in honor of February as Healthy Heart Month.

People can register for the Shoals Walk Across Alabama at any of these weekly walks. The aim of Shoals Walk Across Alabama is to encourage people to lead a more active lifestyle. It can be done in conjunction with the Scale Back Alabama program or on your own. Scale Back enrollment is not a requirement to participate. We are looking for at least 20 participants who will commit to walking at least one mile per week for about ten weeks. A wrap-up event is in the works for later this spring at UNA's new Human Environmental Sciences building (the former Keystone building) with a group walk from the UNA Commons to the HES facility.

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Classified Form is on Page 6

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NWSCC Dean's List...

Continued from Page 21

hours of college-level work.

Earning Dean's List Honors were:

- Anderson** - Makensey Hogue
- Athens** - Melani Music
- Cherokee** - Chandler Hice, Ethan Montgomery, Tanner Seal, and Tori Sockwell
- Cypress Inn, TN** - Katie Hanback and Tessa Woods
- Double Springs** - Emmalee Martinez and Jaden Stromatt
- Florence** - Hannah Abernathy, Ivette Barboza, Adrianna Butler, Julia Butler, Jake Cagle, Thomas Cates, Brianna Cooper, Camry Dortch, Barbara Dozier, Nicole Duke, Benjamin Eckl, Sidney Gipson, Sarah Green, Michael Haney, Daniel Hayes, Isabella Hogan, Steven Holden, Weston Humphries, Chance Hunt, Tracy Jordan, Morgan Keenum, Chase Keys, Stephanie Lambert, John Michael McDonald Cayeros, Sabrina Montgomery, Austin Moore, Lachara Morris, John Murphy, Aleah Newsome, Brandy Newton, Madison Overholser, Lucas Reesor, Trevor Russ, Maggie Sharp, Paulette Sledge, Morgan Terry, Zachary Thorp, Roger Threet, Brittney Vernon, and Carissa Wallace
- Haleyville** - Adrian Barnes, Kaylen Bishop, Haley Emerson, Riley Frederick, and Jessica Spain
- Hamilton** - Baile Cummings
- Harvest** - Brett Mansfield

- Hodges** - Ashley Lovett
- Iron City, TN** - Cody Robbins
- Killen** - Molly Banes, Katlin Bretherick, Betty Brooks, Alex Brown, Ciarra Imrie, Zachary Olive, Rachael Patterson, Hannah Perry, Harlie Smith, and Katie Wright
- Leighton** - Lasebre Boling
- Lexington** - Erika Grisham and Adam Steen
- Loretto, TN** - James Niedergeses
- Lynn** - Lauren Belcher and Ryan Cagle
- Moulton** - Allie Appleton, Victoria Schrimsher, and Kaitlin Terry
- Muscle Shoals** - Tucker Byrd, Keith Cantrell, Michaela Coan, Adam Craft, Manuela Espinal, Makenzie Holley, Andrew James, Maria Justice, Makayla Killian, Phillip Lindsey, Diandra Matthews, Nickolas O'Neal, Caleb Richardson, Paul Walker, Taylor Wilkinson, Haley Willis, and Michael Willis
- Phil Campbell** - James Beasley, Kathryn Gibson, Natividad Gonzalez, Holly Hargett, Dillion Jackson, Bethany Litteral, Courtney Lucas, Stephanie Orrick, Kaylee Saarinen, Katelyn Wallace, Justin Welch, and Blake Whitten
- Red Bay** - Brooklyn Bolton
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- Russellville** - Kalley Baker, Michael Bendall, Anthony Betancourt, Breanna Buck, Wendy Garcia, Leslie Gonzalez, Brittany Hall, Brandon King, David Lugo Barrera, Jill Masterson, Jessica McSpadden, Juan Moctezuma-Macedo, Kaitlin Nolen, Joshua Pinkard, Kaylee Rickard, Julia Rueda, Tammy Smith, Cristy Tulppo, Jennifer Vandiver, Megan Welch, Victoria Williams, Katie Wynn, and Maritza Arizmendi
- Sheffield** - Benjamin Byrd, Cody Campbell, Lauren Cantrell, Christian Darnell, Sabrina Delano, Selena Hallmark, Christopher Hettinger, Robert Lee, and Shirley Taylor
- Spruce Pine** - Allison Harvey
- Trinity** - Blake Boyett
- Tuscumbia** - Amanda Adkins, Chelsea Barnes, Carlee Benson, Sera Davis, Hannah Fuller, Matthew Gatlin, Robert Glass, Angel Green, Leah Gunderman, Holley Hovater, Dena Inman, Charles Moseley, Sunny Murphy, Breanna Newell, Makayla Prince, Destanie Reed, Nancy Stowe, Michele Thompson, Kaitlyn Webb, and Christopher Williams
- Vina** - Morgan Humphres

Medicare Minute

"Frequently Asked Questions 4"

I will be turning 65 in 2017. **Will I automatically be signed up for Medicare Part A and Part B?** If you are already getting benefits from Social Security or the Railroad Retirement Board you will be automatically signed up for Part A and Part B of Medicare. Your Medicare will begin on the first day of the month you turn 65 unless your birthday is on the first day of the month. In this case your Medicare will begin the first day of the month prior to you turning 65. If you choose to not keep Part B because you are on employer insurance, or for any other reason, you will need to notify Social Security of your wishes.

Will I automatically be signed up for Medicare Part A and Part B if I am not getting benefits from Social Security or the Railroad Retirement Board? If you are not getting benefits from Social Security or the RRB, and wish to sign up for Medicare, you will need to sign up on your own. You can sign up for Part A and/or Part B by contacting Social Security or going online to socialsecurity.gov/retirement. Remember, if you don't sign up for Part B when first eligible you may be charged a penalty if you choose to enroll at a later date. There are exceptions to this rule, such as being on employer insurance.

How do I pay my Part B premiums? For most people turning 65 in 2017 the Part B premium is \$134 per month. If you are already drawing your Social Security the Part B premium will be deducted from your Social Security check. If you are delaying taking your Social Security benefits and enroll in Part B you will be asked to pay the Part B premium quarterly.

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 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.



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Letters...

Their Plan to Expand

Continued from Page 12

thirty-year plan to conquer America through immigration into our country failed to put that information out to the public, or the media didn't touch it.

That plan to expand the Muslim presence by birthrate, immigration, and refusal to assimilate is being carried out. Even many well-meaning Americans who haven't

a clue are being used by Muslims in their quest for "world domination."

Being naïve and uninformed is no excuse. All countries are more than justified to ban Muslims from their country because all are endangered. America is no exception, but we may be the prime target.

America should declare the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group, not because we want to, but because that's what they are.

All news organizations are failing to inform America. They should read the Muslim Brotherhood's Strategic Plan. The plan has been called to conquer America through

civilization jihad.

One can easily see that Islam is not the word from the "Living God, our Creator." It goes against His Commandments. God's plan of salvation/heaven is by the blood of his precious Son, Jesus. Theirs is by spilling innocent blood of other humans. Murderers go to Hell in God's plan.

Manuel Ybarra, Jr.
Coalgate, Ok

All Lies and Hypocrisy

To the Editor:

Ahhh, the "peace-loving, tolerant Left." You gotta love them. They're such wonderful human beings. Democrats and liberals in this country feel they are the ONLY people who have a right to voice an opinion, and I'm really sick of it. Instead of admitting that they need to change and better their OWN lives, many liberals invariably play the claim that society screwed them over and thus owes them. Except that society owes neither them nor their special friends (illegal immigrants, drug dealers, promiscuous women, etc.). A cold, hard dash of truth is what they need.

Human beings are stubborn creatures who let their egos override everything else. Instead of learning new information that does not fit within their current worldview, they would rather exercise their egos by letting others know what is and is not possible merely based upon their personal knowledge and feeble understanding of what actually exists. The spirit of inquiry, the search for greater truth beyond mainstream religion and science, the profound seriousness of doing real thinking, philosophy and ontology - these are almost totally lacking in humanity. They automatically reject any emergent facts or

realities that do not fit their pre-conceived cognitive pattern of belief. They watch too much television.

These MTV and CNN children of a truly failed education actually BELIEVE the lying media. They have no ability to think for themselves. They all parrot the same rhetoric. So pathetic. Democrats should ask their media gods why they lied about how much of a following Hillary really had. Not enough to overcome cheating and stacking the deck with foreigners, duplicate voters, and dead people votes.

Can the leftist Democrats appear any more childish and absurd? Especially with their terroristic bullying, threatening and attempting to bribe the Electors, which is a FELONY (largely

See LETTERS... Page 29

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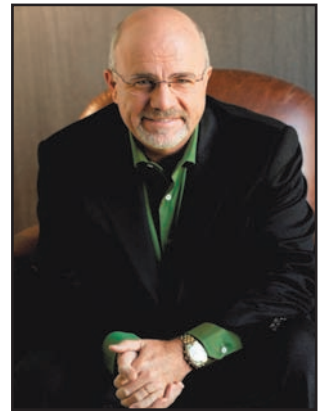


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DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY



YOU'RE USING IT WRONG

Dear Dave,
I take classes online at a public university that is several hours from my home. I tried to pay for my classes the other day, and my Visa debit card was not accepted. I got a message saying credit cards and cash were the only payment options. How can I take care of this without wasting an entire day driving to campus to pay with cash?

Amy

Dear Amy,
Don't worry, there's no need for you to drive all the way to campus and back just to pay for your classes. You can run a debit card like it's a credit card, and they will accept it. The machines don't recognize the difference, whether you type in a credit card number or a debit card number.

Just select "credit" when it asks for payment method. It's just like when you step up to pay for something at the store and they ask the old credit or debit question. You say credit, so you don't have to enter your PIN (personal identification number), and it all stays in the Visa system.

You're just using it wrong, and that's why you're having trouble. Just remember this in the future, and best of luck with your classes!

—Dave

CONSIDER THE HOUSE?

Dear Dave,
My husband and I have been debt-free, except for our mortgage, for a few years now. Recently, we've been thinking about moving back to our home state to be closer to family. We've found a home we're interested in, but it has a large utility tower on the property not far from the house. Should we still consider this home?

Denise

Dear Denise,
The downsides are simple. One, you've got to look at the stupid thing every time you're sitting on your patio. Two, when you get ready to sell it, everyone who looks at the house is going to have the same concerns you have. It's not going to appreciate in value, and you're going to have trouble selling it when the time comes.

If you're willing to put up with those two things, you might get a steal of a deal on this place because no one else may want this house. And when I say a steal, I'm talking around 40 percent off the appraisal. To me personally, it would be enough of an eyesore that I probably wouldn't buy. Again, that's just a personal opinion.

Keep in mind that if you go through with this, when you get ready to sell it you're going to lose out on any money you gained in the buy. Someone is going to do the same thing to you. I'm not completely killing the deal, but I definitely wouldn't buy it to live in. As a rental? Maybe, if I were going to keep it forever. Because people will always rent. But honestly, I wouldn't want to put up with the hassle in either scenario.

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including *The Total Money Makeover*. The *Dave Ramsey Show* is heard by more than 12 million listeners each week on 575 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at [@DaveRamsey](https://twitter.com/DaveRamsey).

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I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil. 4:13 NKJ



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Courier Journal

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GMC: TERRAIN SLE, 2012 \$14,488. Cloth, auto, 54K. Financing available. Call Trey 205-365-7236 or 256-764-3351

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CHEVROLET: CRUZE LT, 2014 \$11,988. Leather, automatic, 77K. Financing available. Call Eric 256-577-8449 or 256-764-3351

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CHEVROLET: CRUZE, 2015 \$17,000. 4-door, 11,000 miles, like new, 205-834-4174.

JEEP: GRAND CHEROKEE, 2001 4x4 V8, \$5,000. 256-332-9569 Russellville area.

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FORD: EXPLORER XTL, 2015 \$25,962. 3rd seat, 4X4, 58k. Financing available. Call Brandon 256-710-4598 or 256-764-3351

FORD: F-150 XLT, 2010 \$14,893. Super cab, 4x2, 94K. Financing available. Call Brandon 256-710-4598 or 256-764-3351

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HONDA: ODYSSEY EX-L, 2007 Leather, new tires, new timing belt, EXTRA clean, 112K. \$8,900 256-431-2845.

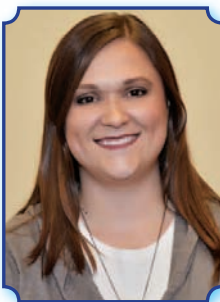
VOLKSWAGEN: PASSAT SE, 2012 \$12,498. Leather, auto, 40K. Financing available. Call Trey 205-365-7236 or 256-764-3351



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CAN YOU GUESS which one of these little squirrels remembered where he hid his food in the fall?

Illustrated by David Coulson

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA! A Londoner would have an easy time with this one. To complete the 11-letter word below, you must add the same three letters to the beginning and to the end. The letters, in both cases, are in the same order.

___ ERGRO ___

A WORD BRIDGE!

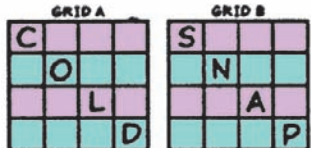
The bridge to the left contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus lots of hints.

- 1. Found on dresses.
2. One who is blindly adored.
3. A children's game.
4. Something you turn or pull.
5. To rent or lease.
6. An animal sound.
7. Central part of a church.
8. An oil or color.
9. A famous bear.
10. A fixed, boring routine.



"CHILL OUT" WITH THIS PROBLEM! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in grid B.

- 1. Storage vessels.
2. A seeded field.
3. An absence of motion.
4. Used to move animals.



- 1. To look over quickly.
2. Small ice crystals.
3. A closed-mouthed person.
4. Small quantity of liquid.

Answers On Page 34

ON YOUR DEBT

Health Care Costs Number One Cause of Bankruptcy for American Families



B. Grant McNutt
Managing Attorney

The cost of health care is a major concern for nearly all Americans and there is no shortage of health care related news coverage recently. Understandably, there are lots of questions and forecasts about what might be about to happen. Will the Affordable Care Act a/k/a "Obamacare" be repealed? Will anything replace it? If so, what will replace it? How much will it cost taxpayers and consumers? And while there are many questions and much uncertainty at present, one thing seems inevitable to me at least. The cost of health care will almost certainly continue to rise. These costs will continue to be a major expenditure for many Americans. At times, these costs will be overwhelming regardless of what happens in Washington, D.C.

According to an article at www.thebalance.com I was reading yesterday, health care costs are the #1 cause of bankruptcy for America's families. Now, this is not news to me as I frequently counsel with individuals and families who are facing substantial medical and other debt. But what caught my attention was the magnitude of the problem. According to the article, 56 million people struggle with medical debt each year. About 8.9% of these people could not afford to pay anything towards these medical debts. Eleven (11) million of these people ran up high interest credit card debt to pay their medical debts. Think about that for a moment. These people did not have the income to pay their medical debts so they took out a high interest loan to do so. So, for example, if such a person owed \$1,000.00 in medical debt and charged it to their credit card at say 28% interest, how much more money that they don't have will they need to finally pay the "medical" bill? Where is that money going to come from? How do you break out of that cycle?

Turning Medical Debt Into More Debt

The article contained another sad statistic. Ninety (90%) percent of those who had homes took out a second mortgage on their homes to pay their medical debt. This means that these people have turned their medical debt into mortgage debt to deal with the situation. Such a tactic is rarely, if ever, a smart option.

According to the article, these people are not the very poor in our society. Rather, they are middle class people. Two-thirds of them were homeowners. Sixty (60%) percent of them were college graduates. Some had private insurance and still had to cough up an average of \$17,749.00 per family. These were people who were facing large and unexpected out-of-pocket costs for health care.

And, finally, according to the article, sixty-two (62%) of the two million personal bankruptcies per year are the result of medical debt.

So, if you are facing overwhelming medical bills that you cannot possibly afford to pay, you are clearly not alone. Bankruptcy may indeed be the best (and perhaps only) way to address the situation. As a consumer bankruptcy lawyer, I have helped many families over the years get the peace of mind (and stress relief) they deserve when faced with overwhelming debts they couldn't possibly pay out of their household budget. You owe it to yourself and your family to get the help you need. You may be surprised just how good life can be without the crushing pressures of debt.

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

Letters...

All Lies and Hypocrisy

Continued from Page 25

unreported by CNN/MSNBC, et al....of course). These gentle little liberal snowflakes wanted to use GUNS to get a person elected...that would take their GUNS AWAY. That, my friends, is a perfect example of liberal "progressive" insanity. How PATHETIC does a candidate have to be to have the corporate establishment media lying for you and STILL lose to Trump? Study your history. You "progressives" think you are SO smart you don't even bother to check for facts. The KKK was a DEMOCRAT organization and it is YOUR party that talks about someone else's hate while you spread outright lies, destroy cities, and burn cars. Hypocrisy much? The Republicans FREED the slaves during the Civil War, but they are still racists according to the all-knowing liberal regressive...oops I meant progressive.

Lynn Daniel
Loretto, TN

Trump and the Ethanol Mandate

Editor:

President Donald Trump cruised to victory promising to get rid of the mandate to buy health insurance. While he's at it, how about getting rid of the mandate to buy ethanol?

The federal government mandates that virtually all gasoline include ethanol, known as the Renewable Fuel Standard. The Environmental Protection Agency oversees the ethanol program. It recently released its 2017 guidelines for increased ethanol usage, calling for nearly 19 billion gallons of renewable fuel -- an increase of nearly 700 million gallons over the 2016 level.

When Congress first embraced ethanol, legislators thought adding it to gasoline would stretch fuel supplies, be cheaper and better for the environment, and reduce our reliance on oil imports.

As is turns out, most of those assumptions are no longer true.

First, ethanol hurts drivers. Existing blends provide fewer miles per gallon, forcing drivers to pay more to travel. According to the Institute for Energy Research, the RFS has saddled American drivers with an extra \$83 billion at the pump.

Second, increasing the percentage of ethanol in our gasoline past the current 10% blend wall could harm engines, especially in older cars. But Congress mandated that oil refineries increase annually the amount of ethanol they mix with gasoline. The problem is that gasoline usage has remained relatively flat since the recession, so the only way to meet the mandate is to increase the ethanol blend -- putting engines at risk.

Third, ethanol production hurts the environment. About 40% of corn grown in the United States goes into our gas tanks. Farmers have plowed up massive tracts of grassland and wetlands to plant more corn which is the key ingredient in ethanol. That conversion releases carbon stored in soil, plus the corn must be harvested, transported and refined before being added to gasoline. The non-profit Environmental Working Group has called the increased use of ethanol a climate disaster.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, increased the amount of ethanol to be added to gas, and required the EPA to provide reports assessing the ethanol program. The EPA produced its first report in 2012, but failed to meet the next deadline.

As a result, the agency's

See LETTERS... Page 34

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Commentary
Travel Ban...

Continued from Page 12

Nationality Act may give her some footing. The next AG will have to decide.

There are over 40 other Muslim-majority nations that are not included in Trump's executive order. The countries included are well-known supporters of terrorism. The inconvenience of a temporary hold on all visas from those countries is unfortunate, but Islam is the common thread of the overwhelming majority of modern-day terrorist mayhem worldwide. It gives critical security agencies time to establish uniform standards for vetting those who seek asylum and to clearly establish as truthful and reliable the claims of other countries that individuals are who they claim to be and they are not a security risk or a safety threat.

President Obama himself ordered three temporary immigration bans despite his unwelcomed, out-of-protocol comments that this one of Trump's is specifically targeting Muslims. Jimmy Carter suspended all travel from Iran to the U.S. during the hostage crisis of 1980. Those are among the 16 temporary bans that were signed by other Presidents before Trump ever took office.

We already know that at least hundreds of dangerous militants are in this country. They are not here to assimilate. It's only a matter of time before we are hit from one or more angles. We need to minimize the added deadly potential while we have the opportunity and while a sympathizer who ignores the problem is not in office.

Too many of us are ignoring dire warnings from individuals who know all about the history and tendencies of those we place in question. The media labels those people haters as a means of discrediting them.

The ACLU threw out a smoke screen of distraction immediately by filing a complaint against the Trump administration alleging that the executive order has violated immigrants' due process rights and discriminates against petitioners on the basis of their country of origin...and therefore violates the equal protection component of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

The key word in that whole spiel is 'petitioners.' They are NOT AMERICAN CITIZENS and are not subject to constitutional protections.

House minority leader Nancy Pelosi (D) California, - of "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it" fame - argued that Somali refugees were the most thoroughly vetted of all immigrants.

Is that right? So she is saying that the thousands of bombed-out displaced Somalis who escaped death with the clothes on their backs, most of whom traveled for days or weeks on foot and have been living in open-air or in makeshift tents for months with no supervision or hygiene, and barely life-sustaining food and water, are all easily and absolutely identifiable by U. S. intelligence with a complete life history, background, employment, associations, unlawful, missteps, etc? She is sure that none of these encampments include or have been infiltrated by anyone who would eagerly take out hundreds of Americans in one swath?

Ms. Pelosi is absolutely full of what these unfortunate victims are leaving behind in their tent cities.

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Paws & Claws

Pet Dental Health Month, Does Your Pet Have Bad Breath?

Montgomery, AL - The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association wants to remind pet owners that healthy teeth are just as important for your pet as for you. If your pet has bad breath, it could be a sign of a much more serious condition. Preventive veterinary dental care can save your pet from suffering and save you money in the long run. Pet Dental Health Month, sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association every February, reminds pet owners that brushing their pet's teeth is good for both your pet's health and your budget.

"Some form of periodontal disease is present in most of the patients we see," says ALVMA President Dr. Hal Pate. "Bad breath is frequently a sign of infection caused by gum disease, which is very painful. The disease can be life threatening if left untreated, spreading the bacteria to vital organs including the heart and kidneys. If your pet has bad breath or discolored teeth you should visit your veterinarian. Prevention and early treatment are always best for you and your pet."

Most dental disease occurs below the gum line, where it's hard to see. Unfortunately, this means that most pet owners do not realize their pets have a problem until the disease has reached an advanced stage. The AVMA states oral disease is the

most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets. The American Veterinary Dental Society reports 80% of dogs and 70% of cats suffer from some form of oral disease by age 3. According to Nationwide, the nation's first and largest provider of pet health insurance, periodontal disease accounted for the most dental pet insurance claims received last year—more than 29,000. Tooth infections accounted for the second most common dental-related claim, totaling more than 21,100.

While regular dental checkups are essential to help maintain your pet's dental health, there are a number of signs that dental disease has already started. If you notice any of the symptoms below, take your pet into your veterinarian immediately:

- Red swollen gums and brownish teeth.
- Loose teeth or teeth covered in tartar.
- Bad breath. Most pets have breath that is less than fresh, but if it becomes truly repugnant, similar to the smell of a rotten egg, it's a sign that periodontal disease has already started.
- Your pet shies away from you when you touch the mouth area.
- Drooling. Bleeding from the mouth.
- Frequent pawing or rubbing at the face and/or mouth.
- Reluctance to eat hard foods — for example, picking it up and then spitting it out.
- Loss of appetite or loss of weight (this combination can result from diseases of many organs, and early veterinary examination is important).

Preventive care is the best way to keep your pet healthy. With a little encouragement, you can teach your pet to accept having their teeth brushed. There are also many products that promote healthy dental care for pets including chews, treats and

certain foods designed to reduce plaque. Be careful with the type of products you give your pet. Bones, antlers, hooves and some nylon products are too hard and can cause pets to break their teeth. Flexible chew toys are recommended. Some pet treats may also cause tooth problems. Many have bad ingredients like corn syrup which can cause decay. They are often high in fat, sugar and preservatives, and loaded with calories. Try offering healthy treats like carrots or green beans. The Veterinary Oral Health Council has a list of recommended products to aide with

tarter and plaque listed on their website at <http://www.vohc.org>. Many veterinarians offer specials on dental cleaning fees during the month of February. Visit the ALVMA website at <http://www.alvma.com> for more information on Pet Dental Health Month and for additional resources and links.

Founded in 1907, The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association is comprised of approximately 700 veterinarians from around the state, all committed to protecting People, Pets and Livestock - Yesterday, Today and Always.

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.

MIA! She is very affectionate and loves people! Her absolute favorite thing in the world is to give hugs & kisses! Mia needs to be an only pet! Please give this beautiful girl a chance! Mia is available for adoption or rescue! **THE PET OF THE WEEK SPECIAL ADOPTION FEE IS \$15**, which includes spay or neuter & rabies! To learn more, contact the Colbert Shelter at 256-381-4073!

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TEC

Teléfono Nacional de Alabama, Inc., d/b/a TEC ha presentado ante el Gobierno Federal una Garantía de Cumplimiento en la que se asegura la Rural Utilities Service que va a cumplir plenamente con todos los requisitos, de conformidad con la ley federal de derechos civiles y US Department of Agricultura (USDA) reglamentos de derechos civiles y políticas, el USDA, sus organismos, oficinas y empleados, y las instituciones que participan en o administran los programas del USDA no pueden discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, religión, sexo, identidad de género (incluyendo la expresión de género), orientación sexual, discapacidad, edad, estado civil, familiar / situación de los padres, el ingreso derivado de un programa de asistencia pública, creencias políticas o represalia o venganza para la actividad previa de los derechos civiles, en cualquier programa o actividad llevada a cabo o financiada por USDA (no todas las bases aplican a todos los programas). Remedios y plazos de presentación de reclamaciones varían según el programa o incidente.

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Para presentar una queja de discriminación programa, completar el Formulario de Queja USDA Programa de discriminación, AD-3027, que se encuentra en línea en <http://cust.html> presentación www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint y en cualquier oficina del USDA o escribir una carta dirigida a USDA y proporcionar en la carta toda la información solicitada en el formulario. Para solicitar una copia del formulario de queja, llame al (866) 632 a 9992. Enviar el formulario completado o una carta al USDA por:

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Soap Opera Preview

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL Bill recognized Wyatt's success at his former position and hoped to utilize his expertise within the family company. Steffy offered to take Thomas to lunch to delve more into his feelings of being betrayed by his family. While discussing Katie's personal life, Brooke questioned her sister's feelings

for Eric. Feeling considerably vulnerable in her marriage, Quinn confessed to Eric her overwhelming fear of losing him. Later, Quinn overheard Brooke telling Eric that Katie had a crush on him. Thomas found great joy in the way that Steffy was being portrayed on social media. *Wait to See: An estranged sibling returns.*

DAYS OF OUR LIVES Deimos witnessed the growing closeness between Brady and Nicole, and set out to prove he was the only man who could give her what she wanted. Marlena momentarily disappeared, and everyone feared that Stefano had kidnapped her again. Raines called in reinforcements when he shot at Hope and lost her in pursuit. Abigail was frantic over Chad and Gabi being kidnapped. Andre offered an olive branch to Eduardo, and the two men agreed to a temporary truce. Raines vowed to continue searching for Hope until all charges were dropped. Steve and Kayla invited Carrie and Austin to their Valentine's Day wedding. *Wait to See: Gabi tends to Chad's wounds as they find themselves trapped.*

GENERAL HOSPITAL Sonny sensed that Jason was hiding something. Carly got a clue about Nelle's mystery man. Curtis's doubts finally were confirmed. Sonny violated the terms of his house arrest. Lulu overwhelmed Charlotte. Anna's memories became increasingly unsettling. Dante got a break in the case. Sonny sought vengeance. Dante questioned Carly's commitment. Alexis leaned on Sam for support. Julian's past caught up with him. Ava defended her actions. Dante took a suspect in for questioning. Sam gained the attention of a false friend. *Wait to See: Felicia gets closer to the truth.*

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS Gloria reminded Jack that he had to face the consequences of backing out of giving her a job and urged him to watch "GC Buzz" that night. At Jabot, Billy flirted with Phyllis in the elevator and pulled her into a kiss. Later, Phyllis met up with Troy via an online dating app. Victoria grounded Reed

after he used her credit card for an adult website. Billy accused Reed of trying to turn his parents against each other. Devon had a \$250 million check delivered to a shocked Hilary. Victor agreed to mentor Abby. Victoria announced that she wanted to buy Brash & Sassy, which infuriated Cane. *Wait to See: Lauren receives a cryptic message.*

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Grief Support Group for Bereaved Parents/Grandparents

Meets

Sunday, Feb. 12 at 2PM

Woodmont Baptist East Campus,
2002 Darby Dr., Florence

Remember: "A Breaking Heart Still Beats"

Info: anita.watkins@comcast.net or nhargett@comcast.net

Get Directions From A Professional




Turning 65? Retiring?
Under 65 and Disabled? Losing Employer Insurance?
65 and a Veteran? On a Limited Income?

Call Anah Whitehead Fowler 256-412-9716
afowler1@humana.com

NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property under The Self Service Storage Act. The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on Thursday the 16th day of February, 2017 at 10:00 AM on Lockerfox.com. Said property is iStorage Florence, 4121 Florence Blvd, Florence, AL, 35634 Lauderdale County;

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Miscellaneous Totes and Miscellaneous Bags

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase by cash only. All purchased items are sold as is, where is, and must be removed within 48 hours of the sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party. Dated this 27th Day of January, 2017 and 3rd Day of February, 2017.

Notes...

Continued from page 4

Black History Month events at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library

The Screening Room: The Birth of a Nation (2016) - Sunday, February 12, 2pm. Join the library and Pillar of Fire for this free film screening. Nat Turner is an enslaved Baptist preacher who lives on a Virginia plantation owned by Samuel Turner. With rumors of insurrection in the air, a cleric convinces Samuel that Nate should sermonize to other slaves, thereby quelling any notions of an uprising. As Nate witnesses the horrific treatment of his fellow man, he realizes that he can no longer just stand by and preach. On Aug. 21, 1831, Turner's quest for justice and freedom leads to a violent and historic rebellion in Southampton County. For more information, call 256-764-6564, ext. 24.

NAMI Shoals Family Support Group

for families with adults and/or children who have brain disorders (mental illnesses) and NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group for people who have been diagnosed with a brain disorder and are in recovery meets Tuesday, February 14 at 7pm at the NAMI Shoals office, 749 Thompson St., Suite A, Florence. Need directions or more information, call 256-765-2081.

Baseball and Softball Registration

is now being accepted by Tuscumbia Parks & Recreation. Deadline will be February 20. Hours: 9am-12pm, closed 12-1pm, reopen 1-5pm. Contact 256-386-5655 for more info.

Baseball - Ages: 4-5 Teeball; 5-6 Rookie Machine; 6-7 Machine Pitch; 9-10 Minor League; 11-12 Ozone.
Softball - Ages: 6-8 Darlings; 9-10 Angels; 11-12 Ponytails; 13-15 Belles.

The Shoals Chamber of Commerce

is accepting nominations for its Citizen of the Year Award. The recipient will be honored during the 30th annual chamber celebration, set for March 16 at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center in Florence. Recommendations forms may be picked up at the chamber office, 20 Hightower Place, Florence, or online at www.shoals-chamber.com

Florence Park & Rec Spring Registration

Baseball: Ages 3-12, Register from Now - February 26. Fee \$35
Girls Softball: Ages 5-12. Register from Now - February 26. Fee \$35
Soccer: Ages 4-14. Register from Now - March 5. Fee \$45
Register online at www.fpard.com
For more information, contact the Florence Park and Recreation Department at 256-760-6628.

The State Department of Education

will destroy certain special education records on February 14. Those include special education state complaints, mediations, and due process hearing requests filed between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2011. Any parent of a child 19 or older, or a former student in that age range with records maintained at the state Department of Education, may request those records pertaining to the child by mailing or faxing a signed, written authorization to release the records. The request must be sent to Bernice Rush Harrison or Clark Waggoner, Alabama Department of Education, Special Education Services, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101, or faxed to 334-242-9192. All requests must be received by February 13 at 4pm. The written request should include the student's name, current mailing address and telephone number.

Sons of Confederate Veterans, E. A. O'Neal Camp No. 478 Meeting

at 6:30pm February 16 at Pope's Tavern & Museum, 203 Hermitage Drive, Florence. Guest Speaker will be Dr. David Gregg with his program on the "War Along the Tennessee: January to April 1862". 256-764-4945

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Letters...

Trump and the Ethanol Mandate

Continued from Page 29

inspector general recently called out the EPA for neglecting this obligation, noting that the agency "has not complied with the requirement to provide a report every three years to Congress." The inspector general furthered that the "information is needed to fully inform the EPA, Congress and other stakeholders of the environmental impacts of U.S. biofuel policy."

In the wake of the inspector general's condemnation, agency officials promised to produce the next assessment this year.

Why the delay? Maybe the EPA knows the United States no longer needs renewable fuels to wean itself off foreign energy. Thanks to the rapid expansion of the domestic oil and gas industry, this country has passed Russia and Saudi Arabia as the world's top energy producer.

Eliminating the RFS would also increase demand for gasoline, stoking renewed domestic production and accelerating our march to total energy independence.

During the presidential primaries, Trump proclaimed his support for ethanol in Iowa, a big ethanol-producing state. But since Trump understands why a mandate has skewed the healthcare market, he should understand why an ethanol mandate could skew the energy market.

We don't need to eliminate the ethanol industry, just the mandate to use it. Let consumers decide at the pump if they want ethanol in their gasoline.

Merrill Matthews
Resident Scholar, Institute for Policy Innovation
Dallas, TX

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See Page 6



The Weight of Sin

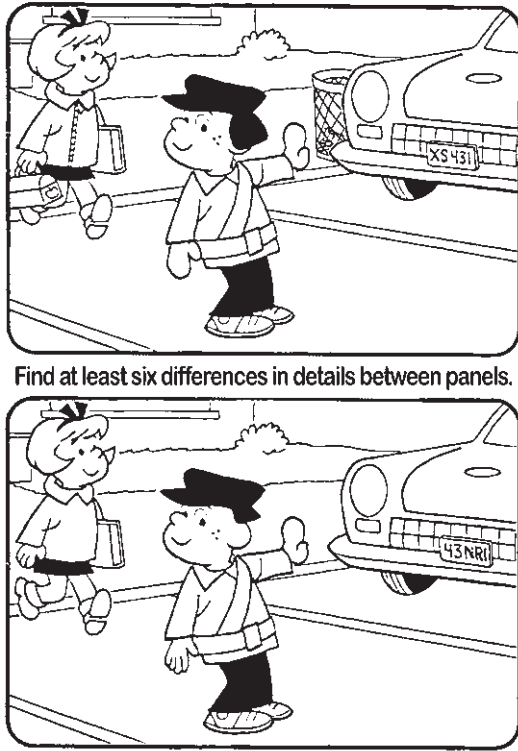
Hebrews 9:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he (CHRIST) appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." **John 1:10** "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him (CHRIST) not." **1 Peter 2:24** "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." **2 Corinthians 5:21** "For he (GOD) hath made him (CHRIST) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." The weight of sin begins to show on the faces and bodies of lost folks as they approach the end of life. It's a weight that you don't have to carry. Saved folk have a place to carry their troubles. My problems that sometimes overwhelm me are really small when I think of what my Saviour has done for me. Compared to what's ahead for me, these are light afflictions. **See 2 Corinthians 4:17.** Our church family recently has suffered losses in death and are comforted knowing that in heaven their loved ones are in a much better place. As we age, ailments and failings, pain, sicknesses all seem to multiply and prevail at times, but comfort comes knowing that in heaven we have a more rewarding future.

To my saved and lost friends; one day you might look for this article and not find it. Remember one thing, this preacher and Almighty God love you, and the scriptures above tell you what God and Christ have done for you. **To my saved friends:** may God continue to help you and make His face to shine on you for good and give you strength to keep on keeping on. **To my lost friends,** you don't have to carry your weight of sin any longer. Ask Christ to remove it, to save you and believe on him today. Say this: "I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO HELL." AGAIN: "I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO HELL." Once you are saved, you will have a place to carry and leave your sorrows, troubles, worries, sins, problems and others things that confront you. **1 Peter 5:7** "Casting all your care upon him; for he (CHRIST) careth for you."

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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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by Charles Barry Townsend Illustrated by David Coulson

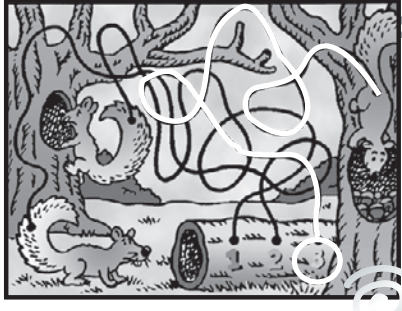
A WORD BRIDGE!

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UNDERGROUND

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S	O	W	N
C	A	L	M
P	R	O	D

S	C	A	N
S	N	O	W
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