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Tops AAMA**

FLORENCE-The Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association (AAMA) named Shoals Extrusion the 2018 Alabama Small Manufacturer of the Year. The AAMA Supplier of the Year Award winners exemplify the elite in manufacturing innovation, commitment to excellence, dedication to employees, and community investment. Eligible companies for the small manufacturer of the year award are manufacturers with significant operations in Alabama with fewer than 200 employees. Shoals Extrusion's 75,000 square foot facility is located in the Florence-Lauderdale Industrial Park at 4455 Parkway Drive. Operations began in 2015. The two-press operation focuses on producing high quality, small mill finish extrusions. For more information, check out the Southern Extrusion Facebook page at facebook.com/superextruder/.

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Volume 134 Number 25

May 2, 2018

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Courier Journal

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Smokin' on the Boulevard in Florence was named **Bama's Best Pork Ribs** in an inaugural contest sponsored by the Alabama Pork Producers. Pictured from left are judges, competitive cook, Bob Plaster; and Alabama News Center restaurant reporter, Susan Swagler; owners Jeff Carter and Karen Hill; Alabama pig farmer and contest judge, Daniel Tubbs; and Federation Pork Division Director, Guy Hall.



Alabama Farmers Federation

Still Smokin'

APP SAYS CARTER, HILL HAVE BAMA'S BEST PORK RIBS

FLORENCE-Dry-rubbed, hickory-smoked, no-sauce-needed ribs from Smokin' on the Boulevard in Florence were dubbed Bama's Best Pork Ribs in an inaugural contest sponsored by the Alabama Pork Producers. Jeff Carter and Karen Hill opened the roadside stand six years ago, where they cook St. Louis-style ribs low and slow in a fertilizer-buggy-turned-smoker. They said they were honored to be named Bama's best, but accolades aren't

their priority. "The awards don't mean anything in comparison to our customers coming back again and again," said Carter, whose champion restaurant received \$500 from the Alabama Pork Producers. "If you're willing to put the time in, anyone can cook like this. It affirms that we're doing the right thing when customers say,

See **SMOKIN'...** on Page 7

UNA Campaign Ahead of Pace

FLORENCE - Officials with the University of North Alabama announced that the University has completed its first comprehensive campaign well ahead of schedule. UNA reached the \$35 million goal announced publicly in 2016. And then the state's oldest four-year public institution surpassed that goal by raising a total of \$36,674,395 for the "Build the Pride" comprehensive campaign. "This is truly a milestone in the history of this University," said UNA's President, Dr. Ken Kitts. "Reaching this goal signifies that the University of North Alabama is on an amazing trajectory. We couldn't have done it without our generous donors and friends. I want us to begin thinking about new objectives and priorities that will carry UNA forward as we close this campaign. We can move mountains when we work together," he said.

See **SHORTS...** on Page 2



National Advance Auto Sales
Oakley Auto Sales
EZ-Ride Auto Sales
Jeff Elledge Auto Sales



Courtesy photo- Sigma Chi

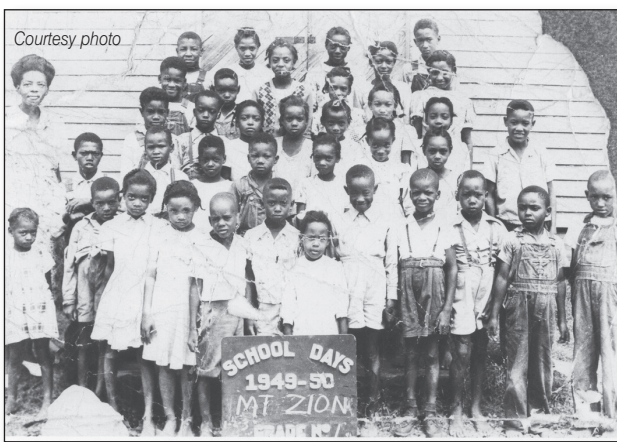
SIGMA CHI DONATES \$7,000⁰⁰

FLORENCE- The Eta Rho Chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity at the University of North Alabama last week donated \$7,000 to Safeplace.

ABOVE: Rachel Hackworth, center, the Executive Director of Safeplace accepts the \$7,000 check April 25 at the Sigma Chi House on the UNA campus.

The donation was made possible through the fraternity's annual

See **SIGMA CHI...** on Page 6



Courtesy photo

NEW WEBSITE DEVOTED TO Black History

FLORENCE-Local nonprofit, Project Say Something, in partnership with the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library and the UNA Public History Program, has launched a website devoted to black history in the Shoals region.

The site can be accessed at shoalsblackhistory.omeka.net, or

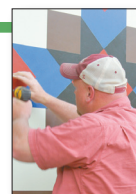
See **SAY...** on Page 6

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- **Soap Updates**
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- **Pet Pictures**
- **LAST CHANCE**

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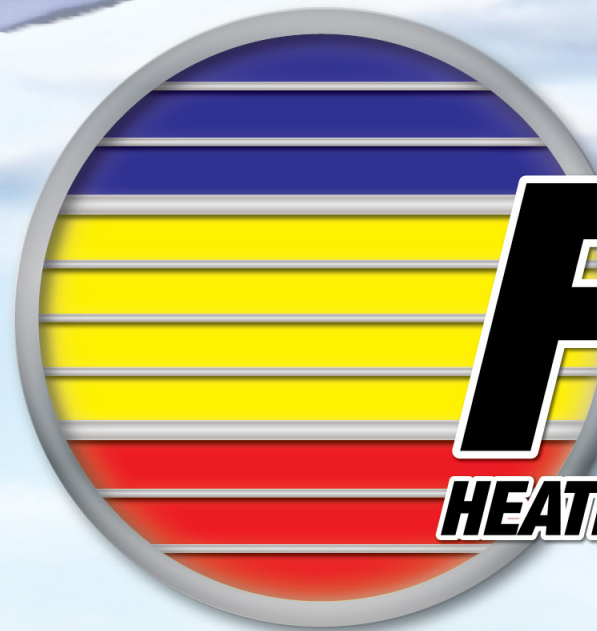
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Shorts...

Continued from Page 1

UNA Campaign Ahead of Pace

A comprehensive campaign is different from a typical capital campaign. The money raised goes to all facets of the University, not just capital projects like buildings, etc.

Langstaff is unWrapt at UA

TUSCALOOSA—University of Alabama student, Samuel Langstaff, of Florence is participating in "(un)Wrapt: New Arts Research by Creative Campus Fellows." The installation will open at the UA Gallery in the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center in downtown Tuscaloosa Friday, May 4, from 5-8pm and will remain at the gallery through May 15. "The Great Indoors" is a sensory experience piece by John Harrison and Langstaff, two UA juniors. "The fellows' projects explore the idea of interdisciplinary arts research from many different angles, using a wide range of technologies, media and approaches," said Dr. Andrew Raffo Dewar, co-director of Creative Campus. "But all are driven by an overarching question-what if?"

The gallery opening on May 4 will be a part of downtown Tuscaloosa's First Friday art walk. The Creative Campus fellows will be present at the opening to talk about their work, and refreshments will be provided.

Located within UA's College of Arts and Sciences, Creative Campus is an arts fellowship program connecting students, faculty and communities to nurture innovative thinkers who turn ideas into action. For more information on Creative Campus visit www.creativecampus.ua.edu.

Students Bass Event Winners

SHEFFIELD—Many Pickwick Lake anglers were catching smallmouth bass around Wilson Dam. Meanwhile, Aaron Stephens and his teammate Daniel Meadows opted to go in a different direction during an April 21 Alabama Student Angler Bass Fishing Association tournament. The gamble paid off in a big way for the duo from Mortimer Jordan High School in Kimberly, Al. They won the tournament by catching five largemouth bass that weighed 21.06 pounds. Garrett Bates and Darren Ledbetter of Pelham Panthers Bass Fishing clinched second place with an 18.91 pounds catch. The tournament was hosted by Colbert County Tourism and Convention Bureau and attracted almost 500 anglers from 52 schools throughout Alabama. The students fished in boats piloted by an adult who did not fish. The tournament launched from Riverfront Park and the weigh-in was held in downtown Sheffield. "We were drifting jigs offshore," Stephens said. "We had the area where we

See SHORTS... on Page 3

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Shorts...

Continued from Page 2

were fishing pretty much to ourselves all day."

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Meadows confessed that he and Stephens caught about 30 bass, but kept only the five largest for the weigh-in. "We had a good day," he said. Stephens and Meadows each won a \$1,000 college scholarship and other prizes.

Art Month for Bicentennial

FLORENCE—Local makers, workshops, and one-of-a-kind keepsakes are all on the agenda for Florence's Bicentennial Celebration during the

month of May. There is something for everyone, from a tour of the Forks of Cypress Plantation to a bicentennial t-shirt workshop at the Factory. Mayor **Steve Holt** said, "We are so pleased with the Bicentennial Celebration and we appreciate the on-going participation. This is an exciting year for our city!"

"Expect to get a little messy in May, learn a lot, and have a great time," said Florence City Councilwoman **Michelle Eubanks** who is also a member of May's Bicentennial Sub-Committee. "We are very fortunate to have such incredibly talented individuals living right here in Florence who are willing to share their talents," she added.

MAY'S BICENTENNIAL SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- **Friday, May 4, 5-8pm** – **FIRST FRIDAYS** –Downtown Florence
- **Saturday, May 5, 10am**—**FORKS OF CYPRESS PLANTATION SITE & CEMETERY TOUR**
- **Saturday, May 5** – **FABRIC** – Event will highlight our history of fabric, quilting, and cotton, conducted by Alabama Chanin
- **Saturday, May 12** – **WOOD** – Event will highlight our history of woodworking craftsmanship, conducted by John Moody
- **Friday & Saturday, May 18-19** – **SHOALS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**, Shoals Theater
- **Saturday & Sunday, May 19-20** – **ARTS ALIVE FESTIVAL**
- **Saturday, May 26** – **CLAY** – Event will highlight our history of clay as an art form, conducted by Aaron Benson
- **Monday, May 28, 11am** – **Memorial Day Ceremony** – Veterans Memorial, Veterans Park

Fridays Will Celebrate Art

FLORENCE – First Fridays is welcoming arts, crafts, and music on Friday May 4 from 5-8pm on Court Street in historic downtown Florence.

Coinciding with the Florence Bicentennial's highlighted theme for May, this month's First Fridays also celebrates Art.

Dozens of local arts and crafts vendors line Court Street with abstract art, handmade knives, jewelry, pottery and more.

Music hits the Big River Broadcasting stage at 5pm with **Katie Ruvane**, followed by **Jubal** at 6pm, and **Robert Cline, Jr.** at 7pm.

Special guests include the Alabama Tree Commission, the Florence Animal Shelter, and Ham Radio Club. "We enjoy giving our visitors a chance to learn about local civic and nonprofit groups," said First Friday's chairwomen, **Belinda Duke**. "It means we've got a little something for everyone at each event."

First Fridays is a rain-or-shine event.

See **SHORTS...** on Page 9



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The 2018-2019 City of Florence Community Development Block Grant Program Annual Action Plan will be on review for thirty days starting Wednesday, May 2nd, and ending on Friday, June 1st,

- at 5:00 pm at the following locations:
- City of Florence Planning and Community Development Department at 110 W. College Street, Suite 115
 - Florence-Lauderdale Public Library
 - City of Florence website www.florenceal.org

Comments concerning the plan may be submitted in writing to the

City of Florence Planning and Community Development Department located at 110 W. College St., Suite 115 Florence, AL 35630.

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Good news is sweet to the ears and pleasant to the soul. Who does not like good news? Maybe it's a new baby, a grandbaby or even a great — maybe it's finally graduation and a degree— or wedding bells.

At Hendrix Chapel, we love good news. When good news is in the air, we are blessed, bonded, and motivated. We actually do have new babies and grandbabies, a recent wedding, and graduations are coming up. Several new baptisms and restorations - good news that has even "the angels of heaven rejoicing."

However, one would have to stick his head deep in the sand not to hear bad news, and a lot of it. Where would cable and network news be without bad news?

Know you are wondering, so, do you want the good news first or the bad? Let's go with the bad: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There shall in no wise enter into it (heaven) anything that defileth." (Romans 3:23, Revelation 21:27) **BAD NEWS!**

Now the good news. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) By the grace of God, Jesus tasted death for every man. And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. (Hebrews 2:9, 5:9) He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved. Peter said unto them repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Mark 16: 15-16, Acts 2:38) That, beloved, is **GOOD NEWS**, sweet to the ears and pleasant to the soul.

You know, of course, the word gospel means good news. This Sunday we will be beginning a "gospel" meeting. Our guest speaker will be Ed White from the Valdosta Church of Christ, and Ed will preach the gospel, "for it is the power of God unto salvation." What an opportunity to hear some good news. Please come and enjoy. †

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COMMUNITY NOTES may be submitted for non-profit, civic or church-related events and published free of charge. Community Notes must be submitted in writing by 3pm Friday for consideration in the following week's issue. As space is available in the Courier Journal.

- Email to editor@courierjournal.net;
- Look for "Submit News" on our website at www.courierjournal.net.
- Fax to 256-760-9618;
- Mail to 219 W. Tennessee St, Florence, AL 35630; or
- Bring in person.

All properly submitted Community Notes which are dated will be posted weekly at www.courierjournal.net. Visit our website for a complete list.

Helen Keller Hospital and Keller Women's Imaging presents Mammos in May - Discounted screening mammograms will be offered every Monday in May in celebration of health and wellness to honor Mother's Day 2018! Cost is \$40 and includes radiologist's reading. Although no physician's order is needed for this service, we ask that you provide the name of your primary care physician so that we may send them the report.

Call 256-386-4150 to schedule your appointment. Closed Memorial Day.

Strawberries and Spring Produce are at The Farmers' Market at Killen Park Saturdays 8am-2pm. Locally grown and farm raised. See their Facebook page.

LifeSouth Community Blood Drives for March - 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

Florence Bible Band will celebrate its 99th Annual Day on May 6 at 3pm at Mt. Moriah P.B. Church in Florence. Rev. William Rowell, Jr. will bring the message and the Mt. Moriah Choir will render selections. Everyone is welcome.

Cloverdale Community Mother/Daughter Dinner May 8 6:30pm, at Cloverdale Church of Christ. Speaker: Judy Abrams. Bring your favorite salad. All ladies welcome.

The "Hi Neighbors of the Shoals" meeting will be Tuesday, May 1, 10:30am, at the Florence Public Library. This group welcomes all newcomers to the Shoals area. Contact Janice Hilborn, 256-415-8512 for further information.

The American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to give blood during National Volunteer Month this April. Donating blood is a simple way for those who are short on time to make a life-changing difference.

Killen - May 2, 9:30am-2:30pm, Brooks High School Killen, 4300 Hwy 72
Florence - May 14, 9am-1:30pm, Shoals Christian School, 301 Heathrow Drive

An Evening with Lera Lynn takes place May 3 at 7pm 116 E Mobile. Tickets are \$10.

Lera Lynn makes her Florence debut! The acclaimed Nashville singer-songwriter makes her Florence debut bringing her brand of otherworldly tunes to the Shoals. And she couldn't be more excited. No ticket will be mailed or emailed to you. Your name will be added to a list. Bring a valid ID to the show for entry. 116 E. Mobile is limited seating venue. A ticket does not guarantee a seat. For ticket info visit: <https://squareup.com/store/116-e-mobile/>

Florence Academy of Fine Arts presents "Love - Unity in Diversity" featuring Hibbett Middle School Dance, Florence Middle School Dance, Florence High School Dance, and the FAFA Dance Company on Thursday, May 3, 7pm at Florence High School Auditorium, 1201 Bradshaw Drive.

Tickets \$10 at the door. Advanced ticket purchase through HMS/FMS/FHS Dance Teachers.

More info: www.gofafa.org. On Facebook FAFA DANCE.

The Shoals Area Chapter of the Order of St. Luke will meet in the Sheffield Room at Park Place, 501 N. Montgomery Ave., Sheffield, Thursday, May 3 at 6:30pm. Rev. Doc Shell will share his miraculous healing testimony and a teaching on healing.

We believe that God heals spiritually, physically, and emotionally. All are welcome.

See NOTES... page 34

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Buckley's Farm Corn Dogs 6 ct. pkg. 2.19	Piggly Wiggly Frozen Crinkle Cut French Fries 2 lb. bag 2/\$5	PIGGLY WIGGLY Butter Flavored Biscuits 5 CT. CANS 2/\$1	PIGGLY WIGGLY Ice Cream (or Fudge Bars) 12 PACK 2/\$6
MAXWELL HOUSE Original Coffee 12 OZ. BAG 2.79	Pepsi and All Pepsi Products 3/\$11 12 PACK, 12 OZ. CANS 5/\$10 6 PACK, 1/2 LITER BTLs.	VALU TIME Bleach GALLON-JUG 1.19	PIGGLY WIGGLY Peanut Butter 40 OZ. JAR 3.59 BETTER THAN PETER PAN!!
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KRAFT Barbecue Sauce 18 OZ. BTL. 1.19	BUSH'S Black or Pinto Beans 16 OZ. CAN 79¢	PIGGLY WIGGLY Orange Juice 1/2 GAL. PLASTIC JUG 2/\$4	PIGGLY WIGGLY Frozen Pizza 10-10.3 OZ. BOX 2/\$3
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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)

ROGERSVILLE HUGE FOUR FAMILY YARD SALE, 5856 County Road 76 (Between 101 and 56) Fri. & Sat., Furniture, clothing, household goods, etc.

FLORENCE: 117 S ECLIPSE ST 8-Family Yard Sale: May 4-5 (Rain or Shine) Samsung Galaxy S3, Vera Bradley, Pageant Wear, Under Armour, Nike, iPod Touch.

FLORENCE BENEFIT YARD SALE

2002 Darby Dr. Woodmont Baptist Church East Campus. Sat., 8 am-untill? Misc. household items, furniture and much more! Proceeds Benefiting Christian Women's Job Corps. **MAP ID # 314**

FLORENCE: HUGE MOVING AND Yard Sale, 662 Co Rd 143 Sat. 5-5, 7 a.m. Rain date 5-12.

FLORENCE FOREST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE!! Sat., May 5th, Weather permitting, 6 am-noon Roxie Dr., Kathy St., Flurnoy Ave., Stovall Dr., Grove Park Ct., Crestwood Dr., Shirley Dr., Wright Dr. and more! This is a sale that you don't want to miss!

FLORENCE INDOOR PURSE SALE, 150 Purses, Sat., June 18th, 8am-2pm, Brookdale, 3275 Co. Rd. 47, Turn off Cox Creek Pkwy. at Martin's Clothing. 256-740-6999

TUSCUMBIA: HUGE COMMUNITY YARD SALE, Sullivan Village Apartments, 104 Carrie Lane, Saturday, May 5th, 7 am-untill? *In case of rain, sale will be May 12th.

GREENHILL AREA: 17414 CO. Rd. 33 Chairs, lamps, pictures, mirrors, home decor and more.

FLORENCE: 319 N. ORLEANS Street, Fri. May 4, 7am-untill?, Sat. May 5, 7 am-untill?, Oven, sinks, clothes, baby strollers, picture frames, toaster oven, vintage iron bedstead, McCoy coffee mugs, Thumbprint goblets, sheets, DVDs, women's plus size clothes, Casper jackets, children's books, name brand purses, end tables, pots and pans.

NORTH FLORENCE YARD SALE, 257 Roosevelt Ave., Sat., 7 am-untill? Plants: Hosta, Lillies, mint and more. One gallon \$3.00

FLORENCE: 242 ROBIN HOOD DR. Saturday, May 5, 6:30am-??, Lots of kid's clothes: infant - 4T, home decor, miscellaneous items. Cancelled if Raining.

FLORENCE NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE, Roosevelt Ave., (Between Sherrad Ave. & Wood Ave.) Sat., 7 am-untill?

FLORENCE ESTATE SALE, 4820 Hwy. 157 (Across from Underwood School) Friday & Saturday, 7 am-untill? Antiques, etc.

FLORENCE: Community Yard Sale SAT. MAY 5, 7-12

DOUBLE CREEK APARTMENTS, 4704 Chisholm Rd.

CREEKVIEW VILLAGE APARTMENTS, 104 Creekview Village Place (Cox Creek Parkway)

ALEXANDER VILLAGE APARTMENTS, 200 Alexander Village Place (Middle Road)

MAP ID # 338



FLORENCE: SAT. MAY 5, 7 a.m.-? 4001 County Rd. 47. Turn on County Rd. 47 by Martins, go 2 miles. Furniture, paintings, home decor, clothing, microwave, printer, etc. **MAP ID # 329**

FLORENCE: RIDGEWOOD PARC SAT. 6:30 - 1:00, Behind Columbia Cottage. Household, decor, fabric, medical equipment, furniture, lamps, tools, air beds, old doors.

TUSCUMBIA YARD SALE, 405 W. 6th St., (Near Hook St.) Sat., 7 am-untill? Many items for teachers, crafters, sewing, pets, children and household. Lots of toddler clothes. If Rain, May 12th.

KILLEN ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE Turtle Point Village Highway 72, Sat., May 5th, 6 am - 2 pm **MAP ID # 274**

TUSCUMBIA: 860 COUNTRY LN Sat. 5/5 6:30 am, A little bit of everything!

FLORENCE: YARD SALE, SATURDAY May 5, 190 Co. Rd. 246, east from Cox Creek Pkwy. on Hwy. 20. Large items, dorm size refrigerator, filing cabinets, household items and teacher items.

TUSCUMBIA: 203 NORTH DICKSON Sat. 7:00AM - Untill (?), Tusculmbia Yard Sale, 203 N. Dickson Street, First Baptist Church Fundraiser for Guatemala Mission Trip on Saturday, May 5th starting at 7am - untill? Items of all kinds for sale! Don't miss the chance to purchase some great items and support a worthy cause.



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Courier Journal

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- 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
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Over 20 Years for Columbia Cottage

FLORENCE—Columbia Cottage was excited and honored to recognize the serving the Shoals area and its seniors residents for over 20 years. The assisting living facility celebrated with a recent Shoals Chamber of Commerce Business After-Hours. A few of the attendees and residents are pictured above.

Columbia Cottage provides an exceptionally warm environment that is as close as possible to the residents' previous homes.

The Cottage featured harp music by Annette Harman, heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and giveaways every 20 minutes - including a Marriott hotel package, take home gifts, and more!

In addition, Melissa Bevis, Florence's Business Development Coordinator presented Columbia Cottage with a job retention certificate from Mayor Steve Holt.

Courtesy photo

Say...

Continued from Page 1

through a link on the main page of the FLPL website. It contains over 600 artifacts related to African-American life, culture, and history in the Shoals.

Project Say Something facilitated a series of history harvests in the fall with the help of UNA students, community volunteers, and library technologist James Mitchell. Items that were photographed, scanned, recorded, and digitized include photographs, newspaper articles, school yearbooks, family and church histories, letters, and oral histories, as well as three-dimensional objects such as trophies, medals, and household items. These artifacts provide a

fuller picture of events and historical periods such as Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and the desegregation in the area's schools and facilities; they also celebrate the achievements of black professionals, black-owned businesses, and black community organizations.

Artifacts are being used to create an educator's resource packet based on local African-American history designed for use in fourth-grade classrooms to be made available on the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area's website: msnha.una.edu.

If you have an item that you would like to contribute, you may click on the "contact us" link on the website.

This ongoing project is made possible by a grant from the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area.

Courier Journal

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

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Your Courier Journal is published for total saturation, direct-mail delivery every Wednesday to 70,454 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.

Derby Days Donation...

Continued from Page 1

philanthropy event, "Derby Days." Derby Days is a Sigma Chi tradition in which sororities on campus compete against each other to claim the rights as the Derby Days Champion, while also raising money to benefit Sigma Chi's fundraising mission.

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Smokin' ...

Continued from Page 1

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While ribs are Smokin' on the Boulevard's specialty, Boston butts, whole chickens with homemade white sauce, smoked bologna, pork tenderloin and smoked cabbage round out the restaurant's menu. The restaurant is open Thursday-Saturday.

Bama's Best Pork Ribs received over 900 nominations for more than 100 restaurants on Facebook this spring. Heard's BBQ & Soul Food in Maplesville in Chilton County, one of four finalists, snagged the People's Choice Award for receiving the most nominations.

Wiley's Smuteye Grill in Smuteye in Bullock County and Whillard's BBQ & Grill in Marion in Perry County rounded out the Final Four.

The restaurants were pitted against each other during judging April 18-19. Judges were Alabama pig farmer Daniel Tubbs, competitive cook Bob Plaster and Alabama NewsCenter restaurant reporter Susan Swagler.

Swagler said the finalists served up barbecue brilliance worth the drive — even if it's across the state.

"I came away from all four places just blown away by the flavor and quality of ribs they are serving," she said. "I was humbled by the stories of these barbecue cooks and incredibly impressed with the support of their local communities. These are good people serving honest-to-goodness great food."

The Alabama Farmers Federation's Guy Hall said the contest highlighted an iconic cut of meat just in time for summer road trips and grilling season.

"The Alabama Pork Producers was proud to sponsor Bama's Best Pork Ribs and help uncover some of the finest pork rib restaurants in the state," said Hall, the Federation's Pork Division director. "Each had excellent rib recipes that would make your mouth water, and all four restaurants are worth a road trip."

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STAN DEAN

God's Design

For those that know me, it is probably hard to believe that I watch anything on TV other than college football and reruns of "The Andy Griffith Show." And while these are my go-to watching experiences, I do venture out every now and then.

For example, last Sunday afternoon my wife and I sat down and watched an episode of "Discovering Alabama" on the Alabama Public Television network. This particular episode dealt with "Coastal Ecology." I know, it sounds like one of those documentaries where you yawn and quickly change the channel. But this one captured my attention, because it

validated God's design in creation - - once again.

I was especially intrigued by a segment where they talked about beach mice and how their population has been threatened by commercial development. Ordinarily, I would not think of a decline in any mouse population as a bad thing. But in this case, I would be wrong.

For example, there was once a property very near to the beach where a condominium complex was planning to be built. It was also home to a large beach mouse population. So, the developer came up with an idea. He went to the Animal Shelter, got some cats and released them in the area. It did take care of the mice, but created another problem.

Little known to most, the documentary pointed out that beach mice make a valuable contribution to the ecological balance where they live. They make their homes in the sand dunes where sea oats grow. Sea oats are a sub-tropical grass with leaves that catch wind-blown sand which turns into sand dunes. Further, sea oats have deep roots and rhizomes which stabilize the dunes. These dunes provide a natural buffer to the inlands from high winds, storm surges and tides.

The sand mice serve as powerful distributors of the seeds of the sea oats along the sand to initiate these protective dunes. Isn't that amazing? It would be even more amazing to think that this happens just by accident! But no, this is one of countless illustrations that prove that there is intelligent design in our entire world. And if there is design, there must also be a Designer!

Let us take note of these words from Job: "But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?" (Job 12:7-10).

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Shorts...

Continued from Page 3

College Street Market Named

FLORENCE—HomeSnacks.net recently rated the College Street Farmers Market in Florence the #6 Farmers Market in Alabama.

Homesnacks arrived at their conclusion using standard Department of Agriculture data produced for the state of Alabama for every farmers market in the state. Particular attention was paid to:

- Number of amenities
- Each market's technology improvements
- Variety of items to buy
- Nearby population
- Number of organic vendors

The College Street Farmers Market kicks off its second season on Thursday, May 3, from 3-7pm at Singin' River LIVE. The event takes place each Thursday, May-August.

Organizers started the event in 2017 as a way to give farmers an opportunity to gather and provide access to locally grown and produced, healthy, and affordable food. Selections at the Market include fresh meats, fruits, vegetables, and fresh baked goods. Unique jewelry and gifts are also offered by local vendors.

In addition to the market, live music is a key component of the weekly event and it is "pet friendly."

short stories.

Annie Pearl Asher is a short story writer and the author of the recently released ebook, "A Medley of Moods." It is downloadable at eBookIt.com for \$8.99. Part 1 of the ebook consists of seven short stories about family, relationships, and death.

"Death, Pain, And Being A Widow" is nonfictional and centers around the death of Asher's son and her husband.

According to Norman Cousins, American journalist and author, "Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live."

Asher has survived her losses through faith and prayers and has learned that despair can be changed to hope.

Although she has healed from the loss of her loved ones, Asher carries them in her memory as she looks for new horizons to explore.

Annie Pearl Asher, pearlwriter46@aol.com

Asher Shares in New eBook

FLORENCE - Local Author, Annie Pearl Asher, shares her experiences with grief through a series of

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There were no distractions with my eyes closed and with the darkness of the car wash. I went fervently before my Father, lifting up those who are hurting in my life. It was a deeply spiritual moment - in the car wash of all places. When the wash was almost over, I opened my eyes and saw the beautiful light coming from the end of the tunnel. I smiled. That is the hope

we all have. Our Father, His light, His hope, His beauty. Dare to come out of your darkness and into His light. Dare to give Him your troubles and see the light He will bring into your life.

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I DON'T GET HATE MAIL very often, but when I do it makes my day and I just want to tell the world about it. I received one from "Robert" after my last exciting article on the (nonexistent) dangers of WiFi and the upcoming 5G cellular service. I'm not going to bother changing Robert's name because he lives in Canada. A quick Googling of his email address indicates he's been on a rampage against the electromagnetic spectrum for at least 20 years. I don't have room to post the entire email exchange but a fair summary is:



Fisher

Robert: "(no message. Just a link to some conspiracy website that says cell phones are killing everyone)"
 Me: Not true. The radiation

5G HATE MAIL

by "The Computer Skeptic"

from the sun and radio transmission towers are far more powerful.

Robert: "(BAD WORD)! I have done 21 years of research on the subject, so you cannot fool me. T[me will tell,KEEP ABSORBING MICROWAVE and you will need help !! (sic)"

Me: I've had a cell phone in my pocket longer than you've been alive and still somehow produced children.

Robert: (MORE BAD WORDS!) then sends a link to a scam website that sells devices that protect people from all this radiation.

I guess he thinks there must

be some danger from radiation if scammers are selling stuff to protect against radiation? Regardless, I gave up after that last exchange but I'm fascinated by "radiation" in general. So hang with me while help myself get a better grip on why certain kinds of radiation are harmful and why some are not.

The "electromagnetic radiation spectrum" is an invisible up-and-down pattern of electricity and magnetism (aka "frequency") that has "low energy/low frequencies" at one end of the spectrum, and "high energy, high frequency" at the other end. That

spectrum consists of the following frequencies in order from low to high:

Radio waves/microwaves/infrared radiation/VISIBLE LIGHT/ultraviolet radiation/X-rays/Gamma-rays

Radiation to the left of "visible light" certainly CAN be harmful. For example, place your hand in a 500-degree oven and it will be severely damaged by infrared radiation. The "heat" from a microwave oven heats up leftovers in the exact same way that a radiant oven does -- by causing atoms to vibrate.

It's just that microwaves can penetrate a little deeper than infrared radiation. But these frequencies simply do not have enough energy to damage DNA and cause cancer.

The stuff on the other side of the "visible light" spectrum is another matter. It is called "ionizing radiation" meaning that

the energies are high enough that they can knock an electron out of the orbit of an atom. That translates to "DNA damage" which translates to "cancer." None of our devices emit these high energy waves, thus we are safe.

Be on the lookout for "killer" 5G services rolling out later this year in "select cities" which means "not the Shoals." It's going to be 2-10 times faster than what we have now and has lots of other benefits that I'll touch on in our next hate-inspiring episode!

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



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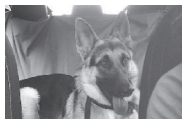
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Soap Opera Preview

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL Feeling guilty for his part in Bill's latest deception, Justin delivered a dire warning to him. An angry Liam confronted a blindsided Steffy about her continued relationship with his father. Wyatt was devastated by Steffy's actions after being her biggest champion. Ridge was in a good mood still thinking that Liam and Steffy were reunited, although Brooke was not as enthusiastic. Liam realized that Bill had been using Taylor in the hopes of winning back Steffy. Bill and Justin argued over whether or not Steffy would soon find out that she had been framed. Steffy cried to her dad about the current state of her relationship with Liam. Meanwhile, a very happy Hope supported Liam's decision. *Wait to See: A young woman surprises her lover with a memento from their past.*

DAYS OF OUR LIVES Gabby made a deal in order to save Stefan, but he later came under fire from Jennifer. Kayla and Steve had a heart-to-heart regarding his condition. Vivian dropped a bombshell on Kate about Andre. Abigail tried to fight off Dr. Laura's control to get to Chad. Will visited Gabi, who was still reeling over the news about Abigail. Leo helped Sonny out of a sticky situation. A torn Eve held vigil outside of Brady's hospital room. Chloe found herself in a major predicament in Mexico City. Lucas fought temptation as he tried to figure out why Chloe left him. Kate shared Abigail's diagnosis with Chad, who vowed to fight for his wife's mind and heart. Abigail fought off an old enemy in her mind. *Wait to See: Abigail shares an emotional reunion with Chad.*

GENERAL HOSPITAL Anna got all worked up. Jason looked for an ally in Lulu. Curtis stumbled upon an interesting piece of information. Peter remained unfazed. Lucy's presence was a pleasant surprise. Griffin confronted Ava. Bobbie was greatly concerned. Curtis looked to TJ for support. Alexia and Finn had a heart to heart. Chase respected Finn's wishes. Anna was put on notice. Griffin was horrified. Dr. Bensch was dismissive about something important. Anna surprised Jason. Maxie searched for Peter. Franco faced his repressed

memories and enemies. Valentin played peacemaker. *Wait to See: Jason and Drew cross paths.*

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS Phyllis accused Devon of putting up walls to block his obvious attraction to Hilary. Life continued smoothly for Billy and Phyllis despite Billy's confusion over her new friendship with Victoria. Now armed with the truth about Jack's paternity, Kyle used his close relationship with Dina to dig for more information. At Jabot, Kyle teamed up with Billy to get the Blood Abbott Clause thrown out, hoping to protect both his and Jack's positions at the company. Neil was forced to intervene with some tough love when Victor began pushing himself too hard. Victoria assembled all the "guilty women" and volunteered to take the fall for JT's murder. *Watch for: The Abbotts' night to shine ends in disaster.*

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Commentary

One Chance for an Eighth Trophy

With the conclusion of the spring semester fast approaching and UNA's regular seasons for spring sports concluded as of this past weekend, a sobering reality is in front of us.

Our ritual of gearing up for the coming season's run at a national championship is over for the foreseeable future with the move to Division I athletics.

We are at the end of UNA's Division II era when each incoming class of student athletes could set their sights on competing for national championships in their respective sports. Both the passionate and the casual fans of UNA athletics can remember fondly the scintillating wins, the near misses, and the humbling disappointments.

And memories they will be. The move to Division I means UNA will play in the top division in all sports except football. The football Lions will compete in a secondary tier of Division I. There is a probationary period as UNA eases into Division I play that will hopefully reenergize the fan base against some once familiar rivals.

At least the football Lions will have the opportunity to consistently compete at a high level in the future with other Football College Subdivision (FCS) teams. Hopefully, they will have an opportunity to host a playoff game or

See EIGHTH... on Page 15

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

In A Few Words



TOM MAGAZZU
Editor

Courier Journal

in the Shoals

THIS WEEK

May 2, 2018

Happening THIS WEEK

Bradley Skipworth and L.C. Lenz attach quilt painting to barn at LaGrange College Site Park near Leighton.

Courtesy photo



Recall LaGrange Includes New Exhibits and Enjoys

New Life

LEIGHTON—This year's Recall LaGrange Festival will feature several new exhibits and events while continuing to pay homage to the first chartered college in Alabama.

The festival is Friday-Sunday, May 4-6 at the LaGrange College Site Park at 1491 LaGrange College Road in Leighton.

Some exhibits are mainstays of the festival and are featured every year. There are living

history displays of life atop LaGrange Mountain during the Civil War. In addition to LaGrange College, a town once stood where the park is now located. The college and most the buildings in the town were destroyed by the Union Army in 1863.

Louise Lenz is a primary organizer of the festival.

See LAGRANGE... on Page 24

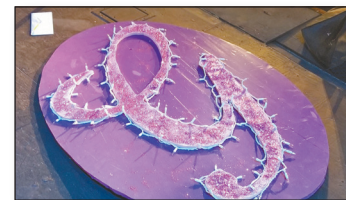
Zodiac Womanless Pageant

Hairspray Gowns, and Laughs

FLORENCE—The Zodiac Players of the Shoals Community Theatre will present the musical comedy, *Pageant*, Thursday-Saturday, May 3-5 at 7:30pm and Sunday May 6 at 2pm at the historic Shoals Theatre at 123 North Seminary Street in Florence.

This musical features six contestants (womanless beauty pageant) who emerge from behind a shimmer curtain to take part in an epic battle of hairspray, evening gowns, talent, swimwear and laughs. The evening progresses led by the crooning host, Frankie Cavalier, as contestants

May 3-6



See ZODIAC... on Page 22

DAY BY DAY IS A GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

for bereaved parents/grandparents. The group meets Sunday, May 6 at 2pm at Woodmont Baptist East Campus, 2002 Darby Dr., Florence. For information, email debbiec2414@aol.com or anita.watkins@comcast.net.

THE 6TH ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS FESTIVAL

takes place Saturday, May 5 from 10am-2pm at Tishomingo State Park. The day will include arts and crafts, demonstrations, educational exhibits, and kid's activities.

Nestled in the beautiful foothills of the Appalachians, Tishomingo State Park is a natural treasure and one of the most highly rated state parks in the USA. Rated along with over 3,000 other state parks, Tishomingo State Park has received several awards. For more information, call 662-438-6914 or email terryh@mdwfp.state.ms.us. Visit the website at www.mdwfp.com/parks-destinations/state-park/tishomingo.

THE COFFEE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1978

will be having its 40th Class Reunion August 3-5. All classmates are invited and encouraged to attend. Registration deadline is Friday, June 8. For more information on scheduled events, please contact Kim "Wood" Green 256-412-1785 after 5 kim.green@lcschool.org, Shaler Roberts shalerrbts2@gmail.com, Sabrina "Eaton" Campbell 256-412-0456 scjc829@bellsouth.net

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

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May 3-6

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UNA Softball Complex



BASEBALL

Saturday-Tuesday
May 5-8

GSC Tournament
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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
• FAX- 256-760-9618

Stamp Out Hunger

Dear Editor:

We with the National Association of Letter Carriers and the National Rural Carriers Association will have our 26th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on Saturday, May 12.

Last year over fifteen local postal installations collected over 91,000 pounds of food that was distributed to over 40 church pantries and charitable organizations. This year we hope to collect 95,000 pounds of food. Participating in the Food Drive is easy. Just leave a non-perishable food donation in a bag in or by your mailbox on Saturday, May 12. The postal carrier will do the rest.

The carriers ask that all citizens of the Shoals area assist us in our effort to end hunger. Thank you.

Steven McCrary,
Food Drive Coordinator
Florence

A Gun Problem?

Editor:

Here we go again with a so-called gun problem. Nashville's mayor, David Briley, responded to the Waffle House attack by a mentally deranged individual by calling for more comprehensive gun reform.

However, when sociopaths used airplanes to murder almost 3,000 people and injure over 6,000 more on 9/11,

We not only have premiums, but we have deductibles that most of us cannot afford.



there was no call for banning airplanes! When Sociopaths use trucks or vans to murder people as happened recently in Toronto, there is no call to ban trucks or vans!

Approximately 30,000 Americans are killed by automobiles annually. Is there a call to ban automobiles? Where is the outrage about the thousands of unborn babies murdered annually by Planned Parenthood? There has been no call for the banning of the forceps used in these murders! It is even sanctioned and financed by the federal government.

Comprehensive gun reform is just another term by those protected by armed bodyguards to confiscate legally owned and legally used guns from the rest of us. The Second Amendment was designed to protect us from the deranged, criminals, and too powerful government officials. Alas, I repeat myself.

John Lee
Florence

See LETTERS... on Page 16

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Commentary

Eighth...

Continued from Page 14

two after a very successful regular season, and then who knows? However, that will be years or decades away, if at all.

Spring sports for the year are wrapping up. Men's and women's tennis players laid down their racquets last week. The Division II Championship in men's

golf will be played at the Robert Trent Jones facility in the Shoals. However, UNA is not among the schools that will be vying for a title.

The regular season ended after press time for both UNA baseball and softball each with a weekend series at Alabama-Huntsville.

Beginning next year success and realistic goals in all sports other than football will culminate with a conference championship, be it in the Atlantic Sun or whichever affiliation opportunities may loom in the future.

There's no disrespect intended, but any playoff opportunities would pit UNA against programs that are simply on different physical and financial levels than UNA's players would be accustomed to. In addition, if UNA wins a conference title and advances to the playoffs, neither UNA's seeding nor its facilities would allow for hosting any events in a national playoff.

Therefore, it looks like we will have to be satisfied looking at seven national championship trophies in Flowers Hall case for the foreseeable future, three for football, two for basketball, and one each for volleyball and softball.

Or will we? The UNA baseball team had some momentum and late aspirations for the regular season GSC title until Delta State brought them back to reality sweeping a recent three game series at Mike Lane field. They are having a good season, but play is not consistent enough to be a national contender.

On the other hand, UNA softball started the season with a loss and were 2-2 at a season-opening tournament in Florida before righting the ship. Coming into this past weekend the ladies had a 40-4 record, a clinched Gulf South Conference regular season championship, and

a #5 national ranking.

They look to be on a mission. We went to press before the final regular season series with UAH took place. Regardless, as GSC regular season champions, the Lions host the GSC tournament at the UNA Softball complex this weekend. They need our support.

A GSC tourney win or even strong showing could result in one final opportunity for UNA to host an NCAA Regional event. It also would be one final opportunity to secure that eighth National Championship trophy!

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Letters...

Continued from Page 14

Medicare is NOT Welfare

Editor:

A Medicare recipient is not just someone getting welfare from the government. Medicare IS insurance!

We paid premiums since we first started working at the tender age of ten way back before most of you whippersnappers were born. We pay premiums for this insurance so that we may have healthcare in our old debilitating age. This is not cheap healthcare, mind you. We not only have premiums, but we have deductibles that most of us cannot afford.

We have to choose between food or a doctor visit or medicines. Premiums for most of us were paid for fifty or more years BEFORE we could touch one doctor. This is insurance that we did not use when we were young, but we paid into involuntarily every week. It was taken out of OUR PAY even when you were paid a whopping \$8 a week in wages. AND WE STILL PAY MONTHLY PREMIUMS!

It is insurance. It is not something coming out of your stingy little lint-picked pocket. We all paid.

I were you I would be up in arms.

You've been paying for the last 25-30 years involuntarily. You will not get Medicare. That's why your check has been increased. No more Medicare payments are coming out.

Now stand up for something! Stand up for your rights. Stop them from doing this to YOU. You will have neither Medicare nor Social Security Retirement. This president and congress has taken that away because they want that money. Always did.

Linda Johnson
Florence

Too Willing and Eager

Editor:

Why did Stormy Daniels the playmate and other women even have sex with Trump, then feel obligated to blab about it?

It sounds like their shot at 15 minutes of fame and just plain old trouble makers.

After all, Trump did not not drug and rape them like Bill Cosby did.

They were not even forced or sexually harassed. They were willing participants, if not eager ones. They let him do it, then they cry the blues.

Paul Sabatino
Florence

See LETTERS... on Page 26



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UNSUNG HEROES

Volunteers impacting our community - tirelessly giving back and serving others



SUSIE MARTIN IS MAKING A Big Impact on her Little

By Haley Walden
for the Courier Journal

Susie Martin remembers the positive impact an adult mentor had on her childhood. So, for nearly a decade she's been paying it forward through Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Shoals.

Martin grew up in a single-parent home in New Orleans. A program similar to Big Brothers Big Sisters matched her with a mentor who advised her and helped her with her studies. Once her children left home for college, Martin decided to invest her time in

mentoring a child in the community.

"I had an empty nest, so I decided to go the route of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program," she said. "I just wanted to give back."

Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteers work one-on-one with children in single-parent homes who need extra time with an adult role model. Mentors, or "Bigs," help their "Littles" with school work, activities in the community, and more.

Martin originally moved to the Shoals area after her mother died when she was twelve. Her father died when she was one.

"I moved to Russellville and my aunt and uncle raised me," she said. "Not many people are willing to raise a twelve-year-old through college, but they were. That made a big impact on my life. They were so kind to take me in."

Martin was excited to jump into her mentoring work with both feet. She was matched with her little sister who was seven years older at the time. For the purposes of this article, we'll call her, Amy. Amy will turn 17 this summer, and she and Martin still spend a considerable amount of time together.

While Big Brothers Big Sisters requires a minimum commitment from its volunteers of just four hours per month, Martin has chosen to go above and beyond the organization's requirements.

"I felt the need to do more, so I spend lots more time with her than that," Martin said. "Once my six-month probationary period was over, we were together



every weekend and we continue to be together."

Martin and her Little have cooked together, taken outings in the community, and they even took a day trip to Six Flags. She and her husband also took Amy on her first flight.

"We were excited and wanted her to have several firsts," Martin says. "It was a great experience for both my husband and me."

Martin was voted Big Sister of the Year for the state of Alabama in 2014. Martin and her Little got to meet former governor Robert Bentley and spend the day in Montgomery with Big Brothers Big Sisters

volunteers from all over the state.

That same year Amy spotted an advertisement in the newspaper calling for Shoals Woman of the Year nominees. She clipped the ad, gathered references, and nominated Martin on her own. Martin was selected as 2014's Shoals Woman of the Year.

"It was a big honor for me because it came from her heart," Martin says.

Martin has worked to instill a spirit of service in Amy, getting her involved in multiple volunteer activities they engage in together around the Shoals area. They've donated Beanie Babies to the pediatric department at ECM hospital, volunteered at the Shoals Community Soup Kitchen, the animal shelter, P.A.W.S. adoption days, UNA's Derby Days,

Volunteer Opportunities



Budgets are tight and needs are on the rise. Consider volunteering with these or other worthy organizations. The important thing is to find something for which you have a personal passion and then get involved...

HELEN KELLER HOSPITAL'S DEPARTMENT OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES, Sheffield, is seeking adult volunteers in several areas including: gift shop (Fridays); information desk attendant (floater); day patient waiting area attendant (Mondays); greeter (Thursdays and Fridays); magazine cart attendant (Monday through Friday); patient transport and errands (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays). Keller volunteers work a minimum of one four-hour shift per week and must go through an orientation process before beginning work. Christa Martin, volunteer coordinator, 256-386-4153.

MONTREAT, a nonprofit organization and affordable housing community for people ages 62 or older who need an handicapped-accessible unit, needs volunteers to drive their handicapped-accessible

van to recreational outings. Will work around volunteers' schedule. Mary Alice Brackin, 256-767-2211, 8am-4pm, Monday through Friday

SAFEPLACE INC. provides services for victims of domestic violence in Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Marion and Winston counties. Volunteers are needed for answering the crisis line; child care and activities with children; tutoring; yard work and maintenance; secretarial, office work and bulk mailing; language interpretation; prevention programs; pick up and delivery of donations; court advocacy; speaking engagements; special event coordination; and other activities. 256-767-3076

Board Members/ Directors: List a need here for your organization through the email address below.

Among her many areas of volunteerism, Susie Martin assists at the Florence Animal Shelter, right, and as a Salvation Army bell-ringer during the Christmas season.

Courtesy photos



Do YOU know a volunteer who gives selflessly and deserves to be featured on this page? Email us about them. editor@courierjournal.net

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Thomas McCutcheon

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Q My mother was married to my father for nearly 20 years and he died 4 years ago. My mother is disabled and draws a small amount of social security but has been told that she could draw widow's benefits. She is not receiving widow's benefits, how can she draw widow's benefits?

Charles, Florence, AL

A In order to qualify for widow's benefits under the Social Security Administration Rules the first requirement is that the marriage have been for 10 or more years and the deceased spouse having worked and paid in to social security (what you see deducted from your paycheck as FICA) for those 10 or more years.

Secondly, the widow (or widower) must be 50 or older and the deceased spouse must have died within 7 years of the claim for benefits.

What you are really looking at is a comparison between two earnings records to see who would draw the largest amount per month of social security benefits. The more money you earn the more money you pay into social security and the more money you pay into social security the more money you get back every month up to a maximum amount that changes typically every year. People that make over \$128,400.00 a year do not have to contribute to social security on earnings above that amount. Those people get a raise every year at the point where they have paid their FICA taxes on the first \$128,400.00 they made and do not have to pay any more after that.

If your father's earnings were higher than your mother's and your mother is disabled and 50, an application for widow's benefits should be filed and it should be granted giving your mother the benefit of your dad's payments into the social security system. One thing that my law firm does that is a little different than what some other law firms do that handle social security disability claims is we file initial application for our clients. We feel that this helps focus the case for a positive resolution and we also realize that helping people from the beginning gives us a loyal client. If your mother needs help with her claim, tell her to call us and we will help you file her application at no charge, we will be glad to help. Of course with all social security cases that we handle, we charge the standard 25% rate capped at \$6,000.00 for past due benefits and are only paid at the end of the case if we are successful in helping our client actually receive money.

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

Please send the questions to:

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31st Annual
Pet Picture Contest

CONTEST GUIDELINES

- Contest is open to any type of DOMESTIC animal.
- PICTURES WILL BE JUDGED BY OUR STAFF IN A VARIETY OF CATEGORIES BASED ON PHOTOS SUBMITTED. CATEGORIES WILL BE DETERMINED BY STAFF.
- Limit 1 picture per category, DOG, CAT, & EXOTIC (Maximum of 3 pictures / per family)
- Only the pet's owner may enter.
- No professional photography please.
- Bright, Clear, Color photographs are required for publishing
- Minimum picture size 3" x 3"
- Limit 3 animals in each picture.
- Pictures must have been taken within last 16 months
- Breed or value of pet(s) has no relevance in judging.
- Families of Courier Journal, Pet Depot, prize sponsors, and last year's top 3 winners in each category are not eligible.
- IF MAILING, MAKE SURE PICTURE WILL FIT INSIDE ENVELOPE WITHOUT FOLDING.

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I certify that my pet is eligible to enter Shoals Pet Picture Contest 2018 according to the rules set forth in contest guidelines.

Owner's Signature _____

PHOTOCOPY THIS FORM IF NEEDED.

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE: NOON • Weds., May 2

LaGrange...

Continued from Page 14

According to Lenz, the LaGrange Living Historical Association, a sponsor of the event, changes some of the activities and exhibits

every year.

"We want to keep things fresh," Lenz said. "We have people from all over who come back every year."

Among the new exhibits is a barn quilt painting

provided by the Alabama Barn Quilt Trail. The painting was affixed to a log barn at LaGrange College Site Park just in time for the festival.

Another new exhibit will be the original bell from the LaGrange College which has been housed at Athens State College for more than 90 years. A ceremony to celebrate the return of the historic bell commences at 2:30pm on Friday.

A new event is the reenactment of a law enforcement raid on a moonshine still at 2pm Saturday. There will be a display of moonshine stills and tours of the nearby Dawson Distillery on Saturday as well.

This year's festival will also celebrate Alabama's bicentennial.

Additional activities will include an antique and classic car display, wagon rides to historic LaGrange Cemetery, and musical entertainment. Artists and craftsmen will be displaying and selling their wares.

Local author, Robert Steen, will attend with copies of his latest books, *The History of LaGrange*, *The History of the University of North Alabama*, and *Historical Sites and Markers*.

The LaGrange Observatory will also be open for tours. Concessions will be available.

"The organizers and volunteers at Recall LaGrange do a fantastic job telling the story about the history of our area," said Susann Hamlin, president and CEO of Colbert County

Tourism.

Festival hours are 10am-4pm, Friday-Sunday. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated.

For more details about the festival, call Lenz at 256-446-9324 or Colbert County Tourism at 256-383-0783.



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Letters...

Continued from Page 16

A Successful 2018 Session

Editor:

The 2018 session of the Legislature ended a few weeks ago, and I think it

was a productive one for the people of Alabama.

The \$6.6 billion education budget is the largest education budget since the Great Recession. It includes a 2.5% pay raise for teachers. While many factors contribute to a quality education, a smart, driven teacher is essential. I'm glad the Legislature could reward our teachers with a raise.

The education budget

for next year includes an additional \$18.5 million for First Class, Alabama's voluntary Pre-K program. First Class is currently available in 941 classrooms. It has been named the best Pre-K program in the nation for eleven years in a row by the National Institute for Early Education Research. The \$18.5 million increase will fund approximately 120 new Pre-K classrooms. This is a responsible

budget that gives local school districts predictability and allows them to plan for the entire year. Unfortunately, that kind of predictability isn't a given. Proration occurred six times between 2001 and 2011. This forced local districts to scramble and cut their budgets in the middle of the year. Under Republican leadership, proration hasn't happened once since 2011.

I am excited to report that the Legislature passed a tax cut by increasing the number of Alabamians who can claim the maximum exemption from state income taxes. Alabama's working families will collectively save \$40 million over the next ten years due to the Legislature's tax cut.

The Legislature also increased state troopers' budget by \$3 million to fund the hiring of 30 new troopers. I was glad to vote for the Parks for Patriots Act which gives Alabama's military members free access to our state parks.

On a personal note, I was privileged to sponsor several bills that became law. One requires home builders to inform home owners whether the builder has liability insurance before any construction begins. I also sponsored a bill that gives county superintendents the right to pursue additional employment outside of their jobs in education if their contracts allow that.

This levels the playing field between county and city superintendents who already have the right of additional employment. It is an honor to represent many of you in the State Legislature. Please give my Senate office a call at 334-242-7085 if you have a question about a specific bill from the session.

Dr. Tim Melson
Dist 1 Alabama State Senate
Florence
Lauderdale, Limestone,
and Madison

DAVE Says

by DAVE RAMSEY

WHY NOT SHORT-TERM DISABILITY?

Dear Dave, Why don't you recommend having short-term disability insurance while doing the first three Baby Steps of your plan? It seems like a good time for it, when you're in the beginning stages of getting your finances in order.

Bob

Dear Bob,

You could certainly do that if you want, possibly even through your place of employment. I'm a big fan of folks having long-term disability insurance when they're in their prime wage-earning years. But short-term disability is something I've always considered to be gimmick insurance, and that's something I don't recommend or buy.

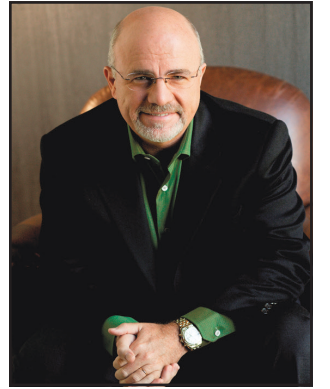
I get the argument, too, that short-term disability coverage usually isn't very expensive. But during the first two Baby Steps — getting a \$1,000 beginner emergency fund set aside, and paying off everything but the house — you're trying to limit expenses as much as possible. Chances are you wouldn't need it in Baby Step 3, because that covers your full emergency fund of three to six months of expenses.

Hope that helps, Bob!
—Dave

LOW VS. NO

Dear Dave, My husband and I are trying to buy a house, but we both have low credit scores, so we're having trouble securing a loan. We've heard you talk about getting a mortgage loan with no credit score. Is this the same as a low credit score?

Laura



Dear Laura,

No, it is not. No credit score, means you don't have any credit or your credit score is "indeterminable." A low credit score indicates you've had — or still have — debt in your life, and you haven't done a good job of paying creditors on time.

Two things will help solve the problem of having a low credit score. One is time. If you've had instances of late payments from years ago, time will help heal that to a degree. The older late issues become, the less they count against you.

But my guess is you two probably have some bad debt. By bad debt, I mean things that were never paid, or accounts that are in collections. If that's the case, you need to contact those people, and settle those debts in full — and in writing — as quickly as possible. Officially close the accounts, too, before you try to buy a home.

When it comes to buying a home, Laura, I always advise folks to first be debt-free and have an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses set aside.

—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 13 million listeners each week on 585 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

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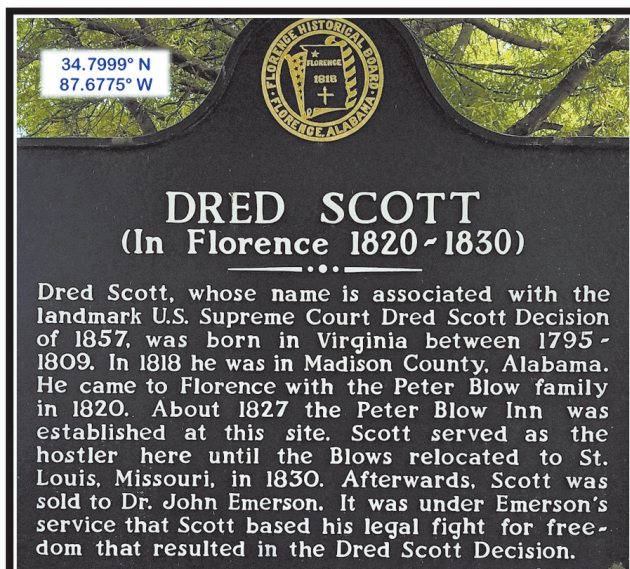



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 (In Florence 1820-1830)

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Living in the "free state" of Missouri, Dred Scott appealed to the Supreme Court for his freedom. The Court ruled that African-Americans could not be citizens and that Dred Scott was "property" of his owner and not free. This meant that the Northern states had an obligation to return runaway slaves, which further infuriated the North and pushed both sides further toward the Civil War.

~ Courtesy David Currott ~ author of "Signs of the Past" and "More Signs of the Past"

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Medicare Minute
"Medicare vs Medicaid"

It seems like potential cuts to Medicaid are all over the news lately. People who confuse Medicare and Medicaid are obviously concerned. This is easy to do because they both can be related to a person's health insurance. Although they coordinate in many ways, they are two distinctive programs.

Medicare is a federal health insurance program. There are three ways to qualify for Medicare. The first way is to be 65 years of age or older. The second way is to have been on Social Security disability for at least 24 months. The third way to qualify for Medicare is be any age and have either end-stage renal disease or ALS. Medicare is not income based as far as qualifying. As long as you meet one of the three requirements above you will qualify for Medicare. Your income, however, can affect the amount you pay for your Part B premium.

Medicaid is a state health insurance program. Medicaid is income and resource based, meaning you will qualify or not according to how much money you make and/or how much money you have saved. In 2018 if you made less than \$1,032 as an individual or \$1,392 as a couple you could qualify for Medicaid. Whereas Medicare has deductibles and coinsurance, Medicaid will take care of most of your healthcare cost. A person on Medicaid can also get a break on how much they pay on their prescription drugs.

Medicare and Medicaid will coordinate in a couple of ways. In some counties in north Alabama there is a Medicare plan that will coordinate with Medicaid. To qualify for this plan you must be on Medicare and Medicaid. This is referred to as "dual eligible". Also, if you make more than the Medicaid limits but are under \$1,517 as an individual or \$2,057 as a couple you may qualify for "extra help". This would help you on your prescription drug cost.

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



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Saturday, May 12 • 10am
HELD ON SITE: 515 N. Poplar Street, Florence, AL 35630



1950 Chevy Coupe, Bass Tracker Tournament Tx Boat, 2001 Buick Century, 2005 Buick LeSabre, Good Furniture, China and Crystal, Watt Pottery, Various Collectibles, Floor Lamps, Table Lamps, Framed Art and Prints, Mirrors, Flat Screen TV, Upholstered Furniture, Pride Lift Chair, Household Items, Contents from Shop, and much more!

DIRECTIONS: From E. Tennessee Street turn north on Poplar Street, go 5 1/2 blocks to sale site on left. Sign is up.

Terms: All items must be paid for on sale day by cash or approved check with proper I.D. All items sell AS-IS and final. Couch Auction & Realty is the agent of the Seller. Seller reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Announcements made day of sale take precedence over any printed material. Buyers with tax exemption must provide copy of Tax ID on day of sale. **NO BUYERS PREMIUM.**

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ESTATE AUCTION
9:AM Saturday May 12th

Selling for the Estate of Ruby Rose Griffin
House on nice lot joining Rogersville High School
Car, Furniture, Antiques, Household Items, Kitchen Wares
Glassware, Oil Lamps, Collectibles & Much More
602 Church Street Rogersville, AL



NO Buyer Fees!

Directions: From the Intersection of Hwy 72 & Wheeler St (207) go north on Wheeler Street for 6 tenths of a mile, turn right on Rose Street and go 3 tenths of a mile, turn right onto Church Street, 4th house on the left. Watch for the SHANE ALBRIGHT SIGNS! Call for auction Terms, or see more @

www.shanealbright.com



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Estate

INCOME PRODUCING REAL ESTATE NEED CASH HELP DETAILS, 256-483-7968.

LARGE MOBILE HOME LOT, small park. Direct access to Elledge Lane, Tusculumbia. 256-383-0184.

HUGE SHADED YARD, 3 bdrm. home on a quiet street, fenced level lot with workshop, owner financing possible, 256-483-7968

FLORENCE: 504 E IRVINE; A3. 1 Bdrm, \$300 rent. Appliances, window air/electric heat. 256-754-3137.

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1850 DARBY Dr., Florence.
Accepting Applications
Seniors 62 and over or mobility impaired.
One bedroom, rent based on income. 256-767-2211

PINE ST. 3 BED 1 bath on large lot in Cherokee for under \$50,000. Will consider lease purchase with \$4,000 down. Updated electrical. Janet Griffin, Capstone Realty, 256-810-0747

FOR RENT: FLORENCE: COUNTRY Estate, four miles from town on five acres of land surrounded by wooded forest. Lovely 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with front entry, lounge, dining room, kitchen with breakfast nook overlooking wooded landscape. Large family room with fireplace, elevated back porch, downstairs workroom with outside door, double car garage with workshop. \$985 per month rent. 256-767-5421

VILLAGE LANDING APARTMENTS
1 and 2 bedrooms available with free Wi-Fi. 256-443-0789

HAVE YOU SEEN KIDSVILLE NEWS! Yet? It's the Shoals' fun, family newspaper for parents, teachers and kids K-6th grade and IT'S FREE! Kidsville News! is delivered in the classrooms. Copies may also be obtained at any local library, several area merchants that cater to kids and the Courier Journal business office, 219 W. Tennessee St., Florence.

FOR RENT: COVERED CAMPER OR RV SPACE with porch, 545 Point Rd., Muscle Shoals. View of Wilson Lake, \$400 per month with utilities and yard mowed or \$250 per month without utilities and yard mowed. 256-460-1334 or 256-446-5598

FLORENCE: 158A NORTH FRANKLIN St., 1 bdrm., 1 ba., Upstairs Apartment. Stove, refrigerator included. No pets, \$350 per month with \$300 deposit. 256-627-1674

MUSCLE SHOALS: WOODGATE APT. 1 and 2 bdrm. \$450/\$550 rent. Stainless appliances, ceramic floors, central heat/air, washer/dryer connections. 256-764-3137.

House For Rent
SHEFFIELD-505 AN-NAPOLIS AVE. 3 bdrm., one ba., central unit, laundry connections, carport. \$600 month, \$600 deposit. 256-349-0300

SHEFFIELD: 201 MADISON AVENUE. 2 bdrm, 2 ba. \$475 rent/deposit. Appliances, fenced backyard, shop. 256-764-3137.

SHEFFIELD: 3108 12TH AVE., Apt. A One bedroom, one bath, new floors, 30'X15' deck, appliances, laundry connections. No pets. \$300 monthly, \$300 deposit. 256-349-0300.



MUSCLE SHOALS, 401 WEST GROVE AVE. 3 or 4 bedroom. Updated custom kitchen cabinets, Hardwood floors, New ceramic tile floors in both bathrooms. Stained concrete floors in laundry room, and family room. New paint throughout. Updated vinyl windows and doors from Lowe's. Updated plumbing. New water lines 2017. Updated light fixtures. Fenced in backyard on a corner lot. Gas grill connection to gas line on back patio, 2006 roof recently inspected-has 35 year architectural shingles. 20 x 20 detached metal storage building with garage door. Tankless gas hot water heater. Great house in a great neighborhood. Move in ready. Approximately 1600 sq. ft. \$133,900. 256-810-1811 for more information or to set up an appointment.

3 BDRM. HOME SALE, workshop, huge yard, fenced, customized, 1035 Florida Ave., 256-483-7968.

FLORENCE: MADISON SQUARE TOWNHOMES. 2 bdrm, 1.5 ba. \$450 rent. Appliances, central heat/air, washer/dryer connections, pool. 256-764-3137.

3 BDRM. 2 BA., and 2 bdrm., 1 ba., 95% Owner Financing, No Banks, Colbert Heights, Tusculumbia 256-383-5996, 256-263-8716.

FLORENCE: 356 CO RD 310. 2 bdrm, 2 ba. brick house in country setting. \$600 rent/\$600 deposit. 256-627-7551.

MUSCLE SHOALS: 2410 B Rosedale Street. Retail or Office Space. 800 Sq. Ft. \$700 Rent. 256-764-3137.

3 BDRM. HOME SALE, workshop, huge yard, fenced, customized, 1035 Florida Ave., 256-483-7968.

THANK YOU for reading the Courier Journal!

OWNER FINANCING: FLORENCE, 1415 N. Pine St. Updated! 2 bdrm., 1 ba. New central heat and air, new windows, \$2,500 down and \$695 per month. K&H, Inc. 256-349-0000

Cherry Hill Homes Family Apartments
Located on Florence Blvd. Rent based on income/utility allowances. Must pass background check and be able to obtain utility services.
Apply online:
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Office: 452 Cherry Hill Homes
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BRAND NEW APARTMENT HOMES
Covenant Court Apartments
2BR, 2BA, All One Level
Convenient to Muscle Shoals & Tusculumbia
\$675 month, \$675 deposit • Pets OK
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WATER-FRONT REAL ESTATE AUCTION!
SATURDAY, MAY 12 • 10AM
1836 COUNTY ROAD 27, FLORENCE, AL.
LAUDERDALE COUNTY



Beautiful waterfront property to be sold in 3 Tracts on Shoal Creek
Great water for fishing!

Convenient to Restaurants and Shopping!
Tract 1: 350' WF x 120'
Tract 2: 116.94' WF x 186' w/ 3BR 2 Bath
Water-front Home - Basement w/Game Room - Double Garage - Shingle Roof- Fireplace - Pier
Tract 3: 310' WF x 170'

DIRECTIONS: Highway 72, Rogersville, AL. go west for 15 miles then turn right onto CR 27 for 1.9 miles. Destination will be on the right. **Look for our Holland signs!**
TERMS & CONDITIONS: Real Estate: A non-refundable deposit of 15% will be required the day of the sale with closing within 30 days. The seller will furnish a deed and preliminary title search. **A 3% BUYERS PREMIUM** will be added to the final bid price to determine the total contract price on the real estate. All other expenses, including closing cost will be charged to the purchaser(s). The real estate is being sold "as is" with no warranties expressed or implied. ***The home was built before 1978. However, the seller can neither confirm or deny the presence of lead based paint. Anyone interested in the home can have it inspected any time prior to the auction at their expense. Information contained herein believed to be correct but not guaranteed. Announcements made the day of the sale by Holland Realty & Auctions, Inc. supersede any printed material. Agency Disclosure: Auctioneers are acting as agents for the seller only. 2018**

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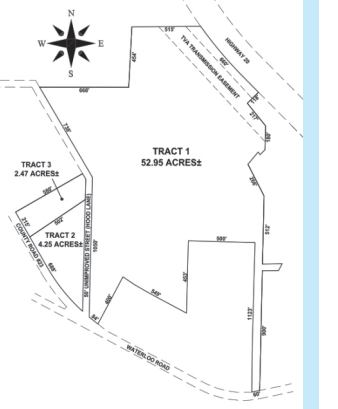
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SEE PAGE 6 for details.
Courier Journal

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Estate of J.N. Marshall
Saturday, May 19 • 10am

AUCTION HELD ON SITE: 1400 County Rd 23, Florence, AL 35633
60+/- Acres Offered in 3 Tracts, Any Combination, Or As a Whole

Property offers road frontage on Waterloo Road, County Road 23, and Hwy 20.
Tract 1: 53+/- Acres with road frontage on Waterloo Road and Hwy 20.
Tract 2: 4.25+/- Acres with 688'+/- road frontage on County Rd 23.
Tract 3: 2.47+/- Acres with 215'+/- road frontage on County Road 23 with 3BR/2.5BA house and 2BR/1BA guest house and detached double garage.



Property located in the county. Call for showings.
Personal Property: Ford 601 Work Master Tractor, some tools, and furniture.
DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 20 (Savannah Hwy), take County Rd 14 (Waterloo Rd), go approx. 1 mile, turn north on County Rd 23. Property on right, watch for signs.
TERMS: Real Estate—15% down day of sale with the rest due within 30 days. Seller will furnish deed, title policy, and copy of survey. Property sold AS-IS. Houses may contain lead-based paint. Prospective buyer has the right to inspect up to 10 days before auction. Couch Auction & Realty is agent of the Seller. Seller reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. All information in this ad is from sources believed to be correct but is not guaranteed. All announcements made day of sale take precedence over any printed material. **NO BUYERS PREMIUM.** Personal Property—Cash or approved check with proper I.D. All items sell AS-IS and final.

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AUCTION

SATURDAY • MAY 5 • 9:00 A.M.
NICE BRICK HOME ON 5.17 AC.±, TOOLS, YARD & GARDEN TOOLS, BEAUTIFUL GLASSWARE, ANTIQUES, COLLECTABLES, HOUSEHOLD GOODS OFFERED IN TRACTS & COMBINATIONS OF TRACTS
SELLING FOR THE MISSIE (THURMAN) JACKSON ESTATE LOCATED AT 3883 HWY. 43 SOUTH • ST. JOSEPH, TN

DIRECTIONS: From Lawrenceburg, TN travel south on Hwy. 43 approximately 17 miles to sale site on right side of highway. From Killen, AL intersection of Hwy. 43 & 72, travel north on Hwy. 43 approximately 12 miles to sale site on left. Property located about 1 mile north of TN/AL state line on west side of highway. Watch for HOOD & HESTER REALTY & AUCTIONS SIGNS.



This home is in exceptional cond., w/ hardwood floors, & like new HVAC system. Lg. living room & formal dining room off country kitchen. There are 2 bedrooms & a bath downstairs & up to 3 bedrooms & a full bath upstairs. Large carport & plenty of backyard shade. 2 shop buildings & a barn. The land is all level with street frontage on 2 streets.

We will offer the real estate in tracts & in combinations, then as a whole to determine the highest bid.
Homes built prior to 1978 are subject to have lead base paint. In accordance with federal law all potential buyers will be allowed 10 days, prior to the sale, to have house inspected at their expense. A form may be signed day of auction waiving this right.
TERMS OF SALE: Personal Property, cash or good check day of sale. Large items require confirmation of funds before possession will be given. Real estate, 10% non-refundable deposit day of sale, balance due at closing on or before June 5, 2018. Taxes will be prorated day of closing. Possession with deed at closing. All announcements made day of sale take precedence over all prior advertisements and announcements. **FOR MORE INFORMATION & PICTURES GO TO WWW.AUCTIONZIP.COM (36040) OR CONTACT:**

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Patis, Driveways, Retaining Walls, Sea Walls, Sidewalks, Planting Beds.
(No concrete, only brick paving) Free Estimates.
Call Alex, 256-648-6511.

GMC: SIERRA TRUCK, 2002 extended cab, air, 206k miles, Michelin tires. \$3,300. 256-412-7247

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SIMPLE LAWN CARE CO. Grass cutting service. 256-702-9568

TOYOTA: SCION XB, 2008 169k, \$5,888. 4 cylinder, air, CD, iPod jack, remote key, silver, alloy wheels, tinted glass, looks and runs like new. Rated in Best of the Best Used Cars in Consumer Reports. Mars Hill, 256-766-6327.

BUNNIES, FREE TO A good home. 1 male and 3 females. 256-758-9399. New Market area

BABY SALE: CHOCOLATE SHITZ-POOS babies., \$500/\$550. cash only. 256-356-9481

LIKE NEW TAN SIMMONS rocker recliner, paid \$400, asking \$279. Huntsville, 205-704-0721

I BUY JUNK Trucks, Cars, Vans. Paying Cash. 256-702-2067.

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CAT SITTING SERVICE. WILL come to kitty's home, fill bowls, scoop litter, give meds, scratch ears. 256-412-6982

Impact...

Continued from Page 21

Shoals Habitat for Humanity, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Northwest Alabama and more.

"I participate in the UCP telethon," Martin said. "The last three years, [Amy and I] raised over \$10,000 for the organization."

While Martin worked the phones, Amy sat with the children.

"She's such a sweetheart with the children," Martin says. "She would even get on the microphone and ask for pledges."

Martin is also chair of the Edgmont United Methodist Church's Witness Team. Amy works alongside her as a team member to greet churchgoers every Sunday.

Martin went on to attend UNA where she met her husband. Her aunt and uncle's generosity fueled her interest in giving back to the community.

Among her other volunteer activities, she was involved in the Service League for eight years and delivered Meals on Wheels for seven. Through her career at Bank Independent, she also finds encouragement to volunteer further.

"You don't find a more giving organization than Bank Independent," she said. "They give you a day off each year to volunteer in the community in some way."

Martin is passionate about inspiring other adults to volunteer their time at Big Brothers Big Sisters, especially men.

"Getting involved is an easy process," she said. "They match your interests with those of the kids. It's a great, great organization."

"It doesn't take a lot of time, but it means the world to these children."

Martin is proud to have played a part in inspiring her Little to volunteer, too.

"I'm so thrilled that she has such a giving heart," she says. "She's a very sweet child."

ANTIQUE FURNITURE: LARGE PINE Cabinet, Loveseat, Silverware chest, Beds. Call 256-718-0673 (North Florence)

BUYING CARS, TRUCKS, VANS running, repairable or junk. Buying Boats/4-Wheelers running, repairable 256-810-8411.

14 FT. FLATBOTTOM BOAT, motor and trailer, many extras. Good shape. \$1,300 OBO. 256-762-2300, leave message.

SHANE PROCTOR HEATING, COOLING and Commercial Refrigeration, Licensed, bonded and insured, AL#11050 and AL#53089. Financing available. 256-415-3758.

2 AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER puppies, parents on site. Shots/wormed. 10 wks. old. 256-606-0035.

GAS GRILL, 4-BURNER, 1 side burner, full tank plus access. Used once. \$185. Call White, 256-302-0378.

HOME IMPROVEMENT AND BUILDING: siding, additions, garages, painting, decks, Free Estimates. 256-383-3218

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AKC IRISH WOLF HOUND puppies, 4 left, \$1,200 each. 256-303-8277.

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SMALL LAZY BOY ROCKER RECLINER, burgundy fabric, \$50. Albertville, 256-878-4564.

WE BUY RIDING MOWERS, John Deere, Cub Cadet, Kubota, Craftsman, etc, zero turn mowers. Running or not. 256-275-2276.

PONDS BUILT FOR FREE in exchange for good clean topsoil, no rocks. Must be in Shoals area. 256-810-1536.

40 GALLON ELECTRIC WATER heater, still in box, \$300. 256-974-9288.

WASHER AND ELECTRIC DRYER, very nice condition, works great, \$250 OBO 256-275-2276.

MERCURY: MARQUIS LS, 1999 \$3,750. Dark blue, leather, 128K miles, EVERYTHING is in GREAT working condition. 256-355-2762 or 256-318-0546. Decatur, AL

BARBIES NASCAR, CINDERELLA, RAPUNZEL, 35th anniversary brunette. \$50 each. 256-577-2745.

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Falling is lower. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Truck is missing. 4. Fence top is different. 5. Cap is missing. 6. Shovel is missing.



TOYOTA: 4RUNNER, 2015 \$30,000. Black Loaded Toyota 4Runner SR5 in great condition, 3rd row. Call or text 256-309-8797.

PAYING CASH FOR ESTATES, contents of storage buildings, sheds, garages, barns. Call 256-577-4816.

BIG & TALL MOBILITY SCOOTER with dual batteries, like new, \$300. 256-412-6076. (Florence)

Community Notes...

Continued from page 4

Dixie Echos will be at On The Mountain Thursday, May 3 at 7pm. Tickets: Adults \$15, children 12 and under \$12. Tickets available at MountainTheater.org or at the door. Group sales, 10 or more, call, 256-710-8963. Doors open at 6:15pm. 4150 Underwood Mtn. Rd., Tusculumbia.

NAMI Shoals (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is sponsoring a Psychiatric Conference on Friday, May 4 from 8am-4:30pm at Cross Point Church of Christ in Florence.

In 2016, there were an estimated 44.7 million adults aged 18 or older in the United States with a mental illness. This number represented 18.3% of all U.S. adults.

Revival Tabernacle Church on Robertson Blvd. in Sheffield will be having a singing on Friday May 4 at 7pm we will have a gospel Singing featuring Pam Garner from Tupelo, MS.

Fish Fry at East Colbert Church of Christ Saturday, May 5, Noon-5pm. All you can eat. Adults and carry outs \$12 each. Children ages 5-11 \$6. 4 and under free. (All proceeds to mission work and benevolence.)

Florence Kiwanis Club Meets Fridays noon at Marriott Shoals Conference Center, 10 Hightower Place, Florence

Florence Park and Recreation will be hosting a Red Cross Lifeguard Certification Class May 4-6. Class is limited and the fee is \$200.

Underwood-Petersville Community Center Breakfast -- please join us for our First Saturday Breakfast, May 5, from 6-9am.

The Florence/Lauderdale Farmer's Market opens for the 2018 growing season on Saturday, May 5. Fresh and Local Produce will be available each Saturday in May from 6am-noon.

Celebrating Nurses Luncheon - "Are you sleepy? The significance of sleep health." presented by Kappa Phi Chapter Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.

This presentation has been awarded 2 contact hours by Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.

Osborn Hill Cemetery -Decoration Day will be on May 5. The first Saturday of May has been observed as Decoration Day for well over 100 years.

Swamp John's Dinner at Lexington Senior Center on May 8, 4-7pm. Your choice of shrimp, fish, or chicken. Meal includes slaw, fries, dessert and drink. \$11 per plate.

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, May 8 at 7pm at the NAMI Shoals office, 749 Thompson St., Suite A, Florence.

A grief support group entitled, "Getting Well Together" will meet at Shoney's in Muscle Shoals at 10am on the second Thursday of each month.

The 7th Annual Hohenwald Springfest craft fair is gearing up to be the largest in its event history.

Contestants are now being accepted for the VIP/Songwriter Hall of Fame Museum's Song Contest 2018. Deadline to enter is May 31.

The U.S. Post office in association with the National Association of Letter Carriers and the National Rural Carriers Association will have its 26th Annual Food Drive on Saturday, May 12.

NASCAR POSTER- DANICA PATRICK + 4 other drivers, 3'x6", \$20. 256-263-7636. Must See!

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

OVAL KITCHEN TABLE/4 CHAIRS, one extension. \$120. 205-993-4992.

MEN'S GUESS SPORTS WATCH, moon face \$25; Ladies Sports Watch, Aqua \$25. 256-565-5960

HOME IMPROVEMENT AND BUILDING: siding, additions, garages, painting, decks, Free Estimates. 256-383-3218

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

2010 ROAD KING, KO-BOLT blue, 14,000 miles, excellent condition, lots of extras, \$10,700 OBO. 256-303-6438

2011 KIA: SORENTO EX, auto, air, leather, \$11,900. 256-710-8120

TAX REFUND, NEED A Car? I can help!! Financing Available. Call Brandon 256-710-4598 or 256-764-3351.

FREE CUTE KITTENS to good home. 6/9 wks. old, litter trained, 1st morning. 503-338-8015 (Florence)

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

PONDS BUILT FOR FREE in exchange for good clean topsoil, no rocks. Must be in Shoals area. 256-810-1536.

KAY GUITAR, \$100. IBANEZ guitar, \$100. 256-606-9372. (Trinity)

WILL BUY JUNK CARS, trucks and vans; with or without titles. Home phone 256-740-8485, Cell 256-810-7582

MidGard Self-Storage will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Alabama Self-Service Facility Act, Alabama Code 8-15-30 to 8-15-38, at **10:00 AM on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 located at 414 Cox Blvd, Sheffield, AL 35660.** Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale. Registered or motor vehicles are sold "As Is / Parts Only," no titles or registration.

Unit #	Name	Brief Description of Items
620	JESSICA BEVIS	Refrigerator, Dining Room Table and Chair, Living Room Set, TV, Bedroom Set, and Household Items

It Came to Pass

The above phrase is in the bible 452 times. We'll soon see who has been blowing smoke with a facade of temporary salvation, and those that have got the real thing and know it. God is not a fool nor plays with salvation like a kid with a tinkertoys set. Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Isaiah 55:11 "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Modern day ignorance of the Old Testament is widespread. Won't it be something one of these days to see everything that God has spoken and predicted is coming to pass? It will be evident then that the world and all of its great ones, kingdoms, politicians, religions, pageantry, fanfare and traditions and rituals were nothing but hot air and a waste of time.

Notice these scriptures: **Jeremiah 51:20** "Thou (Israel) art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee (Israel) will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee (Israel) will I destroy kingdoms;" **Joel 3:2** "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land." **Zephaniah 3:8** "Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy." **Zechariah 12:3** "And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." **Zechariah 14:3** "Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle." These all will come to pass and be very terrible when they do. Read 2 Peter 3.

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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.

My name is **CARLEY**, I am a beautiful Lab mix! I'm starting to come out of my shell and I think I am ready to start looking for my forever home. Could you guide me into my new life? I am only around a year & a half old and I have lived with other dogs.

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Hi there. I'm **PEARL**. I'm a female lab/heeler mix. I was born May, 2012. I'm very sweet, I'm great with children. I'm housebroken, I do well in a crate. I'm great with dogs that are medium-large. I don't need to be around smaller dogs as I have a problem with them. I'm spayed, up to date on my shots, and micro chipped. If you're interested in giving me a forever home, please call PAWS at 256-383-0690

CALLIE is a 2 year old female lab mix. This big girl has a great personality and would love a family. She can jump fences and prefers to be with her people. She is spayed and up to date on vaccines. **ADOPTION FEE \$25!** For more information, call the Florence shelter at 256-760-6676!



Cat & Kids

by Cathy Turner

Speak of Love in Love

Over the years, I have spoken with hundreds and hundreds of girls about guys. I have a workshop that I conduct entitled, "Guys, Sex, and Marriage". During three-five sessions, I discuss who we are looking for and why are we looking. There is a lot of information, but generally I advise young ladies to look for someone who will help them get to heaven, someone who they can respect and trust, someone who treats them with unconditional love and someone who they like "as is", because as an older lady said to me, "You can't raise another woman's child."

The other night, I was invited to have dinner with a group of college-aged young ladies and talk about any subject and then answer their questions. I shared about finding a mate who has the same foundation. But their questions had more to do with marriage - best marriage advice, transitioning from dating to marriage, hardest and best part of being married, etc. My answer to that last listed question was: hardest part - reining in anger/not having a short fuse/not being so touchy, best part - having a permanent date, when you want to go somewhere or do something, your date is right there. The topic of deal-breakers came up as we continued discussing. One of the married girls there surprised me when she said that pornography addiction had been a deal-breaker for her. She said that she simply wasn't going to have that in her life, which was exactly how I felt about alcohol when I was dating. At that time, pornography wasn't even on my radar. But times have changed.

Pornography addiction is rampant and the assessment of porn is changing. According to Barna.com/porn-in-the-digital-age, one in three Americans seek out pornography at least once a month. "Living in a hyper-sexualized and pornified media culture means catching sight of explicit images with little or no effort." You don't even have to seek it. This research of

over 3,000 people indicated that nearly half of teens and young people think that not recycling is more immoral than viewing pornography. It used to be mostly grown men, but now it's boys and girls, women and men. Of faith and not. It's out there and we don't even realize the danger.

Porn is not real. It distorts the body, relationships, and love. I had a young woman admit her problem to me by saying that it took all her time and attention and made her husband feel inadequate and unloved. So she gave him all her devices and called me to be her accountability partner. I was so glad that she could unmask herself with me. That was an uncomfortable task, but now I can ask her how she is doing and remind her to punch that old woman that she used to be in the face when she pops up. And I can take interest in the new activities and loves in her life. She has even grown to the point that she now asks me about my well-being.

Barna says that young people engage in pornography more out of boredom, curiosity, and fun than for arousal. We need to pay attention and offer options, support, and in some cases encouragement toward therapy. But most importantly, we need to create environments of openness. Parents ask. Teachers teach. And loved ones gather genuinely so that isolation is broken and confidences are shared when needed. Love. Create care and connection. Follow hunches. Maybe we can't raise other people's children, but we can be good examples, support each other in our struggles, share our vulnerability, and love as we should. Patience instead of badgering. We all need this type of love for one reason or the other. If we could speak truth in love, then maybe we could better prepare our children for marriage and family could recover.

Email comments or suggestions to CatnKids1@gmail.com



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