TIMES DAILY

FLORENCE ■ MUSCLE SHOALS ■ SHEFFIELD ■ TUSCUMBIA ■ NORTHWEST ALABAMA

Wednesday, November 25, 2026 timesdaily.com timesdaily @TimesDaily



Inside today

FORECAST

TODAY	THU	FRI
49°/37°	43°/36°	53°/32°

Complete forecast, **A2**

NOTICE

There will not be a physical copy of the TimesDaily produced for Thanksgiving Day since mail is not delivered on the holiday. There will only be an electronic version of the Nov. 26 paper, which will be on our website www.timesdaily.com. All of the advertising leading up to Thanksgiving will appear in today's edition. Thank you in advance for your understanding and Happy Thanksgiving.



TOYS FOR TOTS

Toys For Tots donation box is at TimesDaily office

The TimesDaily and Courier Journal office located at 219 W. Tennessee St. is a drop-off location for Toys for Tots.

New and unwrapped toys may be dropped off in the donation box located in the front lobby by Monday, Dec. 7. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

REGION

Yeilding receives Flying Cross

More than three decades after he set a coast-to-coast speed record in the SR-71 Blackbird, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Ed Yeilding has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. **B1**

WEIRD NEWS

NASA invites public to send names into orbit

Have you ever wanted to fly above an alien landscape? NASA is inviting the public to send their names to Saturn's moon, Titan

The Journey to Titan campaign offers the opportunity to record your name on a microchip with NASA's Dragonfly mission. The chip will ride aboard the Dragonfly rotorcraft as it explores Titan by air. Those on the passenger list will receive a personalized boarding pass to commemorate their place on the mission.

The Dragonfly mission aims to explore Titan and share its discoveries with the public, said Elizabeth Turtle, the mission's principal investigator at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel.

The team is building and testing the spacecraft and lander, and people who send their names to Titan can join the effort to explore the moon and learn more about the building blocks of life.

— Tribune News Service

YOUR OPINION

Tuesday's Question: Would you vote for sports betting and the lottery to be legalized in Alabama?
Yes: 71.3% **No:** 28.7%
Today's Question: When do you have your Thanksgiving meal?
Vote at **TimesDaily.com**

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SALVATION ARMY

Red Kettle Campaign seeks bell ringers



Brad Moody, right, and Nancy Perritt greet shoppers while collecting donations for the Salvation Army of the Shoals annual Red Kettle Campaign outside Sam's Club in Florence on Tuesday. The Red Kettle Campaign goal this year is $300,000. [PHOTOS BY DAN BUSEY/TIMESDAILY]

By Ella Seaton
Staff Writer

FLORENCE — The Salvation Army of the Shoals' Red Kettle Campaign has officially kicked off, but the organization is in need of more volunteers in order to meet this year's goal.

Alongside the TimesDaily-sponsored Empty Table Fund, money raised each year helps provide necessary support for individuals and families within the Shoals who need food,

SEE KETTLE, A5



Wiley Hamner, 5, places a donation into a Salvation Army red kettle with assistance from bell ringers outside Sam's Club in Florence on Tuesday.

MONTGOMERY

Lawmakers ready for gambling debates

By Victor Hagan
Staff Writer

MONTGOMERY — Governor-elect Tommy Tuberville has teased the idea of calling a special legislative session to settle the state's ongoing gambling debate, but local representatives have mixed feelings.

The last time Alabamians had a say in legalizing gambling was 1999.

In total, 672,802 citizens voted against bringing a lottery to the state, with 568,289 voting in favor.

Legislation regarding gambling has not yet been filed for the 2027 session, which is slated to begin the first week of February.

Sen. Tim Melson, R-Florence, said he would review the legislation when it's filed and support it if it will benefit the state.

"It's a new administration, new ideas, and they're going to throw a lot of things at us," Melson said. "I'm going in open-minded. We'll see where it lands and make, hopefully, a good decision."

Alabama is one of five states currently without a lottery, along with Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.

The state also doesn't have any government-ran or public casinos. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians operate three Class II casinos – electronic bingo and electronic games – on reservation lands.

"I've consistently voted no and will continue to," Sen. Larry Stutts, R-Tuscumbia, said. "We have plenty of state revenue and I don't think it adds anything to the state. All it does is redistribute the money that's already there."

In 2024, gambling legislation failed by one vote in the state senate after Sen. Greg Albritton, who sponsored the bills in the state

SEE GAMBLING, A5

FLORENCE

Trio faces drug trafficking charges

By Kevin Taylor
City Editor



Neely



Hurley



Bizzelle

FLORENCE — Three people are facing drug trafficking charges after agents with the Lauderdale County Drug Task Force executed a search warrant finding and seizing drugs with a street value of $8,740.

Task Force Director Chuck Hearn said agents and police received tips from concerned citizens near the 100 block of North Spurr Street that drug dealing activities were taking place at a residence where the trio resided.

"We spent a couple weeks after we

SEE TRAFFICKING, A5



Lauderdale County Drug Task Force agents found and seized drug with a total street value of $8,740 Monday morning on the 100 block of North Spurr Street in Florence. [LAUDERDALE COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE]

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