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Gazette

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ALABAMA'S
FREE Press

VOL. 14. ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 1, 2013

alabamagazette@yahoo.com

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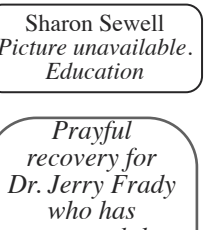
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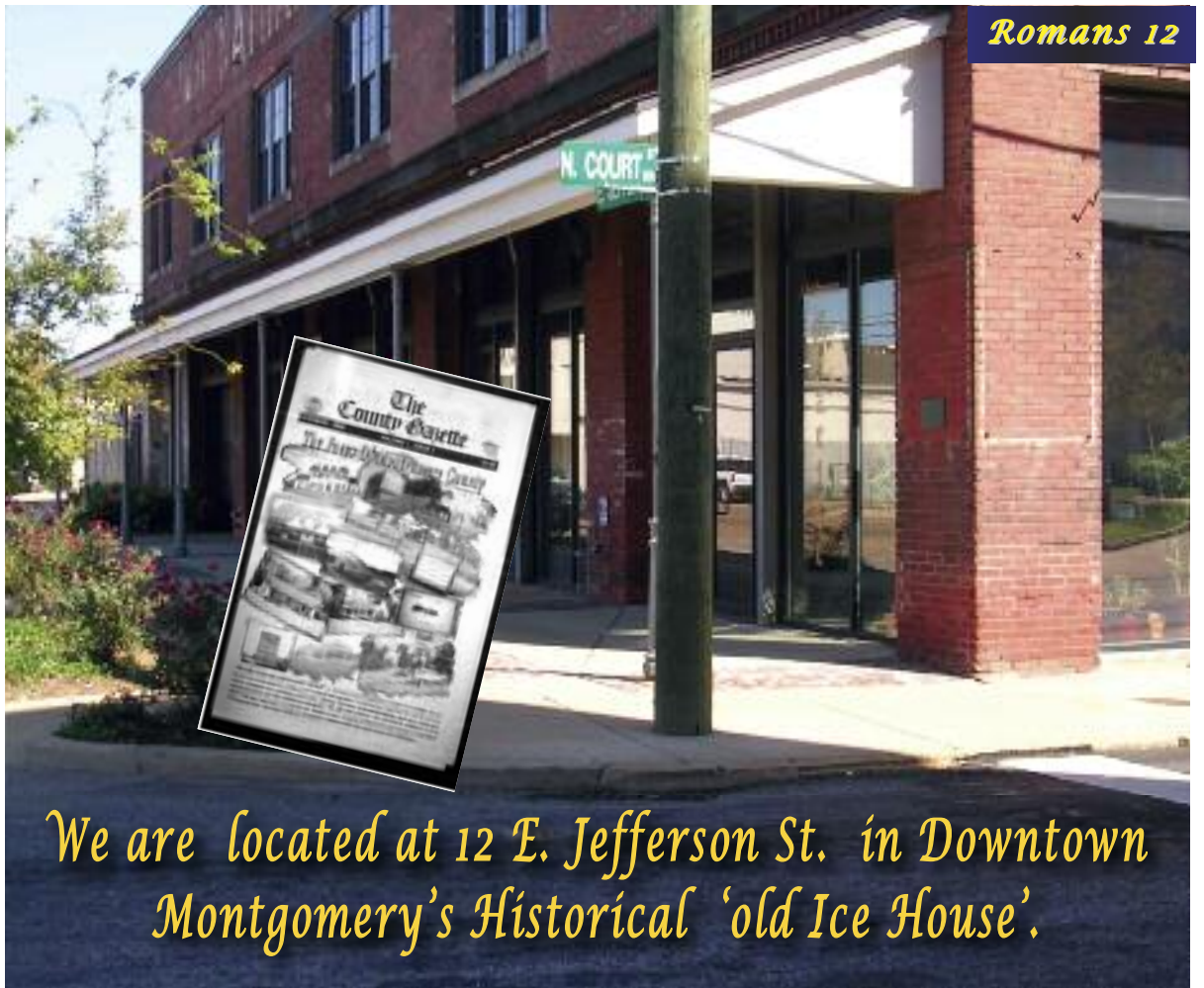
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The Alabama Gazette, 32 pages.



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Inside the Statehouse



with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His column appears weekly in 72 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at www.steveflowers.us.

During the summer Alabama had a rash of major political figures step down from office in the middle of their elected terms. The first to go was 1st District Congressman Jo Bonner. Beth Chapman also quit her job as Secretary of State as did State Representative Jay Love of Montgomery, who chaired the powerful House Ways and Means Education Budget Committee. Love's counterpart, Rep. Jim Barton of Mobile, who chaired the House General Fund Committee, quit his House seat. Elmore County Rep. Barry Mask also resigned. All five left in August for personal financial gain.

Bonner left his safe congressional seat to accept a position with the University of Alabama system. He doubled his \$174,000 annual congressional salary with his move. Chapman accepted a position with Alfa, which she said was too good to pass up. Love left for business reasons. Barton quit midstream to lobby. Mask quit to head the Alabama Association of Realtors.

This trend of quitting office midstream for personal gain was epitomized by Sarah Palin. She quit her job as Governor of Alaska without fulfilling her term so that she could be close to mainland America in order to make money appearing on Fox News and making speeches. Traveling from Alaska to New York is like a trek from Russia.

Speaking of Fox News, the Gallup poll confirmed that a recent survey revealed the obvious, most Republicans watch Fox News for their news source. The poll unveiled numerous obvious trends. First of all, Americans are most likely to turn to their television for news. More than half called it their main source of news.

Television was the medium of choice for Americans of all ages. Gallup said the results showed what they called the "balkanization" of news, meaning that Americans have gravitated to a certain medium based on their political leanings. Republicans were more likely to turn to television. Independents were slightly more likely to head to the Internet and Democrats were likely to turn to print media like newspapers or magazines.

If Democrats watch television, they like CNN. However, nothing compared

to Republicans' affinity for their news channel Fox. No other television, print or online news source generated as much loyalty from either Democrats or Independents as Fox News did from Republicans as their total news source.

This partisan divide is played out here in Alabama. If watching Fox News is a criteria for being a Republican, then their ratings are probably off the charts in the Heart of Dixie. Every statewide officeholder in Alabama is a Republican. At last count, there were 31 statewide elected positions in the state and all 31 are held by folks who have been elected as a Republican.

The last bastian that Democrats had any say over in Alabama was the legislature. That ended abruptly and overwhelmingly in 2010. It is not likely to change any time soon. The legislative lines are drawn to pretty much keep the GOP in control of both the House and Senate. For the foreseeable future the GOP should continue to hold a two to one super majority in both chambers. Approximately one third of the legislative seats will belong to the minority Democratic Party. African American legislators hold most of the minority seats.

Earlier this year Mark Kennedy resigned as Chairman of the Democratic Party in a dispute with Democratic power broker Joe Reed, the longtime African American leader of the Party. Kennedy formed an organization he dubbed the Alabama Democratic Majority. He said their task would be to rebuild the Democratic Party in Alabama.

Kennedy, who is a former Supreme Court Justice, has a good name for a Democrat. The Kennedy name is symbolic and synonymous with the national Democratic Party. Therein lies the problem with a Democratic resurrection in Alabama.

Alabamians now link all Democrats, whether they are on the statewide or national level, to the liberal policies of the Democratic Party. When they see the name of Barack Obama that is who they identify as a Democrat. Obama is the face and philosophy of the Democratic Party in the eyes of Alabama voters. You could safely say that Barack Obama has driven the final nail in the Democratic coffin in Alabama.



Believe it or not the 2014 state elections are only eight months away. This gubernatorial year, which usually portends a plethora of interesting and exciting races, is shaping up as a ho hum year.

Gov. Robert Bentley appears to be on a path to breeze toward reelection to a second four-year term. Bentley has done a good job as governor and folks seem satisfied with him. Bentley's stratospheric approval ratings stem from his likeability and trustworthiness. When asked about those two traits his numbers shoot off the charts. Folks simply trust him the way people trusted their family doctor. To put it into layman terms or country jargon, he fits like an old shoe. Bentley is a plow horse, not a show horse.

Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey will also have an easy course to reelection. This job does not have the power it once had. Therefore, very few special interest groups care who is lieutenant governor because the post has very little influence over public policy in the state. It would be difficult for any challenger to raise any money. For that matter, it is tough for the incumbent to raise campaign funds.

In contrast, the Attorney General's office has immense and extensive power. It is the second most impor-

tant job in state government. Luther Strange has done a good job. He should breeze to reelection. However, because he has faced a myriad of issues during his term he has stepped on some powerful toes. This race could get a surprise financially backed candidate but that is unlikely.

Young Boozer should win reelection to a second term as State Treasurer maybe without opposition. He has done a good job, especially having to deal with the beleaguered PACT program.

John McMillan should coast to another term as Agriculture Commissioner. He has done a good job despite having to deal with budget restraints.

Secretary of State Beth Chapman quit with 17 months left to go on her term. Gov. Bentley appointed former Secretary of State Jim Bennett to fill the remaining time of Chapman's term. The Governor could not have picked a more appropriate person to serve through 2014. Many Goat Hill observers believe that Jim Bennett was Alabama's best and most diligent Secretary of State in modern times.

There are three very qualified men seeking this post, a former probate judge, Reese McKinney of Montgomery, a sitting probate judge, Jim Perdue of Luverne,

and State Representative John Merrill of Tuscaloosa. There may be other entrants. This is shaping up as the best state race thus far. Although, it will not be that interesting because the job is essentially a clerical post and it is difficult to raise any money for this race.

Most people are not aware that our Junior U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions is up for reelection next year. It has gone completely under the radar screen. Sessions is very conservative and that equates to him being very popular in Alabama. We in the Heart of Dixie are by most counts the most conservative state in the nation. Therefore, it is only fitting and proper that we have the most right wing Senator in the U.S. Senate representing us in Washington. Sessions may even escape opposition. It would be futile for a challenger to try him.

Our seven congressional seats are also up for election next year. All seven should be safe bets for reelection. Due to the advantage of incumbency most congressmen win reelection. The six incumbent Republicans have recorded solid conservative voting records. Little more is expected of them. The lone Democrat, Terri Sewell, has turned in a completely liberal record that should placate her constituency.





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NEW SENTENCING GUIDELINES



Chief Derrick Cunningham

I just got a copy of the sentencing guidelines that go into effect on October 1 of this year. The report says that these guidelines are voluntary, apparently until 2020 at which time it appears that they become mandatory. The Alabama sentencing Commission issued the report by the authority of Act 2012-473. The Act required the Commission to make necessary modifications to the Sentencing Standards to transition from voluntary sentencing to presumptive sentencing for non-violent offenses in 2013. It requires the commission to present Truth-in-Sentencing Standards to the Legislature by the 2020 session, among several other requirements.

You just about have to be a lawyer or Judge to understand the guidelines set out in this report. Basically, it appears that the sentencing of a person found guilty of a crime is accomplished by filling out worksheets on the crime or crimes that a person has been convicted of. There are three categories of crimes, Personal crimes, Drug crimes and Property crimes. For each offense type, there is an In/Out worksheet and a Sentence length

worksheet. Each sheet has a set of statistically relevant sentencing factors specific to each offense type. These factors include: most serious current offense, other offenses being sentenced at the current sentencing event, prior convictions, previous incarcerations, juvenile/youthful offender adjudications, etc. The worksheets will result in a score that is calculated based on the information provided for each factor. Each factor has a number of points assigned and the points are totaled up for a sentence. I would attempt to explain how the worksheet/point system works but it is just too far above my head. I just wish the District Attorneys and Judges good luck in figuring it out.

According to this report drug and property offenders are slightly less likely to go to prison than under historic sentencing practices. Offenders convicted of personal crimes (violent type crimes) are slightly more likely to receive a prison sentence. Drug and property offenders are likely to receive a slightly shorter sentence, while the sentence recommendation for violent offenders is likely to be somewhat longer. It is very

apparent to me that these guidelines were developed to send fewer criminals to prison thus helping to relieve the overcrowding in our state prisons. This looks like just another step in the criminal justice system that is in favor of the criminal and, again, the victim comes out on the short end of the stick.

It also appears that these guidelines may help shift the criminal population from the state prisons and increase the population in the county jails. If it does, it will follow the trends of the past several years of putting more burdens on local taxpayers to ease the burden of the state budget. It is time that the state start handling their responsibilities and stop passing the buck. A good example of this is the broken mental health system. Years ago the state started shirking their responsibility in funding the mental health system thus making the local jails basically mental health facilities. Now it looks like they are going down the same path in the criminal justice system. You will see more and more do good programs for these criminals and you will be seeing more of them not being punished for their crimes.

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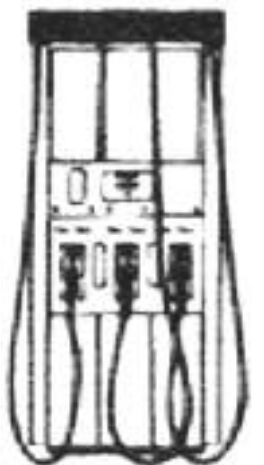
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September 11 - Candlelight vigil.

Pike Road Fire – Remembers the Heroes

September 11, 2013 was a day of remembering, honoring and pledging to never forget those who died on September 11, 2001, in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Shanksville, Pa.

A crowd of more than 300 heard several speakers' heartfelt thoughts during the twelfth anniversary ceremony sponsored by the Pike Road Fire Department ladies auxiliary. Bright sunshine blessed the event as Missy Morgan of Mathews, Alabama sang the National Anthem.

Pike Road Mayor Gordon Stone addressed the crowd. "September 11, 2001 forever transformed our country and we will never forget it," said Mayor Stone. Chief Deputy Derrick Cunningham of the Montgomery County Sherriff's Office provided the law enforcement recognition. He commended firefighters, first responders and law enforcement for placing their life in jeopardy on a daily basis to protect citizens. Firefighter recognition was given by Pike Road Fire Chief Mike Green. Chief Green said, "Firefighters made a promise that day to remember and to never forget."



Captain Carlos Bersabe

Firefighter across the country will never forget the 343 firefighters who lost their lives on this day twelve years ago."

"It's going to be emotional for a lot of people," said Captain Carlos Bersabe, an Air Force member. The shock of 9/11 affected everyone differently, but there is no denying it changed us. Captain Bersabe stated, "**Freedom is not free.** Today, we remember those who lay down their life in the line of duty. Their sacrifice was not in vain. We can carry their story for years to come. We, as American's, will not waiver – we will remember."

"Taps" was heard, the fire bell rung 5-5-5 in honor of the fallen firefighters and a banner was displayed listing each firefighter's name that lost their life on this date. A candlelight vigil was held to honor the memory of those who gave their life. In addition, eight balloons were released to honor the eight Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Departments who place their life on the line each day to serve the citizens in their fire district.

Special music was provided throughout the ceremony by Rachel Love. The sixty – minute ceremony was full of symbolism.



John Sophocleus

THINK

The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.

LOSING OUR STATE DEFENSE FORCE

I've always been amazed and delighted at how many compatriots in the liberty movement volunteer (e.g., donate to cancer patients, food banks, housing, relief to disaster victims, etc.) via PRIVATE efforts like churches, HealthSouth, missions, Red Cross, et al in Alabama. Our State continues to place around the top five in the nation in this regard in spite of how increasingly more is taken from Alabamians at the local, State and federal level. Of course, the statistics are in real terms and we are a low income State, nonetheless it still reveals the best of the Holy Spirit is holding on in the Heart of Dixie.

In 2009 (before mandatory auto insurance took what is now a \$12,500/yr. loss of income, stolen vehicles via legal apparatus, made it clear not to make unnecessary trips) I considered and planned on joining the ASDF - a.k.a., Alabama State Defense Force. I attended three meetings and found it to be what I thought a State defense force was designed to be if we indeed operated under a Constitutional result. After the May 2010 injury reduced the time and money I could devote to efforts of this sort, I struck the ASDF from my 'wish list' as well as no longer donate platelets to cancer patients and give less money and no time to my church food bank.

Although out as a participant these past three years, I've told others serious about volunteering to directly help (esp. in an emergency) disaster victims they'd be wise to consider the ASDF. I continued to keep track of our defense force efforts through their (now former) Brigade Commander and my (mostly Tea Party) friends in the ASDF. Sadly, I can no longer advocate for the ASDF. I thought this 'open letter' below from Alex Balkcum (ASDF Second Brigade Commander and also Disaster Chair, West Central Ga. Red Cross) would provide much better explanation than I on the matter:

Open Letter To:
Alabama Army Reserve National Guard HQ
ATTN: Directorate of Military Support

Thru: Brigadier General, AL Webb
Commander, Alabama State
Defense Force

Subject: How to destroy a volunteer force
and State asset

This open letter is to communicate and inform others of Alabama's National Guard handling of the ASDF, a trained and qualified volunteer force willing and capable of reacting to emergencies within the State to bring comfort and assistance to emergency victims. The training, structure and wearing of a uniform separates the ASDF from all other volunteer responders which instills confidence and safety to those in an affected area. My goal is to help readers understand and fathom the huge loss of support personnel that would be working for free to render a force multiplying result to county/State responders as well as to local Red Cross and Volunteer Organization Assist in Disasters (VOADs) agencies. The Alabama National Guard (NG) reaction to my efforts in July of this year is the reason for offering my resignation, knowing it would only be a matter of time before the NG destroyed the whole organization.

The short answer to address this letter's subject is to turn it over to a government entity. Upon entering the ASDF back in 2009, leadership told me to go out and recruit the best volunteers who would actually show up in an emergency to render aid and comfort to affected citizens. With this task I set about recruiting retired (who maintained their certifications) nurses, chaplains, a licensed veterinarian, a Cardiac Profusionist, fire and rescue certified members, law enforcement members and veterans from several branches of the armed services. The unit quickly grew to over 50 members who attained the minimum FEMA courses (IS 100, 200, 700, 800); most having completed the Emergency Management's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, all had CPR, 1st Aid training and could operate AED machines. Over a dozen members

had HAM Radio licenses and personal radios.

Other than some hurricane events where the unit manned a local junior college twice for 50 and 35 displaced families little else presented us with a reason to be deployed for more than several hours at a time. For four consecutive years the unit assisted the Columbus/Phenix City Veterans Day Parade by lining up and positioning the 100+ participating bands, floats and dignitary vehicles which provided an example of this group of volunteers integrating with government agency efforts.

It seems growth and success of this sort set the stage for the eventual destruction of the ASDF. When devastating tornadoes hit North Alabama in April of 2011, nineteen members deployed under ASDF General Orders to Birmingham where en route we were directed to Legion Field and received a brief and directive to report to two separate Points of Distribution Sites (PODS). Before we could leave the staging area NG Headquarters cancelled our assignment and the unit was redirected to the Homewood NG Armory where all 19 well trained responders were assigned to watch an entry/exit gate and a loading dock door. After a day and a half of this misuse of personnel I told our ASDF folks to pack up and go home. Eight members requested permission to work in Tuscaloosa where our cardiac profusionist was raised, and they



Commander
Alex Balkcum

worked with a large Baptist Church to actively drop off aid bags, food, water and administered counsel/help to affected citizens and pets in this new mission - i.e., these efforts fall directly in line with CERT, Red Cross and our FEMA course training as the unit was designed to function.

On 23 July I officially resigned from the ASDF because of NG actions. My explicit reason to HQ was inability to meet twice per month in Birmingham. I was Commander of the 2nd Brigade attending HQ meetings in Montgomery as the State Recruiter, while tending to my 81 yr. old mother in Columbus began requiring more time. Since that announcement I've received several requests for guidance from members wanting a reason to stay in the ASDF. None of those who asked for my counsel knew I submitted my resignation, so I provided the original excuse. Several follow-on e-mail exchanges reflect the true concern my troops had toward all I had done for them and the ASDF, prompting this 'open letter' in explanation of my efforts and their outcome. Many in HQ and all in the 2nd Brigade knew I had been one of the biggest reasons the ASDF survived after the fallout following the N. Alabama tornadoes in Apr/May of 2011 result. The tornado event was the reason for my power point presentation, following guidance by then ASDF Maj. Gen. Nolan, for the Alabama National Guard. Accompanied by my Executive Officer, a communications expert, we presented our case.

Expecting a 15 to 20 minute opportunity to present the case for ASDF, I was pleasantly surprised to get almost 2 hours. The brief back to HQ did much to ease some minds, although many volunteers were still frantically shuffling to meet the initial (though non-binding) atrocious uniform changes and no training guidance. During my NG brief Col. Smitherman and Lt. Col. Hawkins of the Directorate of Military Support (DOMS) went to great lengths to explain the reason for firing our former Generals (Griscom and Harding) with respect to their constant lies about issues and requests sought by the DOMS. They were also unimpressed in their discussions with ASDF Col. Bradford for his views on ASDF training and use.

For the two years following the tornado event/debacle I continued to recruit and attempted

to influence the direction for training and uses of our volunteer force. Many changes (mostly cosmetic) have occurred, but members continued to leave because the training as defined was still not being reflected in mission tasks written out and clarified by the NG.

In July, 2013 my former Operations Officer, Capt. Lankford, asked me to visit the Lagrange, GA Armory to see his Georgia SDF task to set up training stations and oversee the skills testing for these GA NG units of 70+ soldiers. Capt. Lankford had left the 204th Battalion ASDF because he didn't see the AL NG doing anything to improve morale and training since the tornadoes hit, even though he'd heard me and my Executive Officer assert that DOMS wanted ASDF to adopt the skills and appearance of the GA SDF. I accepted the request and went over in cargo pants and a t-shirt. The NG unit's commander would later tell me he liked and respected the GA SDF's work because it allowed him to test all his personnel without having to worry about bias grading or having to later 'test the testers' which requires even more time and resources. I told the NG commander and Capt. Lankford, the GA SDF BDE XO, I sincerely appreciated the opportunity to observe. When asked if we would want to train-up and assist the GA SDF I said anything of this nature would have to go through my Alabama General (Brig. Gen. Webb) to the DOMS (Lt. Col. Hawkins) and then it would only be over subjects based on the current Mission Essential Task List (METL) which covered only communications related tasks. He and Capt. Lankford understood and stated any help would be fine if allowed by DOMS.

After this meeting I called Brig. Gen. Webb and filled him in on the events and informed him the GA NG would prepare a letter for submittal to the AL NG (DOMS) making it clear they had no problem with us assisting in their training if acceptable to DOMS. My hope was to present this in person to Lt. Col. Hawkins (DOMS) at the 17 July HQ meeting so a full understanding of the events and issues may evolve. When discussed with Brig. Gen. Webb, he noted Lt. Col. Hawkins would not be available on the 17th, however the General was so pleased with the possibility of this opportunity, he tasked me to send the request and letter to Col. Clark (also Alabama) for forwarding to Lt. Col. Hawkins.

This is when Lt. Col. Hawkins goes ballistic! Though at no time did I commit myself, our unit, ASDF nor the AL NG to any portion of their training (only to the possibility/opportunity) the request pressed Brig. Gen. Webb to explain. Webb kindly told me he would take the heat on this but wanted a full layout of the events before meeting in person with Lt. Col. Hawkins. I met the General's request, making it very clear there shouldn't be any heat as I hadn't (couldn't) commit anyone (myself included) to do anything. I was only submitting a proposal for consideration that may be of benefit to the Alabama NG - should they want to move in a like direction with the ASDF for troop testing.

After Brig. Gen. Webb's meeting with Hawkins the general called and said he was going to have to relieve me from command of the 2nd Brigade but I could stay on as State Recruiter. My response was "to recruit for what?" making it clear I wouldn't hang around for anymore unwarranted guff. Let me assure all that my goal was not to wear rank and look important. It was and remains my desire to train the best volunteers to serve the citizens of Alabama in an emergency and not simply be part of the Alabama NG Auxiliary. I am left to conclude Lt. Col. Hawkins stayed too long and got too close to Generals Griscom and Harding during his fact finding briefs. It seems lying is contagious - stating he like Gen. Smith envisioned the ASDF would follow the GA SDF paradigm. I've talked with several State Congressional members over the past two years and though they agree something needs to be done it appears playing politics comes before addressing free aid, support and services for Alabama citizens' benefit when they need them most.

Defense Force continued at bottom of page 5.



Robservations...by Robert Tate

The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.

GAMMA – DELTA – IOTA

I have watched with amusement all the discussions lately on the “Greek” issue at the

University of Alabama. First of all, I think that in the year 2013, the whole idea of somebody not being admitted to a fraternity or sorority based SOLELY one’s race is ludicrous – but not surprising. Although I do not talk much about it, I figured now might be an interesting time to talk about my “Greek” experiences at the University of Tennessee from 1979 – 1983.

Let me get this out in the open “from the get – go.” I do not personally care too much about the fraternity and sorority systems. I just don’t. I am not about to knock anybody who enjoys or has enjoyed these groups but for me when I was in college, my attitude at the time was that I personally never needed to spend money to get friends. Although my father was an “Alpha,” I had no desire to join his old fraternity.

First of all, I grew up in New Jersey where I was one of about four blacks in my graduating class of 300+. While growing up, most of my best friends were Jewish and I had no real close black friends the whole time I was growing up. There simply weren’t that many around and most of the ones in my school had little time for a green-eyed black kid, an “Uncle Tom” who was more interested in wanting to fly airplanes than goofing off and getting into trouble. So my personal experiences with whites, and my brother’s since he went to UT one year ahead of me, was one of everybody for the most part got along. We played sports together, partied together, went to dances together, and yes –yes, hush- hush, dated one another. In Manalapan, New Jersey race really never entered most of our daily lives. Certainly there were those cretins who exist in every community but for the most part, most people got along.

So when I first got to UT, my eyes were certainly opened. For the first time in my life I actually met people who honestly and truly had never talked to a black person before. I had people tell me, “You know, you are nothing like JJ Walker or George Jefferson.” I kid you not. One day a girl dialed my suite’s phone by accident and we started talking. We were both freshmen and we did the usual banter of where we were from, what we were studying, etc. Then the conversation got around to our appearance. She told me she had red hair, green eyes, yadda yadda yadda. Then she asked me, “So, what do you look like?”

“Well, uh, I’m about 5’9”, 165 pounds, brown hair and green eyes.”

“That’s cool,” she said.

“There’s one more thing. . . I’m black.”
Silence! After about ten seconds, you could hear the gears turning in her head, she said, “No way. I’ve talked to a lot of black people and there is no way you’re black.” (For what it is worth, I have had this conversation about 25 times in my life). Since I knew she was in Humes Hall right across the courtyard from my dorm I suggested we meet in five minutes. Still not believing me, she agreed. I told her what I would be wearing and headed downstairs. For a moment I thought I was going to need a defibrillator because she almost had a heart attack. To her credit, we remained cordial throughout our time at UT.

It was in this new environment that I was exposed to the Greek system at UT. The entire three and one-half years I was there from freshman year until graduation, only one fraternity or sorority was integrated. Only one. And that didn’t happen until my junior year. The Greek system was, to me, something to despise. The whole idea behind brotherly love was nothing more than a cover for drunken idiocy and sophomoric behavior. To be honest, both black and white groups were equally guilty. Where the white fraternities had “hell week” the black fraternities engaged in “hell quarter.” I remember watching one black fraternity, year-after-year, forcing their new pledges to dress like slaves in torn clothes, worn out shoes, ripped or no shirts and chaining them together like animals to roam the campus. Yeah, that is what I wanted for myself. Not to mention the branding iron that awaited on the other side of being fully accepted into some fraternities.

I remember we had one white guy on my floor who was a really nice guy and he belonged to one of the more moderate fraternities that consisted of some really nice guys. He would come into my room, hang out, we would talk and I would help him with some of his class work. One day my brother and I were in my room and this guy came by and said that he had been talking with a bunch of the brothers in his fraternity and they wanted my brother and me to come to their frat house and hang out with them. Actually this was kind of unheard of in 1981 but then he said that although we could hang out with them and come to their parties, we couldn’t join because blacks were not allowed in the fraternity. We both politely declined his invitation.

Coming from New Jersey, we had friends and a sister at our state school at Rutgers and when we told them about the fraternity/sorority situation at UT, they laughed. The entire Greek system was integrated there. No surprise. So as we watched this insanity grow, a

group of us laughingly called ourselves the Gamma-Delta-Iotas (Gosh-Darn-Independents). Truly, it was insanity from my perspective. Blacks didn’t want to mix with whites, and whites didn’t want to mix with blacks. To a guy from central Jersey, it was madness. Finally my junior year, one of the black fraternities, I can’t remember their name but their colors were white and blue, had a white guy rush and became a member. When you saw this guy walking the pledge line across campus wearing blue and white, you could almost feel the Tennessee earth want to open up and swallow them. To his credit and the fraternity’s as well, they made a bold statement and never looked back.

All this being said, I think we have to be careful with forcing fraternities and sororities to admit people they simply don’t like while calling it racial. I think each fraternity and sorority has its own personality. While at UT, the Kappa – Alphas for example, had a strong southern heritage with a large rebel flag and two canons outside their front door. Personally, I could care less but I wouldn’t expect a lot of blacks to pledge them back then. And if they did, why would they be surprised when turned down? It is funny, however, my best friend from high school, a Jewish kid named Scott who transferred to UT our junior year, I believe became president of KA his senior year. All I am saying is that if people don’t want you in their group, why fight it? Now I do think the situation at UA is different since it has been reported that it was alumni, not the students, who put the kibosh on the black students.

I guess to me, personally, I have so little respect for the Greek system because of my own experiences (too many to list here) that I really don’t care what happens. Trust me, after I had an active KKK member in a fraternity, along with several of his frat brothers, verbally accost my non-black girlfriend while she was alone downtown one afternoon eating lunch, it doesn’t take long before the fangs come out and the war drums begin to beat. If any of you ever catches me alone, ask me about the showdown I had with this guy and his frat in the cafeteria one day. It was classic. The funny thing about this one girl is that her dad, who I never met (duh!!), was a White Supremacist and Neo-Nazi. Can you imagine that? I digress. But living here in Alabama, I have come to love this state more than any other I have ever lived in and I hope they straighten out this situation. It has been refreshing to see the students on campus step up and show maturity beyond their years. I hope the Alabama Greek system will move forward and shine like the already wonderful and unparalleled attributes worthy of the UA. I wish we had seen that at UT 30 years ago.

DEFENSE FORCE

From Defense Force on page 4

On 14 Sep 2013, the Alabama NG decided a free, highly trained military configured reactionary force capable of rendering aide and timely assistance to the citizens most adversely affected by disasters was outside their auxiliary minded capability to oversee. Alabama legislation is in place which holds volunteers (those with basic and professional skills) to be held harmless when making honest efforts to render aid. Today you are at the mercy of the person that stayed once at an express hotel.

Thank you Alabama National Guard, Alex Balkcum (former 2nd Brigade Commander, ASDF) Disaster Chair, West Central Georgia Red Cross

public entity the most revealing. I also ask folks not to bomb my e-mailbox with stories of conspiracy and malicious intent about this end result. Regardless of intent, the fact remains; Alabama lost a growing volunteer force to make timely relief efforts more effective in our State. The end result speaks for itself and it appears those in power (including the Legislature) will not address the matter. In closing, I do share the concern others express about the National Guard jettisoning citizen involvement/interaction and the growing implicit or explicit (does it matter?) fidelity to the federal government over State authority/sovereignty.

Postscript: I’d be remiss failing to wish the Alabama Gazette a Blessed 14th Anniversary - indeed the “Voice of Reason” in this current cycle of increasing folly and madness! It has been an honor to remain a Gazette writer another year; the only regret was my inability to do bi-weekly. May God grant the Gazette many more years applying His word and advancing the Holy Spirit to address modern problems resolved by the wisdom of many ages past.

Regular readers of this column since 2009 will not be surprised I found Commander Balkcum’s text identifying the demise of these noble private relief efforts resulted from turning it over to a

The Alabama Gazette

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Published by:
Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC
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BOWHUNTING WHITETAILS



Bowhunting whitetails during the warm and buggy early days of the season is a challenge. Temperatures are usually warm enough to send beads of sweat rolling down your back. Swarming, buzzing mosquitoes can make staying motionless on stand virtually impossible. On top of dealing with sweltering temperatures and biting bugs, another problem is that deer are mostly nocturnal, with their daylight movements limited to very early and very late in the day. Hunting conditions are tough, but the incentive is the chance to hunt unmolested deer moving in predictable patterns. Often, the deer are in bachelor groups containing multiple bucks. It takes a cautious approach, but hunting the early season can prove beneficial. Here's a look at some tips for making the most of the early season.

A bowhunter has a list to check off before he heads to the woods for an early-season hunt, whether he's seeking meat for the freezer or looking to arrow a trophy buck. First, where are the deer bedding? Second, what are they eating? Third, how are they getting from Point A to Point B? And if you can figure these things out, is your shooting eye good enough to put the arrow on target? If you can answer all of those questions intelligently — and shoot well enough, this bow season may be a profitable one for you.

Knowing how to pattern early-season deer movements is key. The trick to figuring out where deer are bedding during the daylight hours is a matter of looking for two kinds of places — depending on the kind of habitat or geography where you're hunting. A bedding area is pretty much going to be either in a super-thick spot, or on top of a ridge, a high spot, with a water source not too far away. If you're hunting in a place with high ridges, a buck may bed on top where he can see everything coming. Anywhere else, it's most likely going to be in the heaviest cover around.

I do most of my pre-season scouting at the end of the previous season, during the winter or early spring, when trails are easier to see and find because of the lack of vegetation. I like to check out potential bedding areas during this time, and I look for the depressed ovals on the ground that indicate beds.

Once I have located the bedding areas, the next step is to locate the trails leading to the food sources. Early season will find deer feeding on acorns and soft mast, like persimmons and muscadines. Even manmade groceries such as food plots serve as excellent feeding locations for early-season deer. However, if you can find white oak acorn trees on your property, you have hit the gold mine. To identify a white oak tree, look for light colored and slightly shaggy bark and leaves with rounded lobes rather than pointed ones. A quick look with binoculars will tell you if these large, green acorns are present. White oaks don't bear every year, so you'd be wise to check them in early September for acorns.

After I have determined the feeding areas, I try to

pick out spots where I can find several trails merging together after leaving the bedding area...as long as they're not too close to the bedding area. Also, I like to hunt trails where all the tracks are going in one direction, rather than in both directions. You can set up on a place like that and increase your odds because you know they're coming from a certain area.

It's no secret that the whitetail's greatest defense mechanism is its nose. To put your tag on a big buck,



you have to beat that deer's sense of smell. And that task begins at home. Wash your hunting clothes in unscented, bacteria-killing detergent, hang them outside to dry and then seal them in a plastic tub or bag to keep household odors from seeping into them. For added protection, you can buy hunting clothes lined with carbon, which prevents human odors from escaping into the air. In the container with my clothes, I like to put something that will smell like the area I'm going to hunt — crushed pine needles and acorns or some other earthy scent — to impregnate the cloth with a cover scent to mask my own odor. Then, I don't take my clothes out of their protective container until I'm in the field and ready to hunt. Once I'm dressed and ready to go, I spray myself down with a scent eliminator. There are dozens of brands of scent-killers on the market. I wear tall rubber boots, so that I don't leave any human scent on the ground when I walk to my stand.

When I choose an area to hunt, I always pick multiple trees for my stands, so I can hunt effectively no matter which direction the wind is blowing. Remember, you want to always be downwind of where you expect the deer to come from. If a deer gets one whiff of you, they're gone. And if I'm in a stand and the wind shifts, I quietly climb down and relocate.

Silence is critical when bowhunting. I once heard a guy say, "Bowhunt long enough, and you'll swear deer can hear you change your mind." Have an arrow fall off your bow's rest and hit the riser, or shift your weight on your tree stand so that it squeaks, and you're likely to send any nearby deer high-tailing it out of the area. Regularly check your climbing stand at home to see if any of its moving parts create any sounds. If they do,

spray them with a shot of silicone gel. Also, cover your bow's riser and shelf — the places an arrow might hit — with felt. Most archery shops carry patches of this quiet material, which has one sticky side so you can affix it to your bow. When it's cold, fabrics like nylon and cotton can get stiff, making noise when you move. Stick to fleece or wool materials, which are extremely quiet.

Sitting still is equally important. With mosquitoes being very active during bow season, I consider the Thermocell mosquito repellent device a vital piece of equipment for me, and I cannot imagine bowhunting without it. A Thermocell keeps the bugs away completely... so much so, that you can listen more effectively for approaching game without the nagging sound of mosquitoes swarming around your head.

When you're hunting with a rifle, the difference between 30 yards and 40 yards doesn't matter. Aim dead-on, and you'll get your deer at either distance. If you're bowhunting, however, and you guess it's 30 yards to a deer when it's actually 40 — or vice versa — then you're going to miss. Bowhunters must be able to judge distance precisely in order to be effective. And today's archers are fortunate to have laser range finders available to take away the guesswork. Simply point one of these devices at your target, press a button, and you'll instantly know how far away that target is.

But to avoid having to pull out my range finder, put it up to my face, take a reading on a deer, put it away and then pick up my bow, all while a deer is standing 30 yards away, I like to use my range finder to mark objects around my stand long before any deer show up. I'll range trees, bushes and stumps out to 40 yards. That way, when a deer walks in front of one of my ranged objects, I'll know exactly how far away it is.

Next month, gun season comes in on the 23rd. We'll take a look at some ways to help improve your chances for getting that trophy buck. Until then, have a successful bow season and remember, be safe in the woods. Always wear a safety harness when hunting from an elevated stand, be sure of your target at all times and if you are going to hunt alone, let someone know when to expect you back. If you get the opportunity, introduce someone to hunting this fall.

***NOTE - This year, you must report your deer or turkey harvest through the Game Check system within 24 hours of harvesting it.**

There are three ways to report your harvest:

1. On your smartphone through the **Outdoor Alabama app**
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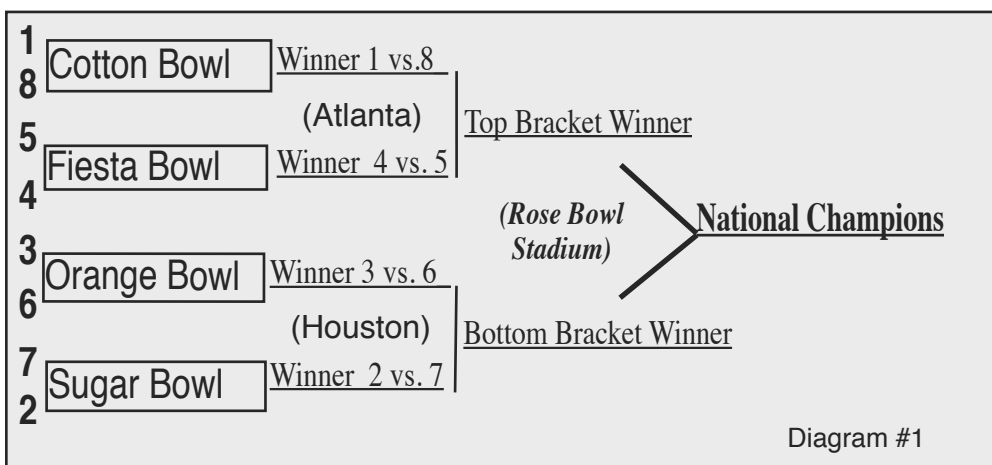
**Sports Editor,
Ed Jones**

Starting with the football season of 2014 a four team play-off will be initiated. This may or may not be better than what we have with the BCS Championship Plan with only the top two teams participating.

The football world is anxious to come up with any plan that will keep the SEC from dominating the national championship play-off. The SEC has won the last seven championships. The good news for the SEC is that in 2014 it is conceivable that two SEC teams could be in the four team play-off.

This four team play-off will not satisfy the football fans of American very long. They are only interested in an eight team play-off. Mark my word! That is the next step of the NCAA and the American Football Coaches Association. It won't be far away!

Let's look at the positives and the negatives of an eight team play-off incorporating the five major bowls. One might say that this punishes the bowls by not allowing them to set up the most attractive match-up of top 10 teams. Does it? (See diagram #1 below.)



All four bowls will be played January 1st. The two semi-final games would be played on the Saturday nearest January 8th. The championship game would be played on the Monday night nearest to January 15th.

So, you see the bowls would benefit greatly. They would almost be guaranteed to have higher ranked teams than they have been having over the last few years. That should be a positive position for my plan.

Now, if we can agree upon what we have so far, let's look at the semi-final round. Do you think Atlanta would be interested in hosting the winner of #1 vs. #8 and the winner of #4 vs. #5 on the second weekend in January. You betcha'. Do you think the Astrodome in Houston would be interested in hosting a semi-final game between the winner of #2 vs. #7 and #3 vs. #6. You betcha'. So we have a positive position for the semi-final national championship play-off games.

The next phase of my plan of course is to use the Rose Bowl Stadium as the permanent home of the championship game, because of the historical significance of how our national champions were selected for much of the history of college football. This plan would not at all interfere with the Rose Bowl itself. It would still invite the champion of the Big 10 and the champion of the Pac 10 to play in the Rose Bowl on the same weekend of the quarter-final games that will be going on in the Cotton, Fiesta, Orange and Sugar Bowls. If one of these teams is ranked in the top eight they would have to choose the Rose Bowl or the playoff. I can't imagine a team turning down an opportunity to be in the playoffs, so the second place team from one of these conferences would have to be their representative in the Rose Bowl. They do this now anyway.

Note: Prior to World War II, the winner of the Rose Bowl was very likely to be voted national champion. This tradition had been in place since the inception of the Rose Bowl. Usually, during those years, a powerhouse from the East would play a powerhouse from the West and the winner would receive most of the votes, consideration, etc., by the main media centers concentrated in New York and California. There was a serious effort to invite the best two college football teams in America. However, the general consensus was that all of the best teams were in the East, Midwest, and the West Coast. That is until 1925 when Coach Wallace Wade accepted an invitation to bring his Crimson Tide football team to Pasadena to play the mighty Washington Huskies in the 1926 Rose Bowl. Alabama shocked the football world by beating Washington 20-19 and was named national champions. Alabama opened the floodgates with this win for southern football to be considered among the elite of college football. Southern teams made numerous appearances in the Rose Bowl after Alabama's visit. The last southern team to play in the Rose Bowl was Coach Frank Thomas' 1945 Alabama team led by Harry Gilmer. They beat USC 34-14 in the 1946 Rose Bowl. Alabama was again named national champions. Since then the unholy alliance between the Pac 10 and the Big 10 has shut out anyone from any other part of the country from participating in the Rose Bowl, the "Granddaddy of All Bowl Games." Only the champions of the Big 10 and the champions of the Pac 10 are invited.

Rose Bowl Stadium seats over 100,000, therefore it is the perfect venue for a national championship game, ie. Alabama vs. Texas in the 2009 championship game. The weather in Pasadena is usually conducive to such an event. The Southern California area would benefit greatly from having basically two Rose Bowl weeks every year. I can't imagine what resistance could come from the Rose Bowl itself. However, if for some reason the Rose Bowl was not interested in hosting the NCAA National Championship Game every year, then we can easily find an appropriate site. I would recommend the site of the last Super Bowl from the year before. They would have all the pieces in place to host such an event. This would also allow the championship game to be rotated each year following the site of the Super Bowl of the previous year. Or, Jerry Jones would be delighted to host the game in Dallas.

By adopting my plan, the NCAA would make more money. The individual

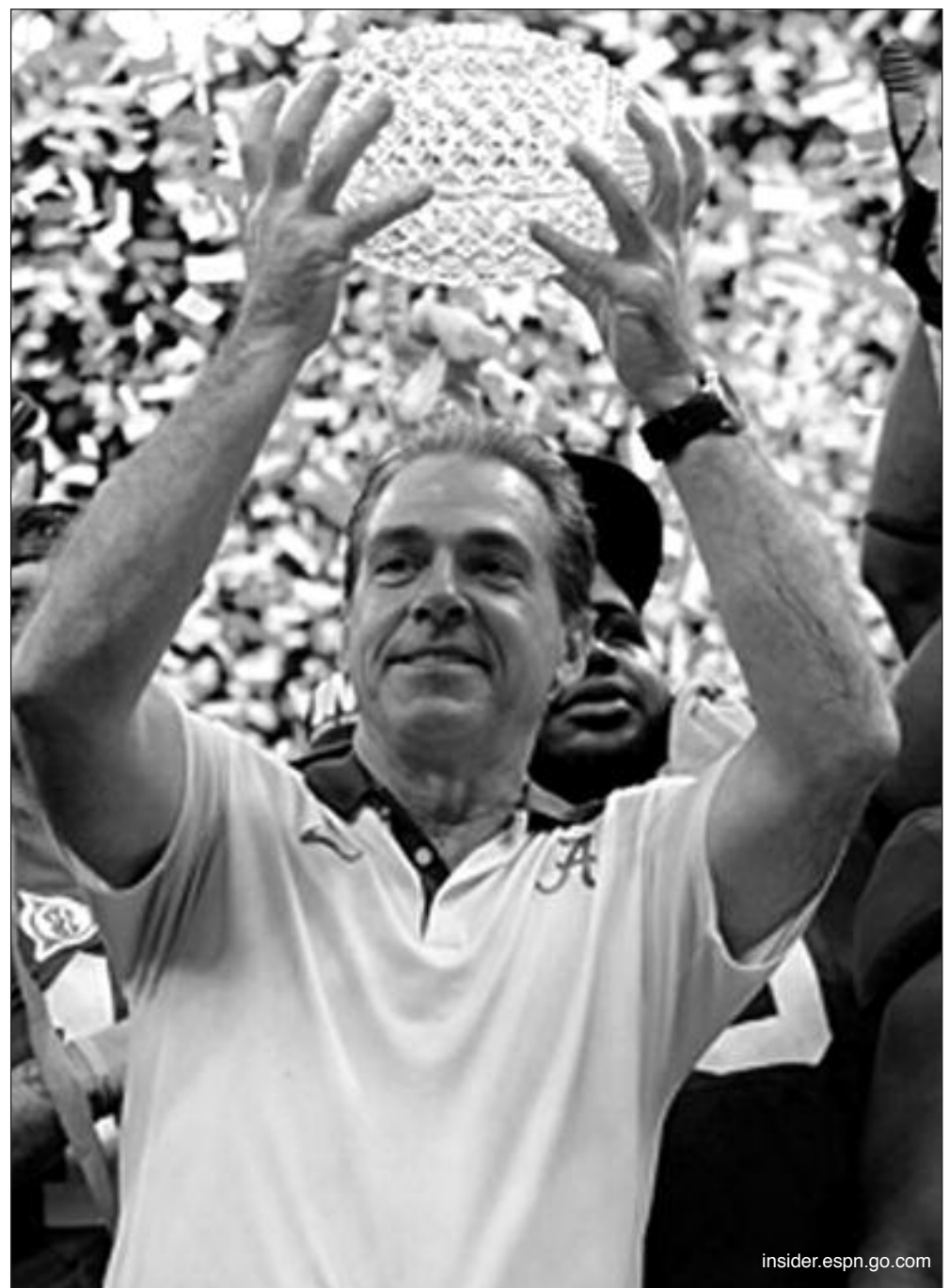
schools participating will make more money. Eight teams instead of four will have a chance to play for the national championship. The Bowls will make more money because of higher rated teams in their bowls, plus the obvious heightened interest generated by the bowls becoming quarter-final venues for the NCAA playoffs. There would be more excitement in the regular season games because in essence it becomes a 120 team playoff (There are approximately 120 teams playing Division I football). At the beginning of each season every team will have the same chance to make it into the "Top Eight." One or even two losses would not eliminate a good team (LSU 2005). Nobody can have a legitimate gripe about not making the playoff. If you are #9, you are not good enough. Live with it!

The bowls would also benefit from a rotating system using the alphabet as the basis and the ranked teams being assigned so that every four years each bowl would have the number one team.

The formula is CFOS; Cotton, Fiesta, Orange and Sugar: (See diagram #2 below.)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Cotton Bowl	1. Fiesta Bowl	1. Orange Bowl	1. Sugar Bowl	1. Cotton Bowl
2. Fiesta Bowl	2. Orange Bowl	2. Sugar Bowl	2. Cotton Bowl	2. Fiesta Bowl
3. Orange Bowl	3. Sugar Bowl	3. Cotton Bowl	3. Fiesta Bowl	3. Orange Bowl
4. Sugar Bowl	4. Cotton Bowl	4. Fiesta Bowl	4. Orange Bowl	4. Sugar Bowl

Diagram #2



insider.espn.go.com

The SEC has won seven straight national championships. Alabama's Nick Saban displays the latest trophy.


There are probably some negative positions that can be taken regarding my plan. However, I can not think of anything that would be a major deterrent to such a plan. Therefore, I submit this plan to the NCAA, every Division I Conference Commissioner, to Athletic Directors and Head Football Coaches of the football playing Division I schools and to the American Football Coaches Association. I patiently wait for your response!

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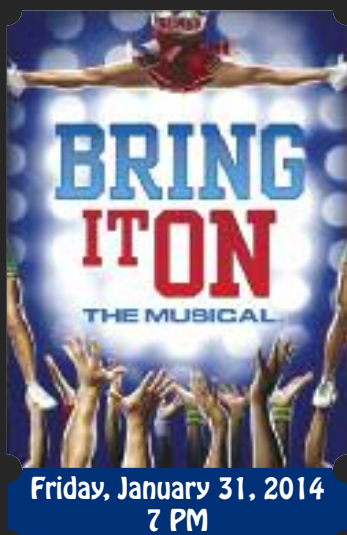
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Ronald A. Holtsford



What is a Writ of Habeas Corpus?

The literal meaning is “may you have the body” or as from one of my law professors, “show me the body”. The Writ of Habeas

Corpus Act was a result of the British Parliament in 1640. Those that were imprisoned by the King, privy council or other councilor had a right to have the true cause for their imprisonment to be certified. The words of commencement were repealed in 1948 and the whole Act in 1968. Habeas corpus ad subjiciendum, was first recorded in British law in 1305. Subsequent laws in 1640 and 1679 overturned the King’s command that his reason for imprisonment was sufficient as an answer to a Writ of Habeas Corpus. The “body” referred to is the (living) prisoner and not a reference to

showing the Court a body of someone killed by the prisoner.

The United States Constitution, Article I, Section Nine in part reads, “The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it”. Article I, as you will recall has to do with limits on Congressional powers.

The first time that Habeas Corpus was suspended was in April, 1861 which was done so by President Abraham Lincoln and not by Congress. Lincoln chose to order such regarding a specific railroad route which was an important supply line for the Union. Some of his generals were also pushing Lincoln so as to reign in the Peace Democrats and northerners sympathetic to the Confederate cause. Lincoln’s suspension was challenged in the U.S. Circuit Court in Maryland and overturned. Nevertheless, Lincoln’s attorney general; chose to ignore the ruling of the Federal Court and continue suspension of habeas corpus.

Lincoln freed most of the prisoners in February 1862, ending most of the contests but then again suspended it in September 1862. In December 1862 the House of Representatives met and passed a bill indemnifying Lincoln for his suspension. The U.S. Senate amended and passed the bill, then known as “The Habeas Corpus Suspension Act” which was signed into law in March 1863. Lincoln continued to use the suspension throughout the War Between the States in arresting suspected spies, traitors, prisoners of war and military personnel. Union General Burnside had former Congressman, Clement Vallandigham arrested because he publicly expressed Confederate sympathies after being told to stop such verbal expressions. He was sentenced in a military Court to two years in prison but Lincoln commuted his sentence, instead banishing Vallandigham to the Confederate States of America. The suspension of habeas corpus remained in effect until December 1st of 1865 when then

President Andrew Johnson revoked the Act.

Habeas corpus was also suspended during Reconstruction by the Federal Government in dealing with such groups as the Ku Klux Klan and later in the early 1900’s in the Philippines. During World War II, Habeas Corpus was suspended in Hawaii following the Japanese attack and not re instituted until 1944. At that time the huge threat that once existed in Hawaii had receded and civilian Courts could once again function.

Also during World War II, the suspension was considered twice involving Germans. In 1942, German saboteurs and two associated Americans were not afforded the right and the United States Supreme Court ruled that a military tribunal had jurisdiction over the unlawful combatants. At the end of the War, German prisoners imprisoned in Germany petitioned for habeas corpus and were rejected because they had been captured in Germany and were never on United States soil.

Since the war on terror there have been cases of suspension of habeas corpus. These cases have revolved around unlawful enemy combatants and attacks against Americans where the cases should instead be heard by military tribunals.

In post trial appeals, habeas corpus is often used in the context that either a Constitutional right has been violated or that the trial attorney was ineffectual or incompetent. Generally, twenty-seven percent of these cases that bring up habeas corpus are from those detained that have committed serious but non-violent crimes and twelve percent are other crimes. The remaining sixty-one percent of cases that use habeas corpus on appeal are serious violent crimes involving the death penalty, life in prison or long sentences. Habeas corpus is a long shot appeal in that about sixty-three percent are dismissed on procedural issues, about thirty-five percent on the merits of the case and only about two percent of the cases are sent back to the lower court to reconsider based on the appellate ruling. If you wonder why it takes so long to actually execute a convicted murderer, it generally takes about two and a half years just to consider habeas corpus on appeal in a death sentence.

Habeas corpus, maybe not a right that works well in the expeditious prosecution of suspected criminals, but a needed right to help protect otherwise innocent individuals who deserve the right to know what crime they have been charged with and not just to rot behind bars.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist. "No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

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“If you won’t total security, go to prison. There you’re fed, clothed, given medical care, etc., the only thing lacking... is FREEDOM”

Dwight D. Eisenhower

“May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.”

Peter Marshall

“Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged.”

Ronald Reagan



Marcia Chambliss

delivered during the Congressional committee hearing regarding Benghazi and the four murdered Americans, or the potential cover-up of what actually happened and went horribly wrong.

I’m talking about the big government Democrats versus the big government Republicans.

What difference does it really make?

It’s a painful question that will anger a lot of people, but in order to turn this country around we must see a more clear distinction in economic governance.

If Democrats and Republicans alike bask in the spoils of big government and crony capitalism, what difference does it make which one is in charge of the goodies? I fully understand the social issue differences but those matters should be addressed by educating our children and grandchildren as to moral right and wrong which is foremost a parenting and church role rather than a function of government. When we have Republicans expanding government (think “No Child Left Behind” and the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan) rather than dealing with the alarming and ever-increasing debt of this nation that will financially cripple and likely destroy us, is there really a difference?

Please do not misunderstand me – there are MAJOR differences between conservatism and liberalism. My concern is that a multitude of the problems we face are exacerbated because too many of the “conservatives” elected seem to either forget or ignore those principles of limited government once they are safely entrenched in their seat. And it quickly becomes THEIR seat rather than belonging to the constituents they are hired to represent.

Republican members of Congress are still leaning towards an expanded



WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

The world may well be upside down because I think I might actually see a bit of truth in Hillary Clinton’s now infamous line. **“What difference does it make?”**

Except that I’m not talking about Ms. Clinton’s shocking and disturbing comment

government via their support of continued subsidies and discretionary spending. Conservative accountability groups such as Heritage Action (www.heritageaction.com) and the Madison Project (www.madisonproject.com) work diligently at identifying legislation that expands government and scores legislators accordingly. Unfortunately, too many of the GOP Congressional caucus have accumulated less than stellar scores with these organizations. I urge you to take a look on the above-mentioned websites and review the grades from your representation from Alabama as the results may shock you. Sadly, saying one thing on the campaign trail and doing another isn’t limited to Democrats.

Never forget that every expansion of government, whether by new law, tax, or regulation, brings a corresponding contraction of our freedom, particularly our financial liberty.

According to The Heritage Foundation and the 2013 Index of Economic Freedom, the United States has registered “a loss of economic freedom for the fifth consecutive year” and now holds its lowest score since 2000. This is why conservatives are increasingly frustrated when those we elect fail to hold the line and decrease spending, and the scorecards listed have provided abundant examples of wasted opportunities.

After recognizing and accepting that both political parties are more similar than not as it relates to spending and government expansion, can voter apathy really be a surprise?

So here’s my message for all the candidates in the upcoming 2014 primary... please don’t bother to tell me again that you are going to “make a difference” because that campaign line is so overdone, as is invoking the name of Reagan if your record reflects otherwise. Instead, I need specifics of just how you are going to BE different and how you will lead the GOP back to its core principles. And then “just do it.”

Marcia Chambliss is the Alabama State Coordinator of Smart Girl Politics, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the education and training of activists and candidates, and Smart Girl Politics Action, <http://sgpaction.com/>, a 501(c)(4) which focuses on conservative issues. She can be reached at Marcia@sgpaction.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics Action.

Wetumpka Tea Party

A WTP EXCLUSIVE EVENT
WITH AUSTRALIAN, NICK ADAMS

Mon. Oct. 14th, 6:30PM
Wetumpka Civic Center,
410 South Main St, Wetumpka

DETAILS: Australian Nick Adams who, at 29, is already the author of three books about American Exceptionalism. Adams was first elected to public office at the age of 19 and at 21 became the youngest ever elected Deputy in Australian history. Among other topics, Adams, a dynamic speaker, will highlight 'American Exceptionalism from a Foreign Perspective - what it means and how America is an indispensable presence in world. Attendees will walk away grateful for Nick's encouraging and inspiring message.

WTP OCTOBER REGULAR MEETING:

**INDEPENDENCE FOREVER:
4 STEPS TO SAVE AMERICA**

Mon. Oct. 21 at 6:30PM
Elmore Community Hospital,
500 Hospital Drive, Wetumpka

DETAILS: The Glorious Cause of America Institutes's "B.K." Mangelson, is an Author and Constitutional Scholar who travels extensively throughout the United States training and educating audiences everywhere on how to protect and save our constitution and America's future. During the presentation he will recount miracles and inspirational stories of America's founding, teach how to protect our freedoms and restore Constitutional principles, and provide an opportunity for Constitutional Education.

The Wetumpka Tea Party meets at 6:30pm
the third Monday of each month
www.wetumpkateaparty.com

ALABAMA STATE REPRESENTATIVE ALLEDGES WETUMPKA TEA PARTY FUNDED BY GAMBLING KING MILTON MCGREGOR...

Over the past four years the Wetumpka TEA Party (WTP) has grown to be an influential and effective conservative grassroots organization. A blog recently named WTP as one of the top five conservative organizations in the state, but in the same article, it was suggested that deep-pocketed interests have embedded themselves within our ranks, compromising our group's integrity. Obviously, this needs to be addressed. These accusations are spurious and based on zero evidence. Our organization operates off of the donations from people who attend our meetings and others who support us with online donations. We are all volunteers; no one draws any type of income from the WTP. The WTP's influence - unlike the influence of other Alabama political organizations - is drawn from the strength of its constituents and NOT from its purchasing power.

Reliable witnesses have revealed to me on Friday, September 20th, that after a recent Madison County Republican Men's Club meeting in Huntsville, that Representative Mike Ball publicly stated that "Milton McGregor was funding the Wetumpka TEA Party." This vicious accusation is completely false and absurd. As the Founder and President, I would like to go on the record and state that the Wetumpka TEA Party has never taken money from gambling king, Milton McGregor. The WTP would never knowingly take money from gambling or any other liberal interests groups. Rep. Mike Ball publicly made inflammatory, slanderous

statements about the WTP and tried to convince others that they were true. Without offering evidence for his claim, Mike Ball has discredited himself with his accusations, not the Wetumpka Tea Party.

We expect and await a public apology!

Becky Gerritson
President, Wetumpka TEA Party (AL)
334-452-0453
"Born Free American Woman"--
Congressional Testimony
www.WetumpkaTeaParty.com

Addendum to my press release

Although Rep Ball is denying he ever said that, I have at LEAST 3 witnesses who said he absolutely DID say it. One of them actually had a heated discussion with him about the accusation and he was so aggravated by Mike's comment that he called our VP to discuss it. I did not call out Mike Ball on a whim, but when Yellow Hammer (popular online "conservative" blog) insinuates that "deep-pocketed Montgomery special interest groups have worked to covertly plant members in the group" and then less than a week later a sitting state legislator says the WTP is "being funded by Milton McGregor", it was imperative that I go on the offensive and set the record straight. This isn't a game to me. Our reputation is incredibly important. We've worked too hard to allow rumors like this fly around without a response.

Prattville TEA Party

Tuesday, October, 8th - 6 p.m.

Downtown Branch of the Trustmark Bank
located at 148 East Main Street.

Keynote speaker ~

Attorney General Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange serves as Coordinating Counsel for the States in the historic Deepwater Horizon Oil spill litigation in New Orleans, where he has been actively involved in trying the case against BP and the other defendants.

He has joined with many of his colleagues to challenge the constitutionality of the Dodd-Frank Act, the "Obamacare of the financial sector."

In addition, he is leading the charge to push back on an ever-growing and intrusive federal government in the area of energy and environmental policy by engaging in the rulemaking process and filing lawsuits against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Prior to his election as Attorney General, Strange was an attorney and founder of his own law firm based in Birmingham. Prior to founding his own firm, he was a partner with the law firm of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP.

He and his wife, Melissa, have been married for over 32 years. They are the proud parents of two sons.

The Prattville TEA Party meets
the second Tuesday of each month.
BRING A FRIEND
John D. Jordan

Montgomery Tea Party Patriots



Thursday, October 10th

Pizza Perfect, Coliseum Blvd.
(across from Eastbrook Flea Market)
6:30PM

Guest Speaker will be Loretta Grant,
Co-Owner/Publisher of
The Alabama Gazette.

We hope you will attend to discuss
current issues concerning
the future of our nation.

Thursday, October 26th

Speaker to be announced at a
later date.

"All that is necessary for evil to triumph
is for good men to do nothing."
Edmund Burke

Pastor's Viewpoint...

"You have got to be kidding?" That's what I said, and I think it's what you'll say, when I tell you about an animal that eats its own brain.

After going through a free-swimming larval stage, the sea squirt settles to the bottom of the ocean and cements itself, head first, to the spot where it will spend the rest of its life. Then it starts absorbing all the body parts it no longer needs; its tail, its eye, its spine, and its brain (which it only needed to swim and find a spot to settle down and spend the rest of its life). The gills become intake and exit holes for water to circulate, bringing food into its body.

I Timothy 2:1-7 tells us, "He (God) wants not only us, but everyone saved, you know, everyone to get to know the truth we've learned: that there's one God and only one, and one Priest-Mediator between God and us—Jesus, who offered himself in exchange for everyone held captive by sin, to set them all free. Eventually the news is going to get out. This and this only has been my appointed work: getting this news to those who have never heard of God, and explaining how it works by simple faith and plain truth."

Now I know people don't eat their brains, but we do sometimes settle down and stop using them. In a recent survey by the Association of American Colleges, 93% of the nation's employers say "a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than a person's undergraduate degree." And more than 9 of 10 employers want employees "to demonstrate ethical judgment and integrity."

The educational community has often focused on knowing the facts and doing well on tests, but the folks who will hire their students say they wish schools would teach their students to think... ethically and with integrity!

Pastor's Viewpoint is written by Buddy Whatley (cbwhatley@hotmail.com), a retired United Methodist pastor living in Lakemont, and Ochlocknee, Georgia. He preaches at the Bold Springs and Woodland United Methodist Churches, works with Marketplace Chaplains in South Georgia, and with the Navajo Mission Team in Arizona.

To the Editor,

- Congressional Gun Control? The U. S. Senate needs gun control because they often "shoot themselves in the foot", and if that doesn't work...they just shoot off at the mouth without regard to common sense. Especially, Harry Reid and his girl Nancy P.
- When Congress lacks common sense...they pass a new law to fill the void.

- The full effect of Obamacare is that hospitals will be overcrowded because the masses are becoming sick and tired of being force fed too much federal baloney.
- A "cover up" in the White House is a lot like a child's "pull up", eventually, if abused long enough, it will require a big "clean up" enroute to the toilet, wherein a complete "flush" is required.

A Skeptic



Dear Gazette Readers,

Congress has returned to Washington to begin work on some important issues facing our country. I want to pause and reflect on the time I spent across East Alabama and give an update on what I heard folks talking about in the Third District.

I had the opportunity to hold "Congress on Your Corner" events in several parts of the district.

These public town hall-style meetings allowed me the chance to hear directly from you.

The topics on the minds of folks in each area were about the same. The top concerns at each meeting included Obamacare and its implementation, what's next in the illegal immigration debate and of course, the economy. The fast moving events in Syria, and America's role in that conflict, also came up.

During August, I was also able to meet with city officials, leaders at Anniston Army Depot and held several meetings with constituents in my District Offices in Anniston and Opelika. These meetings gave me a chance to hear what is going on in the different cities and towns that make up the Third District.

As I traveled across East Alabama, I was pleased to be able to tour several small businesses in many of our towns which really are the backbone of our local economies.

For example, in Montgomery I toured Precision Medical Solutions, which provides Alabamians with orthopedic braces. This is one of so many small businesses that help provide good-paying jobs for hard-working Alabama families.

I hope that as Congress has returned to session, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle can remember folks like the ones I met with back at home. With more important issues facing our country each day, we must remember the concerns of these hard-working Americans.

We should also be reminded of the tragedy that struck our nation 12 years ago. September 11th, 2001 is a day that will never be forgotten – in the attacks on our homeland and in the tragic embassy attack in Benghazi, Libya. Although the terrorists tried, and will keep trying, the American spirit will not be crushed.

Let us not forget the families whose lives were changed forever, and let us remain steadfast in our dedication to America, the greatest country in the world.

As always, my staff and I are here to serve you.

Sincerely,
Mike Rogers

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(WASHINGTON, DC)—Congressman Mike Rogers made the following statement today after the announcement that Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-06) will not seek re-election in 2014.

"Spencer has been not only a good friend to me, but a mentor since my very first congressional campaign. He has represented our great state well and I will miss him and his leadership of our delegation."

CELEBRATING 226 YEARS OF THE US CONSTITUTION

(WASHINGTON, DC)--- Congressman Mike Rogers made the following remarks on the 226th anniversary of the adoption of the US Constitution.

"I stand today with my fellow Americans in celebration of the 226th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution.

"Over 200 years ago, our Founding Fathers met and drafted this important document which continues to serve as the blueprint for our great country. Like all freedom-loving Americans, I pledge to continue to follow and uphold the ideals in this document that protect our American values we hold so dear," Rogers said.

Food Stamps Reforms

(WASHINGTON, DC)—Congressman Mike Rogers made the following statement after passage of H.R. 3102, which passed the House of Representatives with his support.

"I've said it so many times, but it still rings true - Washington has a serious spending problem. Today's legislation will reform the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the food stamp program, and save taxpayers almost \$40 billion over the next decade. SNAP does play an essential role in helping those in need, but the waste and abuse of this program originally designed to help the very poor has ballooned out-of-control. Spending on the SNAP program has over doubled since 2007 and these reforms should help encourage able-bodied folks to get back to work. I believe by re-enforcing the work provisions of the 1996 Welfare Reform law which were relaxed in the President's Stimulus bill we can move people from food stamps to jobs.

"This bill will help rein in this spending and allow food stamps to be used in the way they were intended to be used: for those who need it most. We must get our country's fiscal house in order and this legislation is a good first step."

Rogers serves as Chairman of the Strategic Forces subcommittee on the Armed Services Committee and is a senior member of the Homeland Security and Agriculture committees

Montgomery County Minority GOP

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(More to come in the days ahead!)



Over the next several days, Congress will be engaged in critical negotiations about federal spending levels and our nation's debt. **The stakes are high for our country, especially considering the drastic consequences of a default or government shutdown.** However, I believe these debates also present an opportunity to make long-overdue reforms to out-of-control spending programs.

Defunding ObamaCare

The House passed a Continuing Resolution which would defund both the mandatory and discretionary portions of ObamaCare while ensuring that the rest of the government remains open. At every town hall meeting and district visit over the last several weeks, the priorities of my constituents was clearly expressed: Congress should do everything it can to stop ObamaCare from being implemented and avoid government shutdown. I'm pleased to report that the Continuing Resolution passed by the House would accomplish both goals. Now, it is time for the Senate to act.

Recently some senators have expressed doubt about our ability to completely defund and dismantle ObamaCare through the Continuing Resolution process. Even the staunchest opponents of the President's healthcare law are acknowledging that the political reality in the Senate is not favorable. They may be right. However, at the very least, the American people are becoming engaged in a much-needed conversation about the merits of ObamaCare. The more people learn about this law the more unpopular it becomes. I encourage you to stay engaged in this debate via Facebook and Twitter as it moves forward over the next several days.

Lessons Learned from Benghazi

Last week, I convened a hearing of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations with Department of Defense officials to discuss lessons learned from last September's terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya. We had previously learned that U.S. forces were so badly postured last September that they could not have made a difference in deterring or responding to an attack. During this hearing, Pentagon officials confirmed that changes have been made and U.S. assets in the region have been repositioned to ensure that a similar attack from our enemies would be unsuccessful.

I appreciate our witnesses' candor and cooperation throughout the hearing. I also appreciate my fellow Members of the House Armed Services Committee for keeping our proceedings non-political and productive.

Honoring a National Hero – Lt. Col. Michael Sprayberry of Titus.

Did you know we have a Medal of Honor recipient living in Central Alabama? Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) James Sprayberry, one of only 79 living recipients of the Medal of Honor, lives in Elmore County, in the town of Titus to be precise. Last week, I had the honor of recognizing Lt. Col. Sprayberry on the floor of the House of

Representatives. Lieutenant Colonel Sprayberry was just 21 years old and serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam when, on April 25, 1968, he engaged in extraordinary acts of heroism for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. When the rescue patrol came under intense enemy machine gun fire, he singlehandedly conducted multiple attacks against multiple enemy machine gun bunkers and eliminated them one by one with hand grenades. I hope each of you will join me in recognizing a true American hero

The Week Ahead

The Senate is expected to begin consideration of the Continuing Resolution next week. The current Continuing Resolution expired on September 30, 2013, so time is of the essence. I will continue to follow the situation closely in anticipation of any action from the Senate.

The House will begin the process of negotiating our nation's debt. House leadership has indicated that any increase in the debt limit should also include a one-year delay of ObamaCare, an end to the defense military cuts, and the option of long-term reforms to mandatory spending programs.

Unfortunately, President Obama has indicated that he has no interest in negotiating with House Republicans over the debt. I'm disappointed that, while President Obama is willing to negotiate with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, he is apparently unwilling to negotiate with democratically elected Members of the United States House of Representatives.

As we move forward on all these topics, I encourage you to continue to reach out to my office with any questions or concerns. This is an important time for our country and I want to make sure those I represent are as informed as possible.

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Roby will Forgo Congressional Pay if Government Shutdown Affects Military Pay

House-passed Continuing Resolution to keep government open and defund ObamaCare awaits Senate action.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) vowed to forgo her congressional salary if a government shutdown affects the pay of men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

The House of Representatives last week passed a Continuing Resolution that would prevent a shutdown by fully funding the government while removing funding for the President's increasingly unpopular and unworkable healthcare law. The Senate needed to act before the current spending authorization expires at midnight on September 30 in order to avoid a government shutdown.

"I'm hopeful that there won't be a government shutdown, and the Continuing Resolution we passed last Friday would prevent it," Rep Roby said. "Even as the Senate deliberates, I remain optimistic that we can arrive at a solution before it's too late. However, if there is a government shutdown that interrupts salary payments to our troops, my salary should stop as well."

"I have instructed the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to hold my salary for any day that our troops would go without regular pay due to a government shutdown. This is Congress' problem to fix, and as a Member of Congress, I don't believe I should be paid while gridlock in Washington forces our military families to go without.

Roby emphasized her belief that time remains for Congressional leaders in Washington to find a responsible path ahead that keeps the government open while protecting citizens from the harmful effects of ObamaCare.

"Voters sent me to Washington to solve problems, not become part of them. I will continue to work toward a responsible solution that funds government operations, protects Americans from the impending train wreck that is ObamaCare and ensures our military families don't go one day without pay."

Should Congress and the President fail to agree on a plan to fund the government, salary payments for military personnel would cease. The last time a threat of a government shutdown emerged in April of 2011, Rep. Roby made the same pledge to forgo her congressional salary if soldiers go without.

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For more information contact Deputy Communications Director Seth Morrow at 202-225-2901 or at seth.morrow@mail.house.gov.

FLASH FACTS

1. What Political Party founded the NAACP?
 2. Who was the first person to head the NAACP?
 3. What historical Black Colleges were founded or funded by Republicans
- a. Howard University
 - b. Morehouse College Atlanta
 - c. Edward Waters College
 - d. Florida Memorial College
 - e. Bethune Cookman College
 - f. All of the above

4. Match the correct answer:
 - a. Rev. Martin Luther King
 - b. Fought to Expand Slavery
 - c. Started Affirmative Action
 - d. George Washington Carver
 - e. Mary McLeod Bethune
 - f. Booker T. Washington
 - g. Fredrick Douglas
 - h. Sojourner Truth
 - i. Was started by the abolitionist to free slaves
 - j. Members of the party started the Klu Klux Klan
 - k. Sanctions same sex marriages
 - l. Fought to get Black Americans the right to vote

4. Match One Answer
 1. Republican
 2. Democrat

Answers: 1. Republican 2. Black Republican James Weldon Johnson 3. All of the above were started by Republicans; 4. A. Republican B. Democrat C. Republican D. Republican E. Republican F. Republican G. Republican H. Republican I. Republican J. Republican K. Democrat Nathan Forrest L. Democrat Party support same sex marriages M. Republican



The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND EDUCATION; THEN AND NOW

The great debate in American Education today centers on the role of the federal government in Education.

The very foundation of American Government is the U.S. Constitution. Nowhere in the Constitution is the word "Education" even found. As powers were enumerated in the Constitution, education was not one of those given to the national government by the Framers of the Constitution.

In the last Century, when statesmen were replaced by politicians, many found a way to dream up programs and new powers in the name of the "general welfare." James Madison and the Founders would have never fallen for such abuse of the Constitution. In fact, it is interesting to note that Madison addressed such a possibility and spoke these words before the House of Representatives on February 7, 1792:

"If Congress can employ money indefinitely to the general welfare, and are the sole and supreme judges of the general welfare, they may take the care of religion in their own hands; they may employ teachers in every state, county, and parish, and pay them out of the public treasury; they may take into their own hands the education of the children establishing in like manner schools throughout the Union; they may assume the provision of the poor, they may take the regulation of all roads except post-roads, in short, everything from the highest object of state legislation down to the most minute object of police, would be thrown under the power of Congress, for every object that I have mentioned would admit of the application of money and might be called, if Congress pleased, provisions for the 'general welfare'."

While Madison's sarcasm may have seemed laughable to his hearers in 1792, hearers who no doubt took their oaths of office to uphold the Constitution much more seriously than do modern members of the Congress, what he spoke of has long been federal policy.

You, taxpayers, have paid over one trillion dollars on failed educational policies since the federal department of education was created. Under Democrat and Republican administrations alike, the education bureaucracy has increased the money spent without any proven, measurable, academic progress. The Bush administration's No Child Left Behind, intended for reform, based continued funding on test scores. President Bush requested massive funding and received it. In November, 2008, Reading First Impact Study Final Report addressed the failure of the program: "There was no consistent pattern of effects over time in the impact estimates of reading instruction in grade one or in reading comprehension in any grade. There appeared to be a systematic decline in reading instruction impacts in grade two over time."

The report continued to reveal that "there was no relationship between reading comprehension and the number of years that a student was exposed to Reading First, a part of No Child Left Behind." This in spite of the fact that there was an 80% increase in spending in the Bush administration, well intended, but with sad results.

The Obama administration promised to continue, even accelerate the federal education policies through national programs and federal funding. In March of 2009, Secretary Arne Duncan announced \$44 billion stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This was in addition to the tens of billion in regular education federal funding.

American parents share the President's goal of seeing that every child has an access to a good education, but how to achieve it? In our research, we have found no evidence that the federal government programs have achieved increased academic performance in the least. National test scores have not had any significant increases through the years. Mean scores have remained at or below the 1960s levels. There has been some adaptation of even evaluating the scores within the College Board.

So what have educators and parents learned from No Child Left Behind, and the programs which followed it? One dedicated teacher in N. Carolina, speaking of her experience with No Child Left Behind, "it left no teacher standing up."

In Alabama and most other states, Common Core Standards have been accepted. The Alabama Legislature has an opportunity to repeal it. Accepting the federal funds and standards will further nationalize education in America. Texas appears to be standing firm against it, but most states have fallen in line with the unions and the federal dollars.

Many foundations and independent think tanks have examined the standards and found cause for alarm. A top down educational model aimed at conformity for all schools and all students alone, is cause for alarm.

National testing will be revised to conform to the standards, and teachers will be locked in to this teaching to the tests. The great Liberal Arts, and the historic

understanding of Western Civilization, will suffer under Common Core and much of it replaced with what is termed 'informational' readings. An example is a reading from the Environmental Protection Agency, titled "Recommended Levels of Insulation." Another is "Strengthening Federal Environment, Energy, and Transportation Management; Executive Order 13423." Obviously these are to awaken interest in vocation and career paths.

The History standards deprive students of any depths of true American History and Constitutional study. The Math standards are declared weak by very brilliant math professors. Algebra One is set for 9th grade instead of 8th grade, which is not a good goal for college readiness. When we hear the term "internationally bench-marked", are we moving toward more U.N. goals and cooperation?

Teachers and Parents alike are opposing the centralization of education in America. Parents are not willing to turn over the minds of their children to a faceless, faraway, federal bureaucracy. The Department of Education was created by an act of Congress in 1979 and signed into law by Jimmy Carter. State and local control in education has been lost by degrees as designated funding has been established by public/private partnerships of un-elected people behind the scenes. All has been hailed as "improving standards and bringing education reform."

The largest contribution for Common Core has been made by the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation, and the Carnegie Foundation of New York. It is all in place. Publishers' catalogs are already in the mail with texts hailed as conforming to Common Core. The situation rests now with the Alabama Legislature. The Republicans have the majority votes to do their will on the matter.

The Alabama State Board of Education should be held responsible for what is taught in public schools in Alabama. In addition to opposing Common Core, we trust that they will oppose the data mining that accompanies Common Core and is being pushed on the schools. At least 41 states have accepted grants for expanding data collection on students and families. Is there any justification for a national student data base? *How would your family feel about such a violation of privacy?*

There are serious problems in education in public schools. These challenges can best be handled locally with teachers and administrators who know and love the students, who understand the advantages and the disadvantages that students bring into their classrooms. They are in those classrooms to teach and to deal with the other needs of the students. Alabama teachers desire to produce a moral and literate student who will be a lifelong learner. This is easily achieved with a child from a loving, stable family. It is difficult for the many children today who suffer from brokenness and other disadvantages. The teacher in your neighborhood school understands more about the needs of the students than the faceless architects claiming control of local and state education content.

Parents have every right to face their elected school board and state house members to confront them with these concerns. For the sake of the children and the future of this state and nation, keep the control of education at the local and state level. Keep the moral base that is required for liberty to prevail. Uphold the Constitution which leaves education outside of the national government and in the hands of parents and community.



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334-567-0555**

What I should know about 'common core'. Check out these websites.

www.auee.org

www.americanprinciplesproject.org

www.heartland.org

www.pioneerinstitute.org

www.childrenofthecore.com

www.truthinamericaneducation.com

www.heritage.org

www.utahnsagainstcommoncore.com

www.hoosiersagainstcommoncore.com

www.missourieducationwatchdog.com

conservativeteachersofamerica.com

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Bench-Bar- & Beyond

Family Meltdown

By Judge Dale Segrest



The Alabama Gazette
WELCOMES
its newest contributing writer
Judge Philip Dale Segrest

Dale Segrest
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- Founder and senior member of The Segrest Law Firm
- Circuit Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of the State of Alabama.
- Senior member in the law firms of Segrest & Pilgrim, Montgomery, AL; and Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black, Montgomery, AL.
- B.S. Huntingdon College.
- J.D. University of Alabama School of Law
- M.J.S., University of Nevada, Reno.
- He is a member of the First United Methodist Church, Tallasse, AL.
- A renowned public speaker, teacher and noted writer in the field of judicial articles.

Family is the primal unit of society. Men and women have always met and produced off-spring. Successful marriages conserved the energy necessary for human advancement. Maslow identified sex as a basic need. It is packed with motive force. Freud called the driving force that pushes humans into action libidinal energy. Although libidinal energy is associated with sex, it can be redirected for other creative effort. When marriage works, sex needs of both partners are met, without spending energy searching for a mate. Energy savings resulting from successful marriages frees energy to promote other creative activities.

Tribes and clans developed marriage customs and rules to handle the problem of orderly mate selection. It is difficult to imagine families independent of communities. Every culture has customs and rules about marriage, although they vary considerably. Religion plays a role in the mating process. Despite notable examples of Old Testament polygamy, Christianity strongly endorsed monogamous marriage. The Judeo-Christian heritage played a large role in the development of our beliefs about family. During the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church actually controlled marriage and divorce. Strong beliefs about family held the system in place.

Modern nation states emerged at the end of the Middle Ages, and wrested control of marriage and divorce from the church. England's Henry VIII split the Church of England from the Catholic Church just 17 years after Martin Luther kicked off the Protestant Reformation in Germany with his 95 Theses. Henry wanted a divorce. Divorces came to be controlled by the State. States assigned the responsibility for divorces to Courts. However, states recognized the importance of family, and placed tough restrictions on divorce.

The idea of falling in love, getting married, and living happily ever afterwards has a rich heritage. In our culture, romantic love attracts potential marriage partners to each other. Other cultures have successfully handled mate selection differently. In our agrarian economy, after "falling in love" and getting married, the couple became an economic unit that operated the farm, or a business in a small town, surrounded by a community and churches that reinforced the requirements of monogamous marriages. The resulting family—father, mother and children—became an economic unit. Strong emotional dependencies was an

important part of the development of children.

The romantic love attraction, and expansion of an agrarian economy worked well in the early development of the United States. Arduous farm labor was the best way to put food on the table, and the need for male physical strength supported traditional beliefs about roles of the sexes. Male physical strength remained important during the industrial revolution. Men were good at "working on the railroad, all the live long day." Public education that sprang up during the industrial revolution did not damage the family system. Most of the population remained on the farm well into the Twentieth Century. But all of that was about to change.

The Great Depression proved that subsistence farming could not feed the growing population. Then World War II and the need for ships, airplanes, bombs, guns, ammunition and supplies transformed the economy. We developed systems of mass production and distribution for all of life's essentials. We, as an entire society, learned to function corporately. We learned to use the factory method and specialization to effectively produce necessary goods to meet all our needs.

Women left homes and farms for factories and offices. After the War, technology supplanted the industrial revolution. Brains became more important than brawn. Information became the prime commodity. Women dealt with technology as well as men. They stayed in the offices and factories. Men and women spent less time with spouses than with other members of the opposite sex. Romantic love that had worked well in the agrarian economy was disastrous in the offices and factories. The powerful attraction of romantic love was indiscriminant. Movement to jobs in a mobile economy isolated family units and individuals from extended family and intimate communities. Sex became the primary sales tool, and diverted large amounts of energy from other creative effort. Traditional marriage experienced break down. Alabama had disbarred lawyers for "quickie divorces" in the late fifties, but legislated "no fault" divorce in 1969. The State no longer had rules that attempted to preserve marriage. Marriage was merely an agreement between two individuals.

The changes in law did not cause the breakdown. Changes were inevitable. But courts, governmental agencies, and the legal profession were ill-prepared for change, and have not handled it well, as we will explore in future columns.



Travis McGough

Travis is a graduate of Auburn University at Montgomery where he studied Business Administration with an emphasis in technology management. He has been helping people to better understand their computers and technology for over ten years.



I often get asked where people can get free or cheap copies of Microsoft Office. Unfortunately, I have to tell people that there isn't an easy or legal way to do that. If you do need a genuine copy of Microsoft Office, then your best bet would be to purchase a copy through www.amazon.com or www.ebay.com.

But, if you are just looking for some programs to create, open, and edit Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files, then there are several FREE (and legal) alternatives that I highly recommend.

Free Alternatives to Microsoft Office

by Travis McGough
travis.mcgough@gmail.com

MOST ROBUST:

LibreOffice 4.1 – 205 MB
Shortened URL Download Link: goo.gl/afqcQQ
Windows, Mac, and Linux

LibreOffice is an open source alternative to Microsoft Office that provides several more program alternatives than Kingsoft. It also includes variations of Access (for databases), Visio (for diagrams), and a program for creating complex math problems to place in documents (this can be great for math teachers who want a typed test!) My biggest complaint with LibreOffice is that it looks like the way Microsoft Office looked in versions prior to Office 2007. I find the program harder to use because of this, but people who are familiar with the way Office 2000 and 2003 looked might prefer LibreOffice's interface. Another problem with LibreOffice is that you have to specify when saving a document that you want it saved as the Microsoft Office version (.doc, .xlt, and .ppt). If you don't do this, then people with Microsoft Office will not be able to open and view the files you create unless they also download LibreOffice.

Since both programs are free, you are welcome to download and try them both out, and I would encourage you to do so! Just type either of those two shortened URLs into your web browser's address bar to be taken directly to the download page for that program. You can also type the software's name into Google, and you should be shown the links for those pages as well.

Until next time, dare yourself to try something new with technology!

*Helpful tidbit:

- .doc and .docx files are Word documents
- .xlt and .xltx files are Excel spreadsheets
- .ppt and .pptx are PowerPoint presentations.

EASIEST TO USE:

Kingsoft Office Free 2013 – 45.4 MB download
Shortened URL Download Link: goo.gl/HJ0Kbz
Windows only

Kingsoft's Free Office program would be my most recommended alternative for people to download. It provides anyone with three free Microsoft Office alternatives: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. It is also the best looking since it uses a similar interface like that of Office 2007 and newer. Kingsoft also prompts you upon install if you would like to automatically save all your files into the Office version (.doc, .xlt, and .ppt), which is a BIG plus in my book. If you want to share files with someone who uses Microsoft Office, then you will need to save the files that you create in Kingsoft as those versions. Kingsoft's program also seems to handle existing Office files well. I haven't run across any funky looking documents that it has opened that were originally created with Microsoft Office.

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NO SUCH THING AS A FREE DOG

With the internet, facebook, instant messaging, texting and smart phones, the world has become a much smaller place. While these venues help those in the animal rescue business find homes for homeless animals, they have also lead to abuse and horrible cruelty to animals. PAHS, like other animal shelters, has mentioned before that “free to a good home” is sometimes a death sentence or worse for a pet or a litter that an owner does not want. Pets are being stolen from yards, homes, and cars. While in the eye of the law this is a property theft, to many pet owners, this equates to a family member being taken, not property.

A recent caller to a local radio show informed the host that her dog had been stolen from her car. The alleged criminal’s cell phone was found in her car. She didn’t get much encouragement from the police as they told her there was not much they could do to get her dog back from the person who took it. For this fact we need much harsher penalties for crimes involving animals, including theft.

Every day on the internet many pets are posted as “for sale”, “price reduced”, or “free to a good home.” Some pit bull puppies were advertised on a facebook page today for \$20.00. Goodness only knows what kind of horror those puppies will suffer if they get into the wrong hands. This breed is common for dog fighting. Thugs are looking for this type of post to get their next fighter, breed dog or bait.

Pets who are taken in by seemingly good homes may actually find a good home. In some cases they are taken to labs for testing, to thugs to be used for bait dogs, or just abused for the thrill of it. It has been

proven that there is a link between animal cruelty, child abuse and domestic violence. The current situation in Dale County, where the man is holding a 5 year old boy hostage killed a school bus driver. The media reported the man holding the boy hostage killed the neighbor’s dog with a pipe prior to these events. If we had harsher animal cruelty laws this man may have been arrested at the point he killed the dog and this week’s hostage situation and murder may have been avoided.

Many people trying to get rid of their animals (obviously not pets to them) have had them for months or years. The owners often threaten to take them to the pound. It may be that in some cases, they would get more attention from the shelter staff than they did at home. Threatening to take an animal to the pound to get someone to take it is just wrong.

People do not understand what shelters deal with, go through, or are required by law to do. It is amazing that even though the Prattville/Autauga Humane Shelter has been in operation for years, many local citizens do not know where the shelter is. Many also think we are a no kill shelter. We hope to be one day but as long as we have people who won’t spay/neuter their pets and people who abuse, neglect, and abandon their animals, we’ll be there. Just like other shelters trying to find loving homes for wonderful animals that have been dealt a bad hand in the card game of life.

When considering brining another pet into your family please consider adopting from a shelter first!

By: Alice B. Floyd

HOTRODDIN’ FOR HOUNDS CAR SHOW

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Topaz is a striking female American Pit Bull Terrier mix, about a year old, and around 40 lbs. She is great with other dogs, playful but also rather laid back. She loves her toys and wants to find her spot on the couch with her new family!

Bark in the Park a BIG SUCCESS

We like to think of Bark in the Park as more of a celebration of our shelter, our supporters and all who love pets, and that it brought in roughly \$7000 to help our pets is certainly a wonderful benefit! We heard a lot of positive comments on this year’s Bark in the Park T-Shirt and have a few left for a measly \$10 – just stop by the shelter at your convenience but don’t delay as there are not that many left!

Shifting gears – World Rabies Day is coming up this Sat, 28 Sep. Thanks to science and modern veterinary care most of us never give this horrible disease much thought, but Rabies kills over 55,000 humans world-wide each year. Rabies is caused by a virus that can spread from animals to people through exposure to the saliva or nervous tissue from a rabid animal and while it is 100% preventable, it is nearly always fatal without proper post-exposure treatment.

There were approximately 7,000 dog and cat bites in Alabama last year many resulting in post exposure treatment at a cost of from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per treatment. In the U.S., typically 1-3 cases of human rabies are reported per year, mostly from contact with rabid bats. In Alabama, raccoons and bats are the most frequent wildlife to be found rabid. In 2012 there were

55 cases of rabies diagnosed in animals in Alabama (62% were raccoons and 18% were bats).

Rabies prevention starts with the pet owner as all dogs, cats and ferrets are required to be vaccinated against rabies. Sadly only about 50-60% of the dogs and 20-25% of the cats in Alabama are vaccinated for rabies. Keeping



pets vaccinated against rabies is vital, as is having them spayed or neutered to reduce roaming and fighting which helps further reduce their exposure to this deadly disease. And while we love watching wildlife, enticing them close to homes, children and pets is just not a good idea. Please don’t leave food outside for your pets; keep your garbage securely covered; please

don’t keep wildlife as pets and teach children to steer clear of unfamiliar animals – even if they appear friendly.

If you are bitten by a domestic or wild animal, go to the appropriate medical facility for treatment and contact your local health department or animal control. Domestic pets that have bitten a human generally requires a mandatory ten-day quarantine at a licensed veterinary hospital and the County Health Department will follow-up to see that applicable state laws are followed. In the event of a bite from an animal that cannot be captured, the person will most likely have to undergo rabies post-exposure treatment – remember, untreated rabies is FATAL!

Now are jumping right into our next fund-raiser! Who wouldn’t want to spend a week with family and/or friends at a huge ocean-front house? For only \$5 ticket, or five tickets for \$20, you just might win a week at a fantastic, five-bedroom house in NagsHead, N.C. from 25 May – 1 Jun ’14. We will get all the details on our Facebook and website this week but don’t miss out - stop by the shelter to get your ticket(s).

Our adoption fees are \$100 for dogs and \$50 for cats which completely covers the mandatory spay or neuter, basic immunizations, deworming, microchip, heartworm check for dogs, rabies vaccination if old enough, 45 days of pet health insurance and a free health exam with your veterinarian.

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Gazette Seniors...

IT'S SILVER-HAIR TIME AGAIN

YOU MAY BE OVER THE HILL
... "the fall" is something you try studiously to avoid.

Dr. John Bitter
Editor-Senior Section

It's October once again, and time for the annual migration of old timers to Montgomery for the annual session of the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature.

On October 21, representatives of Alabama's 67 counties will converge on the Capitol City to study, comment on, and eventually approve resolutions, which will be passed along to the Governor for his study, and possibly on to the Legislature for consideration and, perhaps, enactment into law.

Some of the more recent of which have been resolutions pertaining to elder abuse, the revival of the Alabama Ethics Commission, voter ID legislation, creation of the Silver Alert system, and the provision of affordable prescription drugs for seniors, to name but a few. Since the last session, senior legislators have been

busy in their districts listening to the expressed needs of their constituents, working to insure enactment of legislation beneficial to their constituency, and writing resolutions relating to the needs of senior citizens throughout Alabama—which they hope will attain some sort of reality in the following legislative session.

For those who are not already aware of the ASHL, it operates much the same as the regular legislative body, except that it is a unicameral entity; meaning that the ASHL consists only of a House of Representatives; no Senate. This tends to insure a more speedy enactment of resolutions.

It meets for only three days each year—usually in October.

The ASHL is a non-profit group comprised of Alabama citizens over the age of 60, who have volunteered to devote the time and energy needed to serve the needs of their constituency.

The ASHL generally holds its session in the House Chamber of the Alabama State House. The senior legislators begin converging on Montgomery on Sunday and open the session early the following Monday. By Wednesday they will have identified five top issues directly affecting seniors, and three more of a more general nature, which are then passed along to the Governor for his consideration.

Also, during each General Session of the Legislature, ASHL members work actively with their counterparts in the regular Legislature; but solely in an advisory capacity. They strive diligently never to be misconstrued as lobbying.

The ASHL was established August 8, 1991, by Joint Resolution SJR 101, which was signed into law as PL91-727. Its first elections were held in 1993, and its first session occurred in the same year.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

In 1963 a "hotline" was established between the United States and the Soviet Union. And since then "hotlines" have flourished. There is probably a hotline somewhere for almost anything that might come to mind.

In general use, "hotlines" have been set up for health and safety subjects. Police departments have various hotlines, social service agencies have them, as do a wide assortment of health- and social-related areas.

The most common factor in each is that most of them are toll-free. Another is that they are expected to provide an immediate response in one form or another. Also, they tend to provide some form of social service, i.e. "suicide hotline."

For our purpose, we've put together a list of the more common hotlines in the River Region area, plus a few other numbers of interest to our senior readers. Undoubtedly there are more, but this is a start.

In the River Region the list of emergency numbers is headed by the three-numeral number: 911, which is supposed to give the caller direct access to fire, police, and ambulance service.

General emergency 911

- Family Violence Crisis Line1-800-650-6522
- Poison Control Center1-800-222-1222
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline1-800-273-8255
- 24-hour Substance Abuse Hotline1-800-577-4740
- Child Abuse Hotline1-800-239-2004
- Alcohol Abuse Hotline1-800-888-9383
- Montgomery County Sheriff.....334-832-4980
- Autauga Sheriff334-361-2500
- Elmore County Sheriff.....334-567-5227
- Montgomery County Pubic Library.....334-240-4300
- Montgomery County Health Department334-293-6400
- Alabama Bureau of Investigation334-353-1100
- Alabama State Troopers334-270-1122
- Montgomery City Police Department334-241-2651
- Coosada Police334-285-3700
- Deatsville Police.....334-285-9881
- Millbrook Police.....334-285-6832
- Millbrook Fire Department.....334-285-6707
- Baptist South Medical Center334-288-2100
- Baptist East Medical Center334-277-8330
- Jackson Hospital334-293-8000
- Veterans Administration Hospital334-272-4670
- Alabama Aging Consortium.....334-240-4666
- Autauga County Senior Services.....334-361-3778
- Elmore-Autauga Community Action Committee334-567-4361
- Montgomery County Council on Aging334-263-0532

Clip this roster and place it near your telephone

TRUCKLOAD

You know the economy is in bad shape when you learn that the Border Patrol caught a busload of Americans trying to sneak into Mexico.

WHO'S LOOKIN' IN OCTOBER

Of the dates worthy of remembering are the 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th, for these are the who's Lookin' out for You?" days that have gained popularity at Eastdale Estates Independent Living facility.

Each Monday, at 10 a.m. precisely, residents and anyone else who may be interested, congregate in the activity room there to soak up information of particular to senior citizens.

On **October 1st, Traci Bynum**, who represents the Alabama Coalition Against Sexual Abuse discussed a growing problem that faces senior citizens, and to talked about ways by which seniors can protect themselves, and to advise seniors on procedures for reporting sexual abuse.

Alabama celebrates another holiday on the next Monday, the 14th, when we celebrate the day in 1492, then Columbus discovered the Americas. The Alabama legislature promptly declared this date to be a state holiday. As a result, no session on this day.

However, on **October 21st**, the regulars will be in for a special treat when **Bob Corley**, publisher of Montgomery Prime magazine, will be on hand. Bob has been a veteran of the Montgomery news scene for more years than he would wish to declare. While your regular host will be off helping to open the first day of the regular session of the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature.

On **October 28**, **Misty Barnes**, the Ombudsman for the Central Alabama Aging Consortium, will talk about her position in the overall scheme of things, and its highly likely that she'll try to answer the question: why isn't there an Ombudsman for folks in independent living facilities?

The Monday sessions begin promptly at 10 a.m. in the Eastdale Estates' Activity Room, and if you want a good seat; get there early.



Bob Corley



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**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

SOUTHERN GARDENING

OCTOBER POTPOURRI - by Peggy Givhan

When I travel country roads in early September, I see what I term the hargingers of fall. Last weekend in mid September I did just that, and viewed a magnificent array of wild flowers in fields, ditches, and peaking out of woodlands. I saw Goldenrod swaying above and below the elegant and stately iron weed with its flat panicles of brilliant

purple; rusty red leaves of sumac; the light blue chicory plant; black-eyed susan; other types of helianthus or yellow daisy flowered plants; blue perennial ageratum; the clear yellow flowers of the coffee plant; and the last blooms of the red cardinal flower. Nautres' color mix for these wild flowers are just the color mix we may want to imitate in our home gardens. Mums are an easy choice in order to obtain the fall colors, because they incorporate the whole range of fall shades--reds, golds, yellows, mauves, and whites. Other longer lasting flowers can also do the trick. Think marigolds in yellows and golds; zinnia linearis, also yellows and golds; snaps in all shades of reds, yellows and whites; and petunias in deep and light purples. Last year I planted pansies in October with mulch, and they bloomed until frost, and bloomed again from March until June. Other fall blooming perennials include Perovskia or Russian sage with blue flower spikes; salvia leucantha or Mexican brush sage with large deep purple and white velvet like blooms; aster with its lavender daisy type bloom. All of these mix well with lime green sweet potato vine (impomoea batatas 'Marguerite').

OCTOBER CHORES FOR THE GARDEN

I attended a gardening seminar in Savannah, Georgia several years ago. The speaker was the city's Arborist, and he stated that the best fertilizer for trees comes from their own leaves. So instead of having to bag up all the leaves, rake most of them at the foot of the tree. This certainly makes common sense.

As far as what I am doing in the garden, my beds are getting an overhaul. Many of the perennials such as phlox, iris, daylilies, salvias, coreopsis, will be dug out and divided. I have purchased many 5 cubic foot bags of soil and commercial 8-8-8 fertilizer. My experience that in the fall and winter months the commercial type works best not only because it is cheaper, but the time released type has less potency

than the commercial. Always water the area fertilized well after the application.

The overhaul also includes new plans for winter, spring and summer beds. Since I intend to seed some areas for poppies, zinnias, larkspur and others, I purchase spray paint of different colors to identify each seeded spot so that I will not inadvertently over plant that area later. This plan or scheme becomes my map and purchase plan for annuals, perennials and biennials as they come on the market. Armed with the laundry list, I am ready to buy the Johnny Jump Ups, pansies, dianthus and snap dragons and know how many trays I will need of each.

Other chores include the annual cleaning out of weeds, and dead plant material, cleaning up dead leaves on lamb's ears, cutting the canna lilies back to the ground, trimming back the trailing verbena, and using Round-Up judiciously to clear up any remaining weed issues.

PLANT OF THE MONTH....BULBS

First I will define the term, "bulb". They all are an organ whether a bulb, corm, rhizome or a tuber in which reserves of energy are accumulated, allowing it to produce flowers in their season. The real bulb such as an amaryllis, tulip and lily is formed by a floral bud and enclosed with successive layers of fleshy scales which function as a storage reserve. The bottom part is composed of a basal plate where roots emerge. The paper thin brown covering of the bulb is called a tunic. All bulbs do not have this tunic. Corms have the same function as bulbs but their body is not formed by scale-like leaves. Gladioli, crocuses, and freesias are some examples of corms. Tuberous roots are characterized by thickish roots that multiply each year and eventually form buds. The best know tuber is the potato, along with calla lily and caladium. And lastly the rhizome is a special kind of stem that grows horizontally along the surface of the soil or just under it. There is no uniformity or separation. Cannas, trilliums and certain types of iris fall into this category

In my garden center wanderings, there seems to be many tulips and daffodils for sale now. Tulips need at least 6 weeks of cold before you plant them. The refrigerator crisper is the best place as they can not freeze. Purchasing tulips now would give one plenty of time to chill the bulbs for planting in mid-December.

GOOD GARDENING.

DAYS TO REMEMBER *By Dr. John Bitter*

HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN.

In December Americans will be remembering, in the words of the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "a day that will go down in infamy." Americans still remember, but how times have changed.

In October we also remembered the date: 9/11. On September 11, 2001, an enemy force wreaked havoc on the American continent, a date that would go down in history.

For those Americans who were around for both dates some interesting parallels come to mind.

Immediately in the wake of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Americans rallied with a historic vigor. We put together an impressive war machine and took decisive action to right the wrongs that

had been heaped upon us by foreign powers.

And in the aftermath, and even during the period of our heroic response, Americans were respected and revered. Those people who at first despised Americans came to love and respect the men and women in Europe and Asia who had either invaded or liberated their respective countries.

Today, American servicemen and women dare not be seen in public in their once proud uniform. They are despised, they are threatened, they are even murdered, often by the people they had come to aid.

Then we look at our present leader: indecisive, confused, pathetic in his inability to respond decisively to foreign aggression.

We gaze aghast as we see the mantle of strength and power that was worn by the American president, is

*The views of this editorial may not express the views of
The Alabama Gazette.*

now on the shoulders of foreign leaders who once bowed to our strength; it's draped over the shoulders of tin pot dictators who we once bribed in an effort to curry favor. Leaders of countries that once came to us with hat in hand, now mock us and laugh in our faces as second-rate bureaucrats in our government lie to the American people and scurry about to save their own incompetent skins. Nations that Americans liberated, rebuilt, and aided in innumerable ways are now spitting in our face.

And regrettably, America has passed the baton of power it once held with pride to the hands of those who once groveled at our feet.

In the year 2013, we remember Pearl Harbor; we remember 9/11; we also sadly remember what was once a proud and mighty nation.

Quod erat demonstrandum.

What has become of our country?

When most of us old timers were trudging through elementary and secondary school we learned about the history of our country. We studied many of the travails that went with the building of our once great nation. At this time we learned to honor those who fought and died for their their flag. We celebrated many historic occasions, we sang our National Anthem, and we said a silent prayer for those who gave their lives for their land. We were a proud people; a patriotic lot who revered our heroes.

So it stunned many of us on the 19th of this

month when 15 U.S. Congressmen, who patriotic Americans elected to office dishonored the families and the memory of two American heroes who gave their lives for their country in a distant land.

During a hearing into the infamous Benghazi disgrace on September 11 of this year, as the mother of U.S. Information Officer Sean Smith, and the father of Navy SEAL Tyrone Woods, who were killed in the Benghazi attack, were about to testify before the House

Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing that day, 15 Democrats stood up, turned their backs on the parents of these dead heroes and left the hearing rather than listen to their testimony.

This is the depth to which our nation has fallen. Our own elected representatives to the U.S. Congress figuratively spit in the faces of grieving parents whose sons gave their lives in the defense of their nation.

What has become of our country?

A CLOSER LOOK

As senior citizens view the national and international picture and take a closer look at what has happened abroad, they may begin to ask themselves: What if?

On December 8 of 1941, What if the U.S. would have had the present White House incumbent at the helm; would he have told the electorate that it should view the experience at Pearl harbor in Hawaii as just a case of misplaced foreign military exuberance, and would he then have embarked on an Asian tour to apologize to the Japanese people for America's arrogance?

Would he, then, have set sail for the European continent to apologize to the German people and their axis allies and sympathizers for our aggressive military reaction to Der Fuehrer's Lebensraum excuse for the invasion of otherwise peaceful European nations as an effort to allow the German people greater breathing room?

As Mr. Hitler so eloquently explained, the German people needed greater room in which to breathe. Would he also have contended that Dachau, Dora Nordhausen, Belsen, and other concentration camps he had established were

merely facilities in which wrong thinking would be set aright and misguided Europeans would be sent there to ruminate over their shortsightedness?

Would our president have asked the German people to forgive our military leaders for their shortsighted aggressiveness toward them? Would he have apologized to them and begged them for their indulgence for our aggressiveness?

And would he have glossed over all the Nazi military activity in Europe, and the Japanese atrocities in Asia as just a struggle by an oppressed society?

Might he not have encouraged them to look toward our own shores and welcomed them to seek refuge in America? After all, didn't we have more than sufficient room and abundant natural resources beyond our needs that we could share with them.

If Franklin Delano Roosevelt would have tried something like this in 1941, most likely the American people would have drummed him and his liberal cabal out of Washington in a thrice.

Why, then, do we put up with the same sort of nonsense now?

Are the American people really this dense?

How times have changed in seven decades. It gives the old folks pause.

Today's Woman

The Value of a Woman... Be very careful if you make a woman cry – because God counts her tears.



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Peaceful vigil!

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*Susan Decker Bunce,
Executive Director*

Community outreach!



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America/Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"CONSIDER THE LILIES"

As many of you know, my Dad recently passed away. On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to express heartfelt appreciation to family and friends for the phone calls, text messages, cards, visits, flowers, food, and wonderful acts of kindness during this difficult time. We appreciate your love and support. Each and every one of you are very special to us.

Many of you who knew my Dad may remember his love of music. One of his favorite songs to sing was "Consider the Lilies". I share the words of this song with you today in hopes that you may find comfort in knowing that God is always there for you. Just as He cares for the lilies in the field, He cares for you. My prayer for you, my friend, is that you know His mercy and love.

Many Blessings!

*"Consider the lilies, they don't toil nor spin
And there's not a king with more splendor than them.
Consider the sparrows, they don't plant nor sow,
But they're fed by the Master who watches them grow.*

*We have a Heavenly Father above
With eyes so full of mercy
And a heart full of love.
He really cares when your head is bowed low.
Consider the lilies and then you will know.*

*May I introduce you to this friend of mine,
Who hangs out the stars and tells the sun when to shine.
He kisses the flowers each morning with dew,
But He's not too busy to care about you.*

*We have a Heavenly Father above
With eyes so full of mercy
And a heart full of love.
He really cares when your head is bowed low.
Consider the lilies and then you will know.
Yes, Consider the lilies and then you will know."*

Author: Joel Hemphill



Hope you Enjoy these recipes!!



Recipe for: **Easy Meatloaf**

1 1/2 pounds ground beef	salt and pepper to taste
1 egg	2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 onion, chopped	2 tablespoons prepared mustard
1 cup milk	1/3 cup ketchup
1 cup dried bread crumbs	

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- In a large bowl, combine the beef, egg, onion, milk and bread OR cracker crumbs. Season with salt and pepper to taste and place in a lightly greased 5x9 inch loaf pan, OR form into a loaf and place in a lightly greased 9x13 inch baking dish.
- In a separate small bowl, combine the brown sugar, mustard and ketchup. Mix well and pour over the meatloaf.
- Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 1 hour.

Recipe makes 8 servings

allrecipes.com

Recipe for: **Three Packet Slow Cooker Roast**

1 (3 pound) boneless beef chuck roast	salad dressing mix
1 cup water	1 (1 ounce) package ranch dressing mix
1 (.7 ounce) package dry Italian-style	1 (.75 ounce) packet dry brown gravy mix

- Whisk together the water, Italian dressing mix, ranch dressing mix, and brown gravy mix together in a bowl until smooth. Place the beef roast into a slow cooker, and pour the sauce over top.
- Cook on Low until the roast is easily pierced by a fork, 6 to 8 hours.

Recipe makes 6 servings

allrecipes.com

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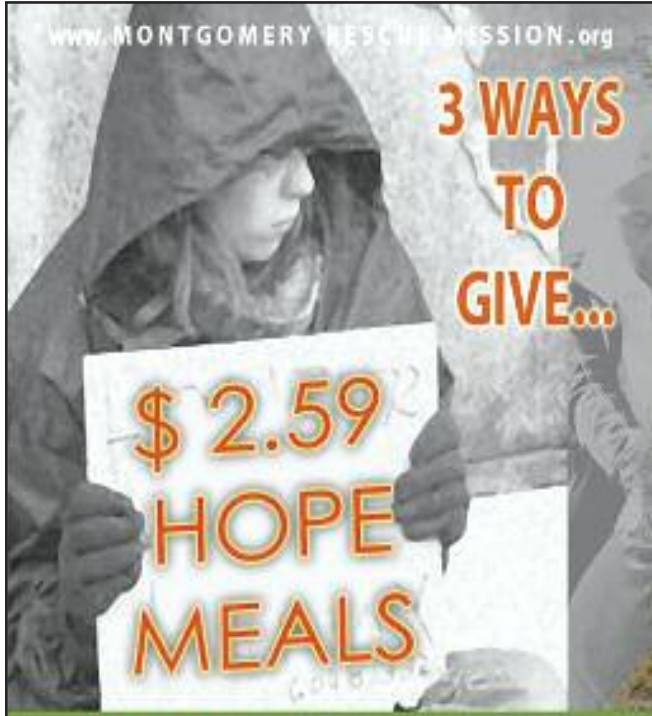
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3 WAYS TO GIVE...

The Montgomery Rescue Mission (MRM) is a nonprofit 501-C3 organization in Montgomery, Alabama. The mission serves the homeless, the working poor, men, women and children. Providing temporary to permanent housing and job placement.

MRM serves daily hot breakfast meals and conducts free mobile food pantry giveaways four times a year. Many of our recipients are senior citizens, disable veterans and grand parents raising grand children. MRM serves over 30,000 meals yearly to residents in Montgomery and surrounding counties.

For just \$2.59 you can provide a traditional thanksgiving meal per person or \$25 will provide a food box for a family of four. This holiday season you can be a blessing to your neighbors by giving a hand up.

During the past decade, the overall poverty rate for Americans age 65 and older has held steady at about 10 percent. Those numbers are likely to increase during the deeping recession. Millions of financially vulnerable older Americans are at risk of falling into poverty.



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DeRamus Hearing Centers' Give LOCAL VETERANS THE GIFT OF SOUND!

In honor of our armed forces, DeRamus Hearing Centers will be giving away four pair of top-quality digital hearing aids and many other prizes to four of our Alabama veterans. A panel of local citizens will read all submissions and choose the lucky winners, who will receive a free hearing evaluation, hearing aids (\$4000 retail value), free hearing aid batteries for life, and free follow up visits for life. Not only that, but a luxurious limousine, courtesy of Touch of Class Limousines, will carry the winner in style to a party in their honor, hosted by DeRamus Hearing and catered by Eastside Grille. After all this, the winners will be able to use the Gift of Sound to enjoy lively conversation with a friend or loved one at a free dinner for two, courtesy of Eastside Grille.

Rules: Alabamians are invited to submit a beloved veteran's inspirational story. (Veterans are also invited to submit their own stories!) Entries should be 500 words or less and may be submitted at deramushearinginc.com/community.asp or by post to Attn: Veterans Day Giveaway, DeRamus Hearing Centers, 2809 Chestnut St., Montgomery, AL 36107. All submissions must be received on or before October 25, 2013. The winner will be announced November 8, 2013.

Employees of DeRamus Hearing, Touch of Class, and Eastside Grille are excluded from winning and from inclusion in the panel of judges.

More about DeRamus: DeRamus Hearing is the oldest independent hearing center in Montgomery. Founded over thirty years ago by Glenda DeRamus and her late husband, Charles, the company has been serving the River Region with the highest level of professional care ever since. DeRamus Hearing is thrilled to be able to give something back to those who have given so much to our nation!



Come to the 47th Annual Pike Road Arts and Crafts Fair Saturday - November 2, 2013 • 9AM to 4PM

- Fun for the whole family
- Great arts and crafts shopping
- Over 250 artists and crafts exhibitors
- Enjoy BBQ, fried chicken, chicken salad and more at the historic Marks House (circa 1825)

For directions go to: www.pikeroadartsandcraftsfair.com



47th Annual Pike Road

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Arts and Crafts Fair

890 Old Carter Hill Road Pike Road, AL 36064

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WORD SCRAMBLE ANSWERS from page 14B

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Pike Road News

Town of Pike Road
 9575 Vaughn Road
 Pike Road, AL 36064
 Gordon Stone, Mayor
 Mary Catherine Barganier,
 Communication Director
 (334) 272-9883



The Town of Pike Road Congratulates The Alabama Gazette on their 14th Anniversary !

TOWN OF PIKE ROAD AND PIKE ROAD BOARD OF EDUCATION MAKE SIGNIFICANT SCHOOL-RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS!

In a press conference at Town Hall Tuesday, September 24th, the Town of Pike Road and the Pike Road Board of Education came together to make four significant announcements regarding the on-going school project. The following information was shared with members of the media during the event:

- After a lengthy review process, the Town of Pike Road recently received a AA credit rating from Standard & Poor's. The rating is an expression of the town's ability to meet its financial obligations in full and on time, and ranks the Town of Pike Road's financial capacity among the likes of Vestavia Hills, Auburn, Tuscaloosa, Gulf Shores and Hoover. "A bond rating of this level for a new community is a sign of our accom-

plishments and a commentary on our financial management practices," said Mayor Gordon Stone.

- Gary Greenshields of Infinity Architecture presented a rendering of the front exterior of the first building to be constructed on the initial campus of the Pike Road school system. "This design is the result of years of involvement and input from citizens," said Mayor Gordon Stone. "Pike Road citizens can take pride in the knowledge that this facility will allow for all of their goals to be achieved within budget."

- Leon Barkan of Volkert, Inc., addressed the timeline for construction of the initial school facility. The town will accept bids during the month of October and anticipates breaking ground in Janu-

ary 2014. The timeline as presented allows for occupation of the school in the summer of 2015, with classes beginning at the K-8 facility that fall.

- Linda Ware, vice president of the Pike Road Board of Education, announced the initiation of the search for the school system's first superintendent and the board's decision to appoint Dr. Ed Richardson to lead that process. Dr. Richardson will be assisted by Patty Payne, who has served as the administrator of the Pike Road Education Leadership Council and its predecessor, the Pike Road Education Committee.

In addition, the group announced that the Pike Road Education Leadership Council will host three information sessions during the fall, with a goal of shar-

ing the school design and timeline and answering questions that Pike Road residents have related to the school project.

Those events will take place from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

**Monday, October 28
 at Peace Baptist Church
 on Barnes Road**

**Tuesday, November 5
 at Pike Road Town Hall**

**Thursday, November 7 at the
 meeting house at The Waters**

For more information, please contact Gordon Stone or Mary Catherine Barganier at 272-9883.

PIKE ROAD FIREFIGHTER ANDREW PARKER SELECTED OCTOBER GIVING OUR BEST

Pike Road Fire Fighters are always on the front lines – protecting, educating and re-



maining watchful of the citizens, their families, friends and places of business. The department's October "Giving our Best" recipient ranks among the best in the department. He is firefighter Andrew Parker.

Andrew Parker has been with the Pike Road Fire Department for over three years and has been a dedicated member throughout those years. He is described as an individual who puts forth outstanding efforts above and beyond the call of duty; motivation and enthusiasm during both emergency calls and drills; active participation and eagerness during organized and non-organized functions; active attendance during calls; and overall dedication and service to the fire department and community.

Firefighter Parker spends a great deal of time at the fire station and ranks among the top in call responses. Aside from his volunteer-

ing time at responding to calls and training, he is also employed as a career firefighter with the department. Parker completed the bridge program with the Alabama Fire College in February 2013 certifying him as a career firefighter.

Firefighter Parker has completed a number of training courses conducted by the Pike Road Fire Department. He also completed Wildland Firefighting, first responder, firefighter I/II, instructor I and EMT. Parker received the 2013 chief's award at the annual firefighter banquet.

A local of the town of Pike Road, Parker is a team member and role model for the Pike Road Fire Department. He is a 2009 graduate of Macon East Academy. Parker enjoys hunting and fishing. He is a big Auburn University fan and enjoys spending time with his friends and family. Parker also enjoys attending Huntington football games.

This employees' willingness not only to serve the department as an employee but volunteers with the same department speaks volumes to his character and dedication to the fire service. Firefighter Parker is a great asset to the Pike Road Fire Department and community. A special thank you goes to Andrew Parker for protecting the community and its citizens in countless ways. Parker is truly an all-around hero! For more information on how you can make a difference in the Pike Road community, visit the Pike Road Fire Department website at www.pikeroad-fire.com or phone (334) 271-1048.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Upcoming Town Meetings:

Town Council - Monday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Agendas for all planning commission and town council meetings are posted here by noon the business day prior to the meetings. You can watch video of these meetings on our YouTube channel.

Both meetings are at Pike Road Town Hall. Meeting dates are listed on the town's web calendar.

Monday, October 7

Fall is almost here, and that means it's hay bale decorating time in Pike Road! Your neighborhood or organization can enter the Hey, Look at Us! contest by downloading the entry form, requesting a hay bale and submitting your design by 5:00 p.m. Monday, October 7.



Thursday, October 24

The Town of Pike Road will turn Sweet 16 Thursday, October 24, and you are invited to our party! We'll celebrate with live bluegrass music, a chili cook-off, pumpkin painting and Pike Road stories told by Conie Mac Darnell, a native of Pike Road, historian and author. The fun will kick off at 4:30 p.m. at the Old Town Hall resource park at 4902 Pike Road. We'll conclude the festivities at 7:00 with birthday cake and a "Happy Birthday" sing-along.



Friday, October 25 and Sat., October 26

The Pike Road Arts Council and the Alabama Plein Air Artists will host the first-ever Pike Road Plein Air Paint Out. During a plein air event, professional artists take to the outdoors to paint scenes of natural beauty and historical significance. Beginning with a "quick-draw paint out" at The Waters on Friday, the event will also include a kids' watercolor paint out Saturday morning and artists' reception and wet paint sale Saturday night.



Alabama House District 74 Vacancy Election October 8th





Please go to: <http://policymaker.alabama.gov>.
You can view detailed maps showing district lines, streets, etc.

EXERCISE YOUR FREEDOM TO VOTE!

OCTOBER 8, 2013




DIMITRI POLIZOS for STATE HOUSE

Filed for by Petition of Dimitri Polizos, 206 Perry St., Montgomery, AL 36109

TRUNK OR TREAT- EASTERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL

Thursday, October 31 ~ 5:30-7:30 pm

3604 Pleasant Ridge Rd. (large parking lot across from the Church on Green Ridge Rd.)

Free Rides, Games, Candy and Popcorn, Hotdog Supper for \$2.00 which includes hotdog, chips, cookie and drinks.

SNOWDOWN BAPTIST

Fall Festival

Saturday, October 26, 2013

4:00 – 6:00

Snowdown Volunteer Fire Department

219 Hobbie Road

Come enjoy food, games,
and fun for all ages!!!

FALL FESTIVAL

AIRPORT ROAD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

384 BLACKMON FARM LANE

COOSADA, AL

...will hold 3rd Annual Harvest Festival

Thursday, October 24, 2013 • 5:00 - 8:00 PM

A variety of activities include Game Booths,

Silent Auction, Hay Rides,

Vendors, Costume Contest, Food for Purchase, etc.

A night of FUN for the whole FAMILY!!

For more information call (334) 285-2115

Snowdown Baptist Church

U. S. Highway 331

(Norman Bridge Road- Past Hyundai on the right.)

“A growing church with a big heart
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Sunday Worship Services: 11:00 am & 6:30 pm

Wednesday night churchwide Bible Study: 6:30 pm.

Snowdown Baptist Church

Annual Homecoming/Revival

Sunday, October 13th - With covered dish luncheon

immediately following morning service.

Special Music by Harlan Burton Sunday.

Special singing Sunday evening at 5:30 p.m.

REVIVAL nightly with Special Speaker Carmen Falcione

Sunday October 13 - Wednesday 16th - 6:30 P.M.

Soul Searching

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

Grace and Grief



DR. RICK MARSHALL
Eastern Hills
Baptist Church

Grace is one of the great words of the Christian faith. Without it the power of faith to heal pain, sustain in spite of life's trials and to offer

hope when life seems hopeless would be empty. Grace is like fuel to an engine. Technically grace is often defined as "unmerited favor," especially when considered in the context of covering our sin. For the purposes of this article I think of it more in terms of its power available to believers in times of crisis and grief.

I think of Paul who suffered much through the years with what he called a "thorn in the flesh." While we don't know for sure what it was, we know it created serious difficulty for him about which he often asked God to relieve. Although he did not find healing grace for that malady, Paul did discover something precious. He found sustaining grace. He referred to it in II Corinthians 12: 9 when the Lord said to him, "My grace is sufficient for you."

While there could be many applications and illustrations of the sufficiency of grace, I want to focus on its work in times of grief. At first glance these words might seem at the very least incompatible or even contradictory. However, I find them intimately related to one another. As you read further see if you agree. Nothing has more potential for devastation in our lives than the unexpected death of a loved one. Hardly a week goes by without someone talking to me about an unexpected death in their family. Sometimes it is in our church family and at other times in the community or on other occasions that we hear about in the news. Tragedies happen in times of violence, accidents or unexpected illness.

So where does a person turn to in such times? One of the things we need to do is pay attention to our Bible. We are reminded of the experience of Jesus when Lazarus died. Jesus wept. Jesus grieved over his death and the effects on his family.

When we have a loss, we will grieve even as Jesus did. It is a natural part of life. Grief is not a denial

of faith. Someone said, "Grief is as natural as eating when we are hungry or sleeping when we are tired." When death occurs, grief is the response.

If grief is something natural and not a denial of faith, then where do we find help? First, it is helpful when you are not in the crisis of grief to understand the process of grief. Most are familiar with the general stages of grief. While not always in an exact order, most people experience similar dynamics. There is shock and a time of numbness. It is part of God's plan which perhaps protects us from bearing the full long-term effects of the loss. There are periods which fluctuate between anger and guilt. There is often a period of intense questioning. Even Jesus cried out with a question from the cross when He asked, "Why hast Thou forsaken me?" All through the period of grief, emotion flows in and out of our day to day experiences. Some people go through a period of depression depending on the circumstances of their loss. The final stage is recovery and moving on with life.

Unfortunately some people get stuck in their sadness and never fully recover. I recall a word from Martin Luther, the great reformer, who wrote to his grieving friend whose wife had died. He told his friend to "grieve, grieve, and to grieve some more. But he warned him to finally put an end to his grief less he become idolatrous and worship the dead instead of the living Lord."

The message for the believer in grief comes from the words of Paul in I Thessalonians 4:13 where he cautioned us not to grieve like those who have no hope. When we face grief, grace is God's means of restoring hope. The Bible says when this body is no longer useful, for the believer, we have one made for us which will not crumble or pass away. We are reminded that this perishable must put on the imperishable. Death can be swallowed up in victory. "Death is not a period, but a comma, not an end, but a transition."

There is not only grace which sustains us through crisis and death of loved ones, it also provides blessings in the process. They may be hard to see at first for grief is much like a fog. It slowly dissipates and the

real light of day comes through.

The grace of faith through grief teaches humility. Death is a vivid reminder that we are not here on earth for eternity. It is so easy in this world to mistake our body for our soul and time for eternity. We are not here forever. When we realize our weakness and frailty, we can better acknowledge our need for God and thrust ourselves on His mercy.

The grace of faith through grief deepens relationships. It reminds us how much we need each other and that every day is to be cherished. It shocks us out of the shallow routines in which we often take each other for granted. Grief makes us wish we had turned off the television and talked more and perhaps adds to our resolve to do better with those who are living.

The grace of faith through grief develops our empathy with others. If we have never grieved it is hard to understand what others are going through. We learn from our grief how to help those who may be in circumstances where we once walked. This is particularly helpful with deaths of spouses, children and certain other unexpected tragedies and heartache. It is helpful in grief to remember Romans 8:28. "In all things God is working toward that which is good for those who love Him..." God can bring good out of our grief if we look to Him. Maybe that is to help someone else's suffering.

Finally, the grace of faith through grief often intensifies our spirituality. Death of a loved one may not only be a profound emotional experience, it may bring us closer to the Lord. It can put us in close communion with God and people of faith. In the midst of our suffering, we may understand in fresh ways such passages as the 23rd Psalm. This grace is available, but not automatic. We must seek and hunger for a fresh understanding of our faith.

Facing grief is no fun. Death is a serious business. Getting through it well and with hope so often depends on our view of God. If we see our God as bigger than any grief we may face, then it is much easier to trust His grace and to say what Paul discovered, "My grace is sufficient for you."

NEW WORLD CRAZE...**ZOMBIES!**

(Spirits from the dead.) Falls right in line with Halloween celebrations.

*One of the new obsessions for young and old is...**ZOMBIES!** Just go to your computer and check out the craze. Just Google, Zombie images. I am sure we will see much of this fairly new craze with people from the dead reappearing as zombies. Our societies will get excited and follow anything! If you think this is ok..just check out the scriptures concerning spirits from the dead. The arts and entertainment community appears to have attached itself with the bazaar in many areas. Graveclothes, blood, skulls, gothic paint, piercings, witches, vampires, and the list goes on. Just add great music and dance...and surely that makes it ok.*



With Halloween just around the corner...just get ready for world zombie celebrations. Even Zombie parades.

If you profess to be a Christian..where is your voice! Why is the church silent, with its head in the sand. We just sit by and somehow justify the bazaar behavior and thus it gets more engrained in our culture by the minute. We are spoonfed the occult and appear to enjoy it.

**Wake up people who say
you believe in God!
Where are YOU!**

Patricia Killough



HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to alabamagazette@yahoo.com. The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions if space permits.

October Birthdays



- | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct 1 | David Hite (71st)
Karen Hollingshead
Wallis Litchfield | Oct. 19 | Ryan Sellars
Evelyn Roger
Joann Hassey
John Lithgrow
Nell Nesbit
Helen Law |
| Oct. 2 | Allie Dibole
Jerry Hollingshead
Donna Karen
Janice Vaughn Majors (64th)
Bob Morris | Oct. 21 | Pam Anderson
Ken Guthrie
Cheryl Horp
Spears Rhodes |
| Oct. 3 | Ladon Boyd (53rd)
Monica Mills
Stevie Ray Vaughn
Ben Sawada | Oct. 22 | Judith Lamar
Joyce Browning Mills
Alicia Smith
Tony Nemunaitis |
| Oct. 4 | Hazel Campbell | Oct. 23 | Mollie Ester Isacson
Mike Kirk
Elfie Meredith
Betty Jo Richie |
| Oct. 5 | Chester Alan Arthur
Thomas Chesnutt (92nd)
Nikki Smith Womack | Oct. 24 | Thomas Norman
Connie Thompson
Norma Mitchell |
| Oct. 6 | Matthew Sweet
Frances Grant | Oct. 25 | Glenn Chesnutt
David Alexander Dean
Hannah Grace Johnson
Dot Pouncey (63rd) |
| Oct. 7 | Ashley James
David Price (64th) | Oct. 26 | Alice Cole (63rd)
Carol Fowler
Judd Huett (76th)
Mike Horsley
Natailie Merchant
Georgia Mokler
Brynlee Ashmore (3rd) |
| Oct. 8 | Jim Fleming
Beck Tucker
Madera Spencer | Oct. 27 | Terry Boyd (53rd)
Amy Moone (39th)
Glen Raley (60th)
Stephanie Selvage (39th)
Dora Ann Wallace (91st) |
| Oct. 9 | Clower Boyd
Vance Cordle
Linda Stringer
Clifton Renfro | Oct. 28 | Louise Lareson
Josh Hudson
Parker Lynch
Joakin Phoenix
Matt Schall
Patti Moseley Higgins |
| Oct. 10 | Sherry McCulley
Ron Selvaggio
Mason Williams (3rd) | Oct. 29 | Adam Dupree
Caylyn Oswald
Lisa Etheridge
Amber (Sally) Heitsenrether
Marge Crockett (70th) |
| Oct. 11 | Bonnie Ashcraft
Susan Guevara
Debbie Moore
Anna Marie Sessions
Christie Vazquez | Oct. 30 | Nellie Cole (88th)
Felicity Edwards
Lee Sellars
Grace Slick
Josie Stanton |
| Oct. 12 | Kirstin Boyd
Kim Moore | Oct. 31 | Carey Cauthen (59th)
Ron Johnson
Elizabeth Kirk
Johnny Marr |
| Oct. 13 | Fred Cole (92nd)
Loretta Grant (69th)
Mary Wimpee | | |
| Oct. 14 | Margaret Batley
Elizabeth Miller
Sarah Margaret Poundstone | | |
| Oct. 15 | Bob Crowe
Noah Edwards
Charlie Lamar Jr.
Ray Martin (75th)
Linda Stembridge
Gaston Wallace
Dolores Kavanagh | | |
| Oct. 17 | Caroline Adams (103rd)
Chris Floyd
Jane Braswell | | |
| Oct. 16 | Louise Light
Jessie Watt | | |
| Oct. 18 | Charles Andrew Campbell
Lillie Hughen | | |

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Thomas Miller (Tommy) Turnipseed

Born 8/29/2013,
6lbs 15oz, 19 inches

Parents:
Ian and Caty Jane Turnipseed
Grandparents: Teresa Seevers,
Stephan and Joyce Turnipseed
and Roy Seevers



Daddy Ian holding baby Tommy with sister Ella admiring little brother.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Isabelle Grace Glasscock

Born 9/18/2013
7lbs 9oz, 20 inches
Hampton, VA.

Parents:
Jon and Brittany Glasscock
Grandparents:
Chuck and Keish Glasscock
of Montgomery.



Isabelle Grace Glasscock

Happy Anniversary

- | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 2 | Brady & Amy Crowe (9th) | Oct. 9 | Ian & Caty Jane Turnipseed (3rd) |
| Oct. 3 | Mr. & Mrs. Theo Katechis (34th)
Tom & Mary Lion (60th) | Oct. 12 | Mike & Lynn Davis
James & Jean Hicks (55th)
Glenn & Susan Yost |
| Oct. 5 | Jack & Kim Golson
George & Farley Pugh
Lance & Sylvia Smith (55th) | Oct. 15 | Lance & Amy Brown
Gaston & Doris Wallace |
| Oct. 6 | Jimmy & Donna Grant | Oct. 16 | George & Marilyn Evans |
| Oct. 7 | Jimmy & Judy Grubbs | Oct. 21 | Jimmy & Ann Hale |
| Oct. 8 | Eric & Casey Fleming (8th)
Bob & Lynda Maddox
David & Xan Morrow | Oct. 22 | Brad & Lee Ann Williams (8th) |
| | | Oct. 23 | Sonny & Lexie Turnipseed |
| | | Oct. 26 | Terry & Missy Boyd (22nd) |

Belated Birthday Wishes to
Shannon Flores on her
41st Birthday - September 15, 2013

CAROLINE ADAMS
CELEBRATES HER 103RD
BIRTHDAY
ON OCTOBER 17, 2013

*William and Loretta Grant
celebrate their
51st Wedding Anniversary
October 13, 2013*



William retired from Coca Cola after 38 years and now enjoys his family, grandchildren and working with his cattle. Loretta is the founder and Co-Owner of The Alabmaa Gazette. They serve God in ministry together at Snowdown Baptist Church. Their love for each other and from family and friends are their greatest earthly blessings.

PIKE ROAD FIREFIGHTERS "BLACK OUT" AGAINST BREAST CANCER

Pike Road Fire and Rescue Department is once again selling breast cancer t-shirts in honor and support of breast cancer awareness. This year's theme is "Black Out Breast Cancer," and the department is currently selling T-shirts marked with their "Black Out" logo for \$12.00. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. T-shirts may be purchased from Station 1 which serves as headquarters on Wallahatchie Road or from members of the ladies auxiliary.

Pike Road Fire Chief Mike Green says, "It's one of the events our department participates in each year because it is a dear cause to us." "The firefighters join the ladies auxiliary and participate in this program," Green said. "Our department will wear breast cancer t-shirts in October as their uniform." Green said "he hoped the community maintains its excitement and supports the campaign. Last year's support was great, and we're looking forward to that response again."



Wedding Party was Maid of Honor, Jessica Honore - Vancouver, Washington, Brides Maid, Christy Wurster, Albany, Oregon, and Brides Maid, Brooke Smith, Prattville Alabama. Corinna's grand daughters Gracelyn and Jordyn Hall of Montgomery were the flower girls and ring bearer was grandson, Jonclayton Hall. Best Man was Randy Boyd of Pintlala, Alabama. Groomsmen were Barney Ingram, Hot Springs, Arkansas and Mickey Sikes, LaPine, Alabama. The wedding reception was held at Arrowhead Country Club with all guests invited. Music by the Music Guys and a great buffet was enjoyed by all.

True Love Never Ends...

Corinna Hillyer and Ronald Davis joined their lives together after over 30 years. Being high school sweethearts was a wonderful experience, but they went different paths until they reunited by phone in the fall of 2012. Ronald had continued to reside in Highland Home, Alabama and Corinna was residing in Oregon. Their love proved to have never ended - their union was just delayed. This was indeed a dream come true. True love is now more mature and everlasting. They joined their lives together on September 14, 2013 at Lakewood Christian Center in Montgomery, Alabama. Their marriage honors God for what He had brought to pass in their lives. The ceremony was officiated by Corinna's brother, Pastor Chuck Glasscock of Lakewood Christian Center, Montgomery, Alabama. Music was presented in honor of the couple by Harold and Eva Russell of Highland Home, AL.

Ronald parents are Edward and Ann Davis of Highland Home, AL.

Corinna's father Mr. Ed Hillyer, Salem Oregon, not only attended this wonderful event, but also gave her away to Ronald. Ronald and Corinna married on Mr. Hillyer's 87th birthday. Members of Corinna's family who attended from Aurora, Oregon were her brother, Leo Hillyer and wife Reyne. Also attending was her dear friend Debbie Ridenour from Salem, Oregon.



Rick Light plays bass with "Country Boy Eddie Jones" (Ed Jones)

The "Ed Jones Fan Club" on the last night of his 3 month engagement at the Young Barn Pub and Oyster Bar on August 27th



l-r: Betty Jones, (hidden Becky Moore) Cookie Knott, May Alice Spear, Harry Nelson, Carolyn Nelson, Farrar Spear, Carolyn Norman



Caroline Vocino with husband Tom

Caroline Vocino received the Pike Road Citizen of the Year award from the Pike Road Civic Club.

Chip and Tricia Norris were presented the Ole Brick Award from the Pike Road Civic Club

l-r: The Norris family - Trey, Julia, Wade, Tricia and Chip



Sympathy to the families of...

Browder, Charles Evans (61)
 Morris, George (Dawson) (19)
 Ledbetter, Jesse Lee James (26)
 Blackwell, Earline B. (85)
 Beasley, Lettie Steineck (77)
 Meredith, Leon Alfred (83)
 Gulsby, Charles William (Buddy) (87)
 Haber, Betty Grant (81)
 Hagood, Dr. Martha (89)
 Meyer, Carolyn Byrn Mastin (55)
 Youngblood, Judith Brown (72)
 Deal, Geraldine (78)
 Fannin, Bill Frank (83)

died August 25, 2013
 died August 26, 2013
 died August 28, 2013
 died August 29, 2013
 died September 2, 2013
 died September 2, 2013
 died September 4, 2013
 died September 9, 2013
 died September 9, 2013
 died September 9, 2013
 died September 10, 2013
 died September 11, 2013
 died September 11, 2013

Broom, Helen Louise (90)
 Castleberry, John Richard (71)
 Hughes, Shawn Jeffrey (30)
 Lett, James Audrey (70)
 Cook, Wendy Rahn (38)
 Dawkins, James Lewis (74)
 Bedwell, Robert Jones (89)
 Argo, Mary Lee Rushing
 Owen, Jesse Ray (89)
 Haber, Ralph (Flag) Maurice
 Simms, Nathan Wayne (82)
 Smith Sr., Billy James
 Dixon, Edward Clifton (Clif) (60)
 Sadler, Robert Alfred (Bob) (88)
 Bridges, Opal Cone (93)

died September 12, 2013
 died September 12, 2013
 died September 12, 2013
 died September 12, 2013
 died September 13, 2013
 died September 13, 2013
 died September 14, 2013
 died September 15, 2013
 died September 15, 2013
 died September 16, 2013
 died September 16, 2013
 died September 16, 2013
 died September 17, 2013
 died September 17, 2013
 died September 18, 2013

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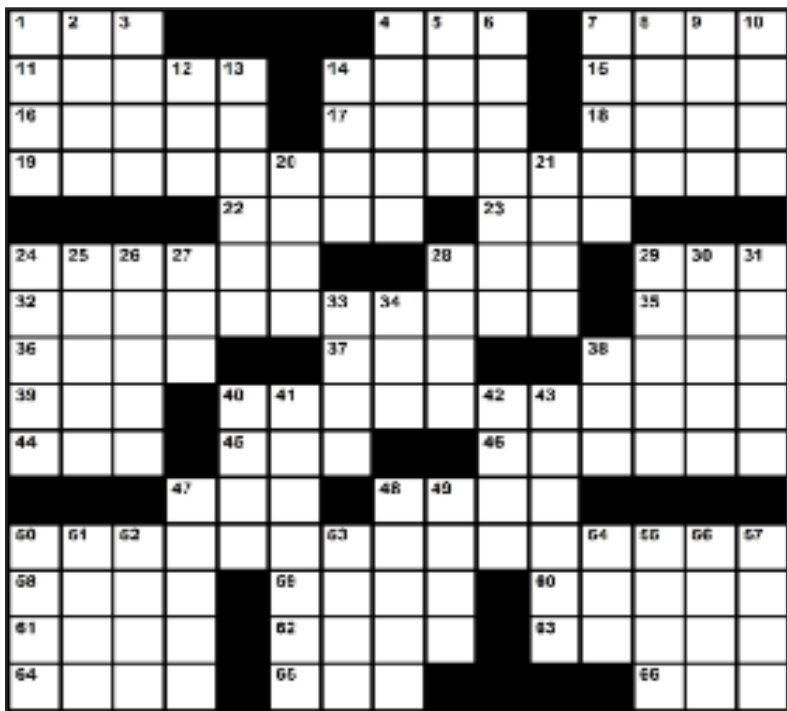
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- Across
- 1. Burro
 - 4. Postponed
 - 7. Indian king
 - 11. Asian capital
 - 14. Urge (on)
 - 15. Love god
 - 16. Cherish
 - 17. Hobbling
 - 18. "What's left of me"

- album singer, Lachey
- 19. Patties
- 22. Pudding ingredient
- 23. ___ fangled
- 24. Make a comeback
- 28. Cyst
- 29. Solemn promise
- 32. Hell
- 35. Creeper
- 36. Three
- 37. Old-time welcome
- 38. Concept
- 39. "___ Got the World on a String"
- 40. Musical score, for example
- 44. Mushroom
- 45. Criminal charge
- 46. Duty
- 47. Finalize, with "up"
- 48. Take on board
- 50. Farmyard cries
- 58. Wrinkly fruit
- 59. Vitamin C ingredient
- 60. Wash off
- 61. Evil eye

- 62. A bit painful
 - 63. Photog's request
 - 64. It's not right
 - 65. Hay land
 - 66. Tee, e.g.
- Down
- 1. Nile reptiles
 - 2. Hospital fluids
 - 3. Potting need
 - 4. Painting style
 - 5. Reeking
 - 6. He invented a lens
 - 7. Freshen
 - 8. La Scala highlight
 - 9. Person trained to compete in sports
 - 10. Solicits
 - 12. Submachine gun
 - 13. Apartment dweller, probably
 - 14. Swing around
 - 20. U.S. Vice President
 - 21. Look after
 - 24. Prank
 - 25. Guts
 - 26. Brew

- 27. Kid's query
- 28. English architect, Sir Christopher
- 29. Record visually
- 30. Pizza places
- 31. Kurt Russell in Tombstone
- 33. Contort
- 34. Roman eggs
- 38. Trickster
- 40. Floor space
- 41. Unfair treatment
- 42. Lass
- 43. Dubai rulers
- 47. Go around
- 48. Stir
- 49. Half-heartedly
- 50. Select a prize bull
- 51. Arch type
- 52. Note designator
- 53. Fraction of thrice
- 54. Headlight setting
- 55. Focused on something (2 words)
- 56. Capital of Norway
- 57. Ooze

UNCLE ZEB

IF BILL GATES WAS A REDNECK
NAMED BILLY BOB GATES

Their #1 product would be Microsoft Winders
Dialog boxes would give you the choice
of Ahh-ight or Naaaaa
Instead of ta-da the opening sound
would be dueling banjos
The Recycle Bin in Winders'95 would be an outhouse
PowerPoint would be named ParPawnt
New Shutdown wav: Y'all come back now, Yah hear?
Microsoft Office replaced with Micrasawft Henhouse
Four words: Daisy Duke Screen Saver
Flight Simulator replaced by Tractor Pull Simulator
Microsoft CEO: Bubba Gates



From CountryHumor.com

Uncle Zeb Illustration by: Craig Shook

BOX SCRABBLE WORDS

(All words appear in this issue of the Gazette.)
Answers on page 8B.

cmhrpaya

clue page 1B

ismzobe

clue page 11B

nedsfee

clue page 4B

rganoe

clue page 7A

ladet

clue page 5A

icupib

clue page 4B

nstervae

clue page 8B

lecmdail

clue page 6B

uprcso

clue page 10A

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Kylle' McKinney

By Kyle' D. McKinney

Alabama Public Affairs Specialist

Social Security Administration

“Open season” is right around the corner for the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. Hunting down the best plan for you is no game.

Newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries, and current beneficiaries who are considering changes to their Medicare Part D plan, should mark their calendars for October 15. The “open season” will run from October 15 to December 7.

The Medicare Part D prescription drug program is available to all Medicare beneficiaries to help with the costs of medications. Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan is voluntary, and participants pay an additional monthly premium for the coverage.

While all Medicare beneficiaries can participate in the prescription drug program, some people with limited income and resources also are eligible for “Extra Help” to pay for monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. The Extra Help is worth about \$4,000 a year.

HUNTING FOR A PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN IS NO GAME

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN.

To figure out whether you are eligible for the Extra Help, Social Security needs to know your income and the value of any savings, investments, and real estate (other than the home you live in). To qualify, you must be receiving Medicare and have:

- Income not over \$17,235 for an individual or \$23,265 for a married couple living together. Even if your annual income is higher, you still may be able to get some help with monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments. Some examples where your income may be higher include if you or your spouse:

- Support other family members who live with you;
- Have earnings from work; or
- Live in Alaska or Hawaii; and

- Resources not over \$13,300 for an individual or \$26,580 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks, and bonds.

We do not count your house or car as resources.

You can complete an easy-to-use online application for Extra Help at www.socialsecurity.gov. Go to the Medicare tab on the top of the page. Then go to “Apply For Extra Help With Medicare Prescription Plan Costs.” To apply for the Extra Help by phone or have an application mailed to you, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the Application for Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs (SSA-1020).

And if you would like more information about the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program itself, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

So this open season (October 15 to December 7), after you track down the perfect prescription drug plan for you, hunt for something that could put about \$4,000 in your pocket — bag the best Medicare prescription drug plan for you and see if you qualify for the Extra Help through Social Security.

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 356-6980**

Carl Schmidt, ND, Montgomery, AL

Within hours of using the band I noticed the nagging spot of pain in my shoulder was so much less. The pain usually distracted me from staying on task and caused me to not do things that I wanted. The pain kept me from doing some very light exercises and if I would push myself that pain was more intense for days. I have to highly recommend the new you miracle band.

Marie H, Wetumpka, AL

For years I have suffered from fibromyalgia and most recently from a condition that affected my muscles to the point that I would just sit down and cry. Thanks to the Miracle Band my pain is MUCH LESS and I can do things that my mind only dreamed of doing. I recommend Miracle Band highly!

Paul Neal, 73, Waxahachie, Texas

For the past 3 years my knees hurt so bad I could barely walk. Jeff had told me about his results and I too had tried everything for my pains. After wearing the band for one night, the next morning I jumped out of bed. I've now purchased 15 bands for friends and family.

Glenda DeRamus, Montgomery, AL

Every morning the arthritis in my hands was so bad I had to run hot water over my hands to loosen my fingers and kill the pain. I no longer have to bear the pain and the swelling has gone down substantially. I saw the results that Jeff had and I cannot believe it. We had to go tell the world about this band.

Jeff N, Montgomery, AL

In October of 2007, I was hit by a pickup truck while riding my bicycle. God had other plans for me. My injuries were s severe they included a shattered left tibia, 5 broken ribs, a broken pelvis, a punctured lung and my recover took over a year. After my recovery, my left ankle and leg would hurt so bad every morning when I would awake. On a scale of 1-10 my leg was a three yet by the end of the day it was a twenty three and every evening my leg hurt so bad I could not walk. On October 18,2009, I went to my orthopaedic surgeon, Roland Hester with pain so severe that I wanted to cut my leg off. A friend gave me this miracle band and after two days, the results were unbelievable. I highly recommend it to anyone. To me this miracle band is worth a billion dollars.



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