



Must Read! Look Inside!

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"Deliver Us From Evil"



If you have ever been a parent, do you remember those conversations you wish you didn't have to have? Maybe it was about abusing a privilege, an accident in the car, failing grades in college or some other unanticipated circumstance of life. I never looked forward to any of them and upon reflection, am sure neither did my parents when it fell to their place to speak to me.

most of us who lived through great wars and heartache of the last century, we entered this one with high hopes of a new age with less conflict on the world stage. Instead our lives and the relative peace of our nation were radically ripped apart with the attack on September 11, 2001. We thought, "Surely no one could do this to our beloved United States of America." But they did. From that time forward we have been faced with continuing upheavals and threats. We have been introduced to new concepts of war and see ravages of lands and millions of refugees from tyranny. Bombings and terror are no longer limited to lands far away with people we will never meet. Recent months have brought horrible images right to our homes through television. What moved from the Middle East into Europe has also come to our shores. There is a wave of fascism and anarchy among some groups in our country who seek to destroy the fiber of our nation. What was said by Chuck Hagel after 9/11 is still true.

The subject of evil is one of those topics none of us really look forward to talking about either. How much more enjoyable it would be to talk about progress, peace, success and happiness. But we are not afforded those opportunities in the world we live in today. We are not to be constant forecasters of doom, while on the other hand, neither are we to have our heads buried in the sand.

It is a subject every generation has had to face. For

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"America is forever changed."



Student facing 50 day suspension for saying 'All Lives Matter'.
Fox News - Todd Starnes, August 3, 2016, FOX News.com

"What happened to this young lady is despicable and detestable. She was publically shamed and verbally flogged because she believes every life has value. But such an opinion is no longer allowed at the University of Houston -- where free speech has been strung up by a politically correct lynch mob. They provided a statement to the Houston Press -- trying to distance themselves from the actions of the student government association. "The University of Houston continues to stand firm in support of free speech and does not discipline students for exercising their Constitutional rights," the statement read."

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GAZETTE PUBLISHING
12 East Jefferson St.
Montgomery, AL 36104
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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

The Complex World of Military Planning

Last week after the mass murders in Nice, France, I called into a local talk radio show. When beginning to discuss the topic, I was asked if I “had the answer” to the attacks and threats that are coming at us at an increasing pace. My answer was “no.” Without having all the requisite intelligence information, nobody can. It is impossible. The area of operational planning is far too complex and detailed to come up with an answer in a 30 second bite. When pressed for an answer, I again refused to give what appeared to be the controversial clip the hosted wanted to hear. I am unwilling to give such a target rich statement because: **1)** It is foolhardy to do so and **2)** I am not that one statement “fits all” guy. Sorry, I am too smart for that. I taught operational planning for too many years, know the information too well and am too well-versed in military history to distill my thoughts into such a single statement. The host, not liking my answers actually hung up on me but that is okay. I have taught thousands of students over the years on this subject. While teaching this subject, I have also debated many a man/woman much better informed on such subjects than this radio host. People who want to actually learn something rarely run from the unknown.

Here is the reality in dealing with ISIS and any terrorist groups – foreign or domestic. There is NO ONE solution. This is why we incorporate Joint Doctrine and define exactly how we should go about executing any military operation. And let me tell you, it is NOT an easy endeavor. From Joint Intelligence of the Operational Environment to things like, strategies, objectives, courses of actions, measures of effectiveness, coercive strategies, both friendly/enemy center of gravity analysis, basing, and desired end-state requirements to name just a few, operational planning is a very difficult thing to accomplish well. Anybody who attempts to say they “know” what we should do and yet does not go through all the required steps, is someone who does not and cannot fully understand the actors involved. It is not a knock on anybody but one simply cannot “know” exactly what to do nor can it easily be summed up in a single sentence or statement. Even when very experience military planners work together, they often “get it wrong” because of many unforeseen circumstances or incomplete intelligence. A perfect example was our focus on destroying German ball-bearing plants during World War II.

Through it all, however, there is one thing I am willing to stake my name on and that is the importance of well crafted, fully formed and clear strategies and objectives. You want to debate me on this topic, bring it. In over ten years of teaching operational planning, in my opinion, there is no other area more important than the development of good, cogent objectives. Nothing. Objectives drive absolutely everything. Everything! Without good objectives, everything else is worthless. You can kill thousands of enemy combatants, torch cities and burn industry but at the end of the day if you have not defined what your purpose really is, you are wasting time, money and assets. Remember, the purpose of war is never to kill and destroy. Inevitable reality? You betcha, but it is not war’s purpose. To convince the enemy to do your will, however, is war’s purpose. This is a topic in and of itself to be discussed at another time. But last year, I wrote an article for *The Weekly Standard* titled, *Why Our Strategies Against ISIS Are Worthless*. Feel free to substitute ISIS for any group who we are now facing or have ever confronted. Until we define exactly what it is we want to do in this so-called war on terror, we cannot possibly know “how” to do it. Sounds simple, folks but . . . Below is that article.

Unfortunately, the United States’ strategies against the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) are fundamentally flawed and doomed to fail. A review of the U.S. Joint Doctrine demonstrates that we lack both clear objectives and strategies. This is recipe for failure.

First, the matter of objectives. According to Joint Doctrine, objectives are the common thread that integrate and synchronize all planning activities. Objectives provide purpose and focus for the planning and employment of military forces and as such, they are the responsibility of the president and the secretary of defense. In short, the objective is simply the “*what*” of what you want to accomplish.

In light of this, the objective must meet three criteria. First an objective must be *clearly defined*, pointing toward clear end states at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels of war. Once developed, everyone involved must be able to look at an objective and say, “Yes, I understand what we are trying to accomplish.”

During the First World War, Colonel Billy Mitchell wrote that he had a certain mediocre captain on his staff. Before any order was published, Mitchell ensured this captain read it. Mitchell knew that if this captain understood the written order, he knew anybody in his command could. An objective should leave absolutely no ambiguity to the reader.

Next, the objective must be *measurable*. How does one know when they have achieved their objective? This is not necessarily an easy endeavor. Do we destroy a certain percentage (rarely a good measure) of enemy forces? Do we drive an enemy out of an area? Do we stop them before they reach a certain “line in the sand”? Do we shut down an electrical grid for XX hours? A lot of thought

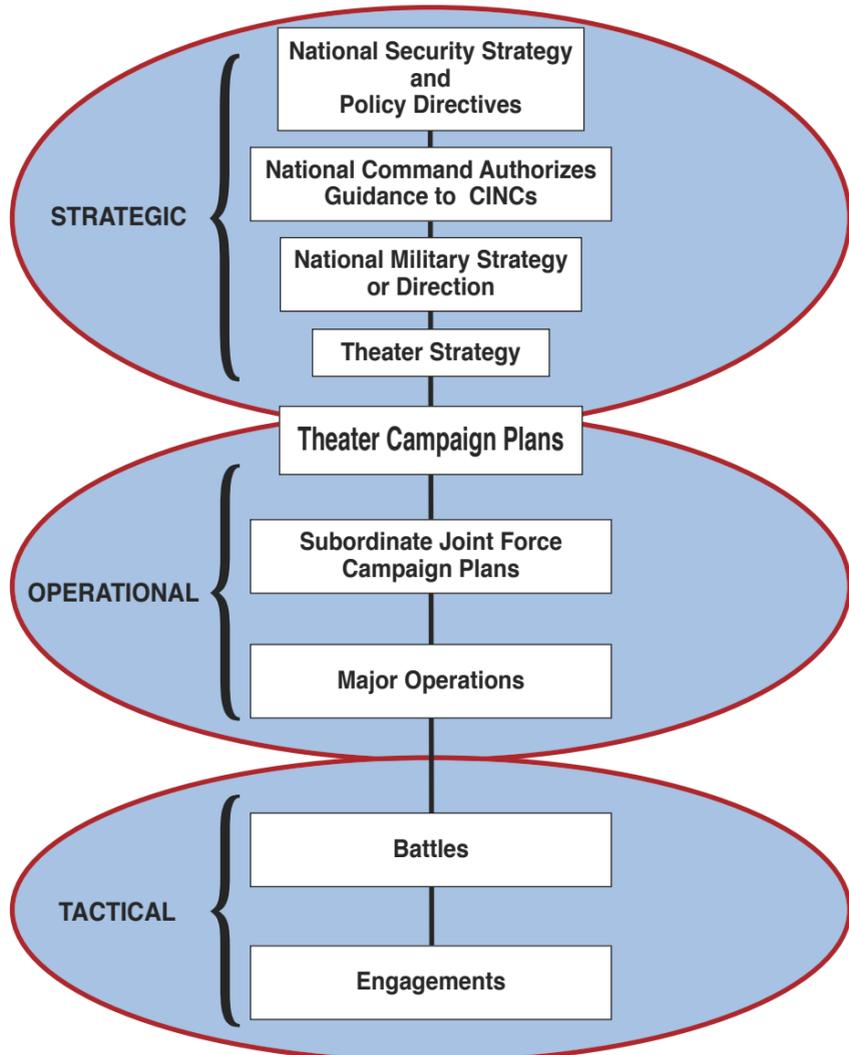
must go into crafting a coherent measure of effectiveness. Simply stating you want to “degrade” an opponent, as our administration once said about ISIS, is in no way a clear measure. Degrade? How do you define “degrade”? For how long? In what way? To what end? Although degrading the enemy is an operational or tactical level “effect” according to Joint Doctrine, it is in no way a strategic or operational objective.

Lastly, the objective must be *attainable*. If there is no possibility of achieving an objective, there remain only two options for the planner or commander. The objective must either be abandoned or modified so as to be achievable. One can bomb targets all day long, but if the subsequent death and destruction cannot achieve the stated objective, those actions are useless. This is why the too often poorly crafted objective of “winning the hearts and minds” of an enemy is so tenuous. In reality, depending upon the enemy, no matter what you do, this is may never be achievable. An admiral goal perhaps, but often destined to fail.

An excellent example of a clearly stated strategic level objective was put forth by President George H.W. Bush after Iraq invaded Kuwait. After the November 1990 U.N. Security Council authorization to use “all necessary means” to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the primary strategic objective that guided all U.S. and coalition political and military plans and actions simply stated when the war was over, no Iraqi military personnel would remain within Kuwaiti territory. Without question, this is an excellent objective that clearly satisfied the entire metric we previously put forth.

Now, consider strategy: the method for the overall conduct for accomplishing stated objectives. For the sake of simplicity, think of strategies as “*how*” you are going to achieve your objectives --- the “*what*.” Here, planners and commanders use the full range of military options like lethal, non-lethal, kinetic, non-kinetic, alliances, coercive strategies, humanitarian missions and the like. While the particulars are not important in this discussion, one must understand that strategies must work to achieve objectives and thus a strategy is never “*what*” you want to accomplish. Clearly defined, measurable and attainable objectives must therefore come before strategies.

This is why before politicians espouse “strategies for defeat,” they must first define unequivocally what it is they want to accomplish including their strategic end states. Until then, they are simply spinning their wheels. With regards to ISIS, until we as a nation decide what it is we want to accomplish, no strategy is going to motivate them out of their current behavior. One can rest assured that ISIS is exploiting both our indifference and unfamiliarity with operational thought.



Hierarchy of Guidance and Implementing Operations.



Commissioner
Chris “Chip”
Beeker, Jr.

COAL CLOBBERS THE COSMIC CURRENT

In boxing it is said, “*To be the champ, you’ve got to beat the champ.*” In Alabama, coal is the champion of our natural resources. There is enough coal in our soil to produce electricity for hundreds of years. But, some people don’t want us to do that. They want us to use only the sun or wind to produce electricity. We cannot and should not, however, abandon coal, our greatest and most reliable natural resource.

Many of the wonderful Alabama citizens currently working in coal mines are descendants of several generations of coal miners. Their hard work allows them to provide for their families and contribute to our economy. I greatly admire these miners, many of whom I have had the pleasure of meeting over the years. The coal that they labor to bring out of the earth is truly amazing. It helped America grow by powering the trains that moved people and goods into the west. It provided the energy industries needed to produce the weapons the United States used to fight and win two world wars. Coal, Alabama’s champion natural resource, helped make America great.

Although you may have heard that, as a member of the Alabama Public Service Commission I voted to approve two solar projects, let me assure you that my commitment to the coal industry has not and will not waiver. There were two votes on two different solar projects. The first was to allow the construction of solar energy facilities on Fort Rucker and the Anniston Army Depot. I cast my vote for those projects only because I was convinced that, had

they not been approved, President Obama would have spitefully shuttered those facilities or moved them outside Alabama. The second project was for a solar energy facility in LaFayette. My vote on that project was based on the fact that Alabama Power had a customer who wanted to purchase nearly eighty percent of the energy that project will produce. As a conservative, I felt compelled to support the free market forces that brought about the need for a vote.

While I hope that these projects will be successful, there is no doubt that they will not come close to producing the amount of electricity a coal-fired power plant can. Also, don’t forget that coal works when solar can’t. At night, solar facilities will not produce a single watt of electricity although coal-fired plants can produce electricity all night long. You cannot depend on solar power during a cloudy, overcast day; coal is dependable no matter what the weather is like outside. When it comes to the production of electricity, solar can’t beat coal; it never has and it never will.

I have long understood that coal is our champion natural resource. You can rest assured that I will continue to strongly support Alabama’s coal industry and will work against any effort to jeopardize Alabama jobs by moving away from the use of coal to power our state.

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

Commissioners Corner, PSC

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

The Education Station...

By *Bobbie Ames*

OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC IS AT STAKE... LIBERTY OR SOCIALISM FOR ALL?

The publication of a pamphlet, "**The Communist Manifesto**," in the mid 1800's, may have attracted little notice in the beginning, but it has emerged as the most influential publication of the Century. The effect of this view of history and of the human race has had lasting influence across the world, and even in the United States today.

Written by **Karl Marx** and **Friedrich Engels**, who were Germans, but were employed in England, at the time of the writing. The document asserts that all human history is the story of class struggle. In earlier history, many nations lived through class struggles, whether Medieval Europe or the Roman Empire. In Rome, the struggle was between the patrician, the plebian, and the slave.

At the time of the writing, England was enjoying the growth of the manufacturing industry. Trading networks were expanding, raw materials were more readily available, and there was a growing and prosperous middle class emerging. Marx and Engels observed uneducated and unskilled laborers comprising the working class (proletariat) who were working in those factories. These laborers were necessary to maintain assembly line production. With increased industrial expansion came prosperity for the elevated middle class (bourgeoisie).

The Communist goal was to bring about revolutions between the classes and give control of all production to the State (which they hoped to see formed as a Communist State). Their goal was an idea firm in their mind, to have the State control the means of production, to abolish private property, and to have the State take over the control of education. They saw all of history as the history of class struggles. Yes, they would use that for their determined end.

A study of Communism, history, and revolutions will reveal its influence, even today, throughout the declining European nations and its influence in our own America.

Much earlier in the French Revolution, we read of "LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY."

"**The Declaration of The Rights of Man**" were drawn up and adopted by the French National Assembly in 1789, asserting that "*all men are born free and equal in rights.*" It listed essential rights such as the right to liberty, private property, personal safety, and freedom from oppression. The French people had endured the absolutist rule of **Louis XVI**. The Declaration did not call for a Democracy, but it contained a plea for Liberty. There was at least a dream of Liberty among the French people, that didn't materialize.

Of all the ancient charters, the **Magna Charta**, 1225, has had the most lasting influence.

The ideals in this document helped shape the **Constitution of the United States**. To give an example of the legal principle and practice that it contained, read this:

"No freeman shall be arrested, or kept in prison, or diseased (have his lands taken away), or outlawed or banished or in anyway brought to ruin, unless by the lawful judgement of his peers, or by the law of the land."

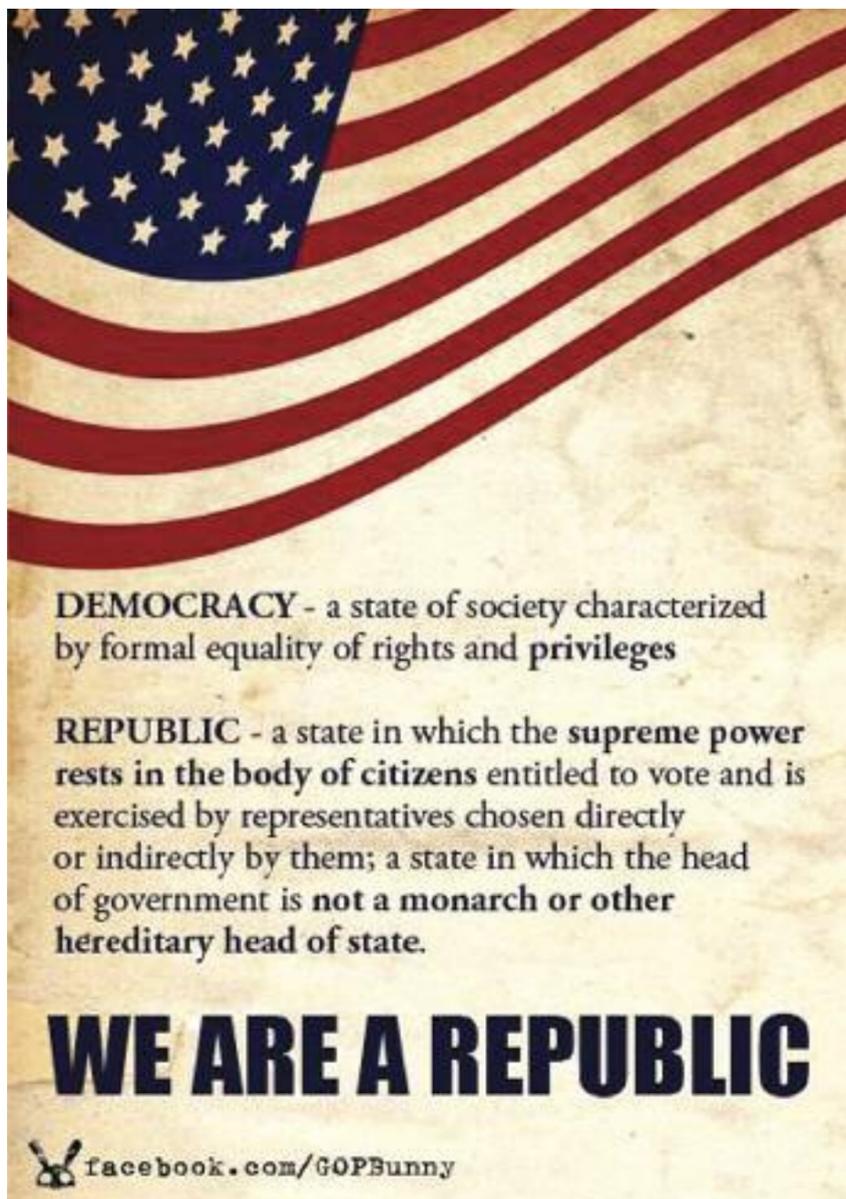
Would this not stand today as a very fundamental judgement of Justice?

When the English became fascinated with the idea of colonization of the New World, a group of investors founded **The London Company** to bring it to pass. Only 4% of the investors belonged to the ranking nobility. Capitalism was very much alive, and 96% of the investors were tailors, skimmers, salters, bakers, grocers, cloth workers, and fishmongers.

Capitalism worked well, as it always does, when combined with integrity and wise judgement. Every story of our founding seems to have an inspired message, whether it is **Captain John Smith** erecting a wooden cross on the shore of Cape Henry, or the founding of Plymouth Plantation in Massachusetts. The colonists could acquire their own property and earn the wages for their willing work. The citizens elected their own delegates for their assemblies, and made their own laws through a legal process. There was no sign of communism or socialism in the function of government in the New World. A Constitutional Republic was born with the exercise of the sovereign power lodged in Representatives elected by the people.

Noah Webster wrote: "*It seems to be a political axiom that republics should be founded on an equality of rights, and or so constructed as to preserve that equality.*"

John Adams wrote, "*The foundations of national morality must be laid in private families. In vain are schools, academies, and universities instituted if loose principles and licentious habits are impressed upon children in their earliest years.*"



Benjamin Rush certainly was in agreement. He wrote, "*Without religion, I believe that learning does real mischief to the morals and principles of mankind.*"

One of America's most prominent women, **Mercy Otis Warren**, wrote, "*It is necessary for every American, to stop the dissemination of principles evidently destructive of the cause for which they have bled. It must be the combined virtue of the rulers and the people to do this, and to rescue and save their civil and religious rights from the outstretched hand of tyranny, which may appear under any form of government.*"

Education played such an important part of the foundation of America. It was solidly based on a specific world view, which combined the fundamentals of Christianity and Republican government, framed carefully to protect individual civil and religious liberty.

In Federalist 51, **James Madison** wrote, "*What is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If angels were to govern men, neither internal nor external controls on government would be necessary. However, not only do we not have angels governing men, but we have Progressives who deny the existence of God and without His guidelines (Ten Commandments) we end up with anarchy.*"

Christians, true Christians, are in such pain today. We look at the government educational system and realize that evolution and other immoral curriculum is taught as "truth" to students. There is a total absence of Moral Absolutes, as Relativism has replaced the Truth. True History was long ago replaced with Social Studies as designed by Progressives. Children are deprived of their rightful American Heritage. The legacy of **John Dewey** and **Horace Mann** and their followers have won the day....at least for now.

We look at the agenda of the **Progressives**, another name for **Socialism**. We see the call for more government controls over our everyday lives. Legalizing abortion on demand, gender selection, same sex marriage, and even some judges assuming the right to determine what is in "the best interest of the child" rather than the parents making that determination.

The goal of this article is a call to prayer for families and for our country. We look at the numbers, which constantly increase, of babies born out of wedlock. The number of babies aborted, the number of single parents who are rearing children alone, the number of children in failing schools through no fault of their own are all alarming!

We can all look back over our own family life and see our mistakes, but we can make a new determination this very day. Our country has no future without a Moral Base. To bring this back will take more than one election, as important as that is. We may not have the perfect candidate, but where will we be if Christians are not involved and make their voice heard and their vote count. It will take families committed to each other, with a Faith based commitment of parent to child, and child to parent, and sibling to sibling. For unity in the family, God made the provision for family life.

"God setteth the solitary in families." Psalm 68:v 8

Hopefully, families who have neglected church attendance will locate an area church that honors the Word of GOD and where the pastor preaches the truth boldly without compromise and where there spiritual needs are met. Hopefully, more grandparents will take the time to enrich the lives of grandchildren, especially if both parents work. This writer hopes that home schools and Christian Schools will increase as more parents become informed as to exactly what is happening to our culture and to the political process. Looking at the political process, it doesn't look "inviting," but where will we be if Christians are not involved? America's future as a Christian Constitutional Republic is at stake. There is an answer in God's Word.

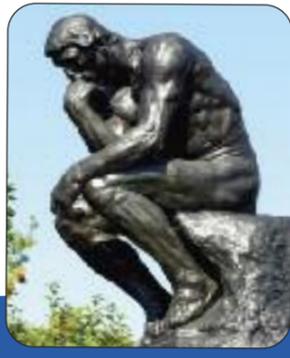
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, There is Liberty." 2 Corinthians 3:17

 <p>God Bless America!</p> <p>In a Democracy, the majority rules. If the majority decided they wanted your bike, they could take it.</p> <p>In a Republic, your bike is your personal property and you do not owe it to anyone. It cannot be taken against your will, by rule of law.</p> <p><u>America is a Constitutional Republic.</u></p> <p>Therefore, the U.S. Constitution is the rule of law by which we are supposed to be protected.</p> <p>In a Republic, the individual is protected from the majority by Constitutional law.</p> <p><u>A Constitutional Republic is what we were given. It is up to us to keep it.</u></p>	<p>REPUBLIC</p> <p>Governed by elected representatives. Governed by an established set of laws. Protection of individual rights. Protection of property rights. Ideal for large and diverse populations. Avoids extremes: mobocracy and tyranny. Dejure government. Constitutional legislation. Due process under the law. Bill of Rights. Honorable contracts. Constitutional law. Separation of Powers.</p>
	<p>DEMOCRACY</p> <p>Everyone participates in every decision. Majority rules. No protection of individual rights. No protection of property rights. Not practical for large countries. Always ends in revolution and violence. Defacto government. Unconstitutional legislation. Bills of attainder. Libra Codes. Adhesion contracts. Color-of-law. Cross-jurisdiction violations.</p>

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

John Sophocleus

THINK



HUBBARD FALSE WITNESSES: AN 'EXODUS' OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE SENTENCING

I suspect most of my readers are familiar with the Decalogue. I felt compelled to include text below from **Exodus 20 (KJV)** to highlight how many of the Ten Commandments were trampled upon in Judge Walker's Circuit court before sentencing the completely impenitent felon Hubbard. Observations of these false witnesses will be of little surprise to those able to identify modern Nimrods (who've made govt. their god) and their minions as blind servants to mammon with such disregard toward their own souls much less the general welfare of others. Taking the Lord's name in vain before taking the stand seems to come easy to those who covet the product of others' labour and easily justify stealing from others (oft of meager means) to subsidize their folly. After stomping upon so many of the Ten, most barely notice a 'public servant' breaking the last bulwark of our civilisations' firewall when bearing false witness. Such relentless fidelity to corruption on the witness stand is disheartening; I couldn't help but think with a mustard seed of devotion to God and righteousness how different these past years may've been...

- 1 *And God spake all these words, saying,*
- 2 *I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*
- 3 *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*
- 4 *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*
- 5 *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*
- 6 *And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*
- 7 *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*
- 8 *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*
- 9 *Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:*
- 10 *But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:*
- 11 *For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*
- 12 *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*
- 13 *Thou shalt not kill.*
- 14 *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
- 15 *Thou shalt not steal.*
- 16 *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour*

Hopefully this preface helps convey the surrealistic feel listening to Hubbard's witnesses before sentencing. Brother Matheson (Auburn UMC, retired) was most frustrating to me to suffer as an orthodox Christian raised by a good southern Momma - i.e., still shilling "Belief in Mike Hubbard" was hard to swallow from someone who may better serve our community by advancing belief in God and shepherd a member of his flock toward being a penitent thief (as a correctly convicted felon) to save his soul. Kicking-off with more football talk was a poor start. Couldn't the defense use a coach or some other Hubbard john' blinded "blue & orange" to accomplish this long overused appeal to the gallery?

Next was Auburn Bank's Gene Dulaney sobbing on behalf of his friend Mike Hubbard. Getting unsecured loans at the expense of stockholders and other [actually] competent business people who could improve our general welfare over Hubbard's political theft and cronyism wasn't part of his diatribe. Sad the prosecution didn't provide some I know who have been harmed by Hubbard's reign. Banks, coaches, friends, et al who provide even **more** money to postpone thieves and manipulators of this sort from finally meeting an unbiased, righteous reckoning are most deleterious.

The well void dired jury was undoubtedly a different sample than he's accustomed to - i.e., more representative of the people than Hubbard's hyper gerrymandered district, low voter turnout skewed result he's so easily exploited. No straight ticket voting, uncompetitive ballot access laws, BCA big money subsidized ad campaigns, etc. to shield him under the scrutiny of this court. Hubbard was simply the most visible tip on one of the biggest ice bergs. They must be dissolved with more heat and light to provide safe sea lanes again. The amount of resources and talent required to discipline corruption under this terribly uncompetitive political result is a huge tax on our economy and collective Spirit and could be better done at ballot boxes than courts under a more competitive process. As I type the BCA is already maneuvering to install another crony as our State School Superintendent to keep the graft churning from education tax dollars. It is like weeding the garden... one of the largest destructive weeds has been removed as House Speaker, but the task of weeding is never done.

Mayor Fuller then took the witness stand also shilling belief in Mike Hubbard as a 'good man' reiterating Mr. Baxley's impetuous (dare I type contemptuous toward Judge Walker's Court?) assertion Hubbard will be exonerated on appeal. When talking about ALDoT and other transfers to facilitate the cancerous growth and tax collusion in Lee County, one certainly wondered Fuller's criterion for "good." Too bad anti-trust laws are not evoked against colluding entities like Auburn and Opelika when raising taxes. Many locals were angered by Fuller's witnessing on felon Hubbard's behalf, but last I checked only one is running against this incumbent 'public servant.' Some think Mayor Fuller purposefully discourages pay increases so fewer competent candidates will consider the job to remain an arbiter of the largess to benefit himself. Fortuitous to get a corrupt county to use their equipment to clear and grub for the Mayor while rural (mostly poor, black) folks can't get to their churches and jobs because of poorly maintained roads which result from misallocations of this sort.

Most vulgar of 'unrighteous witnesses for the wicked' in keeping with Biblical text in Exodus was Congressman Rogers reminding Judge Walker of this "first offender." It was all the more laughable this dullard attorney lawmaker offered no discussion of Hubbard's serial felony offender status. I'm sure he'd make the same argument for the rapist convicted on 12 counts if it served his self-interest regardless of others harmed. Mr. Hart did finally take this despicable witness to task as ringleader of the "I like Mike" PEP RALLY (even the memory of Ike is not safe in the hands of these Republicrat charlatans) impugning the grand jury immediately after handing down 23 felony indictments; now vindicated with 12 convictions. Shamelessly undeterred, Rogers went on to berate the jurors who correctly convicted this pollutant who has done so much

damage to our economy, taxpayers, students, etc. Hubbard and Rogers political 'graftmaster' gaming is easy to follow as I wrote in: <http://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2016/02/01/opinion/the-graftmaster-two-step-hubbard-doe-see-does-with-rogers/672.html> Hart's most shining moment was to remind the defense their innocence rhetoric has no bearing on sentencing; Hubbard no longer enjoys the presumption of innocence once convicted on 12 of the 23 felony charges. Rogers was again an embarrassment to the citizens of 3rd District showing such great contempt for our legal system in open court - voters should be ashamed of re-installing him these past several elections.

Another glaring point of irony is the lack of 'bluff and bluster' on how great the system is and how well it works with the Hubbard result. One could see this 'Noon Day Devil' reveling when 'public servant' Rep. Moore was found not guilty of the well documented perjury charge. Perhaps it served the purpose of emboldening Hubbard all the more for the jury to see his true colours.

Four years in State Prison (dare I type our 'liberator' will be "Stormin' the State Pen" if righteousness continues to prevail?) followed by 16 years probation. Maybe someone who understands the practical meaning of Hubbard's sentencing (perhaps fellow columnist Ronald Holtsford?) could explain it in terms a layperson would understand. Only felony count 11 followed consecutively and \$210k in fines was noticeably below the \$360k max I forecasted. Rather light by most accounts, last I looked 81% of respondents to the **WSFA** poll also thought it too light a sentence. Judge Walker cited limited data to offer much sentencing guidance. He clearly didn't think the Stroud case 10 year sentencing for one who admitted guilt as a sound benchmark. The prosecution did an unusually poor job making a compelling case for restitution, which Walker denied without any case law in support - the reason I didn't include it my "**Michael Gregory Hubbard: the impenitent thief**" column last month. Disappointed Judge Walker didn't give a sentence which sent a stronger message, but still enough to show we're serious about curbing corruption in our State and difficult to be called harsh on appeal. Perhaps the prosecution can remove more embarrassing 'public servants' like Messrs. Fuller and Rogers we witnessed before sentencing as our non-competitive election process keeps reelecting corrupt cronies of this sort.

Immediately following Judge Walker's sentencing, Hubbard's defense team dropped another dud (thinking a cry of juror misconduct would be received as a bombshell) after once again smugly asserting they'll win on appeal. Perhaps most revealing was the 'ho-hum' reaction except among 'bitter ender' Hubbard minions. I did think it odd one of the most rabid Hubbard sycophants at the trial was recounting what jurors were saying as fact. While many want to remember Hubbard corruption and keep the BCA thugs in check; the frivolous litany of prosecutorial misconduct, wrongful jury empanelment, leaking confidential informants, etc. from felon Hubbard's legal 'dream team' have folks fatigued. The biggest chuckle was the call for a 'neutral' entity (not the AG's office or ALEA) like Lee County (I Believe in Mike Hubbard) Sheriff Jay Jones to investigate. I've made it clear I'll personally file the ethics complaint if he unilaterally does so: http://www.auburnvillager.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-sheriff-should-not-get-a-pay/article_55d8a04-0acd-11e5-9e87-47b5935ec322.html. Last I spoke with Sheriff Jones he said he'll not pursue it without a request from Judge Walker. My understanding is Walker must be made aware of the juror accusation levied during the trial and would've ruled a mistrial at that time instead of proceeding if it was in fact a concern. I don't know how this good Judge kept his patience given all he had to endure from the defense these past years to adjudicate these 23 felony charges, but he delivered the final result honourably.

For those really 'tuned-in' to Lee County news, I thought Sheriff Jay Jones did an outstanding job dealing with the Taco Bell flap explaining one bad employee is not indicative of all their employees, just as one bad officer doesn't mean most officers are bad. Glad this employee was quickly terminated, wish we could fire politicians like Rogers after speaking so poorly to his 'customers' who served on our Lee County juries, albeit not in uniform.

I opened with one of the most well know excerpts of Exodus; I'd like to close with **Exodus 23 (KJV)** which I found most applicable to Hubbard's sentencing witnesses:

- 1 Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.
- 2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment **AMEN!**

Postscript: Four also appears to be the number for candidates in the mix for Hubbard's now open District 79 House seat primary. Hal Walker dropped out claiming support for Lovvorn who appears to be the BCA candidate. Conner and Smith are in the mix with Toomer who ran in the 2014 primary against Hubbard. I'm unaware of any Democrat although there's some discussion of others (most notable former State Senator Ted Little) considering an independent candidacy on the final (Nov. or Feb.) ballot along with Libertarian Gage Fenwick who is actively working toward getting ballot access.

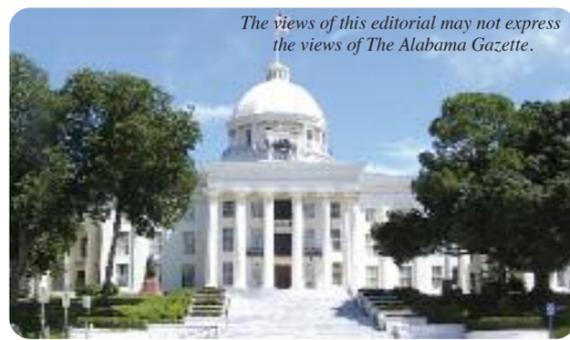
Some further updates on independent candidacies for the November general election come from Chair of the Libertarian Party of Alabama Leigh Lachine explaining efforts to place Governors Gary Johnson and Bill Weld as Independents on our very restricted Statewide ballot. To be listed on our State ballot as a Constitution, Green, Libertarian, Reform, etc. Party candidate requires approximately 35,000 signatures to be submitted by March 1, 2016 - that's prior to ANY convention or determination of candidates. Hubbard was even more effective at killing competition in politics to protect the duopoly than protection for his business cronies. It is less burdensome for Independents who must submit 5,000 valid signatures before August 18, 2016. They've already collected approximately 4,000 with another month to go.

According to Constitution Party of Alabama Chair Joshua Cassidy, they're also working to qualify CP Presidential candidate Darrell Castle as their petitioners collect the required 5,000 signatures for the August 18th deadline. Already aggressively planning Statewide access for the 2018 cycle the CP could pick disaffected T.E.A. Party folks discouraged by the once 'grassroots movement' morphing into something little different from the traditional big government Republicans.

What a waste of candidates' effort, money and time along with taxpayer money and resources for the SoS to verify so many signatures instead of using these expenditures to offset the expense of providing GENERAL elections. Parties should determine candidates for the general ballot on their own purse however they see fit. Primaries have become just another money-maker for the duopoly parties subsidized by State taxpayers. If you want more competition in Alabama politics (even if you're a Reince Priebus believer in binary choices) consider going to these non-duopoly party websites to send in your signatures and learn more about the despotic process eroding the civil rights of candidates and voters in our State.

Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist.
His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers.
He may be reached at www.steveflowers.us



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

Now that the national conventions are over and we have had a glimpse of what to expect in the upcoming fall presidential contest, let us turn our attention back to our good ole state politics.

Even though we do not have any good state races this year, it does not mean that we have not had our share of political happenings. We have been so active that we have garnered national publicity.

Let us reminisce and get you caught up on our soap opera, As the World Turns in Alabama Politics. As the year began we knew that the Mike Hubbard corruption trial would finally unfold. It ended in a convincing conviction and the removal of the once powerful speaker from office and legislative leadership.

We all knew of our good old Dr. Robert Bentley's illicit relationship with his political advisor Rebekah Caldwell Mason but it seemed that it had maybe settled down. However, his fired former friend, Spencer Collier, came after Bentley and his girlfriend with a vengeance. There is an old saying that hell hath no fury like a woman scorned. Well you can add another adage that could be applied to best male friends scorned. Bentley and Collier were best buddies while in the Legislature. Most of Bentley's Cabinet has come from guys that served with him in the House of Representatives.

Spencer Collier was a State Trooper by profession. He cherished the post of heading ALEA. Therefore, when Bentley fired him he turned on his doctor/governor buddy. He has filed suit and spilled the beans on all of the sordid details of Bentley's affair.

It does not appear to me that Collier has much of a case. Cabinet members serve at the pleasure of the governor and the governor can remove them for any reason. It is not a bureaucratic merit system position.

Regardless, the damage has been done to Bentley and Mason. Our homespun, pious governor has been relegated to a national punchline. He continues to be fodder for late night talk shows and cartoonists. He has rendered himself totally irrelevant. Therefore, his legacy will more than likely be the salacious tapes that Collier released. We probably have not heard the last of this story. All of the media hype has spurred the interest of federal investigators.

The third saga of the year has been the removal of Chief Justice Roy Moore from his high tribunal office by the State Judicial Inquiry Commission. This commission has set a hearing for next week, August 8, to decide the fate of our renowned religious judge.

This vague Judicial Inquiry Commission brought six charges of misconduct against Moore, which triggered his automatic suspension on May 6. The charges stemmed from Moore's January 6 order telling probate judges they had a ministerial duty not to issue same sex marriage licenses. This came after the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled such bans were unconstitutional.

The Commission said that Moore's directive placed all 68 probate judges in an untenable position and forced them to violate the state's cannon of ethics. Moore contends that his marriage order was simply advice and they did not have to follow his advice. Most of them did ignore him. They had sense enough to know that the U.S. Supreme Court's opinion trumps a state court judge's opinion.

Moore also argues that the Commission has no power over administrative orders. I tend to concur with Moore. It appears to me that this group has overstepped their bounds. My perception of this group's mission is to police true misconduct by judges like egregious acts of illegality and immorality. Moore has not done anything illegal or immoral, he just simply has a different opinion than the U.S. Supreme Court on the issue of gay marriage.

His opinion is also the same as the vast majority of Alabamians. This group ousted Moore over complaints brought by the Southern Poverty Law Center and ACLU. Folks, in the Heart of Dixie, you could not find two better boogeymen to run against. Moore has got the ACLU, SPLC and the liberal same sex marriage mandating U.S. Supreme Court to run against for governor. George Wallace would have loved that scenario. He always said find me a good boogeyman to run against. They may be electing Moore governor.

August 3, 2016

The Mark of the Beast

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark... And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."
— Revelation 13: 16-17.

Just how, exactly, does the mark of the beast relate to anything we do today in everyday living? Most people need some help comprehending it. But the answer is simple. It's a nasty little government

practice called licensure.

Are you self-employed? Do you own or operate a business? If so, the odds are better than average that you are carrying what is technically the mark of the beast—i.e. a business license—often called a business "privilege" license.

When did this wicked practice get its beginning? Believe it or not, it goes all the way back to four centuries before Christ, when doctors in Greece began to cartelize health care and limit its practice solely to those "duly apprenticed and sworn, and to none others."

In modern times, England's **Royal College of Physicians** has exercised "iron control" over its members for the past several centuries.

From its very beginning, America adhered to laissez faire principles and rejected official intrusions in all economic endeavors. Anybody who wanted to practice any profession or trade was free to do so without any infringement from outsiders—up until the mid-19th century.

At that point medical lobbyists claimed new regulations would protect the public from "quackery," but state medical society journals have revealed that the real motive was to protect doctors' salaries from competition. In 1847, the **American Medical Association** was founded to establish state licensing boards to limit the number of "successful candidates" for "pecuniary gain" and to limit competition. By 1900, every state had adopted strict medical licensure laws. Medical school numbers dropped from 163 in 1906 to 69 in 1944.

Then, beginning in the mid-1960's government-run health care programs emerged and rapidly exploded into a morass of convoluted money pits while more and more abusive restrictions shackled the private sector and forced health care costs to skyrocket. Finally, Obamacare became the crowning capstone on the grave of free market, affordable health care.

Of course, the idea of occupational licensure didn't stop with the medical profession. Lawyers were quick to establish similar protection rackets for themselves. Engineers soon chimed in. And then numerous others followed suit, eventually down to the smallest, mundane enterprises. Today, very few can be practiced without "The Mark of the Beast." In extreme cases like Washington, D. C., almost nothing is safe from requiring a license or permit, even flea market

vendors and children's lemonade stands.

Many people believe that a licensed professional assures the customer that he is honest and competent. He may be; he may not. But the same holds true in a free market. The tried and true method is to talk to other people who have been clients. Be wary of those

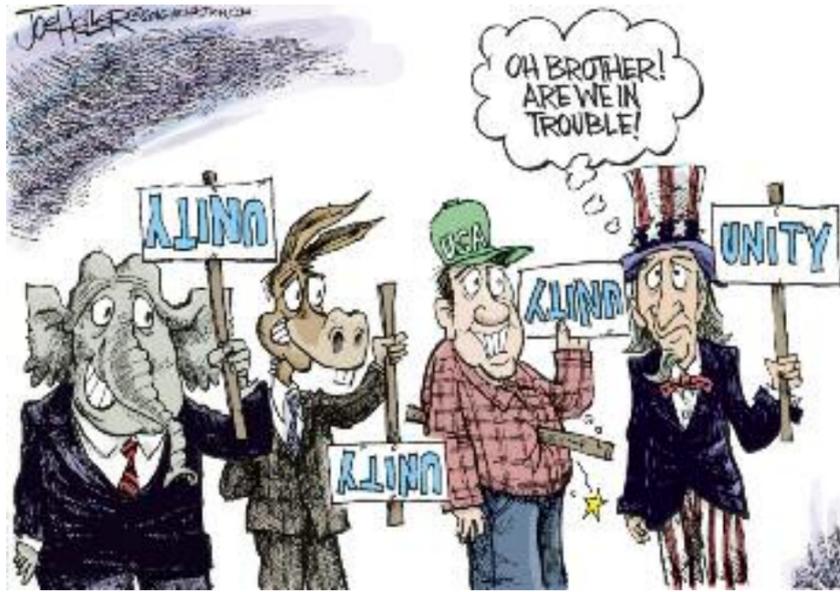
who tout being "licensed and insured" as their top qualifications. Being licensed means that he has paid a fee to the state and/or local governments for pieces of paper that permit him to exercise his natural, God-given right (not a privilege granted by government) to practice his trade—in other words, his right to "buy or sell."

America was founded on the principle of individual liberty and free markets. There is no ethical reason anyone's profession, trade or business should be subjugated by mandates and restrictions such as licensure. The free market will do a far better job of sorting out who is honest and competent. Our sacred individual rights must be protected. All licensure laws belong in the trash. The revenue they generate is small, if any, when one considers the personnel, office space, utilities, and other administration costs. And don't forget the compliance costs suffered from "swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance."

How about you?

Have you accepted "The Mark of the Beast?"

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



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Gazette

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Published by:
Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC
Volume 16 - Issue 11 Copyright 2016
The Alabama Gazette 20 pages - 2 Sec.

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The Gazette, (now *The Alabama Gazette*) was created in year 2000 for the people of Central Alabama with the intent of being a thought-provoking, non-partisan publication reaching over 20,000 readers monthly. Written comments, stories, advertisements, social and church events, as well as classifieds are always welcome. The publisher is not responsible for error in text reprinted from other sources. Furthermore, this publication does not establish due diligence on authors or advertisers and cannot guarantee that their offerings or writings are correct or suitable. We assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. We reserve the right to print, edit or condense any and all contents submitted. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising and submissions at its own discretion. All articles, ads and photographs may be subject to copyright.

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Steve Long

Woods & Waters with Steve



WHAT DOES YOUR HUNTING GROUNDS HOLD? CAMERA SURVEY!

As each day rolls on by this Summer, I can't tell you how ready I am for deer season to get here. Sure, maybe some of that cooler weather that goes with it, too! As we're looking forward to the upcoming months, one of the things many of us are doing is setting up Trail-Camera Surveys. Mr. Lindsay Thomas Jr. wrote an excellent article on this over on QDMA's website, and I'll break it down for you here.

A Trail-Camera Survey is an incredibly useful tool to give you a look at your deer population, variety of grown bucks, and general deer traffic. It utilizes game cameras placed near corn on the ground. It's also a do-it-yourself kind of tool, in that you don't have to have the expertise of a wildlife biologist on hand to make it work. Some trail cameras, batteries and SD cards, and a whole lot of corn are all you need.

The ideal time for this kind of setup is before acorns start to drop, but after bucks have gotten out of velvet. Wait too late, and you risk messing with your hunting setups. Too early, and you won't get an accurate picture of your herd. Around here, with a bit of a later rut, October is probably a good time to do this. The other ideal time is after the season ends, but before the bucks start casting their antlers.

Of course, the first thing you want to do is check with your state laws and regulations to ensure that it's legal to use corn as bait for your camera system. As it stands in Alabama, you cannot hunt over bait. However, bait for cameras is fine. Just make sure you're following all of the regulations we have. You can check those out at www.outdooralabama.com.

Now you need to get your cameras together. You want to take a map or aerial



Alabama deer start dropping in August

photo (whichever is easier to get) of your hunting land, and you want to try and separate it into grids of 100 square acres (10 x 10). If your property exceeds 1000

acres, every 160 square acres is good. If you don't have enough cameras, set up a 2 week rotation for each area, swapping areas each year, starting at the same time each year. This way, you can get consistent results from year to year. When it comes to placing the cameras, make sure you're placing them near the center of the block, if possible, and near a location where deer are going to travel. Wood roads, established travel points, etc. Scrapes aren't the best idea, as they're going to be visited mostly by bucks, which will bias your findings. Make sure you keep the camera free and clear of branches, shrubs, and other stuff that will block your shots, and try to have it facing north, so the sun won't create a lot of back-lighting on your photos. Bait should be placed a good 12-20 feet from the camera, on the ground. Feeders can not only block your camera shots, but they can also deter older, mature bucks from going near the bait.

Once you've got this all planned out, pre-bait the area in question for about 7-10 days before cranking up the actual survey. You wanna make sure the deer are used to the corn being there. Always mask your scent and tread carefully. Once you've got your deer traffic set, start your actual survey. The survey itself should run 10 to 14 days, with 14 being the preferable count. Make sure to check on your cameras and replenish your bait every so often, but be careful not to leave any trace of a human being there.

After all of that, take your photos and start compiling. Count the number of bucks, does, and fawns, or deer under a year. Pay careful attention to your bucks, as it's probably the same joker going from bait pile to bait pile. You may have 100 pictures of bucks, but there might only be 10 unique bucks among those. Button bucks are going to counted under fawns; if there's no horns, it's not a buck.

Without diving into all the math here, there's a handy form on QDMA's website from Lindsay Thomas Jr. to help you get all the details worked out, which you can find at:

https://www.qdma.com/uploads/pdf/QDMA_trail_cam_survey_computation.pdf

All the data that you get from that form will go a mighty long way to helping you figure out your deer herd population on your property. If you need further help figuring out just what all those numbers might mean, feel free to drop a line to your nearest friendly wildlife biologist or a private wildlife consultant; those folks know what those numbers mean.

All in all, it may seem pretty darn difficult, but it's definitely worth the work. Besides, I'm always itching to know what kind of buck I can look forward to seeing in the woods come bow season, and this is the best way to find that sucker before I even climb a ladder stand. So grab your cameras and corn, get out there, and go find'em!



Game cameras will give you the info you need for old mossy horns

photo (whichever is easier to get) of your hunting land, and you want to try and separate it into grids of 100 square acres (10 x 10). If your property exceeds 1000

Kritter Korner

RACCOONS

This month we are going to try to help you understand one of the most intelligent animals in the US. The raccoon.

The Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) is native to North and South America having a range that extends from Southern Canada to the northern reaches of Argentina. Raccoons have feral populations in Europe, especially Germany, where they escaped from fur farms and were set loose to be hunted for sport during the time of World War II. The raccoon gets its name from the Algonquin word arakun which means "one who scratches with his hands." Raccoons are plantigrade animals, walking on the entirety of their foot – heel to toe. Bears and humans do this as well.

Raccoons are probably the most recognized animal in the United States. Their distinctive black masks and ringed tails make them easy to identify. There are 6 species of raccoon, but there are not many traits that differentiate them. Raccoons are generally 2 ½ feet long from nose tip to tail tip. Their average weight range is 12 - 16 pounds, with raccoons in colder territories weighing considerably more. The largest

raccoon on record weighed over 60lbs. Raccoons can live for 15 years, but most only live to be 5 or 6 in captivity a raccoon can live up to 20 years old. The oldest recorded raccoon was 22 years. Adult raccoons don't have many predators, except man. Humans hunt them for fur and meat and many are run-over or killed off as pests.

Raccoons are amazingly adaptable and have probably benefited more from the presence of humans than not. Although they prefer wooded territory close to water, raccoons have no problem surviving in urban environments and as human populations have spread into less hospitable territories, raccoon populations have spread with them. Raccoons nest in tree hollows or empty underground dens but are equally at home in abandoned cars, sewers or your chimney. They are generalists, rapidly adapting to ever changing environments and food sources. Raccoons are highly intelligent and have a manual dexterity that comes close to that of apes. Their long delicate fingers easily open clam shells, trash cans and doors. They are true omnivores and are opportunistic in their diet. They will eat fruit, insects, berries, nuts, eggs, small rodents, grapes, corn, crabs, crayfish and

anything edible you may have left in the backyard. It was once thought that raccoons washed their food. They do not. Raccoons have a highly sensitive sense of touch which water helps to enhance. Even when water is unavailable, raccoons will use the same motions while they manipulate their food or objects they are interested in.

This tactile experience gives the raccoon a better sense of what it will be eating. It is as if they "see" with their hands.

Raccoon kits (usually 3 – 6 of them) are born 2 months after mating. They are weaned by 8 weeks, and soon after will go on foraging trips with their mother. She will teach them how to climb, swim and find food. This is the only time you will typically see groups of raccoons together. Be cautious about approaching them. Females will be extremely aggressive and ferocious if they feel their young are threatened. A mother raccoon is like a Grizzly bear with cubs. Many raccoon kits will "winter over" with their mothers and not leave until spring.

Raccoons do not hibernate they go through a period of decreased activity in the winter which is referred to as a daily Torpor, but they will feed heavily in the fall, storing extra fat so they can stay in their burrows through the worst parts of winter. Raccoons are generally nocturnal, but are seen more frequently during the day foraging for food, mother raccoons are seen a lot during the day with her babies. These are called a Nursery. Should you find a baby raccoon secure it right where it is for about an hour, then return and see if it's still there, normally mother raccoons will return and get their baby they are extremely maternal. Should you come back and the baby is still there locate a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and let them take care of the animals. They are trained to care for wildlife. The raccoon's scientific name, *Procyon lotor*, means "washer dog" although it is a closer relative to the bear family and the Ringtail Lemurs and Coatimundis. Population densities of raccoons in urban areas are 20 times higher than for raccoons in rural environments.

Raccoons have a large array of vocalizations. They purr, whistle, growl, hiss, scream and even whinny.

Raccoons have been kept as pets (President Coolidge and his wife had one named Rebecca), and while young, seem happy to be in human company. As they mature, especially during mating season, they can become increasingly destructive and aggressive.

A raccoon's hands are so nimble they can unlace a shoe, unlatch a cage and deftly retrieve small coins from pockets, if they watch you assemble something they can disassemble it backwards.

Raccoons are excellent climbers; they can climb head upwards, down wards side ways. A raccoon can do 360 degrees. An avid climber. Raccoons are called Boars and Sows. Their babies are called "Kits".

A raccoon can remember a task it was taught 3 years after.



Ron VanHerwyn

The SEC West is still the Best

The following is an in-depth look at the pre-season positions of the fourteen teams that make up the Eastern and Western Divisions of the SEC, and where we think they will stack up at the end of the regular season:

Western Conference

ALABAMA - It is hard not to put **Nick Saban's** team at the top of the West again. Even though the quarterback situation is still unsettled, fear not! In Saban's system, a great quarterback is not required. He is only looking for the guy that can lead the team, make the fewest bad decisions and have the least number of turnovers. Bama returns six starters on offense and five on defense. They return 48 lettermen, having lost 24 from last year. In only two categories can I see Alabama being better than in 2015, receivers and the offensive line. Replacing the all-everything center, **Ryan Kelly** is probably more important than who the QB will be. Sophomore **Ross Pierschbacher** has been moved over from guard as Kelly's replacement. He played well at guard last year. At 6-4, 305, he has the size. Can he make the correct line calls and block as well as Kelly? Wide receiver is a position that will be better in part because of the maturity of freshman sensation **Calvin Ridley**. Clutch receiver **ArDarius Stewart** returns for his junior season and junior **Robert Foster** returns from an injury. After three seasons of anonymity, tight end **O. J. Howard** was noticed by Coach Lane Kiffin as Alabama was in the process of losing the national championship game last year to Clemson. Howard was named MVP in that game! What end of the field was Howard practicing on for the last three springs? Obviously not the one that Kiffin was on.

Damien Harris at 5-11, 215 is the most versatile running back but, 6-2, 240 lb. **Bo Scarborough** could take up the slack for the departed Heisman Trophy winner. The most impressive talent at quarterback to me is a true freshman who went through spring practice, **Jalen Hurts**, 6-2, 215. However, he will have a tough time beating out junior **Cooper Bateman**, 6-3, 225, the only QB with any experience. Alabama can win with any one of the four. Fear not again!

The kicking game could not be better. **J. K. Scott** returns as the punter and placekicker, **Adam Griffith** enters his senior season with a good resume.

Alabama has two giant hurdles; at Tennessee and at LSU. If the Tide beats the Vols in Knoxville in October, the winner of the LSU game in Baton Rouge in November will go to the SEC Championship game.

Worst 10-2/Best 12-0.

LSU - Coach **Les Miles** has never had a team with as much talent and experience as the 2016 version of the Bayou Bengals. He has 17 returning starters - 8 on offense and 9 on defense. The Tigers will be better in every category except offensive line where they will be just as good.

Junior QB **Brandon Harris** has cleared up some of his problems reading defenses. If the 6-3, 210 lb. runner becomes a passer, look out Alabama. Running back **Leonard Fournette**, the leading rusher in the SEC in 2015, is the leading candidate for the Heisman Trophy. Les Miles was within one phone call of being let go last year (after a mid-season collapse), but he rallied the troops to a 9-3 season. This year 9-3 will win him a good retirement check! LSU has a "tricky" game at Auburn, where they have not played well, and the home game with Alabama standing in their way from possibly going 12-0. **Worst 10-2/Best 12-0.**

AUBURN - Coach **Gus Malzahn** has four more months to prove that he can adapt to coaching in Division I college football in the SEC. His first season was a series of miracles that will probably not be duplicated in my lifetime. Nothing done by Auburn since that game has shown me that Malzahn can adjust to situations during games. Nothing has shown me that he can dictate to his defensive coordinator what he wants to change. Nothing has shown me he can demand that his offensive coordinator come up with a plan to utilize the talent that is available.

Any junior high school coach in Montgomery could have seen that **Jeremy Johnson** would never be effective running Auburn's zone read. Any high school coach in Montgomery would have discovered in two years that Jeremy Johnson was a javelin thrower and not an efficient passer. Therefore, had Malzahn noticed this after three spring practices and two football seasons, he could have recommended to Johnson that he quit football and join the track team. Jeremy Johnson could possibly be throwing the javelin this year for the United States in the Brazilian version of the Summer Olympics.

With all this said, it is my belief that Auburn has the talent offensively and defensively to contend for third place in the West. With no stars, no Heisman candidates, this team is *mobile, agile and hostile*. They should be able to compete with any team on the schedule. Look for **John Franklin, III** to start against Clemson. **Worst 7-5/Best 9-3.**



Chad Kelly

OLE MISS - Ole Miss has QB **Chad Kelly** and Head Coach **Hugh Freeze**. Kelly could bail Freeze out by leading this confused bunch of good athletes through the SEC wars and the NCAA battle. Four years ago, I said that Hugh Freeze was an 8-4 coach. He has fooled me twice! **Worst 7-5/Best 8-4.**

TEXAS A & M - Coach **Kevin Sumlin** has run off better quarterback talent than Auburn and Alabama have had in the last

five years. This year he decided to try someone that he did not train. **Trevor Knight**, the QB that dazzled Alabama in the Sugar Bowl three years ago has transferred to A&M from Oklahoma and has been handed the job by Sumlin. Coaching at Houston is a bit different from coaching at Texas A&M. **Worst 7-5/Best 8-4.**

ARKANSAS - Coach **Brett Bielema** has a record of 18-20 at Arkansas and the fans love him. Is he a salesman or what? Arkansas lost their quarterback, their best two running backs, key offensive linemen, but, there is a silver lining behind this cloud. They will be better at wide receiver, defensive line, linebacker and defensive back. Their kicking game was atrocious last year with four blocked kicks. It will definitely be better. If you are going to beat Bielema's "hogs" on the offensive line (310+), you have to do it before the middle of October. Their weight becomes a plus when the weather turns cold. They usually wilt in the fourth quarter during September. They catch Alabama at home on October 8, Auburn in Auburn on October 22 and LSU at home on November 12. **Worst 7-6/Best 8-4.**

MISSISSIPPI STATE - Coach **Dan Mullen** has quietly built a "Starkville Dynasty". That is a team that will be in every game and will win most. Until his arrival from being **Tim Tebow's** offensive coordinator at Florida seven years ago, Mississippi State "auditioned" coaches every four years and then fired them. Now they can beat Ole Miss, but they still have trouble with the Tide. Mullen loses the best quarterback in the conference last year in **Dak Prescott**. He also lost some good wide receivers, offensive linemen and defensive backs. His kicking game is adequate and may keep him in some games early while his youngsters gain experience. **Worst 7-5/Best 8-4.**

AS YOU CAN SEE - THE WEST IS STILL THE BEST

Eastern Conference

TENNESSEE - You have to give the Vols the nod early in the season. Coach **Butch Jones** has recruited well in his first three seasons. This is now showing up on the depth chart. Jones has 17 returning starters - 9 on offense and 8 on defense plus his kicking game from last year. On paper this Volunteer team looks unbeatable. **Joshua Dobbs**, senior QB, 6-3, 210 lb., three year starter - **Jalen Hurd**, junior running back, 6-4, 240 lb. - **Alvin Kamara**, 5-10, 215 lb. junior running back who transferred from Alabama. Is the most dangerous of the two. Coach Jones also has depth at defensive line, linebacker and offensive line.

The schedule is favorable as usual. If Tennessee can win early at Georgia in Athens and win in October over Alabama in Knoxville, they will go undefeated. The last four games are S. Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri and Vanderbilt.

I was convinced that Butch Jones was building this team the right way and instilling his program on a sound foundation until events of last year. But, Jones decided to become a gimmick coach. He has dressed the Vols in various uniforms in the last year, mostly grey and also camo. Teams that use gimmicks seem to be distracted from the game by the gimmick, ie. Auburn in orange fruit boots at the beginning of last year. LSU really liked Auburn's new gimmick. **Worst 10-2/Best 12-0.**

GEORGIA - Historically a new coach brings excitement and enthusiasm to a football program. Look for Coach Kirby Smart to come out of the gates strong against N. Carolina, Ole Miss and Tennessee. With any luck at quarterback, and with two healthy running backs, **Nick Chubb** and **Sony Michel**, the "Dawgs" will bite somebody in the behind and push Tennessee for the title. **Worst 9-3/Best 10-2.**

FLORIDA - Quarterback **Luke Del Rio** has tried to start for Alabama, Oregon State and now Florida. He is a great talent and would probably have been the starter at Alabama this year. Florida plays Tennessee early in Knoxville. The Vols may use 12 players to break their losing streak to Florida. LSU comes to Gainesville a few weeks later. Florida will have two losses before they play Georgia, go to Arkansas in November, and to FSU at the end. It is my belief that Coach Jim McElwain will join Hugh Freeze as one of the best 8-4 coaches in the SEC. **Worst 7-5/Best 8-4.**

VANDERBILT - **Worst 6-6/Best 7-5** - Coach **Derek Mason** finds a winning season, maybe.

MISSOURI - **Worst 6-6/Best 7-5** - New Coach **Barry Odom** inherits a "protest team" from **Gary Pinkel**.

KENTUCKY - **Worst 6-6/Best 7-5** - **Mark Stoops** will go to Oklahoma and work for his brother Bob.

S. CAROLINA - **Worst 5-7/Best 6-6** - **Will Muschamp** will set the SEC record for sideline penalties.



John Franklin, III



Leonard Fournette

I Don't Understand Why I Should Not Use Internet Available Forms For My Will , Power of Attorney And Living Will; Lawyers Are Just Too Expensive!



You will be surprised at how low the cost may be for estate planning. If you are pretty wealthy and will potentially require more complicated planning or even if you just have circumstances that require more complicated planning then yes your estate planning can run into the thousands of dollars. For the average adult, estate planning may only be a few hundred

Ronald A. Holtsford

dollars.

Does that still sound like a lot? Then consider if a Last Will and Testament is improperly done it may require an intestate administration of the estate after the decedent's death rather than being able to use the Will for probate. The difference is the person that seeks to be the administrator must be a resident of Alabama, must qualify under the requirements set forth in the Code of Alabama and must be bonded. Dependent on the value of the estate, the cost of the bond can equal or even exceed the cost of estate planning by a lawyer. To add insult to injury the named Administrator must submit an inventory of the estate and it's value within sixty days after being named Administrator. Imagine how much fun that can be after someone has stockpiled their "stuff" after ninety years and that doesn't include the hoarder that you might have the privilege to be the Administrator for. Let's see there are five frying pans worth fifteen dollars, a washing machine worth \$100, a dryer worth \$100, a bed worth \$75, a rug worth \$100, a couch worth \$400, antique table worth \$225, 9 dinner plates worth \$25, 10 salad plates worth \$20, a 2010 Chevrolet Impala VIN xxxxxx, worth \$10,000.00, a refrigerator worth \$375 . . . well you get the picture, no fun.

Some of the biggest errors I see are a lack of the minimum required witnesses (2 required) or the naming of only one personal administrator (executor/executrix) who has died before the decedent has leaving no named personal administrator. There may be internet available Wills that don't provide adequate powers to the personal representative to do their job. Of course the internet Will may not really reflect what the decedent wanted as far as who to give their assets to. An internet Will may not have the Alabama "self proving" language which keeps the personal representative from having to locate the witnesses to the decedent's signature and testifying in probate court whether the decedent signed the Will, whether he seemed to know what he or she was doing and whether it appeared if someone was coaxing the now deceased to sign a Will that they did not want to sign.

Financial powers of attorney can be very important during life especially when someone no longer has the ability to handle their affairs whether it becomes

permanent or even if it is temporary. Of special importance is a durable power of attorney. A durable power of attorney must contain the language that the power of attorney may be used even in the person's incapacity or under the 2012 statute the statutory form is by default durable.

Each time I assist a client with estate planning I review their existing documents if they have previously had estate planning done. In looking at some recent documents I saw a Will that only had one witness to their internet Will and their power of attorney in bold capital letters said **"THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY CANNOT BE USED IN MY INCAPACITY"**. Well that language defeated one of the major reasons for having a power of attorney.

Finally, you may recall a hospital admission where the clerk gave you an Advance Directive for Health Care (Living Will and Health Care Proxy) and encouraged you to fill it out, sign it and give it back. The clerk is not trained in doing Advance Directives and is not a lawyer so who knows how you might fill it out? And it's not the clerk's responsibility either!

Bottom line is having an attorney do your estate planning is more worthwhile than you think both from final cost to making sure everything meets the legal requirements and your wishes.

If you have a low income and few assets then consider calling the Montgomery Area Council on Aging or maybe the Jones School of Law Elder Law clinic where you may be able to have free estate planning documents done. The Alabama State Bar Lawyer Referral Service may also be able to guide you if you are not certain whom to turn to.

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



Marcia Chambliss



ENGAGE 2016: A Religious Liberty Conference

Four years ago, I wrote a piece for *The Alabama Gazette* that recalled the leadership from the pulpits of the Black Robed Regiment during the founding days of our nation, and how those courageous patriots, with great risk to their lives and property, defied the tyranny of King George with sermons to empower their congregations in the fight for liberty.

At that time, I speculated as to why I believe ministers and pastors today are reluctant to speak out regarding the political issues that threaten our God-given freedoms, and, unfortunately, that hesitancy appears more prevalent now than ever. Too few of our American clergy are willing to risk the loss of non-profit status for their organizations, and too many operate under the fear of litigation or concern regarding repercussions from church hierarchy.

Last year, my friend and recent Congressional candidate Becky Gerritson organized a free pastor's conference in Montgomery to address the increasing threat to our religious liberties and ways in which churches can protect their ministries from legal assaults while remaining faithful to God's truth. Legal scholars and experts from the Jones School of Law at Faulkner University led the conference and shared ways in which pastors can better prepare for the legal storms that lie ahead.

This year, Mrs. Gerritson has planned a **second free conference** scheduled for **Tuesday, August 16th** that will expand the topics and provide even more vital information for churches, Christian schools, and Christian ministries. **ENGAGE 2016: A Religious Liberty Conference** will host Tim Wildmon, President of American Family Association as well as local Jones Law School professor and Vice Dean Rob McFarland, and Associate Professor Adam MacLeod. Other speakers include Randy Wilson, National Director for the Watchmen on the Wall Initiative of the Family Research Council, and a personal favorite, Sam Sorbo, syndicated conservative talk show host and wife of actor Kevin Sorbo, who may be best known for his role as the college professor in the movie *God's Not Dead*.

According to the conference registration as well as information from Mrs. Gerritson, the conference will "help Christians understand the real threats we face to religious liberty in America." Topics to be discussed include the fallacy regarding the separation of church and state, how to effectively engage the culture to preserve liberty, and why the attack on our families is also an attack on our liberty with ways in which we can rebuild both.

Last year's conference was well attended and I trust that more tri-county pastors will take advantage of this second educational opportunity of learning effective ways in which our churches can stand for religious liberty while maintaining compassion for those in our communities.

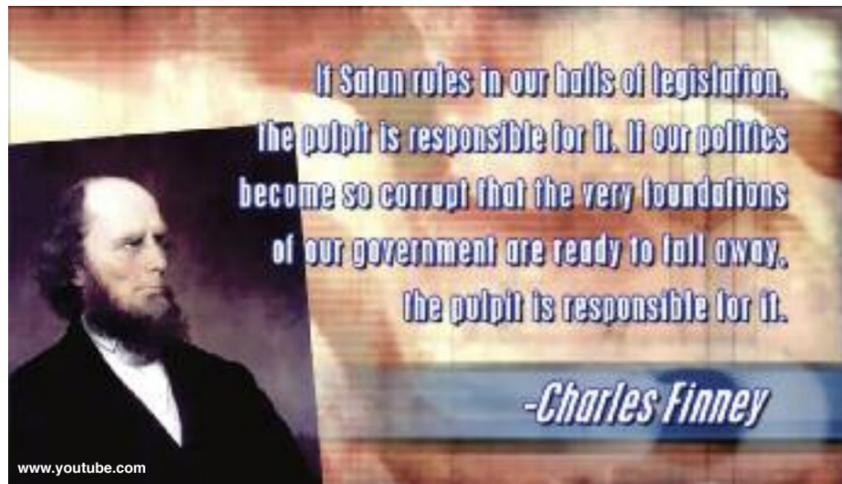
Increasingly, conservative Christians are being pushed by marginalization and ridicule to accept government mandates and regulations that put us at odds with our belief system. While it is far easier for ministry leaders and congregations to stay silent as culture redefines the family, marriage, and gender in addition to diminishing the value of life, those who still value liberty, freedom, and the precepts of a moral society must be willing to defend those beliefs by using all the legal means at our disposal.

Given the turmoil in our society today, I would think that church leaders would avail themselves of every opportunity to learn how to protect the religious liberty that was obtained by the sacrifice and blood of past patriots.

When I last wrote about the Black Robed Regiment, I included a quote that I had seen pictured on a church sign: **"In the face of tyranny, a silent pulpit is a complicit pulpit."** Whether the silence is intentional or simply from not knowing what can be done to stand for liberty, our voices and involvement is needed. Are you willing to share this conference information with your local church leaders?

To register online for the conference, go to <http://wetumpkateaparty.com/Issues/Engage2016.aspx> or for more details, call Becky Gerritson at 334-452-0453.

Marcia Chambliss serves on the leadership team of Smart Girl Politics, an online community for conservative women. She can be reached at: Marcia@sgpaction.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics.



ENGAGE 2016: A Religious Liberty Conference

Tuesday, August 16th

WHERE: Jones Law School 5345 Atlanta Highway, Room 114
Montgomery, AL

SCHEDULE:

8:00-9:00 "Meet & Greet"

Join us for free coffee and bagels
as you sign in and get your information packets.

9:00-2:00

Speakers' presentations with lunch at 11:30.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:

Tim Wildmon, President, American Family Assoc TOPIC:

Randy Wilson, National Director for Watchmen on the Wall
Initiative of Family Research Council

Sam Sorbo, Actress, Model, Nationally Syndicated Talk show host

Rob McFarland, Vice Dean, Jones Law School

Adam MacLeod, Assoc. Professor, Jones law School

Other Speakers: TBA-waiting on confirmations

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call Becky Gerritson at 334-452-0453.



Family Therapy



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MS, LMFT-S, LPC-S, NCC
Clinical Counselor, Non-profit organization.

I Need to Support My Family Member and His or Her Recovery

Staying sober is a life-long journey; it is helpful and easier with the support of friends and family.

- 1. Alcohol and drug free climate** – One of the biggest indicator of long-term sobriety is whether or not the person of recovery has a substance free environment. In the beginning stages of recovery loved ones can assist the recovery process by removing any triggers for the person dealing with the addiction.
- 2. Actively listen** – One of the biggest things you can do for a family member working on sobriety is listen, don't judge or be critical, and be available.
- 3. Encourage healthy lifestyles** – There are a myriad of ways to do this: exercise, playing games, yoga, spiritual enlightenment, church, and reading bookings. All can help with healthy, new living.
- 4. Be patient** – Recovery is a lifelong endeavor and a complicated process at times. People often make mistakes in sobriety, so it's important for them to know that their family and friends love and support them.

Food for Thought

Supporting a family member with sobriety can be very arduous at times. Because drugs or alcohol may have damaged the relationship for such a long time, making that individuals presences during the addiction process limited or qualitative time sparse. It is the norm for the person with the alcohol or drug addiction to have their proprieties out of whack by virtue of the disease. When the family member who has the addiction begins his or her sobriety journey, they seem very absent emotionally and physically. They may have to participate in counseling, in an inpatient program or outpatient setting for a period of time. A person of recovery may have to address, mental health issues, childhood unresolved issues, relational issues, abuse and all its forms, and, of course, guilt and shame that has gradually piled up over the years. In addition, the family member with addiction simultaneously embarking in some type of support group that has been recommended by a counselor, such as **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** and **Alcoholic Anonymous (AA)**, making them less available to everyone. The family members who do not have the alcohol or drug addiction, who have been negative effected by the alcohol or drug addicted member, may now feel threatened by the scope of events that the alcoholic or

drug addict individual has to participate in to maintain sobriety. There is a feeling sometimes of resentment to the process of sobriety by the non alcohol or drug addicted family members. However, the family members in time, will see the benefit of supporting and encouraging the attendance of the person struggling with the addiction on a regular basis. If the support is there the transition in recovery usually is smoother, creating a safe environment for all family members. This allows the person struggling with the addiction to be fully present in the family or individual settings. I have personally had to deal with a family members with addictions issue and I can tell that this will take some time to get used to, however I can express to you the lasting outcome that sobriety has on all the family is priceless. I can further clue you in as a family member, it took me years to fully comprehend the importance of supporting my loved ones need to regularly attend AA/NA support groups and knowing the life changing positive effects that going to meetings has on my loved one. As a clinician, support groups such as NA/AA are essential for recovery as it provides a kinship and normalizes a lot of their experiences. It also gives the person with the addiction issues a venue to verbalize his or her struggle in an environment that others can relate to. I strongly encourage those effected by the addiction to attend meetings and get a sponsor.

For the non addicted family and friends, there is also a support group to help them as well. The disease of addiction effects the people it touches. **Al-Anon Family Groups** is a fellowship of relatives, coworkers, peers and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. Al-non believes alcoholism is a family illness and that changed views and attitudes and can aid the family in the recovery lifetime process. Other groups that can aid the family through the process is Alateen and Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACA).

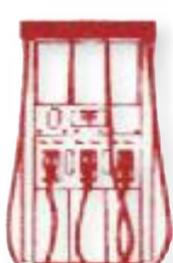
Hector Oswaldo Chavez, MS, is a Marriage and Family Therapist, Professional Counselor, and Substance Abuse Counselor. He serves on multiple boards and has worked in a variety of clinical settings such as with the Army, Navy, Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient, Community Mental Health, and Private Practice. His professional views may not necessarily reflect the views of other mental health or medical professionals. If you have any personal or family concerns about the topic discussed, please seek professional assistance.

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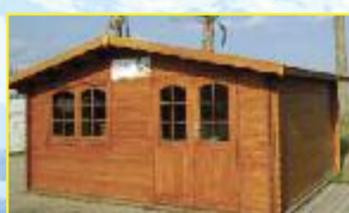
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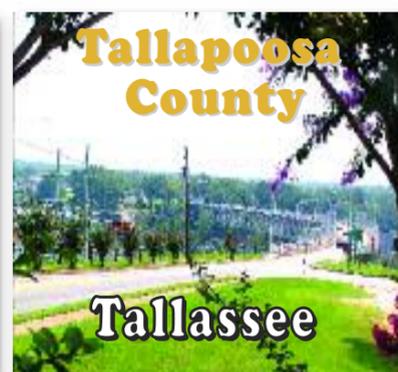
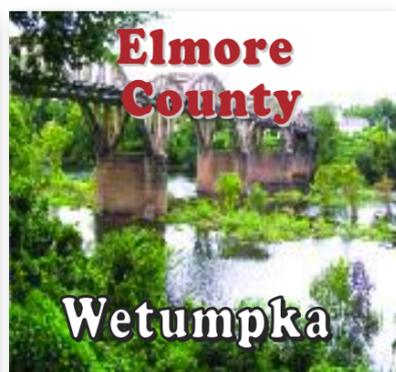
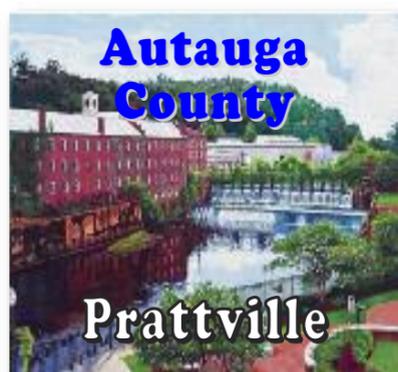
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you a rate sheet!

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Community Lifestyles

We are proud to announce that The Alabama Gazette is also being delivered in parts of Crenshaw, Butler, Pike and Lee Counties. If you cannot find the Gazette in your area, please check out our website: www.alabamagazette.com



Cities, Towns and Communities:
Pike Road, Cecil, Mathews, Pine Level, Grady, Ramer, Lapine, Snowdown, Pintlala, Hope Hull and Catoma

Surrounding Town and Communities:
Autaugaville, Billingsley, Booth, Marbury, Pine Level, Independence, Statesville, Jones and Vida

Surrounding Town and Communities:
Millbrook, Coosada, Elmore, Eclectic, Tallassee, Titus, Santuck, Slapout, Rockford, Deatsville, Kent, Red Hill, Weoka and Robinson Springs

Surrounding Town and Communities:
Tallassee, Rockford, Deatsville, Kent and Red Hill

SMCA NAMES NEW HEADMASTER



South Montgomery County Academy has named **Dannelly Martin** as its incoming headmaster for the new school year 2016-17. He joins a faculty and personnel of 17 and a growing student body.

"I am very excited about coming to South Montgomery and want to continue with all of the successes that have been made in the past. I would like to thank the school and the community in advance for the opportunity to prove that we can continue and improve. Our motto, "A Tradition of Pride" focuses on the school's heritage to endure and preserve its academics, extracurricular activities, and community connections," stated Martin.

Graduating from Troy University, Martin began his career as a band director before becoming an administrator. He spent twenty years in Alabama and ten years in Georgia as an administrator. A music education degree, a masters in school administration, and an educational specialist in educational leadership with 36 years experience marks Mr. Martin's dedication to the educational mission and family atmosphere of South Montgomery.

Martin is married with three children, three grandchildren, and one great-

grand child. His hobbies include NASCAR (Pit Tour Guide), fishing, and camping. He also enjoys playing the bass guitar in a gospel quartet.

SMCA, a fully accredited by the Alabama Independent School Association and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools offers an educational experience in a setting where the school is the heart of the community. Founded in 1970 in an historic building, it has expanded its campus through the years with a gym along with elementary, high school, science lab, library, and art buildings.

In the rural area of Grady, Alabama, the school provides its K-3 through Grade 12 students with a safe environment where they are academically challenged through a rigorous curriculum and nurtured under ethical, moral, and spiritual direction. In addition, the sports program (Class 1A) features cheerleading, volleyball, football, basketball, softball, baseball, weightlifting, and track for both boys and girls in various grades and divisions. SMCA clubs include the Senior Honor Society, both Junior and Senior Beta Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the DARE program with academic contests in spelling, science fair, oration, art, math, and Scholars' Bowl.

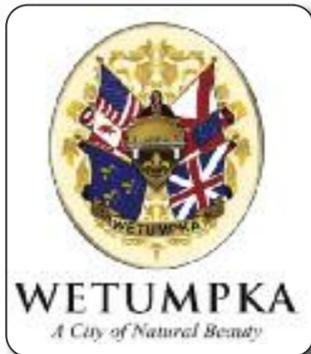
The SMCA Board Members are Jeremy Brown (chairman), Kelly Culver (co-chairman), John Dean, Bruce Strickland, Walt Sellers, Ricky Roper, Rob Hollingshead, Bill Weston, Dennis Woodall, Burt Sprenger, Craig Johnson, and Andrew Wiggins.



Dannelly Martin



Mayor Jerry Willis



City of Wetumpka Administrative Building
408 S Main St., Wetumpka, AL 36092-2748 • P. O. Box 1180
Phone: (334) 567-5147 • Fax: (334) 567-1307
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

From the Mayors desk

As the summer winds down and we all prepare for school to begin, I can't help but wonder how time goes by so fast. I remember just writing about the Christmas events in Wetumpka and now, here we are reflecting on the events of the summer. The intense heat didn't damper any of our events and we once again brought thousands of people to Wetumpka. The 4th of July was fun for the entire family with the band Wishbone's performance to the activities for the children. A few weeks later, we hosted Wetumpka's River and Blues Festival. What a fun event that was to attend! Two stages with continuous bands, a fine arts show and plenty of children's activities left little to be desired. If you missed Rockin Dopsie and the Zydeco Twisters, you missed a treat. The energy and enthusiasm this group exuberates is unbelievable. The River and Blues committee and the many volunteers did an outstanding job with this event and I thank them for putting their time and energy into this community. It's a community effort entirely and is a testament to Wetumpka's unified spirit and our ability to all work together for a common goal.



Call Janice at 334-850-5510 for all your Elmore County advertising needs.

Thanks to all our Tallassee Quarterly ADVERTISERS!

If you have a business...don't miss advertising in the next issue!



Labor Day Festivities at South Montgomery County Academy

Monday, September 5, Begins at 10 A.M.

South Montgomery County Academy campus, Grady, Alabama

Barbecue/camp stew plates to go or dine in. **\$10.00 each.**
Camp stew sold separately by the quart.

Day's Events:

Classic Car show on the softball field.
Registration begins at 9:00 A.M.
Trophies will be awarded.

Silent Auction: Variety of items including antiques.
Ends at 2:00 P.M.

\$10,000 will be given away in a draw down.
Tickets are \$100. Only 300 will be sold.

SMCA parents and affiliates will be selling tickets.
Begins at 2:00 P.M.

Call the school's office secretary, Rana Roper, for details at 1-334-562-3235.

Join the fellowship, food, and fun at SMCA in Grady.

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Sheriff Joe Sedinger

ON THE FOURTH OF JULY, THE PRATTVILLE LIONS CLUB ALONG WITH THE CITY OF PRATTVILLE HELD THEIR ANNUAL PARADE BEGINNING AT 9AM

This year the theme of the parade was to honor Law Enforcement, city, county, and state. The Prattville Lions Club even provided a free lunch to all Law Enforcement Officers on duty that day.

It is great to see so much support for Law Enforcement in Autauga County! We are blessed.



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"Every cell to your body functions like a car, it has it's own engine, You can put the best gasoline (food) in, and the best oil (vitamins/minerals); but if you throw sand (chemical toxins & heavy metals) into the motor, the first two doesn't matter. At MEDAC, PC, we focus on helping to get the sand out fo your motor. We also help with the food and the oil so that you motor can hum and run in the optimal way it was designed.

PRATTVILLE LIONS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
08/19	Wetumpka	7:00 PM
08/26	@Stanhope Elmore	7:00 PM
09/02 *	Enterprise	7:00 PM
09/09 *	@Auburn	7:00 PM
09/17 *	@Lee-Montgomery	11:30 AM
09/30 *	@Smiths Station	6:00 PM
10/14 *	Jeff Davis	7:00 PM
10/21 *	Central-Phenix City	7:00 PM
10/28	@Sidney Lanier	7:00 PM

* notes a league game
notes a tournament game



Prattville's Way Off Broadway to Present Barefoot in the Park

The City of Prattville and the Way Off Broadway Theatre are pleased to announce the production of Neil Simon's romantic comedy, **Barefoot in the Park**, opening on Thursday, August 25, at 7:30 p.m.

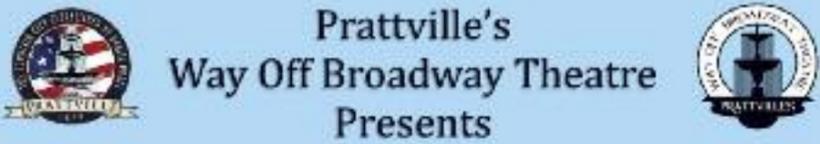
This well-known, Tony Award nominated play focuses on newlyweds Paul and Corie Bratter who are as different as night and day. While Corie is quirky and fun loving, Paul is a staid and unadventurous attorney. Corie just wants Paul to be a little more spontaneous, running "barefoot in the park" would be a start...

Blair Dyson returns to the WOBT theatre as director and has chosen a wonderful cast and crew. The play will open on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at 7:30 p.m., with an opening night reception to meet the cast and crew to follow. Other performances are Fridays, Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. through September 11.

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door and may be purchased on line by credit card or by calling or visiting the Special Events Office at 203 West 4th Street in Prattville Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The production of Barefoot in the Park, by Neil Simon, is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, INC.

For further information or to reserve your tickets, please contact the Cultural Arts and Special Events Office for the City of Prattville at (334) 595-0854 or visit the web site at wobt.prattvilleal.gov.



Prattville's
Way Off Broadway Theatre
Presents

Barefoot in the Park

by Neil Simon
directed by Blair Dyson



August 25 - September 11

Opens Thursday, August 25, at 7:30 pm
Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. | Sundays at 2 p.m.
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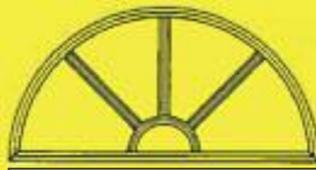
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Southern Cuisine

I downloaded a brochure from the luxury RV manufacturer, NEWMAR, titled "50 Plates in 50 States." A listing of their favorite regional dishes. I was curious just what dishes they picked from Southern states. And of course, the first state listed was Alabama. The dish was Fried Green Tomatoes from a cafe in Irondale. The next Southern state was Arkansas with Fried Catfish from Fayetteville. Then Florida, with a dish of Conch Fritters from Fort Meyers Beach. From Georgia, Brunswick Stew from Savannah. Gumbo was the dish from Donaldsonville, Louisiana. What other dish would there be from Louisiana but Gumbo. From Gulfport Mississippi comes Mississippi Mud Pie. A Pulled Pork Sandwich made the list from Lexington, North Carolina. The people in South Carolina get to feast on Shrimp and Grits from a restaurant in Mount Pleasant. A Southern favorite from

Murfreesboro, Tennessee is Banana Pudding. Then there is one of my favorite dishes, a Breakfast Taco. The list picked one from Port Isabel, Texas. Virginia has their Ham Biscuits in Wakefield.

Add some sweet tea and a "mess of greens" and you have a menu for a Southern restaurant or you have a menu of what to eat everyday for the rest of your life. Just get plenty of exercise after every meal.

If your garden is anything like mine, you have an abundance of tomatoes. And your neighbor has an abundance of tomatoes. And the curb markets have good prices and a large variety of tomatoes. What to do with all these tomatoes. First, eat them. Eat them fresh from the vine, sprinkle a little salt and grind some fresh pepper on the slices. I like mine with a dollop of Dukes mayonnaise on top. Also put thick juicy slices in every sandwich you eat and then eat another sandwich with more slices of tomatoes. After that, you may have to can or freeze the tomatoes to save for another day. And you can make Tomato Gravy!

Tomato gravy is another one of those recipes that you only like it the way your mother made it. Like tuna salad and potato salad, there can only be one set amount and types of ingredients. It seems though less and less mothers are making tomato gravy, what a shame. I found recipes using soy milk, margarine, olive oil and cream cheese. The whole idea behind tomato gravy was the use of the ingredients on hand. This meant that tomato gravy has its roots with war time, depression and just good ole folks. When you had an abundance of lemons you make lemonade. This time of year you make tomato gravy. Not that you can't make it anytime by using what you have on hand, such as home canned tomatoes, salt pork, flour and water (it will have a richer mouth feel with milk.

The simplest recipe calls for nothing but tomatoes and a roux. But we have a pantry that is larger and with more items than the basic pantry. Serve tomato gravy over biscuits and you can call it breakfast or lunch. Serve it over potato wedges and over a piece of meat or over steamed vegetables and call it dinner.

On doing research for tomato gravy, I found a difference of opinion on the type of pan to use. Most recipes I found say do not use a cast iron pan. Tomatoes are acidic and will strip the coating you spent years preserving, right off your pan. Do what we do. We have a cast iron pan that we use only to cook cornbread. We have a cast iron pan for frying chicken. Just make one of your pans for sauces and gravies. Besides, you are make the roux first and then add the tomatoes, so the acidity will be reduced. The other difference in recipes I found is the use of butter or bacon drippings. The flavor will be different, so choose bacon. If you want to strike up the flavors use peppered bacon or my favorite, jalapeno bacon. And use milk just because.

We have the pan, the tomatoes (fresh, this time of year) and we can make the roux, so here is the recipe:

TOMATO GRAVY

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 cups fresh tomatoes, chopped and best peeled. The equivalent to a 14.5 ounce can of tomatoes | 1/4 teaspoon fresh ground pepper |
| 5 tablespoons bacon drippings | <i>Extras: Can be added, to taste.</i> |
| 5 tablespoon all-purpose flour | <i>Crumbled crispy bacon, leftover from making drippings for roux</i> |
| 1 1/4 cups milk (can use water, but creamier with milk) | <i>Vidalia onions chopped 1/4 cup</i> |
| 1 teaspoon sugar | <i>Tabasco sauce to taste</i> |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt | <i>Garlic powder 1/4 teaspoon</i> |

METHOD

1. If using fresh tomatoes, place in bowl and add sugar, salt, pepper and extras. If adding onions, saute them until soft in hot drippings before making roux.
2. Mix well. Place drippings in hot pan and add flour to make roux. When thick, add other ingredients (I recommend the bacon) and cook until thicken to your liking.
3. Serve over hot biscuits.

A fruit that seems to overwhelm some yards is figs. They are a love them hate fruit. If you read all the literature claiming all the health benefits of figs,

CHIPOTLE FIG BBQ SAUCE

Recipe adapted from Franklin BBQ, Austin Texas

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 2 chipotle chiles in adobo sauce, chopped | 3/4 cups brown sugar |
| 8 figs, fresh chopped (and grilled if desired) I have small figs on my trees and my neighbor has big ones, so anywhere from 6-8 figs. | 6 ozs. stout beer |
| 1/4 yellow sweet onion, chopped | 1/2 cup ketchup |
| 2 tablespoons unsalted butter | 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar |
| | 1/4 cup peach preserves |
| | 1/2 tablespoon honey |
| | 1/2 tablespoon kosher salt |
| | 1/2 tablespoon coarse black pepper |

METHOD

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, add the chopped chiles, chopped figs, onions, and butter. Cook for about 10 minutes.
2. Transfer those items to a blender along with sugar, beer, ketchup, vinegars, preserves, honey, and salt and pepper. Puree until smooth.
3. As the blender runs, add as much water as needed to get the consistency you like. Also, depending on the size of your blender, you might have to work in batches.

It will keep fine in the fridge for two weeks or you could freeze it. This recipe is halved from the original recipe and altered somewhat.



you would think that every recipe would have figs in it. But they don't keep well with a short shelf life unless canned, dried or put into a newton. And technically they are not a fruit at all. They are inverted flowers.

I am always trying new ways to use figs. My pantry is overwhelmingly filled with jars of different recipes of figs. Strawberry Fig preserves, chipotle Raspberry Fig, Orange Spiced fig, and just plain Fig.

Now I figured since this is also BBQ season, there should be some use for figs and a grill. I found a recipe for a Fig based BBQ sauce that keeps in the icebox for two weeks and you can freeze it! And of course, it has chipotle chiles in it. Can't go wrong.

An observation I made the other day while partaking in my favorite activity(roaming a grocery store), that the section for international foods has grown and grown. I don't have one complaint about it. There are items that I ate while living overseas, that I could not buy here. But now I can buy Mushy Peas, Digestive Biscuits and Corn Mushrooms. It also shows me that there is a demand for these items beyond the numbers of people who normally ate these items. I have several new brands to pick from for matza, when I want to make Bacon Wrapped Matza Balls. New recipes to explore such as Pulled Pork Shepards Pie. O how about SPAM and Lentil Curry?



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**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

Southern Gardening Potpourri for August

by Peggy Givhan

With the summer slipping away from us, and school days about to begin, there is still plenty of time to refresh out gardens. **Some of the summer blooming annuals and perennials will need cutting back such as Begonias, Cone flower, scabiosa, most daisies, Coreopsis, Canna lilies, Lilies of the Nile and Cleome, to name of few.** Some will get

a new lease on life and shoot up more bloom heads and bloom until end of September or later. If you have Dragon Wing Begonias and they have gotten real tall, these need to be pinched back probably by more than one third or they will fall over and give up. Remember begonias as a whole do not like fertilizer on their leaves, although liquid is ok. Once these plants are trimmed, all need a timed released or liquid fertilizer, such as Miracle Gro or Peter's to continue blooming. The shade loving plants, such as impatiens, need a slight hair cut to continue into the fall. Take out any dead leaves of Elephant Ears, Persian Palms, and Caladiums. **Generally hostas do not need cutting back, but if their bloom spikes are spent, dead head these.**

I do hate to brag about my own garden too much, but this year I have had a spectacular pot garden. **Drama plays some role here with 6 year old Persian Palms as a back drop, a large mop head hydrangea, geraniums both red and peach, silvery dusty miller, white and dark magenta torenia, white impatiens, powder blue plumbago and red and peach Dragon Wing Begonias.** I have made sure to dead head the geraniums on a regular basis, and have just pinched back the begonias. When I go out in the early morning with my coffee, the sight just gives me so much joy. I believe this snap shot of beauty even lowers my blood pressure. **Pot gardens afford every gardener the ease of planting and maintaining them, even those with handicaps such as bad knees and backs.** Most of my pots stand waist high and gradually get smaller. No weeding required because when the plants fill in, weeds are crowded out. **One thing to be every watchful for is the drainage.** Last month I noticed that a plant was getting some yellow leaves, so pulled it aside and found it was standing in water. I had to lift the plant, tilt the pot and reopen the drainage hole. I also put a flat stone under the pot. I will have to deal with this issue in the winter. **My motto: always put off until winter what we do not want to do today.**

We have heard all of our lives that fences make good neighbors. The same is true for our flower beds. A perimeter both in the back of the beds and in the front of the beds give definition and punctuation to our efforts. Stones, brick, or even a trench is enough to define the front of the bed. For the South in the past, mondo grass was the ubiquitous choice, and that is why some, even today, use the term

"border grass". However, even mondo grass can invade the beds, and can just plain look weedy. This front perimeter can shield you beds from unwanted grass or other invasive plant material. Some even go so far with the trenching as to spray a weak solution of Round Up a few times per month. A few suggestions



for a perimeter in the back of the beds include ever green shrubs such as leather leaf viburnum, gardenias, azaleas, loropetulum and may be a stand of Knock Out roses. **Picket fencing, a brick wall, and privacy fencing can also serve this purpose. In my opinion, picket fencing looks best painted white and privacy fencing looks best painted black.**

The end of the summer affords one the opportunity to gather the seed of annuals, and to preserve these for next planting season. Be sure to mark any plant when there are multiple colors with tape, or other means so that you can harvest the seed and place in marked containers such as Cleome, purple; Cleome, white. The seed needs to be kept dry, so I place them in small jars with the lids on tight. I have even put in a small pinch of sand as a desiccant. **Seed that is moldy will not germinate.**

GOOD GARDENING.



*Alabama Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration
4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100, Montgomery, Alabama 36116*



Social Security Questions and Answers

Question:

I'm retired and the only income I have is a monthly withdrawal from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Are the IRA withdrawals considered "earnings?" Could they reduce my monthly Social Security benefits?

Answer:

No. We count only the wages you earn from a job or your net profit if you're self-employed. Non-work income such as pensions, annuities, investment income, interest, capital gains, and other government benefits are not counted and will not affect your Social Security benefits. For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Question:

How long does it take to complete the online application for retirement benefits?

Answer:

It can take as little as 15 minutes to complete the online application. In most cases, once your application is submitted electronically, you're done. There are no forms to sign and usually no documentation is required. Social Security will process your application and contact you if any further information is needed. There's no need to drive to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative. To retire online, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline.

Question:

My spouse doesn't have enough work credits to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits. Can they qualify on my record?

Answer:

A spouse receives one-half of the retired worker's full benefit unless the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age. If the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age, the amount of the spouse's benefit is reduced by a percentage based on the number of months before he or she reaches full retirement age. You can learn more by reading our online publication, Retirement Benefits, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Question:

How long do I need to work to become eligible for retirement benefits?

Answer:

Everyone born in 1929 or later needs 40 Social Security credits to be eligible for retirement benefits. You can earn up to four credits per year, so you will need at least 10 years of work to become eligible for retirement benefits. During your working years, earnings covered by Social Security are posted to your Social Security record. You earn credits based on those earnings. If you become disabled or die before age 62, the number of credits needed to qualify for Social Security benefits depends on your age at the time you die or become disabled. A minimum of six credits is required to qualify for Social Security benefits regardless of your age. You can create a my Social Security account to check and periodically monitor how many credits you have. Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Question:

What type of information will I need to provide if I'd like to apply online for Social Security retirement benefits?

Answer:

Whether you apply for retirement benefits online, by phone, or in an office, we suggest that you have the following information at hand when you do it. This

will make completing the application easier for you.

- Your birthdate, place of birth and Social Security number;
- Your bank account number and your bank's routing number, for direct deposit;
- The amount of money you earned last year and this year. If you are applying for benefits in the months of September through December, you may also need to provide an estimate of what you expect to earn next year if you plan to continue working;
- The name and address of your employer(s) for this year and last year;
- The beginning and ending dates of any active military service you had prior to 1968; and
- The name, Social Security number and date of birth of your current and any former spouses.

Depending on your situation, you may need to provide additional documentation with your application. We'll give you instructions on how to mail or bring it to us. To get started, visit our Retirement Planner at: www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2.

Question:

I've heard you can apply online for retirement benefits. But isn't it easier just to go into an office?

Answer:

Retiring online is the easier way to go. There's no need to fight traffic to travel to a local Social Security office and wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative. You can apply in as little as 15 minutes. Just visit www.socialsecurity.gov. Once you submit your electronic application, you're done. In most cases, there are no forms to sign or documents to mail. Join the millions of people who already retired online. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov.



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A BIBLICAL LOOK AT ELDER ABUSE

When the Lord selected Moses to lead his people He set down some rules. The first four dealt with ecclesiastical matters about who was the leader of the team, and the rules related thereto.

He then got down to laying down temporal rules, and the first of which concerned honoring fathers and mothers. In **Exodus 20:12**, He told Moses that he and his followers should honor their fathers and their mothers; respect one's elders. In short: When you're young do what they say; when you're older, take good care of them; and, perhaps, they may take care of you—some day.

But over the years man has gone somewhat astray with regard to the respect he renders to his elders; in fact in many cases he has downright made a mess of it.

As a result, we now have legislation languishing about in Congress pertaining to elder abuse: a measure designed to attend to our lapses in honoring our fathers and mothers.

We find that abuse of the elderly is happening all over the country, and the **National Center on Elder Abuse** is doing its best to keep tabs on them. But it's not easy since there exists a blur between what qualifies as elder abuse and what does not, claims the center. Furthermore, the situation is worsened by the fact that each state has its own set of rules as it relates to this matter. We can give thanks that Alabama has some good, strong ones.

We Alabamians can take justified pride in the fact that our Legislature has seen fit to endow us with two pieces of legislation pertaining to elder abuse and outlining some stiff penalties for abusers. Not only that, but our Governor saw fit to create a **Council for the Prevention of Elder Abuse**; a body that meets regularly and most recently produced an *Elder Abuse Tool Kit* that is being placed in the hands of seniors in order that they might better be able to

recognize abuses—and abusers—and that they may know precisely how to respond to them. If you don't have one, ask your ASHL representative about it, or contact your local Aging Consortium and ask them for one.

A sad commentary on all this, say the folks at the National Center, is that most seniors are being abused by their own adult children through neglect, abandonment, physical and emotional abuse, sexual assault and exploitation. Now that's shameful.

In 1996, the **National Elder Abuse Incidence Study** showed that more than 500,000 Americans over the age of 60 were the victims of abuse that year. That's the equivalent of about the entire population of Montgomery and Madison counties combined. On top of that, 84 percent of the cases went unreported and only 16 percent of those who were abused had lodged an official complaint.

To add to the grim reality of this picture is a report from the Senate Special Committee on Aging that tells us that nearly 5 million seniors suffer from elder abuse each year. Elder abuse is a problem that is being addressed by the Federal Older Americans Act, which allots money to the various States in order that they might provide the necessary services that relate to abuse of the elderly.

Apparently there are some federal dollars (that's taxpayer dollars) laying about in Washington, but all this political posturing is getting in the way of this much needed funding getting where it can do the most good. Let's hope that our elected representatives get back to doing what it is they promised us they would do when they wanted our votes.

It might be well for our elected representatives to reconsider the message in **Galatians 3:26** in relation to the old folk. Are not all Americans on the same team?

What's ahead?

After viewing the results of last month's elections, a quote from Thomas Jefferson comes to mind: "I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."

While these comments are most assuredly as appropriate now as they were more than two centuries ago; we should take caution from the words of the Greek philosopher Plato, who observed: The heaviest penalty for declining to rule is to be ruled by someone inferior to yourself." This message should take a prominent place in the minds of the electorate when the next general election takes place. Caveat emptor.

Leaping ahead a few centuries for words of wisdom, take President Gerald Ford's admonition that "A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have." The last six years or so have certainly born out the truth of that bit of wisdom.

And if there was ever a summarization of the present situation in Washington it was surely uttered some time in the recent past by Carl Sagan, who posited that: "One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It's simply too painful to acknowledge, even to ourselves, that we've been taken. Once you give a charlatan power over you, you almost never get it back."

Are we, we must ask ourselves, not on the precipice of that warning today?

Americans have complacently sat back and let government have its way. Now is the correct season to compare what has been happening to American by comparing it with the prospect of a major league football team kicking off at the start of the game, then complacently wandering over to the bench to see what will happen.

And to wrap it all up we return to observations made by two more of the founding fathers. "The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest," said Thomas Jefferson. Add to this the warning of his fellow Founding Father, John Adams, "A constitution of government once changed from freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever."

And there we have it. America has enjoyed what many hope will be a fruitful election, but we still have ahead of us two more years with the same captain at the helm.

This will more than likely be a contentious two years, since our current President has given no evidence that he will steer this country in the right direction.

America is teetering on the brink of a Depression that will far exceed that in which most of us old folk began our lives. All of which brings to mind another oft-mentionee memorable quote from 19th Century Spanish poet, essayist, and novelist George Santayana: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

We old timers remember well the past, we'll never forget it. We wouldn't care to repeat it; but a solution, to our peril, may be beyond our grasp.

Thank you Dr. Bitter for all the years as a Gazette Contributing Writer. Your information and sincere dedication to the SENIORS of the Tri-County area is greatly appreciated by all.

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"Top Whatever"

More than six decades ago, "Restricted" was a serious security classification, and "Secret" was something a government worker didn't even want to think about infringing upon. "Top Secret," back then, was so far removed from one's daily activities that it was seldom ever mentioned.

But, in circles where the security classification did have some meaning, ignoring the importance of it had serious consequences.

Folks employed by the government, even in the most benign of security environments, actually disappeared overnight for even the most innocent of security classification transgressions.

The recent situation involving Mrs. Clinton causes one to wonder if there's even any point in classifying information as "Secret," "Top Secret," or any one of the more serious levels of classifications that involved information that relate to the safety and wellbeing of our nation.

Granted, even then, loose handling of classified information was seriously frowned upon. After all, the reasoning went, one was playing fast and loose with information that had an impact on the security of our country.

Granted, as the years passed, there was a tendency to over classify. Documents bearing a "Secret," or "Top Secret" label seemed to give a document even greater status, but over time, this indifference to the importance of the security label, began to erode its significance.

The security aspect of what went on in Mrs. Clinton's case is one thing, what it has done to erode the manner by which we handle the security of our nation, is quite another.

Why not just eliminate security classification all together? Mrs. Clinton has proven to the world that it really doesn't mean anything any more.

What else of national importance is she indifferent to?
We may soon learn.



We go through life thinking, "That would never happen to us," but truth is NOTHING is guaranteed. We don't know what tomorrow holds or even the next minute for that matter. But GOD does and that is why Pilots For Christ is in existence.

PFC is a group of Christian pilots and volunteers whose aim is to help those in need of transportation due to medical reasons and are not able to travel any other way but by plane. PFC is not an air ambulance or a medical aircraft but they believe that it is their mission through the call of our Holy Father to help those that are in need and can not afford the costs.

"Whoever is kind to the needy honors God."

~ Proverbs 14:31



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THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL
 Eastern Hills
 Baptist Church
 Montgomery, Alabama

Soul Searching

“Deliver Us From Evil”

Continued from page 1A

Evil exists in our world today! It always has existed and always will exist until the Lord calls a halt to this world as we know it! Theodore Roosevelt once said, “The times are evil; that is, there is much that is evil in them. It would be to our shame and discredit if we failed to recognize that evil; if we wrapped ourselves in a foolish optimism and failed to war with heart and strength against that evil.”

We have been timid too long and failed miserably to appreciate both the existence and destruction brought about by evil. We complain about it when it interrupts our daily lives, but have given far too little thought to understand it fully.

Have you ever seriously pondered the words of Jesus in the Lord’s Prayer, “Deliver us from evil?” If there had not been the eternal threat of evil those words would not have been spoken. He could have said lots of things, but chose to pray about the evil we face.

Likewise, Paul wrote about it in his letter to the Ephesians, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms.” (6:10-12)

There are spiritual forces of evil in this world! Make no mistake about it! Evil exists in our world and is wreaking havoc! Quite often people ask, “Why is there evil in the world?” A number of answers could be given.

Some bad things happen to people in our world because of God’s judgment. You will no doubt remember the great flood as recorded in Genesis or the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Bible is filled with many other examples of judgment because of sin.

However, let me say that I am not one of those who tries to tie the evil we see today to any one sinful decision or action. I am convinced that neglect of God’s desires for His people brings judgment and continual doing so brings more and worse judgment.

Evil also exists because we live in an imperfect world where imperfect things happen all the time. Again Paul helps us with understanding our world. For believers he said, “I consider that our present sufferings are not worthy comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.... For the creation was subjected to frustration...We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.” (Romans 8: 18,19, 22) The Scripture seems to indicate that our world, which God created, is no longer a perfect place because of sin. We suffer in this life. The whole world is frustrated and groaning because of its imperfection.

I would also suggest to you that evil happens to us sometimes because of the sin of others.

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” If we sow good, we will reap good. If we sow evil, we will reap evil. (Gal. 6:7) Far too many times I have witnessed heartache and tragedy happening to good people because of the sins of others. Sometimes it may be at the hands of drunk drivers or more recently good policemen losing their lives because of the hatred of others toward them.

The ultimate answer to the subject of evil is that there is a source and a personification of evil. The Apostle Peter wrote, “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone

to devour.” (I Peter 5:8) It should be obvious to us who are in Christ that evil exists in the world today because of the evil one called Satan or the Devil. Jesus prayed, “My prayer is not that you take them (speaking of believers) out of this world, but that you would protect them from the evil one.” (John 17:15)

Maybe you have heard what the great preacher of another generation, Billy Sunday, said about Satan. “I know the devil is real for two reasons. Number one because the Bible says so. And number two because I’ve done business with him.” Whether we realize this or not, there are multitudes of people in our world today who are doing business with the devil. They may not know it, but they are! Hatred of what is good, right and honest comes straight from the one who stands as an Adversary to our God.

So is there any hope? Paul, Peter and James help us again. “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...” (Eph. 6:10) “Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7) “Resist him, stand firm in the faith...” (I Peter 5:9)

We may not be able to remove all sin and evil from the world. Only Christ will do that when He returns. We may not be able to stop all the pain which will come to us personally from the sin of others. But we can do our best to keep from hurting others and ourselves when we take our faith seriously. There is no question in my mind if all the Christians in this country stood together for what is right and good, then we would see a change from the violence and evil which is going on around us. We must learn to pray as our Lord taught us, “Thy will be done...” and mean it. The Bible reminds us, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Rom. 12:21)

The beloved preacher, Vance Havner, once told a story about an elderly lady who was greatly disturbed by her many troubles--both real and imaginary. Finally, someone in her family tactfully told her, “Grandma, we’ve done all we can do for you. You’ll just have to trust God for the rest.” A look of absolute despair came over her face as she replied, “Oh dear, has it come to that?”

I’m afraid it has come to that. May we never repeat the words of our Lord, “Deliver us from evil,” without giving serious thought to what they mean!



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Eastern Hills

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Come & join us on

SUNDAY MORNING

Bible Study:
9:00 AM

Worship:
10:15 AM



Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

THE JOY OF STUFF

I read the story in "The Christian Century" last spring. The author and her husband held three teacups in their hands after the husband's mother downsized and moved to a smaller apartment. The couple talked about which items to keep, if any, or whether they should keep all three in a home that was already full of things. The question they asked about each item was, "Does this item spark joy?"

The writer said she got this concept from Marie Kondo who's written extensively about de-cluttering one's life. Kondo says that if an item doesn't spark joy it should be sold or given to another person for whom it would spark joy.

An interesting corollary to this method is that Kondo suggests we even talk to the item we're about to discard, thank it for this joy and wish it well in its new place!

I'm not sure our friends would consider us sane if they came to our home and found us talking to the drapery and the silverware, but the basic premise is a good one. We express thanks for the things that bring joy to our lives.

I read the Apostle Paul's words with new appreciation this week:

"Let [us] place confidence in God, who lavishly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1Timothy 6:17).

The above-cited verse is addressed to "the rich." Readers might deny this descriptor, but we are rich. By the grace of God we're Americans living in a land of plenty. The Global Village at Habitat for Humanity's International Headquarters in Americus, Ga. has actual housing from the third world--housing we wouldn't use for our dogs or lawnmowers in America. We are all wealthy.

And scripture affirms the concept that God is a lavish giver of things. He's not a killjoy; he wants us to enjoy possessions. Accordingly, some find joy in coins or stamps, salt shakers or ceramic frogs, political items or books. These things spark joy. And part of our reason for worship is to thank God for the joy we find in things.

But scripture also affirms that we must handle things responsibly by remembering the needs of others around us. Scripture pointedly asserts that if we have goods and see a brother without goods and don't share, the love of God is absent our hearts (1 John 3:17).

Ultimately we'll stand before God to give account of our use of every opportunity and every possession. John the revelator said both "small and great" will stand before the Lord of the universe. The small is you and me. The great is the Kennedys, the Rockefellers and Bill Gates. God will hold us accountable for how we used our possessions.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala., and adjunct instructor of speech at Jefferson State Community College, Hoover. Permission is granted to use this material with attribution.

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Patricia Killough



Home Town Community News

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to alabamagazette@gmail.com

The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions as space permits.

August Birthdays



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Cindy Bolton
Ty Bolton
Heide Doran | 14 Jill McCain
Patsy Norman (64th)
Ricky Webster (67th) |
| 2 Nichole Lansdon Gibson (42nd)
Chloe Taylor Jordan
George McCurdy
Moe Parker
Sheryl Schall
Tim Schall
Rhonda Tatum | 15 Connie Mainor (53rd)
Claudia Adams (94th)
Earl Russell (66th) |
| 3 Frances Byrd
Lisa Wooten | 16 Billy Betts (67th) |
| 4 Harry Baker
Chuck Bolton
Harris Bolton
Linda Hix
Eveline & Ernestine Trafford (66th) | 17 Tyler Schoknecht
Max Webb |
| 5 Chuck Gambrell | 18 Doris Talley Matthews
Joan McDevitt (74th) |
| 6 Chase Cumbie
Gerald H. Thompson (89th)
Tony Drake
Joshua Jones (31st) | 19 Carl Boyd (62nd)
Shannon Grant |
| 7 Anna Louise Moseley
Bill Ratliff | 20 Sydney Mills |
| 8 Mallory Hitson | 21 Lorraine Hall
Paula Jones (62nd)
Madison Boyd Williams (8th) |
| 9 Audrey Alison
Nell Crowe (88th)
Perry Mason (57th)
Don White
Doris Williams (89th) | 22 Tom Garlington
Rhett Tucker |
| 10 Hilda Furlow (90th) | 23 Lamar Higgins
Lindsey Woodall Brown |
| 11 Wayne Roy (69th)
Shawn Terrell | 24 Terri Gulsby
Lori McGough
Mary Iva Sellers
Preston Webb |
| 12 Trisston Burrows | 25 Ray Scott (83rd)
Lloyd Smilie (87th) |
| 13 Bobby Boyd (56th)
Barry Ehrlich
Maxine Scroggins | 27 Angie Herndon |
| | 28 Bill Hix |
| | 29 Charlie Blount
Jimmy Grant (62nd)
Diane McLaney
Paul Reynolds |
| | 30 Imogene Bryan |
| | 31 Winnie Barton
Chloe Mills
Sallie Rhodes |

Ramer High School Class Reunion



Standing: Loyd, Voncile and Ed
Seated: Sara, Cara, Joyce and Teddy

Ramer High School class of 1947 had their reunion on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at the Snowdown Volunteer Fire Department. Attending the 69th reunion were Ed Scrushy, Loyd Smiley and Mary Emma, Voncile Walton Talley, Ted Paludan and Reba, Sara Law Boyd and Ann Orr (friend), Cara Beck Stafford, Joyce Browning Mills, Annette Moseley (widow of Franklin) and daughters Susan and Lynn.

They enjoyed a meal of fresh vegetables prepared by Patricia Killough (Sara's daughter).

They are looking forward to their 70th reunion next year!

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90th Birthday Celebration!

A surprise party was held for **Edward Broadway** who celebrated his 90th birthday on July 2nd at Rustic Acres.

He had a fun filled day surrounded by his family and friends

Edward Broadway and his wife Betty.

Happy Anniversary

2 Mike & Laura Lane	19 Jason & Shawn Adams
4 Frances & Ted Watts	Rob & Minerva Tate (30th)
5 Michael & Jackie Moseley	21 David & Elizabeth Miller
7 Todd & Nikki Windham	22 Johnny & Betsy Walker
Zach & Magan Grambling (6th)	24 Frank & Aileen Kovacic
Charlie & Debbie Moore	25 Bill & Jane Grubbs
8 Leroy & Ina Goodin (70th)	Mr. & Mrs. John Carter (70th)
L.B. & Bessie Wynn (74th)	27 Johnny & Regina Johnson (32nd)
9 Turpin & Angie Ashurst	Tommy & Barbara Ratliff (28th)
11 Mack & Susan Terrell	28 Karl & Brenda Stegall (51st)
13 David & Julie Livingston	29 Mike & Deborah Kirk
Tim & Cherie Meadows (22nd)	Bill & Charlotte Younklin
16 Leon & Pearl McClain (58th)	David & Suzanne Webb
Terri & Michael Taylor (30th)	30 Randy & Mae Bishop
18 Earl & Theresa Henderson	Ralph & Murray Norman

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Sympathy to the families of...

Bowdoin, Col. Ret. Max (85).....died June 26, 2016

Chambless, Mark Norman (58).....died July 3, 2016

Paris, Ann Marie (56).....died July 3, 2016

Chesnutt, Diane Leslie (66).....died July 4, 2016

Midkiff, Howard Lee (86).....died July 6, 2016

Hornady, James Brooks (58).....died July 4, 2016

Lane, Gay Holloway (83).....died July 7, 2016

Smith, May Mathews Handey (76).....died July 13, 2016

Gates, Cad Elizabeth McKinley Turnipseed (88).....died July 14, 2016

Wilson, III, Former Police Chief John H. (62).....died July 16, 2016

Turnipseed, Jr., Brigadier Gen. William "Sonny" Rufus (87).....died July 22, 2016



Check Out
The Gazette Website!

www.alabamagazette.com

Send us your birthdays and anniversaries. We will be happy to include them in the Alabama Gazette.

~~~~~

If you see a birthday person or anniversary that needs to come off these list, please contact us at 334-356-6700 or email us at [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)

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

# TODAY'S WOMAN



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## Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows  
[www.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

### "Birthday Blessings"

This month I will be turning 41. I know what you're thinking, "WHAT?! She doesn't look a day over 21!" Hmmm...Well, I can dream...Right?! Hehehe!!

This year may not be quite as exciting as last year when I entered into what my husband, Brian, and I refer to as "The Fabulous Decade". Brian surprised me by taking me on an amazing 7-day, 3-country cruise through the Western Caribbean. Also, many dear sweet friends and family called, texted, and emailed. I even enjoyed several different birthday celebrations and, of course, lots of birthday desserts!

*"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!" Psalm 118:24.*

Although I am not so excited about my body getting older, I do want my spirit to mature... I want to grow in my relationship with the Lord. I want to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a (woman), I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." 1 Corinthians 13:11-12.*

I don't want to stay the same! I want God to continue to grow me and change me and mold me. I don't want to make the same mistakes year after year, but I want to learn from them and overcome them. I

know God is doing a new thing in me each year. I don't want to look over my shoulder, lamenting about the past and the mistakes I've made. Instead, I want to look forward to what God is doing in me and through me TODAY. This year, I want to take the wisdom God has given me and make the right choices. I want to put away my "childish" ways, my immature, selfish ways.

So let's remember to say Thank You Lord for birthdays...for creating us and blessing us with an incredible life. We are blessed beyond measure!

Many Blessings.



To accomplish our mission, we need your help. The ministry of Mary Ellen's Hearth requires renewed and sustained commitments from old friends and new alike. We need your support in order to help the women we care for build new lives for themselves and their children.

- \$50 - \$75 Encourager
- \$76 - 150 Friend
- \$151 - \$250 Supporter
- \$251 - \$500 Ally
- \$500+ Partner

Receive news and updates about God's work being done through the ministry & volunteer opportunities at Mary Ellen's Hearth

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[info@nellieburge.org](mailto:info@nellieburge.org)  
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## We Are Growing!



### Montgomery Christian School...

is beginning our tenth year of service to children and families in Montgomery by providing an affordable, challenging academic curriculum with a strong commitment to seeing every subject from a Christian world view. Housed at Trinity Presbyterian Church since inception, the school has grown from a kindergarten with ten students in 2007, to currently serving over 70 students from kindergarten through fifth grade. At this time, we are preparing for a move to satisfy the growing wait list of potential students.

Montgomery Christian School offers affordable tuition based on family income for people who could not otherwise consider sending their children to a private, Christian school. Montgomery Christian School's curriculum also includes enrichment programs such as art, dance and music as part of their curriculum. Montgomery Christian School's education also places an emphasis on good citizenship and good moral character to help lay the foundation for our students to become better citizens for our community.

For more information about our school, please feel free to visit our website at [www.montgomerychristianschool.com](http://www.montgomerychristianschool.com) or contact Kathi Atkins at [katkins@montgomerychristianschool.org](mailto:katkins@montgomerychristianschool.org) or by calling 334-386-1749.



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### Upcoming blood donation opportunities

- 7/28/2016:** 3 - 7 p.m., First Baptist Church Wetumpka, 205 West Bridge St., Wetumpka
- 8/1/2016:** 12 - 6 p.m., Montgomery Blood Donation Center, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery
- 8/2/2016:** 3 - 7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 138 South Washington St., Prattville
- 8/4/2016:** 12:30 - 4:30 p.m., 187th Fighter Wing Air National Guard, 5187 Selma Highway, Montgomery
- 8/8/2016:** 12 - 6 p.m., Montgomery Blood Donation Center, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery
- 8/10/2016:** 2 - 7 p.m., Hayneville Baptist Church, 1180 State Highway 21 North, Hayneville
- 8/11/2016:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Warren Averett, 3815 Interstate Court, Montgomery
- 8/15/2016:** 12 - 6 p.m., Montgomery Blood Donation Center, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery

#### About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The **Red Cross** is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](http://cruzrojaamericana.org), or visit us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/RedCross) at @RedCross.

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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

## National Night Out

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is teaming up with the Town of Pike Road to bring our communities the best crime prevention tailgate ever at this year's National Night Out! Come out to the parking lot of the Town Hall (9575 Vaughn Road) on August 2nd from 6-8 pm for food and fellowship with your neighbors and officials. There will be guest speakers discussing how to be more aware of your surroundings and what you can do to prevent crime.



the heat gets too unbearable. We will fish, if weather permits, until 12:00 Noon. Please do not bring children to this event as we have



Photos from 2014 Seniors Fishing Rodeo



a Kids Fishing Rodeo annually in June for our youth to attend.

We will provide snacks and drinks....you provide the bait and tackle and whatever you catch is yours to keep!



## Youth Fishing Class

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, James Williams and Craig Payne with Montgomery County Parks and Recreation department and Daryl Woods with the Montgomery YMCA collaborated to create an outdoor classroom for youth at the Montgomery County ponds on Highway 231 South. Members of the Rumblin Waters BASS Club, volunteered their



time to teach free fishing classes to 35 boys and girls ages 8-12. The participants learned how to identify various types of fishing rods, how to cast a rod, proper bait/lure selection as well as many other interesting things they

probably wouldn't have known otherwise. Skip Essman with the "Leave No Trace" program talked to the youth about the importance of outdoor conservation and preservation of our environment. These outdoor, hands-on activities provided youth with an opportunity to put down their video games, pick up a fishing rod and learn a skill they can utilize to help shape their future. Several universities around the state have a BASS fishing sports club, i.e., Auburn University and University of Alabama. This pilot program is one of the many activities offered by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to keep youth active and involved during the summer months. **These free classes were possible, thanks to a grant from the Mid-South RC & D Council, Wal-Mart stores and the support of the Montgomery County Commission.**

## Camp Show-n-Tell

All slots are filled for our annual Camp Show-n-Tell! Each year we take 100 boys and girls for a free, week long camp to promote positive interaction and life rewarding skills with our youth who have succeeded during the school year. Those of you that have applied and been accepted to this year's camp...welcome aboard and to those that didn't apply, please apply next year! Applications are accepted starting April 1st each year. Activities include canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, swimming, outdoor survival skills and of course, a BIG DANCE on the Thursday before they depart from camp. There will be Deputies and Corrections Officers on site the entire week to supervise the kids and make sure everyone benefits from the camp!



## Firearms Familiarization Course

Sign up NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Course scheduled for August 13th and learn how to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. Our course is held one Saturday a month and has been scheduled for the following dates:

- Saturday, August 13th
- Saturday, September 24th

The class is held at our Firing Range and lasts all day and is FREE to Montgomery County citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class. All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

- Course Requirements:**
- Montgomery County Citizen
  - Obtain a Montgomery County Pistol Permit (prior to the course date)
  - Complete an Application for the Course

**Pistol Permit Questions? 334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337**

**Course Questions or to Obtain an Application? LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org • 334.832.1339**

Your safety is our primary concern; therefore, we ask that you do not bring children to this class.

**IT'S HOT OUTSIDE!**

**Don't forget to check on your loved ones!**

Thank you for your continued support of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!

