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1 JOHN 3:16

EXCLUSIVE!



Pike Road's New School System under Fire!

By Bill Rice, Gazette Staff Reporter

It is safe to say that the incorporation of the Town of Pike Road in 1997 and the subsequent creation of a new public school system in 2014 qualify as historic events in Montgomery County.

It is also an understatement to say that the school system has been THE engine that has made Pike Road the fastest growing city in the state.

As the school system approaches the final weeks of its first academic year, The Gazette thought it appropriate to examine if this first school year was an unqualified success. As far as local press accounts are concerned and as far as the opinion of "man on the street" is probably concerned, the first year has gone just fine.

However, this paper's comprehensive investigation seems to reveal that the image school supporters might be promoting and the reality found inside school walls may not match.

"Chaos," "a zoo," "a nightmare" are just a few of the words current and former teachers and one student used to describe the first nine months of Pike Road Schools.

If such shocking characterizations were made by only one or two sources and were not corroborated by multiple sources, this story would never have been published. However, we found our sources to be credible. The picture of Pike Road School that was portrayed to us included numerous allegations of a troubling nature. Among them:

Many teachers feel intimidated and "bullied" by superintendent Suzanne Freeman and Principal Angela Lang. (Especially in middle school grades) student discipline is severely lacking. Students routinely "roam" the halls. The much-hyped emphasis on "technology" has resulted in students spending hours playing video games and watching music videos.

Many "learners" (students) and many parents (and at least some teachers) despise the "FreshGrade" assessment software that replaced report cards. "Project Based Learning" may be over-utilized. "Collaborative learning" initiatives leave bright and motivated "learners" feeling they end up doing most of assigned tasks while some peers in the group "coast."

The lack of hard deadlines for showing "mastery of a standard" has left many students scrambling to make the minimum progress to advance to the next level. Many students miss tests, workbooks and textbooks, all of which are taboo at PRS. Promises or pledges that were made to parents, faculty and students by administrators have not always materialized.

"Lead learners" (teachers) have taught as many as 40 students at a time and often have taught classes in the hallways, rooms designed to be offices, the cafeteria and cubby holes beneath stairwells. Certain aspects of school design and planning have been criticized. PE and recess students also play or run in the parking lot or drive areas of the school, creating safety concerns. Several families (Dr. Freeman did not immediately confirm a number.) have already withdrawn their children from the school (including the school's first PTSA president) and, per several sources, many more parents may be considering such a move.

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The Changing of a NATION and its' PEOPLE!

2nd Edition Civil Rights Historical Issue 2016

Section D

Happy Mother's Day

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TALLASSEE QUARTERLY

Tallassee, Alabama
 Southgate to Lake Martin



"The Treasure on the Tallapoosa"

Please go to alabamagazette.com and click on the Tallassee Quarterly to open and read all about Tallassee, Alabama

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

At this time of year Washington, D.C. is a beautiful place to visit. The city is aglow with the blooming of the cherry blossom trees. The cherry blossoms offer a glorious scene as you stroll down the mall and look toward our nation's capital. This scene has been glimpsed by tourists and visitors for over a century.

Each year the National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates a 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Japan to the United States. The current Cherry Blossom Festival has grown tremendously. It is now one of our nation's greatest springtime celebrations. The first festival was held in 1927, and it has continued to grow over the years. The festival grew to two weeks beginning in 1944. In 2012, the festival expanded to five weeks to honor the 100 year anniversary of the gift of the trees.

Over the years, millions have participated in the events and viewed the flowering cherry trees. Today more than 1.5 million people visit Washington to admire the blossoming cherry trees in our nation's capital.

Last April I spent several days walking the Potomac and enjoying the festival and cherry blossoms. It was indeed a magnificent sight. As I walked past the Jefferson Memorial and into the heart of the blossoms that surround the tidal basin, my mind wandered back in time and I began to think about the blossoming relationship that the gift of the trees signified between Japan and the U.S. In 1915, we reciprocated by giving the Japanese an equal number of dogwood trees. Little did we know that 24 years later the Japanese would attack us on a Sunday morning in December of 1941.

World War II was the most epic war in our nation's history. Our nation united like no time in our history in response to the war. The World War II years and the two decades after the War was a magical time to serve in Congress. Many of the images we have of Congress were established during the decades of 1941-1961. Many of the legendary icons of congressional history reigned during this time.

Congressional power was immense during those years and at the front and center of this pinnacle of power was our Alabama delegation. We were the most powerful state in the nation when it came to leadership and seniority. Our

representatives and senators not only had power based on their seniority, they were also very well respected and erudite gentlemen.

Gentlemen is the proper description because all ten members of our congressional delegation were men. Both senators and all eight of our congressmen were white male Democrats. If you look back to an early spring day in 1964, you would see a senatorial team from Alabama that was the envy of every state in the nation. Our senatorial duo of Lister Hill and John Sparkman was unparalleled.

Strolling along the Potomac from Alabama at that time was an eight member congressional delegation that boasted of over 120 years of seniority in Washington. These gentlemen were similar in backgrounds. It is as though they were born planning their paths to Congress. Amazingly all eight graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law and were all attorneys by profession.

On a Sunday afternoon in mid-April you would likely see some of our delegation casually strolling by the Jefferson Memorial toward the tidal basin admiring the brilliant cherry blossoms in bloom. Among the group were the likes of George Andrews, George Grant, Albert Rains, Bob Jones, Carl Elliot, Armistead Seldon, Kenneth Roberts and George Huddleston.

Little did they know that six months later their stellar congressional careers would be snuffed out by straight ticket republican voting in Alabama. The tidal wave that swept them out of office was spawned by Lyndon Johnson's Civil Rights Act of 1964. White Southerners were so incensed that they voted not only for Goldwater but every other Republican on the ballot. All of our delegation voted against the Civil Rights Act. However, it did not matter. White southern voters took no prisoners. African Americans did not vote in 1964. Johnson passed the Voting Rights Act the next year in 1965.

The only members of our delegation to survive the Goldwater landslide tidal wave were Bob Jones, Armistead Seldon and George Andrews. If Hill or Sparkman had been on the ballot that year they would probably not have persevered the onslaught. Alabama lost over 100 years of seniority in one fell swoop.

May 4, 2016



Marcia Chambliss



Recognizing Our Problem

As I think about the increasingly vicious political climate we're now experiencing, I reflect more often on just how we've reached a point in our nation's history where more factions are fighting each other than ever before. No doubt there are reasons far more complicated than what I can comprehend or even begin to outline, but I can't help but believe that so much of the animosity towards each other is a direct result of our escalating dependence on government to "do something" to correct an "unfair" world.

And in more situations than not, that "something" is in the form of legislation which inevitably ends up trading our personal freedoms for more and more control over our lives by government.

Legislation doesn't exist in a vacuum; for every law written, there are untold resultant regulations created by bureaucracies at every level, with further layers of government added to make sure that we as citizens are adhering to the new laws and regulations.

How many times do we really think about the liberty we lose whenever another law is passed?

Dr. Walter E. Williams, professor of economics at George Mason University and nationally syndicated columnist recently addressed students, faculty, and visitors at Troy University in Troy, AL., on the subject of "The Role of Government in a Free Society." Dr. Williams has long been one of my favorite columnists as he has a gifted ability to break down complex economic issues into language that those not living in the world of academia can understand.

Dr. Williams began his lecture by warning it wouldn't be politically correct and that the legitimate role of government just might offend some in the audience. That legitimate role isn't complicated as is outlined in Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution and for those easily politically offended on both sides of the aisle, there is nothing in our Constitution regarding our government providing Social Security, farm subsidies, welfare, or food stamps.

His most recent book, *American Contempt for Liberty*, is a compilation of essays from his syndicated columns supporting his case that Americans have developed a contempt for private property and the free enterprise system in return for a government that promises to accomplish "higher objectives" via a tyranny we have so readily accepted. Throughout his speech at Troy University,

he gave examples of the legalized theft by government that society would condemn were it committed by individuals.

One such example is the Social Security system in which the government requires us to involuntarily contribute to a fund so that we hopefully have enough money in our twilight years to survive. Forget the fact that the government already does a very poor job of managing the tax dollars we provide; we're simply supposed to trust them with funds we could better invest elsewhere. The system initially conceived as a minimal safety net has evolved into a Ponzi scheme that will collapse unless it is funded with greater contributions from those who will likely never receive what they've been forced to support.

In discussing the contempt for the free markets, we've been coerced into believing that business and its profits are evil, and that big business holds an unfair amount of power over the citizens. To the contrary, it is only when big business is enabled by our politicians in the form of subsidies and bailouts that they obtain an unfair advantage, and that isn't a free market system – it's called crony capitalism.

Our new tyrants of government want to eliminate the free market system with economic planning such as mandated wages, tariffs, and quotas all imposed in the name of the "public good." True free markets contribute far more to society in providing the needs of citizens via the motivation of profits. The rise of capitalism has done more to improve and strengthen America by allowing an upward economic mobility not experienced anywhere else in the world. Yet Americans are increasingly willing to squander that ability by giving their government more and more control over every aspect of their lives.

So we fight it out election after election – each side promising more and more in government benefits in order to win elections – and the real losers are the citizens who allow the legalized theft of our private property and increased restrictions on our personal liberty.

As Dr. Williams told the audience, we can blame politicians all day long – and yes, they do shoulder a lot of the blame – but the real problem lies with Americans. After all, the politicians are doing exactly what we have elected them to do.

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.

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Bench - Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

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Ignorance: The Mother of Evil

First, let's focus on ignorance; then we can develop its relationship to evil. Ignorance certainly includes lack of knowledge, but ignorance is not merely absence of knowledge. Ignorance has a positive existence in human consciousness. It is incorrect beliefs more often than the mere absence of correct beliefs. The incorrect beliefs are strongly and passionately held and adamantly defended. Ignorance doesn't just stand on a street corner and rant and rave; it talks on I-Phones, and moves in emails. It gains access to media, public offices, courtrooms, classrooms and even churches. It enters into and affects behavior just like any other strongly held belief.

Like other strongly held beliefs, ignorance is usually shared by the groups of which an individual is a part. It is what the group believes. It is handed from generation to generation in the bosom of the family. The fact that the individual is surrounded by others who maintain the incorrect belief makes it extremely difficult to eradicate. It actively resists truth and correction. The faulty dictum that one opinion is just as good as another supports it. Some opinions obviously are better than others. It forms the basis for inappropriate behavior.

Against this background it is not at all difficult to see a connecting link between ignorance and evil. The fact that the Bible teaches that we have all sinned shows that none of us are immune from ignorance. This discussion is about the concepts of ignorance and evil. It is not a pretext for launching into a tirade about some specific activity that may be going on in the world right now, although there is plenty of ignorance and evil that we could pick out to discuss.

Just a word or two about good and evil. Anything that promotes the welfare and survival of humanity is good. Anything that is harmful to humanity and decreases the likelihood of human survival is evil. Now let's get theological. The Old Testament concept of sin, or evil, is breaking the law. The law was a gift of God. (It still is.) Jesus made it clear that he did not come to destroy the

law but to fulfill the law. The abundant life that he advocated does not happen simply because one does not break the law. Breaking the law is not a good thing to do, but following the law does not necessarily make one good. The New Testament concept of evil is "missing the mark." It is failure to live life in a way that brings about good. When one actively pursues an abundant life, and does things that make the world a better place to live, good arises.

The New Testament concepts of good and evil differ dramatically from beliefs that arise out of the Zoroastrian Persian religious milieu and its mythology. In that mythology, the hero Marduk destroys the force of evil, which is epitomized by a giant snake, Tiamat. The universe arose from the remains of the evil beast. Thus, good arises from the destruction of evil. Those fundamental differences in cultural beliefs may explain a lot about the things that are happening in the world today. But they give rise to pretty serious questions about what to do about evil.

Christians believe that the Crucifixion of Jesus was an evil thing. But Jesus said "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." His request was predicated on the fact that the evil actions arose from ignorance. The Bible says that the wages of Sin are death. So theoretically evil ultimately destroys itself and goes out of business. Evil ultimately doesn't work. That seems to be consistent with Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest. But all of that theological philosophy doesn't provide great peace of mind for most of us as we watch the world that seems to be churning with evil. It does not eliminate the strong temptation to aggressively fight evil at every opportunity, and adamantly believe in our cause.

The Christian viewpoint is eminently correct. We cannot save world merely by fighting evil. Of course, when someone like Hitler comes along, we have to resist. But even that does not create good. A lot of good things were destroyed in World War II. But in the final analysis, we have to show the world a better way. When we look at the eons involved in the evolution of human consciousness, it becomes clear that we can deal with ignorance and evil only by finding and offering a better way.

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

CULTURE TRAITORS

When and where is it all going to end? Ever since I was a little kid, I have loved Germany and the

German people. When I was five years old, my father took my brother and me to see the movie, The Blue Max, starring George Peppard and Ursula Andress. It is the story of a brutal, callous, cold blooded killer named Bruno Stachel who flew for the Germans in World War One. I still watch this movie at least once or twice every year. But as a little kid, the aviation scenes and the cool German uniforms all served to make an impression on me that I still love to this day. This event led me to studying German language and eventually A LOT of German military history, in particular WWII aviation history. My first book, Hans-Joachim Marseille: An Illustrated Tribute to the Luftwaffe's Star of Africa, is about a young, very anti-Nazi German pilot who fought and died in North Africa early in the war. I have studied this pilot's life my entire adult life and continue to this day.

Yes, I do love Germany and the Germans. In 1986, I was on temporary duty (TDY) in Keflavik, Iceland when I saw an AWACS aircraft sitting on the ramp. I had seen dozens of AWACS before but this one had strange markings. NATO + OTAN adorned the fuselage with a red lion on the vertical stabilizer. What?? I immediately inquired about the plane and found out it was a NATO AWACS out of Geilenkirchen, Germany and the crew was staying on the other side of the base. I literally ran over there and met many of the crew. One of the Americans gave me a phone number and I called the command post in Germany right then. I got a Major Dan Gellenbeck on the line, told him who I was and that I wanted to go fly for them. He told me they were looking for young American pilots and gave me a contact at our assignment folks in San Antonio. I called and put my name in the proverbial hat. In all my excitement about the possibility of flying in Germany, with Germans no less, I forgot to call my new bride. Luckily she was pretty much onboard right away. Yes, I pestered the living heck out of my assignment guy and within three months I had the assignment to Germany.

What followed was arguably the best six years of my life, certainly of my military career. Flying in Germany with all international crews, living in a German village and my wife I being accepted as members of that community and for me, the opportunity to meet several WWII Luftwaffe pilots I had read about growing up was the best. More important, however, I got to really know and understand a lot of the German culture first hand and the way they think, both good and bad. Music, science, industry, art, architecture, religion, mathematics, you name it. The German people have excelled in all of these and their culture reflects this. This is the point of this Robservation.

In my office in Geilenkirchen, I had portraits of several German aces hanging on my walls. My ceiling was adorned with German and American airplanes. Many of my German squadron mates would come in, sit down and just look around and smile. They would say, "Rob, only you could have an office like this in all of Germany." Being a black guy, clearly nobody with half a brain could accuse me of being a Nazi or sympathetic to their cause. You see, in the portraits, these men were in uniform and of course the hated Swastika was displayed on some of their medals. The German airplanes hanging from my ceiling had Swastikas on their tails (historical accuracy is important to me). In Germany, folks, the Swastika is illegal to display. Even actual aircraft in museums have the Swastika removed from the tails and in many other museums and squadron heraldry rooms, any images deemed "politically incorrect" have been removed for fear of offense. So if a squadron flew in WWII and one of their pilots donated medals or memorabilia to the squadron, in many cases they have been done away with. For what it is worth, the USAF is currently doing

the same thing with images of airplanes from WWII with "offensive" nose art.

In discussions with MANY of my German squadron mates and friends, it became painfully obvious that they knew almost NOTHING of their WWII aviation history. If they or anybody on the base had questions about German WWII aviation history, it was me they came to. In short, and rightfully so, they had a lot of shame to deal with. One cannot simply walk away from the holocaust without a really bad taste in one's mouth and severe damage to the national German psyche. One of the most brutal and morally incomprehensible acts in human history is a painful pill to swallow. I get that.

Now let's flash forward to present day and the influx of the refugees entering Germany. I know I have covered this in the past but it seems every day or so there is another aspect that spins my head around. Recently, in certain areas of Germany, the government has approved the banning of pork products on menus for fear of upsetting the Muslim refugees. W-what?? Then last week, it was reported that advertisements depicting those very pretty, busty beer maidens in Oktoberfest were going to be outlawed because they could be "offensive" to the newest members of the non-conforming German population. Just look at some of the stories. And to think that many of these stupid decisions are coming on the heels of all the sexual assaults on New Year's Day that I wrote about a couple of months ago.

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/german-parliament.defends.pork.ban.in-public.menus.so.as.not.to.offend.muslims/81542.htm>

<http://pamelageller.com/2016/04/sharia-germany-bans-sexy-women.html>

The problem I see right now with Germany is that in an attempt to placate the restless masses and while running from their Nazi past, many in the German government, and society as a whole, are becoming traitors to their own culture and people by willfully and woefully allowing outsiders to come and dictate to them how they run Germany. And yes, the immigrants are taking advantage of it. In a misguided attempt to show the world that they are not racist and totally inclusive in their views, the German culture traitors are eroding those aspects of German culture that guess what? Make it German culture. If those who have busted through the borders don't like German culture as it is, uh, leave! Pretty simple, huh? Go to <http://dailycaller.com/2016/02/04/refugees-go-clubbing-in-russia-harass-girls-wake-up-in-hospital-the-next-morning/> and see how Russians deal with boorish behavior. And you know what, I never heard Putin apologize. Good on him!!

In the end, I want to see "my Germany" survive intact. No pork? Shut up! No beer maidens? Grow some. I believe Winston Churchill said it best. An appeaser is someone who feeds the crocodile hoping it will eat him last. There should NEVER be any cultural appeasement in this way. Never. By ignoring their own history, I unfortunately feel the Germans are falling victim to the same ignorance that many societies have suffered throughout history. If they look back at Adolf Hitler and his rise to power and initial military successes, these all came because the people in the West appeased him and refused to fight one for what they knew to be correct. They allowed evil and dissent to grow until major conflict was the only, inevitable outcome. The German people today are themselves those people in the West who are standing by and allowing evil to take root without fighting for what is right what is true. Winston Churchill also said, "The truth is incontrovertible, malice may attack it, ignorance my deride it, but in the end; there it is." So what are you going to do, Germany? Remember Kenny Rogers' song, "Coward of the County?" You don't have to fight to be a man, but sometimes when you are a man, you have to fight. Wake up and smell the Schnitzel, my brothers, the clock is ticking.

Woods & Waters with Steve



Steve Long

SO LONG TURKEY SEASON, HELLO FISHING

By the time you folks get to cast your gaze over this article, there will only be 6 days left in Turkey season! For some, it's been a pretty darn good year for turkey hunting, while others have found it to be a little on the slower side. Regardless, it's going to be wrapped up fairly soon, and as we approach the end of one season, my mind starts to steer towards the next season. And in this case, I've got fishing on my mind.

I imagine y'all might be a bit more familiar with fishing down in the Mobile Bay by now, as I've written about it before, but we're finally at that point where things are starting to really heat up, literally and figuratively! My great friend, **Captain Chad Palmer**, with *Finatics In-Shore Fishing* down in the Mobile Bay Area, has let me in on what's going on down that way, and boy is it starting to look good!

So, Captain Chad's got himself a state license for *Red Snapper*, which means he can now fish out up to 9 miles off-shore for those big boys. The state season also typically lasts longer than the fed, which will end pretty darn early. This change in state law is a new development, so be sure to take advantage of it with the great fishing we'll have this year! Of course, you can fish for a lot more than snapper, and Captain Chad's given me the rundown on what's biting.

He says that since the water's started clearing up Dauphin Island, trout have been spotted and are increasing in number, making for some good fishing. The *Sheepshead* spawn is still good for a couple more weeks on nearshore rigs. As for the big red bulls, lots of schools are hanging out just off the beach. *Spanish Mackerel* are also starting to show up along beaches



Captain Chad Palmer



Captain Chad Palmer of Finatics fishing with a big old bull red off of Dauphin Island

as well. *Cobia* should have their run rather soon, as they've been caught as close as Pensacola.

As you can see, Captain Chad's got his fishing on lock; he knows his stuff. I asked him for any tips or secrets he could pass on, and he figured he'd let me in on one; his approach for the trout and red bull relied on **UnFair Lures**. He swears by them.

All that being said, Finatics In-Shore Fishing has multiple boats and captains, and Chad says that booking is really starting to fill up. So, if you're interested, feel free to drop on over at <http://www.finaticsinshore.com/> and see about booking in advance to make sure you don't miss out on some excellent fishing!

I'm interested in hearing about how everyone's turkey season has gone, and I know I'll be enjoying this last week we have. My mind's on fishing, but I'm not gonna be giving up on these thunder chickens just yet! So grab your camo, your ammo, and maybe wet your hook and lines, and get out there and go get'em!

Kritter Korner

THE OPOSSUM



I felt this information would help everyone to see the wide picture and great wonders of this unique creature. So without further a due, this months fur baby is the Opossum lets pity the poor opossum. The oft-maligned marsupial definitely suffers from an image problem — it is frequently perceived more as a giant, dirty, scavenging rat rather than a cute creature of the wild. But whether you love them or hate them, North America's only marsupial has a set of unique characteristics that might transform aversion into affection.

But first, the burning question: is it opossum or possum? In 1608, Capt. John Smith coined the word opossum from the word "opassum," the Algonquian Indian term meaning "white animal." In his notes, the captain wrote: "An Opassum hath an head like a swine, and a tail like a rat, and is of the bigness of a cat. Under her belly she hath a bagge, wherein she lodgeth, carrieth, and sucketh her young."

No one is quite sure how the opossum's "o" was dropped, but it appeared in print as "possum" as early as 1613, and remains the colloquial term in many regions of the country. However, there are true possums — just not in the North American neck of the woods. Possums include any of several species (from the family *Phalangeridae*) of nocturnal, arboreal marsupials of Australia and New Guinea, and were mistakenly named in the 18th century when the naturalist from Capt. James Cook's expedition wrongly called them possums after their North American cousins. Nonetheless, it's the Australian ones that hold the true scientific title of "possum" now.

Opossums are mostly immune to rabies, and in fact, they are eight times less likely

to carry rabies compared to wild dogs. This is due to their low body temperature.

Opossums have superpowers against snakes. They have partial or total immunity to the venom produced by rattlesnakes, cottonmouths and other pit vipers.

Their normal diet consists of carrion, rodents, insects, snails, slugs, birds, eggs, frogs, plants, fruits and grains. They also eat human food, table scraps, dog food and cat food. They have an unusually high need for calcium, which incites them to eat the skeletons of rodents and road kill they consume. They're the sanitation workers of the wild.

Although many people think opossums are not the sharpest knives in the drawer, there are several areas of intelligence in which they soar. For one, they have a remarkable ability to find food and to remember where it is. When tested for the ability to remember where food is, opossums scored better than rats, rabbits, cats, dogs ... but not as well as humans. They also can find their way through a maze more quickly than rats and cats.

Since their diet allows them to indulge on snails, slugs and beetles, they are a welcome addition to the garden. Opossums also keep rats and cockroaches at bay by competing with them for food. In fact, it's common for opossums to kill cockroaches and rats if they find them in their territory.

The opossum has opposable "thumbs." The opossum's "thumbs" (called halux) are on its rear feet (so, technically they're toes), and abet the opossum's formidable climbing skills. Primates and opossums are the only mammals with opposable first toes.

They have prehensile tails which are adapted for grasping and wrapping around things like tree limbs. The opossum can hang from its tail for short periods of time, but the creature doesn't sleep hanging from its tail, as some people think. Opossums have been observed carrying bundles of grasses and other materials by looping their tail around them; this conscious control leads many to consider the tail as a fifth appendage, like a hand.

The eyes of the opossum appear black, but what we are seeing are strongly dilated pupil; there is iris around them, it's just mostly out of sight. The giant pupils are thought to be an adaptation to their nocturnal habits.

The mouth of an opossum holds an impressive 50 teeth.

When threatened, opossums run, growl, belch, urinate and defecate. And when all else fails, they "play 'possum" and act as if they are dead. It is an involuntary response (like fainting) rather than a conscious act. They roll over, become stiff, close their eyes (or stare off into space) and bare their teeth as saliva foams around the mouth and a foul-smelling fluid is secreted from glands. The catatonic state can last for up to four hours, and has proven effective as a deterrent to predators looking for a hot meal.

Male opossums are called Jacks and females are called Jill's. The young are referred to as Joey's, just like their Australian cousins, and a group of opossums is called a passel.



Ron VanHerwyn

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

60 YEARS? HOW LONG IT HAS BEEN!



**Sports Editor,
Ed Jones**

The 60th reunion of the class of '56 enjoyed a wonderful meal at a great facility inside the Wynn Lakes Country Club April 16, 2016. It was so special to see 78 year old friends acting like teenagers, that is, those who could stand up without assistance. Some even tried to dance to the sounds of the '50's'. Not many danced very long.

There were no oxygen tanks in the room. After me and my wife Betty tried to dance "The Panama City Bop", we were glad to hear the end of Chuck Berry's "Long Distance Information". The last announcement made by the program emcee was "Eat, Drink, Be Merry and Go Home...if you can!"

The class of '56, the first graduating class of Robert E. Lee has remained close over these sixty years. There were 144 who graduated in the first class. Many went on to distinguish themselves in the military, the arts, education, science, business, medicine and coaching. They have been selected to various halls of fame. This includes the Robert E. Lee Hall of Fame.

It all started in the spring of 1955. A new high school was being born on Ann Street in what was then East Montgomery. At the time, Sidney Lanier High School, which had been an intellectual bastion of excellence and an athletic power in the state of Alabama, was bulging at the seam, with over 2,000 students. News of the new school's birth was somewhat confusing to nineteen Lanier football players, who would be eligible to transfer to the new school, which would be named Robert E. Lee High School. They had all grown up hoping to play football at Lanier, so there was some hesitation as to what to do.

Some fellow named Tom Jones had been hired by the Board of Education to be head football coach. Coach Jones played for the great Coach "Hot" O'Brien at Tallassee. This experience would serve him well over the next thirty years.



'56 Class Officers: Colleen Tulley Stewart, Larry Chaver and Marie Little Parma

colors, the nickname, the name of the school newspaper and the name of the yearbook. You could say that this class laid a strong foundation for those to follow.

Who would have believed that the Lee football teams would win five state championships in the first ten years under Coach Jones. Coach Chafin had great baseball teams and would later become head football coach and win a state football championship as well. Coach Ford annually contended for the state championship in basketball. He would eventually become the head basketball coach at the University of Chattanooga.

It should be noted that Larry Chaver, the class president of the '56 class, has attended every reunion. He lives in Oregon and has even come when he was ill. We owe a debt of gratitude to a man of his character who believed that he was so responsible to this class.



Louise Sullivan Ashcraft presents a bouquet to Marie Parma from the Class of '56 to thank her for all the work she did heading the Reunion Committee.

Marie Parma and the reunion committees over the years have been so faithful in keeping up with the class of Robert E. Lee High School, 1956. This has resulted in such great attendance. Over 100 people made the 60th reunion...the best reunion of all!

How Long It Has Been!

Unfortunately, Lee has lost seven members of the "First Fifteen": #44, Jackie Spencer, #32, Mickey Newman, #13, Cliff Little, #20, Earl Mills, #61, Charles Brophy, #50, Durden Lee and #82, Pat Garner.



Reunion Committee: Louise Sullivan Ashcraft, Marie Barker Sanford, Billie Lawson Killough (seated), Judson Huett, Harry Nelson, Marsha Windham Foster, Marie Little Parma (seated), Hattie Jean Bedsole Duke, Steve Petrik, Ed Jones

Coach Jim Chafin, the first year line coach at Lanier, would be going to Lee to coach the line and be the baseball coach. Coach Leon Ford was picked to coach basketball along with duties coaching the ends in football. Coach George Peters was selected as the "B" Team coach.

There were nineteen Lanier players that were upcoming juniors or seniors who had the choice to stay at Lanier or transfer to this unknown and unseen Robert E. Lee High School. The other Lanier students who lived in the new Lee District had the same option.

All but four players agreed to transfer. These fifteen players, along with the rest of the students who would make up the first Lee student body, picked the



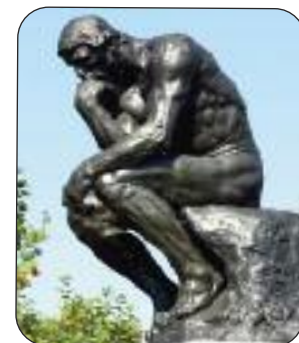
FORMER LANIER PLAYERS WHO MADE UP THE NUCLEUS OF THE FIRST LEE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM IN 1955
 10- Ed Jones QB/BB, 44- Jackie Spencer HB, 40- Ed Spencer HB, 32- Mickey Newman FB, 13- Cliff Little QB, 20- Earl Mills HB, 75- Billy McNair T, 80- Charles Tarran B, 56- James Johnson G, 64- Judson Huett G, 61- Charles Brophy G, 50- Durden Lee C, 82- Pat Garner E. Not pictured: Raymond Parker G and Rex Akin T.



The views of this editorial are not the express views of The Alabama Gazette but of Attorney Donald V. Watkins.

John Sophocleus

THINK



Felonies and Rumors of Felonies...

I first met attorney Donald V. Watkins in 2002 when he was interviewing candidates to support. He found my stance on limiting government to address very few things in our economy unworthy of his support. His appreciation of my championing our 5th Amendment civil right to property for ALL was nonetheless reassuring. One of the first black students to attend UA School of Law, his training is sound and accomplishment in practice profound over the years. At age 68, Watkins is well known for success in our courts - most notable among advocates of limited government is his successful 2005 defense of a NYSE CEO on federal Sarbanes-Oxley charges. It is no secret I think Sarbanes-Oxley one of the more deleterious pieces of recent federal legislation impeding our economy. Furthermore, I take great delight Mr. Watkins is a fellow FaceBook friend of the Alabama Gazette page.

The reason for all this preamble is to preface, "USA v. Robert J. Bentley, Rebekah Caldwell Mason, and Other Co-Conspirators," copyrighted and published on FaceBook by Mr. Watkins on April 19, 2016. In short, for readers unfamiliar with this author, he's not one to be taken lightly. According to Watkins, Gov. Bentley and political consultant Rebekah Mason are expected to be charged by the U.S. DOJ for, "using Bentley's position as governor to execute a wide ranging racketeering conspiracy involving wire and mail fraud, tax fraud, bribery, money laundering, the unauthorized use of the federal National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the Law Enforcement Tactical System (LETS) databases, and related criminal charges."

Watkins' FaceBook News Team exclusively announced ten days prior [4/9/16] federal prosecutors in DC decided to expedite initiating public corruption charges against Bentley and Mason. The dearth of reporting by the major media of this announcement for the public to consider speaks volumes. Watkins asserted, "Mason, a mother of three young children, is trying to stay out of jail by cooperating with the federal probe. She does not have the financial resources to mount a spirited or sustained defense to the expected criminal charges. Bentley, whose criminal defense attorneys are paid from campaign funds and personal savings, is helping Rebekah Mason fund her criminal defense by keeping Jonathan Mason, her husband, on the state payroll as the director of Serve Alabama at an annual salary of \$94,000. This financial assistance, however, is woefully inadequate considering the tidal wave of legal trouble Rebekah Mason faces."

Little wonder the "Free Don" cabal of Democrats and "Storming the Jailhouse" Republicans have put the effort to pardon Siegelman in overdrive these past weeks. One of Siegelman's prison shirts reportedly auctioned for \$4,500 last month to raise money for this despicable purpose in spite of Obama's DoJ already determining the sentence for this political criminal was too short for the charges Don was found guilty of committing. Pray he serves the remaining 9 months of this far too short sentence without pardon so the BCA, et al thugs can't use it as an excuse to reduce sentences for themselves. Watkins, pointing out former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's 28 year federal prison sentence result for racketeering in manner 'strikingly similar' to Bentley's alleged actions, is to be applauded! No doubt others are taking the promise to press the DoJ to ensure criminal justice is color-blind and equal seriously when coming from this source.

Watkins further asserted Bentley, Mason, et al (other co-conspirators) are, "staring down the barrel of a criminal indictment that is expected to exceed ninety felony charges once the case has been presented to a federal grand jury. Bentley will be named as the 'ringleader' of the racketeering conspiracy." NINETY! Perhaps it will be pared down to a couple dozen (as observed in Lee County) by a federal grand jury. For those who may not have access to Mr. Watkins' page and/or his FaceBook News Team reporting, a brief recount of the ten points included in HIS legal commentary on Gov. Bentley and others alleged misconduct is summarized as follows:

(1) Bentley, Mason, et al engaged in racketeering conspiracies involving wire and mail fraud, tax fraud, bribery, money laundering, and unauthorized use of federal NCIC and LETS databases. Criminal forfeiture of ill-gotten financial gains from their racketeering scheme apply. They knowingly defrauded State and federal taxpayers, campaign donors, and "dark money" contributors under false pretenses their money would be used for legitimate government expenses, or for proper campaign-related expenses, or for authorized non-profit expenditures; in reality, the money was used to finance and facilitate an inappropriate relationship between Bentley and Mason and other impermissible expenses. Mason's exchange of sex for influence over Bentley's executive powers as governor constitutes bribery. The couple reportedly shared consulting fees paid to Mason by third parties who sought and were afforded direct access to the governor. His portion of the cash kickbacks were not declared on Bentley's 2015 income tax returns.

(2) Racketeering, money laundering, bribery, and fraud charges are the ones most likely to result in a conviction(s). The racketeering charges are predicated upon the establishment of the ongoing wire and mail fraud, tax fraud, money laundering, and bribery between Bentley and Mason.

(3) Designated as the "ringleader" of this racketeering conspiracy, if convicted, Bentley should face a minimum of 28 years in federal prison. The

federal conviction of former Detroit Mayor Kilpatrick, whose extramarital affair with his chief of staff led to the exposure of a racketeering crime spree (strikingly similar to the Bentley-Mason result) earned a 28 year sentence.

(4) The U.S. DOJ typically notifies public officials when they are the "subject" or "target" of an ongoing public corruption probe so the public official under investigation is afforded an opportunity to convince the DOJ pursuing criminal charges is not warranted.

(5) It is probably too late for Bentley to use his resignation as a bargaining chip for a reduced sentence. Had Bentley resigned gracefully and quickly after release of his sex tapes, resignation might have prompted federal prosecutors to reduce the number of expected felony charges pursued against him.

(6) To avoid responsibility for his poor judgment and criminal conduct the expected fall guy for the racketeering schemes may be his Chief Legal Adviser David Byrne. Bentley will likely shift blame for anything that is criminal on the legal advice he allegedly received from Byrne and other attorneys. Byrne, who escaped prosecution in connection with the 2009 collapse of Colonial Bank, may have his own criminal issues this time around. (Remember these 10 are according to Mr. Watkins' News Team posts) Invoking the "I did not know" or "Executive Ignorance" defense will probably fail when evidence of hands-on involvement in the racketeering conspiracy is simply too overwhelming to ignore.

(7) Staffers who knew of the racketeering scheme and withdrew from participation are OK. Those who did participate under duress will likely get what is known as "Kastigar" letters offering limited immunity from prosecution in exchange for truthful testimony. Those who soldiered on in the racketeering conspiracy will be charged as co-conspirators with Bentley and Mason.

(8) Watkins' FaceBook News Team vowed to press the DOJ to insure criminal justice is color-blind and equal.

(9) Montgomery U.S. Attorney George Beck is a close personal friend of David Byrne. Beck is uniformly regarded within the DOJ as a weak, ineffective prosecutor with this scandal occurring on Beck's watch. Beck could position himself to impact the criminal process in favor of his cronies. Watkins' Facebook News Team promised continued diligence to discourage interference in the proper administration of justice in the Bentley's case.

(10) "Big Luther" Strange is too compromised by his own improprieties to pursue State law public corruption charges in the Bentley case, lacking the courage or political will to pursue real criminal charges of public corruption offenses impacting Alabama.

Again, I strongly emphasize these are the assertions/reporting of Mr. Watkins and his Facebook News Team who further claim prosecutors know, "Bentley has fallen into a psychotic state of mind where he is erratic, delusional, and paranoid. Bentley is holding on to the only thing he has left --- the office of governor. The pressure from his growing 'sex for power' and public corruption scandal with Rebekah Mason has taken a heavy psychological and emotional toll on Bentley and has also paralyzed state government. Federal prosecutors realize that they must act quickly and do so before Bentley inflicts further irreparable damage to the citizens of Alabama." It would be much easier to completely discount this if it were not coming from someone considered an 'officer of the court.'

In closing, it seems Mr. Watkins has given some of the most compelling plausible reasons why former ALEA Secretary Spencer Collier has made it so publicly clear he will not lie for Gov. Dr. Bentley. The blatant misuse of State taxpayer money these past weeks spent on ALEA ads heralding new Secretary Stan Stabler helps substantiate Mr. Watkins claims. I had not made the Lowder connection with Legal Advisor Byrne until reading Watkins' FaceBook publication. Perhaps the hundreds of thousands of dollars paid collectively to the Bentley staff in the form of raises and the 23 felony count criminal trial scheduled later this month in Lee County may reveal those who are holding the smoking guns. Thanks to those who've kindly heralded me as much more sage than I am in fact forecasting a reversal in the order of names in the column title where Collier would no longer be defending himself from Bentley; instead Collier will become a plaintiff against Bentley. It wasn't difficult to see that boomerang. I remain hopeful it results in some VERY productive discovery to provide further evidence for federal investigators (as Rep. Williams requested into the matter) where even more corruption may be disciplined in our courts.

Postscript: I wish all my orthodox Christian readers a joyous Pascha filled with many blessings in veneration of our Risen Saviour Jesus Christ - CHRISTOS ANESTI! -- i.e., CHRIST IS RISEN! I hope readers found my explanation last month for our much later (May 1st instead of March 27th) celebration this year informative. Whether celebrated 3/27 or 5/1 I pray all use and apply the season's scriptural lessons to identify and discipline corrupt clergy, governors, jurists, procurators, et al far too alive and destructive in our modern lives. Resistance to the tyranny of Tiberius was indeed an unimaginable example of obedience to God I find increasingly lacking today...

This article has been slightly edited.

GAMBLING AND LOTTERIES

On the subject of gambling, many people and politicians in Alabama are all over the spectrum on how much we should allow in this state. On one side are the ones who believe that it should be completely legalized with a free market. On the opposite, we have the extremists who want to abolish every last bit of it, lest the people overindulge in it and plummet into Hell. Do we have a practical solution to this argument?

For starters, there is no way we can abolish it. The federal government has granted the Poarch Creek Indians absolute autonomy over their lands to have and operate casinos that would, by Alabama's current laws, be completely illegal in other places. So if the Indians can be allowed to operate casinos, why can't the rest of Alabama's people? Why should they be granted a monopoly? Why can't they have some competition in a free market?

Back in the 1980's **Milton McGregor** built Victoryland, a posh Bingo Hall and dog racing track near Shorter in economically depressed Macon County. When it opened, the local people rejoiced and prospered with the jobs and tax revenue that it provided. But later, state law enforcement officers shut it down and seized the machines they claimed were not legal. The local people lost their jobs and tax revenue. Tuskegee Mayor **Johnny Ford** became very upset over losing one of the county's biggest industries. He and **Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange** are still waging war over that issue.

The argument that gambling causes crime rates to rise does not wash. There was no increase in crime in Macon County. Other places that have casinos—Biloxi, Atlantic City, and Las Vegas are not rife with crime. The claim that huge numbers of people will gamble away everything they have and become destitute is also ridiculous. And finally, if people can't find their gambling pleasure here

in Alabama, they can easily take their money to Biloxi and other places, just like they are already doing right now.

Why should we use the force of law to stop people from gambling? It is their personal choice.

Let them use it. America is supposed to be a free country. The law is supposed to protect people, not rule them. And don't our law enforcement people have better things to do?

The same rule applies to lotteries. Why can't Alabama have one? The politicians are constantly whining for more money. Why should Alabama citizens have to run to Georgia and other places and pay tribute to them?

The argument favoring a lottery is very simple. A lottery is voluntary. A lottery can finance a substantial portion of our state and local governments without having to steal money from the people. Taxes are essentially theft. They are seized by force and often spent on things we are better off without.

If I was a state representative or senator, I would strongly work to start a lottery in Alabama. However, there would be one condition: I would not vote for it just to give the state some free money. Considering Alabama's bloated budgets and reckless spending, I would insist that one or more taxes be repealed or reduced by at least an equal amount. The sales tax, especially the tax on food, would be a good candidate. Perhaps several taxes could be repealed. The last thing I would want is a windfall that would make our state and local governments grow bigger and more abusive. Whenever revenue, taxes, expenditures and budgets are considered, we must always remember to do everything we can to make all levels of government smaller, less intrusive, and less expensive.

The goal of a lottery is not to raise more revenue. It is to replace revenue that is stolen with revenue that is provided voluntarily.

And Luther Strange needs to get off of his "stamp out gambling" high horse and devote his time and effort to protect the people's individual liberty and guard against waste and corruption in our budgets and expenditures.

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HOW MANY FORMS OF NOTARY ARE IN ALABAMA?



I am familiar with two forms of notary and three other forms that I would consider more or less as authentications.

The notary public is probably what you are most familiar with. Notaries are appointed and commissioned by the local probate judges and in addition to the application must be bonded for \$25,000.00. The notary is reported to the Alabama Secretary of State to include the expiration. If you want to make sure that your notary is authentic, you can look them

up on the Alabama Secretary of State web site.

Notary Publics, though commissioned by a county probate judge are able to perform their duties anywhere in the State of Alabama. A notary may :

1. Administer oaths; or
2. Attest and certify, by his/ her signature and official seal, certain classes of documents, in order to give them credit and authenticity; or
3. To take acknowledgments of deeds and other conveyances and certify the same; and
4. To perform certain official acts, usually in commercial matters, such as the protesting of notes and bills, the notice of foreign drafts, and marine protests in cases of damage.

Notaries are entitled to a fee of five dollars for each act that they perform though I have been familiar with notaries that charge much higher fees. If a notary performs an act knowingly after their commission has expired, it is a Class C Misdemeanor which can result in up to three (3) months in jail and no more than a five hundred dollar (\$500) fine or no more than double what the victim lost or the defendant gained. Comparatively, taking a shopping cart from a store or not having a gun permit (when you have a gun concealed) is also a Class C Misdemeanor.

A second form is the Alabama Civil Law notary. A civil law notary must be an Alabama attorney having at least five years of experience. Application is made through the Alabama Secretary of State to which the Secretary of State is responsible for the appointment of a civil law notary.

In addition to being able to perform the same duties as a notary public, a civil law notary can also attest to facts of a transaction and signatures, or they may attest to the authenticity of a signature or a fact or contract of a private document (also called a brevet). They may also authenticate a narration of a finding or fact that influences the rights of private parties. The civil law notary must have personal knowledge of an authentic act, but because of the nature of such it does not constitute a contract. Such narrations are considered as "Minutes" and a civil law notary can with personal knowledge also correct minor errors in prior authentic acts or make additions to preserve a document, provide limited memorialization of domestic private documents and/ or the execution of foreign legal documents. A civil law notary cannot represent a party in an authentic act but

must equally and accurately to advise the parties of the nature and legal consequences of the transaction.

The third form does not notarize an event but rather guarantees a signature in the transfer of securities and is done by a bank. It is called a medallion signature guarantee and not only does the bank guarantee a signature against forgery but it also accepts any liability for a forgery. Unlike a notary it does not suggest that the document was signed voluntarily nor even that there was proof of identity. The requirements of the bank to execute a medallion signature guarantee may vary from bank to bank.

The final two are authentications provided by the Alabama Secretary of State. A document to be authenticated for use in a foreign country must be an Alabama public document and may be a birth certificate, marriage certificate, marital status statement, articles of incorporation, corporate bylaws, certificate of merger powers of attorney, diplomas, school transcripts, deed or an ABI background check. In countries that are parties to the Hague Convention (unlike members to the Hague Convention), an Apostille is used and the document must bear either the seal of a currently commissioned Alabama notary public, a probate judge or the Alabama State Registrar. If the authentication is to go to a country that is not a party to the Hague Convention then a Certification may be affixed to a document which has the signature and seal of a currently commissioned probate judge, circuit clerk or Alabama State Registrar. The documents also require a second county authentication of the notary commission, which is done by the probate judge. I have used an Apostille authentication in sending a legal document to a country that is a party to the Hague Convention and I found it to be a relatively easy and quick process.

There may be other notarial type positions that I am unfamiliar with but I hope that this expands your knowledge of avenues of proving, certifying or authenticating certain documents.

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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Family Therapy



Oswaldo Chavez,
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Clinical Counselor, Non-profit organization.

First, to make counseling truly Christian we must bring our faith and our counseling together in our mind. Christ-centered counseling requires more than devoted Christians who are expertly trained in the fields of counseling. It is the presence of God and the Holy Spirit into the counseling process that makes Christian counseling. This begins by recognizing Christ as the only wonderful Counselor. He becomes our model. Christian counseling is grounded in the Bible, and most often seeks to help a person embrace the pain of his experience through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Many of the processes will be similar to those employed in secular counseling, but the motivation will be different. For example, a Christian counselor may also employ cognitive restructuring techniques, but the end goal for renewing the mind will be a greater knowledge and enjoyment of God not based on circumstances. With Christian counseling, God remains the focus; one important goal is helping the person to grow a rich and accurate view of God specific to that person's life.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF SECULAR COUNSELING?

Secular counseling is grounded in humanism, and most often seeks to help a person adjust to difficult circumstances. The processes may include client education, behavioral techniques, and cognitive restructuring (changing one's thoughts), just to name a few. But the end goal will most likely be some type of adaptation that provides symptom relief. In secular counseling, the problem and/or the client often remains the focus.

Professional counselors – whether Christian or not – understand that clients have the right to choose their treatment goals. Both types of counselors, however, will most likely offer some assistance in clarifying and evaluating what the goal(s) should be. Practically speaking, the most effective therapy gets underway when the counselor and client are in agreement on the focus of treatment. In my experience, some clients are prone to wanting a quick fix in the problem in one or two sessions—that is not realistic.

In the sessions, I remind myself at the beginning of each session, "God please help me to say the things you want them to hear." God knows the client the way I need to know them. He knows how to motivate them to use their pain as stepping-stones that can lead them from where they are to where He knows they should be. In addition, the Holy Spirit distributes gifts of healing to the client. Although, as Christian counselors we play our part in the process of bringing people to healing, we recognize the gift of healing that comes to our clients is from the Holy Spirit — through God.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT —

"YOU DO YOUR BEST AND GOD WILL DO THE REST!"

How many times have you found yourself asking God, "Why?" I am sure it has been too many to count or remember. I have asked God this same question many times over in my life when I have gone through a period of difficulty. God seems to take His time to respond. I think we tend to forget God has His own timetable and we want a quick fix to the problem.

We all know the story of Job and the trials and tribulations he went through. Job lost his wealth, his children, his health, the support of his wife and friends, and for a period he felt like he lost the shield of God. It is reasonable to say we all have experienced some form of pain similar to what Job went through. It is difficult to adequately appreciate the real horror of Job's circumstances. Physically, Job loses vast amounts of wealth and all of his children -- all in single day. Job himself is struck with a terrible disease which left him with awful boils

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING VERSUS SECULAR COUNSELING

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELING?

all over his body. Socially, Job is brought from the most outstanding leader of his community, to sit on an ash heap at the city dump. There he is alienated from his friends and family, while unfeeling neighbors taunt him with cruel songs. And even those who had come to console him now turn on him. Spiritually, it seems he has been separated from his God -- God remains hauntingly silent through the entire ordeal. And emotionally, we can only imagine the bitterness of Job's groanings of pain and troubled mind and spirit, the depths of his despair and loneliness which I am sure made him question his faith that he stood by his entire life. I think Job eventually came to the same conclusion as I have so many times, that although I may not understand God's reasons or His way, He will always make things work out the way it is supposed to be. I have also found that when I am struggling with some issue, I am closer to God and it makes me yearn for His presence. Does that take the emotional/ physical pain or turmoil away? Of course not. However, life circumstances and my faith have taught me to seek God for understanding and go to Him for comfort when no one else can comfort me. It has been my honest experience that there has not been a single request that I have made to God that He has not answered. It sometimes take months or years but it comes in the way God intended. As the Bible says, "**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the proof of things not seen.**"- **Hebrews 11:1** . We have to believe that God will deliver us through our life struggles and when He does not, from a humanly perspective ,we have to understand God is allowing us to go through the storm to mold us to become the person God wanted us to be. Notice the relationship between faith and hope. Faith grows out of hope.

Clinically speaking, I have seen numerous clients who have struggled with mental health and familial issues, who have also claimed some form of spiritual belief system. It has been my experience that these families and individuals tend to have a greater support system and longer lasting therapeutic outcomes when combined with faith and hope. One of the early priorities of the Christian counseling process is to inspire hope in the client. Hope, inspired by the Holy Spirit, can give birth to a gift of faith that enables the client to believe that the recovery hoped for will become a reality. There has been numerous clinical studies on this matter that supports this. One can readily go online and find studies on the effects of spirituality /religion on overall wellbeing. I encourage all readers to explore how faith, spirituality, or belief systems can positively impact their life. You do your best and God will do the rest!

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 personal and 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.



Montgomery County Law

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www.montgomerysheriff.com

(334) 832-4980

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

SHOW-N-TELL CAMP

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for our Show-N-Tell summer camp for youths who are interested and serious about camp enrichment. It is not a disciplinary camp but a way of bonding with our youth to promote positive interaction. Camp will last for 1



week and is totally free for boys and girls between the ages of 9-11. It will be held on August 1-5, 2016. We will be going to Camp Chandler in Wetumpka, Alabama and will be bused from Montgomery to the camp. Applications can be obtained by coming to the Sheriff's Office at 100 South Lawrence Street or the Mac Sim Butler Detention Facility (County Jail) located at 250 South McDonough Street, by fax (334) 832-7113 or by email LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org. If you need additional information concerning the camp, please call 832-1339. The Sheriff's Office will accept the first 100 approved applications.

Requirements:

- MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENT • MUST BE BETWEEN 9-11 YEARS OLD • PROVIDE BIRTH CERTIFICATE

**** DEADLINE TO TURN IN YOUR APPLICATION IS FRIDAY, JULY 1ST. ****

DEPUTY DAVE DAY

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office enjoyed meeting and greeting with Montgomery County citizens at our annual Deputy Dave Day on April 30th. Sheriff Cunningham would like to thank the many citizens who came out with their children and grandchildren to make this event special for our youth!



COURTNEY WARD'S BASKETBALL CAMP

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is proud of their own. Courtney Ward is not only a Deputy with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, she is also the head coach of the girls' basketball team at Sidney Lanier High School. She gained experience from playing basketball during high school at Jefferson Davis High School and during her college years at Florida State University. Deputy Ward has been named 2016 ACC Women's Basketball Legend. As a former Florida State Women's Basketball point guard, Courtney has been named FSU's representative for the 12th annual ACC Women's Basketball Legends Class.



Deputy Ward will be hosting a Basketball Camp this summer at Sidney Lanier High School, June 6th - 10th for boys and girls ages 4 - 14 from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. The cost is \$50.00 for ages 4-8 and \$65.00 for ages 9-14. We know that parents are looking for good programs for their children during the summer months and we would like for them to take advantage of a great basketball tutorial program. This will not only help keep the children occupied but will also give them the knowledge and skills of basketball which will be a great asset for the community.

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

FIREARMS FAMILIARIZATION COURSE

There are still slots available for our May 14th, Firearms Familiarization Course! Sign up now 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, May 14th • Saturday, June 11th
- Saturday, July 9th • Saturday, August 13th
- Saturday, September 24th • Saturday, November 12th

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.

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Montgomery County

Montgomery

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



Autauga County

Prattville

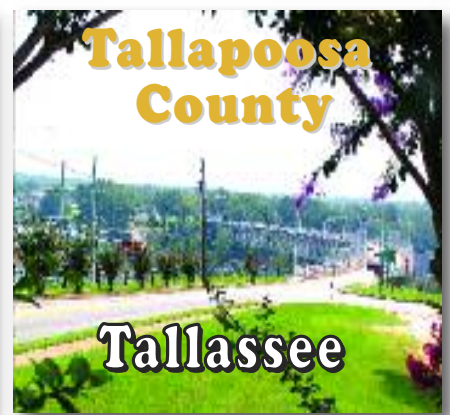
Surrounding Town and Communities:
Autaugaville, Billingsley, Booth, Marbury, Pine Level, Independence, Statesville, Jones and Vida



Elmore County

Wetumpka

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



Tallapoosa County

Tallassee

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 NON-EMERGENCIES: (334) 567-5441
 Secret Witness: (334) 567-5227

Sheriff Bill Franklin



BEWARE OF SCAMS

Complaints regarding telephone scams and identity theft have risen exponentially over the past few years. The Sheriff's Office receives calls from citizens three to four times a week regarding these offenses.

The most common complaint the Sheriff's Office receives is in reference to telephone scams also known as "phishing". These scams usually involve one or more perpetrators calling a victim and acting as representatives for a major corporation such as a bank or telecommunications company. The perpetrator typically advises the victim that there is a problem with their account and they must immediately verify personal information in order to prevent financial loss or closure of an account. The basic scheme has been the same but the presentation of the scam evolves over time. With each new presentation victims are taken until that scam has been widely reported and then it will evolve into a new presentation. No bank or private corporation will ever ask you for your date of birth, social security number or bank account information over the telephone.

Phishing is just one of many ways perpetrators obtain personal information to commit crimes such as identity theft. Most victims do not know they are a victim of identity theft until weeks, months or even years after the offense took place. Many people are also unaware that the Fair Credit Reporting Act allows them to request a free copy of their credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies, TransUnion, Equifax and Experian, once every 12 months. In addition those agencies along with several private companies and banks also offer credit monitoring and identity theft support.

Take steps to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft. Never

give out personal information over the telephone. Limit the information you access while on a publicly accessible wifi connection. Do not use your credit/debit card on unsecured online sites. Change passwords to online accounts routinely and check your credit report often for any unusual activity or accounts.

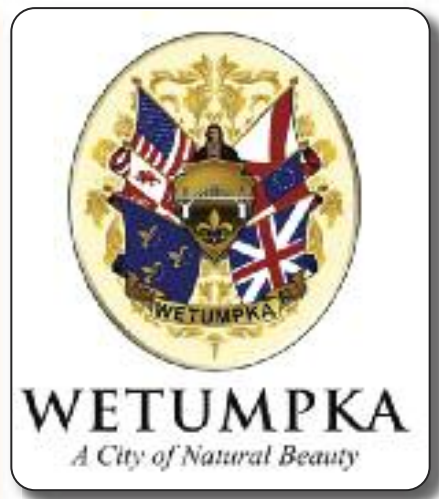
Another common scam going around both online and over the telephone involves transferring money through the use of wire transactions (Western Union) or prepaid debit cards (Green Dot). These scams often involve winning a prize or money for which the victim is asked to prepay a fee or taxes through a wire transaction or purchase prepaid debit cards and sending pictures of the debit cards before the prize can be released.

A similar scam involves advertisements in periodicals or online sales sites (Craigslist, Facebook) in which the victim initiates the contact in response to the ad. The victim is then told to pay for the purchase through a wire transaction or prepaid debit card. The victim never receives the product they believed they purchased and can't reach the seller.

Protect yourself from these scams keep in mind the old adage, if an offer seems too good to be true it probably is and you should steer clear. Do not purchase items from individuals online who you do not know and who are not willing to meet in person to make the exchange. Wire transactions can be claimed at any reciprocal transaction site in the world, not just at the destination where it is addressed. Giving out prepaid debit card information over the phone or online is the same as handing it to a person directly.



Bibb Graves Bridge



Mayor Jerry Willis

City of Wetumpka Administrative Building
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 Phone: (334) 567-5147 • Fax: (334) 567-1307
 Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

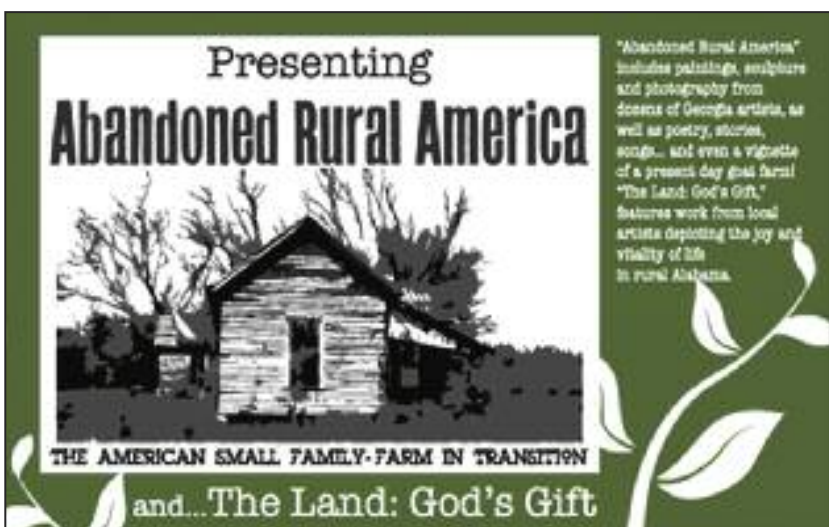
From the Mayors desk

It has been very exciting to be a part of the arts in Wetumpka. **The Abandoned Rural America Exhibition** presented by a gentleman from Georgia, Peter Muzyka, has been a tremendous success and a huge draw to our community. The **Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery** has worked extremely hard on this exhibit and it certainly showed with a successful

opening night. The performance at the Wetumpka Depot playing to a full house of people dealing with words and music tied to rural America was a pleasure to see.

To listen to the songs performed by David Craig brought back a lot of memories of the Saturday evenings spent listening to the Grand Ole Opry. And the memories of Sunday mornings as our homes were filled with gospel music as we dressed for church and sang the Song of Jubilee. The amazing performance was an excellent representation of gospel music and certainly a crowd pleaser. All in all, the accolades go to the Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery for putting together and presenting this walk down memory lane through the arts. Stay tuned for new shows coming our way and sponsored by the arts.

This is just one of the things that makes Wetumpka better as we continue to move forward, working together.



The Gallery is open
 Monday – Friday
 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
 at the City Administrative
 Building
 (408 S. Main St.)



AUTAUGA COUNTY



Autauga County Law

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(334) 361-2500



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

On April 8, 2016, Sheriff Sedinger participated in a Baby Shower of a different type to promote donations to the River Region Pregnancy Center.



The Baby Shower, in Honor of Sheriff Joe Sedinger, was hosted by Judge Joy Booth, Kathy Evans, Kim Kervin, Kelly Lee, Desirae Lewis, Jessica Sanders & Hailey Crowe.

A Sheriff themed cake and punch was served to all that attended. Sheriff Sedinger even tried pickles and ice cream, which was not his favorite.

It was all in fun and the truck load of donations received were donated to the River Region Pregnancy Center.

Many donations were made in Memory of Sgt. Troy Seamon.



In Memory of Sgt. William Troy Seamon

William Troy Seamon started his tenure with the Autauga County Sheriff's Office as a Reserve Deputy in November 1995. Troy (as he preferred to be called) paid his way through the Reserve Academy to receive his APOST Certification and was hired as a Deputy Sheriff in July 1998. Troy worked in Patrol until he took over the Sex Offender Registration and Notifications in late 2005, and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in April 2011.

Sgt. Seamon passed away unexpectedly April 4, 2016. He has been an intricate part of the Sheriff's Office for the last 18 years and he is missed greatly. He was not just our co-worker but our Brother and Friend. Go rest high on that mountain now, we will take over the watch from here. *Gone but Never Forgotten!*



Last Call for A-19 Sgt. Troy Seamon
 Communications to A-19
 Communications to A-19

All units negative contact with A-19

All units be advised Sgt. Troy Seamon has served his community with pride, compassion, honor and dedication for over 18 years.

Sgt. Troy Seamon has answered his last call for service. Sgt. Seamon you are clear to go 10-7, 10-42. Thank you for your service and rest in peace. *You will never be forgotten.*



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Growing to Please YOU

Southern Gardening
Potpourri for May

by Peggy Givhan

Not too long ago, I became intrigued by May poles with all the ribbons, colorful flowers, and small children dancing around weaving the wide bands of ribbon into a basket like pattern. I read several articles on the history of May poles, and found in a magazine a step by step process for accomplishing the result. At a mechanic's shop, I was given a 8 foot long iron pipe with a 2 inch opening and took this potential pole home as if I had been given the crown jewels. My family was very inquisitive about the pole, not knowing what I was going to do with it. Some suggested I was up to creating some strange watering system. Others thought that nothing good would be coming from the find. I kept my counsel, and went merrily along with gathering more stuff to transform the crude pipe into a thing of beauty. I spray painted the pole white with 2 coats. I then attached some stiff netting fluff and secured it to the inside of the top of the pole which puffed up at the top. Then buy yards of 1 1/2 inch ribbon of pastel colors that are then glued with gorilla glue under the netting. I found 6 iron re bars at least 4 feet high and pounded them into the ground about 1 foot deep. Another told me to dig a hole about a foot deep and pore in concrete. Before it set, put the pole in the center of this hole, and support it until the concrete cured. The pole fit over these, and after placing some artificial and real flowers at the base, we were ready to go the next day. What a lovely sight.

Judge
Peggy Givhan

potential pole home as if I had been given the crown jewels. My family was very inquisitive about the pole, not knowing what I was going to do with it. Some suggested I was up to creating some strange watering system. Others thought that nothing good would be coming from the find. I kept my counsel, and went merrily along with gathering more stuff to transform the crude pipe into a thing of beauty. I spray painted the pole white with 2 coats. I then attached some stiff netting fluff and secured it to the inside of the top of the pole which puffed up at the top. Then buy yards of 1 1/2 inch ribbon of pastel colors that are then glued with gorilla glue under the netting. I found 6 iron re bars at least 4 feet high and pounded them into the ground about 1 foot deep. Another told me to dig a hole about a foot deep and pore in concrete. Before it set, put the pole in the center of this hole, and support it until the concrete cured. The pole fit over these, and after placing some artificial and real flowers at the base, we were ready to go the next day. What a lovely sight.

EXTENSION OF BLOOM

We would all like to have the picture we have painted with flowers to continue a few weeks longer. Planting 2 or 3 flowers or bulbs as an overlay can accomplish this which I call an extension of bloom. The most common idea would be a bed of pansies with tulips planted beneath the surface for a spectacular of layered color in the spring. If we treat daffodils as annuals then pull them out when bloom has gone. Daffodils can then be healed in until the foliage dies back, and can be replanted the next year. However, tulips in our area will not reliably bloom again the next year, so just discard them. In the summer or late spring, an under layer of begonias can be over planted with Gaura. Gaura is a perennial that has a feathery, wavy, 12 inch bloom head and will bloom the whole summer with the begonias. I have seen Gaura for sale in most nurseries in Montgomery and the retail stores such as Lowe's and Home Depot. I have had good luck with

this technique using herbs. Curly parsley and dill make a good combination with the 2 distinct shades of green. Pots of 2 or 3 different varieties of clematis can bloom for over a month. I have a pot now that has been blooming for 3 weeks with a dark blue, then came the pale lilac, and just budding up for future bloom is a bright pink. Many have complained about having bad luck with growing Clematis. The common mistake came from cutting back the brown and apparently dead woody stems in the winter. It is these "dead" stems which carry the blooms for the next season. Clematis is much like the hydrangea which blooms on dead wood. Also one can plant 2 types of climbing roses together, one which blooms only in spring such as a Lady Banks, and then a summer or ever blooming variety such as a red Don Juan.

PLANT OF THE
MONTH

Mullein--VERBASCUM

These plants are a large group of rosette-forming, summer blooming plants which have both biennial and perennial varieties. The plant and bloom stalks can reach 6 feet in height and are seen in our area on the side of the road. The foliage and the stems are covered in woolly hairs and most leaves have a dark green or gray-green color. Mullein are striking and give a vertical accent to the flower beds. I have grown V. olympicum or Olympic Mullein, with bright yellow flowers which gave height to my summer beds. These are self sowing, but need to be thinned before they reach weed proportions. They require plenty of sun, moderate water and not too much attention.

GOOD GARDENING.



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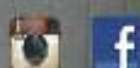
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CAMGA SPRING PLANT
SALE MAY 7th

The Central Alabama Master Gardeners' Association (CAMGA) will hold it's annual Spring Plant Sale for the public in the parking lot of Trinity Episcopal Church at 5375 U.S. Hwy 231 in Wetumpka from 8am until noon on Saturday, May 7th.

Shoppers will find a huge selection of annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, house plants, garden items and more, all at great prices. In addition, CAMGA members will be available to answer gardening questions and provide free soil testing kits.

The Alabama Master Gardener program is an educational research program provided by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES). The CAMGA group is one of the more active Master Gardeners' organizations in the state. In 2013 alone, the nearly 90 members contributed more than 8,000 hours of volunteer service in the community.

For more information on how to become a Master Gardener, those interested may call the Elmore County ACE's office at 334-567-6301. The 2016 Master Gardener Class will be accepting applications through mid-August. The 2016 Class will be held on Thursdays September 1 through November 17th from 9am until 2pm with a light lunch provided..

Phil Easter
CAMGA PR Chair
Phone: 334-277-2701, cell: 334-451-0366
e-mail: peaster36@gmail.com

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Senior Warden, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lowndesboro
Town Councilman, Town of Lowndesboro

No, I did not misspell great, I meant grate. I saw that sign below another sign that said "Ban Pre-shredded Cheese." This is as far as I am going to comment on the political season we are now in. This is a much better season, Spring.

This is the time to get out of the house, go to a farmers market, work in your garden and when you harvest the fruits of your labor, you will feel great.

Let's start right off with dispelling another myth. You do not have to soak your dried beans before you cook them. Putting the beans in cold water and letting them soak will not improve their taste or their texture. You save some time in the

cooking process but very little, unless the beans you are cooking have been in your pantry since Hurricane Katrina. Beans lose moisture over time and soaking them may reduce the cooking time from days to hours. But soaking does not reduce the gas production of the beans if you catch my drift. The only cure is to eat beans regularly. It has something to do with the microflora in your digestive system. No matter what, they are a good source of protein and fiber.

Dinner on the Grounds, this Sunday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, reflected the coming season. More vegetables than usual and a greater number of fresh salads were offered. As the harvesting of the fresh fruits and vegetables continues, Dinner on the Grounds at every church will reflect what is plentiful in gardens and farmers markets.

I know of three Farmers Markets in Montgomery County, Eastchase Farmers Market, Fairview Farmers Market and the Montgomery Curb Market. There is at least one Farmers Market in every county. Goggle will happily supply you with the locations and hours.

Looking at the chart from the Alabama Farmers Market Authority, May is at the beginning of most of the produce season. Greens are available, of course, strawberries, cauliflower, and spinach are available and in mid to late May, lettuce, beets, cabbage and onions will be plentiful. My favorite way of purchasing fruits is from an Upick Farm. But they don't start operations usually until June.



I have mentioned this before, and I will most likely mention it again, but you need to support local farming and local farmers. It is a win-win outcome when your hard earned money stays in the local economy. The produce is fresher and the environment wins because the produce is not shipped long distances.

I have also talked about living in a Food Desert. Goggle it. If you live in a rural county like I do, access to fresh produce or groceries in general, is a chore that takes planning and longer range goals than if you lived 2 blocks from locally owned Renfroe's Foodland. You take fewer trips to the market but you stock up on staples. My skills at canning have dramatically improved since moving to Lowndes County. And my having 3 refrigerators and a chest freezer helps.

Since it is a long time between trips to obtain produce, I want to be sure that the veggies and fruits are the freshest they can be. I also know that melons, peaches, apples, avocados mangoes and pears will ripen after picking, so I want to get them in different stages of ripening so they all don't ripen at the same time. I buy 6 peaches but want only two to be ready to eat. That is unless I want to make a pan of peach cobbler.

Since my last article, I have doing "food research". I went to Ruidoso and did a "Cooking Class" on Argentine food. Argentina has many different immigrant influences and there local food varies from one part of the country to another as much as the United States. There are Spanish and Italian dishes with a local nuance in the Central Region and a Native Indian influence in the Northwest with recipes with corn and potatoes. The Patagonia region has seafood and sheep. So what you learn from eating foods for different countries like Argentina is, they eat the same food, just different cooking methods, and different spices. They were influenced by the same immigrants and the same native inhabitants as we were.

And then I went to Iowa for a week. It is very early for their spring, they were just planting the crops, and it depends on the demand for certain crops, like corn or soybeans, or rye and wheat on what they plant. The primary fruit here is apples. They also grow cabbage, cucumbers, and green beans. No farmers markets with local produce on sale yet. The restaurants have a wide variety of local favorites and one I fell in love with is Wisconsin Cheese Curds, breaded and fried to a golden brown and they melt in your mouth.

Two recipes that I like that use local produce and are easy to fix are Rosemary Roasted Beets and Carrots and another called Fresh Farmers Market Spinach.

You can these and other recipes and other information from www.fma.alabama.gov.

FRESH FARMERS MARKET SPINACH

INGREDIENTS

- 2 large bunches of spinach about 1 pound
- Olive oil
- 3 cloves of garlic, sliced



certifiedfarmersmarket.org

METHOD

1. Cut off the dark stems of the spinach and discard. Clean the spinach by filling up a sink with water and soaking the spinach to loosen any sand or dirt. Drain the spinach and then repeat soaking and draining. (Remember this is fresh from the farm, not some manufacturing plant and from a plastic bag).
2. Put the spinach in a salad spinner to remove any excess moisture.
3. Heat 2 tbsp olive oil in a large skillet on medium high heat. Add garlic and saute for about 1 minute, until the garlic is just beginning to brown.
4. Add the spinach to the pan, packing it down a bit if you need to with your hand. Use a couple of spatulas to lift the spinach and turn it over in the pan so that you coat more of it with the olive oil and garlic. Do this a couple of times.
5. Cover the pan and cook 1 minute. Uncover and turn the spinach over again. Cover and cook for an additional minute.
6. The spinach should be completely wilted. Remove from heat. Drain any excess moisture from the pan. Add a little more oil and sprinkle with salt to taste. Serve immediately.

ROSEMARY ROASTED BEETS & CARROTS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound Alabama beets peeled and cut into 1/2 inch wedges
- 1 pound Alabama carrots scrubbed and cut into 2 inch lengths, and halved lengthwise if large
- 1/4 cup red vinegar
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 sprigs fresh garden raised rosemary
- Salt and pepper



beforeitsnews.com

METHOD

1. Heat oven to 450 degrees
 2. Toss beets carrots, vinegar rosemary 3/4 teaspoon salt 1/4 teaspoon pepper on a rimmed baking sheet
 3. Roast and toss once until vegetables are tender. 30 to 35 minutes
- Serves four



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Gazette Seniors...

SOMETHING TO ANTICIPATE

You may be over the hill if... you begin to wonder why it is if the number 22 is pronounced twenty two, why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one?

Dr. John Bitter
Editor
Senior Section

Many years ago there was a refrain about the pay of a young man in the Army that went: "Twenty one dollars a day; once a month."

Based on the efforts of our illustrious commander-in-chief, this may become the situation once again.

President Barrack Obama says he wants to cut the military back to where it was before World War II.

Really?

Not that long ago your chronicler, after watching Fearless Leader in action, made a suggestion that the wise investor should put his money into white flags and black arm bands.

At the time it was said in jest. Today it looks like sound advise. Now that President Obama has squandered a huge chunk of the national treasure on himself and his family, he believes that this is a good time to cut back on expenses. And one place he has in mind is with America's armed forces.

His current plan is to cut the military back to where it was before World War II, the present situation in the world notwithstanding. He tells the electorate that America needs to save money. Oh?

Never mind that he spent \$8 million taxpayer dollars on a family vacation in Hawaii in 2013. We need to cut our spending, he says.

With prudent spending of our tax dollars in mind, he took a comfortable golf outing in 2015; that put us back a tidy \$3 million.

Or, a presidential trip to Africa, that cost us about \$2.2 million.

And what about the First Family's 2013 visit to Ireland, to the tune of nearly \$8 million?

But, don't stop there. The First Family spends the taxpayers' dollar with wild abandon. Judicial Watch, and other prudent critics, reveal that despite Mr. Obama's desire to pare down military expenditures, he doesn't mind spending the taxpayers' money freely on himself, and his family.

The Washington crowd has long spent freely from the public purse, but Mr. Obama has set a record—as it relates to the First Family.

But, the poor old dog face GI; that's another story. National defense, he seems to feel, is just a waste of the taxpayers' dollar. And what does it matter; he got his.

The folks who elected him—and those who didn't—can well worry now about how we'll keep the wolf away from our door.

Mr. Obama sure isn't.

The "Old Timers" have seen a lot!

Most residents at your average "old folks home" have seen a lot of Presidents come and go in the White House.

Some may remember **Warren Harding**, whose term ended in 1923; and others may recall **Calvin Coolidge** in the White House, whose term ending in 1929, when **Herbert Hoover** entered the picture. Your humble scribe can fall into that category, although memories of Mr. Hoover are absent. Recollections here begin with **Franklin Delano Roosevelt** who, as the years passed, seemed to be on the verge of becoming a permanent resident in the White House.

After FDR's death in 1945, a Missouri haberdasher **Harry S. Truman** moved in, as many Americans held their breath, since not much was expected of this little man. Did they get fooled. Much to the surprise of many, Harry Truman turned out to be one of our best commanders in chief, while the World War II hero who succeeded him turned out to be better at golf than as a president. **Ike** did all right, but that was about the extent of his presidency; which was followed by a brief visit to Camelot with **John F. Kennedy**, whose assassination in 1963; plunged America into the **Lyndon Johnson** presidency, which was followed by **Richard M. Nixon's** disastrous tenure; then a short visit to the White House by **Gerald Ford**, next the almost embarrassing chapter of **Jimmy Carter's** presidency, cardigan sweater and all.

Ronald Reagan brought us back to reality with a stellar presidency and the resurgence of America as a country of stature. **George Herbert Walker Bush** then presided over the short dust up in the Middle East, followed by **Bill Clinton** and **Monica Lewinsky**—that was a black eye for the American presidency. This was followed by **George Bush**, the son, and our present state of affairs in the Middle East, now bungled by apologist **Barack Obama**, whose second term will soon be over—thank God for the 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

And now America is plunged into the present presidential election, which is destined to surpass all the rest for bringing disgrace to the U.S. Presidency and the process that surrounds it.

If the present debacle does nothing else, it will have brought disgrace to the process and is likely to end up filling the office with a president who no one wants.

One wonders if Great Britain would be interested in taking us back as a Crown Colony?

Likely not.

Social Security Questions and Answers

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



By *Kylle' D. McKinney*

Question:

What is the benefit amount a spouse may be entitled to receive?

Answer:

If you're eligible for both your own retirement benefit and for benefits as a spouse, we will always pay you benefits based on your record first. If your benefit as a spouse is higher than your retirement benefit, you will receive a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse's benefits. A spouse generally receives 50 percent 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. For example, based on a full retirement age of 66, if a spouse begins collecting benefits:

- At age 65, the benefit amount would be about 46 percent of the retired worker's full benefit;
- At age 64, it would be about 42 percent;
- At age 63, 37.5 percent; and
- At age 62, 35 percent.

However, if a spouse is taking care of a child who is either under age 16 or disabled and receives Social Security benefits on the same record, a spouse will get full benefits, regardless of age. Learn more by reading our Retirement publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10035.html.

Question:

I work in retirement. How much can I earn and still collect full Social Security retirement benefits?

Answer:

Social Security uses the formulas below, depending on your age, to determine how much you can earn before we must reduce your benefit:

- If you are younger than full retirement age: \$1 in benefits will be deducted for each \$2 you earn above the annual limit. For 2016, that limit is \$15,720.
- In the year you reach your full retirement age: \$1 in benefits will be deducted for each \$3 you earn above a different limit, but we count only earnings before the month you reach full retirement age. For 2016, this limit is \$41,880.
- Starting with the month you reach full retirement age: you will get your benefits with no limit on your earnings.

Find out your full retirement age at:

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm.

Question:

My brother had an accident at work last year and is now receiving Social Security disability benefits. His wife and son also receive benefits. Before his accident, he helped support another daughter by a woman he never married. Is the second child entitled to benefits?

Answer:

The child may qualify for Social Security benefits even though your brother wasn't married to the second child's mother. The child's caretaker should file an application on her behalf. For more information, read our publication, Benefits for Children, available at: www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf

Question:

I was wounded while on military service overseas. What are the benefits for wounded warriors, and how can I apply?

Answer:

Through the Wounded Warrior program, Social Security expedites processing of disability claims of current military service members or veterans disabled while on active duty on or after October 1, 2001. Also, service members and veterans who have a Veterans Administration compensation rating of 100% Permanent and Total (P&T) may receive expedited processing of applications for Social Security disability benefits. Keep in mind, this expedited process applies to only the application process. To be eligible for benefits, you must meet Social Security's strict definition of "disability," which means:

- You must be unable to do substantial work because of your medical condition(s); and
- Your medical condition(s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, at least one year or to result in death.

You can apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability or call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

You can find more information for veterans at:

www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans.

Question:

What are the limits on what I can own to be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

Answer:

SSI provides payments for people with limited income and resources. We count real estate, bank accounts, cash, stocks, and bonds toward the limits on what you can own and still receive SSI. You may be able to get SSI if your resources are worth no more than \$2,000. A couple may be able to get SSI if they have resources worth no more than \$3,000. If you own property you are trying to sell, you may be able to get SSI while trying to sell it. Social Security does not count everything you own in deciding whether you have too many resources to qualify for SSI. For example, we generally do not count: the home you live in and the land it is on; life insurance policies with a face value of \$1,500 or less; your car; burial plots for you and your immediate family; and up to \$1,500 in burial funds for you and up to \$1,500 in burial funds for your spouse. Learn more about SSI at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi.

Question:

I am a single mother and I get Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Can my daughter receive SSI benefits based on my SSI?

Answer:

No. SSI benefits are based on the needs of the individual and are paid only to the qualifying person. There are no spouse's, children's, or survivors benefits. However, if your daughter is disabled, she might be eligible to receive SSI benefits.



To learn more about SSI benefits, read our publication on the subject at: www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.html.

Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached by e-mail at: kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov.



THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL
 Eastern Hills
 Baptist Church
 Montgomery, Alabama

Soul Searching

WHAT MAKES A HAPPY HOME?

The question was asked in a class of eager preschoolers, "What makes a happy home?" "A cat," answered one four-year old. "Brownies," answered a blue-eyed blond with cute pig tails. "Lots of love," stated another. Finally the teacher's eyes fell on a hand in the back corner of the room. "Yes, Dennis," she said. "What makes a happy home?" "Lots of peanut butter and ants in the kitchen!" came the reply.

You don't have to be a psychologist to imagine what must have recently happened at his house. Along with peanut butter and ants, the question remains, "What makes a happy home?" It's not as simple as it might seem. We are not perpetuating happy homes in our country.

Little Suzie came home from first grade and excitedly said, "Mom, today our teacher told us the story of Snow White." For the next five minutes, she then recounted the fairy tale including the arrival of Prince Charming and his rescue of Snow White. "Then do you know what happened, Mom?" Suzie asked. "They lived happily ever after?" "No, Mom, they got married."

Someone said, "All marriages are happy. It is the living together afterwards which causes all the trouble." Even if a marriage is made in heaven, we are responsible to maintain it and that's not an easy task. Lots of marriages break down and seem beyond repair. In our country, roughly half of the marriages end in divorce. There are also many which are intact, but not healthy or happy ones. Unfortunately, marriage problems are not just statistics. They involve real people. Not only do many marriages have problems, but out of these marriages children are brought into the world who do not have the privilege of experiencing a happy home.

In the many years of ministry I have obviously known many families both in the church and some not. All too often the yardstick by which happiness is measured or accomplished has to do with material possessions and worldly accomplishments. It is a little like the way sports has become in our time. We have lost the joy of seeing children participate and replaced it with a sense that if a team doesn't win a championship, then they are a bunch of losers. Such a philosophy of life makes it difficult to accurately measure what makes a home happy. The truth is some of the happiest families are not always blessed with much of this world's goods and some of the least happy have the most. But we should, in the same breath, be careful not to condemn or assume that possessions rob people of happiness.

So I come back to the question. Let me suggest three timeless principles which will fit any generation in any culture and at any economic level as we think of homes and families in the month of May.

First, the happy home realizes its divine origin. The crowning feature of creation was the point when God brought us into being. The Bible says we are created in the image of God. Furthermore, the family is God's idea. Only humans were given the ability to choose who to live with and to make the choices of bringing children into the world. The first step in having a happy home is to realize where you came from. The Christian home must be God-centered because it is God-originated. When parents remember and acknowledge to their children our place not at the center of the universe, but as creations of God who are responsible for our lives to Him, a home will be a happier place. When faith is lived out in the home, each person begins to live out the image of God in which he or she were created.

Second, in a happy home we realize that we were given the capability to fellowship with God and with the capacity to know God's love. Our likeness to God can be summarized in one word, love. The scriptures tell us very simply,

"God is love." God's love is unconditional and sacrificial. That kind of love is practiced in a happy home. Just as God put us first because He loved us, so members of a happy home work at putting the needs of the other first. It seems to me that the best practical definition of love could be "doing everything possible to meet the needs of the other." Imagine how different many marriages and families would be if each practiced that principle.

This principle began in creation when God created both male and female reminding us that each was made for the other. God saw that man was incomplete without a mate. He made woman as a complement to man, not a slave or servant. When each sees incompleteness without the other, the basis of love has begun. The happy home sees itself as a divine partnership in which parents and children, husbands and wives, accept each other, support each other and love each other.

Third, the happy home possesses a sense of purpose. We are reminded that from the beginning God gave the home purpose. The happy home realizes its purpose is not only to be "fruitful and multiply," but also to share itself in ministry with others. Jesus said, "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

Have you ever thought about your family as a ministering unit or as a family on mission? Last year one of my daughters and her family went on a family mission trip from their church. Not only did they help others in a city far away, it helped them become more of a ministering unit to their neighborhood upon returning. Think about families in your neighborhood. How many are Christians and have a church home? How many children in your neighborhood or on your children's ball team come from a broken home? How many receive no spiritual guidance? Aren't there some things you could do to share your faith and bring encouragement to these? In the process you very well might discover that happiness has come to your home as you focused on helping others. The happy home is a sharing home fulfilling a sense of purpose.

Little Dorothy in the "Wizard of Oz" said, "There's no place like home." And she was right. And there's no better place than home when it is healthy and happy. But happy homes don't just happen. It takes a bit of work. We don't need to treat our families like the proverbial dad who can fix anything. If all else fails, read the directions. It works best if we pay attention from the beginning by realizing the family's divine origin, recognizing its spiritual potential and having a sense of purpose.



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Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

CALL YOUR MOTHER

An ABC tribute to Gilda Radner some time ago reminded me of the number of people we've lost in the last few years who made us laugh: John Belushi, John Candy, Phil Hartman, Bob Hope, Grady Nutt,

Rodney Dangerfield, Jerry Clower and others.

Humor has great value. Solomon said laughter is medicine for the soul (**Proverbs 17:22**), and sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is to have a good laugh.

Lincoln, a man who suffered depression or "melancholia" as it was called in those days, talked about the value of humor in the stressful days of the Civil War.

"With the fearful strain that is on me," he said, "if I did not laugh, I would die."

Lewis Grizzard was a fine Southern humorist. But, occasionally, he stepped aside from humor and made some pretty astute observations about life. He did this, I believe, in one of his books entitled, "**Call Your Mama—I Wish I Could Call Mine.**"

Me too, Lewis.

I guess I thought my mother would live forever. She was a constant in the changes of my life. But there came that terrible December in 1993 when our family had gathered for Christmas and she was so sick she couldn't function. I thought maybe she'd worked too hard preparing the house and the meal, but she lay down on the couch and didn't have energy to get up. My wife and sister forcibly took her to the local hospital. An X-ray turned up something ominous, and the doctor thought she needed to go to a larger hospital for tests.

The Monday following Christmas the doctors at Birmingham's St. Vincent's Hospital confirmed the dread diagnosis: cancer. In seven weeks she was gone.

Those were weeks of trial as my siblings and I scheduled time to be with her and take care of things. One of the most stressful rites of passage is caring for aging and dying parents. In addition to the shock of impending loss there's the demands of everyday tasks that must be done.

I read something recently about the trauma we experience when our mothers die. Mothers, the article stated, represent unconditional love, and we're often unprepared for a world in which no one else seems to fill that role.

God knew what he was doing when he invented the family and put mothers in them. She is the family's heart, civilizing us and teaching us to care. Mothers fill a role no one else can. They love us and are proud of us no matter what.

May 8 is Mother's Day. – Be sure to call your mother.

I wish I could call mine.

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.

Spiritual Warfare

REVIVAL

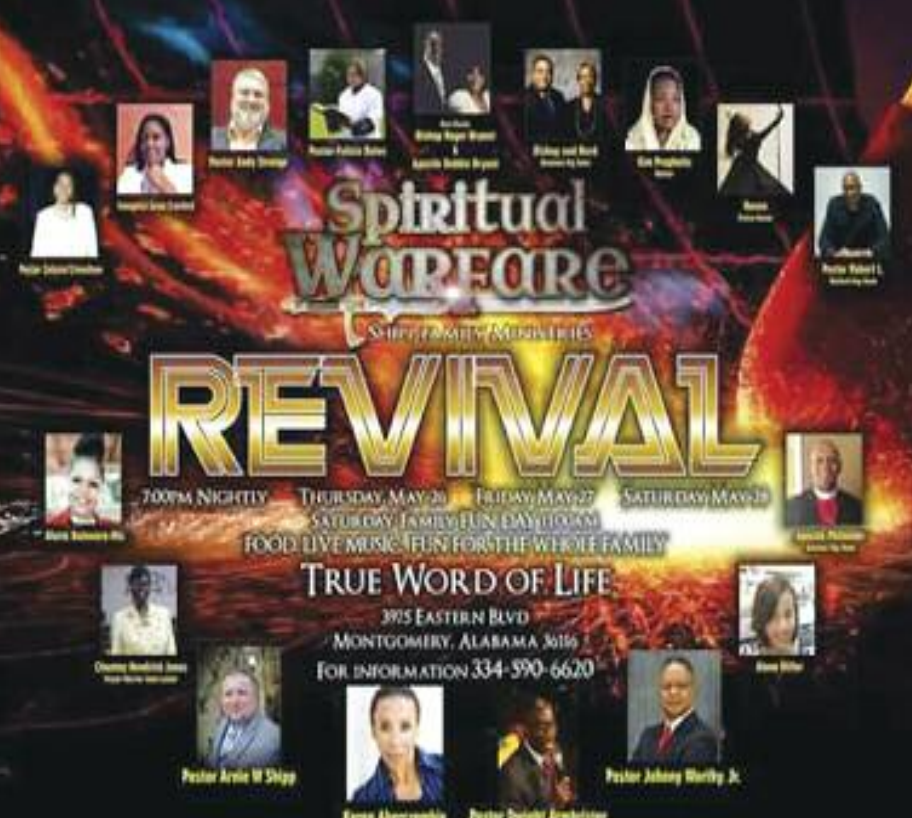
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 Prattville, AL 36066

PRaise & WORSHIP:
 Psalmist Stephanie Robinson & Min. Gregory Davis
 FMI: 334.219.9444

SAT. May 21st
10:00AM-3:00PM
FREE BREAKFAST STARTS PROMPTLY @ 9:30AM



Patricia Killough



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.

Home Town Community News

May Birthdays



- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Maggie Brown | Devery Wright |
| Judy Grubbs | 17 Wendy Haddox |
| Weston Ashley Sellars (5th) | Bertha Graham |
| Pat Duffell Smith | Rosa Nell Watkins |
| 3 Scarlett Box | 18 Georgia Armstrong |
| 4 Brittney Belcher (17th) | Ken Stafford |
| Teresa Grant | 19 Connie Butts |
| Forrest Taylor (22nd) | Dorothy Hall |
| 5 Ashton Box | 20 Maggie Royster |
| Connie Bowden | 21 Rhonda Alexander |
| Olivia Propst | Al Barnett |
| Jayne Ward | Ashley Boyd (41st) |
| 6 Ed Jones (78th) | Susan Johnson |
| Michael Mckenzie | Daniel Selvage (8th) |
| 7 Tory Alexander | Sophia Vazquez |
| Bryson Box (13th) | 22 Tom Broadway |
| 8 John P. Hanson | Eeron Grant (97th) |
| Michael Moseley (48th) | Aileen Kovacic |
| Mary Peoples | Hunter Meadows (19th) |
| Janet Suddith | Brad Williams (37th) |
| Trinity Woodall | 23 Rene Barnett (95th) |
| 9 Walter Cooper (78th) | Susanne Boyd |
| Jim Garrett | Frank Clayton |
| Bill Jones | Julia Grant |
| Paul "Moon" Jones | Hazel Norman |
| Jo Oswald | Mike Sikes (39th) |
| 10 Mary Ann Pickard (90th) | Casey Woodall |
| Nicole Sansom | 24 Brantley Box (16th) |
| 11 Johnson Alexander | Sydney Ellen Grant |
| Pam Lynch | Wallace Smith |
| Barbara Strickland (66th) | Seth Meadows |
| Dee Dee Ward | 25 Wynne Ross (42nd) |
| 12 Mary Ellen Grant | Norman Mitchell |
| Tanya Moore (50th) | Hamer Phillips |
| Liz Morris | 26 Paula Burgess |
| Mary White | Mary Louise Dobbs |
| Zack Witherington | Rachael Doran |
| 13 Betty Casey | 27 Ronnie Broom |
| Chris Cordle | Emmie Abelia Johnson (1st) |
| Raven Johnson | Coley Jones |
| Debbie Mills | Carrie Rhodes |
| 14 Luke Dickinson | 28 Brian McCord |
| Victor Chad Mason (Trace) (3rd) | 30 Michele Blount |
| 15 Ann Macon Adams | Kate Sansom |
| Waldon Woodall (58th) | 31 Betty Crowe |
| 16 Milton Bridges | Susan Daffron (68th) |
| Lonnie Smith | Stacie Vinson (92nd) |
| Stephan Turnipseed | |

SARAH KATE CELEBRATES HER 1ST BIRTHDAY!

Sarah Kate Selvage turned 1 year old on April 22, 2016. A big birthday celebration was held on Sunday April 24 in the Fellowship Hall at Woodland United Methodist Church in Pike Road, AL.

The theme of her party was OWLS, and she got her own personal 'owl cake' to dig into!



Sarah Kate and her dad, Jason, inspect her Owl theme cake.

"Selfies"

are fun for all ages at fun places!

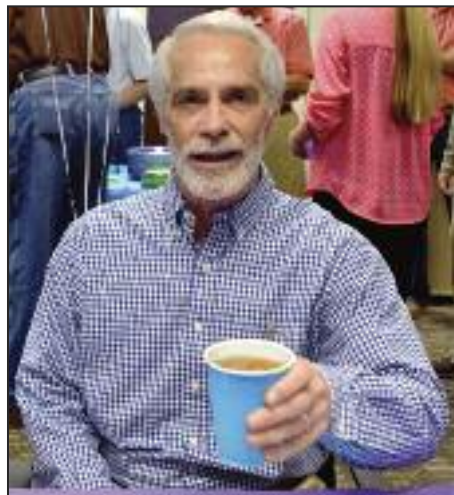
A "selfie" of Todd Rogers and his father-in-law Roy Stephens at the Auburn / Alabama baseball game at Riverwalk Stadium on March 29, 2016



RETIREMENT / BIRTHDAY PARTY

John F. "Buddy" Black celebrated his 60th birthday on March 26, 2016 and retired on April 1, 2016 after 37 years with the Alabama Department of Transportation. A retirement/birthday party was held on March 31, 2016 at ALDOT. Buddy was chief of the Bridge Bureau at DOT.

Congratulations on two major milestones in life!



Buddy with employees and retirees from the Bridge Bureau of Alabama Department of Transportation

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 Thomas & Betty Chesnutt (69th) | 17 Carl & Faye Boyd (40th) |
| 6 Corey & Alicia Smith (20th) | 19 Billy & Ann Cox (68th) |
| Pat & Lonnie Smith (47th) | 21 Allan & Shannon Vinson (10th) |
| 8 Billy & Courtney Whigham | 28 Carl & Betsy Penn (54th) |
| 10 Clint & Tiffany Andrews | 29 Joe & Gail Cotney |
| Ashley & Susanne Boyd | 30 Richard & Gwen Walters |
| 11 Roger & Sandy Brown | Carma & Bill Marks (50th) |
| 15 Travis & Christle Jordan (11th) | 31 Mike & Connie Northcutt (40th) |
| 16 Austin & Ashley Owens (6th) | |

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

Sympathy to the families of...

- Duncan, Lorenzo Oliver (70).....died March 29, 2016
 Boyett, William "Bill" Thomas (89).....died March 30, 2016
 Killete, Lt. Col. U. S. Army Ret. James L. (87).....died March 30, 2016
 Brinsfield, Marcia (96)died April 2, 2016
 Wallace, Dora Ann McClurkin (93)died April 6, 2016
 Phillips, Kerri L. (44).....died April 7, 2016
 Smith, Jay L. (76).....memorial held on April 8, 2016
 King, Tommy Earl (69).....died April 14, 2016
 Neal, Wilbur M. (92)died April 16, 2016
 Sharpe, Jacqueline "Jackie" D. (66).....died April 19, 2016
 Jones, Jimmy Randall (63).....died April 20, 2016
 Williamson, Clarence (89)died April 20, 2016
 Broadway, James Larry Jr. (46).....died April 21, 2016
 Allen, Christopher (26)died April 22, 2016
 Auerbach, Ellen Tyson Powelldied April 22, 2016
 Hooper, Perry Oliver Sr. (91).....died April 24, 2016
 Johnson, Franklin Ted (72).....died April 25, 2016

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

TODAY'S WOMAN

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mary Elizabeth Dean and James Daniel Schlotterbeck announced their upcoming wedding that will take place in June of 2016. Their parents are Richard and Laura Dean of Montgomery, Alabama and Mark and Debbie Schlotterbeck of Wetumpka, Alabama.



Mary Elizabeth Dean, Sarah Kate & Stephanie Selvage, and Ann Marie Dean

BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower for Mary Elizabeth Dean was held on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the home of Lynne Irwin. A great time was had by all!

Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"Happy 8th Wedding Anniversary"



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This month, Brian & I will celebrate our 8th wedding anniversary. Without a doubt, there is no one on the planet I would rather go through life's ups, downs & roundabouts with.

"I have found the one whom my soul loves", **Song of Solomon 3:4.**

As Brian builds his life around Christ, he is naturally a reflection of Christ in the way he treats me. And as I build my life around Christ, I learn to love my husband as God has called me to love him. That is what makes a marriage gain more and more beauty as the

years go by.

A wise person once said, "Marriage can either be a taste of heaven on earth, or a taste of hell on earth, depending on where you place the Cross." Selfishness will destroy the beauty of a marriage faster than anything else. But coming to the cross and getting self out of the way, sets the stage for a romance that can truly stand the test of time!

As our 8th anniversary approaches, I am filled with gratitude and amazement at the beauty of God's ways. Brian and I are expecting our next year together to be even better than the years we have had thus far, because we know the place that Christ has in our marriage. Just like the water that Jesus turned into wine at the wedding celebration...the best is always saved for last when He is the Guest of honor.

Every love story is beautiful, but ours is my favorite...Happy 8th Wedding Anniversary, Brian!! I love you!

Many Blessings!

2016 Meeting Schedule



Breast Cancer Support Group Meetings

Support group meetings are free, do not require registration and convene the 2nd Tuesday of each month at:

Frazer United Methodist Church

6000 Atlanta Highway • Room 8114 • Mathison Activity Center • Montgomery, AL

5:30 PM Social time with light meal
6:15 PM Program followed by Q & A

Tuesday, May 10 (Room 8253)

The Role of Physical Therapy in Cancer Treatments

Caitlin Butts, PT, DPT, ATC • Chris Ireland, PT, DPT, OCS
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Restaurant Review!



4053 U.S. Highway 231
Wetumpka, AL. 334-514-7160

I recently visited Uncle Bob's Dog House in Wetumpka. If you like hotdogs and are near by...just stop and visit this family friendly restaurant. It opened August, 2015. They serve 'Classic', 'Speciality' and 'Gourmet' hotdogs. **Have the "dog" your way!**

They also serve a "good" speciality burger - patted out my hand!

And don't forget the Slush Puppie Machine. Uncle Bob's is **"Fuel for Racing Fans"**.

Owners Robert and Tammy Harmon invite you come by and enjoy all the racing memorabilia and good food.

Their ice Cream Truck run daily. Tuesday & Thursday in Holtville and Deatsville. Runs other days in Wetumpka.



Tallassee Now!

7:00 am - 6:00 PM
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JUNE 10th & 11th, 2016



Janice Dillard

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The Education Station...

By *Bobbie Ames*

THE BIRTH OF AMERICA'S EDUCATION

The Inheritance for America's Children



In the introduction to the **1828 Dictionary**, distributed by the Foundation for American Christian Education, **Rosalie Slater** has chosen to include some selections from Noah Webster's Masters Thesis from Yale College. Her selections in the preface are carefully chosen to guide us in the use of this volume. **Many people consider the 1828 Dictionary as the second most valuable book in the home library, next only to the Holy Bible. This writer certainly does. It contains the language of Liberty, and the definitions are Bible related, when possible.**



Noah Webster

"The Declaration of Independence," July 4, 1776, served to announce to the world the separation of the American colonies from Great Britain, their establishment as "free and independent states," and their "firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence." To this ringing declaration to faith in God, was affixed the signatures of the 56 men who mutually pledged to "each other" the their "Lives," their "Fortunes," and their "sacred Honor."

It took seven long years of the American Revolution to "dissolve the Political Bands" which connected them to England, and "six more years before the document detailing the Christian philosophy of American Government took shape and form. But political separation alone would not suffice to keep the young republic on her Christian Constitutional course. **If American Liberty was to be complete, all mooring from the old world must be cast off...especially those that might bind her in alien philosophies of government, and hence to educational systems lending them support."**

"This country must in some future time, be as distinguished by her literary improvements, as she is by the liberality of civil and ecclesiastical constitutions. Europe has grown old in folly, corruption, and tyranny. In that country, laws are perverted, manners are licentious, literature is declining, and human nature debased. For America, in her infancy, to adopt the present maxims of the old world, would be to stamp the wrinkles of decrepit age upon the bloom of youth, and to plant the seeds of decay in a vigorous constitution."

"It is the business of Americans to select the wisdom of all nations, as the basis of her constitution, to avoid their errors, to prevent the introduction of foreign vices and corruptions, and check the career of her own,... to promote virtue and patriotism,... to embellish and improve the sciences,... to diffuse a uniformity and purity of language,... to add superior dignity to this infant Empire and to human nature."

Webster's statements were included in his dictionary and in his translation of the Holy Bible. His vision, his research, his writing and his passion for America's uniqueness, was used by God to prepare this one individual, who would give birth to American Education. In God's Providence, it has been the means to preserve Liberty until well into the 1900's.

How God prepared Noah Webster for this monumental task is fascinating. He was a descendant on his mother's side of Governor William Bradford of "Plymouth Plantation." His great, great grandfather was the governor of Connecticut in 1656. With such a devout heritage, it is no surprise that he would write: **"The Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed. No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis for any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people."**

Webster was certainly not alone in his views. The Founding Fathers of the nation made clear the relationship of Christianity to American government and liberty. Their dream was to extend the blessings of liberty to all people through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ.

In recognizing the role of American Government, Webster was careful to limit the jurisdiction of government when it came to Education and the Family. He wrote: *"The foundation of all free government and of all social order must be laid in families and in the discipline of youth. The Education for youth, an employment of more consequence than making laws and preaching the gospel, because it lays the foundation on which both law and gospel rest for success...."*

It is a fascinating read to learn how God prepared this young man for his life's work of the **"founding of America's distinctively Christian Educational System."** Growing up in New Haven, Connecticut on a family farm, he and his siblings were happy to be diligent laborers and prayed for good weather, because a good crop of corn harvested in good weather would provide for the winter months. The corn was grown to eat, of course, but primarily for export to ship to England. However, when night came, while the brothers, Abram and Charles, slept nearby, Noah could be found with his small candle burning brightly by his bed. Books were scarce, but words and a printed page had always fascinated this young boy. **In 1771, books were rare in the colonies, but everyone had a family Bible.** The local pastor probably had 20 or more books, but most of them were in Latin.

Probably, on a weekly basis, a family might see the newspaper from Hartford, and an annual Ames Almanack at Christmas time. It brought weather information and tid-bits of things, such as maxims, poetry, etc.

In the little school house by the church, there was a scarcity of books as well, but usually had a speller from which the small child could learn his letters, a primer and a Psalter. In 1764, Noah was six years old, and already fascinated with letters, words, and spelling.

At age 13, when the fields and harvesting was done, Noah went back to the one room school house. Boys usually did not continue their schooling after age 14. He walked four miles to school. Without books available, many of Noah's questions remained unanswered. In the following spring, a new minister came to town, Dr. Nathan Perkins. He had graduated from Princeton and had many books for this time. Dr. Perkins took a great interest in Noah Webster. He welcomed him into his study and loaned him books, first of all, a Latin Grammar. Novels and story books as we know them today, hardly existed in Noah's childhood, certainly not in the colonies.

After serious study with Dr. Perkins over many months, Noah decided that he **MUST** go to college. He discussed it with his pastor and his father. He found that Yale college had 2500 books in its library. That set on fire Noah's ambition for college. After another year of preparation with his minister and his work in the Latin Grammar School, he was almost 16, and determined to enter Yale in September. With parents willing to place a mortgage on the family property,

Noah had the determination to prove its worth. Yale college had three buildings, and those not in good condition. On the edge of Long Island Sound, New Haven was a lovely town of fine old trees, and an atmosphere of "quiet dignity."

Noah plowed into the academic life of Yale. There were 150 students, and forty boys in his freshman class. Noah displayed leadership ability from the start. He was well aware of his responsibility. He was attending on borrowed money, and would prove his worth to his beloved parents. During the summer months, he would be back on the farm with his hoe.

These were turbulent times in the mid 1770's. There was a universal demand for Liberty, and in 1776, Thomas Jefferson took a pen and paper, and wrote the formal statement that we know as "The Declaration of Independence." It was adopted on July 4, 1776, by the Continental Congress. Noah Webster was thrilled and now he wanted to learn everything he could about the 56 men who had signed the document. He learned that 14 were lawyers and 12 jurists, which was really much the same thing. He began an interest in law as a possible career path, and over time, would add that to his many accomplishments.

Due to the war, college would be in recess for months at a time, and Noah would be back on the farm... always reading, always studying. When the new president, Dr. Ezra Stiles, came to Yale, he decided to bring back the boys who were too young to go to war. The New Republic would need educated men and Dr. Stiles was there to see to it. He was extremely versatile and well educated.

Thirty of Noah's classmates returned to graduate. Some had left for the war. Noah's graduating address proved to be the most impressive one of all. Upon returning home after his graduation, Noah learned that the war had ruined his family financially, and his parents could not help him with law school. In a matter of just days, Noah had a position of teaching in the village school at Glastonbury, Connecticut. His class at Yale had spent one summer there previously. **The children loved him at the school, but the lack of books was the chief problem. There was only one spelling book for 50 children.** In the cruel winter, of 1779-1780, Noah walked four miles to school. It made Noah think of General Washington and his troops at Valley Forge.

Nights found him deep into his law books, and he passed the Bar in April, 1781. However, education was still his passion, and especially for American children. His first to be published textbook, titled The American Instructor, was a spelling book, but filled with inspiration for patriotism and for the courage of Christian character. Simple early phonics were included as well. He took it to Philadelphia, and after a name change and a delay, The Spelling Book was published in 1783 under the title, A Grammatical

Institute of the English Language. Later, millions of copies would be published as The American Spelling Book. **This was the beginning of Noah's Webster's school text books, which would form the foundation of America's unique education in all of world History.**

One writer has described Noah as "the man on horseback," for all the travel he did, from colony to colony, with his speller. Among his travels was a visit to Mt. Vernon, hosted by General Washington. By this time, not only The American Spelling Book, but a Reader was in print.

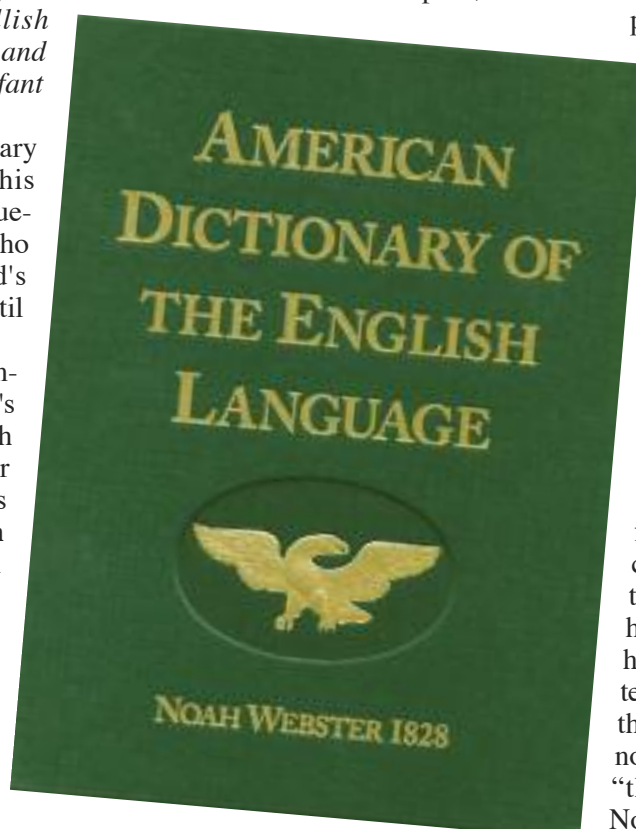
He took a 27 day sailing trip from Baltimore to Charlestown, South Carolina, and was successful in having his textbooks adopted for the entire colony. In addition, he had now written the History text which told of America's founding and early history. Over a period of one hundred years, one hundred million copies of Webster's dictionary and texts were literally worn out from faithful use. From the pen of Noah Webster, American children, from north to south and from east to west, have learned "their letters, their morality, and their patriotism. Noah Webster was "America's Schoolmaster,"

When American colonies were first settled, each group brought their old world philosophies. Some were indeed Christians, such as the Pilgrims in Plymouth. Some were more cultural Christians, but not Orthodox in Bible terms. Some were Humanists or fans of other philosophies, mixed together. Webster was very aware of the threats from foreign shores. He made sure that his textbooks and the dictionary addressed those threats. Thankfully, he lived to see the fruit of his labors. Prominent men, such as John Jay, offered support and encouragement.

Looking back over his remarkable life, remembering the direct and divine operation of the heart, Webster wrote: "I could no longer question or have a doubt respecting the Calvinistic and Christian doctrines of regeneration, of free grace, and of the Sovereignty of God... I was struck by the 26th verse in John 14, 'But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you.'"

America's History is the story of Individual Liberty as no other nation has ever known. It is a legacy to which every American child is entitled. The Christian Constitutional Republic has been blessed by God as no other nation in world history has been blessed. God used one man, Noah Webster, to set the Truth in textbooks for generations of early America children. One hundred million copies of his textbooks were circulated.

He stressed that it all begins in the Family – the family living out the Biblical mandates of Scripture. Do we have enough families today, to embrace that Biblical order in their home, to cherish and live out once again, "life and liberty," as generations of our forefathers dared to dream?



EDUCATION

MODERN DICTIONARY (1980) - The action or process of educating or of being educated; a stage of such a process, the knowledge and development resulting from an educational process, the field of study that deals mainly with methods of teaching and learning in schools.

WEBSTER DICTIONARY (1828) - noun [Latin educatio.] The bringing up, as of a child, instruction; formation of manners. education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.