



The Alabama Gazette

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

Please feel free to email Oswaldo with any concern or questions you may have concerning your family or teen relationships. Att. Oswaldo

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Flakka



it is prevalent, it is
addictive, it is harmful,
and it is potentially
DEADLY.

"Flakka" -- THE NEW MORE POTENT, dangerous Bath Salt (drug).

By: Hector Oswaldo Chavez, MS

The name Flakka comes from the Spanish word "flaca," which means "skinny girl." The drug is sold in other parts of the United States as "Gravel." The drug comes in the form of a white crystal (Gravel) or a pink crystal (Flakka) that is foul-smelling. **Flakka can be snorted, swallowed, injected or vaped in an e-cigarette.** While its effects are generally felt for three or four hours, they can continue for days.

This new synthetic drug has increasingly been reported in Ohio, Texas, and several recent publicized cases in Florida. A spokesperson for Bradford Drug Treatment Center reported multiple cases of Flakka in Alabama. Flakka is alpha-PVP, a synthetic stimulant drug labeled as a Schedule 1 drug by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Schedule 1 drugs are considered the most dangerous and are believed to have a high risk for abuse or dependence. Because of these findings, the DEA banned alpha-PVP at the beginning of 2014. According to the US Drug Enforcement Administration, there has been a large increase of reported Flakka cases in the last four years, from none in 2010 to 670 last year.

Flakka is a chemical-cousin of the "bath salts" drugs. Both are synthetic versions of naturally occurring amphetamine-like drugs called cathinones. Cathinones are derived from the khat plant found normally in the Middle East and Somalia regions. People in these areas chew the leaves of the plant to achieve a mild euphoria. The drug works by blocking the body's ability to reabsorb the brain chemicals, dopamine and norepinephrine. Dopamine is the "feel good" hormone that has been linked to other drugs, while norepinephrine is a form of adrenaline. Flakka allows these chemicals to remain in the synapses longer, producing an altered state of consciousness, typically referred to as "excited delirium." When an individual is in this state, it can cause a rapid increase in body temperature, causing the user to want to remove all clothing; the sudden rapid raise in core body temperature can in turn trigger kidney damage and failure. Flakka reportedly can impart amazing strength to some of its users who consume too much of the drug, as has been seen with other stimulants such as Methamphetamine, Ecstasy, and Cocaine. As a result, this becomes a dangerous drug for law enforcement, who are called to respond to possible cases of Flakka, because it may require more than a few police officers to subdue the drug user in order to get medical assistance for the effected individual. Furthermore, the physiological effects that have been known to occur include severe anxiety, paranoia, and delusions, which can lead to a psychotic state that is characterized by bizarre-violent behaviors and a lack of awareness of reality. Many health care experts are concerned with the rise in the popularity of a drug whose side effects and after-effects are potentially deadly. The US National Institute on Drug Abuse has warned that smoking Flakka can send the drug very quickly into the bloodstream, making it particularly easy to overdose.

The biggest concern, as a clinician, that I have is that the drug is cheap, making it readily accessible to anyone. A single dose of Flakka is about a tenth of a gram and costs anywhere from \$4 to \$5. It's a very dangerous drug because it has so many negative side effects, and it doesn't require long-term usage to suffer from the negative symptoms. It reminds me of when we had the epidemic of Meth users who were willing to lose their homes, jobs, possessions, and family at the cost of what was called the "Devil's Drug." This too can cost the user everything-- our minds and lives are too precious to waste. Be wary of anyone you know trying this new synthetic drug, as it has no concern for gender, race, and social economic status.



Photo: Boris Rossler/EPA/Corbis

**"synthetic cannabis, also known as
"K2," "spice," or "herbal incense." "**

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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE **MARTHA ROBY**
ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT



MAXWELL'S C-130S CONFIRMED BY AIR FORCE REPORT

Study compelled by Congress reinforces need for Maxwell aircraft.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Eight C-130 aircraft will remain with the 908th Airlift Wing at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery, according to recently released Air Force plans.

The Air Force Report on C-130 Force Structure reinforces a temporary November 2012 decision not to move forward with a plan to transfer the aircraft away from unit. After scrutiny from Rep. Roby and other members of Alabama's Congressional Delegation, the Air Force elected not to transfer the existing aircraft as planned, but instead assigned an additional eighth C-130 to the unit.

The President's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request originally called for relocating the aircraft operated by the Maxwell-based 908th Airlift Wing, citing the need for greater efficiencies. Congressional leaders, led by U.S. Representative Martha Roby and including U.S. Senator Richard Shelby, U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions and U.S. Representative Mike Rogers, met directly with the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force to question the cost saving benefits of the plan, and successfully inserted into the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act a requirement that the Air Force conduct and publish a thorough cost-benefit analysis before moving forward.

That analysis, published as the Air Force Report on C-130 Force Structure, includes the eight Maxwell C-130s as its "most efficient basing alignment" through Fiscal Year 2020. Under the report, the national C-130 fleet will be reduced by an additional 20 aircraft over the next three years.

Rep. Roby, who has been engaged on the C-130 issue since learning of the Air Force's initial plans, said the report confirms some good news for Montgomery and allows those associated with the 908th greater certainty.

"The Air Force's report confirms what we had suspected all along: relocating Maxwell's C-130s didn't meet the Air Force's cost-savings goals," she said. "By requiring the Air Force to conduct and provide an actual cost-benefit analysis, we were able to stop an arbitrary reshuffling of aircraft that would have disrupted the important mission there at Maxwell."

"Our Alabama delegation has been highly engaged on this issue over the past few years, and it is nice to see our teamwork pay off. I appreciate the diligent work of Senators Shelby and Sessions, as well as my colleague here in the House, Rep. Mike Rogers."

The 908th has a stellar record of performance and has been awarded the Air Force's Outstanding Unit seven times.

"The 908th Airlift Wing is an important asset for our country and for Alabama. I'm proud to know the men and women of the 908th and to advocate



U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) pictured with members of Maxwell-Gunter's 908th Airlift Wing and their signature C-130 aircraft while the unit was flying missions in support of U. S. operations in Afghanistan.

on their behalf. This unit has flown all over the world in support of our various missions, adding great value to our military efforts. I know because I've flown with them and seen firsthand their professionalism in theater. Alabama is proud to be home to the 908th, and I hope this news from the Air Force provides them and their families greater certainty."

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For more information contact Communications Director Todd Stacy at 202.225.2901 / todd.stacy@mail.house.gov.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS FUNDING PASSES HOUSE

Important funding for Maxwell, Rucker, Dannelly included.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Important funding for projects at Maxwell Air Force Base, Fort Rucker and Dannelly Field is included in the Fiscal Year 2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives Thursday night.

The bill, H.R. 2029, totals \$76.6 billion, increasing critical funding for veterans programs and for military construction accounts, while remaining in line with the strict spending restrictions of the House Budget Resolution.

Specific to Alabama-based military installations, the bill contains:

- \$33 million for new school construction to repair and replace aging schools at Maxwell Air Force Base;
- \$47 million new school construction to replace aging schools Fort Rucker; and
- \$7.6 million for a new Squadron Operations Facility at Dannelly Field.

U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL), who sits on the Appropriations Committee, said funding for these projects was badly needed and overdue.

"I am pleased our Appropriations bill contains funding for these important Alabama-based projects," Rep. Roby said. "The schools on base at Maxwell and on post at Fort Rucker are in disrepair and badly need replacing. Our military families deserve quality on-base education facilities, and these projects will go a long way toward improving what we offer."

"I'm also glad we can construct a new Squadron Operations Facility for the Alabama Air National Guard out at Dannelly Field. They need the space, and it further enhances our operational assets there."

On the Veterans Affairs side, the bill:

- Prioritizes funding for mental health services, suicide prevention and traumatic brain injury treatment;
- Directs funding to modernize the electronic health record system to improve the accuracy and timeliness of treatment; and
- Provides needed resources and accountability requirements to continue to reduce the disability claims processing backlog.

Rep. Roby [took issue this week](#) with the White House's threat to veto the bill over what it claimed are "cuts" to veterans spending. Rep. Roby derided such claims as "political gamesmanship" since the bill actually increases spending for the Department of Veterans Affairs by \$3.6 billion.

"Only in Washington, D.C., will a \$3.6 billion increase on behalf of our veterans be called a 'cut,'" she said in an [impassioned speech from the House floor](#).

"It's being called a cut because it's the only way to shift the blame away from this Administration's failure to our veterans back to the Republican-led House."

"This is cynical and it is shameful, and I believe that the American people can see straight through it. I hope the President will reconsider this position because there is no place for political gamesmanship when it comes to our military families and our veterans."

Rep. Roby also worked to include language in the Committee Report instructing key policy reforms to improve medical services offered by VA. The Roby report language calls on VA to:

- Improve access to the Veterans Choice Program by allowing veterans to receive care from private providers if the needed service is not offered by the Veterans administration within a driving distance of 40 miles;
- Continue enhancements of the proven Patient Centered Community Care program, or PC3, which connects veterans with local non-VA providers to cut down on long wait times;
- Report to Congress the tools and resources currently available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to intervene at especially-troubled medical centers to improve them.

Rep. Roby said her intention with report language is to lay the groundwork for a major legislative effort that would compel the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to intervene at perpetually failing VA medical centers. The long-troubled Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System was recently reported as having the worst average nationwide for delayed patient appointments.

For further bill details, including a breakdown of the various bill components, visit:

<http://appropriations.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=394141>.

Memorial Day May 25, 2015



*Remember
our fallen
heros.
They are
the reason
that we are free.*

Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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



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

May 6, 2015:

There is an ominous cloud hanging over this legislative session. Last year the U.S. Supreme Court surprisingly agreed to hear a Hail Mary complaint filed by the black legislative caucus over the 2014 redistricting plan. In an even more surprising opinion, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the complainants and remanded the case back to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals instructing the lower court to tell the legislature to try again.

The super majority Republican legislature fully complied with the Voting Rights Act and the Justice Department guidelines when they crafted the new districts prior to the 2014 legislative elections. Specifically, they protected African American districts. The plan not only reserved the current number of minority districts, which by the way has the best reflection of African American districts of any state in America, they actually created a new additional minority House seat in Huntsville.

The GOP district plan adhered to every criteria required by the Voting Right Act and previous U.S. Supreme Court rulings. The only group seemingly discriminated against are white Democrats. The legislative lines drawers are not the only ones discriminating against white Democrats. The Alabama electorate has decided to make that dinosaur extinct. There are very few white Democrats left in Alabama. In the Heart of Dixie, if you are white you are a Republican and if you are

African American you are a Democrat. It is that simple.

The Voting Rights Act was written and designed to protect and give preferential treatment to African Americans, not white Democrats. It appears that the Supreme Court is opening the door to expand the Voting Rights Act to protect the few white Democrats left in the South. Essentially, their opinion is that by packing the districts with a high percentage of African American folks, they do not have the ability to work with those whites who have their same interests. Indeed, if the Court is looking at that criteria, they are plowing new fertile ground. The proof is in the pudding. There is only one white Democrat left in the 35 member State Senate.

The Supreme Court zeroed in on Senate District 26, a black district in Montgomery represented by Sen. Quinton Ross. They say that his district was packed with too many black citizens. The high Court's decision represents a legal reversal. Previously, the Court has forced southern states to create "majority-minority" districts more likely to elect black lawmakers. Now, the justices are saying it may be illegal to have too many blacks clustered in one district.

The opinion was unclear as to whether or not new elections would be called for under their order. They simply sent it back to the 11th Circuit to review. The GOP majority seem confident that the 11th Circuit will not throw their 2014 plan out and call for new elections. However, that may be false bravado. A reapportionment plan has a domino

effect. If the Court says Senate District 26 is too packed, as described by the Supreme Court, you cannot tweak that district without creating a ripple effect throughout the entire state.

The legislative black caucus is reveling in the decision and have unveiled new redistricting maps that they say address concerns raised by the Supreme Court. They also argue that their plan respects and protects county lines, which is called for under Alabama's 1901 Constitution. The current plan crisscrosses and destroys county lines, especially in urban areas. This argument holds water because under Alabama's antiquated constitution, counties must go to the legislature to get their edicts approved. A divided county makes it difficult, especially in metropolitan areas.

The GOP majority may need to take this ruling seriously. They cannot cavalierly ignore and dismiss the Democratic minority on this issue like they systematically do on all other issues because the minority has the U.S. Supreme Court in their corner. If they take an ostrich approach to this redistricting issue, like they have to the state's finances, they may very well have to run again next year. There is a precedent to it. It happened in 1982-1983.

Some people are suggesting that the GOP majority may privately believe that they will have to run again this year or next and that is why they do not want to vote on any taxes. Their opponents could tie their tax vote around their neck.

April 29, 2015:

Recently, at a forum I was asked the question, "Which governor made a difference in Alabama politics?" The question caught me off guard because I really had not thought about that obvious inquiry. My knee-jerk reaction and answer to the insightful questioner was George Wallace and I gave a litany of reasons for my response. Later, after contemplation, I felt that my answer was probably correct. Wallace would be the appropriate choice, simply because he was governor so long. I prefaced my reply to the inquisitor with the caveat, "You know, I'm not as old as you might think." Therefore, I qualified my answer with, "Let's talk about the governors since 1954."

I actually knew Wallace and served as his representative in the legislature during my first term in the House and his last term as governor. I met Wallace earlier when I was a Page and he was a fiery first term governor in the 1960s. He would often times invite me down to the governor's office to talk politics.

One day, while I was visiting with Gov. Wallace, he got a whimsical look on his face and asked me how old I was. I replied, "Governor, I'm 32 now. I'm not a Page anymore. I'm your representative, you know." He looked at me and smiled and said, "Huh. Well, I guess I've been governor almost all of your life, haven't I?" I quickly replied, "Yes sir and I guess you will be governor all the rest of my life. I don't think anybody else will ever be governor."

Indeed, George Wallace was elected governor four times and he elected his wife Lurleen one more time. That feat will never be matched again in Alabama politics. If you serve as governor that long, you were bound to leave some sort of legacy. In Wallace's case the state had to implement a good many "Great Society" social programs. The most profound would be Medicaid. However, Wallace's premier state originated legacy would be the State Junior College System.

"Big Jim" Folsom was governor two terms. He is known throughout the state as the father of the Farm to Market Road Program. Most of the rural roads in the state were built by Big Jim's administration. Besides being the father of the Farm to Market Road Program, Big Jim was the father of another governor, Jim Folsom, Jr.

Although Little Jim was governor for only a couple of years, he will be known as the governor who lured Mercedes to Alabama. Jim Folsom, Jr. was born in the governor's mansion while Big Jim was in his first term as governor and he holds the distinction of serving as lieutenant governor longer than anyone in state history.

Many political observers referred to Governor Fob James as "Fumbling Fob." Old Fob served as governor two terms, although not in succession. Fob also left a legacy. During his first term the state got a windfall from selling some of our oil reserves in the gulf to the big oil companies. Being a businessman, Fob felt that the conservative and prudent thing to do would be to save the principal and only spend the interest of the corpus. Thus, he created the Oil and Gas Heritage Fund. That interest has helped bolster the beleaguered General Fund over the years.

In recent years, our governors really have not left any indelible mark.

The probable reason is their lack of legislative power. Bob Riley was powerless, primarily because he was a Republican governor with a Democratic legislature. They treated him with disdain. Thus far, Robert Bentley has had the same fate as Riley in the legislative arena. This is perplexing given that Bentley is a Republican with a Republican legislature. He and the legislature have been on the same page with the right wing social issues that have been front and center. However, the legislature has shut him out when it comes to the state purse strings. This current session is a perfect example.

The reason for Bentley's irrelevance is because he is too much of a nice guy. That demeanor and persona make him extremely popular with the people of Alabama. However, he does not have the killer instinct or political savvy of Wallace. In politics, and especially in the legislative arena, nice guys finish last.

Be SAFE when driving - remember to BUCKLE UP and NO TEXTING!

The Alabama Gazette

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

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The Education Station...

By Bobbie Ames

AMERICA'S HISTORIC EDUCATION: The Christian Idea of Man and Government

"As men, we have God for our King, and are under the Law of Reason: as Christians, we have Jesus the Messiah for our King, and are under the law revealed by Him in the Gospel."

John Locke, "The Reasonableness of Christianity," 1695.

"...The right to freedom being the gift of God Almighty..."

The Rights of the Colonists as Christians...may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the Institutes of the great Law Giver...which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament."

Samuel Adams, "Rights of the Colonists," 1772.

"YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

John 8:32.

Thus was born a new civilization: the Republican form of government. It was an exciting time in World History. The Protestant Reformation was in full force. It was a wonderful period of new discoveries in the universe. A liberating principle of Individuality coupled with spiritual liberty brought true spiritual freedom for the individual. While this concept first permeated only the Church of the day, it would soon advance to the State of the day.

What a contrast, this new idea to contradict the pagan world's view of man. In the old view of man, he had value only as he fitted into the structure of the political world around him. What were his contributions to the political system? While some men might be elevated, the majority were ignored, the poor, the captives, the women. The struggle with these conflicting views continued for centuries. Even after Rome fell, the old view of man lived on, that man was only of value as he contributed to the State. Arbitrary Power existed in ecclesiastical as well as the political realms.

And with the Protestant Reformation came the brilliant "thinkers" who realized that the State exists for Man, and not Man for the State. Men like John Milton, John Locke, and America's Founding Fathers held to this Eternal Truth.

America's History rests on two documents chiefly: The Declaration of Independence and The U. S. Constitution. The New Testament is the treasury of Truth from which these documents came to be. The idealistic goals of the Founders were to establish a form of government which would protect a social and political order reflecting the Biblical mandate for man and government. This embraced the Christian individual, the family, and society. We often quote the Mayflower Compact's words of purpose: ... "for propagating and advancing the Gospel of the kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world."

What was it that they left behind in the pagan world of the past? The pagan view of the culture was that decisions for man were to be made by the institutions of the day, whether Church or State, whichever hierarchy was in control. Therein was Sovereignty and the powerful would dictate to the individual man. Ignored was the fact that man was created in the very image of the Creator, and had eternal value.

Centralization was the norm. The flow of power and force was always from the top down in the pagan world...power and force flowing through appointees. Unregenerate man was helpless, unable to overcome it. This pagan idea of man and government had prevailed for centuries, unchallenged.

With the Protestant Reformation came the liberation of the individual man. Through the teaching of the Scriptures, he was revealed as free and independent, and governed by the God who had created him. He saw himself as equal to any other individual under God's Law, and under Civil Law as well. He also learned that this new found Liberty was provided under, and within, the Law of God.

The Protestant Church was both local and self-governing, itself operating as a little republic. The new concept of government, being eternal,

was liberating and challenging. With Liberty living internally in the very soul of man, man's new government of Grace by Faith, would flow from the "inside out."

While the old world awarded liberty to a few and never many, the New Christian concept promoted voluntary union with diversity; united by covenants, creeds, laws, and by representative union. All the while, carefully guarded was the Liberty of Conscience under God's Laws - Conscience being the most Sacred of all Property.

Where are we today in America? Is there evidence that we have lost the Christian idea of Man and Government as the basis of our political, social, and governmental structure? Is there evidence that the power of "We the People" has been usurped by a political force intent on promoting a one-world, centralized, totalitarian government?

Are we losing the distinctive of our Christian idea of an individual created by God, for Self-government, and true Liberty? And if so, how do we cast off the old pagan idea of top down structures such as are evident today?

The colonial records of the earliest colonists, over and over, express their convictions that their **"liberty is more precious than their very lives."** For America to be the champion and example of Christian self-government once again, we have to follow the same path of the Founders of this Christian Constitutional Republic.

For the individual with conviction, these would be a beginning toward restoration:

1. **Search the Scriptures, believing that they are infallible.**
2. **Recover the language of Liberty, found only in the 1828 Webster Dictionary. (see footnote)**
3. **Study America's Providential History and the Truth of her glorious past. (see footnote)**
4. **Join with others; family, church, neighborhood, small groups, together on a mission to reclaim liberty, praying for revival and restoration for our beloved nation so blessed by God.**

The restructuring of American Education has been a long process over more than half a century. The first changes were, the denial of the Infallibility of the

Scriptures, the teaching of Evolution as fact, instead of theory and the replacing of accurate History with Social Studies. The terms Globalism, and Global Age, and such references, were a clue that change agents were looking at atheistic models of government. The changes to world government would have to come through changes in Education. That was obvious to them.

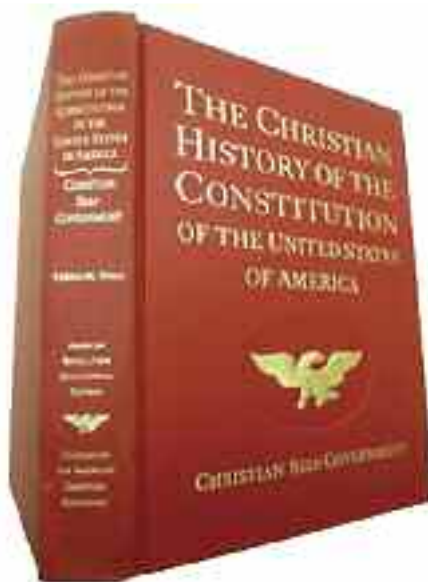
Progressive educators began, decades ago, looking at Russia, and even China, as models for implementing global objectives in education. Educators in the Reagan administration were aware of such disastrous ideas being circulated, but unfortunately few became alarmed. The ideas have advanced through both Republican and Democrat administrations for decades, as the Federal Department of Education has expanded in power and determination. Totally secular now for decades, sex education is shockingly immoral through the Common Core endorsed and **alleged to be "health education"**. **Moral absolutes are not to be found in government education.**

Perhaps the greatest travesty of all is the abandonment of the Family structures in American culture: sons without fathers, mothers under great stress, and parents giving up the education of their children to the State. The toll is taken when the home is not the primary influence in the nurture and character training of children. The ancient Church concept of the body of Christ was: "The Church ALIVE in the home. " This is God's plan. The Church was alive in Abraham's tent, and in David's palace. The Church: invisible and universal, is, was, and forever will be God's plan.

The Christian idea of man and government should be American Education 101. Yes, in the home, in the church, in every state, and at every national level thereby, prevailing once again in the public square. Could we together, reclaim this heritage of Christian self-government - with union; thereby restoring our Christian Constitutional Republic for our children, our grandchildren, those of us who have experienced liberty, and for those who long for it.

RESTORING OUR REPUBLIC - THIS IS OUR CHALLENGE.

1. *The source for Websters 1828 Dictionary as well as the 2 volumes, The Christian History of the Constitution, published by The Foundation for American Christian Education, Chesapeake, Va.*
2. *For information and ordering, visit website www.FACE.net.*
3. *We featured America's Providential History last month. It is available from the Providence Foundation. www.providencefoundation.com. Recommendation of other primary source documents are available from these two foundations, and from the writer of this column.*



EMERALD MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ANNOUNCES REGISTRATION FOR 2015- 2016

Emerald Mountain Christian School is a non-denominational, college preparatory Christian school, located on Rifle Range Road close to the Emerald Mountain Community. Families from Montgomery, Elmore, and Autauga Counties are invited to call for information and to make an appointment to visit the campus. Shuttle service to and from East Montgomery is offered daily during the school year.

The school, long celebrated for its faithful teaching of a Biblical World and Life View taught through all subjects, will celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2015. Loyal to the Protestant Reformed Faith and its Creeds, still embraced by conservative Presbyterians and Baptists, the school continues to educate the whole child. Widely known for academic excellence spanning the last five decades, the percentage of graduates receiving scholarships and successes in careers, has been consistent for this institution.

- The school's tuition is very affordable, as we are a ministry first for Christian families in the area.
- Scholarship opportunities are offered to full-time Law Enforcement officers and Military families.
- Discounts are offered to families with more than one student, thus further defraying the cost of our whole family enrollment policy.

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Ronald A. Holtsford

What are the types of lawyers?



United States lawyers or attorneys practice in many areas such as insurance defense, consumer issues, elder law, social security, admiralty, estate planning, bankruptcy, tax, business entities, criminal, health law, military, divorce, adoption, probate, immigration, government related and many other areas. As a guess there are probably more than forty or so practice areas. Additionally, beyond the Juris Doctorate (JD) degree or older LL.B (Bachelor of Laws), attorneys may seek a Master of Laws (LLM)

specialization degree such as in tax, elder law, etc. But even beyond the LLM, attorneys may seek a Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.S.D.), Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.), Doctor of Comparative Law (D.C.L.) or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) which may be useful in an academic or scholarship type position.

Generally, I suppose lawyers fall into four major groups, which is purely just my opinion. There are litigators, transactional attorneys, appellate attorneys and members of the judiciary.

Litigators fall on both the plaintiff and defense sides of civil litigation and on the prosecution and defense sides of criminal matters. Litigators I think experience the highest stress levels and are subjects of numerous movies, television shows and books. The perception of litigators can be very exciting. Certainly you will recall the attorneys that defended OJ Simpson (his legal dream team) but you may remember little about the prosecution. The job of OJ's defense team was to make the prosecution prove to the jury beyond a reasonable doubt that OJ had murdered his wife and her companion. No matter what your feeling was about OJ's innocence or guilt, the legal defense team succeeded with the jury. With the threshold lower in the civil matter, the plaintiff attorneys were successful in obtaining a judgment against OJ. More recently there have been cases concerning Jodi Arias and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. The public follow these trials even though the names of the attorneys are not as popular as OJ's team. Litigators that go to trial go through considerable preparation to prove their point. While most of the success is aligned with building the better case and having the truth on your side, some attorneys are very quick with quips and may compel the jury to choose whatever position that attorney has taken for his or her client. I think that many of my friends that litigate do not enjoy it but certainly do what is necessary to represent their client in whatever matter.

The class that I am more closely aligned with are transactional lawyers. Transactional attorneys may litigate or attend hearings from time to time but the majority of their practice is providing the proper legal documents and proper wording for their client's issues. This may include the preparation of a Last Will and Testament, a Trust, a contract, real estate closing documents, Medicaid applications, powers of attorney, etc. Certainly the stress is not as great as litigation, but for instance I find Medicaid applications stressful. Thinking about it, you guide your client until they have less than \$2,000.00 plus excludables. If you do something that causes the client to be turned down, then you may have a very ill client who has no ability to pay for skilled nursing home care and a family

that cannot give proper care. Just as with physicians who make life and death health decisions, so do lawyers make decisions that may not be reversed.

I am calling the third group, appellate attorneys. These attorneys, while often participating as litigators may have a majority appellate practice. Appeals may be in the form of a submitted appellate brief either for the appellant or appellee (respondent) and they may require oral arguments before the various appellate courts. An appellant in an appeal court is the loser at the trial or lower appellate level (they could have originally been the plaintiff, defense or prosecutor). The appellate courts are typically thought of as State appellate courts (Civil Court of Appeals, Criminal Court of Appeals and Supreme Court) and the various Federal appeal courts both Federal Circuit and District Courts with impanelled justices that may hear civil and/or criminal appeals and of course the United States Supreme Court which is the supreme law of the land. Even though an attorney may be admitted to a State Court system, each attorney must gain admission to practice before the various appellate courts. While it is rather easy to be admitted to practice before the Federal District Courts of a State after being admitted to the State Bar, there is a higher level required to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

The final class I will call the judiciary. These of course are our judges of all courts probate, district, circuit appellate, Federal levels and the justices of the United States Supreme Court. They are proven in their knowledge of the law and while their earnings may be less than that of very successful litigators, their prestige and respect are a pinnacle of their careers. Finally as a note of interest Alabama Probate Judges do not have to be an attorney but have the ability to rely on their staff attorneys, clerks and educational opportunities to become very competent at what they do.

If you ask another attorney they may divide the active lawyers into a greater or lesser number of groups, this is just my grouping.

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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Marcia Chambliss



CRY WOLF SYNDROME

A recent opinion piece from James Spann, Chief Meteorologist for ABC 33/40 in Birmingham regarding severe weather explored the various reasons that Alabamians fail to heed the warnings of approaching dangerous storms. Based on meteorologists' collaboration with social scientists studying why there was such a tremendous loss of life from the April 27, 2011 tornadoes despite the timely warnings of that day, Spann relates that he learned many things.

Given that my interest leans towards all things political, Spann's first conclusion that there are "too many false alarms" leading to a "cry wolf syndrome" was an analogy of why Alabamians are also reluctant to pay attention to the current woes of the 2015 legislative session and the General Fund budget.

Along with a failure to respond to severe weather alerts, too many Alabamians, and an alarming majority of Americans for that matter, disregard the danger signs of government spending beyond its means at ALL levels, and only a major catastrophe of monumental proportions is likely to wake up the masses.

I have no doubt that we have a General Fund problem in Alabama but haven't we known for years that this crisis was coming? When Gov. Robert Bentley and other influential lobbying organizations encouraged a "yes" vote on the September 2012

amendment that "borrowed" from the Alabama Trust Fund, didn't many conservatives warn that this was only a short-term solution to a long-term problem? I might be more likely to give a pass to those newly elected to the legislative body, but what about those re-elected this past November? Quite a few of those members have been serving for more than one quadrennial term and have in fact been far too aware of the "kick-the-can" method of dealing with our General Fund, and that applies to Democrats as well as Republicans.

Every political pundit across the state is offering solutions to the funding crisis and many mainstream journalists are pointing fingers with glee at the increasing drama being played out with Gov. Bentley pushing for tax increases against the resistance of the Republican legislative body.

Because I believe in a more limited government, I tend to lean towards starving the beast so that we can truly determine the essential role of government at a state and federal level. Whether we reduce the size and scope of government or raise taxes, there will be pain because it's time to face some hard truth about our state government.

On April 21st, Gov. Bentley released a 9-page memorandum to the State Legislature outlining the pain and suffering to come should the legislative body not concur with his budget and tax proposal. It's ugly reading and is guaranteed to

prompt an even uglier response from citizens across Alabama. Will everything come to fruition should Gov. Bentley's tax increases not be enacted? No one has that crystal ball but I am sure that agency heads presented a worst-case scenario, and I also tend to believe that government, by nature, does not voluntarily shrink or relinquish funding without a great degree of gloom and doom prognostications. We've heard these warnings before with little to no negative consequences; however, we have relied far too heavily in the past on federal or borrowed funding to keep the state government operating and/or growing beyond its means, and looming shortfalls were disguised with Band-Aid solutions.

So it should come as no surprise that Alabamians are now discounting these warnings. After all, were we not told by numerous candidates in the last election cycle, including Gov. Bentley, just how wonderful things were in our state?

But in all honesty, I can't place all the blame on politicians' campaign rhetoric of how great we're doing financially – John and Jane Q. Public likely don't want to know the truth and based on the way we vote, whether at the local, state, or federal level, most are fairly content with growing government and helping to kick that can down the road along with those we elect.

Marcia Chambliss is the Alabama State Coordinator of Smart Girl Politics, a 501(c)(3) non-profit which focuses on conservative issues. She can be reached at: Marcia@sgpaction.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics.

STATE OF ALABAMA NEEDS MONEY! DRAFT BILL CALLS FOR LOTTERY, FOUR CASINOS IN ALABAMA...

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, lotteries and gift enterprises are prohibited by Section 65 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. This bill proposes an amendment to Section 65 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901 to establish an Alabama Lottery and the Alabama Lottery Corporation; to authorize and regulate gaming by the entities currently licensed to conduct pari-mutuel wagering at the four existing racetracks in Alabama where pari-mutuel wagering is currently legal; to levy a state gross receipts tax and a local gross receipts tax on gaming revenue of the racetracks; to levy a tax on vendors of gaming equipment; to provide for the disposition of lottery proceeds and state gaming tax proceeds; to create the Alabama Lottery and Gaming Commission to implement, regulate, and administer gaming and regulate and supervise the Alabama Lottery and Alabama Lottery Corporation; to authorize the Governor to negotiate a compact for gaming with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians; and to require the Legislature to pass general laws to implement the amendment.





**John
Sophocleus**

THINK

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



ANOTHER EPISODE OF BOB & MIKE SHOW: *Trouble in fallen paradise...*

In our current episode 'as the corruption churns' in the Heart of Dixie, Big Daddy Bob and step-child Mike Boulevard are having a spat over inability to pay future legal bills without Daddy's help. Seems as serial felony indictments proceed through the process, Mr. Boulevard is having trouble acquiring more unsecured loans and contributions as more political hacks discount the probability he can retain his 'Spender of the House' position as auctioneer of future theft from taxpayers. Sad to witness how few on Goat Hill had the courage to stand up to his thuggish rule when re-installing this 'public servant' into the powerful leadership position. Boulevard's desperation grows palpable as the big hogs at the through lift their heads from sloppin' long enough to contemplate the future of their largess. Realizing their 'malevolent benefactor' may be going down, smart hogs won't keep churning their money into this once 'sure thing' political jack-pot graftmaster machine. Remember these hogs don't like gambling...

Trouble in this fallen paradise is now at an impasse with the so-called, "Accountability Act" for those who appreciate irony in nomenclature of this farce. The transfer of taxpayer dollars to a special account for Big Daddy to fork out (after the 'proper' cut is siphoned to Daddy) was not easily greased through the legal-political process as planned. It needs a 'legislative refresher' from Goat Hill. Daddy Bob is "Too Big to Fail" in our little New South version of O'Bush Republicrat bailouts. Suddenly Mr. Boulevard is not necessarily cooperating like the "good ol' sycophant step-son days" of past seasons' episodes. Sometimes even the dullest in the den of thieves can sense they're fixin' to be kicked to curb. Now Big Daddy's REALLY on edge. Stay tuned to see who steps up to 'save the day' and pay those legal bills... then watch what magically makes it through the goat sausage grinder. In short, the **'Bobbin' for Scholarship Dollars:** Charter School Edition" gameshow may not get 'syndication' in the Heart of Dixie this session - well see.

Honor among thieves has limits; even among our political thieves in a state with some of the most restrictive, anti-competitive ballot access laws in the nation. Disciplining this sort of growing corruption, becoming ever more embedded into the fabric of this state, takes much longer in an environment where most viewers can not even begin to identify the sources of the problem.

Some question the current plot in wonderment of why we're still suffering this "Spender of House" saga, unfamiliar with past Bob & Mike episodes. Specifically, why are **twenty-plus** felony indictments (from actions taken so long ago) not already tried and decided in Nottingham's Circuit Court? In last season's episodes of 'The Bob & Mike Show,' support from Big Daddy and other well moneyed minions delay justice, esp. when facing an excellent jurist who endures great pains and effort to provide ALL opportunities for defense. This enables much stalling to postpone judicial discipline when voters don't do their job and their Mayor and esp. Sheriff of Nottingham profess "Belief in Mr. Boulevard." The productive citizens suffer while those willing and able to abuse the system continue churning their corruption. Rescheduling Boulevard's trial till next season (forecasted 'air date' sometime in October) does chill future charges of "unfair" to have the stress of litigation while the legislature is in session, but also means enduring another helpin' of this 'public servant's' stewardship. Mission accomplished; the House of Cards will remain standing for another season! Live audience comments Boulevard should care about his good name and have it addressed immediately are quickly booed and shouted down by loyal Mike fans and minions...

The stall prior to the primary election was something to behold - more pressing with an outstanding opponent making Mr. Boulevard feel heat from a smart, honest coffee makin' real businessman in the community. Mike can't imagine there are in fact businesspeople in his district who actually make it on their own acumen and efforts without government favoritism. Certainly a much more difficult candidate for the graftmaster attack machine to discredit. Forecasting defeat if voters saw the indictments and actually showed at the primary polls, the machine went into overdrive with a mix of shameless ads using everything from his children and unethical sheriff as shields to bombing the airwaves with negative campaign ads to accomplish the result of low turnout. Packing the court with motions as an integral part of the stall also racked up bills pressing Boulevard's current financial constraints. Estimates well in excess of \$1 million in a primary (not including 'in-kind' support) for a job which pays \$40k/year speaks for itself.

Other pundits of the show found the unusual mix and content of campaign ads/spending outside

Boulevard's district against a "paper" candidate (to protect the duopoly) in the general election more an effort to impact a future jury pool than any serious worries about the outcome. That was determined with the primary reelection result into his hyper-gerrymandered district; Republicrats block competition in the general election. Boulevard's big money campaign banked on providing the usual 'low turnout' result where his minions can carry the day as exasperated voters foolishly stay away from the polls, fed up with the duopoly strangling their State. Perhaps voters will learn to go to general elections and write-in something to be counted and express it is NOT apathy, nor satisfaction keeping them from exercising their right to vote.

One of the more interesting back stories of this current episode is the legislative payoff (raise in pay to triple digits) to the 'Sheriff of Nottingham' for publicly professing his "Belief in Mr. Boulevard" as an ACTIVE grand jury investigated suspicious actions. The House auctioneer must establish he still CAN reward his minions and disproportionately take from and punish producers; Big Daddy's watching. As the county's chief law enforcement officer in Nottingham, it was a huge contribution to come out and VERY publicly witness for Boulevard BEFORE indictments, elections and trial. TWENTY-Plus felony indictments LATER one would think it time for the Sheriff of Nottingham to apologize for unethical (at best) behavior and certainly NOT be rewarded in legislature, but this is just satire - another episode in political comedy. The biggest laugh line from the live audience this show was suggesting the Nottingham Co. Commission reprimand their Sheriff and request Heart of Dixie Ethics Commission investigatin' and opinin' on the matter!

Enough type in fun and jest and onto more important matters of the Spirit. I suspect most readers are not surprised by modern Nimrods who want to get others to believe their blessings flow from government and build new and improved towers of hubris for God to collapse upon them. At the more micro level it seems wise to remember **Job 17:13 KJV** - "I have made my bed in the darkness. I have said to corruption, Thou art my father: to the worm, Thou art my mother, and my sister." Be wary of those who make corrupt men of this world their father (to the point of naming their own children accordingly) instead of following their Heavenly Father. **Genesis 23:15** teaches us to love God even more than our children if you want their lives and posterity to be blessed. The righteous of the Old Testament are indeed excellent examples, yet Jesus Christ remains the best example to follow. Easter/Pascha now over, does anyone really think there are no Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, Pilate, Tiberius, et al types today to navigate? It is foolish to ignore the efforts and outcomes these past two thousand years by those who've struggled to follow His path. Biased toward orthodox Christianity, namesakes are very important and revealing toward what we want our children to be; those who'll follow the path to God or follow those into darkness.

The next which comes to mind, **Matthew 6:24 KJV** - "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." As corruption further envelopes our State and nation only fools

refuse to see the majority turning to mammon and belief one's blessings flow from man (modern Nimrods) which naturally turns to hatred and loathing of God as Matthew explains above. At risk of being redundant my last Christmas column lamented on how few (a mere 50 righteous souls, a little less than 5%) would've spared Sodom according to **Genesis 18:26**. As I struggle, in full knowledge of God's blessing/revelation of His Son's path, I not only wonder if I'm worthy to be enumerated with the righteous, but if there may be 5% for a long enough duration to shepherd forward out of the current result.

The rhetoric is nothing new, but it is vulgar to this Christian to hear my 'public servants' espouse "Belief in Politician X" as they wouldn't dream to publicly espouse belief in God if they had it. Better still, stick to publicly standing for the truth and an unimpeded process for justice instead of feigned fidelity to liberty while facilitating corruption and tyranny. Again nothing according to **2 Peter 2:19 KJV** - "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption." Most comforting is God as my hope for change (not Bush, Clinton, Dole, Gore, McCain, Obama, Romney, et al) to shepherd our path, even for those in their last moments of just earthly punishment as the penitent thief at Golgotha. We still do have reason to be thankful for sufficiently rebuked and honorable men like Gregory Wren who saved us the cost and further embarrassment by pleading guilty, resigning from office and allow justice to better proceed. May our Heavenly Father see fit to receive Rep. Wren in his final and most important Judgment. Please also keep Mr. Hubbard (and his minions who believe in him) in prayer follow Mr. Wren's honorable example and path of the penitent thief in preservation of their souls and allow us to move forward out of the darkness they've cast upon our State. No matter how much one believes in their modern Nimrods - in the end God wins, Deo Vindice.

Postscript: those who want more on modern application instead of satire and scripture, over half of our state legislators in Alabama got into office without opposition. Currently a few are working to do something about it. SB221 significantly reduces the number signatures requirement for ballot access. Perhaps when good folks understand the power of being identified as the block of votes which BEATS the margin of victory and actually VOTE in GENERAL elections (establish themselves a pro-active block) THEN candidates who want to win must pay attention to the block determining the outcome. Competition will compel change from the controlled, corrupted result we currently observe. Marshall County's Constitution Party recently worked very hard (earned 35% of the vote) to be allowed minor party status/ballot access at the county level. In Elmore County, they (CP) missed qualifying by only a few percentage points under this barrier to entry and abomination to candidate/voter rights. This is an outstanding 'beach-head' earned in spite of all the barriers in place to keep competition out - pray for it to grow/expand to more counties throughout Alabama as more learn what a mistake it was to allow return of the corrupt Republican Party back into our State instead of REPLACING the modern Democratic Party.



ROBSERVATIONS...

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

by Robert Tate

In The Workplace

SELECTION, TRAINING AND STANDARDIZATION: Often overlooked keys to safety and success.

On 24 March 2015, Germanwings Flight 9525, an Airbus A320-200 crashed into the French Alps killing all 150 people onboard. Things instantly didn't seem right and almost immediately authorities knew for sure that the 27 year-old German copilot, Andreas Lubitz, intentionally flew the airplane into the mountains. Having flown for Delta for 18 years and 12 years before that in the Air Force, I know a little about the subject of flight safety. I know many of you have questions because I am continually answering them either at home, at church, in hotels or at the airport. I will not claim to have all the answers and I will not go into any wild speculations about this accident. The issue of air safety is a serious topic and will be treated as such. The loss of any airliner, passengers and crew is something we all in the industry are deeply saddened by. Before we take a look at pilot selection and training, let's first take a short trip on the Rob Tate time machine.

Sunday night, 14 April 1912, at approximately 2340 local time, the RMS Titanic's brush with an iceberg sealed not only its fate, but forever locked that event into maritime lore. The fact that the mighty steamer died 2 hours and 40 minutes after the collision is not the only story here. Neither is the fact that out of some 2,207 souls on board, 1,502 of them perished in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. What is important, however, is that in the midst of this most tragic of avoidable events, many people died needlessly due to deficiencies in White Star Line crew training and standardization.

Looking back through the rose-colored glasses of historical hindsight, if it were not so tragic, White Star's lack of standardization and training for the Titanic crew would be almost laughable. It has been reported that prior to leaving Southampton, England none of the crew had been given lifeboat drills or training. Indeed, the highest ranking surviving crewmember, Charles Lightoller, testified that Lifeboat 6 for example, was filled with as many people as he (not White Star) considered safe. He also testified that he (not the engineers who designed the ship) felt it would have been impossible to lower the lifeboats to the water while filled to capacity since the mechanism to lower the boats would likely collapse under the weight. Lifeboat 6 was therefore launched with only 28 people when the lifeboats had been tested and certified to carry 65 adult males.

Likewise, on the morning of tragedy Captain Smith cancelled a scheduled life boat drill in order to allow people to attend church. Finally, while some crewmembers allowed men to board the lifeboats if no women were present, other crewmembers refused even if that meant sending the boats out only partially filled. The results should not be surprising. What we clearly see was a dire situation aggravated by a crew who not only lacked the requisite emergency training but a crew that willfully discarded safety training for their passengers and lacked a consistent standardized approach to the completion of their duties.

PILOT SELECTION

I may be a bit biased here, but I believe the pilot selection process to be one of the most rigorous and exacting around. All I can do is speak of my experiences in the Air Force and at Delta. I will tell you the testing is long and arduous, the training thorough and draining. From initial testing where a lot of people fail, to the annual flight physicals, thousands of would be Air Force pilots are weeded out long before they ever step inside a jet. I am sure this is true in the other services as well. Once you have made it "into the club," now you, the perspective pilot must put book knowledge together with eye hand coordination and the ability to think and perform while moving a couple of hundred miles per hour. A lot of guys in my AF pilot training class, a heck of a lot smarter than me got cut from the program because they couldn't perform in the cockpit.

Rigorous selection ensures these losses are kept to a minimum. As for me at Delta, once I made that decision, more tests, more physicals and even having to complete the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-2). This test consists of some 567 questions (or the abbreviated 370 question test) that asks simple questions to investigate and expose any dark parts of one's personality that may hinder the ability to safely operate a passenger airplane and operate within the "box" that Delta is looking for. Once the test was completed and evaluated, if we passed (and some guys don't), then we had a sit down with a psychiatrist. Once you passed this hurdle, on to training we went.

I cannot speak of Lufthansa's or Germanwings' process, but for us in the states, we have a very rigorous process that weeds out almost all of those who should not be flying. Face it, folks. No system is 100% foolproof. Trust me, if our elected officials had the rigorous selection process of pilots, we would be in a much better place today.

TRAINING

Any expert, regardless of the nature of their business, will tell you the importance of training. In many cases, it is training that separates success from

failure and for those professions entrusted with the safety and survival of its customers, this is even more important. In my opinion as a professional pilot, there is nothing more important and critical to safe operation than a robust initial training, continuation training and standardization program.

In the airline industry, pilot training is thorough and intense. It helps that most major airlines hire pilots with thousands of hours of flying time, but still our training involves detailed systems knowledge of the aircraft we will be flying, cockpit procedural training, flight management system training and eventually training in the full motion simulators. There we learn to fly the airplane and are able to practice both normal and emergency procedures. All of this training is designed to ensure pilots are capable of performing to a set standard when we finally get to the real aircraft. Even after we reach "the line," our first flights are with an instructor who further trains us on more line oriented operations. For those who cannot perform satisfactorily, they are unceremoniously released from the company. But it is this training that results in such a high rate of safety for our passengers.



DELTA FLIGHT 191

On the afternoon of 2 August 1985, a Delta L-1011 on approach to Dallas-Ft Worth encountered a severe windshear condition. A windshear is a rapid change in wind speed and direction that can have dire effects on the performance capabilities of any aircraft encountering the shear. In addition to changes in wind speed and/or direction, significant vertical downdrafts can occur. If an airplane is too low to recover, these vertical wind components can slam the aircraft into the ground. On this afternoon, the Delta L-1011 encountered such a shear with subsequent downdraft.

Flight 191's normal approach speed (Vref) was 149 knots and when the aircraft first encountered the windshear, the airspeed rapidly increased to 173 knots. As the pilots corrected, the decreasing performance portion of the shear made the airspeed rapidly drop off to 133 knots and then dramatically down to 119 knots; a full 30 knots below Vref. Associated with the decrease in airspeed was a pronounced downdraft that drove the aircraft toward the ground at 1700 feet per minute. On a normal precision instrument approach, the vertical speed (VSI) is approximately 700 fpm. The result? Delta flight 191 impacted the ground over a mile from the approach end to runway 17L, bounced, hit a car on the highway and finally crashed after hitting two 4-million gallon water tanks at the airport. 8 crew, 126 passengers and one person on the highway died in the crash.

THE UPSIDE?

Because of this accident there immediately became an increased awareness of windshear associated with large thunderstorms. As a result, at least at my airline, every year during continuation training, a portion of our simulator training is dedicated to recognition and practicing the standard recovery procedure should windshear be encountered. In addition to these procedures, aircraft and airports have radar systems that also detect and help us avoid windshear since early detection affords a better opportunity to escape its deadly power.

This is just one area where our training increases your safety. From engine failures, electric, hydraulic and other mechanical malfunctions to standard normal operating procedures that carry us through our daily flying, it is our robust training that ensures continued safe operation. The remarkable and unquestioned safety record of the American airline industry is a testament to both the quality of people flying our airplanes as well as the value of such training.

Johns Hopkins researchers have stated that between 1983 and 1996, of the 371 major airline crashes they identified, 38% were attributed to pilot error. (Not bad considering I bet close to 99% of all car accidents are driver error) Of the 1,735 commuter accidents, 74% were pilot error while 85% of the 29,798 general aviation accidents can be attributed to pilot error. These represent the reality that better trained pilots have fewer accidents. Likewise, their findings show that between 1983 and 1989, pilot error accounted for 43% of airline accidents and in the 1960s pilots were responsible for 45-65% of the airline accidents. These figures further illustrate that better training in addition to better equipment continues to reduce the number of airline accidents.

What makes the airline industry so successful, however, is that once accidents occur (and they are inevitable), the FAA and individual companies quickly identify the problem and work to train crews up to a standard so as not to repeat the same accident. Certainly when one looks at the history of air disasters flown by professional pilots, seldom do you see the exact same mistake twice. Although there are areas that need constant vigilance and continued training like runway incursions at some of the busiest and most confusing airports around the world, excellent crew selection and training continues to be the linchpin to our successful aviation system.

Wetumpka Tea Party

Join Us Monday, May 18th, 2015
6:30 pm

Elmore Community Hospital

Guest Speaker

Dr. Sorenson

from the Air War College at
Maxwell Air Force Base

Topic: Islam / ISIS



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Woods & Waters with Steve



Steve Long

Alabama State Trap tournament coming to Dixie Trap and Skeet

For many hunters in Alabama, it's been a great few weeks of turkey hunting! The season has just ended, and hopefully everybody had a good, safe time. For many folks that enjoy spending their time in the outdoors, camping, fishing, and boating are some of the things they get to look forward to this time of year. But don't put those shells down just yet; there's still another sport to look forward to.

Trap shooting is the most popular shotgun shooting sport in the US, with a vast following. Trap shooting involves shooting at a moving target, made of clay. Shooters, usually in a squad of five, stand in an arc behind what is called a trap house. The trap house is where the clay targets are launched from. There are five positions in the arc, with a shooter in each position. When it's a shooter's turn, they put their shotgun to their shoulder, and

when ready, call out "Pull!" This lets the trap house operator, or the microphone attached to a signal, know to launch a target, which the shooter tries to shoot down. The targets themselves are brightly colored clay discs. Each shooter takes a turn, and after five turns in the same position, the shooters then rotate to the next position in the arc. Eventually, each shooter will have 25 targets pulled. A scorekeeper sitting behind the shooters keeps track of hits and lost targets, and calls them out after shot. In singles, it's one target at a time, but in doubles, two targets fly out in different directions at the same time.

The sport is very competitive, and constantly growing. Tournaments are held regularly, and there are state-wide tournaments held every year. In Alabama, the ASTA, or Alabama State Trap Association, is a non-profit organization that dedicates themselves to helping ensure safety and fun for all members in trap shooting, with Tim Hall as President. The ASTA sponsors an annual competition for the state, which is held this year at the Dixie Trap Club, owned by Bill Parsons. This year the State tournament will be held from May 29th thru the 31st, so far 180 shooters have signed up for this year's tournament, which is sure to be a blast for everyone involved!

If it seems like it might be a bit overwhelming for someone without a lot of experience, don't worry! There are lots of local clubs that promote trap shooting, like Dixie Trap Club, and Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club. They are members' clubs, but member fees are always affordable. Much like golf, trap shooting has different classifications for shooters, and the fine folks at these clubs have the right setup for shooters of any level. For more info, feel free to visit www.dixietrap.com, www.lwssc.com, and www.alabamatrap.com!

Lily Cole with her first turkey she harvested with Steve Long at Great Southern Outdoors in Bullock County

A few birds harvested at the turkey rodeo at Great Southern outdoors in Bullock County

Squirrels

"The Kritter Korner"

Squirrels are familiar to almost everyone. Yes, our cute squirrel friends are in fact part of a huge family of Squirrels (Sciuridae) which also makes them cousins of prairie dogs, the woodchucks, the amazing flying squirrel and both tree and ground squirrels. The Squirrels are pretty widespread too because their kin can be seen all over the trees, parks and woodlands across the globe— Australia, Asia and the Europe.

There are more than 200 squirrel species live all over the world, with the notable exception of Australia. The tiniest squirrel is the aptly named African pygmy squirrel—only five inches long from nose to

tail. Others reach sizes shocking to those who are only familiar with common tree squirrels. The Indian giant squirrel is three feet (almost a meter) long.

Like other rodents, squirrels have four front teeth that never stop growing so they don't wear down from the constant gnawing. Tree squirrels are the types most commonly recognized, often seen gracefully scampering and leaping from branch to branch. Other species are ground squirrels that live in burrow or tunnel systems, where some hibernate during the winter season. Ground squirrels eat nuts, leaves, roots, seeds, and other plants. They also catch and eat small animals, such as insects and caterpillars. These small mammals must always be wary of predators because they are tasty morsels with

few natural defenses, save flight. Sometimes groups of ground squirrels work together to warn each other of approaching danger with a whistling call. Tree squirrels are commonly seen everywhere from woodlands to city parks. Though they are terrific climbers, these squirrels do come to the ground in search of fare such as nuts, acorns, berries, and flowers. They also eat bark, eggs, or baby birds. Tree sap is a delicacy to some species. Flying squirrels are a third, adaptable type of squirrel. They live something like birds do, in nests or tree holes, and al-

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RED SQUIRREL

though they do not fly, they can really move across the sky. Flying squirrels glide, extending their arms and legs and coasting through the air from one tree to another. Flaps of skin connecting limbs to body provide a wing like surface. These gliding leaps can exceed 150 feet (46 meters). Flying squirrels eat nuts and fruit, but also catch insects and even baby birds. Whether they dwell high in a tree or in an underground burrow, female squirrels typically give birth to two to eight offspring.

Babies are blind and totally dependent on their mothers for two or three months. Mothers may have several litters in a year, so most squirrel populations are robust. Baby squirrels are called kittens. The female squirrel breeds twice a year once in the spring and once at the end of summer resulting in the birth of two to eight kittens. A group of squirrels is called a Scurry.



GREY SQUIRREL

BEST OF THE WEST



With all of the SEC spring football games completed, one can better make a determination as to who is improved, who has digressed and who remains relatively the same. All spring games are for basically three reasons. **First** the coaches need to look at some of their younger players in a game situation as similar as possible to a regular football game. Remember, many of these players have not played in a game in two years in some cases. The coaching staff likes to evaluate their performance in front of a big crowd in game situations. Believe it or not, some players are

Amari Cooper. Sims set many Alabama records on the way to losing two games and being dominated by Arkansas and LSU in two others, a combination of Sims and Coker would have avoided a sub-par season for Alabama.

Jacob Coker transferred from Florida State thinking he could be the quarterback at Alabama. That was pre-Kiffin. This spring Kiffin is now stuck with Coker being the best choice at the end of spring, but a senior quarterback with very little game experience. Bad management! Based on my observation alone at the spring game, Jake Coker would start for Alabama if the Wisconsin game was in May. Also, it is my belief that the experiment with Cooper Bateman at wide receiver is over. Bateman, a redshirt sophomore, was the number three quarterback in 2014, and the most valuable player in the "A" Day game in 2014. Most of the spring we heard a lot about David Cornwell, a redshirt freshman from my vantage point, Cornwell has excellent mechanics and a good quick delivery. However, Bateman just has something that makes me believe he will battle Coker for the job in August.

The problem with Alabama going into spring was said to be at the quarterback position. Alabama has five quarterbacks that could play at most Division I schools, including the true freshman, Blake Barnett. Redshirt junior Alec Morris has been in the program a long time. He looks good, but he has gained little ground on the starting job in three years. To this writer, the problem Alabama has is not quarterback but depth at running back. Derrick Henry is the "moose" on the loose for Alabama. The only problem with Henry is that he doesn't touch the ball enough. He is a 25 carry back. Senior Kenyan Drake has been a favorite of mine since his freshman year. His explosive speed and power is impressive. Let other people run go routes. Let Drake rake the defense at running back. He can use 20 carries a game if his broken leg mends as expected. Promising Bo Scarborough would have given Alabama a great trio a running back. Unfortunately his knee operation will keep him off the field until November.

Alabama lost almost the entire offensive line from 2014. Only Ryan Kelly returns at center. In fact Alabama lost nine starters off the offense. The good news is that the offensive line has developed to the point where there are ten players that could start for most teams. That is depth. They have it. Amari Cooper is gone, but Alabama will be able to spread the ball around much better in 2015 with a very good group of receivers. At this point it is baffling as to what Lane Kiffin plans to do with O. J. Howard, the best prospect at 6-6, 240 lbs. He can play tight end, flex end, slot or wide-out. He caught not a single pass in the spring game. There are other receivers that will go get the ball. So far no one has dominated in the passing game.

Defense at Alabama under Saban has always been good. That will not change. With improvement in the secondary to go with the best front seven in the SEC, Alabama will be a dominant defense.

At Auburn the entire spring has been devoted to honing the offense with junior Jeremy Johnson at quarterback, and trying to find a defense with Coach Will Muschamp's imprint. Jeremy can do more than Nick Marshall in some skill sets. He is not as quick, so the read option has to be tweaked a little. Auburn fans will be surprised at how fast he is when he gets an opening. Sean White is a 6-0, 200 lb. clone of Nick Marshall except that he is a better passer. He can win for Auburn if necessary. The freshman Tyler Queen is 6-1, 240 lbs. He has all the throws. He is intelligent under pressure. He is strong. He can play. All of this is important in regards to depth only. However, Jeremy Johnson from Carver High School in Montgomery, Alabama is THE MAN.

Malzhan has so many running backs available that if Auburn played in May, he wouldn't know who to start...Roc Thomas, Peyton Barber, Jovon Robinson---And...more are on the way. The offensive line will be a strength in 2015. A mixture of veterans and rookies has developed to give Auburn its best starting line-up of the Malzahn era. Depth will be there by the fall. Don't expect the offense to be stymied by the loss of anybody, especially wide receiver Sammy Coates, who prematurely thought that he could become a good NFL receiver before he became an excellent college receiver. He really needed another year in college. Auburn has a trio of receivers that will successfully plug the hole left by Coates. This trio along with returning senior "Duke" Williams will be hauling in passes from Jeremy Johnson this fall while Coates is covering kick-offs for an NFL team. "The Duke" will probably be the premier receiver in the SEC in 2015. His size (6-2, 225 lbs.) and his desire to get to the football is why he will be a first round draft pick in 2016.

Coach Muschamp has the hard job. He has to take two linebackers, Chris Frost and Cassanova McKenzie - two rush ends, Carl Lawson and yet to be determined, build on a defense that has been as effective as a sieve is to holding water for the last three years, and make it work. He will be experimenting with a 3-4 front seven and also a similar alignment from last year, a 4-3. In either defense there will be blitzes off the corner, blitzes from the linebackers and an "attacking" philosophy as opposed to the old system of playing off the blocker and finding the ball. This will incorporate four, five and six defensive backs at times. Auburn's secondary will be better because it couldn't get worse. Tackling will be a new skill exhibited by the defense in 2015.

Roll Tide and War Eagle!

There are only 120 days until college football!



Sports Editor, Ed Jones

practice players. They look great in practice, but do not perform well in games. Others are "gamers". They seem to be mediocre in practice, but when it is game time, their lights come on, and they perform like champions. As a coaching staff, you don't want to find which one they are against Louisville or Wisconsin before 85,000 spectators and a national TV audience. It is better to form your opinion in the spring game before a partisan crowd in a game that you can't win or lose.

The **second** reason that the "A" Day, "T" Day, "G" Day Spring Games are so important is to placate, impress or entertain your fan base. Without a large and supportive fan base, you probably don't need a football team anyway. Alabama does not charge admission to their "A" Day Game, but a program, a coke and a bag of popcorn will cost you about \$15.00. Alabama set the national record for attendance at spring games in 2007 with over 92,000 fans. That computes to about \$1,380,000.00 in added revenue to the athletic coffers. That might buy a few jockey straps. Buy the way, Ohio State broke the Tide's record this past spring with a crowd of 99,000. It was a pretty day in Columbus, Ohio for one thing. Evidently the "Buckeye Nation" were so shocked that they beat Alabama in the semi-finals of the play-off and won the national championship that they are still on an adrenalin high thinking that Ohio State will dominate the football world like the SEC has for the last nine years. They definitely will be good again in 2015. How good? Michigan State, Michigan, Wisconsin and Nebraska will tell us by November.

The **third** reason that the spring game is important is to give the players something to look forward to. Spring football practice for most players can be more boring than drudgery multiplied by four to five weeks. So the coaches can keep their young players motivated to get better every day with the hopes of showing off their talents in the "big game". The older players know what it takes to be a winning football player. They are motivated by the fact that one of these young guys are gaining on them. Therefore, everybody, coaches included, are probably more enthusiastic during spring practice than they are during the season. August practices will be planned base on how each player competed in the spring. There will be a few changes but not many. In addition, there is an opponent to focus on. Alabama will be focusing on Wisconsin from now through preseason right up to game time. Auburn will be doing the same thing with Louisville. There is more teaching, coaching and evaluating in spring practice than at any other time of the year. So, that is why spring practice gets so much attention. That is why Alabama and Auburn annually have upwards of 60,000 or more "A" Day fans every spring.

It was again a pleasure for this writer to mosey up to Tuscaloosa on Saturday, April 18th and watch all of the warm-up drills and every play of Alabama's spring game. Former Auburn quarterback Charley Trotman did the same thing at Auburn on the same day. We compared notes last week for our television show, Football 365. It would be so much better for everybody if Coach Saban and Coach Malzahn would not play their games on the same day. In most years before Malzahn, the two games were played on different days. Now, every media form must split duties among their staff to cover the games properly. Also, football fans like myself have to miss the enjoyment of watching the progress of players as they build toward the next football season at both schools.

From a team standpoint, it once again seems that Alabama and Auburn are the best of the Western Division of the Southeastern Conference, as has been the case coming out of spring for the last two years. Auburn did not hold up their position last year, finishing with an 8 - 5 season including a pasting by Wisconsin in their bowl game. Alabama did live up to expectations by winning the West and the SEC Championship. There are a few teams that could challenge in the West. LSU will be tough if they can get better quarterback play. Their run game and their defense is always predictably good. Arkansas will be strong toward the end of the season. They are too big to play well for sixty minutes in the September heat. Texas A&M will be stronger on defense with the addition of John Chavis as defensive coordinator, coming over from LSU. Ole Miss and Mississippi State will be good, but not like 2014.

Alabama has to finally settle on a starting quarterback. Coach Nick Saban has an NFL mentality towards the use of quarterbacks. He has never used two quarterbacks and probably will not again this year. Last year was the perfect year to use two quarterbacks. As a result, his back-up to Blake Sims, Jacob Coker, got very little game experience. Sims was tutored by the coach that recruited him to Tennessee when Sims was in high school. That is Lane Kiffin, who used Sims to exploit the talents of the best receiver in Alabama history,



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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

Deputy Dave Day is almost here! Bring your children out to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office annual Deputy Dave Day on Saturday, May 2nd at Dunbar-Ramer School from 10am-2pm. There will be various activities for the children including inflatables, rides and free food so come out and meet and greet with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office official mascot, Deputy Dave as well as the Sheriff's Office staff! There will be lots of things to do and fun to be had by all!!



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We hope to see you there!

On April 9th, we recognized two officers, Lt. Thomas LeSage, from the Detention Facility and Cpl. John Shepherd, from our Patrol Division here at our agency for Exchange Club Officers of the Year.



Corporal John Shepherd (2nd from left) and Lieutenant Thomas LeSage (3rd from left) recognized as the Exchange Club Officers of the Year. Others parties present are individuals recognized by MPD.

On October 4th, 2014, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Dispatch received a 911 call from a resident of Montgomery County reporting a robbery that had just occurred at her residence. The victim stated that the offender identified himself as a Law Enforcement Officer and requested to come inside to speak with the victim. Once inside the residence, the offender assaulted the

victim and forced her to open the family's safe, taking nearly \$200,000.00 in cash, jewelry, coins, and gold. After the offender departed the residence, the victim was able call 911 and provided a general description of the suspect and the vehicle he was driving to MCSO Dispatchers. Dispatch alerted all units in the area and Corporal John Shepherd along with other Deputies responded to the area looking for the suspect's vehicle. Corporal Shepherd observed a vehicle with a similar description north bound on Pike Road and activated his emergency equipment in an attempt to stop the suspect vehicle. The vehicle accelerated and a pursuit ensued leading Corporal Shepherd north on Pike Road to Highway 80 East. Corporal Shepherd was joined in the pursuit by additional Officers and continued with the pursuit for several miles until the Suspect proceeded into an area that the Patrol Vehicles could not go into and eluded capture.

However, during the Pursuit, Corporal Shepherd was able to provide key information to Dispatchers that later led to the identity of the suspect who had fled to Tennessee and was apprehended later in the week. Corporal Shepherd did an excellent job of pursuing the vehicle and providing information during the pursuit that led to the apprehension of multiple persons who have been charged with multiple felonies. The citizens of Montgomery County are safer today due to the dedication and professionalism of Corporal Shepherd.

Lt. Thomas LeSage has been a dedicated employed with the Detention Facility for over 26 years. He currently works as a recruiter for new employment opportunities. He always displays professionalism in any aspect of his job. He also serves as an IT liaison displaying a vast knowledge of computers, telephones and the commissary, in general. It is through his knowledge that the day-to-day operations in the Detention Facility operate seamlessly and efficiently and for this Lt. LeSage received Detention Officer of the Year.

Think your teen may be "experimenting" with drugs, alcohol or tobacco? It's best to solve problems before they occur or get much worse. Unfortunately, "friends" often try harder to make kids who say "no" to drugs, alcohol and tobacco feel like outcasts. Home testing kits have emerged that protect privacy and provide kids with a socially acceptable excuse, "My parents test me." For years, police have been the first to know when local kids used drugs while their parents were often the last to know. Now there is a way to REVERSE that trend!

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office recently announced a new alliance with TestMyTeen.com, an organization that has donated free home drug test kit vouchers to be shared anonymously with parents who need them.

Go to our website www.MontgomerySheriff.com and click "Public Interest", then click "TEST MY TEEN" and follow the instructions...it's that simple!

Attention Montgomery County Citizens and Neighborhood Watch Associations: If you are interested in having our agency come out and do a crime prevention home survey as well as give helpful information to help you ensure your home and personal property are secure, please email my Administrative Assistant, Christie Vázquez, at: ChristieVazquez@mc-ala.org or contact my office at 832.1646. Your safety and well-being is just as important to us and it is to you and your family! Don't hesitate... call or email today!



Special Note We are in the process of constructing a new website www.MontgomerySheriff.com and hope that you all will check this website periodically for helpful information and events taking place in the community and as always thank you for your continued support of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!!

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Bench - Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

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ABOLISH GRAND JURIES

Sometime after William the Conqueror successfully invaded England in 1066, the new line of kings decided they needed help rounding up local criminals to prosecute. Accordingly, they organized groups of local citizens who could keep up with what was going on in the local area to report crimes to the king and his court whenever they visited town. The result was the origin of grand juries. The process evolved so that prosecutors began to utilize the grand jury to bring about indictments.

Naturally, after the successful American Revolution, the United States and the newly organized states imported the idea into the American Justice System. The antiquated practices of the grand juries continue today in Alabama and a few other states. Unlike the community watch function of the original grand juries in England, the current system pulls citizens out of their busy lives to sit and basically rubber-stamp the wishes of prosecutors. The District Attorneys present cases to grand juries. Very seldom does a grand jury take any initiative of its own in the identification and prosecution of crimes. Very seldom do they depart from the recommendations of the District Attorney. Only the prosecuting authorities usually present evidence to a grand jury. If no indictment is returned the prosecutors can always report to those who were anxious for there to be a prosecution that the grand jury failed to return

an indictment. That is a convenient political tool.

Grand juries were abolished in England in 1933, over eighty years ago. Only Alabama and a few states continue to require an indictment by a grand jury to commence a felony prosecution.

Grand juries are a colossal waste of citizen's time and of tax payer's money. It is time for the state of Alabama to join with the majority of other states in abolishing grand juries. By abolishing grand juries and having the District Attorney simply take the responsibility (which is already the case, in fact) of deciding who will be prosecuted and commence the prosecution the great inconvenience to a lot of people could be eliminated. Alabama should eliminate the imposition on victims, witnesses and jurors. It would be a simple matter to authorize prosecutors to commence the prosecution on their own initiative. That happens in most states, so there are plenty of examples of appropriate legislation.

One of the advantages of doing away with grand juries is that it could materially speed up the criminal justice system. There is no reason to wait for a grand jury to convene for a criminal prosecution to be commenced. In many rural Alabama counties, grand juries are convened only twice a year and this means that the commencement of the prosecution is often delayed for months.

The current system of criminal justice is an

obstacle course for victims and witnesses. First, there is the possibility of a preliminary hearing. The purpose for the preliminary hearing is to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to bind a case over to the grand jury. At least, theoretically, that is the basis for a preliminary hearing. As a practical matter, the usual function of a preliminary hearing is to allow the defendant to explore evidence that the state is offering in support of prosecution. But in any event, the victim and witnesses have to appear if there is a preliminary hearing. Then there is the grand jury proceeding. Again, the victim and witnesses must appear and give their testimony. And then they must testify a third time at trial.

Law enforcement officers involved in the criminal prosecution, of course, have to come and testify at preliminary hearings, grand jury and trial. Prosecutorial time and talent is wasted on these non-profitable activities.

It is time for Alabama to join with the majority of the other states in the union and do away with the necessity for grand juries for the commencement of felony prosecutions. Surprisingly, with all of the emphasis on the need for a more effective budget and for the many complaints about the ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system I believe that I am the voice crying in the wilderness in Alabama concerning this waste of time and resources. Preservation of some role for the grand jury in the investigation of public officials and governmental functions might be appropriate.

REVELATIONS AND THE UNRAVELING OF COMMON CORE

The views of these editorials may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.

Does Tennessee Value Its Children's Education More Than Alabama?

On Tuesday, April 21 in a bipartisan vote, the Tennessee House of Representatives voted unanimously (97:0) to repeal Common Core. Today, the Tennessee State Senate followed with a (27:1) vote in favor of repeal. The *Truth in Medium Team*, an online news site (benswan.com) was the first of many media outlets to report this breaking news. "This legislation is a template for all states to begin a much needed journey of separation from federally generated standards and an invitation to embrace each states' own constitutionally delegated authority to serve its citizens at its own will," said HB1035 chief sponsor Rep. Billy Spivey (R-Lewisburg)." HB1035 reads, in part, "WHEREAS, these new Tennessee academic standards shall be adopted and fully implemented in Tennessee public schools in the 2017-2018 school year, at which time the previously adopted set of standards shall be rescinded."

The nationally initiated and developed "Common Core State Standards" (a misnomer itself) were released in 2010. They have undergone scrutiny and criticism by parents, educators, politicians and students. Like Tennessee, several states have opted out. Despite the myths and false assertions to the contrary, from its rollout (2008 and 2009) this initiative "nationalizes" education for states and local school districts. Alabama's State Superintendent of Education, Tommy Bice bought into and promoted this boondoggle of a non-piloted program. Billions of dollars were funneled through the U. S. Department of Education to private corporations. The Gates Foundation (Bill and Melinda Gates) backed this initiative with a contribution of \$178 million to several private education curriculum and material corporations. The U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, stated that the CCSS were "our" standards. David Axelrod, Senior Advisor to President Obama, said the CCSS "were initiative of the Obama Administration".

Steady Improvement Interrupted

Before the implementation of the CCSS Alabama's public schools were making unprecedented academic progress. A few of the most notable achievements Alabama students were clearly trending. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reported

that Alabama schools led the nation in increased reading scores over an eight-year period (2003 - 2011). NAEP also revealed that Alabama was one of only nine states to show significant improvement in 4th grade math scores, second only to Arizona. The Fordham Foundation gave Alabama's English Language Arts Course of Study and "A" ranking and the Math Course of Study a "B+" rating. The College Board praised Alabama as #1 in Advanced Placement Progress (AP). The AP exam participation increased by 16% in 2011. In 2013 Alabama was number one in math scores on the AP for the past 5 years.

Truth and Consequences

Dr. Sandra Stotsky, Professor Emerita, University of Arkansas was invited as an expert to be a member of the Common Core Validation Committee in 2009 - 2010. In a presentation made at a conference at the University of Notre Dame on September 9, 2013 she made the remarks below which are excerpts from a longer presentation entitled "Common Core's Invalid Validation Committee".

"The lack of an authentic validation of Common Core's so-called college-ready standards before state board of education voted to adopt these standards suggests their votes had no legal basis. The ELA (English Language Arts) work group who drafted the CCSS included no English professors or high school English teachers! The two lead writers were David Coleman and Susan Pimentel neither of whom had experience in teaching English at any level!"

Stanford University mathematician R. James Milgram, the only member of the 29-member Validation Committee with a doctorate in mathematics, said that **Common Core is two years behind the math standards in the highest-performing countries.** Milgram wrote that Common Core fails to prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. He was one of five (along with Dr. Stotsky) who resigned in protest from the Committee.

Perhaps the biggest blow to the credibility of CCSS and CCRS is a recent reliable research study. The Brookings Institute devoted to independent research in Washington D.C. released an in-depth, national scientific research study's findings in an article, "A Progress Report on the Common Core", March 18, 2014 by Tom

Loveless. Below is an excerpt from this study:

It is doubtful that even the most ardent Common Core supporter will be satisfied if the best CCSS can offer—after all of the debate, the costs in tax revenue, and blood, sweat, and tears going into implementation—is a three point NAEP gain. The 2012 Brown Center Report predicted, based on empirical analysis of the effects of state standards that the CCSS will have little to no impact on student achievement. Supporters of the Common Core argue that strong, effective implementation of the standards will sweep away such skepticism by producing lasting, significant gains in student learning. So far, at least—and it is admittedly the early innings of a long ballgame—there are no signs of such an impressive accomplishment.

Follow the Money

Soon a critical decision as to whether the bill to repeal CCSS will be brought to the Senate floor. Senate Leader, Dell Marsh, has consistently supported CCSS despite reliable information of its lack of efficacy. Common Core is not in the best interest of Alabama's children. To use a familiar term, "follow the money", the Business Council of Alabama (through its Progress PAC) contributed more in October, 2014 to Dell Marsh (\$25,000) than to any other Republican candidate. The Business Council of Alabama contributed approximately \$200,000 to Republican candidates in October for the 2014 election. It is time to make the right decision to provide the best education for Alabama's children.

David Nichols, Ed. D., is a seasoned leader in education. He has served as a teacher and/or administrator at every level of education to include K - 12 and higher education. As a city and county board of education member Nichols achieved the Master Board Member level. He has served as a consultant for at-risk schools, a presenter to professional associations and author of a variety of state and national publications. He continues to research current issues and publishes research findings.



Dr. David Nichols

Five Things Families with College Bound Students Should Consider

(StatePoint) Transitioning to college life can be difficult on both students and families. From new expenses to a new lifestyle, being prepared for what lies ahead can help you avoid common bumps in the road.

Here are five things families with college-bound students should consider:

- **Getting involved:** Being away from home and making new friends can seem daunting. Encourage your student to get involved in school activities and events. From joining the campus paper to running for student government, there are a range of extracurricular opportunities that can lead to new friendships, help students maintain an active calendar and round out one's classroom education.
- **Health and wellness:** Late nights spent studying instead of sleeping, as well as crowded dorm rooms, can be a prescription for colds and flu. Check out on-campus and local health care options before your

student gets sick. No one wants to scramble to research medical options when he or she isn't feeling well. Many campuses offer student insurance. See what makes the most sense for your family. Locate a nearby pharmacist before visiting the doctor so you can provide that information at your appointment.

- **Financing College:** College may be one of your family's biggest investments to date. Whether that describes your family or not, there's no doubt about it, higher education comes with a big price tag. It's never too late in the process to seek out new financing options, even if your child is already away out school.

From filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, to exploring private loans, free online resources can help guide you through the process. Check out resources designed for college-bound students and their families, such as Wells Fargo's "5 Steps to Financial Aid" video series, which offers helpful advice on finding a scholarship, applying for loans, and more from "Mr. Fellows,

your wiser college advisor," at:

www.WellsFargo.com/fivesteps.

- **Staying in touch:** You're busy. Your kid is busy. But regular check-ins with your student can help you know that everything is going well. Set up a weekly appointment to chat by phone and get the scoop -- just make sure your student's phone plan allows for sufficient texting and calling.

- **Money management:** For many students, college is the first time they will gain some financial independence. Set your kids up for success by teaching them how to establish a workable budget. A checking and savings account designed for college students can help them stay on track. You can review money-management tools for college students at: www.WellsFargo.com.

Don't let the transition to college catch your family off guard. Parents can make the transition easier for students by striking the right balance of "letting go" and staying involved.



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Reflections



MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA - PORTRAIT OF AN HISTORIC CITY

What Is It?

A special keepsake edition that focuses on the history of Montgomery with an emphasis on the city's unforgettable events featuring profiles of the city's "movers and shakers," beloved hangouts, memorable sports teams, churches, etc. In short, the most out-of-the ordinary and important stories and photos from Montgomery's past. For history lovers of all ages, Reflections will present a "Portrait of an Historic City" told by writers who love and care about local history. An expanded circulation, plus the fact the editorial content and advertising will have an extended shelf life, make this a wonderful and unique way to advertise your business or organization.

Publication Date: 2nd Week of June

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Editor and Co-Publisher: Bill Rice, Jr. (formerly managing editor of The Montgomery Independent). Bill has published 6 history-themed Reflections.

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Southern Cuisine

Something A Little Different

I love watching the "Chopped" series on Food Network. How else are you going to learn to prepare an entree with a whole catfish, a bottle of cherry soda, broccoli and goat cheese? Some of the combinations the contestants make to prepare their dish at first sounds horrible. But most of the time it works. There is a time that a chef will be asked to cook from a Mystery Basket. To be successful, you need to think outside the box and be a master of the basics. Thinking out side the box is to know that a waffle is not just a breakfast food taste but also a shape. Why can't you make a broccoli waffle? Why can't you make a cream sauce from a cherry soda?

So, think of strange ways to combine ingredients but still be pleasing to the palate. Have you ever tried a drink made with rye, Grand Marnier, grenadine and egg whites? What's wrong with a fried egg on top of a stack of a beef patty, jalapeno jack cheese, onions soaked in dark beer then dredged in rice flour and fried until crispy, tomato jam, and BBQ sauce between a split donut toasted on a grill? Or dipping strawberries in reduced balsamic vinegar? And why not try Kung Pao SPAM? Did you know there are cheeses that you can pan fry and will turn crispy golden brown on the outside and still have a chewy bite on the inside? And the cheeses are not cheddar or mozz.

Where is this leading, you may ask? I'm going to give you some alternatives to the usual ways to serve two southern classics. Let's start with okra. Instead of fried and as a side with ketchup and a lot of salt put them in a taco! Warm some flour tortillas and fill them with shredded lettuce, hot fried okra and pico de gallo. And sprinkle some hot sauce on top. Fried okra is great tossed in a fresh spinach salad. According to Wikipedia, okra leaves can be eaten like dandelion leaves and the seeds can be roasted and used as a coffee extender but alas does not contain caffeine. Have you tried cutting the pods in thin strips and frying them until crispy? One of my recipes today is Okra Fritters with an unusual ingredient.

The New York Times had an article back in 2001 about natural flavor enhancers. It's a short list of four items; bacon, dried mushrooms, anchovies and dried shrimp. Everything that has these ingredients in them tastes better. In Latin America and in Asia, dried shrimp are used as a seasoning with the aroma stronger than the flavor. In Mexico they are in tamales, soups and sauces. They can be ground or dehydrated and chopped up. The recipe today for the Okra



Fritters has dehydrated and chopped dried shrimp.

Fried green tomatoes have been showing up in restaurants not looking like the round coated discs you usually see. They are showing up in Eggs Benedicts to replace the Canadian bacon. In hamburgers and in one of my favorite sandwiches Toasted English muffin with bacon and chutney. I make my own chutney. Add avocado and Bibb lettuce and it is heaven. And of course try fried green tomatoes in a BLT or in a grilled cheese sandwich. I also like them stacked and between each slice of tomato, add guacamole and pour a cheese sauce on top. Or instead of Eggplant parmesan make Fried green tomato parmesan!

Lesson for the Day.

The World Health Organization is pushing for safe food and has listed "Five Keys to safer Food." Food borne illnesses is a world wide problem in under-developed and also in developed countries. I hear people complain about a 24 hour bug they say they caught, but I think it is usually caused by improper sanitation and improper food handling.

So before you venture forth to the kitchen, remember these keys to safer food.

Key 1. Keep clean

Key 2. Separate raw and cooked food

Key 3. Cook food thoroughly

Key 4. Keep food at safe temperature

Key 5. Use safe water and safe raw materials

Simple rules and easy to do on a daily basis. You can do an easy web search for specific temperatures for food safety.

My first recipe is low carb recipe modified from theprimitivepalate.com. I use these waffles as much as I use Oopsie bread. Oopsie bread is another day.

CORNMEAL-OKRA FRITTERS

INGREDIENTS

2 tsp. dried shrimp (optional)
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 cup finely chopped red onion
½ cup stone-ground white cornmeal
½ cup flour
1 ¼ tsp. salt

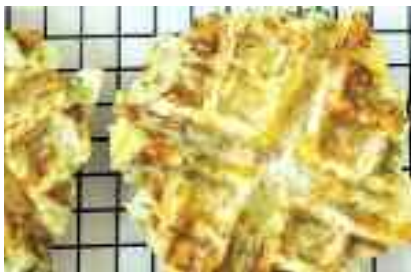
1 tsp baking powder
¼ tsp. fresh ground black pepper
2 eggs, lightly beaten
2 tbsp water
2 cups okra, sliced crosswise about ¼ inch thick
Vegetable oil for frying

Makes about 12 fritters

DIRECTIONS

1. If adding, soak shrimp in hot water for 5 minutes until soft then drain and chop. Set aside.
2. Sauté onions in olive oil until slightly browned, maybe 5 minutes. Add shrimp for another one minute. Let cool.
3. Place cornmeal, flour, salt, baking powder, and pepper in a large bowl and blend well. Add eggs and wate and blend until dry ingredients are just moist. Batter will be thick. Add cooled onion and shrimp and fold all together.
4. In a heavy skillet, pour 1 inch of oil and heat to 350 degrees. Scoop 2 heaping tablespoons of batter on parchment for each fritter. Pat down to slightly flatten. Using a greased spatula left fritters off paper and carefully slide them into the hot oil. Don't crowd. After about two minutes and being golden brown turn over for another two minutes. Drain on rack and serve hot. Top with relish, chutney, ketchup or anything you like with fritters and okra. I like them with something spicy, even sriracha sauce or jalapeno ranch dressing.

From Travel Dreams, Flipboard



magicdietworld.com
This picture is not a representation of this recipe

BROCCOLI AND CHEESE WAFFLES

INGREDIENTS:

1 head of fresh broccoli (one cup after processed)
1 cup mozzarella shredded cheese
1/3 cup Parmesan cheese (grate your own for a better taste)
2 whole jumbo eggs
2 tablespoons SPIKE seasoning (any garlic and herb based seasoning will do)
2-3 tablespoons each fresh chives and fresh parsley (I have used dried cilantro, dried parsley, and dried chives misted with water to soften a bit)

DIRECTIONS

1. Chop broccoli into small pieces and put into a food processor, and pulse until it looks like small granules. You can use the stalk in processor.
2. Mix one cup broccoli with rest of ingredients completely in a bowl.
3. Heat waffle iron and generously spray with oil
4. I put enough "batter" in each of the four sections of my waffle iron to make about a 3-4 inch waffle. The batter is not runny so you have to press it out.
5. I have a heavy Krups waffle iron, so it takes about 2-3 minutes to cook.
6. Keep them warm until all the waffles are ready.
7. Use as bread for a sandwich or top with eggs, or cream cheese and smoked salmon. Whatever your taste desires.

The next recipe uses a natural flavor enhancer, dried shrimp. Try the recipe with the shrimp. I think you'll like it.



leitesculinaria.com
This picture is not a representation of this recipe

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48/2oz portions

SEND US YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS!

If cooking is what you like, give us some tips to save time or recycle leftovers!

Answers to Box Scrabble Words on page 10B
country, marshall, paradise, sausage, christian, fritters



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Reflections Read The Instructions



By Michael J. Brooks

ROBERT SCHULLER AND ME

I was saddened to hear of Robert Schuller's passing last week. In his heyday he was a preacher to the nation, including many of the nation's leaders. Politicians and Hollywood celebrities came to be interviewed by him on TV, and he was the minister the family called to visit John Wayne when he lay on his deathbed.

Schuller began his work in Southern California preaching at a drive-in theatre with the mantra, "Come as you are in the family car." Then he built the Crystal Cathedral--an all-glass worship center with no equal any place on earth.

But Schuller had some legacy issues in his later years. Sometimes a televangelist's legacy plans work well, as has the late Jerry Falwell's since the Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University are flourishing. But sometimes one's legacy goes awry as it did with Oral Roberts and Schuller. Schuller's son was tapped as his successor but left in disappointment. The church bankrupted and was purchased by a Roman Catholic parish.

Donna and I got to visit the Cathedral many years ago when the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting was in Los Angeles. We went to the crowded mid-morning service and saw people lined up to come in to the 11 a.m. worship as we left. And since the Cathedral was air-cooled with some windows motorized, flocks of birds flew overhead throughout the service!

Schuller was one of the most influential mentors I had as a young minister. His positive message always made sense as I found myself in church leadership.

For example, I was guest in a local church years ago when the pastor made an announcement about an upcoming youth rally. "If anybody wants to go, we'll have the van ready," he said. I thought of a more Schuller-esque way of saying this:

"This will be a great event you'll not want to miss, so please meet us here to ride the van at 6:30."

Some of Schuller's critics said he didn't talk enough about sin. I heard him at a conference at Southern Seminary years ago where he explained his philosophy.

"Jesus never called a 'sinner' a 'sinner,'" he said. He explained that Jesus only called hypocritical religious leaders "sinners." Schuller said his job was to present Jesus in all his beauty and holiness, knowing, he said, that when people were ushered into the presence of Jesus, there was no question who the sinner was.

"It's like wearing muddy boots on white carpet," Schuller said. "It's obvious."

Schuller had some issues with his legacy, and also seemed to overextend himself with unwise debt. But I'll always be grateful that he taught me the power of a positive message.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. and adjunct instructor of speech at Jefferson State Community College, Hoover.

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Markiece Williams,
Reeltown High School
Awards Recipient-Region 4, Class A

The 30th Anniversary of the Bryant-Jordan Foundation in conjunction with the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and The Alabama High School Athletic Association held its 13 Annual Awards Banquet on April 13, 2015 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel.

Markiece Williams, a Senior at Reeltown High School, Region 4, Class 2A was one of 104 students who received these scholarship awards.

Each of the students have demonstrated the qualities of commitment, determination, character and a strong motivation for success; not only in this arena, but in the classroom as well. **These students represent the best of today's youth and hope for a bright future.**

Let's Remember...

The Youth of Today are the Future of America.

Sports: Football, baseball, soccer, tennis, swimming, golf, wrestling, and productive activities offer a great outlet for the success of our youth.

Support them with you words, your actions and your attendance at their events. Let them know you are proud of them at every achievement.

Our society wants to invest in "something"? Let it be the youth of today. Their challenges are great - but their opportunities are endless.

**GET INVOLVED!
GOD GAVE US AN ANSWER:**

Proverbs 22:6
Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.



Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening Potpourri for May

by Peggy Givhan

May Day has been celebrated throughout the world since ancient times and the festivals held commemorated the astronomical mid-way points between the spring equinox and the summer solstice. One of the earliest celebrations stemmed from the Celtic festival of Beltane. I can remember as a child in elementary school, watching the erection of the May Pole and being taught, along with other classmates, to weave the wide pastel colored ribbon around the pole. The May Pole had a bonnet of flowers at the tip top with a few loose streamers of ribbon hanging down. Also, another tradition involved finding homemade May baskets filled with spring flowers on one's doorstep. May Day traditions like these need to be revived to remind of us a gentler time. For the 21st century, perhaps an edible flower arrangement made from fruit would be in order.

This is a charmed time of year in which we have plenty of sun and rain, while having cool nights. **Perfect time to get the summer annuals and perennials established such as: begonias, verbena, vinca, salvias, dusty miller, geraniums, daylilies, canna lilies, impatiens, elephant ears, sometimes referred in the south as Persian Palms, and caladiums.** Of course there are hundreds more that can be named, but these, I see, are readily available at garden centers.

Pot gardens do well planted now, also. Many of the winter annuals may be just too beautiful to pull out, so I devised a trick to allow the small begonias, or other new plants to grow in extra pots. Then when the mass pull out occurs, usually by June 1st, these flowers which we have staged in pots, are full and easy to transplant.

WILD FLOWERS OR WEEDS...

As beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so is the preference, weed or flower in our flower beds. The following are examples of this type of category:

- 1. Carolina Geranium**--these are weeds in my eyes, as they spread like wild fire and will take over the beds in a New York minute. They are native to the United States, have a sprawling habit, with greenish red segmented leaves. These are also known as Crane's Bill. Sporting a tap root, they are easy to pull out. After extracting a few, the plant material thrown out gives the impression of hours worth of hard hand pulling since they are so bushy and top heavy. Deer especially love this weed/flower. Where are the deer when I have to yank them out by hand?
- 2. Butter Cup or Oenothera speciosa**--These are also called pink ladies, grow to about 10 inches in height, and produce many blooms. These are pink in color and, like all evening primroses, close up at night. The yellow variety is known as Oenothera fruitcosa. Northern Bob White and dove, along with seed eating songbirds, such as the gold finch, find the Butter Cup a delicacy. Again, in order to cut down on work the next spring, I try not let them go to seed. The Best of both worlds is to eliminate them from the flower beds, and sow seeds in the fields. News Flash--deer do not eat Butter Cup.
- 3. Sorrel**--An herb that flourishes in low, moist areas and grows to about a foot in height. Common sorrel or garden sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) is a perennial herb. Another common name is spinach dock and narrow-leaved dock. Many countries use it as a vegetable and are frequently cooked in soups. The leaves are eaten by the larvae of many species of butterflies and moths. I have left some plants in the flower beds as they have a green leafy appearance and appears to be a good filler.



Carolina Geranium



Impatiens



Sorrel



Geraniums



Verbena



Butter Cup or Oenothera speciosa



white begonias



Caladiums

PLANT OF THE MONTH

MARJORAM -- This is a very popular herb which is a member of the mint family. The variety of Sweet Marjoram is the most popular and very easy to grow. Somewhere I read that marjoram conjures up the scent of sunshine and I might add the scent of sunshine in Greece or Italy. There is hardly a recipe in the Mediterranean that does not call for Marjoram or its more pungent cousin, Oregano. It is very easy to get these plants up from seed, and now is the perfect time to do just that. Sow the seeds in pots, keep it moist in a sunny location, and VOILA, you have saved about \$2.00 per plant.

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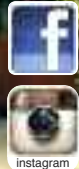


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Letters to the Editor...

The Duty of a Legislator

By John Martin

What, exactly, is the duty of our legislators (U.S. senators and representatives, state senators and representatives, county commissioners, city councils, etc.)? Some might answer, "To pass laws—to legislate." Another frequent answer is to bring money—i.e. pork spending or "growth" to their districts. Alas, too many people judge their legislators by how much money they can dip out of the public pie and spend on programs.

Today, some 85% or more bills introduced are undesirable; they spend more money, raise taxes, and impose more and more onerous regulations. Many bills die in committees before they reach the floor. But oddly, nearly every good bill dies while a significant fraction of the bad bills makes it through. Most of the time, about 99 percent of the ones that make it to a final vote are bad. Let me repeat that—99 percent.

What are the 99 percent? They include bills that do any of the following—overspend, increase taxes, impose new taxes, increase revenues, increase government salaries or expenses, hire additional employees or officers, impose or intensify regulations or mandates, violate individual liberty or property rights, trade liberty for safety, seize or condemn property, impose hostile annexations, invade privacy, impose abusive law enforcement, punish people for "crimes" that have no victims, create or maintain programs that should be left to the private sector, expand the size or power of government, or violate the U.S. or Alabama Constitutions in any way—the Constitutions' PRINCIPLES, even if there are loopholes or inappropriate amendments that otherwise might make them "legal." Common Core, Agenda 21,

and the Elmore County "Home Rule" amendment are examples of the 99%.

America was founded on individual liberty, independence, and a very limited role for government—the right to live and let live—to be allowed to provide for ourselves and be left alone. This is the bedrock that made America the greatest and most prosperous nation in the world. It is a sharp contrast to socialist and communist nations that let government run people's lives, stifle productive work ethics, and enslave people in eternal poverty.

This principle is clearly illustrated in the most important statement in the Alabama Constitution—Article 1, section 35: "That the sole object and only legitimate end of government is to protect the citizen in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property, and when the government assumes other functions it is usurpation and oppression."

Of course, legislators have to pass budgets and other routine business to run the state and local governments, but even here, they have a duty to filibuster and vote "no" on any that obligate debt, regulations, needless programs or expenditures, or extra taxes. They should always strive to make government smaller, less intrusive, and less expensive.

Legislators do not have to read every bill. The vast majority can be assessed very quickly. Any bill that flunks the smell test (see paragraph 3) needs no further consideration—just vote "no." A bill that is ridiculously long or contains open-ended, generalized language or loopholes also deserves to die on the spot. Their #1 duty is to protect the people from the wrongdoings of government.

A legislator who understands and practices the above principles should have no problem becoming a heroic statesman, instead of a dangerous public enemy.

Dear Editor:

According to the Seventh Meriam-Webster Incorrect Collegiate Dictionary: Clin-ton-esque (Klin-ton-esk) adj (Brit surname, Fr suffix) 1: Exhibiting the ability to lie and then repeat the lie even more intensely once it has been exposed. 2: Failing to feel or display shame and/or embarrassment in situations requiring such. 3: archaic: demonstrating an aptitude for lying utilizing physical attributes (eye contact, fingshaking and sad facial expressions) and/or exploring the definition of the helping verb "is". Synonyms: Obamaesque, Harry Reidesque ~ Antonyms: Truthful, humble G. Bowers, Montgomery, AL

These people need to be put under the jail...

This is a heads up for everyone regarding the latest in Visa fraud.

Royal Bank received this communication about the newest scam. This is happening in the Midwest right now and moving across the country. This one is pretty slick, since they provide YOU with all the information, Except the one piece they want.

Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it.

This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & MasterCard telephone Credit Card Scam works, You'll be better prepared to protect yourself.

One of our employees was called on Wednesday from 'VISA', and I was called on Thursday from 'MasterCard'.

The scam works like this:

Person calling says - 'This is (name) and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA.

My Badge number is 12460, your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern,

And I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank).

Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a marketing company based in Arizona?'

When you say 'No', the caller continues with, 'Then we will be issuing a credit to your account'. This is a company we have been watching, and the charges range from \$297 to \$497.

Just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards.

Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address). Is that correct?' You say 'yes'.

The caller continues - 'I will be starting a Fraud Investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1- 800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. 'Do you need me to read it again?'

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works - The caller then says, 'I need to verify you are in possession of your card'. He'll ask you to 'turn your card over and look for some numbers'. There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the last 3 are the Security Numbers

that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the last 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say,

'That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?' After you say no, the caller then thanks you and states, 'Don't hesitate to call back if you do', and then hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. We were glad we did!

The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card.

We made a real fraud report and closed the VISA account. VISA is reissuing us a new number. What the Scammer wants is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master Card directly for verification of their conversation.

The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card. They already know the information, since they issued the card!

If you give the Scammer your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a 'Jason Richardson of MasterCard' with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA Scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a police report, as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily!

They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening.

I dealt with a similar situation this morning, with the caller telling me that \$3,097 had been charged to my account for plane tickets to Spain, and so on through the above routine.

It appears that this is a very active scam, and evidently quite successful...

Pass this on to all your family and friends.

Gazette Seniors...

EMILY POST WOULD BE SHOCKED....

YOU MAY BE
OVER THE HILL
"...if you remember the
opening of the
Empire State Building
on May 1, 1931."

Emily Post passed away before **CELL PHONES** became popular; but she was the ultimate expert on etiquette. She would most likely have been mortified had she been alive to witness today's epitome of bad manners: cell phone usage.

Marching under her banner, modern day experts on good manners have posted a list of ten rules for good cell phone manners, a list that has apparently been kept under wraps, for there's little evidence of it having ever been read by the multitude of cell phone users.

Leading the list of admonitions is: Be in control of your phone, don't let it control you.

Second: Speak softly. This can't be emphasized too much, because few cell phone users abide by it.

The third rule that is rarely adhered to is: Be courteous. If you're in a group or at a table for dinner, turn it off! There's nothing more irritating than being at dinner with some oaf whose cellphone is constantly ringing, and who enjoys holding long and loud conversations on it.

Rule number four is: Watch your language. There's some language that others would prefer not to hear.

Fifth, and one that is also ignored, is: Avoid talking about personal problems.

The sixth rule concerns the silent ring option. Those around you are not interested in listening to

Beethoven's Fifth Symphony played endlessly on your cell phone.

Rule Seven, and one that should be second nature: Don't use your cell phone in public places, like at church, or in the grocery store, or at the dinner table, for example. The novelty and prestige of having a cell phone is passe'.

Sales clerks and others who deal with the general public should have the good grace as to not talk on their cell phone or text, while trying to deal with customers.

Also, in the goes without saying category, is: Don't text or talk about private, or classified information.

And lastly: Don't drive and talk on your cell phone at the same time. This sort of behavior could be fatal.

Cell phones were intended to be a convenience for their owners; not a public nuisance.

Dr. John Bitter
Editor
Senior Section



Who's Lookin' Out . . . is back

We're back, and we're going strong.

The "We" being the popular "*Who's Lookin' out for You?*" informational program that got underway at Eastdale Estates a couple of years ago; was summarily decapitated by short-sighted management people; limped along at another facility, and has now returned to Eastdale Estates Senior Living Facility. It played to a packed house with its debut program on April 7, when Mrs. Susan Segrest, executive director for the Central Alabama Aging Consortium told her senior audience of the many programs and services her group stands ready to provide to seniors in the area.

On the following Tuesday, Rep. Warner Floyd of the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature talked about how this group of dedicated seniors works to help improve conditions and services for the State's senior citizens.

On the 21st, Letha Stuckey, who has moved from the State's "Senior Medicare Patrol" to the Department of Senior Services, devoted much of her time to talking about the serious problem of elder abuse, and how her listeners can go about avoiding becoming victims.

Dr. Tom Geary who keeps tabs on how well various agencies of the State entrusted with the care and wellbeing of its seniors do their job. Many functions such as Eastdale Estates, were overlooked a half century ago when the Older Americans Act established standards for various functions whose task it is to see to it that our seniors' wants do not go unfulfilled.

Which brings the program into May, and off to a flying start on the 5th, when Chaplain Mark Springer from Jackson Hospital will give residents some good advice on how to prepare for a hospital stay: What to bring, and what not to bring. Mark's a versatile speaker, and has visited Eastdale on numerous occasions.

On May 12, Gazette publisher Loretta Grant will share some interesting anecdotes and leave participants with a lot of good advice.

Consumer Protection Specialist Emily Nichols of the Alabama Attorney General's Office will share with residents some good advice on the 19th on how to detect and protect one's self from scams and scam artists.

Rounding out the month, on May 26, Virginia Moore-Bell from the Alabama Department of Senior Services will be on hand to talk about her work with the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Division. This is a service that residents of Independent Living Facilities should also be accorded.

Perhaps she will share some ideas on how to bring this coverage about.

This is the second year this informational program has been underway at Eastdale Estates. Residents gain important and useful information, especially as it concerns living out their years in a more safe and pleasant environment, in light of the increasing incidents of elders having been abused in a variety of ways—in many cases by persons they knew and thought they could trust.

The programs begin at 10 a.m., sharp, each Tuesday, in the Activity Room at Eastdale Estates Retirement Community in Montgomery. The program is free, and the public is welcome.

See you on Tuesday at 10 a.m. You can't miss the facility; it looks like a three-story salamander.

Fake food...

As time has passed your scribe has noticed that there seems to be something "not right" about institutional meat.

A steak dinner served in a respectable restaurant used to be something to look forward to: a nice tenderloin of beef, carefully broiled and possibly seasoned with appropriate herbs and spices.

Today: however, especially in an institutional environment, something seems to be lacking: usually taste.

It could be that the cook isn't that talented; but the likelihood is greater that what you're getting is something relatively new on the dining table: "formed" meat.

This is a steak that has been created by gluing chunks of meet together to create something that it really isn't

"Transglutaminase," or "meat glue" is used to bind chunks of meat together to form a product that may not be what it appears to be.

This may be why people residing in some form of institutional residence may see "steak" on the menu, but find that what is on their plate isn't like any "steak" they've been accustomed to. But it's cheaper. Cheaper that is to purchase, but not necessarily up to the culinary par to which the diner may be accustomed.

Reminds one of the World War II years when plastics replaced metals that were needed for the war effort; followed soon by man-made products to replace fabrics. Today we have fake bricks, fake siding, brick veneer, synthetic motor oil, synthetic marijuana and synthetic cocaine. What's real anymore?

Now synthetic fabrics have virtually replaced all the materials we held dear, and now we have fake meat. **What's next?** Or is there anything else left to fabricate?

The Food and Drug Administration says glued meats are "Generally recognized as safe," but are we paying for "generally?"

If the steak you're getting for dinner at the old folks home doesn't taste like what one recalls from earlier years, it may be because it isn't "steak."

Which may cause residents of such facilities to question whether or not they're getting what they pay for?

Is there an Ombudsman in the house?



By **Kylle' D. McKinney**
Alabama Public Affairs Specialist
Social Security Administration
4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100
Montgomery, Alabama 36116

HONORING OUR SERVICE MEMBERS ON MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day, we honor men and women who died while courageously serving in the U. S. military. We also recognize active duty service members, especially those who have been wounded. Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades to thank our service members and their families for their sacrifices.

Policymakers put into place laws and benefits to protect our heroes and their families. For example, Social Security provides survivors, disability, retirement, and Medicare benefits. Not only does Social Security have benefits to protect veterans, we also provide family benefits to protect service members' dependents.

Widows, widowers, and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. You can learn more about Social Security

survivors benefits at:
www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors.

Wounded military service members can also receive expedited processing of their disability claims. For example, Social Security will provide expedited processing of disability claims filed by veterans who have a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Compensation rating of 100 percent Permanent & Total (P&T). Depending on the situation, some family members of military personnel, including dependent children and, in some cases, spouses, may be eligible to receive benefits. You can get answers to commonly asked questions and find useful information about the application process at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors.

Service members can also receive Social Security, as well as military retirement benefits. The

good news is that your military retirement benefit doesn't reduce your Social Security retirement benefit. Learn more about Social Security retirement benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement. You may also want to visit the Military Service page of our Retirement Planner, available at:

www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/veterans.htm.

Service members are also eligible for Medicare at age 65. If you have health insurance from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or under the TRICARE or CHAMPVA programs, your health benefits may change, or end, when you become eligible for Medicare. Learn more about Medicare benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare.

In acknowledgement of those who died for our country, those who served, and those who serve today, we at Social Security honor and thank you.

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL
 Eastern Hills
 Baptist Church
 Montgomery, Alabama

Soul Searching

THE TOUGHEST JOB

My friend David Dykes reminded me of a funny story about a man who rushed into a toy store late one evening to buy a Barbie doll for his daughter who had a birthday the next morning. The saleslady said, "Well, you have several to choose from. This is the Tennis Barbie; it's \$20. The Ballet Barbie and the Beach Barbie are also \$20 each. We have a new item called the Divorced Barbie, and she sells for \$265." The man said, "Why is the Divorced Barbie so much more expensive?" The saleslady said, "Oh, because she comes with Ken's house, Ken's car, and all of Ken's furniture!"

We hear a lot on the news about endangered species. Of course, the commentator or scientist being interviewed talks about some kind of animal. It is far more likely that the most endangered "species" in America is the family, especially a Christian family. In fact, the toughest job I know is building a successful family.

I used to watch "Family Feud" when it was a game show on television. It was off the air for many years but has recently returned. The show is based on the ability of contestants to guess correct answers from a survey of the general population.

One Pastor surveyed families in his church and came up with habits which make a family strong. I would like to share five of those habits with you in this month when our thoughts naturally turn to families. If these are not happening in your family regularly, then your family fun may turn into a family feud, not just a game show on television but a real nightmare.

Number five on the survey said, "Children are disciplined with love and consistency." Someone observed, "Firm but loving discipline keeps order in the home. There is much chaos when the kids rule the house!" Another one wrote: "Boundaries are established and consequences are explained. Then choice making is taught as a skill. Children are allowed to suffer the consequences of bad choices. Mother and Father do not disagree concerning discipline in front of the children.

Most of us agree that discipline is a necessary part of life. If we live a disciplined life as an adult, none of us attained it naturally. The truth is, we were then and children still are today born with a stubborn, rebellious nature, and they are by nature sinful." Parents have a choice, either raise your children as God expects or one day reap the results of undisciplined children who think they are adults. Discipline does not have to be cruel, harsh or without boundaries. Discipline's first and greatest lesson may be as simple as learning the meaning of "No." Number four on the survey said, "Money is managed wisely and discussed openly." This answer was number four on the survey of healthy family life, but failure to manage money well in the home is the number one reason any couple seeks marriage counseling in our country.

"Money problems can tear a marriage apart." I see this from three sides. One is a matter of ownership. One family wrote, "There is no 'his money' or 'her money.' It's 'our money.' Actually we realize that it's all 'God's money.'" When a person releases the tight hold on finances and sees all of life as a stewardship of what God has given, it takes some of the tension out of financial matters. It is much easier to make them a matter of prayer and discussion. Then there is the matter of communication. It has been my experience working with many families with financial troubles, that they have poor communication skills about money and other things. Everything about money should be in the open between husband and wife. A third problem area occurs when there is a breach of trust. Not only are money expenditures not discussed, sometimes commitments about debt are violated or purchases made which the family does not need. I suggest to couples I counsel to have limits on amounts to spend unless both agree and to avoid the use of credit as much as possible. It is the best means I know to avoid the debt trap.

Further, I urge couples to follow a "10/10/80 financial plan. God the first ten percent, save the next ten percent and develop the discipline to live on 80% of income." "These families teach their children about the importance of giving their money to God. They want their kids to know they tithe, and that one reason they may not have as many 'toys' as some of their friends is because they are giving to God." Most importantly, I have never had a family in counseling for financial reasons who were following this plan.

Number three on the survey said, "learn to cope with adversity." It can't be avoided. Sooner or later every family, including the finest church-going Christian families will face adversity. Problems are not a sign of sin, but rather, that we live in a fallen world full of troubles. "It's how a family deals with these problems that makes them stronger." One family wrote: "Our child's illness has taught us not to take time or anything for granted. Consequently, we try to have fun as we go and realize that each stage of our life is special and cannot be regained. The adversity of her illness has made all of us more sensitive to others and strengthened our relationship with God and each other." Sometimes trouble is the only thing which brings us to our knees. Furthermore, it may become a powerful witness to someone else experiencing adversity if we learn from it and find comfort in our Christian faith. With Paul we can proclaim that God's grace is sufficient even for our most difficult hours.

Number two on the survey said, "Each person is treated with respect and kindness." Actually, these are just synonyms which describe the word "love." Successful families practice love at home as well as in public. Kindness should permeate

the atmosphere of a Christian home. There is no place for speaking disrespectfully to each other as husband and wife, nor should children be allowed to speak disrespectfully to their parents or other family members, including siblings.

Did you know our word "courtesy" comes from the behavior of people who used to live in the king's "court." "There was a code of conduct for the courtesans that included kindness and helpfulness. Men stopped and took off their hats and bowed when approached by a lady. They never let a lady open a door for herself." Their protocol of kindness gave birth to our word "courtesy."

An old man got on a bus one February 14th, carrying a dozen roses. He sat beside a young man. The young man looked at the roses and said, "Somebody's going to get a beautiful Valentine's Day gift." "Yes," said the old man. A few minutes went by and the old man noticed his young companion was staring at the roses. "Do you have a girlfriend?" the old man asked. "I do," said the young man. "I'm going to see her right now, and I'm going to give her this Valentine's Day card." They rode in silence for another 10 minutes, and then the old man got up to get off the bus. As he stepped out into the aisle, he suddenly placed the roses on the young man's lap and said, "I think my wife would want you to have these. I'll tell her that I gave them to you." He left the bus quickly. As the bus pulled away, the young man watched as the old man walked into a cemetery.

It's true that "dead noses smell no roses." Be sure to tell your family members "I love you" every single day.

The number one answer on the survey said, "Jesus is the glue that holds the family together." Every response mentioned several things relating to this key habit. "Families worship together, they pray together, they have family devotions together. Jesus is not just a welcome guest in the home; He is the Lord of the home." Note that these responses were in the present tense, not just some occasional events in the past or just for Sundays. Christ must be the hub around which the spokes of everyday life revolve. Don't be fooled into thinking that such a home life is only possible for some very few special families with no problems or stressful schedules. On the contrary, it takes discipline, faith and dedication to make such a home life possible. But the rewards are beyond description. No home is perfect, but with Christ in the center, your family can thrive and be happy.

"Take a moment and reflect on these five habits again. You can have all of the first four, but if Jesus is not Lord of your life and Lord of your home, then the few years you enjoy as a family on earth will be the extent of your family time together. On the other hand, you may be lacking in a few of the others, but if Jesus is the Lord of your home, then your family can thrive and be effective." Having a successful family may be the toughest task you will face on earth. Satan will test you at every turn. But never forget, God has made available to all of you the necessary equipment to navigate it safely.



Long-Term Care Insurance Protection for you and your family

Sure it's about maintaining personal and financial independence, but as a fundamental part of your retirement plan, having a long-term care insurance policy can signify so much more to your loved ones. Most of all, it can include more choices for living life the way you see fit. Talk to a New York Life Insurance Company producer. They offer knowledge and experience to help protect your retirement assets and income, standard of living and quality of life.



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www.Medac4u.com



alzheimer's association

KNOW THE 10 SIGNS

EARLY DETECTION MATTERS

- 1 - Memory loss that disrupts daily life.
- 2 - Challenges in planning or solving problems.
- 3 - Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure.
- 4 - Confusion with time or place.
- 5 - Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships.
- 6 - New problems with words in speaking or writing.
- 7 - Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps.
- 8 - Decreased or poor judgment.
- 9 - Withdrawal from work or social activities.
- 10 - Changes in mood and personality.

If you have questions about any of these warning signs, the Alzheimer's Association recommends consulting a physician. Early diagnosis provides the best opportunities for treatment, support and future planning.

For more information on long-term care insurance, please contact Bernard Mathis, Agent, New York Life Insurance Company at 334-467-1108.

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Celebrating our 25th Anniversary!

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 | Stephan Turnipseed |
| Judy Grubbs | Devery Wright |
| Jim Kinman | 17 Wendy Haddox |
| Weston Ashley Sellars (4th) | Bertha Graham |
| Pat Duffell Smith | Rosa Nell Watkins |
| 3 Scarlett Box | 18 Georgia Armstrong |
| 4 Brittney Belcher (16th) | Ken Stafford |
| Teresa Grant | 19 Connie Butts |
| Forrest Taylor (21st) | Dorothy Hall |
| 5 Ashton Box | 20 Maggie Royster |
| Connie Bowden | 21 Rhonda Alexander |
| Olivia Propst | Al Barnett |
| Jayne Ward | Ashley Boyd (40th) |
| 6 Ed Jones (77th) | Susan Johnson |
| Michael Mckenzie | Daniel Selvage (7th) |
| 7 Tory Alexander | Sophia Vazquez |
| Bryson Box (12th) | 22 Tom Broadway |
| 8 John P. Hanson | Eeron Grant (96th) |
| Michael Moseley (47th) | Aileen Kovacic |
| Mary Peoples | Hunter Meadows (18th) |
| Janet Suddith | Brad Williams (36th) |
| Trinity Woodall | 23 Rene Barnett (94th) |
| 9 Jim Garrett | Susanne Boyd |
| Bill Jones | Frank Clayton |
| Paul "Moon" Jones | Julia Grant |
| Jo Oswald | Hazel Norman |
| 10 Mary Ann Pickard | Mike Sikes (38th) |
| Nicole Sansom | 24 Brantley Box (15th) |
| 11 Johnson Alexander | Sydney Ellen Grant |
| Pam Lynch | Wallace Smith |
| Barbara Strickland (65th) | Seth Meadows |
| Dee Dee Ward | 25 Wynne Ross (41st) |
| 12 Mary Ellen Grant | Norman Mitchell |
| Tanya Moore (49th) | Hamer Phillips |
| Liz Morris | 26 Paula Burgess |
| Mary White | Mary Louise Dobbs |
| Zack Witherington | Rachael Doran |
| 13 Betty Casey | 27 Ronnie Broom |
| Chris Cordle | Coley Jones |
| Raven Johnson | Carrie Rhodes |
| Debbie Mills | 28 Brian McCord |
| 14 Luke Dickinson | 30 Michele Blount |
| Victor Chad Mason (Trace) (2nd) | Kate Sansom |
| 15 Ann Macon Adams | 31 Betty Crowe |
| 16 Milton Bridges | Susan Daffron (67th) |
| Lonnie Smith | Stacie Vinson (91) |

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Kathleene Selvage

Sarah Kate was born Wednesday, April 22, 2015. She weighed 8 lb. 6 oz. and was 19 1/2 in. long. Sarah Kate was welcomed by parents Jason & Stephanie Selvage and big brother Daniel. Grandparents John and Patricia Killough of Montgomery, AL., and Greg & Ruth Selvage of Grant, AL. Great grandmother Sara Boyd of Snowdown.



Evelyn Claire Carter

was born Wednesday, April 6, 2015. She weighed 8 lb. 2 oz. and was 20 1/2 in. long. Parents are Brent and Jane Carter of Wetumpka. Grandparents are Jeffrey and Kathy Horton of Montgomery, AL and Jerry Carter and Lynn Carter of Wetumpka, AL.



Send us your birth announcements!

Country has come to Town ...

A party for Jimmy Sellars 75th Birthday was held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the home of Michael Respass in Montgomery. Approximately 100 family and friends enjoyed a night of eating fried chicken with all the trimmings and dancing to the music of The Syndicate Band.



L-R; Meredith Sellars, Lee Sellars, Jimmy Sellars, Ryan Sellars, Jamie & Josh Keebler.

TERRELL S. HARTLEY TURNED 102 ON APRIL 4, 2015



Mr. Hartley is seen recently shopping for groceries.

Terrell S. Hartley, born in Hartford in Geneva County. I started work with the Hartford News Herald, a weekly newspaper at approximately age ten. Joined the Wetumpka Herald then moved to Prattville for several years and worked with The Prattville Progress. From there I worked at The Alabama Journal and then The Montgomery Advertiser remained with them for 33 years, three months and three days as a linotype operator. After retiring I gardened which produced enough food to keep his freezer full and canned many items to share with neighbors and friends.

My Partner was the same age and passed away after seventy years of married partnership in 2011.

I sleep good and take no medication. I do have arthritis in knees and hand now. A member Dalradia Baptist Church for 60 years. Past member of The Exchange Club, served in the United States Navy -- not disabled Veteran, member local chapter.

Take care of yourself and I trust God will bless you also.

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 Thomas & Betty Chesnutt (68th) | 16 Austin & Ashley Owens (5th) |
| 6 Corey & Alicia Smith (19th) | 17 Carl & Faye Boyd (39th) |
| Pat & Lonnie Smith (46th) | 19 Billy & Ann Cox (67th) |
| 7 Buddy & Dala Lane (54th) | 21 Allan & Shannon Vinson (9th) |
| 8 Billy & Courtney Whigham | 28 Carl & Betsy Penn (53rd) |
| 10 Clint & Tiffany Andrews | 29 Joe & Gail Cotney |
| Ashley & Susanne Boyd | 30 Richard & Gwen Walters |
| 11 Roger & Sandy Brown | 31 Mike & Connie Northcutt (39th) |
| 15 Travis & Christle Jordan (10th) | |

Sympathy to the families of...

- Boyd, Ruth Hutchison (87).....died March 30, 2015
 Poncey, Clarence Claude, Jr. (85).....died April 2, 2015
 Persons, Maj. Gen. Wilton, Jr. (91).....died April 3, 2015
 Mitchell, Paula Genet (44).....died April 6, 2015
 Heisler, Roberta Golson (80).....died April 7, 2015
 Reynolds, Bobby Wayne (75).....died April 9, 2015
 Ventress, Mary Jo (92).....died April 11, 2015
 Watkins, Dr. Levi, Jr. (70).....died April 11, 2015
 Pittman, Juanita Fowler (91).....died April 12, 2015
 Sledge, Percy (74).....died April 14, 2015
 Avinger, Robert A. Iman (Bob) (90).....died April 16, 2015
 Garrett, Margaret Carolyn Jones (99).....died April 18, 2015
 Suggs, Virginia Hattenstein (87).....died April 18, 2015
 Mote, Emmette Vann, Sr. (81).....died April 22, 2015
 Dean, Carolyn Frances (84).....died April 23, 2015
 Howell, George Harper.....died April 24, 2015
 Gardner, Bennie Jordan.....died April 24, 2015
 Garner, Coach Pat (77).....died April 30, 2015

In Memoriam



Happy 1st Birthday

David Grant Selvage

April 30, 2014 -
May 17th 2014

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



*Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms. Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005*

Trisston's Tidbits...

*By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com*

"Go Team B & T!"

For months now, my hubby, Brian & I have talked about purchasing a selfie stick. After all, we mainly take photos with our cell phones these days. So, how nice it would be to be able to take photos together ourselves.

Recently, I was running errands and went by a popular box store. I saw they had selfie sticks. So I bought one for us. When I got home, I decided to go ahead, open the box & get our new toy working to surprise Brian. Simple right? WRONG!

I worked a good 45 minutes...even reading (which I rarely do) & re-reading the directions...and nothing! I did just as the directions said, but it

would not take a picture! When Brian arrived home, I showed him our new fangled device & explained how I could not get it to work. Soooo, another 45 minutes goes by with Brian trying to get it to work...reading & re-reading the direction. Nothing! So, we pretty much had decided to return it to the store.

Just as Brian was about to lay the selfie stick down, he noticed on the back of the box that it came in a picture of the selfie stick & in teeny tiny (almost microscopic) print near the picture of the end of the selfie stick handle were the words "on/off". We both looked at each other & shouted, "What?! There's an 'on/off' switch?"

Needless to say we both felt a little dumb & silly; however, in our defense, NO where in the directions did it mention an "on/off" switch.

Brian quickly looked at the handle & sure enough there was an "on/off" switch. He flipped it on. And Wallaa!! We took our first selfie stick photos. All the while laughing & saying, "Go Team B & T!" (We often refer to ourselves as Team B & T...which is short for Team Brian & Trisston).

This month, Brian & I will celebrate our 7th wedding anniversary. Without a doubt, there is no one on the planet I would rather go through life's ups, downs & round abouts with. We thank God everyday for bringing us together...forming Team B & T.

*"I have found the one whom my soul loves", Song of Solomon 3:4.
Every love story is beautiful, but ours is my favorite.*

Happy 7th Wedding Anniversary, Brian!! I love you!

Many Blessings!



B & T's 1st pic with selfie stick - April 2015



Pregnant?

*Maybe...
Maybe not...
Take the first step!*

Facing an unexpected pregnancy can be an emotional and life-changing event. You may be shocked and confused, unsure about your future, and feeling very alone. And you're probably very interested in exploring your options. But before you make any decisions...

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Happy Mothers Day!



Mother's Love

Her love is like an island in life's ocean, vast and wide
A peaceful, quiet shelter
From the wind, the rain, the tide.
'Tis bound on the north by Hope,
By Patience on the West,

By tender Counsel on the South
And on the East by Rest.
Above it like a beacon light
Shine Faith, and Truth, and Prayer;
And thro' the changing scenes of life
I find a haven there.

Author Unknown

And Grandma's too...

While we honor all our mothers with words of love and praise.
While we tell about their goodness and their kind and loving ways.
We should also think of Grandma, she's a mother too, you see....
For she mothered my dear mother as my mother mothers me.

Author Unknown

Roby Congratulates 2015 Congressional Art Winners

Montgomery, Dothan students recognized in national competition

Kaitlyn Tarver, a senior at Booker T. Washington Magnet School in Montgomery, Ala., is the winner of the Congressional Art Competition for Alabama's Second District. **Ashton Mueller**, a senior at Houston Academy in Dothan, Ala, is the runner-up.

The annual competition is sponsored by U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) as part of the national Congressional Art Competition. Tarver won first place for her silver gelatin print entitled, "America," while Mueller, won second place for her drawing titled, "Chief."

Rep. Roby expressed her congratulations to the winners and her gratitude to the teachers who have guided their talents.

"I'm proud to celebrate the artistic abilities of students throughout Alabama, and in particular Kaitlyn and Ashton," Rep. Roby said. "These young women have displayed impressive talent, and it's an honor to join their families and friends in commemorating this momentous occasion.

"I want to also express my sincerest gratitude to Kaitlyn's and Ashton's art teachers, Emily Thomas at Booker T. Washington and Anna Beasley at Houston Academy. Their commitment to helping their students experience the arts truly makes a difference, and I am grateful for their efforts.

"The annual Congressional Art Competition provides a special opportunity for students in Alabama's Second District to showcase their artwork through a national platform, and I appreciate the effort and initiative of each applicant who participated."

The winning piece will be displayed for one year in the United States Capitol alongside winning artwork from other Congressional Districts nationwide. The runner-up artwork will be on display in Rep. Roby's Washington, D.C. office. Submitted artwork from across Alabama's Second Congressional District was also displayed as a part of "Youth Art Month" at the Wiregrass Museum of Art in Dothan.

All submitted artwork was independently judged by an art professional.

Each spring, Members of the U.S. House of Representative sponsor a nationwide high school arts competition. The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide a process for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of young constituents. Since then, more than 650,000 high school students have been involved in the competition.

The annual art competition is open to high school juniors and seniors in Alabama's Second Congressional District. All entries must be original in concept, design and execution.

For more information on the competition and guidelines, visit: <http://roby.house.gov/serving-you/art-competition>.

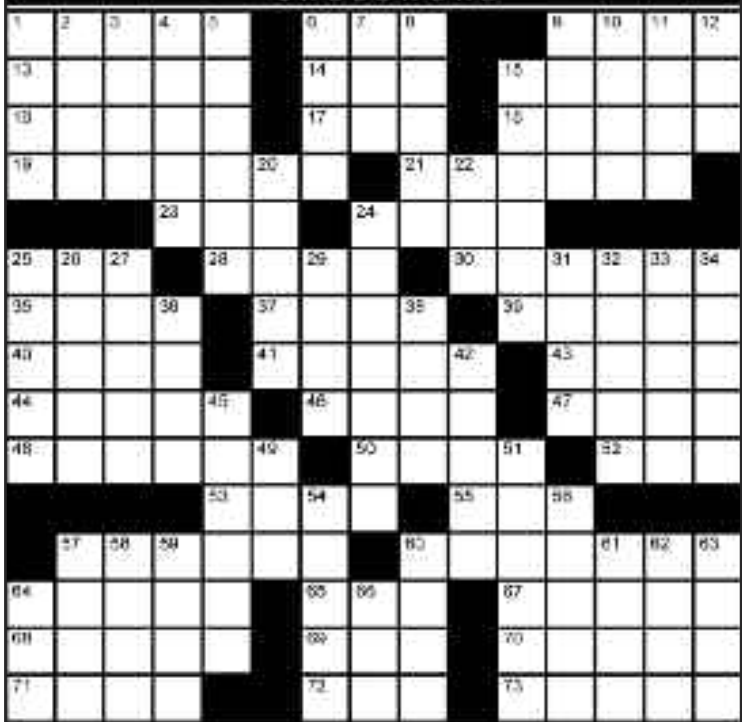


U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) congratulates Montgomery's Kaitlyn Tarver, the 2015 Congressional Art Competition winner from Alabama's Second Congressional District.

U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) congratulates Dothan's Ashton Mueller, the 2015 Congressional Art Competition runner-up from Alabama's Second Congressional District.

RELAX! JUST FOR FUN!

CROSSWORD



- 14. Broadcast
- 15. Happen again
- 16. Like city life
- 17. Mudbath site
- 18. Fill with high spirits
- 19. *"Mommie _____," movie
- 21. *Kate Hudson's mom
- 23. Dog command
- 24. Like Andersen's duckling
- 25. Eric Stonestreet on "Modern Family"
- 28. Hard currency
- 30. Internet business
- 35. In the sack
- 37. Sometimes hard to reach
- 39. Irrigation water wheel
- 40. Track event
- 41. *Suri's mom, e.g.
- 43. Fix a horse
- 44. _____'s razor
- 46. *BÈBÈ's mother
- 47. Copycat
- 48. Tarzan's swings
- 50. A in B.A.
- 52. "... _____ he drove out of sight"
- 53. Repair, as in socks
- 55. Pull the plug on
- 57. *Mom to Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy March
- 60. *Popular Mother's Day gift
- 64. Kim Jong-un of North _____
- 65. Reverential salutation
- 67. Tie again
- 68. Relating to Quechuan people
- 69. Intelligence org.
- 70. Dodge
- 71. Don't let this hit you on the way out
- 72. One of Bartholomew Cubbins' 500
- 73. More sly
- 15. Count on
- 20. Indifferent to emotions
- 22. *Like Mother Hubbard
- 24. Soiled
- 25. *TV's "lovely lady"
- 26. Olden day calculators
- 27. Muhammad's birthplace
- 29. Big-ticket _____
- 31. "Animal House" garb
- 32. French pancake
- 33. Oil tanker
- 34. *"Mother" in Italian
- 36. Novelist Koontz
- 38. German mister
- 42. Asian pepper
- 45. Sterling, Cooper or Draper
- 49. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
- 51. Soft palate vibrations
- 54. Boxer's stat
- 56. Inhabit
- 57. Kissing disease?
- 58. Atlantic Richfield Company
- 59. Last row
- 60. Notable achievement
- 61. Evening purse
- 62. Hitchhiker's quest
- 63. Nostradamus, e.g.
- 64. *Mom has at least one
- 66. By way of

DOWN

- 1. Part of house frame
- 2. Prepare by drying or salting
- 3. *This famous Jessica became a mom in 2008
- 4. Pinocchio and his kind
- 5. Relating to apnea
- 6. Brewer's kiln
- 7. Tombstone acronym
- 8. Health food pioneer
- 9. Retained
- 10. Palm tree berry
- 11. Guitar forerunner
- 12. Bonanza find

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*The subject to usage-based expenses on their availability.
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ACROSS

- 1. Milan's La _____
- 6. Globe shape

- 9. Saintry sign
- 13. Alexandre Duma's "The Black _____"

UNCLE ZEB

You Might Be A Redneck if...

- You have spent more on your pickup truck than on your education.
- You've ever hit a deer with your car... on purpose! "
- You can tell your age by the number of rings in the bathtub.
- The blue book value of your truck goes up and down depending on how much gas it has in it.
- Your classes at school were cancelled because the path to the restroom was flooded.
- Your wife's best pair of shoes are steel-toed Red Wings.
- You bring your dog to work with you.
- On your first date you had to ask your Dad to borrow the keys to the tractor.
- Your parakeet knows the phrase "Open up, Police!".



From CountryHumor.com

BOX SCRABBLE WORDS (All words appear in this issue of the Gazette.)

Answers on page 2B

orcntyu

clue page 8B

hlaamls

clue page 7B

drapesia

clue page 6A

gsuaeas

clue page 2B

hstnariic

clue page 4A

tseifrt

clue page 2B

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								9
	1			9			6	8
		9	5			2		
4		7		5			1	
3		6		2		5		7
	5			7		8		4
		3			4	6		
5	7			3			4	
1								

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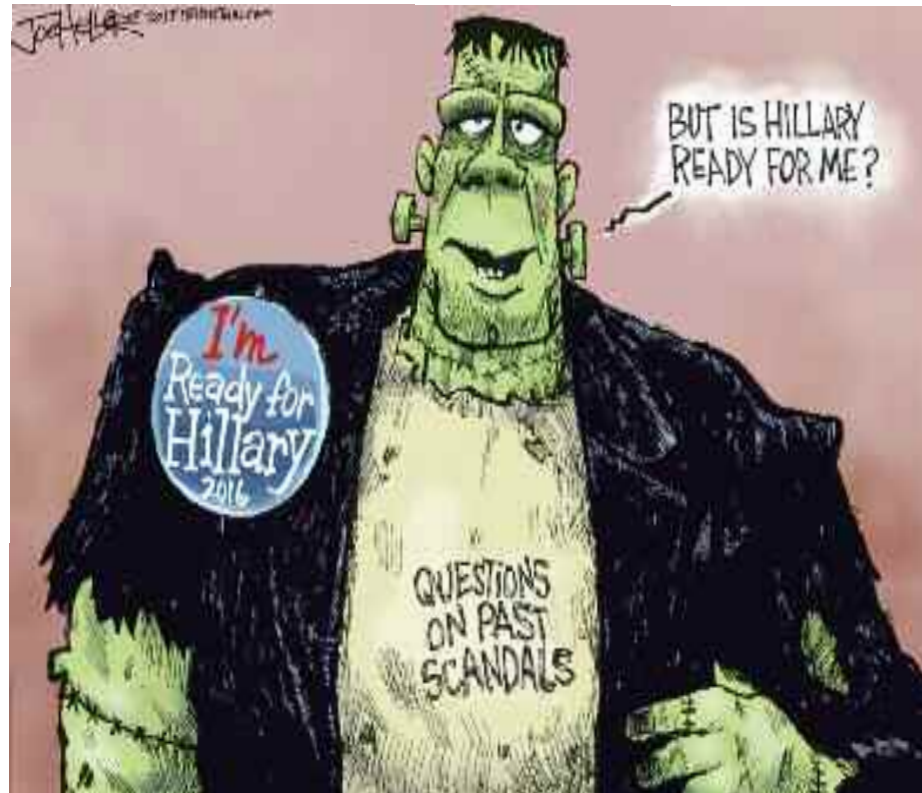
Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Sudoku Solution

1	6	4	2	8	5	9	7	3
5	7	8	9	3	6	1	4	2
2	9	3	7	1	4	6	8	5
9	5	1	6	7	3	8	2	4
3	8	6	4	2	1	5	9	7
4	2	7	8	5	9	3	1	6
8	4	9	5	6	7	2	3	1
7	1	5	3	9	2	4	6	8
6	3	2	1	4	8	7	5	9

Crossword Solution

DOOR	HAT	BLIER
INGAN	CAV	ELUDE
KOREA	AVE	RETIRE
MARMEE	FLOWERS	
DARN	END	
LIVANS	ARTS	ERE
ODDAR	MERE	AREL
RACE	CLEB	GELD
ABED	LITCH	NORLY
CAM	COIN	DOTCOM
SIT	UGLY	
OEARE	ST	GLODIE
URBAN	SPA	ELVATE
TULIP	AIR	REGUR
SALIA	ORB	VALY



Talassee Now!

McCraney Cottle Arts Council



Dovard Taunton Art Show



Visit the Trophy Room

Live Entertainment

JUNE 5th & 6th, 2015

Thurlow Dam Tour



7TH Annual Talassee NOW BBQ Festival & 5th Annual Cook-Off June 5th & 6th

5K Run FINISH



Car Show



Farmers Market

Talassee Community Development "Tailgating Events" total sales \$150,000 in 2014 in support of Community Projects!

- BBQ Plates ~ \$8⁰⁰
- Tasters Choice Sampler ~ \$10⁰⁰
- Whole Boston Butt ~ \$35⁰⁰
- Ribs ~ \$25⁰⁰
- Brisket ~ \$60⁰⁰
- Camp Stew ~ \$12⁰⁰ (quart)

Vendors Welcome



Quilt Show

Arts & Crafts



Don't Miss a Single Event!

7:00 am - 6:00 pm DOWNTOWN TALLASSEE

5th ANNUAL

BBQ

COOK-OFF

On the Green at City Hall

7TH Annual Talassee NOW June 5th & 6th

PRIZE MONEY

Grand Champion	Reserve Champion
\$500.00	\$300.00

The Talassee Community Development Corporation proudly sponsors this event for the benefit of the citizens



PRIZE MONEY 4 CATEGORIES

4 Categories
\$500.00 Grand Champion
\$100.00 1st Place
\$ 50.00 2nd Place
\$ 25.00 3rd Place



For information contact: rrgiel@neptunetg.com or dale.segrest@segrestlaw.com 334-252-0036

We enclose an entry fee of \$100.00 or \$25.00 per category, and agree to furnish the entry meat at our own expense. We agree that the host of the cook-off, The Talassee Community Development Corporation its officers, and any agent representing the host, shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, or injury to the person or property of any of the contestants, or their family members or guests. I have read and this team agrees to abide by the rules and regulations covering this cook-off and all team members informed of the official rules.



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