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A Season for Giving! \$1,000

The Alabama Gazette will again present \$100 cash to ten deserving people in the Tri-County area.

Send in your nomination letter stating why you think your friend or family deserves \$100 cash for Christmas.

Please include address and phone numbers of your nominee.

Email the Gazette at <u>alabamagazette@gmail.com</u> or send your letter to The Alabama Gazette 12 E. Jefferson Street Montgomery, AL 36104 All nominations must be received by December 16th. Winners will be notified by December 19th.

THANKSGIVING! AN "AMERICAN" HOLIDAY!

Hopefully we kneel in thankfulness not in protest of our country and its heritage. May we consider the needs of others on this special day. A day which brought different cultures together to form a nation.

A needed break from politics then and now!

Our American Thanksgiving is uniquely our own holiday, set aside by Presidential Proclamation, the day to give thanks to our heavenly Father for His Providential care for us, and for His gracious mercy. It is a day set aside for the Family, acknowledged to be the basic unit of society and culture. The family is the very core of all of our lives, the place where values are set, and relationships are honored, and the seeds of self-government are planted. It is here that the religious faith of the family legacy is upheld or weakened.

On this Thanksgiving Day, families will gather in every city, town and hamlet around the dining table, many decorated with Pilgrim figures on napkins and tablecloths, in an effort to portray a Thanksgiving theme of remembrance of the first Thanksgiving in old Plymouth. Family members will travel far and near to be together, many at grandmother's house, where precious memories will be built and treasured. It is sad that so few of these families really understand the legacy that is theirs to claim.

How many gathered around the tables will know the true story of the First Thanksgiving and the history that led up to it? Without the understanding, how can a family claim the heritage that gave us the greatest nation in all of history? These sturdy Pilgrims paved the way for religious and civil liberty, and sowed the seed of Christian self-government, that would eventually flower into a Christian Constitutional Republic. Their story should be shared for every generation around these tables, and our commitment to know our Christian heritage should inspire us for future study.

"In coming to this country our fathers most certainly contemplated not merely a safe retreat beyond the sea, where they could worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience, but a local government founded on popular choice...their political code, united religion and liberty, morals and law, and it deferred from the wild license which breaks away from these restraints."

-Edward Everett speaking in Plymouth, August 1, 1853

Please see Education Station on page 6A, written by Bobbie Ames on the historial inception of our country and our celebration of our American Thanksgiving.



Veterans Day...

World War I – known at the time as **"The Great War"** - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "*the war to end all wars*."

In November 1919, **President Wilson** proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR ALL WHO NOW SERVE AND HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY. VETERANS DAY - NOVEMBER 11, 2017

1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples. Continued on page 5A



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 served 16 years in the state legislature.

www.steveflowers.us

legislative institution was created to educate older Americans about issues of local, state, and national concern.

The purpose is to insure that all 105 legislative districts have a senior legislator to mirror and provide some liaison with our 105 regular state legislators, assist them, and keep them apprised of senior issues that affect their constituents.

The Silver legislators serve as conduits between the state's area agencies on aging, Senior Centers, nutritional centers and generally being the eyes and ears of seniors related to finances, education, recreation, health and wellness.

Unlike the regular legislature, the Silver Hairs body is unicameral and nonpartisan. They are from all parts of the state. The age requirement is that one must be over age 60.

They pass resolutions, not bills. Their nonpartisanship makes for a much more effective and harmonious legislative session than our regular legislature.

Many of these senior legislators have historically been an extremely

experienced collection of retired state employees, educators, business people, judges, former legislators, mayors, and public servants. Many have been involved with governance at all levels.

Alabama is an aging state. By 2030 those age 60 and above will represent 27 percent of Alabama's population. It is often overlooked, but this age shift is evolving. Currently it is estimated that nearly 20 percent of Alabama's population is over 60. The fastest growing segment of our state's population is our folks 70-85. Projections are at the next census one of every five Alabamians will be over 65. Therefore, it is apropos that we have a senior legislature of over 60 year olds looking after their interests.

They were at the forefront and subsequently were the reason that an Elder Abuse Statue was passed in the state. They were the first to address the issue of texting and driving. Legislation came out of that resolution. They have impacted the Medicaid budgeting problems and nursing home enhancements and regulations. They were the first to bring attention to the predatory payday lending business. They brought about public transportation for senior citizens who live in rural areas and small municipalities. They have sought assistance to better fund all Department of Senior Services.

Their current leadership is stellar. The Speaker of the House is Steve Griffin of Tuscaloosa. Winston Griggs of Headland is Speaker Pro Tem. George Boswell of Wetumpka is Secretary. Sandra Harris of Alexander City is treasurer. Other leaders who serve on the board and are legislative leaders are Mary Jo Martin of Demopolis, Dean McCormack of Tuscumbia, Warner Floyd of Montgomery, Homer Homan of Brundidge, Selena Daniel of Opelika, Carol Oden of Vinemont and Ann Holman of Dothan.

While much of the focus is on the younger generation, it will be those that have helped build the state who are quietly listening to the issues and helping plan the trajectory of state programs and politics who may actually have the loudest input at the ballot box and in helping shape the legislation that insures that Alabama remembers the needs of its seniors along with all of its citizens.



Ronald A.

Holtsford

With all the changes and uncertainty

surrounding Alabama government in

recent months, including political

appointments, high level resignations,

special elections, runoff elections and

a host of new candidates tossing their

names into the 2018 election circus,

Alabamians might be relieved to know

one thing remains steady and solid and

many may never have heard of it -

Alabama's Silver Haired Legislature

This illustrious and distinguished

array of Alabama's senior leaders will

convene in Montgomery next week.

This elected body of 105 members

will meet to discuss issues related to

seniors but in some cases, they may

have positive impacts on the State in

Alabama's Silver Haired Legislature

has met now for 24-years. They have

had a significant impact on Alabama

The idea of a body to represent seniors

has been around the nation since 1973.

Most states now have a Silver Haired

Legislature. The idea of a senior

general.

Public Policy.

is one of Alabama's crown jewels.

What Seems to Be The Biggest Issues With Wills That You See In Your Practice?



The biggest issues that I see unfortunately occur after someone is dead when a new Will is now an impossibility. Some people will do a Will with a lawyer at some point in their life forty years ago and never update it. An old Will that is defective in language or the kids in the

Will are now grown with their own families can make the probate process considerably more difficult than it

should be. The person who sees me for other estate planning that does not include a Will, I have come to realize needs to be encouraged to bring in their "old" Will so that I can review not necessarily what one wants done with their assets mentioned in their Will but whether the Will can be effectively used in probate. Of course I also get Wills not done by a lawyer that are defective because the person doing the Will either does a homemade version or may actually have a Will with the needed language but only obtains one witness, making it useless.



followed but a hybrid administration of the estate is required losing some of the main benefits of having a Will.

You may say you don't have anything and don't need a Will. Though there may be some nonprobate workarounds, if you have anything that is titled in your name, i.e. vehicle, house or financial accounts, you have something that probably needs to be addressed in a Will.

Some things in our lives need updating every few

years before the cost of repair becomes too expensive. Just like the cost of a car it's an expense that most of us don't want to deal with but it becomes necessary every few years. Wills, like cars can become "broken down" over several years. I want to encourage the readers to see a lawyer about a Will if you haven't done one in the last few years. Just like I tell the clients that I see, "If you don't have a Will the State of Alabama has one for you and you may not like where your stuff goes plus the personal representative has to be bonded and an inventory of your stuff has to be done".

Let your heirs realize one day how smart you were to take care of your affairs



I have two Wills that I am working to probate now that are defective in that they are missing "self proving" language. The self-proving language is found in the Code of Alabama and the language in the Will must be substantially the same. One Will was done in Alabama and all witnesses are dead so there is no one to come forward to say that they saw the person sign the Will, that they were over 18, that they seemed competent and made their Will willingly. So there will be a Probate hearing before the Judge of Probate with the person that wants to act as the personal representative as another defective issue exists and will need to include another person familiar with the signature of one of the witnesses. The other estate lacking the self-proving language involves an Alabama resident but out of state Will. Fortunately a witness has been located in that other state but another process will be required in that other state.

Another big issue has been the naming of only a single executor/ executrix/ personal representative and that named individual died before the decedent did. So that creates additional issues requiring that the person desiring to be the personal representative be bonded based on the value of the estate and that an inventory be done with values of the estate assets. In that case the Will can be and not let their grief multiply when they have to labor through additional steps to probate your estate.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney- client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist.

"No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

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



Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris "Chip" Beeker, Jr. A Tale of Two Responses

On October 1, 2017 over 500 people were injured and 58 people lost their lives when Stephen Paddock opened fire on concert goers at a country music festival in Las Vegas from his hotel room. This catastrophic event is the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. As usual, when the responses came out following the shooting, the nation was shown honesty and compassion from the right and lunacy from the left.

The debate over gun control and the second amendment have long been a point of contention. There are those who recognize that the second amendment is a precious right that gives us the ability to bear arms in defense of ourselves and our families. Then there are those who don't respect the Constitution and want to ignore the rights it provides us. Those are the people who always blame the gun for a mass shooting, not the evil person who held it. Although I have heard politicians make statements about guns for decades, I was still struck by the stark differences in the statements made about the Las Vegas shooting. In speaking of this mass slaughter, President Trump got it right, calling it a "senseless act of pure evil." He didn't blame the gun industry for manufacturing the object used to carry out the horrendous act, nor did he blame the National Rifle Association ("NRA") for supporting and defending the second amendment. President Trump correctly understands that guns are not the problem, evil people are. In our lifetime, we have seen Timothy McVeigh and his conspirators use fertilizer to kill 168 and the conspirators on 9/11 use box cutters to hijack airplanes they then used to kill almost 3,000 people. Those acts should teach anyone that, even if we eliminate guns from our society, evil people will find ways to kill other people.

Hillary Clinton, on the other (left) hand, was quick to politicize the horrific tragedy. Instead of blaming Paddock, she took a cheap shot at the NRA, tweeting, "The crowd fled at the sound of gunshots. Imagine the deaths if the shooter had a silencer, which the NRA wants to make easier to get." Hillary, who is protected twenty-four hours a day seven days a week by men with guns, showed her willful ignorance. In her world, the evil actor in Las Vegas was the NRA, not Paddock. And anyone who knows anything about "silencers" knows that they do not silence a gun, they suppress it. That is why they are more accurately called "suppressors." But Hillary, like all liberals, doesn't care about facts, she cares about furthering her agenda; her agenda includes getting guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens.

I ask that you continue to pray for those recovering from the shooting in Las Vegas and for the families and friends of those who died because of that terrible act. We should also pray that God will deliver our nation from those politicians who ignore the evil among us.

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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT



Addiction is More than Just Statistics

Did you know that more than 64,000 Americans died of a drug overdose last year? The majority of those were heroin or opioid overdoses.

Our country is in the midst of a heroin and opioid epidemic, with 91 Americans dying every day from an overdose. The problem is particularly acute in Alabama, where opioid drugs are prescribed at a higher ratio than any other state in the nation. Alabama averages an alarming 1.2 opioid prescriptions per person, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Opioids are derived from the opium poppy and are commonly used in strong pain relief medications such as morphine, codeine, hydrocodone, and oxycodone. Doctors often prescribe these powerful pain relief drugs to patients recovering from surgery or suffering from chronic pain. These drugs have a high potential for abuse and addiction, especially when improperly prescribed or taken. Too often patients who have become addicted turn to heroin when they are no longer able to access or afford the prescription pain killers.

Anyone who has ever struggled with addiction or known a loved one who has understands that this issue is much more personal than just statistics. No one makes a conscious decision to become addicted to pills or heroin. It happens gradually and can affect

almost anyone. While patients suffering from extreme pain need access to strong medication, we need better tools to prevent addiction, help people get treatment, and stop drug traffickers who push and profit from abuse.

I'm pleased to report that President Trump has declared the opioid crisis in the United States to be a national health emergency. This important designation will redirect federal resources to most effectively fight this epidemic. It requires federal agencies to devote more grant money already in their budgets to addressing the problem and to overcome any bureaucratic delays in the dispersion of these grants. It also shifts some federal grants toward expanding access to medical services in rural areas. The President's action builds upon the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act, which Congress passed last year to improve the prevention, treatment, recovery, and police enforcement of prescription drug abuse.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has formed the Opioid Fraud and Abuse Detection Unit within the Department of Justice. Federal prosecutors have already taken action against those peddling prescription drugs in Alabama, including a Birmingham pharmacy technician who manipulated cancer patients' medicine to feed his own addiction and two Haleyville pharmacy workers who took part in a scheme to generate fraudulent prescriptions. Action

The Chambliss Commentary

Martha Roby represents Alabama's 2nd Congressional District. She lives in Montgomery, AL with her husband, Riley and her two children.



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is also being taken on the state and local level. Last

month, Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall announced he is joining with 40 other state attorneys general to investigate suspect opioid manufactures.

I'm grateful for the strong measures being taken by federal, state, and local law enforcement to address this problem. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, and specifically the subcommittee that funds the Department of Justice, I'm proud to support these efforts. Our most recent Housepassed appropriations bill included a \$37 million funding increase to enhance opioid investigations and prosecutions. The bill also includes \$103 million for programs to address drug abuse through drug courts, treatment, and prescription drug monitoring.

If you or someone you know struggles with addiction, please know that there are resources in our state to help. In 2015, the Alabama Drug Abuse Task Force launched the Zero Addiction Campaign to prevent and treat drug addiction.

Visit www.zeroaddiction.org to find addiction treatment services in your county.



Marcia Chambliss

Liberal Media Bias Exposing For months now, we've heard the term "fake news" batted around and attached to news organizations

across the political spectrum. The term has been increasingly applied by President Trump as it

relates to the coverage of his administration by liberal news outlets, and while conservatives have long known that the dominant mainstream media outlets were skewed to the left, are they truly culpable in an agenda of pushing propaganda under the guise of news?

James O'Keefe, conservative activist and president of Project Veritas, who is best known for his undercover video series exposing ACORN, voter fraud, and other government misconduct, set out to learn just what happens in the hallowed halls of media giant The New York Times in his new video series "American Pravda, NYT." O'Keefe's undercover tactics typically draw immediate outrage from the left, and this series is no exception. I would imagine that even the series title, an apparent comparison of American print and network media to that of communist Russia was akin to pouring gasoline on a fire in the minds of O'Keefe's enemies.

The four-part series (recommended for adult viewing only at http://projectveritas.com/ due to excessive use of expletives in describing our president) consists of undercover interviews with two members of the media staff and one I.T. contract staffer with The New York Times. The first interview of Nick Dudich reveals the online tactics of burying stories that the staffer didn't like as well as his bragging about the placement of anti-Trump stories on the front page. Senior management of the Times dismissed the first and second videos as the staffer only being a recent hire who "violated their ethical standards and misrepresented his role" but the third video was far more revealing with remarks from Senior Home Page Editor, Desiree Shoe. In that video, Shoe is heard admitting this about the Times: "...it's widely understood to be liberal-leaning. But, American newspapers are not supposed to claim a bias, they're supposed to be objective." Further, Shoe claims that reporters of the NYT actually thought that anti-Trump articles before the election could sway voters against Trump. In her own words, "I think one of the things that maybe journalists were thinking about is like... Oh, if we write about him, about how insanely crazy he is and how ludicrous his policies are, then maybe people will read it and be like, oh wow, we shouldn't vote for him."

actually "hate him (Trump) like the plague" and "unfairly report" on him by relying on hearsay rather than confirmed facts.

While we expect a degree of bias from opinion pieces such as my own which is appropriately titled as commentary, Americans expect the news we receive to be as free of bias as humanly possible. It's certainly not easy to remove your bias when reporting; I still remember my attempts at doing so a few years back while briefly covering legislation at the Alabama State House for this publication. It was truly one of the hardest writing assignments I've ever encountered, and it gave me a deep appreciation for those few journalists of our time who endeavor to report the "who, what, where, when, and how" of news without slanting the facts towards either political side.

I've never held the belief that the NYT was in any way conservative but here's my question - is the NYT merely biased or are they engaging in controlling the news? Based on the information contained in these recently released videos, it's fairly apparent to me there's certainly an intent to do so. But O'Keefe isn't content with only exposing the bias and attempts to influence news at the NYT; he has promised that his video series will continue and expose other mainstream news outlets one at a time.

The angry reaction to the video series from NYT's executive editors is as expected, with Executive Editor Dean Baquet calling O'Keefe a "despicable person who runs a despicable operation," all the while acknowledging that an employee said "really stupid stuff" and "things he shouldn't have said." This editor thinks that going undercover is a greater "sin" as it is a sin of deception and subterfuge. Yet, the NYT and numerous media outlets in this nation have in the past utilized undercover operations to expose instances of fraud and corruption. Why are similar tactics acceptable for them but not others?

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

Finally, in the last video, in-office I.T. consultant Todd Gordon who has been with the company for 20 years acknowledges that the entire culture of the NYT



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As O'Keefe explains in a video response to this editor, "their deception is to the people. Our deception is to gain access to certain subjects so that we can tell the truth about them to the American people. In other words, we deceive our targets - they deceive their audience."

And in these videos, employees of the NYT brag about it. Sorry, Mr. Baquet and the NYT, do you really want to debate who is being deceptive?

*All quotes from http://projectveritas.com/ and video series "American Pravda, NYT'

Marcia Chambliss has been involved in grassroots conservative politics since 2009 and has contributed opinion articles pertaining to and cultural issues to The Alabama Gazette since 2010.

> 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 errors 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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<u>November 2017</u>



The views of submitted editorials may notbe the express views of The Alabama Gazette. John Sophocleus

GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com.

There's a different scent in the wind on Goat Hill with Felon Hubbard in the rear view mirror. House Speaker Mac McCutcheon has shown himself a different Spirit than his predecessor he once shilled for, recently highlighted by efforts focused on reducing waste and revising our State budgeting process. More hidden from public view, some political junkies were pleased how quickly McCutcheon rebuked shady, vulgar 'political business as usual' Riley, Inc. type fundraising tactics to further signal a "High Plains Grifter" was no longer Speaker of our State House. The 'Canary in the Drummond Mine' appears further pressed for oxygen.



Josh Moon (Alabama Political Reporter, 10/18/17) covered the press conference to formally dub the 'Committee on Fiscal Responsibility' to be Chaired by Rep. Chris Pringle, which many in our State pray lives up to the nomenclature. "Its task is to give taxpayers the maximum return on the dollars they send to Montgomery," McCutcheon said. "(The committee) will search for waste and abuse and find ways to save money." Pringle said he thought the task like searching couch cushions for extra money. "I told the Speaker that it reminded me of the old Clint Eastwood movie where instead of going to all the trouble of mining for gold in the mountain, they instead just search under the saloon for all of the gold coins that have fallen through the cracks in the floor boards," Pringle joked. "That's kind of what we're doing," according to Mr. Moon's report. McCutcheon further asserted the committee would work in conjunction with the budget reform committee, taking up legislation proposed by that special committee.

There's some hope they'll find enough revenue to attenuate forecasted shortfalls in the general fund budget, where spending (some driven by increased input prices) far exceeds expected revenues. With 'big ticket' items like prison reform in the mix, McCutcheon admitted some new revenue sources are under consideration, but didn't volunteer any specifics in the **APR** report. Assuming no 'Billion Dollar Bob' type traditional Republican proposals are on the table, there's indeed a new Speaker in town.



Burlington-Vermont, Bristol-Virginia, and Groton-Connecticut."

The PR campaign to justify this government overreach into providing what could otherwise be done by private entities has intensified these past months. According to Mayor Fuller, Opelika's network, in its fourth year of operation in 2016, was "on pace with our five-year plan to be at break even." As explained in the Phoenix Center's **PERSPECTIVE** article cited above, "this rosy assessment is entirely at odds with the city's own books. The city's telecommunications service has experienced large and continuing financial losses through 2016, accumulating millions in financial losses during its four years of operation. Before 'break even,' these millions in losses must be recovered."

The Phoenix Center's analysis of OPS broadband network's financial health used the city's financial statements showing the city has lost about \$14 million dollars on the network side, a significant burden for this small community. Their financial losses are predicted to mount through 2020, as the network will continue to generate insufficient revenues on an annual basis to accumulate losses of nearly \$19 million. By any traditional financial accounting/analysis, OPS's broad-band network is unlikely to ever be "profitable."

Some, mostly smaller cities (who fail to understand fundamental economics w.r.t. economies of scale/ scope) have taken on the substantial financial risk of constructing and operating their own broadband networks, often in direct competition with private companies. Opelika is one of the few cities across the US exposing their residents to this unnecessary risk. The City of Opelika provides several "Business-Type Activities" - e.g., electricity, sewer services, garbage collection and more recently telecommunications services. Operating an electric utility provides some advantages to the city's broadband network; already established RoWs, employees with existing knowledge about network construction, distribution and customer service, along with other assets which can be shared between the two.

Municipal electric utilities offer another exploitable (like blood in the water for these political sharks) advantage - i.e., monopoly profits! Records show the electric division produced annual operating profit [2010] for the city of about \$5.5 million. Little surprise cities foolishly operating electricity and broadband networks shift network cost to the electric side. Opelika's accomplished subterfuge follows this established pattern of shifting broadband network cost to their monopolized, highly profitable electric division to cloak the financial losses generated by broadband.

Opelika forecasted \$43 million in cost to the city for broadband. The city initiated the construction of the



this period to approximate the non-power cost of the electric division for the 2011 to 2010 period using data from the city's financial statements.

Finances of the standalone electric utility resulted in averages about \$4.6 million annually, consistent with the financials prior to the construction of the broadband network (at \$5 million for 2007 through 2010). Combined results display the cross-subsidy from the electric to the telecommunications division. When the divisions are combined, the outcome is much LOWER than for the standalone electric division, but the joint outcome still remains positive in all years except 2014. Monopoly profit from the electric division was sufficient to cover broadband network losses, but this does not imply the broadband network had minimal financial impact. Prior to the broadband network, the city benefitted from the internal transfer of millions from the electric division, and now those transfers are substantially lower, impacting ALL taxpayers.

The true [net] financial impact of the broadband network is the difference between the combined divisions and the standalone electric utility. For instance, in 2013, the standalone electric utility would have had a positive income of \$3.38 million. The combined divisions, however, only had a positive income of \$1.54 million. Thus, the broadband network reduced the city's income by \$1.8 million (= 1.54 - 3.38), raising cumulative losses to \$2 million when added to the cumulative loss of \$0.16 million in 2012 according to the Phoenix Center's analysis.

Dr. Ford found the financial impact of the broadband network shockingly large. 2016 annual financial losses estimated \$2.9 million; only slightly smaller than the \$3.5 million loss in 2015. Over the fouryear life of the network, cumulative losses are \$13.7 million. This loss to the city equals about \$1,140 per household in Opelika. At the rate of loss accumulation, the Opelika network is unlikely ever to be "profitable," according to these estimates.

Differences between actual losses of the broadband network and those reported for the telecommunications division by the city are also alarming. 2016 reported a loss for the telecommunications division of \$1.36 million (operating losses plus interest expense), about \$1.6 million below the actual loss computed in the **PERSPECTIVE** article citing, "the difference is, in part, related to the shifting of broadband expenses to the electric division, including (but not limited to) the \$1.4 million in interest expenses assigned to the electric division but caused by the broadband network. Other hidden expenses include the expenses related to the assets purchased with the \$28.1 million loan and assigned to the electric division. The margins of the electric utility also were rising prior to the construction of the broadband network. Over the life of the broadband network, the city reports cumulative losses for the telecommunications division equal of only \$6.45 million, when actual losses are closer to \$13.7 million.'

As Felon Hubbard's influence becomes less palpable on Goat Hill, this pollutant's foul omnipresence in the District 79 area (from still being heralded on buildings and street signs to obtaining corrupt govt. school radio contracts) is most notable among the minions who shilled for him in open court (bankers, clergy and mayors to congressmen) before sentencing in Judge Walker's Lee County Circuit Court. The most ubiquitous Hubbard minion to keep steaming forward with the sort of 'business practices' deemed honorable and successful by the current BCA crowd is Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller. As long as the consequences earned by Felon Hubbard do not come to fruition (many forecast the former 'Spender of the House' will not spend one day he's earned behind bars) it is a rational response to continue exhibiting such parasitic hubris.



[OPS] the city's sole electric utility provider. Opelika was one a few hundred US cities to install their own



Opelika became Al-

abama's first "Gig City"

in 2013 offering broad-

band internet services to

their 12,000 households

over a \$43 million fiber-

structed and operated by

Opelika Power Services

con-

optic network

broadband networks, chasing the common pipe dream(s) that economic development driven by politburo desires are more effective than those motivated and disciplined by market forces. According to Dr. George Ford (http://www.phoenixcenter.org/perspectives/Perspective17-11Final.pdf) the incidence of the phenomenon has slowed, "in part due to the shortage of federal subsidies these networks typically require and in part due to the numerous and often spectacular financial and management failures of these government-owned networks ("GONs") in cities like Provo-Utah,

network in 2011 when OPS (not the telecom division/side) borrowed \$28.1 million. Revenue to finance annual interest payments of \$1.44 million, which include expenses and depreciation from assets acquired with those funds, is paid by monopolized 'captive' electric ratepayers. Tens of millions of dollars is an alarming amount by any reasonable 'perspective' for a municipality of about 12,000 residences.

Our first scent of the sewer wafted more odiferous as Mayor Fuller continued his financial 'ledgerdemain' asserting OPELIKA's Aa3 bond rating implied their broadband network hasn't negatively impacted the city's financial condition. Those like Dr. Ford are not easily fooled, pointing out, "What the mayor fails to mention is that the debt for the broadband network is secured by a first lien on the net revenues of the electric system, not the city." The PERSPECTIVE article further notes Moody's 2014 bond rating downgrade of the city's electric utility (on the \$28 million bond) from Aa3 to A1 to reflect the utility's "financial support of the city's relatively new telecommunications enterprise and the longterm risks posed by exposure to the sector's competitive market forces."

Mixing electric and telecommunications division financial reports 'muddies' impacts of the broadband network. A full accounting of the finances of the broadband network was approximated by the Phoenix Center interpolating an estimate of the city's electricity operation "as if" the broadband network was never constructed. Comparing reported mixed financials of the electric and telecommunications divisions to Phoenix Center estimates display the financial impact of the unsubsidized broadband network.

OPS's financial results were very stable; the municipal utility purchases electricity, which is distributed over its network. Dr. Ford assumed electricity revenues and power expenses are unaffected by the broadband network. His 'counterfactual' is a calculation of non-power expenses of the electric division, free from the influence of the broadband network. Between 2007 and 2010, the four years before construction began, non-power expenses (depreciation and other costs) grew about \$0.4 million annually. They applied a linear trend based on expense over Dr. Ford forecasted financials using simple models projecting revenues and expenses to 2020 predict annual losses decline slightly over the years as telecom revenue increases. Addition of broadband network to the city's business services promises almost \$1 million loss in 2020; cumulative losses by 2020 are \$18.6 million and given the realities of actual network "breakeven" losses are expected to accumulate long past 2020. The PERSPECTIVE article asserts, "The broadband network has resulted in a sizable financial hole from which there is little hope the city will ever emerge."

When pressed by an unmixed analysis of Opelika broadband system finances, Mayor Fuller alleged this sort of financial assessment wrongfully allocates the cost of electric grid modernization to the broadband network. "Grid modernization" rhetoric is -another commonly used 'slight of hand' evoked by cities trying to justify 'cross-subsidies' to broadband from their electric division. Dr. Ford points out Smart Grid applications do not require fiber optic connections to households; home metering and realtime pricing can be accomplished using much cheaper and readily available technologies. Ford cited the manager of Chattanooga's city-built fiber network (also heavily subsidized by electric ratepayers) admission fiber was not necessary for grid modernization.

The **PERSPECTIVE** article finding, "Financial audits indicate that only about 4 to 6% of the costs of a broadband network are reasonably assigned to a municipal electric utility for grid modernization," was one of the most glaring illustrations of the misinformation campaign thrust upon the public reading Opelika City Council minutes from 2010 hanging their hat on this 'ledgerdemain.'

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



ROBSERVATIONS BITS AND PIECES: YET AGAIN

Once again, so many stories, so little room to write. Sort of like a Lays potato chip, I cannot have just one.

So here goes. 1. DOUG JONES FOR SENATE.



In my column, I do try to remain "politics neutral" without necessarily coming out with an endorsement of any candidate. But by now, I am sure most of you know where I am coming from politically. Have any of you noticed that in Doug Jones' commercials, (two that I have seen thus far), he doesn't mention he is a Democrat? No, really, he doesn't. My wife actually pointed this out to me. This is the first time I have ever seen someone run for political office but because of possible shame and/or embarrassment, the candidate won't tell people watching his ads that he is affiliated with one particular political party. Sheeeesh!!

2. FREDERICA WILSON (D) FL.



By now, I am sure all of us have been caught up in the bruhaha surrounding Congresswoman Wilson and President Trump. As a rehash, on 4 October, 4 US Army Rangers were killed in the African country of Niger. As a way of paying tribute to the fallen, President Trump decided to call the family of Sgt. La David Johnson. What followed has been a couple weeks of non-stop absurdity. The family of Sgt. Johnson stated that President Trump's comments were insensitive. According to Congresswoman Wilson (the Toy Story cowboy hat wearer) a close family friend, was listening to the phone call said that Trump had told the widow that "you know that this could happen when you signed up for it ... but it still hurts." She was clearly implying that President Trump was making light of Sgt. Johnson's death.

What a fire storm that has followed. After all, how could a President of the United States basically tell a grieving widow to, "Suck it up, buttercup. He knew what he was getting into." Well, he didn't. Searching through all the chaff and clutter, I tried to pin down President Trump's actual quote. This is what I found. "They know the risk, they know what they signed up for but they still volunteer to put their lives on the line for their fellow Americans. We owe them a debt that can never be repaid." What a difference, huh? If, and this is a big "IF," if this quote is real and had I been the one killed in combat, my wife would not be offended by this statement. How could she? Okay, let's cut to the chase. A silver-tongued orator the President is not. He is NO Winston Churchill, Abe Lincoln or Martin Luther King. I get that. Do I think he could have flubbed his "lines" so to speak? Certainly. No doubt. He does that every day. But yes, I find it funny that of all the calls he has made to other families, only one family has come forward to lambast the President. Don't you think that if the President was so completely insensitive and out of bounds, other families would be saying the same thing? Of course they would. I saw an interview with another Gold-Star widow and she was thankful the President called her. Yet this has blown up into yet another racially based incident driven by the leftist whackos out there. Why is it that the widow, Myeshia Johnson, close personal friend of Frederica Wilson and avowed Trump hater, is the only widow who feels disrespected? Just saying folks, but if it looks, smells and quacks like a duck, then it is a duck. Do I think Mrs. Johnson is lying? I won't say that but I certainly believe she got it wrong.

Of course, according to the left, the President has done this as a way of solely disrespecting a black, Gold-Star widow. Right. If this is what we are to believe, I for one do not. And the screaming for an apology from the President is echoing every day. Leftists say he should apologize to the widow and to Congresswoman Wilson for "disrespecting an African American woman" and for, in Wilson's words "character assassination." Personally, I thought that for character assassination to occur, character had to first be proven. But that is another issue. Yes the President tweeted that she was wacky and yes the world is up in arms over that. But again, I find it interesting that nobody, and I mean nobody, is reporting that the Congresswoman stated in an interview that "the President is crazy." Yeah, she did but he is expected to apologize to her but not viceversa. That being said, like I wrote in my last column, Mr. President, stay the \$#@%\$ off of Twitter. Quite giving these idiots ammunition.

3. MAXINE WATERS.



(James Brown called from the grave and said he wants his hair back). Talk about whackos. Okay people, I need some help here. But first, here is a quote from the Godmother of Shame herself. "I'm sitting here listening, watching, absorbing, thinking about Ali even though I never met him. And with this kind of inspiration, I will go and take Trump out tonight." So let me get this straight. This, this, this, person, a sitting US Congresswoman, says in front of a crowd that she is going to kill the current President of the United States and 1) she still has a job, 2) she is not in jail, and 3) she has not at a minimum been forced out of Congress? Explain to me how this happens. I guess if you confront and challenge her you are a racist. Or like she calls ex-neurosurgeon Ben Carson (black guy remember?) a white supremacist or President Trump a "moron."

by Robert Tate

By now we have heard about the sexual predator named Harvey Weinstein. What the....? I remember my dad, one of the sweetest, kindest people I have ever known, sat me and my brother down one day and had a real father-son talk. I remember him telling us how much he loved us and that he would have our back anytime we needed it. That was unless we ever sexually molested, assaulted or raped a woman. He said he would turn his back on us and we would be on our own. I admire him for that. He was a social worker his entire life and used to work with battered and sexually molested women. He saw the damage it did to them physically, spiritually, socially and psychologically. He hated it. He hated the men who would do such a thing. I am sure, if he could have gotten away with it, he would have killed some of the men who tortured and abused women. That is how much he hated sexual abuse of women.

Enter Harvey Weinstein. As of last count, there are 57 women who have come forward to say what Weinstein did to them. But as with any big news story, there are so many different angles and there are always those wanting to make their specific agenda known. For example, and no, you cannot make this stuff up, did you know Weinstein was a racist too? Yeah, a racist. Why? I am glad you asked. I am actually embarrassed to write this but some idiot wrote that he is a racist because he failed to molest enough women of color. I kid you not. In an article titled, "There's an elephant in Harvey Weinstein's hotel room", Feminist Bim Adewunmi laments the fact that all (not true by the way) of Harvey's victims are white, and argues that the reason black women do not get leading roles in movies is because they are often seen as (let me change the word here and say, not as desirable - her word was much cruder) by producers." (http://www.independentsentinel.com/black-feminist-says-harvey-weinstein-is-racist-probably-the-least-of-his-faults/). Heaven help me here.

But here is my real rub. Just today as I wrote this, Tom Hanks came out and said that everyone in Hollywood knew what Weinstein was doing. I read where one actress was told that he (Weinstein) was a very good person to know in the business but be careful of him. What bothers me is that I have read many blogs, FB posts and so many people are focusing only on the women as victims. Absolutely, 100% they are truly victims. No doubt and don't go Democrat on me. But some of these actresses who were molested, and I will focus only on those women at the top of the industry, who already made their millions and had their dazzling careers, as well as all the men who knew what was going on, had a moral obligation to come forward. Period. The argument that "I was just a small fish," or "I was afraid," might ring true of the younger women just getting their start and at one level I can certainly empathize with them. But when big names like Kate Beckinsale, Heather Graham, Eva Green, Lena Headey, Lauren Holly, Angelina Jolie, Ashley Judd, and Mira Sorvino to name a few, appears on the list of victims, you know something is amiss. These women, knew the monster Weinstein is, yet said nothing and in effect gave tacit approval to the misplaced aggression of Weinstein, while simultaneously condemning other young women to his sexual proclivities. Yes, the "casting couch" is still open for business. Once at the top of their game and they had millions of dollars stashed away, what now becomes their excuse for not speaking out sooner? How many women succumbed to his crimes because of their silence?

I can ignore the name calling, but threatening to kill the President? Isn't that illegal? Tell you what. Go on television, do the same thing and let me know how that works out for you.

4. HARVEY WEINSTEIN.



If I knew a guy in my neighborhood was molesting women and for years did nothing about it, in some way am I not, or should I not be held accountable to some degree? I think so but in Hollywood, apparently not. *Shameful.*

Continued from page 1A

Veterans Day

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, **President Dwight D. Eisenhower** issued the first **"Veterans Day Proclamation"** which stated:

"In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee. In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. November 2017 Read us online at Alabama Gazette.com ~ Like Us on Facebook



The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

Bobbie Ames writes from The Hoffman Education Center for the Family, where the ministry promotes Christian Education that is foundational to the Historic Biblical Principle Approach. Consulting services are available through the Hoffman Research Library. She can be reached at P. O. Box 241405, Montgomery, AL 36124, or at *bobbiehames@gmail.com*.

Individual religious liberty in practice...

"THE LORD HATH DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US; WHEREOF WE ARE GLAD." Psalms 126:3

The tragic lessons of History will be repeated if History is removed from a nation's memory, as it has been for several generations. America's Christian History was replaced by Social Studies in public schools nearly a century ago. How many adults know what sacrifice and triumph brought about our uniquely American Holiday tradition of Thanksgiving?

Through brief bits of the story here, let's look at this American legacy, our own American heritage, and embrace it for a true Thanksgiving celebration this year. Go back with me to the Pilgrim Fathers of 1620, who embarked on the adventure of colony planting, with no experience, and no skills for the task, only seeking freedom of worship and self-government.

Picture the wild undeveloped land and the turbulent sea, the bitter cold winter of 1620, and the illnesses which cost half of them their lives the first year. The contract with the mercenary shareholders who funded the "adventure", required them to practice Communism in labor and supply, denying them private property rights and other incentives.

If communism would ever work, it would have worked for this colony, where people were deeply religious and loved one another, as well as having a work ethic.

Governor William Bradford took over the leadership of the colony upon the death of Governor Carver in the first year. Bradford ruled almost continually for thirty seven years, until his death. His literary gift has left us a detailed and documented history that is a treasure for every lover of History, and every seeker of Truth. The lesson of the Pilgrims rejecting Communism can be valuable today and help us to come against another similar "Pernicious System," as they called it. That system sadly is pervasive in our post modern world today.

After abiding by the terms of their contract for two years, seeing that communism had brought the colony to the verge of ruin, Governor Bradford "had the courage to cut the knot he could not untie." He divided the land among the families, and placed every single person in a family unit. Attitudes changed. Now, mothers with children would go willingly in the fields to help their husbands. Wives were pleased to wash the clothing of their family rather than collectively. Working their own field, laboring together as a family brought peace and incentive, and Bradford wrote: "any general want or suffering hath not been among us since to this day." Every adult shared in the responsibility to pay the just debts, through private ownership and free enterprise, which brought into being a successful and profitable fur trade. Commerce, industry and brotherly love combined for success.

Yes, abolishing communism may have been a violation of the contract, but Governor Bradford saw that the system was pernicious (destructive) and the colony had a life and death struggle for survival. He made a defining decision and Free Enterprise was instituted.

Why do we remember this little colony, with never more than a few thousand people? God's Providence shown in their story is dramatic. In their own words, they prayed to be "stepping stones for others" to migrate, and indeed they were. They were the forerunners of the great Puritan migration of the 1630s.

When the Mayflower ship returned to England, not one Pilgrim was aboard. *That little band of believers had introduced a new powerful force on this continent – that of individual religious liberty in practice.* Unable to reform the Church of England, now they could walk with God, raise their families in a church congregation guided by God's Word alone, not by the King and not by the Civil Magistrate.

On that simple First Thanksgiving, one dynamic rises above all others. This small group of survivors labored to bring Glory to God for His Providence. They had survived hunger, disease, native attacks, unreasonable demands of their shareholders, the death of spouses, children, and best friends. Living in a wilderness they were utterly dependent and faithfully relying on God to sustain them. They rejoiced in freedom of worship and in the civil liberty of Christian self-government. They had been successful in establishing a covenant relationship with their Indian neighbors, who were present at the First Thanksgiving. Can you not see the Hand of God using those first seeds, which brought forth for us: Individual Liberty of Conscience, Christian self-government, and ultimately a Christian Constitutional Republic. May it be restored today.



A Day of Thanksgiving has been a continuing tradition in our nation. The Journals of the Continental Congress record a Proclamation by the United States Congress assembled on Saturday, October 18, 1783. These words are a portion of that proclamation:

"Whereas it has pleased the Supreme Ruler of all human events, to dispose the hearts of the later belligerent powers to put a period to the effusion of human blood, by proclaiming a cessation of all hostilities by sea and land, and these United States are not only happily rescued from the dangers and calamities to which they have been so long exposed, but their freedom, sovereignty and independence ultimately acknowledged......The interposition of Divine Providence in our favor has been most abundantly and most graciously manifested, and the citizens of these United States have every reason for praise and gratitude to the God of their Salvation. Impressed therefore, with an exalted sense of the blessings by which we are surrounded, and of our entire dependence on that Almighty Being, from whose goodness and bounty they are derived, the United States in Congress assembled, to set apart the second Thursday in December next, as a day of public Thanksgiving, that all the people may then assemble to celebrate with grateful hearts and united voices, the praises of their Supreme and all bountiful Benefactor, for His numberless favors and mercies."

The Proclamation further leads in offering prayers for forgiveness, for wisdom to be granted, for prosperity for every good work, for peace for the

"The glories of Christianity are to be traced in the sufferings of confessors and martyrs of the 16th and 17th Centuries; and it was under the influence of Christian principles, imbibed at this very period, that the Mayflower brought over the band of Pilgrims to Plymouth....We should never forget that the prison, the scaffold, and the stake were stages in the march of civil and religious liberty which our forefathers had to travel, in order that we might obtain our present liberty....."

"Before our children remove their religious connections.....before they leave the old paths of God's Word.....before they barter their birthright for a mess of pottage...let us place in their hands the chronicle of the glorious days of the suffering Churches, and let them know that they are the sons of the men 'of whom the world was not worthy' and 'whose sufferings for conscience sake' are here monumentally recorded." John Overton Choules, August 12, 1843.

Preface to the 1844 reprint of Neal's <u>"History of the Puritans,"</u> 1731 <u>The</u> <u>Christian History of the Constitution</u>, FACE, 1966



John Carver Edward Tilley Degory Priest William Bradford John Tilley Thomas Williams Edward Winslow Francis Cooke Gilbert Winslow William Brewster Thomas Rogers Edmund Margeson Issac Allerton Thomas Tinker Peter Browne Myles Standish John Rigdale Richard Britteridge John Alden Edward Fuller George Soule nations, for blessings in the labors of the people, for commerce and navigation, for education and for the seminaries and all means of education, for true religion to flourish, and that the world be filled with His Glory. October 18th, 1783.

John Hancock, Governor of Massachusetts, called for a Day of Thanksgiving established in a proclamation dated November 8, 1783. In his proclamation, he praises the Lord for the "Unanimity and Resolution to adhere to our just Rights..." He refers to God as "our powerful Ally to assist us in supporting those Just Rights." He pleads to continue "in the light of the Blessed Gospel, and secure for us, to the fullest Extent, the Rights of Conscience in Faith and Worship." And so much more is in his proclamation. We see pure Biblical Christianity strong here, and in the virtue of the character of these founders.

This Thanksgiving season, as a family and as a blessed nation, let us have a true celebration of praise and thankfulness to The Lord Who has done so great things for us.

Let me urge readers to go to the website (FACE.Net) of the Foundation for American Christian Education, Chesapeake, Va. and learn of their publications on America's Christian History. Also, they publish the <u>Webster's 1828</u> <u>Dictionary</u> of the English Language, which is the language of liberty.

The Source for these Proclamations: <u>*The Bible and The Constitution,*</u> *published by FACE.*

The Mayflower Compact (1620)

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereigne Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britaine, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc. having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honour of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politick, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enacte, constitute, and frame such just and equall laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete and convenient for the generall good of the Colonie unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape-Codd the 11. of November, in the year of the raigne of our sovereigne lord, King James, of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fiftie-fourth. Anno Dom. 1620.

Samuel Fuller John Turner Richard Clarke Christopher Martin Francis Eaton Richard Gardiner William Mullins James Chilton John Allerton William White John Crackston Thomas English Richard Warren John Billington Edward Dotey John Howland Moses Fletcher Edward Leister Stephen Hopkins John Goodman



Ed Jones Football Writer

In the August issue of the Alabama Gazette, my column was entitled: **"1st Coach to Fall"**.

This story was about the demise of Coach Hugh Freeze at Ole Miss. The full story of the Ole Miss debacle has not been revealed, but enough was known by June to force Freeze to resign. Because of the short time left before the season started, Ole Miss officials had no time to search for a new head coach. Therefore, they did the only thing possible by naming a member if the present staff to be "Interim Coach". Sometimes this works out as a long-term solution, but most of the time it puts the "interim" in a position where he cannot succeed. No interim coach has been designated interim and handed the reigns of a national championship team. At any rate, the "lucky" guy at Ole Miss is Matt Luke, the offensive line coach. He is also a former offensive lineman for Ole Miss.

He really was the only person on the staff that had a chance of leading the Rebels to any appearance of success because of his dedication to the Ole Miss program. At this writing, Ole Miss has won three games, lost five games, with Kentucky, Louisiana Lafayette, Texas A&M and Mississippi State to go. Even though Ole Miss is now under a bowl ban, they probably won't qualify (6-6) anyway. Look for some of the better players to transfer. I don't see outstanding quarterback **Shea Patterson** hanging around this "train wreck" for another season. The only people hurt in this situation are the players and the assistant coaches. Freeze has his millions in the bank.

In the same column last summer, I talked about several other SEC coaches that would not have good Christmases. The three most vulnerable were **Butch Jones** at Tennessee, **Bret Bielema** at Arkansas and **Kevin Sumlin** at Texas A&M. On stand by were **Gus Malzahn** of Auburn and **Jim McElwain** at Florida. The only thing that has changed this scenario is the fact that Coach Sumlin has at this writing a 5-3 record having lost in close games to UCLA and Alabama and Mississippi State. He has Auburn and New Mexico at home. His last two games are on the road at Ole Miss and LSU. He could survive.

At Auburn, Coach Guz Malzahn is walking a tight rope with the best talent Auburn has had since the Pat Sullivan era. Malzahn sits at 6-2 with a road trip to College Station staring him in the face and two games at Auburn with the number 1 and number 2 teams in the nation in Georgia and Alabama. If he loses any two of these games, he will finish no better than 8-4. The Auburn Alumni, Board of Trustees and the heavy donors are not paying Malzahn 5 million a year to go 8-4 or worse again. The end of the season at Auburn could get ugly.

was crushed by Georgia 41-0 in Knoxville. Then he let an average South Carolina team win 15-9, again in Knoxville. He was 3-3 going to Tuscaloosa. There was no sympathy for Butch Jones in Bryant-Denny Stadium. Alabama's Nick Saban called the dogs off after holding a fivetouchdown lead. Alabama beat up the Vols physically, psychologically as well as on the score board (45-7). The team, the fans and the coaches left Tuscaloosa in a state of depression from which they may never recover this year. Tennessee has winnable games left, but the embarrassing performance against Georgia (41-0) and the beat down in Tuscaloosa will be hard to recover from. In fact, Kentucky came into Knoxville and won, giving Jones a 3-5 record. They have three more games at home, which may be the worse place for them to play. Southern Miss, LSU and Vanderbilt come to Knoxville. A dangerous game with rebounding Missouri at Columbia is sandwiched in-between. Coach Butch Jones will coach his last game for Tennessee on November 25 against in state rival Vanderbilt. The Knoxville crowd will cheer loudly win or lose.

At Fayetteville, Arkansas there is a tornado spurning. Coach Bret Bielema blew into town five years ago after several trips to the Rose Bowl as the head coach of Wisconsin, where he had a better than seventy percent winning record. His plan was to bring his Big Ten style of play to the "Red Neck Riviera" known as the Southeastern Conference. The power running game that had been so successful for Bielema at Wisconsin required massive offensive linemen and big powerful running backs. For five years Bielema has recruited big massive offensive linemen and big powerful running backs to Arkansas. The plan has not worked well in the South.

There are basically two reasons this approach doesn't work. The August and September sun creates an environment similar to a large steam room. Big, strong, fat 6'5" lineman just cannot last for 60 minutes against the kind of talent in the SEC. For years, I have advocated playing Arkansas in September and early October. This is the time of year that is not conducive for big, strong, fat 6'5" linemen. The 90% to 100% temperatures during this period will make big, strong, fat 6'5" linemen decide that they don't like football so much in the fourth quarter. Also, the speed and quickness of the players in the Southeastern Conference was not calculated into Bielema's plan.

At this writing, Coach Bielema's record is (3-5). That's the good news. The bad news is that Arkansas fans have to put up with LSU, Mississippi State and Missouri. There is no way that I could vote to retain the big, strong, fat 6'5" coach any longer. I don't believe the big money boys in Arkansas will either.

So, with the season moving toward an end, the next man out should be Coach Butch Jones at Tennessee followed closely by Coach Bret Bielema at Arkansas.



1**B**

Coach Butch Jones Tennessee



Coach Bret Bielema Arkansas



Coach Kevin Sumlin Texas A&M



Coach Butch Jones at Tennessee is in a tenuous position. He lost to Florida in Gainesville 26-20 on the last play of the game. That is a mortal sin to the Vol Nation. Two weeks later he



Coach Jim McElwain - Florida

Never in my lifetime can I remember this many coaches in the SEC being in trouble. Starting spring training there could be 43% of the SEC coaches that started spring training last year... gone!

We will all know who the next man down is before my next column.

Coach Gus Malzahn Auburn

Coach Jim McElwain is "next man down". After his fourth loss this year in a "beat down" by Kirby Smart's Georgia Bulldogs (45-7) the administration fired McElwain the next day. His record at Florida is not so bad (22-12) with two SEC East titles. But, discipline problems off the field, not so flattering remarks directed at the administration after Florida's bowl win last year, and lying about death threats that he, his family and players supposedly have had this year, finally sealed the deal. Good riddance! McElwain has always been an overrated coach, even when he was Nick Saban's offensive coordinator from 2008 through 2011. He might become a coordinator again, but he does not have the emotional capacity required to be a successful college head coach at the highest level.

WHO IS <u>YOUR</u> NEXT MAN DOWN?











As you read this, Bow Season has already started for all of Alabama. Despite the rough weather we've had in recent weeks, I've seen quite

a few deer out and about, later in the evening. So take heart, Bow Hunters; they're out there!

If setting up trail cameras is a part of your pre-season scouting efforts, they can really pay off when setting yourself up for bow hunting. While there is no such thing as a guarantee when it comes to placing a buck, you can get a fair idea of where the deer are coming and going from in certain areas. Set yourself up accordingly!

Another weapon in the bow hunter's arsenal is scent control. Deer rely heavily on all of their senses to anticipate and survive potential ambushes, and smell can be the game changer. A good, clean, and ethical shot isn't any further than 30 yards, so you're definitely going to be within smelling distance of that buck. Between scentlok camo, wind direction, and what kind of detergent you use, you can eliminate a lot of early warning signs for deer that danger is near.

Speaking of detergent, be careful with your choice there. Laundry detergent that brightens colors actually increases how much Ultraviolet, or UV light, is coming off of the clothing. While we can't really see it, you better believe that deer can! If you're ever interested, throw a little detergent under a blacklight, and you'll see what I mean. You'll be lit up like a Christmas Tree as far as deer are concerned. As far as sight goes, the only other advice I can give is practice being at half draw on your bow from time to time, as movement is your greatest enemy when hunting deer. If that trophy decides to stare you down at half draw, you might be stuck a while.

Of course, sound is another issue for hunters. It may be obvious, but be sure to keep accessories like keys, calls, and other items properly secured. As you may have to make an odd adjustment while setting up your shot, you don't want to clang anything against your stand! Keep your cell phone on silent as well, unless you're expecting an emergency call. Honestly, if you can get away with turning it off entirely, you should. One of the charms of being in the outdoors is to leave all of that stuff behind, after all.



Howlett Harris with a beautiful Bama Bow kill from South Montgomery

Ultimately, discipline is our greatest weapon, so practice and preparation are key for success. Even though there's only so much you can do before the hunt, every bit of it is needed to just let that deer get close enough.

Now, camoflauge is pretty darn important for bow hunting. While color isn't as huge of a deal for deer hunting, pattern is absolutely essential. Solid patterns aren't great, as they don't blend in, so tree based camo is your best bet. There's a pretty huge selection for types and brand of camo out there, but I can give a good recommendation for Bald Cypress Camo. Give them a look online sometime!

The season is in its early stages, so I'm eager to hear from you folks about what all you're hearing and seeing. If you keep some of those tips in mind, you might be able to brag about another trophy buck! So study up, get practiced and prepped, and go get em!

Saint Francis of Assisi Patron Saint of Animals and Environment

Kritter Korner



Ron VanHerwyn

to the vulnerable -- especially poor people, sick people, and animals. The man who became known as Francis of Assisi was born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernadone in Assisi, Umbria (which is now part of Italy) around 1181 into a wealthy family. He lived a life of leisure in his youth, but he was restless, and by 1202 he had joined a militia group. After a battle between soldiers from Assisi and the town of Perugia, Francis (who had taken the name "Francesco," or "Francis" in English, as his nickname) spent a year as a prisoner of war. He and devoted a lot of time to seeking a closer relationship with God and

Saint Francis of Assisi changed the world during his brief life, and he is still remembered worldwide today for the miracles people say God performed through him and the compassion he showed poor people, sick



whole, began to feel great remorse and repentance for his sins, and to weep very bitterly." After the man was "completely cured, both in body and soul," he confessed his sins and reconciled with God.

After three robbers stole food and drink from Francis' monastic community, Francis prayed for the men and sent one of his friars (who had previously scolded them) to apologize for being cruel and to give them bread and wine. The robbers were miraculously moved so much by Francis' prayers and kindness that they joined the Franciscan order and spent the rest of their lives giving to people instead of taking from them. Francis saw animals as his brothers and sisters because they were God's creatures just like people. He said of animals: "Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission -- to be of service to them wherever they require it." So Francis prayed that God would work through him to help animals as well as people. Flocks of birds would sometimes gather while Francis was speaking, and "The Little Flowers of Saint Francis of Assisi" records that the birds listened intently to Francis' sermons. "St. Francis lifted up his eyes, and saw on some trees by the wayside a great multitude of birds; and being much surprised, he said to his companions, 'Wait for me here by the way, whilst I go and preach to my little sisters the birds'; and entering into the field, he began to preach to the birds which were on the ground, and suddenly all those also on the trees came round him, and all listened while St Francis preached to them, and did not fly away until he had given them his blessing." While preaching to the birds, Francis would remind them of the many ways in which God had blessed them, and conclude his sermon by saying: "Beware, my little sisters, of the sin of ingratitude, and study always to give praise to God." When Francis lived in the town of Gubbio, a wolf was terrorizing the area by attacking and killing people and other animals. Francis decided to meet with the wolf to try to tame it. He left Gubbio and headed toward the surrounding countryside, with many people watching. The wolf charged toward Francis with open jaws the moment they met. But Francis prayed and made the sign of the cross, and then advanced closer to the wolf and called out to it: "Come here brother wolf. I command you in Christ's name that you do no harm to me or to any other." People reported that the wolf instantly obeyed by closing his mouth, lowering his head, creeping slowly closer to Francis, and then lying calmly on the ground beside Francis' feet. Francis then continued talking to the wolf by saying: "Brother wolf, you do much damage in these parts, and you have committed great crimes, destroying and slaying the creatures of God without his permission. and that they may forgive you all your past offenses and neither men nor dogs may pursue you anymore." After the wolf responded by bowing his head, moving his eyes, and wagging his tail to indicate that he accepted Francis' words, Francis offered the wolf a deal. Francis would make sure that the people of Gubbio would feed the wolf regularly if the wolf would promise never to injure any person or animal again. Then Francis said: "Brother wolf, I desire that you swear fealty to me regarding this promise, so I may trust you utterly," and held out one of his hands to the wolf. Miraculously, "The Little Flowers of Saint Francis of Assisi" reports: "the wolf lifted up his right forepaw and put it with friendly confidence in the hand of St. Francis, giving thereby such token of fealty as he was able." After that, the wolf lived for two years in Gubbio before dying of old age, interacting peacefully with the people who fed him regularly and never harming people or animals again.

THE CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES

Although Francis left behind relatively few written

discovering God's purposes for his life.

Gradually, Francis became convinced that God wanted him to help poor people more, so Francis began giving away his possessions to those in need, even though that made his wealthy father angry. While worshiping at a Mass in 1208, Francis heard the priest read the words of Jesus Christ giving his disciples instructions for how to minister to people. The gospel was Matthew 10:9-10: "Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts - no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff." Francis believed that those words confirmed the calling he sensed to live a simple lifestyle himself so he could best preach the Gospel to those in need. Francis' passionate worship and service to God inspired other young men to give up their possessions and join Francis, wearing simple tunics, working with their hands to earn food to eat, and sleeping in caves or in crude huts they made out of branches. They walked to places like Assisi's marketplace to meet people and talk with them about God's love and forgiveness, and they also regularly spent time praying. These groups of men became an official part of the Catholic Church called the Franciscan Order, which is still active serving the poor throughout the world today. Francis had a childhood friend from Assisi named Clare who also sensed God's call to leave her wealth behind and adopt a simple lifestyle while reaching out to help poor people. Clare, who helped care for Francis when he ill during the last years of his life, began a women's prayer and service group called the Poor Clares. This group also grew to become an official part of the Catholic Church that is still active worldwide today. After Francis died in 1226, people who were with him reported seeing a large flock of larks swoop down near him and sing at the moment of his death. Just two years later, Pope Gregory IX canonized Francis as a saint, based on the evidence of the miracles that had occurred during Francis' ministry.

Francis' compassion for people struggling with poverty and illness inspired many more fortunate people to reach out to help those in need. Francis himself experienced both poverty and illness for many years since he chose a simple life. He contracted conjunc-tivitis and malaria while ministering to sick people. Francis prayed that God would perform miracles through him to help people

... But I desire, brother wolf, to make peace between you and them so that you may no more offend them

documents, his Canticle of the Creatures (also known as The Canticle of Brother Sun) is included and was considered by Pope John Paul II to be a beautiful reminder that everything from God bears significance

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessing.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong, and no man is worthy to mention Your name.

Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, Who is the day and through whom You give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor; and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no living man can escape.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin.

Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will, for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.

Franciscan Animal Blessings

For All Animals - Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. On the fifth and sixth days of creation, you called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all animals his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this animal. By the power of your love, enable [him or her] to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen. For a Sick Animal Heavenly Father, you created all things for your glory and made us stewards of this creature. If it is your will, restore [him or her] to health and strength.

Blessed are you, Lord God, and holy is your name forever and ever.

Amen



Buddy Hicks

important as well. If something happened to you today and you were not able to work anymore or at least for a long period of time, how would you pay your bills, buy food for your family or buy anything else needed for your family. Now, most of you might have a good six months or more worth of income saved up which could cover you or at least buy you some time to figure out what to do. But the majority of you probably do not have that kind of savings and could quickly find yourself in a very uncomfortable position. So, a way to prepare for this kind of problem is to purchase disability insurance. Disability insurance is insurance that will pay you a certain percentage of your income for the period of time for which you have a need.

Let's say, for instance, that it is the weekend and you are doing some yardwork. While you are up on the ladder trying to clean out the gutters, you slip off of the ladder and fall 15 feet to the ground landing on your back. You try to get up and you can't move. The pain in your back is too much to bear. You finally get some help from a family member and you are able to get to the emergency room where they x-ray your back and discover that you have injured your back and it is going to require surgery and

The Financial Corner TOO MUCH TO BEAR

Ok, so you've heard me talk about the importance of life insurance and long term care insurance. But there is another type of insurance that is very extensive rehab to be able to get around on your own again, much less work. So now you are laid up with no income but your monthly obligations are still there. If you have disability insurance, then after a waiting period of about 60-90 days, you may start receiving benefits from your policy and you may be able to continue to pay your bills and buy the things your family needs. This is just one scenario, but there are so many different ways that we can hurt ourselves or end up in situations like this. The whole point of this example is to make you think about how you can protect your family and yourself in the event something happens. Now, disability insurance won't solve all of your problems in these situations, but it can go along way of easing those burdens and put you in a better position to make arrangements to help get you through that time.

So how do you go about finding out how to get the right coverage? Well, sit down with a financial advisor who can take time with you to go through your budget with you and can get you some quotes, from some reputable companies, that will work with your budget. Apply and get the coverage in place and then set up a plan, in writing, of what to do during the waiting period until your benefits start to come in. If at all possible try to work into your budget now a savings plan to build up a least three months' worth of living expenses.

Sometimes these situations can be catastrophic and sometimes they are much more manageable but it is always better to be prepared should you find your-

Wealth Management Group, LLC 334-440-6379 bhicks@wmgadvisers.net

self suffering. It is better to work through the situation with your full focus on getting better than to have to worry about the finances at the same time. You don't want this situation to be too much to bear. So don't wait, find an advisor to talk to today to make sure you and your family are protected. If you don't have a Financial Advisor, please feel free to call me and I'll be happy to set up a time to talk with you.

Buddy Hicks is a Financial Advisor with Wealth Management Group LLC an affiliate firm of Securian Financial Services and has over 18 years of experience in the financial services business. He is Life and Health Insurance licensed and FINRA registered with his Series 7 and Series 66 which allows him to be an Investment Advisor Representative and Registered Representative of and offer securities and investment advisory services through Securian Financial Services Inc, member FINRA/ SIPC. He is an Alumnus of Troy University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business/Finance. He takes a process approach with all of his clients to help determine their goals and then works with them to put a strategy in place to help reach those goals. An area of importance of Buddy's is his ability to intuitively listen to his clients so that he can fully understand their current situation and what their future needs might be.

600 South Court Street, Suite 215 Montgomery, AL 36104 Tracking 1933493 DOFU 11/17 What is the market?

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





claiming they were "a menace to the public." Few people had time to salvage any belongings that survived.

Meanwhile in New Orleans and other places, FEMA placed its temporary housing in flood zones, boarded evacuees in \$400 per night hotel suites, issued \$2000 debit cards and relief checks to about a million nonexistent people and bogus applicants, and seized firearms from residents attempting to protect their property from looters. subject to looting. Volunteers do not impose fines or penalties for "noncompliance." Volunteers do not condemn or destroy property.

As an example, after the devastating hurricane of 1900, the people in Galveston, Texas rebuilt their city without a nickel of government help.

Any rational person should understand that disaster relief is NOT a legitimate government activity, nor is it Constitutional. It is a massive money pit and a violation of our individual rights. It is one of many government programs we are better off without.

After witnessing the inefficiencies and abuses of government-run programs, it is no surprise that government is grossly inept at providing adequate help to the victims of natural disasters—i.e. earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and of course the three devastating hurricanes we have suffered this year.

Disaster relief, like practically every government program, is not only inept, but is much more expensive than relief provided by the private sector via charities and volunteers. And to make matters really bad, it often comes with reams of regulations, mandates, and interferences that give the value of the aid a smaller value than no aid at all.

Let's start with Katrina in Pascagoula, Mississippi in 2005. Like much of the Gulf Coast, Pascagoula is poorly elevated and has a maximum elevation of only 17 feet—slightly less than Katrina's storm surge. The great majority of houses, if not damaged or destroyed, were seriously flooded. Soon, FEMA came and set up trailers for temporary housing.

After a few days of trauma, the people began to clean up and repair their damaged homes. For the first week or two, the fortunate residents who did not suffer extensive damage were able to get permits to repair them and move back in.

But repairing seriously damaged homes and replacing destroyed ones was much more problematic. The city quickly adopted a new super-strict building code modeled after one in Florida. The homeowners had to comply with a jungle of new regulations, expensive permit fees, and purchase \$200 "elevation certificates." Many were unable to rebuild at all and suffered heavy financial losses. As they settled for the last resort of moving into the FEMA trailers, the city commission reaped additional federal dollars for each new family that moved in.

The city wasted no time violating the people and their private property. As soon as the storm had subsided, it condemned 200 homes and bulldozed 80 in the first week, and by the end of September, 150In disasters everywhere, officials—federal, state or local—are often more of a nuisance than a help. They are known to stop or hinder voluntary relief and rescue efforts as well as refuse to let people return to their property and let them repair their damage. In some cases, they even arrested and prosecuted residents who disagreed or objected.

In earlier times, people did very well with no assistance from any level of government. Volunteers are much more efficient. Volunteers know what the victims actually need. Volunteers have no strings attached. Volunteers do not force people to leave their property and allow it to be Congressman Ron Paul said, "It's not compassionate simply to throw money at a problem, especially when that money is wasted and does not help the very people who need it most. It's not compassionate for politicians to spend money that doesn't belong to them. It's not compassionate to instill false hope that Washington can solve every problem and respond to every emergency. It's certainly not compassionate to create huge deficits that hurt poor people the most through inflation, as government prints more and more money to pay its bills."

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





Montgomery **County Law**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.montgomerysheriff.com

(334) 832-4980



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Sheriff's Office APP

We are getting a lot of positive feedback from our new

Sheriff's Office APP! In case you missed last month's article, here it is again...

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a new phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery County Sheriff"
- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
- **Click "Notifications"**
- Turn 'on' "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

You should be all set to receive the Montgomery County Sheriff's **Office push notifications!**

Firearms Familiarization Course Sign up NOW for our **Firearms Familiarization Course scheduled for**

Saturday, December 9th

Sign up NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Course scheduled for Saturday, December 9th and learn how to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world.

Anti-Bullying Campaign

The Montgomery County **Sheriff's Office** has begun an **ANTI-BULLYING** campaign where we take our "Billy, the Beaver" mascot out to mentor fourth and fifth graders



at local schools in **Montgomery County.**

Bullying has become a huge factor in today's society and it is up to us to help change this serious growing problem.



Medication Disposal

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office



has partnered with CVS Pharmacy to supply a new drug collection unit which was received as part of CVS Health's Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Grant Program. The new THE BOX unit will be located at the Administrative Office of the Sheriff, at 100 South Lawrence (2nd floor lobby) and will provide residents with a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication, including controlled substances.



The class is held at our newly dedicated Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and lasts most of the day and is FREE to Montgomery County citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

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



Pistol Permit Questions?

334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337 **Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?** Lisa Crenshaw@mc-ala.org

334.832.1339

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

Thank you to those that took part in our Spooktacular! It was once again a successful, safe, one-stop event.

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



Please remember those less fortunate this Thanksgiving and every day!

The new drug disposal unit will help to reduce the amount of unneeded medicine in residents' homes and decrease the potential for prescription drug abuse, which has soared in recent years, especially among teenagers. More than 70 percent of teenagers say it is easy to get prescription drugs from their parents' medicine cabinets, according to a Partnership for Drug-Free Kids study. Proper drug disposal also helps to prevent the contamination of local landfills and water supplies from unused medication.

The MCSO has signed an agreement with the U.S. Army that we will interview people that are ending their career with the Army.





Mission Statement

We, the professional men and women of the Autauga County Sheriff's Office, are committed to defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Alabama. As law enforcement officers, we declare our fundamental duties to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; and to protect the innocent, weak, and the peaceful from evil while we respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, quality, and justice. We will fairly and diligently enforce all laws bringing to justice those who violate them. With adequate staffing, continued public relations and partnerships with surrounding law enforcement agencies, we will improve the quality of life for all citizens of Autauga County, by reducing crime and the fear of crime.

Any information related to a crime that has been committed can be reported ANONYMOUSLY to the ACSO Secret Witness Line: (334) 361-2599.



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PROTECTING YOUR HOME

- Lock all doors to the outside, even when home.
- Never open the front door to a stranger.
- When planning an extended absence or vacation away, make sure your house doesn't look empty. Make it look like it is lived in.
- Connect a light timer to lamps inside your home. Do not leave a light on 24 hours a day.
- Stop all deliveries (mail, newspaper), or have a trusted neighbor or friend pick items up daily.
- Do NOT advertise your absence. No Social Media Posts until you return home!
- Ask a neighbor or friend to check your home periodically
- Notify the Sheriff's Office (334) 361-2500 and request an EXTRA PATROL for your residence. There is no cost for this service.
- For short absences leave a TV or radio on so that



The Autauga County Sheriff's Office went all out in support for the cause, starting from the top down.

Sheriff Sedinger accepted the nomination to be a Real Men Wear Pink participant. To go along with this theme, he paid to have one of the spare cars painted Pink!

It was on display at National Night Out on Oct 3, 2017, and could be seen on patrol throughout the weeks of October.

To help with the campaign, a "Pink Wall" was filling up all month with ribbons that were purchased for \$1.00 donation.

The Sheriff also stopped by the Central Alabama Electric Coop Office to take a photo with their Pink hard hats.



it appears someone is at home.

- Do NOT "hide" an extra key outside your home. Burglars know to look for these; instead leave a key with a neighbor.
- Do NOT post your last name on your mailbox or anywhere outside your home. Burglars can obtain your home phone number and call to verify if you are home.
- Do NOT advertise new purchases by piling empty boxes at the curb for trash day. Break them down and place in trash bags or haul them to your local dump or recycling center.
- Trust your instincts! If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, get out of it immediately into a safe environment.

Be a concerned neighbor. If you see something suspicious, please say something and contact the Autauga County Sheriff's Office (334) 361-2500 to report the suspicious activity.

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Always stay alert and tuned into your surroundings.
- Do NOT be the head down texting distracted shopper. This makes you an easy target.
- Never walk or jog alone and vary your route from time to time.
- ALWAYS park in an area with lighting or well lite area.
- Have your keys ready and in your hand when walking to your vehicle.
- Before you enter your vehicle check to make sure no one is hiding inside by looking through your windows. Be AWARE!
- Hide your valuables and purchases in your truck or areas that cannot be seen from your vehicle windows.
- ALWAYS keep doors locked and windows up, do NOT give the thief easy access.
- If possible limit the amount of cash you carry. Use checks, credit cards or debit cards.
- Ladies carry your purse under your arm and limit the number of packages you carry.
- Gentlemen, if possible, carry your wallet in your front pocket or in an inside jacket pocket.

Thanks

to all the Officers and Staff that work hard to make the Autauga County Sheriff's Department the best it can be.

Chief Deputy David R. Hill



Captain/Jail Warden Larry Nixon



Patrol Captain Tom Allen



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We are proud to announce The Alabama Gazette is also being delivered in parts of Crenshaw, Butler, Pike, Lee, and Talladega Counties.

If you cannot find The Gazette in your area, please check out our website: www.alabamagazette.com

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DING YOUR COMPUTER

Darnell Hughley

that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune Or to take arms against a sea of troubles"

"To be, or not to be –

As I'm certain we are all too familiar with this famous quote from one of William Shakespeare's most beloved plays, Hamlet", we too are faced ofttimes with a dilemma we'd rather not face. In his infamous soliloquy, Hamlet toils with the

notion of whether to continue to exist or not – whether it was more noble to suffer the

slings and arrows of an unbearable situation, or to declare war on the sea of troubles that afflict us.

Okay, let's not make upgrading our computer system quite that dire - although at times it can feel nonetheless as daunting a chore.

Question is, with ransomware scares and other worries, is it time you upgraded to Windows 10? I'll explain what you need to consider if you're using older hardware and software.

Upgrading to a new software system, especially on a computer, can be a big upheaval that causes stress and confusion ("Where'd my Control Panel go?" "Where'd they move the 'download' button to?").

As a standard practice, the first, and most important, thing you should do before upgrading ANY OS (operating system, PC based OR Mac) is backup your entire system (and not just the data files). This can be achieved by utilizing the builtin system backup software or a third-party program capable of "imaging" your computer. This ensures your ability to restore your hard disk back to its current condition should you decide you don't like the new OS.

While the free upgrade to Windows 10 ended on 29 July 2016, you can still upgrade, of course, but should you is what many still ask? With scare stories of ransomware encrypting files on unsupported versions of Windows, there are certainly valid reasons to consider it.

Microsoft has pulled the plug on Windows Vista support on April 11, 2017, and Windows XP hasn't received security patches for a while now. In the wake of multiple ransomware attacks, Microsoft has taken the unusual step of issuing a patch for both operating systems because of the high risk and fact that millions of people are still using these versions of Windows. However, this has come after computers have been infected, which is why it's best to use a version of Windows that receives automatic updates that help to protect you (and your files) from disaster.

Windows 8 isn't supported either, but most machines with Windows 8 should have been updated to Windows 8.1, which is still supported. Windows 7 also receives security updates and will until 14 January 2020.

On ending support for Vista, Microsoft said, "the time has come for us, along with our hardware and software partners, to invest our resources towards more recent technologies", meaning that it will no longer receive Windows security updates, nor will developers offer support for the dated operating system. We advise upgrading to Windows 10 as you'll have limited access to new software and may be vulnerable in terms of online security.

Windows 10 is the most powerful operating system that Microsoft has ever made, but it's also seem like the most complex. They have increased the performance capability of your machine's memory, hard drive usage, as well as a dependable self-contained anti-virus protection "Windows Defender" software already built in. While the user interface is extremely intuitive, you'll have to dig a little deeper to customize your experience, get maximum performance and make the most of its many new features.

So, how do you face the "Giant" of getting used to a new version of your favorite operating system? You could begin by visiting a "Brick and Mortar Store". You could easily buy a new laptop, or desktop online without ever touching it. However, physical stores still exist. This is a great way to ask questions and get a brief hands-on experience while working with an experienced salesperson. Also, do NOT be afraid to research the upgraded system either online and/or by purchasing a "How-To" resource guide.

Darnell Hughley is the Owner, Certified Technician and Consultant for HY-Tech So-

lutions, LLC - having more than 23 years of total experience in the PC Repair and IT Consulting field.









Dr. Keeble was born in Opelike, Alabama, but raised in Lanett, Alabama. She attended Huntingdon College here in Montgomery where she obtained a Bachelor's of Art degree in Biology and graduated Cum Laude. She then attended the University of

South Alabama in Mobile and obtained her Doctor of Medicine. She completed an internship at Baptist Health System in Birmingham and her ophthalmology residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Call Today to schedule your appointment with **Dr. Keeble** 334-277-9111 or 1-800-255-3012

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Stay Positive During the Holiday Season! I am still determined to be cheerful and happy in whatever situation I may be, for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances. Martha Washington (1732-1802)



Emore County Gazette News A County of friendly cities, towns & communities...the Best of America!

Miss Christmas on the Coosa 2017 Pageant



2017 Queens

Ashley Britt Junior Miss COTC

Rachel Graham Miss COTC

Miss Alabama Jessica Procter

Jesselin Unger-Teen Miss COTC

Miley Brooke Groggins Little Miss COTC

> Khloe Price Petite Miss COTC

> > Pictured left to right.



Miss 3rd runner up-Cailee-Anne Ingram 1st runner up-Hannah Vawter **Miss Christmas on the Coosa-Rachel Graham** 2nd runner up, People's Choice-Brantley Marie White Christmas Spirit, highest ticket sales, Miss Photogenic-Kyle Wright



Junior Miss - L-R: Christmas Spirit-Elsa Stubbs - 3rd runner up - Layken Elizabeth Morgan _ 1st runner up - Kamryn Whitlee Pace **Junior Miss Christmas on the Coosa-Ashley Lauren Britt** 2nd runner up-Abby Mullino Miss Photogenic, People's Choice, highest ticket sales-Haylie Campbell





Teen Miss

Miss Photogenic and People's Choice-Jazmin Faulkner 3rd runner up-Tramiyah Henderson Highest ticket sales-Macey Paton **Teen Miss Christmas on the Coosa-Jesselin Unger** 2nd runner up-Erika Renae Broadway Christmas Spirit-Samantha Tharpe



Little Miss Highest ticket sales- Brooklyn Mead 3rd runner up-Madeline Elizabeth Hicks 1st runner up-Dani Price Little Miss Christmas on the Coosa and People's Choice Miley Brooke Groggins 2nd runner up and Miss Photogenic-Jaycee Alexander Christmas Spirit-Kaitlin Conrad **Petite Miss** 3rd runner up-Zoey Nicole Potts -1st runner up-Layla Hill **Petite Miss Christmas on the Coosa and People's Choice-Khloe Price** 2nd runner up, highest ticket sales-Kylee Anne Thomas Christmas Spirit and Most photogenic-Kennedy Simmons







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Bell Chiropractic Raises Funds for Elmore Co. Pregnancy Center

Late this summer, Bell Family Chiropractic led by Dr. Gus Bell, held a fundraiser for the Elmore County Pregnancy Center and met their goal in only one day! In order to do this, they scheduled a-nearly-impossibleto-pull- off-schedule one Friday, their normal "off day". Then, they designated the percentage of proceeds to be donated to the Center and met their goal of \$1,000!

"We believe in the importance to partner with local agencies to give back to our community.

Helping local agencies do their work is best for everyone. Giving back means a great deal to us as a practice," said Meg Bell. She went on to say, "We believe ECPC addresses a generational burden



Dr. Gus Bell and his staff present **\$1,000 check to Emily Thames, Director of the Elmore County Pregnancy Center**

and they positively affect the lives of young women and men not only during their pregnancy but also for the rest of their lives."

> **Bell Family Chiropractic** bellfamilychiropractic.com.

Send a SPECIAL donation to **EPCP** during the Holiday Season.

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Edwina Clifton Rogers is a Wetumpka High School graduate of 1982. "No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

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Dr. John Bitter, **Editor Senior** Section

Gazette Seníors... Why is November, November? Why do we call November, November?

While most of the months of the year derive their names from some sort of significant or romantic root, three months of the year have no special meaning other than numerical. September gets its name from the Latin word septem, seven, October for the

Latin octo, eight, and novem in Latin means nine. That's how the months of the year lined up numerically in times gone by.

Unlike July, which was named for Julius Caesar, or August, which got its name from Augustus, the word November just means that it was the ninth month of the year, back when names of the months were being handed out.

January, on the other hand, gets its name from Janus, the Roman god of doors, signifying the opening of the year. February gets its name from the Latin word februare, for purify--for whatever reason existed at the time. March gets its name from Mars the Roman god of war, and aprilis is the Latin word for opening, as do the flower buds at this time of year. The name May came from the Roman goddess Maia, the mother of Mercury. June gets its name from Juno, the chief Roman goddess.

The month of November does have some special days that are worthy of note; however. Just ask any U.S. Marine, and he will quickly tell you that every year since 1775, on the 10th day of November the United States Marine Corps has celebrated its establishment as a force whose purpose is to defend America; and the Marines, to a man, put their heart into this celebration; as well they should--they have a right to. The United States Marine Corps Birthday is celebrated with a traditional ball and cake-cutting ceremony. We also celebrate the 10th of November as Veterans Day.

The next day of the month also has a military significance since that's the day on which the Commonwealth of Nations, and various European nations, such as France and Belgium, commemorate World War I, and other wars.

World Diabetes Day is celebrated on the 14th, and International Men's Day is celebrated on the 19th. The international focus on this day is on men's and boy's health, on improving gender relations, and celebrating the achievements and contributions of men and boys throughout the world.

Your humble scribe will celebrate National Adoption Day on the 21st--for understandable reasons.

Not to ignore the feminine gender, the 25th is the **International Day** for the Elimination of Violence against Women. As well it should be.

Both the U.S. and Puerto Rico celebrate the fourth Thursday in **November as Thanksgiving,** although the turkeys aren't too big on the idea.

There are a host of other month-long observances in November, with no less than six ailments on the roster. These include: Pancreatic Cancer, Alzheimer's Disease, Diabetes, Lung Cancer, and Ulceratice Colitis, Stomach Cancer, and Epilepsy, to name a few.

The Great American Smokeout comes on the third Thursday in the month, and the day after Thanksgiving is known in the U.S. as Black Friday.

November's birthstone is the topaz, and its flower is the chrysanthemum. All of which is probably more than the reader would be interested in; but there it is.

> So, enjoy whichever day is yours, and don't eat too much on Thanksgiving!

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



By Kylle' D. McKinney kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov. (334) 479-1242--Cell (334) 272-7630--Fax

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



5C

ONE FACT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DISABILITY

Disability is something many people aren't faced with in a direct way. The reality is, a 20-year-old worker

currently has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled before reaching retirement age. That makes Social Security disability benefits something you should learn about and understand.

One fact you should know is Social Security's definition of disability: the inability to work because of a severe condition that is expected to last for a year or end in death.

Social Security disability benefits replace part of your income when you become disabled and are unable to work. Other disability programs may have partial disability or short-term disability, but federal law requires a stricter definition of disability for Social Security benefits. The definition of disability used to qualify you for Social Security Disability Insurance is generally the same one that is used for Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Most people focus on the medical severity of their condition when filing for disability benefits. They provide medical records that show how severe the condition is. Since Social Security defines severity in terms of being unable to work, we also need complete work information.

You can read a description about the process of evaluating whether you can work or not and the severity of your condition in our publication, Disability Benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10029.pdf, under the section, "How we



make the decision." Understanding how we make the disability decision helps you see the importance of information you provide about your condition and the types of work you have done. For more information about how we evaluate your work, you should review this section on our website: www.socialsecurity.gov/ disability/step4and5.htm.

Remember, when you provide the details about your condition and your work, you're creating a picture of your individual situation. These details show the extent of your disabling condition. These are examples of some of the types of specific information we need about your prior work:

- Main responsibilities of your job(s);
- Main tasks you performed;
- Dates you worked (month and year);
- Number of hours a day you worked per week;
- Rate of pay you received;
- Tools, machinery and equipment you used;
- Knowledge, skills and abilities your work required;
- Extent of supervision you had;
- Amount of independent judgment you used;
- Objects you had to lift and carry and how much they weighed;
- How much you had to sit, stand, walk, climb, stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl, balance;
- How you used your hands, arms, and legs;
- Speaking, hearing and vision requirements of your job(s); and
- Environmental conditions of your workplace(s).

Disability is an unpredictable element in our lives. Help us help you by educating yourself about disability benefits, and by providing all the specific information we ask for when you file for benefits. Social Security continues to secure today and tomorrow by providing benefits and financial protection for millions of people throughout life's journey.

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



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Judge

Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening Potpourri for November by Peggy Givhan

Fall, with its cool dryer weather, is the ideal month to begin planting shrubs and trees. These newly planted plants can get established quicker because of the lack of stress. Stress comes in the forms of insects, mildew, fungus, plus add heat and not enough water if there is no sprinkler system. Any fertilizers applied will not last as long as when applied in the fall. And if a commercial grade fertilizer is not watered in properly, the roots can be burned.

Let's articulate some good plants that are easy to obtain and not only bloom, but provide us and the fauna with food. Fruit trees, such as pears, peaches, apples, blueberries, persimmons, plums, and figs come to mind. If your yard or garden has a high alkaline content, then apples and peaches would require serious soil amendments. Remember the pH of alkaline soils are above 6 and acid soils are below 6. What is termed acid neutral is 5 on the scale. I have a farm with soil that is totally alkaline, grows grass like a pro, but not blueberries, apples or peaches. So, I took railroad ties and fashioned a rectangular shaped bed. After killing all grass and weeds, I laid down a one inch layer of sand, then filled it with good garden soil and humus. After 7 years, the apples trees are still producing, and the peaches are too. I have Keefer pears, Bartlett pears, Pineapple pears, and old fashioned Sand pear. The Keefer and Sand pears are known as cooking pears, and make the best chutney and pear cobblers.

Anyway, in addition to the fruit trees, I have added blackberries, which are as large as figs, and raspberries, which are both red and yellow. The best varieties for all fruit trees and others are from Petals from the Past in Jemison, Alabama. They are the experts in planting methods, the best varieties for your soil type and the biggest selections. Petals from the Past also have wonderful "how to" seminars, and when the blueberries, blackberries and other fruit ripen, you can pick your own for a slight charge. There gift shop abounds with great books and other garden supplies.

In doing research on unusual fruit, I found a bush that grows in zone 8 (our zone), with a fruit that I had heard of, but never had the pleasure of meeting or eating. **Jujube**(**Ziziphus jujube**) grows in zones 6-10, has no known diseases or pests, late ripening, and has sweet plum shaped fruit resembling a fig in texture. I can not wait to purchase a couple of these. I will inquire at Petals from the Past about whether self fertilizing and where to obtain.



Jujube(Ziziphus jujube)

November garden tasks are as follows:

- 1. Cut back spent perennials within 1 inch of the ground.
- 2. Weed garden area and perhaps apply round-up if weeds too extensive. Be careful to not get the chemical on your skin.

Sand pears.

- 3. Put pen to paper and make a plan for where your garden flowers are to be planted or sown now or in the future.
- 4. Gather any seed pods from flowers such as zinnias, cleome, and cosmos. Store in dry containers.
- 5. Dispose of any dead plant material away from the garden area as may harbor eggs of insects or mold mildew or fungus.
- 6. Try to use **dianthus** and **dusty miller** for your winter annuals as these will choke out weeds and live through hard freezes.
- 7. Now is the time to plant **Asian lilies bulbs**, and sow the old fashioned **poppies**. Make these areas on your plan for 2017-2018.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND GOOD GARDENING.





<u>6C</u>

Distinguished Guest Speaker: Colonel Patrick T. Budjenska, Adjutant General Corps, United States Army VETERANS, PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AND BE RECOGNIZED.



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Chef **David Spooner Retired** Chef Volunteer Fireman, Lowndesboro V.F.D. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lowndesboro Board of Registrars, Lowndes County



I belong to a social group called "Overseas Brats". The members were dependents of military parents stationed at military bases around the world. As a group, we get together for gatherings and reunions around the country. We share experiences about coping with living in a foreign country and coping with the different lifestyles when we came back to the United States. The members of the group are from a wide range of ages, so we compared what is was like living in, let us say Germany. Some of us were living in

Germany before and during the Berlin Wall, and some after the reunification of Germany. This gathering was my first as a member and was in Huntsville, Alabama at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center. The Embassy Suites and the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau with the U.S. Space and Rocket Center helped in sponsoring the event. They and Sales Manager Jo Seay made this a memorable



event. We toured the historic districts of Huntsville, had a German feast at the Rocket Center and ate Greek food at Papou's and southern cuisine at the Lumberyard. They did not even let a visit to Huntsville by the President of the United States keep us from our scheduled events. If you are a "Brat" and would like to join, look for fellow Brats, share stories about living overseas and meet interesting people, contact Joe Condrill at oeosbpres@sbcglobal.net.



Yes, Thanksgiving is Here!

Every cook has a go-to cookbook for recipes but also as a resource for conversions, measure, and cooking guidelines. One of my resource books is The America's Test Kitchen Family Cookbook. Since Thanksgiving is coming upon use, I thought I would answer some the most asked questions about cooking your turkey according to America's Test Kitchen.



I have mentioned in previous articles of prepping a meal with the intention of using the leftovers as a base for another meal. I just finished eating what I think was my greatest repurposing of a meal so far. It started with making Chicken Pezole, a traditional soup from Mexico, and ended as a flavorful chicken potpie. Thickening the leftover soup and adding peas and carrots made the base for the potpie. In addition, I checked how much chicken was still in the soup and added more.

The hominy in the soup substituted for the potato in the chicken potpie. I lined the bottom, and sides of a casserole dish with pie shell pastry. You can use either, store bought or homemade. Added the filling and topped with more piecrust. The only changes I would make for later potpies would be to par bake the shell and top the casserole dish with puff pastry. I still have leftover soup frozen in Mason jars to make individual potpies in the future.

I found a variation on one of my favorite chicken and garlic dishes. Baked garlic becomes very mild and sweet, so do not be afraid when a recipe calls for roasting with 40 to 50 cloves of garlic. My favorite recipe calls for a ceramic pot with a tight fitting lid. You place a whole chicken and 50 cloves of garlic in the pot with a tablespoon of oil. Seal the lid with salt dough like the one you use for crafts. When you chip the crust off after cooking, the most fragrant moist chicken you ever had is waiting.

This recipe calls for only 40 cloves of garlic and you do not have to make the craft project to enjoy it. The recipe is adapted from "American Gourmet" and found on the New York Times cooking app.

CHICKEN WITH 40 CLOVES OF GARLIC

INGREDIENTS

- 2/3 cup olive oil **Eight chicken drumsticks Eight chicken thighs** Four celery ribs, cut into four inch-long strips, about 12 total. Two cups chopped onion
- Six parsley sprigs
- One teaspoon dried tarragon
- Half-cup dry vermouth
- Two and one-half teaspoons
- salt
- Quarter teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- Dash grated nutmeg



Guidelines: Start turkey in a 425-degree oven then finish at 325 degrees following these directions:

For a 12-14 lb. turkey start at 425 for one hour, finish for 1-1 ¹/₂ hours serves 10 to 12 For a 15-17 lb. turkey start at 425 for one hour, finish for 1 ¹/₂ to 2 hours serves 14 to 16

Knowing my oven, I use these times and temperature as a guideline, but I rely on a good temperature and I want my turkey to read at least 165 degrees everywhere in the bird, thighs and breast. Remember to let your turkey rest at least 15 minutes after removing from oven. There will be further cooking with the temperature increasing at least 5 degrees.

My personal recommendation is do not stuff the turkey. However, do not forget to check inside the cavity of the turkey and remove the giblets (heart, gizzard, liver, and the neck) that are usually in a parchment paper bag. Use these for your giblet gravy. For the stuffing to get to a safe temperature, the rest of the turkey is over cooked. That is why in the South, we make dressing. Another tip: If you do not brine your turkey, buy a self-basting turkey. If your turkey has a pop up indicator on it, ignore it and use a probe thermometer.

As I was strolling down the aisle at the grocery store, I noticed the large number and varieties of butter and margarine. At my house, butter is preferred. Margarine has some advantages such as no cholesterol, but to keep the calorie count down, water is whipped with it. So when you melt the margarine it evaporates away. In baking, using a high water content margarine can lead to tough baked goods. Pick your butter for your taste and price you want to pay. Just either moderation. use in

"Life expectancy would grow by leaps and bounds if green vegetables smelled as good as bacon" Doug Larson

I have had a lot of pushback about trying new dishes and alternative cooking methods for Thanksgiving. This is one of the holidays where the meal is set in stone. "This is the way we always served it and nobody will eat it if it is not the way "Aunt Hettie" fixed it."

The one side dish that I always try to change is the sweet potatoes.

I am not fond of canned or over-cooked sweet potatoes drowning in butter and brown sugar and with crispy browned marshmallows floating on top of the liquid sea of syrup and then with pecans that are so



water logged they sink to the bottom of the dish and have lost their natural crunch. My contribution to an alternative side dish for Thanksgiving has some brown sugar, but no marshmallows, no pecans and no sea of sugar syrup. I found many recipes for different ways to roast sweet potatoes. I seems to be getting more popular to not raise your blood sugar when you eat sweet potaces and to add some zip to the dish.

Forty cloves garlic, unpeeled Freshly sliced French bread.

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

In a shallow dish, coat the chicken pieces evenly with oil. In a heavy 6-quart casserole, combine the celery, onions, parsley, and tarragon.

Lay the oiled chicken pieces on top. Pour on the vermouth. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, and a dash of nutmeg.

Tuck the garlic cloves in and around the chicken pieces. Cover the casserole tightly with aluminum foil, then the lid. Bake 90 minutes without removing the lid.

Strain the pan juices and serve the chicken, pan juices, and garlic cloves with French bread.

Diners should squeeze the buds of garlic from their husks onto the bread, and then spread the garlic like butter. Yield: 6 to 8 servings

Total time: 1 hour, 40 minutes

I received a cookbook in the mail last week (as if I need another cookbook). The cookbook is one of the best community cookbooks in the country. This copy was the thirty-second printing, and the cookbook has sold over 800,000 copies.

It's "TALK ABOUT GOOD! Le LIVRE de la CUISINE de LAFAYETE" and it is published by the Junior League of Lafayette, Louisiana. The foreword states, "Few locales have such a beautiful blend of heritage, from the Indian encampments, the first Spanish explorers, the French whose influence still dominates today, to the German, Scots, Irish, English and West Indian flavor."

Open the book and notice that the first section is MARDI GRAS, a clue that they are serious about their partying and cooking. In addition, the first instruction for many of the recipes in the cookbook is "make a roux".

There are hints for making cakes and cookies, six recipes for crawfish etouffee, thirteen recipes for gumbo, and fifteen recipes for duck. If you would like a copy, go online at www.juniorleagueoffayaetteville.com.

Continued on page 2C

"Thanksgiving Day is a perfect day to share the love and companionship of family and friends at the Thanksgiving table. " Cheryl Leonard

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November 2017

Continued from page 1C

There is a much-maligned food that everyone likes but does not know it. If this food (fish) is not in Ceasar Salad dressing or in your puttanesca sauce then the recipes are incomplete. If you have Worcestershire sauce in your cupboard, you have anchovies! Anchovies are not just for pizza. The British have a mixture called 'gentleman's relish', which combines butter, anchovies, cinnamon, white pepper, cayenne pepper, and nutmeg in a food processor. It is great on toast, dabbed on steak or potatoes, or added to pretty much any preparation where you would use salted butter.

If you want to try a salad dressing with anchovies, this anchovy dressing is a heavy-on-the-anchovy variation of a classic Caesar dressing. It is mayobased, with some lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce adding some acidity and "depth of flavor". It is great on a salad with crisp fresh tart apple slices, crunchy toasted walnuts, and wintertime greens, such as endive, radicchio, and frisee. This is the recipe for the dressing; you can mix the greens, nuts, and apple as you wish.

PARMESAN-ANCHOVY DRESSING

INGREDIENTS

Half cup DUKE'S mayonnaise One ounce finely grated parmesan cheese Six whole anchovy filets, mashed into a paste with the back of a fork Two teaspoons juice from one lemon **One teaspoons Worcestershire sauce** Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

Whisk completely in a bowl. Dress your salad. Note: Yes, you can reduce the number of anchovies, but with the bitter radicchio and tart apple and toasted walnuts, I would not. Enough dressing for a salad of four

Since we have the house smelling of garlic and anchovies, we might as well go for broke here and introduce a vegetable I think is under-utilized in the kitchen. So pull out your 12-inch cast-iron skillet, your garlic, the anchovies, and Brussels sprouts. This will be a perfect addition to your Thanksgiving dinner.

SKILLET CHARRED BRUSSELS SPROUTS with GARLIC, ANCHOVY, and CHILI

INGREDIENTS

One pound small to medium Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved Four tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided Four teaspoons honey, divided

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, toss the sprouts with one tablespoon of the oil, two teaspoons of the honey, and ½-teaspoon of salt. Set aside. In your 12-inch cast-iron skillet over high heat, combine the remaining oil, garlic, anchovies, and ¹/₄-teaspoon pepper flakes.

Cook, stirring until the garlic begins to color, about 3 minutes. Scrape the mixture, including the oil, into a bowl and set aside. Return the skillet to high heat. Add the sprouts (keep the bowl) and

using tongs turn the sprouts cut side down.



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Kosher salt Four garlic cloves, minced Four anchovy fillets, minced **Red pepper flakes** Two teaspoons lemon juice



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Cook without moving until deeply brown (about four to five minutes) depending on your skillet.

Turn sprouts over and cook until charred and just tender, another 3 to five minutes.

As they finish cooking, return the sprouts the bowl and toss with garlic mixture, the remaining honey, and lemon juice. Season the sprouts to taste with salt and additional pepper flakes. Serves 4



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Soul



Dr. Lester Spencer St. James United Methodist Church 9045 Vaughn Road Montgomery, Al

Good News Bad News

We have all heard the Good News Bad News jokes. One of my

favorites is this one: Doctor: I have good news and bad news. Patient: Tell me the good news first. Doctor: You have 24 hours to live. Patient: What!?! How can that be good news? So, What is the bad news? Doctor: I forgot to tell you yesterday!

My wife, Janeese, and I went on an exploratory trip to Uganda and Kenya this past Summer with Compassion International. We learned so much about the current plight of children in various parts of Africa and what Compassion International is doing to minister to children and families. As you would imagine, the needs are tremendous. We visited a number of slums in the cities and also very poor communities in the rural areas as well.

The bad news was quite evident. Everywhere we turned it seemed there was an ocean of children living in extreme poverty. Each stop along the journey, we wanted to adopt or sponsor another child through Compassion International.

The good news is that Compassion International and the many local churches they work through are making a huge difference in the lives of over two million different children in 23 different countries. We got to meet and hear the testimonies of many of those who had been sponsored children who are now young adults with a great education making a difference in their own communities and their countries.

We also had the joy and privilege of meeting a beautiful six year old little girl named Jovia in Uganda. We decided to sponsor her through Compassion International. For \$37 per month we will provide her with food, clothes, tuition for school, school books, the Compassion International child development program and medical care. We are so excited to see how God will use this support to bless, strengthen and prepare her for her future. The good news is that we can make a huge difference in her life, along with the millions of other sponsors supporting other children.

Another piece of good news I learned on this mission adventure is that the rate of extreme poverty in the world has been cut by 74.1% since 1990. In 1990, there were 1.9 billion people (37.1% of the global population) living in extreme poverty according to USAID and the World Bank. Extreme poverty is defined by someone who lives on less than \$1.90 per day. In 2015, there were 702 million people living in extreme poverty (9.6% of the global population). That is a 74.1% decline in extreme poverty in 25 years.

While 702 million people living in extreme poverty is still unacceptable, the good news is that we are seeing the huge impact of the collective efforts of a multitude of churches, nonprofits, other religious organizations and government agencies as we focus on eradicating extreme poverty! That my friends is Good News!

As we discovered in our recent trip to Uganda and Kenya, there is good news to celebrate regarding aggressive efforts to eliminate extreme poverty from the face of the earth. But there are still countless millions that need our prayers, help and support. No doubt it can seem overwhelming as it did to us when we saw so many poor children in great need all around us in Africa. However, I would remind us all of the words of Mother Teresa: "I never look at the masses as my responsibility; I look at the individual. I can only love one person at a time-just one, one, one. So you begin. "

So, where do you begin? What can you do? What

one person can you love, help or serve? Don't allow yourself to be overwhelmed by the multitudes of those in need. Don't throw up your hands in frustration and settle to do nothing. Start with one person. Pray for them. Invest in them. Serve them. Empower them. If you do it in the name of Christ, it can and will make a difference!

Searching

An old man walked along the seashore where thousands of starfish had washed up on the beach and were dying in the hot sun. He came upon a little boy who was picking up starfish and throwing them back into the sea in an effort to save them. The old man said, "Son, what are you doing? Why are you wasting your time. There are far too many for you to rescue. What difference will it make? The little boy picked up another one of the starfish. He looked at it a moment, and then threw it back into the sea saying, "it makes a difference to this one."

The Good News is you can make a difference! One person at a time! You might start with the people nearest you and, then, perhaps, by something as simple and beautiful as sponsoring a child through Compassion International! Wouldn't that be a great thing for you and your family to prayerfully consider during these Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays which are fast upon us!

I'll close with one of my favorite quotes from the scriptures:

"But if a person has enough to live on, and yet when they see a brother or sister in need and shuts up their heart against them, how can it be said that God's love dwells in them? My children, love must not be a matter of words or talk alone, it must be genuine and show itself in action."-1 John 3:17-19

Blessings, Lester Spencer, Lead Pastor Saint James UMC

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4D

Have a Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving Patricia Killough



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Birthday October 26th

Congratulations Judson L. Huett, Jr.

Jud enjoyed celebrating his birthday on October 28th with friends and family at Frazer United Methodist Church in Room 8114. Everyone enjoyed the music, food and fellowship.



Home Town Community News Please send Patricia your family hirthdays. anniversaries November Birthdays



- 1 Barbie O'Neal Kelei Lewis Jimmie Mims **Bobbie Parker**
- 2 Al Flanary **Bill Grubs** Mary Ellis Killough (9th) Mike Lane
- 3 Larry Chambers **Doug Sellers**
- 4 Patrick Sikes (7th) 5 Jeremy Brown
- Mike Davis Margaret Ann Morgan 6 Bella Boyd
- Faye Deal **Teresa Seevers** Carol Harrison
- Debbie Green Jane Camille Robinson Helen Struthers Paula Barker
- 8 Trey Mainor David Strange Gerry Williams
- 9 Kristen Butler Carl McDevitt John Porterfield Jamalyn Smith Patrice Wasden
- 10 Frances Dover Gayle Harper Myra Mills Harlan Ratliff Manly Swearingen
- 11 Amanda Anderson **Robert Sandifer**
- 12 Clyde Alison Faye Best Jo Hurley John Messick Warren Miller Mary Talley Tom Vocino LeeAnn Willams (36th)
- 13 Sarah Bone Jenelle Jones Norman Rahn Marie Penn
- 14 Shawn Adams Kenneth Banks Houston Harris Walker Meadows Xan Morrows Spears Rhodes 15 Larry Browder

Mary Elizabeth Dean Mae H. Poole Katherine Huro Debbie Johnson Heather Killough

- Thomas Joseph Boyd 16 Alton Haraway
- 17 Dan Fowler Bill Harper Mary Holman Cara Stafford
- 18 Billy Jack Beck Doug Cole
- 19 Laird Bone Mattie Sherman
- 20 Sandy Garner Sharon Harper Rich Takacs
- 21 James Miller
- 22 Annette Banks Randy Bishop Amy Grubbs Lee Hartley **Tommy Jones** Virginia Shearin Locke White Charles Wilkerson Charles Winsett
- 23 Joyce Mims Peggy Cole Brittany Hord
- 24 Helen Cain Howard Duncan Donald McClain Pearl McClain Patricia Potts Jerry Shadrick
- Debbie Whitehouse 25 Colonel Durden **Bonnie Morris**
- 26 Faye Spivey
- 27 Annabelle O'Neal (7th) Vaughn Lowery Jessika Wallace Andy Strange
- 28 Marilyn Oliver Betty Spivey 29 Weston Browder Mavis Kratzer
- 30 Brittany Abott Kaitlin Castleberry Drew Meadows (9th) Jackie Moseley Boyd Partridge Jim Tinney Earle Williams

Brad & Julie Echols

Happy Anniversary 16 Alan & Debra Moore

BIG hug!

Please send Patricia your family

and weddings to

alabamagazette@gmail.com The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your

submissions as space permits.

I Love

Minnie

Mouse!

I got a

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- Jud & Jane Huett (58th) Brian & Jennifer Rushing (8th)
- Don & Tanya Cooley Tommy & Patti Maihan (32nd)
- 10 Tanner & Shannon Grant Manly & Kris Swearingen Tom & Jayne Ward
- 14 Jim & Frances Ard
- 12 Sonny & Linda Turner (51st) Todd & Sandy Rogers (14th)
- Stephen & Joyce Turnipseed
- 17 Clyde & Audrey Alison (38th) Chip & Tricia Norris
- 18 Burks & Charlotte Crane (22nd)
- 21 Doug & Cindy Young Gary & Martha French (43rd)
- 24 Gary & Debbie Partridge
- 27 Mike & Wanda Horsley Joe & Olivia Thomas (64th)
- 28 Andre & Beverly Stephens

Sympathy to the famílies of...

Baudin, Gloria Mae (89)	Died September 25, 2017
Pressley, CPO Kenneth L. (80)	Died September 27, 2017
Rittenhour, Judy Elizabeth Duncan (72)	Died September 27, 2017
Scott, Elizabeth Hill (Bettie) (83)	
Gordon, William Hugh (91)	Died September 29, 2017
Brooks, Frances Morgan (96)	Died October 3, 2017
Hatcher, Joyce Smith	
Chesnutt, Jane Clara Windham (87)	
Lawson, Sarah Box	Died October 10, 2017
Hall, Alton C. "Sonny"	
Harrod, Nelda Kent	
Johnson, Norma Jean Somerset Welch (92)	
Lane, James "Buddy" Hartwell (83)	Died October 19, 2017
Barlow Jr., Dr. Robert Louis (80)	Died Ocotber 20, 2017
Goodson Jr., John Calhoun (90)	Died October 20, 2017
Baseshore, Mobel Ellen (70)	Died October 21, 2017
Walters, Floyd Jack (79)	Died October 21, 2017
Hatcher, Martha Ann (60)	
Clayton, Jimmie Frank (81)	

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today's woman

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



Just to be clear, I am writing about the banana spiders found in the southeastern region of the United States. They live as far north as North Carolina and as far west as Texas.

I am not referring to the banana spider of Central and South America that is venomous and will chase people.

There are those who believe the banana spider arrived to our area aboard banana boats as they docked at the port of Mobile years ago. But experts claim Mobile had banana spiders long before the banana boats sailed.

The banana spiders we have in Alabama are also called Nephila, or golden silk orb weavers...among other things.

When the sun is shining right, you can see the yellow hue of their webs. And they don't build shabby webs. I saw a small limb dangling from one after the last rain. This year they seem to be everywhere.

I have been keenly aware of one in particular because I had been playing limbo with one of them since early July who had built a face-level web on the porch off the side entrance of the garage.

I don't know why I didn't just get rid of it. But I didn't, and wouldn't you know it, an even bigger one built another web higher above the first in the far right corner. They became known as **Spider #1 and Spider #2.**



I would go out just to speak with them and check out their webs.

Spider #2 must have been from a long line of fine web weavers. She didn't just build a sturdy flat web. She built lean-tos off each side. This was maybe a way to catch more food, because you could tell by looking at her that she liked to eat. I suppose the extra webbing could have also served to protect her center web from the wind, yet what it did not shield her from was certain other predators.

Spider #3 abruptly arrived as I saw her as I got out of my car one day. I don't know the full story, but bad things happened. All that was left of Spider #2 were eight legs still floating in her well-built web.

After that I felt hard toward Spider #3. I wouldn't even speak. I would walk underneath her stolen web like she wasn't even up there. I even warned Spider #1 – who I had become friendly with at that point – to be very leery of Spider #3 – especially when she started adding on another addition to the web in #1's direction.

Then it happened. I went out to see Spider #1 and she was gone. Just gone. No sign of struggle. No evidence of foul play. No note.

That is when I really started being more open to getting to know Spider #3. The new routine.

Send us your special story, share pictues of your upcoming events, and always give us your comments. We thank you for reading The Gazette! Support our Advertisers they make this newspaper possible.







Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"A Thankful Heart"

Often in the bad times our eyesight gets foggy and we fail to recognize God's hand of blessing. We

Trisston Wright Burrows Ms.Wheelchair America/ Alabama 2005

we fail to recognize God's hand of blessing. We focus on the negatives and let them pull us down. At times, we may not even see any positives in our situation. But God. Yes! But God always gives blessings even though they may not be readily seen.

"Praise be to the LORD, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens." Psalm 68:19

Psalm 68 is an interesting passage. It was intended to be used in worship by Israel as a song of victory and deliverance. It recounts the many difficulties they endured and speaks of them being afflicted, oppressed, helpless, sinful, and exposed to hurt and pain. Yet, this Psalm recalls that God provided for His people in the tough wilderness wanderings and in the days of bountiful blessing in the Promised Land of Canaan. In both the good times and the bad, God blessed them and cared for them. In this passage, His people recognize that and thank Him for it.

I encourage you, my friend, to deliberately find things to be thankful for every day of the year. See God's hand at work in your life and praise Him. Remember that He gives multiple blessings daily. Matthew Henry, the great Bible commentator said, "So many, so weighty are the gifts of God's bounty, that He may be truly said to load us with them." Yes! Face life's difficulties, but focus on the load of blessings that surround you and thank God for them. Remember, a thankful heart is a joyful heart!

Happy Thanksgiving & Many Blessings!



Local Artist



Shares Her Unique Talent...

Need the Perfect Gift for Christmas?

Birthday, Anniversary, or Just Because? May we suggest a Brittni Smith drawing! Jhe perfect gift - a drawing of people you love, things you enjoy, the places you've been, memories you have made for a Lifetime!

Brittni Smith earned a degree in graphic design and a minor in printmaking from Auburn University in Montgomery. In December, 2015 her young son was diagnosed with Leukemia and she became a stay-at-home Mom. While at home and caring for her son, Brittni began drawing graphite portraits, which lead to drawing anything and everything! She fell in love with pencil artistry and the amount of detail that can be achieved. According to Brittni, as my son continues Chemotherapy, "His strength is what inspires me to be a better artist."



Brittni hopes to share with the world her gifts and techniques of art. She can be contacted at: *brittnismithartistry@yahoo.com* OR **334-303-8778**. Please join her on facebook where you can see more of her work.



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Continued from page 4A John Sophocleus Giggin' for Dollars in Opelika: Scent of a Birmingham Sewer?

The article further cites Moody's downgrade of Opelika's electric division's \$28 million debt from Aa3 to A1 was not based on grid modernization but because those funds were being used for "financial support of the city's relatively new telecommunications enterprise." Moody's due diligence did not conclude modernization was sufficient to cover the debt for the fiber network.

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cluded that the majority were not even financially viable, while others had payback periods approaching 100 years. Many sponsoring cities suffered defaults and reductions in bond ratings. I am worried Opelika is well along this path. Opelika is a great town, and I am concerned this will burden them for many years." Beard's analysis makes one wonder how much of this indebted infrastructure will be inoperative and obsolete when Opelika finally breaks even (in reality) which grows increasingly more difficult to reconcile with Fuller's 'ledgerdemain.'

latest spectacular failure of a government Internet system, are serving time in the penitentiary." In my last interview on the matter before going to press Seals said, "these GON (Government Owned Network) examples look eerily similar to what's unfolded in our first 'Gig City' in Alabama."

START

MONTH

As in many States, Dr. Ford notes Alabama law limits Opelika's broadband network to OPS's geographic area. Sen. Whatley has submitted several bills to permit Opelika's broadband network to go beyond the city's limits and perhaps beyond county lines. Thankfully the bills always die in committee which is unusual in a State filled with once big govt. Democrats now turned Republican to redistribute wealth to those plugged into getting taxpayer subsidized contracts. Private-sector networks are more difficult to control and competition is the worst nightmare of failed businessmen desperate for crony contracts, like former Speakers who can't perform on existing loans but think it a sign of a good 'businessman' to use the power of their office to secure even more loans at stockholder's expense.

Unlike Mayor Fuller and recently installed (into Felon Hubbard's district by eliminating the general election) Rep. Lovvorn, I think Sen. Whatley's heart was in the right place advocating for rural broadband. Most lawmakers are not trained in the realities of market driven results over command economies and are suspicious of those advocating for any position. I think Sen. Whatley finds it odd the legislation I bother him about (most recently 'the right to repair' for farmers) given he knows I'm not a lobbyist and can't be bought. The odd look he gave me when I forecasted a private entity would emerge to provide broadband when the time was ripe spoke volumes. Now that we in fact see broadband coming out to rural areas as economic theory predicted, hopefully more pro-government growth legislation of this sort is put to rest.

Accomplished industrial organization economist Prof. T. R. Beard further noted, "The track record for municipal fiber is very poor. A study published by the University of Pennsylvania Law School, which financially evaluated twenty municipal systems using an approach that understates cities' costs, con-

Another local economist, Prof. Alan Seals, also alarmed by poorly reported 'Gig City' financials corresponded with Mr. Alexander 'Andy' Bell (after coping Mayor Fuller in a missive asserting intentional omissions, failing to contact OPS, etc.) who offered no additional data or alternative explanation/perspective to refute Seal's conclusions. The Associate Professor responded with, "... the proposal to expand the fiber network beyond Opelika's city limits is such a terrible idea that I found it impossible to present any other side. I think it is "disgraceful" to use the income from electric rate payers of OPS as the basis to build and expand this fiber network - it is a fact that this has already happened. I also believe your claims of financial solvency of the telecom side of OPS are fiction and I would love to see actual evidence to the contrary. As far as the university is concerned, it does not have a position on this matter. I do however have an opinion and I also work at Auburn University. So, if you want to skew that in some way, go ahead. I am prepared to face the fire because I have nothing to hide. Perhaps, I will see you tomorrow at the committee hearing on this matter." Prof. Seals still has not received a response from Andy Bell or anyone else to refute the bifurcated analysis showing the OPS 'moneychangers' result. Given the ironic nomenclature, I'd hope Alexander G. Bell would despise cross-subsidy of this sort which morphed into one of the most durable redistributive government monopolies in US history. Giggin' and lyin' for dollars is as alive and well today as it ever was when Felon Hubbard controlled the Speaker's gavel.

There can be no dispute Mayor Fuller was informed of 'problems' with their presentation of financials. In the Opelika Observer (4/12/17) Prof. Seals wrote, "Other municipal broadband systems have not fared as well. For example, the city council of Provo, Utah sold its \$39 million fiber network to Google for \$1. In Groton, Connecticut, the city's residents are still paying for a \$38 million network sold for \$550,000. Four city officials in Bristol, Virginia, home to the

When writing on this in the past, readers asked why I'm so adamant on the issue. It is simple, I'm a friend to those who prefer not being victimized by theft - political or otherwise. I'm a reliable enemy to those who wish to engage in theft. I despise the estimate (looking at the data) Opelika's taxpayers and captive ratepayers appear to be subsidizing broadband to the tune of about \$6/mo. per household. At the last Lee County Voters League meeting one in attendance was adamant about fighting OPS (who now appears to feel the crunch of Fuller financing) wrongfully billing her. I have just as much disdain for this 'ledgerdemain' as those directly taxed by Opelika's 'occupational tax' who live outside the jurisdiction and cannot vote on those directly taxing them. To those who claim it is 'de minimus' and/or 'a wash' - OK, get the government out of the way to let be a de minimus wash.

I'll close in the sincere hope future 'OPS I did it again' legislation which would spread this sort of cancer outside municipalities is no longer submitted on Goat Hill. It is also my sincere hope and prayer this wrongdoing may be addressed and justly prosecuted as we've observed in other fraudulent broadband expansions in the US. Using captured utility consumers to subsidize ongoing folly as we observe in Opelika evokes a growing odor similar to a Birmingham sewer. Would it pass the Davis & Hart smell test? If the Alabama AG or Alabama Securities Commission are unmoved, perhaps FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority) or MSRB (Municipal Securities Rule Board) type disciplinary bodies will investigate. No doubt the FBI is familiar with the roadmap to AU with carryovers from the Hubbard/Lowder 'public servant' influence (more recently PUBA, Ticketgate, Softball and Basketball coach scandal, etc.) in the District 79 area - in spite of a newly installed university president who asserts nothing is broken...

Postscript: to my readers who keep asking me to write on recent State School Board issues, I spoke at some length with Board member Betty Peters who has confirmed some of your worst fears. While I'm sorry Peters will not be running for reelection, I'm delighted to report there is an effort afoot (kudos to Loretta Grant) to get her to write for the Alabama Gazette when she's less pressed for time.