

Christ the Son of God is...  
**RISEN**  
 Worship Easter Sunday April 1, 2018

"THE PEOPLE'S PAPER"  
 THE ALABAMA  
**Gazette**  
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**Take One!**

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**"Racial and ethnic hostility is the foremost social problem facing our world today".**

Reverend Billy Graham

November 7, 1918 - February 21, 2018

*He actually physically took ropes down and symbolically, in doing so, said, "Look, we're all equal before God, we're all one together and every man has his right for the rights that we enjoy and want." He took a lead in the stand way back in those early days when it wasn't popular. He has always had a love for people and has appreciated and understood in a very unique dimension the worth of an individual no matter what his or her race, color, ethnic background may be.*

"Racial and ethnic hostility is the foremost social problem facing our world today. From the systematic horror of "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia to the random violence ravaging our inner cities, our world seems caught up in a tidal wave of racial and ethnic tension. **This hostility threatens the very foundations of modern society.**

We must not underestimate the devastating effects of racism on our world. Daily headlines chronicle its grim toll: divided nations and families, devastating wars and human suffering on an unimaginable scale, a constant downward spiral of poverty and hopelessness, children cruelly broken in body and warped in heart and mind. The list is long, but for the sensitive Christian, it is even longer: whole peoples poisoned by violence and racial hatred and closed to the gospel as a result; indifference and resistance by Christians who are intolerant toward those of other backgrounds, ignoring their spiritual and physical needs.

Racism—in the world and in the church—is one of the greatest barriers to world evangelization.

Racial and ethnic hatred is a sin, and we need to label it as such. Jesus told his disciples to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:39); and in reply to the question "Who is my neighbor?" he responded with a pointed parable

*about a good Samaritan, a member of a despised race (Luke 10:25-37).*

Racism is a sin precisely because it keeps us from obeying God's command to love our neighbor, and because it has its roots in pride and arrogance. Christians who harbor racism in their attitudes or actions are not following their Lord at this point, for Christ came to bring reconciliation—reconciliation between us and God, and reconciliation between each other. He came to accept us as we are, whoever we are, "from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Rev. 5:9).

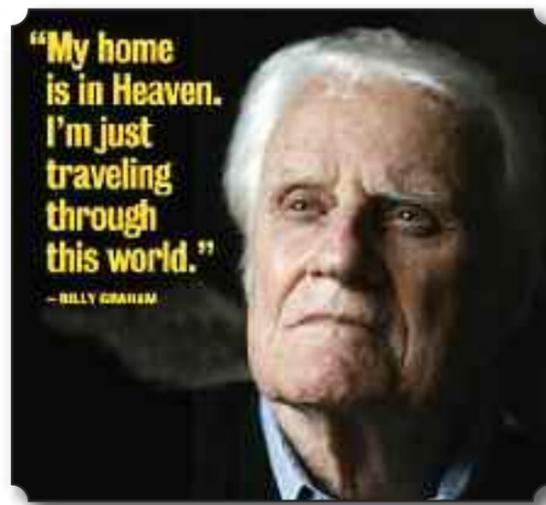
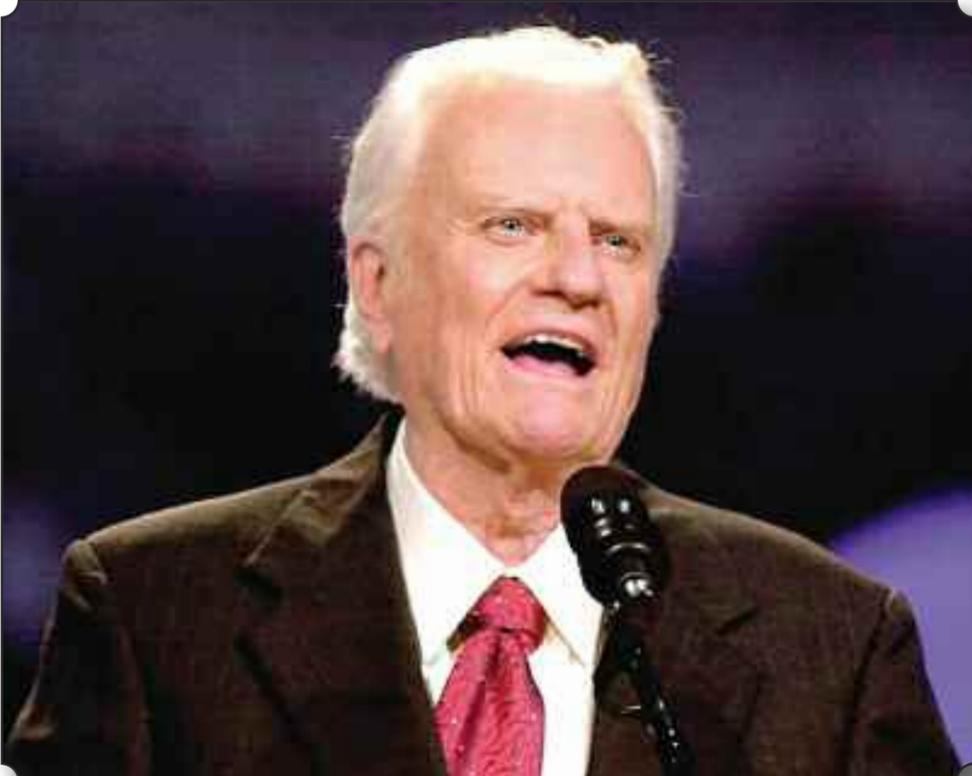
Tragically, too often in the past evangelical Christians have turned a blind eye to racism or have been willing to stand aside while others take the lead in racial reconciliation, saying it was not our responsibility. (I admit I share in that blame.) As a result, many efforts toward reconciliation in America have lacked a Christian foundation and may not outlive the immediate circumstances that brought them into existence. Our consciences should be stirred to repentance by how far we have fallen short of what God asks us to be as his agents of reconciliation.

Racism is not only a social problem, therefore; because racism is a sin, it is also a moral and spiritual issue. Legal and social efforts to obliterate racism (or at least curb its more onerous effects) have a legitimate place. **However, only the supernatural love of God can change our hearts in a lasting way and replace hatred and indifference with love and active compassion.**

No other force exists besides the church that can bring people together week after week and deal with their deepest hurts and suspicions. Of all people, Christians should be the most active in reaching out to those of other races, instead of accepting the status quo of division and animosity.

*The issues that face us are complex and enormous, and simply wishing they would go away will not solve them. I do not pretend to know the full answer. But let those of us who claim the name of Christ report of our past failures and relying on the Holy Spirit, demonstrate to a weary and frightened world that Christ indeed "has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility ... through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility." (Eph. 2:14-15).*

In 1993 Rev. Billy Graham wrote this message on sin of racism. From Christianity Today, October 4, 1993



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# ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

*Tragic? Yes. Scary? Yes. The NRA's fault? Get real!*

I don't know about you guys, but I love the Twilight Zone. Twice per year, I eagerly anticipate and when I can, watch as much of the Twilight Zone Marathons the SciFi Channel shows. Hour after hour, it never gets old. "It's a cookbook!!" You gotta

love it. There is no doubt that Rod Serling was a master of the English language. He had a definite way with words. Before every episode, he would prove that with just a brief ditty to the upcoming show. It was brilliant. One of my favorite Rod Serling taglines is, "Imagine a world. . ." Yeah imagine.

As I sit here at my computer, that is exactly what I am doing. I am imagining the crackpot world that progressive liberalism is throwing our great country into. And of course, it is coming on the heels of yet another school shooting. This time by a 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz in Parkland, Florida who killed 17 people. Tragic? Yes. Scary? Yes. The NRA's fault? Get real!

As predictable as the sun rising in the East and setting in the West, the idiot left wingers emerge from their underground socialist hovels, spout incomprehensible and misinformed rhetoric and try to pin the blame on this massacre on guns and not the evil idiot behind the gun. Let's not admit that the local police and sheriff's office screwed the pooch after 911 records show they were called in three-times while Cruz lived in a Lantana, Florida trailer park with his adoptive mother's best friend after her death. Not only that, but a total of forty 911 calls were placed while the Cruz family resided in the area from 2010 to January 2017 for incidents that vary including domestic disturbance, mentally ill person and child or elderly abuse, and juvenile disturbance. Really? And this guy can actually purchase a gun. And of course, let's not talk about the armed security guard who cowered outside while Cruz did his dirty work inside the school, or the other four officers who also failed to engage the shooter. But it is the NRA's fault.

But now on the progressive liberal side, they have an army of teenagers who have "had enough" and have descended on the nation's capital as well as that the capital in Florida. They are demanding drastic changes in gun laws. I say, "Shut up, snowflakes." I heard an idiot news anchor laughingly call these kids the "next greatest generation" and that they will see to an end of the 2nd Amendment. I know a lot of you have kids at this age, I know a lot of them in my church but I will be totally honest. I am not looking to many of them for sage advice and wisdom on this issue. Sorry, but I am not. After all, many of these kids are the same ones eating Tide Pods, demand safe spaces to crawl into whenever life gets a little tough, who according to polls insist that socialism and communism are superior to democracy and for whatever reason, have some difficulty in deciding what bathroom and locker room they want to use. No, sorry. When I saw an idiot girl carrying a sign saying, "Our Lives, Your Guns," I just wanted to say bless her stupid, historically ignorant little heart.

Yeah, we have all heard the same tired arguments. "The founders never envisioned machine guns." Yeah, but they definitely envisioned parity with the military or they would have said while the Continental Army has muskets, the militias will be relegated to pitchforks and slingshots. The founders never envisioned internet or social media so are we to limit freedom of speech as well? Wait, those are some of the words and ideas coming out of this so-called, next greatest generation. No. for the most part, I DO NOT CARE what these snowflakes want. I simply don't. I can't. I won't.

Exactly five-years ago, I wrote the column down below. It was in response to an earlier article I had written on gun control. A reader responded, as many liberals do, by misstating what I wrote or by outright lying. But after this recent school shooting, and once again the immediate hot button topic of gun control, I decided I needed to return to a VERY short history of why we actually have the 2nd Amendment. People, no matter how hard we try to ignore or pooch-pooch the historical context in which it was written, we cannot escape the truths contained within. Probably the most contentious, misstated, and controversial 27 words in the English language. Our country needs the 2nd Amendment and our founders clearly stated why. But our schools continually fail our children in this reality. When a kid comes home with a workbook that states, and I have seen it, "The 2nd Amendment states that people without a criminal background have the right to own certain types of weapons," we are in trouble. Our kids are being taught this filth and then they go out and argue against guns without the benefit of any historical context and armed with total fabrications of the truth. That being said, here is my previous post. I apologize in advance for the length.

## SCHOOL IS IN SESSION (REVISITED)

Having the opportunity to write for the Alabama Gazette is always fun for me. I like to know that folks are reading my "stuff" whether they agree with it or not. I have always enjoyed pleasant disagreements and the ability to debate issues with people. After I wrote my first column about gun rights two months ago, a reader took issue with what I had written. That is fine and I know nobody will ever agree with everything I, or anybody, has to say. Although I wasn't going to respond, the more I thought about it, the more I felt compelled to "school" him on reality.

When I first started working on my master's degree in history, I remember the first required book was Carl G. Gustavson's work titled, A Preface to History. In this book, Gustavson outlines what he calls "Nine Questions to Historical Causation." He posits that before anyone attempts to understand any historical event, he must ask the following questions.

1. What was the immediate cause for the event?
2. Had there been a background of agitation for the principles victorious during this period?
3. Were personalities involved on either side whose strengths or weaknesses may have helped to determine the outcome of the struggle?
4. Were any new and potent ideas stimulating the loyalty of a considerable number of people?
5. How did the economic groups line up on the issue?
6. Were religious forces active?
7. Did any new technological developments influence the situation?
8. Can the events be partially explained by weakened or strengthened institutions?
9. Was the physical environment itself a factor in the situation?

The purpose of asking these questions is to get the historian to look at any historical event in the context in which it transpired. This is what I plan on doing, very quickly, in regards to gun rights and the reality that the founders did indeed view gun ownership, among other thing, as a necessary precursor to keeping renegade governments in check.

Let's take a look at America in 1773. America was being systematically crushed by a long series of oppressive taxes and restrictive laws such as the Currency Act (Colonies could not produce paper money) and Sugar Act of 1764 and the 1765 Stamp and Quartering Acts (Colonies required to provide housing, food and other provisions to British soldiers). All came to a head with the Tea Act passed by British Parliament in May 1773. Between the Quartering Act of 1765 and the Tea Act of 1773, we endured several small conflicts with the British including the Boston Massacre in 1770.

When faced with ever increasing taxes imposed by Parliament against the colonies, the Boston Tea Party erupted on 16 December 1773. We had had

enough. England responded in 1774 with the Coercive Acts that ended local self-government in Massachusetts and placed it under control of the British Army. This act also closed Boston's commerce. In September 1774, the First Continental Congress was formed just three months after the first Continental Army was established under George Washington. In April 1775 the Battles of Concord and Lexington took place and a little over a year later, the Declaration of Independence was introduced on 4 July 1776. The war ended in 1783 after the signing of the Treaty of Paris giving the 13 Colonies sovereignty from British rule. Our constitution was adopted on 17 September 1787 by Constitutional Convention and the Bill of Rights – the first ten amendments – was ratified on 15 December 1791.

This is a VERY, VERY brief timeline of the war. The purpose is only to show according to the nine questions of historical causation, that the American Revolution did not just happen, but was the result of many factors, the vast majority of which are not listed here. But as we look at what these men had recently gone through, we have to get into their mind and ask questions that likely drove their decisions and thought processes. For example, the Third Amendment states, "No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law." Do you think the British Quartering Act of 1765 had anything to do with this? This is a rhetorical question and of course the answer is, "Yes."

The founders had witnessed firsthand in Europe what corrupt governments could do to an unarmed people. The author of the Second Amendment, James Madison, actually went through over half-a-dozen iterations before arriving at what we see today. Madison's first version presented on 8 June 1789 actually stated, "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; a well-armed and well-regulated militia being the best security of a free country but no person religiously scrupulous of bearing shall be compelled to bear arms." Ignoring the part dealing with conscientious objectors, Madison clearly wanted the right to bear arms to be separate while integral to the concept of militia. His next version presented on 21 July, switched the order placing the verbiage of a militia first. One version actually had the idea of the people's right to bear arms and militias as two separate amendments deserving separate votes. Finally, on 21 September 1789, we got our final version. It is clear the framers intended the right to bear arms not be limited to military operations contingent upon militia actions.

When I read comments by modern scholars who intentionally misinterpret the constitution for political reasons, I always go back to the men who either wrote the documents or those who lived in such contentious times. I care much more about their ideas than the ravings of the morally bankrupt intelligentsia. If you want to get a better feel for what they were thinking, read things like early commentaries of constitutional theorists, the Federalist Papers, and writings of men like Thomas Jefferson, John Jay, James Madison and Sir William Blackstone's commentaries on the Laws of England. Constitutional theorist St. George Tucker criticized the English Bill of Rights, for example, for intentionally limiting gun ownership in England to the very wealthy, leaving the majority of the population "effectively disarmed." Tucker wrote that he hoped the new American country would "never cease to regard the right of keeping and bearing arms as the surest pledge of their liberty."

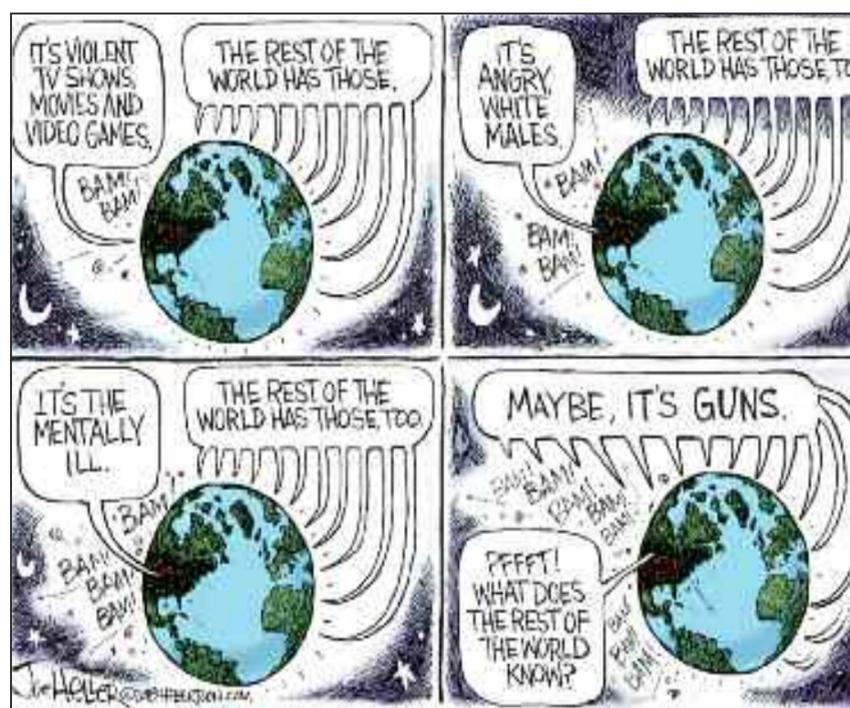
**In William Rawle's *A View of the Constitution of the United States* written in 1825, he penned: "No clause could by any rule of construction be conceived to give to Congress a power to disarm the people. Such a flagitious attempt could only be made under some general pretense by a state legislature. But if in any blind pursuit of inordinate power either should attempt it, this amendment may be appealed to as a restraint on both."** Powerful stuff!

Joseph Story, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court 1811-1845 appointed by James Madison, described a militia as the "natural defense of a free country against foreign enemies, domestic revolts and usurpation by rulers." Story regarded the militia as the "moral check" against usurpation (wrongful or illegal encroachment, infringement or seizure) and the "arbitrary use of power."

Having re-read my first column, as expected, the writer of the letter misrepresented what I said. In reality most liberals have to in order to prove their fallacious points or arguments. I never once said "this" or "our" government is corrupt or oppressive. *You can decide for yourselves this question.* It is clear, however, that the founders of this country, men admittedly a lot smarter than I, considered the consequences of "an" oppressive and corrupt government. Heck, they just fought and won a war because of exactly that. Perhaps the writer missed the day in school when they taught the freedom cry, "Taxation without representation." Had the Continental Army not been supplemented in the early days by armed men, their victory cannot be certain. It took armed men, willing to fight a king's tyranny, to turn the tide and win the war.

Although there have been many court decisions concerning gun rights, the intent of the founders cannot be denied. That is of course unless you are the proverbial cartoon ostrich with your head buried in the sand and your exposed rear up in the air for everyone to see. I don't know what course this debate will take over the next several years or generations. As our country becomes more liberal in its outlook, this is a battle gun rights advocates may eventually lose. All I ask that both sides read what these men wrote and try to see what they saw and notice what they knew to be true according to the world in which they lived. Yes the world has changed a lot since the 1700s but truth remains truth and as corrupt governments come and go, it may still remain an armed populace that may be the only thing between totalitarian dominance and the freedoms espoused in our constitution.

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





# 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.  
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The Alabama Legislature usually gets very little done during an election year session except passage of the budgets.

However, the Legislature may have to address issues pertaining to prison health care. A Federal judge has ruled that our prison mental health care is "horribly inadequate." This year the solution will probably be to simply add \$30 to 50 million to the prison budget and kick the can down the road to the next quadrennium.

Our Medicaid agency funding is always a key issue. Medicaid now consumes more than a third of the General Fund budget. Using part of the BP Oil spill money will allow legislators to wait until next year to tackle this money eating monster.

Mental health or drug addiction issues will probably be pushed back until next year after elections, as will the gasoline tax issue. The gas tax was not been raised since 1992. The state's gas tax is earmarked for roads and bridges. Business groups, county governments and legislative leaders, especially Speaker Mac McCutcheon and Legislators from Huntsville and other growth areas, are emphasizing the need for adequate transportation infrastructure.

The Trump administration is advocating for a national infrastructure initiative. If this comes to fruition in Washington, the state will have to act in order to match federal dollars.

The two budgets will not be difficult since both the General Fund and Education budgets are in better shape than normal, especially the Special Education Trust Fund budget. It is dependent on sales and income growth taxes and the economy is growing.

Teachers and state employees may receive a cost of living raise. Alabama state employees have not received a cost of living raise since 2009.

Speaking of the economy, Alabama has been blessed with two gigantic coups in the past few months. The landing of the new Toyota-Mazda plant near Huntsville was huge. In addition, the decision by the U.S. Defense Department to locate the F-35 lightning aircraft deployment to Maxwell/Gunter in Montgomery will translate into a significant boom to the River Region for years to come.

The January announcement that Alabama won the coveted Toyota-Mazda plant was tremendous. We beat out North Carolina for the \$1.6 billion facility, which will be located at a Limestone County mega site adjacent to Huntsville.



As the June primaries for our statewide races get closer, there is a lot of media attention and stories written about the power being wielded by special interests, PACs and big money. They focus on the large amount of cash and influence being bet on the horses for governor and the legislature.

The Business Council of Alabama and ALFA are getting prepared to protect their friends and allies and punish their enemies. These two powerful and money laden special interests will be players in the 2018 horse races. Surprisingly, these two pro-business organizations are not riding the same horses in a good many races, especially statewide.

Quietly behind the scenes is another power in Alabama politics, Milton McGregor. You can bet he is playing ball. McGregor's influence is felt in decision making races in the state from governor to every legislative race. McGregor is the E.F. Hutton of Alabama politics. When he speaks people listen, and more importantly when he speaks politicians listen. He also transcends party. He supports people who are his friends regardless of political party.

He epitomizes the golden rule of politics. He is loyal to his friends. In a day when some people's word is no good, McGregor's is solid as a rock. In politics and business your word is your bond, and that is why McGregor is revered and respected by the majority of Alabama's political folks.

If McGregor tells someone he is their friend and will support them, they know they can take it to the bank. There is a political maxim used by longtime political veterans who have been in the Legislature for years and have fought major battles over controversial issues – the type of battles where you have to get a good toehold and stakeout your position and stay put. Thus, the saying is analogous to being in a monumental battle where you get into a foxhole to survive. Therefore, if a politician says about another that he is someone I would want in my foxhole in a war they are talking about someone they would trust with their life. That saying has been used to describe McGregor on more than one occasion.

Most people assume that Milton McGregor's only interest is gaming. However, he is invested in the Nursing Home industry, the real estate business and farming.

Alabama currently has 57,000 residents employed in the automotive industry. Exports of Alabama made vehicles and parts total over \$9 billion. We are now the number two state in America for automotive production. Community College Chancellor Jimmy Baker is moving in the right direction to prepare our young people for these opportunities in the state's industrial expansion.

Huntsville mayor, Tommy Battle, battled mightily for the new automotive facility. He deserves kudos for the victory as does Montgomery mayor, Todd Strange, for landing the F-35 to Maxwell/Gunter. Our senior senator, Richard Shelby, was instrumental in both of these bonanzas behind the scenes.

Speaking of the legislature and their adjourning early for an election year, there will be 10 open Senate seats and 22 House seats with no incumbents. One of the most hotly contested state senate races will be in the Huntsville area. It will be an intra-party battle between Sam Givhan and Mary Scott Hunter. It is for the seat currently held by State Senator Bill Holtzclaw, who is not seeking reelection.

Ms. Hunter is a State School Board member, who is close to the BCA. Givhan is a lawyer and heads the Huntsville/Madison GOP. He has been endorsed by ALFA. It is fitting and proper that the Alabama Farmers Federation is backing young Sam Givhan. His grandfather was the legendary State Senator, Walter Givhan, who was a Black Belt planter and stalwart ally of the farmers.

State Representative, Mack Butler, is favored to win the Republican Gadsden area seat of retiring Senator Phil Williams.

The Wiregrass will see a battle royale between State Representative Donnie Chesteen and incumbent State Senator Harri Anne Smith.

The open Republican Senate seat of retiring State Senator Dick Brewbaker in Montgomery and Pike Road may be the best senate race in the state.

There are numerous powerful and popular incumbents, who will coast to reelection most with no opposition. That list includes Jabo Waggoner, Jimmy Holley, Jim McClendon, Cam Ward, Greg Reed, Steve Livingston, Clay Scofield, Shay Shelnett, Clyde Chambliss, Billy Beasley, Bobby Singleton, Gerald Allen, Tom Whatley and Senate President, Del Marsh.

The leadership of the State Senate will return.

**February 28, 2018**

He has been successful in each of these endeavors.

McGregor grew up in the Wiregrass. His family was very politically connected, so he got his love for politics honestly. McGregor idolized his older brother, Tom, who was a political icon in the Wiregrass. Tom McGregor was instrumental in electing the legendary George Andrews to Congress. In fact, Tom McGregor got Andrews elected to Congress while he was still overseas in the Navy. Andrews was elected to Congress in the 1940's and served in Congress more than 20 years, became a power and is the reason Fort Rucker is located in Ozark/Enterprise. The elder McGregor was Andrews' right-hand man for more than 20 years.

Milton McGregor loves politics, but he loves his wife of over 50 years, Pat, more than life. He is considered one of the most loyal family men in the state. Unlike many of his so-called religious and pious detractors, there has never been a hint of personal scandal around Milton McGregor.

His generosity is unlimited. There are stories about his allowing politicians to ride in his luxury airplanes, and they have. The truth is he is doing it more out of friendship rather than for personal gain or favoritism. There are ten times more occasions where he has given free use of his planes with his pilots to shuttle an indigent cancer patient to a hospital to save their life.

Milton reached the point financially, long ago, where he does not need any more money. He plays politics for the love of it. He has given more than \$300 million to charities over the years. That is 300 million dollars more than the Indian casinos have given Alabamians.

My mama always said that you can tell who a real gentleman is by the way he treats the person less fortunate. Milton McGregor epitomizes this quality. He treats the lowest janitor in his racetracks with the same sincerity, warmth and dignity that he does to the wealthiest people in America whom he rubs shoulders with every day.

**March 7, 2018**

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## Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris "Chip" Beeker, Jr.

### 58 Million

In the 1973 landmark ruling of the case of *Roe v Wade*, it allowed taking the life of an unborn child acceptable and permissible under the law simply because the woman had the ultimate right to make that choice. In this discussion and argument by those judges, was the future ever considered before rendering that ruling? The Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that a right to privacy under the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment extended to a woman's decision to have an abortion, but that this right must be balanced against the state's interests in regulating abortions: protecting women's health and protecting the potentiality of human life. While the 14th Amendment was used as means to protect the rights of citizens of the United States based on "no person could be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law" did anyone ever consider the life of the unborn child or argue on their behalf? Was the future of the United States of America ever weighed

in the balances when considering the long-term impact this decision might play on the identity of who we are as a nation?

Had these judges been able to look into the crystal ball of the future, here is what it would have revealed. Since these seven judges ruled in favor of legalizing abortion, there have been an estimated 58 million unborn babies aborted in the womb. To put that number in some sort of perspective, we have effectively wiped out the populations of the state of Alabama twice, along with the states of Georgia, Louisiana, Florida, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. The populations of all these states combined still come up a few hundred thousand short of the total number of abortions that have been performed over the past 44 years. Not only has the legalization of abortion taken out a whole generation, it has taken away the lives of the people that could have profoundly impacted the world we live in. Those unborn babies could have grown up to be the scientists that created the cure for cancer, become brilliant engineers, changed and established laws, run for office, become gifted teachers and law enforcement officers just to name a few. The possibilities are endless and we will never know the full impact that their lives could have made.

With the loss of a large segment of an entire generation of citizens in this nation, the work force and potential future parents suffered greatly. Undocumented immigrants and citizens from other cultures are now occupying these empty places in America, which in effect is causing us to become more of a melting pot of ideas, that we are now losing our own identity in the process.

A 7-2 vote by the Supreme Court forever changed America, the lives of the unborn, and the future of this nation.

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



Buddy Hicks

## The Financial Corner KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

You've been working the same job for years and dutifully contributing to your 401k and receiving matches. You've built up quite a nest egg. Then one day you leave for a new job with benefits that include a 401k. Now you are faced with a dilemma of what to do with your 401k assets at your old job. Before you make any hasty decisions, please sit down with an advisor and learn what your options are and how each would affect your retirement going forward.

One option may be to leave your money right where it is. The old company may not require you to move it out and you may be happy with how it is currently invested. If that is even allowed, understand that you may no longer be able to contribute to that plan and therefore you will not be receiving any matches. You also are still subject to the rules of that plan for that money. You'll be restricted to the investment options in that plan for that money and you will have no control over the fees within that plan. Therefore, it may not be the best option to leave your money where it is at.

So if you don't leave it where it is at, then where else can you put it? The next option would be to roll it over into the 401k plan at your new job. This is pretty common and the process is pretty simple.

Keep in mind, that even though you are receiving matches at your new job, you won't receive any matches on the money that is rolled over. Only on new payroll contributions. It can be invested right along with any new contributions and matches but once you move that money in, you may be restricted on how you can move it out.

You can choose to take it all out in one lump sum to spend it how you feel like you need to spend it but keep in mind that there are tax consequences and possible penalties associated with a lump sum withdrawal. You see, your money is growing tax deferred which means that as long as it is in a qualified account, the principle and any interest you earn is not taxed until your withdraw the money. Once you withdraw it, it is no longer qualified and the IRS wants their cut. This is not advisable.

Another options is to roll it over into a Traditional IRA account. As long as it is rolled from one qualified account to another, it is not a taxable event and therefore you will not owe any taxes or penalties. If you set up an IRA account with an Advisor like myself, who is fully registered, then you have more control over your invest options and the fees that are charged.

Everyone's situation and circumstances are different. That is why it is so very important to get advice that is specific to your needs. The information that I have

provided here should be enough to make you think about what to do before making a major decision about your 401k plan. Just remember that no matter what you do, this is your money for your retirement and if you know your options then you can make the best decision for you and your retirement.

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 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 are.

Life insurance products contain fees, such as mortality and expense charges (which may increase over time), and may contain restrictions, such as surrender periods.

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



By John Martin

## The Safety Nazis

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

Some of the biggest public menaces that have developed over the years have been the overbearing numbers and intensity of safety regulations. They have gone far beyond anything we need for reasonable public safety and protection.

America was founded as a free country, where individual liberty is paramount. People would be free to act on their own behalves and look after themselves.

On the other hand, the duty of government is to protect our shores from foreign invaders and protect people from the wrongdoings of other people. Otherwise, its duty is to get out of the way and leave people alone.

It was never meant to protect anyone from himself. A sovereign individual owns his own body and has the exclusive right to look after his own safety. Government has no right or duty to meddle with anyone "for his own good."

Using government to protect people from everyday hazards is a no-brainer. Life itself is dangerous. There is no such thing as a fail-safe life, at least not a life any reasonably ambitious person would want. People have the right to take care of themselves. Government at any level should never interfere.

The development of abusive safety mandates has not made life any better. Instead, it has imposed financial losses, mental anguish, and resentment. In some cases, it has even been a threat to safety.

There are many free market incentives for safe workplaces. If employees discover certain items

that are not safe, they can complain to their managements and discuss solutions. Nearly always, agreements can be made to correct the discrepancies. In a short time, things get fixed, and work quickly resumes to a normal pace.

That is a sharp contrast to OSHA thugs coming in, imposing heavy fines, and dictating the fixes for a few real and numerous imagined hazards that could cost anywhere from thousands to millions of dollars for compliance, and in the end provide little or no additional safety. What it would do is cost the company money it could otherwise use to do legitimate improvements and provide more generous paychecks for the workers.

The "war" against drugs—i.e. drug prohibition—has been a total disaster. Like alcohol prohibition in the 1920's, it has cost many billions, if not trillions, of dollars, and as Ken Burns said, "... turned citizens into criminals, and criminals into kings." The mass murdering drug cartels are a direct result of this. Our prisons and jails are overflowing with millions of inmates, many of which were convicted of nothing more than "possession of a controlled substance." When are we going to end this barbaric practice, uncrowd our prisons, and adopt a free market with drugs?

Highway traffic stops are far too numerous. Police and state troopers are seen everywhere pulling people over for minor infractions—few of which are sufficiently hazardous to be justified. Fines for these acts of piracy are usually outrageously high, often hundreds of dollars or more.

"Click it or Ticket" is another abuse. Yes, seat belts do save lives, but that is the responsibility and choice of the people, not our "rulers."

"Speed traps" have been around for decades, and to this day, they have not abated. On weekends and holidays, when traffic is light and accident risk is at a minimum, the traffic enforce-

ment "Gestapo" is out in full force instead of being where most officers belong at this time— at home spending time with their families.

The Nazi-like checkpoints blocking highways in many states are another serious menace. No motorists can appreciate being arbitrarily stopped so police can waste their time, search their cars, go over their "papers," and look for excuses to impose citations. For example, a "sobriety checkpoint" set up in Pascagoula, Mississippi a few years ago managed to nail three drivers who were a tad over the legal limit of 0.08. However, the police did issue more than 1000 citations for other trivial "violations." It is no wonder that more and more people have less and less respect for the police. Don't they have crimes to solve and other legitimate duties?

What makes these and many other abuses even more oppressive is that the federal government has provided financial incentives to fund them.

Regulations on car manufacturing have gone haywire. Every year, autos become more and more complicated and expensive from multitudes of mandates. "Why can't I buy a car without 6 air bags?" Nope! Big Brother won't let you. "And why is my car so fragile? That little 0.5 mph ding cost me over \$1000." Sorry, but your car has to be "crushable" so you won't die in an accident, never mind that an engine in your lap will kill you anyway. Remember, back in the 1970's, we had cars that could take a 5 mph impact against a solid concrete wall with NO damage. Behind each bumper, up to a foot of "crush" was provided by two hydraulic cylinders. But if you want to buy a simple, inexpensive, durable, easy to fix car today, you are out of luck in this used to be free country.

Don't forget what happened to Volkswagen for emitting a bit more nitrogen oxide than allowed to improve the fuel mileage, even though doctors agree that nitrogen oxide is actually good for our health.

Let's all pray that President Trump can spearhead a drive through Congress to repeal these and other abusive safety and environmental regulations and mandates.

The views of submitted editorials  
may not be the express views of  
The Alabama Gazette.

John Sophocleus

THINK

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# The Auburn Greed



Every year another batch of young souls descend upon Auburn University embarking upon a four year (oft a five or six year) mission to better themselves in hopes of one day being heralded as “an Auburn man.” Better still, they might someday achieve the status recently bestowed upon Jay Jacobs as being “an Auburn man through and through.” They’re told to believe being an Auburn man is encapsulated by the Auburn Creed, penned nearly seventy-five years ago by \*George Petrie. Some may recall the *Alabama Gazette* posted this Creed in the text of my November 2015 column [<http://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2015/11/01/news/all-the-speakers-men-and-the-collapse-of-au-athletics/597.html>] on the decay of AU Athletics. Petrie held various positions at Auburn, including Professor of History and Latin, Department Chair, and Dean of the

## THE AUBURN CREED

I believe that this is a practical world and that I can count **only on what I earn.**  
Therefore, I believe in work, hard work.

I believe in **education**, which gives me the knowledge to work wisely and trains my mind and my hands to work skillfully.

I believe in **honesty and truthfulness**, without which I cannot win the respect and confidence of my fellow men.

I believe in a sound mind, in a sound body and a spirit that is not afraid, and in **clean sports that develop these qualities.**

I believe in **obedience to law because it protects the rights of all.**

I believe in the human touch, which cultivates sympathy with my fellow men and mutual helpfulness and brings happiness for all.

I believe in my Country, because it is a land of freedom and because it is my own home, and that I can best serve that country by **“doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with my God.”**

And because Auburn men and women believe in these things, I believe in Auburn and love it.

“George Petrie (1945)”

Graduate School. Petrie organized and coached Auburn's first football team in 1892. Hard to imagine anyone more apropos to capture the Spirit of his day in the famous preamble to this noble declaration:

**“I believe that this is a practical world and that I can count only on what I earn. Therefore, I believe in work, hard work.”**

George Petrie knew Auburn in a different era and mercifully never lived to see the modern incarnation of his beloved university. He never had to experience Auburn under the tyranny of miscreants such as Bobby (FDIC failure) Lowder, Ed (the micromanager) Richardson, Mike (a.k.a. Felon) Hubbard, and most notable of late, Jay Jacobs to name a select few ‘public servants’ who illustrate the current Auburn spirit. If George Petrie were alive today instead of 1943, he may pen far darker prose. Rather than the Auburn Creed, it could be more aptly titled, the Auburn Greed. The opening might read something like:

**“I believe that this is a corrupt world and that I can count only on what I steal. Therefore, I believe in theft, grand theft.”**

Last fall, Auburn faithful were greeted to the joyous and long overdue news Jay Jacobs would finally be stepping down as Athletics Director. After six years of gross incompetence and scandal, delayed justice may be allowed. At long last undeserved largess would stop flowing to AD Jacobs, or would it? Shortly before Christmas, the *Decatur Daily* broke the news Jacobs will be receiving \$500,000+ per year from the Retirement System of Alabama [RSA]. Putting it in a way even Sonny Galloway can understand, Jacobs will be receiving more than five million dimes per year. A RSA official was quoted as saying this would be the largest annual retirement benefit in Alabama history.

Many were quick to point a finger at our poorly designed retirement system for this outrageous result. While undoubtedly true numerous problems are embedded in the RSA's design, AU corruption also contributed significantly to Jacob's massive retirement check. “Grandfathered” employees who joined the retirement system prior to recent reforms generally have their retirement benefit calculated using the three highest years of salary during their last decade of employment. This allows corrupt State agencies/organizations such as AU to artificially inflate the final years of income to grease an individual's retirement result. The university only bears the expense for a couple years, while generating a lifetime annuity for the individual at the expense of our State taxpayers. This is a very cost effective way for AU to grease away a “good Auburn man.”

Examination of Jay Jacobs public payroll records display a noticeable/outlier permanent raise of over \$50,000 (or 500,000 dimes) for Fall of 2015. Furthermore this appears to be the largest dollar merit raise in the entire university that year. Timing of this massive raise hardly appears random. Indeed, two major scandals directly involving Jacobs had appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* (one of the most prestigious national newspapers) the preceding year. First the infamous “ticketgate” episode where individuals with interesting ties to Jacobs were found to be receiving large numbers of tickets to high-demand games such as the 2013 Iron Bowl. Second was the stunning revelation on the front page (above the fold) of the *WSJ* Sports section reporting athletics officials had directly interfered with curricular governance processes at AU. The article revealed Auburn Athletics had gone so far as to offer an institutional bribe to the chair of a curriculum committee to support illegitimate continuance of a troubled program stacked with the most important athletes.

These outrageous scandals reverberating throughout the Sports news world, combined with disappointing performances on the field and disastrous coaching hires would've been more than enough to justify **termination** of an AD at any respectable university. Instead, Jacobs received a massive **raise**; a raise which would **continue** to pay dividends throughout the remainder of his existence, courtesy of our retirement system. George Petrie's AU could not imagine something like this, but our modern AU of Hubbard, Lowder, et al ‘public servants’ was shameless in the relentless commitment to corruption of this sort.

This commitment was certainly not limited to Jay Jacobs' benefit. Indeed there are numerous other good “Auburn men” who received ‘trumped up’ going-away presents courtesy of AU corruption and our State retirement system. Consider the case of Jacobs' ever-loyal lieutenant, Assoc. AD in charge of academics for athletes, the similarly notorious Dr. Gary Waters. The *WSJ* article bares the fact Waters was Jacobs' point-man in the Public Administration scandal. Specifically, it was Dr. Waters who communicated (in writing) the institu-

tional bribe to the chair of the academic program review committee and then instructed her to conceal from committee members the source of the funds was the athletics department. While this scandal was nationally exposed in August of 2015, it was first exposed internally in February of 2014 by Professor Michael Stern, the brave and vocal faculty senator from Economics. Behind the scenes emails from this period show Dr. Waters admitting athletics had stacked [a.k.a. clustered] so many athletes into the troubled Public Administration program athletes were approaching 50% of the entire program. A program every faculty committee, an external review team, and every relevant administrator had agreed to close. At least until athletics officials put the heat on and showed up dangling the proverbial bag of cash.

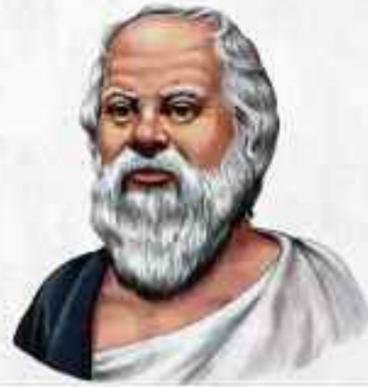
Stacking under-privileged (oft African American) young men the university is exploiting via athletics into academic programs slated for closure is the sort of conduct good “Auburn men” do in the Lowder/Hubbard era of Auburn University. Dare I type others would go so far as to tout Dr. Gary Waters is such a good “Auburn man” he even bleeds orange and blue? If history is any guide, these sort of scandalous revelations would warrant a very special raise. Indeed, Dr. Waters would receive a \$24,000 (240,000 dimes) merit raise between the 2014 and 2015 budget year. This raise was quite extraordinary as it amounted to 13% even though merit raises that year were capped at 8% without special approval. Senator Stern confronted AU President Jay Gogue w.r.t. this raise at the November 2015 university faculty senate meeting. The President admitted in front of the senate he'd never seen/approved any special raise in athletics: **“Not aware of it. I don't think we approved anybody over 8% since I've been here.”**

Professor Stern pressed for an explanation of the clear policy violation - *i.e.*, no memo existed and no special approval had been granted. Dr. Donald Large, Executive Vice President, took to the microphone and explained what he discovered on this ‘extra special’ raise. Dr. Large explained the **“5% extra was a car allowance that was allocated to him, but instead of it going in the normal car allowance category which would not have shown up in salary, would not have gone into the retirement system,”** the answer was **“quite frankly he's looking at retirement in the next year or less and they wanted to put it in the salary.”** For those unaware of the implications, business expenses (car travel) were added to his income to artificially increase his retirement benefit with RSA. **Think: Grand Theft Auto** allowance... Most disturbing was the individual reporting this potential RSA fraud to the senate was ‘public servant’ Dr. Donald Large who is in fact on the board of trustees of the teachers retirement system. Even President Gogue was forced to immediately declare the raise was **“not appropriate.”** Yet nothing happened to reverse the outrageous, wrongfully accomplished raise, Dr. Waters did not retire until 2017, and he continued to receive further raises on top of this illegitimate raise as merit raises and bonuses are conducted as percentages of current salary.

In order to put the special retirement-enhancing raises received by Jacobs and Waters type public servants into perspective, let's draw a comparison with the treatment of the courageous professor who exposed their conduct/raises in the university senate (and in the *WSJ*) trying to shepherd administrators to proactively address this corruption and avoid continuing on the path of violation(s). Precisely when Jacobs is receiving his massive \$50,000 raise (for a job

The unexamined life  
is not worth living.

-Socrates



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well-done of course) in the fall of 2015, the university decides to award Professor Stern a paltry 1% merit raise - insufficient to even cover inflation. A five-year review conducted by the Provost's Office Spring of 2016 found Stern an outstanding department chair and many described the report as the most positive they'd ever seen at AU, yet his merit raises were routinely **lower** than others. George Petrie's Auburn University would never imagine doing such things, but the AU of Large, Lowder, Hubbard, et al public servants put a high priority on cleansing the institution of dissent.

This is the story of Prof. Petrie's wholesome, righteous Creed turn to Greed. The fault is **not** in our stars (academic or athletic) but in **ourselves**; like weeding the garden, the task is never done. If not a local banker/real estate magnate empowered by unbridled avarice finding a loyal ‘high plains grifter’ from Georgia to pollute the loveliest village on the plains, it would be a similar iteration - only the names and dates would change to record the guilty and lost souls. A reoccurring result we must fault ourselves for allowing and hang our heads in shame when looking to others to do the required ‘dirty work’ to keep our lives clean for ourselves and our posterity. I long for the days of coaches who refused to be paid in excess of their institution's highest paid professor. It would be all the more refreshing to see a similar constraint on administrators who've become more impeters than facilitators as we saddle our students and taxpayers with greater debt. Certain my income would be far greater if I returned to the private sector and discontinued my public service, I wonder how many others could withstand this scrutiny which leads to the more profound question of why they take positions of this sort. Socrates asserted the unexamined life is not worth living - I have no doubt we could reverse the path from greed and return to one driven by our Creed with some serious external and internal examination at AU with the appropriate consequences.

\**George Petrie (April 10, 1866 – September 6, 1947) was an American scholar and educator who played a crucial role in the development of Auburn University. From 1887 until his retirement in 1942, Petrie held various positions at Auburn, including professor of history and Latin, head of the History Department, and dean of the Graduate School. Petrie also organized and coached Auburn's first football team in 1892.*

# The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

## Patrick of Ireland

Guest Commentary by Dr. Marshall Foster ~ ~ Part 1 of 2

It is a joy to introduce to Gazette readers, **Dr. Marshall Foster** and the **World History Institute** that he founded in 1976. The ministry was founded to teach the Biblical and Historical foundations of Liberty. This ministry has become a major force to restore our nation to its Judeo-Christian heritage, reaching millions with America's True, yet "untold history."

His teaching seminars have reached tens of thousands of Americans, and his syndicated radio broadcast have reached millions of Americans. A graduate of the University of California, Talbot Theological Seminary, and his Doctrinal studies were completed at Cathedral Bible College. Marshall and his wife, Trish, have two grown children and seven grandchildren.

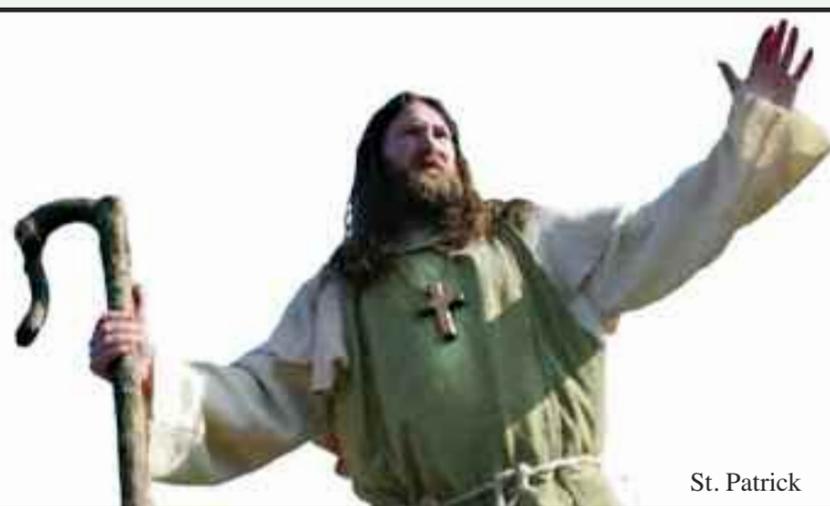
Marshall was co-producer of the film, "Unstoppable," with Kirk Cameron in 2013, and continues to produce popular films and documentaries. We encourage our readers to go to his website where numerous DVD's and CD's are available. <http://worldhistoryinstitute.com/welcome>

We have been friends for many years, and it is thrilling to see his ministry outreach in person, to more than 40 states, Canada and Europe.

**Patrick of Ireland.** Every year on March 17th we celebrate his life. Countless sons have been named after him. Innumerable churches bear his name as well. Parades in his honor march through the streets of great cities. But do we really know him? The truth is, very few people do. So, whether you do or not, permit me to tell his remarkable story...the greatest example in history of a man who won a nation without force of arms and transformed a society from chaos to peace.

Rome—the "eternal city"—had ruled the known world for 600 years. Control had been assured by the short and swift sword of the Roman Legions. But at the dawn of the 5th century, barbarian hordes sacked Rome. In the coming decades other prominent cities throughout Europe were decimated. Entire libraries and the precious documents of three thousand years of antiquity were mindlessly torched. Illiteracy became the norm. Within decades, Rome itself became a ghost town. Once a city of more than a million people, "its population [was] reduced ... to about thirty thousand inhabitants sharing with foxes, wild dogs, rats and wolves what was left of its magnificent buildings."<sup>1</sup>

In the years that the Empire was collapsing, Patrick was born in a small village along the seacoast in northern Britain—the foremost edge of Roman rule. The Celtic Christians of that region had enjoyed a measure of peace and prosperity for generations. Patrick's father, a minor nobleman, was a deacon and leader in the local Celtic community. As a young teen Patrick would have enjoyed exploring the cliffs and roaming the beaches near his home.



St. Patrick

For centuries, the Roman Legions had protected the Britons from foreign attack. But one day in 400 A.D. the soldiers packed up and sailed away in a futile effort to save Rome. They never returned. Britain was left without any defenses against the wild Scottish Picts to the north and the fierce Viking raiders from Scandinavia. It was with good reason that lands outside the boundaries of the Empire were labeled "Here do be monsters" on Roman maps. And just as fierce and fearsome as the Picts and Vikings, were the Irish pirates, who specialized in what we would today call "human trafficking." The youth of Britain were their nearest targets, less than one hundred miles across the Irish Sea. Sixteen-year-old Patrick was a prime prospect for the vicious slavers.

### THE ATTACK

One night, under cover of darkness, the pirates attacked. The carefree lives of Patrick and thousands of British youth were about to change forever. Blowing their battle horns, the raiders swarmed out of dozens of longboats. Bloodthirsty Irish warriors in full battle gear rushed into Patrick's hamlet. They killed the majority of the villagers but captured the young, the strong and the beautiful in nets and dragged them to the coast. They beat them into submission and threw them into the belly of their ships, like live fish in a bait tank.

After their merciless looting and pillaging, the pirates set out to sea and returned to Ireland with their cargo. Of all the captives taken that day, only Patrick was ever heard from again. He wrote, "I was about sixteen years of age. I did not know the true God. I was taken into captivity to Ireland with many thousands of people..."<sup>2</sup>

Patrick arrived beaten, bloody and bound at Larne, the slave traders' port in northern Ireland. He was sold to a Druid warlord named Miliucc. Miliucc bound Patrick and other captives in chains and force-marched them behind his chariots for the six-day journey back to his fort in the frigid north of Ireland.

When Patrick approached his slave master's fort he must have been shaken. The Druid obsession with death and human sacrifice surrounded him. Human heads were impaled on the walls of the fort. Human skulls were used as drinking bowls. Warriors hung the shrunken skulls of their enemies from their belts.<sup>3</sup>

The Irish were kept in constant fear by their Druid priests who demand human sacrifices to their many gods. Patrick likely observed the Druid ritual sacrifice of Beltaine, "the Wicker Man" ceremony. The Roman emperor, Julius Caesar, described this ritual: "[They] use figures of immense size, whose limbs, woven out of twigs, they fill with living men and set on fire, and the men perish in a sheet of flame."<sup>4</sup> Caesar said that when the supply of criminals ran out the Druids simply executed the innocent.

For the next six years Patrick was a slave to Miliucc. He lived in the fields with the tyrant's sheep, fighting off packs of wolves and wild boars on the slopes of Mount Slemish. Patrick explains his condition: "I did not believe in the living God, nor did I so from my childhood, but lived in death and unbelief until I was severely chastised ... by hunger and nakedness and that daily."<sup>5</sup>

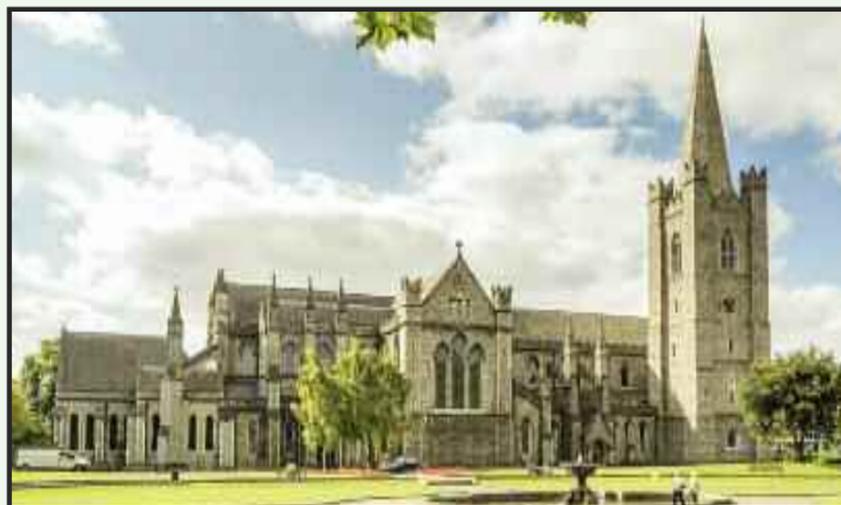
### "WITH ALL MY HEART"

Patrick remembered the faith of his family, especially that of his father and grandfather. He continues: "But after I came to Ireland—every day I had to tend sheep, and many times a day I prayed—the love of God and His fear came to me more and more, and my faith was strengthened. And my spirit was moved so that in a single day I would say as many as a hundred prayers, and almost as many in the night, and this even when I was staying in the woods and on the mountain; and I used to get up for prayer before daylight, through snow, through frost, through rain, and I felt no harm."<sup>6</sup>

What happened next transformed this boy into a powerful, faith-filled believer and premier visionary of his age. Patrick describes His conversion: "There the Lord opened the sense of my unbelief that I might at last remember my sins and be converted with all my heart to the Lord my God."<sup>7</sup>

### THE ESCAPE

After years as a slave, Patrick experienced a vivid dream. He says that the Lord called him to walk two hundred miles to the east where a ship would be waiting to take him to freedom. Patrick followed the Lord's direction and walked all the way across Ireland as a fugitive without being detected. A ship was there, but the pagan captain at first rejected Patrick's request to come aboard.



St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, Ireland

Here in this seaport town Patrick faced his moment of greatest danger. In minutes he would be recognized as a fugitive slave. But suddenly, just as Patrick was praying as he walked away from the ship, he heard a voice from the ship, "Come quickly, they're calling you!... Come on board, we'll take you on trust."<sup>8</sup>

They set to sail immediately and endured a harrowing voyage. Then they trudged for 28 days through a part of Gaul (France) that had just been decimated by the rampaging Visigoths who were closing in on Rome. There were few people and only bits of food left in the entire region.

Patrick writes: "... for twenty-eight days we travelled through deserted country. ... Hunger overcame us; and the next day the captain said to me: 'Tell me, Christian: you say that your God is great and all-powerful; why, then, do you not pray for us? As you can see, we are suffering from hunger; it is unlikely indeed that we shall ever see a human being again.'"

Patrick answered: "'Be truly converted with all your heart to the Lord my God, because nothing is impossible for Him ... suddenly a herd of pigs appeared in the road before our eyes, and they killed many of them ... and fully recovered their strength.'"<sup>8</sup>

Soon after this miracle, Patrick was released to make his own way. Here he may have spent some time at monastery in Gaul and also southern Britain. But after a few years, the future liberator returned to his family in Northwestern Britain. Patrick tells of his happy reunion: "And again after a few years I was in Britain with my kin who received me as a son, and sincerely besought me that ... after the great tribulations which I had undergone, I should not leave them and go elsewhere."<sup>9</sup>

There was no need ever to put to sea again. Surrounded by his family, in good financial circumstances, Patrick was ready to assume the role for which his birth and upbringing would have prepared him—marriage, a home of his own, children, perhaps a job in the municipality, or an ordination such as had been taken by his father. If Magonus Sucatus Patricius [Patrick] had pursued any of these, he would never have been heard from again, in this life, or any other."<sup>10</sup>

### THE CALL

Soon after returning home Patrick experienced several life-changing experiences and visions that would change the course of history. Patrick describes one of his dreams: "In the depth of the night, I saw a man named Victoricus, coming as if from Ireland, with innumerable letters; and I read the heading of [one] letter which read, 'The Cry of the Irish', and while I was reading ... I heard the voice of those who were beside the wood of Focluth [near where Patrick had been enslaved], near the western sea ... they called out: 'Please, holy youth, come and walk among us again...' Their cry pierced to my very heart, and I could read no more; and so I awoke."<sup>11</sup>

Inexplicably, Patrick's heart was filled with a love for the Irish people. He spent the next decade or more preparing to go to the Irish with the Good News of Jesus and the whole counsel of God's Word. Over the next 40 years, Patrick's influence would shape the fate not only of Ireland but of Europe and the western world.

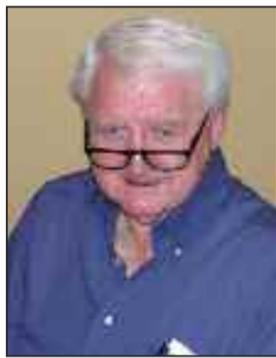
— Marshall Foster <http://worldhistoryinstitute.com/welcome>

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# BLIND FAITH

## The Inspiring Story of Jayson Spencer



**Ed Jones**  
Staff Sports Editor

All my life my heart has had a soft spot for the underdog. This probably comes from my younger years. My friends started outgrowing me in the fifth grade. Montgomery had an excellent football program for kids based on weight and age. I played in the 80 lb. league for three years until my age got me. Then I had to play in the 100 lb. league, even though my weight was only 70 lbs. When graduating from

ninth grade my weight was still just 90 lbs., but my age got me again. In the spring of my 10th grade, I made a not so intelligent decision to try out for Coach Bill Moseley's 1954 Lanier football team. Even then I was only 5' 6" and 125 lbs. Coach Moseley tried to talk me into being the manager instead, but finally and reluctantly gave me an old practice uniform. The pants were torn and the cleats didn't fit, but I was finally where I always wanted to be.

My role as the proverbial underdog was seared into my mind. Even after playing on the first Lee football team at 5'11", 150 lbs., I was still "catching up." I graduated from high school in 1956 as a muscular, 6'0", 170 lbs. of "hell, death and destruction" headed to Marine Corps boot camp. I caught up, but in my mind, I was still that "little guy" trying to fit in. So, even today without thinking, I unconsciously gravitate toward the underdog.

The story you are about to read is about a young man that I have known of since he was born. Jayson Spencer has been an underdog when it comes to sports all his life. He is legally blind. The high school senior to be has already accomplished more in sports than the average athlete.

Jayson has a very good bloodline when it comes to sports. His daddy is Colonel Jay Spencer, a retired career Army officer. Jay Spencer was an outstanding football player and state championship wrestler at Central Academy in Montgomery in 1982. I had the "displeasure" of watching him pin my son Bart in a match between Central and Hooper Academy. Bart won the state championship the next year. Maybe he learned something from Jay.

Later on Jay and I worked together at the Alabama Army National Guard Headquarters in Montgomery. We talked often about him going to Officer's Candidate School and him making a career out the Army. He made the right choice and is enjoying the benefits now in retirement. He now has time to go to all the events that Jayson is involved in. I have been impressed as I followed Col. Spencer's career. The Spencers have settled in Huntsville, the sight of his last assignment at Redstone Arsenal.

The colonel's daddy was a teammate of mine since the seventh grade. We were fortunate to be in the right part of history as we were on the very first Robert E. Lee football team in 1955. Also, Jayson's granddaddy, Jackie Spencer, played halfback at Auburn. He won the game against Mississippi State in Birmingham in 1959. Auburn was trailing State in the fourth quarter 13-7. Jackie took a punt 60 yards for the winning touchdown.

After a successful ten year coaching career Jackie was killed in a car/train wreck at the age of 34. He never got to see his four boys excel in sports. Jackie was posthumously given a ring for being a member of the Auburn National Championship team of 1957.

Jayson Spencer has one more year in high school where he is expected to be the starting center for the third straight year. He played at 5' 11" and 150 lbs. last year. That's not very big for a center. Coach David Lloyd, the head football coach at St. Paul II High School says, "He's as competitive as they come. He's gonna' come at you just like the next guy will."

Spencer plays some on the defensive line. He blocked a field goal in the tenth grade. He says, "I've never really thought about what I see or can't see during a play. I see the ball snapped, the dude in front of me and whatever I see behind him, whichever way I'm looking." Patrick McCarron, friend and teammate says, "He is a very smart person, he trains. He's probably one of the hardest working players on the team." Spencer is known for his toughness. In the eighth grade, he broke his wrist during a game. With no regard to the pain, he played in the next game with a forearm cast on. As I said, he has a good blood line!

Jayson followed his daddy's footsteps and has become one of the best wrestlers in Alabama. His record was 34-11 as a sophomore in the 145 lb. class and qualified for the regional tournament. This past year as a junior, his record was 46-9 in the 152 lb. class. He finished fourth in the Alabama State Wrestling Tournament this year. As competitive as he is, he was extremely disappointed at the fourth place finish. He really thought he would win the tournament. He had beaten every wrestler that he lost to in the tournament during the regular season. So, this experience has motivated Spencer to not let that happen in his upcoming senior year.

Check the internet. You will find enough information and pictures to see that this guy is destined to become one of Alabama's finest and more than likely a wrestling scholarship winner to one of several colleges that are scouting him.

Spencer feels that wrestling helps to improve his performance in football. He says, "If nothing else, that is how I stay in shape. It helps with maintaining the correct form and being low and athletic." Spencer's dedication to the task at hand is an inspiration to his teammates. "He is a huge motivator", McCarron emphasizes. "There are many kids here at Saint Paul that should be playing and aren't playing. Here's a guy who is literally blind and playing at a high level and these other kids have nothing wrong with them and aren't playing." Spencer's friends, Patrick and Gerry McCarron, convinced Spencer to give football a try in the seventh grade. He wasn't sure about football but he stuck with it. Soon he was hooked on football. Coach Lloyd says, "It's kind of fun to watch Spencer and his buddy Patrick, who probably has 140 lbs. on him. If Spencer blocks Patrick, he's not short of letting Patrick hear, 'Hey, I got you that time' They rib each other back and forth every day. He definitely doesn't want anyone feeling sorry for him because he doesn't feel sorry for anybody else. He's gonna take you on just like there was nothing wrong with him."



Jayson's grandfather, Jackie Spencer, Auburn halfback, 1959



Jayson Spencer, center, St. Paul II High School, Huntsville, Alabama

When Lloyd came to Saint Paul, he wanted to install the shotgun formation, meaning longer snaps for Spencer. They had been running the flexbone offense with the quarterback under center. Lloyd was not sure that Spencer could adapt to the new offense. Not to worry. Spencer practiced shotgun snaps with his dad Col. Jay Spencer for hours and hours before Coach Lloyd arrived. Having been the starting center in his sophomore season, Spencer had no plans to give up his job. He didn't and Coach Lloyd was somewhat surprised at how well Spencer could snap. Regardless of the circumstances, Spencer remained the starting center in his junior year as well.

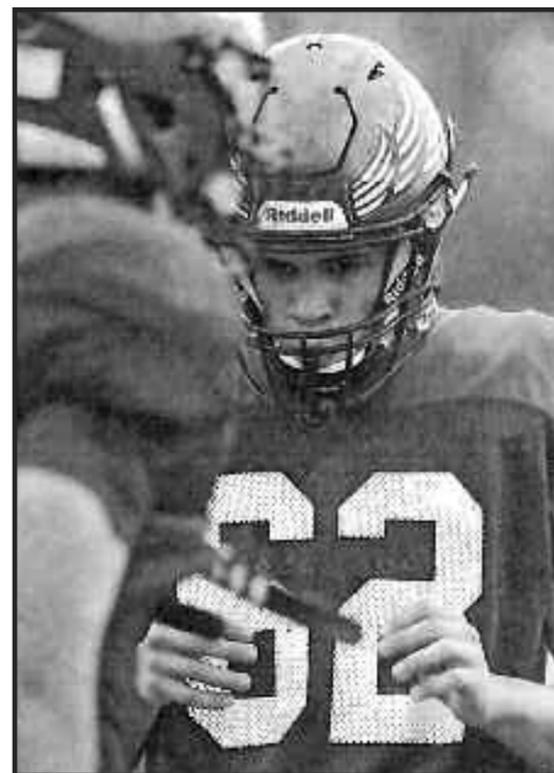
"He is having to do a lot more in this offense, Coach Lloyd says. He's having to climb to the second level more. We ask a lot of him, but we don't ask anything of him that I don't think he can do. He has a great feel for the game. He knows his assignments and where he is supposed to go. He just gets the job done." When he lines up in his stance, Spencer tilts his head to the right so he can see some out of the corner of his left eye where is slight peripheral vision is best. Jayson is coming up on his last year in high school and looking forward to getting better everyday.

Spencer was diagnosed with an inherited retinal degenerative disease when he was three years old. The Foundation Fighting Blindness is working hard to find a cure for the disease that cost Spencer his sight. The correct name of the disease is Leber Congenital Amaurosis CEP290. Spencers's doctor, Eric Pierce of Harvard's Massachusetts Eye and Ear heads a lab that is conducting research specifically for this disease.

There may be a cure for this devastating disease some day, but Jayson. Spencer is not waiting for it. He is getting ready for his senior year of football. He has bulked up to 165 lbs. and planning to win the state wrestling championship. this year. Also, he is trying to decide what college to take his skills to.

There are inspiring stories in sports and in life. We read about them occasionally. But, Jayson Spencer is the only person that I have known that is living such a story of determination, diligence and desire to be as successful as the successful. Some college will increase its net worth by signing this young man to a wrestling scholarship next year.

As a former wrestling coach at Lanier High School in Montgomery, I know what it takes to win championships. Jayson Spencer has what it takes. He is gonna be successful at anything he does, including the state wrestling championship.



Jayson Spencer, center and part time defensive lineman, has some peripheral vision but has been legally blind since he was 3 years old

**Jayson is no longer an underdog. He is now quite the favorite!**

## A Commentary on Marriage



Sometimes things are on my heart and I find an urge to write about them. Often times it is the death of a loved one or a close friend that tugs at my heart. With the wedding season almost upon us and a recent experience I have a strong urge to write on marriage.

**Ronald A. Holtsford**

Now I am certainly no pro on the subject, in fact maybe I am a failure having had a prior marriage. I must say I envy those with long marriages such as that of my parents that lasted sixty-two years until the

death of my mother. But after a failure you have to pick up and do better if there is a next time.

For me, my second chance came in 2006 with my marriage to Jennifer. I was looking for a woman that loves the Lord and is a family person (among other things). Well I hit 100% on that. In 2012 she gave me my only natural child, a son and I must say it is a blessing from God. I have raised three stepsons, all of whom I love like my own but God knew the little secret desire for my own child and He made it happen when I never thought it was a possibility.

I know that I have been a trial for my wife. I like to be in control of things. While I listen to her regarding needs for our family or home I sometimes catalog them and don't act on the initiative if I don't feel the timing is right, often because it is a large purchase and I want to try and stay poised for that unexpected thing that would strain our savings.

Both of us know that our marriage can use improvement and we have both been receiving emails from Family Life regarding their "Weekend to Remember". It seems those weekends have always been at a fair distance from home. A few months ago we learned one would be in Montgomery in February. We signed up, even to stay in the host hotel downtown. I didn't really know what to expect but I had read reviews even from those on the brink of divorce whose marriages had been renewed. And being a guy sometimes you don't want to get touchy feely on things that seem ok.

While I can't adequately describe the experience I must say I have a renewed love for my wife. At one point we were told to look at each other and say "you are not the enemy". It was worth a chuckle, but the more I thought about it I realized those times when we have differing opinions doesn't mean we become adversaries, we figure out a better way to communicate and work it out. There were over seven hundred people at the conference, several from maybe 7-8 other states. These were couples, a few engaged and even a few dating that were willing to learn God's plan for husbands and wives. While it is a Christ centered conference, there was no pressure on anyone who was not a Believer. As I looked at the group, people of all ages and races I realized these are committed men and women that love their spouses or potential mates. While it is a known fact that there is an absence of men in many homes, I saw men that are not the ones counted as a statistic. I sometimes read such statistics about African American men; about half of the men at the conference were African American. From what I saw, I saw a very healthy representation of African American men that love

their wives and families. I see an example in Montgomery, Alabama to men of all races and I think that the naysayers need to take notice of those that aren't that bad statistic that we hear about.



The conference covered subjects such as why marriages fail, communication, fighting, what marriage is all about, even sex. If you read your Bible you will learn God made sex, even great sex for married couples. It included a men's only section, a women's only section and the subject of legacy. When my son and I pray at night he will sometimes ask when I use the word "legacy" in prayer. You know the Mannings have a great football legacy (Archie, Peyton and Eli). But you know there were Godly family members before me and at this stage of life one of the important things to me is praying for a Godly legacy to be passed to my sons, to their sons and daughters and their sons and daughters. While it's not praise that I seek, I very much want the stories passed down about how grandparents and great grandparents have prayed for a Godly legacy for grandchildren that they will never know on earth but for whom have been lifted up to God many years before they make an appearance on earth. I can say my wife and I have a bigger smile when we are together and we both know things will only get better. To top off the weekend, the marrieds turned and looked at one another. Even among all of those present as a potential distraction all I saw was my sweet wife's face as I looked into her eyes. Then one of the pastor faculty had us renew our vows to each other. I felt the same big grin on my face that I felt almost a dozen years ago and I saw the same angelic face, this time shedding a small tear as we renewed the same promises to each other. Family Life has conferences all around the country and even a scheduled cruise around Valentine's next year.

I love my wife; love your spouse- they are not your enemy.

*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 Chambliss Commentary



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

## AWAKEN: A River Region Easter Gathering

I can't write about politics this month. My heart just isn't in it right now, and I honestly don't know when it will be again. Almost all of the current "debate" involves anger and accusations lobbied

back and forth, and nothing is resolved in that atmosphere. I recently described myself to a group as a "recovering political junkie," and little did I know at that time just how irrelevant politics would soon become.

Those readers who know me are aware that our family recently lost one of our younger members, my 24-year-old nephew, in a tragic automobile accident. I don't share this publicly to elicit sympathy, but I do share it because our loss, along with other events of this past year, have awakened my heart and soul to what matters most in this world in which we live, far beyond the realm of politics.

Eternal life.

The knowledge that our nephew knew Christ, the One who came to save all from sin and reconcile us to the Father, is our comfort right now. While we grieve our loss, we want more than ever for those who don't have that assurance to receive it right now by accepting Christ as their Savior. And as that hope of eternal life will be celebrated soon on Resurrection Sunday, I want to take this space to personally invite the readers of my column to an event that is the culmination of many prayers for our city.

As you begin to make your plans for Resurrection Sunday, I want to encourage all of the readers of *The Alabama Gazette* to include a **city-wide Easter Sunset Worship event** at the **Montgomery Riverwalk Stadium, beginning at 5 pm and concluding at 6:15 pm.**

There is so much in our world that is designed to separate us from each other, as well as from our Father God. It is the prayer of many that this *Awaken* event will draw the citizens of our city and the River Region together in unity to not only worship our Risen Savior, but to also remember the entirety of the Old Testament scripture:

**"IF My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, THEN I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."** (2 Chronicles 7:14)

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START MONTH

# Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor  
Senior Section

## Home Schooling

You may be over the hill if... you remember that who, what, when, where, why, and how were guiding principles of news reporting

Many, many years ago children of the ruling classes and of the landed gentry were tutored in the home - or palace - by scholars of great repute. The rest of society, for the most part, was illiterate, since philosophers such as Aristotle, Socrates and Plato plied their craft only to the royal or the rich. The rest of society learned its letters and ciphers as best it could.

Today there exist derivations of this method of teaching in what has come to be called **Home Schooling**. A typical home schooling environment is that of the Sides family, where Alinda Sikes, the mother, attends to the education of her three children: Madeline 13, Abigail 17, and new to this environment, Eli 7.

The Sikes family, like original home schoolers of the past, work with the rudiments of education: such as literacy and arithmetic, and a lot more that has been added to the home schooling curriculum over the past nearly four centuries. The Sikes children are engaged in this rich learning endeavor with a vigor. Home schoolers, such as the Sikes youngsters, are studying an enriched educational offering, not because

number may have increased exponentially. Is there a message here?

Prior to 1635, whatever education that existed was taught in the home, but by 1642, rudimentary public schools were coming into vogue.

Gradually, public schools dominated the educational scheme, but by the 20th Century, rudimentary private schooling began to come back into vogue for a variety of reasons. And this form of private education grew vigorously. Home schooling has grown to become a popular competitor to the public schools; for those who can afford it.

The Sikes family, like original home schoolers of the past, are learning the rudiments of education: such as literacy and arithmetic, and a lot more that has been added to the home school curriculum over the past nearly four centuries. They are engaged in this rich learning endeavor with a vigor. Home schoolers such as the Sikes family are studying an enriched educational offering, not because they have to, but because they want to, which is the basic purpose of home schooling; much as it was before schooling, as we know it, came about.

Home schooling made its return to the educational environment in the middle of last century when there was a mad scramble among many caucasian members of our society to avoid integration of the public schools.

Many of the private schooling attempts failed, but others prospered, such is the case of the Sikes family.

In the Sikes' household, Abigail, 17, says that she enjoys home schooling because it "gives me the liberty to learn at my own pace, and to pursue the things I enjoy doing: such as playing the piano, attending the theatre, doing creative writing, blogging, and reading. At the end of her school year she intends to stay in Montgomery and study English at Faulkner University.

Seventh grader Madeline Anne, 13, enjoys a similar learning environment as her sister, and adds to that: horseback riding, running, crafts, swimming, hiking and, caring for animals.

And the youngest of the student body, Eli, 7, believes such planning as his sisters engage in can wait for a while. Now is the fun time of his life. But, he does look ahead to attending AUM in his future.

Unlike most of the structured traditional schools that exist today, home schools provide a totally different learning environment.

Today's home school is much like the learning environments provided by Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates: its focus is on the student, and on providing a teaching and learning environment that will produce a learned individual who can contribute to society. This is the goal the Sikes family intends to reach.



Home schoolers Abigail, Eli, and Madeline Sikes

they have to, but because they want to; which is the basic purpose of home schooling.

The Sikes family is aggressive and excited in its educational pursuits, not because they have to be; but because they want to be.

Recently, the National Home Education Institute, estimated that there are more than 2 million youngsters being home schooled, and as of this writing that



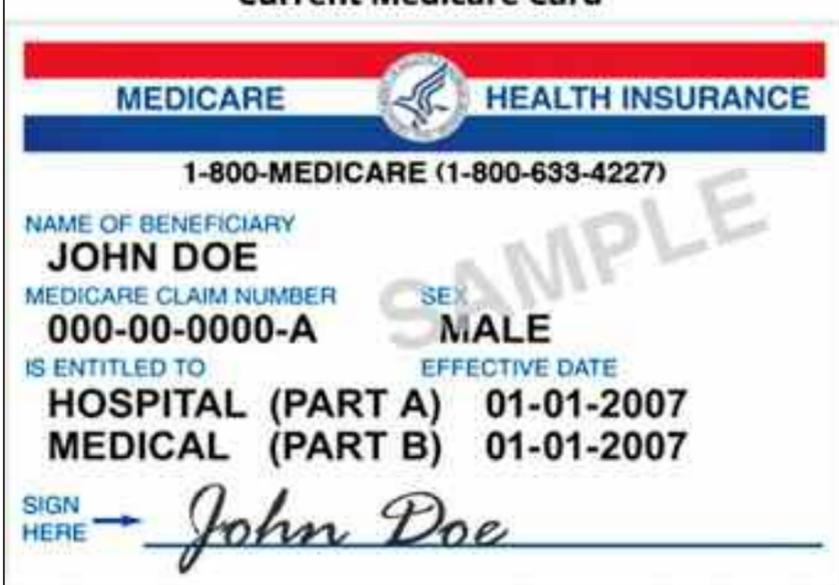
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Alabama Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration  
4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100  
Montgomery, Alabama 36116



## New Medicare Cards Mailing Soon

### Current Medicare Card



### New Medicare Card (coming in 2018)



I am pleased to share that starting April 2018, our colleagues at the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** will begin mailing new Medicare cards to all people with Medicare.

Instead of a Social Security Number, the new card will have a Medicare Number that's unique to each person with Medicare. The new card will help protect identities and keep personal information more secure. Medicare coverage and benefits will stay the same.

Medicare will automatically mail new cards at no cost to the address on file here at Social Security. So making sure the address of anyone you're helping is up-to-date is important. An address can be updated easily by signing in to or creating a my Social Security account.

As consumers begin to receive cards, we ask that you share these 3 important tips with them:

**Destroy your old Medicare card right away.**

**Use your new card. Doctors, other health care providers, and plans approved by Medicare know that Medicare is replacing the old cards. They are ready to accept your new card when you need care.**

**Beware of people contacting you about your new Medicare card and asking you for your Medicare Number, personal information, or to pay a fee for your new card. Treat your Medicare Number like you treat your Social Security or credit card numbers. Remember, Medicare will never contact you uninvited to ask for your personal information.**

Please share this information through your networks. For more information about the new Medicare card, visit [go.medicare.gov/newcard](http://go.medicare.gov/newcard). You can also visit [Medicare.gov](http://Medicare.gov) for tips to prevent Medicare fraud.

As always, thank you for your interest in our programs and the people we serve!

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# Woods & Waters with Steve

Steve Long



**QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ~ BLACK BELT BRANCH  
SPENDS A DAY IN THE FIELD WITH OUR MILITARY**

This past week, the Black Belt Branch of QDMA spent a day with some of our military men and their children on a pheasant shoot at Great Southern Outdoors in Union Springs, Alabama. "As the president of the Black Belt Branch, I am honored to show our love and respect to those who sacrifice so much for our freedom and safety!" said, Mike O'Malley branch president. "Our board of directors works diligently throughout the year to generate opportunities for our members to give back to our communities. This is just one way for us to share our love for the outdoors and encourage another generation to enjoy conservation and outdoor activities thanks to our corporate sponsors like ASE Credit Union."

The day began with some sausage biscuits, coffee and fellowship. Following breakfast, the group gathered for a thirty minute safety meeting, prayer and instruction how the day's festivities would flow. Next, the group went afield in their hunter orange and shared two and a half hours of pheasant shooting with smiling kids of all ages and spending valuable time with their fathers and friends. Immediately following the shoot, all the hunters and QDMA board members met back at Great Southern for a hearty chicken lunch with all the fixings! Besides a fun day with great food, each participant was able to take home multiple pheasant, cleaned and ready for the grill to share with their families back home.

"We have been fortunate with our annual fundraising event (a \$10,000 drawdown, auction, raffle banquet in October each year) to amass enough funds to look for ways to promote our sport, the importance of proper wildlife habitat management and make it economical for our participants. This year's event was free for our military and I look forward to making next year's pheasant shoot bigger and better!" O'Malley said. The Black Belt Branch is only in its second year and is looking for more members and corporate sponsors like ASE Credit Union. "If it wasn't for local businesses like, ASE Credit Union, we couldn't pull this off. We can supply the labor, but we need the gracious financial support of our sponsors!"



As the morning progressed, the board members were greeted with smiles and laughter as they drove around the field picking up harvested birds and passing out ice cold water to the hunters. Some of the children were watching their fathers while others were putting more shot in the air than the pheasant could handle! "On the way to the field, I overheard one dad tell his son that no matter whether they took any birds or not, he was just excited to be able to spend the day with him doing something fun!" said, Stan Cope a QDMA sponsor from Bonnie Plants, Inc. "My son and grandson joined me on the hunt. We had a blast, and I'm sure they will cherish the memory as much as I will."

Many of our armed forces stationed in Montgomery love the outdoors, but because they are not from this area, finding a place to hunt is almost impossible. That is one of the primary reasons the QDMA board decided to step in and help. Andy Huggins, QDMA Banquet Chairman, said, "I got involved to support a friend. What I have realized, it's a great way to host people who will be our next generation of conservationists. Being able to involve the military gives our Branch an opportunity to serve those who have sacrificed so much. Also, hosting events like this shows our sponsors we will be good stewards of their investment in our organization."

It's nothing compared to the sacrifices our military make for us, but last Saturday was worth every smile.



## Kritter Korner

### Tasmanian devils

The fascinating Tasmanian devil is a carnivorous, semi-nocturnal creature, whose aggressive nature and wild hissing, growling and screaming earned it the name. Tasmanian devils live in Tasmania, a large island just south of Australia. In fact, Tasmania is the only place where they are found in the wild. Though Tasmanian devils can live anywhere on the island, they prefer coastal scrublands and forests. Tasmanian devils' life span in the wild is about seven to eight years.



The Tasmanian devil is a marsupial, related to koalas and kangaroos. It is the world's largest carnivorous marsupial, reaching 30 inches in length and weighing up to 26 pounds, although its size will vary widely depending on its specific range and the availability of food. Body of Tasmanian devil is covered with black fur, with white patches on the chest, shoulders and rump. Tasmanian devil has large head and very strong jaw Tasmanian devil has one of the strongest bites in the animal world; 1200 pounds per square inch, which means that it can bite through the metal trap. While devils are usually solitary, their excellent noses will often lead several of them to the same carcass at once, and communal feeding is rather common. Tasmanian devils can take prey up to the size of a small kangaroo, but in practice they are opportunistic and eat carrion more often than they hunt live prey. As scavengers, devils also help their habitat by eating most anything lying around, no matter how old or rotten. When Tasmanian devils do prey, they hunt mainly small animals, including birds, lizards, insects and other marsupials, such as wallabies. On average, devils eat about 15% of their body weight each day, although they can eat up to 40% of their body weight in 30 minutes if the opportunity arises. Tasmanian devils store extra fat in their tails. Curious and energetic, Tasmanian devils travel long distances each night in their pursuit of food, sometimes covering as much as 10 miles. During the day, Tasmanian devils find shelter under stones, in caves, bushes, old wombat burrows, or hollow logs. Tasmanian devils are not very fast runners (they can reach only 15 miles per hour, but they can run extended period of time (one hour without resting). Also, they are excellent climbers and swimmers. Tasmanian devils' breeding season lasts from March to May. Tasmanian devil mothers have a gestation period of three weeks.

Like all marsupials, Tasmanian devil mothers give birth to very tiny young (about the size of a raisin). Once born, the babies called imps crawl up the mother's fur and into her pouch.

She will have up to 50 young at once, but only a maximum of 4 survive in the pouch. Babies stay in their pouch for four months.

When they emerge from the pouch, the imps often ride on their mother's back,

like young koalas, or stay in the den while she hunts.

After about six months old, the young are weaned, becoming independent at around nine months. Threats to Tasmanian devils include attacks by domestic dogs and foxes, being hit by cars, loss of habitat, and disease. In the 1990s, the total Tasmanian devil population was estimated at 130,000 to 150,000. However, the population has been in continual rapid decline since then. Tragically, since the mid-1990s, a catastrophic disease has killed thousands of Tasmanian devils. Called devil facial tumor disease (DFTD), this fatal condition is a rare contagious cancer that causes lumps to form around the animal's mouth and head, making it hard for it to eat. Scientists are working hard to find a way to stop the spread of DFTD before it wipes the species out. According to an assessment made in 2008, when the Tasmanian devil was put on the red list of endangered species, there are about 10,000 to 25,000 mature Tasmanian devils left in the wild. The devil is an iconic animal within Australia, particularly Tasmania; it is the symbol of the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the former Tasmanian Australian rules football team which played in the Victorian Football League was known as the Devils. The Tasmanian devil is probably best known internationally as the inspiration for cartoon character the Tasmanian Devil, or "Taz". He featured in the Warner Bros. "Looney Tunes" and "Merrie Melodies" series of cartoons. Though the character appeared in only five shorts before Warner Bros. Cartoons closed down in 1964, marketing and television appearances later propelled the character to new popularity in the 1990s.



**Ron VanHerwyn**



### Ron's Kritter Kids (wildlife education)

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# Community Lifestyles



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## TECH TALK

*Darnell Hughley is the Owner, Certified Technician and Consultant for HY-Tech Solutions, LLC having more than 23 years of total experience in the PC Repair and Consulting field.*



**Darnell Hughley**

**“Keep your head to the sky  
Keep your head to the sky  
Don’t walk around  
with your head hung down  
Keep your head to the sky  
Keep your head to the sky  
Surely, surely the clouds  
are gonna tell you why”**

These lyrics are from the Platinum selling album “Head To The Sky” by the super group Earth, Wind & Fire. The inference here is that there is no need to walk around with your head

hung down and feeling low - but rather, look upward in faith and believe for a better tomorrow and more successful life.

Then, there is the popular idiom that suggest that when you walk around with your “Head In The Clouds” you become “out of touch” with the reality around you or you have impractical ideas or dreams. Basically, you’re simply not focused.

These things being said, perhaps you’re a bit like me now and don’t know which school of thought to adhere to - “Do I look up to the proverbial clouds for hope or do I keep my head OUT of the clouds and accept this reality?”

Okay, I admit it - once again I’m being facetious for the sake of argument. Truth is, neither of these have anything to do with today’s “Tech Talk” article - but it’s a nice segue into our topic of “Cloud Storage!”

Stop cringing! I already see your look of uncertainty mixed with your apprehensions of the yet-to-be-explored realm of storing your data in the “clouds”. Rest assured, however, this is a place where man HAS gone before.

Let me begin by defining “Cloud Computing” which is the practice of using a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to store, manage, and process data, rather than a local server or a personal computer. That said, we aren’t really talking about Computing today as much as our focus will be on data storage in the “cloud space”. Cloud Computing is for another article later.

Before you begin to express your distrust of storing data in the cloud, let me remind you that your email “resides” in a “cloud space” in practicality. Even those files you have emailed yourself for safe keeping reside on a server of your Internet Service Provider (ISP), especially if your system is setup through the imap system of mail retrieval. So, in a sense, you’ve been using the “cloud” anyway.

It’s fairly simple to understand where a file goes when you save it on your PC. It lives on your hard drive, possibly housed in a set of folders you’ve created and organized yourself. That file is only stored on your computer, unless you decide to email it to yourself or save it on an external hard drive or USB.

Now what about the cloud?

At its most basic level, “the cloud” is just fancy-talk for a network of connected servers (a server is simply a computer that provides data or services to other computers). When you save files to the cloud, they can be accessed from a computer connected to that cloud’s network. Now take that idea and multiply it to understand how the cloud works for you. The cloud is not just a few servers, but a network of many servers typically stored in a spaceship-sized warehouse—or several hundred spaceship-sized warehouses. These warehouses are guarded and managed by companies such as Google (Google Docs), Apple ( iCloud), or Dropbox.

So, it’s not just some nebulous concept. It’s physical, tangible and real. When you save files to the cloud, you can access them on any computer, provided it’s connected to the Internet and you’re signed into your cloud services platform. Take Google Drive. If you use Gmail, you can access Google Drive anywhere you can access your email. Sign in for one service and find your entire library of documents and photos on another.

The largest concern everyone has, of course, is security when it comes to saving data in the cloud space. I will admit that cloud security is tight, but it’s not infallible. On the flip side, the data you save to the cloud is far more secure than it is on your own hard drive (and far less likely to be lost due to disk disaster). Cloud servers are housed in warehouses offsite and away from most employees, and they are heavily guarded. In addition, the data in those servers is encrypted, which makes hacking it a laborious, if not formidable, task for criminals.

Again, I will admit that while there is that initial foreboding feeling of helplessness you get now knowing your data being “out of your hands” and into the hands of another. Yet, as an IT professional, I cannot tell you how many times people have come into my shops wishing they had stored copies of their important data onto a cloud space such as the aforementioned ones because of data loss and hard disk disasters.

This then, is my number one reason for encouraging such a transition. It is not suggested that you completely do away with storing your data safely onto your hard drive locally and/or in conjunction with an external drive (stored safely OFFSITE from your computer) for disaster recovery, but many of the cloud storage services can offer more storage space for less money than buying external drives, and, with the added bonus of knowing that it is accessible from ANY computer or device wherein you can log in to your service using your guarded credentials.

So, in conclusion – when it comes to reasonably storing large amounts of data, I guess you CAN “keep your head to the sky” and “In the Clouds”.

*Darnell Hughley is the Owner, Certified Technician and Consultant for HY-Tech Solutions, LLC having more than 23 years of total experience in the PC Repair and Consulting field.*

# Welcome



The Institute for Total Eye Care, P.C. is happy to announce

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joined the practice in August 2017. Dr. Keeble was born in Opelika, 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.



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# Southern Cuisine



## Chef David Spooner Retired Chef

Volunteer Fireman,  
Lowndesboro V.F.D.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church,  
Lowndesboro

Board of Registrars,  
Lowndes County

*In past Southern Cuisine articles, cooking tips, preparation instructions, food safety, and individual recipes were highlighted. Recipes called for the produce that was usually available for the month the article was published. I rarely wrote an article that had an entire holiday menu with one theme. I believe it was a past Valentine's Day article when I last had a theme for an entire meal.*



I wanted to do an entire menu designed for a holiday and give my readers enough preparation time. Easter is on April 1, and my next article will miss this opportunity. Therefore, here is a single menu designed for Easter.

All the usual parts of a dinner menu will be presented. Some preparation alternatives are added to cover individual tastes and availability of products. Another concern will be ease of preparing the recipes, making as much as possible ahead of time, cook times that are not absolute and serving the meal so everyone will be able to enjoy the special occasion together. I will mention some brand names for products, but even then, a personal preference for other products is your choice. I do not gain anything from mentioning products; they are the ones that I prefer.

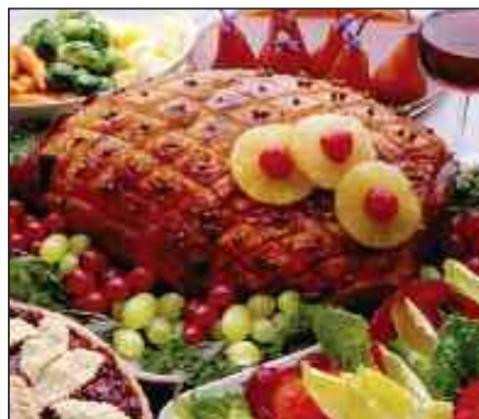
While I was working in hotels, ordering for a banquet took place several weeks before the event. If the protein or a particular vegetable was not available, we had time to ask the client if we could change the menu. In addition, the closer it was to a certain holiday the more likely, that some products would not be available because everyone wanted the same thing. If you could find the product, the price would be much higher than usual. If your favorite uncle is coming from Iowa to have Easter with the family and he is constantly leaving not too subtle hints that he likes only Cane Sugar Dr. Peppers, then I would start looking now!

**We need to start with the longest cooking item and the one that takes some preparation. Ham is my protein of choice. Traditionally lamb or ham is served for Easter Dinner, I picked ham because of cost, and ham is the easiest to prep and cook. I narrowed the ham choice down to a fully cooked, bone-in ham. The next choice to make is the cut of ham.**

The two highest grades of ham sold are either whole or half hams. For up to 14 people, a half-ham is sufficient.

The butt half is the upper part of the ham. Its meat tends to be very tender and flavorful—but it often contains part of the hip-bone, which makes carving a little awkward. An electric knife can make slicing easier and quicker.

The shank half is the lower part of the ham. It is easier to carve, but this cut is tougher and chewier.



Do not buy a spiral cut ham. The ham tends to dry out quickly and these hams usually already have some commercial grade glaze added to them. I like the traditional topping for ham. First, cut crisscrosses on the top of the ham and poke whole cloves into the intersection of each cut. Then place pineapple slices on top and liberally cover with brown sugar. Pour the juice from the can of pineapple slices into the slow cooker. Other toppings include mustard and honey, just do not use a store bought pre-made glaze. There are many recipes for toppings to be found.

Next concern is the size of the ham and if it will fit into your slow cooker. If need be, take a measuring tape and measure your cooker and then go shopping for a ham that fits. I once purchased a roaster to fit the turkey I had in the freezer. It is very important that the lid of the cooker fits snugly to prevent moisture from escaping during the cooking process. Do not think that a tent of aluminum

## Easter Salad

*A fresh salad of spinach, strawberries, and pecans could not be much easier. A Poppy Seed dressing goes well with this salad also a Balsamic Vinaigrette.*

### Ingredients

*Dressing of your choice (recipe for poppy seed dressing in notes or purchase a poppy seed or a balsamic dressing that you like)*

*1 cup dry pan-roasted pecans (best if halved)*

*10-20 ounces baby spinach (or mixed greens) (I like the COSTCO Power Greens, but you have to buy 1.5 lbs.) The greens go well with the sweetness of the poppy seed dressing.*

*1 pound strawberries, stems removed, cut in quarters.*

*I am the troublemaker in the family because I like my salad plated. This way I can decide what kind and how much dressing is on my salad.*

### Directions

1. Combine greens, strawberries, and pecans in a large bowl, and add dressing right before serving OR have ingredients prepped and cover salad plate with greens, then add strawberries and pecans on top. Have several small dressing pitchers on the dinner table and place salads on table, sit, and have some conversations with your guests.
2. Remember your goal is to plan everything ahead of time so you can enjoy the meal with your guests and family.
3. One of the sides for this menu can be made a day ahead and served cold.
4. Just combine a potato salad with deviled eggs and you will please most of your guests.

foil will help.

You now have your fully cooked, bone-in butt half-ham and it fits your slow cooker. How long and to what temperature it is should cook? Keep in mind that hams are precooked, the trick is adding flavor and reheating them without drying them out. There is no hard-set rule for cooking times and temperatures for slow-cooker ham. I would start on low and if you have an 8-pound ham plan on 4 to six hours. Check temperature of ham after two hours with a meat temperature and keep checking until temperature of the ham at 140 degrees. Remember you are reheating not cooking the ham.

This menu will have three sections: Salad, Entree (Ham) and two sides, and Dessert. These recipes are written to serve eight, but you know your guests and if you think this is not enough prepare more.

## Deviled Potato

### Ingredients

- 3 1/2 lb. Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 3 tbsp. yellow mustard
- 6 hard-boiled large eggs, peeled and chopped
- Three celery ribs, thinly sliced, plus 1/4 cup chopped celery leaves
- 6 scallions, thinly sliced
- 1/3 c. chopped fresh flat-leaf



parsley  
One (4-ounce) jar diced pimentos, drained  
Sweet paprika, for garnish

### Directions

1. Place potatoes in a medium saucepan; cover with cold salted water. Simmer until tender, 4 to 5 minutes. Drain.
2. Combine mayonnaise and mustard in a bowl. Add potatoes, eggs, celery and leaves, scallions, parsley, and pimentos, and toss to combine.
3. Season with salt and pepper. Garnish with paprika.

## Creamed Collard Greens

### Ingredients

- 4 1/2 pounds fresh collard greens\*
- 1 pound bacon, chopped
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 large onions, diced
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1-teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- Béchamel Sauce



### Directions

1. Rinse collard greens. Trim and discard thick stems from bottom of collard green leaves (about 2 inches); coarsely chop collards.
2. Cook bacon, in batches, in an 8-qt. stockpot over medium heat 10 to 12 minutes or until crisp. Remove bacon with a slotted spoon, and drain on paper towels, reserving drippings in stockpot. Reserve 1/4 cup bacon.
3. Add butter and onions to hot drippings in skillet. Sauté onion 8 minutes or until tender. Add collards, in batches, and cook, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes or until wilted. Stir in chicken broth, next three ingredients, and remaining bacon.
4. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, and cook, stirring occasionally, 15 minutes, or to desired degree of tenderness. Drain collards, reserving 1-cup liquid.
5. Stir in Béchamel Sauce. Stir in reserved cooking liquid, 1/4 cup at a time, to desired consistency. Transfer to a serving dish, and sprinkle with reserved 1/4 cup of bacon.

\*2 (1-lb.) packages fresh collard greens, thoroughly washed, trimmed, and chopped, may be substituted.

Continued on page 3C



## St Patrick's Day Menu

Reuben and Chips  
\$10.75  
Dessert  
Grasshopper Pie  
\$4.50



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Sunday  
10:30 am - 2:00 pm



# Southern Cuisine

Continued from page 2C

Your favorite uncle from Iowa may also have a vegetable or starch you may want to add to the menu.

Last note on the ham. When ham is ready to serve, place on large platter, take slices and arrange around the platter. Reserve any pineapple pieces and liquid from slow cooker to dress the ham pieces.

After all the dinner items are ready to serve, put the rolls in the oven to bake while eating the salad.

My favorite is Mrs. Schubert Dinner Yeast Rolls. They are frozen par cooked, take 10 minutes to heat, and serve.

Always make room for dessert and this is a true Alabama dessert. It will take patience some skill and a free weekend afternoon. You may have to go shopping for some of the ingredients. Warning: This recipe calls for bourbon. If this does not bother you, use the good stuff. If it does, substitute the same liquid amount with apple cider.

I did not add appetizers or drinks, or Easter candy. These are for you to decide on. Please read the recipes completely and make notes on timing and dishes and bowls to use. The more planning you do, a happier Happy Easter you and your family will have.

## Lane Cake

Make Ahead. Refrigerate the cake in a tightly covered container for up to 1 week. Serve at room temperature.

### Ingredients

- CAKE**  
 3 1/2 cups cake flour  
 2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
 2 teaspoons baking soda  
 1/4 teaspoon salt  
 1-cup milk, at room temperature  
 1-teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
 2 sticks ( 1/2 pound) unsalted butter, softened  
 2 cups sugar  
 Eight large egg whites, at room temperature

- FILLING**  
 12 large egg yolks  
 1 1/2 cups sugar  
 1 1/2 sticks (6 ounces) unsalted



- butter, melted and cooled  
 1 1/2 cups (6 ounces) finely chopped pecans  
 1 1/2 cups (10 1/2 ounces) finely chopped raisins  
 1 1/2 cups freshly grated coconut  
 1/2 cup bourbon  
 1 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract  
 1/4 teaspoon salt

### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 325°. Butter three 9-inch round cake pans and line the bottoms with parchment paper. Butter the paper and dust with flour, tapping out the excess.
2. Sift the flour, cream of tartar, baking soda, and salt into a medium bowl.
3. In a small pitcher, combine the milk and vanilla. In a large bowl, beat the butter on medium speed until creamy. Slowly add the sugar and beat until light and fluffy, scraping down the sides of the bowl. On low speed, alternately add the dry ingredients and the milk in 3 batches. Beat the batter until smooth, scraping down the sides of the bowl as necessary.
4. In another bowl, using clean beaters beat the egg whites until they form soft peaks. Stir one-third of the egg whites into the cake batter to lighten it. Using a rubber spatula, fold in the remaining egg whites until no white streaks remain.
5. Pour the batter into the cake pans and smooth the tops. Tap the pans lightly on a work surface to release any air bubbles. Bake the cakes on the middle and lower racks of the oven for about 30 minutes, shifting the pans halfway through, until the tops spring back when pressed lightly and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out with a few moist crumbs attached. Let cool in the pans for 5 minutes, and then invert the cakes onto a wire rack to cool completely. Peel off the paper.
6. In a large saucepan, combine the egg yolks and sugar and stir until smooth. Add the melted butter and cook over moderate heat, stirring, until thick enough to coat the back of a spoon, about 6 minutes; do not let it boil. Stir in the pecans, raisins and coconut and cook for about 1 minute. Add the bourbon, vanilla and salt and let cool to lukewarm.
7. Place a cake layer on a serving plate, right side up, and spread with 1 1/4 cups of the filling. Repeat with a second cake layer and another 1 1/4 cups of filling. Top with the last cake layer and frost the cake with the remaining filling. Let the cake cool completely before serving.

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**Judge Peggy Givhan**

## Southern Gardening Potpourri for March by Peggy Givhan

When I think of the month of March, I see kites flying with colorful tails dancing in the wind, I see bright yellow daffodils bobbing their heads, and tulips bursting into bloom. I see the harbingers of spring. And what a sight to see. There are also so many wonderful scents such as the old fashion French hyacinths which return year after year at the farm planted years ago in gumbo soil. The daffodils which multiply and come back year after year are: Mount Hood, Ice Follies, and Carlton. If you are in our area and see these for sale, buy as many as you can. You will really get your money's worth over the years.

If you have not made a garden scheme or plan, or you are just plain bored with what you have used over the past few years, then change it up. Sometimes you must rethink the plan because suddenly there is too much shade with the only solution is to cut back or cut down a tree. Even taking steps to prune low lying limbs may help. And I hate to declare the death penalty for the tree, but a plan that includes more shade loving flowers is a great alternative. You may even have to have shade tolerant plants in the back of the bed and sun loving in the front of the bed. Also, we do have some flowers that thrive in both sun and shade. The color range in both types of plants have vastly grown over the years. In other words, you may duplicate the color scheme you want and still use shade loving plants. Sun exposure is tricky, but a little trial and error is useful.

### GARDEN CHORES FOR MARCH

1. **Weeding.** A never ending task this time of year, but these annual late winter weeds are so simple to pull out. For instance, dock is wide spreading but has a small root system which means you can accumulate a large pile with very little effort. These are the type of weeds which will be killed off with a lot of warmth, so once they are gone, they are gone for good, or until this time next year.
2. **Planting.** Now is the time to fill in some of the areas of the beds that have not been planted with winter annuals or perennials such of lambs ears, dusty miller, dianthus and pansies. Geraniums, begonias, canna lilies,

elephant ears, come to mind. I would not plant impatiens until closer to the end of March. These are mostly fillers and will carry the beds through most of the summer.

3. **Fertilizing.** Purchase a good all round fertilizer with 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 and work into the soil. You can also spread Osmocote now that the temps get above 45%, but Osmocote much more expensive and can be used in summer when the commercial grade fertilizers may burn the foliage. Spraying with a liquid fertilizer is also a good idea. Just buy a hose end spraying, add the correct amount of a water soluble, fertilizer, then add water to the proper dilution rate, and spray away.
4. Stop to smell the roses and take in all the joyous sights of the flowering trees such as Red Bud, Japanese Magnolia; and shrubs, such as Loropetalum, Forsythia, and quince.

### GOOD GARDENING



**BEGONIAS**



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



## Montgomery County Alabama Sheriff's Office

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Chief Deputy  
Kevin J. Murphy

### Easter Egg Hunt

On **Saturday, March 31, 2018**, Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Staff of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will host their annual Easter Egg Hunt. The event will begin at 4:00 p.m. on the campus of Auburn Montgomery (near the old duck pond). Montgomery County youth between the ages of 1-11 are invited to grab their baskets or pales and come out to join the fun!



### Deputy Dave Day

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is excited to once again have our annual Deputy Dave Day on Saturday, April 28th at Dunbar-Ramer School from 10am-2pm for our youth. Come out and meet and greet with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office official mascot, Deputy Dave as well as the Sheriff's Office Staff! There will be lots of things to do and fun to be had by all!!

For more information, call 832-1646.



### Firearms Familiarization Course

You can register for any of our 2018 course dates (listed below):

<b>March 10</b>	<b>August 11</b>
<b>May 12</b>	<b>October 13</b>
<b>June 9</b>	<b>December 8</b>
<b>July 14</b>	

We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world.

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.

#### Course Requirements:

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



#### Pistol Permit Questions?

334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?  
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.



### Sheriff's Office APP

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 following 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" OR
- 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!



Montgomery County AL Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff Joe Sedinger

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## The Autauga County Sheriff Office visited the Autaugaville Senior Center on February 6, 2018

Sheriff Joe Sedinger spoke to the citizens on the role of the Sheriff and the responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Sedinger also spoke on scams like "You have Won a Prize", IRS scams, and Grandchildren scams, and the importance of protecting your identity. He answered several questions from the crowd.

### Autaugaville Senior Center

2416 Dutch Bend Street  
Autaugaville, AL 36003  
**(334) 365-1449**

Contact Wanda Diskin

Website: <http://www.ataugaco.org>

Autauga County Senior Services serves seniors 60 years of age and older. Lunch is served Monday thru Friday at each center.

#### Membership Information Services:

- Homebound Meals; Legal services;
- RX-Drug Program Information and Assistance;
- Transportation; Public Education and Nutrition Programs;
- Recreational and Social Activities
- Age requirements 60+ years.

## The Autauga County Sheriff's Office visited the Mt. Sanai Senior Center on February 21, 2018

Sheriff Sedinger spoke to the citizens on the role of the Sheriff and the responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Sedinger also spoke on scams like "You have Won a Prize", IRS scams, and Grandchildren scams, and the importance of protecting your identity. He answered several questions from the crowd.



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# Alabama Rotarians Join the Fight Against Polio in Mexico



Rotary International's theme for this year is "Making a Difference". For the last forty years Rotary has done just that by helping eradicate polio around the world. Forty years ago polio ravaged every corner of the Earth. Even after the discovery of the vaccine to stop the polio virus in 1955, millions around the world were still exposed to the crippling disease that primarily attacks children, leaving some paralyzed or causing death. Forty years ago 300,000 cases a year were reported in 100 different countries. Because of the infectious nature of the disease, anyone exposed to the disease, knowingly or unknowingly, could travel half way around the world and carry it with them and potentially create new outbreaks everywhere.

The only sure way to prevent the disease from spreading was to eradicate it from the face of the earth. Forty years ago one million Rotarians took up the challenge. Through their time, talents and resources, Rotarians immunized children from age six months to six years of age around the globe. One country after another became polio free by their vigilant efforts.

As of today, only three countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan and Nigeria still have active cases. But, in developing countries, where sanitation issues persist (since the disease is spread by contaminated fecal matter entering the water supply) the threat is all too real.

Our neighbors to the south in Mexico are a potential source. Last month 50 plus Rotarians from Alabama, Louisiana, Arizona, Nevada, California and

Canada made the trek from Phoenix, AZ to Caborca, Mexico to support the cause.

Over 500 children from age six months to six years were immunized in a small impoverished town on the seacoast. Desemboque had little electricity and no fresh water until Rotary recently built wells and a water tower to provide clean water for this community of 1,000 or so residents. The local Rotary Club in Caborca provided transportation, great food and fellowship and a security detail to insure our safe passage. One member of their Club, Martin Mendez who oversees a pediatric medical clinic in Caborca, and had the inspiration to join forces with the U.S. Clubs to aid these rural hamlets.

To show the importance of this cause, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pledged \$250 million to make sure we continue to strive to complete this monumental task.

Rotary celebrated its birthday on February 23 during the time of this visit. What a wonderful present to the people of Mexico by being a gift to the world.



Caborca, four hours south of Phoenix, AZ.



The Corboca Rotary Club's hospitality toward Americans and Canadians was outstanding.



Rotarians celebrated 113 years as a international service organization of goodwill.



Rotarians, in groups of four, joined with local nurses and assistants to immunize children between the ages of 6 months and 6 years to prevent the polio virus.



Dr. Martin Mendez and Mike Brunhofer celebrate a mission. Dr. Mendez oversees a pediatric hospital while Mike organized the trip.



Brian Hall of Louisiana, gets ready to give a little girl droplets of life.



Nurse and mother help with administration of polio vaccine to her little girl as Sam Adams administers two drops.



A Rotarian poses next to a 30 foot tall cactus.



One of the shelters found at the Desemboque ejido, which is a piece of land owned by the government, used for agricultural purpose in a communal setting.



Fifty four rotarians from across America joined with Canadians to help our neighbors to the south by immunizing children against the polio virus.

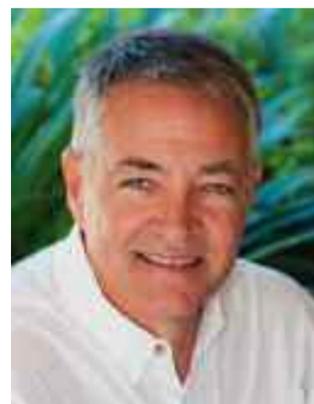


South Alabama's District 6880 gives \$500 to Mike Brunhofer, director of the program, to support the pediatric health clinic in Caborca. The evening's activities raised over \$10,000 for neonatal equipment.



Last year's Rotary global grant lead to a mobile health clinic for rural parts of Mexico including Desemboque. The ambulance-like vehicle can provide necessary medical and dental procedures at no cost to the patients.





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

# Soul Searching

## Eight Great Reasons to be a Generous In 2018

Last April, I was in Kansas City for a meeting. As we drove through a beautiful part of town with very large homes, I noticed a huge church that looked like a castle. It was built out of stone and looked as if had been there many years in this older, established part of the city. As a preacher, I was curious to see the name of this massive church as we drove by. On the impressive sign in front of the church it said, "Country Club Christian Church." Now, I'm sure that this is a great church with wonderful people, but I couldn't help but laugh at this name as I turned to my preacher friend riding with me and jokingly said, I bet their motto is, "You can take it with you." I also thought about all the times I've told my church folks that the church is not a country club for saints, but a hospital for sinners.

As we all hopefully know, you really can't take it with you. (I've never seen a hearse towing a U-Haul.) But you can invest it in things that will outlast you. You can use it to make a difference in the lives of others. You can, so to speak, send it on ahead.

The good news is there are new waves of generosity we are seeing in our culture. Recently, I even read an article that claimed that millennials are becoming more generous as they get married and settle down. Since they represent the largest percentage of the population now, some of us in the church world and non-profit world are delighted to hear that news. But I do believe that people are rediscovering that being a generous person not only blesses others but also blesses our lives as well.

### Here are eight great reasons to be generous in 2018:

1) It guarantees that your priorities are served. Think about it. You can't always spend your time on your priorities, but your giving can see to it that the work you deeply believe in continues. You can invest in what you believe in and make a difference.

2) It breaks the hold of selfishness. In everyone of us there are two competing instincts- selfishness and generosity. We must be intentional about being generous. Regular giving breaks the grip of greed.

3) It enables you to be part of something great. It's a big, bad world out there. Sometimes we feel overwhelmed and that there is nothing we can do. But there is something we can do. Giving to your local church, faith community or favorite non-profit ministry makes you a shareholder in the good work of God in the world.

4) It gives you a disciplined life. We admire athletes and others who work so hard to be disciplined. We also feel good about and proud of ourselves when we are disciplined in our own lives. When we make a commitment to give regularly through our church, NGO or faith based non-profit, we discipline ourselves to be generous based

on our deeply held principles and not on a whim or a feeling.

5) It multiplies your usefulness. Through your gifts you are empowering good things and ministry to happen. You are working with a troubled teenager, telling children about God, strengthening marriages, leading in grief or divorce recovery, visiting hospitals, providing counseling, teaching Bible studies, supporting missionaries, raising up future leaders, feeding the poor, housing the homeless, impacting our community and communities around the world. You are in many places at once, enabling lives to be changed in the name of Jesus Christ!

6) It brings a satisfaction of knowing you are faithful. There is great peace and fulfillment when you can say, "I am meeting my responsibilities. I am fulfilling the call of God to live a generous life."

7) It enables you to leave a legacy. A wise man once said, "The wise use of a life is to invest it in something that will outlast it." As a Christian I believe that through our generous gifts to the church and other non-profit ministries, we enable the work of Christ that will outlast and outlive us. We are empowering the next generation to continue the work of offering Help, Hope and Healing in the Name of Jesus Christ!

8) It blesses you. Jesus tells us that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Giving for the sake of others and for Christ brings joy and blessing into our lives! In Luke 6:38, Jesus also says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you." So, be generous and be blessed!

You can't take it with you. But you can invest it in impactful ministries that will make a difference and leave a legacy!

Blessings!

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Patricia Killough



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Please send me your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)

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

### Tea for Valentines



Joyce Vaughn of Pike Road hosted a "Big Valentines Day" tea on Saturday, February 10th at the Gazebo Tea Room in Montgomery in honor of her niece, Kim Parrish, from Brevard, N.C. and her five great granddaughters, Cassidy Claire Howell, Chloe Jordan, Olivia Howell, Adelaine Howell and Scarlett Jones (had the flu - there in spirit.)

Also in attendance were Dr. Mandi Howell, Christle Jordan, Laura Leininger and Leah Vinson.

Christy Jones at home with baby Scarlett.

Hats and gloves were optional attire.

Granny Joyce enjoyed being with her family!



Miss Scarlett

**Grant Wesson Walker**  
Celebrated his 1st Birthday on February 10th.  
(His actual one-year birthday was Feb. 13th.)

It was a great afternoon for children, family and friends. This birthday was especially blessed because the doctors at Children's Hospital Birmingham gave him his first "cancer free" well checkup. Grant was born with a rare cancer, (Less than 500 cases throughout the world.) Neuroectodermal tumor of infancy of the skull.

God has blessed this family and guided them through Grant's first year. He is such a blessing! Prayers are always needed and welcomed.

**Grant from God!**



# Home Town Community News

## March Birthdays



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Jean Bennett<br>Davis Abbott Mason (2nd)<br>Brett O'Neal<br>Donna Ross         | 15 George Handey<br>Sandy Stephans Rogers<br>Betty Lossman<br>David Hancock  |
| 2 Amie Dean<br>Bill Oates<br>Norma Renfro  | 16 Lisa Gordan Hester  |
| 3 Dorothy Fuller (81st)<br>Frank Reynolds  | 17 Lowell Hattaway (86th)  |
| 4 Todd Cole<br>Russ Russell  | 18 William Watters Box<br>George McKinley (72nd)<br>Robert Singleton<br>Jacque Takacs<br>Olivia Thomas (84th)<br>Kayla Woodall |
| 5 Glen Yost  | 19 Charlotte Crane<br>Keisha Glasscock   |
| 6 Gayle Bosworth<br>Emmett Poundstone<br>Marjorie Wright                         | 20 Connie Crowe  |
| 7 Everett Cole<br>Laura Lane<br>Tony Law<br>Michael Carroll<br>Brad Wallace      | 21 Hannah Yost<br>Murlyne Clements<br>Dorothy Lasaine<br>Phillip Reeves (68th)   |
| 8 Frances Ard<br>Linda Clayton<br>David Ehrlich                                  | 22 Kentston Whigham (6th)  |
| 9 Grace Neighbors (92nd)<br>Courtney Whigham                                     | 23 Ben Garrett<br>Laura Hudson<br>Morgan James<br>Brandy Landreau<br>Dawn Lane<br>Lallage Neil                                 |
| 10 Jane Grubbs<br>Paula Lansdon<br>Cory Smith<br>Jeanne Villar<br>Michael Weldon | 24 Robert Adams<br>Zenias Mims   |
| 11 Dr. John Bitter<br>Glenn Harper<br>Herb Meadows                               | 25 Deborah Cox<br>Hunter Hannon<br>Wanda Madison   |
| 12 Angie Ferreira  | 26 Ruby Macon  |
| 13 Linda Richardson<br>Samantha Jane Rice (8th)                                  | 27 Renee Grant<br>Cynthia Harper<br>Wendy Powell   |
| 14 Brian Takacs<br>Dana Webster (64th)   | 29 Delicia Fuller<br>31 Carlie Corbin  |

(Send us YOUR Birthdays!)

## Happy Anniversary

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Ed & Dot Truitt (66th)  | 17 Wallace & Frances Bush (72nd)            |
| 5 Frank & Helen Ralph   | 18 George & Lynn McKinley                   |
| 7 Bobby & Myra Mills<br>Jim & Barbara Garrett<br>John & Melanie Higgins | 21 Craig & Mindy Trotter (9th)              |
| 9 Fred & Connie Crowe<br>Sonja & Steve Campbell (45th)                  | 23 Paul & Cynthia Harper                    |
| 10 Willard & Joyce Haines (67th)  | 25 Tim & Nicole Sansom                      |
| 14 Nicholas & Sally Corley  | 26 Elvin & Cam Stanton                      |
| 15 Jim & Linda Richardson<br>Ken & Linda Stringer (57th)                | 27 Al & Conni Barnett<br>Mike & Cindy Smith |
|   | 29 Bill & Vickie Gulsby                     |

(Send us YOUR anniversaries!)

## Sympathy to the families of...

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Chambliss, Hunter Alan (24)               | died February 4, 2018  |
| McNeill, Wilma Jewell Jernigan (96)       | died February 4, 2018  |
| Greene, Tom Marlin (81)                   | died February 6, 2018  |
| Boyd, Manilla "Micki" Harris (68)         | died February 10, 2018 |
| Capilouto, Corinne Franco (91)            | died February 10, 2018 |
| Frith, Mary Elizabeth "Meme" Dunn (92)    | died February 11, 2018 |
| Griffin, Barbara June Morgan Boswell (85) | died February 13, 2018 |
| Hatcher, Lydia "Lisa" (55)                | died February 15, 2018 |
| Kratzer, Reba Whetstone (88)              | died February 20, 2018 |
| Senn, Faye Beck (89)                      | died February 21, 2018 |
| Graham, Rev. Billy (99)                   | died February 21, 2018 |



# TODAY'S WOMAN

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



## *Jears and Laughter:*

### **Kids Don't Have The Answers, and Shouldn't Be Asked**

*By Amanda Walker*

It took me a long time in life to learn evil is a real thing that actually exists. Some people are evil. Some people have evil tendencies or evil ways about themselves. It is difficult to accept evil when you are genuinely not. Evil hides well and is easily camouflaged, but you best trust it is there. It is probably not a far drive from where you currently are.

I don't know if it started in the '80s or if that was just when I came of age enough to be aware of it. There seemed to be this societal shift in thinking when it started to be normal to believe kids have things figured out. This real life theme is still often played out in television commercials. Kids are presented as having all the answers. The parents come across as regular dummies that would be lost and homeless if not for the kids they brought into the world.

To an extent it is simply advertising, but we do as a society tend to mimic this mindset. You can see it most anytime you go out in public and it is time for us to shift the other way.

When terribly tragic and horrific events such as the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, happen the children absolutely need to be heard. They need to be allowed to talk about their feelings and fears. And then those feelings need to be validated so that they can begin to process their emotions and hopefully begin to eventually spiritually heal. But they don't have the answers as to how to stop evil. They don't have a damn clue about gun control either. What are we doing even asking them? They need us to know. They need us to provide the shelter for them to grow-up safely beneath. We need to tell the kids to go outside and play with their phones and the adults of the country need to have backbone enough to make the decisions and laws

without their input. They need to know we've got it.

I'm not being mean. I'm not saying that kids aren't smart or capable. They are bright. Kids are exceptionally intelligent. And they can learn to dress well and express clearly the ideas they have been taught. But when was the last time as a grown person that you went to a teenager for advice on anything other than maybe how to erase the history on your phone? When have you ever asked a kid for life advice? Asked which accountant or attorney they would recommend? Or what they think would be the wisest investment in your property? Or which outdoor heating source they think would be best for the back patio? Hit one of them up to make your next mortgage payment and that should help sum up their total life preparedness. They aren't. So what are we doing asking?

Children are able to become their best when the adults around them are living up to their full potential. Our kids are stronger when they know with confidence that we have our ends covered and won't need them to act as our saviors. They know they don't have the answers. That's why they are all so anxious all the time, because they haven't had any life experience. And that's normal. That's why they have parents. They need to be allowed to be young without our asking them how we should control evil and mental illness.

They are supposed to be learning the answers from the way we conduct our lives and run our government. It is how they will be equipped to one day make meaningful decisions for their own children. Or should they have kid expecting them to have the answers once they learn to talk?



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

## *Trisston's Tidbits...*

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

### **"The Breastplate of St. Patrick"**

In His parting words to His disciples, the Lord Jesus Christ commissioned them to preach the Gospel to all nations. Then, He gave them a solemn promise...*"I am with you always."*

*"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* Galatians 2:20.

For centuries, those words have comforted the ailing, assured the weary, and even carried martyrs peacefully to their death. The famed St. Patrick, fifth century missionary to Ireland, carried this truth with him as he preached God's message of salvation to a hostile pagan world.

It is said that each morning Patrick prayed a lengthy prayer, binding to himself the assurance of God's constant presence with him. He seemingly "wore" the prayer as a breastplate of protection against the forces of men and evil, and thus the prayer became known as St. Patrick's Breastplate.

Although the original prayer is quite long, three stanzas are best known for their intense reminder of the power and love of Christ:

*"Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart;  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part.*

*Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me, shield in the strife;  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising, light of my life.*

*Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart;  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me, never to part."*

Patrick lived a life totally devoted to following Christ. May his words provoke your thinking and provide a fresh awakening to the fact that, as His child, Christ lives in you and He will never leave you!

**Many Blessings!**

## **MEDAC, PC**

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[johnnie@medac4u.com](mailto:johnnie@medac4u.com)  
[www.Medac4u.com](http://www.Medac4u.com)



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

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## Elmore County Pregnancy Center

An Abundant Life Celebration

### & the beat goes on

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Wetumpka Civic Center, 6-8pm

Tickets: \$20

Sponsorships: \$250-\$5,000

Purchase tickets online at

[www.hopewetumpka.org](http://www.hopewetumpka.org) or

at ECPC at 104 Company Street, Wetumpka.

334-567-1955.

A fundraising event for Elmore County Pregnancy Center



## Humane Society of Elmore County

Website: [www.elmorehumane.org](http://www.elmorehumane.org)

### Pet of the Week – Possum

Possum is a wonderful, laid back Walker Hound who came to us as a stray. He is 3-4 years old and about 60 lbs, very mellow, great with other dogs and cats and just as handsome as can be.

Our adoption fees are \$100 for dogs & \$50 for cats under one-year-old; cats over one-year-old can be adopted by approved adopters for a fee of their choosing. This adoption fee completely covers the mandatory spay or neuter, basic immunizations, de-worming, microchip, heart-worm check for dogs, rabies vaccination if old enough, free health exam with your participating veterinarian.



To meet all the great pets at our shelter come to 255 Central Plank Road, Wetumpka, AL, 36092, go to our website at [www.elmorehumane.org](http://www.elmorehumane.org) for more information, email us at [hselco@bellsouth.net](mailto:hselco@bellsouth.net) or give us a call at 334-567-3377.

We are open for adoptions Mon-Fri 10-5 & Sat 9-3.



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