

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



THE ALABAMA

Gazette



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March Is Women's History Month!


In 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as Women's History Month. Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month.

WIKIPEDIA

IN RECOGNITION OF WOMENS HISTORY MONTH, THE ALABAMA GAZETTE PROUDLY PRESENTS SOME OF THE MOST FASCINATING WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE AGES THAT YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF...




1887




Nellie Bly

One of the first undercover journalist. She convinced doctors to admit her to a state run mental asylum where she got out and reported on the appalling conditions. This led to country wide overhauls of the way "mad houses" were ran and patients were treated.

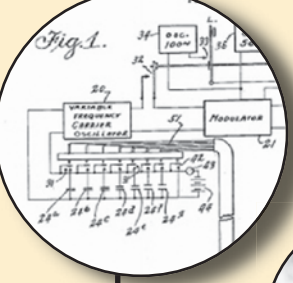


1888




C.J. Walker

First female self-made millionaire. Born in the first generation after the Emancipation; she worked as a domestic servant before inventing the first line of hair care products for African-American women.




1942

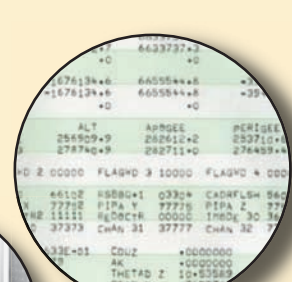


Heddy Lamarr

Hollywood starlett at first, Heddy always had an interest in science and technology. Wanting to help the WW11 war effort, Heddy invented a type of electrical frequency hopping. This premise would be built upon in latter years in applications such as Bluetooth technology.



1969



Margaret Hamilton

Software engineer for NASA, she and her MIT team handwrote the codes that launched the Apollo mission. Many of her failsafes were implemented in the mission and in the photo to the right, you can see her standing next to all the volumes of codes she wrote to make it a success.

WIKIPEDIA PHOTOS



Join the 42d Air Base Wing and Air University Library in
Celebration!

1973 - 2023

OPERATION WELCOME HOME
MAXWELL AFB

Kickoff Event – February 14
Celebration – March 13-15



In 1973, Maxwell welcomed 43 prisoners of war released by North Vietnam following the Paris Peace Accords that ended U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. Operation Homecoming saw the return of a total of 591 POWs to American soil from Feb. 14-April 1, 1973.



COME JOIN US!! SCAN QR CODES FOR MORE INFORMATION!

MARCH 12: MOTORCYCLE ESCORT RIDE FOR THE TRAVELING AMERICAN VETERANS WALL





MARCH: 13-14 POW/MIA 24-HOUR ETERNAL TORCH RELAY




MARCH: 15 OPERATION WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION



ROBSEVATIONS... by Robert Tate

IT'S A BALLOON!!

Okay, I am going to show my age. There was an episode in the 1966-67 season of the comedy F-Troop when Hekawi Chief Wild Eagle is sitting with his side-kick Crazy Cat when Crazy Cat looks up into the sky and says, "Chief, I have a riddle for you. What has big round shape, carries man and dog and flies?" The chief answers he doesn't know but when he looks up into the sky, he exclaims, "IT IS BALLOOOOOON!" For more than fifty years, I have remembered that stupid episode and have often looked up in the sky, seen balloons and said the exact same thing; often to the strange looks from people passing by.



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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama’s leading political columnist. His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He served 16 years in the state legislature.

www.steveflowers.us



THREE GREAT ALABAMA PREACHERS:



REV. BUDDY GRAY



REV. JOHN E. MATHISON



REV. KARL STEGALL AND WIFE BRENDA

Many of you may be surprised to know that politicians and preachers are often friends while on earth. They actually run in the same circles in their communities as well as around the state. It has been my pleasure to have known a good many Godly ministers.

During my lifetime here in our beloved state of Alabama, there have been some outstanding ministers, but three men stand out as legendary and will go down in the annals of Alabama history as the three greatest preachers of this generation. All three were Alabama born and bred. They had to have been born and chosen for their calling. Just to be in their presence makes you feel special. They are truly men of God. They are also true southern gentlemen with a keen sense of humility. These three ministers are Methodist Minister John Ed Mathison, Methodist Minister Karl Stegall, and Baptist Minister Buddy Gray.

I will begin with the youngest first. Buddy Gray has been the pastor of the mega Baptist Church in Hoover – Hunter Street Baptist Church – for nearly 36 years. Buddy Gray built this mountain of a church in the heart of Hoover. He is beloved by his throng of congregates. He exudes love and humility.

Buddy Gray grew up in Prattville. He knew at 16 that God was calling him to the ministry. He started preaching at rural churches and along the way he served as youth pastor at Hunter Street Baptist Church in Birmingham in the 1970’s. Hunter Street was in a dying section with an attendance of 120. Soon after they called Buddy to be their minister, he had the foresight to see that his church needed to be in Hoover, the fastest growing suburban area of Jefferson County.

Today, 36 years later, Buddy’s vision is a sprawling landmark campus with a congregation of 4,500 active members. It is one of the largest and most prosperous churches in Alabama. Leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention refer to Hunter Street Baptist Church as one of the greatest churches in America.

During his career, Buddy Gray has served at the state and national level of the Baptist Convention including two one-year reigns as President of the Alabama Baptist State Convention. He and his wife, Tricia, have been a true team in the evangelical building of this great church.

Dr. John Ed Mathison of Montgomery has rightfully been referred to as one of the greatest preachers in the history of the State of Alabama. He was born a Methodist minister. His father was a legendary Methodist minister, and his brother is a legend in his own right as a Methodist minister.

John Ed served 36 years as Senior Minister of Frazer Methodist Church in Montgomery. Under his leadership, Frazer grew from 400 members to 9,000 and had the largest Sunday School attendance for any Methodist church in America. At the time of John Ed’s retirement in June 2008, Frazer had eight Sunday morning worship services and its services were televised nationwide reaching about 40 million homes.

John Ed has been a sterling athlete over his lifetime. He was an all-state high school basketball player and an outstanding basketball player at Huntington College. He was consistently ranked #1 in his age division in tennis in Alabama and is in the Alabama Tennis Hall of Fame. He continues to write. I am proud to say that for the last decade his column and mine have been adjacent to each other in the Montgomery Independent.

Dr. Karl Stegall is a legend within the Alabama Methodist Church hierarchy. He is one of the best known and most loved Methodist ministers to serve in Alabama over the past 50 years. Stegall served with distinction at four separate Methodist churches in Alabama. He culminated his ministerial career as pastor of the First Methodist Church of Montgomery. He served as senior minister of this great traditional Methodist church in Cloverdale for 24 years.

Dr. Stegall remains extremely involved in Montgomery Civic affairs. He is an erudite gentleman with impeccable class and manners. He has the most melodious Black Belt southern accent. He is an avid sports fan and a great Alabama historian. He has a myriad of talents and uses them all. He has been a confidante and minister to a great many Alabama governors and Montgomery business leaders.

These three gentlemen are without a doubt three of the greatest ministers in Alabama of this century. I am proud to call them friends.



Justice Will Sellers

CHALLENGING SCIENTIFIC ORTHODOXY

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

The world Nicholas Copernicus was born into was wrong.

Indeed, 550 years ago, almost everything people thought about the world and their place in it were based on false ideas. Without necessarily meaning to, Copernicus shook his world

to the core and ushered in a revolution in science.

Everyone in the western world believed that the earth was stationary and was the center of the universe. People might argue about other things, but everyone accepted the earth’s role and believed everything revolved around it; literally and figuratively.

But this universal belief was not based upon any empirical proof; rather it was an ideology, both philosophical and theological, which misunderstood the place of human beings as the highest order of creation. Other creatures lived under the orbit of humanity and derived their status as subservient to humans. The earth as the home of humanity must thus be the center of the universe around which all other stars and planets revolved.

This belief was further supported by various theological scholars who selectively misquoted passages from the scriptures to support a stationary earth. So, while religious sects might argue about other issues, the earth’s center of the universe was indisputable dogma. There was nothing to compromise.

Copernicus was not a modern scientist seeking to prove a theory. Rather, he was an observer of the world around him and no doubt, like others, looked at the stars and planets each night. The movement of the stars and planets was a way to tell time, plot the seasons, and conjure various astrological ideas about planets and human traits.

In observing the night sky, Copernicus could easily plot when various stars and planets were visible and predict their daily movements. But when his observations turned into graphically plotting how the planets moved around the earth, it was difficult to do.

With the absolute, immutable belief of the earth’s universal center, depicting how the sun, moon and planets move around the earth was a mess. Any observer could see that rather than simple, consistent movement patterns, some stars and planets moved side to side and up and down. Other observations revealed any number of problems that made the motions of the planets appear arbitrary. Throw a comet or other exceptional celestial event into the mix, and the movement patterns became even less consistent.

Clever scientists developed explanations for each of these anomalies all in keeping with a stationary earth. While reasonable explanations might be accepted, trying to model the night sky created a complicated system that was anything but orderly. As additional planets were more carefully observed and added to the system, the depiction of the rotations and revolutions around the earth became unintelligible.

When Copernicus saw a 3-D model of this mass of stars and moons revolving around planets which revolved around a stationary earth, he instinctively knew



Frontispiece of Galileo’s ‘De Systemate mundi’ depicting Aristotle, Ptolemy and Copernicus, 1635

something was amiss. The problem he reasoned, was perspective. Everyone on earth could see the movements in the night sky and plot it out, but when the observations were depicted from a stationary earth, the movements became immensely more complicated to illustrate. If someone viewed these same movements from the sun or another planet, the result might be different. Thinking outside the planet, Copernicus looked at the convoluted patterns necessary to prove a non-moving, central earth. It became apparent that if there was any order in the universe, the initial premise must be incorrect.

Harking back to early astronomers who had made only rudimentary tracks of the movement of the planets, Copernicus found vague discussions of the sun being the center of the universe. Then, using his more detailed observations of the motions of the various stars and planets, Copernicus sketched out a system with the sun as the center of the universe with the earth, like other planets, revolving around it. Once the center of the universe moved, the observations from earth made much more sense and seemed to have greater order. He shared

his thoughts primarily in academic settings and wrote summaries of his findings more as theory and conjecture than as truth. He collected several writings advocating the sun as the center of the universe, but he died before they were published.

While Copernicus would never receive the derision or adulations of others who came after him, he started a new way of thinking about not only the universe, but the place of humans and our perspective of ourselves in the context of our solar system.

After Copernicus, belief in the structure of the solar system could have dire consequences. Recall the story of Galileo, who embraced Copernicus’s system at the cost of life imprisonment. Others were executed for believing what they saw versus an imposed orthodoxy.

But gradually, the system Copernicus initiated won the day. The consensus dogma was revised when it became apparent that the earth rotated on its axis and revolved around the sun. But until that consensus developed, many people accepted a belief system that was explicitly wrong. In this case, the science of observation and open discussion overcame challenges based on unfounded beliefs. The centrality of humanity gave way to a less exalted view of both the planet and its inhabitants.

So as the 550th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus is celebrated in Poland this month, his legacy is less of a challenge to the prevailing orthodoxy and more of a lesson in practical observation of the natural world. His legacy also reveals the problems with holding an uncompromising position and being unwilling to change in the face of empirical evidence.

Embracing a belief without factual support becomes unsustainable when undeniable evidence proposes a different conclusion. Such a false system requires layers of speculation of unprovable notions that disintegrate when exposed to reality.

When chained to false beliefs, science merely perpetuates bogus theories. Copernicus’ legacy shows that when common sense observation is applied, reality supports the science and allows advancement in our understanding of who we are and the planet we occupy.



Rob Tate

Okay, I am going to show my age. There was an episode in the 1966-67 season of the comedy F-Troop when Hekawi Chief Wild Eagle is sitting with his sidekick Crazy Cat when Crazy Cat looks up into the sky and says, “Chief, I have a riddle for you. What has big round shape, carries man and dog and flies?” The chief answers he doesn’t know but when he looks up into the sky, he exclaims, “IT IS BALLOONNNNN!” For more than fifty years, I have remembered that stupid episode and have often looked up in the sky, seen balloons and said the exact same thing; often to the strange looks from people passing by.



much slammed our president and others on the classified information scandal. And yes, since then, they have found even more documents. At some point, hopefully people in our government will act and do the right thing about this. But enough of that. This episode of Robservations brings an equally disturbing chapter in the story about our Commander-in-Chief.

After the debacle that was the Afghanistan withdrawal, I really did not think President Biden could do any worse. He has proven me wrong so many times now, I do not know where to start. All I can say about Afghanistan is that if they had asked me to plan the evacuation and said build a team and make it happen, I would have taken 5 or 6 guys I worked with at Maxwell AFB in the campaign planning class I taught, and we would have done a successful evac. Absolutely no doubt about it. How they messed it up so badly, who only knows. I think if people actually tried to screw it up intentionally, they could not have done a better job. This is the truth.

Flash forward to February 2023, we have a Chinese spy balloon flying over the continental United States for over 5 days and our fearless, Ray-Ban wearing president gets on television loudly bragging that he “took it down.” And by the way, as he so proudly boasts, he makes no apology about it. For one thing, he should not apologize about shooting down an enemy object in our airspace but more importantly, we all must realize that he took this action only after the balloon had completed its spy mission. Every single American should be disgusted at the milk toast response by this administration. We had ample opportunities to shoot this monstrosity down over land but instead let it fly over several sensitive military sites across the entire continental United States and sending who knows what data back to China.

In case there are some out there who do not quite understand the importance of this, let me make it simple to understand. The President of the United States allowed the Communist Chinese military to fly a spy craft over our country and WE DID NOT DO A FRIGGEN THING!! There, simple enough. “Hey, Rob. Like the president said, we did shoot it down.” Yeah, but again, only after it completed its mission. Do you not get it? Imagine that after the Enola Gay dropped its bomb on Hiroshima and Japanese air defenses only then shot it down. Uhhhhhhh? What would be the point. That would be absolutely no reason to cheer if you were the Japanese military. In many cases, people like to throw about the term “dereliction of duty.” Well, I believe here is a clear case of it. Much like Afghanistan.

What I have compiled from several sources is the timeline of events for this Chinese balloon:
28 January: Balloon enters southern tip of Alaska near Aleutian Islands.

ROBSERVATIONS... by Robert Tate

IT’S A BALLOON!!

30 January: Balloon enters Canadian airspace.
31 January: Balloon reenters American airspace, crossing into northern Idaho.
1 February: Balloon flies over Malmstrom AFB and its nuclear missile silos. A Billings Montana resident captures the balloon on video. Biden actually says to shoot it down if it can be accomplished without undue risk to people on the ground. Chinese embassy in Washington is advised that we reserve the right to do whatever is necessary to protect American interests.
2 February: General information is finally released to the American public. Another balloon is spotted flying over Latin America.
3 February: Balloon flies over Kansas and Missouri including Whitman AFB, home of the USAF B-2 Bombers. China claims it is just a weather balloon that strayed off course due to winds. Chinese Foreign Minister spokesperson Mao Ning says that China has no intention of violating American airspace. (This reminds me of a scene from Beverly Hills Cop when Eddie Murphy is in the police station after being arrested. He says, “I’m the guy who got thrown out of the window.” Officer Taggart says something like, “We have witnesses who said you stormed into the building, starting tearing up the place and jumped through the window.” Murphy looks at Taggart and says, “And you believe that?”)
4 February: Balloon spotted over Asheville and Charlotte, N.C. and then over South Carolina. At around 1440 EST, an Air Force F-22 shot the balloon down and it crashed into the Atlantic Ocean.

What we have here is yet another record of incompetence. The entire notion of not wanting to risk damage to people on the ground is ludicrous. I have spent many, many hours flying over the northern tier of our country and the Midwest and there are hundreds, if not thousands of square miles of beautiful nothingness to look at. Maybe a ranch or two here and there but nothing that would necessitate allowing a Chinese spy mission to be completed, unhindered and unobstructed. One report said that we were careful to not transmit sensitive data when it was flying overhead. Ohhhhhh, pretty gutsy stuff there, Maverick. The moment this piece of airborne trash hit our airspace over Alaska, they should have shot it down. Questions? Our military knew it was there. We had been tracking it. But no, we let a foreign nation invade our airspace and we chose to do nothing. Nothing. “But, Rob. . .” Yeah, I know. We shot it down”. But only after their mission was completed; whatever that mission may have been. Who knows? I don’t? I don’t care.

True to form, the Chinese have come out and said that we have likewise flown 10 balloons over China since 2022. Remember the Eddie Murphy line? Even if that is true, which I certainly do not believe, why did they not shoot them down? You mean to tell me the Chinese would willingly let an American spy balloon transit their airspace unhindered. That falls in the category of “Not Believable in the Least.” Think of Francis Gary Powers and his U-2. In the world of espionage, most countries play the same dirty game. The difference is the Russians shot down the U-2, rightfully so. They did not willingly let it complete its mission. How many missiles were wasted through the years trying to shoot down SR-71s? We spy, they spy, everybody spies. But you don’t willingly let the enemy complete their tasks. That my friends, is dereliction of duty.

So, tell me. What do you think would have happened if Reagan was president and we had men like Jimmy Doolittle, Curtis LeMay, Robin Olds or Billy Mitchell leading our military? I am sure almost everybody reading this Robservations knows exactly what would have happened. So, what is one key takeaway from this travesty? Not only China but the whole world now questions the testicular determination of American leadership. If we are willing to let this type of military incursion go by unpunished, what else are we willing to ignore? If we are not willing to shoot down a frappin’ spy balloon over American sovereign territory, what do the Chinese think we will do when they invade Taiwan? Heck, it is possible this balloon was nothing more than a test to see our reactions to an obvious intrusion into our airspace. If that is the case, the Biden administration failed miserably; AGAIN! For what it is worth, I think it was a nefarious intrusion, and yes, the whole world watched the entire shameful debacle in real time.

Time to brace ourselves for whatever is headed our way next. Whatever it is, I am sure the current group of leaders will fail in their task. The saddest part of this is their failures and incompetence hurts all of America. This is not a time to gloat.

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Ronald A. Holtsford

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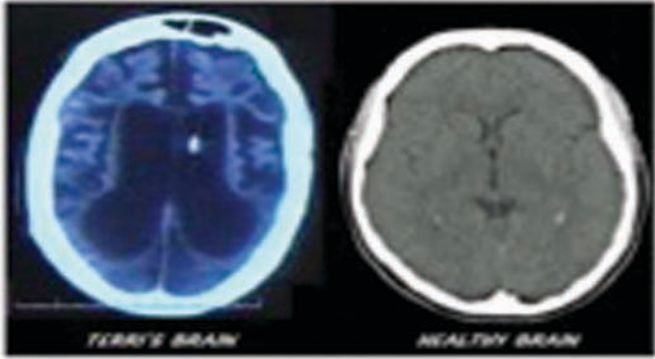
DO I NEED A LIVING WILL?

Yes, as an adult I think it is an important document to address the possibility of imminent death when you are no longer able to communicate your health care in certain circumstances.

A Living Will in addition to the naming of a health care proxy make up two documents that can function independently but collectively are part of a document called an “Advance Directive for Health Care”. The first component is the Living Will. The Living Will states that you are an adult (at least age nineteen in Alabama), have an understanding of what these directions mean and that you want your family, doctors and health care workers to follow them. Furthermore that you can void the document by tearing it up after signing a new document or tear it up and have another person nineteen or over write your wishes down.

The document defines what life sustaining treatment in a terminal illness or injury is, such as medicines and machines that will keep you alive but not cure you. The Living Will first asks if you want life sustaining treatment which is answered by initialing beside a “yes” or “no”. The next set of questions asks whether you want artificially provided food and hydration which would be through a feeding tube or an IV. Placing your initials next to the “yes” or “no” is the correct way to respond. When one considers the question you realize does this mean I want to be starved to death or not be given fluids that may result in my death? The truth is yes, but there is a balance. Imagine lying in a hospital bed unable to communicate and your doctor and another doctor have determined you will likely die in the near future. If you are given food and hydration it will somewhat delay your death but not heal you. Several years ago a local physician who headed palliative care at a local hospital discussed that very subject with the Alabama State Bar Elder Law Section. It was his understanding that withholding food and hydration created a sort of euphoria for the patient and not that feeling of really starving to death. You should discuss those medical aspects with your personal physician; don’t take any medical advice from this and for that matter unless you come to see me as a client don’t even take the legal facts as gospel from this article. Everyone has their own situation.

The second aspect of the Living Will is the same set of questions for the permanently unconscious state (some refer to as being in a permanent vegetative state). The difference in criteria is that your doctor and another doctor familiar with this type of condition (such as a neurologist) make the determination that



you will likely die in the near future and again you cannot communicate your wishes. This situation makes me think about the Terri Schiavo situation out of Florida. Note the two CT scans from the internet, one of which is said

to be that of Terri Schiavo which was supposed to have been released by Dr. Ron Cranston, MD.

If the internet depiction is true, then one can note the small lateral ventricles of the healthy brain and definitely see that hers are greatly enlarged and a reasonable person would believe this to be a very unhealthy brain. Terri’s husband went on to live with another woman following Terri’s fall into the state that she was in. I remember seeing her on television and recalling that her eyes were open (though I understand she was then blind). She certainly seemed to lack awareness of life around her but I don’t know if one considered her unconscious.



It became a national court case as her “husband” related a conversation that he and Terri had where she stated she would not want to live if in a state such as she became. Her parents argued that she should continue to be kept alive. The Court sided with Terri’s husband and she was allowed to die less than two weeks later. The second section is where a proxy can be named to make health care decisions and can function as a separate document without having a Living Will or it can be used in conjunction with the Living Will. Anyone named as a proxy are given several powers needed for health situations which includes the necessary rights under HIPAA. The first set of questions ask whether you want to name a proxy which is basically a power of attorney for those purposes and then whether you want the proxy to make your decisions found in the Living Will or work in conjunction with your Living Will to make decisions not covered by the Living Will. I don’t find death to be black and white in nature and different variables may arise that needs someone to decide upon. You name a primary person and a successor should the primary not be able to make any decisions. Having a person that can make these decisions if necessary take some thought and discussion. Regardless, it can be very difficult when it comes down to it.

In some ways it all seems a bit brutal. It is not a Dr. Kevorkian action The Advance Directive is addressed under the Alabama Natural Death Act. In a world where life may be sustained by medicines and machines for some time when one may have no awareness of being alive, this document seeks to allow people a more dignified death that may have been experienced one hundred or more years ago. I recall reading about a relative from the 1800’s who left church upon feeling ill and sat under a tree somewhere outside the church. When reached by those checking on him said that he “was in the throes of death”. There were no machines, medicines or procedures to cure what I perceived as a heart attack.

I use a form that was cobbled together by the Alabama Medical Association and the Alabama State Bar. It’s a way that individuals can predetermine their own course of death should the end come to that.

When it comes to it I have learned partly from personal experience. When my mom fell and hit her head there was no Advance Directive to consider because she did not want to fill out the document. It was clear to my Dad and I that Mom could not survive. In the absence of an Advance Directive, the next of kin are queried on what to do or not to do. When my dad’s health was declining after he broke his hip last year I was told the “decision” may have to be made. Regardless of everything it was not a decision I ever wanted to have to make as named primary proxy and fortunately I did not.

A “Do Not Resuscitate” (DNR) is different and separate than an Advance Directive. One that is in fragile health may not be resuscitated should they suffer a cardiac arrest. An elderly person in otherwise fair health and having vitality in life may have a DNR as resuscitation is rather violent and cardiac compressions can fracture multiple bones.

Consider an Advance Directive for Health Care and talk to your family about your choices. The family member that comes in when you are close to death may contest your choices and cause an uncomfortable delay in an unavoidable natural death. Make sure all close family understands and more importantly respects your decisions.

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.”



Simple Math: 3 + 3 = Trump

John W.. Giles – President & Chairman - Choose Life Alabama

The 2024 race for the White House has begun. Trump has announced, others in the GOP and Democrats are expected to follow. Before we fast forward too much, I would like to hit the pause button, rewind, and re-view a little going back to the 2020 race for the White House. What is the 3 + 3 all about, stay with me and I will explain.

In the early months of 2020, Trump was positioned as invincible. His undisputed record was unmatched by any sitting President in my 68 years. The economy was roaring, creating 7 million new jobs, lowest unemployment in 50 years in all categories of race, 7 million elevated off food stamps, blue collar wages ticked up 16% and the stock market driven by consumer confidence sparked DOW to top 30,000 in early 2020. Trump led the way to pass a historic \$3.2 trillion tax cut, triggering exponential economic growth. On his watch, he led the deregulation of bureaucracies netting an addition \$3100 per household. He reshaped the landscape of the judiciary by appointing and confirming over 230 federal judges including 3 US Supreme Court seats, ultimately overturning Roe vs Wade and the school prayer case, which eliminated the long-standing “Lemon Test.” Promises Made!

Trump continues by protecting our country from illegal immigration, slowing human trafficking and illegal drugs by sealing our southern border and building a wall at a supersonic pace. On the world stage, he boldly led the way with our allies around the world as the dominate global economic and military power along with successfully building the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. After inheriting an Obama broken down ill-repaired military, he rebuilt it by investing \$2.2 trillion in defense spending and created the US Space Force to protect our vulnerability, interest, and security in space. As Commander and Chief, he was adored by our military and veterans as a President whose priorities were indisputable. He was a law and order President, the men and women in blue knew he was firmly standing behind them at all times. All of these accomplishments were launched in the face of daily opposition unloading their arsenals at every intersection.

The liberal media, Communist Chinese Party, Democrats and many jealous Republicans despised him, his unmatched record and fantasized at stopping him. He was unopposed in 2020, steam rolling, and breaking the sound barrier with unmatched momentum. Then, the long awaited well-planned Chinese Virus was unleashed from the Wuhan Lab on the world with one main target; bring Trump and America down. The Democrats also hatched a plan to harvest votes, drop off boxes, executed mail in ballots, and allowed voting with no chain of custody. These actions unconstitutionally changed voting rules in 6 states by the respective state judicial and executive branches, bypassing the legislatures who are constitutionally charged to define how we elect the electoral college.

Oh yeah, let’s not forget closing up shop early on election night and counting ballots for days in 6 – 8 counties around the country, thus affecting the outcome. Now, we are discovering the “Great Lap-top Cover Up” that polls suggest would have affected the 2020 election by reducing Biden by 15%. History will one day reveal, America had a 2020 election day multi-platformed strategic plan to keep Trump from serving 4 more years. Call me what you want, history will confirm! Don’t forget Biden went on national TV bragging he had the best and most well organized voter fraud effort in history underway in the 2020 election.

So, in the absence of a Trump Administration, two failed impeachments and the Democrat hatched drama around January 6th by infiltrating Trump supporters with federal operatives, Trump began hemorrhaging. Post 2020, Trump has taken on unprecedented incoming including mounting frivolous lawsuits against him personally, the Trump companies and the unparalleled Biden approved FBI invasion of his Mar-A-Lago home. Some think there is blood in the water and have their eyes on the coveted address of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. They may want to revisit the 3 + 3 = Trump.

With a shade of nativity and a short memory, even after witnessing first had this Guinness Book record of accomplishments, some of my GOP friends say, he is too old, too controversial and we need to move on. Conclusively, this type of opinionated sideline quarterbacks does not have the will or stomach to save our country. Freedom has a high price; you have to fight to obtain it and fight to keep it. There is no substitute for titanium steel.

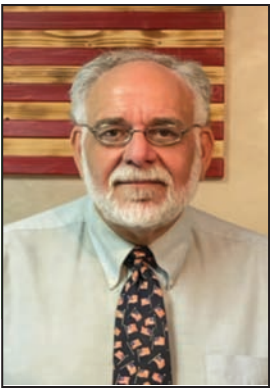
I have thought about this over the past few years and reduced it to 3 reasons people love Trump and 3 reasons people despise Trump.

First, Trump has a New York street fighting mafia style habit of name-calling. You can be assured, if you are a foe or a freshly kicked out of the nest dismissed friend, you are going to earn the trademarked nick name given by Trump. This tool disarms, causes one to stumble and puts them on defense. Secondly, Trump loves Trump. He has the tallest mirror in West Palm Beach. He brags on the world stage about “out negotiating” a world leader. Humility is a beautiful attribute, but Trump does not embody it. No one particularity likes a grandstanding showoff. Thirdly, Trump’s loyalty is a one-way street. The only people in Trump’s circle who have immunity is his family. When he even sniff’s a potential breach real or imagined, he will throw you out of the plane without a parachute and dog cuss you all the way down.

Continued on page: 11

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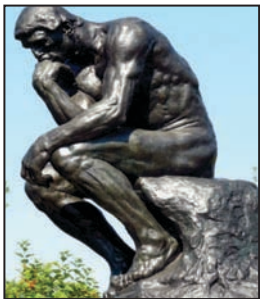




John Sophocleus



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THINK

WITNESS: ECONOMIC LYNCHING IN LEE COUNTY

In the Spirit of *‘never again’* a few painfully addressed an ugly past of lynching documented by the **Lee County Remembrance Project** - specifically Messrs John Moss, George Hart, Charles Humphries, Samuel Harris and Charles Miller. As mankind evolves... cloaking evil to fool oneself and others, a *‘new and improved’* lynching method was witnessed by observers willing/able to understand the destruction of Willie Philpot, an accomplished young entrepreneur squashed by the anti-business/pro-political theft politburo in our State.

Before *“I Believe in Mike Hubbard”* Republicans championed **ACCA, BCA**, et al wealth transfers to crony contractors, developers, financiers, vendors, *etc.* Lee County was evolving into a pro-competition ‘sanctuary’ promoting market driven growth over typical govt. subsidized, corrupt and unsustainable outcomes. An ‘outlier’ unpolluted by Felon Hubbard minions, Lee County was indeed rare with such competitive, effective curbside trash pick-up service. Mr. Philpot’s successful business was evidence the old vulgar days of corporal lynching wouldn’t work at keeping competitors out. Philpot’s lack of fear further threatened the usual old corrupt entities which couldn’t compete. In short, one-sided hysteria over ‘cat-calls’ and progressives murdering someone registering voters (the current rigged duopoly result is now easily controlled) doesn’t matter this century; political thieves get their desired wealth-transfer via less vulgar methods.

The path to Philpot’s lynching became public when he courageously stood against the smear campaign leveled against **ViroTek** of illegal dumping into Lee County trash bins. This was **before** Lee County’s Probate Judge and other politburo members blocked citizen comments on taxpayer provided audio/video feed. Citizen concerns were properly included following meetings’ call to order - *i.e.*, many at that time could observe this evil unfold. Further evidence of purposefully keeping modern lynching of this sort in the dark... there was no video of the 5/24/21 Public Hearing for monopolizing Lee County curbside pickup to a crony contractor.

Mr. Philpot’s courage to stand up for his growing, thriving business had to be destroyed by all means legal or **illegal**; ethical or **fraudulent**. Those who understand economic lynching realize an honest, competitive business like **ViroTek** (owned/operated by a young black entrepreneur unwilling to sell his soul) is more of a threat to **ACCA, BCA**, type ‘public servants’ - the grand wizards of modern lynching aided and abetted by Kay Ivey, Shelby Britt, et al politicians. This case is simple. **ViroTek** was a private entity who directly billed customers who contracted with Philpot’s company (or any other competitor) wanting curbside pickup of their rubbish to County trash bins. All contracted with Philpot’s private curbside service directly/independently paid \$222/yr. via property tax bills to legally use County dumpsters. If Lee County wasn’t properly collecting from any property owner(s) when trash sites were operational, it is **not** Philpot’s fault/responsibility. Wrongful dumping at County trash sites was/is indeed a problem - again, **not** Philpot’s responsibility, it does appear roadside trash has become much worse under the politburo’s monopoly outcome these past months with ViroTek now destroyed. Citizen requests to Commissioners the Sheriff draft a plan of trash site modifications (including cameras, staffing, etc.) to enforce/reduce wrongful dumping have been completely ignored these past years.

Lee County Commission Watchers did request an estimate of wrongful dumping in the process of Mr. Philpot’s economic lynching. Illegal dumping was undoubtedly a problem but the smear campaign asserting Philpot/**ViroTek** had anything to do with it is yet another stain on Lee County. Shameful how observers in the press chose not to report on this economic lynching, yet played an active role in promoting the wrongdoings associated with this debacle, most notable justifying fraudulent bills being sent via **USPS**. Some residents are awaiting enough bills to establish a pattern of soliciting payment for services they’ve not contracted for via US mail to turn over to Federal Postal Inspector’s Office who can determine if the County or the vendor granted the monopoly is purposefully mailing these fraudulent bills.



Dan Sutter

STAKEHOLDERS AND COOPERATION

From the Business Roundtable to the World Economic Forum to leading business schools, many voices promote replacing corporations governed by stockholders with *“stakeholder”* capitalism. Laws empowering stakeholders might disrupt the social cooperation of corporations.

The cutthroat world of business seems decidedly uncooperative. But businesses enable voluntary cooperation between people trying to improve their lives.

Never forget the voluntary part. Throughout history, force has been the preferred way to secure assistance from others, producing slavery and oppressive taxation. The lure of commanding others endures today. Both the Trump and Biden Administrations commanded businesses using the Defense Production Act during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A business involves many persons as employees, suppliers, and customers. Financial capital is also needed because production must occur before goods can be sold. Terms and conditions for all parties involved must be worked out, and a business must a way to decide what to produce and how. Numerous options for terms exist. Persons providing labor can work as independent contractors or as employees, and if employees, paid every two weeks or receive profit sharing. Financial capital can be provided through a loan with fixed repayment dates and specified interest, or in exchange for a share of ownership (equity).

Sales are never guaranteed in a market economy because potential customers are free to not buy any product. And because costs must be incurred before sales, revenue may fall short of costs, resulting in losses. Guaranteed profit exists only in rare circumstances called arbitrage; otherwise, profits are always uncertain.

Every business must have someone who will bear a loss and someone who gets any profit. Profit and loss are residuals, and the person(s) who receive the profit or loss is the residual claimant. Having different persons bear losses and keep profits generally results in bad decisions, either a reckless pursuit of profit or an obsessive avoidance of loss.

A County administrator submitted an estimate 30%-40% wrongful dumping. Lee County Commissioner Watchers found it a sound estimate with reasonable assumptions. If true and the problem of illegal dumping was effectively addressed, net reduced cost, fewer tipping fees, etc. would likely offset expenses of modifying dumpster sites, enforcement equipment and personnel... of course this wouldn’t achieve the goal of economic lynching/transferring wealth to crony politburo contractors.

To readers wanting me to provide solutions more clearly, steps to undo this economic lynching are as follows:

- Apologize to Mr. Philpot and pay to repair the harm done to **ViroTek** and others damaged to accomplish this shameful outcome.
- Reopen County trash bin sites once modified to discipline/enforce wrongful dumping. Prorate \$222 bills for remainder of 2023 that Lee County property owner(s) are obliged to pay when trash sites are operational again. Resume proper yearly payments as was done before this monopoly contract with the County. Stop mailing fraudulent bills via **USPS** immediately.
- Direct County Attorney Stan Martin to determine exit costs of dissolving their Arrow monopoly contract and pay the shameful amount. Also have County Attorney Martin identify all cost to dissolve ‘public servant’ Commissioner Robert Ham’s corrupt five truck lease contract (\$1,012,236.50) purchased for large pick-up requests citizens were told would be allowed up to twice a month by monopolist Arrow.
- Undue vote to use County resources (Billing Clerk/Chief Clerk position, County Courthouse office space/utilities) to send fraudulent bills through the **USPS** as a collector for a third-party, private monopoly company. Individuals did **NOT** contract with Arrow, the County is obliged to pay this corrupt monopoly contract they put in place.
- Once residents/property owners are able to dispose of their rubbish
- Instead of immediate elimination, consider using newly created bureaucratic positions (e.g., Billing and Chief Clerk) for transition to ward legal billing from Arrow Disposal office to those who directly/voluntarily contract for Arrow’s curbside pickup. These County bureaucrats could become an integral part of addressing wrongful dumping, monitoring trash sites, submitting cases to the Sheriff, *etc.*

I doubt younger readers will connect with my Billie Holiday *‘strange fruit’* reference. The cruel fruit I’ve observed in Lee County, destroying businessmen like Willie Philpot along with wrongful allocation of CARES Act, ARPA Funds, etc. snubbing other small business and closed churches has become less strange a sight these past years of economic lynching. The **Lee County Remembrance Project** evoked thoughts from my youth of what was in the mind of those shown in those violent, horrific pictures of brutal corporal lynching. Photos often included those who appeared to have the colour of authority... some wearing badges, appearing to be local judges and politicians sending exactly the message desired. As for citizens surrounding the central image... was it agreement? - curiosity? - fear? I suspect many in the photos had little idea of the what, why and how but were still in the mix. I imagine most in Lee County don’t understand the economic lynching they’re validating paying a bill for something they’ve not contracted for, aiding and abetting their corrupt politburo members going outside their authority. Does it really matter if done in fear, ignorance, indolence? The deleterious result is the same.

In closing, I do know I’ve been pictured at Lee County Commission Meetings witnessing this economic lynching and experienced the gripping pain it puts on my soul and sick feeling in my stomach difficult to endure. I pray my final Judge doesn’t find me fearful, ignorant, lacking, lazy, etc. in my efforts to stand against lynching of this sort in my county.

Many forms of business organization exist, from sole proprietorships to employee-owned enterprises to corporations. Each form has different residual claimants and different decision-making structures. The various forms of business cooperation have enabled the prosperity of modern America.

The corporation has played an outsized role though, assembling previously unimaginable amounts of financing to build global enterprises. This proves that the structure of the corporation, with decision-making and residual claims vested in the stockholders, works. This is a delicate balance. Large investors generally do not manage the companies they own in part. Poor management decisions imperil investors’ capital. The efficiency with which stockholders control the corporations they own is hotly debated, but the persistence of corporations means that stockholders are sufficiently satisfied to continue investing their money.

Stakeholderism prioritizes other groups - including customers, employees, and suppliers - over stockholders. Such proposals should face a high bar, given that corporations work. And stakeholders already receive enormous consideration. All market transactions are voluntary, so companies **MUST** provide value for customers, employees, and suppliers to continue doing business. Of course, the freedom of free enterprise allows companies to fancy that treating stakeholders shabbily will prove profitable.

Many commentators characterize CEO embrace of stakeholderism as pure opportunism. Currently activist stockholders can challenge CEOs over their decisions. Business Roundtable CEOs seek legal authority to ignore stockholders by claiming to serve communities, employees, or the environment.

Yet truly empowering stakeholders through legal mandates for employee, customer, or environmental group representation on boards of directors also creates problems. Customers and employees, for instance, have opposing interests: customers want lower prices, while higher prices can fund higher wages. And neither might mind wasting investors’ money. Legally transferring stockholders’ decision rights is a type of theft and may make investors no longer willing to contribute their capital.

The freedom of a market economy is also a challenge to its critics. The proponents of stakeholderism can start businesses organized in this manner. If their criticisms are valid, their stakeholder driven firms should crush traditional corporations.

COACH TOMMY TUBERVILLE

U.S. SENATOR  FOR ALABAMA

Tuberville Applauds Investments in Alabama’s HBCUs

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) today celebrated grants awarded to Tuskegee University, Stillman College, Alabama State University, and Talladega College to lead broadband expansion efforts in their respective regions. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded Connecting Minority Communities grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for purchasing broadband internet and eligible equipment or the hiring of informational technology personnel.

“From leading key agricultural advancements to creating accessible pathways to good-paying

jobs, Alabama’s HBCUs have a record of driving historic progress that benefits our entire state and nation, making them a wonderful choice to lead broadband expansion efforts in Alabama.” said Senator Tuberville. “Broadband access is crucial to stimulating economic growth and new opportunities in rural communities. I’m confident that Tuskegee University, Stillman College, Alabama State University, and Talladega College will use these grants well to serve Alabamians.”

Alabama is home to 14 HBCUs, the most of any state in the country. Senator Tuberville has commended the leadership of Alabama’s

HBCU network in developing workers for highly-demanded professions in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). As the state’s voice on the Senate HELP Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, Senator Tuberville is committed to continued work on legislation that strengthens effective workforce development programs and industry-institutional partnerships, such as those exhibited in Alabama’s HBCUs.

Senator Tommy Tuberville represents Alabama in the United States Senate and is a member of the Senate Armed Services, Agriculture, Veterans’ Affairs, and HELP Committees.



John Martin



Waco: The Big Lie (1993 Documentary)

This Month (March, 2023) marks the 30th anniversary of one of America’s most hideous examples of terrorism and mass murder. Although there have been some others with greater death tolls, this one entailed unconscionable cruelty.

The raid on David Koresh and the Branch Davidians by the ATF and FBI at Waco, Texas was a perfect example of something our government should never do under any circumstances. Besides constitutional and ethics violations, these people, under the authority and direction of President Bill Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno, committed one of the most atrocious acts of barbarism and torture in American history.

David Koresh was not a nice man. He had the mentality of a dictator and ruled his followers with an iron fist. Several witnesses have reported that he was a child molester. But did this justify “a paramilitary raid by a heavily armed force nearly the size of an army company” and the brutal murder of about 76 innocent people, including many women and children?

The organization of Branch Davidians at Mount Carmel was founded in 1935. Although it was a cult and adhered to some unorthodox religious practices, it had maintained an almost unblemished record of peace with its neighbors for nearly 60 years.

The raid on the Davidians was sparked by accusations from people who claimed they were stockpiling illegal weapons. The ATF and FBI had been listening to them and various others who disliked guns, including one who reported that they had a 50 caliber machine gun. Consequently, over several months, they planned a raid. Records later proved that all of the Davidians’ guns and ammunition were perfectly legal and that they had receipts for them from licensed gun dealers. The reported machine gun was actually a perfectly legal bolt action. In 1992, Koresh had actually invited ATF agents to look at the compound and see what they had for themselves. But they reneged. He asked, “Why do you all have to be so big all the time?” During the standoff, he asked, “Why didn’t you just talk to me?”

In 1993, Texas civilians had about 60 million firearms—3.5 per person. The Davidians had only two per person, and most of those were locked up. Bill Clinton and Janet Reno ordered an “all-out military assault” on the Davidians, despite only a single warrant for David Koresh on unproven charges. The safety of innocent people within the compound was completely disregarded. On February 28, 1993, Seventy seven heavily armed ATF and FBI agents arrived in two cattle trailers and rushed up to the Mount Carmel compound, screaming, “Show Time,” like kids about to take their parts in a new video game. Several smashed the front door and ran inside. Nine others scrambled up two ladders to get onto the roof. Three smashed a second floor window, struggled with a curtain, and ran inside. A fourth stood guard outside until he heard shots from inside. Then he threw in a flash-bang grenade, fired two bursts from his M-16, and fled down the ladder. Meanwhile, gunmen on helicopters strafed the compound from above. Four agents died that day, including the three who entered the window. Several others later admitted they shot first.

The agents shut down all of the Davidians’ utilities—electricity, water, natural gas, and telephones. They also shot out the windows, leaving the residents with only sheets for protection against the weather.

They brought in “massive floodlights” to light up the compound at night to prevent the Davidians from getting any sleep. With loudspeakers, they broadcast all kinds of distracting noises, including everything from screaming to rabbits being slaughtered to Nancy Sinatra’s song, “These Boots Are Made for Walkin’.” The harassment lasted continuously until the final day—April 19.

Then from nearby Fort Hood, agents brought in M113 armored personnel carriers, M2 Bradley fighting vehicles, Sikorsky UH-60 Blackhawk, McDonnell Douglas AH-64 Apache and Bell UH-1 “Huey” helicopters, Abrams M1 tanks, 7.62 mm machine guns, grenades, and FBI psychological warfare experts and SWAT snipers. One of the tanks bore the Alabama state flag.

They forced news reporters and TV crews to retreat five miles away (hence the poor quality of the photos and videos) and cleared a perimeter around the compound to prevent wildfires from spreading out into the countryside. Outbuildings, children’s playground equipment, and go-carts were smashed in the process. The women and children fled into the compound’s second floor for safety.

The tanks surrounded the complex. Some had booms that punched holes into the buildings and destroyed the stairways inside. Then they sprayed potent, flammable CS gas inside—a gas that is so toxic, it is banned even in warfare by an international treaty. Had this action occurred on foreign soil, it would have been an outright war crime.

The Davidians were gasping and choking. Some fled into an underground bunker next to the compound. The tanks punched holes and inserted the gas into that also. Then one drove over its entrance to prevent escape.

After more than four hours, the FBI had exhausted nearly all of its gas. Then the tanks came eight times over the next hour and demolished over a quarter of the structure with the women and children trapped inside.

A couple of vehicles came equipped with booms that contained flaming gas jets that they fired into the holes in the building. Soon the entire compound was ablaze. It burned completely down in about an hour.

Helicopter gunships buzzed over the area and sprayed thousands of rounds onto the burning building (FBI FLIR footage proved it). Davidians fleeing the inferno were shot like stray dogs. FBI agents fired hundreds of flash-bang grenades and lethal “ferret” rounds at them. The women and children in the building died from asphyxiation and burns from the CS gas and / or the fire itself and the gunships’ bullets. The agents turned away local firefighters responding to the blaze. As soon as the heat from the fire had diminished the next day, investigators looked over the remains and discovered that nearly all of the bullet holes had come from the outside—from the helicopters above and the troops on the ground.

Soon the tanks and bulldozers destroyed and buried all of the evidence, thus ending “a military assault on a church.”

A few days later, government officials erected a security fence around the site to keep out relic hunters and private investigators.

Almost nobody in Washington seemed to care about the carnage and constitutional violations. Instead of holding the perpetrators accountable for a vicious war crime and much more, the news media praised them and placed the blame onto the surviving Davidians, who consequently suffered public humiliation and falsified criminal charges.

The Los Angeles Times honored Janet Reno as a “folk hero,” and the Washington Post wrote that she had “superstar status.” The U. S. Senate delayed its appropriations committee hearing so its members could have their pictures taken with her.

Knowledgeable people gave Reno a more appropriate name—“The Butcher of Waco.” She had become the most wicked woman in American history.

In subsequent investigations, government officials whitewashed the incident and stated that it was more important to “put the incident behind us.”

Federal prosecutors tried eleven Branch Davidian survivors. The jury ruled all of them not guilty of conspiracy to commit murder. It did rule some of them guilty of aiding and abetting manslaughter and using weapons during the commission of a crime. U.S. District Judge Walter Smith set aside these convictions on the firearms violation since the defendants could not logically be guilty of using weapons in the commission of a crime where they had been acquitted. However, pressure from the prosecutors forced Judge Smith to reverse his decision, which allowed the inconsistent verdict to stand—“a shameful act.”

Yes, it happened, in the late 20th century, right here in America: About 76 innocent men, women and children were TORTURED for 51 DAYS, GASED, and then BURNED ALIVE by OUR OWN GOVERNMENT. Is this the “civilized society” our taxes are paying for?

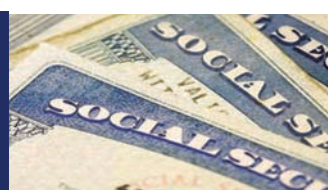
Don’t ever forget it.

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SLAM THE SCAM!! SPOTTING IMPOSTERS AND WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SOCIAL SECURITY CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements of women. Social Security provides vital benefits and financial protection for women.

Nearly 55% of the people receiving Social Security benefits are women. Today, more women work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation's history.

Women also have longer average life expectancies than men and tend to live more years in retirement. This means women have a greater chance of exhausting other sources of income. It's important for women to plan early and wisely for retirement.

Our online booklet, Social Security: What Every Woman Should Know found at: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10127.pdf, provides detailed information about how life events can affect a woman's Social Security retirement benefits. These events may include marriage, death of a spouse, divorce, self-employment, and other life or career changes.

Your earnings history will determine future benefits, so we encourage you to verify that the information in your record is correct. You can create a personal my Social Security account at: www.ssa.gov/myaccount to review your full earnings history. You can also view your Social Security Statement using your personal my Social Security account, to get estimates of future benefits and other important planning information.

If you find an error in your earnings record, it is important to get it corrected so you receive the benefits you earned when you retire. Our publication, How to Correct Your Social Security Earnings Record at: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf, provides you with details on how to make a corrections. Learn about how Social Security benefits women at: www.ssa.gov/people/women.

Please share this information with your loved ones.

SLAM THE SCAM: HOW TO SPOT GOVERNMENT IMPOSTERS

Do you know how to spot a government imposter scam? Knowing how to identify potential scammers will help safeguard your personal information.

There are common elements to many of these scams. Scammers often exploit fears and threaten you with arrest or legal action. Scammers also pose as Social Security or other government employees and claim there's a problem with your Social Security number (SSN) or your benefits. They may even claim your SSN is linked to a crime.

When you identify a potential scammer:

- Hang up right away or ignore the message.
- Never give personal information or money.
- Report the scam immediately to our Office of the Inspector General at: oig.ssa.gov/scam-awareness/report-the-scam.

If you owe money to Social Security, we'll mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights. We only accept payments electronically through Pay.gov, Online Bill Pay, or physically by check or money order through our offices.

We will never do the following:

- Threaten you with arrest or legal action because you don't agree to pay us money immediately.
- Promise a benefit increase in exchange for money.
- Ask you to send us gift cards, prepaid debit cards, wire transfers internet currency, cryptocurrency, or cash through the U.S. mail.

Scammers continue to evolve and find new ways to steal your money and personal information. Please stay vigilant and help raise awareness about Social Security-related scams and other government imposter scams. For more information on scams, please visit: www.ssa.gov/scam.

Tell your friends and family about government imposter scams. Let them know they don't have to be embarrassed to report if they shared personal financial information or suffered a financial loss. The important thing is to report the scam right away.

Together, we can "Slam the Scam!"

SOCIAL SECURITY LAUNCHES REDESIGNED WEBSITE AT SSA.GOV

Have you visited the redesigned SSA.gov yet? In December 2022, we updated our homepage with a new design to help you find what you need more easily.

"SSA.gov is visited by over 180 million people per year and it is one of our most important tools for providing efficient and equitable access to service," said Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, at the launch. "Whether providing service in person or online, our goal is to help people understand what they may qualify for and seamlessly transition them to an application process."

Now, with improved self-service accessibility to online services, you might not have to call or visit an office to get what you need. This helps our staff focus on serving customers who need in-person assistance.

Reimagined website prioritizes customer experience. The redesign is intended to provide a clear path to the tasks you need to accomplish. Many of the most visited sections of SSA.gov are now live with a more user-friendly and task-based approach. New pages and improvements based on public feedback will continue to be unveiled in the coming months, as part of our ongoing efforts to improve how the public can do business with us.

When you visit SSA.gov, you can use interactive tools to:

- Check eligibility for benefits. The new benefit eligibility screener is a convenient and simple way for you to learn if you might be eligible for benefits.
- Save time on Social Security number (SSN) and card online services. If you lose your SSN card, you may not need a replacement. In most cases, simply knowing your SSN is enough. If you do need a replacement card, you may be able to request it online by visiting our Social Security Number and Card page at: www.ssa.gov/ssnumber. You can also start an application for an updated card or request an SSN for the first time. You may never need to go to an office, but if you do need to visit an office to complete the application then you can save a lot of time by starting online.
- Start an application for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). You can start the application process online and request an appointment to apply for SSI benefits by answering a few questions on our SSI page at: www.ssa.gov/ssi.
- Apply for Social Security benefits and other online services. For most benefits, you can apply online or start an application online. In many cases, there are no forms to sign. We will review the application and contact you with any questions or if we need more information. Visit our Online Services page at: www.ssa.gov/online-services to apply for retirement, disability, or Medicare.
- Many Social Security services do not require an office visit. If you have a personal my Social Security account, you can start or change direct deposit, request a replacement SSA-1099, or print or download a current benefit verification letter if you need proof of your benefits.
- If you're not yet receiving benefits, you can use your online account to get a personalized Social Security Statement, which provides your earnings information as well as estimates of future benefits. The portal also includes a retirement estimator tool and links to information about other online services.

We encourage people without a personal my Social Security account to create one today at: www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

Please share this with your loved ones and post it on social media.

GETTING TWO SSI PAYMENTS IN ONE MONTH

For most months in the year, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients get their SSI payment on the first day of the month. But when the first day of the month falls on the weekend or a federal holiday, you receive your SSI payment on the last business day before the first day of the month. That means you may get two SSI payments in the same month.

We do this to avoid putting you at a financial disadvantage and make sure that you don't have to wait beyond the first of the month to get your payment. It does not mean that you are receiving a duplicate payment in the previous month, so you do not need to contact us to report the second payment.

Here's how this will work in April 2023. April 1, 2023, falls on a Saturday, so we will issue your SSI payment for the month of April on March 31, 2023. In this example, you get two SSI payments in March.

The first March payment, on March 1, is your regularly scheduled payment for March. The second March payment, on March 31, 2023, is your SSI payment for the month of April.

On our website, we provide a Schedule of Social Security Benefit Payments for the current and upcoming calendar year at: www.ssa.gov/pubs/calendar.htm.

*Securing today and tomorrow starts with being informed.
Please share this information with your friends and family.*



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Sheriff
Derrick Cunningham

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MONTGOMERY POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATING CLASS FEBRUARY 2023

Alabama just added 38 new police officers to serve and protect in and around the city of Montgomery. While most of the graduating class will serve in other towns around Alabama, 5 will be added to the Montgomery Police force. Congratulations recruits!



Lieutenant Grant, Sergeant Herring, Sheriff Harrell and Lieutenant Adams

Sergeant Grant and Sergeant Herring responded to a call in December and fearlessly and heroically saved the life of a man that had stopped breathing and was unresponsive. They were given the Life Saving Award Monday, March 1st For their heroic acts. *"We are beyond proud of these men for their life saving actions!"*

Sheriff's Office App

If you haven't already heard, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

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

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



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Alabama Highway Patrol



Troopers patrol approximately 69,500 miles of rural roadways in Alabama and are responsible for motor vehicle law enforcement, rural traffic crash investigation, and special duty performance during emergencies.

The Alabama Highway Patrol was created in 1936. Since its establishment, 29 officers have died while on duty.



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Honoring Our Heroes

Dr. Martha Poole Simmons: A Journey of Service



Dr. Martha Poole Simmons



The Alabama Gazette wants to honor Martha for the many years of service to our veterans. She has spent countless hours interviewing, showing special attention, writing up stories of our great Veterans in our area that has served in so many of our American conflicts and wars.

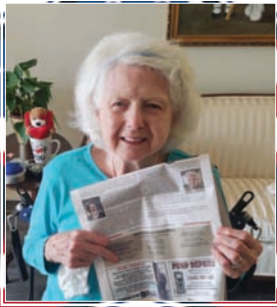


Veterans are entitled to a patriotic ceremony at their funerals. **Raymond Keel** will provide this service for free!

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Veterans Celebrating March Birthdays



Peggy Holley holding her biography published: February 2023

Norma Lynn Lundy: March 4th
Larry Patrick Cornwell: March 17th
Tamara McClendon: March 18th
John Michael Jeffries: March 20th
Robert Douglas Pike: March 24th
Margaret Leah Compton: March 29th



Robert N. Scruggs holding his biography published: February 2023



MSGT GEORGE A. HILL



Master Sergeant (MSgt) George A. Hill served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code (811X2) Security Policeman. His awards, decorations, citations and medals included: *Meritorious Service Medal with one device, Good Conduct Medal with five devices, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Medal with one device, NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award with four devices, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with device.*



During his military service, he received many other decorations and commendations. Among those the Air University Military Citizen of the Year at Maxwell Air Force Base in 1976 and the Staff Sergeant of the Year award for Maxwell Air Force Base in 1976. In 1980, MSgt Hill attended the NCO Academy at Kessler, AFB, MS and received the military excellence award and drill excellence award while attending the NCO Academy.

Hill was born September 11, 1943, in Brazil, IN, to his parents, Charles A. Hill Sr. and Addie B. Hill. He was reared there and graduated from Brazil High School in 1961. Upon graduation,

he moved to St. Petersburg, FL and worked as a grocery stocking clerk for one year.

In July 1962, MSgt Hill enlisted in the U.S Air Force and reported to Lackland, AFB Texas, where he completed six weeks of basic training and ten weeks at the Security Police Training Academy where he graduated 3rd out of the class of 96. He was then transferred to the 341st Defense Squadron at Malmstrom, AFB, MT, for one year 1963-1964 protecting KC97s and the newly installed missile sites. MSgt Hill was selected for deployment to Osan Air Base, South Korea serving with the 6314th Air Police Squadron for 13 months. He then returned to the United States and served with the Law Enforcement Traffic Unit, 834th Air Police Squadron at Eglin AFB for four years 1965-1969. His second overseas deployment was to Ankara, Turkey, for two years 1969-1971 where he served in the security police unit issuing military IDs, Turkish military drivers licenses, and hunting licenses. His next assignment was to Minot AFB, ND, during which time he was charged with protecting the missile sites for seven months. He was then stationed at Hurlbert Field, FL, from 1971-1973 where he served as a non-commissioned officer (NCOIC) responsible for the arms and equipment section of the security police squadron. His 3rd overseas deployment was to KoKha Air Station in Thailand. During this deployment, he was the NCOIC of arms and equipment and the U.S. customs representative for eleven months. He returned to the United States to the 3800th Security Police Squadron at Maxwell, AFB at Montgomery, AL. He remained in the Security Police Squadron from 1974-1979 where he was the

training NCOIC for the security police. In 1979, he was selected to be reassigned to the community College of the Air Force (CCAF) at Maxwell, AFB. He served as a Program Administrator where he evaluated security police worldwide for an associate degree in Criminal Justice. MSgt Hill received a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Troy State University in 1979. MSgt Hill retired from military service October 31, 1982.

MSgt Hill's conclusions from his military service were: ***"First and foremost, I could receive a higher education. If I had not enlisted in the Air Force, I would have probably never had this opportunity to better myself in my civilian life. I appreciated all my working experiences in the Air Force but especially my time at CCAF."***

After his military service, MSgt Hill worked as the Testing Coordinator in the Education Office at Maxwell AFB for two years. During these two years, MSgt Hill received his Masters Degree in Criminal Justice Administration and began working on the Education Specialist degree at Troy State University in Montgomery.

MSgt Hill continued with his higher education at AUM in the Public Administration Program. He was then hired as the Assistant Registrar at Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) where he worked at AUM for 20 years beginning as Assistant Registrar and then retiring as Senior Director of Enrollment Service and University Registrar in 2004. He was then hired as a consultant to work at AUM for two years in the Student Enrollment Registration Program. His final employment was as part time manager of Blue Ridge Antiques in Wetumpka, AL, for seven years during 2011-2018.

During his tenure at AUM, MSgt Hill was a member of the following organizations. The Alabama Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (ALACRAO), the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (SACRAO) and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO). He taught many conference sessions at these annual meetings on safety and security in a college setting. He was elected and served as president of ALACRAO, 1993-1994. He was also the advisor of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity at AUM for three years. He was inducted into both Omicron Delta Kappa and the Phi Kappa Phi honorary societies.

MSgt Hill and his wife, Tricia, have five children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. They are members of Frazer Church in Montgomery, AL, where he serves as a co-teacher of the Living Today Sunday School Class and teaches a monthly Older Men's Bible Study Group.





MSGT HAROLD E. NEAL



Master Sergeant (MSG) Harold E. Neal served 21 years in the United States Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was Manager of Materials. His awards, decorations, citations and medals included: *Bronze Star Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Meritorious Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and Good Conduct Medal.*

MSG Neal was born in Palestine, TX, to his parents, Winfred and Lela Neal. He graduated from Palestine High School in 1954 and volunteered for service in the U.S. Air Force.



MSG Neal completed Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) TX and trained at the technical school at Kelly AFB, TX, followed by training in the language school at the University of Indiana. Given security clearance, he was assigned to work in the supply system at Kelly AFB, TX, for two years, at Elmendorf AFB, AK for six months, at St. Lawrence Island, AK, for one year and at Kelly AFB, TX, for two years. Next, he was sent to Fort Meade, MD, at the National Security Agency for two years followed by deployment for three years to Misawa Air Base, Japan, temporary duty yonder (TDY) to Wakkana, a northern island of Japan, and TDY to Okinawa. He was then sent to Goodfellow AFB, TX, followed by deployment to Shu Linkou Air Station, Taiwan for two years. He returned to the United States and served at Bowling AFB, Washington, D.C. He then served with the Air Defense Command at Andrews AFB, MD, at Westover AFB, MA, along with three TDYs to Greenland, Bermuda and to Air Defense Command bases in FL. He was deployed to Goosebay AFB, Labrador, Canada, for service with the Strategic Air Command (SAC) for two years. He next served at Dyess AFB, TX, and then was deployed to Royal Takhli Air Base RTAB, Thailand, where he handled equipment that had been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam resulting in serious health issues later in his life. He welcomed two sons while serving in the Air Force. Mark Allen Neal was born at Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, TX and Michael Brent was born at Goosebay AFB in Goosebay,

Labrador. His last assignment was at Carswell AFB, TX, where he retired from military service March 31, 1975.

After his military retirement, MSG Neal worked 20 years as materials manager for Cooper Industries (later Ryder and then Aviall) at Love Field in Dallas, TX. The company overhauled jet engines, and he was responsible for the inventory to support that business. While working at Love Field, he attended Tarrant County Junior College, Fort Worth, TX, and received two Associate Degrees using the GI bill. He retired from Aviall in 1995 and moved to Montgomery, AL. He worked at Electrosystems in Ft. Deposit, AL for three years, retiring in 1998.

MSG Neal and his wife, Carolyn, have been married 42 years. They have enjoyed road trips in the United States and scuba diving in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and around the Hawaiian Islands. They are members of First United Methodist Church of Montgomery, AL where he was involved in many ministries. He enjoyed working in the Fix-it Shop where he repaired items for church members and built/ repaired projects for the church. He drove the church's 29-passenger bus supporting ministries for all age groups. For years, he participated in local, national, and international mission trips. He was a member of the board for T. S. Morris Elementary School Partners' Alliance where he was instrumental in helping with fundraising, landscaping and tutoring. In 2013, he and Carolyn were presented with the Family of the Year Award.



MSG Neal reflects on his military service saying, *"I thought that it was a calling to serve in the Air Force because I liked airplanes. Although I never got to fly planes, I got to ride in a lot of planes including the C-5, a heavy intercontinental-range plane with strategic airlift capability, one that can carry outsized and oversized loads including all air-certifiable cargo. The retirement is good, and the health care from the VA is good. I would like people to remember me as being a fair and honest individual."*



TOWNSEND DETACHMENT #920 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CHANGE OF COMMAND



The Townsend Detachment #920 Marine Corps League held its Change of Command at a dinner meeting at the Arrow Country Club in Montgomery, AL, on February 11, 2023.

New officers who will serve two years on the Board of Trustees were installed. They are: Commandant Mike Jeffries, Senior Vice President Jamie LyBrand, Junior Vice Commandant Andre Johnson, Judge Advocate Rick Joki and Junior Past Commandant Mark Barnhart.

They unite those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from the service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy.

The Detachment aids and assists Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Chaplains and their widows and orphans. The Detachment maintains relationships with active and reserve Marine units, and they sponsor programs located in the River Region.

Members volunteer and support state and local veteran events and organizations, participate in outreach through educational and citizenship activities and endeavor to be good partners in their communities. Townsend Detachment #920 joins with the local Marine reserves in Lima Company to perform honor guard duty for burial details.

Townsend Detachment #920 Marine Corps League is a blending of Marines, Navy IMF Corpsmen and associates who serve fellow Marines and veterans. Come and join members as they grow and continue the traditions and values of the Corps.

Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 6:00 at the Fried Tomato Buffet at 6561 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL 36117

Information: Commandant Mike Jeffries, Phone: 903-918-2341

E-mail: jeffriesjohn608@gmail.com



The picture titled "Empty Chair" shows the new Commandant Mike Jeffries. The Empty Chair symbolizes the Marines who are missing action.



Members of the Townsend Detachment #920 Marine Corps League join in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the history and traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps.



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

THE CORWIN AMENDMENT (THE ORIGINAL THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT)



John Taylor

From the mid-1900s to modern times, the government-approved narrative has been that the South fought a war to protect slavery. This was denied by Southerners, e.g., Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Richard Taylor, E. P. Alexander, Raphael Semmes, and Northerners, e.g., George Lunt, Simon Cameron, Edward Channing, and for at least the first half of the war, U.S. Grant and Abraham Lincoln. Slavery in America had never been more secure than on the eve of the war. Congress’ July 23, 1861, resolution stated the war’s purpose was to maintain the Union. Slavery was not mentioned.

The Corwin Amendment was written and proposed by Northerners ostensibly to pacify Southern and Border State slaveholders who feared large financial losses with immediate uncompensated emancipation.

The Corwin Amendment:

[No. 13]

Joint Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following article be proposed to the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, vis.:

Article Thirteen

No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said State.”

Approved, March 2, 1861

On March 2, 1861, the amendment was passed by a two-thirds vote of the U.S. House and Senate. Several Southern States had left the Union; thus, majority approval was by non-Southern States. Viewed by many as a final attempt to keep the Southern States in the Union, the Corwin Amendment was sent to the States for ratification.

Ohio Representative Thomas Corwin is generally credited as its author. Despite his name appearing on the amendment, Corwin was not the originator. He had served as the Republican chairman of the ad hoc Committee of Thirty-Three from whence it was introduced. The original sponsor, Charles Francis Adams (son of President John Quincy Adams), received the text from William Seward. After meeting with Republican politician and newspaper publisher Thurlow Weed, Seward introduced it to the Senate. Weed had met with Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, on December 20, 1860, to discuss the fugitive slave law and other compromise options. Not only was Weed in the loop, on December 21, Lincoln “notified Illinois Senator Lyman Trumbull to expect ‘three short resolutions which I drew up, and which, on the substance of which, I think would do much good.’”

Seward wrote to Lincoln on December 26, 1860, referencing “Weed’s verbal

Continued from page 4
John Giles

Let me confess to the readership, I dislike these 3 things as well. If Trump called me tomorrow and offered me a job, I could not work for this type of personality. I will however confess to you that in this hostile environment, a white gloved diplomat persona does not work, they will run all over you. On a small scale I have been there, white gloves are assured get soiled instantly.

The 3 things people love about Trump:

First with his fearless approach to campaign promises made, promises kept. I have been active in the Republican Party for 43 years and GOP presidential candidates always check off the conservative boxes, but...there is always a reason why they can not deliver on a campaign promise. “Trump Delivered” facing a daily tsunami of internal and external confrontation.

Secondly, he owed no man nothing after being sworn in. Trump almost exclusively funded his own primary and was not beholding to any of the K-Street publicly traded corporate lobbyist who apparently own everyone else. Any GOP candidate for President other than Trump will be in checkmate with K Street because they need their contributions. Scripture says you cannot serve God and mammon at the same time, much like one cannot serve the people and K Street at the same time. There is an inherit conflict trying to serve the people and the interest of corporate bottom lines.

conveyance as a resolution stating ‘That the constitution should never be altered so as to authorize Congress to abolish or interfere with slavery in the states—a clear description of the Corwin Amendment, which he presented the same day to the Republican members of the Senate’s compromise ‘Committee of Thirteen.’” Whether or not Lincoln was Corwin’s originator (as some believe), he knew it existed over two months prior to his inauguration.

The proposed amendment re-stated existing constitutional rights; Lincoln admitted he had no legal authority to interfere with slavery in the States. The South could have construed it as confirmation of Lincoln’s position regarding slavery where it existed (and opposition to expansion) or as an attempt to bribe the seceded States back into the Union. Lincoln’s acknowledgement that he had no legal jurisdiction to interfere with slavery where it existed indicates the destruction of slavery was not the casus belli.

Peace advocate, Stephen Douglas, an Illinois Democrat and architect of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, strongly supported Corwin. Democratic President Buchanan signed the Corwin Amendment on March 3, 1861, his last day in office. Under the Constitution, proposed amendments do not require presidential approval. Buchanan, from pro-protectionist Pennsylvania, understood his State would benefit financially if the Southern States remained in the Union.

Although the opening of hostilities minimized debate, at least two States ratified Corwin – “Ohio on May 13, 1861, and Maryland on January 10, 1862.” Furthermore, in Lincoln’s home State, the Illinois Constitutional Convention endorsed the Corwin Amendment in 1862. Ratification by three quarters of the States would have made the Corwin Amendment the law of the land, i.e., the original thirteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Southern States were not interested in the Corwin Amendment. Why would the slaveholding States not agree to this reaffirmation if protection of slavery were the primary goal? The answer is simple. The South’s goal was independence, that gem that so many Americans seem to have forgotten.

Sources:

Paul C. Graham, “How The War Was About Slavery,” The Abbeville Institute Blog, January 26, 2015, <http://www.abbevilleinstitute.org/blog/how-the-war-was-about-slavery/>; Memoirs of Service Afloat, by Raphael Semmes; United States at Large, Volume 12, ed. George P. Sanger, Counsellor at Law, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 1863, 251. Reprinted by Dennis & Co., Buffalo, New York, August 1961, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/36th-congress/c36.pdf>; Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation, by John M. Taylor; Phillip W. Magness, “Abraham Lincoln and the Corwin Amendment,” Phillip W. Magness-Historian, philmagness.com, http://philmagness.com/?page_id=398; “Corwin Amendment,” Slavery and the Secession Crisis, Harp Week, 2001-2008, <http://13thamendment.harp-week.com/HubPages/CommentaryPage.asp?Commentary=02CorwinAmend>. [The March 16,1861 issue of *Harpers Weekly* ran a featured article entitled ‘Two Nights in the Senate’ that gave Senator Douglas of Illinois credit for securing passage of the Corwin Amendment in that chamber.]. Author Doris Kearns Goodwin expressed the belief that Abraham Lincoln actually originated this amendment.

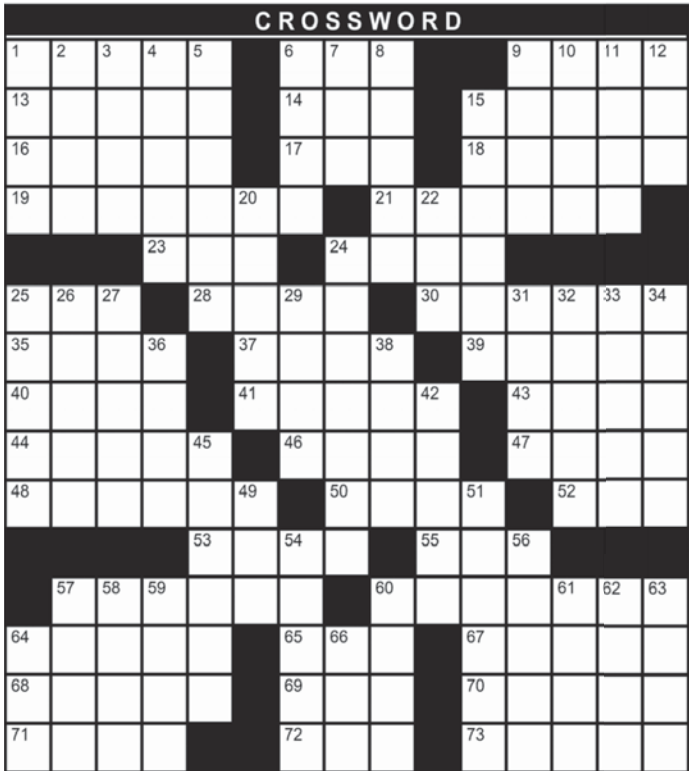
Thirdly, he is deeply and devoutly loved by so many is his decision-making process to always put America’s interest first. It is my assessment after everyone leaves the oval office and he is pondering his options, he always puts America first, which trickles down to you and me. His America First Policy has a positive effect on every American. These 3 reasons are why his support is unshakable and he can fill up stadiums of fervent supporters on a moment’s notice. Personally, I am all in!

In closing, those who are thinking about jumping in the race and those drifting supporters who want to “move on” because you don’t like him, think about your rationale. Certainly, you are not questioning his record, you are questioning his personality. How many times have we voted for someone’s great personality, only to deliver zero. My wife Deborah profoundly pointed out to me the 3 things we all love about Trump could never have been accomplished without the 3 temperaments we do not like about Trump.

So, the question on the table is this, do you want a peace time white gloved diplomatic President controlled by handlers and does not move the needle or do you want someone who is going to move freight.

I compel you to pause and ponder these thoughts, I think you will agree that 3 + 3 = Trump was the right formula in 2020, also 2024 to clean house and give us back the America we all once knew and cherished.

God Bless America and God Bless Donald J. Trump!



DOWN

- Bit of baby talk
- Precedes sesame
- Power system
- Botch
- Marcona nut
- Curved molding
- Endorsement
- Call forth
- Not his
- Aquarium show star
- Mine deposits
- Water lily leaf
- One behind the other
- *Like crowd of fans?
- " ____ the crowd goes wild!"
- Misstep
- Obelus, pl.
- Oddball's attempt? (2 words)
- *Each player gets 5 before disqualification
- *Org.
- Witty Coward
- Dress up or deck out (2 words)
- Blue-Green scum
- *Easiest shot?
- Location
- Hero shop
- Never say what?
- Abduction of the ____ Women, Roman myth
- Farm call

- Bewitch
- One step to success?
- Close call
- Elliot Page's 2007 role
- Home of Jazz
- Unacceptable, to a baby
- Gravy holder
- ACL location
- Short for "and elsewhere"
- Small amounts
- Selfie, e.g.
- *Qualifying ____, eligibility criterion

ACROSS

- Matt Damon/Ben Affleck 1999 movie
- *Top seed
- *Player's target
- Earth Day month
- State V.I.P.
- ____ firma
- Rationalistic theology
- Former name of Tokyo
- Formed a curve
- *One-____ - ____ rule
- *Last year's NCAA men's tournament winner
- Lenon's wife
- E-mail command
- Bug spray brand
- "By ____ of" or "by means of"
- Like certain floss

- Life stories, for short
- Gulf War missile
- Dough
- Tiny purse or case
- Mandarin's headquarters
- Like an omelette
- Jaunty rhythms
- Derived from capable
- Party in Maui
- Trouser measurement
- L in SNL
- *Encouragement from coach
- Foretell
- Lt.'s subordinate
- *J in NJCAA
- *Gambling scheme
- Dick Van Dyke's " ____ a Happy Face" ____
- Freudian topic
- Kind of ray
- Silly
- Mudbath site
- Artemis' companion
- Type of salmon
- College entrance exam
- Instagram videos

THEME:
COLLEGE BASKETBALL

SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE: 13



Lead Pastor
St. James Church
9045 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL

Dr. Lester Spencer

Soul Searching

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

THE BIGGEST TRAP-THE SPIRIT OF OFFENSE

Would you say you are easily offended? Or would you say, like most people do: *“I have thick skin so I am not easily offended.”*

But I would say to you that all of us can be offended, and all of us will be offended and probably many times by many people. Being offended is an inevitable part of life. Even Jesus said so....***“It is impossible that no offenses should come...”*** Jesus, Luke 17:1 NKJV

In other words, it is impossible to avoid being offended by someone. Offenses are inevitable. If we are observant. We will see people getting offended all around us on a regular basis. We will also notice that we will from time to time take offense at what someone says, or doesn’t say. Or we will be offended by what someone else does or doesn’t do.

We read stories in the Bible of people who get offended and who offend others. In the Old Testament in **1 Samuel 18:6-11**, we see that Saul gets very offended by David. After David killed the Philistine giant Goliath on the battle field, the Israelite army returned home triumphantly marching through the streets.... it says: ***“the women came from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul (with David and the returning troops) with singing and dancing, with joyful songs, and with timbrels and lyres.*** As they danced they sang: ***‘Saul has killed his thousands but David has killed his tens of thousands. ‘Saul was very angry, this refrain displeased him greatly....*** (in other words Saul was very offended) ***... And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.”***

Saul spent the rest of his life being offended by David. Eventually, Saul would declare David an enemy of Israel, and Saul’s armies would hunt for him for many years seeking to kill him. This spirit of offense would make Saul angry, jealous, paranoid, bitter and eventually would lead to a life that did not end well. The story of Saul and David is one of the saddest stories in the Bible, because Saul became consumed by the spirit of offense.... Because he couldn’t or wouldn’t let go of it.

In his book, The Bait of Satan, John Bevere, writes that the most effective bait of Satan, the best lure that he has to trap us is the spirit of offense. When I first read this book, I was skeptical because I had always thought the greatest temptations were the basic ones like: power, fame, glory, money, lust and pleasure. But I have come to believe that John Bevere is absolutely right. The greatest and most effective bait of Satan is offense. As I dug deeper and looked at the thing that has ensnared me the most and far too often entrapped me, is the spirit of offense.

How do we get offended?

Let me give you some examples that you might can relate to:

- “They never ask my opinion... and if they do, they don’t take my advice”* (Often happens in marriages)
- Sibling rivalry- Parents favor one child over another. (Big problem in families)
- Someone or a group excludes you. Or they exclude your children. You are not included or invited to the events or parties.
- People unfriend you on Facebook or cut you off of their social media.
- You are not recognized or appreciated.
- Put downs. Passed over. Attacked. Betrayed. Cheated on. Slandered. Sabotaged.
- Hurt - verbally, physically, emotionally, spiritually.

The list goes on and on.....

We try to act like these things do not bother us. But, in fact, they often hurt us and those we love very deeply. If we are honest, the spirit of offense is alive and well.

Jesus said that **Satan comes to kill, steal and destroy... (John 10:10)** The spirit of offense kills our joy, steals our faith and destroys our relationships. That is why the Enemy uses it. It renders us unhappy, ineffective and ultimately leads to a bad ending.

The word Jesus uses for offense in **Luke 17:1** is the Greek word **Skandalon** which literally means to entrap or ensnare. The Skandalon is the part of the trap where you put the bait. It is the part that clamps down and traps its victim.

Even really good people can be ensnared by the spirit of offense. Two of our most famous founding fathers are George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Did you know they had a huge falling out due the spirit of offense?

When George Washington was unanimously elected as our first President, he chose Thomas Jefferson to be his Secretary of State. But while Thomas Jefferson was the Secretary of State, he begin to write a column under a fictitious name in the national newspapers constantly attacking his President and his boss, George Washington. He would attack Washington personally, and he would attack his policies. It got very ugly and very nasty.

Eventually, George Washington discovered that this fictitious writer was none other than his own long time friend and Secretary of State. Things went from bad to worse and Jefferson resigned. Washington was rightfully very upset,

disappointed and offended by Jefferson. He was so offended by Jefferson that he never spoke to him again. Not only that he refused to even say his name. If he ever did refer to Jefferson, it was always as *“That Man.”*

Wow! I would say that George Washington was a bit offended by Thomas Jefferson, wouldn’t you? He certainly had a right to be, didn’t he?

Many of us are not able to be very objective about ourselves. So, we may try to brush aside the things that offend us. Pretend they aren’t important. Act like these offenses do not bother us. But deep down my friends, the enemy may be using the spirit of offense to do great harm to us. Especially, if we do not ever face these offenses and admit they have ensnared us.

How can you tell if you are offended?

- Whenever you think of someone that offended you or their name is mentioned your blood boils over with anger, and you cant seem to let go or control it.
- You shut down, get quiet or withdraw when you think about them or you’re around them.
- Can’t think or work at your best.
- Feel depressed, anxious, hopeless when you think about this person or the situation that has offended you.
- Feel betrayed, lied to or hurt. Feel distracted.
- Do not want to forgive the person that offended you, because they deserve your anger.
- Strong desire to take revenge.
- Unable to be intimate, because you are so offended. (This often happens when the spouse is the one who offended you.)

Again, the list goes on.

How do we respond to the spirit of offense? Here are some effective ways to respond:

One - Watch Out!

Be aware that offense are inevitable. Be prepared for them to come your way. The enemy will use this trap regularly so be on the look out. Paul reminds us in **Ephesians 6:11** to ***“put on the full armor of God so that we can take a stand against the devils schemes.”*** ***“The enemy prowls around the like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour”*** .(1 Peter 5:8) Don’t put your guard down. Traps are designed to catch you unaware.

Two - Stay Centered in Christ

Know that God has a purpose for you and that you can find your worth in Christ and Christ alone. Your value is found in how your Heavenly Father sees you not in the opinions of others.

Before the last Super Bowl, Jalen Hurts, the quarterback for the Eagles, was asked what he thought about all the critics that had said he would never make it in the NFL. He replied: *“I had a purpose before everyone else had an opinion.”* Jalen Hurts is a Christian, and I think I know exactly what he is referring to.

It is found in **Jeremiah 29:11**. ***“I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for good not for evil. Plans to give you a hope and future.”*** God has a purpose for your life too, and when you understand that, everyone else’s opinions really do not matter. It is hard to be offended by someone else’s words or opinions when we know our purpose, why we are here, and we see the big picture.

Three - Learn to Forgive and let it go.

One thing I have learned that may really help you too. I learned it recently doing the *30 Days to Resilient mediation* on the **One Minute Pause** app by John Eldredge. It is free, and I highly recommend it. On this app and in his recent book, *“Resilient, learn the benefit of “Benevolent Detachment”*. Benevolent Detachment happens when you learn to pray the following simple prayer:***“I give everyone and everything to you Jesus. I give everyone and everything to you.”***

Surrender all of these offenses to the Lord. Name them one by one before him. Confess them. Then let them go. These offenses are baggage you do not need for the joyful journey with Christ!

The spirit of offense is the biggest trap. It is the bait of Satan. But now you know. So, do not take the bait.

Watch out. Stay Centered. Learn to forgive and let go. Lord, I give everyone and everything to you. I give everyone and everything to you Jesus!



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Judge Peggy Givhan

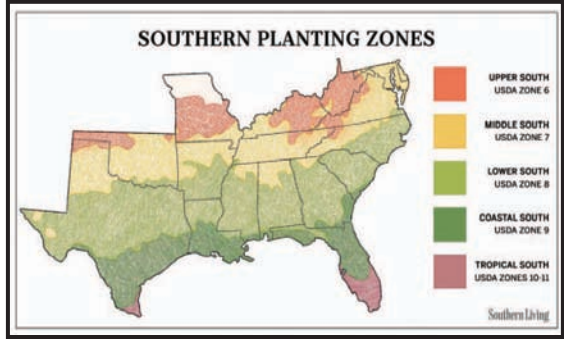
March is the month when serious gardening tasks must take place to make life easier later on. The first task would be weeding.

Unless you have mulched during the winter months, there would be pesky winter annual and perennial weeds that need to be extracted. Winter weeds have shallow root systems which support large clumps of plant material, so it is rewarding to view the huge pile of weeds which resulted from very little effort. For one thing we do not want these to grow and go to seed, creating next year’s headaches. So weeding the beds or pots is a good starting point.

If you have a compost pile, add these tender weeds to the mix. Another task for this time of year would be to assess which plants were successful last year, and which ones did not thrive.

If you made a garden plan last year, then note it on that plan. The plant may have failed due to inappropriate light requirements. The sun or light exposure can be the difference between success and failure. For instance the sun moves across the sky all year, so what appeared to have had plenty of sunlight last spring, may have less by the time summer comes around. For example, an area of my beds is sunny this time of year because the trees have not produced their leaves and will later shade out this area.

And then there is the task of making a garden plan for this year. You may want to change the 2022 plan and sow more areas with seed. When I make a plan, I map out the perimeters of the bed, put in north/south orientation, and then draw the plant areas. For instance, in one area I would show dianthus planted in January, then an arrow indicating the next planting or sowing in that spot. would be marigolds. And then lastly, the task of executing your plan. I carry my plan with me to garden centers to remind me of what to purchase.



Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Arizona, California, coastal Oregon, and Washington. For instance, North Alabama is in **Zone 7** due to the cold weather experienced in the winter month. **Zones are determined by which plants can thrive at a certain location based on the average annual minimum winter temperatures. The lower the Zone number the colder the winters and vice versa, the higher the Zone number, the warmer the winter.**

Some people ask in what zone is Alabama because a lot of seed packets and other plant instructions show planting times by zone. **Zone 8** States are as follows: Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida (parts of southern Florida are in Zone 9),

Potpourri for March



Now would be a good time to get out any grass that has sneaked into your beds.

Letting grass grow with flowers is an unmitigated disaster. If the infestation is too great for digging it out, I would suggest a controlled use of RoundUp.

••Please note that RoundUp is the trade name for Glyphosate, which is harmful to humans. Don asks and gloves when using this product. Avoid spraying when windy, and protect any nearby plants with some type of shield such as a garbage bag, or cardboard.

LIRIOPE
Convallariaceae (Lilaceae)



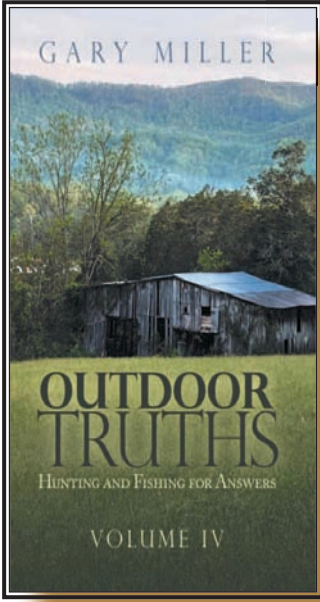
In the South this plant is commonly called “Border Grass” since it was planted to border or edge, and surrounded everything from Azaleas to trees to flower beds. One reason for this can be attributed to its thick mat of roots keeping at bay any intrusions past these defences. In other words, no grass will enter through this border. But like most good things, it was overused and hence, now not used nearly as much, which is a good thing. Also, the plants thrive in sun or shade.

A workhorse groundcover, it can be planted on slopes, to prevent soil erosion, massed under Oak trees where nothing else will thrive plus a myriad of other good uses. The growth habit is mounding with tough, leathery deep green and grasslike leaves, flowers in the summer with white and purple stalks and this is followed by glossy black berries in winter. Most common to our area would be Liriope muscari ‘Majestic’.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day and GOOD GARDENING.



HAVE YOUR ANTLERS FALLEN OFF?



I spent the afternoon looking for antler sheds. It’s really too early, but the weather was beautiful, especially for February. For about two hours I traveled the well-worn paths looking for any glimpse of the rare treasures left by an unsuspecting buck. I’m not sure if they know they are falling off or if they suddenly feel the release of their unique characteristic.

Hunters name bucks according to the individuality of their rack. Without it, they are the deer version of John Doe. For smaller bucks, the loss of their antlers should seem a non-issue. After all, it’s not like that four-pointer had gained any respect with its larger male counterparts.

But that mountain monarch is a different story. It has taken him years to attain his respect and notoriety. And it seems especially cruel to lose it against a flimsy twig that is normally no match for the mass of bone on his head. But even after all these years, he is taken down – seemingly crushed, until what is taken away is replaced with something even greater.

Again, I’m not sure of any soulful thought this deer may have formed from this action, but I am sure about the questions mankind has when this crushing happens to us.

I’ve been listening and learning lately about the crushing God allows to come

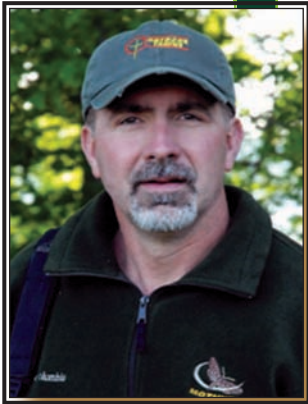
into our lives. The illustration is of the vinedresser or who we would call the vintner.

Grapes are a beautiful and tasty fruit. The most mature grapes take a few years to produce. There’s no doubt the vintner feels a sense of accomplishment when the vines produce the fruit they are meant to produce, especially when that fruit is of the highest quality. I can imagine the grape thinking (If grapes could think) how accomplished and successful it must be, that it became all that it was meant to become.

And then something happens. The maturity is mashed. The accomplishments are crushed. The success is squeezed. The antlers fall off. For a moment, or several moments, one is left to himself, to wonder what just happened – to see that which made us stand out and that which gave us our individuality and unique characteristic, and the culmination of years, laying on the ground for someone to gather and collect while we continue to wonder what just happened. And while we are wondering, God is taking the sweet juice of the vine – the fruit of the fruit, and turning it into something that is not only valuable now, but will grow more valuable each year.

My friend, are you being crushed? Does it seem like the fruit it has taken years for you to produce is being pulverized under the pressure of uncontrollable circumstances?

During this time, try to remember the real value is in the crushing. It takes it to bring out your true worth and to make you into what you were really meant to be. Not the best grape, but the finest wine



Gary Miller

Gary can be reached via email at:

gary@outdoortruths.org.

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Home Town Community News

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Patricia Killough
Community Editor

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| 2 | Amie Dean | 16 | Lisa Gordan Hester |
| 4 | Russ Russell | 18 | William Watters Box
George McKinley (76th) |
| 5 | Glen Yost | | Robert Singleton |
| 6 | Gayle Bosworth | | Jacque Takacs |
| 7 | Everett Cole
Laura Lane
Tony Law
Brad Wallace | 19 | Keisha Glasscock |
| 8 | Frances Ard
Linda Clayton | 20 | Connie Crowe |
| 9 | Courtney Whigham | 21 | Hannah Yost
Phillip Reeves (72st) |
| 10 | Jane Grubbs
Paula Lansdon
Cory Smith
Michael Weldon | 22 | Kentston Whigham (10th) |
| 11 | Glenn Harper | 23 | Brandy Landreau
Dawn Lane
Lallage Neil |
| 13 | Linda Richardson
Samantha Jane Rice (12th) | 24 | Robert Adams |
| 14 | Brian Takacs
Dana Webster (68th) | 25 | Deborah Cox |
| | | 26 | Ruby Macon |
| | | 27 | Renee Grant |
| | | 31 | Carlie Corbin |

Happy Anniversary

Frank & Helen Ralph.....March 5th
Bobby & Myra MillsMarch 7th
Jim & Barbara Garrett.....March 7th
Fred & Connie Crowe.....March 9th
Steve & Sonja Campbell (49th).....March 9th
George & Lynn McKinley.....March 18th
Craig & Mindy Trotter (13th)..... March 21st
Paul & Cynthia Harper.....March 23rd
Tim & Nichole Sansom.....March 23rd
Elvin & Cam Stanton.....March 26th
Al & Conni Barnett.....March 27th
Mike & Cindy Smith.....March 27th

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF
JOHN LEWIS DEESE
FEBRUARY 8, 1940 - FEBRUARY 25, 2023

Alabama Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Bimford, Elizabeth D'Ann.....	January 11	Simpson, Grace Virginia Hammond 76.....	February 13
Huber, Charles Thomas "Tom" 80.....	January 15	Miles, Sr. Paul Wilhite 87.....	February 14
Boudreau, Stephen Francis 75.....	January 26	Baker, Doris Marie 80.....	February 15
Hill, Betty Jo 92.....	January 27	Austin Jr., Irving Freeman 84.....	February 16
Ho, Dr. Yaw-Chin.....	January 29	Missildine, Robert "Robin" Monroe 84.....	February 16
Handey III, Gene Nicholson "Nick" 63.....	February 5	Wells, Robert Leonard 90.....	February 16
Pringle, Sr. Percy O'Neal 63.....	February 5	Glass, Annie Laura 89.....	February 17
Cairns, Diane "Dee" Clarice Doran 83.....	February 6	Nulph, Judith "Judy" Leigh Kyser 64.....	February 18
Golden, Bettie Jean Tucker 89.....	February 7	Kirk, Walter Hardy 89.....	February 20
Crommelin, Harriet Huntress 76.....	February 8	Rewis, Lois Smith 82.....	February 21
Armistead Jr, Col. Samuel E. "Gene" USAF (Ret) 85.....	February 9	Bell, James "Jim: W. MSGT USAF (Ret.) 88.....	February 23
Corkran, Don Kautz 71.....	February 10	Carter, Bobbie Warren 77.....	February 23
Thornton, Terry Leon 57.....	February 10	Phillips, Beebe Merrill 80.....	February 23
Bailey, Jean Graydon 88.....	February 11	Allen, Sharon Rodgers 75.....	February 24
Coats, Lynda Richardson 74.....	February 12	Deese, John Lewis 83.....	February 25
Ray, Marjorie "Margie" 88.....	February 12	Tankersley, Davidson "David".....	February 25
Anglin, William Cannon 87.....	February 13	McGhee, Shannon Brent "Binky" 46.....	February 26
Boone Jr., James Buford 87.....	February 13		

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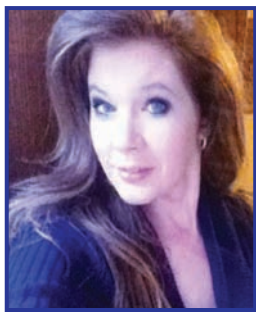
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Front-Felicia Gassetts Shockley, Glenda Gassetts Terrell,
Michele Gassetts Henderson, Donna Bortwell.
Back-Eddie Taylor, Dabn Shockley, Alex Shockley, Joe Hooks & Mike Colquitt

Funerals-Cremations-Pre-Arrangements-Monuments

In Memory Of

Joan Thornell Graham.....January 30
Donald "Bubba" Graham.....February 1
Barbara L. "Penny" Booth.....February 1
Elizabeth S. (Williams) Wuokko.....February 2
Schultz, Earlie Eugene "Gene".....February 3
Dunn, TSGT. Glenn Austin.....February 3
Estes, Martha Thelma.....February 5
Lyle, Jerry Clay.....February 6
Womble, Trina R.....February 7
Smith, Darrell W.....February 8
Bowers, Mark Douglas.....February 9
Snell, Leilanie.....February 10
Hudson, Jerry Rayvon.....February 10
Burrell, Mrs. Soutana Georges.....February 11
Bone, John Lee.....February 15
Parrish, J C.....February 16
Trantham, Mary Garnett.....February 19
Hobbs, John Garvie.....February 19
Wells, Geneva B.....February 20
Rowell, Grady C.....February 21
Gilmore, Patricia Ann Harrelson.....February 21
Woodall, Don.....February 23
Myers, Linda Adams.....February 23
Mann, Betty.....February 24
Dempsey, William Jack.....February 25
Kennedy, Alex McKinley.....February 26
Butler CMS Sgt. Retired, Oscar Abram.....February 27
Petrey, David Elwood.....February 28
Shaw, Lena Julia.....March 1



Tears & LAUGHTER:

By: Amanda Walker

Well, that's just life!

I was a big fan of Little Lulu when I was a kid growing up in Sandflat.

Little Lulu has been around a long time. She was introduced in comic strip that first appeared in The Saturday Evening Post in 1935. The loopy haired, quick-witted Little Lulu Moppet was intentionally a girl. Creator Marjorie "Marge" Buell explained that a girl could get away with more than a little boy.

The single panel debut had Little Lulu appearing as a flower girl who was strewing the aisle with banana peels rather than rose petals.

By my time in Sandflat in the 1970's, Little Lulu had long since evolved into having her own monthly comic book – which were extremely popular at the time. Being such a well-known character, she had made her way to the TG&Y in the form of coloring books, paper dolls, and puzzles. She had her own line of toys. She had jewelry sets, ironing sets, tea sets, and pots.

I had all but forgotten about her until I saw a Little Lulu puzzle at an antique shop.

It reminded me of days gone by. It has always amused me how even though times inevitably change, there are some things that remain essentially the same.

Years have a way of erasing memories that are of the day-to-day mundane routine of life, but there was one Little Lulu story that stuck with me. Little Lulu had entered her house and was very upset because the boy next door had saved an icicle from the winter in the freezer and had slipped the icicle down the back of her dress.

Then, to make matters worse, while she was jiggling around trying to get

the icicle out of her dress, he threw a snowball at her that he had saved alongside the icicle. She was crying to her mother, who was busy dusting, saying she just wanted to get away from it all.

Her mother put down the duster and picked up the mop. She tried to console Little Lulu by telling her she understood the feeling of needing a break from the everything for a while. That there were other things that also got tiresome day after day.

Little Lulu was shocked by this revelation. She asked her mother what did she had to be tired about?

Her mama told her not to tell anybody, but that sometimes she got a tiny bit tired of cleaning the house.

Little Lulu was like, "A nice house like this?"

And her mama explained she didn't mind doing it, she just understood the feeling of sometimes needing a break from it all.

Little Lulu got all upset because she didn't like the idea of her poor mother feeling tired from managing the house, and she didn't want to put up with the neighborhood boy anymore. She was feeling sorry for the both of them. She said she bet that nobody understood what women have to go through.

That is when her mother smiled at her and spoke with a voice of reason saying: "Well, that's life, dear."

It has been a while, but it still holds true.

Seems like in the next scene they talk the daddy into a vacation to Alaska...

But nonetheless, say it again mama. Say it again.

Today's Woman

TRISSTON'S TIDBITS:

By: Trisston Wright Burrows

Ms. Wheelchair America/ Alabama 2005



Finding Balance

A while back, I was listening to a Podcast and one of the speakers referred to the word "ego" as an acronym. E-G-O....Edging God Out. For me, and maybe for some of you, this is idea or concept is thought provoking, to say the least.

There's a story in Greek mythology about a young man named Narcissus. He was a very handsome young man and he knew it. One day he saw his reflection in a stream and he became enamored with the image of himself. He couldn't pull himself away; he stared into the stream day and night.

As the story goes, he became so trapped in his own ego he eventually turned into the Narcissus flower, rooted at the water's edge.

As believers, we are God's children. The world looks at us to see a reflection of God and to see what God and his children are like. If we are caught up in ourselves, in narcissism, the watching world will see a marred image. It will see a body of Christ which is selfish, cares nothing for anyone else, and doesn't believe its own teachings.

"Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real." – Thomas Merton
My friends, ego is a fickle thing. On one hand, having a deficient ego can cause someone to wallow in self-doubt and lack confidence. On

the other hand, someone with an inflated sense of self-worth can be seen as an egomaniac and arrogant. It can be particularly challenging for any of us to successfully find balance. Think about it...how can we be in the world, but not of the world?

The apostle Paul serves as an example. His ministry grew and spread rapidly, yet this was his perspective:

"We do not want to boast about work already done in someone else's territory. But, 'Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.' For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends" (2 Corinthians 10:16-18).

Perhaps finding balance is best rooted in seeing ourselves as clothed in God's grace. Colossians 3:12 reminds us, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." After all, balance is not something you achieve someday; balance is something we should strive for every day.

Many Blessings!

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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



It's March and you should have raided your freezer over the winter and you are ready for some fresh vegetables. The farmers markets curb markets and grocery stores are showing off the fresh local produce. But

you may be having a hard time coping with the change from winter to spring. You get use to the bout of cold and suddenly it changes. The sun comes out and the temperature rises and you have a week of good weather. But wait! This is Alabama and the weather turns cold and cloudy. So how are you going to cope with the cold weather after starting to get the taste of spring? There is something that will get you through the fluctuating temperatures. There is something that will get you through this mixed up weather and that s good food. This winter we made cakes, casseroles, jellies and jams We also canned vegetables. The pantry was full but we still have to make more space for the new crop of vegetables that are close to being ripe for the picking. The Super Bowl feast came close to emptying the pantry and freezer, but not enough. We had requests for our companies favorite recipes. They wanted a hearty dessert, a fish dish and a breakfast casserole.

When company comes their favorite breakfast is one that can be custom made for the different tastes the guests have. You can make it spicy, add tortillas and you have a Mexican breakfast.



PRALINE PUMPKIN DESSERT

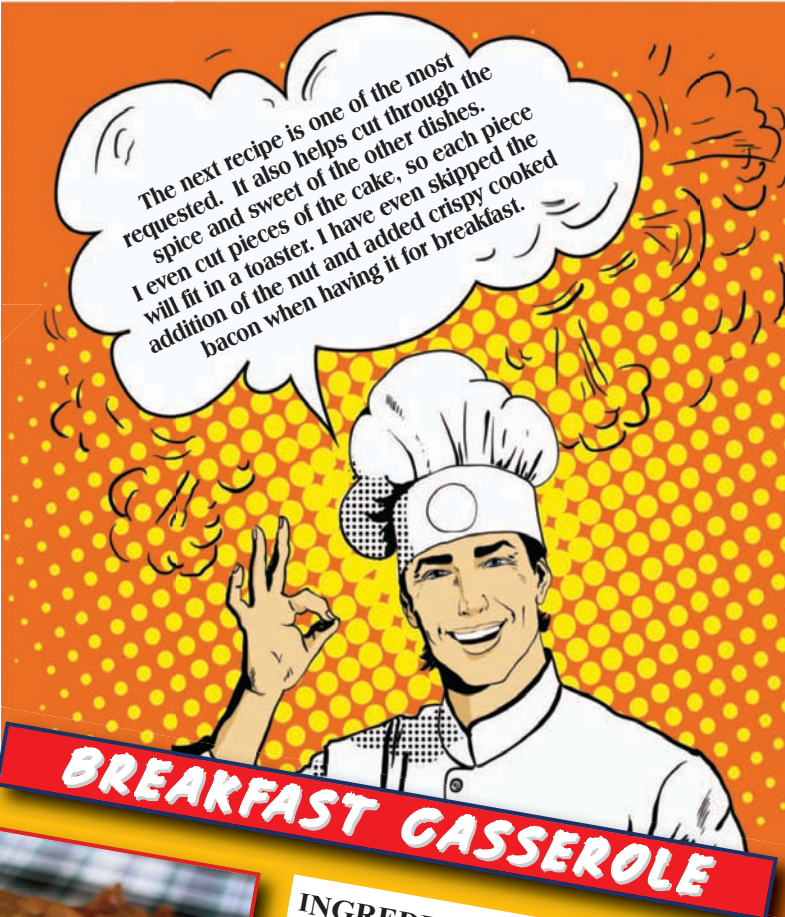
INGREDIENTS:

- 1can (15 oz) pumpkin (not pumpkin pie mix)
- 1can (12 oz) evaporated milk
- 3eggs 1cup sugar
- 4 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1box (15.25 oz) Betty Crocker™ Delights Super Moist™ Spice Cake Mix
- 1 1/2cups chopped pecans or walnuts
- 3/4cup butter or margarine, melted
- Whipped cream, if desired
- Additional pumpkin pie spice, if desired



DIRECTIONS:

- Heat oven to 350°F (325°F for dark or nonstick pans).
- Grease or spray bottom and sides of 13x9-inch pan.
- In medium bowl, beat pumpkin, milk, eggs, sugar and 4 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice with wire whisk until smooth.
- Pour into pan.
- Sprinkle dry cake mix over pumpkin mixture.
- Sprinkle with pecans.
- Pour melted butter evenly over top.
- Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean.
- Cool 30 minutes. To serve, cut dessert into 4 rows by 3 rows.
- Serve warm or chilled with dollop of whipped cream sprinkled with pumpkin pie spice.
- Store covered in refrigerator.



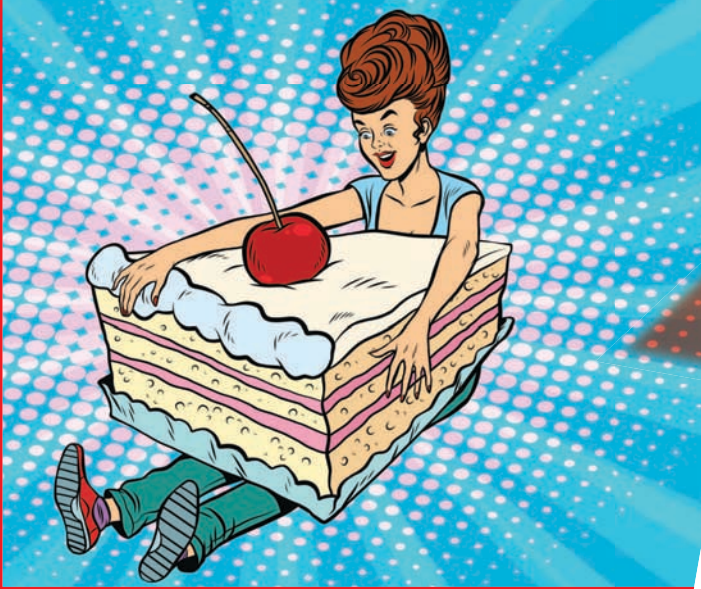
INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package (24 -30 ounce) Tater Tots (keep frozen)
- 2 pounds bulk breakfast sausage
- 1 8 oz. package cream cheese
- 1/2 green pepper, chopped
- 1/2 red pepper, chopped
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 3 cups cheese (Sharp Cheddar and or Monterey Jack)
- 8 large eggs
- 1 cup heavy cream or half and half
- Salt and Pepper

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 350 - 400 degrees, depending on your oven.
- Brown sausage in skillet over medium heat, breaking it up as it cooks. Drain all the grease. Return sausage to the skillet, adding the peppers and onions. Cooking until onions and peppers get soft. Stir in the cream cheese until cream cheese is melted. Set aside.
- Lay Tater Tots in a single layer in a greased 9 x 13 dish. Salt and Pepper
- Lightly sprinkle some of the cheese over the Tater Tots.
- Spread the cooked sausage, pepper, onion, cream cheese mixture over cheese covered Tater Tots.
- Cover sausage with cheese.
- Wisk eggs, milk salt and pepper.
- Evenly pour egg mixture over the cheese, sausage and TaterTots. Sprinkle a little more cheese on top of eggs.
- Bake for 35 – 45 minutes or until the edges are browned and bubbly, and the center doesn't jiggle. Take casserole out of oven and let sit for 5 minutes before serving.

You can add other veggies like mushrooms or green chilies. Just be sure to drain any liquids so the casserole doesn't get soggy.



PISTACHIO CRUSTED TILAPIA

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large egg lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup finely chopped cilantro
- 1tsp Dijon Mustard
- 1/4 cup finely chopped pistachios
- 1 tsp. Ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. Garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp. Chili powder
- 1/4 tsp. Salt
- Freshly ground pepper as needed
- 1 pound tilapia fillets, cut to give four servings
- 1 tsp. Lime juice
- 1 pinch chili powder
- For sauce; 1 cup Dukes mayonnaise



DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 425F. Line a large sheet pan with parchment paper
- Whisk egg, cilantro, mustard and 1 teaspoon of water in a shallow dish, In another dish combine pistachios, cumin garlic power, chili powder, salt and pepper.
- Dip fish in egg mixture, coating both sides and then coat fish well with breading. Place fish on pan with rounded side up.
- Top each fillet with a pat of butter cut up into small pieces and place a small piece under each fillet.
- Bake for 14 minutes until golden brown on the outside and opaque and slightly firm in the center.

