

NEVER FORGET!

September 11, 2001 - Casualties: 2,977 people died,
• 246 on the four planes (from which there were no survivors)
• 2,606 in the World Trade Center and in the surrounding area. • 125 at the Pentagon

9/11



“THE PEOPLE’S PAPER”
THE ALABAMA
Gazette



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FROM THE EDITOR! GOOD PEOPLE DOING GOOD DEEDS! PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE!

Kick Back Ranch & Event Center's
Fall Festival
Saturday, October 29th 2022

12 PM - 7 PM Fall Festival
3 PM Registration - 4 PM Boot Walk

- Karaoke/Live Music
- Face Painting
- Decorations/Costume Contest
- Walk for Cancer Research
- Food Trucks
- Games
- Vendors
- Small Animals & More

414 Union Academy Ada Road
Ramer, AL
334-286-4140
KickBackRanch.net

\$5 Admission



Join the Kick Back Ranch & Event Center and give cancer the **BOOT** on Saturday October 29th. Benefiting The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's **BOOT Walk to End Cancer**. Gates open at 12 noon. Walk starts at 4:00. Walk, donate, and add your loved one's name to a ribbon of hope. There will be vendors, food trucks, games, costume contest and more.

Give cancer the **BOOT**, at Kick Back Ranch & Event Center October 29th!
For details go to Facebook, KickBackRanch.net or call 286-4140.

100% of your donation goes to MD Anderson's mission to end cancer.

BOOT WALK
to #EndCancer

Kick Back Ranch is giving cancer the boot!
Benefiting: MD Anderson Cancer Center's Boot Walk to End Cancer

October 29, 2022

Gates open at 12pm
Registration: 3:00pm Walk Begins: 4:00pm

To Register or Donate online:
www.KickBackRanch.net

- Food
- Games
- Vendors
- & More
- Karaoke/Live Music
- Face Painting
- Decorations
- Costume Contest

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**** In This Issue ****

Commentaries:

Alabama is a Big Front Porch
by Steve Flowers.....pg 2A

Nato's Newest Member
by Justice Will Sellerspg 2A

Just Asking - 87,000 New IRS
by Rob Tate.....pg 3A

Nest Step to Closed Primaries
by John Sophocleuspg 4A

The Foundation for Moral Law
Freedom Report.....pg. 4A

When Do You Really Need a Will
by Ronald A. Holtsford, Esq.....pg 5A

Jack Hinson: One Man's Retribution
by John Taylor.....pg 5A

The Demise of Butterflies
by John Martin.....pg 6A

Social Security Services
by Kylie'D. McKinney.....pg 7A

Local Law Enforcement pgpg 8A

Don't Miss:

Honoring Our Heroes
Dr. Martha Poole Simmons.....pg 2-3B

Soul Searching
Dr. Lester Spencerpg 3B

Southern Gardening
Judge Peggy Givhan.....pg 7B

Social Security News
Kylie'D. McKinney.....pg 7A

Tears & Laughter
Amanda Walkerpg 6B

Trisston's Tidbits
Trisston Wright Burrows.....pg 6B

Home Town Community News
Patricia Killoughpg 4-5B

Southern Cuisine
Chef Spooner.....pg 8B



John W. Schmidt Student Ministries fund reached \$1 million dollars in 2021 as a result of proceeds from the Chancellors Invitational Golf Tournament.

On September 21 the 2022 Troy University Chancellor's Invitational Golf Tournament will be held once again at the RTJ Capitol Hill Golf Course in Prattville. Over 200 players and supporters will be at the links to have fun and raise support for the John W. Schmidt Student Ministries and the University's Athletic Ministries. Last year, this important part of the Trojan experience eclipsed the \$1 million mark for total donations over the life of the tournament which began in 2000. Registration continues up to the day of the tournament. For further information go to troy.edu/chancellor's_golf or call 334-334.670.3608.


Troy University's Chancellor's Golf Tourney for Student and Athletic Ministries

Col. William Randall Ray and Master Sergeant David George Simonton
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The Alabama Gazette!
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Honoring our Veteran every month!
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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Alabama is a Big Front Porch

This is the final version of a three week series of stories that illustrate that Alabama is a Big Front Porch.

James E. “Big Jim” Folsom was one of our few two-term governors. In the old days, governors could not succeed themselves. Therefore, Big Jim was first governor in 1946-1950. He waited out four years and came back and won a second term in 1954, and stayed through 1958.

Big Jim was still a young man when he was first elected in 1948. He and his wife, Jamelle, had their firstborn child, James E. Folsom, Jr., in 1949 while Big Jim was governor. Therefore, Jim Folsom, Jr., who some folks refer to as “Little Jim,” was literally born in the Governor’s mansion.

Big Jim hired a man to be the Governor’s mansion butler and overseer of the mansion on Perry Street. The gentleman’s name was Dave Perry. He looked the part. Dave Perry was a tall, handsome, distinguished gentleman with a beautiful baritone voice.

Dave Perry practically raised Jim Folsom, Jr. He took him to school every day, taught him to ride a bike and taught him to swim in the pool Big Jim had built behind the mansion shaped like the State of Alabama. I’ve wondered over the years that the reason Jim Folsom, Jr. has such a rich southern Black Belt drawl is because he grew up listening to Dave Perry, who had that same melodious drawl.

Jim Folsom, Jr. went back to Cullman when his daddy left office but Dave Perry stayed on as the master butler at the Governor’s mansion. He stayed through different governors, including all of the Wallace years as Governor.

Guess what happens? Forty years after Dave Perry became the Governor’s mansion butler, Jim Folsom, Jr. became governor. Dave Perry’s boy had come home. It was like old home week.

Jim Folsom, Jr. was my favorite governor to serve with during my entire legislative career. He was the only one who was close to my age. We were friends. I was friends with his wife, Marsha Guthrie from Cullman, while at the University of Alabama. She was a student leader. So, Jim and Marsha were truly friends of mine and still are.

During legislative sessions and even during the rest of the year, occasionally Jim would invite his closest legislative friends and political buddies to join him in the “Library,” a backroom in the center part of the mansion. We would talk politics in the same room that his daddy held court in 40 years earlier. Guess

who would join us sometimes? Mr. Dave Perry would tell us Big Jim stories we had never heard. Dave passed away a few years ago in his hometown of Montgomery. He was an Alabama legend.

The Alabama Front Porch narrative appears to be poised to transcend to a new generation of Alabamians. My lifetime friend, Bill Blount of Montgomery, recently shared this story of what goes around comes around in Alabama.

The 1954 Governor’s race was between “Big Jim” Folsom and Baldwin County State Senator Jimmy Faulkner. Senator Faulkner had been the Mayor of Bay Minette and owned several southwest Alabama newspapers. Big Jim beat Faulkner handily to win his second term as governor. The other two contestants in that governor’s race, whose progeny makeup our “Big Porch,” were State Senator Bruce Henderson from Wilcox County and State Senator Karl Harrison from Shelby County.

At that time the President of the Alabama Young Democrats was Frank Long, who was openly for Folsom and would later become legal advisor to Folsom and an integral part of his Cabinet. Faulkner made a big deal about Frank Long’s allegiance to Folsom and refused to attend all Democratic events.

Fast forward to today. Marshall Long, a Montgomery attorney who serves as an administrative assistant for the state senate now, is Frank Long’s grandson. Marshall is married to Caroline Camp, who happens to be Jimmy Faulkner’s great granddaughter. Further, Marshall’s brother, Frank of Birmingham, dates Nickie Reese who is the great granddaughter of Bruce Henderson the aforementioned candidate from Wilcox County.

Lastly, the Long brothers grew up with Bill Blount’s sons, Wilson and Jesse Blount. Their great uncle was Karl Harrison from Columbiana in Shelby County, who was also a candidate. Matter of fact, Jess’s middle name is Harrison.

Kathryn Tucker Wyndham would enjoy this generational transition. She would simply smile and agree that her adage lives on – Alabama is indeed a Big Front Porch.

Steve Flowers is Alabama’s leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He served 16 years in the state legislature. Steve may be reached at www.steveflowers.us.

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

Justice Will Sellers

Prior to the American Revolution and more than a decade before the French Revolution, there was the Swedish Revolution, which marks its 250th anniversary this month.

While often out of the orbit of discussions of western civilization, Sweden was and continues to be a repository of enlightened democratic values. With a remarkable history of military conquest and constitutional government, the semiquincentennial of the Swedish Revolution is worth noting.

Sweden is known for having divided government. It began in the Middle Ages with a Riksdag, a parliament of nobility, which elected a king and created a balance of authority between the legislative and royal branches. Realizing that electing a king wasn’t a road to stable government, the Riksdag eventually established a hereditary monarchy that remains in effect today.

As with all silos of power, there exists a tension, and in Sweden, there was test of strength between the authority of the king and the power of parliament. Two-and-a-half centuries ago, the Riksdag had the upper hand, allowing the nobility to effectively govern the country with limited approval of the King.

But the parliament became very dysfunctional, lost its way, and engaged in an internal struggle. To accrue power, one parliamentary faction decided to seek an alliance with Russia.

Russia and Sweden have historically been natural enemies, so any link between the two was more than just a political issue for parliament. And, once King Gustav III discovered this attempt, he organized his home guard, whipped his subjects into a patriotic fervor, and marched on the Riksdag.

His success was far from certain. Gustav’s authority had diminished so much that his actual power was limited to his force of personality and rhetorical skills. But, if he knew one thing, it was that Sweden’s interests and Russia’s interests could never be aligned. For Sweden to remain sovereign and Independent, he had to act.

So, against type and contrary to perhaps all other revolutions, the ruling king in power became the revolutionary.

NATO’s Newest Member

When the members of the Riksdag saw Gustav marching toward their chamber, they fled, and with no one left to oppose him, he asserted his rights as king and governed.

This was a bloodless coup, the preferred form of revolution when it is so clear that one side has both the moral and popular authority to force the collapse of the opposition and win by acclamation.

Gustav was the right monarch at the precise time when his country needed him. He was a product of the Enlightenment with very progressive views of government and the ordering of a country.

He took his role seriously and used his power, which was initially only a title and an appeal to his forebears. But the people, led by an emerging middle class, rallied to his side, and once his status was confirmed, he took power and authority by simply inserting himself in the political process and acting like an absolute monarch.

With no opposition of any consequence, he assessed the political landscape and called the parliament back into session.

Using all the trappings of his office, he excoriated the members and accused them of neglecting their duty to their country by placing themselves above the law. His final act to complete the coup was to present the assembly with a new constitution. Once it was unanimously accepted, Gustav dissolved the parliament.

He was now firmly in control of his country, and while he had the momentum and power to become an absolute monarch, he declined. Since the traditions of Sweden would not countenance despotism, he used his popularity to create a new parliament with less influence by the nobility and more responsive to the people.

He moved to punish those who had compromised the country and went so far as to put corrupt judges on trial. While he could have dispensed justice himself, he understood the importance of the rule of law and forced judicial officers to answer in court for their misdeeds.

His reforms were significant, quite progressive, and liberating to his people. While the Lutheran Church was the established church, he promoted greater religious freedoms by permitting other religions to practice their faith without fear of persecution.

His economic reforms promoted free trade by abolishing export taxes which created economic growth. This contributed to a burgeoning middle class, and Sweden’s wealth increased significantly.

Realizing Sweden’s place in the middle of Scandinavia, he bolstered his army and made his navy a force of reckoning. He was able to deal with Russia and prevent any its nefarious intentions to thwart Sweden’s sovereignty or compromise relations with other nations.

He also liberalized the press, which was not “free” in the manner we think of it today, but it was substantially changed so that censorship and regulations were more limited.

Perhaps most interesting for Americans is that Sweden was the first country to diplomatically recognize the United States. Gustav not only recognized the United States, but he was fascinated by American ideals indicating that if he were not king, he might go fight on their side.

He also suggested that the principles spawning the revolution would make America a rival to Europe and usher in “an American Century.” His summary of the impact of the American Revolution was most prescient.

But inasmuch as he supported the Americans, he was opposed to the French Revolution and worked to restore the monarchy. Like other progressives of the time, he understood that the French Revolution was not a move toward greater liberality, but was, instead, a revolt against maturity.

Many of Gustav’s reforms came at the expense of the nobles and diminished their power. His authority and cultural influence so infuriated them that they assassinated him.

The current king of Sweden, Carl XVI Gustaf, calls his ancestor, Gustav III, his favorite.

At a time when Sweden is once again forced to consider its place in the world and counter the continuing influence of Russia, the reign of Gustav is a good road map for championing freedom by isolating enemies.

Welcome to NATO!

Will Sellers is a graduate of Hillsdale College and an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama. He is best reached at jws@willsellers.com



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ROBSERVATIONS...

JUST ASKING...

by Robert Tate

In the news everyday now, we are hearing about the 87,000 new IRS agents being hired by the federal government. At base level, this seems to be a bit egregious and threatening. Let’s be honest, there has never been a human being in the history of this country who has received a letter from the IRS and looked at that envelope and smiled. Never. Although some good news may be hidden within, it always seems to portend the end of someone’s financial world. Time, money, audits, you name it. It is sort of like a pilot getting a letter from the FAA.

But I am going to be totally honest with you. When I first heard the number, I just shook my head. But as I did a little more research, it was not as ominous as it first appeared. Well, at least not this huge number. **The reality is that the IRS is expecting to have some 50,000 or so retirements and these will replace those leaving. At the same time however, this new influx of personnel will still raise the total of IRS personnel to over 110,000 (80,411 IRS employees as of 2012 - c. 50,000 planned retirees + 87,000 new hires = 110,000+). For a comparison as seen of Fox News, in terms of staffers, not total personnel, the Department of Defense has 27,000, the State Department has 23,000, the FBI has 35,000 and Customs and Border Protection has 60,000. This is still pretty significant for the IRS.**

I do have one short IRS story. Several years ago, I owed taxes and had to pay back. Not a big deal, I had planned for it during the year. I set up a payment plan with the IRS. The first month, I got a letter saying they did not receive my payment. Okay, the system had not caught up yet. Sent a payment sans late fee. For the next two months, the exact same thing.



Finally, I got tired of this insanity, made an appointment and went to the IRS office here in Montgomery. I sat down with all my paperwork and asked what the deal was. I set up an automatic withdrawal from my checking account but for three months, I kept getting hit with a late fee for no payment. I place the paperwork in front of the lady’s face. Her answer?

My paperwork was run through one of their Atlanta offices. It is the responsibility of a person in that office, who handles my account, to physically input my information into the computer EVERY SINGLE MONTH to make the transaction go through. This person clearly did not do that. Excuse me? I said, look. I buy a car. I pay with automatic payments. The computer does what it does and done. But at the IRS, you have people supposedly inputting this information monthly and when they don’t, the IRS happily sends out evil letters. Remember what I said earlier about getting letters from the IRS. So, I took out my checkbook, paid the full amount (without the late fees thank you very much), grabbed my PIF receipt and left. My point? More staffers? How about updating your automation and your website to come into the 21st Century instead.

But as I looked into the addition of 87,000 agents, there were certainly several more disturbing aspects above and beyond the total numbers. When this was first announced, you could go to the IRS website and look at the job description. It said, “As a Special Agent you will combine your accounting skills with law enforcement skills to investigate financial crimes. Special Agents are duly sworn law enforcement officers who are trained to “follow the money.” No matter what the source, all income earned, both legal and illegal, has the potential of becoming involved in crimes which fall within the investigative jurisdiction of the IRS Criminal Investigation. Because of the expertise required to conduct these complex financial investigations, IRS Special Agents are considered the premier financial investigators for the Federal government.”

Nothing too strange here, but in a follow-on paragraph, one that has since been removed as of this writing, goes on to further state, “**Special Agent ‘major duties,’ which include ‘[carrying] a firearm and [being] willing to use deadly force, if necessary.’ Applicants for the Special Agent position must also ‘be willing and able to participate in arrests, execution of search warrants, and other dangerous assignments.’**

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

Look, I am an ex-military guy and LEO. “Use of Deadly Force Authorized” has been a part of my entire adult life. I get it. Absolutely and without any doubts. The IRS? I sense a bit of a disconnect here. In June of this year, Breitbart News reported on Rep. Matt Gaetz’s (R-FL) concerns over the IRS’s purchase of approximately \$700,000 of ammunition “between March and June 1” of this year. Forbes reported that traditionally administrative agencies spent more than \$20 million on weapons and ammunition. Of four notable examples, “the 2,300 Special Agents at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are allowed to carry AR-15’s, P90 tactical rifles and other heavy weaponry.” Recently, the IRS armed up with \$1.2 million in new ammunition. This was in addition to the \$11 million procurement of guns, ammunition’ and military-style equipment procured between 2006-2014. This Forbes article is a very good read and I highly recommend it.

Forbes also mentions The Small Business Administration (SBA) spent tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars to load its gun locker with Glocks last year and that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service modified their Glocks with silencers. Silencers??? Today, the VA has 3,700 officers, armed with millions of dollars’ worth of guns and ammunition including AR-15's, Sig Sauer handguns, and semi-automatic pistols. In 1996, they had zero enforcement officers. Lastly, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) agents carry the same sophisticated weapons platforms used by our Special Forces military warriors. The HHS gun locker is housed in a new “National Training Operations Center” – a facility at an undisclosed location within the DC beltway. You will get to see so many agencies that have been and are continuing to arm themselves. But to what end?

Way back in 2013, I wrote a Robservation titled, “I Am Not a Conspiracy Theorist.” I am not. But as a historian, I most certainly like to look at information sitting in front of me and then try to analyze what I am reading and then apply this to some historical context. In this Robservation, I quoted then President Barak Obama who said, “We cannot continue to rely on our military in order to achieve the national security objectives we’ve set. We’ve got to have a civilian national security force that’s just as powerful, just as strong, just as well funded.” Wh-wh-what?? His words, not mine. In Uncle Adolf’s manifesto, Mein Kampf, he wrote, “On purely practical grounds it is impossible to build up a national defence organization by means of private associations, unless the State makes an enormous contribution to it.”

And before any of you think I am comparing President Obama to Uncle Adolf, don’t go there, please. There is NO comparison between the two and I am NOT making one so don’t go Democrat on me with it. I am, however, willing to say that the idea of a national police force on par with the military is a very National Socialist idea. Arming these organizations to the teeth is not necessarily a good thing. I saw a meme the other day that said, “Instead of asking me why I should be able to own an AR-15, you should ask yourself why the IRS is arming themselves with them. Although the IRS is certainly not a planned part of any national police force, and I am not making that suggestion, but arming them to the teeth? Why? They are nevertheless part of an apparent trend of arming government agencies. We have many other organizations out there better suited for this law enforcement responsibility.

To end this Robservation, I am going to conclude with my final paragraph written nine years ago. It still holds true today. “I am not willing to cry ‘helter, skelter – the sky is falling’ but all I want to do is point out that there are those out there, who for whatever reason, want significant change in our country; significant control. Change, folks, is not always a good thing. I believe a desired doctrine of having a civilian police force stronger than our military is a dangerous precedent and history I believe clearly backs this up. When any society has such a force whose goals are not primarily wars abroad but the controlling of its own citizens within, democratic principles and values become hostage to ungodly ideals. I am also not saying that this is the direction we are necessarily going, but look at the ‘doctrine’ previously espoused by some in our country, look at the facts that are out there and then make a decision for yourself.”

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Running Into the Fire

Why More Christians Need to Be Involved in Politics

Terri Hasdorff

DID YOU KNOW?

Tenth in a Series

President James Madison, “Father of the Constitution”, vetoed a bill in 1817 providing for the federal government to fund the building of roads, canals, and improvement of waterways. His veto message to Congress said the bill violated Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

“The legislative powers vested in Congress are specified and enumerated in the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution, and it does not appear that the power to be exercised by this bill is among the enumerated powers.”

By 1860, the Northern States had a commanding majority in Congress and were voting to spend most of the federal revenue to develop industry in the North. The General Welfare clause of Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution requires spending to be for the benefit of all the States.

Although the Southern States were providing two-thirds of the federal revenue through tariffs, approximately three-fourths of federal spending was in Northern States for the same type of ‘internal improvements’ President Madison said violated the Constitution.

Assuming powers not granted to it by Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, the federal government, dominated by Northern States also violated the Tenth Amendment.

“The Powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

Capt. Henry C. Semple Camp 2002
camp2002@alscv.org

The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette. / GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com



John Sophocleus

Champions of political competition often cite Alabama with the most restrictive ballot access laws in 50 States. Any non-duopoly political party wanting access/inclusion on the upcoming Nov. 8th general election ballot printing was required to submit over 51,000 verified signatures. Given the history of being blocked from ballots, debates, media coverage, etc. the LPA [Libertarian Party of Alabama] submitted almost 80,000 signatures to the Secretary of State's Office reducing 'wiggle room' in efforts to snub non-duopoly voters' civil rights.

Similarly vulgar to advocates of political competition, a non-duopoly (i.e., NOT Democrat/Republican) candidate must receive 20% of the total Gubernatorial votes cast in a statewide race to retain ballot access. The next highest, last I checked, was KY at 10%. The irony of this is how much worse the Republicans (many former Democrats currently wearing the Red jersey) have evolved these past decades. It'd be revealing to enumerate how many Republican candidates would've been blocked/not allowed ballot access when Alabama was diehard Blue before turning Red under the current rules. Rules of this sort have proven a very effective barrier to protect establishment politicians and silence non-duopoly party and independent voices/voters. Those not blinded by the Alabama politburo find it is easy to see/understand how this is aiding and abetting our status quo.

Kudos to my more avid Gazette readers remembering the call NOT to cast a vote in our last gubernatorial election; given the quite certain Kay Ivey outcome, these votes simply increase signature requirements to compete. I get the chuckle y'all, "Memaw" health issues uncertainty, etc... I'm nonetheless compelled to vote in any race when there's someone as accomplished and effective at fighting corruption as Dr. Jimmy Blake. Imagine how much better off the city would be today if B'ham stayed on Blake's path of fighting corruption and excessive government.

My reply to those speculating Democrats put a 'certain to lose' gubernatorial candidate to 'trump up' the total vote count toward this anti-competitive end while fielding no candidate for Lt. Governor? I wasn't privy to such collusive 'art of the steal' making as was documented in the AL House District 79 Lovvorn race. We do in fact observe Will Ainsworth would

be the only Lt. Governor candidate on the Nov. 8th ballot if LPA Candidate Ruth Paige-Nelson wasn't brave enough to run.

Wish more appreciated how wasteful our current theft of elections has been to taxpayers and effective at protecting politicians from competitive discipline at the ballot box. The most deleterious is non-duopoly parties devote much time, effort, resources and money to obtain the signatures submitted to the SoS Office. Then taxpayers incur the next burden of counting/verifying those signatures. When slow to affirm access, it is difficult to recruit candidates to run under such uncertainty - i.e., asking a candidate(s) to suffer the costs and efforts of submitting paperwork, etc. for a race where they may not be allowed!

Sadly, many voters across the States will show on Nov. 8th bemoaning the terrible duopoly choices, giving little thought on how such poor, uncompetitive choices are put before them. Again, I know it is out of ignorance when voters say they won't take Alabama 'third-party' candidates seriously because of something they observe, not taking into consideration the hundreds of thousands of dollars and effort spent just to get on the ballot and submit a few brave names willing to contest the duopoly. If informed, how can one not take any candidate willing to stand up against these political Goliaths seriously?

Let's consider our current 'open' primary system Alabama taxpayers subsidize before looking at the next step in stealing elections. Primaries also serve as Republican Party fundraisers. Duopoly candidates write checks to the party (usu. a function of pay to the office holder) to be placed on ballots taxpayers provide. Alabamians are not obliged to provide PRIMARY elections as is true with GENERAL elections to satisfy Article 4, Section 4 requirements of the US Constitution. Understand what parties collect from a candidate(s) is not sent to the Alabama Dept. of Treasury to offset expenses to provide party primaries - these collections are KEPT by the duopol parties.

If Democrats/Republicans want to determine their general election candidates via convention, election, pin the tail on the Donkey/Elephant, smoke filled room... you get the idea, as a PRIVATE entity on their own purse - great! Pay for your own convention facility, use your own voting machines or rent our public ones at documented cost, buy your own Donkey/Ele-

phant board... then the party as a private entity can decide however they please who may participate. Once a party takes public money to purchase the facility, voting machine, smoke etc. then citizens have a right to access/vote in every primary determination they're subsidizing. Can you imagine how different our general election choices may be with this more competitive/reflective result?

No doubt ability to participate in every party's primary provided on the public purse, would increase participation and reduce the ability to manipulate low turnout results. I sure would've liked to vote in BOTH the primaries I paid for this election cycle. None dare dream this sort of political competition/participation being championed by our corrupt, colluding duopoly parties. Don't expect this sort of fidelity to taxpayers and competition from our traditional Republican Party Executive Committee, drunk with the power of supermajority and hegemony.

In fact, ALGOP Chairman John Wahl used the morass this public servant created by failing to adhere to his Alabama Code Section 17 duties to address crossover as the excuse for closing our primaries even more. Of course, one has no standing against a party's closed primary by a private entity determining their candidates on their own purse. Sadly the duopoly parties are further stealing elections by closing primaries provided on the public purse and putting the taxpayers on the hook for the greater burden/waste of time and money for administering/enforcing/tracking party registrations.

Jeff Poor [1819 News 8/13/22] reported, "Wahl said the objective of the resolution was to make a recommendation to the Alabama Legislature for the closed primaries with the anticipation that the legislature would handle the specifics." Nice to know our legislators will handle the specifics of this collusion. Undoubtedly, if laws were applied uniformly, these private entities would be disciplined for such blatant duopoly collusion. Little surprise the Republican politburo members passed the resolution by 81% to close/further steal elections in their August 13th Executive Committee meeting.

Jeff Poor [1819 News 8/5/22] also reported, Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill explained how that primary system would work during a recent appearance on Birmingham radio 105.5 WERC's "Alabama's Morning News." According to

Merrill, there are currently 31 states with party registration for so-called closed primaries. Fourteen are Republican-dominant, and 17 are Democrat-dominant, with Kentucky and Florida recently becoming majority Republican. Merrill did not commit to a particular preference one way or the other regarding closed primaries but instead advised the Alabama Legislature to follow the party's wishes. "[M]y preference is whatever the parties want to do is what the legislature would do because the parties are the ones that run the primaries because of the preference in whether they set up the cycle as opposed to a convention, a caucus, or a nominating committee meeting," Merrill said. "That's left up to the parties or the party leadership."

Much to unpack here; most noteworthy how the duopoly parties are converging as Republicans grow more collusive/anti-competitive in politics. Secretary Merrill once again abdicates his oversight role over political parties which do not follow code/laws w.r.t. duopoly candidates ineligible to be placed on ballots at the time; especially when a party takes taxpayer dollars legislator allegiance is to the taxpayer, not party politburo members. If the parties remain private entities, the legislature's job is to secure each citizen's enjoyment of life, liberty and property within that party. Sadly, most on Goat Hill are more interested in promoting wealth transfers to specific interest over the general welfare of Alabama.

I doubt anyone is surprised the Chair of the LPA, Gavin Goodman, has different perspective on closed primaries than our duopoly party chairs, providing the following quote. "The Libertarian Party of Alabama has no problem with the ALGOP proposal to go to a "closed primary system" in Alabama. We believe each party should choose their candidates however they like. What we can not abide is the use of taxpayer dollars to fund these closed primaries. The 65 candidates that the Libertarian Party of Alabama has on the ballot in November did not cost the taxpayer a penny. If the ALGOP wants a closed primary, then they should pay for it themselves. If they want to take even one red cent of taxpayer money to fund the primary then Alabama citizens should have every right to participate fully and we would then call for a fully open primary where every citizen could vote in whatever primary they want."

The Foundation for Moral Law

The Freedom Report

We are 4 out of 4! That's right; we submitted amicus briefs in four Supreme Court cases that were released this term and all four were decided in our favor.

Shurtleff v. City of Boston

After allowing over 300 organizations (including LGBTQ pride groups) to fly their flags in the city park, the City of Boston denied Pastor Shurtleff and his church's flag because it contained the Christian cross. The Foundation argued in its amicus brief that the City may not discriminate against the Church while allowing other organizations' flags. In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court agreed.

Kennedy v. Bremerton School District

Coach Kennedy regularly knelt on the 50-yard line and prayed after football games -- until school officials ordered him not to do so and fired him for obeying God rather than men (Acts 5:29). In the Supreme Court, the Foundation noted the longstanding principle that "...neither students nor teachers shed their constitutional rights at the schoolhouse gate." Tinker v. Des Moines (1969). Agreeing that this was unconstitutional discrimination against Coach Kennedy's religious speech, the Supreme Court issued a momentous decision that will afford much more freedom for prayer in the public arena.

Carson v. Makin

The State of Maine subsidized parents who send their children to private schools -- so long as those schools are secular. The Foundation argued that this policy forced the State to examine curricula and observe the way it was taught, which constituted unconstitutional entanglement of government with religion. The Supreme Court held that if the State subsidizes any private schools, it may not discriminate against religious schools.

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

This is the big one! In the 49 years since Roe v. Wade, 63,000,000 babies have been killed by abortion. In Dobbs, the Foundation joined Lutherans for Life to file an amicus brief supporting the Mississippi law restricting abortion. Now, Roe v. Wade is history! Five Justices voted to overrule Roe, and Chief Justice Roberts concurred that Mississippi's law is constitutional but was not yet ready to overrule Roe. The three liberal justices issued an irrational dissent. But the battle for life has just begun. Just as we helped enact the Alabama Human Life Amendment and the Alabama Human Life Protection Act, the Foundation will continue to fight for the legal protection of the lives of unborn children.

New Case!

The Foundation has filed one new amicus brief this quarter. Joy Garner, on behalf of a group of non-vaccinated persons called The Control Group, is arguing that the Biden Administration's forced vaccination policies violate religious liberty and are bad medical policy and bad science. We will have more to say about Garner v. Biden soon!

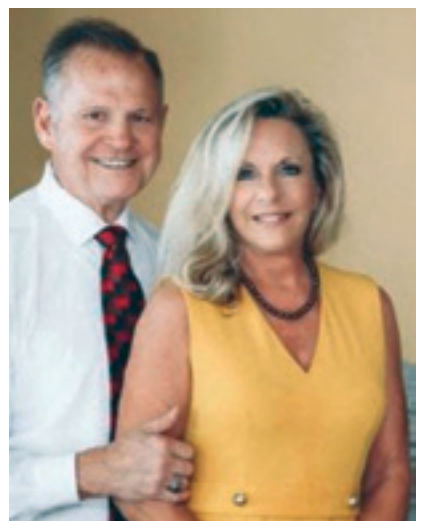
Exclusion from an Inclusion Campaign

Required by school officials to draw a poster for a Southern Poverty Law Center-inspired "inclusion campaign," a pastor's son created one that said, "We are all created in the image of God." Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys contacted the Foundation when school officials refused to display it. As the child said himself, "My poster was excluded from an inclusion campaign." The Foundation wrote to the school board explaining their violation of the child's constitutional rights and the consequences thereof. The board replaced the poster. We have offered to help the school board and its attorney draft a policy concerning religious expression that will be constitutional and fair to all concerned.

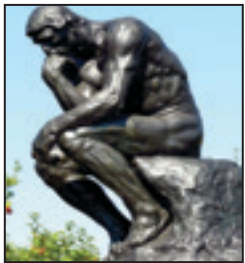
Judge Roy Moore Achieved Two Major Victories in Federal Court

First, against Leigh Corfman, when the jury rejected her claim that Judge Moore had defamed her by merely denying the outrageous accusations against him as "false and malicious"; and recently, against the Super PAC SMP who ran false and malicious advertisements against him during his 2017 Senate run. The jury awarded him \$8 million in damages. Though he has yet to see any award money, this is tremendous exoneration!

We continue fight to restore the rights and freedoms intended for us by the Constitution.



Judge Roy & Kayla Moore



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



Ronald A. Holtsford

WHEN DO YOU REALLY NEED A WILL?

There are a few ways to approach your estate planning and even if you don’t think you have anything you most likely have more than you think. Some people however, do literally have nothing and live month to month and have more debt than assets, but most people do have enough to where they should at least talk to a lawyer.

But let’s say you live month to month and have next to nothing in the bank. Let’s also say you have a car payment, you rent a place to live and maybe credit card debt where you only make minimum payments. Overall your debt is significantly larger than your assets. An heir comes to see me after your death. I would discuss the actual debt and assets but I may talk to your heir about consideration of walking away from everything since they bear no personal responsibility. A Will is always wise to have but probably not worth using in this scenario.

Next scenario you have \$4000 in the bank with only your name on it, a paid for car and you rent where you live. You have more assets than debt. Your heir seeks a consultation. Again, having a Will is always good and may well be able to do a Small Estate distribution through the Probate Court. But less costly and a bit easier is the ability to recover less than \$5,000 from a bank with appropriate paperwork found in the Code of Alabama and an Alabama Department of Revenue form MV 5-6 to transfer the vehicle to an heir when the estate will not be probated. As well before your death you can put another’s name on your bank account or do a POD (Payable on Death) with the bank and even putting another person on your vehicle title with John or Don Doe.

Next scenario, you are solvent, have a paid for house, one or more vehicles, a boat, bank accounts and investment accounts. You visit two different attorneys and both have workable solutions for estate planning.

I have a good friend that tends to follow solution number one which is to set up a trust. Trusts are generally more expensive to set up and everything that has a deed, title or other evidence of ownership must show the trust as the owner so that the trust can legally move items to the beneficiaries after your death via the trustee. A pour over Will is done should some item or items be missed so that probate can be done if necessary in order to transfer the asset(s) to the beneficiaries or heirs. The goal in avoiding probate is missed if you don’t keep up with the trust owning everything. An example might be if you don’t place a rural real property deed in the name of the trust but rather the deed is in your name.



Solution number two is having a Will. Items for beneficiaries can be specific or as a part of the residual (everything left over). Specific items left to beneficiaries are mandatory gifts provided that all debts are paid and if necessary the residual estate can be sold for debts. If the debts are still not covered then even specific gifts may be equally sold to pay debts. If desired, a hybrid may be done using a Will; possibly including a POD for financial accounts, a TOD (Transfer on Death) for investment accounts or simple beneficiary designations, a life estate may be made where a certain beneficiary or beneficiaries receive the real property after your death, or a beneficiary or beneficiaries may be added to your deed with right of survivorship.

Finally, should you have assets and you don’t have a Will (or trust or other estate planning) then as I tell my clients, “the State of Alabama has a Will for you, and it may not be what you want”. If you die with nothing in place that can distribute your assets then you will have to hope someone in your family steps forward to probate your estate. That person will be bonded based on the value of your assets with an inventory to follow sixty days after they are appointed Personal Representative of your estate to include actual values of the assets. How much fun and time to go through your loved one’s stuff and appraising it all such as pots and pans, \$225.00, den couch \$350.00, gold coins, \$17, 280.00, etc. Bonding of the Personal Representative and an inventory of the assets is required without a Will, but generally in a Will it will say the Personal Representative shall serve without bond and no inventory will be required. I can pretty much guarantee you the cost of a Will is considerably less than the cost of a bond and the amount of time you require to figure out an inventory with actual values.

If you haven’t seriously researched needing a Will, it’s probably time to talk to someone.

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

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

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STUDENT LOAN DEBT \$\$

With the AVERAGE STUDENT LOAN DEBT reaching around \$37,000 per borrower, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2022’s States with the Most and Least Student Debt, as well as accompanying videos and expert commentary.

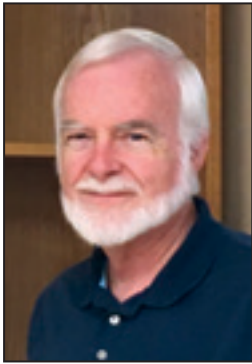
To determine the states that are friendliest toward student-loan debtors, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 11 key metrics. The data set ranges from average student debt to unemployment rate among the population aged 25 to 34 to share of students with past-due loan balances.

States with the Most Student Debt States with the Least Student Debt

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. West Virginia | 42. Nevada |
| 2. Pennsylvania | 43. Alaska |
| 3. South Dakota | 44. Colorado |
| 4. New Hampshire | 45. Wyoming |
| 5. Mississippi | 46. Florida |
| 6. Delaware | 47. New Mexico |
| 7. Kentucky | 48. Washington |
| 8. Rhode Island | 49. California |
| 9. South Carolina | 50. District of Columbia |
| 10. North Dakota | 51. Utah |

Best vs. Worst

Utah has the lowest average student debt, \$18,344, which is 2.2 times lower than in New Hampshire, the state with the highest at \$39,928. Utah has the lowest proportion of students with debt, 39.00 percent, which is 1.9 times lower than in South Dakota, the state with the highest at 73.00 percent. New York has the lowest share of student loans in past-due or default status, 3.03 percent, which is 2.8 times lower than in Hawaii, the state with the highest at 8.46 percent. To view the full report and your state or the District’s rank, please visit: <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-and-worst-states-for-student-debt/7520>



John M. Taylor

Jack Hinson: One Man’s Retribution

By: John M. Taylor

The War for Southern Independence produced many divisions in both North and South. Southerners overwhelmingly supported the Confederate cause; a small percentage supported the North and some preferred to remain neutral.

One individual who preferred neutrality was John W. Hinson, commonly addressed as “Jack” or “Old Jack.” Hinson owned a plantation called Bubbling Springs, near Dover in Stewart County, Tennessee. The area, known as Land Between the Lakes, separates the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. It was there that Jack lived with his wife and ten children. A one-time slave owner, Jack freed his slaves and they remained as workers on his farm. Although not particularly political, Hinson opposed secession. Despite Jack’s anti-secession stance and preference for neutrality, two of his sons joined the Confederate Army.

Early in 1862, after the capture of Forts Henry and Donelson, Union General U.S. Grant established a presence in Tennessee. These captures secured an ongoing Union presence on the Kentucky-Tennessee border. Jack Hinson literally hosted Grant in his home. The area was logistically favorable for the Federal Army to supply troops in Tennessee and Georgia. Given the large number of Confederate supporters in the area, the occupiers’ presence was not welcome and the so-called Southern “bushwhackers” used guerilla tactics to attack Union soldiers and sympathizers. This led to a Union policy of capturing, torturing, and executing suspected attackers without a trial.

Two of Hinson’s civilian sons, George (22) and Jack (17), were deer hunting in the fall of 1862 when they were accosted by a Union patrol and accused of being bushwhackers. They “were tied to a tree then shot, after which their bodies were dragged back to town. There the corpses were paraded around the Dover courthouse square as an example of the Union’s zero-tolerance policy toward resistance.” (Russell) Their heads were cut off and taken to Hinson’s farm where they were placed on gateposts. The Union patrol searched the Hinson home and surrounding buildings looking for “contraband.” Important items were well hidden from prying Yankee eyes. The lieutenant in charge wanted to arrest other members of the Hinson clan but relented once it was revealed Grant had a friendly relationship with the family.

Holding true to his Scots-Irish lineage, 57-year-old Jack Hinson developed a plan of retribution against those who murdered his sons. Old Jack got his hands on a .50 caliber Kentucky rifle, based on the British Whitworth. The rifle had a 41” barrel, weighed 17 pounds, and was hexagonal in shape. This unique weapon was capable of shooting over 2,000 yards. Additionally, the weapon could fire minie balls to more effectively take out the enemy.

After studying Union movements, Hinson developed an ambush plan, initially focusing on the Lieutenant and Sergeant responsible for his sons’ murders.

He killed both of them, shooting the unsuspecting Lieutenant from his saddle. Before the smoke had cleared, Hinson vanished from sight using his extensive knowledge of the terrain to escape. It did not take long for the Yankees to figure out who initiated these acts of retribution and Jack became a target himself. Local friends warned Jack about Union plans to track him down. Hinson “sent his wife and seven of his children to Sulfur Wells” (Lamb) to stay with relatives.

Once his family was sent to safety, Jack moved to a hiding place in a ridgetop cave overlooking the Tennessee River—the shooting position was ideal. Union boats sometimes struggled against the rapids, reducing their speed to a snail’s pace. This allowed Jack time to take careful aim before pulling the trigger; he could also be more selective as to his target (mainly officers). “Legend says that the 36 eighth-inch punch marks on his sniper rifle indicate the number of victims who fell to his deadly skill.” (Lamb) In reality, Jack Hinson is believed to have used his sniping prowess to kill over 100 Yankees. Another story is that Jack did not count his kills unless he could literally put his foot on their face. [Also, late in the war, Hinson provided assistance as a guide for Nathan Bedford Forrest.]

Unfortunately for the South, there were too few Jack Hinsons to secure independence. [In hindsight, had the South adopted the guerilla tactics of Hinson--and the Confederate Indians--perhaps independence would have been accomplished.] Sadly, for Jack, the war and its devastating impact virtually wiped out his entire family.

Jack Hinson simply wanted to be left alone to live his life. Although he left a heroic legacy as perhaps America’s greatest sniper, the cost to his family was certainly not worth that distinction. The Lincoln regime’s insistence on forcing the Southern States back into the Union claimed many victims and Old Jack’s family felt the full force of the “despot’s heel.”

Sources: Jack Hinson: “A Civil War Sniper Hell Bent on Revenge,” by Shahan Russell, from American Civil War Instant Articles at: <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/american-civil-war/jack-ninson-civil-war-sniper-hell.html>; “The Story of American Civil War Sniper Jack Hinson and his Rifle,” by Kyle Lamb, from Guns & Ammo at: <https://www.gunsandammo.com/editorial/the-story-of-civil-war-sniper-jack-hinson-and-his-rifle/247860>; “The Sniper who Slayed more than 100 Union Soldiers,” from True Stories at: <https://www.ozy.com/true-and-stories/the-sniper-who-slayed-more-than-100-union-soldiers/64502/>. For more details, check out the book, Jack Hinson’s One-man War, a Civil War Sniper, by Tom McKenney.



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



John Martin

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What has happened to our butterflies? Have many people even bothered to notice? On a typical summer day, how many do you see?

Up until about 1980, anybody could step outside in most places and spot a dozen or more in a few minutes. Since then, gradually at first, their numbers have diminished, and the decline has continued every year. When we passed Y2K, it began to accelerate. Finally, in mid-summer 2021, the remaining 10% of our butterflies suddenly almost completely disappeared, even in rural locations. Today, one can expect to see no more than one or two in an entire week. All species of butterflies have now declined by estimates of up to 99.9%, at least in the southeast U. S.

Like canaries in coal mines, butterflies are a little-known barometer that can reveal the overall health of our environment. Their numbers and diversity are critical to verify its status.

What is killing the butterflies? Various sources are claiming habitat destruction, deforestation, hurricanes, droughts, predation by birds, lizards and spiders, pesticides, loss of food plants, and of course, “climate change.” Some of these are legitimate, but the primary source of butterfly losses has been given little attention—**MOSQUITO SPRAYING**. In cities, it has been sprayed from trucks for many years. Today, it is sprayed all over entire states from aircraft, where it spreads indiscriminately for many miles. There is hardly a spot east of the Mississippi River that is spared from its deadly fumes.

In late August, 2020, a swarm of thousands of monarchs migrating south from Canada flew over the Fargo–Moorhead area of North Dakota and Minnesota on their way to their wintering grounds in central Mexico. It was a journey of up to 3000 miles they had been doing for millennia, but that year they did not make it. They had run into a deadly cloud of permethrin and perished on the spot, literally falling out of the sky like confetti. Dead monarchs were scattered all over the ground. The insidious mist had been sprayed from a plane by an aerial sprayer hired by the Cass County Vector Control that was attempting to kill mosquitoes in the area.

Since before humans even existed, millions of monarchs lived in North America and performed their legendary migrations from the arctic regions to what is now mid-Mexico.

Now, like the Passenger Pigeons, their numbers have plummeted so far that during this past July, 2022, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has officially listed the monarch as an endangered species.

Southern Florida is probably the mosquito capital of the United States. It is also the home of several threatened butterfly species, including the Atala, Florida Leafwing, Miami Blue, Bartram’s Hairstreak, and the iconic Schaus Swallowtail. In 1972, Monroe County began using aircraft to spray two deadly chemicals—**Dibrom and Baytex**—all over southern Florida. These chemicals are particularly po-

tent to Lepidoptera, not to mention other beneficial insects. And Monroe County is right in the heart of the Everglades National Park, which is claimed to be a no spray zone.

The Schaus Swallowtail, eastern North America’s most endangered butterfly.



Dibrom and Naled (essentially identical and deadly) are still sprayed from trucks and aircraft in Florida and other states, wiping out the butterflies and other beneficial insects wholesale.

They can be killed at 1/400th to 1/4,000th of the dose sprayed to kill the mosquitoes.

In 2009 and 2010, the most recent period of available statewide data, Florida sprayed about 19,650 gallons of **Naled** onto 5.2 million acres.

In June 2012, on the season’s first mosquito control flight, Richard Howe flew a UH-1 Huey helicopter over Palm Beach County, Florida, spraying tons of Dibrom14 insecticide over thousands of acres. The patented sprayer was his own design to minimize the droplet sizes, enabling them to more efficiently disperse many miles from his altitude of 300 feet.

What can we do to stop this relentless destruction of our beneficial insects? Today, everybody should know that they are essential components of our world and that their loss can have catastrophic consequences.

Who do we blame? Careless homeowners, farmers and pest control companies have some impact. But the devastating destruction is done by federal, state, and local **governments**. These are the agents who use aircraft to spew the deadly vapors over millions of square miles of everybody’s property—who destroy our entire insect populations to control a few pests. Our pollinators are being wiped out.

Almost no insects are spared. Besides butterflies, victims include moths, honeybees, ladybugs, cicadas, fireflies, June beetles, and just about all others—including mosquito predators like dragonflies and damselflies. The only survivors seem to be the nasty ones like fire ants, ticks, fleas, chiggers, bedbugs, roaches, termites, blood-sucking flies, and yellow jackets.

The news media are finally beginning to take notice. They have been aware of this problem for many years, but most of the news articles still use comments like “may kill” instead of

definitely “will kill.”

Older people remember the widespread use of DDT from World War II until 1972, when it was banned. Its toxicity was horrific for numerous insects and animals. However, butterfly populations in most areas were thriving. Obviously, the DDT was dispersed in limited areas. Today’s insecticides are far deadlier. They are saturation broadcast over entire states with insect death tolls approaching 100%.

The European Union has been studying the effects of **imidacloprid**, the most widely used type of insecticide in the world. It has banned it for two years pending an analysis of honeybee populations.

There is some hope for safe and effective mosquito control. Mosquito larvicides are available, and they are not harmful to butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

In April, 2006, Alachua County, FL treated more than 200 retention ponds with a mosquito-killing bacteria. Each treatment lasts for a month. **Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis**, or **Bti**, is a natural bacterium that kills mosquito larvae when they hatch. A good, safe mosquito trap in a yard or patio can be a five gallon bucket filled with water and a bit of straw laced with the bacillus.

Instead of a lawn, establishing a wildlife garden is also effective. Stock it with native plants and wildflowers that have **NOT** been treated with any pesticide, especially **imidicloprid**. Mosquito predators like hummingbirds, bats, frogs, geckos, dragonflies, damselflies, and many others will come to feast on your blood-sucking tormentors.

Another promising control agent could be **elephant mosquitoes (Toxorhynchites splendens and Tx. rutilus)** that do not drink blood, but instead kill the ones that do. They are huge compared to other mosquitoes—length18 mm (0.71 in) and wingspan

24 mm (0.94 in) and live on nectar, honeydew, and sap. Their larvae prey on the larvae of other mosquitoes and are particularly fond of Aedes aegypti. A single larva can live up to six months and consume up to 5000 bloodsucker larvae.

Sterilization could be the ultimate mosquito control. Before the 1960’s, screw worms were a serious cattle pest. But by sterilizing male screw worm flies with radiation and releasing them, screw worms were essentially eliminated in a few years. Could we do that with mosquitoes?

In a field trial in 2019 in South Miami, the Kentucky-based Mosquito Mate Lab pest control company released 6.8 million male Aedes aegypti mosquitoes infected with **Wolbachia**, which made them sterile. The wild mosquito population dropped 75%. For now, before spending more funds on it, Florida is waiting for research results “in other parts of the country and Brazil.” Meanwhile, the butterfly massacres continue; they seem to have ample funding for that.

For the preservation of our ecosystem, the widespread spraying of pesticides, especially from aircraft, must be stopped.

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YOU CAN APPLY FOR MEDICARE ONLINE

You can apply for Medicare online even if you are not ready to start your retirement benefits. Applying online is quick and easy. There are no forms to sign, and we usually do not require additional documentation. We'll process your application and contact you if we need more information.

Knowing when to apply for Medicare is very important! You must apply during your limited initial enrollment period. If you're eligible for Medicare at age 65, your initial enrollment period begins three months before your 65th birthday and ends three months after that date. If you miss your initial enrollment period, you may have to pay a higher monthly premium. Visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare to apply for Medicare and find other important information.

If you were unable to enroll or disenroll in Medicare because you could not reach us by phone after January 1, 2022, you will be granted additional time, through December 30, 2022. **This additional time applies to the 2022 General Enrollment Period, Initial Enrollment Period, and Special Enrollment Period.**

Some people who receive Medicare benefits may qualify for Extra Help with their Medicare prescription drug plan costs, including the monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and co-payments. To qualify for Extra Help, you must receive Medicare, have limited resources and income, and reside in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia. Read our publication Understanding the Extra Help with Your Medicare Prescription Drug Plan for more information at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10508.pdf.

The Medicare website has answers to your questions and other helpful resources including:

- What does Medicare cover?
Find out at www.medicare.gov/what-medicare-covers.
- Where do I find forms to file a Medicare appeal?
Visit www.medicare.gov/claims-appeals/how-do-i-file-an-appeal.
- How can I let someone else talk to Medicare on my behalf?
Learn more at www.medicare.gov/claims-appeals/file-an-appeal/can-someone-file-an-appeal-for-me.
- What do Medicare health and prescription drug plans cost in my area, and what services do they offer?
Check out www.medicare.gov/plan-compare.
- Which doctors, health care providers, and suppliers participate in Medicare? See www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/find-compare-doctors-hospitals-other-providers-for-the-answers.
- Where can I learn more about a Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D) and enroll? Visit www.medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d/how-to-get-prescription-drug-coverage.
- Where can I find a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy in my area? Find the answers at www.medicare.gov/medigap-supplemental-insurance-plans.

Please share these helpful resources with friends and family today.

THREE SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE MUSTS

*It's never been easier to do business with us online. Often there is no need to call or visit an office. **Here are three webpages that can make your life easier:***

*Create Your Personal **my** Social Security Account. Did you know you already have access to much of your Social Security information? All you need to do is create or sign in to your personal **my** Social Security account. You can verify your earnings, get future benefit estimates, instantly get a benefit verification letter, and more, with your own personal **my** Social Security account, at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.*

***File for Your Retirement Online.** Planning for retirement? Or looking to retire now? You can complete and submit your online application for retirement benefits in as little as 15 minutes at www.ssa.gov/retirement.*

***Stay Informed!** Our blog is the place to be for Social Security news. We feature messages and information direct from our Acting Commissioner and other experts. When you subscribe, you'll get an email each time we post a new blog so you can stay informed. Visit blog.ssa.gov.*

Our online resources don't end there. If you didn't see what you need in the list above, visit us at www.ssa.gov/online-services. Please share these pages with your friends and family.

TOP FIVE FRAUD AND SCAM PREVENTION TOOLS

With the right anti-fraud information, you can help protect those you love. Here are the five most important resources about Social Security scams that you should know about:

- Find out how to spot fake calls and emails and what to do if you get one on our Protect Yourself from Social Security Scams page at www.ssa.gov/scam.
- Learn about phone scams and how to report them on our Office of the Inspector General's Scam Awareness page at oig.ssa.gov/scam.
- Read about protecting your Social Security number from identity theft at blog.ssa.gov/protecting-your-social-security-number-from-identity-theft.
- Create your personal **my** Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to help you keep track of your records and identify any suspicious activity.
- Visit our Fraud Prevention and Reporting page at www.ssa.gov/fraud to understand how we combat fraud.

Please share these resources about scams with your friends and family and help us spread the word on social media.

Please help inform others by sharing these messages with family and friends.

*Kylle D. McKinney, SSA Public Affairs
Specialist: kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov*

LABOR DAY September 6, 2022

The first ever Labor Day was celebrated in New York City on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union, according to Office Holidays. Labor Day weekend has been celebrated as a national holiday in the United States and Canada since 1894.

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Gary Miller

Another Outdoor Truths Circle Event in the books. This was our second one on the North Fork River. Our cabin was only a few hundred yards from the Norfork Dam. Last year was my first time to experience the daily changing conditions the river offers. And its all about if the gates of the dam are open or closed and whether both gates are opened or just one. Each condition determines if fishing will be serene and confined or if as much effort will be given to maneuvering the boat as will be catching fish. This year was different from last year. This year not only did the gates stay closed until late morning, but only one gate was opened. Both situations made everything so much easier – especially when the gates were closed. When the gates are closed, the water is much like a lake. Yes, it still flows, but it's negligible, and an anchor can easily hold a boat in place. As you can imagine, less water also gives the fish less places to hide. This means if you catch one, it's most likely a few others will be hanging around that same area. One of things low water also does, is expose small islands. These islands reveal some areas the fish might find attractive when the waters rise. I like to be just below these structures, knowing that fish might be waiting on a food ambush that might be washing out of the grass as the water rises. But everyone has their own techniques and methods. And in that river, there are a lot of them that works. These islands also reveal dangers that boaters would not normally know about when the water is up. When the water is moving and nothing is standing still, there's no time to pay much attention to what's lurking under the water. We are too busy with what needs our immediate attention. And then, out of the blue, a motor is destroyed because we failed to remember the exposed areas that needed attention.

What goes for the North Fork River, goes for our lives. Sometimes God allows the flow of life to slow down. He narrows our areas of accomplishment. He confines our ability to be successful. The tempo that was once hurried and fast-paced is now slow, methodical, and even boring. But it's at these times, God shows us those things we were once too busy to see. He reveals things in our life that if let go, will eventually cause a shipwreck. God is always working on us. What seems slow to us might be His way of causing us to look around at the places we'll need to maneuver when the waters rise. Don't miss His clues.

gary@outdoortruths.org

Gary has written the Outdoor Truths article for 20 years. He has also written four books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations.

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Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

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Chief Deputy Murphy

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, escape, 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 the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn 'on' "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"



Social Media

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Firearms Familiarization Course

We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. The class is held at our Sheriff D.T.

Marshall Firearms Training Center and is FREE to Montgomery County residents! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

For information on the next class, please call 334-832-1339.



Project Lifesaver

Project Lifesaver is a search and rescue program operated by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and public safety agencies across the country. The program targets "at-risk" individuals who are prone to wandering away from their safe environment. The program is designed to reduce potential injury of adults and children with the propensity to wander due to Alzheimer's, dementia, autism or other cognitive diseases.

Research conducted by the Alzheimer's Association reveals that one in ten people in Alabama 65 and older have developed Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. The percentage increases with age: 17 percent of people age 75-84, and 32 percent of people aged 85 and older have Alzheimer's dementia. In Montgomery, AL, approximately 15.1% of the population is 65 or older.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver is committed to assisting the community and keeping your loved ones safe!

Visit: www.montgomerysheriff.com/public-interest/project-life

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Honoring Our Heroes



If you know of a Veteran who deserves to be honored, please email: alabamagazette@gmail.com

Colonel John A. Eidsmoe

Age: 76

Col John A. Eidsmoe served 23 years in the United States military including five years on active duty and 18 years in the U. S. Air Force Reserve. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was Judge Advocate. His decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations and campaign ribbons were: Meritorious Service Medal, Commendation Medal, and two Achievement Medals.

Col Eidsmoe was born October 18, 1945 to his parents, Russell and Beulah Eidsmoe in Yankton, South Dakota. He was reared in Sioux City, Iowa where he graduated from high school in 1963. He graduated from St. Olaf College with a B.S. Degree in Political Science in 1967 and was commissioned as an Air Force 2LT through R.O.T.C. He was deferred from active duty to attend the University of Iowa College of Law receiving his Juris Doctorate in 1970.



Col Eidsmoe says, "I fully expected to serve in Vietnam as an Air Force Judge Advocate, but by the time I was called to active duty in 1971 the Vietnam War was winding down. Nevertheless, the Vietnam War shaped me as it shaped my generation. I believed the War was necessary to stop Communist

expansion, and we were obligated by the SEATO agreement to come to the aid of our South Vietnamese allies. During my law school days, I was revolted by the New Left anti-war activism on campus and devoted myself to defending the War through my school newspaper column, conservative political activism, and sometimes countering antiwar demonstrations.”

Following the example of military service by four of his uncles during WWI and another uncle in WWII, he reported to Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, August 15, 1971. He attended the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course (JASOC) at Maxwell A.F.B., AL in 1972, noting that "The JAG school is a beautiful state-of-the-art complex today, but back then it was a quonset hut. Nevertheless, they trained us well." He completed two years of active duty serving as a Judge Advocate at Offutt A.F.B., NB, 1971-1973 and three years at Grand Forks, A.F.B., N.D. 1973-1976. In 1976, he transferred from active



included prosecuting and defending courts-martial, maintaining military discipline but also protecting the constitutional rights of military personnel. He completed the Maxwell A.F.B. programs at the Air Command and Staff College in 1991 and the Air War College in 1993. He retired from the Air Force Reserve as a Lt. Colonel May 24, 1995, and shortly thereafter entered the Alabama State Defense Force where he served as a Chaplain (Colonel) and received the Legion of Merit, and then served as a Chaplain (Colonel) with the Mississippi State Guard, from which he retired in September 2020 receiving the Mississippi Magnolia Medal.

After leaving active duty and using the G.I. Bill, Col Eidsmoe pursued seminary training, receiving a Master of Divinity Degree from the Lutheran Brethren Seminary in 1980 (valedictorian) a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary in 1980 (cum laude), and a Doctor of Ministries Degree from Oral Roberts University in 1985 (4.0 GPA). Col Eidsmoe received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in 2005, and a Doctor of Sacred History in Biblical, Natural and Moral Law (summa cum laude) from Emanuel College of Christian Studies in 2011.

Col Eidsmoe's legal career began while serving in the military, but he also worked with the Rufer Law Firm in Fergus Falls, MN 1977-1980 and served as a Professor of law at the O.W. Coburn School of Law in Tulsa, OK 1981-1986. He taught law at Oral Roberts University and as an adjunct at Regents University, VA. He served as a Professor of Constitutional Litigation, Law I & II, Law, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Advanced Legal Writing, Historical & Theological Foundations of Law, Jurisprudence and First Amendment at the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in Montgomery, AL 1990 to 2005. He has served as a Professor of Constitutional Law, Professional Responsibility and Criminal Procedure at the Oak Brook College of Law and Governmental since 2005, as adjunct Professor of Law at the Handong International Law School of South Korea since 2009 and as an Adjunct Professor of Christian Apologetics at the Institute of Lutheran Theology since 2011. In his various teaching positions Col Eidsmoe received the Outstanding

duty to active reserves and performed Reserve duty as a Judge Advocate at various locations including Grand Forks AFB, ND, Vance AFB OK, the Air Force Academy, and Maxwell-Gunter AFB. His Judge Advocate duties

Professor Award five times and was frequently called upon to serve as baccalaureate speaker for graduations.

Col Eidsmoe served as Senior Staff Attorney at the AL Supreme Court 2005-2008. Since 2008, he has served as the Senior Counsel and Resident Scholar at the Foundation for Moral Law, a non-profit legal foundation committed to the defense of religious liberty and the strict interpretation of the Constitution as intended by its Framers. Recently, his duties at the Foundation have included the defense of military personnel who have religious objections to vaccination. He wrote an amicus brief that led to a federal judge issuing a temporary injunction protecting an Air Force officer from discharge or other discipline. "I love the Air Force," Col Eidsmoe says, "but I also love the men and women who wear Air Force blue, and I believe they are entitled to the protections of the Constitution they have sworn to support and defend."

As a legal scholar, Col Eidsmoe is the author of 16 books including the three-volume Historical and Theological Foundations of Law. He has held memberships in the Federalist Society, Vietnam Veterans of America and Officers Christian Fellowship. He is a Board member of Lutherans for Life, Board Chairman of the Plymouth Rock Foundation, and he is a Third Degree Black Belt with the American Taekwondo Foundation and a Grand Officer, Knight Commander and Chaplain, Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem.

Col Eidsmoe is ordained by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations for which he serves as Director of Military Chaplaincy and also serves as the pastor of two churches, the Woodland Presbyterian Church in Notasulga, AL, and the First Presbyterian Church in Tallassee, AL. He dismisses any conflict between his twin careers as a lawyer and a pastor, saying "Luther had the answer to that: Law and Gospel. The Law shows us our sin; the Gospel shows us how to be saved from sin through Jesus Christ."

Col Eidsmoe serves as the Commander of the American Legion Centennial Post 2019 in Pike Road, AL and is active with Chapter 607 of Vietnam Veterans of America. He says, "I believe it is important to assure those who served during Vietnam and to assure the families of those who died that their sacrifice was not in vain. Our civilian leadership did not allow our military to win a clear victory, but we did hold the line against Communist expansion for ten years, and in so doing we bought the United States and the Free World a vital decade of time. I believe there is a clear link between our stand in Vietnam and the collapse of the Soviet Union 15 years later."

Col Eidsmoe and his wife, Marlene, have been married 51 years, live in rural Pike Road and have three children and three grandchildren.

Staff Sergeant Deborah Marie Chambers

Age: 68



Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Deborah Marie Chambers served 16.5 years in the U.S. Air Force. Her Military Occupational Specialty Code (MOSC) was Education and Training Craftsman and Morale Welfare Recreation and Services Journeyman. Her service included support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm/Clam. Her decorations, medals, citations and campaign ribbons awarded were: Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with three oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with three oak leaf clusters and NCO Education Graduate Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

SSgt Chambers was born October 31, 1953 to her parents, Robert and Carolyn Bianchi in Grand Rapids, MI. After graduation from high school in 1971, she married and had two children. SSgt Chambers' family has a strong tradition of its members serving in the U.S. military. Her grandfather served in the Army in WWI; her father served in the Navy in WWII, and her brother served as a Marine. SSGt Chambers volunteered and entered service in the U.S. Air Force December 11, 1978.

SSgt Chambers completed six weeks of Boot Camp at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX, where she qualified as a cook. She served three years as a cook at Minot A.F.B., N.D. She then was transferred to Ramstein A.B., Germany, along with her husband, U.S. Air Force member, Greg Chambers, where she served seven years 1984-1991. There she was assigned to aircraft maintenance which was necessary ancillary support for the aircraft at Ramstein A.B. Next, she was transferred to Wright-Patterson A.F.B, OH, and continued

work in training with air craft maintenance for four years. SSgt Chambers retired there June 30, 1995.

While serving in the military, SSgt Chambers completed courses offered by the University of Maryland at Ramstein A.B. and at Wright-Patterson A.F.B., and then after her military retirement she graduated with a B.S. Degree in Business from the University of Phoenix. After her military retirement, SSGT Chambers worked for the Veterans Administration as an administrative clerk in Michigan for 13 years.

After remaining in Michigan to care for elderly parents until they passed away, she moved to Montgomery, AL where she is an active member of Post Two American Legion. She is providing leadership in the American Legion Auxiliary of this Post. The mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support the American Legion and honor veterans, military and their families both at home and abroad. The Auxiliary can be a very rewarding organization to join. There are several programs and something for everyone. The membership requirements are: grandmothers, mothers, sisters, both male and female spouses and direct and adopted male and female members of the American Legion all of whom must be sponsored by the veteran's family member; that person must be a member of the American Legion. Any of those relatives of a deceased veteran can become a member by showing proof of military service as listed in the veteran's DD214, discharge paper. Meetings are held once each month. For more information, contact Deb Chambers at 616-206-6636.

SSgt Chambers is a member of St. Bede's Catholic Church and as a member of the St. Anne's Society in Montgomery. She has one grandchild who plans on enlisting in the U.S. Army. She enjoys gardening.

SSgt Chambers' reflections upon her military service are, "Serving in the military meant that I was representing all of the people of the United States ensuring that all of their freedoms were adhered to and stayed intact and doing all that I could to keep all of the above. I am very devoted to veterans after my work with them in the Michigan VA. I learned more about them and the person I was. I would tell future generations, ' Don't close any doors to anything.'"

Lt. Carter Dean Kanaiaupuni Papke: Age 71



Lt. Carter Papke served 20 years in the U.S. Navy, and his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was: (1) 5321 Underwater Demolition Team and 5326 SEAL enlisted; and (2) 1130 Naval Special Warfare Officer. He received the following decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons: U.S. Presidential Citation (2); Navy Achievement (2); Combat Action Ribbon; National Defense Medal; Vietnam Campaign (3); Navy Unit Commendation Medal; Republic of the Philippines Presidential Unit Citation; Vietnam Cross of Gallantry; Vietnam Civil Action; Vietnam Service Medal; Good Conduct (2); Sea Service Ribbon; Expert Pistol; Sharpshooter Rifle and Jump Wings.

Lt. Papke was born October 12, 1950 in Tacoma, WA, to his parents, Lester O. Moore and Louise Kamamalu (Kuhns) Papke. He was reared in Washington, Hawaii, California, Nevada and Idaho, and he graduated from New Plymouth High School in New Plymouth, Idaho in 1968.

After volunteering for military service in the U.S. Navy, he completed Navy Boot Camp at San Diego, CA. Lt. Papke served 10 years in the Underwater Demolition Teams and SEALs before earning a commission as a Sea, Air, Land (SEAL) officer. Each SEAL Team is a highly specialized and exceptionally trained group of men whose activities remain classified. Lt. Papke held a Top Secret, Special Background Investigation Clearance. He supervised 50 personnel, planned, implemented and directed all phases of administration including correspondence, records, publications, orders and personnel actions. In addition, he planned, coordinated and directed logistical support of 20 civilian and military organizations and numerous maintenance, training and operational exercises. He planned and coordinated the entire scope including design, outfitting and construction of two major military construction projects and a temporary facility totaling over \$3,000,000. He planned, coordinated and conducted tours and briefs for Congressional and military VIPS, and he instructed, organized and directed graduation ceremonies for 12 classes with 14-15 students, served as a BUDS/SEAL instructor and conducted research, development, testing and evaluation of special operations weapons systems. Lt. Papke was discharged April 1, 1989 at Pearl Harbor, HI.

Lt. Papke received a B.S. Degree in Engineering-Numerical Analysis in Mathematics from the University of Washington at Seattle, WA, in 1979. Using the G.I. Bill, he received his Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from Jones Law School at Montgomery, AL in 2000.

After his military retirement, Lt. Papke was employed in 2003 as an Adjunct Professor by Troy State University at Montgomery, AL, teaching Ethics PHI 2204 teaching concepts of ethics, morals, values and the narrative as one

medium through which morals may be taught and discussed, the most influential theories of ethical conduct in Western philosophy and the most influential theories of virtue in ancient and modern times.

From 1989-2010, Lt Papke worked in the District Attorney’s office in Montgomery, AL, where he served as the Director of the Pre-Trial Diversion Program supervising five full-time staff, nine part-time staff counselor employees, eight contract counselors, five volunteers and 194 clients. His responsibilities were administrative and legal work involving the direction, supervision, coordination and operation of the program as it related to victims of crime, applicants, clients, law enforcement, court structure and proceedings, 51 public and private social service agencies, schools and institutions of higher learning and the community as a whole. In addition, he served as the Restitution Officer supervising nine volunteers. He monitored and collected restitution for victims of crime, traced victims where restitution had been collected but their mailing addresses were not current, assisted victims of crime in submitting affidavits, victims impact statements and AL Crime Victims Compensation applications. Not only did he serve as a liaison for the justice system on both the local and state levels, but he also worked with all facets of the criminal justice system and victims to insure coordination of services. Lt. Papke retired from all employment January 1, 2011.

Lt. Papke and his wife, Melanie Cooper Papke, have been married 39 years. He enjoys swimming at the YMCA five days per week, performing magic tricks for non-profits, providing limo-rides for family, friends and non-profits, reading, walking, community service and investing in people. His extensive voluntary community services included serving as the vice president and board member of Character@Heart, committee and board member of the Chemical Additions Program, advisory member and chairperson of the Family Guidance Center, church and society member and chairperson of Frazer United Methodist Church Board of Stewards, 2nd grade teacher of Frazer UMC Sunday School, chairperson and citizen’s advisory board member of Montgomery Jobs Corps, member and scripture chairperson of Montgomery NE Gideon Camp, board member, allocation panel member, and governance committee member of Montgomery United Way; advisory member, chaplain and board chairperson of Neighbors in Christ; Alabama and National advisory board member and chairperson of Specialized Alternatives for Family and Youth-at-Risk (SAFY) and chairperson and secretary/treasurer of America SAFY board.

Lt. Papke has received the following civilian awards: Neighbors Who Care Samaritan in 1996, Central AL American Red Cross Good Neighbor Award in 1997, Jones Law School Moot Court Best Brief in 1998, Victims of Crime and Leniency Volunteer of the Year in 2000-2001, Montgomery Job Corps Center Outstanding Service Award in 2000-2003, Specialized Alternative for Families and Youth of America Appreciation in 2003, Montgomery Job Corps Award of Distinction and Behavioral Awareness Modification Alliance in 2004 and Alabama Department of Corrections’ Pre-Release Center SAP Certificate of Appreciation in 2006.

Lt. Papke states, “Investing one’s time, talent and treasure in loving God, our neighbors and our country is a life well spent. I would like future generations to remember that I loved God and my neighbors.”



Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

David Timothy Boyle: September 2

John Lakeos: September 18

Herman Larry Naron: September 5

Luther Zeagler Rosser: September 30

Robert Wesley Marcus: September 6

Melvin Gerald Cooper: September 30

James Earl Jackson: September 17

Veterans love reading The Gazette!

Resources for Veterans

Veterans Crisis Line
www.veteranscrisisline.net

National Center for PTSD
855-948-2311 / ptsd.va.gov

Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System
2400 Hospital Road, Tuskegee AL 36083 / 334-727-0550
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/VACentralAlabama

Veterans are entitled to a patriotic ceremony at their funerals.

Raymond Keel will provide this service for free!

Call him at 334-233-8736

Or visit: <https://www.bugle-sacrossamerica.org> and fill out the form for requesting a live bugle, and provide date, location and time of internment.

The WWII Navy Veteran, Eugene Thomas Beasley

He passed away August 1, 2022 at the age of 98. He served on the USS North Carolina in the Pacific Theater.

His article was published in the May 2020 issue of the Alabama Gazette.

Garrett, Tramel CAVHCS <Tramel.Garrett@va.gov>

Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022

By Amir Farooqi, Director/CEO Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System

BURN PITS

MONTGOMERY, AL — I write this letter with the hope of reaching as many Veterans and their family members as possible. New, ground-breaking legislation now allows us to better care for those Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances.

The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act is a historic new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans – and their survivors. It recognizes toxic exposure as a "cost of war" by addressing the full range of issues impacting toxic-exposed Veterans.

This new law also expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era and post-9/11 era. The expanded health care eligibility allows new Veterans to become eligible for VA care or increases health care benefits for impacted Veterans already receiving care.

Veterans will now be eligible for benefits for more than 20 burn

pit or toxic-exposure-related conditions. The law solidifies VA's new process for establishing presumptive service-connected conditions, which puts one goal above all else: getting Veterans and their survivors' timely access to the benefits they have earned and deserve.

I know personally in working with Veterans every day how diseases related to these exposures have impacted their lives and their families. We are honored and stand ready to meet the needs of these Veterans better now and in the future.

We encourage all Veterans who believe they may be eligible for VA health care and benefits to visit www.va.gov/PACT or call 1-800-My-VA-411 (800-698-2411) to learn more.

We also work closely with the Montgomery Regional Office and you can contact them at 1-800-827-1000. You can also schedule an in-person or virtual appointment through the VERA application at <https://vets.force.com/VAVERA/s/>.

Thank you for your service, and please take the first step in getting the VA health care you have earned and deserve.

Amir Farooqi, FACHE
Director/CEO Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System



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

Soul Searching

The Man in the Arena

I think one of my favorite U.S. Presidents would have to be Teddy Roosevelt. He was so full of life and accomplished a great deal. **“The Man in the Arena”** is also one of my favorite quotes:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat. – Theodore Roosevelt

Teddy Roosevelt was definitely a man unafraid to stand up and fight for what he believed in. He was the man in the arena. The following gives you a quick overview of his life.

With the assassination of President McKinley, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt, not quite 43, became the youngest President in the Nation’s history. He brought new excitement and power to the Presidency, as he vigorously led Congress and the American public toward needed reforms and a strong foreign policy.

He took the view that the President as a “steward of the people” should take whatever action necessary for the public good unless expressly forbidden by law or the Constitution.” I did not usurp power,” he wrote, “but I did greatly broaden the use of executive power.”

Roosevelt’s youth differed sharply from that of the log cabin Presidents. He was born in New York City in 1858 into a wealthy family, but he too struggled—against ill health—and in his triumph became an advocate of the strenuous life.

In 1884 his first wife, Alice Lee Roosevelt, and his mother died on the same day. Roosevelt spent much of the next two years on his ranch in the Badlands of Dakota Territory. There he mastered his sorrow as he lived in the saddle, driving cattle, hunting big game—he even captured an outlaw. On a visit to London, he married Edith Carow in December 1886.

During the Spanish-American War, Roosevelt was lieutenant colonel of the Rough Rider Regiment, which he led on a charge at the battle of San Juan, near Santiago, Cuba. He was one of the most conspicuous heroes of the war and returned to the U.S. with great fanfare.

In New York State, soon after his victorious return from Cuba, Roosevelt became the Republican candidate for Governor in 1898. Roosevelt won and served with distinction. Later, as President, Roosevelt steered the United States more actively into world politics. He liked to quote a favorite West African proverb, “Speak softly and carry a big stick...”. Aware of the strategic need

for a shortcut between the Atlantic and Pacific, Roosevelt ensured the construction of the Panama Canal. This would prove to be a huge asset for the USA and the world.

He won the Nobel Peace Prize for mediating the Russo-Japanese War, reached a Gentleman’s Agreement on immigration with Japan, and sent the Great White Fleet on a goodwill tour of the world. Some of Theodore Roosevelt’s most effective achievements were in conservation. He added enormously to the national forests in the West, reserved lands for public use, and fostered great irrigation projects.

He crusaded endlessly on matters big and small, exciting audiences with his high-pitched voice, jutting jaw, and pounding fist. “The life of strenuous endeavor” was a must for those around him, as he romped with his five younger children and led ambassadors on hikes through Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C.

Leaving the Presidency in 1909, Roosevelt went on an African safari, then jumped back into politics. In 1912 he ran for President on a Progressive ticket. To reporters he once remarked that he felt as fit as a bull moose. After that “The Bull Moose Party” became the nickname of the Progressive Party. While campaigning in Milwaukee, he was shot in the chest by a fanatic. He went ahead and spoke for 80 minutes while bleeding with a bullet in his chest. What? Yes, that is absolutely true. Wow!

Teddy Roosevelt lived out his quote – “The Man in the Arena”. His life and his words challenge me to live life to the fullest and to make a difference in other people’s lives as I stand up for what I believe.

Jesus told us that he came so that we might have life and live it to the fullest (John 10:10). He also told us that if we seek to give our lives for the sake of others, we will find true life.

“Whoever tries to save their life will lose it. Whoever seeks to lose their life (for my sake and others) will find it.” Luke 17:33

So, my question for you and me is this: Are you the critic? Or are you the one in the arena fighting for what is right and fighting for the betterment of others?

My prayer for you and for me is that we would, like Teddy Roosevelt, live life to the fullest as we seek to get in the arena and fight for what we believe is best for everyone! ***I want to be the man in the arena – not the critic! Amen?***



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Free For All by Lester Spencer

Available on *Amazon* in paperback and digital format. Also available at **Saint James Church** and online: sjlife.com

Dr. Spencer is Lead Pastor at Saint James Church in Montgomery, Alabama and writes the **Soul Searching** column for *Alabama Gazette* each month.

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11:00
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“Reflections”

The Queen of Sheba

By Michael J. Brooks

The younger generation doesn’t understand a number of words and phrases, including “broken record,” “ice box,” “party line,” “ungawa” and “Kemo sabe.” Another phrase is one we don’t hear too much anymore, “Who does she think she is, the queen of Sheba?”

This phrase is used to describe one with an inflated opinion of themselves--someone full of pride. It’s based on a story told twice in the Old Testament about the queen who traveled to see for herself the grandeur of King Solomon’s court. Some believe she came from the modern nation of Yemen. If so, she made an arduous journey of more than 1,000 miles. In other words, she had a serious mission.

The writers tell us that when she saw the magnitude of Solomon’s wealth and heard his wisdom, “there was no more spirit in her.” The Hebrew word,

“ruach,” means wind, breath or spirit. In this case, her pride went away like the air in a punctured tire. Or as a friend of mine said, “She went from hero to zero!”

We’re not sure what happened to the queen, but we’re certain when she left Jerusalem her life was never the same.

We don’t hear from the queen again until Jesus described judgment at the end of the ages. **(Matthew 12).**

Imagine the scene. The Lord, the robed Supreme Judge of the universe enters the courtroom, and the assembled crowd rises in respect. The accused sit in the front row. These are unrepentant sinners from all the ages. Michael, Gabriel and the other angels sit in the jury box awaiting the proceedings.

The judge calls the first witness. Jesus said this is the men of Nineveh. They heard the preaching of Jonah, and they repented. Jonah was a reluctant preacher since we gather he really wanted Nineveh destroyed, but ultimately he was faithful to preach the word of the Lord. And everyone from the king to the average citizen, repented before God.

“And there is one before you greater than Jonah,” Jesus said, referring to the importance of his mission and message.

And then the judge calls the second witness, the Queen of Sheba. She, too, humbled herself before Solomon and repented before God.

“And there is one before you greater than Solomon,” Jesus said, referring to the importance of his mission and message.

And rebellious sinners from all the ages have no defense, for the evidence is overpowering.

Scripture says we’ve all fallen short, but we’re invited to turn from rebellion and humble ourselves before God. One day we’ll stand in his heavenly courtroom to give account.

It’s far better to humble ourselves today than wait until then, for humility is the pathway to redemption. “Reflections” is a weekly faith column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church, Alabaster, Alabama. The church’s website is siluriabaptist.com.

American Red Cross services for veterans date back to World War I and remains consistent with the spirit of our congressional charter. Today, the Red Cross is proud to maintain our commitment to the men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

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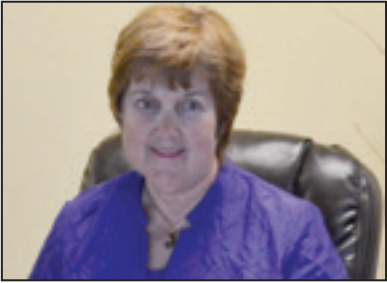




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Send us your news along with images to algazettesubmit@gmail.com

We will be happy to include your special moments in an upcoming issue (when & where space permits.)



Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Home Town Community News

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to algazettesubmit@gmail.com

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

September Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Joe Boyd (83rd) | Jace McClelland (9th) |
| 2 John Hannon | Betty Russell |
| 3 Dian Majors | 18 Eddie Spivey |
| Leslie Riley | 19 Beth Cline |
| 4 Jimmy Dick | Bobby Hudson |
| Gary French | 20 Lynn Davis |
| Tim Riley | Carol Hudson |
| Britney Williams | 21 Marlee Day Smith (13th) |
| 5 Glenda Gary | Kristen Taylor |
| Joyce Moore (82nd) | Sarah Kate Taylor |
| 6 Ethleen Bazzell (83rd) | 22 Tom Garlington |
| Bonnie Edwards | David Webb |
| C. J. Faulk (87th) | 23 Kim Guy |
| 7 Tanner Grant | Era Hall |
| Mary Beth Hughes (1st) | Kirksey Jones |
| Richard Kirksey | 24 Barbara Berg |
| Ruby Law (69th) | Ava Catherine Crowe (14th) |
| 8 Adam Broadway | Lynda Maddox |
| 9 Kendra Devon Lamar | Catherine Preston |
| Madison Lane | Chrystal Rahn |
| 10 Peggy Chesnut Bamberg (90th) | R. J. Seevers |
| Kenneth Deavers | 25 Brenda Abrams |
| Terry Dotherow | Linda Abrams |
| 11 Traci Weafer | Rocene Fowler |
| 12 Catherine Jane Grubbs (16th) | Betty Gafford |
| Brian Hudson | Sue Meredith |
| 13 Donna Mulcahy | Baxter Moseley (27th) |
| Debbie Partridge (65th) | 26 Barbara Mitchell |
| 14 Elaine Webb | 27 Roy Stephens (93rd) |
| Amanda Whitfield (38th) | 29 Elvin Stanton |
| 15 Shannon Flores (50th) | 30 Scott Borders (60th) |
| 16 Phyllis McCalman | Lydia Brown |
| 17 Ashlee Lynch | Kim Butler |
| Mike (Pete) Moore | Susan Feaga |
| Mandy Stringer (19th) | Hunter O’Neal (18th) |
| 18 Don Dawkins | Mike Smith |
| Dale Jones | |

Belated Birthdays

Raymond Cohen - August 2nd. Jesse Guffin - August 10th

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Joe & Jean Douglas | 18 James & Sarah Glass (11th) |
| 4 Don & Barbara White | 20 Jason & Stephanie Selvage (18th) |
| 7 Gary & Lyda Crowe | 21 Tony & Janie Drake |
| Ralph & Brenda Davis | 22 James & Sherry Tucker |
| Steve & Paige Stringer | 24 Larry & Linda Browder |
| 10 Mike & Linda Reynolds | Jimmy & Linda Perdue (52nd) |
| 12 Albert & Brenda Sharpe (2nd) | 25 Chuck & Betty Holmes (39th) |
| 14 Terry & Tammy Boyd (4th) | 26 Jose' & Susan Guevara |
| 16 Skip & Connie Mainor (9th) | 28 Morgan & Ashley James |
| 17 Andy & Lori Meadows | Chris & Kelley Grantham |



HAPPY 101st BIRTHDAY

SUE BOYD DRAKE



Sue Boyd Drake was born in Sprague, Alabama on August 5, 1921. Her sister, Ethleen Boyd Bazzell, nieces, Patricia Boyd Killough and Connie Boyd Mainor drove to Miami Lakes, Florida to be with Aunt Sue on her birthday. Celebrations were over the weekend with 3 different birthday cakes! Sue is blessed to still live in the same house in Miama Lakes since 1966. She is still an avid reader and loves watching the ole reruns. How blessed to have such a good life and still be beautiful!

Everyone enjoyed great food and lots of laughs.



Liz Sikes Boyd of Lapine, Alabama passed away on August 19, 2022.

She was a dedicated and devoted employee at Sikes and Kohn’s Country Mall for much of her life. For 51 years she was the recognizable go-to-person for anyone who needed help and was familiar with the entire store. She has been missed every day since her retirement a year ago.

She was a faithful member of Lapine Baptist Church. She cherished her family as her most priceless treasre in life. She will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

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

Dahl, Nancy Virginia Denning - 105April 13, 2022
Stone, Sarah Howard - 92.....May 29, 2022
Little, Elizabeth Ann Overton - 92.....July 17, 2022
Hardgiree, Jean Walker - 99.....July 20, 2022
Brown, Mary Elizabeth “Becky” O’Hearn-77.....July 23, 2022
Blevins, Shirley E. - 89.....July 27, 2022
Brook, Douglas ArthurJuly 29, 2022
Gentry, Melanie Kay Brown - 50July 30, 2022
Clein, Keith Edward - 53July 31, 2022
McGalliard, Peggy Marnell Bowden - 59.....July 31, 2022
Stewart, Sylvia Muth - 88July 31, 2022
Norman, Eloise Broadway - 79August 2, 2022
Berns, Clara Capouano - 102.....August 4, 2022
Winborne, Carla Jo Spanyer - 65August 4, 2022
Heller, Donald Lee - 80August 7, 2022

Hill, Jr., William “Inge” - 73.....August 7, 2022
Stafford, Cara Beck - 93August 7, 2022
Durr, Lois Whittington Sadler Beale. -94August 12, 2022
Morris, Chrystal Neal - 91August 12, 2022
Nobles, Alan DeWayne - 58.....August 13, 2022
Thomas, Dr. Mary Carolyn - 80August 15, 2022
Witt, Pauline Cohen - 93August 15, 2021
Scales, Martha Susan - 49August 16, 2022
Duffee, Robert Lee - 69.....August 17, 2022
Helms, Linda Barker - 79August 18, 2022
Boyd, Liz Sikes - 88August 19, 2022
Hall, Janelle Pruitt “Honey” - 78August 23, 2022
Emmet, Richard Thomas “Tommy” - 67.....August 24, 2002
Kline, Ann - 82August 24, 2022

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Back - Eddie Taylor, Dan Shockley, Alex Shockley, Joe Hooks, Mike Colquitt.

In Memory Of

We hope that you will accept our condolences.

Sandra Robinson McLendon.....August 26
Kenneth Wayne Guthrie.....August 24
Robin Elizabeth Farmer.....August 22
Eva Mae Haltiner.....August 21
Callie Frances Flippo.....August 20
Charles Edward “Eddie” Robbins.....August 15
Sally P. SimpsonAugust 14
Jewel Jeanette Bender Welch.....August 13
Alan DeWayne Nobles.....August 13
Laura Bell Norris.....August 12
James Wilton Woodham.....August 10
Mrs. Bobbie I Walls.....August 9
Lawrence Leroy Poppelmeier.....August 7
Charels “Tim”Wood.....August 5
Shirley Fay Garner.....August 5
Charles Ozier.....August 5
Jimmy Odell Jackson.....August 4
Dorothy Nix Thrasher.....August 3
John Wesley Powell.....August 2
Brenda Gail Darter.....July 29
Paula Melton Payne.....July 29
Tence Reynolds.....July 29



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IRS CHANGES More than half of the Inflation Reduction Act's \$80 billion in new IRS funding would go toward enforcement activities rather than toward technology enhancements. Amy Pitter of the Massachusetts Society of CPAs shares why there should be a heavier focus on technology, customer service, and payment processing.

No matter your politics, I think we can all agree that the IRS is underfunded, understaffed, and has ridiculously outdated technology that prevents it from doing even its most basic functions competently or effectively. While I am happy that the Inflation Reduction Act will include significant funding for the IRS, I remain frustrated by the hyper focus on enforcement activities. More than half of the \$80 billion in new funding would go to enforcement rather than to technology enhancements, customer service or processing of returns, payments, and other documents.

- Let's review where we are today with the IRS. The Taxpayer Advocate's 2022 report to Congress was fierce. Key findings were:
- At the conclusion of the 2021 filing season, the IRS faced a backlog of over 35 million individual and business income tax returns that require manual processing for a variety of reasons. Some had been filed on paper, were failed automated checks, or were amended returns. The bad news is that all these returns now require human intervention, which means processing will be further delayed—burdening average taxpayers who are left waiting for their money.
- During the filing season, the IRS received 167 million telephone calls—more than four times as many calls as the 2019 filing season. At the height of the season, calls were clocked in at a staggering 1,500 per second.
- The poorly staffed agency could not come close to handling the volume, reporting a level of service on its accounts management telephone lines of 15%, with only 7% of taxpayer calls reaching an actual customer service representative.
- On the 1040 line, the most frequently called IRS toll-free number, only 3% of callers ever reached a live person.

The IRS has been under pressure by members of Congress from both parties to provide more Covid-related relief to taxpayers. It's also being pressed to clear a backlog of returns and other paperwork that piled up while agency offices were temporarily closed due to the pandemic and most of its employees were working remotely.

“Penalty relief is a complex issue for the IRS to administer,” IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig said in a statement. “We’ve been working on this initiative for months following concerns we’ve heard from taxpayers, the tax community, and others, including Congress. This is another major step to help taxpayers, and we encourage those affected by this to review the guidelines.”



**Montgomery Area
Down Syndrome
Outreach Group**



What is the Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group?

The Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group is an affiliate of the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS). The group consists of parents, family members and friends of individuals with Down syndrome. The group meets the second Friday of every month at Vaughn Park Church of Christ in Montgomery.



The Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group is definitely making strides in spreading awareness in the Montgomery area! Through the annual Buddy Walk the group has been able to raise enough funds to purchase books to donate to local libraries, schools and teachers in the tri-county area, distribute gift baskets to new parents of babies born with Down syndrome in all Montgomery hospitals, provide educational speakers during our monthly meetings, host play dates, group outings and so much more!

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TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Tears & Laughter:

THE IRS MAY HIRE 87,000 NEW AGENTS, BUT DO NOT WORRY

In Camden...poor little small Camden, we have limited restaurants of any kind. Fried chicken is widely available. There are more places to buy fried chicken than there are gas stations or red lights, but still the number is limited.

Add to that the fact that Wilcox County has never not had the highest unemployment in the state. So there are people who evidently need jobs, but restaurants here are never fully staffed. They are always hiring.

The staff shortage is so severe that it is no longer unusual for one of the owners to make a post on social media explaining that they are having to close for the day, or the evening, because there are simply not enough employees to open. One in particular often has to close on Saturday nights, and it only requires three people to operate.

This is not limited to Camden. Restaurants all over the nation are struggling to find help.

There is also a teacher shortage. The teacher shortage is so severe that schools are getting creative with ways to handle it. Some states have allowed uncertified teachers to fill the vacant positions. Some schools have moved to four day school weeks. Some have enrolled students into community college classes. Others have gone virtual.

There is a school bus driver shortage to accompany the teacher shortage. There is a shortage of truck drivers across the country. And pilots. There is a shortage of nurses, doctors, and medical specialists – even with sign-on bonuses being offered. And of course understandably, there is a shortage of police officers.

There have never been fewer people enlisting in the armed forces. There have never been fewer people in the physical condition to join the armed forces either, but that is another column for another day.

There were so few life guards this summer that there were pools that did not open. Beachgoers were advised to swim at their own risk.

The state's casinos are hiring – all locations, positions, and shifts.

All sectors of skilled trades – mechanics, welders, plumbers, electricians – are having trouble finding qualified help. Builders and contractors can't find workers who can read a standard Stanley measuring tape or show up on time.

I was at one of Alabama's State Parks last week. It is a fine facility, but there are not enough staff to run it adequately. I will spare them an honest review out of respect, but it was poor on several levels...and the office employees who weren't haughty, were apologetic. The desk clerk explained they were having trouble hiring people, that the week before they had hired a grounds maintenance person who quit the first day because he did not realize he would be working outside. He said it was too hot.

As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, the IRS is set to potentially hire 87,000 new agents over the next decade. Be honest with your taxes – render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's. Strive for honesty in all things – as genuine happiness can only be found in truth. But try not to worry too much about the IRS hiring 87,000 new agents. It may take a while.

Amanda Walker is a columnist and contributor with AL.com, The Birmingham News, Selma Times Journal, Thomasville Times, West Alabama Watchman, and Alabama Gazette. Contact her at Walkerworld77@msn.com or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>



Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows

site.trisstonwrightburrows.com

It's natural to have some fear or apprehension at the beginning of a new task. We may ask ourselves questions like "What if I don't know what to do?" or "What if I'm not good enough?" I am sure at some point in life, all of us have had questions like these have come to mind followed by feelings of fear and doubt. I know I sure have.

Be Strong and Courageous

And friends...if God is with us,
what do we have to fear?

God will be with us wherever we go.

Joshua 1:9
"Be Strong and of Good Courage. Life can be full of challenges, sorrows, and tough decisions. But even amidst hardship, the Lord counsels us to be strong and courageous."

Joshua had just been told that he would be the one to lead God's people. What a huge task! We couldn't blame Joshua for at least having a little fear. But God tells him to be strong and courageous and not to be afraid or discouraged. This encouragement is more than a pep talk! This is God's promise to Joshua that wherever he goes in the new land that God would bring them into, and however hard the task before him would be, God would always be right there with him.

We face difficulties all the time...at work and school, with our finances and health, with our family and friends. We have many opportunities to be discouraged and afraid. But God's promise to us is the same as it was to Joshua:

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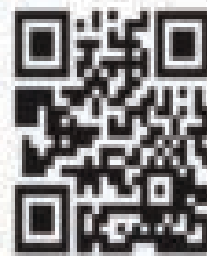
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Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for September

By: Peggy Givhan

Bring out the red, white and blue flags, and bunting one more time. Labor Day is a national holiday that we celebrate the hard work of those who have made our nation a better place to live and work. Labor Day marks the end of the summer and what used to be the beginning of the school year. So let's get into the garden and see what work (labor) needs to be accomplished for a wonderful garden this fall.

First of all, later this month you will need to cut back spent summer blooming perennials to about 2 inches above the ground, such as coreopsis shasta daisies. Annuals such as vinca usually will not thrive in the fall and need to be taken out. Next, weed, weed, weed as this will give any new plantings of fall annuals/perennials a head start. Now re-fertilize the entire flower bed with Osmocote which should last for about 3 months. At this point have a plan in mind, and make a decision on what new perennials or annuals you will purchase. Peruse garden catalogs for good ideas for flower combinations and color schemes. Of course, it would be a good idea to shop the nurseries and the big box stores to see what plants are available. Utilize seed catalogs to order flower seeds for fall sowing. For instance, seeds such as poppies and cleome should be sown later this month for spring bloom.

Once you have finished cleaning out the beds or pruning back spent perennials, you can always buy beautiful full grown chrysanthemums "to fill in the blanks". These blooms should last 3 or 4 months, and even though a little expensive, you get much bang for you buck. These are also perennials, and can be cut back, repotted, and saved for planting the next year. If left in the ground, they could become invasive.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--DAHLIAS

Dahlias many times are associated with older, Victorian gardens. There are so many varieties, you can not just love one. Let's see, there are 50,000 named cultivars, with 15 festive colors, and 20 diverse forms. Some bloom heads are the size of dinner plates. For more information on dahlias, go to the American Dahlia Society at www.dahlia.org for information. If you are interested in adding these to your garden, go ahead and order or purchase from a nursery for spring bloom. For us gardeners in Zone 8, once planted they do not have to dug up and protected during winter. These flowers are perennials and also ever blooming. Although they require full sun, in the River Region, they perform better with a little shade. If unsure what varieties do well in our area, The Georgia Dahlia Society suggests a few: 4 ft. tall Danum Meteor (red); Bishop of Llandoff, (red) 3 ft.tall; April Dawn (lavender and white) 4 ft. tall.



HAPPY LABOR DAY AND GOOD GARDENING

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Thursday Oct. 20th

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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*

We just came back from my somewhat annual summer vacation to Ruidoso New Mexico. We went out to eat more than in the past and we cooked more than in the past and since we were celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary, there were meals prepared for my wife and I, by friends of ours. So, I'm changing the format of my article this month. I will have a description of a dish, the recipe and the picture. And I will have pictures of dishes with little about what is in it. At least not a full recipe. These dishes will mostly be from dishes we had at a restaurant or a friends house. There will not necessarily be an exact recipe. I'm doing this because the recipes I have are meant for you to make. An example of this will be for a charcuterie board.



The picture will be the items included and a basic design for serving. Your imagination and taste, will determine how the finished board will look.

So the first dish will be the charcuterie board. Wikipedia defines it as an appetizer typically served on a wooden board or a stone slab that features a selection of preserved foods, especially cured meats or pates, as well as cheeses and crackers or bread. With a vague definition as that, your imagination will determine the final dish. This one has fruit, cheeses, olives, and cured meats.

My friend since collage, David put his one together just to wet our appetite. A perfect snack with a glass of wine sitting on the porch watching the sunset.

*Happy 30th Wedding Anniversary
 David and Anne from the Gazette staff!*

DAVE'S CHARCUTERIE BOARD
**INGREDIENTS: CRACKERS, CHEESES,
 FRUIT, SLICED MEATS, OLIVES
 AND WHAT EVER ELSE YOU WANT.**



CHILI RELLENOS

*Tina's New Mexican Style Cuisine
 Ruidoso New Mexico*

As define in Wikipedia Chili Rellenos is a dish in Mexican cuisine that originated in the city of Puebla. In 1858 it was described as a "green Chile pepper stuffed with minced meat and coated with eggs". The most common pepper used is Puebla's poblano pepper, though New Mexico Chile, pasilla, or even jalapeño peppers are popular as well. It is typically stuffed with melted cheese, such as queso Chihuahua or queso Oaxaca or with picadillo meat made of diced pork, raisins and nuts, seasoned with canella; covered in an egg white batter, simply corn masa flour and fried, or without any batter at all. Although it is often served in a tomato sauce, the sauces can vary.
 Wikipedia



This dish is my measure how good of a Mexican restaurant is. Tina's in Ruidoso has what I consider one of the best Chili Rellenos I have eaten in years. After eating, I told Tina that I loved the dish and would she mind if I mention it my article. She was very happy and offered me a cup of her Gazpacho. First the Chili Rellenos which were very large and came as a pair stuffed with cheese and covered with a egg white batter that was then fried. I was asked what sauce I wanted, and of course I answered Christmas tree. The server smiled and repeated"both". I knew that if you wanted a sample of both sauces it is called a Christmas tree, a red sauce or a green chili cream sauce. It came with pinto beans and lettuce and chopped tomatoes. And it was delicious.

I do not have a picture of the Gazpacho, which is a classic Spanish Soup made with fresh vegetables; tomatoes,cucumbers, red onions, garlic with added shrimp and lime. It was a perfect addition to the meal.

Tortellini and Shrimp Salad (Pat Northington)

SALAD INGREDIENTS:

8 1/2 oz of cooked spinach
 3 cheese tortellini
 2 lbs. of jumbo shrimp,
 cooked, peeled and deveined
 1/4 - 1/2 small red onion
 finely diced
 2 -3 ribs of celery finely diced
 1/4 cup sliced black olives
 or 1 small can, drained
 1/4-1/2 cup green olives
 Parsley and basil to taste

DRESSING:

4 tbsp olive oil
 2 small cloves of garlic, minced
 1 tbsp red wine vinegar
 Juice of 1 1/2 fresh lemon
 3/4 tsp Kosher salt
 Fresh black pepper to taste
 (This was a bit acidic for me, so
 I added brown sugar to taste.)



Before serving

1. Garnish with sliced avocado
2. Sprinkle with grated Parmesan or Feta.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cook tortellini, drain and cool.
2. Cook shrimp (I used frozen), drain and cool. Cut into large pieces.
3. Whisk together dressing ingredients.
4. In a large bowl, mix onion, celery, olives. Add dressing (I didn't use the entire amount) and mix well.
5. Add the shrimp, tortellini and herbs and seasonings. Stir carefully.
6. Chill until serving.

Looks like it's lots of preparation, but it's really quite easy and yummy!

"Real cooking is more about following your heart than following recipes."

IF YOU HAVE A *FAVORITE RECIPE* SEND IT TO:

CHEF DAVID SPOONER
 at

alabamagazette@gmail.com

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