

There are far better things ahead than
any we leave behind. — C.S. Lewis
Wisdom begins in wonder. — Socrates
Be curious, not judgmental. — Walt Whitman
Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I
remember. Involve me and I learn. —
Benjamin Franklin



THE ALABAMA Gazette



VOL. 18. ISSUE 11 ~ August 2018

alabamagazette@gmail.com

Online: www.alabamagazette.com

20 Pages - 4 Sections ©2018

Montgomery, Autauga, Elmore, Crenshaw, Tallapoosa, Pike and Surrounding Counties

334-356-6700

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Rotary District 6880 Installs 2018-2019 District Governor

Rotary International is a century old service organization located in 220 countries around the world. With over 35,000 clubs and 1.2 million members, Rotary's reach is far and deep. Rotary is dedicated to six areas of focus in order to build local and international relationships, improve lives and create a world to support our peace efforts and end polio forever. These impactful areas include promoting peace, providing clean water, fighting disease, aiding mothers and children, growing local economies and supporting education.

In the River Region we are blessed with eight Rotary clubs that engage in local and global opportunities to take action to make lasting change around the world, in our communities and in the hearts they touch, including their own.

See a brief overview of four our local clubs and some of the wonderful things they do in Section D.



Rotary Installation of 2018-2019 District Governor District 6880

The Installation Dinner for new officers was held on Friday, June 29, 2018, Capital City Club, Montgomery.

2018-2019 District 6880 Officers
District Governor, Sam Adams,
District Governor Elect, James "Skip" Dotherow
District Governor Nominee Jerry Blacklaw

The Opening Bell was rung by Graham L. Champion, Invocation by Stacia Robinson, Pledge of Allegiance led by Eric Mackey, Four Way Test lead by Rick Pate, and greeting of guests by Glenn Halbrooks. Installation of 2018 District Governor Sam Adams by Bill Tarant. Benediction by Clare Weil and was adjourned by Graham L. Champion.



Past District Governor (PDG) Barry Cavan, ~ PDG Bill Trant, ~ PDG Jim Golson, District Governor Sam Adams, District Governor Elect Skip Dotherow, ~ PDG Richard Bollinger ~ PDG Robert Kelley, PDG Tom Mann

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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MORE LEFTIST TWADDLE – PART 2

Beginning on a sad note, I wanted to pay tribute to my wife's mother, Maria Guadeloupe (Lupe) Paredes, who died on 7 July of an aortic dissection. I could not have asked for a better mother-in-law. In 33 years of marriage, we never once had a crossed word or disagreement. I loved her greatly. Now to it.

There seems to be a never-ending cacophony insanity that emanates from the left. When I say never ending, I truly mean never-ending. Everyday there seems to be another story that makes my head want to explode. Here are some that have popped up recently.

1. Scarlett Johansson: I read in the news yesterday that she was stepping away from the movie "Rub & Tug." I guess this sometimes happens when an actor cannot or will not complete a project for various reasons. Perhaps injury, funding or some other logical reason. Bullying? Yes, bullying. Now I am not the "Hollywood, I am goo-goo over stars and starlets" kind of guy. I really could care less about most of them and their self-absorbed lives. I do respect the work that many of them do but I cannot say I support the moral or political side of the fence most of them live on. But I have to admit, this story did kind of bug me.



Scarlett Johansson

Here is the deal. The 33-year-old Scarlett was cast to play the lead role in this movie. The movie tells the story of a massage parlor owner, Dante 'Tex' Gill, who operated his parlors as a front for his prostitution ring. Wait, Scarlett? His parlors? Yeah, exactly. Gill was a transgender person, born female but lived as male. Once the word was got out that Johansson was going to star in the movie, the bullying instantly began. The trans-community instantly started targeting her for "transface" (wha-what??) and ciswashing, a "form of historical

revisionism that erases to various degrees the lives of trans people from cultural memory, denying them of appropriate recognition." Who knew?

But here is the rub with me. Many within their community have lambasted Johansson for trying to do this role because she is not from within their community. Let's just take this in a couple of parts. First of all, there is no way she was doing this out of disrespect to the LGBT community. No way, not if she had any further career aspirations. If anything, she was going to bring more attention to their community as a way of showing that many who live that lifestyle exceed the mere caricatures often portrayed in current media. Some of these people have significant stories to tell while living an alternate lifestyle. A perfect example would be the current Miss Spain competitor in the Miss Universe contest, Angela Ponce, who is a transgender male. I cannot say I agree with it but I am not one to disparage any of them because of who they are. Neither was Scarlett. Ask me about transgenders in sporting events and we will have a lively conversation.

Next, many within that community have come out and said that only a trans-actor should play the role of a trans-person. This is patently ridiculous on every level. Hello, that is why they call it acting. If one was to use their logic almost every movie, play and television show would have to be scrubbed. Why? The answer is pretty obvious. Look, I like Tom Hanks but I am pretty sure he did not land on the beach in Normandy on 6 June, 1944. I might be wrong but I don't think Mary Poppins is a real person. In the show, "How I Met Your Mother," actor Neil Patrick Harris plays the part of a serial womanizer who in real life is gay. Should he have played that role? I for one do not care but I think it is obvious to see where the lack of logic behind the push to rid Scarlett from the movie comes into clear focus.

Finally, let's talk economics. This movie, if it will ever be made is clearly a fringe story. What better way to get the movie made and hopefully make money than by putting a clear "A-List" star in the leading role. Yes, a trans-actor could probably do the role as well but the production companies are running a business and need to make money as well as produce a movie worth watching.

The end result is that Johansson's production company will likely pull out, this story (that I could care less about) may not be made and once again those on the really radical left have shown their true colors which amounts to having it all their way or no way at all. Their actions only hurt themselves and the bullying of Johansson left her with only the following statement about the experience, "In light of recent ethical questions raised surrounding my casting as Dante Tex Gill, I have decided to respectfully withdraw my participation in the project."

2. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez: All I can say is please let this 28-year-old Democratic Socialist from New York keeps talking and demonstrating her high degree of ignorance. Please, please, please. I have to admit, I am amazed at the following this woman has. It scares me to think what our kids are being taught in many of our schools. In these environments where democracy is denigrated and socialism and communism are venerated, it is no surprise that these misinformed miscreants are rising to the forefront (i.e. David Hogg). She is quoted as saying, "Oh unemployment is low. Everything is fine, right? Well, unemployment is low because everyone has two jobs. Unemployment is low because people are working 60, 70, 80 hours a week and can barely feed their kids. Capitalism has not always existed in the world and it will not always exist in the world. When this country started, we did not operate on a capitalist economy." Wow! She is a piece of work. This coming from the woman who wants no borders, abolishment of prisons, free college tuition, government jobs for everybody, the elimination of I.C.E., while conveniently failing to acknowledge the failed democratic economic policies of the previous administration, no acknowledgment of Trump's policies, as expected, and openly, even gleefully predicting the impending end to our capitalist system and way of life.



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

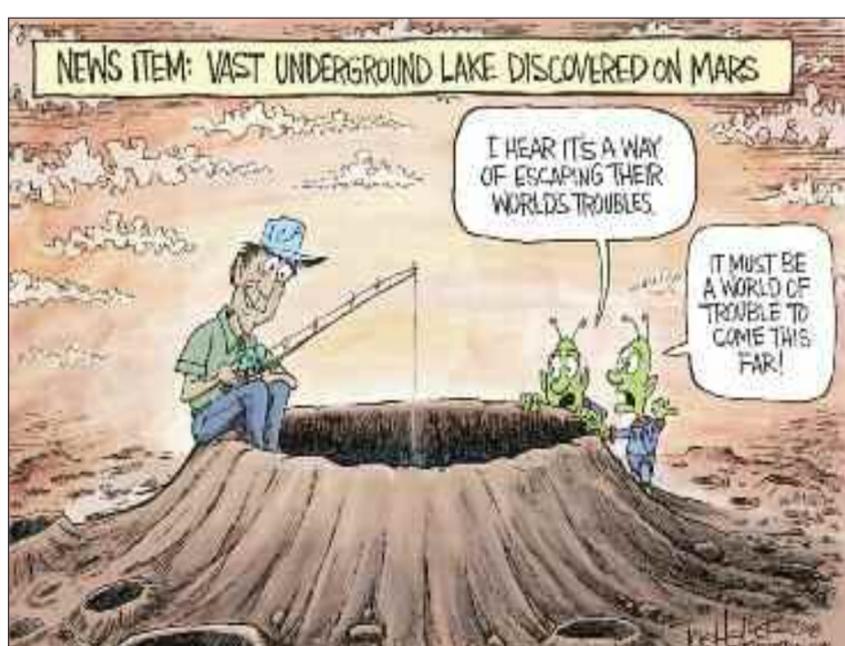
I watched an interview with her on PBS the other day and she is indeed an ill-informed, misguided agent of the left. When pressed on one of her anti-Israel views she could not give a cogent response and eventually admitted that she is not an "expert" in geo-politics although she graduated from Boston University with a degree in international relations. We can only hope that before the mid-term elections, reputable news agencies pin her down and ask her substantive questions that will make her answer and show how ill-prepared she is to be in the Congress. Not like that stopped the likes of Maxine Waters or dozens of others.

3. Trump and Putin: Yesterday, two of the most powerful men in the world met and as expected, the heads of millions of leftists exploded. I cannot write on this now because I need several days to look at the whole event and try to make sense of it all. Hopefully my next Robservation will discuss it. I think that the President may have stepped on his tongue once or twice but the vitriol coming from the left is utterly amazing. Pundits are saying Trump sucked up to Putin, caved or was weak. Some said he committed treason. I guess they forget that Obama bowed down before the Saudi king, turned away when confronted with doing something about that bogus red line in the Syrian sand he brazenly made out how his Secretary of State allowed our men to die in Benghazi while selling Uranium to the Russians. I have to admit, I did admire and respect Obama for confronting Vladimir Putin over the Malaysia Flight 17 shoot down on 17 July, 2014 just one day after his administration placed hefty sanctions on Russia for their involvement in the Ukraine. Oh wait, yeah. That never happened and Obama allowed the murder of the 298 people on that airplane to go unchallenged.



President Trump and President Putin at Summit

The next couple of weeks should be interesting. Let's just see what kind of results come out of this summit. More on this to follow.





Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

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More Analysis of GOP Runoff

Currently, congressmen/women win reelection at a 98 percent rate. The communist politburo does not have that high of a reelection percentage. Maybe we have more in common with the Russians than Washington CNN reporters think.

It is hard to get beat as an incumbent congressman. Martha Roby tried but even though she was the most vulnerable Republican incumbent congressperson in the country, she shellacked a former Montgomery mayor, one term congressman, and doggone good country one-on-one politician Bobby Bright. She beat him like a rented mule, 68-32.

Two years ago, she blatantly said she was not going to vote for the Republican nominee, Donald Trump, for President. Trump and the Republican Party are very popular in the 2nd Congressional District. It is one of the most conservative and GOP based districts in the nation. Currently, Trump's approval rating among GOP voters in the second district is 90 percent.

Well, young Ms. Roby, became an instant pariah in her district. She would have lost overwhelmingly had the 2016 GOP primary not just been over. There was an unprecedented, record breaking, number of write in votes against her in the November 2016 General Election.

It was assumed that whoever ran against her in this year's GOP Primary would beat her. She was scorned and mocked in her district and even uninvited to GOP events. Indeed, four viable men ran against her in the GOP Primary. She outspent them four-to-one and still only got 39 percent to Bright's 27 percent.

She pulled it out in the runoff for two reasons. Donald Trump endorsed her, which was manna from heaven. Trump is very popular in Southeast Alabama and the reason she was in the doghouse anyway was because she said she was not going to vote for Trump. If Trump forgave her, then folks in Andalusia figured they would too.

However, the big reason she won was because of the incumbency rule mentioned earlier. Washington special interest money stays with incumbents. The Washington money stuck with her like glue. She outspent Bright 9-to-1. It is impossible to overcome that kind of financial advantage.

She learned her lesson. Bet you won't see her involved in somebody else's race again. It was an arrogant and unnecessary faux pas. First of all, nobody

cares who a three term, backbench congressperson is going to vote for as president. Folks in a Republican district assume that you are going to vote for a fellow Republican.

The Agriculture race ended about as expected in the runoff. Rick Pate led Gerald Dial 40-to-30 in the first primary. Pate beat Dial 57-to-43 in the runoff.

Pate is a lifetime farmer and longtime Farmers Federation leader. The Alfa endorsement was critical in this race. They loyally supported him. Pate won even in the metropolitan counties. Alabamians inexplicably have a way of picking the farmer in this race.

The turnout in the GOP runoff was abysmal. It was around 12 percent statewide. However, in counties where there were local races, it was between 25-35 percent. All politics is local. Walker County had 25 percent turnout because they had a tough sheriff race. Marion had three local runoff races and voted at 28 percent. Marshall County had two local candidates running statewide, Will Ainsworth and Steve Marshall. They voted 19 percent.

In Alabama political history, Barbour County has been known as the Home of Governors, and indeed, six Alabama Governors have called Barbour County home. In the 80's and 90's Cullman County claimed two Governors, Guy Hunt and Jim Folsom, Jr. Of course, little Jim's daddy, Big Jim, was governor in the 1940's and 50's. That gave Cullman County three governors. Tuscaloosa has had three governors. They should rightfully claim Lurleen Wallace, who was born and raised in Northport. Only a few years ago, Tuscaloosa had a unique advantage of claiming the Governor Robert Bentley and Alabama's Senior Senator and most powerful politico, Richard Shelby, at the same time.

However, the results of the Republican Primary have propelled Marshall County into the limelight. Beginning with the next quadrennium, Marshall County will more than likely lay claim to both Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth and Attorney General Steve Marshall.

For generations the legendary Beat 14 in Elmore County was the Bellweather box in the state for predicting the governor's race and mirroring the results statewide. In recent years their clairvoyance has diminished. There is a new rival to Beat 14 in Elmore County, Patsburg in Crenshaw County has been getting it right for a while now. In the July 17 runoff, Patsburg got every race correct. As Patsburg goes, so goes the state.

August 1, 2018



Ronald A. Holtsford

WHAT IS THE PROCESS AND CONSIDERATION IN CONFIRMING JUDGE KAVANAUGH FOR THE SUPREME COURT?

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Since President Trump's selection of Judge Brett Kavanaugh currently of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy on the United States Supreme Court there has been a lot of discussion. Judge Kavanaugh is a relatively young man when compared to some current and prior Supreme Court justices and was a high school classmate of current Justice Neil Gorsuch. Judge Kavanaugh can make a significant impact on cases for many years to come barring significant health issues.

Currently appropriate Trump officials are working with Senators to encourage their support once the voting process occurs. The nomination has been sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Judiciary Committee hearings may be held in late August. Currently an FBI investigation is under way as with all nominations as well as investigation by those both for and opposing the nomination of Judge Kavanaugh to learn about his judicial leanings and background. For instance, Judge Kavanaugh is Catholic and Catholics are historically pro life and as well Kavanaugh clerked for Judge Stapleton of the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals when Stapleton wrote an opinion restricting abortion rights in Pennsylvania. Should Kavanaugh be confirmed by the Senate Judiciary Committee then there will be a debate in the full Senate. Though possibly ambitious, it is hoped that a vote may take place in September.

It seems that the Senators in opposition have concern among several items over abortion rights, civil rights in general and the Affordable Care Act. Certainly there are Senators that oppose Kavanaugh's nomination because he is a Trump nominee, but they have also researched his opinions and have found them counter to their own. Senator Dick Durbin has in the past referred to Kavanaugh as the Forrest Gump of Republican politics.

Kavanaugh is seen by many as being more in line with the legal thinking of deceased Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Kavanaugh at one time applied as Rehnquist clerk but was not accepted. Judge Kavanaugh has clerked or worked for many Federal judges including Justice Anthony Kennedy whom Kavanaugh would be replacing. Kavanaugh worked for Ken Starr and was the principal author in the Starr report arguing for the impeachment of President Bill Clinton. Kavanaugh has also worked for the younger President George Bush.

Kavanaugh has argued only once before the United States Supreme Court and lost in a 6-3 decision. As a Judge, Kavanaugh has had fourteen decisions reviewed by the Supreme Court. Of those fourteen decisions, thirteen have been affirmed and only one rejected. It appears at this point in time that the majority of the Supreme Court justices and Kavanaugh have similar Constitutional lean-

ings even though from time to time there have been surprises in the decisions by some justices that have seemed to veer from their historical holdings.

This will be a wait and see process.

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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Published by: Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC
Volume 18 - Issue 11 Copyright 2018
The Alabama Gazette 20 pages- 4 Sections

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

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The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

Friends of the Gazette,

It is with great passion and concern that I approach this subject of our historical monuments, knowing the current attempt to destroy them and our History. The sons of Phyllis Schlafly, John and Andy Schlafly, wrote about this organized attempt across the nation to destroy our monuments and the stories that they have carried to generation after generation of American students. There is grave concern over these orchestrated attempts to obliterate our History. With their kind permission, we are reprinting their article of October 10, 2017, titled:

Historical Monuments

Rescuing Columbus from the Savages

John and Andy Schlafly ~ October 10, 2017

On the 525th anniversary of the European discovery of America, the 90-foot tall monument in New York's huge Columbus Circle escaped damage -- but only because the NYPD maintained a 24-hour honor guard during the entire 3-day holiday weekend. Police protection was needed because the violent left wing movement known as "antifa" had announced a nationwide campaign to "deface Columbus Day."



Columbus Circle in New York City

Statues left unguarded were not so fortunate. Around the nation in recent weeks, statues of Columbus have been toppled, splattered with paint, or otherwise vandalized. In downtown Los Angeles, a Columbus statue in front of the county courthouse was shrouded with a white sheet, ostensibly for its own protection, after the L.A. City Council voted to rename the paid holiday as Indigenous Peoples Day.

The Mayor of New York City, who was born Warren Wilhelm, but changed his name to the Italian-sounding Bill de Blasio, had let it be known that the monument in Columbus Circle was at risk. He has appointed a commission to review the political correctness of hundreds of monuments, plaques, and statues throughout the city.

New York's Columbus monument was built and paid for by Italian immigrants in 1892, to honor the 400th anniversary of discovery, around the time that Chicago was preparing to host the World's Columbian Exposition. Italian Americans were rightly proud of Columbus, but his voyages were actually sponsored and financed by Spain, his crewmen were Spanish, he spoke Spanish, and wrote his journals in Spanish.

Americans were already celebrating Columbus on the 300th anniversary of the discovery, in 1792, when a Columbus monument was erected in Baltimore. Despite the lack of Italian or Spanish people in the original 13 colonies, the English settlers recognized that Columbus's discovery of the New World was the event that made America possible.

Our nation's capital is the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia, honoring the two men who made our country. Columbus' name is reflected in many other places, including two state capitals (Ohio and South Carolina). For much of the 19th Century, the word Columbia was often used as an alternative to America.

As President Trump said in proclaiming the federal holiday, Columbus's voyages "undeniably and fundamentally changed the course of human history and set the stage for the development of our great nation."

On Columbus Day, Trump declared, "We honor the skilled navigator and man of faith for his courageous feat-- even in the face of extreme doubt and tremendous adversity."

What a contrast with the apologetic tone of Obama's proclamation one year earlier, which omitted any praise of Columbus or recognition of his greatness. Instead Obama whined that "we must acknowledge the pain and suffering of Native Americans" which he said has been "marked by too many broken promises, as well as violence, deprivation and disease."

By apologizing for Columbus as a man allegedly responsible for bringing pain and suffering, violence and disease to America, Obama was apologizing for America itself. Such ideas are far too common in our schools and colleges, where Columbus is wrongly accused of oppressing the native people with slavery, white supremacy, and even genocide.

The National Education Association, which supplies teachers to most of our public schools, adopted a resolution that "formal apologies are long overdue to the indigenous people of the United States." The fierce campaign against Columbus is motivated by hatred for America, and will continue even if his statues survive.

It is impossible to exaggerate how great Columbus was, and how much our world depends on what he accomplished. In the 2,000 years since Jesus Christ, it would be hard to name any one man who achieved so much for the betterment of mankind.

Columbus was, first of all, the greatest sailor and navigator who ever lived up to that time, as detailed by the famous historian Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison, himself a sailor who recreated Columbus's voyages. Yes, a Viking named Leif Erikson apparently landed somewhere in Canada about 500 years earlier, but Erikson left no permanent settlement or any trace that he was ever there.

Yes, there were people already living in North and South America when Columbus came. By comparison to the European explorers and settlers, however, America's native people lived in extreme poverty and brutality, lacking the skills that are necessary to build a civilized nation.

Yes, the European settlers brought new diseases such as smallpox that infected the native people (unintentionally, of course), but they were repaid in tobacco, which caused far more deaths among Europeans. Columbus wrote about tobacco in his journal on October 15, 1492, just three days after he arrived in the West Indies.

Among the gifts that Columbus brought to America was Christianity. Evangelization of the native people was a prime motivation for Columbus and his Spanish backers. Columbus gave Christian names to the places he visited, such as San Juan (St. John the Baptist) which became Puerto Rico.

And as we celebrate -- other holidays revered and cherished across America, we continue to see the monuments and the history represented in each one attacked.

~~~~~

John and Andy Schlafly have alerted us to many other attacks on our history in another Phyllis Schlafly Eagles article of last August 22, 2017. This article titled, "Where Does it Stop?" deals with continuing efforts to destroy our History.

### THE PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY REPORT

#### Where Does It Stop?

by John and Andy Schlafly

August 22, 2017

"Sad to see the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart with the removal of our beautiful statues and monuments," President Trump tweeted last week. "You can't change history, but you can learn from it. Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson -- who's next, Washington, Jefferson? So foolish!"

The mob violence did not stop with Confederate generals, but quickly extended to statues of ordinary soldiers, and then to other great historical figures. Christopher Columbus was attacked with a hatchet in Detroit, Abraham Lincoln was burned in Chicago, and the recently canonized Father Junipero Serra was spray-painted with the word "murder" at Mission San Fernando, California.

In Annapolis, Maryland, a sculpture of Chief Justice Roger Taney was hoisted from its massive pedestal and hidden in an undisclosed location as payback for Taney's opinion in the 160-year-old Dred Scott case. In Baltimore a Columbus monument erected in 1792 was attacked with a sledgehammer and in New York City, the Council Speaker has demanded a review of the massive, 76-foot-high sculpture at the center of Columbus Circle.

After President Trump asked "Where does it stop?," some amateur historians responded by claiming that Robert E. Lee was a "traitor" who committed "treason" against the United States. Such comments are ignorant and wrong, for the simple reason that the 11 Confederate states that Lee fought for are now part of the United States.

The Fourteenth Amendment, which became part of the Constitution in 1868, sets forth the conditions under which the defeated Southern states were readmitted to the United States on an equal basis with all other states. Nearly all who fought for Southern independence were restored to full citizenship on an equal footing with their counterparts who fought for the Union of North and South.

A previous generation of Americans, including those who actually fought in the Civil War, debated whether to charge General Lee and other rebels as traitors. They wisely decided not to go down that road, and it's too late to revisit their decision now.

Some Republican weak sisters -- the same people who timidly proposed civil unions as an alternative to gay marriage (remember how that turned out?) -- have offered a compromise. Instead of destroying the offending statues, move them to museums or Confederate cemeteries.

Gentlemen may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace: even cemeteries are not safe from the mob bent on the destruction of history. In Los Angeles, an online petition forced the Hollywood Forever cemetery to remove a 92-year-old hunk of granite that marks -- "lest we forget" -- the nearby graves of 37 Confederate soldiers.

In Madison, Wisconsin, the leftwing mayor removed a two-foot plaque marking the graves of 140 Confederate soldiers who died in a Union prison at Camp Randall after surrendering in battle. In Boston, where over 600 Confederates were held at Fort Warren, a granite slab bearing the names of 13 who died in prison was boarded up so their names cannot be seen.

History teaches what happens when a revolution gets out of hand, and it's not pretty. When law and order are overthrown, the mob rules.

When the French Revolution reached its peak of mob violence in 1793, the revolutionaries were not satisfied with slicing off the heads of their deposed king, Louis XVI, and his wife, Marie Antoinette. They also invaded the church of St. Denis, where French kings and queens for the preceding 1,000 years had been buried under monuments and statues that marked their lives and reigns.

The mob opened more than 100 tombs and scattered the remains so that the royal bones could never again be identified and reassembled. Then they marched to Notre Dame Cathedral, where they destroyed all vestiges of Christianity and turned the sanctuary into a "temple of reason."

In our hometown of Alton, Illinois, two Civil War-related monuments have stood for more than a century at opposite ends of town. On the east side, a flamboyant 110-foot column, topped by a winged sculpture of an angel and flanked by a pair of enormous eagles, honors Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy, the anti-slavery newspaper publisher who died defending his printing press from a mob on November 7, 1837.

On the quieter western edge of town, a simple but elegant granite obelisk, 58 feet tall, marks the final resting place of 1,354 Confederate soldiers who died as prisoners of war in Alton's federal prison. More than 13,000 Confederate soldiers and civilians were imprisoned there under horrific conditions during the war, resulting in as many as six to ten deaths a day.

For as long as civilization has existed, the end of life on earth has been a time to remember the dead and to reflect on what their lives meant to us who survive. It's time for the grave robbers and defilers to stand down, or if they will not, to be put down by the law. *Requiescat in pace.*

John and Andy Schlafly are sons of Phyllis Schlafly (1924-2016) whose 27th book, *The Conservative Case for Trump*, was published posthumously on September 6.



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John Sophocleus

THINK

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## Write on Voter; Right ON!



The primary runoff is in the record books with over 87% percent of registered voters not participating in party elections they funded, some saying in fear of making an error for actual or accused 'crossover voting.' This may be the duopoly's desired result fueling the irony of claiming to want increased voter participation at the same enacting more impediments toward this end. The obvious answer is to prohibit taxpayers from paying for these party politics. If a party wants to use our public apparatus for determining their candidates on **general** election ballots (taxpayers **ARE** obliged to provide) then pay the user fee. Otherwise, since taxpayers pay for **BOTH** primaries (which have become party fundraisers) voters have a 1st Amendment right to participate in both. Sadly, no one expects just outcomes of this sort when jurists like Myron Thompson consistently fail to defend our civil rights in Alabama.

June 5th primary results were similarly dismal with 74% **not** participating even with a more complete slate of candidates to determine. While many are mesmerized by recent news reports and DC hearings to address foreign tampering in **our** elections (as we've done to other nations) slowly more good folks understand our system is indeed rigged and it is an 'inside job.' To be listed on the primary ballot one must fundraise for the duopoly parties - e.g., a Congressional seat currently requires **\$3,480** to place a name on the ballot. Note this **\$3,480** is **NOT** submitted to the Alabama State Treasury to offset expenses to make these partisan determinations. The low turnout, low information conveyed, hyper-gerrymandered election results are easier for extremists to manipulate and rig. So Trump 'clears the field' to use his words for candidate Clinton **or** he wins; heads he wins/tails he doesn't lose. Either way the oligarchs (of the same deleterious spirit as oligarchs across the globe) carry the day! Entertaining to watch Republican sycophants fall into line trying to be the Trumpiest for this long time NY Democrat - esp. here in the Heart of Dixie. The 'Pavlov Trump' ads are as predictable as the fear mongering Clinton/Obama ads of old.

Some found challengers (I've cited Thomas Casson's experience as a Republican candidate) don't get a 'fair shake' from the party and its operatives in the process. Casson said, "I fell for the trick in 2014. In 2018 I attempted taking on the system again experiencing some of the most restrictive ballot access laws in the country. I spent numerous hours away from my family trying collect the nearly 5,000 signatures to gain ballot access. People told me it would be easy. Little do they know how much folks are turned off from the whole political process. I collected 2500 signatures and submitted many to the Secretary of State's office just to have them disqualify a minimum of 20% of those collected." Even with only 2,000 perfectly verified signatures, it would be enough to get on the ballot in most States. As long time readers may recall, I've advocated **EVERY** candidate (regardless of party status or independent) paying their marginal cost to be on the general election ballot - i.e., statewide races will be more than a small local race -- instead of candidates wasting effort, money and time gathering signatures our Sec. of State then must waste effort, taxpayer money and time verifying.

Candidate Casson further noted, "Only 8-15% of people approve of Congress yet they're reelected at a 90% rate. So what now? In the 3rd Congressional District 16 year GOP incumbent and Swamp creature darling Mike Rogers is seeking another term. I remember when GOP talked the talk about outsiders and term limits. On the democratic side former Miss America Mallory Hagan is nominee. People have already dubbed the race 'Beauty and the Beast.' I know voters can't wait for Rogers to get as close as possible to President Trump and the counter attacks from Hagan. Voters will also be treated to Rogers morphing Ms. Hagan into Nancy Pelosi. Rogers has refused any debates so there will be plenty of slick TV commercials on both sides." I'm guessing most of my readers are similarly weary of the extremists' campaign playbook feeding the bipolar result destroying our State and nation.

Pragmatists understand things will not change until voters rise up and force at least one of the duopoly parties to change. Voting for the **lesser of two evils** is what has 'progressed' us into the current mess. Casson asserted, "Politicos, pollsters, and the media all like things the way they are. No hard work on their part. If there is going to be a Swamp draining that people want, the angry and apathetic 75% are going to have to put forth some effort. I'm not talking about major work though. It's time to 'Make the Pen Great Again.' **We the People** can hack this broken system by writing someone for races where there are no good choices. We don't have to rely on super wealthy people and PACs to get involved and buy the system. I legally changed my name to Thomas Sick of DC Casson. Extreme maybe but it reflects what desperate times we are in. And by the way a name change is cheap! Here's the strategy but please don't tell everyone, we don't want to tip off the establishment. Pens are cheap to buy but they need to say "Write in or Vote SickofDC." The pens won't be provided by any Campaign or PAC. It's up to regular people that are fed up to take on the system. Citizens purchase pens and hand them out. Trust that the newly hacked system will get folks back engaged and that change can happen. The people of Alabama are much better than the two choices we are usually given. Let the games begin and let's have fun making the changes that are desperately needed."

The time may be ripe for Casson's **MPGA** (Make the Pen Great Again) strategy. Some of the runoff results were promising. Jeremy "Mr. EYG" Gray beat the old machine candidate in House Dist. 83 and shows promise to not be as easily captured if/when elected. Will Ainsworth's Lt. Gov. win signaled further hope those few who had the courage early on to make a stand against Felon Hubbard, et al will be further rewarded at the polls. Rick Pate's Ag Commissioner win also signals the days of old guard/machine candidates (Bright, Dial, Holmes, Knight, et al types) are losing ground. On the other hand, the results left some painfully poor duopoly choices or even worse only ONE/unopposed candidate in the November general election.

A local illustration from Lee County is the District 5 County Commissioner race. The best 'general welfare' pic of the four candidates in the primary came in a close third (blocked from the run-off) because the Fuller/Hubbard machine candidate and the big govt. Democrat machine candidate took the top two slots. Does it really matter to the average, productive citizen which special interest machine candidate won? Unopposed in the November election (doubtful, under these circumstances, Sec. Merrill will eliminate this general election race with only one party candidate as he's done in the past to install Rep. Lovvorn) the Fuller/Hubbard machine candidate wins. The lone voice against a corrupt county commission is silenced. Will the incumbent, who unsuccessfully ran for another race (very competitive due to the passing of Rep. Bandy) mount a serious write-in campaign? This account will sound familiar at the Statewide level to those who followed the AG election. Will Alice Martin mount a write-in campaign to increase voter participation when both duopoly AG candidates have made it clear they'll not discipline corruption in our State?

To those concerned about the so-called 'sore loser' law, Sec. Merrill sent a press release out driven by great interest in write-ins for the Dec. 2017 US Senate **Jones v. Moore** special election. Write-ins beat the margin of victory which

could have impacted the final result. Many saw Troy King's numbers plummet when touting the endorsement of Moore, who'd shown **non**-duopoly voters are not a fan on Dec. 12th. Merrill's release was intended to "provide much needed information" w.r.t. proper procedures for casting a "write-in" vote. Sec. Merrill asked folks to please share their press release information with the public to eliminate confusion on that Election Day submitted as follows:

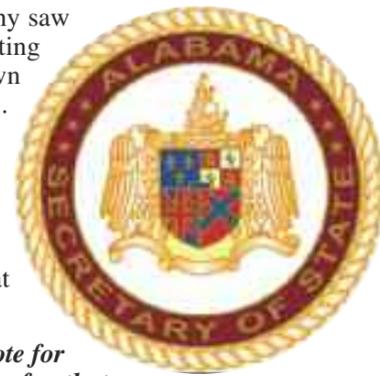
*"When the candidate you would like to vote for is not listed on the ballot, you may vote for that person by writing his or her name in the blank "write-in" box on the ballot. Each contest on the ballot has a "write-in" box. You must also shade in the circle next to that "write-in" box to ensure your vote is tabulated properly. In the event that the voter selects the "straight-party" option they may still "write-in" a candidate for any race they choose in the blank area designated for "write-ins". Each vote for a "write-in" candidate will override the "straight-party" vote only for the race with the "write-in" area filled in.*

*It is important to be familiar with the spelling of the name of the candidate for whom you intend to vote. In the event that the candidate's name is slightly misspelled, it must be close enough that the voter's intention can be reasonably determined upon review. The voter must use a full last name, but initials are acceptable for first and middle names.*

*All votes for "write-in" candidates will be counted in the event that the candidate is qualified to hold the office and not a fictional character. It is also required that the "write-in" vote be hand-written. Additionally, there are no existing stipulations that prohibit a candidate from being elected despite having unsuccessfully run for a party's nomination, which would normally apply due to Alabama's sore loser law."*

So there you have it - no sore loser problems if the law is followed. If successful, I forecast the next step by our duopoly in Montgomery will be to further impede our First Amendment Right to the ballot by prohibiting write-in votes, aided and abetted by a jurist like Myron Thompson who's shown such great disregard for our civil rights these past four decades. I'm hoping Becky Gerritson will show similar effort/wisdom as Candidate Casson to provide an outlet for voters who have foolishly stayed home/fail to participate with poor choices on the general election ballot (fed up with the duopoly in these Congressional races) to be counted at the polls. Start beating the margin victory and the duopoly loser will take notice. Sadly our low turnout (12.7% in this runoff), ballot restricted, hyper-gerrymandered, etc. bipolar results are communicating increasing **LESS** information - esp. when it offers two poor choices like McCain/Obama, Clinton/Trump, etc. to non-duopoly party voters.

**Postscript:** much correspondence on all the ineligible in Alabama State School Board races. I've heard nothing from Sec. Merrill nor if efforts in the courts are moving forward to not certify an ineligible winner(s). The most notable is the District 2 results where all **three** remaining duopoly candidates are ineligible if the '5 year window' law is followed. It appears most of those who did **not** vote for the ineligible in June didn't vote for **either** of the remaining Republican runoff candidates. Will Candidate Taylor mount a serious write-in campaign? It is yet another race positioned to beat the margin of victory if the thousands of voters angry at the ineligible decided to actually show and coalesce around a single write-in candidate they voted for in the primary who's not in violation of the 5 year window and currently eligible to serve.



Secretary of State, John Merrill

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# The Chambliss Commentary

Marcia Chambliss

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

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

## Stop Rewarding Negativity

As the 2018 primary season thankfully ends, King Solomon's lament in **Ecclesiastes 1:9**, "So there is nothing new under the sun," might well be applied to Alabama politics, with the "nothing new" being the absolute viciousness of campaign politics. I think after each election that it can't possibly get any worse, yet I'm proven wrong each cycle.

Worse is the fact that this latest nasty war of words was waged amongst those who ran under the same political banner.

The next time you question why we can't find new faces or good people to run for office, remember this 2018 Republican primary season. I no longer wonder why people don't subject themselves and their families to the political candidate process; in fact, I marvel that any have the courage and stamina to endure the constant attacks that are more personality than issue-driven, and grieve for what their spouses and children witness in campaign fliers and media ads.

Have you ever taken an unflattering photo? I'll one hundred-percent guarantee that it will be dredged up from cyberspace and plastered across a political mailer for delivery to every mail box in your district. And that's just the beginning as a candidate's spoken or written words can be taken out of context and manipulated to make the most negative impression possible on voters, particularly in those critical final days before an election.

It's the bloodbath of politics and has become the status quo because the political consultants have seen that negative attack ads are effective. And I'm afraid that effectiveness unfortunately says as much about our culture as it does those who convince political candidates to utilize them.

If negative campaigning is effective, is it because we have become so conditioned to destructive politics that we base our decisions on the mudslinging, accepting as truth whatever is printed or spoken across the airwaves, especially if it is portrayed as scandalous? Of all the negative attacks during this Republican primary runoff, and there were numerous from which to choose, one of the most offensive and disgusting had to be the political mugging of Agriculture Commissioner candidate Rick Pate. If a candidate, in this case State Sen. Gerald Dial, is unable to adequately convey his own qualifications for office without resorting to the public exposure of his opponent's divorce filings of over 30 years ago, that candidate doesn't need or deserve to be in any political office

where he would wield enormous political power over others.

The attacks don't have to be complete truth – a sliver of truth is too often exaggerated into a full-blown misapplied assault and is unfortunately at times all it takes to sway a voter – and the political consultants know it. Add the hypocrisy of some of these negative strikes, much of it revealed **after** the election as in the Las Vegas gambling-money funding of the last-minute Judge Roy Moore endorsement ad for Troy King, and no wonder most voters don't even care to participate in the process.

I understand the trap – no one enters a political race with the intent of losing, and consultants are hired to win elections. But it's the win-at-all-cost, sell-your-soul mentality with which I take issue, particularly when almost every piece of campaign literature espouses a candidate's Christian values that supposedly define them. Perhaps it's the campaign consultants pushing hard to go negative against an opponent, but responsibility for the decision ultimately falls on the candidate, and too few seem willing to risk losing an election for the sake of civility. I can't tell you how many times Matthew 7:20 came to mind during this primary season: "Therefore by their fruits you will know them." If a candidate wants to prove their character and integrity to me, they can start with conducting a campaign that rises above petty or vicious attacks on their opponent.

A conversation with a friend pertaining to the runoff election choices echoed my disgust with this primary season as she shared that her husband might not even vote in the runoff, and this is a man who always exercises his constitutional right to be heard. He asked her, "When was the last time we actually voted **FOR** someone instead of **AGAINST** someone else? And does it really matter? Nothing seems to change."

To a certain extent, I agree with her husband as I find myself voting far too many times for "the lesser of two evils" and can only recall a handful of times in which I was enthusiastically voting **for** someone. And while it's easy to say that nothing changes, the result of this runoff in at least the Agriculture Commissioner race gives me a sliver of hope that voters have had enough of the nastiness. Remember, it's ultimately up to voters to restore civility in elections – if we truly detest negative campaigning, we can send our own message by rejecting those who participate in the tactics we all allegedly bemoan.



## Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris "Chip" Beeker, Jr.

### Never Stop Learning

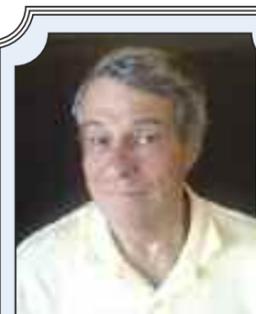
Recently I was asked to address a classroom of young students on what makes a good student a responsible citizen. As I sat down to write some notes, I was inspired and felt led to share this with others as well. Even though the intended audience was 15-16 year old's, I feel that no matter the age, we can all take away something from this.

The process from "good student" to "responsible citizen" all starts within the

classroom setting in my opinion. From the very first years of school, you are learning lessons that are invaluable to growing up. As one advances in school and becomes older, they learn discipline, hard work, perseverance, determination and a number of other qualities that will have them well on the track to success. To me, being a responsible citizen shows the following: showing empathy, bettering yourself, doing what is right and always working hard. In school and in life, we learn just that. Show empathy to those around you, after all, we never know what personal struggles they are having. Better yourself so that you can reach and continue to advance your goals. Do what is right because even though it may not be the easiest thing to do, it will be worth it in the end. Always work hard, at the end of the day your work ethic will carry you further and higher than any good grade on a test ever did.

No matter the age, the place you are at in life, I think we can all admit to say we are still learning every day. I guess we never truly get out of school... life is a constant learning source. We are faced with decisions every day and to see how we act or react to them ultimately decides if we pass that test to move on to the next. May you be encouraged to grow, to keep challenging yourself and to never stop learning!

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



## PRICE GOUGING

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

By John Martin

We are now well into the 2018 hurricane season, and a major storm may or may not hit us this year. But when one does, the news media will always mention a little consequence called "price gouging."

Reporters usually hype it up as something terrible, selfish, and even criminal. But when disasters strike, entrepreneurs are quick to respond by trucking in critical supplies and selling them for prices far above the norm. And people in need will be willing to pay for them.

Are these suppliers ripping off the victims? No, they are not. Yes, they do expect to make profits, just like people in any business. But their "excessive" prices are the result of the great expenses of quickly shipping the items over long distances and also risking delays, fines, and even seizures by law enforcement officials who somehow believe that providing critical essentials at elevated prices is a felony.

What if there were no "price gougers?" What if law enforcement apprehended and incarcerated every last one before he reached his destination? How would this action help the victims?

Imagine two identical coastal cities in Florida that have been severely damaged by a hurricane. One has "gougers" everywhere peddling everything from bottled water to plywood to tarps to generators at about 400% of their normal retail prices. The other has strict laws against them, and the local police are working overtime to make sure there is nobody around to sell these high-priced supplies. Which city would you rather live in? Think about it. Overpriced supplies, or no supplies? The police protecting property from looters, or routing out the "gougers" instead?

Anti-gouging laws not only hurt and obstruct the providers, they deprive the storm victims—people who are very willing to pay a few hundred dollars to save property that is worth thousands.

The buying and selling is strictly voluntary, like any other free market. Overpriced or not, people are not forced to buy anything. But some will need the items to save their property. The buyers and sellers will adjust their offers and prices according to their needs and mutual agreements. As long as officials step aside and get out of the way, the flow of commerce will take care of itself.

High prices have another beneficial effect. People will buy only what they need. If the local "Gestapo" mandates that prices be reduced to "normal"

levels, people with little need will exhaust the supply, and those with great needs will end up empty-handed.

Prices will always adjust themselves according to the fundamental law of supply and demand. When the supplies run short, their prices will rise. But the higher prices will entice more entrepreneurs from farther away to bring more. As new supplies come in greater quantities, the prices will decline. In a free market, they will soon fall to normal levels, and shelves once again will become adequately stocked.

In a free market, which is completely voluntary, there is no such thing as price gouging. Gouging can only occur if outside forces interfere with the supply or the demand.

If anything is monopolized, then gouging really does take place. In practice, monopolization is caused by one entity—government—all levels of government. It has the power to become a single seller. It also has the power to artificially create demand.

"How?" you ask. Would you like to get a passport? Where would you buy one? Walmart? Sears? No way. You have to go to your monopoly provider—the federal government. And you have to pay the asking price, whatever it is.

But wait. Do you really need a passport? If you plan to do much traveling outside of the country, you will. However, it wasn't always that way. A century or more ago, passports were not needed for international travel. But now, governments everywhere have created a need for them.

And they can gouge you for whatever prices they want.

And ditto for drivers' licenses, business licenses, permits, bail bonds, fines, penalties, traffic citations and many other things.

Welcome to the real world of price gouging.



# QUARTERBACK CONTROVERSY?



**Ed Jones**  
Staff Sports Editor

For the last seventy years, my attention has been on the game of football, especially college football. To my knowledge, during this time, never has there been such an obsession with who the quarterback will be at Alabama for the 2018 football season. Alabama fans are apoplectic. Some are actually being counseled for this unusual disorder. A number of sports writers in the state are providing fodder for this addictive behavior. What makes the quarterback situation at Alabama so puzzling is that there is almost always a quarterback controversy at Alabama as well as many other college football teams every year. The following few paragraphs will try to expose the folly of having apoplexy over the situation at Alabama.



*Tua Tagovailoa, Nick Saban and Jalen Hurts*

It has been said that Alabama has a “quarterback problem.” In the three encounters that I have had with **Coach Nick Saban**, he seemed to be capable of handling any problem that might come up. Before he had ever coached a down at Alabama, he graciously filled in for the fired **Coach Mike Shula**. Shula had agreed to be our banquet night speaker at the Montgomery Quarterback Club. Banquet night is the last and most important meeting of “The Club” each year. Awards are given to high school and college players for their performance during the season. The media is “all ears” and “all eyes” for this banquet because we usually have an important personality at this meeting. Radio, TV, nor The Montgomery Advertiser can be found during the normal meetings during the year. Our budget is such that we can only spend between \$500 - \$1,000 for each speaker with few exceptions. After the dinner, normally the speaker will take questions when his presentation is concluded. The first question was from me that night. I asked him if he would require his players to wear the same colored socks. He look at me menacingly and said, “Are you telling me that the players at Alabama have been wearing different colored socks? I answered, “Yes coach, some wear white socks, some wear black socks, and on rare occasions red. He countered, “That won’t be a problem. Next question.”

So far there has been only one player during the Saban years to break this tradition. That was Jalen Hurts, who wore a solid crimson stocking on his left leg through the entire 2017 season. He also wore a “medusa” style hairdo for two years. After the freshman from Hawaii **Tua Tagovailoa** pulled out the championship game last year in which Hurts had been ineffective, Hurts cut his hairdo.

It is my opinion that Coach Saban will choose to play both Tagovailoa and Hurts. There is an old axiom in football that says “if you have two quarterbacks, you don’t have any.” Someone made that up who never had two great quarterbacks. In my short coaching career, we were lucky to have 3/4 of a quarterback. Alabama has the best “problem” that they have had since Saban became coach in 2007. There is no controversy at quarterback. He will make the right decision. If I were in his shoes, I would recommend making it right with the two quarterbacks so that he can play both. If one has a “hot hand” in a tight game, let him go. Don’t forget that Jalen Hurts, as a freshman, won the national championship for Alabama in 2016. With time running out and Alabama trailing Clemson, he scrambled for a thirty-five yard touchdown giving Alabama the lead, with only two minutes left on the clock. With Alabama’s vaunted defense, game over? No, the defense allowed **Deshawn Watson** to drive the field and complete a short out route in the end zone with six seconds left. A field goal would not have won it for Clemson. Alabama’s defense lost that game and not Jalen Hurts.

## CLEMSON

Now, let’s look at some other teams who are having this same struggle, not knowing which quarterback they will eventually go with. Clemson comes to mind first. The Clemson fans are not the least bit interested in who the quarterback will be at Alabama. A large part of the football fans along the Southeastern Seaboard, especially the state of South Carolina, are beginning to act like Alabama fans.

There is much consternation among these fans over who Clemson’s quarterback will be. **Kelly Bryant** took Clemson to its second straight play-off following in the footsteps of Deshawn Watson, who edged Alabama in 2016. The 2017 play-off game did not go so well for Clemson. Alabama had their way with the Tigers in the semi-final game. How does **Coach Dabo Swinney** bench Kelly for a hot shot freshman, who incidentally has already caused two Clemson quarterbacks to transfer? True freshman **Trevor Lawrence** (6-5, 210 lbs.) has the ability to start at 90% of D-I schools. His best assets are his arm strength and maturity. With the latest success of the Clemson program under Swinny, the Clemson fan base is becoming as fanatical as Alabama’s. The majority of the fans want Coach Swinney to kick Bryant down the road and start Lawrence. Does this sound familiar? This is just as big of a deal in South Carolina as Alabama’s fan base wanting Saban to go with the Hawaiian Heisman candidate, Tua. Can you believe that some publications have placed Tagovailoa as high as fifth in the pre-season Heisman poll for 2018? He has never started a game!

## GEORGIA

Georgia really has a “bad” situation. **Jake Fromm** (6-2, 225 lbs.) led the Bulldogs to the national title game last year as a freshman. He did it with the flair of a veteran. How can **Coach Kirby Smart** kick Fromm to the side for the “new kid on the block,” who is even more heralded than was Fromm? Fromm “almost” led Georgia to the national championship last year. But, he didn’t win it.

So Georgia fans are all excited about this new guy who could finish the job. Incoming freshmen, **Justin Fields** (6-3, 225 lbs), is the fan favorite to take Georgia all the way to the “promise land” this year. This is the same battle that is going on at Alabama and Clemson. “Big shot” alums are in Kirby’s ear about making the change. Does this sound familiar?

## TENNESSEE

Tennessee has its own controversy going on. The difference in Tennessee and Alabama is that the Vols may improve in 2018 and still finish 5-7. But, the demise of the excitable **Butch Jones** has brought hope to Tennessee. Jones was uprooted by Saban disciple, **Jeremy Pruitt**, who was the Tide’s defensive coordinator in 2017. Unrealistic expectations have gotten the fan base believing that the “Glory” of Tennessee football is just over the rainbow. However, Coach Pruitt must decide if he can go with sophomore **Jarrett Guarantano** (6-4, 210 lbs.), called the quarterback of the future in his freshman year. Or should he please the fans and look elsewhere. Last year Guarantano took a beating, but he showed signs of “greatness” even though he only started seven games in 2017. Of course, **Tom Brady**, would have looked bad playing behind the Tennessee offensive line last year. A graduate transfer from Stanford has brought new enthusiasm and new controversy. **Keller Chryst**, who was 11-2 as a starter at Stanford, has the Volunteer fan base frothing at the mouth with the possibility of benching last year’s starter in favor of the new guy. Although, neither quarterback could start at Alabama, Clemson or Georgia, the money makers in Knoxville are hyped up for a change. They see that Tennessee football can become Tennessee football once again. They are hyperventilating over the Tennessee quarterback situation. However, they are probably a slight bit interested in what is going on in Tuscaloosa. Tennessee will be fighting for nothing but pride this year, but they will be fighting!

## MICHIGAN

Unlike Alabama, Clemson, Georgia and Tennessee,

the situation in An Arbor, Michigan is becoming what I would describe as “reverse enthusiasm.” **Jim Harbough**, an outstanding Michigan quarterback in his own right, was lured by the right price for seemingly the right situation. Alma Mater Michigan has gone through coaches like shoppers through a supermarket. The team with the most wins by any college football team in history was floundering under its own notoriety. Favorite son, Jim Harbough, was supposed to ride to the rescue under a wave of enthusiasm and a fat contract. He was a “Michigan Man”, whatever that is. His first three years have been marred by close losses to Ohio State and Michigan State among many other losses. Coach Harbough is winning, but not enough for the Maize and Blue alumni and fans, of which Michigan has millions. The powers that be did not expect this from the vociferous and publicity hunting Jim Harbough.

Talk about a quarterback controversy, going into Harbough’s fourth season at Michigan, it has become apparent to his base that he is simply human after all. Michigan will have to beat Ohio State and Michigan State this year or the weary fans of “mighty” Michigan could be calling for a fresh start with another coach. “The Quarterback” has not been able to recruit a quarterback that can win at Michigan. So, what does Harbough do? He borrows one from Ole Miss. **Shea Patterson** was an excellent quarterback at Ole Miss, but decided to take a graduate transfer to Michigan. One reason was that there is “trouble in river city” at Ole Miss. On the surface, this looks like a good marriage. Harbough needed a quarterback and Patterson needed a place to play where he would be more exposed to NFL scouts. Shea will be competing with **Brandon Peters** and **Dylan McCaffery**. You’ve heard of them. Well, it looks like Jim Harbough is going down or up with a graduate transfer. Patterson may be the piece of the puzzle that he needs. Michigan has been good defensively under Harbough. With a good football player at quarterback, the Wolverines may just go to the Rose Bowl this year. Unlike most people, I hope that they do!

Back to the original question. Does Coach Nick Saban start a quarterback who has only lost one game in two years? I can not “credit” Jalen Hurts with the loss to Clemson in the 2016 national championship game. I put that on the defense. Or, does Coach Saban roll the dice with a guy who has never started a college football game? That’s it, other than mop up duty. Tua has played one half of football in a critical situation. Even so, he did look like the incarnation of **Kenny Stabler**. Or, do you take the money plan by playing both. If it is your business, what would you do?

*The interesting thing to me about this “monumental controversy” at Alabama, Nick Saban can’t make a bad decision!*

## 2018 COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

| ALABAMA                       | AUBURN                            | ALABAMA STATE                        | TROY                           |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sept. 1.....Louisville        | Sept. 1.....Washington            | Sept. 1.....Tuskegee                 | Sept. 1.....Boise State        |
| Sept. 8.....Arkansas State    | Sept. 8.....Alabama State         | Sept. 8.....@Auburn                  | Sept. 8.....Florida A&M        |
| Sept. 15.....@Ole Miss        | Sept. 15.....LSU                  | Sept. 15.....@Kennesaw State         | Sept. 15.....@Nebraska         |
| Sept. 22.....Texas A&M        | Sept. 22.....Arkansas             | Sept. 22.....@Grambling State        | Sept. 22.....@ULM              |
| Sept. 29.....LA-Lafayette     | Sept. 29.....Southern Mississippi | Oct. 6.....@Alcorn State             | Sept. 29.....Coastal Carolina  |
| Oct. 6.....@Arkansas          | Oct. 6.....@Mississippi State     | Oct. 13.....@South Alabama           | Oct. 4.....Georgia State       |
| Oct. 13.....Missouri          | Oct. 13.....Tennessee             | Oct. 27.....@Alabama A&M             | Oct. 13.....@Liberty           |
| Oct. 20.....@Tennessee        | Oct. 20.....@Ole Miss             | Nov. 3.....Texas Southern            | Oct. 23.....@South Alabama     |
| Nov. 3.....@LSU               | Nov. 3.....Texas A&M              | Nov. 10.....Jackson State            | Nov. 3.....Louisiana           |
| Nov. 10.....Mississippi State | Nov. 10.....@Georgia              | Nov. 17.....Prairie View A&M         | Nov. 10.....@Georgia Southern  |
| Nov. 17.....The Citadel       | Nov. 17.....Liberty               | Nov. 22.....Mississippi Valley State | Nov. 17.....Texas State        |
| Nov. 24.....Auburn            | Nov. 24.....@Alabama              |                                      | Nov. 24.....@Appalachian State |



Steve Long

# Woods & Waters with Steve



**Deer Harvest numbers have changed over the last few years.**

I hope all of you fine folks had a wonderful 4th of July! The heat's been cooking us all this month, but it's still only the start of Summer. Make sure all of you stay hydrated, stay in the shade, and stay cool!

Over the last year or two, I've gone out of my way to mention all the nasty sort of things deer and other critters have to deal with in order to survive. Between the obvious stuff like habitat loss, disease, predators, and the lovely Alabama weather we get from time to time, there's also the elephant in the room; hunting.

Well, sure, it's plainly obvious that the deer herd is thinned out by hunting. The real kicker there, though, is that it's far more complicated than just hunting them. QDMA's been collecting data on deer harvests for decades, and the numbers are pretty interesting to see. Kip Adams of QDMA wrote up a great summary online, and I'd like to make a mention of several of those points.

For starters, we're experiencing a pretty big shift in harvest ratios. Back when QDMA got started, harvesting antlerless deer wasn't really pushed for. Big Bucks or head on back home was the ticket back then. QDMA, however, pushed for more harvesting of antlerless deer. Since then, the amount of antlerless deer harvested has outstripped the number of antlered deer being brought in. Obviously, we're not talking about, "if it moves, it gets shot," type of hunting. That's just plain crazy. Instead, harvesting antlerless deer can help stabilize the deer herd in an area, for multiple reasons.

First, the resources available in a deer's habitat are limited. A specific plot of land can only support a specific number of critters, after all. Second, a limited population provides better disease control as opposed to a deer herd that's increasing in number like crazy. The less deer around, the less likely a terrible illness will go around the herd. Third, despite all of the things working against them, deer are pretty good at repopulating. Allowing the population of breeding does to keep climbing can lead to overpopulation in a hurry. A healthy herd size helps everything.

There's another, interesting tidbit that comes from a good harvest of antlerless deer; meat. Mr. Adams points out that from 2003 through 2016, there's a sharp drop off of 24%, or 870,842 antlerless deer, or to put that number in tasty perspective, we're talking 174 million venison meals. That's a whole lot of food that could do some serious good for folks who need it. To make up for the lack of meat coming in, you gotta replace that protein with more, different protein. Think cattle, pigs, chickens, or even soy fields. Either way, those enterprises can and will interfere with both deer habitat and populations, as well as other critters.

Speaking of doing some serious good with that grub, there's always the option of donating venison from a harvested doe. Most processors can help you with that, or point you in the right direction. If you're hunting area is in need of population control, you can always harvest that extra antlerless deer, and donate that venison to help out the needy folks. We Hunters are a social, responsible group to begin



*Cast&Blast Outdoors co-host Rob Newman with a really nice bow kill buck.*

with, so this kind of thinking oughta fall right into everybody's wheelhouse.

I'm not gonna tell you to not harvest that trophy buck that waltzes on past your tree stand this year, for sure. But a key tenet of what QDMA does is maintaining a healthy deer population in order to ensure those deer are still there next season, and every season after. Alabama's a hotbed for deer population, and if we're not careful, we'll be overloaded with Whitetail Deer again. If you're concerned with the deer population on your property, you can always start preparing for your October surveys.

As for me, I'm gonna evaluate the needs of the areas I hunt in the coming months, and I'll make my decision then. I just know that going forward, I might wind up passing some venison on to somebody who could use it. Again, I urge all my fellow Deer Hunters to consider doing the same. So get out there, get those deer counted, clean out that freezer for the harvest to come, and go get 'em!

## Kritter Korner

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**Ron & Angie VanHerwyn**  
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Email: [kritterkids@yahoo.com](mailto:kritterkids@yahoo.com) ~Website: <http://kritterkids.webs.com/>



We have just bought a new place in the country so we can expand our small educational zoo and take in more disabled, special needs, abused and unwanted wildlife and exotics. We have been asking for donations and help. We need new enclosures, toys, play skool houses, dog igloos, blankets and dog food. Anything we could use. Its not the moving for us that is hard, it's relocating all of our animals and setting up with new accommodations for them. There is a lot of work that goes into owning a zoo.

**Our new location is in Butler County. If you or any one would like to send a donation make it payable to CO Ron or Angie VanHerwyn, 2637 Booker Road McKenzie, Alabama 36456. On the bottom of the check line put Kritter Kids donation. Thank you so very much for your understanding.**

Everyone who rehabs wildlife, owns a Sanctuary or a Zoo knows how expensive it can be and we are in the process of moving to our new home where we have more property and a larger place to continue our education programs with more animals and we will be able to continue to take in more handicap, disabled and special needs wildlife and exotics Please help and donate. It only takes a minute of your time, especially anyone who has brought a forever baby to us; they stayed with you for only a short time with us it's a lifetime commitment.

need help to get more enclosures, food (some are on special diets) medical attention and medications. We need more kennels, blankets and enrichment toys.

Once again, no amount is too small. Every bit counts and the animals are very thankful for whatever you can give. Without the help we will be limited to how many animals we will be able to take in. And you never know when you may need that forever home for one of your babies again. All monies go straight to the animals for their care. We are a Educational Zoo that teaches about wildlife & Exotic, and we are also the only facility in the USA that has over 25 permanent handicap and disabled Raccoons. This is our specialty and what we do. I have helped a lot of you by sharing things that I have learned over the years and by taking your handicap babies. I love to help and teach and take in new fur babies with disabilities. Our latest baby has seizures.

*All we are asking is your help and understanding... Thank you*



**We still need help!**  
**you may donate**  
**on line!**



# Southern Cuisine



*I started writing this article on Friday the 13th. I got stung by a red wasp reaching to shut the dining room door. I reached to grab the door so I could then grab the door knob. I grabbed a red wasp between my index finger and middle finger. It felt like someone was poking a pin in the side of my finger. It looked like it got my three times. My hand swelled up and looked like I was wearing a catcher's mitt.*

*Today is Saturday the 14th, which to some people is worse than Friday the 13th. So far though my hand is looking more normal, just itches. I went out and picked a gallon of figs with wasps flying around. It looks like we are going to have a break in the heat. A break in the heat is always welcome. There is the sound of thunder outside and if it rains it will add to the five plus inches of rain we have had since I got stung.*

## Chef

### David Spooner Retired Chef

Volunteer Fireman,  
Lowndesboro V.F.D.  
St. Paul's Episcopal  
Church, Lowndesboro  
Board of Registrars,  
Lowndes County

As I have mentioned before, our kitchen is not conducive to canning, because of the lack of adequate cooling and ventilation. But we still have managed to can about 400 jars of plum, fig, pear, chipotle raspberry and strawberry jams, including jars of grape, and apple jelly, and my sister's favorite, orange marmalade. There will be much more fig and strawberry jam to can and I tasted some cherries with dinner at a friends house and they were delicious and I hope they will can well.

There are five fig trees within a mile from my house. And it seems I am of the few that love figs. I started eating figs when I lived in Turkey. They were dried and strung together with straw in a ring. You could untie the ring and pull a fig off and eat it or like I did just eat it off the ring. Dried figs are super sweet, much more than fresh figs. You have sweetness that overwhelms the flavor of the fig, but to a 12 year old, they were heavenly. Now I keep some fresh figs in the refrigerator when available and I grab a few as I walk past. And when I am working outside in the yard, I will find a few plump figs on the tree and pick myself a tasty treat. But fresh figs are not super sweet.

I found a recipe to take my fresh figs and turn them into fresh sweet appetizers or a wonderful snack. The recipe comes from [www.melaniecooks.com](http://www.melaniecooks.com). She calls it a side dish; I call it my new snack and breakfast topping..

## ROASTED FIGS

### Ingredients

- 12 fresh figs
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon



### Instructions

1. Place oven rack in the top most position in the oven.
2. Preheat oven to broil.
3. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray with cooking spray.
4. Cut the figs lengthwise.
5. Put the sugar and cinnamon on a plate and mix to combine.
6. Dip each fig half in the cinnamon sugar mixture on both sides, then put on the baking sheet, cut side up.
7. Place the baking sheet on the top rack of the oven
8. Broil for 4 minutes or until the cinnamon sugar starts to bubble and caramelize.

Let cool slightly as to prevent from developing second degree burns on the roof of your mouth.

Serves 4

Now, I figure that the figs will be a perfect addition to your breakfast. It has been said, over and over again, fresh fruit for breakfast is good for you. So what will go with the fresh fruit? A topping of Roasted Figs on your French toast will be a perfect breakfast.

But you look in your refrigerator and you are out of milk. Oh what to do? If it is anything like our house there may not be any milk but there is always ice cream. Milk goes bad but ice cream freezes and hides in the freezer for months; at least in my house. My wife buys vanilla ice cream for a dessert we will bring to Supper Club or the grand-kids are coming for the weekend. Since I like every flavor of ice cream except vanilla there will always be a half gallon carton of vanilla ice cream in the freezer. Since the grandkids will be here for a weekend, there will also be leftover bread in the freezer. You now have the makings of an easy breakfast.

I don't know how I came upon this recipe or how I came upon things to do with leftover ice cream. But I found scores of recipes that call for different flavors of ice cream to be used in pound cakes, cupcakes, icing, milkshakes, skillet cookie sundaes, deep fried chocolate bars, floats, waffles, funnel cakes and the surprise ice cream tacos. So here is the other part of your breakfast. This recipe comes from a blog Two Peas & Their Pod.

## ICE CREAM FRENCH TOAST

### Ingredients

- 1 cup vanilla ice cream melted
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 8 pieces Texas Toast of your favorite bread, just not pumpernickel or rye.

### Instructions

1. Preheat griddle (350 should do it)
2. In a shallow baking dish or pie plate, combine the melted ice cream, eggs, vanilla, and cinnamon. Whisk until blended. Dip both sides of each slice of bread into the mixture, allowing the bread to soak up some of the mixture.
3. Spray the hot griddle with cooking spray. And place the bread on griddle until golden brown on side and somewhat crispy, 3-4 minutes should do it. Flip and do same on other side.
4. Serve hot and if desired add toppings; Butter, Maple syrup, berries and DO NOT forget the Figs.

Serves 4-6



I buy lean beef hamburger meat and mix it with ground pork sausage to make patties for hamburgers and breakfast sandwiches to take to work. If I mix the pork sausage with the hamburger, I can use it for either meal. And as usual I spice it up enough that it goes with either breakfast or lunch or dinner. I don't blend the meats for a healthier patty but for a tastier patty. I saw an article about a hamburger blend that is being used in restaurants and even in fast food chains.

But instead of mixing sausage with the hamburger, they are mixing ground mushrooms into the beef. There are several takeaways from this; by replacing beef with mushrooms, the fat content of the patty is reduced, and fiber is increased, helping fast food chains and restaurants claim they are serving healthier meals. To make a home blended meat add about a third of a cup of ground button mushrooms to ¾ of a pound of ground beef. If you are one that is concerned about the beef industry's impact on the environment, a study by the World Resources Institute claims that if 30% of the beef in every hamburger in the United States was replaced with mushrooms, it would have the same affect as removing 2.3 million cars for the roads. Although, when you top your "healthier blended patty" with bacon, cheese and mayonnaise, your healthier item just got run over.

If you want to try an entree with a blended ground meat or a spiced ground beef, this next one has a lot going for it. Peppers, sherry, raisins, green chilies, cinnamon, and stuffed olives. This also gives you a chance to work with mild peppers. They may lack the heat but have distinct tastes. This is a recipe that I can adjust the type of peppers I use according to the amount of heat I want in the dish. I can add chopped jalapenos to the Hatch chilies in the stuffing and even using jalapenos stuffed olives, or a ground habanero for fun.

## POBLANOS STUFFED WITH SPICED GROUND MEAT

### Ingredients

**NOTE:** If you are using blended ground meat, the mushrooms will release water when cooked, and the canned tomatoes are packed in juice. The stuffing for the poblanos should not run out of the peppers and the tomato sauce should be a little thinner than ketchup.

- 6 large poblano chilies
- Cooking oil, for frying
- 1/2 cup dry sherry
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 1 (4-ounce) can (Hatch) green chilies, peeled, drained and chopped
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/4 cup water (if using a mushroom/ground beef mix; reduce to amount of water. Mushrooms will release water



while cooking)

- 1 onion, chopped fine
- 5 ounces pimiento-stuffed olives (about 1 cup), sliced
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh-ground black pepper

Light Tomato Sauce  
(see recipe below)

### Instructions

1. Make a 1 1/2-inch lengthwise slit near the stem end of each large poblano. In a large, deep, heavy frying pan, heat 3/4 inch of oil until very hot but not smoking. Fry the poblanos in two batches, turning once or twice, until they are blistered and a dull green color, 3 to 4 minutes.
2. When the poblanos are cool enough to handle, peel them. Remove the seeds through the slits; do not tear the flesh.
3. In a small saucepan, heat the sherry until hot. Add the raisins and remove from the heat. Let sit for about 20 minutes.
4. Heat a large, heavy frying pan. Add the beef and the water and cook over moderately high heat, breaking up the beef with a fork, until it loses its pink color, about 2 minutes. Stir in the onion, olives, garlic, cumin, cinnamon, cloves, salt and black pepper. Stir in the canned green chilies and the raisins with the sherry. Cook, stirring, until the onion softens, about 5 minutes.
5. Heat the oven to 375°. Lightly grease a rimmed baking sheet. Carefully stuff the poblano chilies with the ground-meat mixture. Place on the baking sheet, stuffed side up, and bake until heated through, about 7 minutes.
6. Heat the tomato sauce. Spoon the sauce onto six individual plates or a large platter. Arrange the chilies on top and serve.

### Light Tomato Sauce

- Two 28 ounce cans of peeled plum tomatoes
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 tablespoons cooking oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 onion, chopped fine
- Pinch sugar, if needed

1. In a heavy medium saucepan, heat the lard until very hot but not smoking. Add the onion and garlic and cook over high heat, stirring, for 1 minute. Reduce the heat to moderately low and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion is translucent and slightly softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in the tomatoes and salt. Bring to a simmer and cook for 5 minutes. Taste and, if the sauce seems too acidic, add the sugar. Remove from the heat and let cool
2. Transfer the sauce to a blender or food processor and purée

Serves 6

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

James Dent

There is no "we" in food.

Additional college football schedules continued from page 1B

| TUSKEGEE                       | HUNTINGDON                    | FAULKNER                          | JACKSONVILLE STATE                 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sept. 1.....@Alabama State     | Sept. 1.....@Guliford         | Aug. 1.....@Campbellsville        | Aug. 25....North Carolina A&T      |
| Sept. 8.....@Albany State      | Sept. 8...Birmingham Southern | Sept. 8..@Univ.of the Cumberlands | Sept. 8.....Mississippi Valley St. |
| Sept. 15.....@Clark Atlanta    | Sept. 22.....Thomas More      | Sept. 15.....Union College        | Sept. 22.....Tennessee Tech        |
| Sept. 22.....Missouri S&T      | Sept. 29.....@Methodist       | Sept. 22.....Cincinnati Christian | Sept. 29.....Austin Peay           |
| Sept. 29.....Lane College      | Oct. 6.....@Maryville (Tenn.) | Sept. 29.....@Ave Maria           | Oct. 6.....@Eastern Kentucky       |
| Oct. 6.....Morehouse College   | Oct. 13.....Brevard           | Oct. 6.....Keiser University      | Oct. 13.....Eastern Illinois       |
| Oct. 13.....@Fort Valley State | Oct. 20.....@Averett          | Oct. 13.....@Edward Waters        | Oct. 20.....@Southeast Missouri    |
| Oct. 20.....Kentucky State     | Oct. 27.....Greensboro        | Oct. 20.....@Webber International | Oct. 27.....@Murray State          |
| Oct. 27.....Central State      | Nov. 3.....@N.C. Wesleyan     | Nov. 3.....Warner University      | Nov. 3.....UT Martin               |
| Nov. 3.....@Miles              | Nov. 10.....LaGrange          | Nov. 10.....@Southeastern Univ.   | Nov. 10.....@Tennessee State       |
|                                |                               |                                   | Nov. 17.....Kennesaw State         |

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# Community Lifestyles



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## Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor  
Senior Section

### One Nation Divided

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

On July 6, 1776, General George Washington called for America's independence from Great Britain, and declared the "The United colonies of North America" were to now be a free and independent nation, no longer under the iron rule of Great Britain. His words were followed by Thomas Jefferson's declaration that "all men were created equal and endowed by their creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Then in 1892, Francis Bellamy put forth his "Pledge of Allegiance," which declared that the United States of America had become "one nation indivisible - with liberty and justice for all."

Now, 242 years later, look where we are.

America is more divided than ever in its history. Its overrun with border jumpers, most of whom could hardly meet the requirements of citizenship that immigrants to this country once endured.

Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in 1863, and the Civil Rights law passed in 1964, to insure that all Americans were to be considered "free and equal."

So, one should assume that our nation has come a long way over the last 242 years. *Wrong.*

America is more divided and worse off than it has ever been in its history. The country is overrun with illegal immigrants, and politicians are declaring their cities as "sanctuaries," a category that is somewhat curious, and decidedly dubious, considering that most of our ancestors migrated to America from other countries, waited their turn at Ellis Island, and humbly abided by our laws, and studied hard for years to learn what was necessary to *earn their right as a citizen of the United States of America.*

Today, our Congress is fiercely divided politically, and appears to be more concerned with ruining the country than with running it. Americans are confused and dismayed with the political state of our nation.

Despite rising to an economic standing that is probably superior than it has ever been, our politicians seem to be determined to bring our country down in a shambles.

Those of us who have lived seven or eight decades in the United States of America have seen a lot of changes, economically and politically, and have ridden an economic roller coaster over these years. Now we seem to be enjoying our greatest economic years in our history, but those whom we have elected to power seem determined to destroy it.

Whatever happened to "One nation, indivisible?"

It's time for our citizens to harken back to our origin, when patriotic Americans shrugged off the British yoke of imperialism and became a free and independent nation. Not as slaves to the idiotic fantasies of many of their elected officials, as we are now.

The United States of America is becoming less united than it ever has been, our freedoms are being trampled upon, and our future appears quite dim.

Most of us who are in our dotage remember that members of our families migrated to this country after years of filling out forms, undergoing investigation and interrogation; then diligently studying our nation, history, learning its language, and then waiting their turn in line to become *Americans.*

American citizenship used to be earned. Now its handed out.

What has become of our once beautiful and independent United States. Who are these strangers we have elected to public office?

Where are we headed, as a free and independent nation?

Quo vadis America?



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



## IF YOU ARE YOUNG AND LOSE A PARENT

Social Security is here for young people when a parent passes away. We know that the loss of a parent isn't just emotionally painful; it can be devastating to a family's finances. In the same way that Social Security helps to lift up the disabled and elderly when they need it, we support families when an income-earning parent dies.

In 2017, we distributed an average of \$2.6 billion each month to benefit about 4.2 million children because one or both of their parents are disabled, retired, or deceased. Those dollars help to provide the necessities of life and help make it possible for those children to complete high school.

You might ask, who can get child's benefits? Your unmarried child can get benefits if they're:

- ✓ Younger than age 18;
- ✓ 18-19 years old and a full-time student (no higher than grade 12); or
- ✓ 18 or older with a disability that began before age 22.

To get benefits, a child must have:

- ✓ A parent who's disabled or retired and entitled to Social Security benefits; or
- ✓ A parent who died after having worked long enough in a job where they paid Social Security taxes.



Benefits stop when your child reaches age 18 unless your child is a student or disabled.

Within a family, a child can receive up to half of the parent's full retirement or disability benefit. If a child receives Survivors benefits, he or she can get up to 75 percent of the deceased parent's basic Social Security benefit.

There is a limit to the amount of money that we can pay to a family. This family maximum is determined as part of every Social Security benefit computation. It can be from 150 to 180 percent of the parent's full benefit amount. If the total amount payable to all family members exceeds this limit, we reduce each person's benefit proportionately (except the parent's) until the total equals the maximum allowable amount.

Children with disabilities may also be eligible for benefits. You can read more about Benefits for Children with Disabilities at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf).

Social Security is securing today and tomorrow, protecting our future and the next generation.



**Sheriff Derrick Cunningham**



# Montgomery County Alabama Sheriff's Office



**Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**  
[www.montgomerysheriff.com](http://www.montgomerysheriff.com)

**(334) 832-4980**

## Citizens Academy

Registration is underway for our Citizens Academy which begins on September 10, 2018! The Citizens Academy's sole purpose is to inform the citizens of Montgomery about the day-to-day operations of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. Classes are held every Monday evening for one (1) hour for six (6) consecutive Monday evenings. The academy meets for one hour, one night a week, for six (6) consecutive weeks. Our goal is to make you aware of what's going on in your community, how to report suspicious activities/crime and how things are handled from a law enforcement perspective. For more information or to register, please contact 832.2515.



## Senior Fishing Rodeo

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office invites seniors ages 55+ to grab their fishing rods, bait and tackle and join us for our annual Senior Fishing Rodeo.

**Tuesday, September 11, 2018**

**6:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**

**Montgomery County Ponds, Highway 231 South  
(Troy highway)**

**Across from Meriwether Road**



## Special Thank you...

We would like to extend a special thank you to everyone that made our annual Youth Fishing Rodeo another success. We always enjoy giving back to our youth! Thank you again to all those that made it a wonderful experience!

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## Firearms Familiarization Course

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

**August 11      October 13      December 8**

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

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

### Course Requirements:

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

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

**334.832.1339**

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



## Sheriff's Office APP

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a new phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc.

While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the following steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

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

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



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AUTAUGA COUNTY



# Autauga County Alabama SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

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162 W 4th St, Prattville, AL  
**(334) 361-2500**



## The Autauga County Sheriff's Office graduated 20 students from all areas of Autauga County in their inaugural Autauga County Sheriff's Citizens Academy on July 24, 2018.

The 8 week class, held June 4, 2018 – July 24, 2018, was filled with information on all the aspects of the Sheriff's Office, to include: History of the Sheriff's Office, Patrol Division, Metro Jail Tour, Dispatch, Administration, Narcotics, Crime Prevention, Investigations, Digital Forensics and a Ride-A-Long with a Deputy. There was also a night on the court system to include: District Court, Juvenile Court, Circuit Court and the Circuit

Clerks Office. A meal was provide each night and we would like to thank the following people who contributed: Law Office of Kim Kervin; Chappy's Deli; Autauga County Bar Association; Probate Judge Al Booth; Judge Joy Booth; Judge Bill Lewis; Circuit Clerk Deb Hill; Commissioner Jay Thompson; Chick-Fil-A; 2 Pigs Diner; Merchants Foodservice & Jonah Caver. Your assistance helped put the class over the top.

If you are interested in participating in the next Autauga County Sheriff's Citizens Academy, please contact the Autauga County Sheriff's Office at 334-361-2507 to request an application. This class is limited to citizens of Autauga County and 18 years of age or older.

The next Citizens Academy is tentatively set for Jan 2019.

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### Prattville/Autauga Farmers Market

May 26, 2018 to

September 15, 2018

Prattville, Alabama

7am - noon



The Prattville/Autauga Farmers Market is a Certified ket and features locally grown fruits and vegetables, as well as baked goods, honey, plants, herbs, hand made bath and beauty products. There will be special events with guests cooks preparing tempting treats using products from the market, live music, arts and other special projects.

For more information, contact the Special Events Office at 334-595-0854.



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Prattville House Buyers - Carol Lemon Realty is the Preferred Buyer's Agent for the Prattville Area. We are here to assist you with selecting a home, making an offer, negotiating, going through the inspection process, financing, moving, and all the steps in between.

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Prattville House Sellers - Carol Lemon Realty is the right choice. We have more experience than anyone selling Prattville Real Estate. We assist you in preparing your home for sale, pricing your home appropriately, marketing it effectively, and getting a timely market evaluation.

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With three decades of working harder than any other broker assisting others with buying and selling homes, we have the knowledge, stability and experience to get the results that homeowners expect.

Buy or Sell a House with us and use our moving truck for FREE!

### Prattville Art Guild

## Artist's Market

The Third Saturday of September, October, and November

**Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17**

**10 am-2 pm**

On the lawn next to the Creative Arts Center

(342 South Chestnut Street)

Demonstrations and Children's Activities



(334) 595-0854

[artguild.prattvilleal.gov](http://artguild.prattvilleal.gov)

# Home Town Community News



**Patricia Killough**



## August Birthdays



- 1 Cindy Bolton  
Ty Bolton  
Heide Doran
- 2 Nichole Lansdon Gibson (44th)  
Chloe Taylor Jordan  
George McCurdy  
Moe Parker  
Sheryl Schall  
Tim Schall  
Rhonda Tatum
- 3 Frances Byrd  
Lisa Wooten
- 4 Harry Baker  
Chuck Bolton  
Harris Bolton  
Linda Hix  
Eveline & Ernestine Trafford (68th)
- 5 Chuck Gambrell
- 6 Chase Cumbie  
Luke Davis  
Tony Drake  
Joshua Jones (33rd)  
Gerald H. Thompson (91st)
- 7 Anna Louise Moseley  
Bill Ratliff
- 8 Mallory Hitson
- 9 Audrey Alison  
Nell Crowe (90th)  
Perry Mason (59th)  
Don White  
Doris Williams (91st)
- 10 Hilda Furlow (92nd)
- 11 Wayne Roy (71st)  
Shawn Terrell
- 12 Trisston Burrows
- 13 Bobby Boyd (58th)  
Barry Ehrlich  
Maxine Scroggins
- 14 Darlene Fuller Davis  
Jill McCain  
Patsy Norman (66th)  
Ricky Webster (69th)
- 15 Connie Mainor (55th)  
Claudia Adams (96th)  
Earl Russell (68th)
- 16 Billy Betts (69th)
- 17 Tyler Schoknecht  
Max Webb
- 18 Doris Talley Matthews
- 19 Carl Boyd (64th)  
Shannon Grant
- 20 Caleb Holmes (40th)  
Sydney Mills
- 21 Lorraine Hall  
Paula Jones (64th)  
Madison Boyd Williams (10th)
- 22 Tom Garlington  
Rhett Tucker
- 23 Lamar Higgins  
Lindsey Woodall Brown
- 24 Terri Gulsby  
Lori McGough  
Mary Iva Sellers  
Preston Webb
- 25 Ray Scott (85th)  
Lloyd Smilie (89th)
- 27 Angie Herndon
- 28 Bill Hix
- 29 Charlie Blount  
Jimmy Grant (64th)  
Glenn Fuller (83rd)  
Diane McLaney  
Paul Reynolds
- 30 Imogene Bryan
- 31 Winnie Barton  
Chloe Mills  
Sallie Rhodes

## Happy 90th Birthday to Sara Boyd of Snowdown

Sara celebrated her 90th, July 25th birthday on July 28th at Gail's Down The Street Cafe with a luncheon given by her children.

Over 100 family and friends came by to help Sara celebrate.

It was also her 71st, Class of 1947 Reunion from Ramer High School.

It was a fun time of food and fellowship for all.



Sara with her four children. l-r: Terry Boyd, Connie Mainor, Sara Boyd, Patricia Killough and Carl Boyd



Four generations.



Sara at the buffet.

Cake time!



## Happy Anniversary

- 2 Mike & Laura Lane
- 4 Frances & Ted Watts
- 5 Michael & Jackie Moseley
- 7 Todd & Nikki Windham  
Zach & Magan Grambling (8th)  
Charlie & Debbie Moore
- 8 Leroy & Ina Goodin (72nd)  
L.B. & Bessie Wynn (76th)
- 9 Turpin & Angie Ashurst
- 11 Mack & Susan Terrell
- 13 David & Julie Livingston  
Tim & Cherie Meadows (24th)
- 16 Leon & Pearl McClain (60th)  
Terri & Michael Taylor (32nd)
- 18 Earl & Theresa Henderson
- 19 Jason & Shawn Adams  
Rob & Minerva Tate (32nd)
- 21 David & Elizabeth Miller
- 22 Johnny & Betsy Walker
- 24 Frank & Aileen Kovacic
- 25 Bill & Jane Grubbs  
Mr. & Mrs. John Carter (72nd)
- 27 Johnny & Regina Johnson (34th)  
Barbara & Tommy Ratliff (30th)
- 28 Karl & Brenda Stegall (53rd)
- 29 Mike & Deborah Kirk  
Bill & Sharlotte Younklin  
David & Suzanne Webb
- 30 Randy & Mae Bishop  
Ralph & Murray Norman

## Sympathy to the families of...

- |                                             |                                         |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Latham, Jr., David Earl (54)                | died July 7, 2018                       |
| Anderson, Louann Zuidhoek (64)              | died July 12, 2018                      |
| Wright, James "Jimmy" Willis (83)           | died July 18, 2018                      |
| Hanna, Johnny Hamilton (71)                 | died July 22, 2018                      |
| Allen, Former U.S. Sen. Maryon Pittman (92) | died July 23, 2018                      |
| Rogers, Helen (71)                          | died July 23, 2018                      |
| Carlisle, Joy Gibson (87)                   | died July 24, 2018                      |
| Farnham, Donald Boyce (99)                  | died July 24, 2018                      |
| Morse, III Samuel Virden (20)               | died July 24, 2018                      |
| Jennings, Gloria Ann (77)                   | died July 25, 2018                      |
| McQuitty, Lt. Col. Jerry L. (85)            | died July 25, 2018                      |
| Robinson, Mable Crossley (92)               | died July 27, 2018                      |
| Shaw, James Clayton (81)                    | died July 27, 2018                      |
| Ward, James Robert (61)                     | died July 27, 2018                      |
| Burke, Patricia Dale Brown (74)             | died May 9, 2018, service July 28, 2018 |

## 71st Reunion

**Class of 1947  
Ramer  
High School**



l-r seated: Doris Talley Matthews, Cara Beck Stafford, Sara Law Boyd, and Joyce Browning Mills  
Back row standing: Teddy Paludan, Ed Scrushy, Voncile Walton Talley and Loyd Smiley

In Loving Memory  
Of  
*Helen K. Owens*



April 25, 1935 ~ July 2, 2018

Helen was loved by so many.  
Her family was her pride and joy.  
They called her Nanny.  
She had six children, twenty six  
great grandchildren and three  
great-great grandchildren.

# TODAY'S WOMAN

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



## *Years and Laughter:*

### *Never Assume You Have The Luxury Of Time*

By Amanda Walker

Travis came into my life in 1990, when he was two and I was 18. His mother was not involved at that stage in his life and my life had not prepared me for being a stepmother. But I changed my schedule at AUM, and switched from working nights at Country's Barbecue to working days at Colonial Bank. I would drop Travis off at daycare before 8:00 and pick him up just after 5:00.

Up until now, I don't think I have ever written a word about those years of my life. It is not as if 18 to 23 didn't exist, but they weren't easy years. I did the best I could where Travis was concerned, but the marriage was destined to fail, even after adding a daughter. His dad returned to Illinois shortly after the divorce and Travis, who was then eight, naturally went with him.

That's what happened. That was the reality. I don't know how to spin it into anything other than what it was. Travis grew up. And I grew older.

I can't remember when we started messaging. It was years ago. He sent me a picture of him and me together from when he was little. He said he carried it in his wallet still.

I was happy that he seemed happy. Life had taken him from Illinois to Texas to North Dakota. From North Dakota he moved to California. I did not pry into his personal life, but I took it to be work that provoked the recent move. He liked to work. He was adventurous. Skydiving thrilled him. Speed did not scare him. Little did he was a bit fearless. Rules and limits weren't top priority for him, but it didn't come across so much as rebellion. It had evolved it appeared, into strength and confidence. I was proud of him.

I don't know what happened in California. He did not seem content there. Jokingly he had said it wasn't the place it was the people. He expressed interest in living a quiet life in the country.

In late May and early June there was a series of messages I didn't quite understand. He asked if I could remember being his mom and I told him I could. He wanted to know about a letter left on the Christmas tree when he was young. He said, "But I know it was from you." This letter was significant to him. And it prompted him for whatever reason to express his thoughts further to me. He was so open and sincere that I did not have the heart to tell him the letter was not from me. He said, "I have a lot of good memories about you and your family." I told him there would always be a place for him at my table and a space in my heart. I also told him how I had always felt if I had been older and had more life experience that I could have been a better mom to him. To which he replied, "Well I don't have any bad memories so that's a good thing right? Lol. That's part of why I always tell you Happy Mother's Day every year. When I think about Mom I think about you, and when I think about my childhood I think about being in Alabama."

I did sense that his openness that day was somewhat unusual. I asked him if everything was okay. He said, "Life's been a little rough, but I really can't complain. There are people who have it worse." He thanked me for asking.

Other than an exchange of simple, "good mornings," it would prove to be our final conversation.

Travis Christopher Saferite chose to leave this life Friday, July 13, 2018, in the same way in which he lived – on his own terms. He was 30-years-old...and leaves a permanent emptiness.



Trisston Wright Burrows  
Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

## *Trisston's Tidbits...*

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

### **"Avoid Strife"**

Are you praying and seeking God for change in your life? Perhaps there seems to be invisible roadblocks preventing you from truly experiencing God's blessings.

**James 3:16** tells us, *"For where there is jealousy and selfishness, there is strife and every evil work..."*

The Bible tells us that when we hold on to strife, it brings about confusion and hurt. Strife can creep in much like a disease to steal your peace and joy...destroying relationships and taking away your hope. You must stay on guard constantly and make the decision daily to walk in peace and love. Keeping strife out of your life is key to living the abundant life that God has in store for you!

So, today and every day, follow the example of Jesus. Let your words and actions bring life to those around you. Bring hope, peace, and encouragement to others. Focus more on loving people than being right or proving your point. Perhaps then you will discover a level of peace that you have never experienced before...a new level of victory and abundance!

**Many Blessings!**

## 2018 Meeting Schedule



*Breast Cancer Support  
Group Meetings*

**Tuesday, August 14th**

**I'm too Blessed to be Stressed!**

Presented by Tammy Powell, Breast Cancer Survivor

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## *Southern Gardening*

*Potpourri for August by Peggy Givhan*

The dog days are upon us which usually conjures up hot, sultry days and nights. The term is of ancient origins. The Romans called these humid days "dies caniculares" which they associated with the Dog star, Sirius, the brightest star in the constellation of Canis Major (large dog). This constellation is prominent in the skies this time of year. And speaking of stars, let's look to the garden to see what star is sparkling during these "dog days".

Most summers the beds sparkle with masses of vinca, white, bright pink, or red, but this summer vinca has been a disaster. Even with the Sprinkler systems off,

the vinca has literally rotted in the ground because of all the rain. Vinca prefers a drier condition with plenty of sun. Begonias just disappeared with the rains. Also my lamb's ears have all but turned ash gray with soggy boggy leaves. But all is not lost. My stars are salmon dwarf canna lilies, yellow canna lilies, and bright orange canna lilies. Also, Pacific Giant zinneas are blooming their heads off, ginger

lilies, both the white and peach, have made a great showing, and my old fashioned phlox have been terrific. Plumbago and other woody stemmed tropicals have performed well under these conditions since they do not need full sun. I planted a clump of bright yellow Inca marigolds just for accent, and wish I have planted more. They love wet feet and have thrived with all the rain, but had to dead head them more often. Another star has been Torenia or the wishbone annual, mainly the dark purple variety.

### **Garden Herbs**

I have many types of herbs in pots that I use constantly in the kitchen. Over the years, the herbs that have performed the best are those I started from seed. Many times and many dollars later I have noticed the herbs purchased in garden centers bolt much earlier than the seed grown ones. I have heard that some nurseries put growth retardants on the plants so they will last longer and look

better in the flats. Chives are very easy to grow either in pots in beds. They do multiple year after year, so thin them out before they become too invasive. Any type of basil, fennel, dill are easy to grow from seed. Parsley both the flat and curly is also in that category. Parsley is a biennial which flowers the second year and sets seed. Let the seed heads dry, and gather for sowing next year. If Parsley is grown in the garden, just let the mature seeds drop and the seedlings will volunteer the next year. I have grown thyme, oregano, sage, cilantro and even tarragon with much success. One note is that cilantro does not last too long in our summer heat, but you can sow a succession of seed every couple of weeks and you will always have plenty for your favorite Mexican dishes. Another tip about herbs is that the more you pick them the bigger they grow which means more to harvest and share with friends. Pick the herbs very early in the morning for the most robust flavors, then keep their stems in a glass of water until time of use. Butterflies and bees, plus beneficial insects are very attracted to all types of herbs. So love a butterfly and plant herbs.

### **ROUND UP WARNING.**

Today it is recommended to use this chemical sparingly, so what can we do about weeds besides man handling them out of the ground. Recent research shows there is a more environmentally safe spray that after one or two applications was as effective as Round Up and much cheaper. It is **COMMON VINEGAR** which has about 5 percent acetic acid. Vinegar was pitted against the commercial acetic-acid-based weed killers named Nature's Glory Weed and Grass Killer, and BurnOut Weed and Grass Killer. The research plots were sprayed three times, and all the weed killers tested showed a 95 percent control, including common table vinegar. However, for best results one would need to reapply every five weeks for best control.

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## Reeltown Veterans Transition into Farming



*Dawn and Tim Smith*

Let me introduce myself. My name is Dawn Smith. My husband Tim and I are both Air Force retirees who now own and operate Lone Oak Farm in Liberty City, AL. At Lone Oak, we produce purebred Black Angus freezer beef and delicious, healthy vegetables. Earlier this spring, I transitioned from a full-time job in the public sector to full-time farming. In addition to farming, Tim is the Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church Reeltown. Tim grew up on a farm and has had a longing to one day own one. I can't say the same for myself. I hated weeding the garden when I was a kid so the fact that I'm now in full-time farming is hilarious to my parents. The Green Acres theme song keeps coming to mind. That being said, the past several months have been such a learning experience. Anyone who knows the two of us knows that Tim is full of adventures and I am all about life-long learning.

As a result of our newest adventure, we were invited to Capitol Hill to discuss issues relating to military veterans pursuing careers in agriculture. On July 11th & 12th, we joined a contingent of approx-

imately 28 other veterans from across the nation. We all had the common purpose of explaining to Congressmen and Senators some of the hurdles and successes we have faced as we've transitioned from military careers to agricultural related fields. The trip gave us the opportunity to be heard, make connections, as well as, hear from policy makers about issues they are currently working on to aid veterans in agriculture. We were addressed by numerous committee leaders to include Texas Congressman Mike Conaway, the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee; Senator Pat Roberts, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and Senator Johnny Isakson, Chairman of the Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee, just to name a few. The topic at the forefront of most of the discussions was the 2018 Farm Bill. We even got to meet privately with Congressman Mike Rogers, our district Representative, who has recently been selected as a Conferee for the 2018 Farm Bill. We feel like these legislators listened to what we had to say and will draw from those conversations relating to military veterans and agriculture.

One of the most exciting parts of the trip was when we took part in the unveiling of an updated Homegrown by Heroes marketing label. "The **Homegrown By Heroes** label is the official farmer veteran branding program of America..." per the Farmer Veteran Coalition website. This marketing campaign and the entire trip was a collaborative effort of Farm Credit and the Farmer Veteran Coalition. The new logo was updated to add in the silhouette of a female service member in addition to the previously depicted male service member. I love the new logo, especially in light of the fact that we female service members are many times overlooked when it comes to symbolism representing the military. In May of 2018, Lone Oak Farm became certified to use the Homegrown By Heroes label, to let folks know that not only are they purchasing locally grown products but they are also supporting military veterans.

The trip wrapped up with a session at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) where we heard from and had an open forum question and answer period with Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Stephen Censky. During this session we expressed our appreciation for things like the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grants system and expressed our frustrations with some of the requirements and regulations USDA that are possibly outdated and a hindrance to military veterans successfully pursuing agriculture careers. The folks at USDA will hopefully listen and seek ways to implement strategy changes.

Tim and I both felt humbled to be invited on the trip and are certainly appreciative of all the opportunities to represent Alabama and veterans in the agriculture community. We have to say a huge "Thank you" to the Farm Credit System for their financial support of the Homegrown By Heroes label. Specifically, we'd like to thank Alabama Ag Credit for sponsoring our trip and for all the help they've given us in our farming endeavor. Another "Thank you" goes out to the non-profit, Farmer Veteran Coalition connecting military veterans with agricultural education, grants, mentorship programs and of course, the Homegrown By Heroes marketing campaign. Not only do these two organizations see the need to encourage folks to go into agriculture, they understand that things like "tractor time" and digging in the dirt are therapeutic. They give veterans a chance when other traditional agencies won't take the risk. They truly understand that careers in agriculture are a natural fit for so many veterans on so many different levels and are doing what they can to facilitate that transition.



## City of Wetumpka



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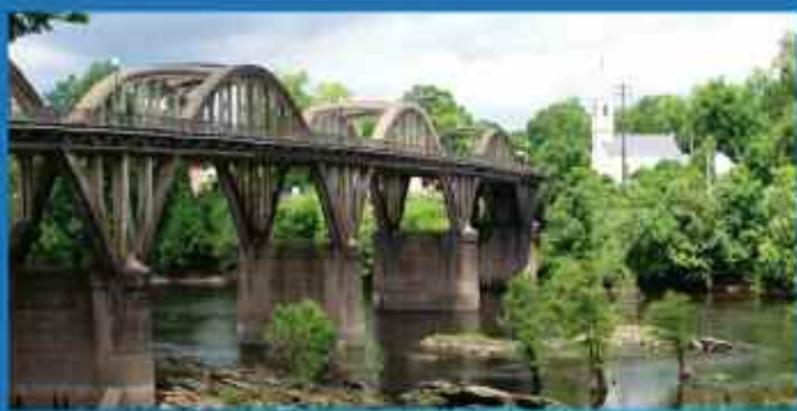


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## Humane Society of Elmore County

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

### Pet of the Week – Rivet

Rivet is a happy-go-lucky one-year old pup found as a stray puppy way back in Sept. '17, came to us and was adopted but sadly came back just for being an energetic young Lab. Sad that Rivet is still with us as he is about 45 lbs, can be a bit shy at first but loves people and is great with other dogs. He is an active boy and still young so will get into mischief and he loves to chew just like most Lab types.



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

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

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





## "JOIN THE ROTARY REVOLUTION with DISTRICT GOVERNOR SAMUEL ADAMS"

Join the  
**Rotary Revolution**  
with Governor  
**Samuel Adams**  
And FRIENDS  
District 6880



Rotary Dog Park for Montgomery downtown residents (project cost approx. \$75,000) and a Rotary splash pad in the City of Enterprise (project cost approx. \$100,000). both projects included the collaboration of Rotary and non Rotary partners.

Beyond regional interests, DG Sam discussed Rotary's 40 plus year commitment to end polio world wide. The effort has reduced the number of reported cases from 350,000 just 40 years ago to less than 20 found in only a couple of countries in the Middle East. Sam highlighted Rotary's six areas of focus which leads Rotarians and its partners to contribute resources around the world to improve mankind.

Sam briefly touched on his stated goals for the year which include running two miles at every club to raise awareness and funds for the End Polio Now campaign.

He announced a joint venture with the northern district of Alabama to sponsor a statewide financial literacy program in conjunction with the Alabama Council of Economic Education, headquartered in Birmingham. The Stock Market Game will reach over 10,000 student in schools across Alabama teaching valuable business and ethical lessons.

Montgomery's success and well being, abiding in Rotary International's (RI) motto of "Service Above Self". Montgomery's President Elect Graham Champion exceeded the evening's activities which included recognizing Sam's family, past District Governors and city and state officials. It included a proclamation from Governor Kay Ivey, also a member of the Montgomery Club, honoring Sam for his past contribution to Rotary, the City of Montgomery and the State of Alabama and wishing him well for the upcoming year.

A time honored ceremony of pinning the new District Governor line included, District Governor Nominee, Jerry Blacklaw of Fairhope, District Governor Elect Skip Dotherow of Montgomery Sunrise and finally, Sam. He was presented his new DG pin by outgoing Governor Bill Trant of Opelika. Past District Governor (PDG) Barry Cavan acknowledged Bill's transition to PDG status suggest the letters stood for "Prestige Done Gone".

Sam shared with the audience his vision for the upcoming year which included District support for communities and worthwhile projects that would benefit all citizens. He mentioned two of just hundreds of examples: The recently completed

The Four Way Test



**Rotary**

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

**ROTARY'S**  
Areas of Focus

|                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Maternal and child health                | <br>Basic education and literacy     | <br>Economic and community development |
| <br>Peace and conflict prevention/resolution | <br>Disease prevention and treatment | <br>Water and sanitation               |



**Over 500 Rotarians will convene in Montgomery in October for their annual Zone Institute representing 14 states and 26 Districts, including District 6880.**

## Montgomery Rotary Club

The Montgomery Rotary Club is the oldest Rotary club in District 6880 having been formed in 1913. Its long and storied history includes state and local leaders from all sectors of society. Thomas L. Hackett was its first president.

In 1913, what was then District 5, included all of Alabama, Georgia and Florida. By 1916, past president Ralph Quisenberry became District Governor and led the way for the extension of Rotary into Cuba.

Since then over a dozen Montgomery Rotary Club members have become District Governors including Algernon Blair who served as a Rotary Director for Rotary International in 1934-35.

The Club now boasts of over one hundred members. Its extensive array of public service projects include everything from founding Camp ASCCA 42 years ago to last year repurposing Rotary Park downtown into a state of the art dog park for residents and their pets.

While political messages are banned from entering the Rotary arena, politicians are not. Governor Kay Ivey, Treasurer Young Boozer, Commissioner John McMillan and Justice Tom Parker presently serve as state constitutional officers and enjoy active club membership. This group may be the highest concentration of state political leadership throughout Rotary's 7,800 clubs in the United States.



**Current District Governor Samuel Adams will host approximately 500 Rotarians leaders from 14 states and 26 districts this October for a Rotary Institute that will include the incoming International President, Mark Maloney, an Alabama native.**

The Montgomery Rotary Club is forging into this new century with vibrant ideas, a youthful focus and a determined resolve to attract members with a vision to unite people in our city in order to take action to make a positive lasting change. The Montgomery Rotary meets Mondays at noon at the RSA Activities Center on Dexter Avenue.

[www.montgomeryrotaryclub.com](http://www.montgomeryrotaryclub.com)



# Montgomery Capital Rotary Club

The Montgomery Capital Rotary Club meets at noon at the Wynlakes Country Club every Thursday. The Club just celebrated its 40th anniversary. It is comprised of approximately 45 business professionals, educators, and community leaders from the greater Montgomery area.

A typical meeting begins with a prayer, the pledge and a recitation of the FOUR WAY TEST of the things we think, say or do. The 4WT is a hallmark of all Rotary Clubs professing the highest ethical standards in the workplace. The buffet is magnificent and before meetings start they have some good natured fun like table poker and brags and gags.



Lunches for Learning was established by Mr. Ron Hicks about 15 years ago during a trip to Honduras where he had a chance encounter with a little girl begging for food. The vision haunted him. When he returned to Montgomery he began the L4L non profit to help those children. Now, approximately 1,700 students in over 30 different schools are fed healthy meals on a daily basis. Enrollment and attendance has vastly improved since the children in this very poor area of Honduras no longer have to scavenge for food but instead can focus on learning, knowing a nourishing meal awaits them at the local school. L4L services kindergarten and elementary schools in the Valle district of Honduras with generous donors from around the United States.



The Club focuses on three or four major projects a year with recipients being the Brantwood Children's Home, Easter Seals, Boys & Girls Clubs of the River Region and Lunches for Learning, a project pioneered by club member Ron Hicks to help provide poverty stricken Honduran children with nourishing meals while at school.



Current President Debbie Lynn, Executive Director of Easter Seals of Central Alabama recently surprised Charlotte Meadows when she was recognized by Rotary District 6880 as the recipient of the Family and Community Service Award.



District Chair Linda Browder rings the Salvation Army bell during the Christmas holidays



Montgomery Capital Rotarians enjoy a tour of Jim Scott's garden at Lake Martin



You can contact MCRC at [montgomerycapitalrotary.org](http://montgomerycapitalrotary.org).



Fundraisers can be a lot of fun and beneficial to all concerned.

# Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club

You have to get up pretty early in the morning to keep up with the members of the Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club. Meeting at the RSA's Center for Commerce at 7am on a Friday is not for the faint of heart. This jovial group of Rotarians gather over a delicious breakfast buffet and kick start the morning with fellowship and jokes. But it is not all fun and games. These busy bees perform an average of eight service projects a year.

The primary fundraiser for the club is the annual Commitment to Service Award (C2SA) that recognizes an outstanding leader in the community that has committed his or her life to the Rotary Motto, *Service Above Self*. Of the many wonderful efforts Montgomery Sunrise have accomplished, three stand out.

First, the club's long term commitment to Montgomery Area Commission on Aging (MACOA) to provide meals during the Christmas season. Second, Presidents David O'mera and Jimmy Hill spearheaded the campaign to build the overwhelmingly popular downtown Rotary Dog Park in conjunction with other clubs in the area, City support and grants from Rotary Foundation.

Finally, when all is seemed lost at the Lincoln Cemetery, The Montgomery Sunrise Club did what no one else was willing to do. the club and its members raised over \$45,000 and put in countless hours to clean, cut and categorize the abandoned hundred year old cemetery primarily for African Americans. One such individual was Tee-Tot who gave Hank Williams a guitar and lessons.



President Glenn Crumpton (l) presents Rotarian Jimmy Hill (c) with a Paul Harris Fellow award assisted by Past District Governor Barry Cavan

This year's president is Glenn Crumpton, who has a flair for style and substance. The Club boasts of three past district governors and DG elect Skip Dotherow will be the district Governor for the next Rotary year starting July 1, 2019.

You can contact Sunrise Rotary at [www.sunriserotary.org](http://www.sunriserotary.org)

## Montgomery Sunset Rotary Club



The Montgomery Sunset Club meets atop the tallest building in Montgomery every Thursday night around 5:30 at the local watering hole. After a flowing period of fellowship the club adjourns to a beautiful sunset overlooking the winding Alabama River. The Sunset club recently celebrated its fourth anniversary by having a backyard cookout with all the trimmings. This group made up primarily of millineals has a great time in part because of the new relaxed rules regarding attendance and a much lower dues structure.

Rotary International at one time required all clubs to adhere to strict attendance requirements. NO MORE!

Each individual club can set its own attendance requirements with dues to fit just about every pocketbook.



These young energetic Rotarians have made a big difference to many in its short existence. Contributing to the Annual Fund helps provide for needed local grants. One signature project like the Cornhole Tournament, helps to fund charities like Mustaches for Kids that support children's causes.



With all this energy, fun is always the code word for a great experience. To find out more about this new type of Rotarian, contact President Deb Crook Facebook on the Montgomery Sunset page. [www.facebook.com/Montgomery-Sunset-Rotary-Club](http://www.facebook.com/Montgomery-Sunset-Rotary-Club)

Members have gone to Ware Ferry Elementary School for very successful clean up parties, both inside and out. Their contributions to Polio Eradication save the lives of children around the world.



## "Great Men of District 6880"



*Jerry Brunson*  
The Jerry Brunson Unsung Hero Award

The Four Way Test  
**Rotary**



1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



*J. Barton Greer*  
The J. Barton Greer Citizenship - 4 Way Test Award



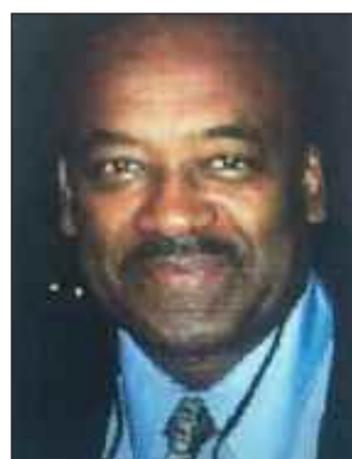
*Harry Preston Hall*  
Let's Get It Done Award



*Douglas Oliver Barber*  
Generous Spirit Award

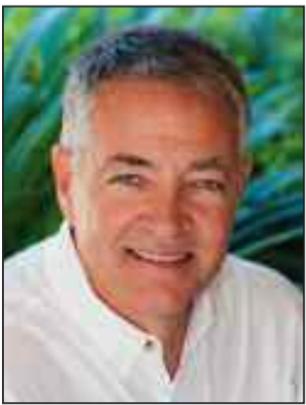


*Wayne Sims*  
Service Above Self Award



*Steve J. James*  
Youth Service Award





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

# Soul Searching

## Forgiveness: Is It Optional ?

**Do you have someone you need to forgive? We all do!**

Perhaps, someone has wronged you recently or in the past. Maybe you have experienced being lied about, betrayed, sabotaged, undermined, misquoted, left out, used, exploited, intentionally hurt, physically harmed, sexually abused, emotionally damaged or sinned against in some way.

Maybe you can think of someone right now that you really don't think you can ever forgive. In fact, you really don't want to forgive them. Deep down (maybe no one even knows but you) you harbor bitterness, anger, hate, and unforgiveness.

**Jesus tells us we must forgive others regardless of what they have done to us. He doesn't make it optional.**

*"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Heavenly Father will not forgive your sins."* - Jesus, Matthew 6:14-15

And the Apostle Paul also says to us we must forgive as freely as Jesus has forgiven us. Again, it doesn't appear to be optional.

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you."* - Paul, Ephesians 4:32

**Why Forgiveness isn't optional!**

**First, we should forgive others because God has forgiven us.** Paul says this so well in Ephesians 4:32. God has extended his amazing grace to us, and we are called to extend that grace and forgiveness to all those who have wronged us or sinned against us. Forgive as freely as Christ has forgiven you. Did you know you will never be asked to forgive anyone more than God has already forgiven you? That is a hard pill to swallow, but I believe if you pray about this and reflect on it, you will agree that it is true. Forgive because you have been forgiven!

**Second, we must forgive, because we will need to be forgiven in the future. Jesus is clearly making this point in Matthew 6:14-15.**

Someone came to John Wesley once about the issue of forgiveness. The man told Wesley he could never forgive this particular person for the hurt and pain they had caused him. John Wesley had a surprising response. He said, "well, I hope you never sin again." The man said what do you mean? Wesley answered, "your bitterness, anger and lack of forgiveness will burn the bridge upon which your forgiveness will come in the future." In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray, *"forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."*

**Forgiveness is clearly a core teaching of Jesus.** We have been forgiven by God through Jesus Christ. He paid the price for our sins by his death on the cross. And therefore, we are to freely offer forgiveness to others, because we have experienced God's forgiveness. In fact, our own forgiveness for future

sins against God and other people is dependent upon how we live out offering forgiveness to others.

Therefore, the call by Jesus for us to forgive others is not optional. Whether we feel like it or not. Whether we want to or not. Whether we think we can or not. We must forgive others who have intentionally or unintentionally wronged us.

**What forgiveness is Not**

Forgiveness is not saying that what happened to you doesn't matter. Forgiveness in no way minimizes the the seriousness of the sin against you. The fact that you need to forgive them means that it was serious and that it did matter.

Forgiveness does not mean that you have to trust that person or that you must resume the relationship with them without some changes. Forgiveness and restoration are two different things. You can forgive someone and not necessarily restore the relationship. It should be a goal to be reconciled to them if possible. But restoration and reconciliation require trust. And trust must be earned or re-earned over time. Most of the time, if possible, we should seek restoration or reconciliation with the person who wronged us. However, there are certain people and particular cases where we should not seek to restore the relationship. If fact, there are some people we need to forgive and then separate ourselves from them and move on.

Forgiveness is not forgetting what happens to you. The Bible never says forgive and forget. The truth is you may never forget it. The key is not to forget but to focus on God's love for you and for the person who wronged you. Focus on God's power to bring good out of what was others may have intended for harm. God never causes evil to happen to us, but God can use any and all situations for our good in the long run to strengthen us and to use us to help others in the future.

**Finally, forgiveness is not dependent on the person who wronged you.**

They may never ask for forgiveness. But you can forgive them anyway. They may not be present for you to tell them you forgive them. They may have moved away. They may be dead. You may not have any idea where they are now or how to contact them. But it doesn't matter. You can forgive them. It is not conditional on their response in any way. So, whether they ask for it, accept it, receive it, or know about it .... it doesn't matter. This is primarily between you and God. Now there are many cases where you might want to share with that person that you have forgiven them. And, in some cases, they need to hear that and know that. But you forgiving another person is not dependent or conditional upon their response. I have found that this truth is very freeing to many people and helps them on the journey of forgiveness!

**Forgiveness is not optional.**

**But we will need God's help and God's grace to be able to offer it!**

**More on how to forgive next month.**

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