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The Empty Tomb...

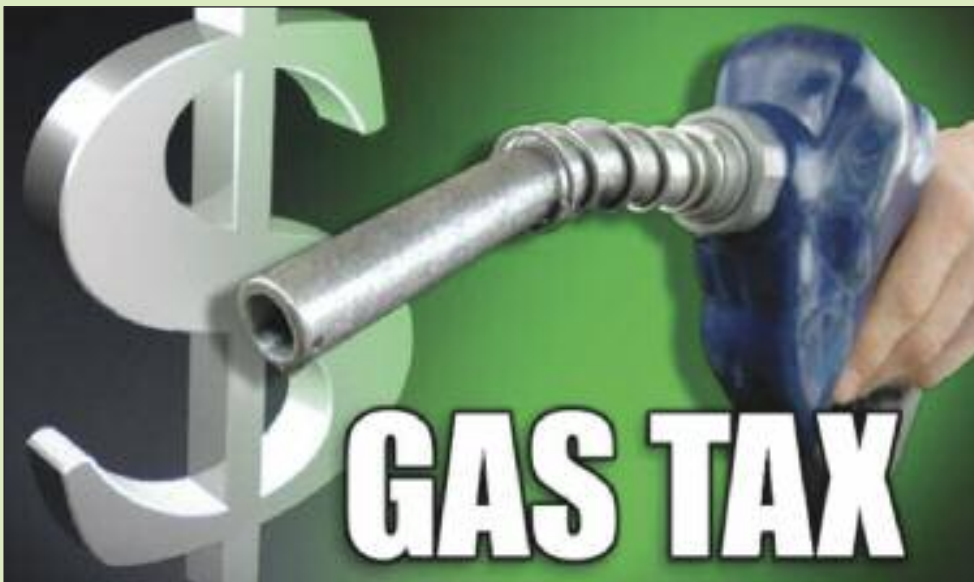


*Jesus
is
Not Here.
He is
Risen!*

*No Politics
No Hate
No Bigotry
No Evil
Only evidence of the
LOVE
of an
Almighty God.
A Hope for Mankind*

"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead ... (Ephesians 1:19-20).

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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers.
He served 16 years in the state legislature.

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

State Budgets: Priority Number One

After their successful special five-day Special Session, the Legislature has been in their Regular Session for a few weeks now. The Session will end in June so it is about one-fourth over. Almost one-third of the members are new, freshmen if you will. Even though they are, for the most part a bright and talented group, they are still wet behind the ears when it comes to legislative ways.

Most are still striving to find their way to the bathrooms. Most major issues, especially revenue enhancement measures, are addressed in the first year of a four-year quadrennium. Bless their hearts, right off the bat they were hit with a major vote to increase the gas tax to support an infrastructure plan. That will make the rest of their first year a downhill slide.

There are indeed other issues that need addressing in the good old Heart of Dixie. Most Alabamians want the right to vote for a lottery, which they would vote for in a New York minute. Most folks think it is ludicrous that we simply give our money to our sister states. It is not a popular subject, but our prison overcrowding problem has to be addressed. Democratic members are vitally interested in expanding Medicaid to improve and meet the state healthcare needs. Rural hospitals need help. There is also a lot of interest in reforming our criminal justice system.

Even though these above mentioned problems and priorities need to be addressed, there is one Constitutional certainty that the two state budgets must be crafted and put to bed. Our state constitution also mandates that they must be balanced.

The Education Trust Fund budget is in good shape. Tax revenues that support education grew tremendously last year. Lawmakers will have more money to appropriate for schools. In fact, this will more than likely be the largest education budget in state history.

The Education coffers will also be enhanced by the Supreme Court ruling that allows the state to collect online sales taxes. In Alabama state and local sales taxes are the cornerstone of support for basic services.

The state's growth taxes, income and sales, are earmarked for education. This lack of growth in the dollars that support the General Fund has caused headaches for the legislative leaders who write these budgets. However, these

budget leaders have done a good job. In this current year's General Fund budget they were able to increase funding for state prisons. They also added extra dollars for mental health and law enforcement, as well as the state court system. In addition, the State Budget gave state employees their first cost-of-living raise in decades.

The \$2.04 billion General Fund budget passed easily in the 2018 election year session. It was a different scenario in 2015 and 2016 when lawmakers took multiple special sessions to pass the budgets and reject an array of tax increases and lottery bills to close a large funding gap.

A bill passed in 2016 during a Special Session created a salvation for the General Fund – a plan to allocate most of the one-million BP oil spill settlement monies. It allowed legislators to carry over \$93 million from the 2018 budget to this year.

In actuality, the state legislative leadership has very little discretion in budgeting. The vast majority of our state dollars directed to our state General Fund needs are earmarked. The General Fund Budget accounts for only 13 percent of Alabama's total spending of \$15.6 billion. For example our states gasoline tax is earmarked for roads and bridges and goes into the Road and Bridge Fund, which currently totals \$492 million in this year's budget. Of course that will be increased beginning in September.

Most folks are not really cognizant of the fact that most legislators do not really have a lot of input into the state budgets. The chairmen of the Budget Committees of each body, Ways and Means in the House and Finance and Taxation in the Senate, do the work and hold the power.

The chairmen of these prestigious and powerful committees are Rep. Bill Poole (R-Tuscaloosa), who chairs the House Education Budget Committee, and Rep. Steve Clouse (R-Ozark), who heads the General Fund. Sen. Greg Albritton (R-Escambia), chairs the Senate General Fund committee and veteran Senator Arthur Orr (R-Decatur) heads the Education Finance Committee

As legislators grapple with all of the issues on their plate, one thing remains the same, the State Budgets are Priority number one!

April 3, 2019

Medicaid for All?



By Daniel Sutter

Democrats are calling the newest single-payer healthcare proposals “Medicare for All.” America has three major systems of government health-care: Medicare, Medicaid, and the Veterans’ Administration (VA). Is a single-payer system more likely to resemble Medicare or Medicaid?

President Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society established Medicare and Medicaid in 1965 to cover elderly Americans and the poor and disabled. The programs cover 55 and 66 million Americans respectively. Medicare cost \$706 billion in 2017, while Medicaid, a joint state and Federal program, cost \$580 billion, with Washington paying about 60 percent of the tab. The VA provides medical care for about 7 million veterans annually at a cost of \$80 billion.

I certainly understand why proponents want to associate a single-payer system with Medicare, which is viewed positively. By contrast, the 2014 scandal forced the resignation of VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. Audits revealed 120,000 vets waiting for care that sometimes never came and systematic falsification of wait time statistics to hide the poor care.

Medicaid’s shortcomings are also well-documented. Low reimbursement rates for services leave patients unable to find doctors. Patients end up in emergency rooms after their conditions worsen. Studies suggest that Medicaid patients might have worse health outcomes than the uninsured.

I suspect that scaling up Medicare to serve all Americans will prove impossible. People disagree whether the current trajectory of spending will bankrupt the Federal government, but Medicare – which currently serves only one out of six Americans – is clearly the primary budget threat. The Congressional Budget Office projects Medicare spending to increase from 3.6 percent of GDP to 7.0 percent by the 2040s. Social Security, currently 4.9 percent of GDP, is expected to rise to (only!) 6.3 percent in the 2040s.

Current Medicare spending understates the program’s full cost. Twelve million Americans, known as dual enrollees, currently draw both Medicare and Medicaid. Over one third of Medicaid spending is on dual enrollees. Medicare’s success today is partly a product of diverting Medicaid dollars.

Additionally, Medicare may be partly responsible for healthcare inflation; the medical Consumer Price Index has increased 800 percent more than inflation since 1970. Overall healthcare spending has grown from 8 to 18 percent of GDP over this time. New and improved medical care - improved cancer treatments, hip and knee replacements, and HIV drugs - surely explains some of this increase. Yet Uncle Sam’s profligacy can drive up costs. Consider that one of the only markets witnessing more cost inflation than medicine has been higher education, where Federal student aid and loans are important.



The Medicare-Medicaid divide illustrates how political considerations inevitably shape the quality of care in a single-payer system. Hundreds of decisions about coverage determine the quality and cost of medical care. Questions like whether experimental treatments, contraception and in vitro fertilization, physical therapy, and travel to the doctor’s office or hospital will be covered.

The government makes these decisions as the single payer. We cannot afford everything for everyone, and will have to say no sometimes. Bureaucrats will make most decisions following rules set by Congress. When people learn whether something is covered, some will complain and our representatives will sometimes respond to the complaints.

These decisions will reflect politics. The complaining groups politicians find more sympathetic or deserving may well get favorable treatment. This is essentially the Medicare-Medicaid divide. Elderly Americans vote and are an influential political constituency; poor Americans vote infrequently and are politically marginal. The VA scandals warn that groups we might expect to be highly deserving can face adverse decisions.

Private insurance and fee-for-service allow individuals more choice over coverage. Employer purchase of most private health insurance and government regulation today limit our choices. Freeing the market would allow Americans to choose the coverage they wish to pay for, not what politicians choose.

A single-payer health insurance system may well provide better care than Medicaid. But our representatives and bureaucrats will have to deny some types of coverage. Medicaid should remind us that politicians are not always generous when dispensing healthcare.

Daniel Sutter is the Charles G. Koch Professor of Economics with the Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University and host of Econversations on TrojanVision. The opinions expressed in this column are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the views of Troy University.



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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE JUST THAT: ILLEGAL

Amazingly, I wrote this column for another newspaper back in 2006. Here we are 13 years later and we are still fighting this stupid battle that nobody really seems to want to fix. Since then, we have had the migrant caravans, a host of highly publicized and documented cases of illegals committing crimes as heinous as murder and rape, the killings of border patrol agents and an entire segment of our society bereft of any feelings or desires to tackle the situation and effect any positive change toward the lives of lawful American citizens. It is hard to believe I wrote this 13 years ago. Take a look and see how true it remains today. Oh by the way, for those out there who cry that “Humans cannot be illegal,” yes you can and yes you are. Deal with it. Here we go again . . . !

Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy! When will the insanity stop? My guess is never. That is until Americans get off our collective butts, stop being politically correct and begin to enforce those things that are right and just. The illegal immigration situation in America today is just one of those hot button issues that seems to divide the country.

When I turned on the news last week and watched the immigration demonstrations in Los Angeles, I wanted to slam my face repeatedly into the first brick wall I saw. Not so much that I like pain, but rather the pain associated with a broken and bloody face would pale in comparison to the pain I endured watching these people (Illegal immigrants) walk through our streets protesting. (For what it is worth, I felt the same way with the migrant caravans this past Fall).

For starters, let’s set the record straight. No matter what you feel about this issue, the fact remains that **ILLEGAL ALIENS ARE HERE ILLEGALLY!!** Period. Done. End of discussion. If you don’t like it, I don’t really care. If they crossed the border into the United States illegally, they broke the law. I watched one foolish woman talking to a reporter claiming that, “*We are not criminals. We just want a better life for our families.*” You know what? You may indeed want a better life for your family but guess what. **YOU ARE A CRIMINAL!!** Why is this so hard to understand? Okay folks, here’s basic Math 101: If a=b and b=c then a=c. It’s really quite simple. Really. If coming across the border illegally is a crime and committing a crime makes you a criminal, then coming across the border illegally makes you a criminal. Ta da!! Now that this fact cannot be disputed, let’s get to some the real issues.

Driver’s licenses. Why on earth would you want to give a LEGAL government document to an ILLEGAL ALIEN? To me, the word insane readily comes to mind. Think about how stupid this is. “Hey, let’s give ILLEGAL aliens LEGAL government documents so they can LEGALLY move about freely in the country they ILLEGALLY entered and vote ILLEGALLY in our LEGAL elections.” Yes, it will lead to this. Also, just because I do not want ILLEGAL ALIENS in the US, that doesn’t make me a “racist.” Look up the definition and then get back to me. (Update: I love the videos of Obama, Pelosi, Feinstein and Schumer all denigrating illegal immigration just a short several years ago but now that Trump is espousing and continuing the work Obama put in place, Trump is a racist and borders apparently don’t mean anything to them.)

Look, I am not completely without a heart and I fully understand these people’s desire to make a better life for themselves. There are legal avenues, however, for them to pursue. Likewise, don’t you think this should primarily be the responsibility of the government where people are fleeing for a better life? Think about it. Those who want to totally embrace illegal immigration seemingly would welcome every person on this planet fleeing an impoverished and inept country. The reality of this is that at some point, America would become just like many of the countries these people are trying to escape. In some parts of the US, that is quickly becoming reality.



The immediate solution to me is to beef up the borders, arresting known illegals and shipping them out. If someone hires illegals, they should be fined \$100,000 per illegal. If two illegals have a baby, the so-called “anchor baby,” that baby should not gain automatic US citizenship and it too should be shipped back to wherever the parents came from. Next, pressure would have to be put on Mexican President Vicente Fox. (Update: This obviously applies to the leader of any country who is trying to force illegal immigration within our borders). Do you realize the Mexicans just discovered yet another oil reserve in the Gulf of Mexico? It will more than double their oil reserves to over 12 billion barrels. With these oil reserves, Mexico could become one of the wealthiest countries in the world, but because of their short-sighted, narrow minded and corrupt leadership, they will likely continue to squander and mismanage their national wealth on personal corruption. Yet somehow, as Americans, we are supposed to welcome all their poor into our country when they have the means but not desire to help their own people. By the way, what do you think Vicente Fox’s government does to illegals coming across their southern border? Is it racist that the Mexicans don’t allow this practice in their own country? I didn’t think so.

When I watched some fool in Los Angeles declare that we (US government) couldn’t make them leave and that we (Americans) had no right throw them out, I was appalled. Since when can non-US citizens illegally break into our country and then dictate policy to us? I say, “Hey Fox (and other world leaders), fix your country and your people won’t want to leave. Share the wealth with all your citizens and quite expecting us to clean up your messes for you.”

For your enjoyment, here go several links to pages some of you may find interesting.

<https://brandongaille.com/23-amazing-illegal-border-crossing-statistics/>
<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/media-resources/stats>
<https://www.factcheck.org/2018/04/the-stats-on-border-apprehensions/>
<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration>
<https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2019-03-12/statistics-show-illegal-northern-border-crossings-climbing>
https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2018/04/illegal_immigration__lies__damned_lies_and_statistics.html
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/11/28/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>



John W. Giles

Big Electromagnet Pulling Left

By John W. Giles

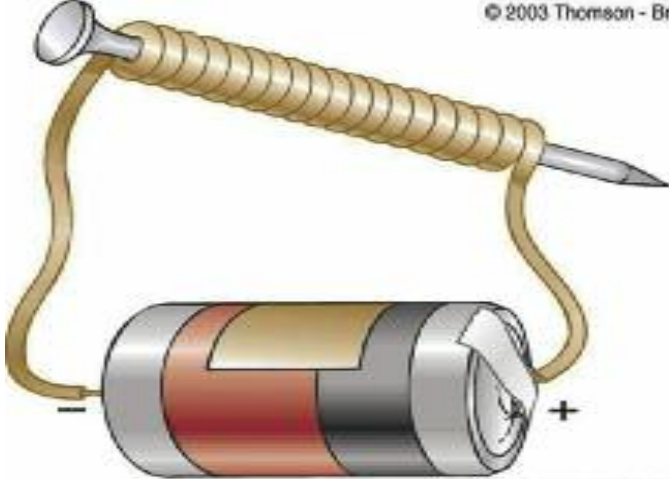
As I watch what is happening to core philosophies and belief systems internationally, domestically, and now in our own state, I am just shaking my head and looking down in dismay. The question I am asking myself, am I this dated, is there room anymore for an economic, moral, social, and constitutional conservative ideas; or have these definitions changed also? I was raised with three things you could always count on to be steadfast; facts, the Constitution and the Holy

Bible. What has me shaking my head and distraught is what just took place in a Special Called Session of the Alabama Legislature, where my Republican brethren led the way and passed a forevergreen continuously escalating regressive Gas Tax on the backs of good, hardworking and poor people of this Great State.

Many years ago, the liberal mindset in this country set out on a mission to shape the minds of the future. There is an old saying, he who rocks the cradle, rules the world. Liberals are smarter than conservatives on this front. Passionately determined, liberals decades ago began to take over K-12 and higher learning. They took over the mainstream media, the arts, and Hollywood. You can tell this conviction is wining the day when the overwhelming majority of millennials feel entitled to a pay check without working, a free education, and free health-care. I am not sure who is going to pay for all of this, but friends this real-time Socialism #101. Taking this one step further, now the Democrat Party is not center left, but controlled by this **Big Electromagnet** pulling to the left. Putting a face on this tsunamical trend is Senator Bernie Sanders and U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Now, we have two Democrat Muslim women elected to congress, Representatives Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, who admit that Sharia Law supersedes the constitution and were sworn into office with their hand on the Koran.

This electro-magnetic pull is not only affecting Democrats, but now is in the Republican camp. When Republicans started winning state and national elections, the same brilliant strategy to shape minds as aforementioned now wants to affect elections. Large money groups that used to fund Democrats, like personal injury trial lawyers, labor unions, gambling and the like are now run of the day in Republican legislative circles. It used to be that businesses large and small, agriculture and faith-based groups were the core financial support for Alabama Republicans. Now, traditional funds used to elect Democrats are being mainlined by Republicans. The Republican bus is no longer center right, but seriously swerving over the centerline into the left lane and running off the payment facing ongoing traffic.

So where is the plumb bob and center balance? Where do facts, the Constitution and the Bible are still steadfast? While there are many great smaller groups who embrace these core values that made America the lighthouse, and a



Big Electromagnet

beacon of hope for the world, there are two groups that touch on all issues important to conservative America. I urge you to go spend time at the John Birch Society (JBS) and the American Conservative Union (ACU & CPAC) websites. Non-negotiables engrained in true conservatives is protecting human life from conception to natural death, limited government, appoint strict constructionist (constitutional originalist) to the judiciary, preserving traditional marriage, government living within their means without raising taxes, protecting our borders, world peace through military strength, protecting the right to own and bear arms, preserving the constitution as written and a strong unwavering foreign policy that always put America first just to name a few. The JBS and ACU are the Gold Standard for broad conservatism. I suggest Republicans from the courthouse, legislatures and Congress get back to K-1 conservatism and hang out with JBS and ACU.

One of these days, socialism will collide with capitalism, liberalism will collide with conservatism and the Big Electromagnet will even manage to pull Republicans off center, implode, and wreck in the ditch. Then, emerging from the wreckage, there will once again be the clarion call and an unquenchable thirst to get back to the basics. The proven, tried, and tested truths and belief system that served us so well for so long will be sought after like the thirsty man crawling out of the dessert looking for water. They will be looking for a Moses to lead them once again out of captivity and bondage.

They will be begging to please turn off the switch to this Big Electromagnet. Trump on the other hand is trying his best to flip off the electrical breaker controlling the Big Electromagnet and return to the basics of the plumb bob. Alabama Republicans would be well-served to take note, most are in the left lane and don’t even know it or care!

My dad always taught us, “There is your side, their side and then what is right. Find what is right and don’t move.” America is the last bastion for the hope of freedom as a worldwide model. **I Corinthians 15:33** states, “*bad company corrupt good morals.*” Are we going to affect them or are they going to change us? Always remember, even today, one is a majority.

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

John Sophocleus

THINK

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Passed Gas Tax - more Goat Hill flatulence...



Gov. Ivey and our Goat Hill legislators ‘passed the gas’ tax to fuel a more over-built/unsustainable road system in Alabama. Pray for our posterity and those of limited means weathering the next contraction after our current bubble pops. No doubt our low class, high end political prostitutes will prosper as usual. Montgomery has not generated such loud, foul flatulence since all the Republocrat rhetoric following the 14% special election turnout result (49 days before a general election) to rob \$437 million from our ETF. That 2012 sham result was at least determined by an election the politburo members could spin as, “a great show of support from the people.” Of course they wouldn’t let the people decide a few weeks later in a general election where greater participation forecasted an outcome which would block these political thieves, any more than they’d put this gas tax vote on the next Statewide general election ballot.

The current dynamic deployed from Hubbard’s “Stealing the Statehouse” play-book was passing gas taxes immediately after the 2018 election expecting most voters will forget their foul ‘tulip lies’ and smell by the next quadrennial election cycle. Sen. Marsh won my ‘Flatulence Award’ on this trip down the Mike Hubbard Boulevard to perdition, in what some have called a shameless effort to bolster Statewide name recognition before formally declaring his run for US Senate. Marsh said everyone changed their minds once he informed them... not that his misinformation campaign was required to accomplish this pre-meditated public theft. Don’t expect productive citizens to applaud one’s ability and lack of scruples to steal candy from a baby as some sort of ‘artful dodger’ event. Marsh asserted fuel efficient cars and hybrid electrics as the problem, not paying enough in fuel taxes unchanged these past decades. Of course improved technology, economies of scale etc. would bring down the price and increase durability of roads if not for the BCA, Riley Inc. et al political theft machines in our State. **In fact, lighter and higher MPG (responding to the overbuilt/subsidized roads) cars are NOT what’s beating up the roads. Overloaded trucks, heavy buses, etc. ARE.**

It is reported 25% of the passed gas tax revenue will go to counties. In Lee County (epicenter of corrupt administrators, board members, commissioners, et al) it will simply enable more malfeasance and cancerous growth. The ‘gentlemen agreement’ to not pay for timber loads in excess of the 88,000 lb. limit had been effective. Great incentive to NOT overload since it won’t generate any greater payment for the timber. As morals and decency decayed these past years, inferior gentlemen displayed how cheaply souls are sold for ill-gotten gains; the incidence of overloaded trucks increased. Economists (esp. traditional libertarians) champion user fees. In short, those who are doing the damage and generating the increased costs pay to build/maintain/repair the damage done instead of being subsidized by others. For example with this tax, those often least able to bear the tax burden disproportionately pay the recently passed gas tax increase. Gas (like alcohol, beer, cigs. etc.) has a more inelastic (i.e., less responsive) demand curve so producers do not lobby against it... easiest to simply pass most of it onto consumers.

As an aside, taxes on clothing, food, etc. with more elastic demand curves/competitive markets make it more difficult to pass taxes onto consumers - esp. lowest income consumers who more often aren’t directly purchasing food via SNAP/EBT payments. When an incompetent or corrupt ‘public servant’ (doesn’t matter, the result is the same) champions removing taxes on these items (doesn’t matter if for campaign contributions or to pander for votes) one expects to see “Judas rhetoric” in overdrive; assert caring for the poor to cloak the avarice of those lobbying to avoid paying taxes they’ll mostly bear. Does any rational person think if Sen. Dial’s (or any other corrupt public servant who takes up his rhetoric for campaign contributions and/or pandering) plan to remove the 4% State sales tax on groceries is passed, consumer grocery bills will in fact decrease 4%? They will go down a little, but I assure readers the suppliers lobbying to remove the tax are NOT doing so to give the portion of the tax they pay to consumers instead of to the Alabama Dept. of Revenue. If I get enough reader interest in this I’ll devote a future column to who bears a tax (consumers v. producers) and the “Calculus of Consent” in economics.

If represented by decent, intelligent public servants on Goat Hill the special session would’ve taken the time to address this issue of user fees and enforcement. As righteous gentlemen attenuate in my (and I suspect many other) county, it is time for my legislature to address the problem to reduce the theft/wealth transfer to misusers. With this great body assembled in Montgomery, using extra time/taxpayer funding to meet in special session, they could’ve crafted and passed legislation to discipline over-loaders and other destroyers of roads in our State. Some say portable scale enforcement of overloaded trucks was chilled many years ago by judges who would throw out fines and penalties for spurious reasons, lack of certifications, etc. Well it is a new day with new technology and hopefully less corrupt judges, which I understand is currently more important as our undisciplined ethics commission has aided and abetted our State politburo members running wild.

Unenforced over-loaders respond as expected - if paid for overloads, you’ll observe more of them. I asked my legislators (who of course don’t care as much for my limited support over the ACCA, BCA, timber lobby, etc.) to promote heavily fines on any load payment in excess of 88,000 lbs. and audit (where indicated) purchasers of loads who appear to be falsifying/ gaming bills of lading and other efforts which shift, hide, underreport to avoid overuse fees/fines. Because of little to no enforcement of overloads on non-Interstate and major State highways, overloaded trucks rationally divert to bridges and roads less safe and designed to accommodate the abuse exacerbating the problem.

Furthermore, I asked for some rational discussion to allow smaller buses for lower weights and shorter routes so students do not spend as much of their time traveling to schools. I didn’t buy the ACCA, BCA, et alia rhetoric espoused most flatulently by Sen. Marsh about great concern for our children and their future when payoffs from Riley, Inc. asphalt special interest, bridge builders, pulp producers, road engineers, etc. are in play.

My county administrator and corrupt highway engineer (not bonded as per law in my corrupt county until pointed out to AG Brandon Hughes) have shilled for an additional 3 cent/gal. gas tax since 2017, threatening to rip up roads they currently fail to properly maintain nor followed the law and county access

management policies when initially built. The politburo (more interested in transferring wealth to crony contractors, developers and input suppliers than for the safety of the traveling public) have long wanted to be prepared when big govt. Democrat Trump (now under the Republican moniker) further champions

his big govt. bent and displays poor business acumen w.r.t. understanding debt as he promotes yet another FDR type explosion of spending. Recipients of the expected largess want no impediments to these transfers when Trump gets his way - i.e., don’t want legislators struggling to find matching money.

Even Senator ‘cash register’ Shelby wanted to get his cut from this easy steal of candy from Alabama babies and their posterity. I’ve not witnessed political theft from a US Senator in my State since observing Sen. Mikulski back in Maryland - another ‘public servant’ who started out strong for civil rights, curbing eminent domain abuse, etc. to morph into an integral part of ‘out republicanizing’ the Republicans to become solid blue from militant red with the rest of the States above the

Mason-Dixon line. As I grow older, I give increasingly more thanks to God who must judge ‘public servants’ I’ve tried to discipline and educate. Sadly, our State will continue to suffer appropriation distortions to further reduce quality of life for the general welfare of Alabama to redistribute wealth to special interests. By the time ‘cash register’ Shelby is gone and we may return to the reduced harm of only the tax extraction without the added distortion of deleterious pork spending (facilitating more cancerous growth) it’ll be too late. This ‘corporate welfare’ cancer has the ongoing price tag of continuing to maintain and repair the unsustainable infrastructure which we would not be saddled with except for Shelby’s pork-barrel efforts and “care for our children.” Perhaps if old ‘cash register’ understood his oath of office, port construction/maintenance to keep commerce regular (via a uniform tariff, another ‘user fee’ example) is one of the few things the federal govt. is actually authorised to address. Our State has no reason to disproportionately bear the burden of this, but I don’t expect those of Senators Mikulski, Shelby, et alia intelligence and integrity to hold to their oaths of office.

Back to the more local reality - why send additional tens of millions in ATRIP (III?) dollars to a county which holds a special election to pass a tax for parks & recreation (clearly not wanted by the more representative general election voters) instead of improving their roads? Worse still, County Access Management Policies and Subdivision Regulations prescribe one thing, but County officials spend my tax dollars to circumvent the law/policies. Little surprise soon thereafter these corrupt public servants then complain for more money after NOT following the law to use monies provided by those generating the increased use/demand.

When the County obtains a developer’s performance bond to guarantee improvements on a road, the policy triggers a listing of the improvements and estimate; neither were required by my County officials. The Engineer is required to certify compliance with this County policy - he did not. Before connecting, it is required to comply with ALDOT’s “County Road Design” -- it was not. When exceeding 100 VPD (Vehicles Per Day) improvements are required; no improvements were made. The unlawful Engineer (not bonded as required) used his ‘discretion’ to redirect my tax dollars to impose his own flawed traffic study. The Engineer’s discretion (commissioners very publicly stand behind) conveniently forecasts just below VPD requirements to release bonds so developers do not pay for the increased demand/use they put on county infrastructure where every actual VPD count revealed how poor this public servant’s discretion has been. Now this corrupt County commission claims they don’t have the money and must address higher priorities. Well, they HAD money. They instead subsidize developers spreading this unsustainable cancer in my county to now beggar money from Goat Hill to further cover-up their corruption, incompetence and systematically harming those (mostly poor rural motorists and black churches in the County) least able fight this cancer and corruption.

Issues of wrongful railroad crossing closures, using County resources to clear and grub for corrupt mayors, interesting “windfalls” from Highway Department auctions, etc. speak volumes to further illustrate the corruption this passed gas tax enables. Just as enforcing weight restrictions and a more rational school bus policy, perhaps Goat Hill would be better served to ensure laws are followed and incompetent/unlawful ‘public servants’ of this sort (like this un-bonded engineer) indeed vacate their office as prescribed, fines paid, etc. instead of again throwing more money to subsidize even more harm.

Alabama Legislative Watchdogs [ALW] cited the most outrageous ‘flatulence’ came from Governor ‘Poison Ivy’ as follows. “All the freshmen who ran for House and Senate were indeed briefed on the need for an infrastructure bill well before they were elected,” Ivey said, “And they were vetted by the House and Senate leadership, and if they were not for increasing the gas tax for infrastructure, they were not encouraged to run.” In short, this means the Felon Hubbard/BCA machine is running wild again with no fear given our flaccid ‘ethics commission’ and corrupt AG Marshall -- who’s in no position to make a stand given his ethics violations as the top law enforcement ‘public servant’ in our State. Watchdogs provided data to support this. Public servant Jimmy Rane (Mr. Yella Fella on AU’s BoT) Alabama Power and Business Council of Alabama spent about half a million dollars - i.e., the usual unindicted coconspirators who backed the Boob and Felon Hubbard show. To further illustrate the methane to fuel the overwhelming result, ALW also posted from the Secretary of State’s website \$414,000 from specifically interested infrastructure companies, not including all the PAC contributions linked to the road building industry.

In closing, the 2019 ‘passed gas tax legislature’ must be remembered if Alabamians want to discipline special session abuse flatulence of this sort further sapping productive citizens - esp. those least able to weather the increased extraction to subsidize special interests enumerated above. I let my State Senator know my thoughts and what I wanted him to advocate as a solution. He genuinely seems to think this will help his constituents over special interests - we’ll see... if it continues to harm my quality of life as it has in the past (or the quality of those I hold dear), it will be time to end my support. I’m willing

Continued on page 5A

We want your opinion on the Gas Tax!

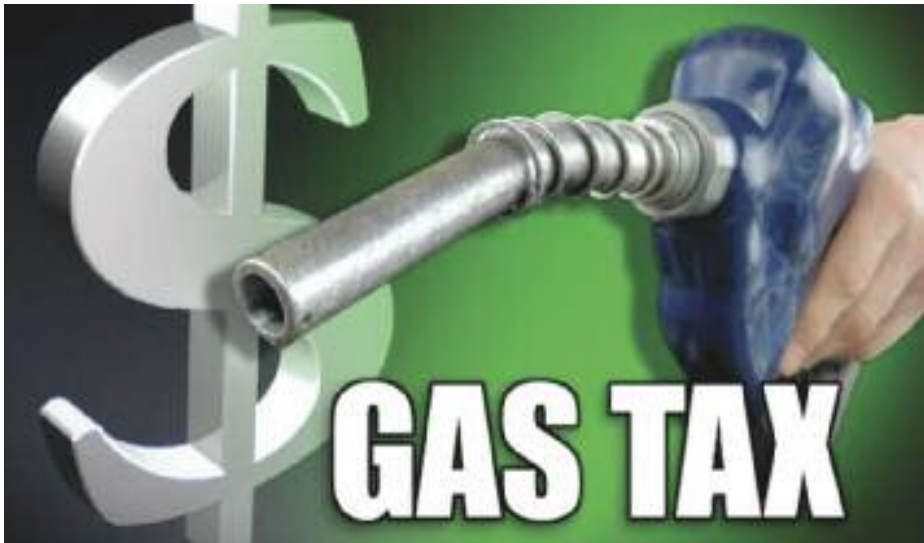
Do YOU think we needed this tax to improve our roads?

Do YOU think there was an alternative to imposing the tax?

Comments are welcomed! Email your comments to:

alabamagazette@gmail.com

Not everyone thinks the gas tax is bad.



Don’t complain if you don’t speak up.

The Gas Tax Is MORE Than 10 Cents! Here's What You Need to Know



Eagle Forum always advocates budget reforms rather than tax increases. A gas tax increase is especially burdensome on those with low or fixed incomes, but it raises the cost of living for everyone in our state.

The bill sponsors promised during floor procedures to allow amendments that could lighten the tax burden to be brought up and debated during the regular session which resumes next week. We will be monitoring these possible changes and provide timely updates.

IT WILL BE PHASED IN OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD

Beginning on October 1st, 2019, consumers will begin paying an extra \$0.06/gallon. The next year it will increase by \$0.02/gallon and the following year another \$0.02/gallon. By 2023 consumers will be paying a total of \$0.10/gallon tax.

ADDITIONAL TAXES YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF (“INDEXING”)

Beginning on October 1, 2023, and on June 1 every other year thereafter an additional \$0.01 tax per gallon will be added IF the National Highway Construction Cost Index (NHCCI) goes up. If the Index stays the same the \$0.01 tax

will not be added that year. If the Index goes down there is a possibility that the tax could decrease by \$0.01. Historical data shows the Index usually increases unless there is a recession.

NEW ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEES YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle: \$100.00

Battery electric vehicle: \$200.00

Every fourth year beginning July 1, 2023, there will be a \$3.00 increase in these fees.

HOW THE MONEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED

Money collected from this new tax will be distributed as follows: Alabama Department of Transportation: 66.67%, Counties: 25%, Municipalities 8.33%

We encourage the legislature to find ways to cut spending on non-essential programs to counter this tax increase. We encourage Alabama taxpayers to contact their legislators with recommendations for cuts.



No More Taxes

By John Martin

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

This past March 8, during a special session called by Governor Kay Ivey, 83 of our state representatives voted to pass a ten cent increase in our gasoline tax. Then on March 12, the Senate railroaded it in with a 28 to 6 vote. Governor Ivey immediately signed it into law. The people never got a chance to vote against it in a referendum, and only a few days to hold a rally and say, “Take this tax and shove it.”

Are our public servants infinitely stupid? We elected them to cut back on spending and minimize abusive government, not to make the leviathan grow bigger and more oppressive. The last trick anybody should pull is a dirty deed like this. I am ready right now for a special election to throw Ivey and every one of her “yes” cronies out through the state house door. Say it now. Say it tomorrow. Say it forever, “No more taxes.”

Everybody remembers the Tea Party movement. The word “Tea” stands for “Taxed Enough Already.” Got it?

What it means is that all levels of government are far too big. Government is doing too much, spending too much, and of course, taxing too much. It has become dangerously obese and is well past due for a very strict diet. That means limiting its revenue, and nobody in his right mind should even think about giving it more money—not ever. Priority one is to prevent the growth of government. Big government is just too dangerous. We must all be vigilant to keep it under control. If we keep feeding it, it will eat us alive.

But what do we do if a serious need comes up? First, we must ask ourselves, “Is it a genuine need?” It is probably not, since politicians have concocted “needs” and demanded money to fix them for decades. Second, if the need is genuine, then the appropriate action is to transfer money from some of the obesity to take care of it, just like any working man has to take care of his finances every day of his life.

Right now, we are hearing the wailing and gnashing of teeth over our road and bridge budgets. I have no problem with a fuel tax. It is about the fairest way to fund them—the more you use the roads, the more fuel you use, and the more tax you pay. That’s fine.

But are the taxes used properly, and do we really need more money? I have already known that the answer is absolutely no. Some of that

money is siphoned off for projects that are not even needed, or at least questionable, and much more is sucked away for non-road and bridge uses. In other words, if we used all of our fuel tax funds strictly for roads and bridges and planned our projects with discretion, we would have more than ample revenue for everything.

One big project that is questionable is the Montgomery outer loop. We have spent many millions of our tax dollars to destroy about a thousand acres of productive farm land to build a route that only about 10% of the I-85 and I-65 traffic could actually use. That same money could have been spent to widen and make our current southern and eastern bypasses controlled access, including the needed viaducts and service roads, with minimum eminent domain seizures and property destruction. This improvement would have been useful to almost everybody in the Montgomery area.

For years, much road and bridge money has been transferred for “public safety” enforcement. Most people don’t realize that violations of traffic laws are largely self-enforcing. Anybody outside of the tiny minority of reckless joy riders understands that if he misbehaves on the road, he will likely wreck his car, injure himself, or even help thin out his kind by killing himself. Therefore, everybody has a serious incentive to drive safely without numerous Gestapo-like agents on the prowl.

Some politicians have suggested that fuel taxes could be used for Medicaid. NO! Not ever. None of our taxes should go for any kind of government-run health care or “insurance.” It is an abominable, unenforceable fraud-ridden, bottomless money pit that we can never fill up.

State-run “education” is another tax consumer. It also eats up most of our children’s lives. A few decades ago, we had grades 1 through 12, which provided good learning experiences. Then came massive bureaucracy, union demands, racial quotas, forced busing, “diversity,” mandated sensitivity training, common core, state kindergartens, and later, pre-K. Why do we allow the state to squander our money to take over our children like this? What is the state doing to our families? STOP this nonsense.

Road and bridge money should never be used for anything other than roads and bridges, period. Governor Ivey claims that this rule will be upheld, at least for the new tax revenue. But what about the current taxes? If we cut out the crap, the existing funds will get the job done with money to spare. There would be no need for an increase.

READ OUR LIPS. NO NEW TAXES. WE WILL VOTE YOU OUT. Ferguson & Associates, Memorandum, March 11, 2019. file:///E:/2019-03-09-alabama-first-survey-legislative-issues-1552367925.pdf

Bennett, Joshua, “Anarchist Highway,” July 4, 2014. <https://www.lewrockwell.com/2014/07/joshua-bennett/the-anarcho-highway/>

Passed Gas Tax - from page 4A

to give a little more deference to my ‘rookie’ State Rep. dealing with the tornado devastation largely in his district. Tough way to start his tenure, but he’s risen to the task. Don’t think he knows how we (me and my fellow Lee Co. Commission witness) were working with Rep. Bandy on the harm done to rural motorists and black churches these past years. He’ll have to decide in the coming years if he’s going to promote the general welfare or continue to be influenced by Felon Hubbard minions (like Rep. Pebblin Warren who voted YES) who went so far as supporting the Speaker’s corruption by aiding in jury selection in the Lee County Circuit which convicted him. I hope others keep Representative Gray in prayer

Alabama House no votes on gas tax

- District 3 - Andrew Sorrell, R
- District 9 -Scott Stadthagen, R
- District 12 - Corey Harbison, R
- District 15 - Allen Farley, R
- District 18 - Jamie Kiel, R
- District 22 - Ritchie Whorton, R
- District 23 - James "Tommy" Hanes, Jr., R
- District 31 - Mike Holmes, R
- District 33 - Ronald Johnson, R
- District 34 - David Standridge, R

- District 37 - Bob Fincher, R
- District 43 - Arnold Mooney, R
- District 47 - David Wheeler, R
- District 48 - Jim Carns, R
- District 49 - April Weaver, R
- District 51 - Allen Treadaway, R
- District 52 - John Rogers, D
- District 59 - Mary Moore, D
- District 73 - Matt Fridy, R
- District 87 - Jeff Sorrells, R
- District 88 - Will Dismukes, R

Alabama Senate no votes on gas tax

- District 6 - Larry Stutts, R
- District 11 - Jim McClendon, R
- District 15 - Dan Roberts, R
- District 17 - Shay Shelnutt, R
- District 25 - Will Barfoot, R
- District 33 Vivian Figures, D

to not cast his lot with those who’ve shown themselves unfit to follow.
Postscript: many thanks to all who expressed concern about me and my bride in Beauregard. Our property was completely unscathed. Although frustrating at times trying to help others (esp. impeded at times for the Ivey, Jones, Shelby, Trump, et al. photo tour) wished I were completely retired to do more these past days. Most sobering was attending the funeral for a beautiful ten year old girl - daughter to a fellow teller my bride worked beside for many years. The most indelible memory in my ‘mind’s eye’ is watching the largest collection of vultures I’ve ever witnessed circling just to the South of us hardest hit. Undoubtedly no shortage of carrion... of course our mailbox shown predators and vultures of another sort in the inordinate amount of life insurance solicitations and other scams wanting to take advantage of another vulnerable moment.



Working to Improve Veterans’ Care

One of the most rewarding parts of my job as the representative for Alabama’s Second District is representing a large veteran population and advocating for their proper treatment and care. As a nation, it is critically important that we do all we can to care for our veterans and ensure the integrity of their service and sacrifice. When it comes to VA care, the very best is the only acceptable standard, and we have a very long way to go before this is achieved.

Improving services for Alabama veterans will always be a top priority of mine in Congress. As a member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon-VA) Appropriations Subcommittee for the 116th Congress, I am in a unique position to have consistent oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs and its health care systems. In this role, I will not stop pushing for badly needed improvements and higher standards at the VA facilities Alabama veterans should be able to count on.

During a recent MilCon-VA hearing, we reviewed the VA’s Fiscal Year 2020 budget. In the last decade, the VA’s budget has grown significantly. Last year, President Trump signed into law the largest VA budget in history, and this year, the VA budget request is 9.5% higher than it was last year. I believe this increase over the last several years is a true and unfortunate testament to the fact that our country’s veteran population has been grossly underserved for many years. These additional resources and continued improvements are warranted.

At the hearing, I had the opportunity to speak directly to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. I told him that my only goal with the VA’s 2020 budget is that our veterans are finally cared for properly. The men and women who served our country should receive the level of care that was promised to them – no excuses.

During the hearing, I also discussed concerns related to the VA Choice Program’s reimbursement policy with hospitals that care for veterans who receive medical services outside the VA. Just last month, a rural hospital in our district called the VA invoice line and received an automated response stating that the VA was just now processing claims from April of last year. This situation is unacceptable and serves as another example of how the VA must be improved.

In the Second District, we know all too well that there are very real problems facing our small, rural hospitals. These hospitals should not have to worry about being reimbursed by the VA for veteran care, but unfortunately, this is a big problem. I know our rural hospitals hate to close their doors on the veteran community, but they simply cannot afford to continue providing care without being reimbursed by the VA in a timely manner. I was glad to have the opportunity to bring this serious issue to Secretary Wilkie’s attention, and I hope we will soon see the problem addressed.

The road to finally providing proper VA care to veterans is a long one, but our heroes deserve absolutely nothing less than the best we can give them. I am grateful to have a seat on the MilCon-VA Appropriations Subcommittee where I can interact directly with Secretary Wilkie and other top VA officials. I will continue to make the case to these leaders that veterans in Alabama and across the country face unacceptable challenges when it comes to receiving proper care through the VA. I am hopeful that, with hard work, consistent oversight, and a healthy budget, we will finally accomplish meaningful improvements on behalf of our nation’s veterans.



Perry O. Hooper Jr
Republican State Executive Committee
Former State Representative

The F-35 vs the F-15x.

3/14/2019
Perry O Hooper Jr.

The F-35 represents a milestone in fighter jet technology and capability. After years of research and development The Air Force is in the process, of upgrading the entire fighter jet fleet to the F-35. The entire military will soon follow. This remarkable fighter jet will serve as the backbone of our air war power for the next 50 years.

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, a 30-year Boeing veteran, soon after taking over the job told Blomberg in an interview " I’ve found the aircraft -- the F-35 as a product, its capability and performance -- to be eye-watering, it is high, high-performing -- no ambiguity -- no ifs, ands or buts."

Yet at the last minute The Pentagon decided to force down the throats of the Air Force fighter jets designed with 1970’s technology: the Boeing produced F-15x. Yes, close to 50-year-old technology. Against the wishes of Air Force Commanding General Heather Wilson, the Pentagon is inserting the purchase of F-15x fighters into their budget request. Once acquired, the Air Force will be forced to use them in modern warfare. I guess next the Army will get muskets instead of the M4 carbine.

Stealth technology, making planes virtually invisible to enemy radar, has been the key to every plane designed for the military the last 40 years. Stealth is baked into the design and cannot be added. We are now on our third generation of stealth technology, and the F-15x is not a stealth aircraft.

Former generals vehemently oppose the F-15X. "No amount of capacity can overcome an inability to penetrate modern defenses and destroy high-value targets — severe limitations of the F-15X," wrote John Michael Loh, a retired general who served as the U.S. Air Force vice chief of staff and the commander



of Air Combat Command.

The Boeing fighters are "unable to survive against the threats of our biggest concerns in our national-defense strategy." David Deptula, a retired general and former F-15 pilot who is now the dean of the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies in Virginia, wrote in a February 2019 op-ed for Forbes. “Chinese and Russian Surface-to-Air and Air-to-Air threats are proliferating in quantity, advancing in capability and being deployed to critical areas of U.S. interests. To survive in the modern battlespace, a fighter must have stealth, advanced 360-degree sensor capability, advanced electronic warfare, and the ability to connect to sea, air, and space assets. The F-35 does all of these things – the F-15x can do none of them.”

All this is a boondoggle costing taxpayer billions just for the benefit of Boeing and their Washington Lobby. No wonder taxpayers are so skeptical of Washington bureaucrats. The Boeing F-15x advocates in the Pentagon even admit to this “The non-stealthy F-15x would replace F-15s primarily flying low-risk homeland-defense patrols over the United States. By contrast, F-35s with their stealth features would deploy overseas for major combat against high-tech foes.” So, F-15x defenders even admit our shores would be left vulnerable to the Russians and Chinese.

Our brave men and women in uniform who risk life and limb for our country deserve the best fighter jet we have in our arsenal every time they fly a mission; anything else would be a travesty.

allies take advantage of us even more so than our non-allies.”

A few examples cited by the president: in a recent White House meeting with Congressional leaders: “India, as an example, has a 150 percent — hard to believe — tariff on whiskey. They make whiskey, and they sell it to us. We charge them zero. We sell it to them; they charge us 150 percent. So, I would say, other than that, it’s a very fair deal. Okay? That’s the least of it. We have far worse than that.

The European Union charges us 67 percent tariff on pork, and we charge them almost nothing. And they make it very hard for us to sell pork in the EU. China puts a 25 percent tariffs on U.S. cars and we put a 2.5 percent tariff on the cars that are coming over internationally here.

For bulldozers, Malaysia charges us, as an example, 20 percent, and Indonesia charge us a lot. We charge them all nothing. We charge them nothing. Very unfair to our companies. Very unfair to our workers.”

Bottom line is all over the world, foreign countries both friend and foe put massive tariffs on our products while we put very few, if any, on theirs. This has resulted in an 800-Billion-dollar trade deficit. There has been a lot of bad trades deals made over a long period of time. The Reciprocal Trade Act will give President Trump and the Presidents who follow the tools necessary to assure trade is free, fair and reciprocal and reduce if not eliminate the trade deficit.



Perry O Hooper Jr. (left) is pictured with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer

Trade Deals Must be Free, Fair and Reciprocal.

03/18/19
Perry O Hooper Jr.

U.S. Reciprocal Trade Act” has a very simple premise, it would allow the president to impose the same tariff on a foreign import that another country has imposed on the same product from the U.S. Across party lines, reciprocal tariffs are extremely popular with Americans. According to a recent Harvard Harris pool, roughly 88 percent of Republicans 75 percent of Democrats and 77 percent of swing voters said they supported putting tariffs on imports at the same rate other countries put tariffs on U.S. goods. The reciprocal tariff policy is also supported across racial lines, with 83 percent of white Americans, 75 percent of black Americans, and more than 70 percent of Hispanic voters supporting the protective initiative.

The pro-tariff views of everyday Americans are in stark contrast to large multinational corporations and their lobbyist. They favor global trade policies that outsource American jobs to foreign countries. It matters not to them what country their make their profits. Nike for example makes all their shoes off shore, but bills itself as an All-American company with a social conscience.

Specifically, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has attempted to tank the passage of the Reciprocal Trade Act and has joined with other members of the business lobby certain Republican lawmakers to strip Trump of his tariff powers. The Bicameral Congressional Trade Authority Act, introduced by Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Green Bay, is an attempt to do just that. It would limit the president’s authority to impose tariffs on imports.

It’s about time someone took on this fight for every day Americans and their jobs. The team of United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Assistant to the President, Director of Trade and Industrial Policy, Peter Navarro, and Commerce Department Under Secretary Gil Kaplan are leading the effort to do just that.

For too long, the U.S. has been a victim of predatory trade practices. As President Trump Stated: “While the U.S. continues to act as an incubator for commerce with one of the most free and open trade markets in the world, others pursue the protectionist playbook—imposing steep tariffs on the U.S. goods they import. Many of these are friends. Many of these are allies. But sometimes



Thank you Ed for 16 years of great writing for the Alabama Gazette!



Who’s It Gonna Be?

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

Ed Jones Football Writer

ALABAMA

There is no controversy this year in Tuscaloosa as to who the quarterback will be. Tua Tagovailoa will be at Alabama at least one more year. The runner up for the Heisman trophy is well entrenched as the Alabama quarterback for 2019. The real problem at quarterback is who will be Tua’s backup. Mac Jones, a 6’ - 2”, 205 lb. sophomore was number three last year. Gone is the multi-talented Jalen Hurts. He will be vying for the Heisman as the quarterback of the Oklahoma Sooners, who have produced two Heisman winners in the last two years. Last year Alabama had a perfect situation. With Hurts backing up Tagovailoa, there was never a worry about the position. Not so this year.

Alabama’s biggest problem is with the back up quarterback. Think about last year. When Tua went down, Hurts came up and the Tide did not miss a beat. Jones would have to be the man if Alabama had to play a game this spring. He will hold on to his spot through the spring game. However, Jones does not have the talent level of Jalen Hurts. Tua will get hurt. Alabama must have the answer to the backup job by the second week of fall practice. It may be Jones or it may be one of the talented freshmen coming in.

The only other real problem that Coach Nick Saban has is how to build his offensive line. Junior All-American left tackle Jonah Williams opted for the NFL. To compensate, Saban moved junior Alex Leatherwood from right guard to left tackle, a position that he has played before. This allows senior Matt Womack, who started 14 games at tackle in 2017, to move from tackle back to right guard. Right tackle is in the capable hands of Jedrick Wills, a 6’ - 5”, 310 lb. junior, who started last year at right tackle. So, the problem is finding a left guard and a center. Ross Pierschbacher, an excellent guard on Alabama’s 2017 team was moved to center last spring. He never did play up to the standard set by other Alabama centers in the past. Pierschbacher graduated and will be on an NFL roster this fall as a guard. He started 57 games at tackle, guard and center, so his leadership will be sorely missed.

Redshirt junior, Chris Owens has never started a game, but was the backup center in 2018. He is being counted on to move into the starting job this fall. His improvement over the last three years has been excellent. Another possibility at center is redshirt freshmen Emil Ekiyor. He is currently spending the spring at left guard and center. One of these linemen will be the center. The good news is that true freshmen Evan Neal is talented enough to move into the left guard spot giving Alabama two centers with potential. Neal can move his 360 pounds around very well. It is a good bet that he will not be redshirted. His presence is needed now. With these problems solved, Alabama will be good enough to challenge the best in 2019.



Mac Jones

AUBURN

Auburn is in a similar situation that they were in for 2015. Georgia transfer quarterback Nick Marshall had led Auburn to 21 wins the previous two years. The best replacement for Marshall was expected to be Jeremy Johnson, Mr. Football in Alabama in his senior year at Carver High School. In fact Coach Gus Malzhan told the media during his sophomore year that Johnson was a Heisman Trophy candidate. Johnson’s talents did not fit the offensive system that Malzhan wanted to run. At that juncture of Malzahn’s career, his offense was predicated on the threat of the quarterback being able to run the football when executing the zone read offense. Johnson was a 6’ - 6” gun slinger who slung his passes with authority, and with the velocity of a pro-style quarterback. However, Auburn was not blessed with pro-style receivers. In addition, Johnson had the propensity to sling balls to his players and their players with the same aplomb. He also was not a good runner. So, the zone read offense lost one-half of its effectiveness with Johnson. Therefore, the running backs were devoured at times by the opposition. The result of this experiment was a constant change of quarterbacks during a dismal two years for the Tigers.

The similarity to that situation this year is that Auburn has a freshman quarterback, Bo Nix, who was also Mr. Football in Alabama. He played high school football at Pinson Valley High School. His coach was his dad, Patrick Nix, who was Auburn’s starting quarterback in 1994 and 1995. Unlike Jeremy Johnson, Nix has developed a coach’s mentality through his years of living football with his “poppa”. That will serve him well in his playing career. Nix is a 6’ - 2”, 210 lb. multi-talented athlete who will stretch a defense with his ability to run and pass effectively.

Nix has not been mentioned as a Heisman Trophy candidate yet. Coach Malzahn probably learned a valuable lesson at Auburn’s expense with his handling of Jeremy Johnson. Nix has not been handed the baton from Jarred Stidham. The freshman will have to climb over three other quarterback candidates. “Ole Folks” Cord Sandberg is pushing for playing time. Sandberg is a very interesting prospect. When he graduated from Manatee High School in Bradenton, Florida, he chose a professional baseball career over football. After six years of minor league ball with the Philadelphia Phillies organization, he decided to give up that dream and chase another dream, Auburn quarterback. The 6’ 3”, 215 lb. Sandberg is twenty-five years old now. That is a little old for college, but is just the right age for a young quarterback in the NFL. So, he may be reaching his prime potential athletically this year. He will certainly have the maturity factor over all the other quarterback candidates. We will get a good look at Sandberg in the spring game. Don’t count him out.

If the coaches could choose a quarterback by the way he runs on field, they would certainly pick Joey Gatewood. Joey is a 6’ - 5”, 240 lb. redshirt freshman from Bartram Trail High

School in St. Augustine, Florida. Optimistic Auburn folks think he may be another Cam Newton. Don’t count on that. He does resemble Newton, same weight, same height, handsome face. That’s probably where the comparison should end. He is no Cam Newton. However, he has every tool in the tool box in order to be Auburn’s quarterback this year. He can run. He can throw. He is smart. He is tough enough. The question is, can he use his God given abilities on the field against the likes of LSU, Georgia and Alabama. We will not know his real chances until after spring practice. He would be a good specimen to throw out there in September against Oregon. It could happen. He has sprinter speed. Is he quick enough to run Malzahn’s zone read offense? Probably!

The heir apparent to Jarred Stidham, who will be on an NFL roster in 2019, is a 6’ - 1” , 195 lb. junior, Malik Willis. He has been Stidham’s backup for two years. He is equally gifted in running and throwing, which should endear his talents to the read option offense. However, in two years as the backup quarterback, Willis has not shown exceptional ability to run Auburn’s offense. He is coachable, quick and experienced. If Auburn played in April, he would have to start. Willis now has the job. Whether he can survive the four quarterback playoff this spring is questionable. His best trick is running with the football. I know that I’m not as smart as Coach Malzahn, but I would move Willis to running back after spring training. This move would beef up a weak position. It would also give Willis a chance to do what he does best, run the football. There are three talented quarterbacks on the roster other than Willis. Malik Willis is not the future of Auburn football. It would behoove Coach Malzahn to quit wasting Willis’ time at quarterback.

No matter what happens this spring, quarterback is not the biggest problem facing Malzahn. There is no linebacker letterman coming back. All three positions must be built from scratch. It can be done. Although Deshaun Davis, Auburn’s middle linebacker played as hard and as well as he could in 2018, but he was just an ordinary linebacker in the SEC. He will make an NFL roster through grit alone. Auburn will have to count on redshirt freshmen and true freshmen to fill this void.

The Auburn secondary must be shored up as a result of graduation and early defections to the NFL draft. There is talent there. Immediate help from a freshman would stabilize this vital part of any defense. Coach Kevin Steel is good. But he is not a magician. Young players have to come through.

The running back situation is also perilous. “BeBe” Whitlow carried all the load last year because there was no one else to call on. Whitlow is a tough inside runner, but he is just an average SEC back. Freshmen will shore up the position, but Whitlow needs help.

It will be very interesting to see how the “four quarterback derby” ends. Somebody has got to come out of spring as the best quarterback to start against Oregon. It will not be Malik Willis!



Bo Nix



Cord Sandberg



Joey Gatewood



Malik Willis



Woods & Waters

Steve Long with Steve



Turkey season has kicked off now in Alabama!

Turkey season has kicked off now in Alabama, and yes I was very fortunate to kill an opening day gobbler. I've seen plenty of action while helping hunters and huntresses chase after those elusive birds. Now, while some folks have started the season with a big bang, knocking down turkeys well before the mornings really started, there are also folks out there who just can't quite get the rascals to fly down from the roost in the right direction. Some of these birds have been talkative, and sometimes they won't so much as make a peep. I've personally taken some of these same determined hunters out into the field, and it never gets old, even if I'm not the one doing the shooting. If you haven't had the chance to chase those Thunder Chickens yet, don't worry. In fact, it seems that pressure has more of an effect on these birds than we may have realized!

Recently, I happened upon an article from Westervelt, detailing the findings of a study conducted in Louisiana, where 12 gobblers were outfitted with GPS-tracking transmitters, and hunters in the same area carried a similar device with them when they hunted. The goal of the study was to see just how strongly turkeys reacted to pressure from hunters, and the results were fairly interesting. Turkeys generally act as individuals, not as a group, in that each bird followed its own routine, with the turkeys on personal experience seeming to dictate the bird's movement the most. If the bird had been pressured in previous days, it would have no problem heading to an area that was far less pressured. More importantly, birds

that were more experienced at surviving the season were more likely to continue to learn and, eventually, maybe even become unhuntable.

There are plenty of other conclusions to draw from that study, but the one that struck me the most was how the birds were far more aware of our movements as hunters than I originally thought. Hunting down here for as long as I have, I know they're practically ghosts, but to think that it's more than just instinct that they use to skirt around us is pretty darn interesting!

Of course, all this talk of birds just makes me want to get out there and hunt them even harder. So, stay determined, folks! If you haven't had very good luck, try changing your routine a little bit. Maybe try an area that you and other hunters haven't pressed hard yet. With determination, you'll definitely do better than people who never leave the couch!

As for me, I'll keep on doing what I do; guiding and assisting other folks, and occasionally sneak out and get myself some time to hunt these birds. I'm still pushing hard on the QDMA front, and I still want you guys to take a little time and check us out at www.qdma.com.

Good luck, guys and gals, and don't get too frustrated. These birds may seem silly, but they have no problem making us look like fools. So, get out there, show those bids who's boss, and go get 'em!



Steve with an afternoon Gobbler on opening day.

Kritter Korner

Tayra

The Tayra is a member of the weasel family (Mustelidae), which also includes otters, skunks and minks. It is the only species in the genus Eira. The Tayra, also spelled "Tiara", is sometimes called "swamp or bush dog" and its Creole name is Haka.

Tayras can be found in the neo-tropical forests of Central and South America, and ranges from Mexico, south to Bolivia and northern Argentina and also on the island of Trinidad. In these areas they live in tropical, deciduous and evergreen forests, secondary growth, fields and plantations. The elevation of their habitat ranges from the lowlands to about 2000 to 2400 miles.

Because the Tayra is both terrestrial and arboreal, it has been found to live in hollow trees, burrows built by other animals and occasionally in tall grass. Despite their wide occurrence and relatively large size, surprisingly little is known about Tayra reproduction, life span, home ranges or habits.

This large, long-legged weasel like animal is the size of a medium sized dog with a long, bushy tail and long neck ending in a robust head. Tayra has a wrinkled face, which is the reason why it is also known as "Cabeza del Viejo" or "Old Man's Head" among the local people. Its head and body range from 24 to 28 inches in length and its bushy tail length 14 to 18 inches. Tayras have large hind feet, short ears. Color varies with geographic range, but in general the Tayra's dark skin is covered by dense, short fur that is brown in color with a slightly paler head. The fur on its head changes to brown or gray as it ages. Usually it has a white, diamond shaped patch on its throat and chest. Tayras have long claws, pronounced canines and weigh 8 to 15 lbs.

They are a diurnal species that are sometimes active at dusk or before dawn. Tayras usually travel alone or in pairs, however, they are

occasionally seen in small groups of 3 to 4 individuals, the sexual distribution of which is unknown. In their forest habitats, Tayras often appear inquisitive, moving their heads in an undulating, snakelike fashion to determine scents or sights. They can be seen moving rapidly through the trees or on the ground. Both terrestrial and arboreal,

Tayras are very fast runners and despite their limited eyesight are skilled climbers as well. They have been reported to climb down smooth tree trunks from heights of greater than 130 feet. Terrestrial locomotion is usually composed of erratic, bouncing movements with the back arched and the tail along the ground. Arboreal movements along horizontal branches are more fluid, and the tail is used as a balancing rod. A Tayra may leap for considerable distances, run up rocky cliffs, and bound from branch to branch in the trees. It is usually silent, but when alarmed, the Tayra gives a short, barking call and may snort, growl, and spit while seeking protection in a nearby tree. They have been known to give yowls, snarls or clicks when in groups.

Although classified as carnivores, Tayras are omnivorous, with diets comparable to those of raccoons. It shows a preference for small mammals, the spiny rat in particular, but it will eat whatever is available, such as guinea pigs, mice, squirrels, agoutis and poultry. The Tayra will also eat significant amounts of fruit, invertebrates and reptiles. It has also been shown that they will occasionally eat honeycomb when it is available.

Tayra can survive up to 18 years in captivity. Lifespan in the wild is unknown. There are only 6 Tayras in the US that are known for exhibition if you want to meet one give us a call or email. We have a 5 year old Tayra named Mango.



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<http://kritterkids.webs.com/>

We still need help! You may donate on line!



Town of Pike Road’s annual Spring Cleanup is presented in conjunction with statewide cleanup efforts across Alabama.

Follow this link for the event flyer: <http://bit.ly/2CdiarU>

Quote: “We are blessed with a beautiful natural setting that has drawn people to live and play in the Pike Road area for generations, and we are committed to preserving that beauty,” said Pike Road Mayor Gordon Stone. “Last year’s tremendous turnout was an example of how the people of Pike Road come together for the betterment of their town. We hope to have even more civic organizations and neighborhoods join in our efforts this year, as we all work together to keep our roadsides and open spaces clean and safe for everyone to enjoy.”



YARD SALE

Saturday, April 27
7 - 11 a.m.

Pike Road Town Hall
9575 Vaughn Road

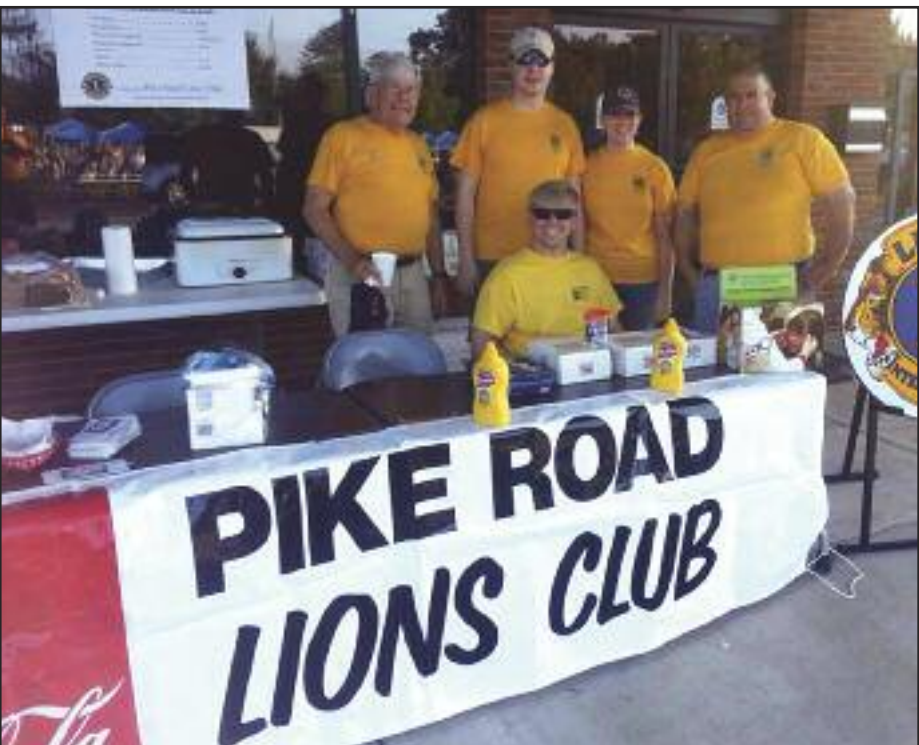
*Shop thousands of unique items,
Eat delicious breakfast food,
Have fun with friends and family,
& Support the Pike Road Lions Club!*



We look forward
to seeing you!



April 1: Vendor Registration begins for the Pike Road Community Yard Sale, benefiting the Pike Road Lions Club (Yard Sale is Apr. 27, 7-11 a.m. at Pike Road Town Hall)



April 27: Pike Road Community Yard Sale benefiting the Pike Road Lions Club, 7 - 11 a.m. at Pike Road Town Hall (9575 Vaughn Rd) – Follow this link to “RSVP” and learn more on the Facebook Event: <http://bit.ly/2Uo04KN>

The Annual Pike Road Community Yard Sale benefiting the Pike Road Lions Club returns on Saturday, April 27 from 7 - 11 a.m. at Pike Road Town Hall (9575 Vaughn Rd.) We expect a great crowd of shoppers and up to 80 vendors, so take advantage of this opportunity to sell your stuff or buy something new! Complete with music, sausage biscuits and other snacks, and a huge selection of items for sale, you don't want to miss this opportunity to join your neighbors for a morning of fun.

Groups and individuals interested in selling yard sale items during the event can register for a booth at Pike Road Town Hall (9575 Vaughn Rd) from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. from April 1 – 25, while supplies last. Booths are \$25 each, and all proceeds benefit the Pike Road Lions Club. Payment can be made by cash or check (made out to the Pike Road Lions Club), and payment must be received to reserve a booth. Booths are the size of a standard parking space, and vendors may not be businesses or sell food items – yard sale items only.

For questions or to learn more about the Lions Club, please call **334.235.1125** or email jpinegar424@yahoo.com.

Follow this link for the event flyer: <http://bit.ly/2VO5LIU>

Quote: “The Community Yard Sale is a great opportunity to connect with friends and neighbors, enjoy time outdoors, and support the Pike Road Lions Club. They do so much for our community,” said Pike Road Mayor Gordon Stone. “We are thankful for the men and women who invest their time in the continuous enhancement of the Town of Pike Road community.”

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

April 22 – 27: Annual Spring Cleanup, presented in partnership with Alabama People Against a Littered State, throughout the Town of Pike Road

Are you ready to #pickupPikeRoad? Grab your friends, your family, your neighbors, and join us as we collaborate to beautify the Town of Pike Road. We hope to have someone picking up litter each day this week, so give us a call at **334.272.9883** to get involved! We provide all the supplies, so all it takes from you is a volunteer spirit and a place you choose to do a little litter pickup! The

May 6 –17: “Alabama Then & Now” Bicentennial Art Exhibition, presented in partnership by the Pike Road Arts Council and the Alabama Plein Air Artists

The Town of Pike Road is excited to host "Alabama Then & Now," a traveling bicentennial art exhibition presented by the Alabama Plein Air Artists (APAA), a group of painters who gather monthly in different areas of the state to paint en plein air (in the “open air”). Pike Road has hosted these dedicated artists each October for the past eight years during the annual Plein Air Paint Out! The bicentennial exhibit has a full schedule and is visiting many towns throughout Alabama in 2019, and we feel fortunate to host the exhibit in Pike Road. The exhibit will be on display in the Mezzanine of the Pike Road Town Hall in May, giving visitors the opportunity to view 30 original paintings honoring Alabama’s Bicentennial. A public reception for the exhibit will be held on Tuesday, May 7th in the Town Hall from 5-7pm!

The FREE exhibit is open to the public May 6-17, on weekdays from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 11.

Follow this link to “RSVP” and view details on the Facebook Event: <http://bit.ly/2F8BUPk>

Follow this link to learn more about the APAA: alabamapleinairartists.com

Follow this link to learn more about the Pike Road Arts Council: <http://bit.ly/TPRArtsCouncil>

May 7: 5x7 Art Show, Sale, & Reception, 5 – 7 p.m. at Pike Road Town Hall (9575 Vaughn Rd)

Join us Tuesday, May 7, for an Art Show, Sale, & Reception for the Alabama Then & Now Bicentennial Plein Air Art Exhibition. In addition to the Bicentennial Exhibition, artists from all over Alabama have been invited to create art that does not exceed 5x7 inches (excluding a frame or mat) and to offer that art for sale for only \$57 a piece at this event. The 5x7 Show, Sale & Reception will be at Pike Road Town Hall (9575 Vaughn Rd) from 5 - 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7th.

This exciting evening is presented by the Pike Road Arts Council, an ENHANCE initiative committee that engages citizens of the Town of Pike Road and the greater community who have unique gifts in the fine arts and encourages them to use those gifts to bring a greater overall appreciation of the arts to our area.

From Arts Council Coordinator Patty Payne: There is always room for small artwork in a home or office! Small paintings are the perfect solution to treating narrow halls, blank walls, and places that need a pop of color. Often, small art is more affordable - and you won’t be surprised by any prices during this show! Now is your chance to get a jump on all the upcoming festivals and art shows - find your own Made-In-Alabama masterpiece on May 7th.

Follow this link to visit the event on Facebook: <http://bit.ly/2CggHRB>

Quote: “The roots of the Pike Road community run deep. We have an amazing community that has developed its local character in many ways that are similar to how the State of Alabama has developed its unique character. We have people who exhibit determination and generously contribute to their hometown. We love our town and our state!” said Gordon Stone, Mayor of the Town of Pike Road. “We are honored by this opportunity to bring people together in celebration of the Alabama Bicentennial through an exhibition of Alabama art.”

As always, more information about our upcoming events is available on our website, www.pikeroad.us, and on our social media channels: Just search “@townofpikeroad” on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Montgomery County Alabama Sheriff's Office

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.montgomerysheriff.com

(334) 832-4980



Chief Deputy
Kevin J. Murphy

Annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the staff of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Saturday, April 20, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Auburn Montgomery

(near the gymnasium)

For kids ages 1-11

For more information, call 832-1339

or email, reginawalker@mc-ala.org



Firearms Familiarization Course

Register NOW for any of our 2019
Firearms Familiarization Courses!

2019 Course Dates:

April 6

June 8

July 13

August 10

September 7

October 12

We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. The class is held at our Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and is FREE to Montgomery County residents! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

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.

Deputy Dave Day - May 4th

Please make plans to join us on Saturday, May 4th, for Deputy Dave Day at Dunbar-Ramer School in Ramer, from 10:00am-2:00pm. This is a great event for our youth so come out and "meet and greet" with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office official mascot, Deputy Dave as well as the Sheriff's Office staff! There will be lots of things to do and fun to be had by all!!

For more information,
call 832-1339.

We hope to see you there!



Sheriff's Office APP

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

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



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

As winter comes to a close and we welcome spring, we at the Autauga County Sheriff's Office remember that spring is a great time in our community – a new soccer, baseball and softball season begins, spring break is approaching, and graduation draws near for our students. We all enjoy celebrating these good times in our community.

If our deputies – including our reserve deputies – can help with traffic control or security monitoring at special events, please call us well in advance of a scheduled event. If at all possible, we will help provide coverage for your special events.

We also want to remind you that with the warmer weather, children may be playing near our county roads. Please take extra caution and slow down when driving through residential neighborhoods. And remember, children learn by watching us. If you're traveling with a child, please model good driving habits, including:

- **Wear your seat belt.**
- **Obey the speed limit.**
- **Slow near schools and neighborhoods (and explain why this is important)**
- **Do not text or check social media while driving.**
- **Make sure children are in the correct car seat.**

The Autauga County Sheriff's Office graduated 10 citizens from the Autauga County Sheriff's Citizens Academy on March 19, 2019.



The Academy is 8 nights long and covers all areas of the Sheriff's Office to include a ride-a-long with a deputy.

You must be a resident of Autauga County and be at least 21 years of age to attend the academy.

If you are interested in signing up for an upcoming class, please contact the Autauga County Sheriff's Office at 334-361-2503.



For many more driving safety tips, please visit the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration at: www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety.

Thank you for keeping our roads and our citizens safe, and we look forward to the great times that spring will bring!

Sheriff Joe Sedinger



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CITIZEN'S ACADEMY**

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APRIL 6, 2019
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THIRD PLACE \$25

Participants are limited to 1:30 and must sing with a track.
NO PROFANITY
First place winner will have an opportunity to sing at the opening of
the Main Stage Concert that evening!
For more information visit www.wilsonpickett.com



The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

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

Discovering Alabama: Costly to ALL!

Last month, we talked about the Native Peoples of Alabama, **The Indians**. In studying the history of our state, anyone will see the importance of our geography as the dynamic companion of History. Already we see the importance of the names of rivers, creeks, counties, towns, and other geographical terms still living with us today.

Alabama is truly a land of contrasts. My native state, North Carolina, is a land of contrasts. The eastern shore has flat lands, rivers, and oceans. The western part of N.C. has vast mountains. Alabama is a large and a rich state of more than 51,000 square miles. This does not include the coastal waterways in the Gulf of Mexico. Alabama’s shoreline on the Gulf Coast extends about 70 miles.

The State of Alabama is located about halfway between New York and Mexico. Our climate is declared semi-tropical. While we are in the North Temperate Zone, we are closer to the Southern end which is marked by the Tropic of Cancer. The term "tropical" comes from the name of the Tropic of Cancer. Our climate helps explain our variety and richness of plants and animal life in Alabama, as well as our long growing season. Alabama's climate has been proven over many decades to be an attraction to all kinds of industries.

Rainfall is abundant over the state, but especially on the Alabama coastlines. Our Mid-State does sometimes suffer from a lack of rainfall.

We were blessed with rivers and natural waterways and have many small rivers and creeks. With limited space for an article, we can at least focus on several. The Mobile River receives waters from The Tombigbee and the Alabama River. Other rivers flow into the Gulf of Mexico. The Alabama River flows from a point near Montgomery southward until it joins the Tombigbee. The Cahaba is a tributary of the Alabama River, which drains the central part of the State.



The Tennessee River in North Alabama travels through the northwest corner of the State and through the states of Tennessee and Kentucky, and those send waters to the Gulf of Mexico.

Through all of Alabama History, we have been blessed with rich mineral resources. Coal and iron are the "big twins." Alabama also has limestone, granite, manganese, gas, oil, brick clay, and even more.

There was so much to attract others to our shores. Spaniards were the first explorers to come in the 16th Century. Searching for gold and glory, they longed to see Spain's expansion of power. Ships sailing from Spain to Mexico often passed by Alabama's Gulf Shores. There was a map discovered and published as early as 1507 in Europe, which showed information about Alabama and the adjoining coast line. The map actually showed much of the American land area, and used the name America, and displayed the honor of the name to Amerigo Vespucci. The map of 1507 seems very amazing.

The earliest Spanish explorer known to have reached Alabama was Alonzo Alvarez de Pineda. He was sent out by the Governor of Jamaica, Don Francisco de Garay. He had a special deal with the King of Spain to co-operate with the King regarding a vast domain on the Gulf of Mexico. With four ships, Pineda entered Mobile Bay. Pineda traded with the native Indians, and remained there 40 days while writing about his adventures and observations of Alabama's coast. He went 15 miles up the Mobile River and discovered 40 small Indian villages.

A few years later, another Spanish explorer, Panfilo de Narvadez and his followers, came to South Alabama. Theirs was a dramatic story, with 400 soldiers and 80 horses. It must have been quite a scene in 1528. After cruising for 30 days and visiting some Florida coastlines, they reached Alabama. The actions between the explorers and the Indians were distrustful on both sides, and the explorers left toward Mississippi and out of Alabama History. Sadly there had been several hostages held for a short time during the difficult interaction.

That brings us to Hernando DeSoto, who crossed over the northeastern corner of Alabama, to engage in the most important early exploration in Alabama. He was a seasoned explorer, a man of about 50 years old, who had served with Pizarro in the conquest of Peru.

De Soto's explorations were not financed by his government, but by private enterprise, for personal profit. For this venture, De Soto had invested his personal fortune as well. On June 28, 1540, De Soto entered Alabama. He became the first European to discover the Tennessee River, the first to enter Jackson County, the first to cross Sand Mountain, and the first to discover

much of Alabama, except for those few who did come to the Gulf Coast fringes for a short time.

De Soto continued searching for gold and was persistent and determined. He did acquire a large quantity of precious pearls which the Indians had extracted from fresh water mussels in the rivers. The pearls must have encouraged the men who had sought gold, and given them new hope even in the midst of the wilderness.

Included in De Soto's army were numerous Portuguese and a number of other nationalities, although most were Spanish. Altogether there may have been as many as 600 men.

At Tallisi, De Soto encountered the son of Chief Tuscaloosa, who had been sent as a messenger of his father. The son was 18 years old, but taller than any man among the hundreds in De Soto's command, and taller than any other Indian present.

De Soto quickly released the Coosa Indian Chief that De Soto was holding hostage.

De Soto's command went throughout 15 or more counties that we know of: St Clair, Jackson, Etowah, Marshall, Calhoun, Talladega, Coosa, Elmore, Montgomery, Autauga, Lowndes, Dallas, Wilcox, Monroe, and Clarke.

The Battle of Mabila: (Maubila • Mavila)

This battle was one of the bloodiest battles with any Indians on Alabama soil. The Indians in South Alabama were more warlike than any other that De Soto had encountered.

It is no surprise that the Indians were furious to see their corn supply destroyed. It was their salvation for physical survival. Even worse, some Indians were captured and made slaves, and burden-bearers for De Soto. De Soto had the best armor to protect his soldiers from Indian arrows. The Spanish had their cross bow, while the Indians had the bow and arrow. The Spaniards had horses, and that was a big advantage as well.

Chief Tuscaloosa led his men in the Battle of Mabila. Early in De Soto's arrival, friendly exchanges had been made between the Spaniards and the Indians. De Soto gave the Chief a horse and the Indians gave gifts to the Spaniards. They even played music and danced to show friendship. But when the Spaniards seized their Chief, the Indians were ready for war. Heavy fighting broke out at the village gate. The Spanish had the advantage of weapons, and they set fire to the village. De Soto was wounded, but he continued to fight. The Spanish lost

their pearls in the fire, and most of their gun powder was destroyed. The estimate of the Indians killed is about 2,500 in the battle. Following the battle, De Soto went northward to Grove Hill, Dixon Mill, Linden, and Old Spring Hill, and on to discover the Tennessee River, the Tombigbee and many lesser streams. He discovered the Mississippi River in that winter of 1540-41.



De Soto died as he had lived-exploring to the end of his life. His last battle, that of Mabila, was the largest battle in Alabama and in all of America at that time between the Indians and the Europeans. De Soto was buried in the Mississippi River by his faithful men, to avoid the Indians finding out about his death.

Those men remaining reached Mexico, and from there, returned to Spain. We are fortunate that a number of his men kept the journals.



**Oak-Leaf Hydrangea
State Wildflower**
Acts of Alabama 99-313,
June 1, 1999



**Flying Tarpon
State Salt Water Fish**
Act 55-564, Acts of Alabama,
September 9, 1955



**Large Mouth Bass
State Fresh Water Fish**
Acts of Alabama, No. 1183,
October 10, 1975



**Blackberry
State Fruit**
Acts of Alabama 2004-363,
April 30, 2004



THE ALABAMA

Gazette

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Community Lifestyles





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Governor signs proclamation for Parental Alienation Prevention Week



On March 27, 2019, Governor Kay Ivey of Alabama signed a proclamation declaring April 25, 2019 as Parental Alienation Awareness “Bubbles For Love” Day and April 21 through April 27, 2019 as Parental Alienation Prevention Week. Kenneth Paschal, Alabama Family Rights Association and supporters were present for the event.

This proclamation by Alabama Governor acknowledges:

“Parental Alienation is a term used to describe any number of behaviors and attitudes on the part of one parent, both parents or third party designed to interfere, damage or destroy the relationship a child has with their other paren. It’s a form of abuse that causes emotional trauma to children; and Alienating behaviors are frequently seen in high-conflict divorces, separations and asymmetrical custody arrangements but can occur in intact marriages; and God so loved us, we also ought to love one another love does no harm to its neighbor therefore Children should be able to freely express the meaning of F.A.M.I.L.Y. Father And Mother, I Love You.

The proclamation also acknowledges on April 25, 2019 at noon, soap bubbles will be used to present the love children have and should be allowed to share with both their parents without fear or guilt.

Proclamation

Data shows that we do not value the importance of the parent/child relation-



(r-l) Paulette Roby, Civil Rights Activist Committee Chair; Kenneth Paschal, State President ALFRA, U.S. First Sergeant - Retired, Exchange Club of Shelby County board member; Nicole Clark, Attorney at Law; Austin Burdick, Attorney at Law; Governor Kay Ivey; Tresor Bertrand, Civil Rights Activist Committee Board Member; Candice Lawhorn, Licensed Professional Counselor; and Sydney Burdick, age 15.

ship enough. It is harming our kids, our families, our communities, and our state. The primary goal of the Alabama Family Rights Association is to educate the public and government officials concerning the importance of equal involvement of both fit parents in a child’s life which promotes the value of a child to be able to love and be loved by both parents. We encourage you to help us in spreading our message through your participation in this year’s “Bubbles for Love” campaign. A special thanks to Governor Ivey and her support of the children and families of Alabama.

R. B. Hudson Middle School, Selma, Alabama Essay Contest

We are proud to announce the winners of the contest and offer our congratulations!



James Brown, Micah Thomas (1st Place Award) and Ms. Burton, principal



James Brown, Denetra Palmer (2nd Place Award) and Ms. Burton, principal



Ke’Erica Glover (Honorable Mention Award), and Ms. Hargreaves

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for April

by Peggy Givhan

April, one of the most glorious months of the gardening year, beckons us outside and into the garden. This clarion call should get us motivated to display the finest flower beds one can create. I am sure inspiration will come by viewing the spring time blooms on Yoshina Cherry trees, azaleas, forsythia, bridal wreath, wisteria, the subtle orange blossom scent of pittosporum, crab apple, and late blooming daffodils.

**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

If you liked the garden plan you utilized from last year, tweak it a bit by introducing a new color scheme. For instance if you had masses of bright color, attempt a monochromatic bed. One could choose different shades of orange and yellow; red, rose and pink; shade of deep purple to light blues; or an all white and gray bed. One can also plant a pot garden with this same idea. At this time in the garden, I have masses of dianthus, gray stachys (also known as Lamb's Ears), dusty miller, and silver leafed artemisia, for contrast. By the term contrast, I am conveying the idea that one of the colors, usually dominant such as bright pink or purple, is planted next to a neutral shade to boost the stardom of the bright color. Other colors which give the same neutral boosts are whites or cream colors. This technique makes these bright colors stand out like a neon sign. However, if your goal is to have the flowers stand out after dark, then white colors are your answer. And after years of the flowers in your garden looking the same with the same plants, in the same part of the bed, which bloom at the same time, it's time to start a new look from scratch. One can move perennials such as coreopsis or perennial salvias to another spot, add a new variety here or there, plant masses of fillers of different heights and textures around and about. (Remember there are two types of salvias; the medium height red spiked one which is an annual, and the gray green leafed which is perennial.) If you have a pot garden in the sun, you may want to try dark blue and light blue Agapanthus, which you can easily purchase from garden centers now in full bloom. Along with geraniums in bloom, and some begonias, you can have instant success.

Although flag irises are much showier, I am acquiring much appreciation for Siberian Iris, Iris Siberica. They make great cut flowers and last longer in an cut flower arrangement than other irises. They are deer and rabbit resistant and tolerate wet and dry situations. The oldest Siberian Iris is named Caesar's Brother, a brilliant purple blue bloom. They begin blooming in late spring and continue through most of the summer, if one snaps off the dead heads. These low maintenance plants have rhizomes, not bulbs, and thrive in zones 3-8. A great use for the Siberian Iris is to stabilize areas that are prone to soil erosion. They have varieties which are light blue, white, and yellow. A good yellow iris is "dreaming yellow" which is a double variety.

PLANT OF THE MONTH---Corydalis lutea

The common name is Yellow Corydalis, a cheery bloomer which thrives on neglect, and hardy in zones 5-8. It has a great mounding growth habit, with gray-green fern like leaves and gets to a height of 1-3 feet. A constant bloomer from spring through fall frost, it grows in partial sun to full shade. This is important because it is difficult to find a shade loving yellow flower. Once this plant is established, one should note that it is self sowing. Butterflies flock to Corydalis, and it is deer and rabbit resistant. I personally have not been on the look out for this flower in Montgomery, but will check with Jason Powell who owns Petals from the Past in Jemison, Alabama, right off I-65. I have grown this flower in the past, and ordered it from a catalog.



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Ronald A. Holtsford

man loves his family and has not taken his wife on a trip just for the two of us since our son was born six and a half years ago. Yep, bad husband!

Visiting several areas outside of Portland, OR was our choice, there was little reason to consider other places. We neglected a couple of sights that we have previously enjoyed in favor of other activities and seeing a couple of friends that live in the area. We flew from Montgomery to Atlanta and then on to Portland, Oregon. If you are willing to get up really, really early you can take the 5:35 a.m. flight and be in Portland about noon Pacific time. That gives you almost an extra day. After landing we headed east towards Skamania Lodge which is on the Washington State side of the Columbia River in the small town of Stevenson. Before completing our journey to Skamania we made our stop



that always welcomes us to the area, Multnomah Falls. Multnomah is a 620 foot waterfall with an upper and lower pool. Next to it is the “lodge” which contains a restaurant and gift shop. You can take the scenic highway route off of 84 and additionally view several other beautiful waterfalls as well as the Vista House, which sits very high above the Columbia River gorge with a magnificent view.



The scenic view probably requires a couple of hours if you want to take everything in with moderate visit times to the sights. If you are more in a rush, take the 31 exit off of 84 which allows you to park between the east and west lanes and then re-access 84. The 31 exit allows an easier ingress and egress if you have limited time and only want to see Multnomah.

While there are several nice or interesting hotels around Portland, we chose Skamania Lodge, which is a part of the Destination chain. The lobby has a large spacious area decorated in a rustic Pacific northwest style; a large fireplace is open on both sides. Golf and a ropes course are available and a fire pit is available to sit around at night and make S’mores. We were able to obtain a special rate with a room that allowed us to look upon the Columbia River and Cascade Mountains when we awoke each morning. One day we drove through several small towns, having lunch in White Salmon, WA then crossing the river we participated in a couple of wine tastings in Hood River, OR.

TIME OUT FOR SPRING!

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

A close-up photograph of a wooden gavel resting on a wooden surface next to a pair of brass scales of justice.

Another day we drove through Portland to the Pacific coast stopping at the Tillamook dairy sampling some cheese but resisted their ice cream on a rather cool day. Good stuff! We continued north up the coast stopping at beaches with large rocks just off the coast (i.e. Canon Beach) and continued further north to Seaside, OR that heavily attracts young adults but also families and retirees. The Pacific coast does not have the beautiful sands of Gulf Shores nor the warmth, but nevertheless is beautiful to see.



Though I have been to downtown Portland before, we neglected a visit. Downtown has a great Saturday market, a China town and other attractions but I am told the homeless can become aggressive at times.

The next day we met up with a friend who was nice enough to chauffer us up Mount Hood. It was an incredible drive on a very well maintained road with snow pushed probably five feet above the guardrails lining the road. Driving up the mountain you go through the small village of Government Camp, OR and a short distance up brings you to Timberline Lodge (elevation of 6000 feet on a 11,250 foot mountain). Timberline was built during the Depression and is truly a magnificent structure built by WPA workers. President Franklin Roosevelt dedicated the Lodge and a special armchair was built for him to assist in his physical infirmities. The Lodge fell into disrepair on a couple of occasions, but today is a vibrant ski resort. We enjoyed a warming lunch with our friend Dave before heading back down. Always eager for a new adventure, Dave took us to Edgefield, a large indoor and outdoor venue in nearby Troutdale, OR. Edgefield was built in 1911 as a poor farm. It has several buildings and has its own winery, distillery and brewery. Several musicians were playing in different location and were very enjoyable. Edgefield was developed by the McMenamin brothers and they have also developed other venues in the Washington and Oregon areas using older buildings and the architectural and artistic abilities of the brothers.

Our last day took us into the town of Stevenson where cold winds blew down the river gorge. Even with the die-hard wind surfers of the area we only saw a couple of them enjoying the river. After lunch we headed to the Vancouver, WA



area to meet up with some other friends. The couple own a feed store, which I understand, provides feed and other items to the multiple hobby farmers in the area. The area gave us a great view of Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Adams and then looking to the southeast, a view of Mt. Hood.

Delta delivered us home safely with an overnight flight. It was sad to leave but we also missed our son and family badly so it was time to be home.

So much incredible scenery to see and it was one of the more enjoyable vacations I have taken. I hope you can experience the area one day.

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.

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Have a Blessed and Happy Easter!



Dr. Lester Spencer

Lead Pastor

St. James United Methodist Church

9045 Vaughn Road

Montgomery, AL

Soul Searching

He is Risen!

The Heart of the Christian Faith is the Resurrection! The Christian faith is based upon an event and that event is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Paul said in his letter to the Philippians, "All I want is to know Christ and to experience the power of his resurrection." (Phil. 3:10) Why was the resurrection so important to Paul. Because he knew that everything hinged on the fact and the power of this event. Paul understood the following facts very well.

Through his death on the cross, Jesus defeated sin. Through his resurrection, Jesus defeated death.
"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?... But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Paul, 1 Corinthians 15:54-57) I am so glad to know that not only are my sins are forgiven, but that I no longer have to fear death. Both have been defeated by Christ!

The resurrection also proves that God is in control. The Romans along with the Jewish leaders and the Devil himself thought they had silenced Jesus through his crucifixion and death. But God always has the last word. God is always in control. The resurrection means that God's mighty power is always available to you and to me as well. Bad things and problems do not have the last word in our lives. With Christ as our Risen Savior, God has the last word. No matter what...
"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead ..." (Ephesians 1:19-20).

And the resurrection means that God always keeps his promises. In **Luke 24 5-7**, we read these words about the resurrection event. The women who arrived that first Easter morning to discover an empty tomb were met by two angels who said these words to them:
"Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, that



the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."

Jesus predicted his own death and resurrection! He promised he would rise again! This is great news for you and me, because it means that we can rely on all the promises God made to us in the Bible. The promises are many and the two most important ones are these: through the cross of Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and invited into a relationship with God the Father through His Son, Jesus! And through the resurrection of Christ, we are granted the power to live victorious in this life and to live forever with our Lord in heaven in the life to come!

Have an exciting and Happy Easter as you celebrate our risen Savior!

Seasonal Reasoning



To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under Heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

WEB OF LIES

By Hannah Wilkinson Johnson, Founder LIFT Ministries



I’d like to preface this by saying, this is my opinion. While I feel that technology and social media are key to living in today’s world and while there are some good things that can come from the web and hand held devices, I feel that there is more harm being done to the masses. What if everyone that picked up their device, picked up the Bible instead?

Picture this:

You’re at a sporting event supporting a child and you look around and all you see are people hovered by the nearest power outlet on their devices as they are charging.... Plugged up to the power source we have deemed vital enough to take our focus off of one another and onto the device we are enchanted by. It is almost like something you would read out of a book, a fairytale. The strides we’ve made in technology. I was watching Back to The Future the other day. In 1985 Michael J. Fox was wearing a pair of tennis shoes portraying what the style would be in 2015.... they were dead on ringers for Lebron Soldiers. My mind was blown and it sparked a conviction.

From the development of ENIAC to the release of the first home computer in 1975, Americans have eagerly awaited the development of the newest, most up to date, technology. The first personal computers came as kits, MITS Altair 8800 followed by IMSAI 8080, and were introduced in 1975. You had to piece the parts together ever so strategically to ensure it would work in the end. It took some investment, a little time and energy and the masterpiece, the finished product, was yours. It’s quite fascinating you see, to see the world change and new milestones be met. Let me give you a quick breakdown, this isn’t an all-inclusive list...and from there the rest was history.

Computers	1983- Motorola released a \$4,000.00 Phone It took 10 years to make Cooper’s phone available to the public.
1976- Apple I (kit computer)	1989- Phone began to shrink in size.
1977- Apple II color computer	2000- Nokia palm sized phone
1980- Commodore home computing	2002- Sidekick
1980- Apple III RECALLED	2002- Camera Phone released
1981- Osborne I	2004- RAZR
1981- Epsen HX-20 First laptop	2002- Facebook was created.
1981- PC- Personal Computer created by IBM	2007- The first iPhone.... This is when the phone started to evolve from a way to communicate to a tool relied on daily for all sorts of tasks.
1983- Apple’s The Lisa \$10,000.00	
1984- Apple Macintosh \$2,500.00	
Cell Phones	
1960’s- Radio Common Carrier	
1973- Martin Cooper (Motorola) created the first mobile telephone from handheld subscriber equipment.	

As I sit here this morning typing away on my MacBook I am constantly drawn to my handheld device, my phone. My only, seemingly anyways, link to the outside world. My vice, my drug of choice, my sin. I can’t even for a moment type on my big device for wanting to pick up my hand held device. It draws me in, lures me by way of information. I love to learn, and it is my key to knowledge, right? It’s been engrained in our brains that Google is all knowing. It’s desensitized Americans. It’s pulled me away from my family. It’s consumed my mind. It’s become too convenient for Americans to not have personal relationships when they can simply engage via the web. Do you worry more about how many fb likes you can get rather than how many memories you can make with your children? Does you child choose electronics over time with you? Do you rely on the web to pay the bills? That’s ok to support your family, the world of technology needs computer geniuses for our economy to thrive. I’m talking about the need

to be connected always and never disconnected. Do you think it’s the only means of financial survival? It’s become a god, little g, an idol to the majority of us. **Matthew 6:24** *“No one can serve two masters...”***Money, technology or whatever you choose as your little god. I see that device light up, and my little heart lights up like a kid at Christmas. It’s insanity and it’s got to stop.**

Oh, Facebook no one wants me to mention Facebook. It hits home for you doesn’t it? It has probably at some point in your marriage or relationship become an issue. I can unfortunately admit it, it’s a problem in my house. It’s such a phenomenal way to communicate with people across the world, old school mates and family you never get to see. It allows our servicemen to talk to their families and give their spouses and kids a chance to see them. But, I see you justifying your lengthy usage of the app.... I too justify it daily. For all the good Facebook can bring, it has equal detrimental qualities. If not more. It can connect you all right, connect you straight into the emotional arms of someone you have no business talking to. It can be a weapon for predators and a link to tell the sadistic where you sleep at night. It is a tool to give people the guts to tell information that ought not be shared. What happened to wholesome privateness? What about when the desire for approval leads us to post what we can do for God? Do you do things to ‘honor’ God yet post every single one of them on fb for your daily ‘like’ fill? Does it really even mean anything? Social Media makes us brave, when the only thing that should make us brave is faith in The Lord. I know these statements to be true, I can plainly talk and relay the factual information to you, yet still I am a slave to my device, the need to know more and see more, which in turn makes me want more. I long to delete the app from my phone, but my excuse, my business and the pages I manage well they need me. They need my devotion to social media to thrive.

You see those are all the lies I tell myself to make my obsession logical. To justify what takes up a large portion of my time. I like to immerse myself in the lives of others, their “picture” perfect lives, when my children are bouncing off the walls and theirs well, they are posed ever so strategically and acting like they have some sense. It’s not reality, but this is. My reality is that I am addicted to the one thing that can absolutely destroy the human race...the need to know everything. It’s not Biblical, the need to know. **Isaiah 46:9-10** *“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. 10 - I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.”*

It started with the fall of satan. **Isaiah 14:12-15** *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.”*

Lucifer it seems became so impressed with his own beauty, intelligence, power, and position that he began to desire for himself the honor and glory that belonged to God alone. So we see what happens when someone tries to know as much as God. It’s a tool Satan himself conjured up. He knew exactly what he was doing. Trying to weasel his way into our minds, lead us astray. Show us on social media that there are prettier and happier people than I am. There are people that make more money than I do, and there are people that are hugely more successful than I if we measure success financially. We’ve allowed him to teach our kids to become a slave to the next level, because it shuts them up and makes it easier on us. Ever try to take a device from a toddler? Little demons take over their body. It’s a time occupier. Our reliance on the newest device has made us a slave to discontentment. Discontentment does NOT come from the Lord. **Ecclesiastes 5:10** *“He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.”*

My husband turned on my screen time counter on my phone. I am embarrassed to say at the end of each week what it says. It’s horrible and embarrassing and ridiculous that the time I devote to my device, I should be devoting time to my Lord. Google, founded in 1998, gives us information at our fingertips. When was Google created? Simple, I’ll just ask Google. Relatable scripture? I’ll just google it. That’s not always a bad thing, but it prevents us from studying His Word and allowing The spirit to reveal to us what we need to know. Why is it so hard to grasp that the only device I really need is my Bible, it has all the answers I need. I’ll tell you. Americans are obsessed with time. A handheld device is a luxury that saves us time, reading the Bible takes intentional time. Time we should be intentionally taken to devote to our Lord. We need to find contentment in the unknowing, because in the all-knowing Omniscient God we find everything we will ever need to know. **Exodus 20:3** *“You shall have no other gods before me.”* What if we plugged into the ultimate power source and all our knowledge came directly from The Lord, unfiltered and pure? **1 John 5:21** *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”*

*Timelines of computers and cell phones, oddly enough found on google.



What About Autographing The Bible?

The recent tornado in Lee County, Alabama, was devastating with 23 lives lost—several in a single family. How sad that things changed for these residents in such a short time.

U.S. presidents are expected to make appearances following disasters in order to boost morale. We remember President Obama touring Tuscaloosa with Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley in 2011. Likewise, President and Mrs. Trump visited the Auburn area to survey damage and offer encouragement.

The president received criticism for autographing a few Bibles on his visit. He didn't choose to but was requested to do so by attendees at Providence Baptist Church. According to the AP a young person thrust a Bible into the president's hands and asked him to sign, and others followed suit. The same story reported a few religious leaders outraged that someone other than the author would sign and claiming the president was "courting" his evangelical base in this way.

Theologians call the original biblical manuscripts "the autographs"—the

documents written and "signed" by Peter, Paul, Moses and others. Evangelicals usually don't believe it's disrespecting the original writers to sign Bibles; rather we see it as a way to encourage one another.

One of my boyhood heroes was the Chaplain of Bourbon Street, Bob Harrington. He was a dynamic Christian preacher who was recognized for his ministry in the French Quarter while a student at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. I loved to hear Harrington preach, and probably knew his testimony from memory. He often signed Bibles, as he did for me, with the inscription, "Gratefully saved."

I have a Bible signed by the prince of Southern Baptist preachers, W.A. Criswell. Criswell served First Baptist Dallas, Texas for 40 years. He loved young preachers and often took a moment to sign a word of encouragement in our Bibles.

The Bible I most often use in the pulpit was given by a friend in 1980, and his dedication signature is in the foreword.

My ordination Bible is also signed by my pastor at the time.

The Carter Political Items Collectors group I'm a member of has an annual convention in Plains, Ga. We often have Jimmy Carter-signed items in our auctions, including Bibles and other Bible study materials. The auction benefits the Maranatha Baptist Church where the Carters attend.

Another church I served gave a music minister a Bible when he went away to school. He passed it around and asked us to sign our names by our favorite scripture passage as a memento.

The president himself owns a Bible inscribed by Billy Graham.

I think we shouldn't criticize Bible signing, unless perhaps at a political event. Mr. Trump simply gave his time to encourage hurting people.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. The church's website is siluriabaptist.com.

Miss Alabama's Outstanding Teen 2019 Crowned

ALABASTER – **Zoe' Champion**, a 16-year-old sophomore at Alabama Connections Academy, was crowned Miss Alabama's Outstanding Teen 2019 at the Thompson High School Performing Arts Center on Sunday, March 3.



Miss Alabama's Outstanding Teen, Collins McMurray, crowns Miss Alabama's Outstanding Teen 2019, Zoe' Champion.

Champion is the daughter of Shane and Debra Champion of Leeds, Alabama. She plans to become an orthodontist.

Miss Champion represented the Miss Jefferson County's Outstanding Teen Pageant in Birmingham and performed a jazz dance to "To The Rescue", during the talent competition. She was a \$250 preliminary talent award winner. Her platform is Champions M.A.D.E. (Make A Difference Everyday). She will represent Alabama at the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Pageant in Orlando, Florida in July. Miss Champion received a total of \$209,942 in cash and in-kind scholarships.

With the title, Miss Champion received a four-year renewable full tuition

scholarship to Auburn University, a four-year renewable full tuition scholarship to the University of Montevallo, a four-year renewable \$10,000 scholarship to Troy University at the Troy campus, a four-year renewable full tuition scholarship and freshman housing to The University of Alabama; a four-year renewable full tuition scholarship to Jacksonville State University, a four-year renewable full tuition scholarship to the University of North Alabama, a one-year tuition scholarship (\$2,500) to Wallace State Community College in Hanceville; a \$5,000 cash scholarship (to be paid to her college or university).

First runner-up was Emma Terry, a 16-year-old sophomore at Leeds High School. She represented the Miss Covered Bridge's Outstanding Teen Pageant. Miss Terry received a \$150 preliminary evening wear/onstage question award. She performed ballet en pointe to, "Gigi Medley". She received a \$2,000 cash scholarship to be paid to her college or university; trophy, an \$8,000 stipend (\$2,000 per year renewable) to the University of Alabama and a \$14,000 (\$3,500 per year renewable) scholarship to the University of Montevallo. She received a total of \$24,900 in cash and in-kind scholarships.

Second runner-up was Marissa Luna of Mountain Brook. She a 15-year-old freshman at Mountain Brook Junior High School. Miss Luna represented the Miss Tennessee Valley's Outstanding Teen Pageant. She performed the vocal, "Colors of the Wind," and was a preliminary talent winner. She received a \$1,500 cash scholarship to be paid to her college or university; trophy; an \$8,000 stipend (\$2,000 per year renewable) to the University of Alabama and a \$14,000 (\$3,500 per year renewable) scholarship to the University of Montevallo. She received a total of \$24,900 in cash and in-kind scholarships.



Miss Alabama's Outstanding Teen 2019 top five, from left, Jayla Duncan, third runner-up and received \$23,900 in scholarships; Emma Terry, first runner-up receiving \$24,900 in scholarships; Miss Alabama's Outstanding Teen 2019, Zoe' Champion who received \$209,942 in scholarships; Marissa Luna, second runner-up who received \$24,750 in scholarships; and MaKenzie Ward, fourth runner-up, receiving \$23,500 in scholarships. A total of \$506,372.00 in cash and in-kind scholarships were awarded.

Third runner-up was Jayla Duncan of Childersburg representing the Miss Coosa Valley's Outstanding Teen Pageant. She received a \$150 preliminary evening wear/ onstage question award. She is a 15-year-old freshman at Childersburg High School. She performed a tap dance to, "Let's Get Loud." She also received a \$1,250 cash scholarship to be paid to her college or university; trophy, an \$8,000 stipend (\$2,000 per year renewable) to the University of Alabama and a \$14,000 (\$3,500 per year renewable) scholarship to the University of Montevallo. She received a total of \$23,900 in cash and in-kind scholarships.

Fourth runner-up was MaKenzie Ward, a 16-year-old junior at Hewitt-Trussville High School. She represented the Miss Trussville's Outstanding Teen Pageant and performed a tap dance to "Ease On Down The Road." She received a \$1,000 cash scholarship to be paid to her college or university; trophy; an \$8,000 stipend (\$2,000 per year renewable) to the University of Alabama and a \$14,000 (\$3,500 per year renewable) scholarship to the University of Montevallo. She received a total of \$23,500 in cash and in-kind scholarships.

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FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH, A PERFECT TIME TO PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE

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Dr. John Bitter, Editor
 Senior Section

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Honoring Our Heroes

By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons



James Manley: Battle of the Bulge Hero

Jim Manley served in the United States Army February, 1944-November,1947, seeing action in the Italian Campaign during WWII. The Allied troops suffered 320,000 casualties and the Germans’ figure was over 330,000. No other



campaign cost more lives and wounds by infantry forces on both sides, yet Jim came through unscathed. His infantry unit continued fighting in liberating France, and he participated in the Battle of the Bulge with General George Patton’s 16th Infantry Division. During one 110 mile trek, he wore burlap bags on this feet to prevent frost bite. After the Germans surrendered and during the occupation of Germany, he served at Neuremberg, Germany. When WWII was completed, he was discharged at the rank of Technical Sergeant, the third highest rank among enlisted personnel having been promoted from the rank of Private when he enlisted.

Jim was born at Double Springs, AL, to his parents, J. W. Manley and Alice Davis Manley June 29, 1927. When Jim was fifteen, his father moved the family to the Birmingham area to work in the steel mills. Jim completed the 10th grade at Woodlawn. His Mother signed his enlistment papers permitting him to volunteer in the Army at the age of only 17. He received training for fighting with armored divisions at training/embarkment centers, Camp Polk, LA., Camp Kilmer, N.J. and Camp Pickett, VA, where he learned how to disembark from the side of ships to the landing ships for amphibious landings.

After his discharge from the Army, Jim returned to AL and then went to TX where he worked on a pipeline. His parents moved to Montgomery, and Jim came to Montgomery where he met his wife, Ann Brown. They are celebrating 64 years of marriage in March, and they have three children including two daughters and one son, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Jim worked as a truck mechanic for eight years and as a driver of 18 wheeled trucks for 30 years. He and Ann are members of the Yarbrough Street Baptist Church. When Jim describes his memories of his service to his nation during WWII, he says, “It was one hell of an experience. I had some good times and some bad times. Sometimes it would be three weeks and no good times. I wouldn’t take anything for going.”



Edward Paul Schroeder

Edward Paul Schroeder is a 95 year-old WWII U. S. Army Air Corps veteran who survived service in the Pacific Theater. Paul Schroeder was a student in



his senior year in Wetumpka High School, Wetumpka, AL, when he was drafted in January, 1943, into the U. S. Army Infantry. He was trained for 13 weeks in heavy weapons including machine guns and mortars. Because so many American pilots were being shot down, there arose a critical need to train more pilots. Schroeder switched from the Infantry to the Army Air Corps. He was among two-hundred soldiers who were sent to West Virginia to wait for three months for orders to be trained as a pilot at Maxwell Field, the Southeast Air Corps Training Center, at Montgomery, AL. He received primary pilot training at Georgia, and he was the first man in his class to receive his wings to fly a bi-plane; however after 15 hours of basic training, Schroeder was hospi-

Charles E. Lynn

Charles E. Lynn is a WWII hero who served in the Eighth United States Army Air Corps in the 381st Bombardment Group as a gunner in the turret in the bottom of the B17 Flying Fortress flying 35 missions from England over



Germany without injury. Lynn received six air medals including five clusters given for single action of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight and three Presidential Unit Citations given for extraordinary heroism given for action against an armed enemy on or after December 7, 1941. Lynn states, “I served my country. I would do it again.”

Charles E. Lynn was born in 1925 in Montgomery, Alabama. Upon graduation from Montgomery’s Lanier High School, he joined the U. S. Army Air Corps. He and his wife, Jonnie, were married 66 years before she passed away. They had four children, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

After WWII, Lynn returned to Alabama and attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) and graduated from Howard College (Samford University) with a B. A. Degree in business administration. He worked in sales for the Cudahy Packing Company and Mid-South Packing Company selling beef. He then started Lynn’s Letters, a sign company.

Lynn is an active member of First Baptist Church of Montgomery. His ministry includes rising early before daylight two days each week, picking up bread from six bakeries and delivering it to the Caring Center at First Baptist Church of Montgomery where the bread is given to indigent people. In addition, he assists in the preparations and dispersal of aid to these people at the Church. He is also active serving people through the Salvation Army. When he is not volunteering in the community, Lynn is an avid golfer and bridge player.



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talized after suffering a severe heat-stroke which prevented him from moving out with his pilot-training class.

Schroeder’s service in the remainder of WWII was in the Army’s Air Transport Command. He was sent to California where he was trained to be responsible for transporting everything and everyone located in the area behind the pilot in the C-56’s. Schroeder and his crews would take supplies to the United States forces in the islands in the Pacific Theater including Guam, the Philippine Islands and Iwo Jima and then bring wounded Americans back to their homeland to receive medical care. Often when his planes landed on those islands, the crews viewed hundreds of dead Japanese still lying where they had perished, and he also has vivid memories of American Naval ships being sunk immediately after flying over them as combat was still going on there.

When the Japanese surrendered in August, 1945, Schroeder was discharged and returned to his hometown where he graduated from high school. He became engaged to his wife, Eleanor Wamsley, whom he had met while stationed at West Virginia. They were married for 62 years, and they had two daughters and one son followed by five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Schroeder’s civilian life began when he used the G. I. Bill to graduate in electrical engineering from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, AL, working in his field for Westinghouse for 31 years. After retirement, he and Eleanor returned to the Wetumpka area where he built a house in a scenic, wooded location in the foothills of the majestic Appalachian Mountains. There he raised rabbits to sell, put in a catfish pond and raised vegetables in a large garden. He received an award from the Wetumpka Lions Club for his leadership in building a rest-room facility in the Wetumpka Community Park. He and Eleanor were very active in the Wetumpka First United Methodist Church where he taught Sunday School, and they served in the Central AL Emmaus Community. He worked briefly for the City of Wetumpka as the City Building Inspector for new buildings.

Schroeder concludes about his WWII military service saying, “I felt honored and very fortunate to have lived through it.”



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Southern Cuisine

Even I have a “senior moment” when I have no idea why I am standing in the kitchen. Then it finally dawns on me. I came here to rummage through the kitchen cabinets, the freezer, the refrigerator, and the pantry to get some inspiration for what I am going to cook for dinner. Sometimes I can match the items together and make a meal. Sometimes nothing seems to match.

I could eliminate that problem, if had planned a menu. A weekly menu would give me a grocery list. My trips to the grocery store would be quicker and more efficient. I would not have bottles of sauces, bags of odd spices, frozen questionable meat, a can of haggis, a jar of minced meat pie filling, and dried whatever in my pantry. At the time, I knew I would find a recipe for a great meal using these items. I am the only person in the family that will eat haggis and minced meat pie, so the expiration date comes before my menus for the items.



Developing a weekly menu is not that hard of a task. There are many sources to find menus for a family of four or a family of one. You can visit cooking websites, find recipes for single meals and print out the recipe and most will also let you print out the shopping list. There are websites that will use your location to find a store near you and tell you which items on your shopping list are on sale. Scary, is it not? If you use AMAZON, GOOGLE, MICROSOFT, FACEBOOK, and have any cell phone, it is too late to be scared. So let the shopping list make your trip to the store more productive and save you money.

Let us say you want to do a workday weekly dinner menu. Search for five dinner recipes that suit your tastes, search for recipe that also have shopping lists. Some examples are DELISH.COM, EPICURIOUS.COM. A website that has it all in one spot is PINTEREST. An overload with choices will appear if you search for weekly menu plan. Your meal choices will range from themes for meals, weekly menus to monthly choices, on a budget, even menus from stores as WALMART and ALDI, and even gourmet or tasty meals. I would not want a meal that was not tasty.

The weekly menu is finished and your grocery list is complete. You are ready to go forth and shop like a pro. My question to you is did you pay close attention to the individual dishes in the menu? Did you just accept the flavor profile for each dish? Did you accept the seasoning suggested in the recipes. Did you accept the suggested prep for the meal? If you have been reading my column with any regularity the answer should be no! You want the dishes to represent your tastes and your proficiency in the kitchen. You have read about compound butters in past articles that release another layer of flavor to the dish as the butter

SIMPLE FE (Flavor Enhancer)

INGREDIENTS

Combine olive oil, parsley, red pepper flakes, black pepper, garlic and lemon zest in a blender and blend for about 30 seconds. Pour into an ice cube tray and freeze.

Defrost the cubes and add while preparing the recipe or add them during the cooking process. I used this FE in the preparation of rice pilaf.

METHOD:

In a blender, puree all the ingredients until smooth, adding more water if necessary. Pour or spoon into small ice cube trays or candy molds and freeze until solid. Remove from molds and save each type in separate labeled zip plastic bags until ready to use.

Here are three FE recipes and suggestions for their use. All three recipes have the same instructions for making.

CILANTRO LIME FE One bunch fresh cilantro, stems removed Five or six green onion tops One teaspoon lime zest	One tablespoon lime juice One teaspoon ground cumin One tablespoon olive oil One half cup water (Also good for rice or chili)
LEMON HERB FE One bunch fresh parsley stems removed Ten to Twelve chives One-teaspoon fresh oregano leaves One-teaspoon lemon zest	One-tablespoon lemon juice One half cup water One-tablespoon olive oil (Good for potatoes, asparagus, and homemade mayonnaise)
SMOKY SPICY FE Two tablespoons tomato paste Two whole roasted red peppers, jarred	Two teaspoons smoked paprika One teaspoon chipotle powder 1/4 cup water



melts. I have not elaborated much on other ways to introduce flavors into dishes. Lately, I have noticed more recipes for FLAVOR BOMBS. These “bombs” are small frozen, semi-secret ways for you to elevate the umami of a dish. Do you remember the word umami?

Are there flavor bombs in your dishes? There should be! I am calling these flavor bombs, Flavor Enhancers or FE for short for my article. This first recipe is a simple generic FE. Use it with sautéed and roasted vegetables. The

amount for each ingredient depends on your taste and the recipe. Increase the amount of red pepper flakes for more heat. Try increasing the lemon zest for fish dishes. Increase the garlic for pasta dishes. You get to experiment.

Here is a simple recipe for a rice pilaf. This recipe is a good test bed for two of your FE.

I read some good news the other day. We already know that there are certain things one can do to extend your life. However, this article gave percentages on how much these activities will extend your life. The good news is that drinking two cups of coffee will reduce your risk of dying young by 10%. Drinking two glasses of wine a day reduces the risk by 18%. It did not mention red or white wine. Participating in a hobby for two hours a day reduces the risk by 21%. Can we consider cooking as a hobby? Of course, the addition of 15 minutes of exercise a day and reducing stress also helps. Getting out of the house and interacting with strangers is better than sitting at home and doing crosswords. All you get from crosswords is a larger vocabulary of two and three letter words. So get out and talk to strangers, drink more coffee and wine, declare cooking a hobby and enjoy life.

MUSHROOM PILAF

INGREDIENTS

One medium onion peeled and finely chopped
One stick of butter (four ounces)
One and one-half cups of long grain white rice
Three cups chicken broth
Ten large white (button) mushrooms cleaned and sliced thinly.

For both the onions and the mushrooms, to get the desired results use a food processor. How good of knife skills you have will determine the method. Pick either the Smoky Spicy or the Cilantro Lime FE

METHOD:

1. Melt butter in a two-quart saucepan over medium heat.
2. Add the onion and cook until soft but not browned. Add the rice, broth and either of the recommended FE.
3. Stir to mix and melt the FE. Cook rice as per the included instructions or bring to a boil, then reduce heat and cover. Simmer for about twenty minutes or until liquid is absorbed.
4. Once the rice has adsorbed the broth, carefully fold the mushrooms into the hot rice. The mushrooms will warm up nicely since they are so thinly sliced.
5. Check seasoning and serve with a garnish.



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Easter***



Patricia Killough
Community Editor

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


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



Sarah Kate wishing everyone a Blessed Easter



2019 Meeting Schedule



Breast Cancer Support Group Meetings

Support group meetings are free, do not require pre-registration and convene the 2nd Tuesday of each month at:

Frazer United Methodist Church
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5:30 PM Social time with light meal
6:15 PM Program followed by Q & A

Tuesday, April 9th
How My Life's Purpose Changed
Presented by Nadean Upshaw, Breast Cancer Survivor

Tuesday, May 14th
Dancing in the Rain
Presented by Sandra Sutton, Breast Cancer Survivor

Contact us! (334) 220-4599
womenofhope@charter.net . www.thewomenofhope.org

Dimitri Will Be Missed



Alabama state Rep. **Dimitri Polizos** of Montgomery passed away on Tuesday after suffering a heart attack at his home at the age of 68.

Polizos, a Republican from Montgomery, was first elected to the District 74 seat in a special election in December 2013. He was re-elected in 2014 and 2018.

He served on the Montgomery County Commission from 2004 until his election to the House.

Polizos was the owner of Mr. G's Ristorante, a well-known Montgomery restaurant specializing in Greek and Italian food.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy, three children and five grandchildren.

Home Town Community News

April Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Magan Gramling | Lillie Ben Harris |
| | Linda Mann | Sherry Knight |
| | Ann Pascal | Patrick O'Mailia |
| 2 | Ronnie Broadway | Jimmy Sellars |
| | Helen Gordon (90th) | Franklin Williams (40th) |
| | Ken (Buddy) Hicks | 14 Brenda Blackburn |
| | Christopher Kenmore | Chuck Holmes |
| | Patricia Killough (69th) | 15 Skylar Campbell (21st) |
| | Colby Mills | Moseley Higgins (19th) |
| | Ruth Neilson | Tom Ward |
| 3 | Cole Andrews | 16 Judy Barnes (68th) |
| | Winston Webb | Shannon Holmes (40th) |
| | Emily Claire Needham (11th) | 17 Donna Daffron Allen (74th) |
| 4 | Owen Scott Edwards (11th) | 18 Julia Norris |
| | Bill Younkin | Slade Rhodes |
| 5 | Prasertsi Atkinson | Eunice Broadway |
| | Steve Stringer | Samuel Sullivan |
| | Coleman Taylor (23rd) | 19 Haley Boyd (26th) |
| | Edwina Davis Walker | 20 Frank Grove |
| 6 | Lew Baxter | 21 Jennifer Champion |
| | Brenda Caprara | Emily Garner James |
| | Evelyn Claire Carter (4th) | Betty Kirksey (90th) |
| | Ann Orr (82nd) | Queen Elizabeth (93rd) |
| 7 | Winford Collier (86th) | 22 Sue Arant |
| | Caroline Handey | Tammy Orr |
| | Bea Ward | Brandy Terrell |
| 8 | Debra Ehrlich | Alice Guntharp |
| | Cynthia Mull | Sarah Kathleen Selvage (4th) |
| | James White | 23 Shane McKinley |
| | Clara Wright | Jud Parenteau (10th) |
| 9 | Rev. Melvin J. Hendricks (66th) | 24 Bara Edwards |
| 10 | Jean Douglass | 25 Blane Campbell (22nd) |
| | Wade Norris | Don Cooley |
| | Jimmy Grubbs | Debra Kinman |
| | Hayden Ward | 26 Joe Cotney |
| 11 | Mae Bishop | Betty Strickland |
| | Margaret Boyd | 27 Erik Box |
| | Buddy Handey | Julie Livingston |
| | James Griffin | Wayne Watkins |
| 12 | Sally Brown | Landyn Whigham (9th) |
| | Morgan McGough | 28 Johnny Johnson |
| | Carolyn Perry | 29 Katie Moseley (21st) |
| | Tim Sansom | 30 Luke Adams |
| | Dalton Stephens (9th) | |
| 13 | Kim Golson | (Send us YOUR Birthdays!) |

Happy Anniversary

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Warren & Doris Miller (57th) | 12 Jason & Kaycee Wiggins |
| 2 | Bobby & Mickey Ann Boyd (31st) | 20 Jeremy & Stacy Dickinson |
| 3 | John & Patricia Killough (48th) | Jimmy & Barbara Pugh (63rd) |
| | Milton & Wanda Madison (9th) | 21 Russ & Valerie Russell |
| | Shawn & Katie O'Mailia (9th) | 22 Lamar & Glenda Boyd (47th) |
| 6 | Clint & Tiffany Hammock | Jim & Phyllis Fenn |
| | Pat & Lonnie Smith (51st) | 23 Zack & Geri Azar (42nd) |
| 7 | T. G. & Margaret Batley (63rd) | 24 Byron & Pam Lynch |
| | Richard & Susan Feaga | 25 Bill & Dee Russell |
| 8 | Eric & Melony Gwin | 27 Scott & Heather Russell |
| 9 | Tony & Gail Dixon (25th) | 30 Aaron & Kayla Ramer (9th) |
| 11 | Herb & Mary Sue Meadows (44th) | (Send us YOUR Anniversaries!) |
| | Mike & Donna Mulchay (32nd) | |

Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Walter, Carl Cooperdied February 5, 2019
Goolsby, Clara "Naomi" (88)died February 24, 2019
Jackson, Grace Peacock (95)died February 27, 2019
Spivey, Agnes Juanita Mulder (78)died February 28, 2019
McCollough, Eugene (92)died March 2, 2019
Henderson, Lt. Col. Ret. Benjamin Hunter "Hank" (96).....died March 4, 2019
Chapman, Thomas Perry (81)died March 8, 2019
Barnett, Irene Schofield (82)died March 9, 2019
Guy, Alma Jean (81)died March 10, 2019
Royal, William Edward "Edd" (72)died March 10, 2019
Williams, Dorothy Nell (88)died March 11, 2019
Walker, Rev. Esther Sweet (70)died March 22, 2019
Crawford, Sara Simpkins (84)died March 23, 2019
Polizos, Dimitri (68)died March 27, 2019

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J. C. Collins - March 3, 2019
George Ernest Boehmer - March 3, 2019
Norma Jean Feragne - March 8, 2019
Gaynell Puckett - March 12, 2019
Joseph Francis Gola, III - March 17, 2019
Kathleen Louise Oswalt - March 17, 2019
Pauline Margaret Williams - March 19, 2019
Frank Stanley Lyles - March 20, 2019
Dorothy Lee Knight - March 20, 2019
Sherri Todd Hearn - March 20, 2019
Linda Carroll Mims - March 22, 2019
Claude Pierre Anthony Caldwell - March 25, 2019
Zolen Dewey Wyatt - March 27, 2019
Byron Searcy - March 28, 2019

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Tears and Laughter:

Now is the time for a Alabama Lottery

By Amanda Walker

Few of us knew before the new gas tax that the Alabama Legislature was capable of moving any bill through both houses and having it signed by the Governor in one week. Governor Ivey announced it on the Tuesday night she delivered the State of the State address, and the next Tuesday she signed that baby into law with people standing around protesting.

Governor Ivey has said in the past that she would like to give the people of Alabama the chance to vote on a lottery. Senator Jim McClendon (R) has filed an amendment that will allow just that.

It is past time, because personally I blame the four recent lightweight earthquakes around the Flomaton and Florida line to have been caused – in part – by all the extra traffic from Alabama hitting all the potholes on their way to Century, Florida to buy lottery tickets. Powerball is up.

I may buy a ticket or ten, but I don't play Powerball in a meaningful way. The Mega Millions and Florida Lotto doesn't draw me. I like the nightly Fantasy Five well enough, but...I consider the Pick 5 serious business. It is one of the daily lotteries. Players can pick 2, 3, 4, or 5 They have lower payouts, but better odds, and you can play twice a day. Which I do. Like many, many other Alabamians do too.

If you are in the Black Belt or southwest Alabama, you may go to "Atmore." Everybody says they go to Atmore, but they are really going to McDavid, Florida. There is little divide between the two. Only a Florida state sign separates them. But Alabama doesn't get any of that money. It all goes to help educate the children of Florida. It helps build them better schools and pays for community college so their young adults can get a skill and make a living.

Alabamians will be going to Florida in droves this week because again, Powerball is always growing. People in other regions go to Georgia and Tennessee with the same enthusiasm. And most folks who make the drive are also going to eat, some are going so far as to fill up their car with gas, and since Florida doesn't have a tax on groceries, some people choose to save a little that way too. They spend that savings on lottery tickets.

A lot has changed since 1999 when voters were last given the chance to vote on a lottery. The referendum failed in a 54-46 percent vote.

Legislators have admitted that part of their hesitation in pushing forward with an Alabama Lottery has been an uncertainty as to what to do with the proceeds. As dumb as some of us are, and they aren't sure what to do with revenue from a lottery. Even 20 years ago it was estimated that a lottery would generate at least \$150 million a year.

Alabama wants a lottery and we do not want a lukewarm, watered-down, PG version of the lottery. We want more than Powerball, we want the freedom of choosing from the entire lottery menu.

Alabama welcomed 180 new hemp farmers to our agricultural community last month. They will join all the other farmers and ranchers already gambling.

There is no reason for the legislature not to give the people of Alabama the chance to vote on a lottery.

And now that we know how quickly and efficiently they can work in harmony together, it shouldn't take any more than seven days to get those lottery balls going.

Amanda Walker is a contributor with AL.com, The Selma Times Journal, Thomasville Times, West Alabama Watchman, and Alabama Gazette. Contact her at Walker-world77@msn.com or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.



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

Trisston's Tidbits...

"Kindness! Sprinkle It Everywhere"

*By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com*

Have you ever spent time with someone who is simply unpleasant to be around because they're always complaining and finding fault in everything ... even when life seems to be rainbows and butterflies? Sometimes it's difficult to be around people like that.

Now, imagine the kindest person you've ever met. What's the difference? What is it that makes that person so kind? I bet if we were to take a poll, most of us would want to be more like the person who's kind.

Titus 3: 4-6 tells us, *"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."*

My friends, isn't it awesome to know that our salvation is not because we've done any good works, but it's because of God's grace...an expression of God's kindness!

I'd encourage you to consider some ways to practice kindness. For example, take some time to reflect on God's kindness in our lives. Also, examine your interactions with people and ask yourself: In what ways have I been kind to others? In what ways have I been unkind? Moreover, ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas in your life where you need to improve on being kind to others, and then ask for help to overcome those areas. Additionally, list out possible ways that you might be kind to others, and then set goals. Finally, pray and ask God to show His kindness through you.

"Have courage and be kind. Where there is kindness there is goodness and where there is goodness there is magic." Disney's Cinderella

Friends, let's sprinkle God's peace, love, joy, and kindness everywhere we go!

Many Blessings!

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