

Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

www.steveflowers.us

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



Alabama is Truly a Republican State

Editor's Note: Steve Flowers wrote this anticipating the 2020 election results. How did he do? Is Alabama still showing red?

Our 2020 Election was November 3rd. The Presidential race was the center of all interest. You know the results, unfortunately, my column for today had to go to press before voting began. As you are absorbing the results, allow me to remind you that we do not elect our president by popular vote but by an Electoral College system whereby the electoral winner of each state even if by one vote gets all the electoral votes of that state. Electoral votes are reflective of that state's population. It is determined by the number of congressional seats plus the states two senators constituting their electoral votes. For example, Alabama currently has seven congressional seats and two senators for nine electoral votes. California has 53 congressional seats and two senators which gives them 55 electoral votes. My guess and it is a pretty safe assumption that Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, carried Alabama handily and captured our nine electoral votes. We have been a Republican state in presidential politics for the past 56 years, ever since the Goldwater Southern Republican landslide of 1964.

Six out of seven of our Congressional seats are held by a Republican. It is a pretty safe bet that all of our Congress people were re-elected yesterday. The two Republican seats in Districts 1 and 2 were held by the GOP and these two seats will be taken over by two new Republicans.

More than likely, the Republican candidate, Tommy Tuberville, won the race for our junior U.S. Senate seat for a six-year term. This has been a Republican seat since Jeff Sessions first won it in 1996. Our other seat has been Republican since 1996 when Senator Richard Shelby, our senior U.S. Senator, changed to the GOP.

All of our statewide constitutional offices are held by a Republican. Winning the Republican nomination in Alabama is tantamount to election especially in a presidential election year. We are a very red reliably Republican state. Even both chambers of our legislature are over 70% Republican.

For close to 90 years, 1877-1964, Alabama was a totally Democratic state. In the latter part of the last century, folks ran as Democrats not so much out of philosophy but because of tradition. Everybody just ran in the Democratic Primary. It was one grand election.

It changed presidentially and congressionally in 1964 in the Southern Goldwater landslide. Alabamians started voting Republican for national offices that year and have not looked back.

The proof is in the pudding. If indeed Donald Trump carried Alabama last Tuesday, we have voted for the Republican nominee for President 16 out of 17 times since 1964. Presidential candidates ignore us during campaigns because it is a foregone conclusion that we will vote Republican.

The GOP captured the Governor's office in 1986. It has been that way for over 30 years now with one exception. The last Democratic bastion, the Legislature, was toppled in 2010 and further entrenched in 2014 and 2018.

Folks, when we change, we change. We do not do things halfway. Fifty-five years ago, every statewide official was a Democrat. Our entire congressional delegation was Democratic and our Legislature was close to 100% Democratic. Today, we are arguably the most Republican state in America from top-to-bottom.

Most parts of the country vote on pocketbook issues. However, it would appear that Alabama and the deep south voters are driven by social and religious issues. When you consider that Alabama may very well be one of the most religious and socially conservative states in America, that makes for a perfect recipe for Alabama to continue as a Republican state for years to come. The more things change the more they stay the same is politics.

Unfortunately, we may be in for a protracted result in our presidential contest. As you read this, we may not know the outcome. We may have a scenario similar to the Florida Bush/Gore debacle in 2000. We may have a problem as severe as 2000, especially in swing states like Florida. However, it may very well be in Pennsylvania due to mail in voting.

~ See you next month



**Ronald A.
Holtsford**

What is the Concern with Judge Amy Barrett becoming Supreme Court Justice and the Affordable Care Act?

You will recall a prior Supreme Court challenge where the individual mandate was held to be a tax and as such a Constitutional law. Surprisingly, Chief Justice Roberts who was considered a more conservative thinker sided with the more liberal justices in the assessment as a tax.

With the death of Justice Ginsburg, the 5-4 generally more conservative leaning becomes 5-3 and if Judge Barrett is added, presumably will be more of a 6-3 conservative leaning. A case before the United States Supreme Court, California v Texas aka Texas v. U.S. in lower courts will address the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA centers around the individual mandate and without it, could mean the end of the law. The oral arguments for California v Texas is set for November 10th.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act cut the requirement of the individual mandate to zero responsibility, so now when there is no tax and the Federal government cannot make any money off of the mandate, it makes the mandate unconstitutional as decided by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. The 5th Circuit further decided that the individual mandate cannot be severed from the rest of ACA and the ACA is therefore unconstitutional on the whole. The intent of the 5th Circuit was however to send that back to the trial court but instead it now awaits determination before the United States Supreme Court.

The original Texas plaintiffs consisted of twenty state attorneys general from "red" states. Two states dropped out but are still supported by eighteen states. A House of Representatives majority has also joined the California defendants. Realizing that the question pertains to individuals and not just states to have standing before the Court, two Texas plaintiffs were located who by Affidavit stated they believed they had to purchase health insurance or pay a penalty and be harmed financially. The states assert standing in that they are required to spend money in determining who is required to have Obamacare. Dissenters believe the standing of these two residents of Texas are weak. The defendant states now number twenty-one and are typical "blue" states.

The odd thing is that the United States now takes the position that the individual mandate is unconstitutional but also wishes to keep all other aspects of the law in place.

So this leaves the United States Supreme Court with a few things to consider. Number one is whether the states and/ or the two individuals have standing. Number two is whether the Tax Cuts Act of 2017 did indeed make the

individual mandate unconstitutional and number three if so entwined is the ACA unconstitutional on the whole and finally number four is what to do with the ACA if found to be unconstitutional?

If Judge Barrett is confirmed we will see what part she plays in California v Texas and even the possibility of an election challenge.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist. "No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

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ROBSERVATIONS...by Robert Tate

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HERE WE GO AGAIN

In December 2014, I wrote the Robservations below. [Keep in mind who was President at the time] That’s six years ago. It is amazing that in the span of six years, things in this country have actually gotten worse regarding attitudes of race and adult responsibility. Rioting in the streets has become more prevalent, the pace of killing police officers has increased seemingly exponentially and organizations like BLM and ANTIFA make the Occupy Wallstreet gang look like a kindergarten class taking their daily naps.

Last night, I watched the final Presidential debate and winced often. For what it is worth, I thought Kristen Welker did an outstanding job. Infinitely better than Chris Wallace. I was wrong when I thought there would be no debates. I am happy there were. I was planning on writing about the debate but realized that it would be no point since the elections would be over before this edition of the Gazette would be on the streets. All I am going to say is that I hope people look at platforms as opposed to persons. I hope people have done their due research because the mainstream press is not the place to look for any kind of truth. It is sad the FBI sat on the information in Hunter Biden’s laptop since 2019 for whatever their reasons were. I have ideas but only ideas. Time will hopefully tell.

The racial, political, economic and social divide in this country is enormous. In the aftermath of this election, I wonder what crazy anarchist activities are going to run in our streets. No matter who wins, there will be a chance of foolishness taking place and yes, I am going to say this; especially if Trump wins again. People keep asking him and Pence about a peaceful transfer of power and yet for the last four years, we have seen exactly what the Left’s view of peaceful transfer means. This is why the 2014 Robservations below remains relevant. You will see definite similarities between 2014 and today. They are unmistakable. See you guys after the election. Cheers, T8er Out.

ANARCHY IN THE WINGS

I will be honest with all of you. I don’t even know where to begin with this Robservations. In an era where, as a society, we should be reaching for the stars, we seem to be mired in the most toxic racial environment I have witnessed in my adult life. Just before I sat down to write this, a news report broke that I am sure each and every one of you has seen and heard about dozens of times. It appears that 28-year-old Ismaaiyl Abdula Brinsley of Maryland, took his semi-automatic handgun and murdered two New York City Police Department officers, Rafael Ramos, 40, and 32-year-old Wenjian Liu. In a hate filled twitter diatribe, Brinsley defiantly boasted of “putting wings on pigs” and encouraged others to kill police officers. He wrote, “they take 1 of ours ... let’s take 2 of theirs.” Like a lot of America right now, I am both confused and to be quite honest with you, pissed off. I cannot imagine what goes through the mind of somebody who decides to stroll up to a police car and put bullets into the heads of men minding their own business. Although Brinsley alluded that he was seeking just punishment for the killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner, in fact all he did was callously murder two men in cold blood.

I think all of us watched in horror as the events in Ferguson, Missouri stained our national psyche. Looting, burning, arson, violence, you name it. For over a week, our televisions looked like a replay of the 1960s. Heck, I was just a kid living on the border of Newark, New Jersey in East Orange in 1967 when the riots hit that turbulent July. I remember seeing the National Guard troops walking in front of our apartment and in the end, 26 people died. But in 2014?

I have different Bible reading plans that I follow every year. On 2 December as I was doing my daily quiet time, I read a passage from II Peter 2:9-10. It says,

“then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority.” The words DESPISE AUTHORITY caught my attention.

I have a Bible program on my Ipad called e-Sword HD. It is a really good program. One of the features I often find myself using is the commentaries written by Bible scholars like Matthew Henry, Adam Clarke and Robert Hawker. When I read the passage in II Peter, I opened up the commentaries and turned to the one written by Albert Barnes. For those of you who don’t know who he was, Albert Barnes was an American Theologian and ordained Presbyterian minister born in 1798 and died in 1870. In his commentary on II Peter 2:9-10 concerning those who despise government, Barnes wrote:

“That is, they regard all government in the state, the church, and the family, as an evil. Advocates for unbridled freedom of all sorts; declaimers on liberty and on the evils of oppression; defenders of what they regard as the rights of injured man, and yet secretly themselves lusting for the exercise of the very power which they would deny to others - they make no just distinctions about what constitutes true freedom, and in their zeal array themselves against government in all forms. No topic of declamation would be more popular than this, and from none would they hope to secure more followers; for if they could succeed in removing all respect for the just restraints of law, the way would be open for the accomplishment of their own purposes, in setting up a dominion ever the minds of others. It is a common result of such views, that men of this description become impatient of the government of God himself, and seek to throw off all authority, and to live in the unrestrained indulgence of their vicious propensities.”

Wow!! Truer words are rarely if ever uttered in these most trying of times. In an era of wanting to be politically correct and avoiding even the perception of offense, people tend to minimize or outright dodge the truth in its entirety. In his commentary, Albert Barnes hit the nail on the head. I would ask those of you who read this article to read his words again and really try to understand what he is saying here. Whether it be the “Occupy Wall Street” gangsters, the Ferguson rioters and looters or the depraved cop killer, Ismaaiyl Abdula Brinsley, so often today we see people who simply want to disregard all forms of restraint. In other words, as our nation becomes more secular and moves at warp speed from those things of God, the reality of what Albert Barnes wrote in explaining the Biblical truths we are facing every day, will come to fruition. It is there for everybody to see.

There is an ugly trend in our society now that says, “You can’t tell me what to do.” The over used, “You’re not the boss of me” has become synonymous with the boorish behavior of large segments of an entire generation. No people, there is no excuse for the murder of two policemen. At the same time, I am not so ignorant as to not realize there are some police out there doing bad things and too often authorities overlook those wrongdoings. But as a nation of laws, we have to let the system work as best it can. As the saying goes, we cannot “throw the baby out with the bathwater.” To willingly allow retribution to be dealt by the hands of angry mobs at the expense of the government is anarchy. Anyone who believes that unbridled lawlessness and mayhem is the way to a better America is a fool.

I for one hope we get past this soon but from my vantage point, as long as we have the very top leadership in this country stoking the flames of racism and the usual race hustlers adding fuel to the proverbial fire, things are not going to get better anytime soon. For this I am sad and for the first time in my adult life truly embarrassed for how America is certainly perceived around the world.



Martha Roby

Be Sure to Dispose of Unused Drugs

While the news cycle is currently centered around the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, it is important we remember and shed light on other potentially devastating issues that impact our nation. Aside from the pandemic, the United States is in the middle of a serious public health crisis that is hurting communities of all sizes. Hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost due to opioid addiction and abuse in recent years. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, nearly 70,000 people died from drug overdoses last year. Seven out of ten of those deaths resulted from the use of opioids.

Prescription drugs can be a safe and effective way to manage certain conditions when carefully used as prescribed and monitored by your doctor. However, if misused, these drugs can cause much harm and destruction – especially when they find themselves in the wrong hands. A common example of mishandling opioids is when individuals leave unused prescription pills in their medicine cabinet and forget they are there.

Saturday, October 24, is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which aims to address this critical health issue. This annual initiative provides Americans an opportunity to responsibly dispose of unused prescription drugs while also raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse. Over 23 million

pounds of medications have been effectively collected across the nation since the first Take Back Day in 2010.

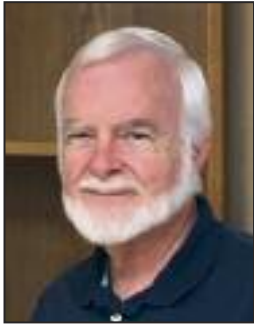
Due to the Coronavirus, collection sites may be limited in your area. If you or someone you know is looking to safely drop off any unconsumed medications, you can find more information about Take Back Day and specific collection sites on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s website at [takebackday.dea.gov](https://www.takebackday.dea.gov). If you are unable to participate in Take Back Day, unused drugs can also be disposed of year round.

In Congress, we have made great strides toward addressing this tragic epidemic that continues to destroy lives in the state of Alabama and the entire country. The problem has grown too large to solve itself, and while I am proud of the steps we’ve taken in Congress, much work remains in this fight. American lives depend on leaders at both the federal, state, and local levels, and our work is far from being complete. We must remain unified and coordinated in our efforts so that we can continue to fight this battle with the aggression it requires.

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Martha Roby represents Alabama’s Second Congressional District. She lives in Montgomery, Alabama, with her husband Riley and their two children.

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John M. Taylor

“The Informed Southerner”

The University of Alabama Cadets

After Alabama became a State on December 14, 1819, plans were initiated to establish a State University. Tuscaloosa, the State Capitol (1826-1846), was chosen. Architect William Nichols patterned the layout of the University of Alabama (UA) after the University of Virginia, designed by Thomas Jefferson. On April 18, 1831, UA opened its doors, with Reverend Alva Woods serving as President.

UA was initially a civilian institution with many students coming from well-to-do families. These sometimes pampered and undisciplined teenaged students, plus the turbulence of the 1850s, concerned President Landon Garland. He advocated for UA to be converted into a military school to instill discipline. Garland made the recommendation based on his previous faculty experience at Hampden-Sydney, Randolph Macon College, and Washington College. His efforts were ultimately successful (1860).

The University of Alabama instituted a disciplined military education that rivaled the top institutions of the day—Virginia Military Institute, the South Carolina Military Academy (The Arsenal and The Citadel), and the Georgia Military Institute (later used by Sherman to imprison Southern men, women, and children). Known as “The West Point of the South”, UA produced numerous Confederates: “7 generals, 25 colonels, 14 lieutenant colonels, 21 majors, 125 captains, 273 staff...and 294 private soldiers.”

Colonel Caleb Huse, a Massachusetts native who trained soldiers at West Point, handled the training of UA Cadets (Alabama Corps of Cadets, aka ACC). At the start of the War for Southern Independence, upon Jefferson Davis’ request, Huse left UA and joined the Confederate Government, serving as a European agent. Colonel J.T. Murfree, a VMI graduate, succeeded Huse. Several VMI grads were among those who fine-tuned the cadet program.

Early in 1861, the ACC were sent to Montgomery and reviewed by Governor Andrew B. Moore, who wanted to use them as drillmasters. By June 1861 they had trained nine companies. One of their drillmasters was Tuscaloosa-born John Caldwell Calhoun Sanders, a talented soldier who became a brigadier general at twenty-three years of age.

One interesting historical tidbit involves the nickname given to the UA Cadets: “Katyids.” The tails featured on their waist length jackets earned them this unique moniker. Similar to the VMI Cadets, they also received baptism under fire, i.e., they “saw the elephant.”

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John Martin

PAUL NOEL—CORONAVIRUS SAVIOR

After eight months of abusive, criminal, and unconstitutional Coronavirus-related lockdowns, curfews, shutdowns, travel restrictions, social distancing, and mask mandates, the United States is showing very little progress in returning the people back to normal lifestyles. Our governor, Kay Ivey, continues to extend

her oppressions, time after time after time on the eves of their expirations. Governors in other states have done even worse, especially Michigan governor, Gretchen Whitmer, who became so oppressive that a group of angry people attempted to arrest her and try her for treason. Finally, after multiple attempts to abate her tyranny in state courts, the Michigan Supreme Court invalidated her actions.

At no time in the history of the world has the majority of civilized nations been snookered into imposing such massive abuse onto an estimated nine tenths of the world’s population. The result has been catastrophic economic failures, as well as a death toll that is projected to be many times what it otherwise would have been if nothing had been done at all. After eight months of extensions and counting, the goal of recovery is drifting farther and farther away.

Behold, right here in Alabama, in Huntsville, we have a retired nurse with a genuine solution that really works. But unfortunately, very few people seem to be paying attention. His name is PAUL NOEL. From my observations of the crackpot “solutions” the state and local authorities have been concocting, I don’t think that one person in a hundred has even heard of him.

Paul was a registered nurse from the late 1900’s until 2009, when he became a 6 Level 2 research scientist at the University of Alabama at Huntsville (UAH). He retired in 2014. In 2003, he wrote a report for the CIA on SARS (SARS-CoV1) that was followed and quickly wiped out the virus. Paul says that if people will listen to his current proposals and follow them, our COVID-19, which is very similar, will also be gone.

Paul says that our current testing procedures are utterly useless: “The first thing to understand is that we DO NOT HAVE A COVID-19 TEST. We have a Coronavirus test. It finds any coronavirus. Most of which are not at all serious... . The next reality is that the test we use the most RT-PCR can literally detect single virus fragments. This produces many false positives.

“In February in Hong Kong with 10,000 known positive persons, the RT-PCR test done in the nose found only 60% positives.... In the same test doing serum tests, they hit 80%. This is so low a threshold test that it is extremely unlikely that anyone could catch COVID-19 from blood. The only test that hit 100% was the fecal test. Yes, the poop has in the order of 10 Billion to 100 Billion times more virus per unit volume than in the nose! That is your infection source. People pushing airborne transmission have misrepresented this epidemic.... There never has been any evidence of airborne transmission.

“What is going on right now is that the data is so damning against the claims of ‘asymptomatic spreaders’ and ‘airborne spread’ that the WHO and others are fast having to backtrack away from their very bad science and very evil actions.

“Lockdowns have almost 1 billion people on the edge of death due to poverty. This lockdown stuff was the most evil and most awful thing to happen in the history of mankind. It is insane!”

Paul has remained adamant that masks are utterly ineffective. The COVID-19 viruses are 77 times smaller than the pores in the masks, including N-95 masks. If the pores were made any smaller, adequate air flow would be impossible. Even the current masks restrict airflow and are hazardous to our health. Prolonged use can be dangerous and can cause hypoxia in elderly people. Paul has said repeatedly, “Infections are up 300% from using masks.... Masks are a crime against humanity. “

Paul has even graver news regarding social distancing and isolation. Extended isolation weakens immune systems—everybody’s immune system. Separating our immune systems from sources of infection is similar to what happens when muscles are deprived of exercise. Isolated immune systems can literally waste away and put people at much greater risks of life-threatening infections. This has happened to astronauts on the space station after extended missions “with nearly everything of their immune systems failed.”

With continued extensions of social distancing and isolation, the immune systems of entire populations can become weakened. Infections and deaths could mount up into the millions—right here in the USA alone.

Paul says the entire world was already at herd immunity this past February 2020, when we went into lockdown. Then our immune systems began failing.

In May 1863, the cadets were summoned to meet a rumored force of 1500 Union soldiers heading toward Tuscaloosa. Although it was a false alarm, President Garland was encouraged by the cadets’ enthusiastic response. Also, the weak response from Tuscaloosa’s remaining civilian population awakened Garland to the realization the cadets would likely face overwhelming odds in an actual attack.

In July 1864, at the behest of then governor Thomas H. Watts, 54 UA Cadets were part of the force sent to deter Rousseau’s Raid through East Alabama. They made up about 10% of the roughly 500 men who faced 1500 veteran Yankee soldiers at Beasley’s Farm near Chehaw Station (Macon County). Most of the other Confederates were also teenagers from H.C. Lockhart’s Battalion. Nonetheless, they successfully diverted the Federals. In one of life’s true ironies, the UA Cadets helped prevent the almost certain destruction of East Alabama Male College (later Auburn University).

Tuscaloosa had been relatively insulated from the war until early April of 1865. Yankee General James H. Wilson dispatched John T. Croxton and his 1500 veteran cavalry “to Tuscaloosa, to destroy the bridge, factories, mills, university (military school), etc.” On April 3, 1865, roughly 300 UA Cadets were unaware that Union forces were about three miles from the university. They, and a handful of Home Guard (mainly boys and old men) were essentially the only line of defense. As the Yankees approached, the cadets fired several volleys. Croxton wrote: “They (militia and cadets) made several unsuccessful attempts to dislodge us, but failed...”

Overwhelmed by superior numbers, the cadets retreated toward Marion. Federal troops entered Tuscaloosa and proceeded to loot, burn, and pillage. They destroyed Washington Hall, Jefferson Hall, Madison Hall, and Franklin Hall—all named after men revered in the South. They burned the Rotunda and one of the South’s finest libraries. They also destroyed private businesses, warehouses, and factories. The cadets saw the smoke from Hurricane Creek, about eight miles from Tuscaloosa.

It is an abject shame these brave young men (teenagers) have been dishonored by having their plaque removed from the Gorgas Library grounds. The UA Cadets fought to keep their beloved university from being destroyed by a vile enemy. It seems the bravery of the UA Cadets has been replaced with modern cowardice and adherence to Cultural Marxism.

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“Mid February, we were about 92% immune. At the present time the measures we have undertaken have reduced our immunity substantially. Remember this isn’t just immunity to COVID-19 here. It is all of our immunity as the human race! We are starting to see serious problems with a lot of other pathogens due to this. The pressure to lock down even longer is further reducing our immunity. We are fast headed to giving the human race the equivalent of AIDS as a result. Getting out of this mess will not be easy. It involves the loss of a considerable number of people just to get out, and every day we avoid this, the price gets higher! This is a dangerous situation, and it is because most people do not understand their basic defense system.” The value of this inoculation that I have told you about is greater than all of the vaccines mankind has ever made or ever hopes to make.”

The solution is simple and the only practical option. Let the people mingle and go about their daily lives with no restrictions. Yes, some people will die, but the longer we put it off, the greater the death toll becomes. If prolonged for a few more months, it could run into the millions.

Even with repeated and reckless exposure, the CDC has quietly admitted that dying specifically from COVID-19 alone is extremely remote—that only 6% of the 200K who died, actually died of Covid19, and that the specific death toll is less than 10,000. The overwhelming majority of the deaths were associated with other infections and diseases, but they often recorded them as COVID-19 deaths to produce revenue for hospitals and clinics.

Finally, on September 21, the CDC admitted its mistakes and reversed its claim that COVID-19 is airborne. Paul Noel commented: “Maybe they read the science reports. Maybe they got scared that they were going to get hauled into court and sued to death over their lies. I cannot say for sure. Honestly, they deserve to be hauled into court, tried for crimes against humanity and hanged by the neck until dead for their crimes and lies that got so many people killed and did so much economic damage around the world.

“This epidemic will go down in history as the most completely fouled up mismanagement by the CDC epidemic in all history. It is a textbook case of them doing absolutely everything wrong.

“Had the USA dusted off the paper I wrote for the CIA in 2003, you wouldn’t have even heard of COVID-19. There are only 2 diseases in the history of man that were eradicated by man. Smallpox and SARS (SARS-CoV1). I designed the defeat of SARS when everyone thought it would be like many imagined SARS-CoV2 to be. It would already be extinct if they had followed my 2003 advice.... You got this epidemic because you listened to Dr. Fauci, who just as of September 25, 2020, came down with COVID-19 as his masks worked so well! Yup! You guessed it. He wore the mask. HE GOT SICK.

“Now for all the people out there who think I am wrong, you might check the fact that the virus is fecal... with the concentration of the virus in fecal matter about 10 billion to 100 Billion times more than in your mouth and nose secretions. Bluntly, NOBODY is catching COVID-19 from coughs and sneezes.

“SARS (SARS-CoV1) was spreading late 2002 into 2003. In early 2003, as the world started to panic, I took a look at it and said this is simple to deal with, and as an RN, I wrote a report that was taken directly to the leadership of the US CIA. Within 3 weeks, the epidemic was in full collapse because of the measures I said to do. By mid 2004, SARS-CoV1 was extinct, except in lab samples.

“My measures were that effective. If I had the connections in 2019/2020 I had in 2003, you would never have heard from SARS-CoV2. It wouldn’t be here. I keep telling people how to defeat it and they spend great efforts trying to tell me I want to kill people and that I am wrong etc. I don’t want anyone sick. Now with that having been said, it is time to clean up the situation if anyone is listening.

“Here is a simple solution that kills it dead... The water in your toilet (flush toilet) needs to be sufficiently chlorinated to destroy the virus. It used to be... Simply go to the public water supplies and up the chlorine about 6 times of the current US EPA limits which were reduced due to the environmentalist wackos’ war on chlorine and watch the epidemic disappear. Cost so low you will not even see it. There is absolutely no danger. I lived 20 years of my life with those levels. Take off your masks! Wash your hands! Live free and happy... There is no basis for panic or even taking measures against COVID-19 at this time anywhere in the world. The best thing we could do is rip off the masks, which are counterproductive, stop the lockdowns and quit all measure to stop the disease.”

John Sophocleus

THINK

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FELON-HUBBARD-REPUBLICAN: ONE WHO IS A KLEPTOCRAT OR ADVOCATES SERIAL KLEPTOCRACY



Revealing how many found my last column (and FB post) too harsh on an impenitent Michael Gregory Hubbard serving his “indeed justly” earned prison sentence. One journalist stipulated Felon Hubbard’s wrongdoing but asserted himself as more sage than a Lee County jury along with the accomplished, well recognized Jurist, Jacob Walker. Last month’s Alabama Gazette included discussion on how well incumbent Mayors fared across the State being reelected. One of the most revealing observations was from an unopposed long time city councilperson shilling for a Felon-Hubbard-Republican mayor asking for a 5th term to get things done. Perhaps one may argue this is less time in power than duopolist Joe Biden’s 47 years...

This councilperson was ‘bombing’ one city resident’s phone with text in support of this corrupt mayor—i.e., at least in some cities in our nation this mayor and a few councilpersons would be serving prison time as other public servants earned for ‘Gig City’ type redistributions. This resident responded to the shilling councilperson he could not stomach voting for this mayor who’d defended Felon Hubbard at his sentencing for 11 felonies, shunned external audits...to list a couple reasons. The councilperson responded Hubbard only had 5 felony convictions. This is true, after all the money and time devoted by kleptocrats to remove the ones they found most disturbing—esp. to promote ‘economic development’ and other kleptomaniac wealth transfers they wanted out of jeopardy.

To this corrupt councilperson and journalist supporting Felon-Hubbard-Republican efforts to reduce this sentence, my reply is simple—how about evoking a three-time loser law for these FIVE independent and separate felony convictions? Alabama politburo members across our State seem to think a kleptocrat only stealing a dollar (even with the textbook definition of no direct/perceivable self-benefit) from each citizen is OK, it is only buck...pay no attention to the millions of dollars in the aggregate. As a victim of armed robbery, I have more respect for the thief who suffered no illusions of putting a nickel-plated revolver in my face than the Felon-Hubbard-Republicans. In fact, the armed robber stole less from me (or more succinctly the owner of the Shell station monetarily) than what government kleptocrats accomplished that year.

Straight ticket duopoly voters ‘cancelled out’ each other in 2010. It appears we will remain one of the few States who continue this uncompetitive voting

practice. Nonetheless, the last decade has been the BCA Bob Riley Felon-Hubbard-Republican supermajority result. What can one rationally expect in the decades to come? What’s to be done about the continued saga of Mike Hubbard’s felonies (including all the Bob & Mike coconspirators) and his lack of apologies to the defrauded citizens of Alabama? Just because they unreported or ignored doesn’t attenuate the harm. All avenues of escape from incarceration were exhausted, costing taxpayers, millions of our hard earned dollars. Hubbard’s ‘better and holier than thou’ attitude has worn paper-thin

on the honest, productive folks in this State.

So how did Hubbard evade prison for over four years? His sentences would’ve concluded by now...currently Felon Hubbard sits in the Lee County Jail under the watchful eye of the I LIKE MIKE champion, Sheriff Jay Jones. To those who read last month’s column, again I type—please keep Sheriff Jones in prayer—a worthy soul. We await the Sheriff’s explanation on Hubbard’s return to the home base of his crimes. Sadly, the State Republican Party goes further adrift from popular sentiment. They are most responsible for this new combined phrase embarrassingly describing our current corrupt state ... Felon-Hubbard- Republican. Supporting evidence is there for all to witness if they want; so many in this party trying to cover for him or elected Republicans begging for leniency. Shall this be the ongoing norm of the honesty deficient Republican Party of Alabama? Alabama lags in entirely too many categories, but those in know understand the Republicans now own it; Felon Hubbard (R) has done much damage to the future of our State and I’m afraid decades will pass before enough open their eyes see the totality of Felon-Hubbard-Republican greed.

In closing, I observe politics growing more inflamed in some of our most corrupt counties. Two county commission watchers I know have been jailed this last month. Commissioners feel so insulated they can’t comprehend crass nomenclature for property assessments as “love letters” is insulting to decent, productive citizens or, worse still, using the extracted tax money to spend even more on mask mandates in Lee County. In Macon County, where some still remember a corrupt House Rep. working the jury for Felon-Hubbard-Republicans kills hope for improvement. These corrupt Commissioners and State legislators are doing all they can to kill any inquiry into following process and county policies, transparency and accountability.

2020 ELECTION: THE ROBE-SHORT FUSE

As we turn 3rd base, heading for home during this 2020 election cycle, I am grappling about what to discuss in this article, because there is a trojan horse, multi-layered choreographed theatre unleashed on America. It is like lighting the fuse on a pack of firecrackers and all at once there are these uncontrollable, loud, disruptive, unsettling and untraceable mental gymnastics dizzily swirling. All of this is sourced back to the Democrats. I have entitled this article, The Robe and Short Fuse.

I am struck with this thought, how can anyone who loves God, their family and this country find any plausible notion, sound reasoning and being honest with themselves vote Democrat. Voting Democrat is like being a wireless remote device that is turned on and off by the mother ship, because facts, reasoning and truth is not on the side of the DNC. The DNC has now folded and caved in on some of the wildest, insane and ludicrous 2020 issues that guarantee us becoming like Cuba, Venezuela and slaves to China. Let’s name a few!

Planning, financing and executing the fraudulent Russian-Trump saga for years is a starter. Misleading America and maligning a good man like Kavanaugh during the judicial confirmation was heinous. Making a nothing burger Ukraine phone call, with an invisible whistleblower, based on hearsay and then elevating it to an unsuccessful and soundly rejected impeachment swindle. Cheering on \$550 million in Planned Parenthood taxpayer funding and jubilantly celebrating abortion up to and after the live birth of an innocent baby is abhorrently sick. Protecting and cheerleading China, who launched a biological warfare attack (COVID-19) on the world and publicly wishing the virus would kill Trump is nauseating. And now we have firm evidence that Hillary Clinton, deflecting from her 2016 email scandal, planned, financed and executed the fraudulent treasonist Russian assault on President Trump. This act should criminally implicate the highest level of a Democrat presidency including Obama, Biden, Susan Rice (NSA), Brennan (CIA), Clapper (NIA), Sally Yates (DOJ) and Comey (FBI). Now they want to fund a baseless \$10 Trillion Green New Deal, defund police and lock churches down, while cities are being burned by Democrat backed thugs. Still thinking about voting Democrat?

As you look at history, the fierce general election battle for president is never about who lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue for 4 years; it is about who is appointing the federal judiciary, including the U.S. Supreme Court. The loudest and most powerful Democrat lobby in Washington is Planned Parenthood, which gets \$550 million in taxpayer funds, and they illegally spend \$25 - \$50 million every election cycle electing Democrats. In every general election presidential debate, abortion and Roe vs. Wade takes center stage. It is all about money, friends, taking the lives of innocent unborn children, not their sadistic political spins like reproductive freedom and choice. How can you possibly elevate choice over human life, there is NO Choice. The Democrats have used the

federal courts for decades, advocating judicial activism, legislating and making new law (legal precedence) from the bench on their wild and contentious issues unable to pass in congress. The Democrats, at all cost permanently destroy lives desperate to keep the courts. It is all about the robe!

The Brett Kavanaugh Judiciary Committee hearings were nothing short of dreadful and scandalous. The Democrats in their distressed and feverish attempt to control the courts fabricated a well-choreographed fiction, at best kangaroo court against a very good man. This article was written after Amy Coney Barrett was appointed by Trump to the U.S. Supreme Court, but before the hearing, which will be Kavanaugh 2.0.

Democrats now want to use the courts to make DC and Puerto Rico as states, producing 4 more Democrat U.S. Senators. They also want to prove in court that the long-standing Electoral College is unconstitutional. There is also a move afoot to pack the Supreme Court with 2 to 4 new judicial activist members. Thus, unleashed Democrat control for decades and it is all about powerful and personal enrichment. Remember Hunter Biden, Ukraine and China and Joe Biden’s brother James, multiplied millions over and over.

Republicans greatly differ than Democrats as to what we want on the bench. We want strict constructionist and constitutional originalist on the bench; apply the constitution and not making new law from the bench. We want our justices when they put on that black robe to separate themselves from their families, political parties, lobbyist and also personal opinions on issues and apply constitutional principles to the case; we do not want fabrications. I have found down through the years that constitutional rights, religious liberties, all freedoms and honest enterprises are very safe when a constitutional originalist is on the bench. Amy Coney Barrett has earned that noble title.

In villages and hamlets throughout Europe and in early America, the bell ringing in the town church tower sounded off to call the faithful to worship, public meetings and also served as an alarm. The shofar horn (Ram Horn) was used by the children of Israel to sound an alarm announcing danger to the masses.

After reading this article, I trust you have a short fuse. On our watch we have allowed these folks, who hate America and her greatness, to kill, steal, destroy and enrich themselves, while holding onto their thrones. Trump has been dealing with this 24-7, 365 days a year for 4 years, NO WONDER his fuse was short at the debate with Biden. When is enough, enough? I know my fuse is short and I trust you are with me.

Friends, in the strongest possible terms, our fuses should be short, all of us need to be ringing the bell with one hand, blowing the shofar horn with the other, compelling our families, friends, coworkers and neighbors to get the facts and VOTE REPUBLICAN. Our country is depending on you.

All roads used to lead to Rome, now my friends, all roads lead to the ROBE!



John W. Giles

The Alabama Gazette wants to promote local businesses! We want to help network with consumers to encourage money to be spent locally this holiday season. We know that the Pandemic will continue to sway people to shop online, so we are here, willing to help publicize that your business can compete with Internet sales.

Let us help you! Contact us today as we continue to offer special advertising rates at great prices to be included in the next issue of *The Alabama Gazette!* We look forward to helping you!

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Daniel Sutter

THE PANDEMIC OR THE LOCKDOWN

COVID-19 has killed over 200,000 Americans while policies to stem the virus’ spread have caused enormous economic and societal harm. Any comparison must use a common metric, and economics uses dollars, even for human lives. No one can avoid placing a dollar value on saving lives; always choosing safety just places an infinite dollar value on life. Our only option is whether to evaluate tradeoffs.

Economists use the value of a statistical life (VSL) for policies regulating risk. The method uses the many choices people make in markets involving risks, like taking risky jobs. The VSL ensures that government decisions resemble our personal decisions.

Statistical lives are when the identity of the persons whose lives may be saved is unknown. Or as Nobel Prize winning economist Thomas Schelling wrote, when “The life you save may be your own.” An estimated 90 million Americans are in COVID-19 high-risk categories, so the pandemic involves statistical risk.

A standard value for a statistical life, based on dozens of economic studies, is \$10 million. People never make trades involving millions of dollars because the risks examined are small.

We can use years of life when the people at risk are younger or older than average. This approach uses expected years of life remaining at different ages. For example, life expectation is 69.2 years at age 10 and 9.2 years at 80, so the death of a child, which many people find particularly tragic, contributes more years of life lost. A standard value for a year of life is \$300,000.

The COVID Tracker website reports 201,000 deaths through October 4 for a value of \$2 trillion using the VSL. If instead we use statistical years of life (over 75 percent of deaths are among persons over age 65), the deaths have cost 2.7 million years of life, valued at \$800 billion. We may wish to reduce this further due to COVID-19 co-morbidities. Many persons dying from COVID are already in poor health; for instance, an 80-year-old COVID-19 victim might only 3 years of life remaining, not the average of 9 years.

COVID-19 has resulted in over 400,000 hospitalizations. Estimates of the cost of hospitalizations range from \$14,000 to \$72,000. The higher figure yields a hospitalization cost of \$30 billion. Illnesses not involving hospitalization have

modest medical costs. For these plus the millions quarantining due to contact with COVID patients, the major cost is missed work time.

Now let’s consider the policy measures. Government policies have led to the sharpest contraction on record. Unemployment reached almost 15 percent in April and is still more than double February’s rate and we have lost \$650 billion in GDP.

The economic impact exceeds lost GDP because of consumer surplus, or the value people receive from consumption beyond the amount paid. Sports, entertainment, and recreation, all badly disrupted by the lockdown, generate high ratios of consumer surplus to expenditure. Lost consumer surplus almost certainly exceeds \$200 billion.

For most children the 2019-20 school year ended in March and many schools offered little online instruction. Working parents had to accommodate children not in school, increasing this impact. Expenditures for the lost quarter of the year provide one way to value the school disruption. Public schools enrol 50 million children and spend over \$12,000 per student nationally, for a \$150 billion loss from education.

Americans’ mental health has suffered enormously in 2020. Anxiety, depression and calls to suicide help lines are up sharply. News reports attribute numerous suicides and overdoses to COVID stress. The virus and the pandemic together, I think, have produced the mental health costs.

The costs of the pandemic and lockdown almost surely each exceed \$1 trillion. What does this imply for a potential second lockdown? Our initial policy response was almost surely excessive; masks and social distancing have allowed businesses to reopen without overwhelming hospitals. We can contain the virus without the enormous costs to date.

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



Justice Will Sellers

Air Superiority Then; Space Superiority Now— The Battle of Britain 80 Years Hence

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Eighty years ago this week, hurricane season ended when the Royal Air Force won the Battle of Britain by stopping the Nazi war machine at the edge of the English Channel. Before the summer of 1940, Hitler had derided Great Britain as a nation of shopkeepers. Göring’s seemingly superior Luftwaffe pilots were outdone by the young British RAF, aided by friendly forces—not the least of which was a squadron of Polish pilots. They had shown the world that the Nazi juggernaut could be countered through perseverance, aided by the novel design of quick and lethal airplanes: the spitfire and hurricane.

Churchill named this battle when he declared after Dunkirk that with the conclusion of the Battle of France, the Battle of Britain would begin. Unlike past battles, the critical objective was as amorphous as it was strategic: the achievement of air superiority. It was a testament to the fact that warfare had changed forever, tilting the scales in favor of technology over brute strength.

Even Hitler and his retinue of yes-men knew that subjugating Britain would require a risky and complex invasion. The English Channel, though relatively narrow at some points, served as a giant moat that required amphibious landings on slow-moving vessels, which would be vulnerable to attack from above. Nazi control of the air would be the key to a successful invasion. With proper preparations for a seaborne invasion many months out, Göring pushed for an air campaign, and Hitler approved.

The Luftwaffe’s first objective was to destroy RAF airfields, but Luftwaffe planes were not designed for this mission, and their pilots—though experienced—were no match for the RAF’s pilots in spitfires and hurricanes. These planes had unmatched maneuverability, and home-field advantage played an equally important role. The British had a superior early warning radar system that enabled them to plot the likely flight path of incoming enemies and to scramble their gassed and fully loaded planes efficiently. Over Britain, each downed German represented not only a lost airplane but also a lost pilot. Maintaining air superiority was a fight for survival, and the British pilots knew that the fate of freedom for their island, and perhaps for civilization, rested on their shoulders. They turned the tide of the war in fighting, as Churchill noted, “undaunted by the odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger.”

While the concept of air superiority was initially academic, the Battle of Britain proved it critical to modern military success. Since then, the need for air superiority has remained unquestioned. A country might not win with air superiority, but failure was guaranteed without it. The use of airpower to master the skies has been the first order of business in every major conflict since World War II. Even today, with the development of defensive missile shields and the capability of intercepting incoming aircraft and missiles, air superiority is and will remain a critical objective in any conflict. But air superiority is starting to give way to space superiority.

As we become more and more dependent on satellites, and as human activity in space becomes less of a novelty, controlling space will be critical not only for commercial and economic success, but also for global stability and the defense of our nation. The nation that controls space will control the destiny of the entire world. To be dominant in space is to be dominant period, and the dominating nation will have the final say over many aspects of our lives.

Those who would object to the militarization of space do not understand, or refuse to see, today’s reality. The activities of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in space are similar to those of the nations who sought to control the sea in the 19th century and the air in the 20th century. At present, these activities are largely unchecked by other nations and international organizations.

There was a time when the United Nations was capable of limiting space to peaceful means. Similar to the control of nuclear weapons, the United Nations provided a means of achieving an international consensus that limiting weapons in space was beneficial for all nations. But, as with any large organization attempting to achieve consensus among diverse groups, the only real agreement among nations became the lowest common denominator. Thus, UN limits on

the militarization of space are limited, weak, and ineffective.

This void of international leadership is being filled by a resurgent Communist China, intent on achieving world domination—a long-term national goal. With few international limitations, the CCP is seeking space superiority to impose its ideas on the world and thereby supplant civilization’s shared liberal principles. The UN has been aggressively helpless or simply unable to check China’s dreams of space superiority. While the CCP has yet to obtain the domination it seeks, it is clearly on track with covert military missions, like developing its own GPS system that would aid in obtaining space superiority.

The United States cannot let this happen. Students of history know that many of the great and terrible military conflicts could have been prevented or mitigated with proper foresight and preparation. Unless the United States acts soon to check CCP aggression in space, we may have extremely limited choices in the future.

Our new Space Force must explain the seriousness of this threat and develop strategic plans to protect space from the domination of any one country. This grand effort will require allies who not only understand the threat, but who are financially able to join with the United States to dominate space for peaceful purposes. The free world’s shared cultural and civic traditions could form the basis for ensuring that space can never be dominated by one country.

During World War I and in the following decades, Churchill stressed the importance of developing radar, the tank, and the airplane. Without these developments, the Battle of Britain would have ended much differently. As we



Photo: Battle of Britain, *historynet.com*

celebrate the 80th anniversary of victory at the Battle of Britain, and as we understand the strategic necessity of air superiority in protecting the island nation from foreign invasion, we should recognize the strategic necessity of space superiority today.

The United States and her friends cannot allow a country that is utterly opposed to freedom to control space and, in turn, Earth. The free world must develop space first and create enforceable laws to allow space to be an extension of the liberty we currently enjoy. In order to do that, we must overhaul our outdated legal regime concerning the development and deployment of space technologies, support the private development of space properly, and remove the bureaucratic barriers hindering important breakthroughs. We must not surrender space to totalitarians who would use it to subjugate free peoples around the globe. If we heed the call to action and engage in this new endeavor, we can ensure that the limitless possibilities of space are secured for future generations.

#

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- State, "I want Part B coverage to begin (MM/YY)" in the remarks section of the CMS-40B form or online application.
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 - Income tax returns that show health insurance premiums paid.
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 - Pay stubs that reflect health insurance premium deductions.
 - Health insurance cards with a policy effective date.
 - Explanations of benefits paid by the GHP or LGHP.
 - Statements or receipts that reflect payment of health insurance premiums.
- Please let your friends and loved ones know about this online, mail, or fax option.

Veterans and Active Duty Military Members can Count on Social Security

Every year on Veterans Day, we honor the people who risk their lives to protect our country. Our disability program is an important part of our obligation to wounded warriors and their families. Social Security is an important resource for military members who return home with injuries. If you know a wounded veteran, please let them know about our Wounded Warriors webpage. You can find it at www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors.

The Wounded Warriors webpage answers many commonly asked questions, and shares other useful information about disability benefits, including how veterans can receive expedited processing of their Social Security disability claims. Benefits available through Social Security are different from those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application. We apply our expedited process for military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs.

Even active duty military who continue to receive pay while in a hospital or on medical leave should consider applying for disability benefits if they're unable to work due to a disabling condition. Active duty status and receipt of military pay doesn't necessarily prevent payment of Social Security disability benefits. Although a person can't receive Social Security disability benefits while engaging in substantial work for pay or profit, receipt of military payments should never stop someone from applying for disability benefits.

We honor veterans and active duty members of the military every day by giving them the respect they deserve. Let these heroes know they can count on us when they need us most. They earned these benefits. Our webpages are easy to share on social media and by email with your friends and family. Please consider passing this information along to someone who may need it.

How to Replace a Missing Social Security Card Online



If you need to replace your lost or misplaced Social Security card, our online application makes getting a replacement card easier than ever. Requesting a card replacement online is available if you live in the District of Columbia or one of the 45 states that can verify state ID information for us. If you're only requesting a replacement card and you're making no changes, you may

be able to use our free online service.

All you need to do is create a personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount and meet certain requirements. Opening a personal

my Social Security account is easy, convenient, and secure. We protect your information by using strict identity verification and security features. Once you have a personal account, simply follow the instructions to request a replacement Social Security card.

You can apply for a replacement card online, if you meet all of the following requirements:

- Are a U. S. citizen age 18 or older with a U.S. mailing address (this includes APO, FPO, and DPO addresses).
- Are not requesting any changes to your card (including a name change).
- Have a valid driver's license or state-issued identification card.

In many cases, you may not need a replacement card; often, simply knowing your Social Security number is enough.

But if you do need a replacement card, please visit our website at www.ssa.gov/ssnumber to find out if you can take advantage of this convenient online service.

Social Security Spouses' Benefits Explained

Understanding how your future retirement might affect your spouse is important. Here are a few things to remember when you're planning for your retirement. Your spouse's benefit amount could be up to 50 percent of your full retirement age benefit amount. If you qualify for a benefit from your own work history and a spouse's record, we always pay your own benefit first. You cannot receive spouse's benefits unless your spouse is receiving their retirement benefits (except for divorced spouses).

If you took your reduced retirement first while waiting for your spouse to reach retirement age, your own retirement portion remains reduced. When you add spouse's benefits later, the total retirement and spouses benefit together will total less than 50 percent of the worker's amount. You can find out more about this at www.ssa.gov/OACT/quickcalc/spouse.html.

If your spouse's retirement benefit is higher than your retirement benefit, and he or she chooses to take reduced benefits and dies first, your survivor benefit will be reduced, but may be higher than what your spouse received.

If your deceased spouse started receiving reduced retirement benefits before their full retirement age, a special rule called the retirement insurance

benefit limit may apply to you. The retirement insurance benefit limit is the maximum survivor benefit you may receive. Generally, the limit is the higher of:

- The reduced monthly retirement benefit the deceased spouse would have been entitled to if they had lived, or
- 82.5 percent of the unreduced deceased spouse's monthly benefit if they had started receiving benefits at their full retirement age (rather than choosing to receive a reduced retirement benefit early).

Knowing about these benefits can help you plan your financial future. Access a wealth of useful information and use our benefits planners at www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement.

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

*Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist,
 can be reached by e-mail at kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov*

MACOA works to keep serving seniors safely during Covid-19.

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Promotions & Awards Ceremony ~ October 30, 2020



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Cunningham**



**Chief Deputy
Kevin J. Murphy**



*Deputy of the Quarter
- Deputy Ratsch
(right)*

*Promotion Ceremony
for Corporal Tarver
(left)*



*Promotion Ceremony for
Corporal Krzeminski
(above)*

*Civilian of the
Quarter - Ms. D.
Jackson (right)*



SWAT Pinning Ceremony



*SWAT Pinning Ceremony
for Sgt. Alford*

*SWAT Pinning Ceremony for Deputy
Belsterling - left - along with Sheriff
Cunningham and Lt. Pollard*



SANITIZE AND STAY ALIVE!

Anyone entering a County building is required to wear a mask or face covering, have their temperature checked, and practice social distancing.



**We appreciate your
patience during these
stressful times.
STAY SAFE!**

Social Media

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Sheriff Joe Sedinger

Support for Marquisha Jones



The *Alabama Gazette* staff recently met this beautiful young lady, and we ask that you consider supporting her as she seeks a college education. We are thankful that she didn't become another death statistic and has a chance to live a productive life!

My name is Marquisha Jones, and on June 28, 2015, my life changed forever while visiting my aunt. A bullet came through her wall and paralyzed me. Adjusting to my new life has been hard for my family and me. During this time of adjustment, I've had no social experience. Because I can't get up to go as normal people would I have to have a particular type of vehicle because I'm in a wheelchair. I've missed out on many things like traveling with family, going to school events, spending holidays with family, etc. My family and I have looked into Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles, but they're costly, and we can't afford one, so we lost hope in ever getting one. I hope that someone can help me with this van to get out of the house and spend time with my family. I'm looking forward to starting college soon, and have needs for that, as well. I appreciate all of the support I have received!

Here are links to my Story: <https://www.wsfa.com/story/29466617/family-at-bedside-of-montgomery-teen-paralyzed-by-stray-bullet/>

<https://www.wsfa.com/story/30378827/new-home-new-norm-for-teen-paralyzed-by-stray-bullet/>

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Another Grim Milestone as Homicides Continue to Rise

Two-year-old toddler victim is Montgomery's 63rd Homicide

A horrible attack against an infant led to the 63th Montgomery homicide in Montgomery. Homicide is simply one human taking the life of another. The *Gazette* does not limit homicide cases as defined by the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting guidelines. Nor is this report limited to the City limits, instead it includes the entire County. This overall number includes two County deaths, one in Ramer (May 20) and the other in Grady (Apr 25). The tally also includes one or more vehicular deaths (Mar 1, July 1 and Sep 29), a stabbing (Apr 14) and beatings (April 12) and (Oct 10). An MPD employee not on duty was murdered in a domestic case (July 6). Not included is the incident where the MPD returned fire and killed a man who had shot and killed another person (Mar 8). Nor is an incident on Sep 29 when law enforcement discovered a body but no cause of death has been reported at time of publication. A double homicide where both victims were teenagers occurred off of Hwy 231 below the Southern Blvd (Aug 4). Death by other means other than gunfire is identified.

Art Parker, sports writer for the *Montgomery Independent* succumbed to injuries on Nov 1, from a car wreck on Sept 29 where two vehicles were allegedly drag racing down Zelda Road when one crossed the lane and ran head on into Art Parker's automobile.

The *Gazette* extends our sympathy to family and friends of Art, an excellent writer and long-time employee of the *Independent*.

For full list, please refer to the September 2020 Issue of the *Gazette*

Sept 7	3200 blk of Harrison Rd. (shot Sept. 5)
Sept 8	4700 blk of Court St.
Sept 15	800 blk of Hutchinson St.
Sept 20	100 blk Coliseum Blvd.
Sept 26	Zelda Rd. / Gatsby Dr. (vehicle)
Sept 27	3400 blk of Mobile Hwy.
Sept 29	4100 blk of Carmichael Rd.
Oct 2	2200 blk of Cherry Street
Oct 4	2700 blk of Whispering Pine Dr.
Oct 8	3000 blk of Kelly Cir.
Oct 10	2-year-old child (beaten & assaulted)
Oct 14	4700 Park Town Way
Oct 16	5900 blk of Monticelle Dr. (during attempted robbery-self-defense)
Oct 25	Court St./Huntley Dr.
Nov 1	Art Parker, sports writer, Montgomery Independent (hit head-on by two vehicles allegedly drag racing on Zelda Rd)

Total for 2020 so far thru November **68**

Sources: www.gunviolencearchive.org, www.crimemapping.com,
www.montgomeryadvertiser.com

Stats provided by Alabama Gazette staff and are from the listed Sources,
This information is not provided by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Buddy Watch Walk Takes a Lunch Break with the Alabama Gazette & Other Veterans



Participants in the **Buddy Watch Walk**, a portion of which was held in Montgomery, AL, October 29, gathered for a luncheon and program at the offices of the *Alabama Gazette* on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 28. Sam Adams, co-owner of the *Gazette*, and the staff opened the office doors with light lunch consisting of Chick-Fil-A and Chappy's Deli. This was a simple way to honor what this amazing group is doing for Veterans and other Americans facing situations such as domestic violence, breast cancer, and the like.

Male and female veterans and representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Central-East Alabama Chapter of the American Red Cross participated, along with several VFW members.

Buddy Watch Walk began as one man's passion to bring awareness to the issues that veterans face every day that can ultimately lead them to giving up. It has now become the mission of four men: **John Ring, Jimmy Mathews, Jason Hanner, and Paco Baltazar**, all of whom joined at different stages of the walk begun by Ring in November 2019. They are working to bridge the gap between the civilian and military worlds and raise awareness of veteran issues such as mental health, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), homelessness, unemployment, Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), addiction, and suicide. Veterans need to know that they have not been forgotten.

Buddy Watch Walk East kicked off on the first anniversary of Buddy Watch Walk – Pier to Pier, October 1, 2020, at the War Memorial Building in



John Ring (above) explains to the lunch group how his journey started and has unfolded in the past year. Jason Hanner (standing above) joined John in Texas during his original trek across the country.

Jackson, Mississippi. In October 2019, John began the walk and was soon joined by Jimmy in Pearl, Miss., Jason in El Paso, TX, Eli Hawkins in Tucson, AZ, and Paco in Phoenix, AZ. The group of service members and Veterans walked nearly 2,500 miles from Tybee Island, GA, to Santa Monica Pier, CA, ending their first journey on July 14, 2020.

On October 1, 2020, John, Jimmy, Jason, and Paco headed east from Pearl, MS, back to Tybee Island, GA. This walk is 601 miles, and they plan to arrive on December 3. Jimmy Mathews has committed to complete the entire trek across the United States since joined John on the original walk partway through the journey.

On March 25, 2022, they're planning a walk from Normandy, France to Berlin, Germany for our WWII Veterans. More information can be found at the website: <https://www.buddywatchwalk.com>.

We appreciate the sacrifices this group is making for our Veterans!



Male and female veterans and representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Central-East Alabama Chapter of the American Red Cross participated, along with several VFW members, joined those participating in the Buddy Watch Walk East journey at the office of the Alabama Gazette for a relaxing and informative light lunch.



After the October 31st walk, Jimmy and John have walked 2,345 miles side by side. John proudly states, "It has truly been an honor having him with me on this mission of helping our brothers and sisters."

October 31st, the Buddy Watch Walk group arrived in historic Tuskegee – Home of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Gazette Celebrates its 21st Anniversary in Partnership with That's My Dog / That's My Child



After a fun day of celebrating the Gazette's anniversary and distributing That's My Dog sack lunches to the public, Sam Adams, co-owner of the Gazette, presented Charles Lee, founder of That's My Child with a check for \$1,000 to help continue his work with youth in this city.

Alabama Gazette Publishing celebrated its 21st Anniversary on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Loretta Grant founded the newspaper in 2000 as the "People's Paper." It is dedicated to God, Family and Country, and stands in the gap where other print media shies away from telling it like it is. Unfortunately, due to a family illness, Mrs. Grant was unable to attend this year's celebration of the newspaper she truly loves.

The Coronavirus has forced us to find a new normal when it comes to large gatherings. It was no different for this anniversary, as the standard Open House became a drive-through with the help of **That's My Dog** under the leadership of Charles Lee, its founder. During lunch, staff of the *Gazette* and That's My Dog distributed more than 100 sack lunches to anyone who drove by or walked up, and staff also carried lunches to local businesses and first responders. Any remaining sack lunches were donated to MACOA.



Gazette contributors (left to right) John Taylor, John John Sophocleus and Dr. Martha Poole-Simmons pictured with Hope Yates Scarborough, Frmr. Sen. John Rice, and Bob Wieland who all came out to join the celebration!

This day was only made possible by the *Alabama Gazette's* partnership with That's My Dog, a local nonprofit organization supporting the teens of this city through its program, **That's My Child**. That's My Dog provided the hotdogs and condiments, while the Alabama Gazette provided the drinks and moon pies. Charles Lee set up a loudspeaker and music to draw attention to the day's festivities. The day was beautiful and the weather cooperated in these joint efforts.

At the end of the afternoon, Sam Adams, co-owner of the Alabama Gazette, presented That's My Child with a check for \$1,000, in support of all the work Mr. Lee and his staff continued to do for the youth of this city.



That's My Dog served sack lunches featuring its delicious hotdogs. This dining experience is truly unique as it supports **That's My Child**, America's first teen-operated restaurant. Every meal purchased is a donation to That's My Child in support of its ongoing efforts to prepare today's teens to enter the workforce.

Check out That's My Dog and That's My Child at 2414 Lower Wetumpka Rd, Montgomery, AL 36110. They are more than just hotdogs!



Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage

With the gracious forcefulness of a true Southern lady, **Bobbie Ames** confronts us with our current societal dilemma, traces its development, reminds us of our compelling history at God's Hand, and leads us toward the solution to the recovery of America's great heritage. This overview of four hundred years of American spiritual struggle and victory should grace every home and educational institution, to read and re-read for decades to come.

<https://www.nordskogpublishing.com/product/land-that-i-love/>



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Soul Searching

Respect and Civility

Where Have They Gone? *Part Two*

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” - James, James 1:19

No. The problem in our country right now isn't that we disagree. The problem is that we disagree most disagreeably! In our cancel culture, some people want to cancel us out if we disagree with them. Strip us of any opinion or belief that doesn't line up with theirs. Destroy any idea that doesn't line up with their opinion.

The most powerful affirmation you can offer someone during the “heat of the moment” is to “stay in it” when they know most everyone else holding your

Blessings,
Lester Spencer, Lead Pastor, Saint James Church

P.S. If this article was helpful to you, check out last months Part One of this series on Respect. Go to www.alabamagazette.com.

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Eastmont Baptist Church of Montgomery Welcomes New Senior Pastor

“We are thankful for Pastor Frank’s passion for teaching God’s word, as well as his heart for missions and the local church body,” said Brian Key, chairman, Eastmont Pastor Search Committee. “The Eastmont family is looking forward to Frank building on the strong foundation built by other ministers at Eastmont.”

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve Eastmont and the River Region area," said Frank Bowling. "Gina and I are convinced the church of the 21st century must seek to make disciples whose lives are being transformed by the power of the Gospel rather than the therapeutic influences of our day."

Frank and his wife, Gina, have been married for 23 years and have three children, Emma (16), Eliza (13), and Joseph (6).



Honoring Our Heroes

By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Gerald Hopson Thompson: Age 93



Gerald Hopson Thompson served in the United States Navy for 13 months during WWII, and his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was postal officer and anti-aircraft gunner. His awards include: Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

Thompson was born August 2, 1927, at Titus, AL, a rural area of Elmore County, to his parents, Ocie Lee Thompson and Clara Elsie Snider Thompson. He was reared there and graduated from Wetumpka High School in 1945, and shortly afterwards, he joined the U.S. Navy June 22, 1945, at the age of 17. Although he had an opportunity to join the V-12 Navy College Training Program, he decided not to pursue training to become an officer because of the high casualty rates of some Navy and Marine officers. Instead, he reported as an enlisted man for Basic Training for the invasion of Japan at the U.S. Naval Training Center at Bainbridge, MD. He rode by train to Port Charlotte, VA, and boarded the USS Albemarle, a tender for seaplanes. Although the Albemarle had just received repairs and alterations to fit her out for duty in the Pacific, the Albemarle was in the midst of this availability when the Pacific War ended in mid-August 1945. The Japanese capitulation suspended the work; and soon thereafter, the orders to the Pacific to tend seaplanes were cancelled. Shortly thereafter, however, the Albemarle underwent alterations of a different kind, which were to fit her out for different duty. With repairs carried out to the ventilation and berthing arrangements, the seaplane tender departed Norfolk on September 25th with 2,000 Navy replacements embarked bound for the Canal Zone, and Thompson was aboard. The ship soon reported for duty as a transport under the Naval Transport Service. The Albemarle cleared Coco Solo, Panama, for Pearl Harbor, but while transiting the Panama Canal, the ship suffered damage to her port screw or propeller. Reduced to proceeding with a single propeller, the seaplane tender put into San Francisco for repairs.



After arriving at Goat Island at San Francisco, Thompson was assigned to an Army transport ship, the USS General John Pope, sailing for Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. While in transit, atomic bombs were dropped on Japan resulting in its surrender. He arrived at the Philippines in an area where the crew had to sleep in tents, and he was supposed to be assigned to work in the horrendous task of picking up corpses of Japanese. Instead, he was soon assigned to be a postal officer in the Philippines fleet post office where Quonset huts were provided for quarters. He had an opportunity to sign up for duty at Bikini Atoll, a coral reef in the Marshall Islands where the USA planned to continue testing atomic bombs. He turned down that assignment, and this proved to be fortunate for his health's sake because many service personnel who served there many years later developed cancer after being exposed to radiation at the Atoll. Thompson next served on the USS Talladega, a Haskell-class attack transport, and sailed back to America arriving at the Naval Station Alameda in San Francisco Bay. While there, he assisted in decommissioning two aircraft carriers, the light aircraft carriers, USS Belleau Wood and USS San Jacinto. Thompson's military service ended when he arrived by a slow

train across the nation to Memphis, TN, where he was honorably discharged July 29, 1946 as Seaman First Class.

After Thompson's discharge, he worked at a gas station with a brother-in-law for about one year followed by working with the National Biscuit Company as a shipping and receiving clerk for three years, as a salesman with the Interstate Life Insurance Company for five years collecting debit and selling insurance and becoming the youngest staff manager ever employed with it, as a salesman with Richmond Life Insurance Company for one year and as owner of the T&A. Insurance Company for less than one year. Thompson then worked in the AL Department of Industrial Relations for 29 years beginning as an interviewer and advancing to Supervisor, Adjudicator and Chief of Benefit Operations retiring in 1990.

Thompson and his wife, Elizabeth Oden Ellis Thompson, were married 58 years before she passed, and they had two sons. Since retirement, he was an active member of St. James United Methodist Church where he served as the president of the Couples Sunday School Class, the Men's Club and a member of the Administrative Board. Then at First United Methodist Church, he has served as chairman of the Finance Committee of the Towers Sunday School Class. In addition, since 1993, he has provided service to church members one day a week in the Church's Fix It Shop where he repairs anything that needs it such as broken furniture and lamps. He has also served as a greeter for 14 years.



Thompson has held membership and provided leadership and service not only in military veterans' organizations but also for civic groups. He has served on the Board of Retired Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P) of the Montgomery Area Council on Aging for 32 years, treasurer and manager of the Credit Union of Industrial Relations for 18 years, president of Capital City Lions Club and the Montgomery Lion Club, mentor and charter president of the Montgomery downtown Toastmaster's Club, president of the Exchange Club, trustee of Post 96 Veterans of Foreign Wars, member of the American Legion Post #2, member of the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries of Central AL, twice as a member of the AL Silver Haired Legislature, area president of the AL State Employees Association, president of the Alabama International Employment Security Association, member of Board of Directors International Employment Security Association, secretary and team member of the Service Corps Retired Employees (SCORE) for six years and AL coordinator for Citizens Representative Program for the AL AARP for four years.

Thompson's conclusions about military service are, "I became a man. I learned the importance of discipline and working together. I learned to select my friends carefully. I learned that there are a lot folks that you can't depend on. I realized that I was not cut out to be a military person. I thought that war, death and killing were awful and horrible. It was not what God intended. I wanted no part in it because I saw the destruction and horrors. When I enlisted, I was wanting to go to avenge the Japanese and what they did to us. Now I just don't see any need for war. We can prevent any future wars by being strong and more powerful than any other nation. I feel like we have an exceptional country, and it is the most important country placed on the earth."

Colonel Bryan D. Strickland: Age 81



Degree from Auburn University at Montgomery. His awards and decorations include: Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with eleven oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Col Strickland was born in Birmingham, AL, November 12, 1938, to his parents, J. B. and Julia Strickland where he was reared and graduated from Shades Valley High School in 1957. He received a B.S. Degree in Commerce and Business Administration from the University of Alabama in 1962, and he was commissioned as a distinguished military graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps and entered active duty in May 1962. He won his pilot wings in June 1963 after completing pilot training at Laredo Air Force Base, Texas.

After attending pilot instructor training at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Col Strickland was an instructor pilot in the T-33 and T-37 aircraft at Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Alabama, from October 1963 to March 1967. From March to September 1967, he qualified as an aircraft commander in the F-4D aircraft at George Air Force Base, California, and was subsequently assigned to Ubon Air Base, Thailand, where he flew 141 combat missions in the F-4D from November 1967 to August 1968 over North Vietnam and the Ho Chi Minh Trail over Laos and Cambodia.

After attending the Tactical Fighter Operations Officer Course at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Col Strickland was assigned to Headquarters, 13th Air Force, Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines, as chief of the Operations Requirements Division and subsequently as aide to the Vice Commander, 13th Air Force. He flew the F-4C and T-39 aircraft during this tour from October 1968 to June 1971. Returning from overseas, Col Strickland was assigned to the 76th Military Airlift Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina. Between June 1971 and June 1974, he was a flight examiner qualified in the C-141A aircraft and became chief of squadron standardization and then was selected as chief of 437 Military Airlift Wing Standardization-Evaluation.

From June 1974 until April 1980, Col Strickland was assigned to the Air Force Test and Evaluation Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. He was the test manager and test director of the C-141B "Stretch" program during its initial operational test and evaluation. When the aircraft transitioned to Military Airlift Command for follow-on testing, Col Strickland became chief of the airlift branch and subsequently Deputy Director of Test and Evaluation.

Col Strickland was transferred to McChord Air Force Base, Washington, in



April 1980, where he initially commanded the 8th Military Airlift Squadron. He later became Assistant Director of Operations of the 62nd Military Airlift Wing upon his selection to the rank of colonel. In August 1981, he was transferred to Ft. McNair, Washington, DC, to attend The National War College. Upon completion of school in June 1982, he was assigned to Headquarters, United States Air Force, as Chief of the Airspace and Air Traffic Services Division, Directorate of Operations, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations.

Col Strickland returned to Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in June 1984 and assumed the position of Vice Commander of the 1606th Air Base Wing. Two years later, he was reassigned to the Air War College, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, in Montgomery, Alabama. He initially served as a faculty instructor, then as Chairman of the Department of Command and Leadership and finally as Vice Commandant of the Air War College. He retired on June 1, 1992 after completing a 30-year career.

Col Strickland and his wife, Charlotte, have been married 58 years, and they have three children and three grandchildren. They served as teachers at Christiansen Academy, a school for Missionary Kids, supported by The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM) in Rubio, Venezuela, during the school year 1996-97 where he taught English. Charlotte taught world history, American history, 7th grade geography and was the school counselor. Beginning in 2000, they traveled throughout the USA and Canada spending each winter in Key West, FL, living in their motor home. They are active members of Frazer United Methodist Church in Montgomery, AL, and affiliate members of Key West United Methodist Church when visiting there. At Frazer, he has served as the President and as a substitute teacher of the Sowers Sunday School Class, a greeter, proof reader of the Frazer Family News and server at Wednesday night fellowship suppers.

Col Strickland reflections upon his military service are, "I never intended to go into the military when I graduated, but my AFROTC commander encouraged me to accept a regular commission as an officer, and I never regretted it. I enjoyed flying. When the Vietnam War started, because the Air Force had trained me, and because I really appreciated what the military was doing for our country, I decided to stay in and serve as a pilot in that War and continued to serve. When I entered the Air Force in 1962, the draft was still in effect. I believe the draft was a good thing. It caused a broad cross section of the American population to serve and learn to fully appreciate their nation and the military forces that protect it. They are the ones who still stand and place their hands over their hearts for the National Anthem. Since the draft has ended, that broad cross section is no longer represented in our nation's military forces. The ones who volunteer today, both men and women, may not represent people from all walks of life, but they are the ones privileged to learn why America must have a strong military to protect our nation and its people who have never served. They are the ones who understand and appreciate that the United States of America is "one nation under God" and that there has never been a nation like ours. It is truly exceptional. I fear that the broad cross section of our population no longer appreciate the sacrifices made by the men and women in uniform, nor do they understand the forces of evil that exist in the world today. Only those who study history can appreciate how unique our system of government really is. It is a shame that all citizens don't have the opportunity or the desire to gain that understanding by serving in our military services, and I fear that our educational system no longer focuses on American or world history. Someone once said, "Those who don't study history are doomed to repeat it." I fear for our country if the current rabble-rousers and no-nothings prevail at the ballot box."



A. Wyndal Murrah: Age 98

Wyndal Murrach is a WWII veteran who served in Europe in combat in the U. S. Army Infantry. He received the following awards and decorations for his valiant service: Bronze Star, FAME Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal. He received a Medal of Honor from the U.S. Veterans Friends Luxembourg March 22, 2017.

Wyndal Murrah was born March 14, 1922, at Mineral Springs, AL, a rural area in Chilton County, to his parents, George W. Murrah and Roberta Murrah. He graduated from Chilton County High School in 1940, worked a year in the Upchurch Drug Store at Clanton, AL, and enrolled at Auburn University (Alabama Polytechnic Institute) in 1941.

Murrah enlisted in the U. S. Army in the Enlisted Reserve Corps while at Auburn University. Murrah began his military service January 29, 1943, in the artillery branch of the Army with Basic Training at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He was selected for engineer's work in the Army at North Carolina State College where he studied for almost one year; however, because of the high casualty rate of Infantry in the wars with Germany and Japan, he was pulled from engineer training to Infantry training at Ft. Jackson, S.C. followed by assignment at Ft. Meade, MD, and Camp Killman, NJ, and embarkation from New York City to Wales aboard the RMS Mauretania, a Cunard ocean liner.

After two weeks at Manchester, England, Murrah landed at Omaha Beach at Normandy, which was a few months after the invasion of Allied forces on June 6, 1944, D-Day. Murrah's Infantry unit was sent for several weeks to Le Mans located in the north-western area of France. The Infantry was loaded and packed uncomfortably into boxcars that had been called "Forty and Eight"

during WWI which had been used to haul 40 men and eight horses, and they traveled for three days without heat, seats, restrooms or other conveniences. Food was limited, and near Paris, food ran out completely. At one stop, an infantryman found a box of crushed pineapple and a box of butter, which the men consumed eagerly.

Murrah's unit was assigned to the 110th Infantry Regiment, 28th Division, and they journeyed to Belgium and Luxembourg. Their assignment was to chase the German troops from Luxembourg into the Hurtgen Forest which encompassed 54 square miles east of the Belgian-German border. This warfare involved a series of fierce battles fought from September to December 1944 between American and German forces on the Western Front. It was the longest battle on German ground during World War II and is the longest single battle the U.S. Army has ever fought. Murrah fought as a rifleman in the Hurtgen Forest, and he suffered severely from cold, fatigue, hunger and terror during November. He remembers hearing the Germans dropping mortars into the mortar tubes. He took cover behind trees for protection from the Germans' mortars and shrapnel. He recalls images of chasing Germans through the Forest and seeing Germans throwing down their rifles after running out of ammunition. From his squad, only three survived. Other squads had suffered the same high casualty rate.



Fighting conditions were brutal during the exposure of the cold November days and nights. The troops had not been issued adequate winter clothing, and they struggled to keep warm while hovering in foxholes. They kept getting colder, wetter, more scared and hungrier while trying to survive. They had only machine guns and rifles because the weather did not permit aerial bombardment, and the artillery could not get in because the ground would not hold up anything. He was assigned to return to the supply area to bring back ammunitions, and he was shot at while accomplishing this mission resulting in a hole being shot in his helmet. In the foxholes, it was necessary to break the ice that had accumulated during the night. Finally, the men got a few sleeping bags from some other troops. Murrah's feet hurt excruciatingly from the cold. After a length of time, his ankles could not bend. He could not wear his shoes, and he could not walk for three months. He went to a medical aid-station, was transferred by ambulance, was carried to hospitals at Belgium, Paris, Normandy, England and sailed on the hospital ship, Ethos, returning to the U.S.A. with final hospitalization at Ft. Carson, CO, completing nine months of treatments at hospitals. He was discharged from military service August 31, 1945.

Murrah's conclusions from his WWII military service are, "I was 22 years old when I went overseas, and I had never had any real life-changing experiences as a farm and college boy until then. This made a change in me. One night in the foxhole, I had a vision of my mother standing there in a white dress. I told her, 'If I ever got out of here, I won't be the same when I get home.' I can't say that there was much in the military that I could enjoy. I didn't mind the field artillery. I enjoyed studying to become an engineer to be an officer in the Army. I never lost my patriotic feeling towards my country. I remember my Dad took his truck all over to sell war bonds, and my brother served in the military in Chicago. I would not take anything for having served. It was a great experience."

When Murrah returned to his life in Alabama, he and his wife, Betty, were married 64 years until she passed. They had four children, five grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. They enjoyed traveling to many of the states in the U.S.A. and foreign countries.

Murrah worked with his dad for a few months before he returned to college, and he graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. Degree in Agricultural Science in 1947. For 10 years, he worked for the Farmer's Home Administration, which involved lending money to farmers. Murrah worked 27 years with the Product Credit Association providing short-and-intermediate-term credit to farmers, ranchers, and rural residents. Murrah retired in 1986. He has enjoyed wood-working making tables and chairs for his children and yard work as well as playing golf and bridge. He is a member of the Towers Sunday School Class at First Methodist Church of Montgomery, AL.



Romay Catherine Davis – 101st Birthday Parade in Her Honor!



On November 4th, over 120 people participated in the 101st Birthday Drive-by Parade honoring the WWII WAC, Romay Catherine Davis. Participants included multiple fire engines and police cars from the Montgomery Fire and Rescue Department and the Police Department. The VFW, DAR, American Legion and the AL Dept. of Veterans Affairs were represented in the parade. Thirty-five members of the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club from AL and South Carolina rode their motorcycles in the parade. Romay watched the tribute to her military service from a tent erected in front of the offices of the Central-East AL Chapter of the American Red Cross. Admiral Kent Davis, Commissioner of the AL Department of Veterans presented Romay citations from AL Governor Kay Ivey and the U.S. Department of Defense as well as Army service ribbons. Kelly Hodges, Director of the Central-East AL Chapter of the American Red Cross presented a proclamation from Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed declaring October 29, 2020, to be Romay Davis Day in Montgomery.

Happy Birthday!

Rear Admiral Fernandez Ponds celebrated his birthday on November 1st!

Please join the *Gazette* in wishing him a very happy birthday!

Rear Admiral Ponds' article was featured in the October 2020 issue of the *Alabama Gazette*.



Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

Walter E. Hines: November 11th

Milton Garnier: November 11th

Bryan D. Strickland: November 12th

Walter Woods: November 13th

Erskine R. Grimes: November 19th

Daniel Simms Alexander: November 22nd

Harry Ural Jackson: November 22nd

James Robert Phillips: November 27th

Our Veterans love reading the *The Alabama Gazette*!

Larry Armstead
U.S. Army



SMSgt Jeff Holland, Jr.
U.S. Air Force



Geoff Colt
U.S. Air Force



Col Benjamin Hulsey III
U.S. Air Force



Rear Admiral Fernandez Ponds
U.S. Navy



COL Edgar Smith III
U.S. Army



Southern Cuisine

Chef David Spooner, Retired Chef ~ Volunteer Fireman, Lowndesboro V.F.D., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lowndesboro Board of Registrars, Lowndes County

Our economy depends on cash flow. Our farmers, ranchers and other small businesses need as much help as we can afford. Buy local and help your fellow Alabamians. Also, don't forget to donate to your local food bank whenever possible!



When you read this article, the nation may or may not know who is going to be the President of the United States. It will be figured out one way or another! In the meantime, I will be doing pretty much the same of what I have been doing for the past ten years or so. I will be working on my 190-year-old house, working in my 190-year-old yard. And for the past 5 years, writing about what people have been eating for the past 190 years. It just dawned on me that this nation was only 54 years old when my house was built.

I was making my usual jaunt to Montgomery to fill up my car and buy groceries and decided to stop at Ollies to check out their bargains of the week. The first thing I do is look in the book section. I shouldn't since I have over 550 cookbooks. Which should be good enough reason not to buy any more cookbooks. But I found two that caught my eye. I bought them both. The most interesting book is by a chef from Mexico and has combined Mexican spices and

cooking methods with Southern Cuisine. How could I pass that up? Since I had two uncooked pork butts in the freezer, I decided to try a twist with pulled pork. I could use this Mexican-spiced "pulled pork" as a base for several dishes.

First to make the carnitas or pulled pork. I decided to use a recipe for a slow cooker. This way I had a leftover spiced liquid to use in other dishes as a sauce. When the pork was done, I left it in the pot to cool and then put the pot with the meat and sauce in the refrigerator overnight. The next morning, the rendered fat was solid and almost effortless to remove. The juice was gelled so the meat was easier to remove without being very wet. This allowed it to crisp up, nicely in the oven. After all was said and done, I had two freezer containers of pork: one shredded and one large chunks. Along with 1 pint container of a yummy sauce and a small container of rendered fat. Every bit as usable in another menu recipe.

Carnitas (Pulled Pork)

INGREDIENTS:

For the Carnitas

2 1/2 pounds pork shoulder (aka 'pork butt')

1 tablespoon lime juice

1 orange quartered

2 teaspoons coarse sea salt

2 teaspoons ground cumin

1 teaspoon chili powder

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1 teaspoon dried oregano

1 teaspoon onion powder

1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

12 ounces dark beer (recommend Negra Modelo) or 12 ounces of chicken broth

METHOD:

Slow Cooker Instructions

1. Cut the pork shoulder into 2-3-inch chunks. Place in the slow cooker.
2. Add the lime juice, orange, salt, ground cumin, chili powder, garlic powder, dried oregano, onion powder and black pepper. Mix thoroughly to coat the meat with all the seasonings.
3. Cover and cook on high for 4 hours, or on low for 7-8 hours. Add beer about 30 minutes before meat is finished cooking. When tender, and cooled, remove meat with a slotted spoon and spread on a rimmed baking sheet.
4. Place in a 425-degree oven and bake for about 10 minutes or until the meat shows some crispy edges and has browned.



Photo: David & Anne Spooner

My first recipe using the pork is a salad. The picture I saw of this salad was the inspiration to cook the pork. Depending on the amount of pork you use in the salad, it can make it a side salad or a dinner salad (almost a meal in itself). I am also embedding a recipe for a salad dressing that goes well with anything Southern, SWEET TEA VINAIGRETTE. A popular recipe found in a famous tea fast food restaurant and a famous chicken fast food restaurant.

Carnitas with Grilled Onion & Poached Egg Salad

INGREDIENTS:

1 yellow onion, 1/2-in thick sliced

Drizzle of olive oil

1 tsp fresh thyme, chopped

1 tsp fresh rosemary, chopped

Salt and Pepper, to taste

For vinaigrette, see next recipe.

1 head Bibb lettuce, clean & torn

2 large eggs

METHOD:

1. Coat onion slice with olive oil, thyme and rosemary.
2. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
3. Grill for 3-5 minutes on each side until deep golden brown; reserve.
4. Toss lettuce with vinaigrette, as desired.
5. Portion 4 oz. lettuce onto each serving plate.
6. Poach eggs in small batches in acidified water (1 tsp. vinegar to 1 qt. water) until whites are set (completely firm) and yolks begin to thicken (not runny but not hard).
7. Remove and keep warm.
8. To serve: top each salad with a grilled onion slice, about 2.5 oz. of pork and 2 poached eggs.
9. Serve immediately.



Photo by Anne Spooner

Sweet Tea Vinaigrette

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup sweetened iced tea

2 tablespoons cider vinegar

1/4 teaspoon honey

1/4 teaspoon Dijon mustard

Pinch of salt and fresh-ground black pepper

6 tablespoons vegetable or canola oil

METHOD:

1. Place tea in saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a boil and then reduce heat to medium low.
2. Cook for about 10 minutes until the tea is reduced to 1/3 cup.
3. Turn off heat and cool for 15 minutes.
4. Place tea in mixing bowl. Whisk in the vinegar, honey, Dijon mustard and salt.
5. Slowly add the oil, whisking to incorporate and then taste for seasoning.



Photo by ginnerobot

Depending on how large of a serving you make the pork and onion salad you could serve the next item with some sauteed vegetables as your main dish. Or serve it separately as an entrée. Or come up with some other uses of the pork and have the basis for several different meals.

Stuffed Tomatoes

INGREDIENTS :

12 medium tomatoes

Salt and pepper to season

2 lbs. carnitas or pulled pork (fully cooked)

Olive oil

1 medium onion, minced

3 shallots, minced

2 oz. old dried bread (about 2 slices)

Heaping Tbsp. Dijon mustard

A generous handful of chopped cilantro or parsley

Grated parmesan (optional)

1 to 2 Tbsp milk

METHOD:

1. Slice the tops off tomatoes and hollow out the insides. Pat the tomatoes dry inside with a tea towel, season with salt, and leave upside down on paper towel to drain for about half an hour.
2. Heat the olive oil in a sauté pan.
3. Gently sauté the onions, shallots, garlic, until soft, 10 minutes.
4. Add the meat. Season with salt and pepper. Heat well through.
5. Wet the bread with the milk and throw it in, breaking it up through the mix with a wooden spoon.
6. Stir in the mustard, parsley or cilantro. Check the seasonings.
7. Preheat the oven to 350°F/180°C.
8. Slice a small amount off the bottom of each tomato so they sit flat without rolling over.
9. Stuff the tomatoes.
10. Set the tomatoes on an oiled or aluminum foil lined baking pan.
11. Sprinkle the cheese over the top.
12. Bake until the tomatoes are soft and hot, 30 minutes.



Photo by David & Anne Spooner

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"In the summer you want fresh, light and sort of quick things; in winter you want things that are comforting, so your body really tells you, you want to go towards potatoes, apples,



Photo: Catalin Marinescu/freeimages.com

fennel, things that are warm and comforting. And loin of pork." ~ Ina Garten

"Never wrestle with a pig. You'll both get dirty, and the pig likes it..." ~ Unknown



Stan Hurst
Associate Sports Writer



From Pigskins to Rawhides

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



New Season, Same Saga Plays Out on the Plains



Photo by Sweet Carolina Photography

It's an all too familiar story that's mushrooming up again at Auburn. The "we need to fire the head coach" anthem is growing stronger each week. For more seasons than I can count, this thing seems to bubble up as the losses pile up.

So many times, the blame sees to get focused on the offensive coordinator. So let me see if I can get this straight. During the past four years, Auburn has had four different play callers, offensive coordinators; Rhett Lashley, Kenny Dillingham, Head Coach Gus Malzahn called plays last year, now Chad Morris is the offensive coordinator. Working with a new offensive coordinator can put strain on the players' ability to execute. And doing it every year is very difficult.

So is it the coaching or the players? Over the past five years, Auburn recruiting classes have ranked 11th or better nationally. However of the top fifty recruits in 2019, Georgia got 8, Alabama Got 6 and Auburn got two. In 2018, Georgia got 9, Alabama got 3 and Auburn got 1.

Auburn's 2018 top fifty recruit was Joey Gatewood, ranked number 49. This is the young man from Jacksonville Florida, who likely should have started the 2019 season. According to a number of people close to the program, he was ahead of freshman Bo Nix, yet Gatewood received almost no playing time. Five completions out of seven passing attempts, two for touchdowns. But he left the program and transferred to Kentucky.

Auburn's leading rusher for 2018 and 2019, Ja'Tarvious Whitlow left after the 2019 season in the transfer portal. The fact is that in the past year alone, Auburn has lost 10 players to the transfer portal, or who left the program. It's no question that Auburn's offensive line is woefully inadequate. And while the majority of Auburn's returning Offensive linemen have little to no starting experience, they

could have used second year player Justin Osborne who also transferred.

Both offensive and defensive line play is uncharacteristically weak. The Tigers are losing the battle in the trenches on both sides of the ball. This was eye-poppingly obvious in the Georgia game and surprisingly in the South Carolina game as well.

So who has transferred; Osborne joins quarterbacks Joey Gatewood and Will Appleton, along with starting running back Ja'Tarvious Whitlow. Additionally, wide receivers Zach Farrar, Marquis McClain and Jashawn Sheffield. Defensive end Charles Moore and linebackers Michael Harris and Sawyer Hennis. The Tigers also lost veteran running back Malik Miller.

Now why these facts don't have alarm bells going off like a four alarm fire astonishes me.

Auburn's starting quarterback this year is second in passing attempts and last in passing completion percentage and 13th in yards per pass in the SEC so far this year. His average yards per completion last year 6.7 and this year 6.12, next to the bottom of the SEC. His quarterback rating thus far is 13th in the SEC.

I've watched every minute of every Auburn game this season and two things stand out. Auburn does not possess the personnel to compete at the top of the SEC food chain. And secondly, when Auburn gets in a tight situation, the offense looks a heck of a lot like the backyard football games we played as kids. While first year offensive coordinator Chad Morris had troubles at Arkansas as head coach, he brings strong credentials from Clemson as the offensive play caller.

Auburn recruits well enough to win, but can't hold on to these top tier recruits. And this is not new at Auburn.

The gushing wound bleeding talented players off into the transfer portal is showing up each week on the football field, when will it end.



Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for November

by Peggy Givhan

With Fall definitely in the air, we now have low humidity and cool days. What a joy it is to be out of doors basking in the sunlight and soaking up the valuable Vitamin D. Article after article speaks to the efficacy of plenty of our sun's gift to the world, vitamin D. When the world is experiencing this virus, it is wise to follow the recommendations of our doctors to help

keep society safe until we get a vaccine. The wonderful holiday of Thanksgiving may be more subdued this year due to the virus. But that should not stop anyone from celebrating with good food, close family and Thanksgiving decorations. A tablescape of different size pumpkins, different colors and shapes, some raised up along with a few gourds make an attractive centerpiece. I purchased a couple of gnarly, bumpy green and white ones that are so interesting to add to the batch.

The one area of our lives that is not on any lockdown is gardening. We in the River Region live in what is termed Zone 8, which means that in our geographic area plants can withstand a range of minimum temperatures from 10 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit. For comparison, Zone 10 plants thrive in south Florida where there are not freezing temps. Zone 9 would include New Orleans where there are rarely any freezing temps. These zones which have been a standard designation for the hardiness of plant growth does not measure the amount of heat, humidity or sunlight. Harvard's Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts along the USDA developed these zones. They are especially helpful in providing guidance to the purchaser of the plants, which will do well in one's area, and this saves time and money.

How can one make this Thanksgiving a special time since it appears we will be limited in the number of friends and family members who can gather? One idea is to bring fall beauty inside our homes. A large flower arrangement of fall blooming wild flowers, flowering shrubs and garden flowers fits the bill. For example, one can cut Solidago or goldenrod, Celosia, Mums, Roses, Ginger

lilies, Canna lilies, Crepe Myrtle, Althea, Marigolds, Cleome, Zinnias. There should be many types of greenery available along with branches of trees which exhibit fall leaves. Eucalyptus is another good choice with its silver backed leaves. To be ready for any floral creation, I always have some floral clay which I purchase at the grocery store flower department for impromptu bouquets.

PLANT OF THE MONTH—Helleborus

Its common name is Christmas rose or Lenten rose. Some have referred to these gorgeous plants as the aristocrats of the garden. Their subdued coloring, their bell shaped nodding heads give an enchanting appearance. Their foliage is attractive all year round, but please note that all parts of this plant are poisonous. They are fall blooming, prefer shade and bloom in winter and spring. Hellebores belong to the ranunculus, buttercup family. The newer varieties have upright heads, and are rich in color. Once established, they are drought resistant and long-lived.



Photo by bernhard.friess

Good Gardening and Happy Thanksgiving!



**Time has Changed
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Image by Mike Licht

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Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Home Town Community News

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.

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 Brad & Julie Echols | 16 Alan & Debra Moore |
| 7 Brian & Jennifer Rushing (11th) | Stephen & Joyce Turnipseed |
| Bill & Peggy Struthers (66th) | 17 Clyde & Audrey Alison (41st) |
| 9 Don & Tanya Cooley | Chip & Tricia Norris |
| Tommy & Patti Maihan (35th) | 18 Burks & Charlotte Crane (25th) |
| 10 Tanner & Shannon Grant | 21 Doug & Cindy Young |
| Manly & Kris Swearingen | Gary & Martha French (46th) |
| Tom & Jayne Ward | 24 Gary & Debbie Partridge |
| 12 Sonny & Linda Turner (54th) | 27 Mike & Wanda Horsley |
| Todd & Sandy Rogers (17th) | Joe & Olivia Thomas (67th) |
| 14 Jim & Frances Ard | 28 Andre & Beverly Stephens |
| George & Elaine Landry (66th) | |

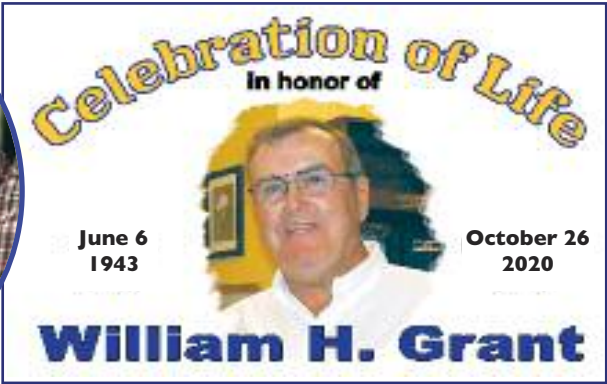
Happy Belated Birthday to Sue Crabtree on October 9.
Sue turned 80!

Thank you, Veterans!

The Ramer Civic Club has voted to cancel in-person ceremonies and festivities this year. Representatives of our group will still place a remembrance wreath at the memorial on Veteran’s Day. We want Veterans to know how very much you are appreciated and honored for your service to our nation. In a time of upheaval and uncertainty, you are the beacons of honor, courage, and sacrifice. You are examples of what honor, duty, and service should mean.

We send heartfelt thanks for all you have done to ensure the freedoms we enjoy! May next year see us all together at the Ramer Park once more.

Marion Ellis, President, Ramer Civic Club



A Celebration of Life was held in the Snowdown Community on November 1, 2020, in Honor of William H. Grant ... Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-grandfather, and a friend to all.

On Monday, October 26, 2020, William “Bill” Grant went home to be with our Lord and Savior. Born June 6, 1943, William grew up in Ramer and worked for Coca-Cola before retiring after 38 years. He spent his retirement years farming cattle at his and Loretta’s home in the Snowdown community. William was also a deacon at Snowdown Baptist Church, as well as a board member of the Snowdown Water System.

William’s greatest joy and pride was his large, loving family, and he surrounding himself with his children, grands, and great-grands, both biological and God-given.

He will be greatly missed, but we know that he is rejoicing in heaven.



Sara Alice Law Boyd

July 25, 1928 ~ October 17, 2020

Sara Alice Law Boyd, mother of the Gazette’s Community Editor, Patricia Killough, passed away October 17, 2020, at her home in Snowdown, surrounded by her family. A Celebration of Life was held on October 24 in Bethlehem.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Alabama Gazette founder, Loretta G. Grant, in the passing of her husband, William Grant, and with Patricia Killough in the passing of her mother.

November Birthdays



- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Katherine Hall (91st) | 14 Ken Franklin McKenzie |
| Kelei Lewis | Xan Morrow |
| Jimmie Mims | Spears Rhodes |
| Barbie O’Neal | 15 Larry Browder |
| Bobbie Parker | Mary Elizabeth Dean |
| 2 Al Flanary | Mae H. Poole |
| Bill Grubs | Katherine Huro |
| Mary Ellis Killough (12th) | Debbie Johnson |
| Mike Lane | Heather Killough |
| Charles Meredith | 16 Thomas Joseph Boyd |
| 3 Larry Chambers | Alton Haraway |
| Jack Hornady (92nd) | Patricia M. Lee |
| Doug Sellers | 17 Dan Fowler |
| 4 Patrick Sikes (10th) | Bill Harper |
| 5 Jeremy Brown | Cara Stafford |
| Mike Davis | 18 Billy Jack Beck |
| Margaret Ann Morgan | Doug Cole |
| 6 Bella Boyd | 19 Laird Bone |
| Faye Deal | Mattie Sherman |
| Scarlett Jones (3rd) | 20 Sandy Garner |
| Teresa Seevers | Sharon Harper |
| 7 Carol Harrison | Rich Takacs |
| Debbie Green | 21 James Miller |
| Jane Camille Robinson | 22 Annette Banks |
| Helen Struthers (95th) | Randy Bishop |
| Paula Barker | Amy Grubbs |
| Jordan Ratliff (24th) | Lee Hartley |
| 8 Trey Mainor | Tommy Jones |
| Klem Paulk, Jr. (80th) | Virginia Shearin |
| David Strange | Locke White |
| Gerry Williams | Charles Wilkerson |
| 9 Kristen Butler | Charles Winsett |
| Carl McDevitt | 23 Joyce Mims |
| John Porterfield | Peggy Cole |
| Jamalyn Smith | Brittany Hord |
| Patrice Wasden | 24 Helen Cain |
| 10 Frances Dover | Howard Duncan |
| Gayle Harper | Donald McClain |
| Myra Mills | Pearl McClain |
| Harlan Ratliff (82nd) | Patricia Potts |
| Manly Swearingen | Jerry Shadrick |
| 11 Amanda Anderson | Debbie Whitehouse |
| Robert Sandifer | 25 Colonel Durden |
| 12 Clyde Alison | Bonnie Morris |
| Faye Best | 26 Faye Spivey |
| Jo Hurley | 27 Annabelle O’Neal (10th) |
| John Messick | Vaughn Lowery |
| Warren Miller | Jessika Wallace |
| Mary Talley | 28 Marilyn Oliver |
| Tom Vocino | Betty Spivey |
| LeeAnn Willams (40th) | Andy Strange |
| 13 Sarah Bone | 29 Weston Browder |
| Bannie Burt (101st) | Mavis Kratzer |
| Jenelle Jones | 30 Brittany Abott |
| Norman Rahn | Kaitlin Castleberry |
| Marie Penn | Drew Meadows (12th) |
| 14 Shawn Adams | Jackie Moseley |
| Kenneth Banks | Boyd Partridge |
| Houston Harris | Jim Tinney |
| Walker Meadows | Earle Williams |

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

Burke, Charles Wayne (78).....	Sep. 15
Southern, Carolyn Johns (85).....	Sep. 20
Smith, Jr. Arthur F. (84).....	Sep. 24
Reynolds, Donna Leigh (69).....	Sep. 26
Rusell, Elizabethe (Betty Ann) Chadwick (84).....	Oct. 1
Andrews, Marlin Benton (83).....	Oct. 5
Forester, Ronald (Ron) Allen (85).....	Oct. 6
Brown, Robert (Bob) (80).....	Oct. 8
McClain, Bonnie Aldridge (84).....	Oct. 8
Williams, Beth Campbell (79).....	Oct. 8
Warren, Mitzi (75).....	Oct. 12
Stowers, Richard Ward (83).....	Oct. 13
McCord-Mattison, Penolia (83).....	Oct. 15
Penton, Dwight Richard (70).....	Oct. 15
Scott, John B. (90).....	Oct. 15
Pickett, Diane Marie (57).....	Oct. 16
Boyd, Sara Alice Law (92).....	Oct. 17
Fain, Sue Bradley (92).....	Oct. 18
Powell, Marjorie (Margie) (89).....	Oct. 18
Nobles, Robert Herschel (70).....	Oct. 20
Brown, Patrick Lance (52).....	Oct. 24
Grant, William (Bill) Holmes (77).....	Oct. 26
Owens, Billy Joe (70).....	Oct. 31
Parker, Art.....	Nov. 1

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In Memory Of

Sara Rhodes.....	October 3
Irene Thrash.....	October 3
Myrtice Chrietzberg.....	October 3
George Hall.....	October 5
Roy Davis.....	October 6
Howard Metts.....	October 7
Colonel Robert Kline, USAF(Ret).....	October 7
Emma Miller.....	October 8
Douglas Lee.....	October 8
Betty Swearingen.....	October 10
Karel Rabern.....	October 13
Roy Morris.....	October 13
John Sides.....	October 14
William Henderson.....	October 14
Myrtice Laird.....	October 16
Erick Stewart.....	October 17
David Kennedy.....	October 18
Rosie Hobbs.....	October 20
Edward Milhous.....	October 20
Russell Lynn Smith Jr.....	October 21
Gerald (Jerry) Ingram.....	October 26
Emma Daugherty.....	October 30
Sonia Blankenship.....	November 1

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



By Amanda Walker

Tears and Laughter: Be Careful Which Cow You Cuddle!

I'm not saying we should go all the way back to Luckenbach, Texas...but honky-tonks may need to make a quick comeback because cow hugging has become one of the latest wellness trends.

I don't think that there is anything CBD Oil can do for you if you cuddle the wrong cow.

The trend started in the Netherlands years ago after a Dutch farmer claimed cows to be very relaxed animals that do not fight or get into trouble. They are described as being patient and sweet.

So naturally, it gravitated to the United States and has become more popular during the COVID-19 pandemic. The exercise of hugging cows is believed by some to promote positive energy and reduce stress.

We apparently have become so lonely and bored in our society that we have taken to being affectionate with farm animals. It's said to be therapeutic because of their warm body temperature. It takes several hours to get the full effect.

It runs \$75 an hour if it sounds like something that might be fun for you.

Cows look relaxed because they are dumb.

They may have some instinct about themselves; they will protect their young and go toward a bucket of cubes if you shake it in front of them, but do not allow yourself to believe they are smart.

And they start fighting before they even wean from their mamas. There may be some rare special breed that likes to hug, but you are going to want to leave your average Hereford and Charolais alone. Maybe stay a few feet back from Longhorns, too. Cattle can be a little unpredictable. That's why rodeos have clowns.

I'm not a vegetarian, and I am no cow hugger. I never have been that crazy about them myself. Like lots of people in Alabama, I am surrounded by them. Have been for years. I could talk with you about hay season and calving and market prices, but I don't care for them. I am very appreciative of them, just not a huge fan of the cow.

If you have been thinking you might want to hug a cow, I kind of want to gently recommend you try hugging on a cowboy first – or girl...your preference. See if that helps. If not, and you are still lonely enough to want to grope around on a cow, you should probably call your preacher or the family doctor...not a farmer. Maybe there is a scripture or a prescription.

Cows are really big animals. They are so big their knees squeak when they walk. They eat around the clock. They don't differentiate between day and night.

They aren't going to talk to you or give a damn.

They will stomp you into the ground and not even have sense enough to know they have done it. They will just keep on munching. They are not capable of caring. So don't play pretend and don't go around hugging random cows.

Don't do cow pastures like we tend to do cottonfields this time of year. Don't pull over and run out to get a quick snuggle and pic with first fat heifer you see.

A mask can't save you from what a cow can do to you.

They probably won't give you Coronavirus, but they can kill you.



Photo: Wendy Domeni/freeimages.com

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

Drive By Wedding Shower



A "Drive By Wedding Shower" for Haylee Nolan was hosted by Kaye Tyler, Cindy Gillespie, Susan Harmon, Kathy Madaris and Leigh Baker. Guests were invited to drive by while waving to the bride, mother of the bride and the mother of the groom, as they left their gift for the bride and groom. The guests were given a delicious treat as they admired the festively decorated front yard of Cindy Gillespie.



Social Security is Important for Women

In November, we show gratitude for the many things we are thankful for throughout the year. Family usually tops the list. The strong women in our lives are one of the central figures we appreciate.

More women in the 21st century work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation's history. Yet, on average, women face greater economic challenges in retirement than men.

The majority of the people receiving Social Security benefits are women. Women generally live longer than men while often having lower lifetime earnings. And women may reach retirement with smaller pensions and other assets compared to men. These are three key reasons why Social Security is vitally important to women.

If you've worked and paid taxes into the Social Security system for at least 10 years, and have earned a minimum of 40 work credits, you may be eligible for your own benefits. Once you reach age 62, you may be eligible for your own Social Security benefit whether married or not and whether your spouse collects Social Security or not. If you're eligible and apply for benefits on more than one work record, you generally receive the higher benefit amount.

The sooner you start planning for retirement, the better off you'll be. We have specific information for women at www.ssa.gov/people/women. You can also read the publication *What Every Woman Should Know* at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10127.pdf.

Please share these links with friends and family you love.

Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

“Be Thankful!”

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness, come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God, it is he who made us, and we are his, we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise, give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good; his love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations.” Psalm 100:1-5

All across our nation, Thanksgiving is a day that we set aside in order to do one thing...Be thankful!

Usually what goes along with it is lots of food, family and friends, laughter and fun, times of giving to others in need, maybe some football, or traditions that you share with loved ones. Sometimes, there is also loneliness, struggle or maybe deep loss. Feelings of hurt and painful circumstances that you're still trying to hurdle over.

Whatever you're facing this Thanksgiving Season, in the midst of all of it, may we remember again that God gives us the opportunity each and every day to give worship and thanks to Him. Every morning He gives us breath is His invitation to come joyfully into His Presence. He reminds us that He alone is God and we belong to Him. He assures us that His plans in our lives are for good, that His love covers us securely, and His faithfulness extends from generation to generation.

Psalm 100:4 reminds us, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”

God has given us so many reasons to choose thankfulness and joy. That's right! It's a choice. So let's set our intentions this Thanksgiving and every day to be thankful for God's goodness and blessings over our lives.

Happy Thanksgiving & Many Blessings!



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<https://www.troy.edu/student-life-resources/arts-culture/wa-gayle-planetarium/index.html>

Looking for that Unique Christmas Gift? Look no further! TIPS ON BUYING A HOME TELESCOPE

As the holidays approach, I tend to start receiving a number of calls from people seeking advice on purchasing a telescope. Some of the calls are from people who want to buy a telescope for themselves, while others are shopping to buy a telescope as a gift for someone special. In this article, I will try to give some advice that will help you to narrow down your choices, and help you to find something that will suit your needs as well as your budget.

To clarify, a common misconception, the purpose of a telescope is NOT to magnify objects. The objects you will be attempting to view in space are extremely far away, and as a result are not extremely bright to your eyes. People rarely squint when looking at stars, planets or nebulae. So the main purpose of the telescope is to amplify the light of the object we are looking at. The key element of any telescope is its main lens (refracting) or mirror (reflecting). The sole purpose of the lens/mirror is to collect the light. Magnification is the purpose of the eyepiece.

When comparing one telescope to another, first determine the size of the lens or mirror. Normally it is expressed in a millimeter value (113mm). Once you determine this value, divide the number by 5 (roughly the size of the human pupil), and then square the results. The formula would be (Mirror Diameter in mm/5)s. This is telling you how much light the telescope is capable of gathering compared to your eye. By the way, you can use this same formula for determining the magnification of binoculars. Binoculars almost always are imprinted with numbers such as 8 x 50 or 10 x 60. In this case, the first number is the magnification of the eyepiece, while the second number is the diameter of the lens/mirror expressed in millimeters. So using our formula from above, the binoculars imprinted with 8 x 40 will intensify the light by a factor of 64 compared to the human eye (40/5)². The objective is to find a



telescope within your budget that can collect the largest amount of light. Keep in mind, that generally price is directly correlated to the size of the telescope's lens/mirror.

The lens/mirror is either cut or ground so as to bend or reflect the light to a point often referred to as the "Focal Point." Understanding this helps us to determine what is meant by the term "Focal Length." In this case, we are determining the focal length of the telescope ... in other words, the distance the light source travels from the center of the lens/mirror back to the Focal Point. The Focal Length of the eyepiece is measured by determining the distance from the Focal Point to the eyepiece. In many cases, this will be imprinted on the telescope. All of this helps us to determine the magnifying power (MP) of telescope/eyepiece combined. Last formula: Divide the Focal Length of the telescope by the Focal Length of the eyepiece. So we have (MP=FL of telescope/FL of eyepiece).

A final thought you should apply as a rule is that your eyepiece should never magnify more than 50 times the diameter of the lens/mirror measured in inches. Example: A 6-inch telescope should not use an eyepiece that magnifies more than 300 times (6 x 50). Eyepieces have their limits, but some manufacturers will push the envelope!

By Rick Evans, Director, W.A. Gayle Planetarium

Purple Pinkie Delivers Donuts... Rotary Raises \$1.2 M!



Photo: John G. Zimmerman.

In the most recent edition of the Montgomery County Historical Society publication, *The Herald*, the cover story shows a screaming child from Montgomery in 1953 receiving a trial serum to lessen the ravaging effects of polio. Soon after, Jonas Salk, in 1955, discovered a vaccine that indeed prevented children from getting this sometimes fatal virus after being exposed through airborne or direct contact (much like today's COVID-19). Soon the United States became polio free, but it was still found actively throughout the world. In stepped Rotary, which has conducted a decades long campaign to eradicate polio from the face of the earth. 40 years ago, 100 countries reported hundreds of thousands of active cases. Rotarians saw a need and they marshaled their 1.2 million members to combat it.

As a result, Rotarians' signature worldwide project has raised over two billion dollars and immunized millions of children over the years which has led to only two countries with active cases, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Only this year did the World Health Organization certify on August 25 that the entire continent of Africa was Polio free, with no reported cases occurring over the last three years. But, vigilance is the key as health workers and Rotarians around the world conduct national Immunization Days to deliver supplemental doses of oral poliovirus vaccine to interrupt the circulation and spread of the wild poliovirus.



World Polio Day is celebrated on October 24 to recognize the birth month of Dr. Jonas Salk.

Salk's selfless act of refusing to patent his discovery has made the manufacture and

distribution of the vaccine very inexpensive. He wanted to make sure no child had to suffer from polio's crippling effects or death.

A celebration was held in Chattanooga on World Polio Day, October 24, where the top Rotarian, Past International President John Germ recognized many of those instrumental in accomplishing this amazing feat. This sizable amount can lead to the direct immunization of 300,000 children from Mexico to India and all over the world.



fabricate an oblong donut with purple icing placed on the end and arranged for the five Rotary districts involved to distribute them throughout the state.

One such club, the Dothan Rotary Club, presold more boxes than any other of the 300 participating Rotary clubs across several states. District Governor Elect Bruce McNeal led the campaign in Dothan with his Nominee Dell Goodwin assisting. In one day they were able to sell almost 400 boxes of Purple Pinkie donuts at \$20 per box. But, the real motivator for purchase was the matching amounts pledged by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others who created a nine times multiplier.

This incredible match was applied throughout all five districts with the resulting total collected reaching over \$1,200,000. In Montgomery and surrounding areas, the pick-up point for the donuts was at the *Alabama Gazette* office in the old Segall Ice House on Jefferson Street. The old Ice House provided ice blocks to Montgomery for decades. The structure has been repurposed for apartment lofts and business. The name of the building fit the theme as the final step in the process was putting the purple "icing" on each of the 10,000 donuts by volunteers in an assembly line fashion. Many local Rotarians took the opportunity to donate the PPDs to first responders, students and nonprofits across the River Region. Fire stations across



Montgomery, from Fairview Avenue, Holt Street, Madison Avenue to Bell Road and many more received complementary purple pinkie donut boxes from generous Rotarians. To find out more about Rotary contact one of the four Montgomery clubs by calling 334-301-0597 or go to rotary.org.



Montgomery Ballet's The Nutcracker Returns!

Performances are December 11th at 7pm, 12th at 2pm & 7pm, and 13th at 2pm at Troy University's Davis Theatre, 251 Montgomery Street.

Montgomery Ballet's *The Nutcracker* returns to the stage this December to delight audiences of all ages. The classic tale of Clara's magical journey with her nutcracker come-alive through The Land of Sweets is an unmissable holiday tradition.

The tale begins when Clara is given a nutcracker soldier doll for Christmas from the mysterious doll maker, Drosselmeyer. A little bit of Christmas magic brings him to life and after some suspenseful interactions with the other characters affected by Drosselmeyer's magic, the two are swept off through falling snow to the whimsical Land of Sweets. There many bright and characters greet Clara and put on a lively show for her.

The cast is made up of local professional company members and students of the Montgomery Ballet's school. Beautiful and unique handcrafted costumes are also featured in *The Nutcracker*, along with the familiar sounds of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's score of the same name. From lively swordplay and falling snow to romantic waltzing flowers and adorable angels, this show will have audience members captivated from the overture music to the final bow.



Tickets are on sale now at montgomery-ballet.org. Seating has been limited due to social distancing measures, so get your tickets early! *The Montgomery Ballet will also tour this show to Mt. Vernon Theatre in Tallassee, November 28-29th and to Greenville December 5th.*

Come Inside!

MMFA

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts



After a seven-month closure, we are thrilled to welcome visitors back into our changing exhibition and permanent collection galleries!

Permanent Collection

During the closure, we refreshed and redesigned the galleries for the Museum's Blount Collection of American Art, including new labels to help you connect more meaningfully with the art.

Your Safety is Our Priority:

Advance registration is not required to visit the Museum; however, in order to allow for ample social distancing, the number of visitors at any one time will be limited. All Museum visitors over the age of five are required to wear a mask or face covering during their visit.

George Segal, *Chance Meeting*, 1986.

For more information about the museum & exhibits, visit: <https://mmfa.org/>

The Art Dr. Seuss Collection:

Coming to Stonehenge Gallery for a limited engagement!

Stonehenge Gallery will share a compelling selection of artworks from The Art of Dr. Seuss Collection at Stonehenge Gallery, 401 Cloverdale Rd, Montgomery, Alabama, Friday, November 20 through Sunday, November 22. Visitors can explore and acquire works from Dr. Seuss's best-known children's books, as well as The Secret Art of Dr. Seuss, a mind-expanding collection based on decades of artwork which Dr. Seuss created at night for his own personal pleasure. Perhaps the wackiest and most wonderful elements of the collection are Dr. Seuss's three-dimensional "Unorthodox Taxidermy" sculptures with names like The Carbonic Walrus, The Two-Horned Drouberhannis, and the Goo-Goo-Eyed Tasmanian Wolghast, to name a few.

Join us for a fascinating glimpse into the unique artistic vision of Theodor Seuss Geisel!

WHAT: Stonehenge Gallery shares The Art of Dr. Seuss Collection featuring known and unknown works from the life of Theodor Seuss Geisel. Artworks will be on display and available for acquisition.

WHEN: Friday, Nov 20th – 4pm – 7pm
Saturday, Nov 21st – 1pm – 6pm
Sunday, Nov 22nd – 11am – 4pm

WHERE: Stonehenge Gallery, 401 Cloverdale Rd, Montgomery, AL (334) 262-8256

WEBSITE: www.StonehengeInc.com



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FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY TODAY: THE IMPACT OF OUR PILGRIM HERITAGE SHOULD BE RESTORED

By Bobbie Ames, first printed in *The Alabama Gazette*, November 2017

The England of the Pilgrim Fathers

By the later 16th Century, England was going through a process of changing society from the old traditional one to a modern one. The influence of the Renaissance had awakened the English people to ask new questions about, not only their culture, but about their government as well. Blessed and enlightened by John Wycliffe and other Reformers, *“The Englishman had access to the Scripture in his own language, and he was embracing the ideas of the Protestant Reformation. The speed of the Printing press enabled dramatic ideas to be spread so widely and enthusiastically, that we might call it a spiritual revolution. This was accompanied by an economic revolution as well. The expansion of industry and commercialism was developing what we know as Capitalism. It is evident that all of this would change the entire social structure of the land as well.”*

The Nobility and the Aristocrats saw their way of life threatened by these changes. The “country gentlemen” had considered their contribution as the “back bone “ of society. Everything was changing. Poverty had been a problem throughout their history, but now, it became more visible as farming decreased and industry increased. Many of the “visibly” poor congregated in cities. There were different attitudes about these people. Some viewed them as “God’s misfortunates.” Some viewed it as a “holy state.” The Puritan ethic about work was spread widely. The idea spread that we glorify the Lord by our work, and that it is a “calling” to be pursued. Puritans taught about a Paternal Order. Servants must obey their master, but the master must care for the servants. They taught that it is every man’s responsibility to care for the unfortunate ones.

The legacy of these ideas and movements dramatically affected the Pilgrims as they came West, bringing the Reformation as their core values and intent.

The impact of the Pilgrim Fathers on our early History is not often shared today. Public Education had abandoned this glorious Christian History since I was in elementary school in 1936 onward. Of course, many children and adults recognize a photo of the black suited Pilgrim man, somber and often shown with a native Indian in the Massachusetts territory, but know little of their story in History.

The Truth About the First Thanksgiving

There was no bountiful harvest. Everything was done in communal agriculture in the beginning. It was not until they switched to private enterprise, with every man accountable to each other, that there was a plentiful harvest. The first of this bounty was the Thanksgiving of 1623.

The Scrooby congregation passengers on the Mayflower were distinctly Pilgrims. Many were young adults, who had made a covenant with each other and with the Lord to commit to worship in earnest, just as the Scriptures called for. They developed a compact for their church self-government.

It thrills me to recall that these Pilgrims took that church covenant and rewrote it as the Mayflower Compact, in order to establish civil self-government. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Mayflower Compact is the forerunner to the U.S. Constitution. Because these Christian men and women had committed themselves to Christian self-government, directed by the Word of God, they accomplished three achievements that few people and few nations have every seen or practiced:



1. They, as individuals, accepted the responsibility for governing themselves, and displaying a work ethic, likely excelled by none on the planet.
2. They interpreted their Biblical laws of nature to apply to Society as a whole, leading to the Constitutional Law and the Rule of Law for all people, thus protecting their religious liberty.
3. They built an economic system which centered on personal responsibility. For example, the profit system was honest and provided opportunities for progress. A beautiful example of their personal sense of responsibility shines through twenty long years of their repaying their debt to the London merchants who financed their voyage. There was a great drive to develop tools for this economic system.

The first water powered grist mill was placed at the head of Plymouth Town Brook in 1636. Can you imagine the delight of the onlooking Indians as they watched this tool? Forced by the merchants in the beginning to accept the arrangement of communal distribution, the Pilgrims patiently persevered and obtained rights to own their own land and to work to benefit their own families. **If Communism would have ever benefited a people, it would have worked for these Pilgrims who loved each other, and loved God above all else. It didn’t work for them and cannot work for good, for any people.**

When the **Mayflower** ship returned to England, not one Pilgrim went back. That little band of believers had introduced a new powerful force on the continent: that of individual religious liberty in practice. All of these blessings of true Liberty demand individual Christian character. There is no better example of this character than the Pilgrims of Plymouth Plantation.

We are indebted to the *Foundation for American Christian Education* for their publications on America’s Christian History and for the continued publication of the **Webster’s 1828 Dictionary**, which has the language of Liberty. Noah Webster deserved credit as the Father of America’s Christian Scholarship and Education. The 1828 Dictionary is a treasure and can be viewed and purchased at our school campus.

As we prepare to celebrate an American Thanksgiving this month, let’s work diligently and pray sincerely, for God to bring back in our nation Individual Liberty of Conscience, Christian self-government, and a dedication to the U. S. Constitution and the Rule of Law. Let us pray for our America, a nation that stands uniquely as a Christian Constitutional Republic!