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America’s Thanksgiving Held Hostage by Government Shutdown!

November 27th - Happy Thanksgiving

No Congressman will miss Thanksgiving Dinner– only working families and America’s needy will feel the hurt! Hope for an EXTENSION!

The fight among political parties is evidently more important than taking care of our own American citizens. Government does not have money \$\$\$ of its own. Just debt! The money comes from the hard work and ingenuity of Americans They have no problem taking the money and spending the money.

Let’s see if Congress will take away our American “Happy Thanksgiving” tradition. They are trying restrict our freedoms! Next, they will restrict our holidays!

LONGEST GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IN HISTORY COMES HOME TO ALABAMA

November 6, 2025 – MONTGOMERY, AL – The government shutdown has now stretched for 37 days and lawmakers in D.C. are not optimistic that there will be a resolution anytime soon to the partisan impasse. Senate Democrats are refusing to consent to a routine continuing resolution (CR) that would give the parties more time to work on the 2026 budget – which was supposed to be finished by September 30 but now appears impossibly delayed.

The number of Alabamians affected by the shutdown continue to grow as the executive branch struggles to keep essential operations going without adequate funding to do that.

Approximately 57,000 federal employees in Alabama have been furloughed or are working without pay during the ongoing government shutdown.

Around 57,000 Alabamians are employed by the federal government. That represents about 2.7% of Alabama’s total workforce. Most of these employees have either been furloughed or are working without pay since the shutdown began on October 1. Those employees, some of them working in essential roles like air traffic control have missed at least two full pay periods, with no guarantee at this time that they will receive back pay. Alabama has a 5% income tax that is deducted from all of those checks. When they don’t get paid the state of Alabama Treasury does not get paid. Additionally, those workers spend most of their take home pay. The state of Alabama along with the counties and municipalities collect up to 10.5% (depending on the locality and whether or not it is a grocery item) on most of the money that those workers spend.

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Government shutdown will impact Thanksgiving travel

November 6, 2025 – WASHINGTON, D.C. – annually millions of Americans trek to Grandmother’s house for Thanksgiving Dinner with family members. This year we are 38 days into the longest government shutdown in our nation’s history.

U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-Alabama) spoke on Thursday with Alabama reporters – including the Alabama Gazette about how that will impact Thanksgiving travel.

“I spoke with Transportation Secretary Duffy this morning and he confirmed that he is about to cut flights by 10 percent,” due to the shutdown Tuberville said. **“That means that many people won’t get to travel for the holidays or they will drive.....and that’s not good given the roads we have in Alabama.”**

Millions of Americans travel for Thanksgiving each year. The federal government shutdown is now in its sixth week. Thousands of air traffic controllers and TSA agents have been working without pay leading to growing staffing shortages in a growing number of airports as employees are running out of money to pay for the gas to get to work.

With fewer TSA agents reporting to work lines to get through security in airports across the country have grown significantly.

Secretary Sean Duffy confirmed to reporters on Thursday that the FAA will scale back air traffic to maintain safety amid the rising absenteeism. Airports in New York City, Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, and Houston are among those affected. Atlanta is particularly important for Alabama because flights, even many of those who originate in Birmingham, often go to Atlanta to change flights to other destinations.

A ten percent cut in the number of flights will have an enormous ripple effect on the availability of flights. If the shutdown continues there could be additional cuts to the number of flights allowed to utilize our nation’s airports.

Tuberville on Thursday said that he felt that the TSA and air traffic controller should be privatized as the public sector has shown itself to be so incredibly inefficient.

To comment or ask a question email: brandonmreporter@gmail.com

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Honoring Our Heroes



In Loving Memory

Dr. Martha Poole Simmons, age 87 a resident of Montgomery, AL, expired on **Saturday October 4, 2025** at UAB in Birmingham, AL after an extended illness.

A Celebration of Life

was held on

Monday October 20, 2025
at Frazer Church, Montgomery, AL

The family received friends from
10:00 AM to 11:30AM
and the **Memorial Service**
began at **11:30AM**.

Dr. Simmons was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Janie Poole, of Wetumpka, AL. She is survived by two sons, Richard E. Simmons and his wife, Laura M. Simmons, grandson, Alexander Simmons and his wife, Anne Grace, granddaughter, Sarah Kate Simmons, son, Col. Steven A. Simmons and his wife, Laura C. Simmons and twin grandsons, Alden Simmons, and William Simmons.

She was a graduate of the University of AL receiving her B.S. Degree in 1959 and her Ph.D. in 1980 in Elementary Education and her Master of Science in Elementary Education from Troy State



Dr. Martha P. Simmons

University in 1976. She served as a teacher for 32 years in elementary schools and at the university level where she was a professor of Elementary Education at Belmont University, Huntingdon College and AL State University.

She was an active volunteer in many areas of service including disaster relief with the Central-East AL Chapter of the American Red Cross serving across the USA, with the Montgomery Baptist South Medical Center in surgery waiting, with the Montgomery Salvation Army Angel Tree project, at Frazer Church in Montgomery, with the Crump Senior Center of Montgomery and with the Central AL Veterans Healthcare System Outpatient Clinic. She was also a volunteer reporter and writer about veterans for the Alabama Gazette. She was a member of the William Bibb Chapter and the Peter Forney Chapter of the DAR. She was a member of Alpha Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and served as an officer in the AL organization

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions were asked to be sent to the American Red Cross, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery, AL 36106 or to Frazer Church, 6000 Atlanta Highway Montgomery, AL 36117.

In Remembrance of Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

The Alabama Gazette family was truly blessed by knowing and working with Dr. Simmons since December 2018. At 86 years old, she was tireless in her endeavors. She supported senior citizens, the red cross and veterans by providing pictures and articles for our "Honoring Our Heros" section of the Gazette. Her diligence in interviewing each 312 veterans over the years was remarkable. She made sure that everyone got copies of the Gazette by personally distributing over 600 papers per month. We received several phone calls from her in her last days making sure everything was submitted and in the October issue. Her energy and presence will be missed by all who knew her.

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
May their faith guide us through this sorrow." 2 Timothy 4:7*

LONGEST GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IN HISTORY COMES HOME TO ALABAMA

Continued from page 1

November 6, 2025 – MONTGOMERY, AL – That is cutting into sales tax receipts for the state. It also affects the businesses where the federal workers would have spent their funds. Taking that 2.7% out of the economic mix for the state impacts businesses (both large and small) which will negatively impact the corporate taxes the state collects.

The Council of Economic Advisers estimates Alabama's Gross State Product is declining by \$169 million per week due to the shutdown.

Starting on November 1, the shutdown will begin to impact Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Beneficiaries. Over 700,000 Alabamians rely on SNAP (food stamps) benefits.

Governor Kay Ivey and the Alabama Department of Human Resources have allocated \$5 million in emergency state funding to help cover SNAP disruptions.

"There are real Alabama families who rely on SNAP to put food on their tables, and that includes more than 300,000 children, more than 102,000 seniors and those who are disabled," said Gov. Ivey. "That is why I am directing \$2 million in emergency funding to go towards food banks serving the people of our state," said Governor Ivey. "We are now in the longest federal government shutdown in history, and it is absolutely ridiculous that families all across our country are suffering – whether that is the school children who rely on SNAP, the air traffic controller not receiving a paycheck or even our military and high number of federal government worker families in Alabama. Hear me loud and clear when I say Alabama cannot be both the state and federal government. And like states all across the country, Alabama is stepping up to help, but this is not sustainable by any means. U.S. Senate Democrats must vote to reopen the federal government now."

SNAP beneficiaries who do receive a cut in benefits along with federal workers who have not been paid are being urged to go to food pantries and other assistance venues for food until the government shutdown comes to a close.

Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D-07) was at the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama in Birmingham on Tuesday to help fill food boxes for the underprivileged. The Community Food Bank serves 6,000 families and averages 40 to 50 food deliveries a week. Since the government shutdown that number has doubled.

Ginger Pegues is the development director with the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama.

"We can provide four meals for every dollar," donated said Pegues.

"We need food shelf stable food like peanut butter. If you need food - No questions asked we will take care of you."

Pegues said that she needs donations to purchase food, shelf stable food like peanut butter, and volunteers to help fill the boxes and unload the pallets.

"The average SNAP benefit the receive is between \$6 and \$10 dollars a day," said Sewell. ***"Most of them are the working poor."*** ***"This is the first government shutdown where SNAP benefits have been cut down during the shutdown,"*** said Sewell.

Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-Alabama) urged the able bodied on SNAP to get jobs.

"A lot of people deserve the SNAP," said Tuberville but he also argued that ***"young men on SNAP should be working"***.

Tuberville emphasized that, ***"We can't let our people go hungry"***.

Seniors who get their Social Security benefits wired into their bank accounts have not been impacted. Around 7,000 seniors without bank accounts who still get a paper check mailed to them are reportedly experiencing delays from the shutdown.

112,000 recipients of Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) support in Alabama are at risk of losing benefits as local contingency funds run dry.

VA medical centers, outpatient clinics, and Vet Centers in Alabama remain open. This includes facilities in Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, and Huntsville. These services are protected by advance appropriations, meaning they were funded ahead of time and are classified as essential.

Non-essential veterans services have been paused during the shutdown. These services include: Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) counseling, the GI Bill Hotline, VA regional benefits offices are closed to the public, transition briefings for service members preparing to leave the military have been halted, and cemetery maintenance at national sites like Fort Mitchell and Mobile have been paused, though burials continue.

Tuberville has co-sponsored the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act, which would force Congress to stay in session until a budget is passed. He said, ***"Where I come from, you stay at work until you get the job done"***.

To learn more about the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama. <https://feedingal.org/>

To comment or ask a question email brandonmreporter@gmail.com



INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE With Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at: <https://steveflowers.us/>

Alabama's Adult Education Is One of Nation's Best – A 60 Year Legacy



Over the past six decades, Alabama's Adult Education Programs have been transformed by a quiet revolution that has been extraordinarily successful.

It was my honor to be able to speak to the Annual Adult Education Conference at the downtown Montgomery Renaissance Center in late June.

When I accepted their invitation to speak, I thought there would be 50 to 60 attendees. However, when I walked in, I amazingly saw over 400 passionate, positive, energized educators and administrators that filled the venue.

It quickly dawned on me that we have one of the most successful Adult Education Programs in America. These folks in attendance are dedicated to their work. It is their passion and purpose. It is nothing short of a movement that has changed generations and continues to redefine what opportunity means in our state.

This was not just a professional development conference, it was a celebration of purpose, perseverance, and the power of education to transform lives at any age.

Adult education is too often viewed narrowly, through the lens of GED attainment. While that remains a foundational component, this year's conference emphasized a much broader and more dynamic vision – one that includes digital literacy, English language acquisition, employability skills, workforce certifications, and the alignment of career pathways that lead to sustainable employment.

A key highlight of the conference was the discussion of the newly enacted REACH Act (Restoring Educational Advancement of Completing High School), Alabama's High School diploma option program. This important Act was sponsored by then Representative, now State Senator Matt Woods of Jasper.

Participants also explored a variety of employability and technical training programs offered through the Alabama Community College Innovation Center. These skills for success courses are designed to equip adult learners with real-world, in-demand skills that directly support Alabama's economic growth.

This 60th anniversary event also served as a tribute to the legends and heroes of adult education in Alabama. First on the list of legends was the late Representative

Pete Turnham of Auburn. Pete is considered the Father of Adult Education in Alabama.

The reason I was asked to speak was not as a political columnist, author, or Alabama political historian, but to share my experiences and personal knowledge of Mr. Pete Turnham as his friend and legislative colleague.

Mr. Pete and I sat next to each other for almost two decades in the Alabama House of Representatives. He was not only my mentor and friend, but he was like a father. My two daughters thought of him like a grandfather. He was truly a good man. He cared about Alabama. He especially cared about Auburn. He was dedicated to education in our state.

Pete Turnham was a child of the Great Depression. He achieved success in business along with being the "Dean of the House of Representatives." When he retired from the legislature in 1998, he had served longer than anyone in state history. Mr. Pete never talked about it much, but he was a World War II hero. He fought with General Patton in Europe. Mr. Pete epitomized "The Greatest Generation."

During his many years in the legislature, Pete served on the House Ways and Means Committee, which appropriates money. Through his Seat, he garnered a \$1 million appropriation singularly for adult education. This was a large amount of money at that time and the first for adult education in Alabama.

Pete Turnham was a towering figure in Alabama's legislative history and an unrelenting champion for nontraditional learners. Mr. Pete's advocacy was deeply personal, grounded in the belief that education was not a privilege, but a right – no matter your age or station in life. A scholarship bears Pete Turnham's name, continuing his legacy by helping adult learners return to the classroom.

The sheer turnout at this 60th anniversary event conference reinforced what many of us in politics should understand, there is a hunger for education in our state. While budgets and ballot boxes dominate headlines, investments in adult education quietly yield some of the greatest returns.

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



Perry O. Hooper Jr.

*Founder Let the People Speak
Former Alabama State Representative
Alabama State Republican Executive Committee*



The Absurd American Paradox You Still Pay Even When They Don't Work

Only in Washington can the government shut down and still send you a tax bill.

There's something downright absurd about Washington's favorite circus, the so-called "government shutdown." The lights go out, the bureaucrats go home, the national parks close, and the media act like civilization is ending. TSA workers go on half pay, veterans' calls go unanswered, and families cancel long-planned trips because the parks are barricaded. But one thing never shuts down, the IRS. Somehow, through every budget standoff and fiscal cliff, the one arm of government that always keeps running is the one that takes your money.

That's the great American paradox. You can't get your passport, your veterans' benefits are delayed, your federal offices are locked, but your tax bill is still due on time. Washington can stop everything except your obligation to fund its dysfunction.

Benjamin Franklin famously said, ***"In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes."*** Well, Franklin never saw a modern government shutdown, where taxes stay certain but accountability dies. It's a joke that stops being funny when you realize who's paying for the punchline.

No senator misses a paycheck, no bureaucrat loses a pension, no lobbyist skips a lunch meeting. The only one who pays the price is you, the taxpayer.

President Reagan once quipped, ***"The taxpayer, that's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination."*** Reagan said it with a grin, but the truth stings even more today. The American taxpayer is the only truly essential worker in Washington. Rain or shine, shutdown or not, you keep the whole broken machine running.

And here's the irony no one in Congress wants to talk about, if the government can "shut down" without the country collapsing, maybe it's too big to begin with. Maybe we don't need 2.2 million federal employees to do what states, counties, and private industry could handle better, faster, and cheaper. Maybe it's time to treat a shutdown not as a crisis, but as a wake-up call.

During the last standoff, one viral quote summed it up perfectly, ***"For every day the government is shut down, we shouldn't have to pay income tax that day."*** Imagine if Washington had to live by that rule, suddenly, you'd see bipartisan cooperation in about ten minutes. Nothing motivates politicians like losing their favorite addiction, your money.

President Donald J. Trump understood this better than anyone. During the 2019 shutdown, he told Americans, ***"Many of you have suffered far greater than anyone, but not only did you not complain, you encouraged me to keep going because you care so much about our country."*** That's the difference between real leadership and career politics. Trump fought for a government that worked for the taxpayer, not the other way around.

Meanwhile, Democrats like Senator Dick Durbin lecture us that a shutdown ***"holds the livelihood of the American people hostage."*** No, Senator, the hostage is the American taxpayer, chained to a system that punishes productivity, rewards incompetence, and never misses a withdrawal from your paycheck, even when it stops delivering what it promises.

Thomas Jefferson warned it was ***"sinful and tyrannical"*** to compel a man to fund ideas he abhors. Today, it's worse, we're compelled to fund a government that doesn't even show up for work.

Turn on the TV and you'll see reporters act like Washington's gone dark, but the real darkness is moral, not physical. They'll never stop taking your money, even when they stop doing their jobs.

So as Washington once again plays chicken with the American people, remember this, every shutdown proves that the federal leviathan is bloated, unaccountable, and unnecessary in half the places it exists. If the government can go dark for weeks and the sun still rises, maybe it's time we rethink what ***"essential services"*** really means.

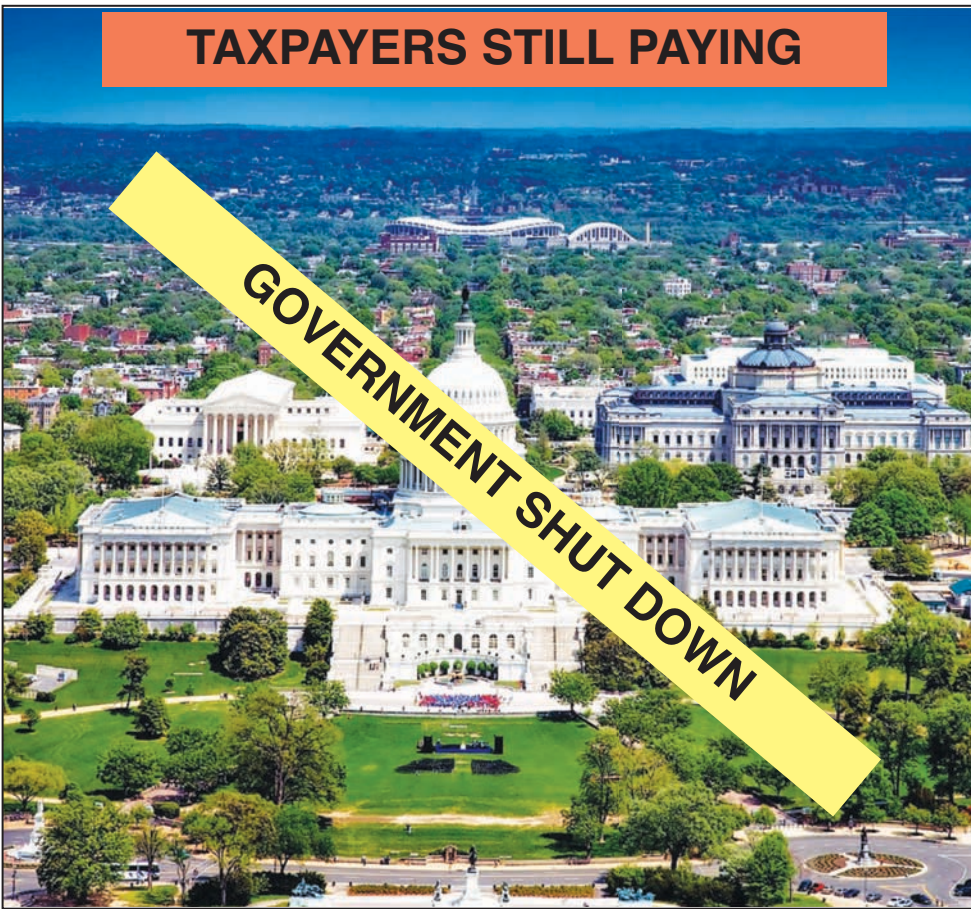
Reagan joked that the taxpayer works for the government. These days, it feels less like a joke and more like a job description.

Because as long as the IRS stays open while everything else closes, the message from Washington couldn't be clearer, they'll shut down the government before they ever shut down the gravy train.

They'll close your parks, freeze your pay, and cancel your benefits, but they'll never miss a deposit from your paycheck. That's not governance, that's extortion dressed up as politics.

And that's the real scandal.

Perry O. Hooper Jr. is a former state representative, a current member of the Alabama Republican Executive Committee, the 2016 Trump Victory Chair, and a widely published political columnist.



KATIE BRITT
U.S. SENATOR FOR ALABAMA



Republican senators nominating Charlie Kirk to be included in the National Garden of American Heroes for his historic contributions to the nation and American democracy.

WASHINGTON, DC — U.S. Senator Katie Britt (R-Ala.) joined Senator Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and 13 other Republican senators nominating Charlie Kirk to be included in the National Garden of American Heroes for his historic contributions to the nation and American democracy.

The Garden of American Heroes is a sculpture garden proposed by President Trump in his first term to honor “great figures of America's history.” It’s set to open in July 2026 in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

“Through his work, [Charlie] has inspired countless young Americans to engage in civic life and to appreciate the responsibilities of citizenship,” wrote the senators. “His efforts highlight the enduring importance of free expression, active participation, and leadership in strengthening our democracy.”

“The inclusion of Mr. Kirk in the National Garden would not only honor his personal achievements but would also underscore the vital role that civic engagement plays in our national heritage,” continued the senators.

“My husband’s life was so incredible. Charlie forever changed the direction of this country, and he made a it better place for our children, young people, and families. Charlie’s legacy will be felt for generations to come,” said Erika Kirk,

CEO & Board Chair, Turning Point USA. “My husband was a modern American Founding Father, and he deserves every honor and accolade this nation can bestow on him. I am grateful to Senator Cassidy and the 14 other senators who have nominated Charlie for this tremendous honor.”

“We are honored to see Charlie Kirk proposed for such a prestigious and enduring monument to American patriots. We thank Senator Cassidy for his bold thinking and strong leadership, as well as the 14 U.S. Senators who joined him in advancing this noble cause to the President, who himself hailed Charlie as an ‘Evangelist for American liberty,’” said Mark Schoeppel, Director of Recruitment & Outreach, Turning Point USA Chapter at Louisiana State University.

Senators Britt and Cassidy are joined by U.S. Senators Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), Mike Lee (R-Utah), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Ted Budd (R-N.C.), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Pete Rieke/s (R-Neb.), Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio), and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) in supporting this nomination.



Rob Tate

Robservations...

SO, WHO IS UNEDUCATED?

I will admit it. I have absolutely no respect for New York Congresswoman, Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, AOC. Zero. That is nadda, nil. Why? That is easy. I do not like nor respect socialists. Especially socialists who swore an oath to our constitution yet every day, through their own words and actions, try to subvert that very oath.

Let’s not forget, among the many stupid things she has uttered over the past several years, how back in December 2021, she argued before Congress that it is our “moral obligation” to cancel student loan debt. What? Our moral obligation? Arguably, she laid out a very thought-provoking argument after admitting that she had \$17,000 of debt herself that she wanted me to pay for. But the problem remains that the very premise of her argument is, dare I say, “BS.” It really doesn’t matter how good one’s argument might be. If it is based on a lie or a corrupt position, it will always be wrong. On what planet do I, Rob Tate, sitting here in my house in Alabama, have a moral obligation to help pay a student loan for some kid who took out the loan?

This is something I wrote about three years ago on this topic. “Here’s another kicker, the authors of an April 2021 study, entitled “The Distributional Effects of Student Loan Forgiveness,” concluded “that universal and capped forgiveness policies are highly regressive, with the vast majority of benefits accruing to high-income individuals.” In other words, if this were to ever pass, the people whose debts would be forgiven, disproportionately are kids from higher income families.”

AOC threw out many statistics about people owing more now than when they first took out the loan. (See the above paragraph) Okay, that is called getting behind and penalties assessed. That falls under the category of “not my circus, not my monkey.” I guess if I go out and buy a \$150,000 car and decide I cannot afford it, the government should step in and pay it off for me? No! And rightfully so. You signed on the dotted line; this is your problem alone. Do you think if I went to the VW dealership and “cow-eyed” that smoking hot Tiguan they have in the showroom, Mr. Ingram would give it to me? I didn’t think so. Don’t worry Mr. Ingram, when the time comes, I will be happy to buy yet another car from you. All other sophomoric socialist arguments, no matter how well crafted they might be, are nothing more than socialist blather. There can be no doubt that college does cost a lot of money and the argument for a fix is definitely warranted, but the answer is not asking me to pay off your student loan for you. Perhaps some of these kids should have gotten degrees that would allow them actually pay off their loans. I previously wrote, “So instead of trying to pass laws attempting to gouge money from taxpayers, why not pass laws forcing the colleges and universities to reimburse students for financially raping them all these years? They created the problem, let them help fix it. Do not expect me to.”

I had a conversation with both a young man and young woman who were interested in flying. They had a fear about the cost and the loans required to finish a flying program. I told them not to worry about it. I told them that if they completed the program and got on with a major airline, during their career, there would be absolutely no problem paying off their student loans. I said it might be a different story if they had an equal amount of student loan debt with a degree in art history. But as a pilot, there is no such problem.

But this is not intended to be about student loan debt forgiveness, although it remains a pet peeve of mine. As usual, AOC, an obviously intelligent woman, albeit I believe ideologically blinded, opened her gob and vomited up yet another juicy morsel of stupidity the other day. She is truly the gift that keeps on giving. She actually argued that Charlie Kirk was uneducated, apparently because he didn’t finish college. Wow. I will tell you what. When I watch a lot of these college kids, members of Congress and the Senate argue against ICE and in favor of illegal gang members staying in the US, I wonder if they are truly in college or graduates or just really old looking third graders. No, college alone does not necessarily make you “educated.” Nor does skipping college make you uneducated. So, I just wanted to share a small sample of people who never finished or even went to college, but you would be remiss to categorize them as uneducated. And let’s not forget, Jesus never went through all the formal rabbinical training of the most learned of His time and yet he was wiser and smarter than all of His peers – bar none.



But let’s take a look at some of AOC’s uneducated people.

- Bill Gates – Co-founder of Microsoft
- Mark Zuckerberg – Founder and CEO of Facebook
- Steve Jobs – Co-founder of Apple
- Richard Branson – Founder of the Virgin Group which consists of 400+ companies
- Michael Dell – Founder and CEO of Dell Technologies
- Larry Elison – Co-founder of Oracle
- Sergey Brin – Co-founder of Google
- Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard – Co-founders of Hewlett-Packard
- Jack Dorsey – Co-founder and CEO of Twitter and Square
- Evan Williams – Co-founder of Twitter and Medium
- Paul Allen – Co-founder of Microsoft
- Jawed Karim – Co-founder of YouTube
- Reid Hoffman – Co-founder of LinkedIn
- Chris Hughes – Co-founder of Facebook
- Drew Houston – Founder and CEO of Dropbox
- David Karp – Founder and CEO of Tumblr
- Tina Brown – Founder and CEO of Tina Brown Live Media
- Michael Bloomberg – Founder, CEO and owner of Bloomberg LP
- Scott Cook – Co-founder and CEO of Intuit
- Pierre Omidyar – Founder and chairman of eBay
- Richard Wright – Novelist
- Maya Angelou – Poet and activist
- Abraham Lincoln – President and lawyer
- Andrew Carnegie – American steel tycoon
- Benjamin Franklin – Founding Father, self-taught polymath
- Ted Turner – Television executive, creator TNT, CNN and Cartoon Network
- Simon Cowell – Talent consultant and then some
- John Mackey – Co-founder of Whole Foods
- David Murdock – CEO of Dole Food Company
- David Neeleman – Founder of JetBlue Airways
- Harry Truman – President
- Ralph Lauren – Founder of Polo
- Russell Simmons – Co-founder of Def Jam Recordings
- William McKinley – President
- Frank Lloyd Wright – Famed architect and designer of Guggenheim Museum

This list is not complete. There are many more to include athletes and those in the entertainment industry not listed here. The point here is that people like Charlie Kirk, just because he never finished college, are not uneducated because their resume does not include a piece of paper. Charlie Kirk read over 100 books every year. Every year! And topics he read covered almost the entire academic spectrum. I never saw him lose a debate and he could effectively speak on most topics. Yes, he said some controversial things, I mentioned one in my last Robservations. But most of his controversial statements, taken within the context in which they were spoken, can be defended. I for one would have paid money to see him wipe the floor with AOC in a debate on any subject. Like the time Tom Homan squashed her like a bug in front of Congress. Although she might have defeated Kirk on topics surrounding the life and times of a barista, other than that, she very likely would have been doomed. Uneducated? Not hardly.

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



Ronald A. Holtsford

there would also be a defense or multiple defenses for the defending (or offending) party. The lawyers that you see on television and roadside ads for are mostly interested in representing someone (plaintiff) that has been wronged in things like car wrecks or maybe wronged in their use of products found to have defects in them. So, the individual in a vehicle that is hit by another and if the individual is injured then they may well sue the person that hit them. Their lawyer (plaintiff's attorney) will look to see if the driver of the other (defendant) vehicle exhibited traits of negligence such as speed, avoidable distractions, impairment (physical or by means of emotional, mental or influence by drugs or alcohol), loss of legal ability to operate a vehicle, reckless behavior, driving a less than roadworthy vehicle either through vehicle, brand or tire history or recall, etc. There are of course other things that the plaintiff's lawyer would investigate. While the plaintiff is suing the individual that committed the act, the defendant is represented by an attorney or attorneys for the insurance company that insures the defendant driver.

The defendant attorneys would prepare defenses for the defendant. Most states use either true comparative negligence or some form whereas the negligence involved in an accident is "compared" between the negligence of the plaintiff and that of the defendant. If the plaintiff for example is found to be 20% negligent then the total award to the plaintiff is reduced by 20%. Alabama, like a small minority of other states uses contributory negligence where if the plaintiff contributes even one scintilla of the negligence then they recover nothing. Georgia uses a modified comparative rule saying that nothing can be recovered if the plaintiff could have with ordinary care avoided the consequences. Georgia law also compares the negligence and if the plaintiff's negligence reached 50% or more then the plaintiff recovers nothing. The mention of Georgia is relevant to the remainder of this article.

Going to the original question, the defense to a plaintiff struck by a baseball or bat during the course of the game is assumption of the risk. You might sign a waiver or a contract for instance in a risky activity such as skydiving. I believe I have seen something to that effect on baseball tickets. If not in writing then assuming the risk may be implied by doing something like rock climbing or even attending a baseball game where fencing does not protect all spectators and its known that baseballs and maybe even bats will go flying in various directions.

If someone is injured at a baseball game by an errant ball or bat, can the team and/or venue be sued for damages?



During the 2021 World Series MVP, Jorge Soler threw a ball into the stands hitting Mayra Norris in the eye. The lawsuit was brought in 2023 against the Braves and Soler. The facts stated in the case were that ***"Before the game resumed in the fifth inning, Soler, a right-fielder for the Braves at the time, stood in the outfield. According to the Plaintiffs, Soler threw a baseball "overhand, with great force, speed, and intensity" in Mayra's "immediate direction," and she did not have time "to react or to avoid impact from the ball. The Plaintiffs alleged that the game was not in play at the time and that Soler's throw was neither incidental to the game nor a warm-up between the players. The complaint alleges that the baseball struck Mayra in her right eye, and she sustained multiple fractures, a right eye edema, and an infra-orbital abrasion."*** The facts from the trial Court read, ***"The court reasoned that "[s]ouvenir baseballs thrown into the crowd are clearly inherent to the game of baseball, and being struck by one is an inherent risk for those in [the] Plaintiffs' position."*** Thus, the trial court concluded that ***"Soler's throw was an inherent risk to the area in which Plaintiffs chose to sit at Truist Park during a live baseball game[,] [and] [t]herefore[] the Baseball Rule applies and bars Plaintiffs' claims."*** The plaintiffs are seeking such damages as determined at trial.

The trial court ruling was in favor of the defendants under Georgia's "baseball" rule which is basically like Alabama's "assumption of the risk". The case was appealed with the Georgia Court of Appeals and reversed on September 12, 2025. During the appeal, Norris had asserted that the Braves should ***"prevent reckless and dangerous conditions of which it knew or should have known."*** The appeals Court felt that the lower Court did not give the plaintiff the opportunity to gather facts to show an exception to the Georgia "baseball" rule. For instance, had Ms. Norris been a small child that would have worked as an exception since a small child would not appreciate the risk nor be expected to be one to be able to avoid an object coming directly at them. Even a parent or guardian may not have sufficient time to avoid a child being injured. Finally the appellate decision stated that it, ***"included his (of) loss consortium claim with Mayra's claims in the same suit and we have determined that the trial court erred by dismissing the underlying negligence claims, it necessarily follows that the trial court also erred by dismissing the derivative loss of consortium, punitive damages, and attorney fees claims."***

The case now returns to the trial court and we will see what occurs.

Flying Cars Are Coming



John Martin

In the 1985 movie "Back to the Future," Michael J. Fox jumps into Christopher Lloyd's levitation-equipped DeLorean and the two take off into the year 2015, ending up into a swarm of flying cars.

The year 2015 has already passed a decade ago, and except for a few experimental examples, we still have no mass market flying cars.

According to Wikipedia, a flying car must meet these specifications: "A flying car must be capable of safe and reliable operation both on public roads

and in the air. Current types require manual control by both a driver and a pilot. For mass adoption, it would also need to be environmentally friendly, able to fly without a fully qualified pilot at the controls, and come at affordable purchase and running costs."

The first true flying car (or "roadable aircraft") was the Aerocar, designed and built by Moulton Taylor in Longview, Washington in 1949. It featured a rear propeller and wings that could be unfolded and flight ready in five minutes by one person. Its top speed was 60 mph on the road and 110 mph in the air. Taylor built only six. The original price was \$9,995. They worked quite well, but they never received widespread interest or proposals for mass production. Today, two are in museums, and a third is in storage with a \$2.5 million dollar asking price.

Since that time, little interest has developed to put flying cars on the market. One big concern was safety. How could one deal with the very great likelihood of numerous mid-air collisions with hundreds of them buzzing around everywhere? And what about the noise? Instead, beginning in the 1970's, limited numbers of people bought and flew ultralight aircraft. Later, in the 2000's, because of their much lower cost and better versatility, drones became popular, and ultralight use diminished somewhat.

As drones became bigger and more sophisticated, people started to observe the obvious—"Why not build big drones to carry people around?" With the boom of efficient electric cars and high capacity batteries in full swing, we can do it. Big drones are quieter and easier to fly than helicopters and other aircraft. They are also much more maneuverable and safer in crowded traffic.

Today, the issue of safety and mid-air collisions is greatly diminished by developments already done by Tesla on its own cars. Today's models have cameras and/or RADAR devices and software to detect oncoming collisions and other hazards. These same features could be installed onto all flying cars. In the air, their efficiency could be even greater. In a car, there are three available maneuvers—slow down or stop, swerve to the left, and swerve to the right. In the air, there are also two others—swerve up, and swerve down. Of course, simple logic can tell you that preventing every last collision is impossible, but we can get close.

Several companies are already working to develop flying cars. The leader is Joby Aircraft, founded in 2009, which has already built and is now flying five test models. Each can carry a pilot and up to four passengers and some luggage—up to a maximum payload of 1000 pounds. They can get 100 to 150 miles on one battery charge.

Each Joby has six tiltable carbon fiber bladed propellers that enable it to switch from vertical to level and back to vertical flight in mid-air as well as on the ground and during take-off and landing. They resemble six-bladed helicopters, but are 100 times quieter.

The proposed uses for the first production craft will be air taxis in crowded neighborhoods. A best case taxi trip from Manhattan to the JFK Airport can take an hour, or much longer in bad traffic. A Joby trip would take seven minutes, and it would cost less than a third of a helicopter ride. Later, as the system develops and becomes widely used, the price could drop to that of an ordinary ground taxi or Uber.

Joby craft are very easy to fly—no more difficult than a typical drone. Unlike helicopters, they can be piloted proficiently with minimal training or even autonomously. They have already completed over 1000 test flights and the first three of five FAA certification steps.

Joby is utilizing high tech lightweight materials to the utmost—tempered aluminum, carbon fiber, and even complicated parts made of 3D printed titanium.

Toyota and Delta are partnering with Joby and are helping with the manufacturing of the more ordinary parts.

As Joby progresses with its air taxis and satisfies sufficient demand, it is likely to begin filling the gap for individual air vehicles for common people—one and two seat vehicles for routine commuting.

Joby isn't the only player in the flying car market; there are several others. But so far, besides Joby, only Archer has done much development. It has built two Midnight aircraft, but they are well behind Joby. On September 7, Archer said that six more were under construction and three of them were in the final stages.

In future years, many competitors are likely to jump onto the band wagon of building flying cars. We will have to wait to see who eventually comes out on top. But so far, Joby has a substantial lead.

Some day, one of us might exclaim, "Roads? Where we're going, we don't need... roads."

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



The Joby four passenger eVTOL air taxi



John
Sophocleus

and his minions; (re)read my 5/1/24 Gazette column <https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2024/05/01/opinion/prof-roberts-theres-a-cancer-on-the-presidency/3257.html>. These past months indicate historically unprecedented levels of failure in football and the wholesale violation of 1st Amendment Rights. Competitiveness in football is uniquely critical to Auburn's athletic programs and the freedoms enshrined in the 1st Amendment are fundamental to AU's academic mission.

Unfortunately, Auburn's football program has started three seasons in a row (2023, 2024, and now 2025) with four consecutive SEC losses. This record of athletic ineptitude has never occurred before in the long history of Auburn football; AU has been part of the SEC since its 1932 founding. Likewise, Auburn's President recently put out a dubious letter in September announcing continued relentless violation of 1st Amendment Rights at Auburn. Already sued twice in federal court during the month of October [claiming malicious violation of 1st Amendment Rights] several more lawsuits against Roberts are being prepared for the docket. These current and pending lawsuits in the queue mirror the very serious and long-standing 1st Amendment case against President Roberts by the highly distinguished aerospace engineer, Prof. Joseph Majdalani.

This unprecedented level of AU dysfunction begs an updated understanding of monetary flows within this pathetically corrupted institution. Twice before (roughly eight years ago and again three years ago) asymmetrical raises analyzed within the institution exhibit a malignant ethos termed "*The Auburn Greed*." This distorted version of the noble Auburn Creed due to the tyrannical gifting of infamous Auburn miscreants such as Bobby (FDIC Failure) Lowder, Mike (Felon of the House) Hubbard, Jimmy (Yella Grubber) Rane, and Steven (Crash) Leath, to name only a few of the 'public servant' parasites sucking the marrow out of AU's legacy. Petrie's classical [1943] Creed begins with the virtual sounding sentences:

"I believe that this is a practical world and that I can count only what I earn. Therefore, I believe in work, hard work."

The Auburn Greed, consistent with the mercenary value system permeating throughout the AU administration, begins with the sentences:

"I believe that this is a corrupt world and that I can count only on what I steal. Therefore, I believe in theft, grand theft."

The first/original installment of *The Auburn Greed* appeared in the March 2018 Gazette [<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2018/03/01/opinion/the-auburn-greed/1301.html>] and highlighted massive raises given to Jay Jacobs' loyal henchman in order to artificially inflate their RSA retirement checks. By contrast, it was highlighted how Prof. Michael Stern was assigned dramatically smaller raises than most faculty and administrators in retaliation for his speech in the University Senate and the *Wall Street Journal* exposing corrupt curricular decisions at AU by athletic interests. Subsequent to the original article, a federal jury unanimously found in late 2022 Prof Stern had been given a zero pay raise in malicious retaliation for exercising 1st Amendment Rights.

President Roberts would not voluntarily repair Professor Stern's salary; placed under an injunctive order by a federal judge in the summer of 2023 in relation to Prof. Stern's salary. Furthermore, President Roberts' sat by while the individual who carried out the malicious retaliation against Prof. Stern was not dismissed, but rather raised to the highest paid faculty member in College of Liberal Arts [CoLA] history at AU, currently making nearly \$300K per year, approaching double the salary of comparable political science faculty. AU consistently signals the promise of lavish rewards to individuals assisting in acts of retaliation against those who exercise their constitutional rights. One might even cite they're "carried far on the wings of Auburn corruption."

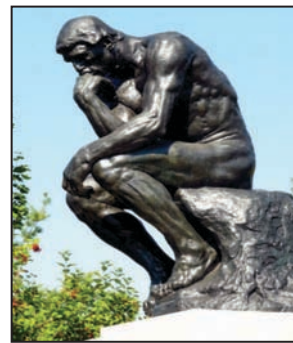


Auburn President Christopher B. Roberts
www.auburn.edu

The second installment [2.0] of *The Auburn Greed* appeared April 2023 [<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2023/04/01/opinion/the-auburn-greed-20/2522.html>] reporting the massive raise Dean Susan Hubbard, wife of Mike (Felon of the House) Hubbard, received in comparison to exemplary, more accomplished AU faculty. It exposed Dean Hubbard required an evaluation SEVENTY categories of merit higher than the highest category of faculty performance to justify her raise given the University's claim of raise distribution according to relative merit. Besides this public servant's obvious relation to Mike (Felon) Hubbard, Dean Hubbard oversees matters related to the notorious Rane Culinary Science Center, a taxpayer/student subsidized boondoggle more commonly known as 'Hell's Kitchen' by those paying attention at AU. The 2.0 column further reported massive raises used to pay off additional AU employees who helped facilitate retaliation against Prof Stern for exercising his 1st Amendment Rights.

Auburn Greed 3.0: Chris Roberts Edition

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



THINK

This recent high watermark of dysfunction in athletics and numerous *de novo* 1st Amendment lawsuits suggest the pattern and practice of raises exhibited in *The Auburn Greed* 1.0 and 2.0 continue. AU just announced a 3% raise pool, again allegedly based on "merit" and set to take effect for the new budget year which began October 1. Analysis of University salary files from before and after October 1st reveal raises distributed to various employees. Such an analysis indicates continued corruption consistent with prior columns. Many faculty of the highest possible merit show raises in the 3% range, amounting to little more than an inflation adjustment. Individuals with administrative authority generally show raises higher than the faculty, irrespective of their merit relative to the faculty. Every single department chair in the College of Liberal Arts [CoLA is among the most corrupt I've observed] appears to have a raise larger than the median faculty member in any of the departments. For example, the music department chair has a raise larger than a music faculty member who literally received a perfect performance evaluation. Even some of the worst performing administrators are somehow more meritorious than the most exceptional faculty. Some at AU commonly refer to this as the 'plantation model' in keeping with the ethos and deleterious spirit of *The Auburn Greed*.

Headlines addressing 1st Amendment violations under resident Roberts' reign compel one to compare his raises received versus those who've exercised and defended their basic civil rights. Salary files indicate Prof. Michael Stern received a 0% raise in keeping with past malicious retaliation for his exercise and defense of his rights. "Retaliator-in-Chief" President Christopher Roberts shows a whopping 6% raise! Note worthy Roberts is a "public servant" State government official who already received a massive salary... more than double the US President - grift not included. Prior Auburn President Jay Gogue used to correctly say Universities are their faculty, and accordingly, he routinely requested the Board of Trustees **not** give him a percentage raise any larger than was being made available for the faculty. President Roberts doesn't adhere to such an ethical, honorable request, further illustrating *The Auburn Greed* pervasive on the Plains.

Those indifferent w.r.t. Auburn's academic mission may point out AU also has a sizable athletic component. The President is also responsible for the athletic arm of the institution and thus can play a role in his raises. Undoubtedly football is the pre-eminent sport dominating AU athletics, responsible for a huge portion of its budget. If we examine football's performance under Roberts' leadership compared to other Auburn Presidents, the results are revealing for the twelve AU Presidents since the SEC's 1932 founding. Using historical data from sports-reference.com, one can estimate a SEC win % associated with each President. As of October 22, Auburn football had the lowest win % in SEC games under none other than...you guessed it; Christopher Roberts! The win % was below 25% for Chris Roberts, the **lowest** by far. This can be compared to win percentages of around 65% for esteemed individuals such as President Martin. Estimated SEC win percentages were also comfortably in excess of 50% for historically well-regarded presidents such as Muse and Philpot. Based on performance in athletics, one cannot credibly argue Roberts is due a raise greater than the faculty, but rather one might reasonably argue termination.

Only citing President Roberts as a beneficiary of *The Auburn Greed* decaying AU would be poor reporting. Analysis of recent salary files once again highlights wife of Mike (Felon of the House) Hubbard as the recipient of a raise reportedly even bigger than the outrageous raise she received in the second installment (2.0) of *The Auburn Greed*. This time, calculations indicate Dean Susan (Bride of Felonstein) Hubbard received a raise exceeding 8%! One can only imagine the type of scandals brewing behind the scenes at Jimmy Rane's luxury "Hell's kitchen" this Halloween... One wonders if there's been corruption and self-dealing in terms of contracting? Gross financial mismanagement? Taxpayers covering large deficits? How expensive is it to keep canaries from singing?

Remarkably, Auburn football coach Hugh Freeze was recently quoted as saying he fits "what Auburn is all about." If he means being massively overpaid while in a position of leadership, failing to perform, not taking personal accountability, throwing the little people under the bus, playing lots of golf, and kissing the ample posterior of Jimmy Rane makes him 'fit in' here at Auburn, then I wholeheartedly concur. Hugh Freeze's performance thus far (0 and 4 start in SEC games three seasons in a row) combined with his history of rule breaking and hookers, generally puts him at odds with Petrie's noble Creed, but aligns him perfectly with *The Auburn Greed*.

In closing, I once again submit corrupt academics and corrupt athletics go 'hand in glove.' I'll spare readers the small hands, honor amongst thieves and OJ jokes, nonetheless I thought it wonderful when I would go to games cheering my students who actually attended classes with the rest of the student body. To have a student who'd return to AU after going pro early wanting to get back in my class claiming he learned so much dealing with accountants, agents, finance, etc. was indeed rewarding. It was my job to prepare them. Can't imagine a time when this will again be an integral part of college prep of our professional athletes, anymore than I can imagine we'll remove enough of the administrative pollutants at AU to make it worthy of my return... Deo Volente.

Postscript: I believe in Mike Hubbard politburo members in Lee County continue to prosper; most recently confirmed by Hubbard apologist Eddie Smith being installed as Felon Hubbard sycophant Fuller's replacement for Opelika mayor. More recently we observe the "I believe in Mike Hubbard" Lee County Sheriff displaying AU style malice of 1st Amendment Civil Rights firing a Deputy bringing competition to Lee county's low-turnout, uncompetitive elections: https://www.eaexaminer.com/post/jay-jones-terminates-deputy-cam-hunt-for-running-for-lee-county-sheriff?utm_campaign=9a1a4d3c-c64a-4be6-9f74-0ab7892166b7&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=915391ad-1c60-4b4a-bb20-b8da786c797a.

Kudos to John Brice breaking another report to shine light on the 'media blackout' enveloping this corrupt county.

We Need to Remember! When did you last quote this?
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



HISTORY BITS AND PIECES

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY



Justice Will Sellers

We are increasingly embroiled in an age in which the truth is an unwanted and uninvited guest.

Leaders, especially in the body politic, have no desire to find the truth, because in finding it, they might have to change, resulting in dire consequences to the longevity of their public service, if not to their constituencies.

The machinations of the United Nations is perhaps the best example of how truth becomes lost in the ideological shuffle.

The U.N. was founded to promote peace among nations and resolve problems according to international laws and without the necessity of war. Preventing unprovoked aggression was one of the reasons to have an international organization to entertain grievances, resolve disputes, and generally act as a global policeman keeping nations within their established boundaries on their best behavior — or the best behavior within the limitations of their cultural ability.

But the UN has failed in its mission and possesses limited authority to form any consensus to live up to its charter. Delegates no longer engage in honest debates, much less discussions of their mission. Rather, the U.N. has become hijacked by ideological debates that no longer attempt to ascertain the truth, but rather promote an agenda based on lies, deception, and blind loyalty.

Regrettably, most of the deception is aimed at undermining the United States, its motives and its national interests.

Within a matter of years after its formation, the U.N. became a puppet for the Russians to ratify their goals and objectives of creating a global communist community. To do this, they had to use the language of freedom, liberty and democracy to justify their actions in conquering if not controlling other countries. They used the idea of open voting to consolidate power and argued for self-determination as a ruse to limit opposition to their fellow travelers.

Blinded by the power of the Russian propaganda machine, the explanation of their actions was accepted almost whole hog. To denigrate the United States, the Soviets repeatedly characterized the U.S. as imperial, colonial, and elite.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Russians and their allies knew this, but they also knew the repetitions of these characterizations would eventually become accepted as true.

The Russians were unrelenting and used the machinery of journalism to find or make up examples of how the U.S. was evil. Unfortunately, an entire generation heard these lies over and over again and believed them. Even today, in fact, humanitarian efforts of the United States are seen not as detached generosity, but as the paternalism of a colonial power.

The truth is no longer a defense against an accepted belief. Once a belief becomes stronger than the truth, the goal, if not the mission, of the society revolves around

The United Nations at the Crossroads



Flag of the United Nations

supporting the belief regardless or in spite of, of any contrary proof. As a direct result, in the international community, the U.S. is often seen as a pariah nation. Our intentions are doubted, our motives questioned and anything we do as a nation is suspect and under intense scrutiny. In short, we are afforded no benefit of the doubt and are guilty until proven innocent.

But the reality is that the world needs the benevolence of the United States. Without our commitment to free trade, the rest of the world would experience economic collapse. If our global military mission did not exist, other nations would be occupied by authoritarian powers. Take away the charitable support of U.S.-based and supported humanitarian programs, and the world would feel no succor from disasters and other cataclysms.

It would be easy to quit the United Nations, recall our troops, and embrace the adage of fortress America. But we cannot disengage from the world no matter how much we are disliked, abused, and misunderstood. Overall, the U.S. is a force for good in the world.

We are a superpower not because we want to be, but because we stumbled upon a dysfunctional world with no organizing principles or decisive leaders. While some nations seek international leadership by self-promotion, the U.S. became an international leader by default. Rather than relishing our hegemony, we accepted our place in the world reluctantly and sometimes seem almost embarrassed by our global power.

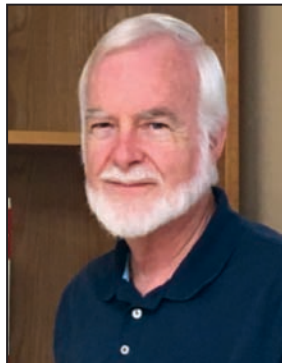
The U.S. has never embraced conquest or promoted aggression to achieve our national aims. Our international goals are simple — we want a stable world order in which nations and their people labor and promote their own self-interest, but under a rule of law to prevent violence, stymie war, and promote reciprocal trade where ingenuity and intelligence promote prosperity.

American self-interest has always been infectious and promoted peace, self-determination, and goodwill. Other nations who have joined us understand our commitment to liberty and freedom. America has been and will continue to be a force for good in the world not because we want to be, but because someone must provide global leadership to avoid the listless, all-consuming international crisis.

The United Nations is at a crossroads and has the opportunity to join the U.S. in creating a stable world to realize the aims of its charter established 80 years ago. To do so, it must call out international bad actors, marginalize their influence, curtail their authority, and sanction their economy. Failing to do that, the U.N. will simply continue as a forum for complainers and an ossified organization with influence only among illegitimate authorities who need an international body, no matter how limited in influence, for validation of their failed view of community, order, and decency.

The U.N. needs a new birth of purpose to exist as becomes its charter, and the world needs a forum, inspired by freedom, for honest brokers to debate issues and provide peace and stability. The United States can be a catalyst to liberate the United Nations from ideology to view the world in terms of realpolitik and impose the rule of law by sponsoring free and fair tribunals to resolve disputes, prevent conflict, and stabilize free trade.

ROBERT E. LEE'S REFUSAL TO COMMIT TREASON



John Taylor

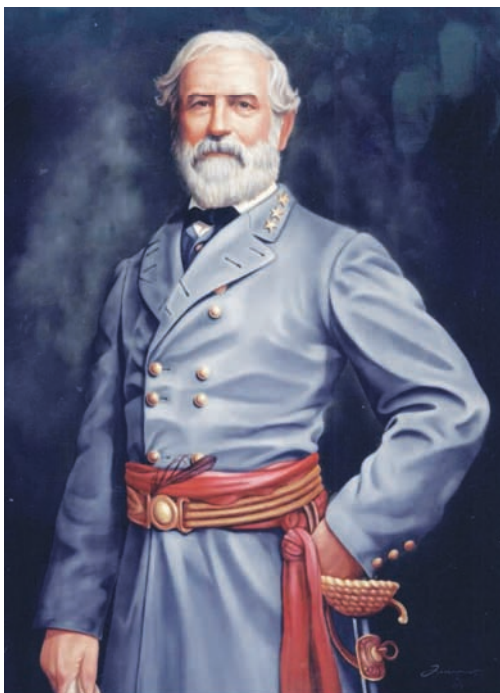
In a rare case of self-inflicted torture, I watched some of Maine Senator Angus King's questioning of Pete Hegseth, U.S. Secretary of Defense (now War). Various topics were covered, including the renaming of bases. King falsely accused Robert E. Lee of committing treason by resigning from the U.S. Army and siding with his State in 1861. Since King was born in Virginia, one might ask if he really believes that nonsense or if he is just another historical dimwit.

Much has been written about Lee's decision to side with Virginia. Yet, in that era, it was commonplace for individuals—mainly in the South—to view their State as their country (the terms are interchangeable). There was certainly historical precedent. Article I of the 1783 Treaty of Paris identifies the thirteen “free, sovereign, and independent” States that made peace with Great Britain. The same language was used in Article II of the Articles of Confederation. Additionally, the compact nature of the U.S. Constitution was understood during the Constitutional Convention. The compact reality was referenced by both Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton and covered extensively by Albert Taylor Bledsoe (*Is Davis a Traitor?*), St. George Tucker (*View of the Constitution of the United States*), John Taylor of Caroline (*New Views of the Constitution*), and others. Furthermore, Robert Yates' notes from the Constitutional onvention made it clear the true “States' Rights federalists” won and the “nationalists” lost and the States did not forfeit their sovereignty. For obvious reasons, nationalists will vehemently deny the States are sovereign and some will claim they never have been.

With his State still in the Union, Virginia's U.S. Representative Alexander R. Boteler warned the Lincoln Administration that coercing States and threatening to invade them would trigger his home State's secession. Lincoln's appeal for 75,000 volunteers from each State to put down the so-called “rebellion” pushed out Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee. This call for invasion incensed the governors of Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Kentucky. Although most Southerners understood the Union to be a voluntary coalition, Lincoln claimed the Union preceded the States and was formed through the 1774 Articles of Association, a colonial boycott of British goods. As Professor Thomas DiLorenzo wryly noted, that is like saying a marriage is older than the two spouses.

Robert E. Lee loved the original Union—the one that was destroyed by Lincoln and his corporate, banking, and political supporters. Lee's family legacy was imbedded in the struggle for American Independence and he opposed a forced Union, stating, **“A Union that can only be maintained by swords and bayonets has no charm for me.”** Indeed, the American Colonies had broken away from a similar monstrosity. Lincoln became the new “King George.” However, the real King George was much more benevolent than Lincoln, who not only supported war against combatants but also approved total war against women, children, and property.

You can always rely on the usual suspects to claim Lee committed treason — Alan Guelzo, *“Taliban”* Ty Seidule, Kevin Levin, etc. Indeed, anyone who believes in the Joseph Story “nationalist theory” or that the U.S. is a “democracy” will likely make that claim. After Virginia exercised its sovereign rights, held a convention and voted to leave the Union, critics of Lee cannot fathom his unadulterated allegiance to his home State, choosing instead to believe the theory promoted by Story, Daniel Webster, and others in the 1830s that a “nation” was created—a word absent from the founding documents. They also seem to forget that it took nine States to make the U.S. Constitution valid and there was no guarantee that every State would choose to join it.



Robert E Lee

Article IV, Section 3 of the constitution states that the federal government cannot interfere in State affairs unless invited by the legislature or governor of that State. Furthermore, treason is defined in Article III, Section 3 using the plural terms “them” and “their” — this references the States, not the general government. Therefore, invading a State is the classic example of treason. Most founders thought such an agenda would be preposterous—they clearly did not envision someone like Lincoln.

Lincoln insisted the Southern States did not actually secede, but they were simply “out of their practical relations with the Union.” Who do you think was aware of this sophistry? Robert E. Lee as well as hundreds of thousands in both the North and the South. Lee refused to be part of an invasion of his home State or any other states that voted to secede. Based on Lincoln's contention the seceded States were actually still part of the Union and the feds were not invited into any of those States, Robert E. Lee refused to commit treason by being a part of an invasion of those States.

Sources: *Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation*, by John M. Taylor; Articles of Confederation (1777), *National Archives*, at: <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/articles-of-confederation>; Treaty of Paris (1783), National Archives, at: <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/treaty-of-paris>, “Robert E. Lee Quotes”, BrainyQuote, at: https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/robert_e_lee_752993; *A View of the Constitution of the United States of America*, by William Rawle, Jr.; John Taylor of Caroline County, published *New Views of the Constitution of the United States* in 1823. Taylor referenced Robert Yates' book, *Secret Proceedings and Debates of the Constitutional Convention*. Yates attended the Constitutional Convention and took detailed notes of the proceedings. Using Yates' notes, Taylor obliterated the claims of ‘nationalists’, e.g., Hamilton, Clay and Lincoln. The Radical Republicans were so adamant about making sure everyone swore proper allegiance to the “constitution” that they instituted the “Soviet-styled” Ironclad Oath in 1862.



Col John Eidsmoe

DRACULA: HALLOWEEN VAMPIRE OR GUARDIAN OF CHRISTENDOM?

Think of Dracula, think of Bram Stoker, whose 1897 horror novel Dracula has inspired hundreds of progressively inferior vampire movies.

But Dracula was real – not the vampire, but Count Vlad III Dracula (A.D. c. 1428 - 1477) of Wallachia (now part of Romania). Known as Vlad III the Impaler

(but called Dracula (after the Order of the Dragon, a knightly order founded to defend Christendom against the Ottoman Empire and Islam), the Count’s brutality staggers the imagination. But as my personal physician Dr. Calin Braicu, a Romanian immigrant, says, **“Count Dracula saved Romania from Islam.”**

In the 1400s the Ottoman Turks were the dominant power in the Middle East, and the Sultan had designs on Eastern Europe. In 1442 Dracula’s father Vlad II was called to a diplomatic meeting with the Sultan and he brought his sons Vlad III (age 12) and Radu (age 6). But the Sultan arrested them and then released Vlad II on condition that he leave his sons as hostages. During his six years of captivity, Dracula observed and experienced Turkish brutality in the extreme, as well as the Sultan’s sexual abuse of Radu, and he developed a secret but intense hatred toward the Turks and Islam. He was a strong Eastern Orthodox Christian, founding the Comanus Monastery and frequently donating to and praying in other monasteries more than any other Wallachian prince before or after him. He also restructured the Wallachian Orthodox Church so the Metropolitan (similar to bishop) was chosen from the Cozia Monastery rather than appointed by the Patriarch of Constantinople. He later converted to Roman Catholicism, partly because he married into a Catholic family and also possibly to gain support from the West in his crusade against the Turks.

In 1448, after Dracula’s father was slain, the Sultan sent the young man back to Wallachia to rule it as a Turkish vassal. After internal conflict until 1456, Vlad was proclaimed voivode (prince) and promptly declared himself an ally of the Ottomans’ arch-rival, the Christian kingdom of Hungary. He then purged Wallachia of those boyars (nobles) who had appeased the Turks, and he created an army of loyal soldiers led by capable officers.

Next, he stopped the payment of annual tribute to the Sultan. In 1461, Sultan Muhammed II sent emissaries to Dracula’s mountaintop castle to demand tribute. The Count asked why they failed to remove their turbans in his court, and they responded that they had taken a vow to Allah never to remove their turbans before men. Vlad responded that “I shall uphold your law, so that you adhere to it firmly,” and he ordered his guards to nail the emissaries’ turbans to their heads!

Not surprisingly, Dracula soon found himself in full-scale conflict with the Ottoman Empire. And although artists’ portrayals make him look like a madman who just stuck his finger in a light socket, Dracula was in fact a firm and steady warrior and a skilled strategist and tactician. He knew his kingdom was no match for the Ottoman Empire in an all-out war. So, much like General Washington in America’s War for Independence, Dracula determined that his best strategy was to inflict such casualties and invoke such terror as to convince the Ottomans that Wallachia was not worth what it would cost to conquer it.

During the winter of 1461-62, he agreed to bring 50 Wallachian children as tribute to the Sultan. But that was a ruse. He placed his soldiers in the mountains, and at the appropriate signal they attacked and massacred the Ottoman army. Dracula took the two leading Muslim generals and, in “honor” of their high positions,

impaled them on high stakes.

Shortly afterward, he led an army of 2,000 to a Turk-held fortress in Nicopolis. Speaking the fluent Turkish he had learned in captivity, he persuaded the guards to lower the drawbridge. He and his men then stormed the fortress and massacred 23,884 Turks. He then wrote to King Matthias of Hungary that “we will not flee before [the Ottomans’] savagery, but stand by all of the Christians, and if he will kindly lend his ear to the prayers of his poor subjects and grant us victory over the Infidels, the Enemies of the Cross of Christ, it will be the greatest honor, benefit, and spiritual help for Your Majesty ... and for all true Christians.”

The Sultan raised an army of 150,000 to conquer Wallachia. Dracula fought them off with an army of only 30,000, using guerilla tactics, hiding his troops in the mountains, and launching night-time cavalry charges into the enemy encampments. This struck terror into the hearts of the Muslim soldiers.

And Dracula proved himself to be a master of psychological warfare. As the sultan led a march toward the Wallachian capital, they came upon the “Forest of the Impaled” – 20,000 Muslims impaled on stakes, surrounding Dracula’s castle for six miles in circumference. Chalkokondyles says, **“the Turks, seeing so many people impaled, were scared out of their wits.”** They quivered in their tents that night, and at dawn Dracula and his men descended from their mountain fortress and made a sudden charge into the Muslim encampment, cutting down countless Turks.

That morning the Sultan ordered a retreat, and his disheveled army returned to Adrianople in disgrace. European Christendom rejoiced, and even on the distant Mediterranean island of Rhodes where the Knights of St. John held out against the Otomans, monks “toll[ed] the bells and [sang] Te Deum to worship the glory of the Romanian prince.”

Raymond Ibrahim has recorded this and much more in his excellent book, ***Defenders of the West: The Christian Heroes Who Stood Against Islam***. In eight thrilling chapters he tells the stories of Duke Godfrey, El Cid, Richard the Lion-hearted, St. Louis, and others. And the last chapter is titled “Vlad Dracula: The Dread Lord Impaler.”

Yes, Dracula was brutal, but he fought a brutal enemy in a brutal era. At that time impalement was a common form of execution, especially among the Turks. And I believe my doctor is right: he saved Romania from Islam and helped preserve European Christendom. Certainly, the world needs more gentleness, more kindness, more love. But sometimes force must be met with force. Sometimes God uses strong, even brutal men to fight brutality and accomplish His will. I hope to see Dracula in heaven.

The true account of Count Dracula is far more compelling than the vampire story.

Too bad Bram Stoker didn’t think of that.

(Reprinted with permission from 1819 News)

Colonel Eidsmoe serves as Professor of Constitutional Law for the Oak Brook College of Law & Government Policy, as Senior Counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law (morallaw.org), and as Pastor of Woodland Presbyterian Church (woodlandpca.org) of Notasulga, Alabama. He may be contacted for speaking engagements at eidsmoeja@juno.com.



COACH TOMMY TUBERVILLE

U.S. SENATOR  FOR ALABAMA

LOCK THE CLOCK

It’s that time of year again. Alabamians once again was forced to change their clocks in the middle of the night. On November 2nd, we all woke up and “fell back” out of Daylight Saving Time (DST).

In the five years I have served in the Senate, making DST permanent is the number one issue I hear about. A lot of folks have asked me over the years, ‘Why do we even have Daylight Saving Time?’

DST was first introduced during World War I and then used again during World War II as a temporary way to help conserve fuel and energy. Following the ends of both wars, the decision to spring forward and fall back was returned to individual states. It wasn’t until 1966 when the system of changing our clocks twice a year was made permanent.

Changing our clocks twice a year might have made sense in the sixties. But we aren’t the same country we were back then. Thanks to technology – farming, manufacturing, and other industries look entirely different today. The twice-a-year time change just doesn’t make sense anymore – and it hasn’t for a long time.

Changing our clocks twice a year isn’t just outdated, it is also dangerous. North-western Medicine found that the practices of “falling back” and “springing forward” are both connected to a 6% spike in fatal car accidents and a 24% higher risk of heart attacks. Changing clocks disrupts sleep patterns and means it is darker much earlier in the day – which can have fatal consequences.

The time switch in the fall can also negatively impact people’s physical health. The long-term health effects linked to changing our clocks include weight gain, cluster headaches, and depression. It also increases Seasonal Affective Disorder every single year, which causes many Americans to feel depressed.

Thanks to RFK Jr.’s great work at HHS, a lot of Americans are taking their health more seriously by eating healthier ingredients, getting more exercise, and prioritizing sleep. As a founding member of the Senate Make America Healthy Again Caucus, I am extremely passionate about improving the health of ALL



Americans. The back-and-forth switching of our clocks is the exact OPPOSITE of the MAHA movement. It is bad for our sleep, nutrition, and overall health.

If we were to make DST permanent, Americans would enjoy an extra hour of sunlight in the evening. This may not seem like a big change – but it would make a difference in the lives of many Alabamians. No one wants to walk home at 4:45pm during the winter in the pitch-black dark. It’s depressing and makes it difficult to be active outside after work.

As a dad, I always loved spending time throwing the ball around with my two boys outside. An extra hour of sunlight in the evening would give every parent more time outdoors with their kids. Kids don’t need to be inside playing video games. They need to be outside being active after school. Locking the clock is an important first step to helping Americans of all ages live longer, healthier lives.

It would also be a huge benefit for the economy. Studies have shown that longer days mean more people are going out to eat, shopping in the evenings, and supporting local businesses – stimulating local economies. I know our farmers would love an extra hour of sunlight. More sunlight means more time that can be spent making a profit in the fields and providing food to put on our tables.

It’s also safer during DST. Studies from Stanford University and the Brookings Institution have shown crime plummets when DST ends. Reports of robberies fall by 27%, murder falls by 48%, and rape falls by 56%. This should be a no-brainer.

Locking the clock would be a massive win for our country. A permanent, year-round DST is not only healthier and safer for Alabamians, but better for our economy than switching back and forth twice a year. I’m proud that Alabama has led the charge and has already passed state legislation that would lock the clock permanently. It’s time for the federal government to follow the lead of the majority of the states and lock the clock. It’s time for America to move forward—and stop falling back.

Community Lifestyles



NOTICE!

PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE
AND VIEW THIS ISSUE AND
UPCOMING ISSUES ALONG
WITH CURRENT NEWS!
www.alabamagazette.com

Honoring Our Heroes



November 25 - November 29 Operation Iron Ruck 2025 Jordan-Hare Stadium Auburn, AL

Operation Iron Ruck (OIR) is an annual event hosted by the Auburn Student Veterans Association (ASVA) and the University of Alabama Campus Veterans Association (CVA) to raise awareness and funds for veteran suicide prevention. As the state of Alabama has one of the nation's highest veteran suicide rates, OIR seeks to increase the public's knowledge on this issue while uniting veterans with the community, funding charities, championing veteran suicide education and supporting local veteran organizations.



**YOU ARE NEVER
ALONE...**

IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU REMEMBER OUR VETERANS DURING THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON. MAKE A POINT TO SAY "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE" WHEN YOU SEE A VETERAN WEARING HIS SERVICE CAP. HE IS WEARING HIS CAP BECAUSE IS PROUD OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY.
GOD BLESS AMERICA!

**Always Remember the
Men and Women who have served our great
nation and the sacrifices they made.**

Veterans Crisis Line

DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

www.veteranscrisisline.net

COACH TOMMY TUBERVILLE

U.S. SENATOR  FOR ALABAMA



**Tuberville Honors
Tamara Brewer
of Marion
"Veteran of the Month"**

Serving others takes on many different forms. For many of Alabama's veterans, their hometowns inspired them to pursue military service. And those strong upbringings and deep hometown roots often lead them to continue serving — even after their time in the military ends.

That's true for **Captain Tamara Brewer of Marion**. Growing up in Mobile, she saw firsthand the hardships our coastal communities endure when natural disasters strike. Tamara enlisted in the Alabama Army National Guard with a desire to help her fellow Americans. She had no idea that 9/11 would happen shortly after she entered basic training. Seeing terrorists attack our country made her desire to protect and serve even stronger.

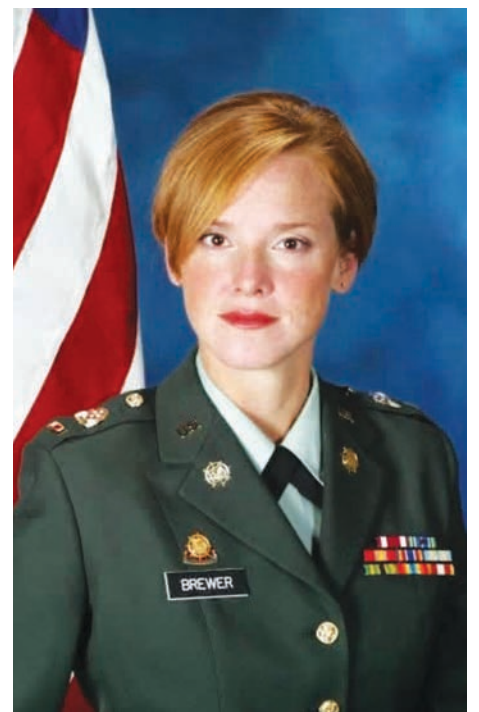
Tamara was deployed to serve on the forefront of the war against terror, in Iraq, in 2008. For a year, she valiantly served as the Headquarters Company Commander, where she received a Bronze Star for her brave leadership. After finishing her time in the Middle East, Tamara came back home to Marion where she continued finding ways to serve — particularly Alabamians living in the Black Belt.

Tamara is a huge advocate for art therapy — finding solace in her photography, graphic design, and any outlet she can find to use her creativity for the betterment of those around her. She has designed various logos for Alabama businesses and helped capture Alabamians' important milestones such as weddings and graduations.

"It's my honor to recognize her as the October 'Veteran of the Month.'"

Sen. Tuberville recognizes a different Alabama veteran each month for their service and contribution to their community. Constituents can nominate an Alabama veteran and submit their information to Sen. Tuberville's office for consideration by emailing press_office@tuberville.senate.gov.

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



**Always Remember the Men and Women who have served our
great nation and the sacrifices they made.**



November 11th

**God
Bless
the
USA!**

Montgomery to Host Veterans Day Celebration Featuring Major General (Retired) Clyde A. “Lou” Hennies

The city of Montgomery invites the community to honor our nation’s heroes at the Veterans Day Celebration on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, beginning on Dexter Avenue. As a proud Veterans Day Regional Site designated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Montgomery continues its tradition of commemorating service and sacrifice with a day of meaningful events and community engagement.

This year’s theme, “Montgomery Salutes: 50 Years Later, Never Forgotten — Honoring Our Vietnam Veterans,” marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. In tribute, the city will recognize Vietnam veterans throughout the day’s activities.

Special Guest: Major General (Retired) Clyde A. “Lou” Hennies

The city is honored to welcome Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Clyde A. “Lou” Hennies as the guest speaker. A decorated veteran and former commander of the U.S. Army Safety Center, Hennies served two combat tours in Vietnam, commanded the elite special operations unit Task Force 160 “Night Stalkers,” and played a pivotal role in developing the Army’s first in-flight refueling system for the Boeing Vertol CH-47 Chinook. His distinguished career also includes serving as Alabama’s adjutant general and earning multiple advanced degrees in political science, journalism and public administration. Hennies will serve as grand marshal of the parade and deliver the keynote address during the ceremony at Riverwalk Stadium.

Event Highlights

- Veterans Day parade through downtown Montgomery
- Resource fair and Kids Zone with family-friendly activities
- Ceremony at Riverwalk Stadium featuring Gen. Hennies
- F-35 flyover and MH-139 helicopter static display



UPCOMING AREA EVENTS FOR VETERANS



8 Nov 3:00pm – Veterans Tribute Cruise & Car Show: \$5 entry fee for veterans, \$15 for non-military benefits local Wounded Warrior fund. Event location at **South Ace Lumber an Hardware, 108 County Rd 100, Deatsville AL 36022.** Car Show Sponsors providing a free dinner for veterans and their families, rain or shine. **For more info call/test Brenda Lystell at 334-315-6641**

9 Nov 4pm – Montgomery Veteran’s Day Prayer event at Frazer Church:
featuring keynote speaker Coach Bruce Pearl, Auburn Head Basketball Coach.

9-15 Nov 9am-4pm – Veterans Appreciation Week at Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum: All veterans, active duty military personnel, and their dependent family members receive a 50% DISCOUNT on REGULAR DAYTIME admission. **For more info call 334-625-4905.**

11 Nov 9-11am Montgomery Veteran’s Day Parade, Dexter Avenue
Encouraging maximum participation from all Veteran Service Organizations in the River Region.
Parade Entry Registration Deadline is 31 Oct; to register use the following link: <https://cityofmontgomery.seamlessdocs.com/f/Parade2025>

Nov 11 11am-12pm Veterans Day Resource Fair at Riverwalk Stadium, 200 Coosa St, Montgomery

16 Dec 8pm 2025 IS4S Salute to Veterans Bowl at the Cramton Bowl:
Montgomery, televised on ESPN.

Golden Corral® Marks 25 Years of Military Appreciation Night to Honor America’s Heroes

America’s leading buffet celebrates U.S. service members and veterans with free meals and fundraising for Disabled American Veterans

Golden Corral invites all active-duty military, retirees, reservists, guardsmen, and veterans to enjoy a complimentary dinner buffet and beverage on

Tuesday, Nov. 11, Veterans Day, from 4 p.m. until close for its 25th Annual Military Appreciation Night.

In addition to offering free meals to our nation’s heroes, Golden Corral is continuing its partnership with Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Local DAV chapters will be stationed at restaurants beginning Monday, Oct. 27, where guests can contribute through direct donations or by rounding up at the register. All proceeds will go toward providing essential services to disabled veterans and their families in the local communities served by DAV chapters across the country.

“Military Appreciation Night is always a highlight of our year,” said Lance Trenary, CEO of Golden Corral. “Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, this tradition has given team members and our guests the chance to connect with those who have served, hear their stories, and come together in gratitude and respect. Watching people from every background unite in support of our military heroes is profoundly moving and serves as a powerful reminder of why this tradition matters so much.”

The Military Appreciation Night offer is available at all Golden Corral locations for dine-in only and does not extend to spouses, friends, or other family members. Military identification is not required to receive the complimentary meal.

Beyond the annual event, Golden Corral supports military families year-round through Camp Corral, a nonprofit that provides summer camp experiences for children of wounded, ill, and fallen service members at no cost. Since 2011, Golden Corral and DAV have helped raise over \$19 million for Camp Corral, giving thousands of children the chance to enjoy life-changing camp experiences.

This year, Golden Corral also launched its inaugural fundraising partnership with Project Healing Waters, a nonprofit dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of veterans and active-duty military through therapeutic fly fishing activities. The effort exceeded its first-year goal of \$175,000, with plans to expand fundraising and its impact in the years ahead.

Veterans November Birthdays

Ponds, Fernandez
Young, Vernon Wallace
Levy, James Malcolm
Hines, Walter E. III
Huffstickler, Jerry Lynn
Strickland, Bryan D.
Brantner, John A.
Woods, Walter
McNeal, Shanarik Deone

November 1st
November 2nd
November 9th
November 11th
November 11th
November 12th
November 12th
November 13th
November 14th

Teuton, George Henry
Tucker, Boris
Jackson, Harry Ural
Heil, Donald Allen
Ganier, Milton
Gulledge, Carl F.
Phelps, Richard Howard
Tormey, Timothy Lawrence
Phillips, James Robert

November 15th
November 16th
November 22nd
November 24th
November 24th
November 25th
November 25th
November 26th
November 27th



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

Call him at 334-233-8736
or visit:
<https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org>.



Support YOUR Local Law Enforcement



Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
(334) 832-4980
www.montgomerysheriff.com



Sheriff
Derrick Cunningham

Chief Deputy
Kevin Murphy



The Patrol Division of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and security of residents within our jurisdiction. The patrol division operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, including weekends and all holidays; it is comprised of over sixty sworn deputies who have a passion for serving their community. The primary responsibility of the patrol division is to respond to calls for service and patrol their assigned districts to detect or deter criminal activity.

The dedication that the men and women of this division exhibit every day, provides the ability to foster positive relationships in an effort to reduce crime. In addition to responding to calls for service, patrol deputies are responsible for: vacation home checks, vehicle inspections, and serving arrest warrants. The patrol division also encompasses the Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit. The drones provide an aerial view in critical situations where time is of the essence. These drones enhance the safety of our deputies by being readily deployable, 24/7 during all critical incidents.

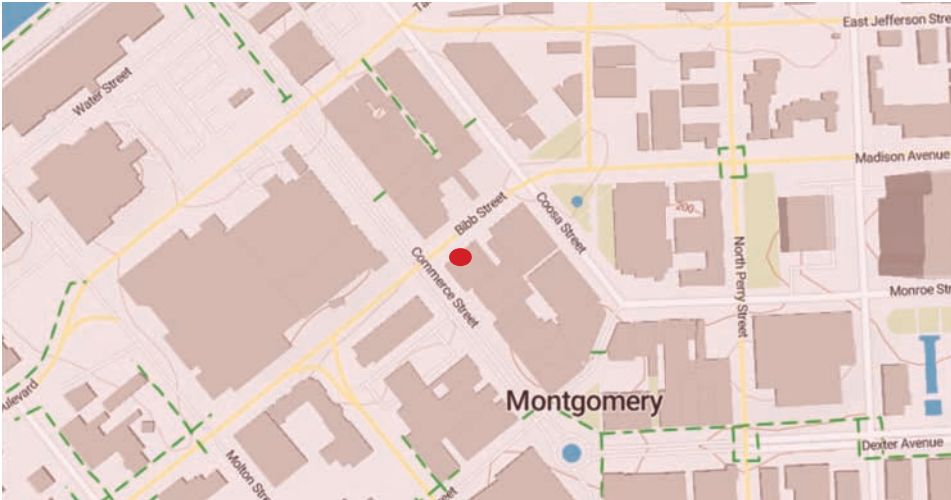
In addition to criminal patrol, members of this division serve in various aspects, including:

- Traffic Enforcement (Motors)
- K-9
- Field Training Officer Program
- School Resource Officer
- Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit

The Patrol Division also handles security check requests.



Gang Violence in Montgomery: A Growing Crisis Demanding Urgent Action



Montgomery Alabama, a city steeped in civil rights history and Southern charm, is facing a modern crisis that threatens its communities and public safety: the rising prevalence of gang violence. Once considered a peripheral issue, gang-related crime has surged into the spotlight in 2025, prompting concern from residents, law enforcement, and state officials alike.

A Violent Wake-Up Call

The urgency of the problem was underscored on October 5, 2025, when a shootout between rival gangs erupted in Montgomery's downtown nightlife district. The gunfire, exchanged in a crowded public space, left two people dead and 12 others injured. Among the deceased were a 43-year-old woman and a 17-year-old boy, while five of the wounded sustained life-threatening injuries. The brazen nature of the attack-occurring in a bustling area filled with civilians-sent shockwaves through the city and highlighted the growing boldness of gang activity.

Montgomery Police responded swiftly, but as of the following day, no arrests had been made. The incident sparked renewed calls for stronger intervention strategies and more community-based prevention efforts.

A Pattern of Escalation

This was not an isolated event. In recent months, Montgomery and surrounding counties have seen a troubling uptick in gang-related shootings and criminal activity. On October 12, Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall announced a sweeping set of indictments targeting gang members involved in a multi-county shooting spree. A total of 24 individuals were indicted under the Alabama Criminal Enterprise Act, which allows prosecutors to pursue comprehensive charges against organized crime networks.

The indictments included charges for discharging firearms into both occupied and unoccupied buildings, a tactic often used by gangs to intimidate rivals or retaliate for perceived slights. The individuals charged were linked to coordinated acts of violence across Chambers and Lee Counties, with connections to Montgomery's gang landscape.

The Cost of Crime

According to data from CrimeGrade.org, Montgomery receives a D- grade for violent crime, indicating a rate significantly higher than the national average. The cost of violent crime in the city is estimated at \$1,539 per household annually, with the total economic impact reaching over \$131 million. These figures reflect not only the human toll of violence but also the strain on public resources, healthcare systems, and economic development.

The city's crime map reveals stark disparities in safety, with some neighborhoods experiencing disproportionately high levels of violence. These areas often overlap with communities facing systemic challenges such as poverty, underfunded schools, and limited access to healthcare-conditions that can create fertile ground for gang recruitment and activity.

Community Response and Law Enforcement Efforts

In response to the growing crisis, Montgomery officials have pledged to intensify their efforts to combat gang violence. During an October 7 media briefing, law enforcement leaders emphasized their commitment to a thorough and methodical investigation into recent incidents. They also highlighted the importance of community cooperation and accurate reporting to ensure justice and prevent further violence.

The Montgomery Police Department has increased patrols in high-risk areas and is working closely with state and federal partners to dismantle gang networks. However, officials acknowledge that enforcement alone is not enough. **"We can't arrest our way out of this problem,"** one officer noted during the briefing. **"We need to address the root causes and invest in long-term solutions."**

The Role of Prevention and Education

Experts agree that prevention is a critical component in reducing gang violence. Programs that offer mentorship, job training, and educational support can provide at-risk youth with alternatives to gang involvement. Community organizations, faith-based groups, and schools play a vital role in identifying vulnerable individuals and connecting them with resources.

Montgomery has seen some success with initiatives like youth outreach programs and violence interruption models, but funding and scalability remain challenges. Advocates are calling for increased investment in these efforts, arguing that proactive measures are more cost-effective and humane than reactive enforcement.

A Call for Unity

The rise in gang violence has galvanized many in Montgomery to take action. Residents are organizing neighborhood watch groups, attending city council meetings, and demanding accountability from elected officials. There is a growing recognition that public safety is a shared responsibility-and that lasting change will require collaboration across all sectors of society.

Governor Kay Ivey and Attorney General Marshall have both voiced support for tougher penalties on gang-related crimes, but they have also acknowledged the need for comprehensive strategies that include education, economic opportunity, and community engagement.

Looking Ahead

As Montgomery grapples with the realities of gang violence, the path forward will require both courage and compassion. The city must balance the immediate need for safety with the long-term goal of healing fractured communities. This means not only holding perpetrators accountable but also addressing the social conditions that allow gangs to thrive.

The tragedy of lives lost and families shattered cannot be undone. But with sustained effort, strategic investment, and a united front, Montgomery has the potential to turn the tide-and become a model for how cities can confront and overcome the scourge of gang violence.

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Prattville, AL
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Sheriff
Mark Harrell

ELMORE COUNTY
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Sheriff
Bill Franklin

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LowndesCountyAlabamaSheriffsOffice/



Sheriff
Chris West

BULLOCK COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



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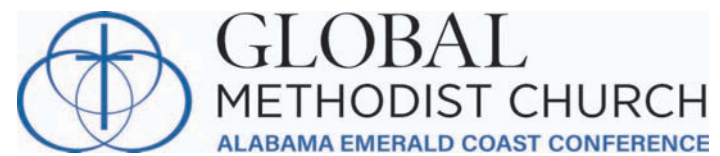


Sheriff
Raymond Rodgers



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Soul Searching...



Good News Bad News

We have all heard the Good News Bad News jokes.

One of my favorites is this one:

Doctor: I have good news and bad news.

Patient: Tell me the good news first.

Doctor: You have 24 hours to live.

Patient: What!?! How can that be good news? So, What is the bad news?

Doctor: I forgot to tell you yesterday!

My wife, Janeese, and I went on an exploratory trip to Uganda and Kenya several Summers ago with Compassion International. We learned so much about the current plight of children in various parts of Africa and the world and what Compassion International is doing to minister to children and families. As you would imagine, the needs are tremendous. We visited a number of slums in the cities and also very poor communities in the rural areas as well.

The bad news was quite evident. Everywhere we turned it seemed there was an ocean of children living in extreme poverty. Each stop along the journey, we wanted to adopt or sponsor another child through Compassion International.

The good news is that Compassion International and the many local churches they work through are making a huge difference in the lives of over two million different children in 29 different countries. On our trip with Compassion, we got to meet and hear the testimonies of many of those who had been sponsored children who are now young adults with a great education making a difference in their own communities and their countries.

We also had the joy and privilege of meeting a beautiful six year old little girl named Jovia in Uganda. We decided to sponsor her through Compassion International. For \$42 per month we will provide her with food, clothes, tuition for school, school books, the Compassion International child development program and medical care. We are so excited to see how God will use this support to bless, strengthen and prepare her for her future. The good news is that we can make a huge difference in her life, along with the millions of other sponsors supporting other children. We now sponsor three children as we have witnessed the tremendous impact we can have!

Another piece of good news I learned on this mission adventure is that the rate of extreme poverty in the world has been cut by 99.55% since 1990. In 1990, there were 1.9 billion people (37.1% of the global population) living in extreme poverty according to USAID and the World Bank. Extreme poverty is defined by someone who lives on less than \$2.15 per day. In 2025 there are 800 million people living in extreme poverty (8.5% of the global population). That is a 99.55% decline in extreme poverty in 35 years.

While 800 million people living in extreme poverty is still unacceptable, the good news is that we are seeing the huge impact of the collective efforts of a multitude of churches, nonprofits, other religious organizations and government agencies as we focus on eradicating extreme poverty! That my friends is Good News!

As we discovered in our trip to Uganda and Kenya, there is good news to celebrate regarding aggressive efforts to eliminate extreme poverty from the face of the earth. But there are still countless millions that need our prayers, help and support. No doubt it can seem overwhelming as it did to us when we saw so many poor children in great need all around us in Africa and around the globe! However, I would remind us all of the words of Mother Teresa: "I never look at the masses as my responsibility; I look at the individual. I can only love one person at a time—just one, one, one. So you begin."

So, where do you begin? What can you do? What one person can you love, help or serve? Don't allow yourself to be overwhelmed by the multitudes of those in need. Don't throw up your hands in frustration and settle to do nothing. Start with one person. Pray for them. Invest in them. Serve them. Empower them. If you do it in the name of Christ, it can and will make a difference!

An old man walked along the seashore where thousands of starfish had washed up on the beach and were dying in the hot sun. He came upon a little boy who was picking up starfish and throwing them back into the sea in an effort to save them. The old man said, "Son, what are you doing? Why are you wasting your time. There are far too many for you to rescue. What difference will it make? The little boy picked up another one of the starfish. He looked at it a moment, and then threw it back into the sea saying, "it makes a difference to this one."

The Good News is you can make a difference! One person at a time! You might start with the people nearest you and, then, perhaps, by something as simple and beautiful as sponsoring a child through Compassion International! Wouldn't that be a great thing for you and your family to prayerfully consider during these Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays which are fast upon us!

I'll close with one of my favorite quotes from the scriptures:

"But if a person has enough to live on, and yet when they see a brother or sister in need and shuts up their heart against them, how can it be said that God's love dwells in them? My children, love must not be a matter of words or talk alone, it must be genuine and show itself in action."

-John, 1 John 3:17-19

Blessings,

Today's Woman Trisston's Tidbits:

By: **Trisston Wright Burrows**
Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005
site.trisstonwrightburrows.com



"Beauty from Broken Pieces"

Do you know a lie of that the devil has whispered into my ear before? "God doesn't want your mess. And even if He did, it's beyond repair."

We often think that God only wants our best...the polished prayers, the victories, the good parts of our story. But the truth is, He invites us to bring Him everything...our mistakes, our shame, our doubts, even the messes that we create ourselves.

The beautiful part is that so many myths and it's so hard to wrap our mind around is that God can take whatever we hand him, good or bad, and shape it into something.

Romans 8:28 reminds us, **"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."**

Notice it doesn't say some things or only the good things. It says ALL things. That includes the things that we regret, the failures we'd rather forget, and the heartbreak that we never asked for. The devil wants you to believe that you're beyond repair. But the truth is that our broken pieces don't scare God. Our failures don't intimidate God. So, when we place them in His hands, He can weave them into a story of redemption, beauty, and purpose.

So today my friend, don't hold back the ugly parts of your life. Give Him the bitterness. Give Him the disappointments, the missteps, the pain, the brokenness. Because He's not only strong enough to handle them, He is loving enough to transform them. And I should know because I had nothing but broken things to offer God, and He has made beauty come from piles of broken pieces.

Many Blessings!



MEALS ON WHEELS

Thank you to Paul Blake
and Cindy Davis for
volunteering on
Wednesday, Oct. 1st.

**We need 2 volunteers for Wednesday,
Nov. 5th and Dec. 3rd.**

There is a sign-up sheet at the Monday meetings
or email Brandi. Thank you!

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104 Company St., Wetumpka, Alabama
[@elmorecountypregnancycenter](https://www.elmorecountypregnancycenter.org)

Call (334) 567-1955



JUDGE PEGGY GIVHAN

Southern Gardening Potpourri for November



Of course we have the huge holiday of Thanksgiving on November 27th. The grocery stores, department stores, the big box stores, will have much food and decorations to purchase for Thanksgiving. Fall leaves, corn, and pumpkins will adorn the shelves with much fanfare. Many will decorate their front doors, back doors, mailboxes and yards with Thanksgiving wreaths, ornaments and other stuff. But unfortunately, many seem to overlook that November celebrates another national holiday, Veterans Day, on November 11th. And on this same date, Canada celebrates Remembrance Day. This Federal holiday is observed yearly to honor all military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. There is also a commemorative ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and in Montgomery there will be participation in Operation Green Light. Also there will be a Veteran's Day Parade in downtown Montgomery starting at Court Square Fountain featuring marching bands, military units and veteran's organizations. These efforts are a tribute to the brave men and women who have served with our nation's armed services. So feel patriotic and join in the festivities.

Garden tasks for November

At this point in time, many of the annuals are either dead or on their last leg. Clean all of these out to make room for more flowers. Work the soil, adding just a commercial fertilizer rather than osmocote. One advantage to this time of year is that we now have cool nights. This is a great boon for pansies, geraniums, dianthus and other fall flowers. November is a good time to cut back perennials and prepare other flowers for the winter. Also November reminds us to purchase bulbs for the spring. Daffodils, tulips and others are now available, even though in Montgomery I do not plant until later. Tulips must be refrigerated for at least 6 weeks, so this is a good time to buy them and put them in the crisper. I plant

daffodils in late December or in January. If you buy narcissus, put the bulbs in a shallow dish with some rocks or a special vase with water in order to force the blooms for Christmas or before.



PLANT OF THE MONTH – THE RICE FLOWER

When I was at Trader Joes, I came across the Rice flower or sago flower. It is a woody stemmed perennial shrub which produces a rice-like bloom. It is in the family of Asteraceae or the aster family and they are most commonly pink or white. Hailing from Australia, it is low maintenance, requires sun, and is drought resistant. Also, please abstain from over fertilizing. Rice flowers make great cut flowers, lasting up to 2 weeks with proper care such as providing regular water

changes. I have not seen any rice plants here in Montgomery, so I plan on ordering a few to try in my flower beds.

**Happy Veterans Day
Happy Thanksgiving
and Good Gardening**



Gary Miller

gary@outdoortruths.org

I have hunted big game most of my adult life. I have written about my experiences over 20 years. Those experiences are not spectacular. Most of them have come in random places at random times, and without the resources to make them anything special. That is, I have only paid for one hunt but have relied on special friends for the opportunities I have been given. I have no trophies that would cause anyone to think I am some special or gifted hunter. I am a blue-collar, mediocre private land hunter. Don't get me wrong, my Midwest opportunities are special, and they create for me an opportunity that many don't have. But even these only come because of special friends and their unmerited graciousness to me.

I have also made ministry to men the biggest part of my life for these past 20 years as well. During that time, I have traveled and spoken at places I would have never dreamed. But again, most of the places fall within what most of us would call normal churches and venues. None of them fall into stadiums or coliseums. I have written 5 books. Four of these are compilations of my articles. Again, nothing outstanding. And their sales? Mediocre at best. But compared to some others, I have been beyond blessed and extremely successful.

Why am I telling you all of this? Because I want us all to see that privilege and blessings are not always by our good decisions. That our positions, prosperity, and health are not all actions of our decisions or our free will. Some things – in fact many many things are pre-determined by God. For instance, we had no say in what country we would be born in, what race we would be, what would be our mental capabilities – or incapacities, or who, or what our parents would be. We

had no say if our mother would be a drug addict, or our father would begin abusing us as a child. These were forced on each of us by God and by a sinful world. Why? I don't know. But what I do know and believe is this. Jesus sat and ate with tax collectors and "sinners." He was criticized for it because everyone believed, at that time, tax collectors were dishonest and sinners were well, sinners. And those who were born blind or had other handicaps, were believed to be that way because of their sin or the sin of their parents. But Jesus knew better, and that's why he went to them. He understood that many of their predicaments had nothing to do with any decision they made. It had everything to do with what God determined and what sin in general, destroyed. He went to the hurting, hungry, and handicapped, and healed, fed, and restored. And then told his apostles to do the same. He used this sentence. ***"I desire mercy and not sacrifice."*** He was telling the religious crowd that while your religious activity was fine and your spiritual sacrifices were okay, the compassion and kindness you show to those who have not had your privileges are the best.

Remember, if you are one who God has blessed with basics or abundance, find those who seemingly haven't been. It will remind you to be humble in your position and thankful for your determined and unmerited blessings. And perhaps who will be the one God uses to heal, feed, and restore – until God makes everything right in heaven.

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 21 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. gary@outdoortruths.org



DELIVERY PERSONNEL NEEDED!

Help Wanted Immediately!

We need people to deliver our papers to businesses in Montgomery, Prattville, Millbrook, and Wetumpka.

Call: 334-356-6700 Email: alabamagazette@gmail.com



Humane Society of Elmore County News

255 Central Plank Road (Hwy 9) Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

PHONE: (334) 567-3377

Hours:
Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm
Sat: 8am - 4pm



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Consider being a Pet Foster!

Everyday HSEC receives animals that are too young / old, or have special medical needs, and would benefit greatly by moving to a temporary foster home.

As a foster home volunteer you will be providing an essential service to animals in need. Helping these animals saves not only their lives, but that of others needing our limited housing space.

For more information & to apply, just go to the **FOSTER** tab at www.elmorehumane.org

DONATIONS NEEDED

!! Our greatest current need is **DRY DOG FOOD** – both adult & puppy !!

Other supplies that we would be most grateful for are:

- Canned Pate style Cat Food
- Non-Clumping Cat Litter
- 30 Gal and larger size plastic Garbage Bags
- Old towels, sheets, blankets, bedding as the cold weather is coming.

Donations can be dropped off at our Shelter during our normal hours of operation.

And financial donations are good too in case we need to go purchase needed supplies .

To easily donate online just go to our website to **"Ways to Give,"** or can mail, phone in or bring to us at the Shelter.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Articles submitted and shared from The Montgomery Rotary Club.



The COGnition

The Official Publication of the Montgomery Rotary Club
Glenn Halbrooks,

Message from President Kimberly Baker:

Rotarians,

I am writing to let you know that, unfortunately, we will need to postpone our annual International Night. This decision was not made lightly and was made alongside our partners at Maxwell Air Force Base. The Chief of Public Affairs at the base, and DOD has issued very strict guidance prohibiting military members from attending any community events during the government shutdown. I want to thank Scott Rizer, our Chairman for this event, for all his due diligence in navigating the details of the evening and in his correspondence with the base.

We will keep everyone informed about a potential new date, possibly in February or March. Our Rotary calendar will remain the same with no meeting scheduled for October 13th and October 20th. I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday, October 27th.

I hope you all have a wonderful long weekend!

Warm Regards,
Kimberly Baker
Montgomery Rotary Club President

WEAR YOUR ROTARY PIN PROUDLY EVERYDAY!!

Dictionary Project



Picture of a classroom where Jackie Pittman & Jessica Horsley delivered dictionaries to Blount Elementary on September 30th. Don't forget to send in pics of your dictionary deliveries!

JOIN A ROTARY CLUB NEAR YOU!

- **Prattville-Millbrook Sunrise**
3050 Lanark Road, Millbrook, AL 36054
334-313-3160
<http://www.prattvillemillbrooksunriserotary.com>
- **Montgomery Capital**
Wynlakes Golf & Country Club
7900 Wynlakes Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36117
334-239-0655
Meets Thursday, 12:00
- **RSA Alabama Activity Center**
201 Dexter Ave, Montgomery, AL 36104
Meets Monday, 12:00
Two blocks west of State Capitol.
- **Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce**
1 Depot Square Greenville, AL 36037
334-382-4201
Meets Thursday, 12:00
- **Senior Connection**
304 Park Plaza, Clanton, AL 35045
Meets Wednesday, 12:00
205-755-7105
www.rotaryclubofchiltoncounty.org



We had such a great time packing 500 Chemo Comfort Care bags for the Cancer Wellness Foundation of Central Alabama. Thank you to several Rotarians who were able to show up early to help unload boxes and set up each table with products



The "assembly line" moved quickly and we were all finished by 12:50. We do plan to do this twice a year as it is such a huge blessing to the Cancer Wellness Foundation. With only 5 employees, this takes one thing off their plate so they can focus on serving their patients.



We look forward to doing this again in Spring 2026!!!

If you want to learn more about Rotary and its programs, activities and members, consider joining us each Monday (except for federal holidays) at the Alabama Activity Center - 201 Dexter Avenue. Learn more about us at montgomeryrotary.com and www.rotary.org or call us at 334-301-0597

www.alabamagazette.com

We always appreciate YOUR views.
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Alabama Public Library Service To Vote On Controversial Gender Ideology Amendment This Month

November 3, 2026 - MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) will vote later this month on a proposed amendment to the APLS Administrative Code addressing gender ideology in publicly funded libraries. Proponents of the amendment claim that it seeks to protect children from materials that promote or normalize gender ideology in youth sections and to ensure that Alabama’s public libraries remain safe, family-centered environments. Opponents claim that the amendment would amount to censorship and that it unfairly targets LGBTQ+ youth.

The proposed amendment reads:

“Under this section, any material that promotes, encourages, or positively depicts transgender procedures, gender ideology, or the concept of more than two biological genders shall be considered inappropriate for children and youth.”

The public comment period ended last month with a public hearing in front of the APLS board. Thousands of Alabama families, faith leaders, and advocacy groups have rallied behind the proposed changes to the APLS code. Many conservative groups including Clean Up Alabama, Eagle Forum, Moms for Liberty, ALCAP Director Greg Davis, Rightside Radio host/ U.S. Attorney nominee Phil Williams, the Fairhope Faith Collective, as well as Republican groups, and churches across the state have advocated for and written comments in support of the rule change. , culminated in the hand-delivery of nearly 5,500 public comment letters-just before the submission deadline.

“We must protect our children from the harmful effects of transgender ideology,” said Eagle Forum Executive Director Becky Gerritson. “This amendment is a step in the right direction to ensure that Alabama libraries remain safe, educational spaces that respect parental authority.”

John Wahl is the Chair of the APLS Board as well as the Chairman of the Alabama Republican Party. Wahl is strongly in support of the amendment.

“The response from the people of Alabama has been overwhelming,” said APLS Chairman Wahl. “The goal of this amendment is to ensure our libraries remain

safe, family-friendly spaces for families across the state of Alabama. The APLS Board is committed to keeping our libraries focused on education and encouraging reading, while respecting parental rights and protecting children from sexual content. Sexuality is a deeply personal issue, and parents should never have to worry about their children stumbling across explicit content in our library’s youth sections. It’s time to put parents back in control of what their children are exposed to.”

The amendment is being bitterly opposed by leftwing librarians, teachers, and LGBTQ activists. Former APLS Chair and District 1 representative Ron Snider accused current chair John Wahl of politicizing the board and orchestrating support through the Alabama Republican Party. He called the amendment “censorship” and said local libraries should set their own policies. Angie Hayden, the cofounder of Read Freely Alabama, called the amendment “gross government overreach” and “blatantly discriminatory.”

Of the 8,478 total comments submitted to APLS. 6,781 supported the proposed code changes while only 1,697 opposed them. 65% of all letters submitted not only backed the changes but also called for stronger provisions. The APLS board is scheduled to vote on the proposed code changes at its next public meeting on Thursday, November 20th at 1:00 p.m.

Passage of the amendment would formally adopt it into state library policy. Proponents argue that passage of this policy aligns the APLS Administrative Code with President Trump’s Executive Order on Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.

“This is about defending truth and the innocence of children,” Wahl continued. “Across the nation, gender ideology has been used to confuse young people and replace science with radical activism. Alabama is taking a stand for biological reality, for parents, and for children’s right to grow up free from social agendas in their libraries.”

To comment or ask a question email: brandonmreporter@gmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

ALABAMA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE CONCLUDES PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON GENDER IDEOLOGY AMENDMENT

Montgomery, AL: The Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) concluded its public comment period today on a proposed amendment to the APLS Administrative Code addressing gender ideology in publicly funded libraries. The amendment seeks to protect children from materials that promote or normalize gender ideology in youth sections and to ensure that Alabama’s public libraries remain safe, family-centered environments.

The proposed amendment reads:

“Under this section, any material that promotes, encourages, or positively depicts transgender procedures, gender ideology, or the concept of more than two biological genders shall be considered inappropriate for children and youth.”

This policy aligns the APLS Administrative Code with President Trump’s Executive Order on Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government. Read the order here.

During the public comment period, APLS received a significant number of responses. Of the 8,478 comments submitted, 6,781 were in support of the proposed amendment, while 1,697 opposed it (79.98% to 20.01%).

“The response from the people of Alabama has been overwhelming,” said APLS Chairman John Wahl. “The goal of this amendment is to ensure our libraries remain safe, family-friendly spaces for families across the state of Alabama. The APLS Board is committed to keeping our libraries focused on education and encouraging reading, while respecting parental rights and protecting children from sexual content. Sexuality is a deeply personal issue, and parents should never have to worry about their children stumbling across explicit content in our library’s youth sections. It’s time to put parents back in control of what their children are exposed to.”

“This is about defending truth and the innocence of children,” Wahl continued. “Across the nation, gender ideology has been used to confuse young people and replace science with radical activism. Alabama is taking a stand for biological reality, for parents, and for children’s right to grow up free from social agendas in their libraries.”

The APLS Board will review the public input and consider final wording and passage of the amendment at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

City of Montgomery Responds to SNAP Funding Cuts with Community Food Support

MONTGOMERY, AL — In light of the recent discontinuation of federal SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) funding, the City of Montgomery is sharing information to help residents connect with local organizations offering free food and essential support.

“We want to make sure residents know where to turn for help,” said Mayor Steven L. Reed. ***“Our goal is to get this information into the hands of those who need it most.”***

A number of churches, nonprofits, and food banks across Montgomery are stepping up to provide groceries, meals, and household essentials. These include:

- **DOTs - Thrift Store Montgomery**

Offers free food and household items through its community resource center. [facebook.com/dotsmontgomery](https://www.facebook.com/dotsmontgomery)

- **Heart of Alabama Food Bank**

521 Trade Center St Montgomery, AL 36108. 334-263-3784

- **Hands On River Region**

Call or Text 2-1-1 — trained specialists will connect you with local food pantries, meal programs, and community resources.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1141997051463024&set=a.269208825408522>

- **Why Hunger**

Call or text your zip code to 1-800-548-6479

- **Many local houses of worship also offer aid.**

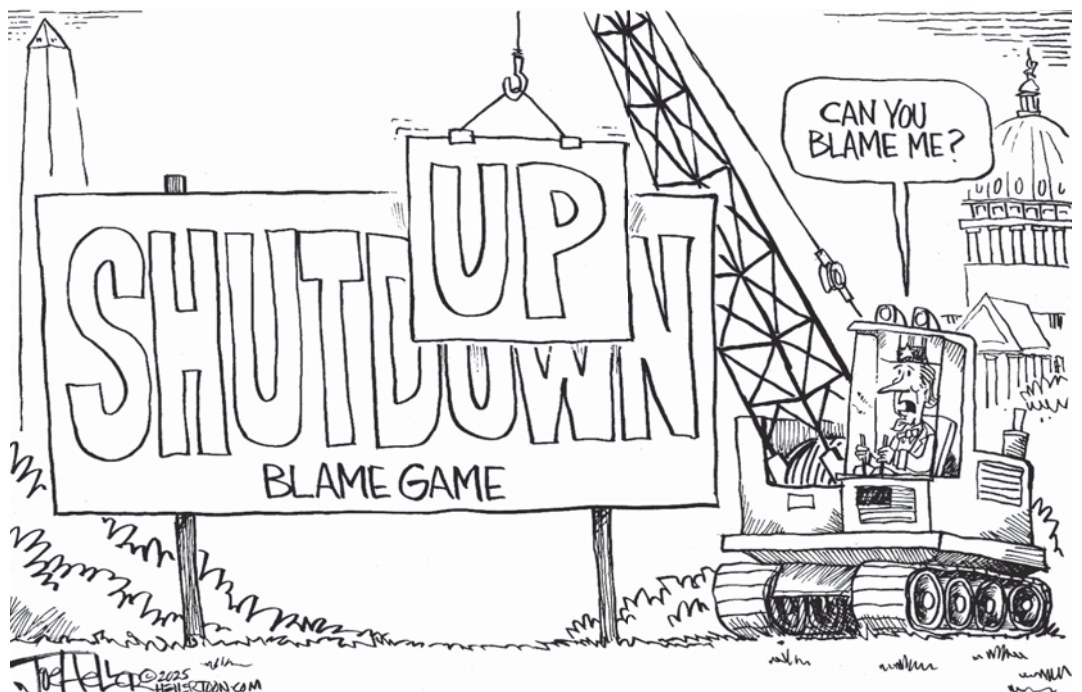


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<https://www.facebook.com/chadchigmartin>



Home Town Community News

Annual Turkey Day Classic Parade

Dexter Avenue, Downtown Montgomery. Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Start your Thanksgiving morning with the Turkey Day Classic Parade, a Montgomery tradition celebrating its 88th year. The parade kicks off downtown on Dexter Avenue and features over 160 organizations and group participants. This year’s parade is anticipated to be greater than ever, making it a must-see event for families and fans alike.

MONTGOMERY

Veterans Day Celebration

Nov. 11, 2025 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM : Riverwalk Stadium
200 Coosa St. Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Veterans Day Parade: Downtown Montgomery (10 AM - 11 AM)
Marching bands, military units, veteran organizations, and more will showcase their patriotism and support for our veterans.

Resource Fair: Riverwalk Stadium (11 AM - 12 PM)
Connect with organizations offering valuable resources and support services tailored to veterans' needs.

Ceremony: Riverwalk Stadium (12 PM - 1 PM)
A solemn ceremony to express our gratitude and pay tribute to the sacrifices of our veterans.

Masterworks II: An Evening with Tobias Picker

Nov. 17, 2025 7:00pm - 9:00pm : Troy University's Davis Theatre
251 Montgomery Street Montgomery, Alabama 36104
Join the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra for an evening celebrating the music of renowned American composer Tobias Picker.

PRATTVILLE

Jingle & Mingle Market

Sat, 15 Nov, 2025 at 09:00 am – 3:00 pm
SUNSET RIDGE VENUE
1629 Upper Kingston Road, Prattville, AL | Prattville, AL
Save the date to come out and Mingle while you shop local Vendors. Get a early start on Christmas shopping (or if your a early shopper get those last few gifts), maybe pick up some seasonal decor for your home or get some host gifts for upcoming holiday parties. Mr. & Mrs. Clause will be there from 11-2. We will have food trucks and drink trucks with areas for you to sit and take a break in between shopping. There will be a bounce house and face painting as well for the kids.
\$4 entry. 10 and under free.

MILLBROOK

Veteran’s Day Ceremony

November 7 12:00 pm
Millbrook Civic Center

Breast Cancer Awareness @ AGM

Sat, 18 Oct, 2025 at 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (CDT)
Abundant Grace Ministries Inc
5021 Airport Rd, Millbrook, Alabama, United States
Join Us in the Fight Against Breast Cancer! We're hosting a FREE Indoor Breast Cancer Awareness Event, and you're invited!

WETUMPKA

Pink Friday in Downtown Wetumpka

Goodbye, Black Friday. Hello, Pink Friday!! One HUGE day to #ShopSmallFirst-before Black Friday & before the big guys...Created by The Boutique Hub! Pink Friday is a small business spin on the traditional Black Friday shopping experience, reminding people to #ShopSmallFirst.

Downtown Wetumpka Holiday Open House

Saturday November 15 2025 at 10:00 am to 06:00 pm
Downtown Wetumpka | Wetumpka, AL
Deals & seasonal specials will be a-plenty as you get a head start on holiday shopping during the Downtown Holiday Open House. We look forward to kicking off the holiday season with you in downtown Wetumpka! Please check back here and with the individual businesses for specific times & promotions.
Apply to be a vendor! Limited space is available! Application coming soon!

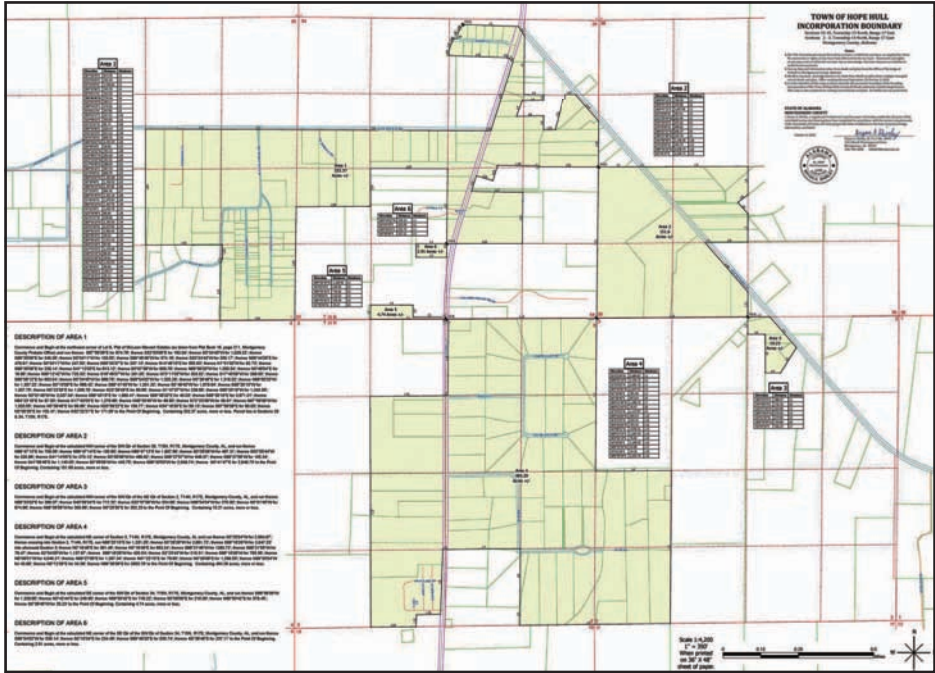
Christmas Craft Show

Fri, 07 Nov, 2025 at 09:00 am to Sat, 08 Nov, 2025 at 03:00 pm
Wetumpka Civic Center | Wetumpka, AL
Jump start the holiday season with our fall craft show. All items are handmade from local artisans! November 7th 9-6 and November 8th 9-3 \$5 admission fee to be donated to local charities!

NOW
is the Time
to Incorporate

SAVE OUR COMMUNITY
SAVE OUR WAY OF LIFE
SAVE OUR FARMLANDS!

Hope Hull Petition
to Incorporate Filed!



October 6, 2025 Hope Hull has officially filed the petition to incorporate with JC Love, Probate Judge of Montgomery County. Attached are the final maps for the proposed incorporated area, along with the relevant Statutes document. Below is a summary of the expected timeline, paraphrased from the Statutes:

(a) Upon filing the verified application, the judge of probate will publish notice in one or more newspapers in the county (if available), stating that an application has been submitted and that the judge will determine compliance with Section 11-41-1. Further notice will be given for filing any objections. (b) The judge of probate has a reasonable period, not exceeding 45 days, to determine compliance with Section 11-41-1.

(c) Once compliance is confirmed, the judge will publish notice again in one or more newspapers and post it in three public places within the proposed town or city limits. Interested parties will then have 30 days from the last publication date to file written objections with the judge.

Stay tuned for details on the next Community Meeting.

Snowdoun Community

WHY INCORPORATE?

- Protect farmland and rural character
- Gain local control over zoning, development, and land use
- Preserve community values
- Support agricultural businesses
- Avoid annexation by the city of Montgomery
- Empower residents to make decisions that directly affect Snowdoun
- Protect property values

INCORPORATION MEANS:

- Local Control
- Protecting our land and agricultural heritage
- Keeping decisions close to home
- Having a say in zoning, development and services, taxation with representation.
- Preserving our community’s identity.

Funds are needed for the groundwork and to move forward.

Snowdoun Community
Website: www.snowdounal.us
Email: snowdounal@gmail.com
Please send your donation to:
Snowdoun Community Center
6145 Norman Bridge Road, Montgomery, AL 36105
(334)603-1449

WHY IS NOW THE TIME TO INCORPORATED?

The City of Montgomery plans to absorb Hope Hull:

- They’ve expanded their city limits already. They are calling the “PJ” their planning jurisdiction’.
- They’ve grown their budget by taking our farmland.
- How do you feel about Montgomery’s leadership and management?
- Do they have Hope Hull’s best interest in mind?
Are they good stewards?
- Just drive the bypasses—Southern, Northern, Eastern or West. See the abandoned store fronts, acres and acres of land they could develop sitting vacant.

Did you know Montgomery has more land than Denver, Tampa, & Las Vegas?

- Police, Fire, and Maintenance city services already stretched too thin.
- Daily shootings. Innocent people shot in their cars on city streets.

DO WE WANT MONTGOMERY RUNNING HOPE HULL?
It’s time to form our own town, elect leaders from among our neighbors, and stand against a city that doesn’t value our way of life. Don’t we want local leadership—people who cherish our small town, our farmland, and our country lifestyle—or do we want more of Montgomery?

**STOP MONTGOMERY FROM ABSORBING HOPE HULL
OUR FARMS, OUR FREEDOMS, OUR FUTURE
A FUTURE OF HOPE**

Important Note:
We also need to begin identifying who will serve as the mayor and the initial five council members. These individuals must be selected from the town-at-large.
As required by Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 11-43-2.

Donations can be dropped off at Mosley’s store on Hwy 31
CONTACT US
Website: hopehull.us
Facebook: [Hope Hull Incorporated](https://www.facebook.com/HopeHullIncorporated)
Email: hopehullal@gmail.com
Phone: (334)313-3005 (David)