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EDUCATION AUGUST! BACK TO SCHOOL!



UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE **MARTHA ROBY**
ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT

U. S. HOUSE PASSES BILL TO RETURN EDUCATION DECISIONS BACK TO STATES



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to coerce states into adopting its preferred policies in the areas of assessment standards and curriculum.

The Roby-authored language in H.R. 5 specifically and expressly prohibits the Secretary of Education from such action.

"The Executive Branch has exceeded its appropriate reach where state education policy is concerned, and it's time to rein it in," Roby said.

"I'm pleased the Student Success Act includes language I originally introduced taking away the Department of Education's ability to attach curriculum and assessment policy strings to special grants and waivers. Local and state leaders - those who have direct interaction with parents and teachers in their communities - are best positioned to determine policies that affect Alabama's students. Washington bureaucrats are not."

Additional provisions of the Student Success Act include:

- Eliminating the "Adequate Yearly Progress," or "AYP" metric and returning the responsibility for proficiency systems to the states where they belong;
- Replacing the current national "high stakes" testing scheme and returning to state-and-local-led accountability systems;
- Eliminating more than 65 ineffective, duplicative and unnecessary programs, replacing them with flexible grants that state and local districts can use to benefit students the way they see fit;
- Repealing the federal "Highly Qualified Teachers" requirements, or HQT, which will enable state and local-driven efforts to evaluate teaching performance;
- Enhancing student mobility and school choice by repealing Title I restrictions and allowing money to "follow the student" to the school of the parent's choice, whether that's a traditional public school or a public charter school;
- Supporting the start-up, replication and expansion of high-quality public charter schools, which Alabama can now access to support its recently-enacted charter school program.

More information on the Student Success Act is available on the Education and Workforce Committee's website at:

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/studentsuccessact/>

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A bill to finally replace the "No Child Left Behind" education law passed the House Wednesday putting Congress one step closer to ending burdensome federal education mandates and returning more authority to the state and local level.

H.R. 5, the [Student Success Act](#), was approved by a vote of 218-213. U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL), who strongly supports state and local control of education policy, praised the bill's passage.

"This 'Washington knows best' approach to education has failed our children miserably, and that's why I've continually pushed to reduce the federal footprint in education"

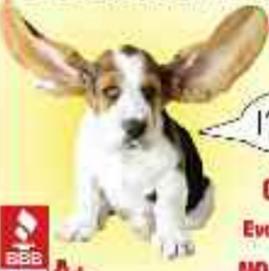
"We need excellent teachers in every classroom and inspired administrators in every school. But, too often, policies from 'No Child Left Behind' tie the hands of our educators' and keep them from focusing on actually teaching students."

"It is past time for Congress to replace 'No Child Left Behind' with sensible policies that return control back to the states and local communities where it belongs. I'm pleased the House passed the Student Success Act, and I hope the Senate will work with us to achieve final passage soon."

The bill also contains language Roby originally authored to stop federal intrusion into state and local education decisions. The U.S. Department of Education has inappropriately used funding grants and special regulation waivers

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GOOD NEWS FOR MONTGOMERY REAL ESTATE

As most of us are aware, the great recession wreaked havoc on the housing market all over the country. Even areas which had tended to be "recession proof" in the past suffered large losses in real estate values during the recession. In fact, according to CNNMoney.com, prices fell in the 20-city S&P Case-Shiller index for twenty-seven consecutive months. In October 2008 alone prices fell a staggering 18% across the index!

But, today there is good news in the housing market in the River Region and I would like to share a few statistics with you. A quick review of the Montgomery Area Association of Realtors Facts and Figures Report as of May 31, 2015 makes a very strong case that the housing market is back. First, **sales of all homes in the area were up a whopping 14.2% over 2014 through the end of May**, according to the Multiple Listing Service. Though new homes sales remained constant, **sales of existing homes have trended up around 17.9%** compared to the previous year. The prices of these homes have also moved upward with an increase of around 4.3% so far this year, and a very respectable 10.2% rise over the same period in 2013! The marketing time for both existing and new homes is also down slightly over 2014.

So, if anyone one asks you how our economy is in the River Region, please give them the good news!

Family Therapy

Mood Swings (Bipolar) Anyone?

Oswaldo Chavez,

MS, LMFT-S, LPC-S, NCC
Clinical Counselor CHIPS Center
Children's of Alabama

Hector Oswaldo Chavez, MS, is a Marriage and Family Therapist, Professional Counselor, and Substance Abuse Counselor. He serves on multiple boards and has worked in a variety of clinical settings such as with the Army, Navy, Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient, Community Mental Health, and Private Practice. His professional views may not necessarily reflect the views of other mental health or medical professionals. If you have any personal or family concerns about the topic discussed, please seek professional assistance.

Please feel free to email Oswaldo with any concern or questions you may have concerning your family or teen relationships. Att. Oswaldo e-mail: alabamagazette@gmail.com

may deny that anything is wrong. Without proper treatment, however, hypomania can become severe mania in some people or can switch into depression. Severe episodes of mania or depression include symptoms of psychosis (or psychotic symptoms). Common psychotic symptoms are hallucinations (hearing, seeing, or otherwise sensing the presence of things not actually there) and delusions (false, strongly held beliefs not influenced by logical reasoning or explained by a person's usual cultural concepts). Psychotic symptoms in bipolar disorder tend to reflect the extreme mood state at the time. For example, delusions of grandiosity, such as believing one is God or has special powers or wealth, may occur during mania; delusions of guilt or worthlessness, such as believing that one is ruined and penniless or has committed some terrible crime, may appear during depression. People with bipolar disorder who have these symptoms many times are diagnosed as having schizophrenia, another severe mental illness.

- *Lack of energy*
- *Loss of interest in and withdrawal from usual activities*
- *Trouble sleeping or sleeping too much*
- *Nervousness and worry*
- *Irritability or restlessness*
- *Inability to think or concentrate*
- *Increased risk-taking behavior, including reckless driving or substance abuse*
- *Chronic pain or other physical problems that do not respond to treatment*
- *Abuse of drugs, medications and alcohol*
- *Repeated thoughts of death or suicide*

Food for Thought

The diagnosis of Bipolar is not a death sentence; it is a way of life like any other health issue. I have worked with individuals with this diagnosis. I have found the process to be both rewarding and challenging. The process is rewarding to observe the individual gaining skills that will assist him or her live a healthier life by learning of the medical condition, providing therapy, and if needed, obtaining proper medications from his/her medical provider. The treatment for bipolar may include Lithium, antipsychotics, anticonvulsants, and benzodiazepines. Many people who have Bipolar disorder keep taking the medications prescribed for years or decades after their last manic episode to stay healthy. Additionally, throughout the lifespan of the individual taking medication, there may have to be some adjustments made to the medication due to tolerance to the dosage, or the medication becomes completely ineffective and there has to be changes. Unfortunately, there are other individuals who decide to take themselves off the medication, as is the case with other mental health issues, because the individual often feels that he or she no longer needs the medication due to the absence of negative symptoms, others encourage the individual to discontinue the medication, or they are just tired of taking medications. When this occurs, often the individual goes into a tailspin of negative symptoms/behaviors. One of the most common that I have observed is grandiosity and over spending to a point that the individual has no money. I encourage those who are diagnosed with Bipolar to consult with his/her medical provider if he/she feels the medication is no longer working or that it is causing other symptoms, as opposed to completely stopping the medicine.

Individuals with bipolar disorder can lead healthy and productive lives when the illness is effectively treated. Without treatment, however, the natural course of bipolar disorder tends to worsen. Over time, a person may suffer more frequent (more rapid-cycling) and more severe manic and depressive episodes than those experienced when the illness first appeared. But in most cases, proper treatment can help reduce the frequency and severity of episodes and can help people with bipolar disorder maintain a good quality of life.



Symptoms of Manic Phase

- *Increased energy, activity, and restlessness*
- *Racing thoughts and talking very fast, jumping from one idea to another*
- *Excessively "high," overly good, euphoric mood*
- *Unrealistic beliefs in one's abilities and powers*
- *Spending sprees*
- *Distractibility, cannot concentrate well*
- *Little sleep needed*
- *Denial that anything is wrong*
- *Poor judgment*
- *Extreme irritability*
- *Provocative, intrusive, or aggressive behavior*
- *Abuse of drugs, particularly cocaine, alcohol, and sleeping medications*

Symptoms of Depressive Phase

- *Feelings of sadness, worthlessness, or guilt*
- *Poor appetite or eating too much*

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Bench - Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

Judge Philip Dale Segrest

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Natural Law and the United States Constitution

The concept of natural law was the prevailing philosophy of law throughout the formative period of modern nation states. The idea was that law occurs naturally. Nature, of course, includes human nature and the nature of human society. In general the created order of nature provides some solutions to problems that are better than others. Under natural law theory, the task of courts and legislative bodies is to find that law and declare it.

At about the time the United States came into existence, a philosophy of law called legal positivism asserted itself. Here the idea is that law originates purely in human intellectual activity. Humans simply invent law. When the United States Constitution was adopted; the idea was that the Congress (and state legislatures) would create laws. The Courts would decide cases. The executive branch would carry out enforcement of the law and provide government. All of that was embedded in the United States Constitution with its treasured concept of a separation of powers. Theoretically the branches of government would hold each other in check, preserving liberty to the people.

Early in the history of the United States, the question arose as to which branch—legislative, judicial or executive—would have the power to ultimately declare the meaning of the United States Constitution. In the landmark case of *Marbury v. Madison* the United States Supreme Court decided that it had the authority to examine federal legislation (obviously produced by Congress) to determine whether that legislation is consistent with the

Constitution. From that time forward the Supreme Court asserted the right to declare legislation that is inconsistent with the Constitution unconstitutional and unenforceable. That issue was intensely debated during the Great Depression when the conservative Supreme Court of the United States declared New Deal legislation unconstitutional. Roosevelt even threatened to stack the Supreme Court with new members in order to allow his legislation to be declared constitutional.

More importantly, during his 13 years in office he appointed a much more liberal Supreme Court that made decisions much more to his liking. In the second half of the 20th century, a new era arose in constitutional law under the direction of that liberal Supreme Court. Up to that point, the Supreme Court had limited itself to overturning federal legislation and if it were inconsistent with the constitution. However, during the second half of the 20th century the court began to declare positive law based on its interpretation of the Constitution. For instance in the case of *Miranda v. Arizona*, the Supreme Court spelled out exactly what a police officer had to say to a suspect in a criminal case before interrogating that suspect. The now famous Miranda Warnings were not statutes enacted by Congress, but were requirements declared by the Supreme Court of the United States. Note the huge difference between declaring legislation unconstitutional on the one hand, and declaring positive law based on what the Supreme Court thinks that the constitution means on the other.

The Supreme Court of the United States now

appears to select cases for the express purpose of declaring positive law, a function which most of us thought the Constitution reserved to Congress. That assigns to the Constitution an oracle-like quality. What does the Constitution have to say about abortions or gay marriages? I suspect that the writers of the Constitution would be shocked to find that anybody believes that the Constitution had anything to say about either of those topics or other topics for which the Supreme Court has used the Constitution as a theoretical basis for the declaration of positive law.

One of the problems for the natural law theory was the question as to who declares the natural law. At one point in time, the church assumed that role. When the positivist movement began, courts were severely criticized for declaring positive law under the guise of “finding” natural law. By any reasonable standard it would certainly appear that the oracle-like approach to the United States Constitution by the federal courts is subject to that same criticism today. With natural law the courts could look to the entire wisdom of the culture. The legislative branch could change the law to reflect the will of the people. But when the United States Supreme Court makes declarations of positive law in the name of the Constitution, their decisions cannot be reversed by the legislative branch. This is a far cry from *Marbury v. Madison* and review of legislation to determine if it is constitutional. When Congress was creating law, it made sense for courts to review. But who can review the positive law declared by the court? What happened to the checks and balances insofar as the court system is concerned?



Marcia Chambliss



LIVING IN OUR BRAVE NEW WORLD

Perhaps it was only my increasing feelings of unease concerning the direction of our nation and world that I chose to pack an old copy of *Brave New World* to re-read during a recent beach trip. More time than I care to admit has passed since the days of my high school required summer reading lists, and many of the details of this book had become a distant memory.

Given some of the news headlines during the week of my trip, that book choice seemed eerily appropriate, and I have since been contemplating just how far we've already ventured into that dystopian statist future first described by Aldous Huxley some 80-plus years ago.

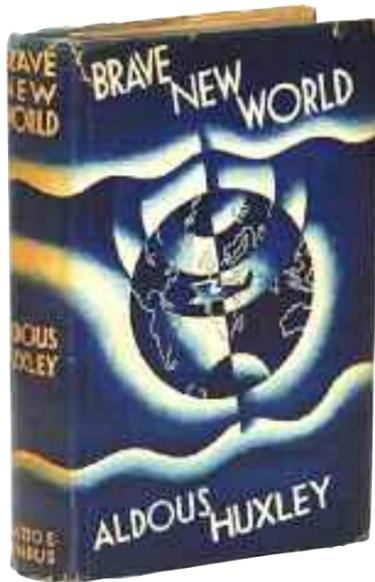
For those unfamiliar with the book, Huxley transports the reader to London in 2540 AD (or 632 AF referring to “After Ford”, the new world deity) to a World State managed by World Controllers. The family structure no longer exists except for the New Mexico Savage Reservation where monogamy, religious faith, and morals are still of value. Babies are “decanted” and genetically engineered by a caste system rather than birthed, children are reared by the state, and education is an indoctrination process which assures that each person is content within their station in life. Individuality is deemed abnormal and unacceptable. By virtue of the caste system, each person fulfills a pre-determined job/employment function, and entertainment, sexual promiscuity, and government-sanctioned inebriation are hailed as the means for constant happiness.

Let's reflect...*Outcome-Based Education...Goals 2000...No Child Left Behind...Common Core...* are you seeing the pattern as it relates to education in our brave new world?

As I'm reading and remembering this disturbing vision of a totalitarian and scientifically-controlled future, I learn of the disturbing undercover video reporting of aborted baby organs being procured and transferred via Planned Parenthood to third party companies for medical research. After watching the video, I fail to see how this can possibly be anything other than the harvesting of body parts of innocent victims as we continue on our slippery slope of moral decline. Have we really become so desensitized as a nation that we can possibly consider this ethical by any standard?

I'm well aware of the arguments from the left regarding this video: the portion released to the media was edited and taken out of context; there is no profiting by Planned Parenthood, only reimbursement of expenses (although that argument is now challenged by a former Planned Parenthood employee familiar with the available loopholes); and they are only providing a service for their clients who chose to donate the organs.

But none of those excuses address the nonchalant attitude of the doctor as she discusses the manner in which babies are carefully aborted intact in order to salvage their body parts without damage. Further, her comfort level in discussion with the actors portraying a potential business affiliation indicates that this is not uncharted territory for Planned Parenthood.



Have we now reduced the value of life to little more than a commodity for medical research? Conservatives are repeatedly told to leave social issues on the sidelines during elections while our tax dollars continue to fund Planned Parenthood and all its atrocities. The left side of the spectrum certainly brings social issues front and center and by ceding the narrative, we are reaping the consequences of a lost value system and in turn enter into our own Brave New World.

In the forward to my copy of the novel, Aldous Huxley returned years later to address the rapid changes in the world just fifteen years beyond publication. While he initially projected “Utopia” to exist some six hundred years into the future, he then (in 1946) feared that the totalitarianism could be upon us within a single century, “that is, if we refrain from blowing ourselves to smithereens in the interval.”

Are you following the Iran nuclear deal? The Obama administration just allowed the United Nations to approve the deal prior to review by Congress. American sovereignty? That's now history as far as this president is concerned.

Huxley's conclusion is ominous. Unless we decentralize and promote freedom, we will have a choice of two horrors – several “national, militarized totalitarianisms” all with the capability and threat of the nuclear bomb and the destruction of civilization, or “one supranational totalitarianism” created by the “social chaos resulting from rapid technological progress in general and the atomic revolution in particular, and developing, under the need for efficiency and stability, into the welfare-tyranny of Utopia.”*

Elections and social issues matter – always.

**Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley. Forward. Perennial Classics ed. 1998.

Marcia Chambliss serves on the leadership team of Smart Girl Politics, www.smart-girlpolitics.com, an online community for conservative women. She can be reached at: Marcia@sgpaction.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics.



THINK

John Sophocleus



Rites v. Rights; Dialing for Dollars; Quo Warranto, Allegiance to Flags...

So many topics to address this past month; I can't decide on one. These were at the top of my list:

*Rites v. Rights...

not surprisingly the Roberts Court once again gets it wrong in their crusade for bigger government. A friend called it DC still drunk on the '**Grapes of Wrath.**' Marriage is a religious rite. There is no authority for the federal government to impede or subsidize this rite. It was a source of despair when I went to marry. The State of South Carolina would not allow me to pursue this solemn rite I hold dear without a State license, polluting this blessed event. I do not look to governments (esp. our most coercive federal government) for validation of this rite nor do I look to government(s) to define or establish my dignity. Once abusing their power to impede the right to religious ceremonies of this sort, it was just a matter of time for the pollutant would metastasize into yet another type of cancer destroying our economy.

The earlier Supreme Court of the United States same sex marriage ruling was correct - it was disuniform for the same sex taxable event to pay **more** in inheritance taxes -- was the problem with marriage or with taxation in manner the federal government was **never** designed to use? So instead of addressing the source of problem (which would disempower federal hegemony) the Supreme Court further empowered US toward self-destruction as the courts open the door to even more distortions in our economy. The federal government has no authority to recognize, facilitate or impede different religious rites. It may chose which contracts from various nations and States between individuals for the small number of (if DC only does those few things authorized) federal employees to determine pay and benefits, for purposes of immigration & naturalization, etc. If State and/or local government(s) want to recognize different religious rites/contracts of their employees to improve their hiring pool - OK, even if I disagree with it; just as some States had their own supported religions in the 1800s. Can't imagine any more damning statement about one's faith in their religion than thinking it requires support from government(s). Competition (if allowed) between sovereign States will limit distortion/subsidies of this sort as we watched State religions disappear. More to the point, I'll look for the employer who pays the best so I may then decide insurance, etc. for my spouse and children which best serves my circumstances.

Furthermore, if I want to attend a church which does/doesn't perform the rite of marriage I prefer, I may decide accordingly - the federal government has **NO** authority (1st Amendment) to address the issue. The reason for use of equal protection in the matter of marriage is the wealth transfers started by big government conservatives wanting to subsidize their preferred religious rite. How's that worked out for them? Seems churches were more effective before turning their duties over to government(s) and letting judges and legislators calibrate their moral compasses. Sadly, this 'well intentioned' notion of subsidizing marriage fertilizes seeds of destruction, accelerating US to the usual end of a command economy. Far too many will falsely assert the downfall is because of same sex couples who have been active in our economies throughout history. The group of libertarians [gay & straight] trying to get government(s) out of the marriage license business is disappearing. Yet another group has succumbed to the lure of transfers and government subsidy over freedom and discipline of market forces. I find little discussion of this adding yet more recipients into the mix of deleterious wealth transfer activity strangling our economy. So let's get to my point as the oft hated economist - the impact of added spousal claims upon the Social Security Administration (SSA) largely unaddressed among the cheering lips and gnashing of teeth.

All I've found (thus far) is a June 21, 2004 CBO letter from Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin to Representative Steve Chabot, Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Committee on the Judiciary in the U.S. House of Representatives; <https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/06-21-samesexmarriage.pdf>. Their analysis of the potential budgetary effects of recognizing same-sex marriages is dated, so discount accordingly. Given past interactions with my House of Representatives member (Mike Rogers) on simple financing of public projects, it is clear he doesn't possess the integrity nor intelligence to address financial matters of this sort - please consider contacting others (Aderholt, Brooks, et al) who can understand what is evolving. CBO wrote the following I found of interest:

"The federal government does not recognize "marriages" of same-sex couples either for receipt of federal benefits or for tax purposes. The 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (Public Law 104-199) provides that the federal government will honor only marriages between one man and one woman. It also stipulates that no state, territory, or possession of the United States or Indian tribe can be required to recognize a same-sex marriage performed in any other jurisdiction. The potential effects on the federal budget of recognizing same-sex marriages are numerous. Marriage can affect a person's eligibility for federal benefits such as Social Security. Married couples may incur higher or lower federal tax liabilities than they would as single individuals. In all, the General Accounting Office has counted 1,138 statutory provisions—ranging from the obvious cases just mentioned to the obscure (landowners' eligibility to negotiate a surface-mine lease with the Secretary of Labor)—in which marital status is a factor in determining or receiving "benefits, rights, and privileges."

It is time to have a serious analysis of SSA (and other programs installed by big government extremists these past several decades) to better forecast future budgeting. Clearly 'equal protection' not to be forced/mandated into command economy programs of this sort is not going to happen until history brings US to a close. In their discussion of these 1,138 provisions over a decade ago, CBO wrote:

"In some cases, recognizing same-sex marriages would increase outlays and revenues; in other cases, it would have the opposite effect. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that on net, those impacts would improve the budget's bottom line to a small extent: by less than \$1 billion in each of the next 10 years (CBO's usual estimating period). That result assumes that same-sex marriages are legalized in all 50 states and recognized by the federal government. The number of same-sex couples who would marry if they had the opportunity is unknown, but the 2000 census offers some insights. The census does not ask about sexual orientation, but it allows people living with a nonrelative to identify themselves as "partners" instead of "housemates/roommates." Almost 600,000 households (or 1.2 million people) identified themselves as same-sex partners in 2000, roughly half in male couples and half in female couples. They represented about 0.6

percent of the total adult population and almost 1 percent of people between the ages of 30 and 50."

Note CBO (Congressional Budget Office) asserts their numbers on who will actually marry (nor addresses those like me considering renouncing their government marriage) is unknown, but the time is long overdue to get an updated, more complete analysis to Congress which addresses those who will divorce/marry for financially strategic and/or moral purposes. Perhaps this will bankrupt/end SSA more quickly to provide relief to our youth and increase the blessings of liberty for our posterity. It is possible when all 1,138 statutory distortions play out it will net a negligible difference, but it seems unlikely when individuals actually respond to this change.

A little more text from CBO before bringing this topic to a close:

"Marital status has a direct impact on people's eligibility for some federal payments, such as Social Security benefits, veterans' benefits, and civil service and military pensions. It can affect other benefits indirectly if a spouse's income and assets enter into determinations of eligibility. The discussion below focuses on so-called mandatory, or direct, spending—programs like Social Security that make payments to anyone who is qualified and applies—because the budgetary effects on those programs of recognizing same-sex marriages would occur automatically and would not depend on future annual appropriations. Recognizing same-sex marriages would increase outlays for Social Security and for the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program, CBO estimates, but would reduce spending for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, and Medicare. Effects on other programs would be negligible. Altogether, CBO concludes, recognizing same-sex marriages would affect outlays by less than \$50 million a year in either direction through 2009 and reduce them by about \$100 million to \$200 million annually from 2010 through 2014. With estimated payments of \$488 billion in 2004, Social Security is both the largest federal program and the one in which marital history plays the greatest role in determining benefits."

*Dialing for Dollars

Senator Gerald Dial (R-Lineville) has been one of the biggest champions of big, deleterious government in our State as a modern Democrat. Now an integral part of the Hubbard machine (Dial is one of the biggest recipients of BCA money) front running for corrupt pay raises, special election tax increases, etc. in the Senate (Hubbard uses Representative Peblin Warren in the House to do his bidding) Dial released the following statement regarding how the legislature should (mis)use the BP settlement:

"The BP settlement will provide approximately \$1 billion to the State of Alabama. Attorney General Luther Strange and the Beasley Allen law firm are to be commended for their hard work in holding BP accountable and securing this settlement. Over the years, I have seen other opportunities to reach a settlement fall by the wayside, and the Offshore Oil Settlement has still yet to be resolved. This was a wise move by General Strange and Governor Robert Bentley. According to discussions I have had with financial experts, we can discount the 18-year \$1 billion settlement on the fair market for an immediate \$700-800 million. It would be the best use of these funds to immediately pay back the debt we owe to the Alabama Trust Fund, which is around \$500 million. Since stripping the ATF, we have seen a drastic decrease in interest income to the General Fund, and my proposal would correct that situation."

It appears the Senator is once again 'Dialing for dollars' to abscond the responsibility of balancing our State budget using BP settlement payments. Let's ship this Republicrat to Greece - seems he could postpone their fiscal discipline a little longer with creative financing of this sort. After robbing \$437 million from our trust fund (wasting \$3 million on a **SPECIAL** election where only 14% of eligible voters approved, knowing it would fail if placed on the regularly scheduled General election ballot 49 days later) in 2012 to avoid balancing the budget, now Dial wants to sell the BP annuity at "fair" market to pay off Goat Hill's refusing to make the tough decisions required to balance these past years' budgets; then use the remainder of the settlement to not make the difficult decisions required to balance the current budget in Montgomery. Just like the EC admitting Greece (knowing they were lying about their financial status) enabled the big government thugs to get them further into their unsustainable mess, robbing our trust fund and now the BP settlement will prolong the fiscal discipline our State requires. The pain and damage will be all the more profound for us if Senator Dial is successful at yet another of his schemes. Of course, this sort of 'Dialing for Dollars' comes easier for those who believe they'll not be around to suffer the consequences of their folly. In closing on this topic, I'll simply ask our more competent, uncorrupted legislators on Goat Hill to watch this one closely. I forecast whoever purchases this annuity will make out like typical political bandits (remember the bond and spend spree that started at the close of the James administration and went into overdrive with the Riley/Hubbard machine?) we've observed since letting the two corrupt party system 'tag team' our State.

On a brighter note, in a recent e-mail exchange with Senator Ward, he informed me I got my number wrong on the first (abbreviated) year of funding his prison reform legislation - it will only be \$12 million (not \$26) to begin the program to reduce our bloated prison population and avoid the more costly result of federal takeover. Tell your legislators it is time to shrink government of all endeavors better provided by the private sector to accomplish the few legitimate functions of State government like our prison system more efficiently. Still waiting on more legislative debate on no-bid medical contracts for corrections facilities...

*Quo Warranto

Appeal to the Alabama Supreme court was filed by Don Casey with the concurrence of the other 11 Relators July 8th. Assistant Attorney General Long's attempt to defend Senator Marsh based on spurious arguments were well rebutted at every point in the counter brief. Once again the State could not come up with anything new or defensible, again trying to assert legislative immunity and attempts to convince the court these 12 brave relators are Plaintiffs in suit against Marsh in a justifiable controversy, which is NOT so. Much like where Myron Thompson was not competent enough (or too corrupt)

Continued on page 7



UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE **MARTHA ROBY**
ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT



CONGRESS QUESTIONING WISDOM OF IRAN DEAL, ROBY SAYS

White House making full court press on Capitol Hill

[Stations: Interview-style video of Rep. Roby's comments is available in broadcast-quality MPEG4 format at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1epmcqiwfets7y/Roby%20Update%20on%20Iran%20Deal.mp4?dl=0>.]

WASHINGTON, D.C. - As the White House aggressively lobbies Members of Congress to support its nuclear agreement with Iran, more cracks in their arguments are being exposed, U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) said Thursday.

Obama Administration officials are attempting to explain recent revelations of secret "side deals" between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency that were not submitted to Congress. Roby attended a classified briefing led by Secretary of State John Kerry, and responded on camera afterward saying the tactics being deployed on Capitol Hill are not gaining the White House significant support.

"Well first of all, this is a bad deal; there's no question about that," Roby said. "If President Obama thought that sending Secretary Kerry to Congress to sell this deal would make it better, he is gravely mistaken."

Instead of building support based on the merits of the deal itself, Secretary Kerry tried to 'lecture' Members of Congress using false choices and scare tactics. She said those like her who are opposed to this Iran nuclear deal would work to raise bi-partisan opposition to defeat it.

"We're going to work very hard to make sure we not only have

the votes to disapprove it but that we also have the votes to override a presidential veto. This is about our national security interests right here in the United States, as well as the security of our friends and allies in other parts of the world."

"No deal is better than a bad deal."

Roby recently traveled to the Middle East as part of a Congressional Delegation to meet with American-allied nations directly impacted by Iran's nuclear ambitions, including Israel, Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. In recent weeks, Roby has raised concerns that American negotiators had been conceding too much to Iran on major points like uranium enrichment, economic sanctions relief and inspection access.

Roby has said for weeks that her colleagues – Republicans and Democrats – **must prepare to "stand up" to the White House** if a bad deal is reached. Under the recently-enacted Iran Nuclear Agreement Act, Congress has 60 days to review the agreement and the opportunity to vote it down. However, overriding the president's promised veto would require bi-partisan support.

For more information contact Communications Director Todd Stacy at: 202-225-2901 / todd.stacy@mail.house.gov.



DEFENDING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Abortion is a topic many people really don't want to think about or talk about. Rarely are Americans confronted with the gruesome realities of the abortion industry, and I think many are fine being none the wiser.

But, shocking videos recently surfaced showing top Planned Parenthood officials discussing the harvesting and sale of lungs, hearts and livers from aborted babies. If you haven't seen them, I encourage you to watch, though be forewarned that they are pretty sickening.

The callous and casual way that these officials talk about performing abortions to preserve specific organs for distribution is deeply disturbing. One official even goes so far as to say they need a "less crunchy" method to obtain intact organs, and continues by joking about needing to price the tissues high enough because she "wants a Lamborghini."

You don't have to be staunchly pro-life like me to be unnerved by these shocking revelations. As disturbing as this rhetoric is in and of itself, think about what these words imply. These senior officials are openly admitting to deliberately altering the way in which abortions are performed so that they achieve the outcome they want: unborn baby organs to put on the market. For organization that claims these unborn babies don't constitute life, its providers sure seem to place a premium on their tiny hearts, lungs and livers. These doctors are completely breaking with protocol and legal requirements, which is something even those who aren't pro-life cannot and should not ignore.

I have been very outspoken on this issue, calling for serious investigations to take place. Committees of jurisdiction in Congress have already laid the ground work for an inquiry, and Attorney General Lorretta Lynch said the Department of Justice would "review" the information.

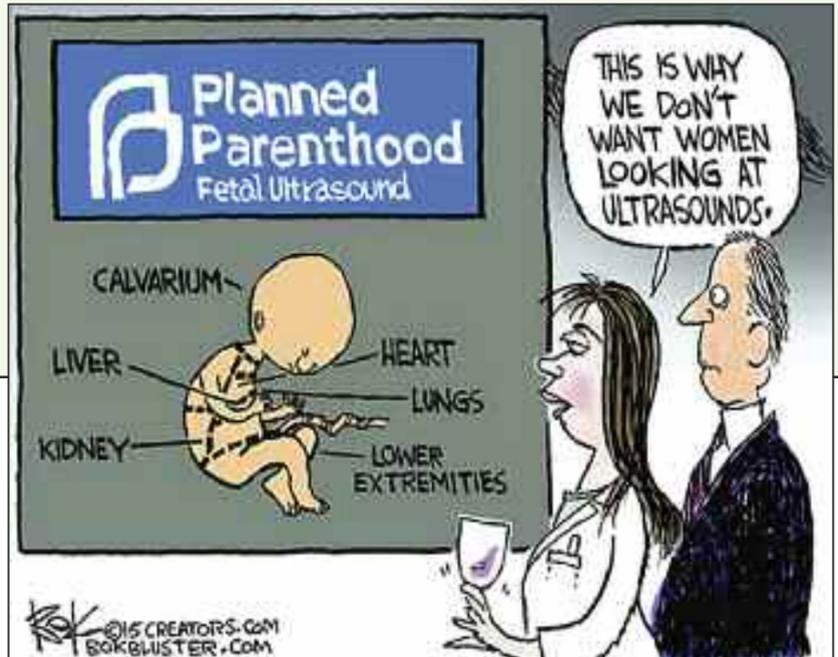
Legislatively, I am highlighting the need to further protect the unborn

under the law and to stop taxpayer dollars from flowing to Planned Parenthood. I've joined my friend, Representative Diane Black (R-TN), on a bill to immediately prohibit taxpayer funds from going to this organization. No American should be forced to have their tax dollars support such an organization, so we are working hard to make that so.

We also will be highlighting the need to enact a restriction on late-term abortions after 5 months, or 20 weeks, of pregnancy. The House passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act in May, and we are urging our Senate counterparts to take it up and send it to President Obama.

I believe I have the responsibility to fight to protect those who cannot defend themselves. We're not done talking about this issue.

Martha Roby represents Alabama's 2nd Congressional District. She is currently serving her third term.



Continued from page 6

to understand when State & federal governments wrongfully took the home we held legal title to, paying taxes on, etc. we were DEFENDANTS not plaintiffs; these twelve Alabama citizens steadfastly maintained they're relators only, bringing forth information in the nature of a quo warranto with a simple question for Sen. Marsh to answer. That question is: **Where is his authority to rewrite our Constitution in the manner he's attempting?** - which Senator Marsh has failed to provide. Please pray the Court will rule in our favor these 12 citizens relate for the general welfare our State. If not, then it is safe to say one of our very last checks on despotic government via our once just system of jurisprudence has indeed been lost.

*Allegiance to Flags

When I began the first draft of this column I planned to address inappropriate flags which have flown/still fly over our State capitol, but recently learned of the untimely death of Mr. Anthony Hervey (49) whom I'd recently heard speak (the best in my opinion) at the Confederate Monument Event up in Birmingham. The MacAlester News-Capital reported Arlene Barnham had given Hervey a ride to the rally and on their way back to Oxford the fatal wreck occurred. Reportedly, Hervey was driving and feared they were being chased. Hervey told Barnham he noticed a silver car speeding to catch up to them, and then it swerved into their passenger side. Barnham told the News-Capital even when Hervey sped up to get away, the car continued to pursue them. At some point, that's what she said caused the crash. While the names of Crispis Attucks, Heyward Shepherd, et al are largely forgotten, please keep Mr. Hervey and his family in your prayers - may Anthony's memory be eternal through the Spirit of Jesus Christ he venerated so well. I can still see/hear him in my mind speaking before the crowd telling all, "Tell the truth; shame the devil!" I also pray Mrs. Barnham mends well from her injuries - it seems there's still no shortage of those willing to kill to advance their hatred -- we'll see if those responsible are brought to justice.

Hervey authored a book entitled **"Why I wave the Confederate Flag: Written by a Black Man."** Well-known for donning a Confederate uniform and waving a Battle flag on the Oxford square, he'd often attract a crowd as he spoke about the history and his views on the subject. The South has lost one of her native sons who exemplified the best Spirit in the Heart of Dixie.

Pregnant?

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Maybe not...
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Then Jesus took the children in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:16 NCV

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Sept. 5	*	Wisconsin
Sept. 12		Middle Tennessee
Sept. 19		Ole Miss
Sept. 26		ULM
Oct. 3	@	Georgia
Oct. 10		Arkansas
Oct. 17	@	Texas A&M
Oct. 24		Tennessee
Nov. 7		LSU
Nov. 14	@	Mississippi State
Nov. 21		Charleston Southern
Nov. 28	@	Auburn

* Game played at neutral location.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Sept. 5	*	Louisville
Sept. 12		Jacksonville State
Sept. 19	@	LSU
Sept. 26		Mississippi State
Oct. 3		San Jose State
Oct. 15	@	Kentucky
Oct. 24	@	Arkansas
Oct. 31		Ole Miss
Nov. 7	@	Texas A&M
Nov. 14		Georgia
Nov. 21		Idaho
Nov. 28		Alabama

* Game played at neutral location.

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

Sept. 5		Clark Atlanta
Sept. 12	*	Albany State
Sept. 19		Winston Salem State
Sept. 26	@	Lane College
Oct. 3	@	UNC Pembroke
Oct. 10	*	Morehouse College
Oct. 17		Stillman College
Oct. 24	@	Kentucky State
Oct. 31		Central State
Nov. 7		Miles College

* Game played at neutral location.

TROY UNIVERSITY

Sept. 5	@	North Carolina State
Sept. 12		Charleston Southern
Sept. 19	@	Wisconsin
Oct. 3		South Alabama
Oct. 10	@	Mississippi State
Oct. 17		Idaho
Oct. 24	@	New Mexico State
Oct. 31	@	Appalachian State
Nov. 7		Louisiana-Monroe
Nov. 14		Georgia Southern
Nov. 27	@	Georgia State
Dec. 5	@	UL Lafayette

ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Sept. 6	@	Tennessee State
Sept. 12		Alcorn State
Sept. 19		Grambling State
Sept. 26	@	Mississippi Valley St.
Oct. 1	@	Texas Southern
Oct. 10		Southern
Oct. 15	@	Arkansas - Pine Bluff
Oct. 31	@	Alabama A&M - B'ham
Nov. 7		Jackson State
Nov. 14		Prairie View A&M
Nov. 21		Miles

HUNTINGDON COLLEGE

Sept. 5		Louisiana
Sept. 12	@	Birmingham Southern
Sept. 26	@	Belhaven
Oct. 3		UNC Welseyean
Oct. 10	@	Ferrum
Oct. 17	@	LaGrange
Oct. 24		Methodist
Oct. 31	@	Greensboro
Nov. 7		Maryville TN
Nov. 14		Averett

FAULKNER UNIVERSITY

Sept. 5	@	Southeastern Univ.
Sept. 12	@	Bluefield College
Sept. 26		Georgetown College
Oct. 3		Campbellsville Univ.
Oct. 10	@	Reinhardt University
Oct. 17	@	Lindsey Wilson
Oct. 24		Bethel University
Oct. 31	@	Kentucky Christian
Nov. 7	@	Cumberland Univ.
Nov. 14		Union College

**Remember
to support
our area
High School
games!**

MONTGOMERY'S "ALL TIME FOOTBALL GREATS!"



See inserted

Historical Reflections Issue

TROY TROJANS

QUARTERBACK BRANDON SILVERS READY TO SHINE UNDER NEW HEAD COACH NEAL BROWN

By Michael Hanich

Changes have come to Troy football including the retirement of long time head coach Larry Blakeney but one thing that is not changing for now is the starting quarterback, Brandon Silvers. The former Gulf Shores Dolphin is ready to shine for a Trojans team that will be coached by newly hired Neal Brown.



Quarterback Brandon Silvers

The 6'3" inch, 202 lb. quarterback will be trusted to be their play maker and to return a winning season to Troy (Troy had a 6-6 record in 2013, a bowl appearance in the New Orleans Bowl in the 2010 season where they went 8-5). Since that 2010 season, Troy has not had consistency at the quarterback position but the coaches do feel confident in redshirt sophomore QB Silvers, especially after last year's performance. Brandon set a NCAA record for pass completion percentage as a freshman with 70.5%, breaking former Heisman trophy winner Sam Bradford's percentage of 69.5% in 2007 with the Oklahoma Sooners. Trojans QB Brandon Silvers is in a good circumstance at Troy because

Coach Brown has dealt with pocket presence quarterbacks in Taylor Potts and Seth Doege at Texas Tech, and a run style quarterback in Patrick Towles at Kentucky. Silvers last year attempted 271 passes, completing 191 of those passes, throwing for 1,836 yards, 11 touchdowns and only throwing 3 interceptions. Brandon has the ability to account for high passing yards and has shown to have a high accuracy while at the same time being mobile and getting out of the pocket if needed. Last season, Silvers attempted 100 rushes for 196 yards and 5 rushing touchdowns. With the experience that Coach Brown has had with different quarterbacks at Troy, Texas Tech and Kentucky, he has a chance to mesh together an "Air Raid" offense with his run style formations out of a spread option offense. Silvers can be just the quarterback if he can learn the playbook fast and efficient on the field. Sixth year offensive coordinator, Kenny Edenfield will still have a lot of input on how Troy will utilize Silvers.



Coach Neal Brown

The Troy Trojans have a lot of rebuilding to do as a program going through a new head coach and being at the bottom of the Sun Belt Conference. They were at the top not too long ago. A team's rebuilding process usually takes about a year to three years depending on their progress and their competition. Even though Brandon Silvers is only a redshirt sophomore, he will have to be a leader to make that rebuilding process go a lot quicker. This season's schedule will not be easy with trips to Raleigh, North Carolina to face the NC State Wolfpack, then to Madison, Wisconsin to face the Wisconsin Badgers. Later on they will have to play at Mississippi State, at Appalachian State and finally at Louisiana-Lafayette at the end of the season. No doubt this will be a rebuilding year for coach Neal Brown, Brandon Silvers and the Troy Trojans. However, the future does look bright as long as the Trojans keep their eyes on the right positive mindset.

"SNAKE" FINALLY ROLLS "SNAKE EYES"



It was cold. It was wet. It was miserable. It was November. It was 1967. It was Birmingham. It was **Legion Field**. It was the **Iron Bowl**. It was late in the second half. It was Auburn 3- Alabama- 0. I was huddled with my date under one of 40,000 umbrellas in the stadium. Ken Stabler takes the snap. He's running the option right. Alabama's right guard "tackles" Auburn's nose guard, **Gusty Yearout**. Stabler cuts inside, breaks right and sashes through the Legion Field mud for fifty-seven yards. It was

team. Ken was honored with All-SEC and All-America selections in '67. During his Bama career Stabler completed 180 of 303 passes (59.4%), 16 of which were for touchdowns. He also rushed for 838 yards on 365 attempts and scored nine more touchdowns.

Stabler's professional career began in 1968 when he was selected by the Oakland Raiders in the second round of the draft. He did not make the team in 1968 so he played in a minor league called the Continental Football League until he was brought back to Oakland in 1971. By this time Stabler had matured physically. He played at 6' 3", 215 lbs. and still maintained the agility that had made him so successful. Aided by a stellar receiving core that included **Cliff Branch**, **Dave Casper** and **Fred Biletnikoff**, he quarterbacked the Raiders from 1973-'79. At the age of 31 Stabler and his teammates won Super Bowl XI 32-14 over the Minnesota Vikings before 103,000 fans in Pasadena, California. He was named the AFC Player of the Year in 1974 and 1976. The Associated

Sports Editor, Ed Jones

over!...7-3. It was my first and my lasting picture of "Snake" Stabler. He lived up to his nickname that day, slithering through the mud and striking a lethal injection into every Auburn heart. It was miserable for Auburn...but it *was magnificent!*



As a young high school football coach looking for a job, my desire to coach was no doubt fueled by the way Alabama's senior quarterback calmly brought his team back from what appeared to be a certain loss. Without that run, Alabama would have never been able to drive the football through the terrible conditions at that point in the game. The two teams had torn up the wet turf for three quarters. This come back may have had some effect on Stabler's ability to bring the Oakland Raiders back time and again during his NFL career. One of his coaches at the Raiders was **John Madden**. After Madden learned of death of Stabler on July 8th of this year, he said, "*Stabler was the perfect quarterback at the perfect time in the history of the Raiders. If I had to pick one quarterback to win one game, it would be Kenney.*"

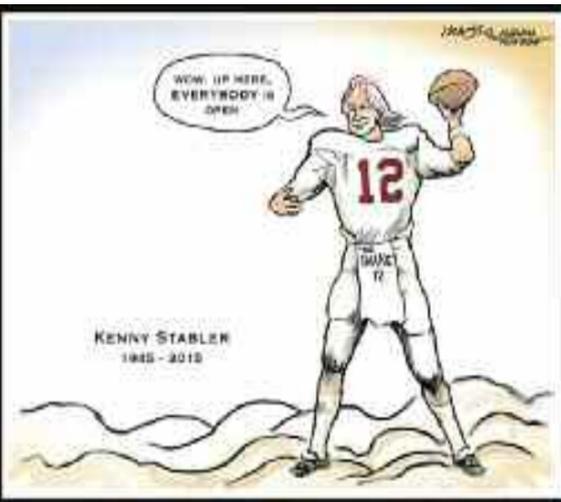
Press selected him NFL MVP in 1974. Stabler won the Hickok Belt in 1976 as professional athlete of the year and was named to the Pro Bowl '74, '76 and '77. Stabler was traded to the Houston Oilers where played the 1980 and 1981 seasons. He finished his professional career after three seasons with the New Orleans Saints. He played in 184 games completing 2270 out of 3793 passes for a 56.3 completion percentage with 194 touchdowns.

Ken Stabler was born and raised in Foley, Alabama. He was a multi-talented athlete who excelled in any sport he tried. He averaged 29 points a game for the Foley High Lions basketball squad. As quarterback he led the football team to a 29-1 record, three championships and garnered All-State honors. For his running prowess Ken acquired a nickname that stuck with him until this day. Called the Snake by his coach, **Ivan Jones**, Stabler dodged and weaved his way through opposing defenders. From my observation, the whip-like action of his left-handed delivery resembled the strike of a cobra. It was quick and deadly! He was equally as talented on the baseball diamond and received contract offers from the New York Yankees and Houston Astros systems. He later became the main left handed pitcher on the Alabama baseball team.

Stabler worked as a color TV commentator for CBS and TNT and had radio shows in Oakland and New Orleans. He worked eleven years as the color analyst of the University of Alabama football radio broadcasts. He was selected by Alabama fans as the quarterback of the century along with Joe Namath in 1992. He was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in the class of 1986. In 2006 he authored a children's book titled, **Roll Tide!** He resided in the Gulf Shores, Alabama area and was a frequent event speaker and held an annual charity golf event.

Stabler was signed by **Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant** in 1964. NCAA rules at the time did not allow freshmen to play so he watched **Joe Namath** lead the Crimson Tide to a national championship. In 1965 Stabler shared quarterback duties with **Steve Sloan**. They lead Alabama to a second consecutive title capped by a 39-28 Orange Bowl victory over Nebraska. With what is considered by many to be the best Tide squads of all-time, in his junior year, Stabler and his teammates rolled to an 11-0 season again in 1966 finishing with a win over Nebraska, this time by a 34-7 margin in the Sugar Bowl. However, in the final polls the Tide was placed third behind Notre Dame and Michigan State. This caused quite an uproar in Alabama, it even became the subject of an entire book about the '66 team called "**The Missing Ring**".

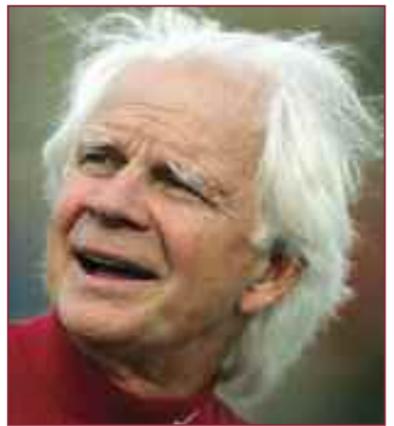
His friends, teammates and coaches will be anxiously awaiting his induction into the NFL Hall of Fame, which is long overdue. For a man as talented as Kenny Stabler was, his full potential was never totally realized. His constant disdain for the rules got him in a lot of trouble. His run-ins with Coach Bryant were well known. Coach Bryant was known as a strict disciplinarian, but he was also a realist. A player had to be pretty dad gum special in order to get a second chance, much less a third chance. However to his credit, Bryant did everything possible to help Kenny develop as a man and as a player. Without Bryant's recommendation, Stabler really not have been drafted in the second round of the NFL draft. He was not really considered an outstanding NFL prospect. His running skills outweighed his passing skills.



Stabler's senior season ended with an 8-2-1 record in 1967. Coach Bryant suspended Stabler during the season for breaking team rules. It was not the first time he had been in Bryant's dog house. Even so, **Bobby Johns** and Stabler were elected captains of the 1967

Maybe "wild" would be one way of describing Stabler. My assessment of Stabler after all these years is that he was what is referred to as a "free spirit". That's not necessarily a bad term as long as one knows where to draw the line. Many complications in the life of Kenny Stabler could have been avoided by drawing the line. Even during his last days battling cancer, I don't know for sure if he ever found that line. Maybe he did.

In Ken Stabler's sixty-nine years, his exploits at his beloved "Flora-Bama" on "Red Neck Riviera" are part of the folklore of Gulf Shores. His life style never seemed to affect his performance on the field. He was a fierce competitor. You almost had to chop his head off to beat him. However, I will always believe that if he had taken better care of himself he would still be with us. Today... sixty-nine sounds young. It is uncanny to me that Kenny's best teacher, Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant died at the same age in 1983. I considered sixty-nine to be old back then.



Ken Stabler - 1945-2015

The "snake" rolled the dice thousands of times in those sixty-nine years. This time they turned up "snake eyes".

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IT DIDN'T TAKE TOO LONG FOLKS, BUT WE'RE BACK TO TALKING ABOUT DEER HUNTING!

Yes, it's July, but that's all the more reason to start getting ready for the hunt. And by getting ready, I'm talking about pre-season scouting, and I don't mean just waiting till one week before the season gets started!

Pre-season scouting, of course, is how you figure out where the best places to hunt ought to be. Remembering where signs were through-out the various hunts from last season, seeing different things while turkey hunting, or even just passing by and seeing the deer out feeding late in the afternoon are all things to keep in mind. Deer respond to pressure, so don't overdo it and live in the woods with them; be patient but pay attention to the details when you do make a trip into those pretty hardwood bottoms.

Other things to consider when you make a trip out are where to move stands, as this is the best time to do it, and how any natural trails or funnels have changed if you've done any clear cutting or logging.

Game cameras are a huge tool in figuring out what deer you have and where they are. First foremost, make sure the camera has plenty of memory on it to store pictures, as you're only going to check on it about once a month, so as to not pressure deer away from it. Have a few cameras set up around your property, where you think the deer will be going. A little feeder or two wouldn't hurt to help get the deer nearby. Make sure they've got plenty of power too; batteries always need checking. With enough cameras and patience, you can get a pretty good survey done for how your deer population is holding up.

Speaking of feeders, supplemental feeding with corn or protein pellets, like Purina record rack, mineral blocks, and salt licks are great ways to help the deer out on your property. Not to mention, bucks need protein and minerals to grow those pretty racks, so investing in those pellets or blocks might get you

a return! Feeding the deer keeps them coming back, which can make for better hunting during the season.

For the more green-thumbed among us, it's not too late to crank up the tractor and get some summer planting done. Tropical corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, and iron clay peas are all great options that are sure to keep the deer coming. It's a lot of work, but it's always worth it.

I mentioned setting your stand up earlier, and this is definitely the time to do it. If you wait until a week before the season starts, the deer are gonna know something's up right there, and avoid it like the plague. Get it out of the way early, so the deer have time to acclimate to the new changes, and you won't be disappointed when it's time for opening day.

When setting up your stand, location is pretty darn important. For starters, the wind typically comes out of the North-West during the fall, so make sure that your stand has you upwind from where the deer should be coming from. Typically, that means setting up on the South-East corner of a food plot, unless you expect the deer to come out of that direction, which may call for some serious inspection of the various paths to and from your location. Remember, deer live and die by that nose, so don't let them get the best of you with it.

Once you've got your stand in place, don't move it! Again, deer are creatures of habit, but that doesn't mean they won't skip town if you make a disturbance. Unless it is a matter of major importance, deer stands shouldn't be moved once set up, so make sure you've got it right the first time, and spend time examining the lay of the land along with the deer sign.

While we're talking about lay of the land, I might suggest trying out Google Earth. Our eyes only take us as far as our property lines let them, but Google Earth can give you a good idea of what lays beyond what we see. I know there's been a time or



two when I've been working a bird during turkey season and couldn't get the booger to come on over to where I'm hunting. I just pulled out the phone, cranked up Google Earth, and then saw that he had a pond to go around to get where I am. Another time, there was a crop field across the line that I couldn't see, so I knew that bird wasn't gonna leave just to visit little old me. Aside from those specific instances, the layouts you can see can help you find stuff you might miss otherwise.

Though the heat is on, like any Alabama summer, now's the time to turn up the heat on your deer hunting preparations. **So get your feed, your stands, and your water, and go get'em!**

Bats

There are many things we think of when the word bat is spoken; such as Vampires, Dracula, rabies and diseases. Yes diseases are true but not as dramatic as is put out. All mammals can contract and carry rabies; however bats are not asymptomatic carriers of the disease. In reality, bats contract rabies far less than other animals. Less than 1/2 of 1% of all bats may contract the disease. A variety of wild animals (rabies vector species) can catch rabies, including foxes, skunks, raccoons, coyotes and bats. Cats and dogs and even livestock can also contract rabies. Bats are an asset to our eco system and survival, one bat can consume over a 1000 insects in one night. This keeps our corps from being infested and destroyed and our persons from being bombarded by insects every time we walk outside.

Bats are the only mammals that can fly. They are also among the only mammals known to feed on blood. Common misconceptions and fears about bats have led many people to regard the creatures as unclean disease carriers, but bats are actually very helpful in controlling the population of crop-destroying insects.

There are more than 900 species of bats in the world 47 of them live in the USA and 16 live in our great State of Alabama. Some experts estimate the number to be as high as 1,200 species. Bats make up one-fifth of the mammal population on Earth. Bats are divided into two main types: megabats and microbats. Megabats include flying foxes and Old World fruit bats. They tend to be larger than microbats, but some microbats are actually larger than some megabats. Flying foxes are the largest bats. Some species have wingspans of 5 to 6 feet and weigh up to 2.2 lbs. One of the smallest megabats, the long-tongued fruit bat has a wingspan of only 10 inches. This bat weighs about half an ounce. Among microbats, the largest species is the false vampire or spectral bat with a wingspan of up to 40 inches. It weighs 5 to 6.7 ounces. The smallest bat is the bumblebee bat. It grows to only about 1.25 inches long and weighs about 2 grams.

Bats live all over the world, except for some islands, and the Arctic and Antarctica. They mostly prefer warmer areas that are closer to the equator, and they can be found in rain forests, mountains, farmland, woods and cities. Bats have two strategies for weathering the cold. Some migrate to warmer areas, while others go into torpor. In this short-term form of hibernation, they reduce their metabolic rate which lowers its body temperature, and slows its breathing and heart rate. Bats roost in trees, caves, mines and barns, anyplace that provides shelter from

"The Kritter Korner"

the weather, protection from predators and seclusion for rearing the animals' young. Bats live together in groups called colonies, which contain 100 to 1,000 bats. These mammals are also nocturnal, meaning that they sleep during the day and are awake at night. Some may fly up to 31 miles to find food during their nightly journeys. In the day, they sleep upside down from trees or the roofs of caves, holding on with their sharp claws.

Most bats eat flowers, small insects, fruits, nectar, pollen and leaves, though it depends on the type of bat. Megabats usually eat fruits, and microbats



Fruit Bat



Little Brown Bat



Vampire Bat



Big Brown Bat

generally eat insects. The Malayan flying fox has a big appetite. It can eat half its body weight every day. The vampire bat outdoes even that, though, eating twice its weight in one day. The brown bat can eat up to 1,000 small insects in an hour. Some bats will squeeze fruits in their mouths and drink the juices. Vampire bats like a juice of a different type, though. They do indeed drink blood, mainly from cattle and deer, but they don't suck blood like the legends say. Rather, they make a V-shaped cut and then lick up the blood.

Bats have some unique mating behaviors not seen in other animals. Male and female bats meet in hibernation sites, called hibernacula, where they breed. Bats 'swarm' around in huge numbers, chasing each other and performing spectacular aerobatics. It's not clear how the bats choose their mates, but it may be that females seek out the most agile males. During the swarming event, breeding pairs will go off to secluded spots in the cave to mate in private. Mating occurs in the late summer and early autumn, and the females store the males' sperm

until the next spring. A pregnant female will carry her young for a gestation periods of 40 days to six months. Then, she will give birth to one baby, called a pup. The pup will weigh about one-fourth as much as its mother at birth. Young bats drink milk from their mothers to survive, much like other mammals. The mothers and pups stay in groups, separate from the males. The other mothers help take care of the pup until it is old enough to care for itself. Bats are essential to our eco system. Many bat species around the world are threatened with extinction. The Red list identifies more than 250 species as endangered, vulnerable or "near threatened."

The Bulmer fruit bat is the world's most endangered bat. It is only found in one cave in Papua New Guinea. According to the Red List, there are only around 160 individuals left in this colony. A fungus that causes a disease called white-nose syndrome has devastated bats in North America. This white, powdery-looking fungus, a member of a group of cold-loving fungi called Geomyces, coats the muzzles, ears and wings of bats and has meant death for hundreds of thousands of the animals in the northeastern United States. Bats "see" using echolocation. The animals make high-frequency yells and analyze the location of objects around them by perceiving how the sound bounces back off the object showing the angle at which sound bounces back can tell the bat the object's size. Some horseshoe bats can hover and pluck insects from spider webs. An anticoagulant in vampire bat saliva has been adapted for use in increasing blood flow in patients with stroke or heart disease.

There are 16 species of bats living in the State of Alabama:

**Little Brown Myotis • Southeastern Myotis
Gray Myotis • Northern Long-eared Myotis
Small-footed Myotis • Indiana Myotis
Silver-haired Bat • Tri-colored bat
Big Brown Bat • Eastern Red Bat
Seminole Bat • Hoary Bat
Northern Yellow Bat • Evening Bat
Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat
Brazilian Free-tailed Bat**



Ron VanHerwyn

Montgomery County Law

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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

Chief Deputy Kevin Murphy

THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE WILL BE HOSTING OUR ANNUAL SHOW-N-TELL SUMMER CAMP THIS MONTH!

This week long camp will be held to promote positive interaction and life rewarding skills with our youth. This camp is not a disciplinary camp but a camp to reward those that strive to achieve their highest potentials during the school year. Those of you that have applied and been accepted to this year's camp... welcome aboard and to those that didn't apply, please apply next year! We accept 100 kids each year to attend camp.

Activities include canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, swimming, outdoor survival skills and of course, a BIG DANCE on the Thursday before they depart from camp. There will be deputies and correction officers on site the entire week to supervise the kids and make sure everyone benefits from the camp!

you ensure your home and personal property are secure, please email my Administrative Assistant, Christie Vázquez, at ChristieVazquez@mc-ala.org or contact my office at 832.1646. Your safety and well-being is just as important to us and it is to you and your family! Don't hesitate...call or email today!

Thank you to all the Montgomery County citizens that have sent in appreciation letters regarding our Firearms Familiarization Course! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. For this reason, we are continuing our monthly Firearms Familiarization Course with the following scheduled dates:



- Saturday, August 8, 2015
- Saturday, September 26, 2015
- Saturday, October 10, 2015
- Saturday, November 14, 2015

The class is always held on a Saturday at our Firing Range and lasts all day and is FREE to Montgomery County citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class. All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

Course Requirements:

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

Pistol Permit Questions? 334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?
LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org 334.832.1339

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

IT'S HOT OUTSIDE!

Don't forget to check on your loved ones!



Special Note We are in the process of constructing a new website www.MontgomerySheriff.com and hope that you all will check this website periodically for helpful information and events taking place in the community and as always thank you for your continued support of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!!

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will be partnering with the Town of Pike Road for the annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4th from 6-8pm. National Night Out is held across the United States by all neighborhoods as a way to have food and fellowship with your neighbors as well as learn from various vendors how you can protect your home and family. If you don't have plans on Tuesday, August 4th, please join us at the Town of Pike Road located at 9575 Vaughn Road. We hope to see you there!



*SENIORS, mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 8th, for our Senior Fishing Rodeo! All senior citizens, 55 years young and up, are invited to fish at the Montgomery County ponds located 7 miles from the Southern Boulevard on Highway 231 South, across from Meriwether Road. There will be portable bathrooms on premise and the ponds are handicap accessible. There will be deputies at the road with



emergency lights displayed so you can't miss it... **JUST LOOK FOR THE FLASHING BLUE LIGHTS!**



Please plan to be there between 5:30 & 6:00 am to get started fishing before the heat gets too unbearable. We will fish, if weather permits, until 12:00 Noon. Please do not bring children to this event as we have a Kids Fishing Rodeo annually in June for our youth to attend. We will provide snacks and drinks...you provide the bait and tackle and whatever you catch is yours to keep!

Think your teen may be "experimenting" with drugs, alcohol or tobacco? It's best to solve problems before they occur or get much worse. Unfortunately, "friends" often try harder to make kids who say "no" to drugs, alcohol and tobacco feel like outcasts. Home testing kits have emerged that protect privacy and provide kids with a socially acceptable excuse, "My parents test me." For years, police have been the first to know when local kids used drugs while their parents were often the last to know. Now there is a way to REVERSE that trend!

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office recently announced a new alliance with TestMyTeen.com, an organization that has donated free home drug test kit vouchers to be shared anonymously with parents who need them.

Go to our website www.MontgomerySheriff.com and click "Public Interest", then click "TEST MY TEEN" and follow the instructions...it's that simple!

Attention Montgomery County Citizens and Neighborhood Watch Associations: If you are interested in having our agency come out and do a crime prevention home survey as well as give helpful information to help

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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He may be reached at www.steveflowers.us.



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

July 29, 2015:

During the press conference three weeks ago announcing the historic BP settlement and windfall for the state, Gov. Bentley repeatedly said, "The \$55 million a year to the General Fund is fantastic but it will not solve the state's long term financial woes. It only accomplishes about 12 percent of what we need. We're still going to have a Special Session to address the need for new revenue and we will call it for late summer."

Bentley and the Legislature were unable to agree on a General Fund budget during the Regular Session. During the interim the House Budget Committee has been meeting and really working on the budget problems. They have been looking into each department of the state meticulously. They have met extensively with department heads and they have determined that these agencies have been cut to the bone.

The Budget Committee was set to finish their evaluations and offer a solution by mid-August. While legislators were working diligently trying to craft a plan, the Governor back pedaled on his initial \$541 million tax package. He said, "Congress' vote to fully fund the Children's Health Insurance Program reduces the amount of money needed to balance the General Fund Budget."

Gov. Bentley totally reversed field and said, "I'll probably take the budget passed by the legislature and just add items to it and not really change it at all. Just add the spending items to it and then I will probably put in some conditionals to take care of other things like debt payments," as though he had any say in the budget.

Then out of nowhere the Governor decided to call a Special Session for Monday with no forewarning or plan. It caught legislators of both parties by surprise to say the least. "I'm just flabbergasted. I just can't believe it," House Ways and Means Chairman Steve Clouse said. Democratic House Leader Craig Ford said, "I just met with the Governor last week and he said we were going to have a Special Session in mid-August." Bentley also told Senate Majority Leader Del Marsh and Speaker Mike Hubbard the same thing. These two Republican leaders of the legislature were livid. They expressed their disdain and



July 22, 2015:

The week leading up to the Fourth of July had a lot of fireworks. In fact, my guess is that when we look back at the year 2015, we will look to that week as the most momentous of the year. It was like bang, bang, bang.

The declaration by the Supreme Court that same sex marriage is the law of the land may be one of the most monumental court decisions in decades and unquestionably the landmark ruling by the high tribunal this year.

The same week we saw a settlement of the BP case. It was expected and predicted that this verdict would not come down until late 2016 or early 2017. It will be a boon to Alabama's General Fund, but not a panacea.

Also, the same week Gov. Robert Bentley took down all the confederate flags around the Capitol. This decision may not play well with some arch conservatives around the state, but they cannot retaliate against Bentley. He cannot run again anyway. He did it because he thought it was in the best interest of the state. Gov. Bentley said removing four confederate flags from around the Capitol was "the right thing to do." He continued, "It's important that we present an image in Alabama that things are different today than they were in 1963."

Bentley, who has hung his hat on luring new industry into the state during his time as governor believed that the confederate flag issue could be a deterrent to potential industrial recruitment. He said he wanted to head off controversy about the flags that might distract from our image and put us in an unfavorable light with corporations around the nation or globe.

Hours after the flags came down, Bentley announced that Google plans to convert an old coal burning power plant in rural Jackson County near Huntsville into a \$600 million data center. Ironically, Bentley's decisive move to remove the flags may be looked on in future years as one of his legacies as governor.

The BP settlement the week of the Fourth of July will go down as a legacy for Alabama. We will reap \$55 million a year into our General Fund over the next 18 years. The total settlement will be \$2.3 billion for our state. About

disregard for the Governor by quickly ignoring the governor and adjourning until August 3.

It appears that the Governor's only participation in the legislative process during the Special Session will be that he called it. The Governor's behavior as of late can only be described as bizarre. It is a though he seems distracted. His ability to have any input into the legislative or budget process for the remainder of his term has been diminished significantly. He is essentially been rendered irrelevant in the legislative process. In fact, the custodian in the House of Representatives probably has more legislative influence than Bentley. The legislature will work alone crafting a budget for the coming fiscal year, while Bentley will be relegated to being a lame duck comedic sideshow to amuse them as they try to address the perceived problems of the General Fund.

However, a recent study revealed that Alabama's financial picture and future is much brighter than most states. The Mercatus Center at George Mason University, the nation's leading policy research group, stated that most states face uncertain financial futures, a good many states do not have constitutional balanced budget provisions like we do and most do not have as prudently and properly funded public employee retirement system programs.

The study revealed that the top five states are Alaska, the Dakotas, Nebraska and Florida. The Dakotas, Nebraska and Alaska are flush because of natural resources like oil. Florida rakes in sales tax from tourism.

The states in the worst condition are California, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Illinois. The worst ranked state was Illinois. There the government has used funds set aside for future pensions to pay for current expenses.

Alabama is ranked the 13th best state in America when it comes to fiscal soundness, planning and spending. In comparison, with surrounding states, Georgia is ranked 26th and Mississippi is 33rd. Louisiana and Kentucky are even worse at 35th and 45th, respectively. The only sister southern states doing better than us are Tennessee at number 8 and Florida at number 5.

\$1.3 billion will go to environmental restoration along Alabama's coastal area and \$1 billion will go to the state for economic damages.

Although most of the economic loss came in the area of income and sales taxes that would generally go to the Education Trust Fund, legislators have passed legislation to earmark the money to the General Fund. The \$1 billion will be paid out over 18 years, which will come to about \$55 million per year.

It has been five years since the explosion at an off shore well and subsequent oil spill that killed 11 men and devastated the economy of the Gulf Coast. Alabama was one of five states affected by the BP tragedy. A total settlement of \$18.7 billion will be paid out to all of the five states.

Attorney General Luther Strange did a yeoman's job on the settlement. He headed the entire legal legwork. By foregoing outside legal counsel, he saved the state millions. Other states, like Louisiana, spent over \$10 million on outside counsel. The presiding judge, U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier, early on made Strange the lead counsel on the case.

Attorney General Strange and Gov. Bentley held a joint press conference announcing the historic settlement. Strange said, "I think Alabama has received the very best settlement possible. I think it will benefit future generations of Alabamians." Gov. Bentley said emphatically and repeatedly that the BP settlement will not solve Alabama's General Fund shortfall. "This will not solve the problem," Bentley said, "Does it help some? Yes, absolutely." When asked if the new money might give lawmakers the excuse to avoid raising taxes or seeking solutions, Bentley said it should not. He emphasized that the BP windfall is not the golden parachute that legislators are hoping for.

"There is a \$400 million gap in the General Fund so \$55 million would only be 12 percent of that amount and it may not even start this year," Bentley said. He continued, "I'm always afraid that anyone can make the excuse to take some one time money given in one-time fashion and not solve the real problems of our state."

A Special Session was called last week even with the BP windfall.



Letters To The Editor
PLEASE SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS ON ANY ARTICLE PRINTED IN THIS PAPER.

THE STATE BUDGET

by John Martin

Just a few weeks ago, Governor Bentley immediately vetoed a responsible "bare bones" budget passed at the end of the regular session, slapping the Alabama people in the face with a demand for more revenue, more spending, more taxes, and an extra \$150,000 for a special session.

What kind of tyrant did we elect for our governor? The people had made it very clear they wanted less spending, less government, less regulation, and absolutely no more taxes. And it all fell on deaf ears. If our elected officials have any common sense and even a little backbone, I expect the special session to come up with a similar budget, or perhaps even a smaller one to show him that dictators are not welcome in this state.

We must always demand responsibility and frugality in our public matters, just like people and families must do to manage their own budgets. We cannot tolerate a bunch of crybaby public servants demanding everything they want at the spur of the moment, taking other people's money and throwing it to the winds of multitudes of programs we are better off without. We expect our government to be just as frugal with our money as we do in our personal affairs.

Let's set the record straight. Claims of cutting the budgets do not fly. I challenge anybody to show me a state budget—either general fund or education—that is smaller than the one of the previous year. Cutting a few pennies from one portion and adding a few million to another is not a legitimate cut. Why are millions being added to Medicaid, kindergarten and pre-K (the very items that need serious cuts) while saving a few pennies by shutting down some of our state parks?
Yes, Alabama's taxes are lower than those of most other states. I,

like most people, want to keep it that way. The great majority of us understands this is one of our greatest assets, for business and consumers alike. But some people are stupid enough to call it a liability. If you are one of those, get out of Alabama and try out Massachusetts or New Jersey.

Now, more than ever, we are holding our legislators' feet to the fire to stand up against tyranny and refuse to cave in to the demands of those who value socialism and dependency over individual liberty and free enterprise. We must always remember that the people we elect are our employees, not our masters. If any misbehave, then we throw them out in the very next election (although I wish we could recall them immediately).

Now, back to the special session. Remember three things: No more spending. No more revenue. And no more taxes.



Dear Editor,

His name was Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez something. He was born in Kuwait. He recently visited Yemen. He attacked two military installations and killed four Marines on the last day of Ramadan. Our national news media knew all this, but spent 48 hours wondering aloud why he did it. What was the motive? They didn't want to speculate. The incident was still under investigation. Besides, he was only the alleged shooter.

Duh! He was yet another Muslim terrorist attacking our homeland. But they dared not utter those words for fear of offending someone. Besides, the White House Press Office had not given them the clearance to say either *Muslim* or *terrorist*. Political correctness is going to kill a lot more of us someday, because our Administration and their talking heads refuse to call evil by its name.

And when that happens, the TV pundits will sit around scratching their empty heads wondering why. Then they will blame it on Bush and go their merry way with heads held high in their hypocritical, progressive ignorance.

Garry Bowers
Montgomery, Alabama

The Education Station...

By Bobbie Ames

America: A Christian Nation From Birth Men in Black Robes: Then and Now

In this year of 2015, it would be very interesting to know if any reader of the Gazette ever heard the name of David Josiah Brewer, an Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, 1889-1910. Or has any modern law student studied Brewer's decisions on the Court? The most important case is *The Church of The Holy Spirit v. United States*, decided February 29, 1892. This was on the Eve of the 20th Century.



David Josiah Brewer
Associate Justice of the
US Supreme Court, 1889-1910

If the case has been so buried in the past century, why is it important for us to study this particular case, and its unanimous decision, written by Justice David Josiah Brewer? Believe me, it has tremendous meaning in both the political and spiritual life of our nation, in 1892 and today. The understanding of the significance of this case may well predict the very existence of Religious Liberty for your children and grandchildren.

Seven years before this case came to trial, a law had been passed in Congress, Feb. 26, 1885. Its intent was "to prohibit the importation and migration of foreigners and aliens under contract or agreement to perform labor in the United States, its Territories, and the District of Columbia."

The Church of the Holy Spirit had employed a minister from England, **E. Walpole Warren**, to come to the United States to serve as their pastor. The United States Government charged the Church with violating the 1885 law by making contract with the minister, "importing an immigrant to do labor."

At trial, the church did not plead the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, but pled the argument that the law should not apply to the church and its foreign pastor. The defense was rejected and the lower court ruled against the church.

The case went to the Supreme Court.

Justice Brewer demonstrated that the lower court was in error in its decision because it was based on the Letter of the Law and not on the Intent of the Law. For the lower court to rule that the church's contract with the minister was illegal would be absurd in the eyes of the court.

It is interesting to note that the justices had no problem with the law in question, in fact making note that "large capitalists in this country" made contracts with "an ignorant and servile class of foreign laborers... at a low rate of wages," ... and thereby breaking down "the labor market and reduced other laborers engaged in like occupations to the level of the assisted immigrant...."

Justice Brewer used the opportunity in this case to show how damaging it would be for the government to inject itself and appear to be "against religion."

In the decision, which was unanimous, Justice Brewer documented the evidence that America's earliest colonists, and continuing through the Founding as a nation, "came pursuant to the Great Commission."

Secondly, he documented the organic evidence that the Providential Purpose of America had never changed over 300 years. Declaring America, A Christian Nation, was based on solid evidence.

Justice Brewer rendered 700 decisions in his career which spanned 46 years in numerous judicial positions, including the Supreme Court of Kansas, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U. S. Supreme Court (1889-1910).

Another remarkable trait of this man was his availability to give lectures on the subject of our Christian Heritage and its relationship both to Religious Liberty and to the Political sphere. He saw the role of religion in American life as the cause of her prosperity, but much more....

"Churches and church organizations... abound in every city, town, and hamlet... a multitude of charitable organizations exist... everywhere under Christian auspices... gigantic missionary associations, with general support... aim... to establish Christian missions in every quarter of the globe."

Supporting the influence of the Christian faith, Justice Brewer observed that the American people had established the civil orders based on the laws of God. It was evident that the nation's "founding purpose was to advance the Christian faith." This great Truth, as the source of Liberty, was his passion.

Born of missionary parents in Smyrna, Asia Minor in 1837, the family,

during his childhood, returned to New England and he entered Wesleyan College at age 15.

Moving to Yale, he graduated at age 19, and attended Albany Law School. Admitted to the Bar in New York, he ventured West in a gold mining expedition.

He settled in Kansas and held numerous judicial positions with great acclaim. A noted scholar and devout Christian, his understanding of this nation's Providential Founding and mission was observed consistently in his personal and public life.

His decisions stated that no government action could be legally taken to harm the Christian religion by state or national government, because this is a religious people. In reviewing the evidence, Justice Brewer cited the commission to Columbus by Ferdinand and Isabella, "by the Grace of God, continents and islands will be discovered."

The First Charter of Virginia stated its purpose... "by the Providence of Almighty God... in propagating the Christian religion to such people that live in darkness and in miserable ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God." He quoted the Colonial charters, one by one, citing Divine Providence and the establishment of the Christian religion foremost in every new territory.

The importance of these documents has been lost to modern history and to the American classrooms. **William Penn**, in his charter of Pennsylvania, 1701, wrote, "Because no people can be truly happy, though under the greatest enjoyment of civil liberties, if abridged of the Freedom of their Conscience... Faith and worship doth enlighten the Minds and persuade and convince the understanding of people."

Justice Brewer cites the rich Christian wording in the Declaration of Independence, and in support of that Declaration, our Founders pledged to each other, "our lives, our fortunes, and our Sacred Honor."

Every Constitution of every State recognized religious obligations of the people. In many it was spelled out that belief in the existence of God was necessary to hold office in government. There is a universal language, the Justices declared, that this is a religious nation, and that "the morality of the country is deeply engrafted upon Christianity, and not upon the doctrines of worship of those imposters."

American Vision has republished the court record and a review of the case, along with additional material on Justice Brewer's lectures, etc. A large portion of the book is a republication of a publication by **John C. Winston Co.** in 1905.

Containing an introduction by **Gary DeMar**, President of American Vision, and a review of the case by **Dr. Herb Titus**, prominent attorney who has served at numerous universities with great distinction, and now resides at Chesapeake, Va. The book is available from American Vision, and titled, ***The United States: A Christian Nation***.

For all the recent generations who did not study America's true History

in school, this book documents that this nation's legacy of Liberty comes from Biblical Christianity in faith and practice. Without the profession of faith in the One True God, there will not be liberty and the Blessings of Providence.

With the great heritage of the Protestant Reformation, can we say with Martin Luther, "my conscience is captive to the Word of God?"

Can we agree with **George Washington**, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are the indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness."

The clergy served in general assemblies, conceived of the first common schools, often penned the

charters and constitutions, and preached the Principles of Liberty without Compromise. This disciplined the Nation.

John Witherspoon, President of the College of New Jersey (Princeton), trained 1 Vice President, 3 Supreme Court Justices, 10 Cabinet members, 12 governors, 60 congressmen and many state leaders, too numerous to list.

Pastors in those black robes brought us the Great Awakenings with the Reformation messages. The men in black robes on the courts of America were Biblically literate and the majority committed to the Christian Faith. This was displayed in the wordings of their decisions, upholding the Law of God and our Constitution.

Today, what picture prevails in our minds when we see "men in black robes.?" Certainly, here in Alabama, we are thankful that our Supreme Court displays faithfulness to the cause of Christian Liberty. Sadly, this is not true nationwide on the courts of the land. We see the destruction of our religious and civil liberty at every turn, and we sometimes cry aloud with the Psalmist, "If the Foundations be destroyed, what shall the Righteous do?" **Psalm 11:3**

Obviously, our mandate is found in Scripture as well: "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All The Land." **Lev. 25:10**. This scripture is inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Lord says, "As surely as I live, your children will be like jewels that a bride wears proudly."

Isaiah 49:18 *NCV*

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

“As a retired Federal employee

I personally wear hearing aids and I have to say that DeRamus Hearing Centers is the most experienced independent hearing center in the River Region and the team really prides themselves on educating the community and giving back!” said Nancy Adams. This past February, the team hosted a free, informative luncheon for the Russel County National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). The group called it one of the most enlightening and useful sessions they’ve ever had!

The staff at DeRamus Hearing Centers understands the frustration of people not being able to hear their loved ones. Their enthusiasm for giving back to the community is reflected in the care they give ensuring that patients can once again hear their best. At DeRamus Hearing Centers, federal employees, their spouses and dependents get free hearing aids with no out of pocket expense.

Established in 1982, DeRamus Hearing Center has been a staple in the River Region with offices in Montgomery, Selma, Opelika and Clanton. Owner and Hearing Instrument Specialist

Glenda DeRamus volunteers her time for organizations such as Good Morning Montgomery, Kiwanis Club, Easter Seals of Alabama, Through the Grace of God Ministries, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, RiversEdge Church of Montgomery, and Medical Outreach Ministries.

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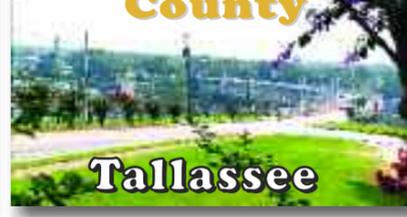
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Nebraska City, Neb. – Add color to your landscape year-round by joining the Arbor Day Foundation in August.

Everyone who joins the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation with a \$10 donation will receive 10 free white flowering dogwood trees through the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid between October 15 and December 10, depending on the right time for planting in each member's area. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Planting instructions are enclosed with each shipment of trees.

"Dogwood trees will add color and beauty to your yard throughout the year, with their showy spring flowers, scarlet autumn foliage, and red berries



that attract songbirds in the winter," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

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To receive the free white flowering dogwood trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to: Ten Free Dogwoods, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by August 31, 2015, or join online at: arborday.org/august

The Supremes and the Baby Boomers



Some recent reactive changes in perception of heritage and rulings by the Supremes have recently left me quite dismayed. Not the legendary singing group but the men and women that don the black robes as Justices of the United State Supreme Court. Five of the nine are Baby Boomers and Republican presidents nominated five of the now sitting Justices. Some of the truths in my life were no longer deemed truths and for the past several weeks I have tried to make sense of them and wondered what would I say in this column.

Ronald A. Holtsford

A couple of years ago in United States v Windsor, the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act was struck down by the United States Supreme Court, as unconstitutional based on the Due Process clause of the Fifth Amendment. Such Clause is highlighted within the Amendment below and reads;

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Several States had initiated their own rightful laws defining acknowledged marriage in their states.

I attended a discussion on United States Supreme Court decisions while recently attending the annual meeting of the Alabama State Bar. The panel consisted of the Alabama Solicitor General and a former Alabama Solicitor General. The current Solicitor General was guarded in his remarks due to ongoing issues with which he is involved. They discussed the recent United States Supreme Court, 5-4 opinion regarding State restriction on same sex marriage. In that decision the Court decided under Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment that States cannot restrict the rights of same sex couples to marry. Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment reads;

Section 1. *All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.*

Both panelists seemed to understand the rationale of the Court, never stating their own legal opinion. It is the job of the Alabama Solicitor General to advocate the consistent positions of the State of Alabama in the Alabama Supreme Court, the Federal Courts and the United States Supreme Court and he had argued that very thing.

I must say, I cannot see how even a liberal interpretation equates to the several States from being unable to decide by vote of its legislators or voters what is legally permitted regarding marriage. Now, I believe I had one of the finest Constitutional educations under my law professor, **Dr. John Eidsmoe**. But while sitting in the meeting I began to think that I am a poor excuse at Constitutional interpretation when I didn't seem to understand how one derives an overriding fact that defeats marriage, as we have known it for thousands of years.

I will remain guarded with counsel and assistance to same sex couples regarding estate planning so that I can provide reasonable assurance to those couples that assets will be passed as they desire and not necessarily on assumptions that may be otherwise provided for under traditional marriage.

I was out of town when I heard about the murders of the church members in Charleston. I could not imagine the hate that this young man had, and how he thought cowardly murders of these individuals was a good idea. The news outlets showed a picture of him and a Confederate battle flag. He had inappropriately hijacked a symbol of my many ancestral Confederate soldiers and turned it into a symbol of hate. There was a reaction first by those who have awaited an opportunity to remove a misunderstood symbol of my heritage and then a knee jerk reaction by many elected officials and companies to further that misconception. One elected official, that I will not name, suddenly changed their former public image on Confederate heritage; I was astounded.

You see it was under the flag of the United States that slavery spread in this country, and it was men in the North that sold enslaved people to Southerners when the cotton gin made cotton a profitable crop in the South. Until there was sufficient labor in the North, there existed a great deal of slavery there as well. In 1703, New York City had over forty percent of the households holding slaves. Over time, there were both import and export tariffs on Southerners that were often greater than similarly valued imports and exports in the North. Southerners were tired of the way they were treated by their supposed brethren in the North (and often still are with opposed positions by those on Capitol Hill). The South wanted their own nation and they seceded. The North, realizing that significant income would leave with the seceding states and having succeeded in ridding most of the North of slaves, decided that invasion of the South would "preserve the Union". While in 1855 **Lincoln** wrote his friend **Joshua Speed** saying how he disliked slavery, he wrote **Horace Greeley** in 1862 and said the following,

"I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored; the nearer the Union will be "the Union as it was." If there be those who would not save the Union, unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union. I shall do less

whenever I shall believe what I am doing hurts the cause, and I shall do more whenever I shall believe doing more will help the cause. I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors; and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views."

Slavery only existed under the Flag of the Confederate States of America for four years, not the Confederate battle flag. Lincoln stated he was interested in saving the "Union", and slavery was a side issue. It was in 1863 that Lincoln sought to include the Abolitionists on his side by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, which only freed slaves in the seceding states. It was the latter 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, not ratified until almost eight months after the War Between the States had ended, that abolished slavery in ALL states. Slavery was an issue of the War but it was not the main issue. The men that fought under the Confederate battle flag fought against invaders and not for slavery. I will always be proud of my grandfathers from Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas, which fought the invaders from the North and the flag under which they fought. I will never support anyone or any group that displays the flag of my ancestors because they think it suggests hate and oppression.

Now the Supreme Court has ruled that Texas does not have to grant the right of the **Sons of Confederate Veterans** to include the very emblem of their organization on license plates. Maybe Texas should suggest an alternative emblem to the Texas Trophy Hunter's Association car tag because it may contain an image of a skull of an animal; is that offensive to some? Who will be next, Choose Life or War on Terror?

You see a lot of the policy changes are now coming from Baby Boomers as the progenitors have been stepping aside and leaving this mortal earth. It made me think about my generation that range from their early fifties to almost seventy. In the sixties as they began to come of age some became hippies, some began to try to change the world, and some began to raise families and work just as their parents had. There was a special group from my generation that I am especially proud of; those that served in the military in the Vietnam War era, and then those Baby Boomers that subsequently served in following conflicts or wars and some still serve today. Baby Boomers sought to find their place in society.

But Baby Boomers saw the oppression and deaths of the Jews under Hitler and the inequalities of Americans, and those with ideals of justice sought to right wrongs, and, in some cases to overdo the wrongs that they saw. Enter the Baby Boomer proponents of **Roe v Wade**, the presentation of participation trophies to everyone on a youth team, political correctness, an idea that multi-generational Southerners are to be ashamed of their families who held slaves (yes it was a horrible institution) or for having been Confederate soldiers and narrow minded for thinking that marriage is one man and one woman. Truly, certain powerful members of my generation have harmed our country. While I think God has no specific stake in the Confederate battle flag per se, He divinely inspired some prominent Confederate generals like **Lee** and **Jackson** and used the War as a basis for significant Christian revival in the South and served as a basis for the Bible Belt today. Some truths given us by God are being peeled away by some in my generation, and I am ashamed.

Then I read the July, Robservations, by Robert Tate in The Alabama Gazette. Robert and I have never met nor spoken. I'm guessing he is a little younger than myself, but I believe us both to be Baby Boomers. We are not the children of World War II vets, but we are the children of Korean War veterans. Though I am blessed that both of my parents are still living, Robert recently lost his father. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Robert. What Robert wrote about his Dad in the July issue touched my heart. Two of my close friends, both law school classmates, died within the last few years. I was able to make sense of their lives and deaths by writing about them, to honor them. One I wrote a memorial in the Alabama Lawyer and the other in this very publication.

I know Robert's words came from his heart and he was able to articulate to his readers one of the truths that I hold dear. Though not to all people, a truth to me is a love of family. Apparently, Robert had a very close relationship with his dad. As I recall from his writings he spoke with his dad almost daily and at length. I imagine Robert's dad was able to pass along the wisdom of his years. It was obvious that Robert will always cherish that. My dad and I don't talk that often and when we do it's generally not at length. If I call my folks and my Dad answers, he usually says very little and then says, "Well here's your Mama". That's just us; I guess we just don't have a lot to say sometimes. I know I can depend on my dad for whatever I need to talk to him about. I know that one day it will no longer be a two-way conversation.

I don't know how Robert Tate feels about participation trophies, the Confederate battle flag or same sex marriage, but I know he holds his family dear. From reading Robert's column, he is what is good about America. He is what is good about the Baby Boomer generation. Those like him are the "keel" of our Nation, and make sense when other things do not.

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

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

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In the most natural and simple way possible we learn to pray our experiences by taking up the ordinary events of everyday life and giving them to God.

Richard J. Foster



...and many more...shut the door!



By *Kyle D. McKinney*
Alabama Public Affairs Specialist
Social Security Administration
4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100
Montgomery, Alabama 36116



SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Hello! In this column I would like to share some of my more popular Social Security questions and the answers.

Question:

Can I refuse to give my Social Security number to a private business?

Answer:

Yes, you can refuse to disclose your Social Security number, and you should be careful about giving out your number. But, be aware, the person requesting your number can refuse services if you don't give it. Businesses, banks, schools, private agencies, etc., are free to request someone's number and use it for any purpose that doesn't violate a federal or state law. To learn more about your Social Security number, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Question:

How can I check the status of a pending application for retirement benefits?

Answer:

If you applied for retirement or disability benefits online, you can check the status of your application at www.socialsecurity.gov by selecting "Benefits" and "Check Application Status" under "Apply." You will need to enter your Social Security number and the confirmation code you received when you filed online.

Your application status will show:

- The date we received your application;
- Any requests for additional documents;
- The address of the office processing your application; and
- If a decision has been made.

Question:

What is the maximum Social Security retirement benefit?

Answer:

The maximum benefit depends on the age you retire. For example, if you retire at full retirement age in 2015, your maximum monthly benefit would be \$2,663. However, if you retire at age 62 in 2015, your maximum monthly benefit would be only \$2,025. If you retire at age 70 in 2015, your maximum monthly benefit

would be \$3,501. To get a better idea of what your benefit might be, visit our online Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire/estimator.html.

Question:

How do I appeal a decision on my application for disability benefits?

Answer:

When we make a decision on your application, we'll send you a letter explaining our decision. If you don't agree with our decision, you can ask us to look at your case again, or appeal it. You must appeal within 60 days from the date you get our decision letter. You can:

File a disability appeal online with our new, improved process and electronically provide documents to support your request, even if you live outside of the United States; or Visit your local Social Security office.

For more information, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. To learn more about Social Security's disability programs, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Question:

How do I know if I meet the eligibility requirements to get Social Security disability benefits?

Answer:

To qualify for Social Security disability benefits, you must have worked long enough in jobs covered by Social Security (usually 10 years). You must also have a medical condition that meets Social Security's strict definition of disability. We consider an adult disabled under our rules if he or she has a medical condition, or combination of medical conditions, that are expected to last for at least one year or result in death, and that prevent the performance of any type of work.

If you think you may be eligible to receive disability benefits and would like to apply, you can use our online application at: www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability.



Dr. David Nichols

WHEN FALLING SHORT OF REACHING THE GOAL CHANGE THE RULES

The Alabama State Board of Education must be in awe of Tommy Bice, Alabama's State Superintendent of Education. It appears they believe he is

the great one who will lead us to the promise land of achieving academic excellence for Alabama's school children. They have gone along with most every recommendation he has presented to them apparently because they think he knows what's best for Alabama's schools and will do whatever it takes to garner federal dollars. As I recently sat in a meeting of the Senate's Education Committee, Tommy Bice walked in and members of the Committee reacted as though an internationally renowned dignitary had walked in. Their overwhelming responses to every word he said was a bit embarrassing. It was as if "E. F. Hutton" had spoken.

At a time when student achievement in Alabama and across the nation is lagging behind the standards and performance of other countries, the federal-initiated Common Core Standards were created and then called "state-initiated standards" (only 15% state). Despite an abundance of reliable opposition by credible educators involved with the development process at the national level and their denouncing this boondoggle of an unpiloted, non-research-based set of standards, Superintendent Bice convinced the majority of the members of Alabama State Board of Education it was best for Alabama... along with the federal dollars attached to other programs if Alabama bought into Common Core Standards and assessments. That's now old news and the full implementation of what is entitled "College and Career-Ready Standards" was implemented and approved perhaps in an effort to make Common Core more palatable. However, to "win" the "Plan 2020" several changes were made. First, Superintendent Bice persuaded the State Board of Education to drop the long-standing validated exam to graduate with a high school diploma. It sure appears that this change was made, at least in part, in an effort to increase the graduation rate as Alabama's rate had been dismal. The graduation exam had served for years as a reliable measurement of the fundamentals every student should have achieved in order to earn a diploma of some worth. The high school graduation exam was replaced with the new assessments ACT Plan for 2014-2015 and, beginning with the 2015-2016 the ACT Aspire 10 - both to be aligned with the Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards, standards from the so-called Common Core State Standards Initiative developed with direct involvement of the U.S. Department of Education.

- *Plan 2020 seeks to achieve a 90 percent graduation rate and ensure all high school graduates are prepared for college or career by the year 2020. Whoa!! The ACT Plan*

replaces Alabama's long-standing validated graduation exam. To meet the Career- and College-Ready Standards for graduation students need make benchmark (or pass) only one of the subjects of the on the ACT exam. The minimums CCRS benchmark numbers on the ACT exam are as follows: Mathematics – 22; English – 18; Reading – 22; and Science – 23. You will notice no social science topics are included for assessment. Here are options which qualify students to graduate from high school:

- *Pass or score at benchmark on at any one of the four CCRS indicators as listed above*
- *Meet qualifying scored on the Advanced Placement Exam*
- *Approved Transcript by any Alabama College or Post-secondary School While in High School*
- *Score "Silver" or higher on the ACT "WorkKeys", a lower level assessment for math and reading*

There are other "special" less rigorous options for students who fail to pass the regular classroom, teacher-instructed courses. For-profit companies like "K12", "National High School", "The Keystone School" and "Edgenuity" offer online courses for high school credit. The credit recovery courses have serious drawbacks as they are delivered online with little face-to-face teaching support. Investigations across the country have turned up cases of students answering multiple-choice tests and getting a semester's worth of credit in just a few weeks. Robin Nelson, Program Coordinator of Instructional Services with the Alabama State Department of Education estimates that 80 percent of high schools in Alabama utilize some form of credit recovery when students struggle passing regular courses.

There are two major achievement and assessment models used to measure the success of schools. These are the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Renewal and Alabama's Annual Measureable Objectives (AMO). Anyone who believes education decisions are or should be made at the local and/or state level should be informed otherwise.

The ALSDE's target for the overall

remediation rate for 2014 was 23%, but the actual rate was 32.1%, up from 31.8% from 2013. Then there is the issue "College- and Career-Ready Standards" of Alabama's high school graduates. State Superintendent Tommy Bice shared his plans with the State Board of Education for helping Alabama's high school graduates avoid unnecessary remedial classes in college. While Alabama's high school graduation rate has soared from 72% in 2011 to a record-high 86% in 2014, the college remediation rate has increased. The remediation rate refers to the percentage of students who graduate from an Alabama public high school in the spring of one year, and then enroll in remedial math or English at their college during their freshman year. The measure only takes into account students who are enrolled in Alabama public two- or four-year colleges and universities. Fifty-one percent those graduates went on to an Alabama college and 32 percent of those took remedial courses which earn no college credit. While the numbers of students from school districts around the state vary, approximately three-fourths of the Bessemer City Schools graduates had to take remedial courses during their freshman year.

When the strategy or game plan includes subtle rule changes to achieve goals, it is high time the Alabama State Board of Education begins scrutinizing where Alabama is headed in terms of legitimately educating our students for success. We should ask these questions: Are we really interested in the standards and measurable achievements of our children which will prepare them for success? If 60 percent of those Alabama's high school graduates who attend college in Alabama require some form of remediation after enrolling at their college or university what does that tell us about the level of preparation provided by Alabama's public schools? Isn't this just pushing our students out and not up to the college level unprepared, placing the efforts of preparation on colleges? Changing the rules of the game to reach a goal is not legitimate and the outcomes are not real.

Dr. David Nichols is a veteran educator having served in a variety of administrative positions in public schools. He also has the distinction of serving on a City Board of Education and a County Board of Education, both in Alabama. He has been a consultant to struggling, at risk schools across Alabama.

True prayer is simply a quiet, sincere, genuine conversation with God.

It is a two-way dialogue between friends

W. Phillip Keller

Gazette Seniors...

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

YOU MAY BE
OVER THE HILL
"... if you spent the
afternoon watching
skywriters spell out
Pepsi Cola

Most "senior citizens" who populate various types of government-supported living facilities are beginning to spend a major part of their time contemplating on their future—however long that may be.

Eighty five years ago most of them were toddlers; Mahatma Gandhi was making his Salt March, and the Planet Pluto had just been discovered.

Most of them, your writer included, weren't aware that we were entering into what became known as "The Great Depression," because the news focused more on Gangster Al Capone's going to prison for tax evasion, the completion of the Empire State Building, and on our National Anthem becoming an official reality.

In the following year that great blessing "air conditioning" was invented; but it took about a quarter century for it to become something we took for granted.

Scientists split the atom in 1932, and the Zippo lighter was invented. Most of us remember that item as an inseparable part of our wardrobe, and can remember the sound of Zippo lighters coming to life early in the morning as we were awakened in the barracks by the sound of Zippos being ground into life; followed moments later by intense coughing.

We were somewhat distracted then by the rantings of Adolph Hitler as he spewed forth his Utopian plans for Germany becoming a world power. It was not long before most of today's senior citizens became an integral part of a taxing effort to thwart Der Fuehrer's dream.

And in this same year the folly that gave new life to prohibition and gangsterism; "The Great Depression," came to an end. Bottoms up.

Finally, in 1945, World War II came to an atomic halt, as the might of atomic power became a reality in two Japanese cities. But the cost in human life and human suffering was devastating.

The troops came home, the GI Bill put many of them through college and helped them to become home owners, and the "Good Times" began.

Then came Korea, followed by Vietnam, both of which we failed to win,

the threat of Soviet invasion in Western Europe, and television. Not much to boast about.

And it also began to be apparent that those we were electing to serve us in Washington were more concerned with serving themselves.

Richard Nixon started it off with Watergate, followed by a succession of disastrous White House occupancies until Ronald Reagan taught us what a "Beacon on the Hill" meant; but that was short lived. Things began to worsen as we sank into the Obama years where we have now been introduced to our present foray into world events; a step that eventually gave us what columnist Charles Krauthammer has dubbed "The worst agreement in U.S. diplomatic history."

The President's cheering section, on the other hand, heralded it as a victory. From all indications the farce played out in July will become Obama's Vietnam. But the cost in human suffering could be horrendous.

But it won't be President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry who will pay the ultimate price of war; it will be innocent civilians going about their daily routines who will be gunned down, beheaded and murdered—this time in their own land—in their own homes.

As Dr. Krauthammer said recently: [President Obama] "has laid down his legacy and we will have to live with the consequences for decades."

If President Obama and his minions think their recent actions will be an alternative to nuclear war, or an end to the arms race in the Middle East, they may have made an incalculable blunder.

The only alternative the American people can hope for is for our Congress to return to the President a "resolution of disapproval" and thwart this endeavor—if even that is possible.

The way events are unfolding now this is likely to become the worst debacle in our nation's history.

One would have hoped that, after all that they have endured, our senior citizens could have finished up their lifetimes in a more peaceful and serene setting.

Contemplate on that.

A MONTH FOR CELEBRATIONS

August is a definitely auspicious month for celebrations. If you've ever wondered why, when you use your knuckles to tell you which months have 31 days, it's because the Roman Senate decreed that it would be so.

Augustus was the grandnephew of Julius Caesar, and he was not without honor himself. Therefore, the Roman Senate decreed that he, too, should have 31 days in his month. And so it was to be.

Like the days in the month itself.

There are, at least, 31 special days set aside for celebration. We won't list them all, but the second day of August is worth consideration, it's "Friendship Day." Also on that Sunday we celebrate international Forgiveness Day.

Forgiving this years may be a stretch.

The U. S. Coast Guard has its day on the 4th, and either the 14th or the 15th is set aside to celebrate VJ Day.

August 7 is Purple Heart Day, and unfortunately, the market is brisk for the awarding of this honored medal.

But we'd prefer that this were not so.

Backing up a bit, left handers are honored on the 13th, and the 11th is "Presidential Joke Day." It's best to leave that one without commentary.

We surely must not overlook the 21st, it's Senior Citizen's Day. And on the 26th, we celebrate Women's Equality Day.

Looking back, one of the reasons for the month being named in honor of Augustus was that it was the month in which an end was put to civil wars. Now wouldn't it be nice if we could not only end civil wars; but put an end to all wars?

COMING SOON

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COMING SOON

THE EROSION OF TIME

Over the past dozen years or so your writer has made his home in a number of local independent living facilities and has frequently been inspired to levity by some of the situations observed in them. Here is a starter for our readers:

There chanced to be living at the facility two gentlemen who happened to comprise half of a quartet who had in their earlier days been high school chums, and who now, with their spouses, met for lunch each Friday afternoon, and who once each decade went out on the town for dinner and drinks.

By the time the group had reached their 40th anniversary they decided to get together for dinner. They met at one of the swankier restaurants in town, the Embers. Their wives knew one another to some degree and on their first gathering all seemed to hit it off well. At the conclusion of their gathering they agreed to meet together like this on occasion.

The time between occasions became greater with each year to the point that their next real date out on the town occurred at the golden anniversary of life. They talked it over on the phone and agreed to meet once again at the Embers since the food was good, the service prompt, and they offered a respectable beverage selection.

When it came time for their 60th anniversary dinner the Embers continued to be their restaurant of choice because the place was quiet and had gone smoke free.

Ten years later, when they began to make plans for their next reunion the Embers was once again their choice, mainly because it was wheelchair and walker accessible, and everything was on the ground floor.

By the time they reached their 80th anniversary both were widowers, and the Embers became their choice because none of them recalled ever having eaten there in the past.

EPA REGULATIONS ARE EXPENSIVE, EXCESSIVE AND EXTRAVAGANT

By Chris "Chip" Beeker, Jr.
Alabama Public Service Commissioner

Barack Obama is often rightly criticized for not keeping his campaign promises. While he was campaigning for the passage of Obamacare, Obama repeatedly told Americans that they could keep their current doctor or plan if they chose. That turned out to be false. But there is one campaign promise Obama did keep and because of that, our pocketbooks are shrinking.

In 2008, Obama proudly told reporters that under his cap-and-trade plan, "electricity prices would necessarily skyrocket." He was right and if his recently proposed Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") regulations are accepted, prices will soar even higher.

Obama has proposed spending more than \$48 billion on energy policies, most of which are aimed at combating the perceived effects of climate change. Obama's proposal includes the repeal of tax credits for the fossil fuel industry and the permanent extension of tax credits for wind and solar energy. Wind and solar have not yet reached the point at which they can provide sustainable energy for Americans. Raising taxes on energy raises costs for consumers. Under Obama's plan, families would pay more to use less electricity, indicative of Obama's attack on affordable, reliable energy.

There is no more sure-fire way to kill jobs, dampen investment, and weaken our competitive advantage than to pile on taxes.

The EPA recommendations are based on misleading and faulty data. For years, the EPA has resisted releasing data from key studies which were used to craft some of the most expensive environmental rules in history. Obama and his environmental cronies have an agenda and they will not let

facts stand in the way of forcing that agenda on the American people. They believe that climate change is primarily caused by humans, but ignore the fact that the climate goes through cycles and did so long before humans arrived. Using the EPA's own model, climatologists project that the administration's plan will avert less than two one-hundredths of a degree of warming over the next 86 years.

The Supreme Court recently dealt an important, although temporary, blow to Obama's climate agenda. It ruled that the EPA did not reasonably consider the costs of its regulations when considering the so-called "Clean Power Plan," which is nothing more than a carbon tax. While this ruling was a victory for businesses, the fight is not yet over. The EPA continues to push an environmental agenda with little, if any, regard for the price tag these regulations would impose on employers.

Coal remains an integral part of our country's production of electricity. Rather than recognize the importance of coal, however, the EPA continues to move forward with regulations that will shut more power plants, destroy electric reliability, and dramatically increase costs. In Alabama, nearly half of all the electricity generated comes from coal-fired plants and more than 16,000 Alabama jobs are dependent upon the coal industry.

I pledge to continue to do all in my power to protect consumers and keep rates low despite these hidden taxes that are being forced upon us by the EPA.

Chip Beeker serves as Public Service Commissioner, Place 2 and can be contacted at (334) 242-5191 or <http://www.psc.alabama.gov/Beeker/commissionerBeeker>.



DR. RICK MARSHALL
Eastern Hills
Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama



THE MARSHALL MOMENT

Soul Searching

“FAITH AND CIRCUMSTANCES”

One of the great challenges as a Pastor is to help people walk through the unexpected difficulties of life, particularly with reference to their faith. It is often in those times we discover the real meaning of our faith. Whether it is the illness of children, the accidents of life, the unexpected deaths, the reversals of health, the challenges of a changing economy or the potential of losing a job because of Christian convictions, trusting Jesus is not as easy as it might seem.

In fact, if this subject intrigues you, this might be a good time to ask yourself, “Have I ever been disappointed in God?” I suspect the answer for most of us is “yes,” even if we are reluctant to admit it. That does not mean we have rejected our faith or denied the power of God. Rather, it reflects our human nature and the fact that all of us have a ways to go in maturity. I would suggest to you that it is healthy to be honest about our apprehensions so long as we allow God to show us His strength for troubled times.

Contrast our understanding of faith with a young girl who is a Christian in a land where Christians are persecuted. She had been able to travel out of the country to a place of refuge. There came a time when she wanted to return to her land and people. She was advised that to return would probably mean her death. Her response was that to stay away when the Holy Spirit encouraged her to be a witness would be to her a denial of her faith. She would rather die for Christ than to live abandoning her faith.

Certainly few if any of us will face such dramatic decisions of faith. However, it seems that in our modern western culture of which boasts of health, wealth and success, we have assumed that all good Christians will do well and be blessed in life. Which gives us a greater sense of security, Jesus or circumstances?

I am reminded of John the Baptist. There was a time when John the Baptist was a big deal. He was the young prophet that everyone came out to see. John was the one that people literally would walk many, many miles out into the wilderness to hear. But John the Baptist got himself in trouble because Herod, the evil ruler of their province, had married his brother's wife and John the Baptist pointed out to Herod that he was a sinner who needed to repent. And so John the Baptist, because of his boldness in confronting this evil leader, was thrown into prison by Herod himself. You imagine Herod probably pulled the guards aside and said “Look, I want you to make sure that this guy gets special treatment.” So John the Baptist was not just in prison. I believe John the Baptist was in the worst part of the prison getting the worst possible treatment, the worst possible food. He was in a cold, smelly, awful prison cell.

Meanwhile, his cousin Jesus was all the buzz around town. He's in prison, and Jesus is now the one getting all the big crowds. Jesus is the one now who everyone is talking about. Not only was John in prison, he knew what probably was going to happen to him. He knew what happened to people who confronted Herod.

Here John is in prison probably wondering if God had forgotten him. He knew the heritage of his family. He remembered the stories his mother had told him over and over about the angel coming to her and later to Mary. He knew the promise of God on his life. Growing up, that was probably the topic of every family get-together.

No doubt sitting in the prison he remembered the occasion where he was baptizing those repented of their sins when Jesus walked up and asked to be baptized. He could still recall the voice from heaven which said, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”

Considering his fate, he was also puzzled by who he was often called. Many people associated John with Elijah the prophet. He was blessed by such a thought, but disturbed on the inside because the way Elijah left this earth and the way he would likely go had no comparison. There wasn't going to be any chariot coming down out of heaven to sweep him off his feet and carry him to glory.

I hope you are getting the picture. He was getting the prison experience, not the chariot ride. While certainly we are not John the Baptist, perhaps

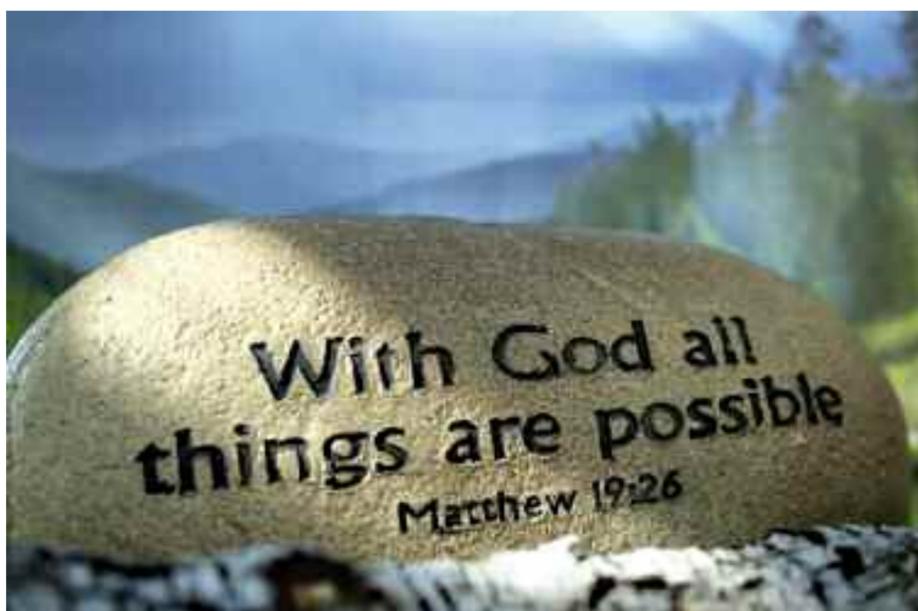
ing listening to somebody talk. But once you say “I'm going to follow him, I'm going to learn from him and to walk after Jesus, it's going to cost you everything.”

Perhaps John prayed for God to release him from prison. But God had a different plan. How do we handle it when God has different plans for our lives? I remember some sincere prayers from years ago which now I am so glad God didn't answer the way I would have liked. It takes faith to pray, but greater faith to accept whatever God's answer may be.

Maybe for us the best prayer might be: “God, I trust you. And while I can't see everything that you're doing, while I don't know what you're doing, Father, you're always good. I'm your child. I am the sheep of your pasture. You're the shepherd of my soul. I trust you to guide me in the path of righteousness for your name's sake. But God in the end, even if I have prayed what I thought was right and even if I end up in a prison when I did everything right, God I want you to know I trust you because without you I am nothing and the things I have will soon pass away.”

Is there a chance some who read this article are disappointed Christians right now? Have things not worked the way you thought? Does God not seem to answer your prayers the way you asked? Are you and God in a wrestling match over your life right now?

For Christians who struggle with their faith, let me suggest a couple of questions to ask. When you became a Christian, did you make a decision or a commitment? That might seem like a silly question, but there is a world of difference. It's easy to accept facts and appreciate the hope of heaven. It's quite another to follow Christ no matter what happens. Similarly I would ask, are we honoring our heritage with our faith or have we surrendered our hearts. People who have surrendered have no right to complain or



we can identify with his feelings. Where was God in the circumstances of life?

Here's the personal question each of us must answer at some point in life. Would you be disappointed if you did everything God ask you to do? We don't see one act of disobedience from John the Baptist. He did everything God told him to do. When God told him to do something, he did it. When God told him to say something, he said it. When God told him to go somewhere, he went. If you were that kind of person, if you were a committed Christ follower who always immediately obeyed God--you went to the prayer meetings, you witnessed to people, your heart was pure, you said “yes” to God every time he asked you to do something, you were an obedient man or a woman-- would you be disappointed if you ended up in prison after living a life like that?

How serious do you think the average Christian is in America about following Christ completely? How serious are you?

Here's what we know. If you follow Jesus, it's going to cost you everything. If you're just a fan, it will cost you little or nothing. It might cost you a Sunday morning here and there sitting in a big build-

make demands.

Perhaps if you are struggling with faith, it is time to revisit your commitment. Talk to your Pastor or a trusted follower of Jesus. Some of the greatest testimonies about joy in faith come from people who have been through the darkest valleys.

Let me close with the story of Matt Emmons. He was one shot away from claiming victory in the 2004 Olympics. Matt was competing in the 50 meter three position rifle event. His final shot merely needed to hit the target to give him the gold medal. But in what was described as an unbelievably rare mistake at that level of competition, he fired at the wrong target. Standing in lane two he fired at the target in lane three. His shot was great, but at the wrong target. Instead of a metal, Matt ended up in eighth place.

That's a picture of what happens to a lot of Christians who become fans of Jesus and expect blessings in return instead of followers of Jesus prepared to be witnesses no matter what life brings. Is the target of your life your own will or magnifying Christ? Which one are you, fan or follower?



Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

LESSONS FROM THE POTTER'S HOUSE

Abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher brought an arm-load of chains and manacles to the pulpit one Sunday. He threw them to the floor and the sound reverberated throughout the auditorium. “God have mercy on a nation that puts men and women in the chains of slavery,” he thundered.

Another memorable visual occurred in the Old Testament. The prophet Jeremiah stood before

the leaders of Judah and smashed a clay vessel into hundreds of pieces. “Thus says the Lord,” he thundered. “Judgment is coming and the nation will be destroyed” (Jeremiah 19: 10-11).

His forthright preaching caused the priests to lock him into stocks for public humiliation, but Jeremiah was correct. His foolish countrymen were afraid of Babylon and brought in false gods to protect them. Jeremiah declared for this and other sins the people would face God's judgment. The Babylonians were the instrument of God's hand and the nation was punished in 586 B.C.

Sometimes it seems the judgment of God moves with leaden feet, but his word is sure and his judgment is complete.

Someone noted that we don't break God's laws; instead God's laws break us when we make foolish choices. Foolish choices bring judgment.

Jennifer worked at an airport car rental counter. Lecherous businessmen came by every week and told her how pretty she was. Because she didn't hear that much at home, she believed them. When one man continued to ask her to lunch she accepted. Soon her marriage was doomed. She in effect took a vessel labeled “marriage” and smashed it to pieces.

I met Jimmy in a prison class. He told me his arrest for drug use came when his son was 12, and that his son recently celebrated his 18th birthday. During his son's impressionable teen-aged years, his

father was absentee. Jimmy took a vessel labeled “family” and smashed it to pieces.

Bob was an insurance agent and quite a talker. He was well-loved at the church where he served as treasurer. However, an audit revealed irregularities. Bob had to admit that he'd routinely taken cash offerings for himself. He took a vessel labeled “integrity” and smashed it to pieces.

But Jeremiah also wrote of another analogy. God sent him to the potter's house. He observed the potter taking a marred vessel and remaking it into something beautiful and useful (Jeremiah 18: 1-6). The apostle Paul used the same analogy when he wrote, “He will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work” (2 Timothy 2:21).

Jennifer, Jimmy and Bob found the Lord's mercy, and with his help began to serve him. The God of the Bible specializes in refashioning broken vessels into vessels of honor.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column by Michael Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. and adjunct instructor of speech at Jefferson State Community College, Hoover. Permission is given to use this material with attribution.

Michael J. Brooks
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Alabaster, AL 35007
Office - 205.663.7904

Southern Cuisine

IT IS AUGUST AND IT IS HOT!

I have to get started early in the morning if I am going to work outside. I can build up a tolerance to the heat as it rises throughout the morning but around 2 o'clock in the afternoon I am toast. There are always chores to do when you own a 185 year old house.

And since it is August, I have to be out checking my vegetable garden and my fruit trees. My vegetable crop is just tomatoes and peppers of some sort. I do have cucumbers this year but they will be gone next year. My fruit trees are pears, apple and figs that were here when I moved in. And I planted peaches and more apples since then.

I don't have a large garden or many fruit trees but I have enough to keep be busy. I started a large garden once with the idea that I was going to can everything. But the garden did not cooperate with my schedule. I wasn't ready to can when the crop

was ready to be picked. So I decided I would grow a few items that I like and able to keep up with. Tomatoes; I pick them everyday and eat them. If there is more than I can eat, then I freeze them. Tomatoes are perfect to freeze, dry, and can. Peppers; I eat them everyday too. I like spicy food and I put some sort of hot pepper in or on everything I eat. And I can freeze them to make pepper jelly later when it isn't so hot in my kitchen. The fruit trees become my schedule when they are ready to pick.

I have a pantry of canned fruits (mostly figs) and peppers (all sorts) from our garden and vegetables that were either given to us by a neighbor that had such a large crop that they couldn't keep up with it or some that we bought at the Farmers Market or on sale at a grocery store. So even with a small garden we have a pantry with over 300 jars of items that we use year round. We give away more than we eat. When you name your jarred fruits after your grandchildren, Morgan's Strawberry Fig, Carson's Red Raider Cherry, Grayson's Grape, William's Peach and Reese's Apple Jam, there is always a demand. And since this is the South, besides naming jams after your grandchildren, we have War Eagle Pepper Jelly and Raging Tiger jelly. And least we forget Bourbon Orange Marmalade.

IT IS AUGUST AND IT IS HOT!

The good news is that this is the time of year that there is an abundance of fruits and vegetables in your garden, your neighbors' garden, at the Farmers Market and in your grocery store. In Alabama, we are blessed with a mild climate and a long growing season, and now is the time to reap the benefits. Apples, beans, cantaloupe, okra, peaches, peppers and plums, squash, corn and tomatoes and watermelons are some of the produce usually ready in August for your enjoyment.

LAYERED RICE SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- ¼ cup whole buttermilk
- ¼ cup plain yogurt
- 2 Tbls chopped fresh dill
- 2 tsp salt, divided
- 5 cups cooked white rice
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- ½ tsp ground black pepper
- 2 cups diced seeded cucumber
- ¼ cup finely diced red onion



- 2 cups diced seeded tomatoes
- ¼ tsp sugar

YIELD: 8 servings

DIRECTIONS

1. Whisk together, buttermilk, yogurt, dill, and one tsp salt. Pour over rice and toss to combine.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk together parsley, vinegar, olive oil, and remaining salt and pepper to make your dressing.
3. In another bowl, combine cucumber and red onion and toss with half of dressing.
4. In another bowl, combine tomatoes and sugar and add other half of dressing.
5. In 8 (8 ounce) canning jars, layer the rice first, then cucumber mixture and them tomato mixture.
6. Place lids on jars and refrigerate until ready to serve.

IT IS AUGUST AND IT IS HOT!

That last thing I think about eating when it is 95 degrees and the heat index is 105, is something hot. To me spicy is okay but not hot. With all the fresh produce available, cold salads would be in order.

Here is a recipe that you can make ahead of time, (like a cooler time of day) and enjoy right out of the icebox. And if you are like me you will have spare Mason jars that need some use. This is for a cold salad but requires you to cook some white rice. It does use a number of bowls and some prep work. And the jars look cute with some raffia tied around the neck holding a Spork. If you are sitting outside watching the sunset, this is a refreshing salad before a meal or as a snack anytime. Both salads today come from Martha Foose, author of Screen Doors and Sweet Tea: **Recipes and Tales from a Southern Cook.**



IT IS AUGUST AND IT IS HOT!

While you were drinking your sweet tea, and wishing it was January have you ever wondered why we Southerners drink so much sweet tea? In an article in Garden and Gun, Allison Glock says, "Southerners prefer sweet tea because back in the day we used sugar as a preservative and our palates grew to crave the taste. Southerners like sweet tea because it is served cold and it is hot as biscuits down here. Southerners like sweet tea because we are largely descended from Celts and Brits, making yearning for tea a genetic imperative. It is impossible to imagine eating most Southern foods without sweet tea. You can't wash down pulled pork with water. The caffeine makes it possible to drive home after Sunday brunch of fried chicken and cheese grits."

She also says that "there is a religious fervor with our sweet tea affection. The craze for coffee is an addiction; the craze for sweet tea is an obsession."

With the only ingredients being water, tea and sugar, sweet tea out ranks, grits, pimento cheese and the best brand of mayonnaise as controversial talking points at the kitchen table.

IT IS STILL AUGUST AND IT IS STILL HOT!

Before the heat overcomes your A.C. unit and the condensation on the outside of your glass of sweet tea is wetter than the inside, try this next salad. It is Southern and has three Southern food groups; pork, okra and succotash. There is cooking involved but you could stretch it out over several days and make this salad from leftovers from other meals.

Tip of the Day:

As you survive this summer as you have all the past summers, then your meals may have had these ingredients. These foods are said to help promote long life, as I have been told.

Avocados, Walnuts, Beans, Milk, Peanuts, Oatmeal, Tea, Almonds
Except for the milk and avocados, these items should be in your pantry.

Remember the Farmer's Markets and corner markets have produce that is local and fresh and your purchase supports your fellow citizens.

SUCCOTASH SALAD WITH FRIED OKRA

INGREDIENTS

- ¼ cup plus 1 Tbls extra virgin olive oil, divided
- 2 Tbls rice-wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tsp black ground pepper
- 1 thin slice of country ham
- 8 cups arugula (or other light mixed green blend)
- 2 cups fried okra (use your favorite recipe)
- 1 cup cherry tomato halves
- 1 cup cooked lima beans

8 servings

DIRECTIONS

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together ¼ cup olive oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper and set aside.
2. In a medium skillet, heat remaining 1 Tbls of oil and add country ham and cook until it sizzles and then remove from pan and chop up into bite size pieces.
3. In a large bowl, place arugula and drizzle with dressing and gently toss.
4. Add remaining items and gently toss. Serve immediately.



- 1 cup cooked corn kernels
- ½ cup thinly sliced red onions

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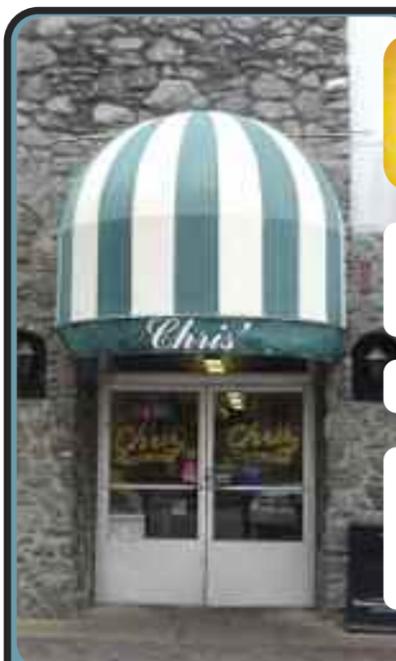


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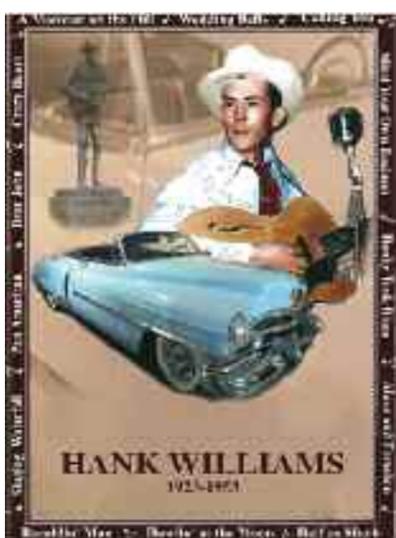
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Southern Gardening Potpourri for August

by Peggy Givhan



Judge Peggy Givhan

For all the words I have uttered about what a cool spring we had, these words have morphed into, what a hot humid summer we are living through. The Montgomery Water Works is pleased to send enormous bills to further support my declaration of this long hot summer.

I had to replant vinca which usually do not thrive in the shade, but there they thrive, getting only about 3-4 hours of direct sunlight. Vinca can be planted now and through mid August, but start to flagged in September when the nights get cooler. I am just happy at this point to have some color to fill in where other annuals have succumbed to the heat. Also I found Dragon Wing begonias which can be planted anytime even up to frost. These work horses will take a light freeze and go on blooming their heads off. I have some in large pots in my back yard, and I trimmed them back about a fourth. Pruning helps to take off some of the heavy blooms and thus prevents them from flopping over next month.



I re-fertilized with Osmocote only, which is time released and therefore, does not burn the leaves, You may want to just apply some milder fertilizer such as liquid Miracle Gro or Peters liquid as this will give them a new lease on life. Note, it usually is not a good idea to apply a commercial grade fertilizer in this heat, since the heat has stressed your flowers, unless you can really water the fertilizer in or risk scalding the roots, and thus, death would be imminent.

One of the most successful plants I started from seed this spring was basil. It is so simply to grow and all varieties were just as easy. After germination, the seedlings were transferred to 4"x4" pots which I saved from my trash heap last year. Some remained in pots, others went into the flower beds. Water and mostly sunny beds have yielded a bumper crop. My mission was to make Pesto, and share with friends. The interesting historical fact of basil was that it was associated with royalty. It is legend that only Kings with golden sickles were allowed to cut the fragrant herb. I received a different recipe for Pesto last fall, and plan



www.imagejuicy.com

to use it this year. Not only does it have the usual cast of ingredients such as garlic and olive oil, but butter is added to the recipe. The butter gives Pesot such a smooth and velvety texture. Another simple way to keep basil for 6 months is to stuff washed and well dried leaves into a jar, then cover the leaves with olive or any other type of oil. Tightly cap the jar, and refrigerate. Another use besides using directly in recipes, is to put the freshly dried leave into vinegars. What an excellent addition to any salad dressing or for use over tomatoes and mozzarella cheese for a much loved caprese salad.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--SCABIOSA (DIPSACACEA)

The pincushion plant is a perennial that all gardeners should grow. Lavender to soft blue flowers bloom all summer with very little care. thee need a sunny location with some afternoon shade, in well drained soil, and will also thrive in the type of alkaline soil such as what we deal with in Montgomery. If you cut off the dead blooms, they bloom more.

They make the best statement if planted in clumps of three or four. They reseed in fall and the crowns(roots of the plant) can be divided in the spring only. If you are striving for beds that are easier to maintain, combine the scabiosa with Stella d'Oro daylilies, phlox, monarda (bee balm), all types of yarrow, and cone flower. The most reliable varieties are: (1) scabiosa caucasia, the pinchusion plant as stated above and these can come back for generations, (2) Scabiosa columbaria comes in white (Alba), blue (Blue Perfection), and deep lavender-blue (Fama). (3) scaciosia ochroleuca is yellow, with

lacy soft yellow bloom heads and grow to 2' to 3' tall. This variety is not as long lived.

GOOD GARDENING!

FALL MASTER GARDENER CLASS FOR ELMORE COUNTY

Interested in becoming a Master Gardener?

Applications for the Elmore County Master Gardener 2015 Fall Class may be obtained at the Elmore County Extension Office at 340 Queen Ann Road in Wetumpka. *Completed applications must be returned to that office no later than Thursday, August 20th.*

The classes will be held on consecutive Thursdays from September 10 until November 19th, 9AM until 2PM with a light lunch provided. The fee for the class is \$125.00 to be paid after notification of acceptance into the class by letter from the County Agent and before the first class on September 10th. Those graduating from the class will be honored at a ceremony in August 2016.

Master Gardener Class subjects may include Basic Landscape Design, Plant Selection, Pruning, Plant Physiology, Soils and Plant Nutrition and Vegetable Gardening. Class instructors will include Alabama Cooperative Extension County Agents, experts from Auburn University and experienced Master Gardeners.

Hosting the classes will be the Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association (CAMGA) – a very active group of gardeners who have contributed more than 8,000 hours of volunteer service to Wetumpka and surrounding communities for each of the last several years.

For further information, please call the Elmore County office at 334-567-6301.

Phil Easter
CAMGA Publicity Chair
277-2701 - 451-0366
e-mail: peaster36@gmail.com



Plant Propagation Workshop

Hosted by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Friday, August 28, 2015

Autauga County Extension Office
2226 Hwy 14 West
Autaugaville, Alabama

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

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To sign-up or for more information, contact the Autauga County Extension office at (334) 361-7273. Pre-Registration is required by Monday, August 28th!

The National Cooperative Extension System (NCEES) is a federal-state partnership. It is the world's largest nonprofit organization.

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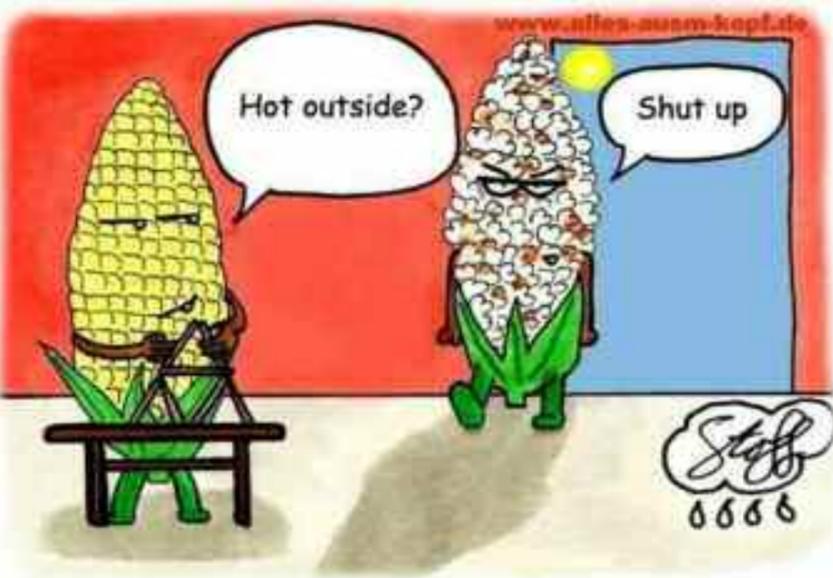


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President Johnson signed the resulting legislation into law on August 6, 1965.

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AUG 25 VOTE

"There's nothing strange about a NAME that YOU can TRUST."

Patricia Killough



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

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

Home Town Community News

August Birthdays



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Cindy Bolton | Patsy Norman (63rd) |
| Ty Bolton | Ricky Webster (66th) |
| Heide Doran | 15 Connie Boyd (52nd) |
| 2 Nichole Lansdon Gibson (41st) | Claudia Adams (93rd) |
| Chloe Taylor Jordan | Earl Russell (65th) |
| George McCurdy | Estelle Edwards Nolen (106th) |
| Moe Parker | 16 Billy Betts (66th) |
| Sheryl Schall | 17 Tyler Schoknecht |
| Tim Schall | Max Webb |
| Rhonda Tatum | 18 Doris Talley Matthews |
| 3 Frances Byrd | Joan McDevitt (73rd) |
| Lisa Wooten | 19 Carl Boyd (61st) |
| 4 Harry Baker | Shannon Grant |
| Chuck Bolton | 20 Sydney Mills |
| Harris Bolton | 21 Lorraine Hall |
| Linda Hix | Paula Jones (61st) |
| Eveline & Ernestine Trafford (65th) | Madison Boyd Williams (7th) |
| 5 Chuck Gambrell | Johnnie Yarbrough |
| 6 Chase Cumbie | 22 Tom Garlington |
| Gerald H. Thompson (88th) | Rhett Tucker |
| Tony Drake | 23 Lamar Higgins |
| Joshua Jones (30th) | 24 Lorene Boyd (85th) |
| 7 Anna Louise Moseley | Terri Gulsby |
| 8 George Browning (98th) | Lori McGough |
| Mallory Hitson | Mary Iva Sellers |
| 9 Audrey Alison | Preston Webb |
| Nell Crowe (87th) | 25 Ray Scott (82nd) |
| Perry Mason (56th) | Loyd Smilie (86th) |
| Don White | 27 Angie Herndon |
| Doris Williams (88th) | 28 Bill Hix |
| 10 Hilda Furlow (89th) | 29 Charlie Blount |
| 11 Wayne Roy (68th) | Jimmy Grant (61st) |
| Shawn Terrell | Diane McLaney |
| 12 Trisston Burrows | Paul Reynolds |
| 13 Bobby Boyd (55th) | 30 Imogene Bryan |
| Barry Ehrlich | 31 Winnie Barton |
| Maxine Scroggins | Chloe Mills |
| 14 Jill McCain | Sallie Rhodes |

Happy Birthday Missy Boyd



Missy Boyd had a surprise on July 14, 2015 in her yard. Colorful flamingos and smiley faces adorned her yard and helped her celebrate her 53rd birthday. **Congratulations!**

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Mike & Laura Lane | Rob & Minerva Tate (30th) |
| 4 Frances & Ted Watts | 21 David & Elizabeth Miller |
| 5 Michael & Jackie Moseley | 22 Johnny & Betsy Walker |
| 7 Todd & Nikki Windham | 24 Frank & Aileen Kovacic |
| Zach & Magan Grambling (5th) | 25 Bill & Jane Grubbs |
| Charlie & Debbie Moore | Mr. & Mrs. John Carter (69th) |
| 8 Leroy & Ina Goodin (69th) | 26 Ted & Margie Johnson (47th) |
| L.B. & Bessie Wynn (73rd) | 27 Johnny & Regina Johnson (31st) |
| 9 Turpin & Angie Ashurst | 28 Karl & Brenda Stegall (50th) |
| 11 Mack & Susan Terrell | 29 Mike & Deborah Kirk |
| 13 David & Julie Livingston | Bill & Sharlotte Younkin |
| Tim & Cherie Meadows (21st) | David & Suzanne Webb |
| 16 Leon & Pearl McClain (57th) | 30 Randy & Mae Bishop |
| 18 Earl & Theresa Henderson | Ralph & Murray Norman |
| 19 Jason & Shawn Adams | |

Happy Belated Birthday to Irene Woodham on July 9, 2015. Irene is a volunteer at the Visitors Center Gift Shop



Standing Ed: Loyd, Voncile and Kate
Seated: Teddy, Melinda, Sara, Cara and Joyce

Ramer High School class of 1947 had their reunion on Saturday, July 25, 2015 at the Snowdown Volunteer Fire Department. Attending the 68th reunion were Ed Scrushy, Loyd Smiley and Mary Emma, Voncile Walton Talley, Kate Stubbs Campbell and George, Ted Paludan and Reba, Melinda Wingard Sellers and Teresa (daughter), Sara Law Boyd and Ann Orr (friend), Cara Beck Stafford, Joyce Browning Mills, Annette Moseley (widow of Franklin) and Megan (grand daughter)

They enjoyed a meal of fresh vegetables prepared by Patricia Killough (Sara's daughter). It was Sara's 87th birthday so they all enjoyed a choice of cakes, ice cream and fresh peaches.



Happy Belated wishes to Paul "Moon" and Lorena Jones on their 69th Anniversary on July 18, 2015

Sympathy to the families of...

- Moorer, Dixie Smith (73)died June 23, 2015
 Hill, Marion Hurst (92)died June 26, 2015
 Beasley, Helen Amelia Chambers (90)died June 27, 2015
 Boyd, Allan Hugh (67).....died June 29, 2015
 Rahn, Bobbie Smithdied July 2, 2015
 Wright, James Willis, III (37)died July 2, 2015
 Hornaday, Christine "Chris" Lee (83)died July 4, 2015
 Bush, Jimmie Nell Warr (88)died July 6, 2015
 Freck, Virginia Ford (101)died July 6, 2015
 Schmitt, Madelene Sophia (90)died July 6, 2015
 Dennis, Elizabeth (87)died July 7, 2015
 Parker, Charles P. "Poppa" (74)died July 10, 2015
 Little, Tandy D. Jr. (93).....died July 11, 2015
 Grimsley, Betty Houston (89)died July 12, 2015
 Delrie, John (80)died July 13, 2015
 Payne, Charlie Raphael (70).....died July 16, 2015
 Young, Lucious Walters (Walt), Sr. (87).....died July 16, 2015
 Wood, The Rt. Rev. Milton LeGrand, III (92)died July 16, 2015
 Patrick, Arthur "Bonner", Jr. (78).....died July 18, 2015
 Dickinson, Gertrude B (90)died July, 22, 2015
 Griffen, Jeremiah F. (84)died July 22, 2015
 Norman, J. C. (66).....died July 24, 2015
 Berrey, James Barnett "Bud"(69).....died July 25, 2015
 Walmsley, William "Bill"died July 25, 2015

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TODAY'S WOMAN

Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"The Fabulous Decade"

This month I will be hitting one of the many milestones that we celebrate during our life time. Some people dread it, while others could care less. I guess you could say that I am somewhere in the middle.

What is it? You ask. Well...I will be joining my hubby along with many of our dear friends in what we affectionately refer to as the "fabulous decade". That's right! Yours truly will be turning the big 4-0 this month. I know! It's hard to believe, right?! I barely look a day over 20. Ha-Ha!! Well, maybe just a little.

"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you." Isaiah 46:4

How reassuring it is to know that our Heavenly Father is there for us at any age or stage in life...from the young to the young at heart. And as we go through the ages and stage of our lives, He want us grow in Him...in faith, grace, obedience, thanks-giving, and love.

2 Peter 3:18 tells us, *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever."*

So as I enjoy celebrating entering into the "fabulous decade", I encourage you to celebrate your own milestones. Give God thanks and praise for all things big and small!

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Heavenly Father..." James 1:17

Many Blessings!

Trip to Savannah Georgia and Calloway Gardens



Daniel, Sarah Kate and Stephanie Selvage happy to be in Savannah, Georgia

Stephanie, Daniel, Ethleen Bazzell, Patricia Killough and Sarah Kate dining at Johnny Harris's in Savannah.



Daniel Selvage entering the Ida Cason Chapel in Calloway Gardens



Savannah, Georgia Waterfront as seen from the ferry

Patricia Killough enjoyed a trip to St. Simons Island, Savannah, Calloway Gardens, LaGrange, Georgia and Auburn, Alabama with her aunt Ethleen Bazzell, daughter, Stephanie Selvage and grandchildren Daniel (7) and Sarah Kate (3 mos. on the 22nd) from July the 17th to the 21st. She visited a friend Eddie Culver in Savannah, a friend, Stacie Vinson in LaGrange and ended the trip in Auburn hoping the see the trees at Toomer's Corner.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



Congratulations to Linda Stembridge and Alva Chandler. They were married on Saturday, July 11, 2015 at Woodland United Methodist Church in Pike Road. The wedding ceremony and reception was enjoyed by many family members and friends.

After a trip to the Smokey Mountains, the happy couple is residing in Montgomery



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The Book Shelf

Go Set a Watchman *By Harper Lee*

A book review.

PAGE 103 CHANGED EVERYTHING. Or did it? In the end the self righteous Jean Louise proclaims to Atticus, “ I think I love you very much”. But wait a minute. Everyone has said Atticus is a racist. How can Jean Louise love this turncoat?

The much anticipated sequel of Harper Lee’s novel **To Kill A Mockingbird** flew off the shelves around America. Sadly, it landed with an enigmatic thud in most readers’ concept of how things are supposed to be in the small rural enclave of Maycomb.

The curious chronology of **Go Set A Watchman** occurs some thirty years after the famous courtroom scene that catapulted Lee from virtual obscurity to one of the world’s iconic writers of this or any time.

Note, however, that **Watchman** was actually penned in the mid 50’s before **Mockingbird**. Lee shopped the story around to numerous publishers which declined to pursue its release. In Elaine Showalter’s biography of Lee, publisher Lippincott described the original draft to be patchy and awkward, somewhat like the character we knew as Scout.

Scout is all grown up and has long since abandoned her tomboy nickname for a more deceptively Southern double name of Jean Louise (JL).

After her tumultuous encounter with Bob Ewell in **Mockingbird**, we find out that Atticus decided to ship JL to a proper women’s college in Georgia. From there she migrates north with degree in hand to land in the more tolerant confines of New York City, otherwise known as “ sin city ” to folks down South.

She has come home for a two week visit to “simply sit, pure and simple”. But nothing in this story is as simple as it seems.

Atticus, now 72, still practices in his hamlet, apparently with a degree of success that makes him a community leader and local hero to most blacks.

JL arrives on the Crescent Limited one sultry day. Hank, aka Henry Clinton, greets her at the station with a kiss and embrace that would make the town blue hairs swoon. “ She was almost in love with him”.

Hank, Atticus' law partner, grew up on the wrong side of the tracks, but in Maycomb there was no finer man. With Jem out of the picture, Atticus found an able associate and advocate. JL bumps her head on Hank’s car as she enters this new old world yet again. The two lovebirds arrive home to find Atticus agitated.

As the Finches exchange “pleasantries”, the reader begins to see the aging Atticus in a different light. Crippled by rheumatoid arthritis, Atticus can not button his shirt or even shave himself. But no complaints by him about his health.

On the other hand , his disdain for the US Supreme Court’s “bid for immortality” mentioned on page 24 prepares the reader that his once even temperament may have been recalibrated over the intervening years.

Alexandra, Atticus' sister, imposes her will as well as her stature on JL. Her cutting remarks that attended Jem’s funeral two years prior still felt just as painful. Jem, it seems, like his mother, died of a broken heart, literally.

After his son’s death Atticus built a new house retaining the old furniture. This imagery of new vs. old plays throughout the novel. “The same hearts beat in new houses after the war. Aged timbers stood strong under their additional burden. Jean Louise didn’t like the new Maycomb and described her attitude as a conservative resistance to change”. p 46

A lengthy, unnecessary flashback runs for a dozen or so pages. We watch Jem, Scout and Dill go about their playful mischievous ways. JL returns to the present and takes a dip with “Hank” at Finch Landing. JL complains to her would be betrothed, when she discovers the family landing belongs to Atticus no more, “I just dont like my world disturbed without some warning.”

Part III brings the reader to Sunday church and the source for the title. The Doxology change annoys JL almost to the point of saying what had been, and what would always be, was no more. But to the congregation, she realizes, the new melody was either not heard or worse yet, just dismissed by them. And while Dr. Finch described pastor Stone as having “ the greatest talent for dullness he had ever seen”, somehow the Watchman scripture resonated with JL.

Much speculation has swirled around the language of Isaiah, Chapter 21:6.

*“For thus hath the Lord said unto me,
Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth.”*

Of Goats & Governors *By Steve Flowers*

Six Decades of Colorful Alabama Political Stories

NEWSOUTH BOOKS, INC

Popular political columnist and commentator Steve Flowers Shares Alabama Political Stories and Legends in new memoir **Of Goats and Governors**, and *Six Decades of Alabama Political Stories*.

Few states have as fascinating a political history as Alabama, especially in the post-World War II era. Moving onto and off the state’s electoral stage during this time period of remarkable transformation have been some of the most interesting figures in 20th-century American government and politics. Now, the backstage intrigue of Alabama politics receives a lively treatment in **Of Goats and Governors**, the high-spirited new memoir by former Alabama Representative Steve Flowers.

Steve Flowers is Alabama’s most watched and read political columnist and commentator. His column on Alabama politics appears weekly in 66 Alabama newspapers.

In addition to his famous column, he serves as the political analyst for the University of Alabama radio and television network. His weekly radio commentary for the University is listened to statewide on Alabama Public Radio. He

A watchman in Biblical times sounded the alarm when someone or something approached the area of his responsibility whether crop fields or city gates. Isaiah, the prophet predicts the fall of Babylon because of the evil tolerated or ignored by its people for the sake of maintaining the status quo.

But who does Lee command to watch? Not JL who blithely arrives into her town seemingly unaware at age 26 of the malfeasance of the culture. Not Atticus, who has succumbed to not only a physical paralysis but apparently paralysis of the mind as well. The Supreme Court does not watch, it executes (via Brown vs Board of Education, 1955) ordering the country to cease prejudice and discrimination. Atticus doesn’t like the message or the messenger.

The book’s cover is not simply a train to Maycomb. It could be the messenger. The knot on the tree has been filled as the locomotive rolls in to town. The black engine not only carries a “bigoted” JL (p. 266), it is a symbol of the future coming to a sleepy crossroad bringing ideas that may not fit so cozily into a family town where everybody is related to everybody else in some way.

Most readers sense the underlying tension and the obvious metaphors

Lee brings to the fore. Referencing the past and colliding with the future: Old houses slapped with a new coat of paint; Atticus' dual watches signaling two different eras; Old furniture in Atticus new home; Or even the aforementioned retuned Doxology that the congregation simply ignored.

The culmination of all the innuendo crashes into JL's world in Chapter 8, specifically, pp 103 and following. Jean Louise idolized version of Atticus (indeed we all saw him the same way) is seemingly stripped away to reveal a white supremacist only out for himself.

The remainder of the book has largely been overlooked by the mainstream media. Almost gleefully, most outlets reveled at the chance to destroy a paragon of Southern virtue and replace it with the stereotypical “whitey”.

To be fair, from all outward appearances, it is an easy conclusion to jump to. Stopping the NAACP from meddling in a potentially explosive case, or a repugnant flyer resting by Atticus’ chair, or haranguing the Supreme Court for its edict without empathy, all are fodder to draw an inaccurate conclusion of Atticus’ methods and motives.

Had it not been for uncle Jack, JL surely would have walked away from Maycomb with her nose in the air, disgust on her shoes and the reader would have probably joined her. But Dr. Finch eloquently brings the volatile family situation into perspective weaving historical dynamics along with some good old fashioned country remedies to help JL see Atticus in a light that makes her once again adore her dad. Not in the sense that he is a deity anymore, but that he is a man who loves his daughter and loves the law. And as the saying goes, the law is a jealous mistress.

This might be a good point to end on, but just a few more comments.

Atticus sister, Alexandra, her name means defender of mankind.

Calpurnia, the Finches retired help whose grandson ran over a white man; her name means a “woman of power.” When she quietly shakes her head to the question, JL poses, “do you hate us?”. JL fails to see the power in her response. Just as many in our nation could not understand the families of those slain in Charleston expressing the same playful power when confronted by evil.

Zeebo is the grandson in this novel, In **Mockingbird**, he was Calpurnia’s oldest son and the trash collector who disposed of the dead dog. He was one of few literate blacks. This apparent inaccuracy leads some to an unavoidable conclusion.

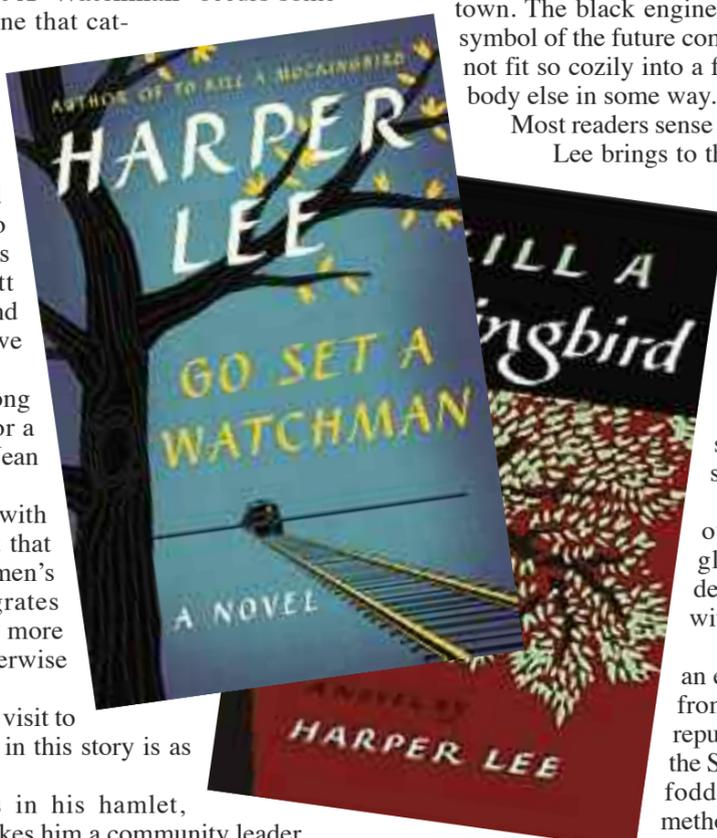
Someone much more diligent than I observed that this novel was probably the first draft of **Mockingbird**. To support that position, one need only compare the text of the two. No less than ten times in Watchman do we find exact and I do mean exact phrases, sentences and paragraphs identical to those found in **Mockingbird**. If you go to our website, alabamagazette.com, you may see these portions lifted from one and placed verbatim on the other. Much speculation surrounds the decision to now publish this less than stellar piece of literature, especially when the first was received with such acclaim. The simple answer is, as it usually is, money.

In her last known interview, Lee revealed that she thought of herself not as being “Scout” but “Boo Radley”, the reclusive, kind, quiet soul who was the unsung hero of **Mockingbird**.

It appears that **Watchman** was a first stab by Lee trying to express her own feelings of independence from a culture of which she harbored mixed emotions of love and hate. **Watchman** rambles, it twists, and it falters at key moments. Not unexpected from a young budding writer. But, a significant disappointment to the literary world hoping for something more.

To us regular readers, she bumped her head one last time.

Staff Reporter



is also the political analyst for WAKA/the Alabama news network in Montgomery.

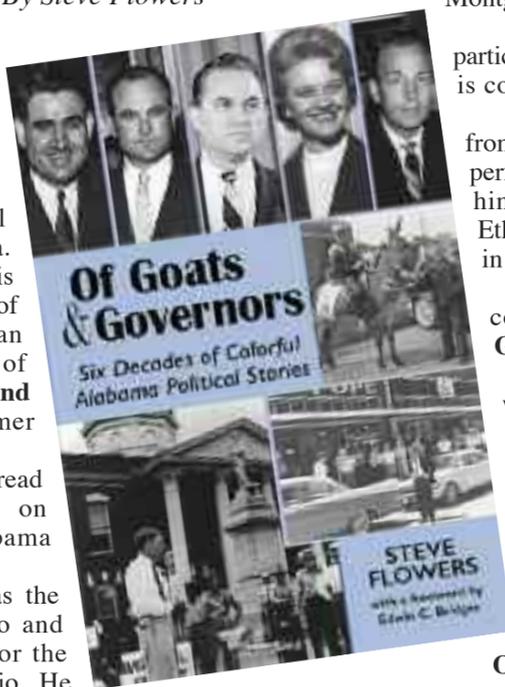
Steve has been an up close observer and participant in Alabama politics for more than 50 years. He is considered the utmost authority on Alabama politics.

Steve served in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1982-1998. During his 16 year tenure he recorded a perfect attendance record. His House colleagues honored him as Outstanding Freshman member in 1982, Most Ethical member in 1988, and Most Outstanding member in 1992.

“Steve Flowers’ ability to dive deep into Alabama’s colorful political history makes **Of Goats and Governors** a must read.” - U.S. Senator Richard Shelby.

“**Of Goats & Governor** offers a peephole through which readers can look back at three exuberant generations of Alabama politics.” – Dr. Edwin Bridges, Director Emeritus, Alabama Department of Archives and History.

There could be no better guide to this colorful history than Steve Flowers. Former Alabama Attorney General and Lieutenant Governor Bill Baxley says, “Steve Flowers has become our state’s leading political columnist and commentator. **Of Goats and Governors** is delightful.”





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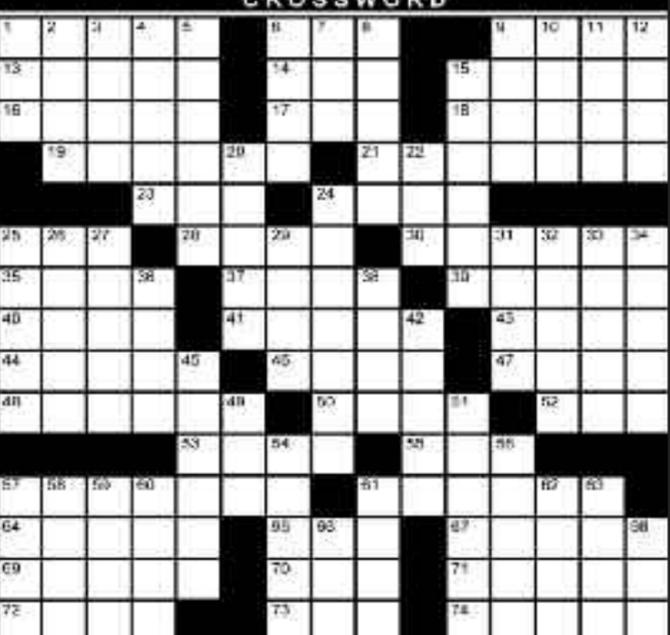
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CROSSWORD



17. Dashboard acronym
18. Administer an oil
19. *Beliebers' object of affection
21. *Jay-Z's other half
23. Facsimile
24. Top-rated
25. Trinitrotoluene
28. Huey, Dewey or Louie
30. What concert crew member does?
35. Agitate
37. *Republican Karl
39. Saddam Hussein's Islam
40. Iris container
41. **Gossip Girl"
43. Explore by touch
44. Mutilates
46. Affirm
47. *ESPN's Bayless
48. Correspondence friend
50. *Underwood or Clarkson
52. 7th letter of Greek alphabet
53. "___ we forget"
55. Mom-to-be's date
57. **Friend" in the tabloids
61. *1976 Olympic decathlon champion

71. Mia ___
72. Original home of the Saxons
73. Emergency responder
74. Approvals
- DOWN**
1. Vatican vestment
2. Tip of a fishhook
3. Purse to go with gown
4. Rick Riordan's "The Lightning ___"
5. *Stand-up comedian who goes by one name
6. M_nchen mister
7. Strike caller
8. Louisiana culinary staple
9. a.k.a. "The Biggest Little City in the World"
10. Seaport in Yemen
11. Barber's supply
12. On the safe side, at sea
15. Employees, e.g.
20. Land beyond suburb
22. Junior rank of commissioned officer
24. Scandinavian liquor
25. *Presidential candidate
26. Less bright then supernovae
27. In connection with something relevant
29. RC, e.g.
31. Male sheep in Britain, pl.
32. Above "Don't tread on

- me"
33. Without illumination
34. *Princess' little sister
36. "A Christmas Story" leg
38. Augmented
42. Lose ground
45. Chips variety
49. *He played a wolf in a suit
51. Cause for a trip to insane asylum
54. "___ hunt" or "fool's errand"
56. Empower
57. Pharaoh' cobras
58. *Neil Armstrong's employer
59. Wild goat
60. Uncontrolled swerve
61. New York ball players
62. Building extensions
63. Ready for picking
66. *KhloÈ's sister
68. Art degrees

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- ACROSS**
1. Assists, usually in some wrongdoing
6. O in XOXO
9. Pro follower
13. Policeman's club in India
14. Australia's version of ostrich
15. Floor it?
16. *NHL Legend Bobby Orr

64. Request for Santa Baby
65. *Eisenhower's nickname
67. Wing it
69. Imposter
70. Orchestra's spot





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STRAVAGE



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