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Can we protect **ALL** of our citizens (from birth to death) without giving up our freedoms – or is this a picture of “big money” negating our Constitution and destroying the fundamental source of our Republic? Does this picture represent the “**pleas of our youth**” or the “**manipulation of our youth**” for political reasons. This is a big question we all must ask ourselves. Our youth should **NEVER FEAR** for their lives at school or in their communities! They do deserve better! As adults can we not come up with a mature and fair solution for this political hotbed? Politics have become the “God” of America, demonstrating that the means justify the end, whatever the cost.



A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Ed Jones
Staff Sports Editor

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War Eagle and Roll Tide!

THE QUARTERBACKS

Ah, Spring, where young men's thoughts turn to...football. Alabama and Auburn are hard at work in their spring practice, or spring training for the older fans. Auburn took spring break off from practice to give the players a break and give the coaches more time to evaluate players, especially those who have moved to different positions. It seems that most of the players took the break to energize themselves for



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ROBSEVATIONS...by Robert Tate

SAME CRIME; SAME TIME; SAME FINE

I was watching the news the other day, minding my own business when out of the blue, I heard something so stupid, so ridiculous, so un-American that I had to hit the rewind on my DVR and watch the news segment again. No way. No how. Come on, are you kidding me? Now I am not talking about snowflakes pounding down Tide Pods, crying in the streets and foolishly calling for an end to the Second Amendment. Nor am I talking about the cretins crying the NRA has blood on its hands while ignoring the wholesale slaughter of millions at the hands of planned parenthood. No, this is something different but almost as stupid.

After hearing this senseless, lawyer goon on the television, I went online to see what this idea was all about and found out that there have been calls for this since at least 2010. The problem? I even hate to say this but there are those who want people of different economic levels to pay different fines for speeding. For one, there is a New York Times Op-Ed titled, “A Billionaire and a Nurse Shouldn’t Pay the Same Fine for Speeding.” I for one, cannot even begin to let you know how much I disagree with this idea. Let’s get to it.

1. Since when in America, by law if not by practice, are people penalized for having more money than others. Yeah, I get it as we all do that a lot of people with money and influence skate when it comes to paying for their crimes. Hillary Clinton of course is the first to come to mind. Sons and daughters of politicians and people of influence have always gotten away with stuff you and I would have gone to jail over. Just ask Martha Stewart about her jail time when members of Congress and the Senate were doing the same thing she did. But the idea of imposing different fines for the same crime base upon wealth is ludicrous. You have two drivers speeding the exact same speed over the limit, at the exact same time of day, in the exact same type of car but one person will pay more of a fine than the other because he/she has more money in the bank or has a higher salary than the other? I don’t think so. After all, this is not Nazi Germany folks. Not to mention that pesky little thing found in the 8th Amendment about excessive fines being imposed. No, in my world, “same crime, equal time.”

2. I thought the left was entirely opposed to profiling. Let’s be serious here. If speeding or even parking fines were levied base on wealth, do you not think profiling would be the name of the game? Two cars speeding down I-85 side-by-side. Both doing 85 mph. One is a beat-to-snot 1962 Corvair and the other is a 2018 Corvette. One cop; one chance to pull one car over; one choice. Who do you think he is going to stop knowing that chances are, pulling the Corvette over is going to get the city or state substantially more money? In a nutshell, that is profiling and not to mention state-sponsored discrimination (the act, practice, or an instance of discriminating categorically rather than individually). We are not supposed to profile terrorists at airports but you want to profile American citizens driving down the highway? Really? What exactly are they teaching these guys in school these days? Either profiling is good and acceptable or it is bad. Which is it?

3. Since when do we reward criminals for their activity? Before anyone goes democrat on me, guess what? Speeding is a crime. Here is some basic logic 101. The speed limit is a law; you break the law you are committing a crime; you commit a crime, you are therefore a criminal. Kinda like that whole if a=b, and b=c then a=c thingy from school. Easy, greasy. You are breaking the law. I bet that most people reading this column, including yours truly, breaks this law almost on a daily basis. Yes, that makes us criminals by the letter of the law. So let’s deal with that reality and go on from there. I know that when I drive my car back and forth to Atlanta, I set my cruise control at a certain speed, nothing too ridiculous, but by the letter of the law I am at times breaking that law. I am. I can admit that. At the same time, I have told myself that I can live with the consequences of a speeding ticket if I get pulled over. I have made that cost/benefit analysis in my head and am okay with it. I can always choose to back off a little and avoid any potential stops if I want. Bottom line, if you can’t

do the time, don’t do the crime. Yes, it really is that simple. If you cannot afford or rather, do not want to pay a fine, simply don’t speed. Hello, somebody!! Now, isn’t that easy? But in my opinion, the “State” in an effort to increase revenue for more of its unnecessary and frivolous spending would willingly use this method of intrusion to increase its coffers. A word to the “State,” stop spending more than you have.

4. “Other countries have similar programs in place, shouldn’t we?” Uhhhh no! In one article a Finnish business man was slammed with a \$60,000 speeding fine for doing 14 mph over the limit. Their excuse? “This is a Nordic tradition We have progressive taxation and progressive punishments. So the more you earn, the more you pay.” So, is this what we want? Are the Europeans so much more enlightened than we are? No, they can keep their liberal and progressive ideas and mandates. Based on their fallacious ideas, let’s say a person who earns \$40,000 per year gets a ticket that requires them to pay ½ of 1 percent of their income and now has to pay a \$200 fine. Under that plan, a billionaire would have to pay \$5,000,000 for the same offense. Does that make sense to you? Not to me it doesn’t and I am in no way a billionaire. If I am sitting in traffic court between two other offenders, if we have done the same offense, I should not have to pay less than the person to my right or more than the one to my left. The argument that a \$150 fine, for example, impacts the billionaire less than the person earning less money is too circular for my taste and again in my view conflicts with the 8th Amendment while it completely justifies and rewards illegal behavior by people with less money. Again: SAME CRIME; SAME TIME; SAME FINE.

5. So where does this stop? Two guys jaywalking. One homeless, one guy in a business suit. Who gets pulled over? Two guys rob a bank and get caught. One guy has \$500,000 in the bank, the other guy has \$0. You gonna give the wealthier guy more time for the same crime? Two teachers sexually abuse their students but the one with more money in the bank gets more time and bigger fines than the other? “Rob, now you are being ridiculous.” No, no I am not. The principles remain the same. Context is different, but the principles are the same. Several years ago I wrote about two airline pilots sent to jail for flying while intoxicated when nobody was close to being injured and yet we have thousands of people per year killed by drunk drivers and many of them have been pulled over dozens of times in the past. We can argue degrees all day long if you want, but not the principles. SAME CRIME; SAME TIME; SAME FINE.

6. Let’s say something stupid like this was actually passed here in the People’s Republik of Amerikastan. Higher fines for equal crimes. So where do you think all the speed traps (and yes there will be many), will be located? How does one fairly adjudicate these fines? Percentage of income? Type of vehicle driven? Percentage of money in the bank? What about the lottery winner with \$200 million in the bank but with zero actual income? Does he pay less than nurse who makes \$40,000 per year? To me, it is all nonsensical. It is not at all like paying higher taxes for a bigger house or more expensive car. I get that and fully understand it. I embrace that. But I cannot agree with the idea that two people, who commit an equal offense (i.e. break the law), by law will be punished at a different rate. No, I cannot support that. Sorry.

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



Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

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Republicans took control of federal offices and presidential races in 1964 in Alabama. It was referred to as the Goldwater Landslide. The Baxley-Graddick fiasco in 1986 was the game changer for governor. In the last 32 years there have been eight governor’s races. Republicans have won all of them, with one exception. Don Siegelman was an interloper in 1998.

During that same period, Alabamians have elected all Republicans to every secondary, statewide office. There are six secondary constitutional offices. All six are held by Republicans. There are nine justices on the State Supreme Court. There are also 10 judges on the Civil and Criminal Courts of Appeals. These 19 judges are all Republicans. If you add the three seats on the PSC to this list and include the Governor, that is 29 state offices. All 29 are held by Republicans. In addition, we have seven seats in Congress. Six-out-of-seven of our Congressional members are Republicans. Folks, that makes us a pretty Republican state.

However, inexplicably it was only eight years ago in 2010 that our state legislature changed from Democratic controlled to majority Republican. When it changed it really changed drastically. The final coup de gras was probably caused by the National Democrats electing Barack Obama president.

As I sat on television analyzing the dramatic results in 2010, it became obvious to me that the seismic avalanche of voting Republican for legislative seats was erupting in North Alabama and especially the Tennessee Valley. This area of the state had continued to elect Democrats to state legislative seats. It was the last bastion of white Democratic voters. This allegiance and loyalty was dating back to FDR and the New Deal. However, the election of Obama changed all that loyalty that these voters and their grandparents had to their long-standing Democratic affinity for local and legislative candidates.

The Republican legislative leadership led by former Speaker Mike Hubbard, claimed credit for this Republican tidal wave engulfing and changing the Legislature. They did field good candidates; however, it was Barack Obama that put the final nail in the Democratic coffin in Alabama. Race and religion have always driven the vote in the Heart of Dixie.

The southern two-thirds of the state had incrementally begun voting for GOP legislative candidates, especially in suburban districts. However, the northern tier of the state voted Republican with a vengeance, and it looks like they are not turning back.

Regardless of the reason our legislature is not only majority Republican, it is super majority Republican. That means that over two-thirds of the members of

the State Senate and State House are Republican.

The Democrats are buoyed by Doug Jones historic victory in a Special U.S. Senate election in December. They have enthusiastically fielded a large slate of candidates for the Legislature. Democrats believe that Jones’ win in suburban areas, especially Jefferson and Mobile, can be duplicated this year.

That is doubtful. The Jones victory was an anomaly and an isolated dislike for Roy Moore. The Republicans will return with their majorities and more than likely their lock on a super majority.

Incumbency is a powerful advantage and most of the incumbents are Republicans.

A good many of the State Senate’s most powerful members are unopposed for reelection. Included in this list of incumbent State Senators who have been reelected by acclamation are veteran Senate Leader and Rules Chairman, Jabo Waggoner, R-Vestavia, Senate Majority Leader, Greg Reed, R-Jasper, respected veteran Jimmy Holley, R-Coffee, Senator Arthur Orr, R-Decatur, Senator Clay Scofield, R-Marshall, Senator Shay Shelnett, R-Gardendale, Senator Clyde Chambliss, R-Autauga.

Republican Senate leaders, Del Marsh, R-Calhoun, Jim McClendon, R-St. Clair, Steve Livingston, R- Scottsboro, only have taken opposition in the Republican primary and no Democratic opponent.

Republican Senators, Cam Ward, R-Alabaster and Tom Whatley, R-Lee, only have token Democratic opponents in very Republican districts.

On the Democratic side, veteran State Senators, Rodger Smitherman, Priscilla Dunn, Bobby Singleton, and Billy Beasley are running unopposed. Senator Hank Sanders of Selma, the longest serving member of the Alabama Senate decided to not seek a 10th term. Senator Sanders has become an icon in Alabama political history. He will be replaced by another Democrat, probably his daughter.

Longtime Democratic House members Marcel Black, D-Tuscumbia, and Richard Lindsey, D-Centre, are retiring and Johnny Mack Morrow, D-Red Bay, and Craig Ford, D-Gadsden, are leaving the House to run for the Senate. They are the last four white male Democrats in the House of Representatives. That leaves one white Democrat in the House, Elaine Beech, D-Chatom, and there will be one white Democrat in the Senate, Billy Beasley, D-Clayton. These two white Democrats will be dinosaurs in the legislature.

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The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

Patrick of Ireland

Guest Commentary by Dr. Marshall Foster ~ ~ Part 2 of 2

When Patrick first came to Ireland he had been brutally kidnapped and sold into slavery. He returned to Ireland not as a slave, but as a liberator.

This simple event “had the most extraordinary, most far-reaching effect. It changed the face of the nation, and utterly changed the nation’s destiny. The coming of Patrick may be said to have had a [magnificent] effect not on Ireland alone, but upon the world. It was a world event.”1

When He escaped from slavery in Ireland, Patrick made his way back to his home in northern Britain. But he could never forget the desperate condition of the Irish people. His heart longed to help them find God. He was certain that the Lord had called him to be a missionary to Ireland. This belief was strengthened by vivid dreams, one in which the Spirit of the Lord spoke to Patrick: “He that laid down His life for you, it is He that speaks in you’; and so I awoke full of joy.”2

In preparation for his mission, Patrick dedicated himself to the study of Scripture. The Bible was the supreme authority and the foundation of Celtic Christian life. Patrick’s short writings are filled with hundreds of biblical references.3

He set sail across the Irish Sea to Ireland along with some Celtic Christian brothers who shared his vision. Patrick had sold his inheritance to fund his own mission. They had no army to protect them or national church to support them. In his autobiography, Confession, Patrick says that he was commissioned for his task by Jesus Christ alone.

Ireland was still filled with druid priests, pagan altars and human sacrifice. For example, the Irish sacrificed prisoners to the war gods and new-borns to the harvest gods. Even “the Romans, in their first encounters with these exposed, insane warriors, were shocked and frightened They were howling and, it seemed, possessed by demons, so outrageous was their strength ... featuring all the terrors of hell itself.”4

Having lived in Ireland as a slave, Patrick knew the language and customs. He knew that he must first reach the kings if he wanted to reach the people. So, Patrick marched directly to the fortresses of the most powerful kings in the land. His was an extremely dangerous mission.

The legendary story of Patrick’s confrontation with the high king of Tara portrays Patrick’s courage as he faced these terrors of hell. It was “on Slane Hill near Tara, a few miles northwest of Dublin, that Patrick is said to have defied a royal edict by kindling a bonfire on Easter Eve. Tara’s high king Logaire [Leary] had decreed that no one might light a fire there, before Logaire himself did so to mark the pagan spring festival.”5



In these stone huts on Skellig Michael Island, Irish monks painstakingly copied God’s Word centuries ago. From this missionary outpost the Scriptures were sent forth across Europe.



Kilmacduagh monastery with stone tower at sunset. Like most Americans, most Irish have forgotten their evangelical roots in Patrick.

The king was enraged over Patrick’s brash defiance. He sent his troops to capture Patrick but there was no need. The man of faith walked calmly into the presence of the king, his wife, the court and his warriors with shields and spears in hand. They thought the druids would overwhelm Patrick. But the missionary’s power from God proved to be far greater. “He preached Christ to the assembly and won to his Master the queen and several prominent members of the court. And, though [the king’s] pagan faith was unshaken, he was so far won by the man Patrick that he gave him the freedom of his realm to preach the new faith where and to whom he would.”6

Patrick traveled from king to king throughout Ireland. The Irish had survived invasions by competing warlords, Vikings or Picts rushing in with swords drawn on the attack. But Patrick, armed only with the Scriptures and his love for the Irish, amazed them with a bravery above all others. He saw thousands and then tens of thousands become passionate believers in Christ.

Before long Patrick was speaking to vast open-air audiences. He spoke of, “his King’s kingdom, telling them of the infinite love of his King for all of them, of His yearning desire to have them know Him, and to enter into and enjoy the kingdom... whose pleasures, and whose riches and whose bliss, infinitely exceeded all that the mind of man had ever before conceived ... how the bearded warrior throngs, and even the eager youths there must have been impressed, inspired, fired and melted; how the wild ones must have felt themselves tamed; and the haughty humbled....”7

Patrick’s was a message of hope given with deep-felt compassion. “The Irish would have said, here is a story that answers our deepest needs—and answers them in a way so good that we could never even dared dream of it. We can put away our knives and abandon our altars... These are no longer required...God does not hate us; He loves us.”8

History records that Patrick and his disciples laid the foundations of Western Civilization. Following the Scriptures, Patrick became the greatest liberator of his age. His authority and wisdom came from the loving laws of the Bible and the teachings of His Savior. He was first an evangelist, the bearer of the Good News, the Gospel. He knew that only God could transform the Irish and bring them from darkness to light.

But Patrick also knew that faith would not last long in a nation whose laws were not aligned with the laws of the Creator. Personal devotion and civil reformation had to go hand in hand. “Wherever Patrick went and established a church, he left an old Celtic law book, *Liber ex Lege Moisi* (Book of the Law of Moses) along with the books of the Gospel.” The Liber begins with the Ten Commandments and continues with thirty-five passages from the books of Moses.9

In addition, Patrick called together some of the greatest Irish legal scholars and Christian leaders who brought the civil laws of Ireland into conformity with the loving, impartial laws of Scripture. The monumental result was called the Senchus Mor.10

DANGERS AND RISKS

Patrick traveled Ireland for thirty years along primitive horse trails, aware that he might be killed at any time. He writes, “Daily, I expect murder, fraud or captivity, or whatever it may be; but I fear none of these things because of the promises of heaven. I have cast myself into the hands of God almighty who rules everywhere.”11

There were no cities with inns or homes to greet these strangers. There were only farms and fortresses with competing bands of warriors. There were about one hundred of these chieftains or “kings”. Most only had power over small groups of rural families and a band of terrorist-like warriors. Thousands of years of pagan idol worship had kept the Irish in a violent, terrifying culture of death. Many people from this culture had vested interests in killing the new faith and its messengers.

Patrick speaks of being kidnapped or ambushed at least twelve times. “The merciful God often freed me from slavery and from twelve dangers in which my life was at stake—not to mention numerous plots ... God is my witness, who knows all things even before they come to pass, as He used to forewarn even me ... of many things by a divine message.” Patrick says, “I came to the people of Ireland to preach the Gospel, and to suffer insult from the unbelievers...I am prepared to give even my life without hesitation and most gladly for His name, and it is there that I wish to spend it until I die.”12

TRANSFORMING IRELAND

Not only royalty but children, women, and slaves were drawn to Patrick and his mission. The young left pillaging with the sword, and turned to serving Christ and helping Patrick transform the island nation.

Together with his strengths as a church builder, lawmaker and defender of widows and orphans, Patrick was a spiritual man who communed with the Almighty. He was a man totally committed to applying God’s Word to every area of life. His strength as a man —his passion, his fierce anger against tyrants—together with his humility towards God were irresistible to the Irish people. “More surely did these qualities win the Irish Celt when they found in him combined the terror of a warrior with the tenderness of a woman; the ferocity of a tiger, with the gentleness of a lamb.” 13

Patrick saw individuals, then thousands of people, then hundreds of thousands converted. He taught the Irish to become a literate, intelligent people who would create the earliest and greatest learning centers and colleges of the Middle Ages. In the next thirty years Patrick and his disciples founded over 700 churches where once there had been only walled fortresses of bloodthirsty warlords. The scope of Patrick’s accomplishments and faith is best understood when we observe the changes that he and his disciples brought to the world in the coming centuries.

STANDING AGAINST SLAVERY

He was the first leader of a gentile nation to call for the end of the pagan practice of kidnapping and slavery. “Within his lifetime or soon after his death, the Irish slave trade came to a halt, and other forms of violence, such as murder and intertribal warfare, decreased.”14



A view to the sea from inside one of the monks’ stone huts on Skellig Michael Island.

Patrick taught the former Irish pirates to respect the sanctity of life and the biblical laws that require “equal justice for all.” Unfortunately, northern Britain had been overrun by petty kings after the Roman Legions withdrew to Rome. One of these kings, Coroticus, was sending his soldiers to kill or kidnap and enslave thousands of Patrick’s young converts in Ireland.

Patrick sent a delegation to the court of Coroticus hoping to ransom the captives. His men were shunned and sent home. Patrick was furious and penned an open letter to British Christians. His letter condemned Coroticus’ evil works. Patrick mourns as he writes, “Patricide! fratricide! ravening wolves eating up the people of the Lord as it were bread!” Patrick, as only a former slave could do, warns

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Ronald A. Holtsford

Supreme Court might hear a case, a Writ of Certiorari may be filed with the United States Supreme Court, by an appealing party from a Federal or state case. Many in the legal community refer to that as “Cert”. Just what is a **Writ of Certiorari**?

For a Writ of Certiorari to be considered, at least four of the Supreme Court justices must agree that the circumstances in the Petition are worth reviewing by the Court and the Court will order that the case be sent up from the lower court for consideration. Forty copies of the Petition are filed with the Supreme Court. Consideration by the Court does not in any way suggest that the Court is in agreement with the Petitioner and only about 100-150 of the more than seven thousand cases of “Cert” filed annually are actually heard by the Supreme Court. Among those cases they are generally limited to one or two issues from the cases and not all of the potential issues.

So on to the Arizona case; the United States Supreme Court denied the Writ of Certiorari, so for the present the question of whether the death penalty is cruel and unusual will not be heard nor considered in Arizona as to how narrow the aggravating factors must be to impose a death penalty. For the time being the will of the Supreme Court will not be imposed on the State of Alabama as the right of gay marriage was in 2015 against the will of the majority of citizens in many states nor that of Roe v Wade which made abortion legal in 1973 with around 60 million murders of those unborn since that time. Unfortunately while African Americans make up about 13% of the total population, abortion murders of African American children are just over 35% of that total.

Even in 2015, Supreme Court Justice Breyer had urged his colleagues to consider the death penalty as being cruel and unusual under the meaning of the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Following four years of a moratorium on the death penalty the Supreme Court held in a 1976 Georgia case that the death penalty is certainly constitutional where certain aggravating factors exist. The Arizona case involved an individual that killed someone for money and killed a bystander as well. While death penalty cases should involve certain factors to rise to the level of the death penalty it was determined that 98% of Arizona’s incarcerated murderers were eligible for the death penalty.

The murder of a human being is awful and there are certainly cases where the death penalty should be considered. The death of a victim which may involve brutality and extraordinary suffering probably far exceeds the use of large doses of sedatives and other drugs that take that murderer to the other side, wherever that may be.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article

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Writ of Certiorari

- The main route to the Supreme Court is by a **writ of certiorari** (suh-r-shee-uh-RAR-ee) – *an order from the Supreme Court to a lower court to send up the records on a case for review.*
 - Either side in a civil case may petition the Court for certiorari, or “cert,” as lawyers call it.
 - Such petitions must argue that the lower court made a legal error in handling the case, or they must raise some serious constitutional issue.

Patrick of Ireland

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Coroticus of his coming torment and “unquenchable fire” unless he repents and releases the innocent Irish captives.15

Patrick writes, “Where, then, will Coroticus with his criminals, rebels against Christ, where will they see themselves, they who distribute baptized women as prizes—for a miserable temporal kingdom, which will pass away in a moment? ...May God inspire them sometime to recover their senses for God, repenting, however late, their heinous deeds—murderers of the brethren of the Lord!—and to set free the baptized women whom they took captive ...”16

“The greatness of Patrick is beyond dispute: the first human being in the history of the world to speak out unequivocally against slavery. Nor will any voice as strong as his be heard again till the seventeenth century.”17

PATRICK’S IMPACT

By the time of Patrick’s passing on March 17, c. 460 A.D. the foundations were laid for Ireland to become the first Christian nation outside of the Roman Empire. The committed disciples of Patrick spent lifetimes copying the Scriptures and the classics of antiquity, saving the great literature of the ancient world, especially the Bible. The Irish had been pagan barbarians and pirates only a generation before. The Irish believers now came bringing Bibles and books to the largely pagan peoples of Europe. “Without the Irish ... the world that came after them would have been an entirely different one—a world without books. And our own world would never have come to be.”18

Ireland’s world outreach began with Columba, Ireland’s greatest hero next to Patrick. Columba went to Scotland in 563, founding a mission on the island of Iona and converting the Scots. Then in the 7th century the Irish and Scottish missionaries brought biblical Christianity to the pagan Angles and Saxons who had settled in England. Then they spread faith, literacy, the rule of law to the pagan lands of Gaul (France), Germany and beyond. They became the major catalyst for the transformation of Europe.

Patrick was a giant of the faith. Like the heroes of Hebrews Chapter eleven, he “by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouth of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong...” Patrick followed the biblical plan for reaching and liberating any nation. The God who was with Patrick is with us. May we believe God and work for the transformation of entire nations, including our own.

— Marshall Foster

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New Orleans Mayor (wannabe actor) Mitch Landrieu has made many appearances recently from 60 Minutes to the usual ‘talking head’ TV morning circuit displaying removed statues stashed in secret locations and extoling his recent book entitled: ***In the Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History.*** The removals were prompted by efforts to rebuild the city after devastating hurricanes. I’m not foolish enough to think champions of leviathan like Messrs. Christie, Landrieu, et al will ever understand (or at least admit to their demagoguery) over bearing big govt. agencies/programs - *e.g.*, Corps of Engineers, federal flood insurance, etc. exacerbate these deleterious results. Rebuilding with reckless abandon for those who will again be put in harm’s way is not a matter of concern to politburo members. The next super storm will rack up yet another unnecessarily high damage result, rinse and repeat.

Many have heard me lament I’ve run out of South... I began in Baltimore (home of the Star Spangled Banner/Ft. McHenry) where every Sunday on the way to church monuments were there to remind me - none more sobering than the marker for first blood in the war between the States when the 6th Massachusetts committed (Art. 3, Sec. 3) treason against my home State -- still in the Union at the time. Then to Liberty, SC where every morning to Clemson I passed the John C. Calhoun house. Lastly, to Alabama where I passed the marker of when the Auburn cadets gave Jefferson Davis his first military honours as President until federal bureaucrats made me and my bride homeless from this lovely place at the end of College Avenue at 280; indeed that loveliest village on plains of Dixie no longer exists for us. We pray to remain in the rest of our days in Beauregard where the good folks there have shown themselves to live up to their namesake well... wish I could type the same for Washington, DC.

Observing the ‘reformed’ sentiment for this good servant soldier by the politicians in New Orleans, I asked my State Senator to request their Mayor to allow us to move (dare I type parole?) the statues where they would be more welcomed. A somewhat shortened version of the request is as follows:

Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu
1300 Perdido St.
New Orleans, LA 70112

Re: relocation of statues to Beauregard, AL

Mayor Landrieu:

I humbly request your generous City of New Orleans consider allowing the statue(s) of P.G.T. Beauregard be relocated to the place in Alabama which bears his namesake in Lee County Alabama. Of course, we’d be delighted to also have R. E. Lee statutes relocated to the county which bears General Lee’s name, but it seems far too much to ask.

The town of Beauregard genuinely wants this honor bestowed upon them as they’ve already shown how much they revere Pierre Gustave Toutant-Beauregard as a great American Christian gentleman worthy of veneration. As an example of the diverse organization known as the Confederate States of America, Beauregard, the “Little Creole” from St. Bernard Parish, left his mark in Southern history. Born in 1818, Beauregard grew up on a sugar cane plantation close to New Orleans. In his formative years, he was educated in New York City and later attended West Point, finishing second in the 1838 graduating class.



After serving well in the Mexican War, Beauregard remained in the U.S. military until February of 1861. Beauregard understood and believed in the Confederation established in 1776 and fought to preserve this form of government serving in the Confederate States of America Armies. Affirmatively answering the call of the new Southern nation, he served as second-in-command under Joseph Johnston in the defense of Charleston, South Carolina; which ended in the bombardment of Fort Sumter in April 1861. He was also forefront at First Manassas, most remembered for the mass retreat of Federal forces back out of Virginia. General Beauregard openly questioned President Jefferson Davis’ reluctance to have Southern forces follow retreating forces back to Washington, D.C. This battle highlighted mass confusion caused by similarities in the flags of the confederate and federal armies. Beauregard was a leader in the effort to change the Southern Battle Flag, eventually settling on the Confederate Battle Flag, with its traditional Christian Cross of St. Andrew as its centerpiece.

Beauregard loyally served the Confederacy throughout the war, seeing action under Albert Sydney Johnston in the Western Theater, supervised Charleston’s defense in 1863 and 1864, participated in the Second Battle of Petersburg in 1864 impeding capture of Richmond, and the attempted halt of Sherman’s plunder in Georgia and South Carolina near the war’s end. After the war, Beauregard worked in the private sector as superintendent of the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern Railroad and later as President of the New Orleans and Carrollton Street Railway. Later in life, he was involved with the Louisiana Lottery and the Louisiana State Militia. In 1893, P.G.T. Beauregard died at the enviable age (for his era) of 74.

During reconstruction, Beauregard was an early proponent of equal rights for all races in the Louisiana unification movement. This movement was a coalition made up of prominent white and black New Oleanders promoting integrated schools, public places, and transportation, and voting rights for black men, two years **before** Congress’ Civil Rights Act of 1875. *“I am persuaded that the natural relation between the white and colored people is that of friendship,”* Beauregard proclaimed in an 1873 address published in **The New Orleans Republican** and **The Daily Picayune**. *“I am persuaded their interests are identical; that their destinies in this state, where the two races are equally*

Parole P.G.T. Beauregard to Beauregard, Alabama



divided, are linked together; and that there is no prosperity for Louisiana which must not be the result of their cooperation.”

Beauregard was offered the command of several foreign armies, including the armies of Romania and Egypt, but was unable to negotiate the terms to his satisfaction. In 1872 he helped found the Reform Party in Louisiana, a coalition of moderate Democrats who supported civil rights, including suffrage, for African Americans. In 1873 he helped form the Unification Party, which sought to lower taxes with the support of the black vote. The party's advisory committee included an equal number of white and black members, the white contingent consisting of influential businessmen and lawyers, the black contingent of Creole men who were freemen before the war. Their platform included an end to employment discrimination and segregation, but the party lacked popular support and collapsed. Beauregard served as commissioner of the New Orleans Lottery (1877 to 1893) and in 1879 was appointed Louisiana's adjutant general. In 1888 he was elected New Orleans's commissioner of public works.



Hopefully I’ve made the case for why we hold the good general so dear here in my District. Beauregard High School, a public high school in Lee County, Alabama, was created in the 1890’s. Originally the Whatley School (named after Louis A. Whatley, the donor of the land it sits on), it went through a few consolidations with other schools in the same general area. In 1928, at the request of Southern-history buff, Mrs. Dolf Parker (originally known as Kate Grimmett), the school was renamed Beauregard High School. At the Battle of Shiloh, Beauregard became known for the “Hornet’s Nest,” the greatest known concentration of artillery in American warfare at that time, thus Beauregard High School became known as the Hornets; the school I proudly graduated from in 1988 and once held my family name before the current Beauregard nomenclature.

If the city approves, we would be honoured to provide a plaque in gratitude for the generosity of allowing one or both Beauregard and Lee statues be relocated to their namesakes in Alabama. We would like to preserve the truth of an American idea championed by this exemplary Confederate general who stated, “I am equally convinced that the evils anticipated by some men from the practical enforcement of equal rights are mostly imaginary, and that the relation of the races in the exercise of these rights will speedily adjust themselves to the satisfaction of all.” I personally would be most very grateful if you and your city could do this for me and my constituents in Alabama and make it a common bond to promote future economic benefits between NOLA and Beauregard, Lee County Alabama.

Respectfully,

Tom Whatley
Senate District 27 (Lee, Russell & Tallapoosa Counties)
11 South Union Street - Suite 734
Montgomery, AL 36130-4600
334-242-7865
tom.whatley@alsenate.gov

Well done Senator Whatley! It is easy to see why Landrieu demagogues want reminders of this sort exiled from their city. What courage it took for P.G.T. to stand up to the big govt. Democrats and occupation Republicans of his time - imagine if his Reform Party movement had been successful instead of “progressing” into the result which followed. Mitch likes to evoke what one can tell to little African American girl in fear of this statue. Here’s what I would say.

David Duke and Mitch Landrieu are different sides of the same coin - both on the wrong side of history destined to collapse as do all command economies once they’ve run out of wealth. The big govt. results they champion will harm anyone wanting to be a responsible, free and productive citizen in control of their destiny. Just as the Battle Flag, Christian Cross and other symbols have been coopted and used to advance evil, so have these statues by the Duke & Landrieu types. The high watermark of the Klu Klux Klan used the 48 Star US flag more than any other symbol. I pray you can see the Spirit of the 15 Star/15 Stripe Star Spangled Banner however muffled in the flag of hegemony is still there and appreciate what good men like Beauregard tried to do knowing the Duke & Landrieu type demagogues will always be waiting to use their good name and efforts to cloak their using government to take your wealth and Spirit. The African American slaves who fought for the Continentals in the American Revolution seeing through Britain’s offer of freedom sensed there could be something better; similarly the African Americans who fought for the Confederacy sensed there could be something better where a State/country could operate free of empire. Some blacks of military age in New Orleans who wanted to join the Confederacy were turned away early in the war when many foolishly thought it would be a short endeavour. Gen. R.E. Lee understood the folly of also turning away these good men as did the Union Armies until it was clear the seceded States would be difficult to conquer. I know it is difficult to imagine the ‘natural relation of friendship’ Beauregard desired given what the progressives have done in fact these past several score while claiming to care about the general welfare to cloak their special interests and avarice.

Don’t fear the cross because it has been misused by apostates; don’t be terrorized by historical figures because they’ve been vilified by charlatans and deceivers; don’t judge a flag by the stripes and colours instead look for the Spirit and content in the actions of the bearer. Many have and continue fighting to get the Battle Flag out of the hands of the progressive racists using it to advance their ends. Most importantly, when all the flags, monuments and other undesirable symbols are removed and little is changed, remember the Duke & Landrieu types who used these symbols to their own end instead of labouring on the real problems you face which they either do not really care about or are far too inept to address. No doubt it will be difficult, I think Coretta Scott King said it best, ***“Freedom is never really won. You earn and win it every generation.”***

Learning history is not easy and often ugly - but then you come across a gem like P.G.T. Beauregard to show the Duke & Landrieu types for the frauds they are making it worth the effort. I hope you also take delight discovering the first black aviator in the US was female, the first woman to run for President African American! I close in prayer you do not have to suffer those who use you to cloak their avarice proffering a legacy of ignorance and want Dickens warned of as the path to doom.



Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris “Chip” Beeker, Jr.

Readiness, Response, and Action

There are three dates that many of us in Alabama will never forget. The most prominent being those of April 3, 1974, April 27, 2011, and most recently March 19, 2018. On each of those days portions of Alabama were devastated by tornadoes ranging from categories F3 to F5. Lives were lost, people were seriously injured, and homes and businesses were destroyed. Compounding those tragedies was the fact that some communities lacked electrical service for several days. Even those who were not directly impacted by those storms must have felt great relief when their electricity was restored. We have now entered back into tornado season in our state and have already seen the effects this spring of what a catastrophic system can do, each of us need to take the steps to prepare for such an occurrence. That includes the utilities that serve our state. I am pleased that at least one electric utility in Alabama continues to work, as it has for many years, to ensure that it can

respond quickly and efficiently to the most violent storms we will experience. That utility is Alabama Power.

It is vital that utilities can respond quickly and efficiently because electricity is vital to meeting the needs of all Alabamians. Without electricity, medical facilities may not be able to meet the needs of the sick, industries can’t produce, and stores can’t sell supplies people may need to survive. It is not an overstatement to say that lives are saved when electricity is restored. Alabama Power understands that and understands it well; that is why it stands ready to respond.

As you can imagine, modern technology is a critical element in any plan to respond to storm damage. Advanced meters can now automatically notify Alabama Power of outages. That way, Alabama Power knows about outages even before receiving telephone calls from homeowners and business owners. But older technology still has a role to play in storm damage response.

I encourage each of you to take the threat of severe weather seriously and to prepare for it as best you can. Meteorologists tend to catch a lot of grief with misprediction or being overly cautious but after our state experienced mass destruction from an F5 in 2011, there is no such thing as being too careful and err on the side of caution. I encourage everyone to purchase a weather radio, to familiarize yourself with the settings, the meaning of the notifications, and to have your storm plan in place. Together we can educate ourselves to keep us, our loved ones, and neighbors safe. It is my prayer that Alabama be spared of any future devastating storms and that those who have recently been affected get the means they need to rebuild and find their normal again soon. It is in times like these you see the best in people. With everything circulating in the news lately regarding violence and hatred, we sometimes see the most encouragement from humanity in our darkest hours, strangers helping strangers.

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



Buddy Hicks

The Financial Corner TOO MUCH TO BEAR

there is another type of insurance that is very important as well. If something happened to you today and you were not able to work anymore or at least for a long period of time, how would you pay your bills, buy food for your family or buy anything else needed for your family. Now, most of you might have a good six months or more worth of income saved up which could cover you or at least buy you some time to figure out what to do. But the majority of you probably do not have that kind of savings and could quickly find yourself in a very uncomfortable position. So, a way to prepare for this kind of problem is to purchase disability insurance. Disability insurance is insurance that will pay you a certain percentage of your income for the period of time for which you have a need.

Let’s say, for instance, that it is the weekend and you are doing some yardwork. While you are up on the ladder trying to clean out the gutters, you slip off of the ladder and fall 15 feet to the ground landing on your back. You try to get up and you can’t move. The pain in your back is too much to bear. You finally get some help from a family member and you are able to get to the emergency room where they x-ray your back and discover that you have injured your back and it is going to require surgery and extensive rehab to be able to get around on your own again,

Ok, so you’ve heard me talk about the importance of life insurance and long term care insurance. But

much less work. So now you are laid up with no income but your monthly obligations are still there. If you have disability insurance, then after a waiting period of about 60-90 days, you may start receiving benefits from your policy and you may be able to continue to pay your bills and buy the things your family needs. This is just one scenario, but there are so many different ways that we can hurt ourselves or end up in situations like this. The whole point of this example is to make you think about how you can protect your family and yourself in the event something happens. Now, disability insurance won’t solve all of your problems in these situations, but it can go along way of easing those burdens and put you in a better position to make arrangements to help get you through that time.

So how do you go about finding out how to get the right coverage? Well, sit down with a financial advisor who can take time with you to go through your budget with you and can get you some quotes, from some reputable companies, that will work with your budget. Apply and get the coverage in place and then set up a plan, in writing, of what to do during the waiting period until your benefits start to come in. If at all possible try to work into your budget now a savings plan to build up a least 3 months’ worth of living expenses.

Sometimes these situations can be catastrophic and sometimes they are much more manageable but it is always better to be prepared should you find your-

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self suffering. It is better to work through the situation with your full focus on getting better than to have to worry about the finances at the same time. You don’t want this situation to be too much to bear. So don’t wait, find an advisor to talk to today to make sure you and your family are protected.

If you don’t have a Financial Advisor, please feel free to call me and I’ll be happy to set up a time to talk with you.

Buddy Hicks is a Financial Advisor with Wealth Management Group LLC an affiliate firm of Securian Financial Services and has over 18 years of experience in the financial services business. He is Life and Health Insurance licensed and FINRA registered with his Series 7 and Series 66 which allows him to be an Investment Advisor Representative and Registered Representative of and offer securities and investment advisory services through Securian Financial Services Inc, member FINRA / SIPC. He is an Alumnus of Troy University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business/Finance. He takes a process approach with all of his clients to help determine their goals and then works with them to put a strategy in place to help reach those goals. An area of importance of Buddy’s is his ability to intuitively listen to his clients so that he can fully understand their current situation and what their future needs might be.

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Trump’s Tariffs

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

By John Martin

As we forge ahead into the Donald’s second year of office, we are witnessing some serious improvements in America’s economy—taxes are being cut, production is up, wages are up, and unemployment is down. The future hasn’t looked this bright since the best days of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

But then, suddenly, Trump dropped his hammer—punitive tariffs on three very essential imported items—steel, aluminum, and photovoltaic cells. The rates are steep—10% for aluminum, 25% for steel, and 30% for solar cells. These are among the most essential raw materials that we need for just about everything we manufacture and consume. These tariffs are effectively new and increased taxes on every American.

Two of our biggest industries, construction and automobile manufacturing, require vast quantities of these items. And there are many others. Raising their costs forces them to raise their prices, which in turn makes them less attractive to consumers. As a result, they sell less and lose money, and may even lay off some of their employees. Former Congressman Ron Paul said that the steel tariff by itself could cost nearly 40,000 jobs in the auto industry alone. Some American manufacturers could be inclined to relocate their entire factories to other countries and lay off all of their workers. At the same time, foreign manufacturers will reap the benefits of less American competition. And don’t

forget the expected blowback and retaliatory tariffs on our own exports. Do we really want an import and export war?

Trump’s excuse is that several countries, especially China, are “dumping” these needed resources at cheap prices and are undermining American producers of the same items. What he doesn’t understand is that American manufacturers who consume these items at these lower prices are better able to compete on the world market and enhance their own exports. There is nothing wrong with this as long as government doesn’t stick its nose into it and meddle with it. Free trade benefits everybody, and this is no exception.

Massive forced increases in the prices of basic essentials are no-brainers. Has Trump even thought about the consequences? Up until now, I thought that he had at least a basic understanding of economics. Now I am beginning to have serious doubts.

Does Trump really believe that a protectionist scheme is going to help anybody? Does “getting back” against China (which produces only 2.9% of our steel imports) and other exporters do anybody any good? A tariff is simply another tax on the American people. It hurts everybody, producers and consumers alike. Yes, we have had tariffs throughout our history, but they were imposed on luxury items and the rates were modest. And back before we had income taxes, they were America’s source of revenue. Today we don’t need tariffs,

especially on bare essentials.

There is one and only one moral and effective way to reduce our trade deficit—increase our own production. How do we do it? It’s simple. Free up our production and markets here at home. Cast off the government’s shackles and handcuffs—the regulations, mandates, licensure and other impediments that interfere with every person’s right to earn a living and buy and sell—and not just the federal ones, but the state and local ones as well. Back in the 1950’s, America was the manufacturing giant of the world. Why? Because there was almost nothing standing in the way of people who wanted to start a factory, business, farm, store, or whatever, and build it up as far as his ability would allow. We can go back to that American dream. Just remove the obstacles. Get government out of the way and let free enterprise work.

Trump promised to “make America great again.” If his proposed tariffs pass the House and Senate, and he signs them, the result could very well be “make America hate again.”





Ed Jones
Staff Sports Editor

Ah, Spring, where young men’s thoughts turn to...football. Alabama and Auburn are hard at work in their spring practice, or spring training for the older fans. Auburn took spring break off from practice to give the players a break and give the coaches more time to evaluate players, especially those who have moved to different positions. It seems that most of the players took the break to energize themselves for the grind that always awaits during the last half fo spring practice. This is when they will be evaluated as to their readiness to play in the fall. It really amounts to a six-week job interview for 24 positions. There will be surprizes from younger players as they battle experienced players for jobs in the fall. Alabama started on Monday, March 26 and will work straight through until the A-Day game.

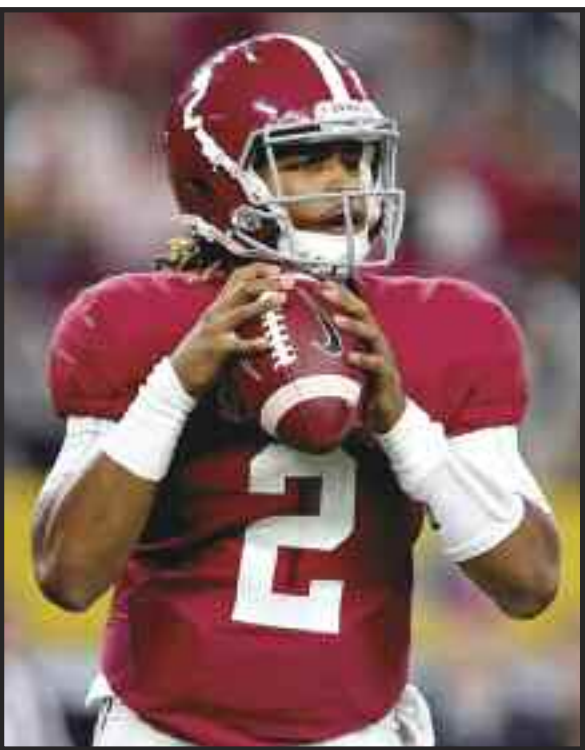
Coaches approach spring practice in very different ways. **Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant** conducted extremely hard practices not worried about injuries so much. **Coach Bobby Dodd** conducted lighter practices being more interested in teaching than in who will survive the gauntlet. **Coach Ralph “Shug” Jordan** developed a really novel approach to spring. For years he dressed out his starters, who were not seniors from the year before, in sweat shirts and sweat pants. They were assigned to varies jobs of teaching their positions to the younger players.

Coach Nick Saban conducts a tough physical spring along with a lot of teaching from position coaches. The top quarterbacks wear a distinctive jersey and are off limits as far as contact. Injured players coming into spring are treated the same way until they are cleared for contact drills. **Coach Gus Malzahn** directs a physical practice but, with the quarterbacks and injured players in different jersies than the rest. There is no contact with the top quarterbacks normally.

No matter how spring practice is conducted, it is an important part of college football. Young players and older players who have not won starting positions have the chance to move up and get in position to contribute to the team in the fall. Also the coaches are not burdened with working on a game plan and strategizing a way to implement that plan. So, they can devote all of their attention to the players on hand and try to build depth for the coming fall. It is not such a hectic pace for the coaches. It can be a fun time for the coaches, not so much for the players. However, there are players who just love practice. A high school teammate of mine at Robert E. Lee, was one of those guys, **Billy Dupree**. He was a favorite of Coach Bryant, and it was looking like he would play at linebacker in the fall of 1959. Some of the other players from Montgomery decided that they had enough college football. They told Dupree of their plans and that their ride to Montgomery would be leaving around noon. Dupree said, ‘Y’all gonna’ leave before practice? ‘they said of course we are.’” Dupree said, “Well if y’all are gonna’ quit, I think I will too. But I’m goin’ to practice. I’ll get a ride home somehow.” And he did.

Some football fans get very excited about spring practice. The anticipation of the coming football season reaches an off season high with the coming of spring training football. Their excitement is generally centered around the quarterback position. They are not concerned about the right guard, the center or the nose tackle. They may be slightly interested in the linebacker core. But, quarterback takes center stage. They will not just let the coaches worry about those positions. They are going to worry about the quarterback until the coaches make their decisions. Then they will worry about those decisions. So, it is my intent in the following paragraphs to give them my thoughts on the quarterbacks at Auburn and Alabama based on performance last year and performance this spring.

Alabama is in a tenuous position with their quarterbacks. It is not a



Jalen Hurts

bad situation. In fact it is very good. Coach Saban must choose between a junior, **Jalen Hurts** and a sophomore, **Tua Tagovailoa**. Hurts has won 26 games for Alabama and lost only two. One of those two losses occurred in the national championship game with Clemson, culmination the 2016 season. The other was to Auburn last year, which allowed the Tigers to win the Western Division title. This was probably worse than losing the national championship to many Tide fans. The Western Division title has been reserved for Tide fans since Alabama lost it to Auburn in 2013 in Gus Malzahns first year. Auburn seems to be the only obstacle in the way of Alabama totally dominating college football. Well Auburn has to be famous for something under the fluctuations of successes and failures of the Malzahn era. Time will determine the fate of all coaches. So, let it be with Malzahn.

Jalen Hurts is a 6’-2”, 220 lb. quarterback with amazing presence on the field. He never seems to get rattled no mater what the cumstances are. He is an average passer, but when he has to make a throw to win the game,

THE QUARTERBACKS

he can do it. His running skills are in the class of **Archie Manning** of Ole Miss in the sixties. His instincts are uncanny. It will be extremely difficult to relegate Hurts to back up quarterback. Hurts is not a pro-prospect at quarterback. He may be one at another position. At this juncture, we don’t really know who the third quarterback will be. So until that is determined, Hurts must remain at quarterback. If it is feasible, depending on the third quarterback, Jalen Hurts would be an excellent tight end. By putting on 20 lbs. he could develop into a pro-prospect. He may be the best athlete on the team. Do you want your best athlete on the bench?

Tua Tagovailoa is a rare find. Saban had to go all the way to Hawaii to find this guy. From the moment he hit the campus last spring you knew he was different. His sling shot delivery from the left side gets out as quick as I have ever seen. He has utmost confidence that he can throw a football through a bicycle tire from the pocket or on the run from 30 yards. This proved to be over confidence last spring as he was prone to throw interceptions. The 6’-1”, 210 lb. sophomore has matured as his pass selection has improved.



Malik Willis

He can now make better choices and use his snake like delivery to throw receivers open, as well as throwing in an open hole in the defense. I think it is fair that he be credited with the win in the championship game against Georgia. **Coach Kirby Smart** had scouted Hurts well and would not let his defense give Hurts lanes to throw in. Tua “Tag” was not in Smart’s defensive plan. Therefore he was able to unleash that whip like arm and that natural confidence in himself. He decimated the Georgia defense that had stymied Hurts in the first half. He threw for three touchdowns, the last one to win the game. Tua has the ability to see the field and throw receivers open. This is what many NFL quarterbacks have a hard time doing. Tua is no slouch when he is forced to run. He has good speed and power. If a coach wanted to order a perfect talent for your quarterback position from Sears and Roebuck, Tua would be what you would get. It will be difficult to make Tua the back up quarterback again this year. He is too good. Saban has a good problem to deal with. It would be smart for him to play both. This would cause defensive coaches nightmares in 2018.

At Auburn, Coach Gus Malzahn has an easy decision to make as to who the starting quarterback should be. **Jarrett Stidham** definitely has earned that role with a stellar performance last year. Not only did he lead the South-eastern Conference in passing, he made key runs that helped Auburn win last year. The 6’-2”, 205 lb. junior started his career at Baylor. To Malzahn’s credit he was able to bring Stidham to Auburn, where he was immediately eligible because the junior college he transferred to from Baylor did not field a football team. He was sought after by many colleges but he chose Auburn. He has all the tools to be a good drop back passer. He is smart, He is tough. He reads defenses well. He has an NFL arm. All he needs is a supporting cast that can protect him in the pocket and a strong running game to take the pressure off the passing game.

Auburn is not so fortunate when it comes to a back up quarterback. **Malik Willis** was the back up last year. He really was not called on to win any games, so his inexperience is important when deciding if he is the best choice this year. He is an excellent runner in the **Nick Marshall** mode. He is Marshall’s same size, ‘6-1”, 200 lbs. plus. He may have more power than Marshall but without comparable moves. His speed is excellent. The problem with Willis is that his skill sets are much different from Stidham’s. Willis is an option quarterback playing in a drop back passing offense. So far, defenses have not been threatened with his passing. He does provide a change of pace from Stidham. Malzahn can use him as a weapon if he so chooses.

Joey Gatewood from Jacksonville, Florida, is an early enrollee that is participating in Auburn’s spring practice. Gatewood is 6’-4”, 230 lbs. and has drop back passing skills that will give him the opportunity to battle Willis for the back up job. He will be a true freshman this fall. He really should be preparing for the junior-senior prom. The quarterback position is better at Auburn than any year since Gus Malzahn took over in 2013.

Auburn will open with the University of Washington and Alabama opens with Louisville. The Tide should have little problem with Louisville, but Auburn will have its hands full with Washington. We will have more on the schedules of Alabama, Auburn and the rest of the SEC teams at a later date.

For the most rabid Auburn and Alabama fans, be assured the quarterback position will be handled very well without the consternation of any of us.

War Eagle and
Roll Tide!



Tech Talk

Ransomware - “The Day the Earth Stood Still”

Reprint from October 2017



Darnell Hughley

Okay, that title may be a bit alarming, if not in fact a bit of an overreach. Still, if you have found yourself falling victim to such an attack, it can seem like the proverbial “end of the world” scenario played right out of Edmund North’s screenplay, “The Day the Earth Stood Still”.

In this story, an alien lands and tells the people of Earth that they must live peacefully or be destroyed as a danger to other planets. The citizens of earth wanted to know if there was some technology we could use (no doubt relying on the advanced technological knowledge of our alien visitor) to save ourselves from such peril.

“There must be alternatives!” Professor Barnhardt asked. “You MUST have some technology that could solve our problem”, he further asks.

“Your problem is not technology. The problem is you. You lack the will to change.” Klaatu (alien visitor) responded.

This exchange came to my mind as I was sitting and thinking of all the customers and clients I’ve encountered over the past several years. We look for more technology and software advances to help us fight against such attacks without changing our computing habits. As end users, we must personally become more vigilant and careful in the way we use our computers to search the internet, more cautious of the types of sites we visit and curtail our addictions to the countless “free software” we load onto our systems – all of which can often lead to the very attacks that we want to have more technology save us from.

In a world currently inundated with Viruses, Malware, Adware, Trojans – it makes you wonder when will it ever end and just how can we protect ourselves? Now, there’s an even more sinister “kid on the block”- Ransomware! This is considered "scareware" as it forces users to pay a fee (or ransom) by scaring or intimidating them.

So, just what is ransomware anyway and how can we protect ourselves from it? In its simplest terms, ransomware is a type of malware that prevents or limits users from accessing their system, either by locking the system's screen or by locking the users' files unless a ransom is paid.

Ransomware is often downloaded onto systems when unwitting users visit malicious or compromised websites. Once executed in the system, ransomware can either lock the computer screen, or, in the case of crypto-ransomware, encrypt predetermined files. In the first scenario, a full-screen image or notification is displayed on the infected system's screen, often purporting to be from Microsoft® or some other trusted company, which prevents victims from using their system. This also shows the instructions on how users can pay for the ransom. The second type of ransomware prevents access to files to potentially critical or valuable files like documents, spreadsheets or media files.

So, just how can you, as an end user, protect yourself? Brace yourself... wait for it... Backup! Backup! Backup!

Think of how many times you have thought about backing up your precious data and failed to do so just before the inevitable happened. Malware notwithstanding, consistent backup routines of your data, especially for businesses, are simply a good practice against even such things as imminent hardware failure.

Another great practice in protecting yourself is the use of software updates – specifically those updates for your operating system. Be sure you are using and updating security software in order to stay protected from the latest discovered versions of ransomware. Microsoft® does due diligence to send out update patches for its software. These updates are for security as well as performance in many cases.

Lastly, should you somehow find yourself victim to a ransomware attack, because it’s never a good idea to further empower a “cyber-bully” - DO NOT pay the ransom! Instead, contact a local repair shop equipped to handle such cases first to see if your data can be decrypted.

Darnell Hughley is the Owner, Certified Technician and Consultant for HY-Tech Solutions, LLC having more than 23 years of total experience in the PC Repair and Consulting field.

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The Chambliss Commentary

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

Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
– Ephesians 4:3

Marcia Chambliss

Like so many of the Alabama Gazette readers, I strongly believe in the power of prayer, and I’m so very thankful to live in a nation where citizens can still gather for times of corporate prayer. Such an event will take place in our city on Thursday, May 3rd at the Alabama Activity Center on Dexter Avenue, 7am, at the annual Montgomery Prayer Breakfast.

Since 2004, and in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer, the Montgomery Prayer Breakfast has been a time of praise for our Lord and prayers for the protection of our city, state, and nation, uniting people of all denominations, and transcending politics and race. Participating in this annual breakfast brings much-needed encouragement in our troubled world as people actively and fervently engage in prayer for our city, state, and nation.

The Montgomery Prayer Breakfast also kicks off the annual Bible Reading

Marathon, a 72-hour public reading of the Bible that will continue at the State Capitol at 8:30 am and conclude Sunday morning, May 6. Each year, individuals and families from all areas of Montgomery sign up for 15-minute intervals of reading and speaking the Word of God it over our city. It is truly a blessing for those who read as well as those who hear the Holy Scriptures. If you have an interest in reading during this marathon, there are still some sign-up slots available at www.hisvessel.org.

Tickets for the Montgomery Prayer Breakfast are \$25 per person and can be purchased through His Vessel Ministries, 334.356.4478, or “You Name It” retail store at 5350-A Atlanta Hwy.

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

"But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream." Amos 5:24

Montgomery BIBLE READING Marathon

State Capitol
Thursday, May 3 through Sunday, May 6

72 Continuous Hours of Bible Reading
Genesis – Revelation

To participate in reading the Bible visit www.hisvessel.org

For more information, contact His Vessel Ministries at 334.356.4478 or info@hisvessel.org.

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Unity
of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
— Ephesians 4:3 —

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Thursday, May 3, 2018
7 AM // \$25 per person
Alabama Activity Center (201 Dexter Avenue)

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BIBLE READING MARATHON KICKS OFF AT THE PRAYER BREAKFAST AND WILL CONTINUE AT THE STATE CAPITOL BEGINNING AT 8:30 AM THROUGH MAY 6. TO PARTICIPATE VISIT WWW.HISVESSEL.ORG.



Gazette Seniors...

*Dr. John Bitter, Editor
Senior Section*

The Montgomery Area Council On Aging

Meals On Wheels is MACOA's popular flagship program. Every Monday through Friday, MACOA volunteers deliver hot nutritious noon meals to 404 homebound seniors who are unable to prepare their own meals.

This vital program is a source of much-needed nutrition, provides welcome, daily contact with senior clients, and serves as a means to regularly check recipients' welfare.

For seniors who are unable to prepare meals, the program is a blessing and it gives a sense of security because of its regular personal contact. Our Meals on Wheels Program serves seniors in Montgomery and Autauga Counties only.

There is currently a waiting list of 230 Seniors. The Frozen Meals program is a temporary program for those on our waiting list.

We need your support to continue our mission. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today to help us serve more Seniors in our community.

For more information contact Meals on Wheels at (334) 240-6765.

America,

America, Let's Do Lunch!

Volunteer your lunch break to deliver meals to Seniors!



We cordially invite all MACOA volunteers to a Volunteer Recognition scheduled for **Thursday, April 19th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at MACOA!** Join us for light refreshments and fellowship as we thank you for your dedicated service and commitment to seniors. Please RSVP to Melissa Bowman, Meals on Wheels and Volunteer Coordinator, at **263-0532 or mbowman@macoa.org.**

The 17th Annual Swinging Fore Seniors Golf Classic sponsored by UBS Financial Services (Longleaf Wealth Management Group) is scheduled for Friday, June 8, 2018 at the Robert Trent Jones Capitol Hill Golf Trail Legislator Course in Prattville, AL! Registration is at 7:00 am and Shotgun Start is 8:00 am. A Sponsor Team is \$800 includes Team of four, lunch, and a hole sign, a Team is \$600 and includes Team of four, and Hole Sponsor is \$300 and includes sign with company/organization name, and an individual Player \$150 includes lunch Sponsorship Opportunities are available.



*By Kyle' D. McKinney
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WHEN IS A GOOD TIME TO START receiving SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS?



After a lifetime of working, you deserve a comfortable retirement. For over 80 years, Social Security has been helping people shape their future, assisting them with a variety of benefits. It's up to you as to when you can start retirement benefits. You could start them a little earlier or wait until your "full retirement age," or delay retirement to get extra money each month. There are benefits to either decision.

Full retirement age refers to the age when a person can receive their Social Security benefits without any reduction, even if they are still working part or full time. In other words, you don't actually need to stop working to get your full benefits.

For people who reach age 62 in 2018 (i.e., those born between January 2, 1956 and January 1, 1957), full retirement age is 66 and four months. Full retirement age was age 65 for many years. However, due to a law passed by Congress in 1983, it has been gradually increasing, beginning with people born in 1938 or later, until it reaches 67 for everybody born after 1959.

You can learn more about the full retirement age and find out how to look up your own at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/retirechart.html>.

You can start receiving Social Security benefits as early as age 62 or any time after that. The longer you wait, the higher your monthly benefit will be, although it stops increasing at age 70. Your monthly benefits will be reduced permanently if you start them any time before your full retirement age. For example, if you start receiving benefits in 2018 at age 62, your monthly benefit amount will be reduced permanently by nearly 27 percent.

On the other hand, if you wait to start receiving your benefits until after your full retirement age, then your monthly benefit will be higher. The amount of this increase is two-thirds of one percent for each month — or eight percent for each

year — that you delay receiving them until you reach age 70. The choices you make may affect any benefit your spouse or children can receive on your record too. If you receive benefits early, it may reduce their potential benefit, as well as yours.

You need to be as informed as possible when making any decision about receiving Social Security benefits. Read the publication When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10147.pdf>.

When to start receiving retirement benefits is a personal decision based on your own situation. Check out our Retirement Checklist at <http://www.social-security.gov/pubs/EN-05-10377.pdf> to learn about additional factors to consider as you think about when to start receiving your retirement benefits.

If you decide to receive benefits before you reach full retirement age, you should also understand how continuing to work can affect your benefits. Social Security may withhold or reduce your benefits if your annual earnings exceed a certain amount. However, for every month benefits are withheld, it may increase your future benefits. That's because at your full retirement age Social Security will recalculate your benefit amount to give you credit for the months in which benefits were reduced or withheld due to your excess earnings. You can learn more at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/whileworking.html>.

Social Security's mission is to secure your today and tomorrow. You can learn more by visiting our Retirement Planner at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire>.

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



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Steve Long

Woods & Waters with Steve



Turkey season has kicked off now in Alabama!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Steve with an afternoon Gobbler on opening day.



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Kritter Korner

Raccoon dogs or Tanuki

The Raccoon dog, also known as Magnut or Tanuki, is a type of Asian wild dog it is very much a member of the dog family. It is considered to be one of the earliest species that other dog species have evolved from. Neither a raccoon nor a dog, but it does belong to the canid family, which is a lineage that includes dogs, wolves, and foxes.

There are 5 subspecies of raccoon dogs that can be found in the eastern Asia and Europe. These animals inhabit dense forests and live close to the water. Number of raccoon dogs in Asia is decreased as a result of excessive hunting (because of their fur).



European raccoon dogs are numerous and even classified as invasive species due to ability to easily conquer new habitats and spread various diseases. Raccoon dog is not on the list of endangered species.

Raccoon dogs can reach 18 to 28 inches in length and 14 to 15 pounds of weight they are covered with thick, long fur. Density and color of the fur depends on the season. Thick, brown or brownish-grey fur is characteristic for the winter. Reddish fur is typically seen during the summer. Black stripe on the back side of the body stretches toward the shoulders where it widens and forms cross-like shape. Belly is yellowish-brown colored. They have pointed snout, short ears, elongated torso and short legs. They have curved claws and dexterous front paws which facilitate climbing on the trees and holding of the slippery prey.

Raccoon dogs, like raccoons, sometimes wash the food. They are not genetically related with raccoons despite the name and similarities in behavior.

They are nocturnal creatures (active during the night), and are omnivores (eat plants and meat). Their diet consists of fish, frogs, birds and their eggs, amphibians, reptiles, small invertebrates, fruit, seeds, nuts and berries. Unlike other species of dogs, raccoon dogs have small canine teeth, flat molars and elongated intestines. These features are typical for animals that eat large quantities of plant food.

The main predators of raccoon dogs are wolves, wild cats, foxes and birds of prey. Raccoon dogs live in pairs or small family groups. They produce yelps, growls and whining sounds for communications.

Raccoon dog (Canid) is the only species of wild dogs that hibernate during the winter. Reserves of fat collected during the summer are used as main source of energy during hibernation.

Mating season of raccoon dogs takes place from February to April. Pregnancy in females lasts 61 to 70 days and ends with 6 to 7 puppies (rarely 15). Both parents participate in rearing of young raccoon dogs. Young animals depend on the mother's milk during the first 2 months of their life. At the age of one month, they enrich their milk-based diet with meat. Independent life starts few months later, at the age of 4 to 5 months. Raccoon dogs reach sexual maturity at the age of 8 to 10 months.

Raccoon dogs can survive 6 to 7 years in the wild and up to 11 years in the captivity.



Ron VanHerwyn



Ron's Kritter Kids (wildlife education)

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Community Lifestyles

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Fariba Hughes, Owner

Fariba Hughes, is a woman of many talents. She enjoys, art and music and has always had a love for international antiques.

She states, "I have traveled overseas several times and seen many diverse cultures, architecture and arts. One country in particular that I instantly enjoyed was India. I fell in love with the people and their handmade woodworks. When first developing my business, I knew that I wanted to include these works into my store to obtain an image of rustic, antique home decor. You will find unusual, one-of-a-kind, hand carved mango wood furniture made from old world relics. They come out of old palaces and very old homes."

She is careful to personally select each piece for her shop. She stated that it takes about three months for them to arrive. Arcadian Imports not only carries exquisite furniture pieces, but home decor, earthenware pottery, urns, fountains, finials, benches and tables. You can also purchase her beautiful oil paintings.

You must see for yourself! Take a short trip to Prattville (2nd Exit). Enjoy the experience of going back in time with Fariba and get what will never be replicated again...a one-of-a-kind furniture masterpiece.



**Chef
David Spooner
Retired Chef**

*Volunteer Fireman,
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*St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Lowndesboro*

*Board of Registrars,
Lowndes County*

Southern Cuisine



It is time to update your word processor dictionary. Well, at least, time to add some culinary terms. Merriam-Webster has added more than 800 new words to its dictionary and there are many new food words. The dictionary company added these words because they have “wide-spread, sustained, and meaningful use”.

Now we know that Fond, the tasty bits of browned foods stuck to the bottom of a pan after browning or roasting has an official name. An Arnold Palmer is a drink that is a mix of tea and lemonade. My favorite word has relieved the stress I have had (LOL) trying to describe the thick juice in a can of chick-

peas. Aquafaba is the name of the liquid that results when beans are cooked in water. The chickpea juice popular use is as an egg replacement in recipes for pancakes and waffles and said to whip up nicely for meringue. And as seen later, an ingredient to make mayonnaise. I am not sure if Pokémon or Poke (po-kay) came first, but Poke is a Hawaiian salad made with cubed pieces of raw seafood such as tuna, marinated with soy sauce, sesame oil, and mixed with chopped onions and other ingredients. Other added words like Za’atar, Tzatziki, and Queso have been around and are popular on Pinterest.

The French have had a real problem with Americanized words creeping into their language. French Canadians fight it by passing laws banning certain American words from being used at all. Well the French must be just beside themselves with this news. The mighty and humble hamburger is now France’s favorite snack. It has overtaken the French sandwich, the Le Jambon-Beurre, the traditional ham sandwich. Moreover, a “further blow to the Gallic sense of gastronomic superiority”, burgers have spread beyond the fast food industry and is now on the menus of 85 per cent of the country’s restaurants.

Vive le whopper! ~~~~

Looking at the calendar, two things come to my mind. First is Tax Day, but I am not going to discuss taxes, except to say we are not getting our money’s worth for what the government does with our money. There are Food Days when we can have more fun. Let us start with the second week, Egg Salad Week and April 29, Shrimp Scampi Day. If you can find some fresh peaches, go for it, but if you have peaches in your freezer from last year, you know what to do on Peach Cobbler Day, the thirteenth. If you missed the Chinese New Year, February 9, you can still celebrate Chinese Almond Cookie Day on April 9. I could not find a Cookies and Milk Day, but there is a National Oatmeal Cookie day on April 30. This is my favorite cookie after Peanut Butter cookies. Everything comes after peanut butter! I am going to stop and take a break, because I am hungry and I have too much oatmeal in the cupboard. I found an Oatmeal Cookie recipe in one of my old index card boxes. It makes a cookie that is soft, chewy, and thick, the three components I like in a cookie. This recipe is like every recipe you find handwritten on an index card. You try it as written then you tweak it to suit your tastes.

Now that I only have 12 cookies leftover, I had better get back to writing.

Oatmeal Cookies

Ingredients

- 1 ½ sticks butter, room temperature.
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 c. brown sugar
- Two large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 ½ c. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 c. old-fashioned oats (not instant or quick cook)



Directions

1. Beat butter until soft and airy, and then add granulated sugar, and brown sugar and continue until creamy. Add eggs and vanilla extract; beat until well combined.
2. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Add to butter mixture and beat until just combined.
3. Using a spoon gently stir the oats in by hand until just combined.
4. Roll 2 tablespoons dough into a slightly flat ball. Place on baking sheet about 2 ½” apart on the baking sheet. Bake at 350°F for 13 - 14 minutes, or until golden brown and set but still soft in the middle. Let cool slightly on the baking sheet, then place on a wire rack to cool completely. Makes about 16 to 18 cookies.

I saw an article that confirmed what I have been saying in my articles. **Local farmer’s markets is the place to get good deals on produce, you can save on some items if you buy in bulk, and spend time looking at grocery store flyers for the deal of the week.** The author also said that he saved about \$40 per week by dividing the grocery shopping among multiple vendors. I have to determine how far I drive to get a better price. The closest full-scale grocery store from my house is 16 miles away. If I am going to get something I need immediately, I still have to drive 6 miles to get to a small grocer that by necessity has to charge higher prices. Take some time one weekend and study just how you shop, according to the article I read, the author was feeding four people, with full healthy meals at home for \$300 a month.

Now for the Cook’s Warning Section:

The instant pot and slow cookers are the rage. They both have their advantages and can make life simpler. However, there are warnings you should heed, especially for slow cookers. Yes, there are warnings about food and nobody listens to them. Such as, do not eat that raw cookie dough. Do not eat home-made mayonnaise. Cook that hamburger well done. I have not followed any of those warnings. However, I will always follow one. DO NOT put frozen chicken in your slow cooker. Even though some slow cooker instructions, say to do just that. If you know anything about the food temperature danger-zone (40 to 140 degrees), you will change your cooking method. The chicken sits in the slow cooker and sits at the danger zone for way too long. The USDA says that slow cookers are safe if you always place defrosted meat in your cooker. Since the instant pot is also a pressure cooker, it will cook the chicken fast enough to avoid the long danger zone stay.

Remember one of the new words, POKE, that the Merriam added to its dictionary?

This recipe is fresh and light. I know that eating raw fish may be a stretch for some people. This recipe may change your outlook. And pretend the salmon came from southern Hawaii. At least buy the onion, lime, and cilantro locally.

Hawaiian Salmon Poke

Ingredients

- 1 lb. quality sashimi-grade salmon fillet, cubed
- ¼-cup light soy sauce (I like Kikkoman)
- One rounded TB white sugar
- Two TB Furikake rice seasoning
- ½ - 1 tsp red pepper flakes, depending on your heat preference
- One tsp freshly grated ginger
- Juice from one wedge of a fresh lime (no bottles!)
- ¼ cup chopped onion
- ¼ cup chopped scallion



Half of a semi-firm avocado, cubed
Freshly chopped cilantro for garnish
Optional nori sheets.
Cooked white rice.

Directions

1. Combine all ingredients together in a bowl. Toss to coat well. Cover tightly and chill for at least 1 hour. Serve cold.
2. Serve with white rice. If making hand rolls, simply cut a nori sheet in half, fill with desired amount of rice and salmon poke, and roll it up. Eat rolls immediately.

Be sure to chill at least an hour.

From: Chew Out Loud <http://www.chewoutloud.com>

Serves: 4-6

I am going to jump in to one of the areas where no matter what you recommend in a recipe, there will be comments, like that is not the way we did it in the past. I never did biscuits like this in the past and always have a supply of bacon fat and I do not like hydrogenated fats. I found several recipes online and read a recent article in Garden & Gun. That article explains the reasons for changing the cooking method from normal butter fat biscuits.

Biscuits

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting the work surface
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 4 TBSP cold bacon fat, very cold
- ¾ to 1 cup buttermilk, very cold
- melted butter for brushing baked biscuits, if desired



Directions

1. Preheat your oven to 425°F.
2. Combine the dry ingredients (flour, baking soda, and baking powder, salt) in a large bowl and whisk together.
3. Add the cold bacon fat into the dry ingredients and cut into the flour, using a pastry cutter or blend with hands, until it resembles coarse meal.
4. Add the cold buttermilk into the bowl while stirring with a spoon until combined. This should only take a few turns. The dough will be pretty wet and sticky.
5. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured board. With floured hands knead a few times then gently pat out the dough out until it is about 1/2” thick.
6. Use a round cutter to cut into rounds.
7. Gently pat the scraps together to cut out the rest of your biscuits.
8. Place the biscuits in a cake pan or springform pan close together. You want the biscuits to “climb” in the pan.
9. Bake for about 10-12 minutes until golden brown
10. Brush biscuits with melted butter if desired.

See next page for Vegan Mayonnaise!

Back to the new words from the dictionary and most likely the strangest use of the food. I have not written about anything vegan. I am a second-hand vegan; animals eat plants, and I eat animals. That will be as close to being vegan I will get.

Taste it and add more lemon juice/cider vinegar if you prefer a slightly sharper mayo. Similarly, add a bit more mustard and/or salt if preferred.

Store it in the clean glass jar, screw on the lid, and keep in the fridge. It should keep for at least a week if not several weeks – both cider vinegar and lemon juice are natural preservatives.

So go out into the world, and have your Bacon Fat Biscuit Ham and Cheese Sliders with your Vegan Mayonnaise while you ponder what to do with the open cans of chickpeas. Do you think they will work in some Poke?

Continued on page 3C


Southern Cuisine

Continued from 2C

Aquafaba Mayonnaise

Ingredients

½ tbsp. cider vinegar
½ tbsp. lemon juice
½ tsp ground English mustard OR
1 tsp English mustard from a jar
¼ tsp salt (add more at the end if needed but taste first)
3 tbsp. aquafaba –bean water e.g. chickpeas, cannellini or butter beans
¾ -1 cup neutral tasting oil, e.g. plain vegetable oil



Equipment Needed

Jug that is wide enough to take a stick blender – you can use a bowl but it’s more likely to splatter
Stick blender (also called a hand or immersion blender)
Measuring spoons
Measuring cups or small measuring jug
Can opener to open the beans if you do not already have any aquafaba
Clean glass jar with a lid to store the mayo when made
Small silicone or rubber spatula to scrape out mayo from jug into the jar

Directions

1. Measure the aquafaba, cider vinegar, lemon juice, mustard, and salt into the jug. Give a quick whizz with the hand blender to mix everything up.
2. Switch on the hand blender in the jug on low and drizzle the oil slowly – about ¼ cup or 4 tbsp. at a time – into the other ingredients.

Keep the hand blender under the liquid to avoid spattering. Increase the speed on the blender.
Keep drizzling and blending until the mixture is thick and looks like mayo. It will be thicker in some parts than other so move the blender around to make sure it is all the same consistency. If necessary, switch off the blender, scrape down the sides of the jug and stir everything about quickly then start blending again. You can even make this in a glass jar if it is wide enough to take the stick/immersion/hand blender (all the same device!). Just make sure there is a lid to put on the top.

April Special



Chicken Fried Ribs with 2 sides - \$13.59 Every Tuesday



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**Sunday
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Judge
Peggy Givhan

We have Spring well underway for zone 8, the River Region Zone. While the nights are still cool, it is good to allow certain plants to get established before things heat up. The following are what are termed cool weather annuals:

1. **Petunias**, all the varieties do well now and should last until July. Go visit these flowers at after dark, and you will notice the fragrance.
2. **Dianthus** are another perennial that will do well until they die off with heat exhaustion. We treat them as annuals in the deep south due to the extreme heat.
3. **Begonias** should be put out now for the same reasons, except the Dragon Wing begonias, which can be planted most anytime.
4. **Hostas** can be planted now either bare rooted or the in pots, These thrive mostly in the shade.
5. **Impatiens** can be planted now and can readily survive any cool nights.
6. **Geraniums** also thrive this time of the year, and should do well through July. They need dead heading often, and love plenty of fertilizer.

It depends when you last laid out mulch in the areas of beds that you have not sown seed. If you put the pine straw down over these areas, the seed may not germinate. However, now is a good time to spread some mulch as this conserve water, and smothers out weeds that may later germinate. Better to smother the weeds, than to later have to use Round-up, which is a type of poison.

There is a summer oil you can purchase at the garden centers which you can apply with a hose-end sprayer much like the dormant oil. This will give you a second chance to smother pest eggs, so they will not hatch and become a scourge all summer. Also this is a great time to remove any guide wires that

Southern Gardening Potpourri for April by Peggy Givhan

April really puts on a show for us in Montgomery. The azaleas with blooms from top to toe remind me of Southern Belle dresses; the lacy dogwoods, pink and white, remind us of Easter: and the gorgeous Japanese Magnolias with their stunning purple and white blooms, make an arresting sight. And let's not forget the Snow Ball Viburnum which are very showy.

you may have attached to trees planted last fall, as the trees should grow quickly and we do not want imbedded wire in our trees.

Remember to not give up on any hydrangeas that may not have budded out. Some are late, especially after such a cold winter. They will bloom off of dead looking wood only. Be patient and cut back only after the other branches have come alive. Otherwise, no hydrangea blooms for you this year. It does help to cut back any spent blooms which does encourage subsequent blooms.

April is a good month to plant Canna Lilies, Hosta, Day Lilies, Ajuga or Bugleweed, the ground cover for areas of shade, and Elephants' ears. This is also a good time to plant ferns, Christmas holly, Baptisia, and Veronica. I highly recommend the dwarf Canna lilies, which come in a variety of colors.



Photos by Patricia Killough

Now is also a good time to plant herbs such as dill weed, coriander, basil, parsley and mint.

GOOD GARDENING AND HAPPY EASTER!



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Montgomery County Alabama Sheriff's Office

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.montgomerysheriff.com

(334) 832-4980



**Chief Deputy
Kevin J. Murphy**

Camp Show n' Tell

July 31st - August 3rd

It's almost that time! Applications began on April 2nd to attend a week long, free camp hosted by Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Staff of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. Youth will explore and enjoy a week of outdoor fun and recreation. This mentoring-based camp, also offers workshops addressing bullying and the effects of bullying behaviors, substance abuse awareness and prevention and environmental safety and education. It's for those that have excelled during the school year and not a disciplinary boot camp. Children must be between the ages of 9-11 and provide a birth certificate upon completion of the camp application. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will bus 100 (girls and boys) from Montgomery to the camp site for a week long, overnight camp and will return the children back to Montgomery Friday, August 3rd. The camp fills up quickly as it's a first come, first serve basis.

For more information on obtaining and application, please call 832-1339.



Annual Deputy Dave Day

Saturday, April 28th

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is excited to once again have our annual Deputy Dave Day at Dunbar-Ramer School from 10 am -2 pm for our youth. Come out and meet and greet with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office official mascot, *Deputy Dave* as well as the Sheriff's Office Staff! There will be lots of things to do and fun to be had by all!!

For more information, call 832-1646.



Firearms Familiarization Course

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

May 12

June 9

July 14

August 11

October 13

December 8

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

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

Course Requirements:

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



Pistol Permit Questions?

334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

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

334.832.1339

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

Sheriff's Office APP

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

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

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

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



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Sheriff Joe Sedinger



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cityfest
Prattville Area Chamber

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10am - 4pm
Sheriff Sedinger and Chief Thompson—2pm

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**Central Alabama
CrimeStoppers**

This year for the Dunk – A – COP

We hope everyone will come out and take a shot a deputy, police officer or news anchor during the Prattville City Fest on May 12th.

All proceeds raised will go to the Central Alabama CrimeStoppers to be used to pay reward money for crime tips.

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"Wet Paint Sale"

Saturday - April 7
9am to 4pm

Show and Sell Your Work



To register or for more information,
contact Special Events at 334-595-0854



"25 AT THE TOP"
THE EXHIBITION

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OPENING RECEPTION:
MARCH 29, 5 TO 7 PM

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The Wilson Pickett Exhibition, "25 At The Top," was an Atlanta favorite, featuring a brilliant collection of prized memorabilia once cherished by the "Wicked" Wilson Pickett. Among those items, flamboyant clothing and shoes, jeweled sunglasses, gold records, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Awards, Grammy Nominations awards and Wilson's beloved 1974 Stutz Blackhawk, motorcar in mint condition.

Discover how a country boy from Prattville, Alabama became one of the hottest performers on the planet with a portion of "25 at the Top" arriving in Prattville on March 29. His story is told in this very special exhibition. Get up close and personal with one of the hardest working artists of his era.



This project has been made possible in part by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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—Kenn Wells, lead dancer of the English National Ballet




Pushing the Boundaries of Art

Shen Yun's unique artistic vision expands theatrical experience into a multi-dimensional, deeply moving journey through one of humanity's greatest treasures—the five millennia of traditional Chinese culture.

This epic production immerses you in stories reaching back to the most distant past. You'll explore realms even beyond our visible world. Featuring one of the world's oldest art forms—classical Chinese dance—along with patented scenographical effects and all-original orchestral works, Shen Yun opens a portal to a glorious civilization of unrivaled beauty, artistry, and inspiration.

We invite you to a realm where philosophers and poets alike sought harmony with the Dao, or "Way," of the universe. Where maidens danced with ethereal grace and generals fought with explosive athleticism. Where timeless tales of valor and virtue were born. Where heaven and earth intersected, and even magic was possible.

Traditional Chinese culture—with its profoundly optimistic worldview and deep spiritual roots—was displaced by communism in China. Today, only the New York-based Shen Yun is keeping this precious heritage alive on stage. And it's an experience that will take your breath away.

Shen Yun Performing Arts is a nonprofit organization based in New York. Its mission is to revive 5,000 years of traditional Chinese culture, which under decades of communist suppression was left deeply scarred and impoverished. Shen Yun cannot perform in China today.



"The spirit of hope, beauty and the blessing is a fabulous gift to us. I want to go again! I have to bring as many people as I can."

—Sine McKenna, award-winning singer

"I have traveled all over the world to 50 countries now...I have never seen a production any better than this, anywhere! It's worth multiple times of the cost of the ticket. It is priceless!"

—Dr. Scott Stansfield, retired naturopathic physician

"This show gave me a real sense of goodness and meaning in life."

—Anna Liceica, former soloist with American Ballet Theatre

"The 8th wonder of the world! This is the greatest thing I have ever seen on the stage! Go see it to believe it, because otherwise, you're going to miss the most important thing in your life."

—Joe Heard, former White House photographer

**Montgomery
Performing Arts Centre**

TUE April 17, 2018 7:30PM

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 \$103  \$93
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Soul Searching

Walking With Integrity

Jesus said, "*Blessed / Happy are those who have pure hearts, for they shall see God.*"

- **Matthew 5:8.** Another way to put that would be to say - blessed are those who walk with integrity, for they will see God's purpose and plans for their lives more clearly.

The Bible has a lot to say about walking with integrity and why we should. Let me share with you a few reflections I have on the practical blessings or benefits of walking with integrity in this life.

First, walking with integrity blesses us with personal confidence!

" *People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed.*" - **Proverbs 10:19**

People who walk with integrity know who they are and where they are going.

Walking with integrity doesn't mean you are perfect or sinless. It is more about being authentic and regularly checking to see if your motives are pure and admirable.

Walking with integrity gives you a confidence, because you have nothing to hide and you can simply be yourself... faults and all. Folks who have integrity tend to be more relaxed and their personalities are attractive. Why? Because they don't wear masks, and they are forthright and truthful in their conversations, friendships and business dealings.

I believe that when you walk with integrity you know what you stand for, and you stand with confidence in your convictions in a humble way! I've also found that people that have integrity tend to see God's purpose and plan for their life more clearly. And they walk more confidently in that plan and purpose with greater assurance that they are accomplishing and fulfilling their purpose in this life.

Secondly, walking with integrity blesses us with a lasting legacy!

" *A righteous person lives on the basis of integrity. Blessed are his children after he/ she is gone.*" - **Proverbs 20:7** (GW)

What will be your greatest legacy? Your money? Your trophies? Your job? Your stuff?

Your money (if you have any when you die) will be spent by someone else. Your job will be filled by another person. And all your favorite trophies, toys and other stuff will eventually end up in the dump! So, what is going to be your lasting legacy? Your integrity! People of integrity invest their lives in the important things that will outlasts them!

The truth is you're integrity is all you have. My integrity is the most important thing I will leave my children and my wife. Walking with integrity in my faith, in my marriage, with my family, at work and in all my relationships is what I will be remembered for - nothing more and nothing less.

Some of you may be thinking about a time when you lost your integrity, and perhaps you feel like it may be too late for you to leave a lasting legacy. That is not true!

The Bible is full of stories about people who blew it, sinned and made huge

mistakes, yet God in His grace restored them. King David is one of the greatest examples of this! He sinned against God and stumbled badly! He had an affair with Bathsheba and she got pregnant. Then, to cover it up, David planned and caused the death of her husband. But later he repented and the Lord forgave him. There were consequences, but he was forgiven and given a second chance. David was able to be restored and served the Lord the rest of his days. The scriptures even tell us that God said about David's life and legacy that "*he was a man after my own heart*", and that "*he fulfilled his purpose in his generation.*" Now that is quite a legacy!

If you are breathing, your story is not over. Your greatest legacy may be what you do with your life from this point forward. It's never to late to walk with integrity!

I want to walk with integrity so that I can leave a lasting legacy, and so that my children and all my children's children will be blessed. As I live my life, I'm always thinking about that end in mind. How about you? If we want to leave a lasting legacy, then we must train ourselves to walk with integrity with the end we hope to have in mind.

" *The integrity of the honest will keep them on the right track.*" - **Proverbs 11:3**

3) Thirdly, walking with integrity blesses us with rewards in eternity!

"*His master replied, ' Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with the small things; now I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your masters happiness.*" - **Jesus, Matthew 25:21**

Jesus was basically saying to the faithful servant who had walked with integrity, "great job, well done.... I took notice of the fact that you were faithful in the many small things I gave you to do even when no one else was watching. Now, I want you to join me as I put you in charge of a great many things."

You see integrity and character is who you are and what you do when no one is watching. When we walk with integrity, we pay attention to the little opportunities and the big opportunities that are put in our path. Those seemingly little opportunities may include simple things (seemingly small things) like: opening the door for someone, speaking an encouraging word, listening to a hurting friend, donating to help those in need or those impacted by the hurricanes, doing your best job at work, standing up for your convictions, refusing to lie or gossip, keeping your promises, visiting a sick friend, volunteering to serve or simply offering a bottle of cold water to a thirsty person. It could be a thousand different good things that you might do that no one will ever see. But you do it anyway. That is integrity!

In the **Matthew 25** story, Jesus seems to be telling us that no one else may witness what we do when we walk within integrity, but the Lord always takes notice. There are rewards in this life and the next when we walk with integrity!

" *But if you pray to God and seek the favor of the Almighty, and if you are pure and live with integrity, He will surely rise up and restore your happy home. And though you started with little, you will end with much.*" - **Job 8:5-7**

GIRL SCOUTS TAKE OVER THE STATE HOUSE

Legislators and other state elected officials gathered at the Alabama State House on March 8 with more than 100 Girl Scouts, volunteers, and Girl Scout staff in order to educate and raise awareness about issues important to girls and young women.

The day began with Girl Scouts leading the Legislature in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Girl Scouts then greeted elected officials at their offices with Girl Scout Cookies and questions targeting what their specific duties were to Alabama.

“Throughout the day, Girl Scouts from across Alabama shared their leadership experience and were shining examples of G.I.R.L.s (go-getter, innovator, risk-taker, leader),” said Karlyn Edmonds, CEO of Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama (GSSA). “Our goal was to share Girl Scout Programs that GSSA has been implementing all year, and the upcoming vision for the number one girl-led program, Girl Scouts.”



In an effort to build the leaders of tomorrow, GSSA prioritized the following initiatives:

- Promote Economic Opportunities for Girls – Increase involvement in STEM and strengthen their financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills.
- Healthy Living Opportunities for Girls – Increase access to outdoor activities and prevent bullying/relational aggression and build healthy relationships.
- Fostering Global Citizenship and a Global Voice for Girls - Girl Scouts is dedicated to ensuring that girls develop an increased awareness of the larger world around them and understand their relationship to it—even if they don’t travel beyond their own community—so they can grow into responsible global citizens.
- Supporting a Strong Non-Profit Community That Encourages the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Girl Scouts support policies that help nonprofits screen, recruit, and retain staff and volunteers, as well as incentivize charitable giving. Charitable giving policies fuel the health of our nation and communities around the world.

Girl Scout Advocacy Day is just one of the ways Girl Scouts works across party lines to educate and raise awareness about issues important to girls and young women. Through their advocacy efforts, Girl Scouts demonstrates to policymakers the need to inspire, prepare, and mobilize girls and those who care about them to lead positive change through civic action.

About Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama

Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama serves more than 7,000 girls, ages 5-17 and 3,000 adults who believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader) to change the world. We’re the preeminent leadership development organization for girls for more than 100 years. With programming across 30 counties, GSSA offers every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join call 800-239-6636 or visit www.girlscoutssa.org.





Patricia Killough



**Sarah Kate
getting ready for
Easter**

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

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



40 Years of Wedded Bliss



George & Lynn - then and now

Forty years ago on March 18, 1978, George and Lynn McKinley got married. Their children, Jennifer Champion and Shane McKinley surprised them with a party at Heritage Baptist Church on Saturday March 24, 2018. Over 50 family and friends were in attendance to help celebrate this special milestone.

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Warren & Doris Miller (56th) | 12 Jason & Kaycee Wiggins |
| 2 Bobby & Mickey Ann Boyd (30th) | 20 Jeremy & Stacy Dickinson |
| 3 John & Patricia Killough (47th) | Jimmy & Barbara Pugh (62nd) |
| Milton & Wanda Madison (8th) | 21 Russ & Valerie Russell |
| Shawn & Katie O'Mailia (8th) | 22 Jim & Phyllis Fenn |
| 6 Clint & Tiffany Hammock | 23 Zack & Geri Azar (41st) |
| Pat & Lonnie Smith (50th) | 24 Byron & Pam Lynch |
| 7 T. G. & Margaret Batley (62nd) | 25 Bill & Dee Russell |
| Richard & Susan Feaga | 27 Scott & Heather Russell |
| 8 Eric & Melony Gwin | 30 Aaron & Kayla Ramer (8th) |
| 11 Herb & Mary Sue Meadows (43rd) | |
| Mike & Donna Mulchay (31st) | |

(Send us YOUR Anniversaries!)



Milton Earl McGregor ~ May 7, 1939 – March 25, 2018

Milton McGregor of Montgomery, died peacefully at his home Sunday, March 25, 2018. Mr. McGregor was born in Hartford, Alabama, May 7, 1939, to Johnnie and Walter Scott McGregor. He graduated from Geneva County High School in Hartford in 1957. Mr. McGregor began his higher education in 1957 at Troy State University until 1958, when he began serving his country in the United States Army. After duty he enrolled in Auburn University until he was called back to service in the United States Army. He then returned to Troy State University in 1962 to continue his education.

Mr. McGregor and his wife, Pat donated millions to charitable organizations. He was a dedicated member of

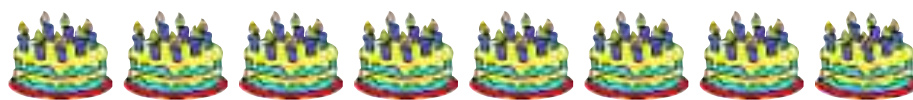
Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church, and served as trustees of both Troy University and Tuskegee University.

Mr. McGregor was a devoted husband to Pat, father to Cindy and Kim, and grandfather to his seven grandchildren.

Mr. McGregor is survived by his wife of 50 years, Patricia Turner of Montgomery; two children, Kim McGregor and husband Dan Hicks, Cindy Benefield and husband Lewis; seven grandchildren, Elizabeth Ann Matthews and Carter Matthews of Atlanta, GA, Kimberly Ruth McGregor, San Diego, CA, Steven McGregor of Los Angeles, CA, Mary Grace Brown, Augusta, GA, Emily Rose Benefield, Mac Benefield and Lewis Benefield, Jr. of Montgomery.

Home Town Community News

April Birthdays



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Magan Gramling
Linda Mann
Ann Pascal | 13 Kim Golson
Lillie Ben Harris
Sherry Knight
Patrick O'Mailia
Jimmy Sellars |
| 2 Ronnie Broadway
Helen Gordon
Ken (Buddy) Hicks
Christopher Kenmore
Patricia Killough (68th)
Colby Mills
Ruth Neilson | 14 Brenda Blackburn
15 Skylar Campbell (20th)
Moseley Higgins (18th)
Tom Ward |
| 3 Cole Andrews
Winston Webb
Emily Claire Needham (10th) | 16 Judy Barnes (67th)
17 Donna Daffron Allen (73rd)
18 Julia Norris
Slade Rhodes
Eunice Broadway
Samuel Sullivan |
| 4 Owen Scott Edwards (10th)
Bill Younkinn | 19 Haley Boyd (25th)
20 Frank Grove |
| 5 Prasertsi Atkinson
Steve Stringer
Coleman Taylor (22nd)
Edwina Davis Walker | 21 Jennifer Champion
Emily Garner James
Betty Kirksey (90th)
Queen Elizabeth (92nd) |
| 6 Lew Baxter
Brenda Caprara
Evelyn Claire Carter (3rd) | 22 Sue Arant
Tammy Orr
Brandy Terrell
Alice Guntharp
Sarah Kathleen Selva (3rd) |
| 7 Winford Collier (85th)
Caroline Handey
Bea Ward | 23 Shane McKinley
Jud Parenteau (9th) |
| 8 Debra Ehrlich
Cynthia Mull
James White
Clara Wright | 24 Bara Edwards
25 Blane Campbell (21st)
Don Cooley
Debra Kinman |
| 9 Rev. Melvin J. Hendricks (65th) | 26 Joe Cotney
Betty Strickland |
| 10 Jean Douglass
Wade Norris
Jimmy Grubbs
Hayden Ward | 27 Erik Box
Julie Livingston
Wayne Watkins
Landyn Whigham (8th) |
| 11 Mae Bishop
Margaret Boyd
Buddy Handey
James Griffin | 28 Johnny Johnson
29 Katie Moseley (20th)
30 Luke Adams |
| 12 Sally Brown
Morgan McGough
Carolyn Perry
Tim Sansom
Dalton Stephens (8th) | |

(Send us YOUR Birthdays!)

**Happy belated birthday to
Mr. Bill Duncan who turned 95 on February 23, 2018**

Sympathy to the families of...

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| Robison, Elizabeth "Betty" Crommelin Nicrosi (95) | died February 21, 2018 |
| Dees, John Allen (73) | died February 26, 2018 |
| Bush, Mary Frances Phillips (92) | died February 28, 2018 |
| McLaurin, Margaret Manuel (104) | died February 28, 2018 |
| Gowan, Lynn A. (65) | died March 1, 2018 |
| Chatham, Delores Jones (79) | died March 2, 2018 |
| Moore, Mike (58) | died March 14, 2018 |
| Bozeman, Lloyd Ray (92) | died March 15, 2018 |
| West, Caro Mae Kemp (75) | died March 20, 2018 |
| Champion, Thomas Dunn (90) | died March 22, 2018 |
| Beall, Dr. William Addison | died March 24, 2018 |
| Childs, Bob | died March 25, 2018 |
| McGregor, Milton (78) | died March 25, 2018 |

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TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Tears and Laughter:

What does pretty look like?

By Amanda Walker

Facebook is fabulous at providing us with fun ways to waste time. The latest is a link that lets you submit a picture of yourself and it shows you what you would look like on the cover of a fashion magazine. We all look pretty in the pictures they design. We also all look very much alike. It's as if they stamped us all with the same pretty stamp.

A lot of us will probably be wearing more make-up this week after seeing their pictures, but that may not be what real beauty looks like.

I met a woman back around Christmas who was working in a cute little shop I enjoy giving money to, and we were talking the way Southern women like to talk on and on about things and I asked her, jokingly more or less, how she managed not to buy one of everything in the shop to take home with her.

She laughed and said, "I'm just disciplined." And I guess I must have stopped cold for a second, because she further explained almost apologetically that her dad had been in the military and her uncle and older brother were police officers and she had just always been around disciplined people.

She likely won't be on the cover of a magazine, but being self-disciplined is an attractive quality.

I was talking with another woman a couple of weeks ago. It was an unusually warm day for February and we were at the park with our kids. She got to talking about her daddy. She said he was an alcoholic most of her childhood. He was an abusive man at times, especially toward her mother, who eventually left him. And with that, over time, he got sober. He apologized and was repentant and eventually, they reconciled. There were many years filled with happy memories that made up for the turbulent beginning.

By the end of her dad's life, he knew he was dying. He had been diagnosed with a disease that has no cure and little treatment. It was just a matter of the certainty of death weighed against the uncertainty of time.

In order to cope with what he was going through, her dad started drinking again...and looking in the face of the disease as she was, she said she could understand. He said it helped him deal with it and she accepted that. Then came the day when he could no longer physically drive himself to buy it. Her mom flat refused, but as his daughter, she said she would go buy it for him.

She would go buy it, but she would also go to great lengths to hide it. She explained what she was doing to her children, but in the store she would wrap the beer in towels until she got to the register. A register she would wait on so there wouldn't be anyone in line behind her who might see. She would tell the cashier she didn't need the towels, that she was only buying the beer.

We laughed looking back, as a tear slid down under her sunglasses. Sneaking around buying beer wasn't easy...with her being the wife of a Baptist preacher in a small south Alabama town.

Pretty is a feeling. We can paint it on and wash it off. It is as changeable as moods and attitudes. Real beauty is another thing altogether, and the two should never be confused.

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



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

Trisston's Tidbits...

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

“The Gift of Joy”

Whenever Easter approaches, I find myself thinking about the death and resurrection of Jesus. The purpose of Christ's life was to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

The Bible says that Jesus became sin for us so that we could be forgiven and found righteous in God's sight (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). Jesus was so certain of His purpose that he predicted when and how He would die (**Matthew 26:2**).

Do you ever think about what your purpose is? I sure have! Well, some say that our purpose is to love God. Others might say that it is to serve God. Still, others says that our chief purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Hebrews 12:2 reminds us, *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Jesus looked beyond the suffering, shame, punishment, and death. Christ knew the joy that was yet to come, so He focused on the future.

“There is great joy in heaven whenever a sinner repents.” Luke 15:10

Likewise, the Lord rewards good works and there is joy in hearing him say, *“Well done good and faithful servant.”* This means Jesus anticipated the joy that would take place when each person would repent and be saved. He also looked forward to the joy that would result from each good work done by believers in obedience to God and motivated by love.

“We love God because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

Here's an amazing thought. ...We can give God joy! What a wonderful God we have who honors sinners like us by allowing us to give Him pleasure. Our Father rejoices and experiences joy as we respond to Him in repentance, love, and good works that brings Him glory.

So today and every day, Give Jesus the gift of joy. After all, it is our purpose and He is looking forward to it!

Happy Easter and Many Blessings!

**“Fun day serving as head judge at the
Ms. Wheelchair Alabama-America 2018 Pageant!
Congrats Morgan Morrison -
Ms. Wheelchair Alabama-America 2018!!”**



Ms. Wheelchair Alabama-America 2018 ~ Morgan Morrison (center)
From left to right: Allyson Everhart, Michelle Davis,
Trisston Wright Burrows



Ms. Wheelchair Alabama-America Program Coordinator, Joanne Pearson with Brian Burrows and Trisston Wright Burrows



Judges Michelle Davis, Trisston Wright Burrows, (head judge, Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005) and Allyson Everhart



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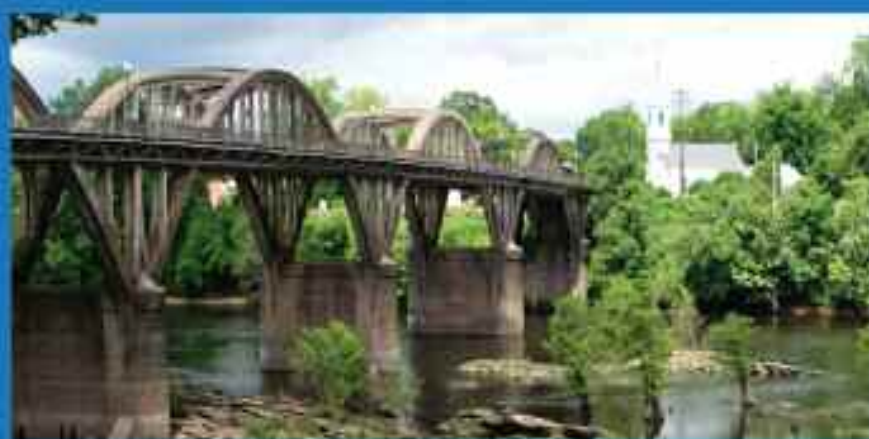
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**Humane Society
of Elmore County**

Website: www.elmorehumane.org

Pet of the Week – Creamer

Creamer looks to be 1-2 year old possible Husky/Pyrenees/Shepherd mix and this boy just craves human attention. He is generally good with other dogs but going to be best for any potential buddies to meet and make sure they get along - female partner likely best. He is a talker and a comic and deserves being a member of a family so everyone can have fun together. Likes to jump up on you and is just a goofy boy. He is about 75 lbs.

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



To meet all the great pets at our shelter come to
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