



# The Alabama Gazette

TAKE ONE!



"The People's Voice of Reason"

Distributed in the Tri-County Area and Surrounding Counties!

ALABAMA'S  
FREE Press

VOL. 14. ISSUE 8 MAY 2014 alabamagazette@gmail.com  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY ~ AUTAUGA COUNTY ~ ELMORE COUNTY ~ CRENSHAW COUNTY ~ TALLAPOOSA COUNTY ~ PIKE COUNTY

## Remembering our World War II Veterans

### In Memoirium McDowell Lee

The cotton ball clouds caressing the sky seemed a fitting tribute, as those gathered paid their last respects to a giant of Alabama. McDowell Lee passed on April 17 at his home in Auburn and was laid to rest at the Pea River Presbyterian cemetery April 22. "Mac" to his friends led a long and distinguished career in Alabama politics.

Born in Clio Alabama, he fought in WWII. Mac returned to Alabama and earned a degree from Troy State Teachers College (Troy University). He returned to Clio



Photo by Mickey Welsh

and was elected mayor at age 24. Subsequently, he served as a special agent for the FBI. He was elected to the Alabama Legislature in 1954 through 1962. In 1963 he was elected as Secretary of the Senate, a position he held for 47 years, a national record. He has received scores of awards and recognitions.

Reverend Dan Ireland, retired executive secretary of ALCAP, shared with

the family and friends Romans 13:1-7. This passage speaks to the importance of government, the duty it owes to its people and the duty the people owe to their elected officials. Those in attendance included Senator Tripp Pittman, former Lt. Governor Jere Beasley, Mayor Todd Strange, and Mac's son and Montgomery city councilman, Arch Lee.

The spring air was filled with a mixture of laughter and tears as stories of Mac's exploits from over the years surfaced from Pastor Tripp Martin and those in attendance. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Hazel Johnston: sons Arch, Charles Jr., and Kenneth; daughters Margaret and Josie; and a host of grand children and great grandchildren.

His parliamentary skills won him national acclaim. His reverence to rules and procedure provided exemplary administration on behalf of the Alabama legislature for almost half a century. As Reverend Ireland so eloquently expressed, "Mac's wisdom and efforts in the Legislature will provide a lasting legacy of leadership."



### Memorial Day History

The custom of honoring ancestors by cleaning cemeteries and decorating graves is an ancient and worldwide tradition, but the specific origin of Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was first known, are unclear.

In early rural America, this duty was usually performed in late summer and was an occasion for family reunions and picnics. After the Civil War, America's need for a secular, patriotic ceremony to honor its military dead became prominent, as monuments to fallen soldiers were erected and dedicated, and ceremonies centering on the decoration of soldiers' graves were held in towns and cities throughout the nation.

After World War I, the day expanded to honor those who have died in all America wars.

No less than 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, and states observed the holiday on different dates. In 1971, Memorial Day became a national holiday by an act of Congress; it is now celebrated on the last Monday in May.

Since it all started with the Civil War, you might want to brush up on your knowledge of this event by visiting the Library of Congress Civil War collection, which includes more than a thousand photographs.

[www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)



Buy the gift that lasts forever!



Diamonds for the one you love!

## Bryan Jewelry

ENGAGEMENT JEWELRY DESIGNERS DIAMONDS WATCHES  
1876 East Main Street, Prattville, AL 36066 (334) 365-6552



### What's Your Number?

Visit us at Adams Drugs and find out yours.

- Blood Pressure
- Cholesterol
- Medicine Consultation
- Body Composition Analysis
- Blood Glucose

Montgomery 1633 Perry Hill Road 386-8813  
Wetumpka 5268 U. S. Hwy 231 567-5136

[www.adamsdrugs.net](http://www.adamsdrugs.net)

Over Family Serving

Your Family Since 1962

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
MONTGOMERY, AL  
PERMIT #69

GAZETTE PUBLISHING  
12 East Jefferson St.  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
Return Service Requested

SHIP  
TO:

Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC  
Volume 14-Issue 8 Copyright 2014  
The Alabama Gazette, 20 pages.



**SHERIFF**  
**D. T. MARSHALL**

# Montgomery County Law

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**  
**[www.montgomerysheriff.com](http://www.montgomerysheriff.com)**

**KNOW THE LAW!**



**Chief Derrick**  
**Cunningham**

The Alabama Legislature has gone home for another year. The gunman for the NRA is gone and his latest bill that would allow anybody to carry a handgun in a vehicle without a permit died in committee in the house. I hope that we have heard the last from Senator Scott Beason. The gun laws remains the same as passed last year, you still need a permit to carry a handgun inside of your vehicle which, to me, is good for the public as well as law enforcement. I just don't understand why a law abiding citizen has a problem with having a background ran to determine if he or she is legally permitted to carry a handgun concealed or in a vehicle. It assures that this person is not an ex-felon, has been convicted of a domestic violence crime, or has not had serious mental problems that has shown up in his or her background.

**On the subject of handguns, if you decide to get a handgun and are not familiar with the laws or even just the handling of your weapon, consider signing up for a course sponsored by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office or the Montgomery Police Department. Our course gives you information concerning the new handgun laws, information on the working of a handgun and allows time for you to fire you handgun on the range. The classes are held on Saturdays to allow you to attend without interfering with your work schedule. For more information go to our website at [www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com) or call our office at 832-1339.**

## EXPUNGEMENTS

There was a bill pass by the Legislature in the last session that allows for the expungement of certain arrest records. ACT 2014-292 says that a person who has been charged with a misdemeanor criminal offense, a violation, a traffic violation, or a municipal ordinance violation may file a petition in the criminal division of the circuit court in the county in which the charges were filed, to expunge records relation to the charge in any of the following circumstances:

1. When the charge is dismissed with prejudice.
2. When the charge has been no billed by a grand jury.
3. When the person has been found not guilty of the charge.
4. When the charge was dismissed without prejudice more than two years ago, has not refiled, and the person has not been convicted of any other felony or misdemeanor crime, any violation, or any traffic violation, excluding minor traffic violations, during the previous two years.
5. The circuit court shall have exclusive jurisdiction of a petition filed under this section.

Section 2 of this ACT states that a person who has been charged with a felony offense, except a VIOLENT offense as defined in Section 12-25-32 (14), Code Of Alabama 1975, may file a petition in the criminal division of the circuit court in the county in which the charges were filed, to expunge records relating to the charge in any of the following circumstances:

1. When the charge is dismissed with prejudice.
2. When the charge has been no billed by a grand jury.
3. When the person has been found not guilty of the charge.
4. The charge was dismissed after successful completion of a drug court program, mental health court program, diversion program, veteran's court, or any court-approved deferred prosecution program after one year from successful completion of the program.
5. Expungement may be a court-ordered condition of a program listed.
6. The charge was dismissed without prejudice more than five years ago, has not been refiled, and the person has not been convicted of any other felony or misdemeanor crime, any violation, or any traffic violation, excluding minor traffic violations, during the previous five years.
7. Ninety days have passed from the date of dismissal with prejudice, no-bill, acquittal, or nolle prosequi and the charge has not been refiled.
8. The circuit court shall have exclusive jurisdiction of a petition filed under this section.

This bill may be a good thing for people who may have had an arrest for relatively minor crimes or who was charged with a crime and the disposition fell under one listed above. Your arrest record can be erased if ordered by the circuit court. The court does have discretion over the number of cases that may be expunged after the first case is expunged.

Please don't think expungement comes without a price. There is a \$300 administrative fee, a filing fee, and if you decide to get a lawyer, he or she with add a hefty fee. You may be looking at around \$1,000 or more when all is said and done. You will have to decide if the price is worth the expungement or not.

If you would like to read the entire ACT, you can find it on the Alabama Secretary of States website under the government records section.

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

## Camp Show and Tell

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is now taking applications for our **Boys and Girls Summer Camp at Camp Chandler. The deadline is Monday, June 2nd at 5 P.M. for accepting applications. The camp is being held from August 4th - 8th and is for children ages 9-11.** This is not a disciplinary camp. It is for youth wanting to learn about nature as well as learning skills and participating in constructive activities. Not only is this a fun summer camp, it is **FREE**. For more information, call our office at 832-1339 or visit our website at:

[www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com).



*Montgomery County Sheriffs Office staff and lucky campers at last years Camp Show and Tell*



## Deputy Dave Family and Friends Day.

**Saturday, May 3, 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.**  
**at the Dunbar/Ramer Elementary School in Ramer.**

There was food, drinks, games, prizes and display booths for our kids' enjoyment. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has put on this fun day for about ten years now and have had thousands of kids attend. Family and friends came out to enjoy all the events on May 3rd. This was just one of the many community events hosted by the Sheriff's office every year.

## FISHING RODEOS FOR KIDS & SENIORS

Chief Cunningham came up with the idea of our fishing rodeos for kids and for seniors, and each year both events seem to grow. What better way is there to spend time with your kids or elderly relatives than to take them fishing and to meet our deputies and correctional officers. There are many other things that your Sheriff's office does for you. To get a better idea of what we offer, go to our website at [www.montgomerysheriff.com](http://www.montgomerysheriff.com). You will be surprised at what we do for you.

## Courthouse Cafe GREAT FOOD!

**Hot Lunches (Home cooking!) Meats & Vegetables**  
**Sandwiches ~ Handmade Hamburgers!**

**COME BY AND EAT WITH US.**  
**Located downtown in Montgomery County Courthouse**

**Call Wanda today!**  
**334-832-1684**

**Open M-F - 7:30 am - 2:00 pm • Breakfast Served 7:30 am**

# Bench-Bar- & Beyond

## THE PROBLEM WITH PENITENTIARIES

By Judge Dale Segrest



**Judge Philip Dale Segrest**

*Want to know more about the author or to comment on the column:*

<http://www.segrestlaw.com>

**The Segrest Law Firm**

**301 King Street**

**P.O. Box 780791**

**Talladega, AL 36078**

**334-252-0036**

In past articles we have discussed the breakdown of the family and the impact of family breakdown on moral formation. We suggested that inadequate moral formation is the root cause of crime. We suggested the possibility that the breakdown of the family and damage to its role in moral formation has contributed to the escalating rate of incarceration.

We have also discussed the important role that the peer group plays in moral formation and the fact that usually the “peer group” is found in churches, families, schools and other community organizations. Those organizations help to build good citizens. We have pointed out that an economy that assigns economic value to individuals based on skills will place a low value on individuals with poor skills. These individuals will ultimately be deemed “worthless”. According to one study, the average full range IQ is 92, (low average) with linguistic skills being even lower, a disproportionate number wind up in the penitentiary. Now we are ready to discuss the role of penitentiaries as a solution to crime.



New **PENITENTIARY**

The modern prison system originated in Philadelphia in the early 1800's. The idea behind penitentiaries had a somewhat theological basis. The idea was that individuals are born with a conscience and that given time to think about their inappropriate behavior, they will become penitent. So the thought runs, we will isolate them from society and give them time to think about their criminal activities. Given time to think about it, they will repent. The idea of penitentiaries that would rehabilitate criminals quickly spread and became an established part of our criminal justice system. Even though the underlying theory was doomed to failure, penitentiaries were accepted as a way to remove the criminals from the street and to make the world a safer place to live. From the vantage point of the non-criminal population, it seemed like a good solution.

There are some significant problems with this approach. First, the approach ignores the real basis of moral formation. Morals are instilled by family and peer groups. What are we doing when we take all of the bad guys and put them at the same location? Who is the “peer group”? What are the chances that

the original theory of penitence will work in that environment? Instead of an institution in which individuals become penitent, we are likely creating a graduate school for inappropriate moral formation. At the end of the sentence, we send these economically handicapped individuals back to the street.

The cost of penitentiaries is spiraling upward. The rate of incarceration in the United States remained constant from 1924 to 1964, but, over the past 50 years the rate has greatly escalated. The cost is very high. I suspect that the cost of maintaining our prisons is greater than the cost the State of Alabama pays for all its efforts in higher education. The spiraling costs and overcrowding creates pressure for early release, and the rate of recidivism is high.

The problem with incarceration of large numbers of people in penitentiaries is that although it is a very expensive burden for tax payers, it is not an effective solution to the problem of crime.

The solution to these problems is not at all easy or obvious. Intuitively, it is clear there has got to be a better solution to the problem of criminal conduct other than assembling all of the criminals at a central location. The problem is the system and the solution must be a system founded on proper moral formation. We need intervention at a much earlier stage in the moral development of the individuals who are likely candidates. Although the traditional family has broken down we need to be very vigilant in attending to the moral formation needs of the very young. We need to find training programs so that those persons who are not talented in the ways of traditional education can nevertheless, find meaningful activity in which they make a meaningful contribution to society. They need to be appreciated. Incarceration in a central penitentiary needs to be a last resort. Needless to say there are hardened criminals who need to be locked up for long periods of time. But for others, we need to find better local, non-central solutions.

Local communities need to take a stronger interest in dealing with the problem. To make probation more successful, during my tenure as judge, I worked hard to promote a concept of probation sponsorship. I will describe the probation sponsorship program in more depth in a future article. But the next article will deal with the disproportionate rate of incarceration of the black race.



## Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers



*Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His column appears weekly in 72 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at [www.stevflowers.us](http://www.stevflowers.us)*

watch. Most of these hotly contested battles will be intraparty GOP squabbles.

Senate District 11, which is composed primarily of St. Clair and Talladega Counties, may be the best race to watch. Incumbent State Sen. Jerry Fielding is being challenged by State Rep. Jim McClendon. Fielding is a former Talladega County Circuit Judge who retired from the bench after earning his judicial retirement and won this senate seat in 2010.

Dr. Jim McClendon is a retired optometrist from Springville in St. Clair County. Dr. McClendon is a veteran House member who chairs the House Health Committee. However, more importantly, he chaired the Reapportionment Committee last year. By having the pencil that drew Senate lines he enhanced St. Clair County's opportunity to have a senator. Both men will have ample campaign funds.

There are several open Senate seats around the state that will attract a slew of aspirants. State Sen. Scott Beason of Gardendale chose to run for the open 6th District Congressional seat of retiring 20-year veteran Spencer Bachus. Beason's plunge into the congressional foray has left his seat available for a bevy of candidates.

There are seven candidates seeking Beason's Republican Senate seat. They are Shay Shelnut, Gayle Gear, Brett King, Adam Ritch, Joe Cochran, Jim Roberts and Jim Murphree. Murphree may be the best known. He has served in the House from Blount County and run several times.

State Sen. Shad McGill opted to not run for reelection after one term. This Northeast Alabama seat is now Republican, primarily because it is probably the most religious region of the most religious state in America. Two men are vying for the seat. Businessman Steve Livingston is the owner of a local oil distributorship and a civic leader. He will be running against 15-year veteran House member Todd Greeson. Greeson should be favored because of a name identification

advantage. However, he could be hampered by having ties to AEA. There could be a lot of pro-business and anti-AEA money shipped in from Montgomery to be beat Greeson in this brawl.

Another freshman, Sen. Bryan Taylor, chose to not run for a second term. His suburban Montgomery district comprises the burgeoning bedroom counties of Autauga and Elmore.

There are four folks vying for this open seat. Suzelle Josey of Deatsville is a former spokesperson for Chief Justice Roy Moore. She has run for the Senate before and built some name identification in the River Region. However her best calling card could be her tie to Roy Moore, just ask Dean Young in Baldwin County how potent that link can be in a crowded GOP primary.

Two businessmen will be in the race. Harris Garner of Millbrook and Bill Harris of Prattville. Prattville City Councilman, Clyde Chambliss, could be formidable in this open Senate contest.

The best chance for a GOP pickup will be in the northwest corner of the state. Senate District 1 encompasses Lauderdale and Limestone Counties. It is considered by some politicians as the last remaining bastion of white Democrats left in the State.

Sen. Tammy Irons, a Democrat, may have seen the writing on the wall when she chose late not to run for reelection. The Republicans believe they can pick this seat up, especially with Irons out of the race.

There are three Republicans hoping to take this seat for the GOP, small businessman Jonathan Berryhill, Dr. Tim Melson and Athens City Councilman Chris Seibert who is also a former University of Alabama football player.

In the Wiregrass, Independent State Senator Harri Ann Smith will be opposed by Republican Melinda McClendon. However, Sen. Smith's reelectability numbers are stratospheric.

State Sen. Gerald Dial, who represents a sprawling East Alabama district, has a host of challengers but should prevail.

All these races will be worth following.

**April 30, 2014**



## REPORTS OF VETERANS' DEATHS "APPALLING" AND MUST STOP

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—On the heels of media reports that American Veterans have died waiting for critical medical care appointments, Congressman Mike Rogers today announced his strong support for a bill to hold accountable senior VA employees that may have been responsible for the extended appointment waits.

Rogers said, "The recent reports of preventable deaths of Veterans while waiting for VA care are appalling and inexcusable. It is also greatly disturbing to learn that some senior executive managers at these specific VA centers received massive bonuses, and those

bonuses were never tied to their performance. These senior managers have the duty and responsibility to make sure our Veterans get the care they deserve on time. If they can't do their jobs, then they should be fired."

HR 4031, the "Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014," would give the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to remove employees of the Senior Executive Service based on performance. "The senior leadership at the VA must be held accountable for their management performance. Once they are, then hopefully they will start to address the massive backlog of cases at the VA. I fully support

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Jeff Miller's call for an inspector general's investigation on these recent reports of preventable deaths and lavish bonuses," Rogers stated.

Recently, Rogers toured two Veterans Facilities that serve the Veterans of Alabama's Third District. Rogers added, "I have seen firsthand how important these types of facilities are to our Veterans. Our veterans answered the call of duty when our nation needed them. Our nation in turn must keep our promise we made to them."

*Co-sponsors the "Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014"*

## ROBY CONGRATULATES 2014 CONGRESSIONAL ART WINNERS

### MONTGOMERY, PRATTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED



MONTGOMERY, Ala. - A Montgomery high school student was recently recognized for his artistic talents through the 2014 Second Congressional District Art Competition. The competition was sponsored by U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) as part of the national Congressional Art Competition. Submitted artwork from across Alabama's Second Congressional District was displayed as a part of "Youth Art Month" at the Wiregrass Museum of Art in Dothan, Alabama.

Karvarus Moore, a junior at Booker T. Washington Magnet High School in Montgomery, Alabama, won first place for his ink, watercolor, and colored pencil drawing titled "Dream." Justin Sloan, a senior at Prattville High School, was the runner-up for his drawing titled "A Trip Back."

"It is such an honor to recognize Karvarus and Justin for their impressive artistic talents," Rep. Roby said in a statement. "I look forward to seeing Karvarus's artwork hanging in the United States Capitol, and I know Justin's drawing will be a great addition to my Washington office. "I also want



*U.S. Rep. Martha Roby (center) is pictured with Karvarus Moore of Montgomery (left) and Justin Sloan of Prattville (right), the recent winners of the 2014 Congressional Art Competition.*

to recognize Karvarus and Justin's instructors, Rachel Dudley at Booker T. Washington and Donna Britan at Prattville High School, for their guidance and commitment to the arts. I hope students will continue to take part in this truly unique opportunity to showcase the immense artistic talents we have in Alabama's Second Congressional District."

The winning artwork will hang for one year in the United States Capitol alongside the winning pieces from other Congressional districts. The runner-up artwork will be on display in Rep. Roby's Washington D.C. office. All submitted artwork was independently judged by an art professional.

Each spring, Members of the U.S. House of Representatives sponsor a nationwide high school arts competition. The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide a process for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, more than 650,000 high school students have been involved with the competition.

### ROBY WEEKLY COLUMN:

#### Meeting with You

With Congress out of session for the Easter recess, I spent time visiting with constituents throughout Alabama's Second Congressional District. Meeting with constituent groups, touring local businesses, and checking out our area's schools are some of the most important and rewarding parts of my job. Check out a recap of our stops below.

#### MONTGOMERY

This week I hosted several informative meetings in my Montgomery office. I enjoyed talking with Dr. Walter Hill, Provost of Tuskegee University and Dean of the College of Agriculture, about some great programs Tuskegee has to promote agriculture in our state. Next, I met with a group of homeschool students and parents from Houston County. The group was very sharp and asked great questions about our nation's system of government.

I also met with the Montgomery chapter of the Medical Group Management. We talked about how ObamaCare has affected their industry, as well as some conservative solutions to make health care work for more Americans. It is so beneficial to hear directly from those who deal with the particulars of health care policy.

#### ELMORE COUNTY

On Wednesday I drove up to Millbrook for a meeting of the Millbrook-Coosada Kiwanis Club. We had a great conversation about efforts in Congress to rein in executive overreach. I talked specifically

about our efforts to get answers on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) program targeting the southeastern automotive industry. It is wrong for the Obama administration to use a federal agency to advance a political agenda, and I will continue to fight against overreaching activity in federal agencies, especially those that threaten jobs in this already difficult economy.

Later that day I visited Holtville High School, which recently won the impressive distinction of being named a National Blue Ribbon School. It was easy to see why Holtville won such an honor once I met their teachers, staff, and students. Holtville has some very impressive career and technical education programs which help prepare students for the workforce. A special thank you to Principal Jimmy Hull and his staff for their hospitality during the informative visit.

#### GREENVILLE

On Thursday I travelled down Interstate 65 to Greenville. I met with new Butler County Schools Superintendent Amy Bryan and visited the "Bright Beginnings" Pre-K program there at the central office. It was such a treat to visit with the children and learn about their top-notch Pre-K program, including their partnership with AmeriCorps.

Next I visited with Mayor Dexter McLendon at city hall about some of the new economic development projects in Greenville. Mayor McLendon took me to Ozark Materials, which produces thermoplastic. Thermoplastic is the material used to stripe roads across our state. From there, we headed to the Greenville YMCA where I learned

about how the community is bringing public and private entities together to help children and families in need. As a life-long YMCA supporter, it was inspiring to see what a difference they are making in Greenville.

### UPCOMING ITEMS

The House is expected to begin full consideration of the two appropriations bills which passed out of committee a few weeks ago. As you may remember, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act has important language I advocated for that supports a new health care program for veterans and prioritizes air traffic control tower construction projects.

*Additionally, the House is expected to consider:*

- H.R. 4486, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act;
- H.R. 4487, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act;
- H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act; and
- H.R. 4194, The Government Reports Elimination Act.

As always, please feel free to contact one of my offices if we can ever be of help to you. Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your representative.



## From the Editor's Desk..... The Alabama Gazette



*Loretta  
Grant*

*While sitting at my desk recently, reading the internet news, a certain article made me raise an eyebrow. From The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. The article posted was entitled, "Remarks by President Obama at Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Town Hall."*

*University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.*

*President Obama was being asked questions by students concerning world affairs, and some questions that were personal. Response to a question by President Obama: What does happiness mean to me? --... "But I also think that, as I get older, what's more important to me is feeling as I've been true to my beliefs and that I've lived with some integrity". ... "Now, that doesn't always make you happy in the sense of you're laughing or just enjoying life--because sometimes, being true to your beliefs is uncomfortable" .... "but I think if you feel as if you're striving towards your ideals, then you'll feel okay at the end."*

~~~~~

*Now my question to all of us is, what is "some integrity." Webster's definition of integrity: "A firm adherence to a code of esp. moral values, INCORRUPTIBILITY, HONESTY". Have we as Americans conceded that our leaders should only have "some integrity". What is wrong with complete, soul searching, God fearing integrity? It is a bit like being a "little pregnant". Either we exercise integrity or we don't. Is that too simplified a statement? Do situations dictate how much integrity WE will actually exercise?*

***INTEGRITY/HONESTY HAVE BEEN TRADED** for self serving motives from the men and women who govern our lives. This lack of accountability has definitely come back to haunt us. Do not apply this editorial just to President Obama's response, but also Congress under the "Washington dome of corruption", and to our state and local officials from both parties. We are shocked when scandals are exposed, but quickly forget. With a flippant statement we may say, "Oh well, nobody is perfect."*

*To instill truth and values in upcoming generations, we must start with our own personal integrity. It is still vital that we each strive for a standard of excellence and a measure of right and wrong found in God's Word.*

*1 Timothy 2:1-3 ~(KJV) - 1 - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 - For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 - For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;*



*Marcia Chambliss*

**SGP**

**SMART GIRL  
POLITICS™**

## PRIMARY PROMISES

Another primary season is wrapping up and numerous questions are circulating in my brain as my email and mailbox

are daily filled with campaign literature. So should any candidate happen to read this piece, here are but a few of those random thoughts and if you are a voter, perhaps they will encourage you to take time to ask questions of your own before June 3rd.

If you are a candidate running as a Republican, I already know that you are a "conservative, Christian, love President Reagan and the Second Amendment, hate Obamacare, and have family values." But what I really need is for you to venture beyond the campaign sound bites and provide answers that show me that you are more conservative or qualified than the incumbent, or, if the Republican incumbent, what you accomplished while serving in that office that truly sets you apart from the competition.

When you tell me that you believe in the principles of limited government, how does that square with the current trend of legislating for economic development? I find myself at odds with many who support this concept of incentivizing one industry over another as it is not indicative of a true free market system. Yes, it does bring jobs to Alabama, but at what cost? Is this not simply corporate welfare and crony capitalism? And what is your opinion regarding the numerous economic development junkets available to elected officials? Those trips can leave a bitter taste for Alabamians who find it harder by the day to afford even a weekend trip to the beach.

I am absolutely not a single-issue voter but I do need to know where you stand on the Common Core issue. If you support Common Core or subscribe to the corporate education reform talking points of a state-led initiative, I have serious doubts that you really understand the danger in the further expansion of government. Beware the Trojan Horse – I was one of those naïve Americans who thought the Patriot Act didn't pose issues for law-abiding citizens but we now know how it opened that slippery slope to all sorts of privacy concerns.

Remember that if you campaign on reducing

taxes, yet support the implementation of increased or even new fees, putting lipstick on a pig is always a very poor attempt of disguising the pig.

If you are running for a seat in the Alabama Legislature, what will guide you in your voting? Are you willing to lead the charge of slowing down the flurry of legislation in order to fully understand the purpose and consequence of the bills introduced? Or, will you succumb to the pressure and cast hasty votes because of outside (financial) pressure that is not from the constituency that you were elected to represent?

What is your current means of employment, especially if seeking a legislative seat? Your answer matters to me because too many of our public servants have found lucrative contracts for themselves or members of their family after being elected and I find those to be serious ethics issues which violate the public trust.

Regarding your campaign, how are you using your campaign funds? That's becoming an issue of major importance to voters as we learn of more and more abuse of those funds as well as the sources behind the funding and the various attack ads. I am becoming far more perceptive than ever when it comes to the nasty mailers and innuendos spread by so-called media sources. Openness and transparency are of vital importance and that extends to funding at all levels of the political spectrum.

As candidates make numerous campaign pledges during the primary season that I truly hope are sincere, I want to share that I have made a pledge of my own – to become a more informed voter than ever before. I admit to being fooled more than once by a "conservative" candidate, but I believe those hard-learned lessons have only made me more discerning. I also pledge to share what I learn with family and friends because of the most important and valuable lesson learned over the last few years – the political ruling class thrives on an uninformed voter.

*Marcia Chambliss is the Alabama State Coordinator of Smart Girl Politics, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the education and training of activists and candidates, and Smart Girl Politics Action, <http://sgpaction.com/>, a 501(c)(4) which focuses on conservative issues. She can be reached at:*

*[Marcia@sgpaction.com](mailto:Marcia@sgpaction.com). Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics Action.*

# The Alabama Gazette

Published by:

Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC

Copyright 2014 - The Alabama Gazette, LLC



**12 E. Jefferson Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104**

**Office (334)356-6700**

**Owner/Publisher**    **Owner/Publisher**  
**Managing Editor**    **Samuel Adams**  
**Loretta Grant**

**[www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com)**  
**[alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)**

**Layout, Office Manager ~ Marie Hudson**

**Contributing Writers:**

**Bobbie Ames**  
**Zack Azar**  
**Dr. John Bitter**  
**Trisston Burrows**  
**Marcia Chambliss**  
**Steve Flowers**  
**Judge Peggy Givhan**  
**Ronald Holtsford**  
**Ed Jones**  
**Sheriff D. T. Marshall**  
**Dr. Rick Marshall**  
**Kylie McKinney**  
**Judge Dale Segrest**  
**John Sophocleus**  
**Robert Tate**

**Support our Advertisers!**  
**They make this newspaper possible.**  
**Become a Gazette Advertiser!**

The Gazette, (now *The Alabama Gazette*) was created in year 2000 for the people of Central Alabama with the intent of being a thought-provoking, non-partisan publication reaching over 20,000 readers monthly. Written comments, stories, advertisements, social and church events, as well as classifieds are always welcome. The publisher is not responsible for error in text reprinted from other sources. Furthermore, this publication does not establish due diligence on authors or advertisers and cannot guarantee that their offerings or writings are correct or suitable. We assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. We reserve the right to print, edit or condense any and all contents submitted. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising and submissions at its own discretion. All articles, ads and photographs may be subject to copyright.

**Help Wanted!**

**Call: L. Grant - 334-356-6700**

**Interviews begin immediately!**

**Start a  
New Career for 2014**



**Zack  
Azar**

# Woods & Waters with Zack

## FISH, FISH AND MORE FISH!!

May has to be my favorite month for fishing. The weather is not yet steaming hot, the bass are hungry and active after spawning and the bream are preparing to bed. The full moon of May, which occurs this month on the 14th, will see bluegill and shellcracker bedding. Several days before, as well as several days after the full moon, bedding activity will be at a peak. Let's take a look at some fishing tactics that will help you fill your stringer this spring.

Most of us started our fishing career by catching bream, primarily bluegill and shellcrackers. I did, and I still love to catch them. Almost any body of water in the state, regardless of size or locale, will have a good population of bluegill and to a lesser extent, shellcracker. These panfish are abundant, strong fighters for their size and usually willing to bite. Add to that the fact that they taste great when rolled in corn meal and deep-fried and you have a combination that's hard to beat. While shellcracker tend to bed in May, bluegill will bed around the full moon of April, May, June, July and August.

When fishing for bluegill and shellcracker, there are a few differences to keep in mind. Shellcracker don't usually slam the bait like a bluegill. They just move off with it, slowly. For this reason, a sensitive float is needed. I prefer the "quill" type floats, because they seem to telegraph the slightest movement better. Also, shellcracker prefer a bait almost on the bottom. Bluegills, on the other hand, are much more aggressive. When a bluegill strikes, the float usually disappears immediately. Small bream will nibble on the bait before taking it under, but a larger bluegill will usually take it under right away. The key to finding these larger fish is locating a bedding area. There is a certain smell associated with bedding blue gill; somewhat of a sweet cross between watermelon and a fish market. Once you encounter this odor, you won't forget it and using your nose to locate beds can work as well as relying on your eyes, especially in stained water.

In all but the most stained water, finding a bream bed is easy. Just use your eyes. Bream fan out a shallow depression in which to lay their eggs. Once the nest is fanned clean, the saucer-like depression often appears as a light spot on an otherwise dark background. Put together a group of these individual nests, and the result is a cratered bottom that is hard to miss, once you know what to look for.

Bream typically form their spawning colonies in 2 to 6 feet of water over a firm bottom. If gravel is present and there are a few stumps around, that is even better. As I mentioned earlier, in the South, the first spawn is likely to be in April, and you may find bedding fish as late as Labor Day. However, bream don't spawn continuously throughout that time. For a few days every month, you can expect to find bream hard on the beds. So, when is the time right? Quite simply, when the moon is full during the months of April through August. Other conditions must be met though, including temperature and photoperiod (day length). Once the water is from 65 to 70 degrees, and the longer days of spring have arrived, the bream are ready to go, and the only other ingredient needed is the full moon. Generally speaking, four days before and a few days after the full moon, bream are at the peak of spawning activity. I have also noticed renewed bream activity around the new moon of these months, although it's not nearly as pronounced as the full moon periods.

When bream are on the beds, they are extremely aggressive. That's what makes catching bedding bream so much fun. For all their aggressiveness though,

there is one way to ruin a good bream bed, and that is to get too close. Bedding bream may have breeding on their mind, but they haven't completely lost all of their senses. Get too close, and they spook, especially in clear water.

If filling a stringer is your goal, a couple of techniques are sure fire winners.

A lightweight float, a few BB split shot, and a small Aberdeen hook is a rig both simple and deadly effective. Crickets make excellent bait, as do red wigglers. Weight the float so it just barely stays on the surface. This cuts down

on the resistance the fish feels when it takes the bait, and better detects light nibbles.

Some anglers prefer artificial lures, and my favorite is a Renosky jig in the Keystone Perch pattern, fished below a small cork. This combo can be just as effective as live bait. Start casting to the outer edges of the bream bed, and then work your way into the heart of the spawning area. And while this is a great technique to use on bedding fish, it works especially well when they aren't spawning. Fishing the deeper water and structure near a deserted spawning colony with this rig can result in good catches of bluegill, biding their time and feeding while waiting for the next full moon.



*Zack with his 7 lb. 12 oz. bass*

Although catching bedding bream can be like taking candy from a baby, don't worry about taking home your legal limit. Bream are extremely prolific spawners, and their numbers need to be kept in check to prevent overpopulation and stunting. Keeping some fish not only provides you the main course for a great meal, it also helps ensure you have nice, big bream to catch on future trips, not just little bait-stealing runts.

Bass fishing is also good this month. Spinnerbaits, lizards and worms will all catch fish, as will topwater lures, but in my humble opinion, the best pond lure ever made is the 1/8 ounce Rattle Trap. I prefer a chrome "trap" with a black or blue back. It doesn't take much skill to use this lure, simply cast it out and reel it back in. You want to use a rapid enough retrieve to keep the lure off of the bottom, but sometimes a stop and go retrieve is what the fish want. Try reeling it for several yards, stop the reel for a second and then continue reeling. The strike will usually come as you start your retrieve after stopping it. I caught the 7 pound 12 ounce bass, the one you see at the top of this article, using a 1/8 ounce chrome Rattle Trap with a black back.

Next month, we'll take a look at some fishing tactics to use during the warmer months of early summer. Until then, be safe on the water and remember that bream fishing is the perfect way to introduce youngsters to this sport. The bream are usually cooperative and it doesn't require a lot of expensive tackle. A cane pole and some worms or crickets are all you need.

**LOOK** Inside The Alabama Gazette!!

**New Gazette Website!**  
**[www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com)**

*Subscribe to Home Delivery (print edition) and also have access to read The Alabama Gazette in its entirety online! Subscribe online!*

**107.5 FM 1210 AM**

**THE TICKET**

**ALL SPORTS...ALL THE TIME**

## THE SPORTS PAGE

**Follow Football on Fox-20, 11:00 AM  
Every Saturday!!!**

### Sports Analysts



**Charlie  
Trotman**



**Ricky  
Cotton**



**Ed  
Jones**

**"Football Year Round!"**

**Every Saturday at 11:00 am CST  
If you love football...don't miss a single show!**



Sports Editor,  
Ed Jones

who was drafted by the Green Bay Packers. He was the only reason that “the pack” made the playoffs last year. There are a few Auburn defensive backs that are starting and a couple of offensive linemen, but all are mired in mediocrity. Why is this? I really don’t know. Maybe you can tell me!

It has been obvious to me that in the case of Mark Ingram and Trent Richardson, they were unlucky in the draft. Ingram has been shuffled in and out with the New Orleans Saints so much that he is probably listed as the “out-back”. Ingram is a player like Lacy. He gets better with every carry. He needs 25 to 30 carries to be effective. New Orleans is tired of waiting for Ingram to develop, so they will trade him before the draft. Also traded by New Orleans was Roman Harper.

In the case of Richardson, he was playing on a bad team. He ran so hard and delivered such a blow with his helmet that this caused the NFL to initiate a new rule. No longer can a ballcarrier use his helmet as a “weapon”. This limits ballcarriers to attacking a tackler with only his elbow, hand or his knees. This changes football significantly for runners like Ingram and Richardson. The Cleveland Browns wasted little time counting out Richardson as a featured back. At mid-season last year they traded him to the Indianapolis Colts, primarily a passing team. Richardson is a back like Ingram who gets better with each carry. The NFL is not a good place for an every down back anymore. It has become simply a quarterback league. How did that work out for the great Don Shula at Miami. He never won a Super Bowl with arguably the best pure passer in the history of the league, Dan Marino. How is that working out for Denver? Peyton Manning is rewriting the record books, but he has only one Super Bowl win, that being with the Colts.

So, let’s take a look at this year’s crop of “saviors of the franchise”, the quarterbacks in this year’s draft. By the time you read this column, the draft may be over. Our press date is May 1. The first round of the draft begins on May 8, a Thursday. It will continue for three days culminating on Saturday, May 10. On Sunday, May 11, the talking heads will tell us how well each team did and why.

This list is by no means the same as some of the NFL gurus who have been pontificating about it for months. Their favorite subject, rating the quarterbacks. Neither is it a prediction as to the order in which the quarterbacks in this 2014 draft will be selected. This list is only the opinion of this writer, as to which quarterbacks have the best chance of leading an NFL team in the next two years.

**BLAKE BORTLES** - *University of South Florida (6-5, 230 lbs.)*



orlandosentinel.com

The first thing to look at about Bortles is that he is a relatively late bloomer. Otherwise, why would he be playing for USF. He has only started for two years. With every snap, this prototypically built NFL style quarterback got better and better as a pocket passer, and as the leader of his team. South Florida beat Penn State at Happy Valley and Baylor in their Fiesta Bowl game in the 2013 season. They were 22-5 for the two years that Bortles was the starter. During this time, he completed 66% of his passes for 7,508 yards and 5 touchdowns with only 19 interceptions. He can make plays and take care of the ball. He does not have the best arm in the draft but neither did Bart Starr in the 1956 draft. Marino has no Super Bowls. Starr was the MVP in the first two Super Bowls, plus the winner of five straight NFL championships. This guy is a bigger Bart Starr. He will be the best in the NFL at running the quarterback sneak, a forgotten play since Starr hung up his cleats.

**JOHNNY MANZIEL** - *Texas A&M (6-0, 210 lbs.)*



guardiantv.com

No one has ever seen a prospect like “Johnny Football”. He does very little correct and still is one of the top picks in this year’s draft. Why? He plays “back yard football”. Will his style and flare for not following the script translate to someone’s NFL franchise? It’s a long shot, but a long shot that some team cannot pass on. Maybe he can learn the ways of the world, and become a part time pocket presence in the likeness of an NFL quarterback. More than likely a team will have to draft Manziel with the idea that they will create an offense that fits Manziel rather than corral this package of dynamite, and repackage him as a drop back pocket passer. A revisit to the 1961 draft of a 6-0, 190 lb. scrambler from Georgia named Francis Tarkenton may give us a preview of what can be done, and a review of how Fran did it. Fran Tarkenton could throw from the pocket but his forte’ was to break the pocket and run around until he could find someone open, run for the first down or occasionally throw the ball away. Manziel reminds me of a stronger, tougher, more illusive, better athlete than Fran Tarkenton. That is why we are rating Manziel as the second best buy. Another Fran would be a good thing. He excelled in the NFL for more than a decade.

RATING QUARTERBACKS

**A. J. McCARRON** - *Alabama (6-3, 220 lbs.)*



bamahammer.com

If a team is looking for a franchise quarterback who will single-handedly lead them to the Super Bowl, don’t draft A. J. McCarron. If a good team is looking for that last piece of the puzzle that will turn the franchise in the direction of the Super Bowl within two seasons, take A. J. McCarron. McCarron is the quarterback in the draft most ready to lead an NFL team. Why? He has been trained in a pro-style offensive for five years. His trainer was Nick Saban, who was professionally trained by Bill Belichick for four years with the Cleveland Browns. Every member of Belichick’s staff at Cleveland either became a head coach or a general manager. Art Modell, the owner of the Cleveland franchise was an idiot to move his team to Indianapolis. Belichick was building a dynasty in Cleveland (see New England). There is a reason to follow the “coaching tree”. Here is why. A. J. McCarron was the first quarterback to be solely trained at Alabama by Nick Saban. Also, he was trained for five years. He started for three years (Blake Bortles - 2, Manziel - 2, Derek Carr - 3, Teddy Bridgewater - 3). McCarron led Alabama to two consecutive national championships, and was 10-0 headed for a third straight, when an uncharacteristic, illogical decision by Coach Saban cost McCarron’s team its chance in the Iron Bowl, and football immortality. It must be emphasized that A. J. McCarron did not cost Alabama that chance. Coach Nick Saban did! McCarron completed 70% of his passes for 9,019 yards, 77 touchdowns and only 15 interceptions in three years as Alabama’s starting quarterback. His record as a starter was 36-4. He has been tagged with the term “game manager”. What are people thinking about? That is what a successful quarterback does. He manages the game. A team has to keep from losing before it can win!

Don’t be surprised if McCarron is taken at the end of the first round or early in the second. The “gurus” have him as a third or fourth round pick. Just maybe some general manager knows what a game manager with a strong arm, and an uncanny understanding of the game of football is worth.

**TEDDY BRIDGEWATER** - *Louisville (6-2, 215 lbs.)*



thebluepennant.com

Bridgewater is beaming with confidence. He is calm under pressure. In three years as a starter he was 27-8, sometimes playing out of class. His experience in a pro style offensive for three years helped him complete 68% of his passes for 9,817 yards, 72 touchdowns and 24 interceptions. He has a good release. The downside is his propensity to force balls into coverage downfield. His athletic ability will be his best attribute in starting for an NFL team. His slim build has some teams concerned about his durability.

**DEREK CARR** - *Fresno State (6-2, 215 lbs.)*



bleacherreport.com

Derek was a three year starter in a spread offense predicated on getting the ball out quickly on short throws. However, he does have NFL arm strength. In three years he completed 67% of his passes for 12,842 yards, 113 touchdowns with 24 interceptions. The only downside can not really be measured accurately. He played in a not so strong league, but so did Johnny Unitas. He can be an NFL starter in two to three years. Forget about his brother’s lack of success in the league. Derek is his own man.

**THE BEST OF THE REST:** Zack Mettenberger - LSU, Jimmy Garoppolo - E. Illinois, Tom Savage - Pittsburgh



usatoday.com

Zack Mettenberger



dawgpoundnation.com

Jimmy Garoppolo



pittsburghsportsreport.com

Tom Savage



**Ronald A. Holtsford**



I see the headlines that you see and certainly there are groups that object to Christianity. It seems that more of the objections come from

secular groups than religions having differing view points. Perusing the news today I see the following all by Todd Starnes posted on the internet:

**Atheists Strong Arm Wrestling Team over Bible Verse**

**Air Force Academy Orders Cadet to Remove Bible Verse**

**Teacher Faces Possible Firing for Sharing Bible Verse**

**Mandrallius Robinson of The Greenville (SC) News Group: Clemson Football "Entangled with Religion"**

Two of the cases arose from the Freedom From Religion Foundation and the others from complaints to supervising boards. Let's look at the basic facts of some of these cases even though the premise is similar in all.

The wrestling team at South High School in Parkersburg, West Virginia wore shirts that read "I can do all things through Him that strengthens me". These shirts were purchased purely by the individual members of the wrestling team with no funds from the school.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution reads in part, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; . ." It was Thomas Jefferson, in writing to the Danbury Baptist Association in 1802, wrote, " . . . I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should

## SOME OF THE HEADLINES I SEE SUGGEST THAT THERE IS A WAR ON CHRISTIANITY. WHAT DO YOU SEE AND DON'T CHRISTIANS HAVE RIGHTS?

'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between church and state." While Jefferson is much revered as a Founding Father, he was serving as Minister to France during the Constitutional Convention and is thus not one of the signers. Jefferson's religious views were suspect and he questioned the deity of Christ in a letter. Some even considered him an atheist. So one can see Jefferson's views and how they may skew today's modernistic leanings.

James Madison submitted twelve Amendments for consideration. The result was ten Amendments, now coined as "The Bill of Rights". However, Thomas Jefferson was Madison's mentor and an influence on the First Amendment. It has long been argued that the First Amendment was meant to prevent a state sponsored religion such as the Church of England. It seems that Jefferson's influence on Madison was inclusive in the Bill of Rights but also served to support the ideals of those that had concerns about the rights of individuals within a Constitutional government.

If you look on the **Freedom From Religion Foundation** web site you will see that it's membership is proudly made of "atheists, agnostics and skeptics". They display a picture of Thomas Jefferson as one of it's heroes. Thomas Jefferson was a great American but he was not a friend to the public expression of one's religious beliefs if there was a governmental connection. It is plain that this group seeks to eradicate the public display of (most specifically) Christianity, whether or not there appears to be any State endorsement or "entanglement" as they suggest.

The argument of the wrestling team is that the shirts are not school endorsed and no school money was used in printing the shirts.

At Clemson University, Head Football coach, Dabo Swinney is a man of faith, a religious man. His players are not required to participate in any religious

activities. There is a former Clemson football player that acts as team Chaplain. **The Freedom From Faith Foundation** argues that the coaches have great influence over the players in that they determine who plays and who has scholarships; it is apparently not a student led program regarding the religious programs tied to the Clemson football team. Prior court cases have focused more on pre-college, saying that those kids are more easily influenced in their thinking. Are children not taught things in school that parents have to correct when they are not principals of the parents, such as evolution when parents believe in Creation?

The Constitution also says that there should be no prohibition against the free exercise thereof (religion). Free exercise not only includes the private or corporate worship of like minded people but should also include a public expression.

I am a sinner, saved by Grace. I am a man of faith and I am a blessed man. One blessing is that the Publishers of the Alabama Gazette allow me to write for a newspaper that is not indentured to the federal government and is pro-American and pro-Christian. I can express that without fear.

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

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

Mailing address:  
Ronald A. Holtsford, Esq.  
Ronald A. Holtsford, LLC  
7956 Vaughn Road, Box #124  
Montgomery, AL 36116  
(334) 220-3700  
raholtford@aol.com

**news 1440**  
RADIO

**Mark Montiel**  
**Host of "The Capitol Buzz"**  
**334-860-1440**

**GEICO**  
Local Office

Your local GEICO agent is now close by.

**(334) 260-0755**  
5163 Atlanta Highway | Montgomery

## THE RAMER BANK



CINDY OVERSTREET, BRANCH MANAGER  
**Ramer, AL 36069**  
**334-562-3257**

Contact Cindy or any of our friendly staff for all your banking needs.

*"There is a difference in hometown banking!"*

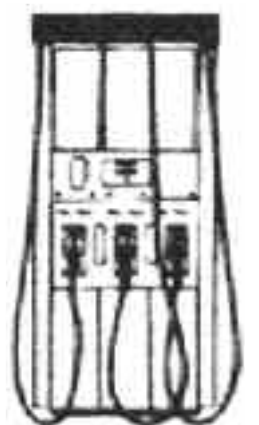
**Advertise your business**  
**in the upcoming issue of the**  
**ALABAMA GAZETTE!**  
**Call 356-6700**

## Pump Repairs

6908 Norman Bridge Rd.,  
Montgomery, Al.

**(334) 281-1258**  
**or 1-800-242-8904**

Service Station Repairs  
Tank Installations & Closures  
Hydrostatic Tank & Line Testing  
Norman P. Mitchell ~ Tony Mitchell





# Robservations...by Robert Tate

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

## YOU REALLY CAN GO BACK; IT’S JUST DIFFERENT

My wife, her sister and I just came back from a 10-day trip to Germany. Her niece and their family are stationed in the same place my wife and I were stationed from 1987-1993. You know, there is a saying that “you can never go back.” Well actually you can, just be prepared for all the changes.

Before we left, I told my niece that I was “easy” and would do anything they had planned. I only had two real requests. First, I wanted to get into the AWACS simulator and fly. I had not flown that simulator since early 1993 and had just wanted to do it. So my niece made it happen and she and I “took to the skies” in the simulator my first day there. I got to take-off, fly an approach and do some air refueling. It was fun to get in there again. My second request was to go the Moehne Dam. That was the dam made famous by the British Dam Busters in World War II. I’ll get to that later.

But as I spent my time in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium, we went to many new places, some familiar and yet all of it seemed so different. The traditional German homes are being replaced by many of these tiny square houses barely the size of a four car garage, windmills are absolutely everywhere, the people really didn’t seem to be quite as friendly as two decades ago, the NATO base seemed to be a lot less well-maintained as I remember and our BX over in the Netherlands, Schinnen, is just a ghost of what it once was. Back in the day

before internet, satellite TV and GPS, Schinnen was really one of the main focal points for American activity. The other day, besides my niece, my sister-in-law and myself, there were only five people shopping. In the day, there were at least a hundred at any given time.

One day we were going to Cologne on the train from Aachen when the train stopped in Duren. The conductor made a long announcement ending with “Auf Wiedersehen.” Then the train’s engine turned off. We looked at each other for several minutes then my niece and I went forward to talk to the conductor. He just told us we had to get off, walk in a certain direction, get on a bus, get off the bus at another station and then head on to Cologne. We decided to just stay put and head back to Aachen and spend the afternoon there. But at least we got to see a group of Neo-Nazis marching and handing out leaflets to people. In the day, I am certain the conductor would have been much more helpful and told us due to maintenance the train had to stop in Duren. But alas, times do change. Even standing in front of our old house where we lived for six years had a certain sadness to it. It didn’t help that the owners had told us that our landlords had all recently died. I still miss living in Germany and much of the simplicity, but racing forward into my conscious thought this time is the fact that for all the fun we had in Geilenkirchen, although the location was the perfect backdrop, it was the fine people we knew and worked with that made that assignment what it was. Flying the simulator drove that reality home and the reality that I am quite content and happy to be where I am today.

### THE MOEHNE DAM (OPERATION CHASTISE)

On the night of 16-17 May, 1943, 19 British Lancaster Bombers of No. 617 Squadron, No. 5 Group, took-off to bomb four key dams in the German Ruhr valley: the Moehne, Eder, Sorpe and Schwelme. As a brilliant center of gravity analysis, the British concluded that in order to effect German industry in the Ruhr area, instead of targeting individual factories, if they simply denied water to many of these factories, production would have to be reduced. Likewise, since dams were responsible for a large portion of this water, if they were able to destroy several key dams, then large amounts of collateral damage by way of flooding, would most certainly occur.

In concept, the plan was brilliant. Bomb engineer Barnes Wallis developed a bouncing bomb that would skip along the water, over the anti-torpedo nets, strike the dam and explode. The unique aspect was that the bomb, looking like a large oil drum, would be spun backwards at exactly 500 rpm underneath the bomber and then released. Once it struck the dam, it would spin downwards along the face of the dam until it reached 30 feet when a hydrostatic fuse would ignite the bomb. The force and concussion of the bomb coupled

with the pressure of the water would breach the dam. The drawing illustrates this.

In order to hit the dam precisely, several obstacles had to be overcome.

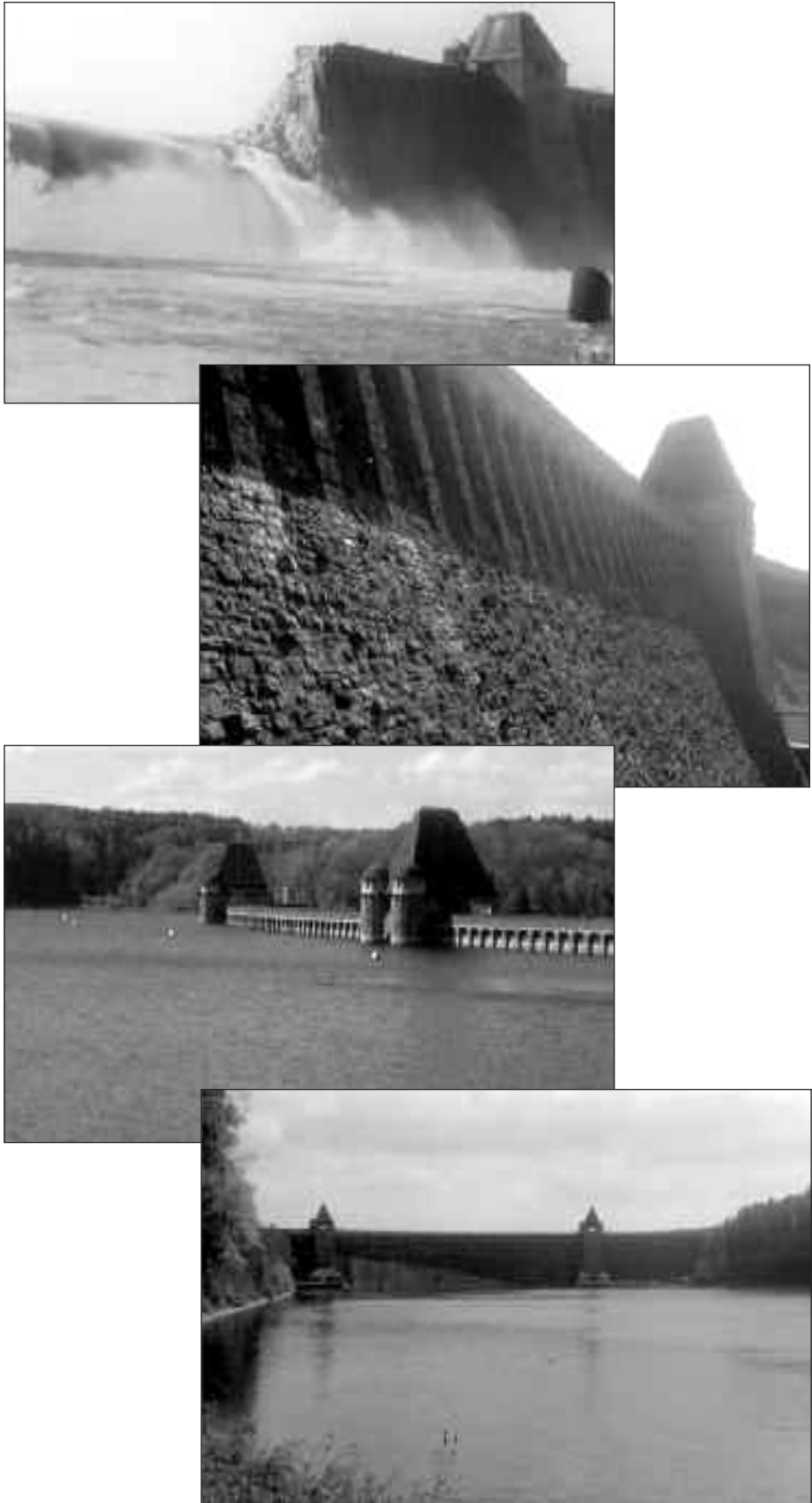
First the bomb had to be dropped at precisely 60 feet above the water. How does one judge 60 feet at night? The Brits placed two converging spotlights on the bottom of the plane and when they touched, 60 feet. While the pilot had to fly precisely 220 mph, the bomb had to be dropped 425 yards +/- 25 yards from the dam. Again, how does one judge 425 yards? Easy. Knowing the exact dimensions of the dam, they used the two towers as fixed points. Knowing the distance between them and using simple geometry they could figure the exact distance. They gave the bomb aimer a simple wooden tool with two fixed arms, set at a specific angle and upon the two arms were two wooden dowels. Looking through an aimpoint on the tool, when the dowels touched the two towers in front of them, ta-dah, 425 yards. Oh by the way, the Germans were shooting at them.

As the raid against the Moehne unfolded, the young 24 year-old Wing Commander Guy Gibson attacked first. His bomb hit but had no discernable effect. The next plane’s bomb bounced over the dam and destroyed a power station on the other side. Plane three missed but planes four and five hit and breached the dam. The overall strategic success of the raid is for another day but as for me, to walk along the dam and stand at the exact spot where Gibson’s bomb and the bombs of planes four and five hit was humbling.

The breach caused by the bombs was 250 feet wide by 292 feet deep. 11 factories and 92 homes were destroyed while another 114 factories

and 971 homes were damaged. Roughly 1,600 people died, many of those forced laborers. While damage was significant, the Germans were able to get the dam back in operation by late September 1943.

This trip to the Moehne Dam was the capstone to my German visit. I hope you enjoy some of the pictures.



# Community Lifestyles



**GREAT AMERICAN  
TRUCK SHOP**  
1408 South Memorial Dr.  
Prattville, Alabama  
334-361-9330

Bumper to Bumper  
Oil Change • Brakes • Clutches • A/C  
Tractor Wash • Trailer Wash  
New & Used Truck Tires

Celebrating  
our 25th  
Anniversary!

## Capital City Republican Women



### SPRING Market

and Luncheon

**Wynlakes Golf and Country Club**  
**MAY 22, 2014**

Highlighting businesses owned by local area women or those contributing to helping women thrive in our River Region.

The Market will be open from 10 am to 12 noon. The luncheon follows from 12 noon until 1 pm and tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets are \$22<sup>00</sup> and includes lunch & market.

Contact information: Brenda Newton, CCRW President  
(334) 546-6992 - ccrwreservations@gmail.com



## Leisure Isle Sales

Side Ranch Cabin

Garage / Shops

Lofted Barn Cabin



Carport with Storage

Storage Buildings  
Various Styles

Gazebos / Many Styles



**4451 Wetumpka Highway**  
(at the river bridge)

Financing  
Available

**334-262-4309**

Rent to  
Own!!

## WANTED: Part-time Audiologist or Hearing Instrument Specialist

**FOR THE OPELIKA/AUBURN  
AND PHENIX CITY AREA**

2-3 days per week  
Perfect for retired or semi-retired professionals

Email resumes and inquiries to  
**advancedbusinesssolutionsii@gmail.com**

## Stay connected.

Introducing Halo™  
The Made for iPhone® Hearing Aid

Try the  
Made for iPhone Hearing Aid  
**FREE for 30 Days!**

- 30-day trial\*
- Hearing screening & consultation
- Clean & check of your current hearing aids
- Preview the latest technology

Download on the  
App Store

Made for  
iPod iPhone iPad



Call Today to Schedule an Appointment!

Local **(334) 239-3492** or  
Toll Free **(888) 846-2538**

**DeRamus  
Hearing Centers**

*I can hear you now!*

[www.deramushearinginc.com](http://www.deramushearinginc.com)

2809 Chestnut St.  
**MONTGOMERY, AL**  
2218 Executive Drive  
**OPELIKA, AL**



Glenda DeRamus, NBC-HIS

1100 Lay Dam Road  
**CLANTON, AL**  
813 Highland Avenue  
**SELMA, AL**



45-Day Happy Customer Guarantee



© 2014 Starkey. All Rights Reserved.  
Halo and TruLink are trademarks of Starkey Hearing Instruments. iPhone, iPod, iPad, iPhone 4s, iPad 4th generation, iPad mini with Retina display, (Peterson) and iPod touch 5th generation, "Made for iPod," "Made for iPhone," and "Made for iPad" mean that an electronic accessory has been designed to connect specifically to iPod, iPhone, or iPad, respectively, and has been certified by the developer to meet Apple's performance standards. Apple is not responsible for the operation of this device or its compliance with safety and regulatory standards. Please note that the use of the accessory with iPod, iPhone, or iPad may affect wireless performance. Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Mac are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc.



## JUNE PRIMARIES WILL DICTATE COMMUNITY LIFESTYLES OF ALABAMIANS!

### RESEARCH YOUR CANDIDATES VOTE WISELY ~ JUNE 3, 2014



#### WHAT ARE ALABAMA'S PRIMARY ELECTION LAWS.

##### Section 17-13-1 - "Primary election" defined.

A primary election, including a separate and special presidential preference primary election, within the meaning of this chapter, is an election held by the qualified voters who are members of any political party, for the purpose of nominating a candidate or candidates for public or party office.

##### Section 17-13-2 - Applicability of chapter; applicability of general election laws to primary elections.

All primary elections held by any political party in this state for the nomination of any state, national, district, circuit, county, or municipal officer shall be held and conducted under the provisions of this chapter and, except as herein modified, shall be held and conducted in the same manner and form, under the same requirements and subject to the same forfeitures, penalties, and punishments as are now or shall hereafter be provided by law for the holding of regular state elections, but nothing herein contained shall make it obligatory upon any political party or parties to hold a primary election.

#### A few interesting facts about primaries:

During the post-World War I years, the practice of presidential primaries fell out of favor with the American public because of costs and poor turnout; Alabama was the only state to enact a new primary law between 1917 and 1931.

Alabama's 1966 Democratic primary was the first notable election held in the South since the passage of the Voting Rights Act. For the first time since Reconstruction, blacks voted in significant numbers. Between the act's 1965 passage and the May 1966 primary, 122,000 black voters registered in Alabama, representing a quarter of the state's registered voters. In Dallas County alone, where fewer than 1,000 black voters were registered in 1965, black voters' registrations surged to a total of 10,300 compared with 12,500 white registrants.

The vote totals in the June 3, Alabama Governor's primary 1986 were as follow: Democratic Primary 940,088 (Baxley, Graddick, James, McMillan, O'Neal; Gov. race) Republican Primary: 29,194 (Carter, Hunt; Gov. Race). While Graddick won by a few thousand votes over Baxley, the Alabama Supreme Court reversed the public's decision and put Baxley's name on the November election ballot. It is generally accepted that this primary was the catalyst for the political shift to a legitimate two party system in the State. A little known probate judge named Guy Hunt won that year over Baxley. Hunt received 696,203 votes while Baxley received 537,163.

**PRIMARY ELECTIONS ARE CRITICAL TO A HEALTHY  
POLITICAL SYSTEM. VOTE**

**ELECT JEREMY  
ODEN**  
PSC PLACE I

Paid for by Jeremy H. Oden Campaign  
PO Box 9, Eva, AL 35621  
256-347-4140

**Jim  
PERDUE**  
SECRETARY of STATE

EXPERIENCED & CONSERVATIVE  
*Leadership*

Paid for by friends of Jim Perdue.  
P. O. Box 231496, Montgomery, AL 36123.

**Honest  
Conservative  
Leadership  
For Secretary  
Of State**

**John  
Merrill**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

[www.ElectJohnMerrill.com](http://www.ElectJohnMerrill.com)

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) @JohnMerrill62

Paid for by Friends of John Merrill P. O. Box 2117, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35403.



## The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

# THE COST OF FORSAKING THE HUMANITIES IN EDUCATION

In 1962, at **The Southern Humanities Conference, at the University of Alabama**, **N. Floyd McGowin**, President of the W.T. Smith Lumber Company, was the keynote speaker. His Topic, *"Can the Humanities Be Dispensed With In An Age of Crisis?"* He opened his address, "I assume that we are using the word humanities today in its original and true sense, and that we shall have nothing to do with the sly distortions of meaning that were insinuated into our language when John Dewey and other peddlers of revolutionary novelties called themselves **humanists**. The confusion of meaning in our time has become so great that such a newspaper as The New York Times has dared to describe as a **humanist** such a barbarian as Fidel Castro".

If the English language is to be preserved as a means of communication between rational men, we must protect our words from semantic sabotage and use them carefully in their proper and traditional meanings. We use the word **humanities**, therefore, to designate the elements of the culture of the mind and spirit, sharply distinguished from every kind of technical skill that might be acquired by a workman, artisan, or practitioners of professions as a means of livelihood. Our English word has this meaning because the Romans called this word **humanitas** in the firm belief that the study of literature and kindred arts made them men **humaniores** -- **more human**:...more human in the sense that they had more fully realized in themselves the highest capacities of human beings through the cultivation of mind and spirit that would otherwise remain latent.

The Romans thus concentrated their interest not only because they understood in every society a few must lead and many follow, but they also realized that the greater a man's talent, the greater is his potential for harm, as well as good. Mr. McGowin outlined many crisis situations in our history, but he saw in the 1960's a crisis in education, and that was the question of what was happening to the study of the Humanities? What significance will it have on the fight for survival of Western Civilization and Christianity? Remember that this address was delivered 52 years ago to Alabama's leading university, where today, the study of the Humanities is in sharp decline, as well as in colleges and universities all over the nation.

He views the crisis America faced, as proof of a cultural and educational weakness. He believed that the Communist Empire could have been broken and destroyed by a modest exertion of strength by civilized nations of the West. Our present danger, in his view, is one that we have created by our folly. *"It is a proof of a dangerous lapse of our mental powers---not one of our technical skills, but a lapse of our capacity to use them, for clearly we have failed to protect ourselves because either we lacked either the moral perception that would have recognized evil when it was paraded before us or the intellectual ability to devise the simple means necessary for dealing with it.....The Twentieth Century has been a period of great scientific and technical advance, and of what is generally regarded as material progress, has also been a time of progressive weakness of our national intelligence and practical judgment.---- a time of fatuous illusions and stupid blunders, that have, in their effect, been almost suicidal.* It may not be a coincidence that it is also the time in which the humanities have been progressively eliminated from our educational system. Bergen Evans in his recent **Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage** can say that **humanist** is almost as vague and confusing a word that there is."

Before the birth of Christianity, there was still a Sovereign God who dispensed Common Grace in the ancient world. Those traditions from Old Testament times, in the ancient world formed the Classical Culture of that time. Even in our imagination, we cannot describe what the world would have been like without the classical foundation of culture. From the Renaissance to my own childhood in the 1930's, no educated person would have dreamed of discarding classical education, and depriving an essential part of our heritage to the rising generation.

When we think of depriving students of understanding their heritage, Mr. McGowin reminds us that *"the supreme value of life lies in the excellence and worth of the individual mind and soul. It makes us aware how completely the fundamental ideas of our civilization have been leached away and replaced by alien and barbarous notions. We realize that many of our supposedly educated contemporaries blandly assume that the function of society is to see that the people are fed, clothed, housed, and amused with a minimum of effort on their part,---which by the way, is precisely what the savage asks of life, that is to say, satisfaction of those appetites which man shares with animals."*

He continued the address by addressing two issues, both impacting the subversion of our society: The decline of the teaching of the humanities in education, and the matter of private property in our economic system. The attacks according to his study were motivated by *"a rabid determination that no man shall be morally and culturally above another.--that no man shall be permitted to violate the new and yet tacit dogma that the satisfaction of animal needs and animal appetites is the whole end of man. I suspect that upon close analysis we shall find that the attacks upon private property are in their source not economic at all, and do not arise from an envy of material possessions. They are primarily cultural and motivated by resentment of the self-cultivation that economic security of private property makes feasible."*

It is obvious that Mr. McGowin saw Socialism on the march in America, and he saw it as a cultural worldview. The only way to fight it is with a contrasting worldview, one that requires the moral and spiritual dedication to fight the prevailing enemy. We are in a crisis in America. The threat posed by the federal and state departments of Education which further destroys elevating the human mind and spirit through Common Core, (federal control of education). That is certainly not the only threat in Education, but it is one we have been dealing with. Each child in a school desk has been created uniquely by his Creator. He is endowed with a body, mind, and spirit, all three to be nurtured and nourished. Not as an animal to be trained, but as a child made in the image of God, with the hope of eternal life. Each one, with great potential.

**Let's be clear. If "matter" is all there is in the universe, if we reject non-material values, ultimately there is no will to live.**

A true teacher delights in the potential of the student, the teacher ministers to felt-need, and works to awaken latent ones and desires above all to help that student climb to his highest potential: those big challenges to *"know thyself"* to discover *"what is man"*, *"who am i?"*

What American educators are discarding is what made us the envy of the world. Think of Tocqueville's envy of America. He valued our liberty and equality above French Aristocracy.

If the Bible were included in any Humanities course at a secular university, it would be a denial of its own claims. Allan Bloom, in his book, **The Closing of the American Mind**, offered this insight The Bible is treated **"in one of two ways. It is subjective to modern "scientific" analysis, called Higher Criticism, where it is dismantled, to show how sacred books are put together, and that they are not what they claim to be. It is useful as a mosaic in which one finds the footprints of dead civilizations. Or else the Bible is used in courses on Comparative Religions, as one expression for the need for the sacred, and as a contribution to the very modern, very scientific study of the structure of myths.** A teacher who treated the Bible naively taking it at its word, or **WORD**, would be accused of scientific

**incompetence and lack of sophistication."** (p374). He appeals for the study of Philosophy Writing is 1987, Dr. Bloom appeals to the Education world, **"Our problems are so great, and their sources so deep that to understand them we need philosophy more than ever, if we do not despair of it, and face the challenges on which it flourishes.....This is the American Moment in world history, the one for which we will ever be judged. Just as in politics the responsibility for the fate of freedom in the world has devolved upon our regime, so the fate of philosophy in the world has devolved upon our universities, and the two are related as never before."**

Just about the time that Allan Bloom's book, **The Closing of the American Mind**, was published, David Barton published his first book, **America: To Pray or Not To Pray**. The book was a statistical look at what has happened to American education since Prayer was ordered out of public schools. In June, 1963, 39 millions students and 2 million teachers were forbidden to pray in school. Since that time, David Barton documented the changes in American Education, and he has continued through the years to collect and document research that further proves the damage of that fateful decision when corporate public prayer was outlawed. Using graphs, the book shows the decline of student morality, the increase of sexual activity, teen pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, divorce rates, single parent families, the decline of student achievement and test scores, rising violent crimes among the young, increased alcohol consumption, illegal drug use among the young, and illiteracy.

His website, **www.Wallbuilders.com**, is a great and trusted resource.

All of the above is shared in hopes that the readers of the Gazette will become informed and involved, in order to strengthen the Judeo- Christian worldview which is being attacked. Your first contribution to the spiritual battle at hand is to pray. Pray specifically for every official at every branch of our state and national government. Please pray for the millions of children in government schools. They may never read Ben Franklin, as Social Studies have replaced history in government schools. However, these are his words, reflecting his knowledge of **Psalm 127:1** and his love for our country.

*"We have been assured Sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."* Benjamin Franklin

Can the Humanities Be Dispensed With In An Age of Crisis?

N. Floyd McGowin, President of W.T.Smith Lumber Company, Chapman, Al. April 13, 1063, Southern Humanities Conference, University of Alabama

The Closing of the American Mind. Allan Bloom, Author 1987, Simon and Schuster, New York

America': To Pray Or Not To Pray. 1988. David Barton, Wallbuilders, Aledo, Texas

# Pike Road News



**Town of Pike Road**  
**9575 Vaughn Road**  
**Pike Road, AL 36064**  
**Gordon Stone, Mayor**  
**Mary Catherine Bargarier,**  
**Communication Director**  
**(334) 272-9883**



**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT NEWS AND EVENTS IN THE TOWN OF PIKE ROAD? LIKE US ON FACEBOOK OR FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!**

## PIKE ROAD FIRE DEPARTMENT MAY GIVING OUR BEST - *Meet Ken Libben*

He protects our country and serves in the United States Air Force but for Ken Libben his real adventure came when he



*Ken Libben*

joined the Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department. Libben is currently assigned to the 42nd Operations Support Flight on Maxwell AFB. Libben joined the Air Force in 1994 and has served nineteen years.

One year ago, this Pike Road resident began volunteering with the Pike Road Fire Department. Since joining the department, Libben has completed a number of training courses offered by the department. In addition, he is an advanced EMT. He is being recognized as the giving our best recipient for his volunteer performance and outstanding contributions to the Pike Road Fire Department.

Ken Libben is shy and quiet. But make no mistake – if something comes up, he will probably be one of the first to

volunteer. Another striking characteristic about Libben is that he makes sure the job is completed.

A native of Mocksville, NC, Libben described the “giving our best” award as an honor. Being the recipient of the May giving our best will motivate me to grow and improve.

A team member of the Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department, he is also a resident of the town of Pike Road. Libben is married to Shannon and they have three children, Jax, age 15; Craig, age 12; and Aurora, age 9. Shannon is employed by Budget Car Sales. Jax is in the ninth grade; Craig, a sixth grader and Aurora a third grader.

Ken Libben is one of Pike Road Fire Department's heroes and is making a difference in the community in which he resides. For more information on how you can make a difference in the Pike Road community, visit the Pike Road Fire Department website at:

[www.pikeroadfire.com](http://www.pikeroadfire.com) or call Fire Chief Mike Green at (334) 271-1048.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION DAY



*Jamie Bowman, Kirk Barrett*

The Montgomery County Commission held their annual Montgomery County Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day on April 19th at Garrett Coliseum. The eight Montgomery volunteer fire departments were honored for their dedication, service and commitment to serving the citizens of Montgomery County.

Fire departments participating in the event included: Snowdown VFD, Rolling Hills VFD, South Montgomery VFD, North Montgomery VFD, Pike Road VFD and Waugh- Mt Meigs VFD.

A firefighter challenge took place during the event. Firefighters tested their skills against other departments while being timed.

Haynes Ambulance sponsored a Montgomery County Firefighter of the Year award. Kirk Barrett, Manager of Haynes Ambulance, presented the award to Jamie Bowman of South Montgomery VFD. Bowman has been volunteering with South Montgomery for several years. He was recognized not only for his allegiance and loyalty but Bowman recently risk his own life in an attempt to save a small autistic child's life.



and great wonders of this unique creature. So without further a due, this month's fur baby is the Opossum lets pity the poor opossum. The oft-maligned marsupial definitely suffers from an image problem — it is frequently perceived more as a giant, dirty, scavenging rat rather than a cute creature of the wild. But whether you love them or hate them, North America's only marsupial has a set of unique characteristics that might transform aversion into affection.

But first, the burning question: is it opossum or possum? In 1608, Capt. John Smith coined the word opossum from the word "opassum," the Algonquian Indian term meaning "white animal." In his notes, the captain wrote: "An Opassom hath an head like a swine, and a tail like a rat, and is of the bigness of a cat. Under her belly she hath a bagge, wherein she lodgeth, carrieth, and sucketh her young."

No one is quite sure how the opossum's "o" was dropped, but it appeared in print as "possum" as early as 1613, and remains the colloquial term in many regions of the country. However, there are true possums — just not in the North American neck of the woods. Possums include any of several species (from the family Phalangeridae) of nocturnal, arboreal marsupials of Australia and New Guinea, and were mistakenly named in the 18th century when the naturalist from Capt. James Cook's expedition wrongly called them possums after their North American cousins. Nonetheless, it's the Australian ones that hold the true scientific title of "possum" now.

Opossums are mostly immune to rabies, and

## "The Kritter Korner" THE OPOSSUM

I felt this information would help everyone to see the wide picture

in fact, they are eight times less likely to carry rabies compared to wild dogs. This is due to their low body temperature.

Opossums have superpowers against snakes. They have partial or total immunity to the venom produced by rattlesnakes, cottonmouths and other pit vipers.

Their normal diet consists of carrion, rodents, insects, snails, slugs, birds, eggs, frogs, plants, fruits and grains. They also eat human food, table scraps, dog food and cat food. They have an unusually high need for calcium, which incites them to eat the skeletons of rodents and road kill they consume. They're the sanitation workers of the wild.

Although many people think opossums are not the sharpest knives in the drawer, there are several areas of intelligence in which they soar. For one, they have a remarkable ability to find food and to remember where it is. When tested for the ability to remember where food is, opossums scored better than rats, rabbits, cats, dogs ... but not as well as humans. They also can find their way through a maze more quickly than rats and cats.

Since their diet allows them to indulge on snails, slugs and beetles, they are a welcome addition to the garden. Opossums also keep rats and cockroaches at bay by competing with them for food. In fact, it's common for opossums to kill cockroaches and rats if they find them in their territory.

The opossum has opposable "thumbs." The opossum's "thumbs" (called halux) are on its rear feet (so, technically they're toes), and abet the opossum's formidable climbing skills. Primates and opossums are the only mammals with opposable first toes.

They have prehensile tails which are adapted for grasping and wrapping around things like tree limbs. The opossum can hang from its tail for short

periods of time, but the creature doesn't sleep hanging from its tail, as some people think. Opossums have been observed carrying bundles of grasses and other materials by looping their tail around them; this conscious control leads many to consider the tail as a fifth appendage, like a hand.

The eyes of the opossum appear black, but what we are seeing are strongly dilated pupil; there is iris around them, it's just mostly out of sight. The giant pupils are thought to be an adaptation to their nocturnal habits.

The mouth of an opossum holds an impressive 50 teeth.

When threatened, opossums run, growl, belch, urinate and defecate. And when all else fails, they “play ‘possum” and act as if they are dead. It is an involuntary response (like fainting) rather than a conscious act. They roll over, become stiff, close their eyes (or stare off into space) and bare their teeth as saliva foams around the mouth and a foul-smelling fluid is secreted from glands. The catatonic state can last for up to four hours, and has proven effective as a deterrent to predators looking for a hot meal.

Male opossums are called Jacks and females are called Jills. The young are referred to as Joeys, just like their Australian cousins, and a group of opossums is called a passel.

**Ron & Angie VanHerwyn**

**Kritter kids**

**Email [kritterkids@yahoo.com](mailto:kritterkids@yahoo.com)**

**Px# 334-301-5131 or 334-301-5128**

**Facebook - Ron's kritter kids (Wildlife education)**



# Sagebrush Rebellion Redivivus

William Perry Pendley  
President, Mountain States Legal Foundation

WILLIAM PERRY PENDLEY is president and chief operating officer of Mountain States Legal Foundation. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in economics and political science from George Washington University and his J.D. from the University of Wyoming College of Law. During the Reagan administration, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy and Minerals at the Department of the Interior. He is the author of several books, including *War on the West: Government Tyranny on America's Great Frontier* and *Sagebrush Rebel: Reagan's Battle with Environmental Extremists and Why It Matters Today*.

The following is adapted from a speech delivered on April 23, 2014, at a Hillsdale College event in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

For many or maybe even most Americans, reports that a rancher in Clark County, Nevada, was at odds with federal land bureaucrats, that scores of federal lawyers were litigating against him, and that SWAT-garbed and heavily armed federal law-enforcement officers had surrounded his place might have come as a surprise. They might have been even more surprised, in the wake of this standoff—which ended short of deadly escalation thanks in part to negotiations by a local sheriff—to hear that over 50 elected officials from nine Western states had gathered in Utah to discuss a state takeover of a significant portion of federally owned land in the American West. But Westerners—especially rural Westerners who make a living on the federal lands that predominate beyond the hundredth meridian, by logging, mining, ranching, or developing energy resources—were not surprised at all.

What has been most lacking in the reporting on these stories is the background of the disputes. And it should be stated up front, in all fairness, that the Obama administration is not unique in pursuing policies anathema to Westerners. On that score, it has simply followed the examples of the Carter and Clinton administrations.

In the late 1970s, President Carter's "War on the West" spawned what came to be known as the Sagebrush Rebellion, which Ronald Reagan embraced during his campaign for president in 1980: "I happen to be one who cheers and supports the Sagebrush Rebellion," candidate Reagan proclaimed in a speech in Salt Lake City. "Count me in as a rebel." The uprising was spurred by the fact that, more than any other region, the American West had been victimized by the environmental policies implemented—utterly regardless of their destructive economic and human consequences—during the previous two decades. Reagan had seen firsthand the transformation of the environmental movement from one of conservation and stewardship, in which the part played by human beings and technology was vital, to a movement in which humans and technology were understood to be enemies of nature. As articulated by Reagan, opposition to extreme environmentalism represented a return to true environmentalism. America's "environment[al] heritage" will not be jeopardized, he promised, while at the same time insisting that "we are going to reaffirm that the economic prosperity of our people is a fundamental part of our environment."

In terms of the public land issue, Reagan blamed "a tiny minority opposed to economic growth" for locking up federal lands that hold

"probably 70 percent of the potential oil in the United States," and he vowed to support the use of federal lands to meet America's energy, economic, and foreign policy needs. As former governor of California, he knew all too well that the federal government owns a third of the land that makes up the United States, the vast majority of this being in the West. Federal holdings include nearly a third of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Washington; roughly half of Arizona, California, Oregon, and Wyoming; and two-thirds or more of Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah. By comparison, the three non-Western states with the most federal land are New Hampshire at 14 percent, Florida at 13 percent, and Michigan at ten percent.

Some portion of this federally owned land, of course, consists of parks, which are preserved for public recreation. Other parts are wilderness areas, where motorized activity is barred. But most of the land controlled by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service is open, by law, to "multiple use" activities, including cattle grazing, recreation, and energy and mineral development. This is the land where disputes arise over use—and it is in these disputes where the Obama administration has picked up where the Carter and Clinton administrations left off, adopting the no-use policies promoted by environmental groups who view all federal lands as off limits to productive human activity.

A typical way these policies get implemented is for environmental interest groups to sue a government agency under either the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and for the agency then to settle the lawsuit in the interest group's favor. Sometimes—as in a 2008 lawsuit filed against the U.S. Forest Service by three environmental groups to prevent oil, gas, and mineral extraction in Pennsylvania—the government not only settles the lawsuit but also pays the interest groups for their complaints (in that case paying out nearly \$20,000). Just last month, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt filed a lawsuit against the Interior Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over such "sue and settle" tactics following an ESA lawsuit by a group called Wild Earth Guardians that sought to restrict land use for agriculture, oil and gas drilling, wind farms, and other activities in a five-state area—Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Kansas—inhabited by the lesser prairie chicken. "These settlements," Pruitt said in a statement, "impose tougher regulations and shorter timelines than those imposed by Congress," and thus violate the rule of law. "Oklahoma has indicated its willingness to protect the lesser prairie chicken," he added, "but it seems increasingly clear this issue isn't about sound science or saving endangered species."

Following a recent report by the Government Accountability Office on how NEPA is being used to delay projects on federal lands, Dan Kish of the Institute for Energy Research characterized NEPA's effect as "paralysis by analysis," pointing out that "environmental impact statements, which were expected to take no more than 12 months 30 years ago, now take an estimated 4.6 years to complete." NEPA's consequences are wide-ranging: Since its passage in 1969, not a single new oil refinery has been built. Following forest fires in the West, as reported by the National Forest Association, "[NEPA] regulations . . . [delay] harvests of diseased or burned timber indefinitely. As such, usable salvage timber wastefully rots away, resulting in lost government income . . . and economic privation for local communities." And after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, it was too little noted that twice—in 1977 and in 1996—plans to build a hurricane barrier and to

raise and strengthen the levees were halted by environmentalist NEPA lawsuits.

Today the Keystone XL Pipeline—a decision about which has again been delayed, until late this year at the earliest—is only the most publicized of the promising projects, in terms of both economic prosperity and national defense, which are being delayed and/or prevented by NEPA requirements. For example, rare earth elements are critical to today's high tech and transportation industries, telecommunications, military uses, and clean energy technology, and China currently has 95 percent of the world's supply of these elements—"The Middle

East has oil, China has rare earths," said former Chinese Premier Deng Xiaoping. Despite this, rare earth mines in both Wyoming and California seem to have been put on permanent hold. One company that submitted its operations plan in 2012 has been told that the NEPA process will not be completed, at best, until late 2015.

Executive agencies can also simply implement the extremist environmental agenda on their own. This is how the Obama administration's "war on coal" is being waged following the failure to pass the president's "cap and trade" legislation even in the Democrat-controlled Senate. This January, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set limits on how much carbon dioxide new coal-fired power plants are allowed to produce—limits that will require expensive and unproven technology, severely limiting the likelihood of new plants being built. This follows past regulation that will force the retirement of more than 30,000 megawatts of power capacity by the end of 2016. Later this year, the EPA plans to establish limits for already existing power plants, with devastating implications for coal-rich Western states such as Wyoming, which generates more coal annually than the next six coal-producing states combined. Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska points out that "89 percent of the coal electricity capacity that is due to go offline [due to regulation] was utilized as backup" to meet demand for energy during the harsh winter that just ended. Not only she and Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia, but also liberal Democratic Senator Al Franken of Minnesota, have worried that these EPA regulations will threaten the ability of America's power grid to meet future demand.

According to the Congressional Research Service, from 2009 through 2013, oil and natural gas production on private land was up 61 percent and 33 percent, respectively; on federal lands, by contrast, oil production was down eleven percent and gas production was down 28 percent. This is no mere coincidence. The Monterey/Santos oil field in California is estimated to hold more than twice the oil of the Bakken oil field in North Dakota and the Eagle Ford oil field in west Texas combined, but its development is on hold because federal lands are involved.

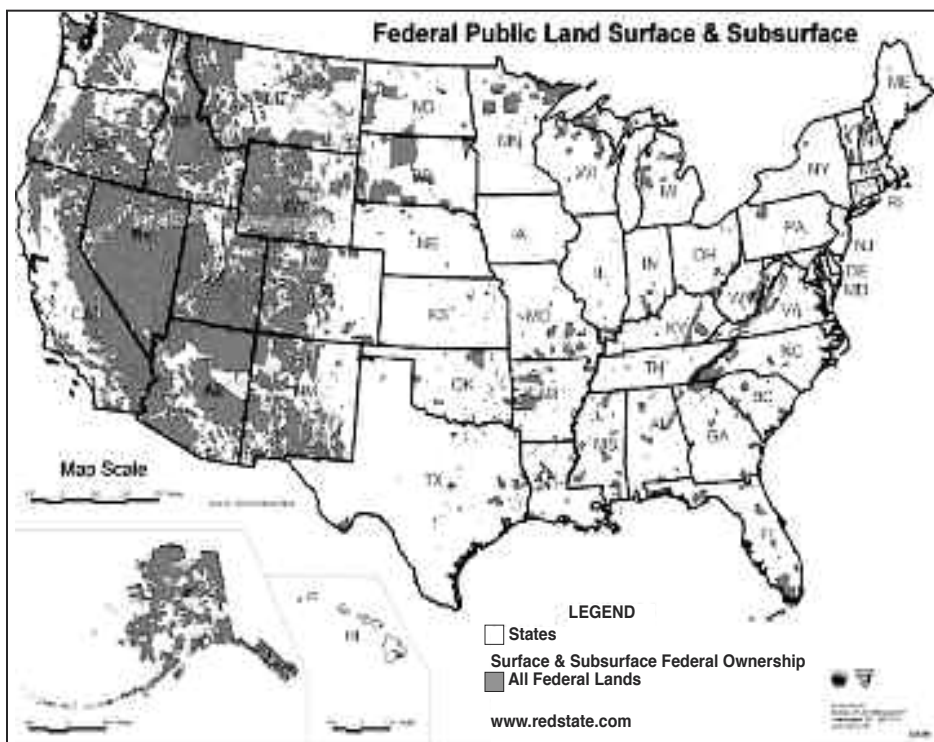
Apparently wishing to slow production even further, former Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar—ignoring that hydraulic fracturing has been regulated successfully by states for 60 years—proposed new fracking regulations that will add \$345 million in annual costs to Western energy development. Regulatory costs as a whole, it should be noted, are at a record high: Wayne Crews of the Competitive Enterprise Institute places the total costs of federal regulations in the U.S. in 2013 as greater than the GDPs of either Canada or Mexico.

Salazar's successor, Sally Jewell, is not only pressing forward with redundant hydraulic fracturing rules, but is threatening the West with the use of President Obama's power, under the Antiquities Act of 1906, to prevent economic activity with massive national-monument designations. This was a tactic of the War on the West that President Clinton raised to an art form—most famously announcing, in a speech set against the backdrop of the Grand Canyon in Arizona, the closure of 1.8 million acres to economic activity, including what might have become the world's largest high-quality, low-sulfur coal mine in economically hard-pressed southern Utah.

In her most egregious move yet, Jewell signed off on a decision by the EPA to put a million acres of Wyoming land—including the entire town of Riverton, Wyoming, with a population of over 10,000—into the Wind River Indian Reservation, despite the indisputable historical fact that this land was ceded to the U.S. in a 1904 agreement between the United States and the Tribes, and in opposition to a unanimous 1998 U.S. Supreme Court ruling regarding a comparable situation in South Dakota.

It is difficult to exaggerate the quasi-religious zeal with which the War on the West is waged. Two years ago, a video surfaced of a training lecture on regulatory enforcement by the head of the EPA's Region Six office, which oversees Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. This senior administrator, who was appointed by President Obama in 2009, cited the Roman Empire as the inspiration for his mode of operation: "The Romans used to conquer little villages in the Mediterranean. They'd go into a little Turkish town somewhere, they'd find the first five guys they saw, and they'd crucify them. And then you know that town was really easy to manage for the next few years." The same year he gave this talk, his office charged in an emergency order that a Fort Worth-based drilling company had contaminated groundwater in Texas's Parker County through hydraulic fracturing. A year-and-a-half later the emergency order was withdrawn and the case

Please see "Sagebrush" on page 15





**Judge  
Peggy Givhan**

# SOUTHERN GARDENING

## MAY POTPOURRI - by Peggy Givhan

We have often heard that April showers bring May flowers and this proverb should hold true for us since there has been plenty of rain. I also hope that each of you have experienced a wonderful Easter time with much joy now and in the future.

It is amazing how this cool, cool weather lengthened the life of pansies, snaps, geraniums, petunias, and spring blooming shrubs. In past years, I would be pulling out these flowers and would be planting for summer. Now, I will not replant until sometime in late May. I observed while on a trip a wonderful idea to fill large spaces in the beds with very few plants. The gardener has used bright annuals as ground covers. I will plant several varieties of spreading petunias and verbenas. 'Purple Wave' petunias or other cascading ones such as 'Rose Wave', 'Pink Wave' and 'Misty Lilac' planted in large drifts or mixed together could be a stunning sight. A good variety of spreading verbenas is the Tapien hybrids. Be sure they are in a sunny spot, well drained and watered. Each petunia plant can cover at least 2 square feet, so plant and watch the magic begin.

A couple of months ago, I wrote on the subject of ground covers. I want to add the clematis vine to the list. Many varieties will do just as well running along the ground as climbing a trellis.

And incidentally, make a shrub into a trellis for an uplifting effect. It is suggested the summer-blooming types are the best candidates for this innovative use. Choose plants from the Viticella group since they have smaller blooms and bloom profusely. These come in a myriad of colors from white, purple, red, blue and white with purple veins. The Jackman clematis (*Clematis X jackmanii*) is also a good choice, but has bigger blooms. Most varieties are very hardy and disease resistant. Just do not cut the dead looking stems back in the spring as they will put out from these seemingly brown dead stems. Clematis is a long lived perennial which has been overlooked

by many Southern gardeners. I have had about 4 varieties which have reliably returned for about 6 years and they are blooming their heads off today.

### PLANT OF THE MONTH- Azaleas

Azaleas (classified as members of the rhododendron genus) are symbols of the deep South. There are so many cultivars and hybrids, it would be difficult to give a number. A member of the honey



suckle family, the deciduous varieties, which lose their leaves in the winter, can be seen in the wild in deep forests. Now this type is available at some nurseries and are very fragrant. The most common Azalea is the Indica which reaches heights as tall as a house. Mobile is famous for its Azalea Trail and tourists drive the mapped out areas to see a spectacular sight. Even though they only bloom 2-3 weeks, these evergreen shrubs are attractive for the other 50 weeks of the year. They can not tolerate alkaline soil, but prefer a neutral to slightly acid soil.

**GOOD GARDENING.**



**Kyle' McKinney**

**By Kyle' D. McKinney**  
*Alabama Public Affairs Specialist  
Social Security Administration*

## FASTER BENEFIT DECISIONS FOR VETERANS

On Memorial Day, as we pay tribute to the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, we also share some news about Social Security disability benefits for veterans with disabilities: a new expedited disability process.

We believe it is important to recognize those who currently serve in the military as well as those injured in the line of duty and consider it an honor and a duty to serve them. Whether the injury is physical or mental, getting a decision about Social Security disability benefits from your government shouldn't add to the problems faced by the injured.

Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, recently unveiled a new initiative to expedite disability applications from veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation rating of 100 percent Permanent and Total (P&T). Under the new process, Social Security will treat these veterans' applications as high priority and issue expedited decisions, similar to the way we currently handle disability claims from wounded warriors.

"Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country and it is only right that we ensure they have timely access to the disability benefits they may be eligible for and deserve," said Acting Commissioner Colvin.

Learn more about the new expedited process for veterans at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/pr/2014/expedited-dib-process2-pr.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/pr/2014/expedited-dib-process2-pr.html). Read about this new service at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm).

Also, you'll want to visit our Wounded Warriors page at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors). There you'll find informative webinars, a Disability Planner, an overview of our disability programs and the convenient online disability application.

Kyle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached in Montgomery by e-mail at [kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov](mailto:kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov).

## Sagebrush

*Continued from page 14*

was dismissed in a federal court, but only after a judge criticized the agency for seeking penalties without first investigating the truth of the charges. A commissioner on the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates oil and gas drilling in the state, accused EPA's Region Six office of "fear mongering [and] gross negligence."

Recently the EPA issued new regulations to redefine "wetlands," the term of art by which the agency determines the reach of the Clean Water Act. Under these regulations, a Wyoming man named Andy Johnson—a welder who owns an eight-acre farm—has been targeted because he and his wife built a stock pond on their property and brought in brook and brown trout, ducks, and geese. The EPA is threatening civil and criminal penalties—including a \$75,000-a-day fine—because Johnson failed to receive permission for his pond from

the Army Corps of Engineers. (His permit from the Wyoming State Engineer's office is irrelevant, according to the EPA.) So far Johnson has defied an EPA order to hire a consultant to assess the environmental impact of his stock pond and to propose a restoration project to be completed within 60 days of EPA approval. "This goes a lot further than a pond," he is quoted as saying. "It's about a person's rights. I have three little kids. I am not going to roll over and let [the EPA] tell me what I can do on my land."

It is little wonder that there is talk of another Sagebrush Rebellion like that embraced by Ronald Reagan in the late 1970s. Westerners know they deserve better, and that they and their states can be better stewards of their land than federal bureaucrats.

*Reprinted by permission from Imprimis, a publication of Hillsdale College. SUBSCRIPTION FREE UPON REQUEST. ISSN 0277-8432. Imprimis trademark registered in U.S. Patent and Trade Office #1563325.*



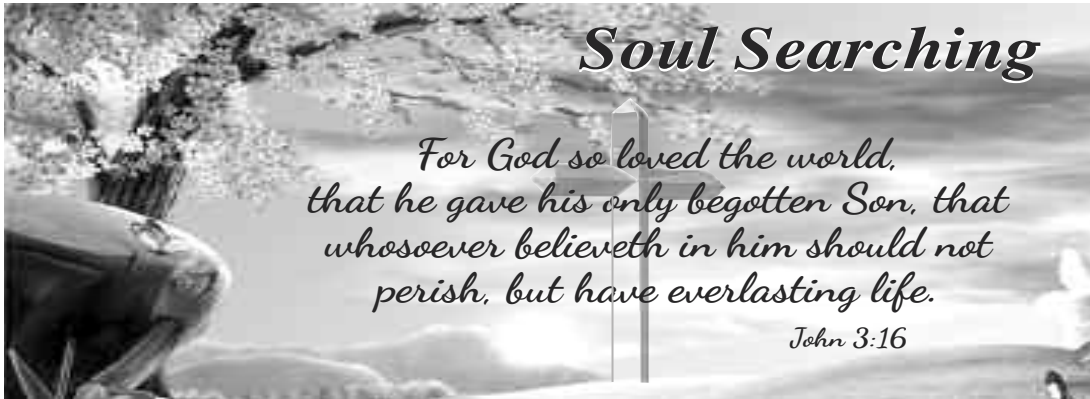
## EMERALD MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**[www.emcspatriots.org](http://www.emcspatriots.org)**

**4125 Rifle Range Road, Wetumpka, AL 36093**  
**334-567-0555**

- We teach, without apology, the fundamental truths of the Bible, in a total and excellent academic program, K-12 grades.
- We teach the concepts (principles) of Biblical Law and Reformation doctrine.
- We teach the concepts of Constitutional government with limited powers.

**Shuttle service from East Montgomery**



*For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten Son, that  
whosoever believeth in him should not  
perish, but have everlasting life.*

*John 3:16*

## THE MARSHALL MOMENT

**DR. RICK MARSHALL**  
Eastern Hills  
Baptist Church  
Montgomery, Alabama



## “Your Family, Your Children and Your God”

The month of May is all about families. Not only do we celebrate Mother’s Day, but many families get together for reunions, kids finish the school year and some graduate. It can be a blessing or it can beat you up as a parent. As I write to you this month, how to be the family you want to be and how to live out your faith at home are on my mind.

There is no question the American family is in trouble. Isn’t that strange with all the blessings we have living in this country? Unfortunately, the family has fallen victim to the culture. Recently I saw these statistics. “Only 34% of American families eat one meal together each day. The average father spends only 8 to 10 minutes a day with his children. This includes television and meal times. Only 12% of America’s families pray together. The average couple spends only 4 minutes of uninterrupted time together each day.” Most people regard their family as highly important but have lost touch with how to make the most of their time together.

Families with children are almost universally caught up in the same kinds of dilemmas. There’s two parents working, sports activities to attend, school and homework which needs to be done and church to fit in somewhere. Children are searching for significance in their many activities while mom and dad are just trying to survive and keep a marriage together. Unfortunately, in so many families today, the family has lost the significance God designed for them while so desperately trying to meet all their needs as individual members.

Did you ever read the instructions for a pressure cooker? It might read like this: “Check pressure regulator vent and safety tubes before opening. For best results only fill half to two-thirds full. Do not overfill! Indicator stem rises when cooker is under pressure. When fully pressurized the regulator will ‘hiss and rock.’ This is normal and will allow excessive steam to escape.”

Too many families are like the pressure cooker, “hissing and rocking.” If a pressure cooker is not handled with caution it will explode. If mishandled, so will your family.

Some time ago I remember relating to a fine young man who got in trouble over drugs and other things he should not have had. Also I am remembering a young lady who got pregnant while still in high school. Both came from what most would call fine families. Parents had good jobs and lived in good neighborhoods. The kids went to good schools and had plenty of activities. What happened? There’s a real chance they were victims of the breakdown in quality family life. This could be repeated over and over again either for children, parents in their marriages or both. Families were not designed to be like automatic transmissions in a car which are put in gear and forgotten about while driving.

An excerpt from The Little House on the Freeway, gave seven marks of the hurried family. They are “*1. Can’t relax. 2. Can’t enjoy quiet time. 3. Never feel satisfied. 4. Absence of absolutes. 5. Unhappy doing good things for the wrong reasons. (I call that obligations.) 6. A storm is rumbling beneath the calm. 7. World-class overachievers.*”

If these kinds of descriptions resemble your family, perhaps it is time to stop and ask what you are teaching and passing on to the next generation? Is there any hope they will do any better if we don’t do better?

Joshua of old made choices for his family which continue to serve as a good centerline for us today. “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve. . . But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:31) Note that Joshua stated an intention not only for himself, but for those around him.

Changing homes in America begins with changing the intent of the parents in the homes in America. Culture is a pull like gravity and most of the time government policies do not help either. But the ultimate decision makers for families in America are parents. And it is the parents whom God will hold accountable. “The number one reason we fail to give a solid heritage is that we neglect to create a plan for doing so.” For Christians, it must grow out of an intentional desire to live a Christian life in spite of the culture and to pass that choice on to our children. It means making Christ’s priorities our priorities. In every circumstance people do better when they understand a common purpose. Nowhere is this more true than in the family. Choosing your family’s purpose is not so much about written words as much as a lifestyle which reflects Christian choices in every arena.

Right now is a good time to ask yourself this question. Do my children see my core values of faith reflected in the everyday life of our family? The stakes are high and the time is urgent. “Eighty-eight percent of children who grow up in evangelical churches leave at age 18 and do not come back to that faith for many years, and some never do. However, when their parents model their faith

and are engaged as a family regularly in making Christ-like choices, less than 5 percent drop away.”

So how do we model that faith to our children? I’d like to suggest three ways. First, inspire your children to the best in life by following your example. Remember, they read us thoroughly. We don’t pull anything over on our children. We might fool other adults, but not them. From early age, they have a built in “bunk detector.” You must become before them what you want them to become. Or to put it another way, they will become what you have become before them. Emerson called it “giving our children the authentic sign.” Our actions, not our words, reflect our true value system.

The second key to mentoring is to inform. Before you think I mean get out a piece of paper and pen, let me assure you that probably will only build a wall. We inform when we take time to interpret the world and explain consequences of actions. Play time can be the beginnings of teaching children about fairness. As bad as some television programs have become or the sadness of some evening news stories, these become moments of encounter and discussion if used properly. Children are not unwilling to talk about issues if we make them creative and teachable. Informing children can’t be rushed and must be natural.

A third way to mentor our children is to insulate. I don’t mean isolate. Children aren’t always going to be under our wings. They will meet and mix with all kinds of people and families. If our children have a consistent frame of reference for Christianity it will pay dividends down the road. The best way I know for that is to have regular discussions and material which is of highest quality spiritually for them in the home. There are incredible materials from games and story books for little ones to appropriate scripture translations for all ages. As children grow older, it is important for them to see you as having to work through challenges just as they do. “Children respect parents for being honest, transparent and vulnerable.” “They will forget your presents, but they will not forget your presence.” Having a family time of resolving issues of the day and praying together is the best insulation for your child’s spiritual health and emotional well-being.

Building a successful family isn’t easy. Healthy families do not just happen. No family is doomed to failure unless they do not try and no one is guaranteed success without trying. The single most important issue becomes the spiritual choices of the parent or parents. It is all about the God you serve. Has the world with its culture, its boundaries and its rewards become your God? Not perhaps in name, but by example, it has for so many. Family life, both marriage and children, become the victims. Would you stop right now and consider the lens or filter through which you are interpreting the events and circumstances of life. Does your view of life stretch into eternity or is it only about what happens until you die? Do you live with a sense of stewardship about possessions, influence and family for which you must one day give an account to God? The answer to these questions may well tell what your family life and heritage in your children may be for generations to come and where you and they will be in eternity.

**child protect**  
CHILDREN’S  
ADVOCACY CENTER



For more event information,  
please call: 334-478-3443 or email:  
highcotton@leatherandlacemc.com.

**8th Annual  
Whispering Thunder Run  
Saturday, May 31, 2014**

**Deja Vu  
121 N. Burbank Drive,  
Montgomery, AL, 36117**

Bikes will be heading out at 11:00am for a fun-filled poker run. Everyone is welcomed on 2, 4 or no wheels! Registration starts at 9:30am. There will be lots of great prizes, event shirts, patches, door prizes, food, raffles, and live music! \$20 per hand, \$10 per passenger. Proceeds of this run will go to benefiting Child Protect Children’s Advocacy Center, a non-profit organization whose mission is to interview, counsel, and be an advocate for children when there are allegations of abuse. Participants are encouraged to bring a stuffed teddy bear to donate to the Child Protect’s teddy bear collection. Child Protect has a room they take the child going through a crisis and have them to pick a bear from the shelf. They carry this bear with them throughout the whole process of interviews and talking with a counselor, and allow them to take it home. So bring a bear to provide that child with some sort of comfort for all the pain they have had to endure. This run is organized by the ladies of Leather & Lace MC, an international motorcycle club for women. ([www.leatherandlacemc.com](http://www.leatherandlacemc.com)).

**PART TIME WORSHIP LEADER / CHOIR DIRECTOR  
position at Fairview United Methodist Church**

**Seeking a person who desires to glorify God through music, song,  
and praise. To lead the congregation into the presence of God.**

**Call 334-263-7258 e-mail: [fairviewu@att.net](mailto:fairviewu@att.net)  
Mail: Fairview United Methodist Church  
5500 Old Selma Road  
Montgomery, AL 36108**



# Gazette Seniors...

## NEW DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO FOCUS ON ELDER ABUSE

**Dr. John Bitter**  
Editor-Senior Section

Reducing the number of elder abuse cases in the River Region area, and declaring war on abusers will be a major focus on May 9, of the yet-to-be-named Montgomery area elder abuse prevention council when it meets at Cara Vita Independent Living Community. At this time Daryl Bailey, Montgomery County's new District Attorney, will talk to the group and discuss his plans to create a local elder justice task force.

So, look out wrongdoers, the old folks are on the war path; sentiments that should encourage District Attorney Bailey, who points out that bad memories are a major problem. "Both police officers and prosecutors find that seniors don't make good witnesses." As we age we become more forgetful, and our retention span diminishes, which poses a major hurdle in making a case for elder abuse. "If we're going to be successful in our focus on elder abuse we need to build a good case around the victim," he explained.

All of which should be encouraging news to the Central Alabama Aging Consortium people since elder abuse has become a major effort on their part. This has been reenforced by the major role the River Region members of the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature have played in getting the elder abuse laws passed.

River Region seniors may take heart in the efforts on their behalf that have been exerted by the ASHL, CAAC, and District Attorney Bailey, to make a serious dent in the elder abuse statistics; which have become staggering. For example, each week, Robyn James, your humble servant's multi-talented contact at the Department of Senior Services, sends forth a weekly report on who's abusing whom across the country. In a recent submission there was an unbelievable number of cases, some of which are reported below.

Near to home, an Anniston man recently reported that a man from Hong Kong called him on the telephone to inform him that he'd won \$500,000. Fortunately for him he hung up on him. Seniors should beware of people with foreign accents who call with unbelievable financial opportunities. The only person who will make any money on them is the caller. Efforts to do seniors out of their savings, or to do them physical mischief has become pandemic. Don't trust anyone; especially someone who calls you on the phone.

Elsewhere, in California, a woman who was undergoing surgery was

sexually assaulted by a nursing assistant. In another part of the state, a dementia patient was bilked out of more than \$700,000 by another woman; and in Santa Barbara a 48-year-old man was sentenced to eight years in prison for beating up on a 71-year-old at an AA meeting.

Nearby in Georgia, a Bibb County grand jury indicted a women for verbally abusing and withholding care from a 96-year-old woman in her care; and in Maryland a grand jury is adding seven counts to the murder and assault charges of a man who fatally stabbed his grandparents.

In Minnesota a male caregiver drugged and raped an 89-year-old woman at a seniors home, for which he received a 10-year, \$10-million sentence should he ever try such a thing again. And rape was the charge in Duluth, Minn.; where a nursing assistant at an independent living facility abused a woman in his charge. He faces an undisclosed settlement.

In Columbia, MO, an elderly man was neglected by his caregiver in a cockroach infested, filthy garage. Likewise, a caregiver in Cooper County, MO, is wanted on suspicion of abusing her charge by leaving him in a filthy house with only a bucket for a toilet.

And in New Jersey a lawyer was found liable for trying to siphon off money from his own mother.

Then, in South Carolina, scammers bilked a woman out of \$45,000 for phoney home repairs; and the list goes on, from state to state, across the country, elders are being abused by those in whom they placed a trust; but they're no longer getting by with it with impunity, for states like Alabama have enacted stronger laws against elder abuse.

Our state can be proud of its recently enacted elder abuse legislation. It's now up to those in positions of authority and responsibility to act on these instances; and it's incumbent upon the rest of us, well as friends and neighbors, to report elder abuses, and to bear witness when the time arises.

We now have strong laws against elder abuse; it's up to the citizens of Alabama to insure that they are supported and enforced.

We can no longer ignore this shame, and shrug it off as "not my responsibility." Ferreting out instances of elder abuse, and enforcing the laws against them is a responsibility we must all assume.

## WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

Students of history in this country have been watching the chickens coming home to roost for some time now. With great discomfort we recall the observation of Spanish-born philosopher George Santayana that: *"Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it,"* and we sadly nod our graying heads in agreement.

As far back as we have recorded the history of mankind we've seen the scenario replayed as great nations and civilizations, one after another, have struggled, risen, and then fallen. And now, in the United States, to quote an unknown observer of mankind's tragic route of self destruction: The chickens are coming home to roost.

Whether it was caused by venality or stupidity, the reality is that it's upon us, and we're doomed. The once great "Beacon on the hill" that Ronald Reagan mentioned in his farewell address to the nation, is rapidly fading.

It may be worth revisiting the actor-president's words once more: *"I've spoken of the Shining City all my political life. ...In my mind it was a tall, proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, windswept, God-blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace; a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity. And if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here. That's how I saw it, and see it still."*

To those of us stumbling about in our dotage, it's saddening to see the great promise unfulfilled. Fresh in our memories is America's emergence from the travails of World War II to become a world leader in industry, space exploration, science, the list of areas in which America has taken the lead is staggering in its breadth.

Yet in one presidential administration the great "American Dream" is now unraveling. And those of us who were a part of the "Dream" must watch it crumble, for we're now too old and feeble to do anything about it.

Our health care system has become a nightmare. Public education is a

farce. Business and industry have left the country, our political system will soon be headquartered in the federal penitentiary, our military system is at war with itself, the list goes on.

For our generation, once known as "The Greatest Generation," all that is left now is self preservation. We must, somehow, repeat the mistakes of civilizations past: the worst is yet to come.

Remember the fall of Rome; the tragedy portrayed in Charles Dickens' *"A Tale of Two Cities;"* or the chronicles of pre-World War II Germany, where events had resulted in workers carrying their day's pay home in a wheelbarrow, to be spent as fast as possible, for tomorrow it would be worth even less.

This is where Obama's America is headed; and so it has been throughout recorded history: Nations are born, they struggle and grow, they peak; and then comes the inevitable fall.

The question responsible Americans must ask; and ask soon: Is it inevitable? Are we doomed to repeat history? Read the newspapers and watch events as they are honestly reported on television and the answer is painfully obvious.

Quod erat demonstrandum



# Seton Haven

**3721 Wares Ferry Road,  
Montgomery, AL**

**Affordable Housing for the Elderly or Mobility Impaired**

- Spacious 1 Bedroom Apartments
- 24-Hour Security
- Planned Activities
- Beauty Salon

For more information please call or write: Administrator  
**SETON HAVEN**  
3721 Wares Ferry Road  
Montgomery, AL 36109

**(334) 272-4000**

### VIVIX, slow aging at the Cellular Level

Feel Younger, Longer,  
or Your Money Back



CONTACT ALICE COLE FOR ALL YOUR SHAKLEE NEEDS!  
ACOLE.MYSHAKLEE.COM **334-288-8624**

Patricia Killough



Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to [alabamagazette@yahoo.com](mailto:alabamagazette@yahoo.com).

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

## Happy Anniversary

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 Thomas & Betty Chesnutt (67th)  | 16 Austin & Ashley Owens (4th)    |
| 6 Corey & Alicia smith (18th)     | 17 Carl & Faye Boyd (38th)        |
| Pat & Lonnie Smith (45th)         | 19 Billy & Ann Cox (66th)         |
| 7 Buddy & Dala Lane (53rd)        | 21 Allan & Shannon Vinson (8th)   |
| 8 Billy & Courtney Whigham        | 28 Dr. & Mrs. Earl Hall (72nd)    |
| 10 Clint & Tiffany Andrews        | Carl & Betsy Penn (52nd)          |
| Ashley & Susanne Boyd             | 29 Joe & Gail Cotney              |
| 11 Roger & Sandy Brown            | 30 Richard & Gwen Walters         |
| 14 Harold & Louise Griffin        | 31 Mike & Connie Northcutt (38th) |
| 15 Travis & Christle Jordan (9th) |                                   |

## Sympathy to the families of...

Dean, Jean Stubbs .....died March 20, 2014  
Horn, Jessie L. (94) .....died March 20, 2014  
Harwell, Benjamin James, Jr. (93) .....died March 20, 2014  
Godfrey, Cheryl Berry (58).....died March 24, 2014  
Vaitis, Kenneth (Ken) Leamon (65) .....died March 25, 2014  
Campbell, Betty Loy (69).....died March 30, 2014  
Sikes, Tommy Oliver .....died March 31, 2014  
Warner, Mary Harvell (84) .....died March 31, 2014  
McCarron, John William (18).....died April 4, 2014  
Fuller, Rev. William Fred (77) .....died April 7, 2014  
Guthrie, Mary W. (87) .....died April 12, 2014  
Royal, Willodean Price (98) .....died April 15, 2014  
Bailey, Franklin Talmadge (80) .....died April 16, 2014

## Ramer Rose Tour

The Ramer Rose Society will have their Annual Garden Tour on Saturday, May 10th.

The tour starts at 9 a.m. at the home of Betty Armistead on highway 94 between Ramer and Dublin. The tour will end at the home of Cooper Stinson in Ridgeland Farms off Hobbie Road.

Approximately 8 gardens on the tour.

Donations will be accepted for the Ramer Memorial Park in Ramer, Alabama.  
Call 334-233-0139 for more information.

# HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

## May Birthdays



- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Maggie Brown                  | Devery Wright          |
| Judy Grubbs                     | 17 Wendy Haddox        |
| Jim Kinman                      | Bertha Graham          |
| Weston Ashley Sellars (3rd)     | Rosa Nell Watkins      |
| Pat Duffell Smith               | 18 Georgia Armstrong   |
| 3 Scarlett Box                  | Ken Stafford           |
| 4 Brittney Belcher (15th)       | 19 Connie Butts        |
| Forrest Taylor (20th)           | Dorothy Hall           |
| 5 Ashton Box                    | 20 Maggie Royster      |
| Connie Bowden                   | 21 Rhonda Alexander    |
| Olivia Propst                   | Al Barnett             |
| Jayne Ward                      | Ashley Boyd (39th)     |
| 6 Ed Jones (76th)               | Susan Johnson          |
| Michael Mckenzie                | Daniel Selvage (6th)   |
| 7 Tory Alexander                | Sophia Vazquez         |
| Bryson Box (11th)               | 22 Tom Broadway        |
| 8 John P. Hanson                | Eeron Grant (95th)     |
| Margaret Holloway               | Aileen Kovacic         |
| Michael Moseley (46th)          | Hunter Meadows (17th)  |
| Mary Peoples                    | Brad Williams (35th)   |
| Janet Suddith                   | 23 Rene Barnett (93rd) |
| 9 Jim Garrett                   | Susanne Boyd           |
| Bill Jones                      | Frank Clayton          |
| Paul "Moon" Jones               | Julia Grant            |
| Jo Oswald                       | Hazel Norman           |
| 10 Mary Ann Pickard             | Mike Sikes (37th)      |
| Nicole Sansom                   | 24 Brantley Box (14th) |
| 11 Johnson Alexander            | Sydney Ellen Grant     |
| Pam Lynch                       | Wallace Smith          |
| Barbara Strickland (64th)       | Seth Meadows           |
| Dee Dee Ward                    | 25 Wynne Ross (40th)   |
| 12 Mary Ellen Grant             | Norman Mitchell        |
| Tanya Moore (48)                | Hamer Phillips         |
| Liz Morris                      | 26 Paula Burgess       |
| Mary White                      | Mary Louise Dobbs      |
| Zack Witherington               | Rachael Doran          |
| 13 Betty Casey                  | 27 Ronnie Broom        |
| Chris Cordle                    | Coley Jones            |
| Raven Johnson                   | Carrie Rhodes          |
| Debbie Mills                    | 28 Brian McCord        |
| 14 Luke Dickinson               | 30 Michele Blount      |
| Victor Chad Mason (Trace) (1st) | Kate Sansom            |
| 15 Ann Macon Adams              | 31 Betty Crowe         |
| 16 Milton Bridges               | Susan Daffron (66th)   |
| Lonnie Smith                    | Stacie Vinson          |
| Stephan Turnipseed              |                        |

## A CENTURY WELL LIVED

### A Belated 100th Birthday Wish Virginia Freck

On May 1, 1914, Montgomery Centenarian Virginia Freck was born, and then was abandoned on the doorstep of the family who reared her, and sculpted her into one of the dearest ladies most of us have ever known. Virginia now resides at Angels for the Elderly, a Montgomery assisted living facility designed to care for those among us who require special attention.

Not long after she was born, a century ago, her birth parents abandoned her on the doorstep of a loving family who brought her up proper and gave her the foundation that permitted her to venture off to learn to dance and to become a member of the Radio City Rockettes, and then to travel with Bob Hope's USO troupe, entertaining American and allied servicemen in World War II theaters throughout the world.

Being a thrifty young lady, a trait her adopted parents instilled in her, she managed to put aside a respectable nest egg that she hoped would allow her to live out her remaining years in some degree of comfort.

But this was not to be. For someone whom she believed to be a friend, someone she could trust, bilked her out of her life's savings, leaving her destitute, just as nature drained her of portions of life that left her a victim of Alzheimer's Disease; and ultimately into the loving care of those who operate Angels for the Elderly in Montgomery.

Those us her know her and love her wish her well at this seminal time. Virginia enjoyed her birthday at her home in Angels for the Elderly, with "Elvis" in attendance.

We belatedly wish Virginia well on her 100th birthday.

Happy 100th birthday Ginger!

# Today's Woman

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

## FirstChoice Women's Medical Center

### Pregnant?

Maybe...

Maybe not...

**Take the first step!**

Facing an unexpected pregnancy can be an emotional and life-changing event. You may be shocked and confused, unsure about your future, and feeling very alone. And you're probably very interested in exploring your options. But before you make any decisions...

**Contact us - 1-334-260-8010**

380 Mendel Parkway  
Montgomery, AL 36117

[firstchoicewme.com](http://firstchoicewme.com)



Trisston Wright Burrows  
Ms. Wheelchair  
America/Alabama 2005

### Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows

[www.trisstonswrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonswrightburrows.com)

## “Leave & Cleave”

Henry Ford, founder of the Ford empire, was a hard-working, simple man. At his 50th wedding anniversary, he was asked by a reporter, "How do you account for your happy marriage?" Henry did not hesitate for a moment before he replied, "By sticking to the first model!"

When God brought Eve to Adam to be his wife, He declared, **"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh,"** Genesis 2:24. The Hebrew

word for "leave" means "to relinquish, to loosen." "Cleave" means "to adhere, to be glued and to stick."

In Matthew 19:5, Christ affirmed Genesis 2:24, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is repeated in Ephesians 5:31. Marriage is the abandonment of all others and the joining of self to one another.

This month, my hubby, Brian, and I will celebrate our 6th wedding anniversary. I am so blessed to have such a kind, caring, gentle, Christian man to share life with. **"I have found the one whom my soul loves"** Song of Solomon 3:4

**Many Blessings!**



Brian and Trisston Burrows

**Happy 6th Wedding Anniversary, Brian!!**  
**I love you!**

**Family Sunshine Center**  
**Breaking the cycle of violence.**  
**Fostering Hope and Healing.**

**1-800-650-6522**

Visit: [www.familysunshine.org](http://www.familysunshine.org)

## ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT

Sunday, May 18, 2014

2:00 p. m.

Doster Center

424 South Northington  
Prattville, Alabama

**FREE  
ADMISSION**

For more information contact  
Prattville Special Events Office  
334/595-0854



### Recipe for: **Easy Cheesy Chicken**

|                                                     |                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves          | 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup    |
| salt and pepper to taste                            |                                                         |
| 1 teaspoon garlic powder                            | 1 (11 ounce) can condensed cream of Cheddar cheese soup |
| 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of chicken soup | 1 (8 ounce) container sour cream                        |

1. Rinse chicken, and pat dry. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and garlic powder. Place in slow cooker.
2. In a medium bowl, mix together cream of chicken soup, cream of mushroom soup and cream of Cheddar cheese soup.
3. Cook on Low for 6 to 8 hours. Stir in sour cream just before serving

"Put this in a slow cooker in the morning, and dinner is easy and delicious. Serve over rice or noodles."

Original recipe makes 6 servings

Allrecipes.com

### Recipe for: **Peanut Butter Cup Cookies**

|                              |                                                              |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour | 1/2 cup packed brown sugar                                   |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt            | 1 egg, beaten                                                |
| 1 teaspoon baking soda       | 1 teaspoon vanilla extract                                   |
| 1/2 cup butter, softened     | 2 tablespoons milk                                           |
| 1/2 cup white sugar          | 40 miniature chocolate covered peanut butter cups, unwrapped |
| 1/2 cup peanut butter        |                                                              |

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Sift together the flour, salt and baking soda; set aside.
2. Cream together the butter, sugar, peanut butter and brown sugar until fluffy. Beat in the egg, vanilla and milk. Add the flour mixture; mix well. Shape into 40 balls and place each into an ungreased mini muffin pan.
3. Bake at 375 degrees for about 8 minutes. Remove from oven and immediately press a mini peanut butter cup into each ball. Cool and carefully remove from pan.

Original recipe makes 40 cookies

Allrecipes.com

## Medac, PC

**Johnnie W. Strickland, Jr. MD**

270 Interstate Commercial  
Park Loop Bradbury Place  
Prattville, AL 36066



**334-361-8225**

[johnnie@medac4u.com](mailto:johnnie@medac4u.com)  
[www.Medac4u.com](http://www.Medac4u.com)



### ~ MEDICATION TIP ~

When you get your prescriptions from the drug store, take the receipts that the drug store prints out and put them in you purse or wallet so if you are in a car accident or another emergency, the paramedics, doctors, etc. will know what medications you are taking.

The actual impressions of your baby's hands and feet, Patty-Cakes captures and preserves a special moment in time in unbreakable bronze. A keepsake that you'll always cherish.

Call for your appointment today!



We Bronze shoes too!



**Patty-Cakes**

1725 West Third Street  
Montgomery, AL 36106

**334-272-2826**

Precious Today...Priceless Tomorrow



# BREWBAKER MOTORS



**CLEAR.SIMPLE.DIFFERENT.**

## CLEAR PRICING

- ALL PRICES CLEARLY MARKED. STRESS FREE.
- 48 HOUR/ 150 MILE NEW AND PRE-OWNED VEHICLE RETURN POLICY.
- 30 DAY/ 1,500 MILE PRE-OWNED VEHICLE EXCHANGE.
- NON-COMMISSIONED SALES PROFESSIONALS.
- WE WILL BUY YOUR VEHICLE EVEN IF YOU DO NOT BUY OURS.
- BEST OF TWO TRADE APPRAISALS.
- 10 DAY TRADE-IN PRICE GUARANTEE.
- NO DEALER FEES. NO SURPRISES.



300 Eastern Boulevard • Montgomery, Alabama

[www.brewbaker.com](http://www.brewbaker.com) • 334.279.0174

Sales: (866) 981-5933

**73 YEARS • 6 FRANCHISES • 1 LOCAL OWNER**