



Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

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

1st District Seat Open. Great Three-Man Race to Replace Bryne. Senate Race in Full Gear.

The first district Congressional race is probably the best race in the state in this year's March 3rd Primary. The winner of the March 31st GOP Primary runoff will go to Congress. The famous first district is a Republican congressional seat and has been since Jack Edwards won the seat in the Southern Goldwater landslide in 1964.

The bulk of the district population is in the two county gulf coast counties of Baldwin and Mobile. It being the only gulf coast district in the state, they do have some local issues like red snapper fishing, and their infamous Bay 10 bridge and Bayway project. However, for the most part the candidates are focusing on national issues like international affairs, gun control, health care, the environment, immigration and abortion. As is apropos for Republican Congressional candidates, there are all trying to tie themselves to Donald Trump.

There are three clear frontrunners, Mobile County Commissioner Jerry Carl, State Representative Chris Pringle and former State Senator Bill Hightower, all from Mobile. Commissioner Carl has been a Mobile County Commissioner since 2012. Pringle is a state legislator from Mobile. Bill Hightower served one term in the Alabama State Senate, then made an unsuccessful bid for governor in 2018. The three seem to be knotted in a close three-man race. It will be interesting to see which of the three make the two-man March 31st primary.

The seat is open because Bradley Bryne is running for the U.S. Senate. Byrne had to choose to either continue in his seat or go for the brass ring. Bryne is a very viable candidate in the Senate race. However former Senator Jeff Sessions is favored to lead the March 3rd Primary and runoff, and then take back his U.S. Senate seat in the November General Election.

Sessions will settle in for a six-year term. Probably his final. He is 73 years old and will be 74 when he takes office next January. Therefore he will be a 74-year-old freshman senator. That is not the optimum age to become a U.S. Senator again.

Seniority is everything in Washington. Seniority still prevails dominantly. It is

absolutely king. Sessions does not portray the national image and stature that our Senior Senator Richard Shelby enjoys, much less the power, prestige and ability to bring home the bacon to the Heart of Dixie. Indeed, during their 20 years of service together as our tandem in the Senate, Shelby has overshadowed Sessions not only in seniority but in power and accomplishments.

Actually, Sessions does not mind playing second fiddle to Shelby. He prefers it. During his 20-years in the Senate, he enjoyed playing the role of being the ultimate conservative ideologue. He was and will once again become one of the most conservative members of the Senate and will spend his time on social issues like immigration, abortion or other rightwing noneconomic issues.

Sessions will be the darling of Fox News and will ask for his seat back on the Judiciary Committee, which does absolutely nothing for Alabama. Sessions does not really want to be effective. He is the ultimate ideologue.

Fortunately for Alabama we have Richard Shelby, who does want to take care of Alabama and is the ultimate caretaker for the state. He carried Sessions for 20 years and will continue to play big brother to our junior U.S. Senator. It remains to be seen whether Shelby can pull enough strings to get Sessions' 20 years of seniority returned. We will not know that until the Senate organizes in 2021.

Even though Sessions will be 74 in January of 2021, his chief rivals for the GOP nomination, Tommy Tuberville and Bradley Byrne will be 66 and 65, respectively – not exactly spring chickens. Those are not the perfect ages to enter the U.S. Senate. By the same token, if by some remarkable miracle upset Doug Jones wins this years race, he would not be the perfect effective Senator for Alabama as a 65-year-old Democrat.

Thank goodness for the Heart of Dixie we have Richard Shelby as our Senior U.S. Senator. When you have the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, you really do not need a second Senator. Seniority is everything in Washington.

Steve Flowers ... Legislative Session ... continued from page 1A

Oden introduced a local bill for Franklin County that repealed another local bill passed in December of 1869. His brief explanation to the House of Representatives when the measure came up for a vote was that it was simply a housekeeping bill, "It corrects an error when the original bill was passed."

Through the custom of local courtesy, the local bill passed unanimously. Even Representative Jack Huddleston voted for the bill. After passage of the

measure, Representative Oden told the press what his local bill actually did.

The 1869 law, which he was repealing, was the law that had created Colbert County out of Franklin County. Representative Huddleston had just voted to abolish his own county. That one vote ended Huddleston's political career. His constituents in Colbert County could not forgive that he had voted to abolish his own county.



Ronald A. Holtsford

used a format substantially like the sample document in the statute (as required in the statute) then there should be multiple powers that your mother may have given you and thus a multitude of things that you can do on behalf of your mother.

The document itself will tell you whether the power of attorney is effective immediately or whether it is springing. A springing power of attorney only becomes effective on the occurrence of an event such as incapacity. For incapacity it will generally depend on the opinion of a physician as to whether the maker (principal) of the document has the capacity to handle his or her own affairs or not. The capacity standard to sign and execute a power of attorney is substantially whether or not that person can make and execute a contract.

To clarify the word "durable", all Durable Powers of Attorney are now considered by default as durable if executed after 1 January 2012 and the statute is substantially followed. Powers of Attorney executed prior to that required language that the POA was effective even in the incapacity of the maker, which to me has always been a prime time in which the POA should be used. Even though a DPOA is durable by default I continue to include the relevant language to make one a durable out of habit.

The Alabama Interagency Council for the Prevention of Elder Abuse was created by the legislature in 2012 and has published a guide for Agents under the Alabama Durable Power of Attorney, called **MANAGING SOMEONE ELSE'S MONEY IN ALABAMA**. It begins by pointing out that one named to help manage someone else's money or property is called a fiduciary. So for instance an Agent under a DPOA is a fiduciary but so is one that sells securities and manages a client's money or a trustee for various types of trusts. Some of the things as pointed out when acting as a fiduciary under a DPOA are, (paraphrased) (1) act as the principal would act and only in their best interest, (2) carefully manage the property and money, (3) keep the money and property separate from your own and (4) keep good records. It goes on to correctly point out that mishandling someone else's money can have you removed as Agent under the DPOA or even sued possibly having to repay the money. A more grievous misuse of the principal's money could cause one to be criminally charged and even go to jail.

I just accepted the position of Agent under a Durable Power of Attorney for my mother; what will my duties be?

Your duties will be what the Durable Power of Attorney says they are. It depends on what powers your mother (called the principal) has given you and when they become effective. There was a change in the Alabama statutes concerning Alabama Powers of Attorney beginning January 1, 2012. If your attorney



The booklet mentioned earlier is very good and is well laid out in layman's terms. Just because you are named does not mean you have to accept the position as Agent and if you do your length of time that you act is limited by the document itself, the principal's life (it terminates at death), a marriage if one is married to the principal or potentially if the principal later requires a conservatorship. Your time of course may also be limited by how long you are willing or able to act as Agent. Should your time come to an end but the DPOA is still effective then a successor agent should have been named in the original document that hopefully is available to take over. If there is none and the principal is unable to understand and execute a new DPOA then consider talking to DHR Adult Protective Services or an attorney as a conservatorship/guardianship may be needed. Even when the DPOA is available the principal can still act as long as they are able and if the principal wants you to act you should include them in the decision making as much as you are able. Do not sell assets of the principal to yourself or others for an amount less than fair market value or in a manner that might suggest not in the best interest of the principal. While it is probably acceptable for you to use the agent's car to drive them to appointments (check with their insurer and the DPOA), do not use the vehicle for your own personal use.

The booklet goes into much more depth on do's and don'ts. If your attorney can provide you with a paper or electronic copy of the above named booklet then I think it will give you a better understanding of your duties and responsibilities. The booklet is not meant to scare you off but to make sure you take the position seriously, after all your mother's money is not yours even though you may be named in her Will. Before a Will becomes available after her death she still must live the best life possible in a manner that she would want and you have a responsibility to do your best to help make that happen.

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.

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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

Wars and Rumors of Wars

In War: Resolution
In Defeat: Defiance
In Victory: Magnanimity
In Peace: Good Will

The time is quickly approaching in the war on terror where the stakes will increase exponentially. There are dozens of rogue nations and terrorist entities attempting to acquire nuclear weapons as a way of gaining political legitimacy or as a method of pushing their radical agendas throughout the world.

When I read the powerful words of the 20th Century’s greatest statesman, Winston Churchill, I truly feel my inadequacy as a writer. He had a way of purporting the truth that could bring a chill down the spine of even the most hardened of opponents. Sir Isaiah Berlin wrote, “So hypnotic was the force of his word, so strong his faith, that by the sheer intensity of his eloquence he bound his spell upon [the British people].”

In an attempt to describe my feelings about the increasing saber rattling with Iran because of their stance on nuclear weapons and their commitment to destroy our Jewish brothers in Israel, I took the liberty of quoting some of Churchill’s most powerful speeches. Each quote, written over a half century ago, still rings true today. Substituting the words “communist,” “neo-Fascist” and “Russian friends” with “Islamic fundamentalist” or “terrorists,” and Churchill’s words could have indeed been written specifically for crises now before us.

His words stand as unwavering principles that can neither be delegated nor ignored. We must be careful in allowing an enemy, one that continues to threaten the demise of an entire people (Israel), to obtain an arsenal of weapons that can directly challenge either our sovereignty or the survival of millions. If they do obtain such weapons, we must have a policy in place that clearly spells out “unacceptable” behavior and the consequences thereof. Read Churchill’s words carefully, digest them conscientiously and meditate on them soulfully.

[Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat: 13 May, 1940] *“You ask, what is our policy? I can say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: It is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival. . . Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength.”*

[Iron Curtain: 5 March 1946] *“It would nevertheless be wrong and imprudent to entrust the secret knowledge or experience of the atomic bomb, which the United States, Great Britain, and Canada now share, to the world organization, while it is still in its infancy. It would be criminal madness to cast it adrift in this still agitated and un-united world. No one in any county has slept less well in their beds because this knowledge and the method and the raw materials to apply it, are at present largely retained in American hands. I do not believe we should all have slept so soundly had the positions been reversed and if some Communist or neo-Fascist State monopolized for the time being these dread agencies. The fear of them alone might easily have been used to enforce totalitarian systems upon the free democratic world, with consequences appalling to human imagination. God has willed that this shall not be and we have at least a breathing space to set our house in order before this peril has to be encountered: and even then, if no effort is spared, we should still possess so formidable a superiority as to impose effective deterrents upon its employment, or threat of employment, by others. . .*

“From what I have seen of our Russian friends and Allies during the war, I am convinced that there is nothing they admire so much as strength, and there is nothing for which they have less respect than for weakness, especially military weakness. For that reason, the old doctrine of a balance of power is unsound. We cannot afford, if we can help it, to work on narrow margins, offering temptations to a trial of strength. If the Western Democracies stand

together in strict adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter, their influence for furthering those principles will be immense and no one is likely to molest them. If however they [the UN] become divided or falter in their duty (italics added) and if these all-important years are allowed to slip away then indeed catastrophe may overwhelm us.”

Hear, hear!

All quotes from:
Robert Rhodes James, MP. Churchill Speaks 1897-1963: Collected Speeches in Peace and War. 1998. Barnes and Noble Books. New York.

I presented these words in my very first Robservation for the Gazette back in May 2010. How things have remained nearly the same for almost a decade now. By now, everyone knows that on 3 January, Iranian Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani was sent packing to his very hot final destination via an American missile. Although he was clearly a monster responsible for the deaths of an estimated 600-800 Americans, our mostly worthless press is still calling his death an assassination; a word usually reserved for political victims, not operational military commanders conducting and supervising military operations from within a country, not his own, against forces with which his country is not at war. In other words, his death was a clean kill.

But a decade later, we are still dealing with Iran. I will be honest. I would love to see us and Iran as legitimate Allies. The Persian people can be wonderful, I have known several in my day, but their oppressive anti-American, anti-Israeli Theocratic government, unless they get their act together, is going to get a lot of good people killed and most of those who die will not be native English speakers. It is not just that they want nuclear weapons, their continued cry to destroy us and Israel makes their threats something to be dealt with. Remember the Churchill speech.

I was happy to see that within Iran, following the death of General Soleimani, people within Iran came out to protest their own government. Of course, our press is not covering any of this but there was one scene where there was an American and Israeli flag on the ground and the protesters refused to walk on them. There are several great photos of this. Likewise, there has been a rash of Iranian athletes defecting to the West. From our lamestream media, crickets. Even after increased Iranian civilian protests after their government admitted to shooting down that Ukrainian airliner after several days of lies and denials, our own media seemed to be strangely quiet on the matter.

The death of Soleimani has the potential to be a great win for the Iranian people if they can successfully topple their corrupt government or can be a bad omen since Iran has decided to officially pull out of the nuclear deal they inked under the Obama Administration. To be fair, they really weren’t abiding 100% anyway but now they have an excuse to justify what they have been doing all along. Regarding Aess, the next year should be interesting.

As for the Iranian military, behind closed doors, they know the real deal. In public, they puff their chests and talk a great game of smack but when they look in the mirror, they want no part of what we bring to the table. None. Picture the Hulk spanking the snot out of a five-year-old brat and you get the picture. I find it funny that none of their missiles launched on the night of 8 January against American interests on an Iraqi airbase, hit anything important, but on their state-run television, they claimed to have killed 80 Americans. (<https://chicago.suntimes.com/columnists/2020/1/9/21059020/the-killing-of-iranian-general-quassem-soleimani>) This way they saved face with their people and folks in the region without having their face squashed in the mud by us. No sane person wants war and I know we don’t. But killing our people or attacking our interests like oil tankers in the Straits of Hormuz will not be allowed to stand unanswered. So for me, I tell the Iranian people, good luck and I hope they are able to get the freedom they are looking for and deserve.

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As a young 20 year old budding entrepreneur, I vigorously studied leadership. I was attracted to the vogue readings of the day on leadership, managing and goal setting. I learned that if you put 100 people in the room, 15 would emerge as leaders and only 3 will set goals and measure their success. My greatest lessons were real life examples of watching the management style of others. After years of observation, I deduced that true leadership is recognizing the ability to execute alone and one being the majority. So when you pause and contemplate management, people are starving for leadership and 3 out of 100 have it to offer.

I was so fortunate in our family business to travel to several continents and interface with some very wealthy people. Some of these were self-made and some were heirs who built on their benefactor's success. I also had the privilege of working for two Republican Governors; Hunt and James. One of my assignments was being the liaison for Governor Hunt to the Southern Growth Policies Board made up of 13 governors from southeastern states including Puerto Rico. This interface exposed me to the governors of each of these states. I also had the privilege of working with members of congress and the White House on public policy issues. Little did I know over this expedition of wonderful experiences, I attended the school of leadership on these very capable leaders!

I am reluctant to point out just one illustration, but to give justice to all of these experiences of leadership would require a book written. That being said, allow me to discuss for minute Governor Fob James. Governor James knew his constitutional role of the executive branch and how it balanced within the separation of powers doctrine. He knew the power of the chair and masterfully executed it with great authority, even when he stood alone. He also taught me without saying, that one is a majority. Governor James examples are too numerous to recount, but he taught me so much by his daily actions about being a fearless leader. On a side note, I was there the day he left the capitol on his last official work day in 1999, before descending down the famous George Wallace elevator; he turned around and saluted his chair, as if to sign off and pay his final respect to the office. Awesome and sobering!

I carried his mark of leadership brand on me into the Christian Coalition efforts in the state beginning in 1999. I rapidly saw how hostile, win at all cost our opponents were on issues we supported or opposed. We were involved in some very explosive high profile issues in the state like promoting pro-life legislation, preserving traditional marriage, protecting our young people and communities from the expansion of gambling and pornography, reducing taxes on the family, promoting choice in education, keeping the Ten Commandments in the Alabama Judicial building and so much more. Some might say this is a pretty fiery list. Over the course of these years we found our organization going head to head in high profile statewide skirmishes opposing two governors and

the well-financed gambling magnates of the state. I thought about Governor James often during these lonely fights. What I have noticed over time is folks will follow a leader into the fires of battle, if their cause is pure, factual and on the moral right side of history.

Let's talk about Trump. Trump developed over time in business how to quickly read people and measure their high water mark or breaking point. While being a firm believer in free trade, Trump was willing to walk out on the plank and impose short term tariffs in order to level the playing field. He was not one to pass money under the table so paying rogues leaders' large sums of cash to tone it down was NOT going to happen. In this Iranian situation, he went into this on the offense, not defense. If you listen to the media as a whole and the democrats; they are coming from a position of weakness and playing defense. This is why we maintain world peace through military strength, only to use it if necessary. Bottom line, we are on offense. Iran needs to worry about the Big Mule and forget about those 70 virgins, because if you press this President, he knows how to swing a 2 x 4.

Have you noticed how others have emerged in this environment of fearless leadership? Did you notice ole cranky McConnell during the Kavanaugh hearings, he did not flinch. How about Lindsey Graham, I actually look forward to his interviews now and used to find it hard to digest his McCain induced thinking. He became a hero during the Kavanaugh hearings and has emerged as one of our best GOP weapons. Look at the house during impeachment, can you believe our fearless team emerging; Kevin McCarthy, Devin Nunes, Doug Collins, Jim Jordan, Mark Meadows and so many more. We now have a trained fearless battalion in the U.S. House of Representatives ready to lead after we win back the house in 2020. Proving my point, Trump walks ahead of the troops into the fire, others are empowered to follow.

It was not me who came up with this powerful slogan; rather it was Andrew Jackson who once said: "One man with courage makes a majority." My dad who also greatly influenced me regularly stated, "Son there is your side and their side, find what is right... and do not move." It is drilled into me, one is a majority, find what is right and do not move.

When I interview candidates running for office, I often find after being elected, there are so few who understand this principle, but to the contrary, looking to appease and the next election. I always tell them to remember one thing; there will come a day when you will face a very tough issue, be willing to stand alone in the wake of all the noise. Learn from Trump, one is a majority, others will eventually follow.

In the Apostle Paul's letters to the Ephesians, he stated in Chapter 6, verse 13, "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything to stand, stand."

One is a majority, find what is right and do not move.



Perry O. Hooper Jr
Republican State Executive Committee
Former State Representative

Bold and Decisive Leadership

By ordering the airstrike that killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, President Trump has demonstrated to Iran's leaders and to the world, that he will take "swift, decisive" actions to protect Americans. This is in stark contrast to Obama's numerous lines in the sand where he was all talk and no action.

Soleimani was the architect of Iranian's strategy to extend the regime's influence across the Middle East. He directed global terrorist attacks, targeted U.S. troops in Iraq, aided Bashar Assad in the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of his own Syrian people, supported the terrorist group Hezbollah, and fueled the civil war in Yemen by supporting the radical Houthi movement. He crossed the line in the sand however, when he directed an attack on the American Embassy in Baghdad that killed an American. The Trump Administration's response was quick bold and decisive; they took out Soleimani. The Democrats response was predictable Trump is out of control they proclaimed he just started World War III they screamed. The Iranian response will be devastating. Instead the Iranian response was a whimper, symbolic at best. A rocket attack with little damage and no casualties. Then they declared that was it. No more retaliation. The President and the American People clearly won again by eliminating one of the most dangerous men on the planet. Two months ago, it was ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, now its Iran's Terrorist-in-Chief General Soleimani, this is truly "Peace Through Strength". There is a new sheriff in town.

Under Obama's terrible deal with Iran, we opened up revenue streams, such as the export of oil, for Iran to fund terrorist across the globe. Under the Trump administration oil revenues are down 80% and Iran cannot access 90% of its foreign currency reserves. In response to the rocket attacks, President Trump imposed additional sanctions on Iran. Including in these sanctions are additional restrictions on the export of oil and steel. These sanctions will further deny Iran the ability to fund its reign of terror across the region. The President is also imposing sanctions individually on eight senior leaders who planned the missile attacks.

Taking the side of the Mullahs, Speaker Pelosi rammed through a resolution that would require her and her allies in the House to approve further military

actions against Iran. Antisemitic Iran lovers in the House would have veto power over our national security. Of all the actions of the House of Representatives under Speaker Pelosi this is the most Un-American, perhaps the most misguided action ever taken in the history of the House of Representatives. This puts a bull's eye on the back of every American soldier. They absolutely have no shame.

As I watched the Democratic debate, I shuttered at the thought of any of the feckless Democratic candidates as commander in chief. They all defended Obama's midnight deliver of pallets of cash to the rouge Iranian regime allowing them to fund terrorism across the Globe. Under a Democratic President, we would be going from bold and decisive leadership to scared and confused followers of world opinion, not American interests first. Military options would no longer be judged by their effectiveness in protecting the safety and security of the United States, but as to their effect on global warming and social justice. Our military would be defunded to pay for health care for illegal aliens and other ridiculous programs. We must not let this happen. We must rally around our President and let everyone know that "peace through strength "is the only way to guarantee our safety and security.

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Amendment One: 2020 Vision



Just as the Republicrats **\$1.2 billion** Amendment One [2003] proposal of significant increases for individual income tax payers, the sales tax, property tax, cigarette tax, corporate income tax, etc. **FAILED** 2 to 1 (defeating the Hubbard/Riley full court press) on a **GENERAL** election ballot, we now have the next iteration of an Amendment One boondoggle before us on the March 3rd primary. Pray we have better “2020” vision on why this is placed on primary ballots looking in the rear view mirror of recent low turnout sham outcomes from the Armistead to Waggoner et al political playbook these past years. One more time abuse of power and theft from our State education system is in jeopardy.

The ‘vision’ of the current lawmakers on Goat Hill and the **eyesight** of the general public seemed to grow more ‘blurry’ this past decade under our new supermajority. It appears they forecast another easy victory for soviet-style conservatives/liberals as Felon Hubbard (many **still** awaiting his public service in prison to illustrate our discipline of criminals is real) coached his big gov’t. minions how to game the system with low turnout special election sham results. Amending our State constitution in the 2012 theft of our education trust fund by deception of this sort was one of the most vulgar observed. As entertaining to watch all the politicians stand and do the ‘politburo clap’ on queue during state of union addresses in DC; it was equally entertaining to watch and read all the sycophants slobbering over themselves in delight at plundering the education trust fund with only **14%** of registered voters saying yes to the amendment. The more they effusively thanked the voters for an ‘overwhelming show of support’ the more pathetic the band of thieves appeared delighting in their successful theft by low turnout deception. Some readers may recall we wasted \$3 million on that **special** election sham result because it couldn’t wait 49 days to be on a **general** election ballot where it was likely to fail. I fear there are no honest Senators remaining on Goat Hill to again show courage and statesmanship in crafting tight legislation and work with the House to stop political theft via this sort of deception.

One more time lawmakers come before a low turnout electorate to accomplish yet another transfer of wealth and power from citizens on something more likely to fail on a general election ballot, unembarrassed by the fact Alabama consistently ranks as one of the most politically corrupt among the 50 States. A Harvard University study recently named Alabama as the number ONE most corrupt State speaks volumes on the supermajority presently in power in 2020 Alabama. The Red duopolists have enjoyed supermajority in the legislature, a complete sweep in our courts of civil and criminal appeals and the State Supreme Court; all 19 seats in those three courts. They hold all constitutional offices, 6 of 7 US House Seats, one of two US Senate seats, control of the State School Board, control of almost all appointments to all state agency boards, commissions and department heads.

In 2010, when the Republicans took control of the legislature, Alabama was test ranked 25th and 26th in reading and math nationally. Now, with total control of State politics, we sadly witnessed the Red Party in power lead us to the bottom; currently test ranked 52nd, below even DC with revenues up, salaries in line with cost of living in our State and administrator pay exploding. Goat Hill’s ‘brilliant idea’ is to abolish the elected State school board to enable the governor appointing a new board and deny the citizens their right to vote as the solution. Centralizing more power in Montgomery will benefit the citizens and the general well-being of our State? The 2020 Amendment One vote on the March 3rd primary is **One More Time** Montgomery politicians are pulling the ‘ole Bait and Switch’ tactic of promising to abolish Common Core by getting voters to give up their precious right to vote.

A closer look at Amendment One [SB 397] tells an entirely different story. By modifying Common Core nomenclatures the Montgomery insiders (who skim their wealth transfers off government schools) give the impression of removing the problem; in fact adding this Amendment to the State constitution accomplishes their goal of forever imbedding Common Core in our constitution increasing the transfer of wealth and power to these political parasites. **One more time** for that ‘Giant Riley sucking sound’ - no amount skimmed from students and taxpayers is enough -- the avarice of these BCA grubbers is so blinding and consuming they can’t stop even seeing they are killing their host Gov. Ivey appears so blind among these ‘public servant’ grubbers she doesn’t worry about any consequences of publicly threatening teachers pay.

If what Goat Hill wants to accomplish is so great, then why not put it on a **general** election? Why not let decentralized districts decide what makes more sense for their constituents? Ask yourself why politicians want to deny citizens their right to vote on these education matters. **One more time**, Republicrats are trying to abuse and deceive the public. Of course it wouldn’t be a true Felon Hubbard playbook ‘offense’ without some “the children, the children!” rhetoric espousing how much they care about education. Perhaps we would’ve remained around 25th if they’d ‘cared’ a little less. I pray enough Vote **NO** on Amendment One in the March 3rd primary to make the margin so great the duopoly will stop trying these manipulations to accomplish some real problem solving and oversight in corrections, education, transportation, etc. When this current economic bubble pops I see very few in federal, State and local office with the acumen/courage to cut fat and jettison waste to navigate the next profound contraction of any significant duration.

I close in caveat of those who speak of ‘efficiency’ and ‘waste cutting’ to cloak their avarice and folly. Nothing in recent memory was more disappointing than voters’ failure on Amendment 14 to discipline Goat Hill gone wild these past decades. It showed how well Montgomery politburo members work to solve their problems and hold onto their power and wealth transfers, but fail to come up with solutions for the general well being of their constituents. Why couldn’t this be placed on November 2020 general election ballots? I’ve begged lawmakers to craft legislation to abolish this sort of low turnout manipulation. **One more time**, this is ominously similar to Felon Hubbard’s successful special election vote stealing \$437 million from our education trust fund September 18, 2012. The deleterious spirit of Hubbard and his big gov’t. BCA thugs permeated this once blessed State and these ‘public servants’ genuinely believe when they successfully game the system, theft by deception of this sort is OK. It took a Lee County jury (not as distorted as low turnout primaries or special election results) to discipline political theft of this sort - it appears from the AG office (without Alice Martin types) to our ‘do-nothing’ ethics commission and courts this sort of discipline is unlikely this decade. I weep for what my State has become, knowing what it could be with less of this political corruption.

Postscript: I’d be remiss not remind folks (as Bill Britt recently reminded me) the general fund is currently doing well with revenue. I’ve still heard no report on the \$437 million returned to the education trust fund as **promised** by Felon Hubbard and his minions but have heard several educator friends wary of Gov. Ivey’s pay threat. So this is what Goat Hill is saying - no pay adjustment **and** no return of monies acquired by deception? I have little doubt ‘public servants’ like “Billion Dollar Bob” Riley will continue to get his cut (on scholarships, etc.) from education. Of course this comes as no surprise, we were promised Hubbard would serve his time in prison as it becomes increasingly clear promises and following the letter/Spirit of the law means nothing. I’ve made my call to Alabama Supreme Court to keep this promise – *have you?*

Alabama Amendment 1, Appointed Education Board Amendment (March 2020)

Alabama Appointed Education Board Amendment

Election date: March 3, 2020

The Alabama Appointed Education Board Amendment (SB 397) is on the ballot in Alabama as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on March 3, 2020.

A "yes" vote supports amending the Alabama Constitution to rename the State Board of Education the Alabama Commission on Elementary and Secondary Education and require members to be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate rather than being elected.

A "no" vote opposes amending the Alabama Constitution, thus not changing the name of the State Board of Education and continuing to elect members.

What would this amendment do?

The ballot measure would rename the State Board of Education the Alabama Commission on Elementary and Secondary Education and change the name of the State Superintendent of Education to the Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education. The amendment would require members of the commission to be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate rather than being elected. The amendment would also direct the governor to ensure that members of the commission "reflect the geographical, gender, and racial diversity of the students enrolled in public K-12 education in the state." [1]

Under the amendment, the commission would be tasked with adopting "course of study standards that ensure nationwide consistency and the seamless transfer of students from within and outside of the state, in lieu of common core." The commission would also be tasked with adopting educator certification and professional development programs as well as assessment and accountability systems. [1]

Under the amendment, the governor would be authorized to appoint a team of local educators and other officials to advise the commission on matters relating to the functioning and duties of the State Department of Education. [1]



by John Martin

BUILDING BETTER ROADS

Every year, we continue to hear the same old song from our public officials—“Our infrastructure is falling apart.... We need more revenue.... We must have a tax increase.” The rational answer, of course, is “No way” in nearly every case. Most of the time they ask for money to fund projects and programs that are patently unconstitutional—“public” education, “public” housing, Medicaid, victimless crime enforcement, abusive regulations, etc.

But among these is one item we actually need—our roads and bridges. There are some things that can be done to improve them. Some would, of course, require additional funding. But there are others that would require very little, or none at all.

Let’s begin by eliminating needless frills. One problematic and costly example on the interstates is the installation of guardrails in the medians. Ostensibly, they are put in to prevent out of control vehicles from crossing the medians and hitting oncoming traffic. In a few places they might be necessary, but most of the time the medians are adequately wide to minimize that likelihood. These guardrails can be very problematic when a wreck blocks the

road and the traffic behind it is unable to cross over to the other side to get to an exit.

Some improvements can be implemented with very little or no cost. One chronic problem is the timing of traffic signals. In state after state, I have observed inadequate green on the main roads and excessive green on side roads and unnecessary protected left turns. Lights should not change unless traffic trips them. They should not change instantly as soon as one car comes, but should wait long enough (about 15 or 20 seconds) so two or three can come out on one change.

Protected left turns should exist only where a great deal of traffic makes a left turn. NO protected left turn should trip when no vehicle is present. And all left turns should be equipped with a circular green or flashing yellow arrow to allow turning when oncoming traffic has cleared.

And finally, many signals can be put on flash during all but peak traffic hours.

Continued on page 5B

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



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Montgomery County Alabama Sheriff's Office

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Chief Deputy
Kevin J. Murphy

New President of the Alabama Sheriff's Association Named

Montgomery County Sheriff Derrick Cunningham was named the President of the Alabama Sheriff's Association (ASA) for 2020 at a January awards dinner at the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery. Sheriff Cunningham served as Vice President in 2019 and plans to lead the ASA in a progressive manner along with his fellow sheriffs throughout the State of Alabama. Sheriff Cunningham discussed the value of the ASA for Alabama sheriffs that seek legal advice, questions pertaining to ethical issues, law enforcement standards, legislation, and inquiries involving the daily operations of their agencies. In closing, Sheriff Cunningham emphasized that the Alabama Sheriff's Association is a valuable tool for law enforcement leaders to utilize in the service to Alabama citizens.



Sheriff Cunningham with the 2019 ASA President Russell County Sheriff Heath Taylor.



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and his wife Mattie.

Social Media

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a new Facebook page! Make sure you follow us as All our social media outlets are listed below:

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Firearms Familiarization Course

Register NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Courses for 2020!

We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. The class is held at our Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and is FREE to Montgomery County residents! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

Course Requirements:

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



2020 Course Dates:

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April 18	July 11	October 10
	August 8	

Pistol Permit Questions?

334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?

Lisa.Crenshaw@mc-ala.org

334.832.1339

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

Sheriff's Office App

If you haven't already heard, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications.



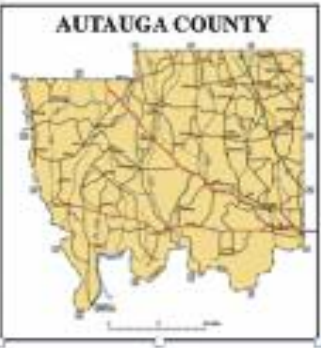
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Autauga County Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy Application

It's time for another Autauga County Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy. Classes will be held every Tuesday night starting March 10th and ending April 28th. Classes will start promptly at 6 pm and end around 8pm most nights. You must be 21 years of age and a resident of Autauga County to attend.

You can request an application by calling 334-361-2503. Applications must be received by Friday February 28, 2020.



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THE SILENCE OF THE PIGSKINS

As Coach Ed Jones recuperates, and our thoughts and prayers are with him, the Gazette welcomes Stan Hurst as guest columnist.

Stan Hurst, Associate Sports Writer

Do you miss it yet? College Football, and not just any College Football; I’m talking SEC Football. I sure enjoyed this past season, savoring all the games; well almost. Our SEC teams achieved many accomplishments during the 2019 season; with LSU doing their part, ultimately producing a National Championship. Not bad for coach Orgeron; the coach with whom many doubters resided. Those LSU Tigers beat the tar out of every-body in the SEC, as well as everyone else on their schedule. They finished the season putting a beat down on Oklahoma, on the way to the BCS Championship game against Clemson. Clemson was a worthy opponent for a minute, the Joe Burrow show and Crew gave Clemson another taste of SEC Football; besting those “other” Tigers 42 to 25.



theadvocate.com

LSU ~ National Championship Winners 2019

While I can’t compare ESPN and Fox Sports to CNN and MSN; I sure heard a whole lot about how Ohio State was the best team in the country. I certainly can’t speak for any-one but myself, but I heard way too much about the Ohio State Buckeyes.

Another one of the talking heads decided that the PAC 12 teams were going to make run at the championship game. As I remember it, one of their darlings was Washington; the other preferred team they touted was Oregon. You remember Oregon, the team those Auburn Tigers beat in the last seconds of the game 27-21. Auburn outscored them in the second half 21-7. Oregon finished the season 12-2 as you might recall, or perhaps not. In the six years of the BCS Championships SEC teams have been in all 6 of them and have won three of the six Championships.

The SEC is all about championships, I attended the first SEC Championship

game in Birmingham with my son David. That was on a freezing cold night at Legion Field with Alabama pulling out a win in a tough fought game against Florida. Bama won 28 to 21, scoring near the very end of the fourth quarter. Coach Steve Spurrier was in fine fashion that night, I lost count of how many times he threw his cap on the ground. Coach Stallings and the boys rolled into the National Championship Game at 12-0 as decided under dogs, and beat a Good Miami team 34-13. My favorite quote from that game was “I waxed the dude”; George Teague number 13, after taking the ball away from Lamar Thomas, Miami’s star wide receiver.

And who can ever forget the 2010 Auburn Tigers National Championship victory over Oregon 22-19. In was toe to toe trench warfare for 60 minutes. Auburn went 14-0 that season, capped by the Oregon win. As we all remember the difference maker in that game was Cam Newton, or superman as I referred to him. And remember, for Auburn to get there, they had to overcome a 24-0 deficit in Tuscaloosa, pulling it out 28-27.

Of the 14 teams in the SEC, 8 had winning records at the end of the 2019 season. A Notable under achiever was Texas A&M finishing at 8-5. In their opener they faced UCLA, losing that game by taking a 44 to 17 lead into the fourth quarter and then allow-ing the Bruins to put up four touchdowns to beat them 45-44. I must comment that with Head Coach Jimbo Fisher on board, and all the brain damage that went with his hiring, we should have seen a better than 8 and 5 record out of the Aggies.

I’m not going to call Alabama an underachiever with a 12-2 record. However, one wonders what might have happened had their usual ferocious and dominating defense been present during the 2019 season. Certainly, that coupled with the new quick strike offense would have made their season very interesting indeed.

Equally, Tennessee would have to be considered an overachiever this season at 8-5. They finished third in the east behind Georgia and Florida and made lots improvement during their final 4 games, after an embarrassing loss to Georgia State.

And then we have The Auburn Tigers. I watched every minute of every game the Tigers played. And yes they played the toughest schedule in college football in my opinion. Who else played the likes of Oregon, LSU, Florida, Georgia and Alabama in a single season. No one in recent history that comes to mind. As a side note, who does the scheduling over there? Just thinking They finished third at 9-4 in the SEC West be-hind LSU and Alabama. They are one of my over achievers; in spite of an abysmal Bowl appearance against the Golden Gophers of Minnesota. Playing a true freshman quarterback, an injured running back and some self inducted errors, the Tigers have to get a big thumbs up here.

Soon the anticipation of college football around these parts will begin to build. While Auburn has bragging rights this year, you know the Bama faithful are counting the days until the Tigers return to Tuscaloosa. I believe we will watch with curiosity how Ole Miss begins to rebuild its program with Lane Kiffin at the helm. He has enough experience to be a SEC head coach, it should be fascinating to watch.

An important perspective is that we live right in the middle of the SEC nation and hope-fully the football fans, which are many of us, can enjoy each one of the games, no matter who your favorite team is. Unless of course, its game day for Your Team! It's a far cry from my old days of listening to Pick of Dixie on the AM radio back in the 70’s. Walking around in my backyard on a Saturday night trying to catch the weak AM signal on my radio. We as football fans sure have it good these days, every game that every SEC team plays is televised in some form or fashion. I never imagined growing up that we’d be able to do this or that it would even be possible.

Remember, Nothing too good nor nothing too bad last too long. So Enjoy.



Daniel Sutter is the Charles G. Koch Professor of Economics with the Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University and host of Econversations on TrojanVision. The opinions expressed in this column are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the views of Troy University.

Could an Asteroid Destroy Our Economy?

An asteroid could wipe out all life on Earth, so yes. But what if we mined and brought an asteroid’s valuable metals to Earth? NASA’s plan to send a probe to an asteroid generated some out-of-this-world economic claims.

By Daniel Sutter

The asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter may be the remnants of a proto-planet that broke up long ago. NASA plans to visit 16 Psyche, a heavy metal asteroid, which astronomers believe is mostly nickel and iron, but may contain precious metals like gold and platinum. The reported \$10 quintillion (a 1 with eighteen zeros behind it) market value for Psyche’s metals seems to have been pulled out of thin air, or the vacuum of space.

Would the metals in 16 Psyche make everyone on Earth become a billionaire? Or would metals markets crash and somehow destroy the world economy? Economics suggests neither extreme.

We live in a world of scarcity, meaning that our desire for goods and services exceeds our ability to produce them. Production requires raw materials and, more importantly, know-how. Knowledge lies behind technology, from agriculture to supercomputers; discovering productive uses for nature’s bounty creates natural resources. The heavy metal asteroids have existed since before the first humans but will only become resources if we learn how to make space mining a reality.

Resource availability frequently constrains production. We cannot make metals or petroleum out of nothing. The harder we must toil to acquire resources, the greater their cost, because everyone must be compensated for their hard work.

If technologically and economically feasible, space mining will increase the supply of metals and lower their prices. This will enable production of more goods at lower prices. Our standard of living will unambiguously rise.

But might a collapse of gold and precious metals prices bankrupt investors and cause a depression? Gold prices would likely tank, making investors holding

gold suffer losses. At a price of \$1,500 an ounce, all of the gold ever been mined is worth about \$10 trillion. This is a lot of money, but Credit Suisse Research Institute estimates total world wealth at \$360 trillion. Even a 90 percent drop in gold prices will not impoverish investors as a group.

The minerals from 16 Psyche would make some people wealthy, particularly the owners of Psyche’s minerals. Lower prices for cars, buildings, spaceships and other goods will increase investors’ effective wealth. The world’s economy will be more productive and investors (overall) more prosperous.

Furthermore, a decline in gold prices should not surprise investors. Expectations about demand and supply in the future influence commodity prices today. Market prices would fall as space mining becomes a reality.

Resource price adjustments also explain why 16 Psyche will not make everyone a billionaire. The news stories have a sliver of truth: \$10 quintillion is over \$1 billion for each of the world’s 7.5 billion persons. Yet if 16 Psyche has ten times more gold than currently in the world, gold’s price will be far below \$1500 per ounce. As another way of considering this, no one has \$10 quintillion to pay for Psyche’s resources.

Will space mining prove feasible? The scientific and engineering questions are well beyond my expertise. Two recently founded space mining companies, Planetary Resources and Deep Space Industries, have some highly respected scientists and smart investors involved. If Google’s Larry Page and Erich Schmidt are investing in a venture, it probably has some chance of success.

Perhaps space mining’s biggest contribution is illustrating the innumerable possibilities of the future. The potential that we will run out of resources remains highly persuasive, even though objective measures like the Cato Institute’s Simon Abundance Index demonstrate otherwise. Ultimately knowledge and discovery create the resources we use and new inventions which improve our lives. Undiscovered discoveries, however, are inherently hard to foresee. To envision the enormous potential for future innovation, just remember asteroids and space mining.



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Community Lifestyles







Dr. Lester Spencer

Lead Pastor

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Soul Searching

Scuba Diving...

Several years ago, I went scuba diving with my sons. Although it was not the first time we’d dived together, and it certainly would not be the last, this particular trip was special, because it was the trip in which Joshua, my younger son, earned his certification as a scuba diver. His older brother, Harden, and I were already certified, and we accompanied Josh on one of his first open-water dives, which are part of the certification process.

On this particular open-water dive, we were in the Bahamas at a place called Shark Junction. We dove to about fifty-five feet, where we were surrounded by hundreds of sharks—all kinds, but mostly Caribbean reef sharks. Now, Josh was about ten at the time, and the boy has never known fear. During that dive, I stayed right behind him. Although I managed to stay just out of his sight so that he didn’t think I was hovering, I was there every second, watching him closely, making sure he was always within reach. (I knew my wife would not be happy with me if I didn’t bring him back in one piece.)

When one particularly large shark swam by him, he reached out to touch it (their skin is like sandpaper and cool to touch), and I pulled back on his tank to keep him away from it. I think that’s a perfect picture of prevenient grace; the Lord’s hand is always on us, even when we don’t realize He is there. God’s prevenient grace is the grace that goes before us even before we have any conscious, personal experience of God. He is chasing you. He is holding you, pulling you, wooing you to Himself. (Just like I held and pulled Joshua away from the shark and toward myself.)

We are surrounded by this prevenient grace of God. **Romans 1:20** speaks of it, in fact: *Forever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see His invisible qualities—*

His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. (NLT)

Do you understand what the Apostle Paul is saying? All of creation is shouting the story of grace and trying to help us see that there is a divine designer. Through His prevenient grace, God is holding you and pulling you toward Himself.

Note: This is an excerpt from Dr. Spencer’s new book, **Free For All**, (4 Things God’s amazing grace can do for you). It is a #1 “New Release” and a Top Ten “Best Seller” on Amazon!

Free For All



A new book by Lester Spencer

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Also available at sjlife.com

Dr Spencer is Lead Pastor

at Saint James Church in

Montgomery, Alabama and

writes the **Soul Searching**

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By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Honoring Our Heroes

Adrian Jack Lively ~ 79

Adrian Jack Lively served 20 years in the U. S. Air Force as a radar technician and as an air-traffic controller. During 11.5 years of that service, he served four overseas tours including three remote, two in combat zones and one accompanying tour which allowed his family to go with him. Lively’s conclusions about his service to his country via the U. S. Air Force are, “It was this to me. I grew up in a military family. My dad was discharged from the U. S. Army after becoming disabled in 1944, and I had two uncles who



served in the U. S. Army in WWII. I love my country. The military training offered much to me as a way out of the dead-end job in mining.” Lively was born in Birmingham, AL, March 2, 1940, to his parents Garland O. Lively and Maxine Lovell. He lived in Walker County, AL, and he attended

13 different schools because of his father’s disability resulting in his having to seek various means of supporting his family such as coal mining and produce peddling. He attended high school in Cordova, AL, completing his GED. Lively volunteered to serve in the U. S. Air Force five days after competing that education because he wanted to fly air planes. Lively completed his boot camp training at Lackland A.F.B., TX. His training consisted of learning how to operate radar on planes. He was sent to Okinawa for one year where he performed those duties followed by an assignment at Cape Cod, MA, where he worked as a radar operator flying an EC-121, an air-borne plane over the north Atlantic Ocean eight hours per day, returning to Okinawa and then a three year assignment at Hurlbert Field, FL. Next, Lively went to Kessler A.F.B. at Biloxi MS, where he cross-trained to become an air-traffic controller. Next, he had TDY for three months at Kessler A.F.B. He returned to Hurlbert Field, FL, completing his three-year assignment. He was deployed to Vietnam in 1965-1966, to McCoy A.F.B, Orlando, FL, for 13 months followed by a second tour in Vietnam in 1967-68. While in Vietnam his air-traffic controller hours were required to be limited, and he volunteered two days per week to serve as a gunner on a helicopter which was a very hazardous duty. Having served four tours in 11.5 years, he could not be deployed again. He served almost 16 years as an air-traffic controller. His last assignment was at Maxwell A.F.B., Montgomery, AL, where he retired. Since retirement from the U. S. Air Force, Lively worked in Montgomery, AL, as an investigator for a lawyer, stocker at the A.B.C. Board, an AL state auditor, an air-traffic controller assistant for the F.F.A. at Dannelly Field and a mail-handler for the U. S. Postal Service for his final 20 years of employment earning a second retirement pension. His retirement years have consisted of fishing and hunting, both skills learned as a youngster growing up in rural Walker County, AL. He has been a member of the Masonic Lodge and received a 50-year pin from the Masonic Lodge where he served twice as the Master of the Lodge. Lively was also a life-time member of he V.F.W. and the American Legion. Lively was married to Mabeline Anne Cook for 44 years: they had one son. He had one son and two grandchildren by a previous marriage.

Col. Robert C. Cerha ~ 73

Col. Robert C. Cerha served in the United States Air Force for 33 years. Having earned a Juris Doctorate Degree from St. Louis University and a Master of Law Degree in international law from the University of VA, his expertise,



international law, provided opportunities for service as a staff judge advocate at both wing and numbered Air Force levels and as a participant in negotiations with foreign governments including the Philippine base negotiations and the Japanese host-nation support negotiations. He completed studies at the Squadron Officer School, the Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College all at Maxwell A.F.B., Montgomery, AL. His major awards and decorations include: Air Force Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, U. S. State Dept. Distinguished Service Award and the Legion of Merit. Col. Cerha was born in Cleveland, Ohio, to his parents, Harry and Marion Cerha January 14, 1947, where his father finished medical school, and later the family moved to New Orleans, LA, where his father completed his residency in obstetrics. The Cerha family members have served in the United States Air Force, namely, his father as a fighter pilot of P-51s during WWII and later as an obstetrician, and his two brothers as medical service corps (MSC) officers. During his youth, his family moved often to duty stations at Lackland A.F.B. at San Antonio, TX, Wright Paterson A.F.B. at Dayton, Ohio, Weisbaden Air

Base, Weisbaden, Germany, and Scott A.F.B. at St. Louis, MO. Col. Cerha graduated from high school at the U. S. Defense School at Weisbaden and received his B.S. Degree in political science from St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO. Col. Cerha had many assignments using his legal expertise at U. S. Air Force bases in the U. S. and overseas. Col. Cerha’s began his active military assignments at Homestead A.F.B., FL, serving as the staff judge advocate, 31st Combat Support Group. His first overseas assignment was assistant staff judge advocate, 86th Tactical Fighter Wing, at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. He had to attend and to observe trials in German courts of U. S. military personnel who had been in trouble off base. He had to make sure that all proceedings were going according to the agreements between the German government and the U. S. Air Force. In addition, he served as the prison visitation officer to visit Air Force personnel who were being incarcerated making sure they were being treated properly. He also worked some cases in Norway and in the Azores. After receiving his Master of Law Degree in International Law, he served as the instructor of international law at the Judge Advocate General’s School at Maxwell, A.F.B., Montgomery, AL, followed by serving as the staff judge advocate, Fourth Tactical Fighter Wing, at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N. Carolina, where he operated a legal office six attorneys working with him. His second overseas assignment was as legal advisor to the U. S. Ambassador at Manila, Republic of the Philippines. Then he served as the staff judge advocate, First Air Force and director, General Law, Headquarters Tactical Air Command, Langley A.F.B. at Langley, VA. His third overseas assignment was staff judge advocate for U.S. Forces, Japan and Headquarters Fifth Air Force, at Yokota Air Base, Japan. He returned to Maxwell A.F.B. to serve as the staff judge advocate, Air University. His fourth overseas assignment was chief, International and Civil Law, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces at Hickam A.F.B., Hawaii. His final assignment was Senior Legal Advisor to the Commander at the Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center at Denver. CO. Col. Cerha and his wife, Joan, have one daughter, one son and eight grandchildren. Since retirement in 2001, he has enjoyed travel with his wife as well as swimming, playing golf and hunting. Col. Cerha’s conclusions about his military service are, “I grew up in an Air Force family, was a military brat and traveled to a lot of bases. When I joined the R.O.T.C. and the Air Force, it just came naturally to me. It was something that I wanted to do. I always envisioned myself as being in the Air Force. The Air Force was very good to me. My first assignments were at bases at Miami and at Germany, and then the Air Force sent me to law school. All of my assignments were challenging and things that I wanted to do. We had wonderful places to live as we got to see Germany, Japan and the Philippines, and our children were able to live at these places which was good for them.”

Lt. Col. Judson L. Huett, Jr. ~ 82

Lt. Col Judson L. Huett, Jr., was born in Coosada, Alabama in 1937 to his parents, Judson Huett and Oneida Franklin Huett. They moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where Colonel Huett started his military service with the Naval

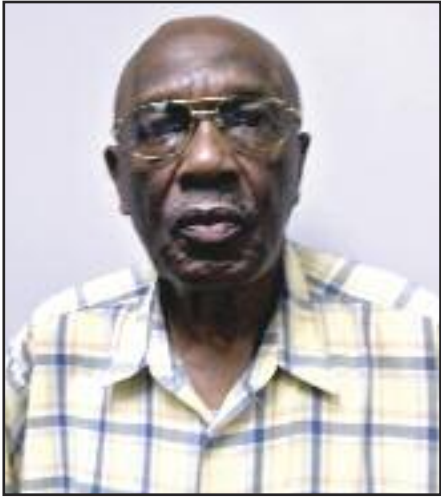


Reserve in 1954. After graduating high school in 1956, he joined the U. S. Marine Corps serving two years of active duty and six years of reserve duty. Returning to Montgomery after his active duty, he attended Auburn University for several quarters, worked for Hawk Brokerage Company selling food items

to supermarkets and commissaries, and worked as a salesman at the Montgomery Coca Cola Bottling Company. Colonel Huett’s 50 years of public service include the Naval Reserve, the U. S. Marines, the Alabama National Guard, the U.S. Army and service with the Army Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corp (ROTC). Colonel Huett received 32 awards and decorations for duty served in three services and a combat tour in Vietnam. Some of his awards are as follows: Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with “V” Device for Valor with six Oak Leaf Clusters, Humanitarian Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with five Battle Stars, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with one Silver and two Gold Stars, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Colonel Huett returned to active military duty as an Officer in 1965 serving in the U. S. Army after completing Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, Georgia. His first duty station was at Camp Roberts, California. He volunteered to serve in Vietnam, completed training at the Special Warfare School at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, and the Defense Language Institute at Ft. Bliss, Texas, studying the Vietnamese language. He returned from Vietnam in 1969, completed the Ordnance Officer's Advanced Course at Aberdeen, Maryland, and then served as Company Commander of the 183rd Maintenance Company at Ft. Carson, Colorado. Colonel Huett had staff assignments in Ft. Bliss, Texas, Hawaii, Panama, Thailand, and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Colonel Huett retired from Active Duty in 1988 after 27 years of active duty and remained in uniform teaching Junior R.O.T.C. for the next 17 years at Carver High School in Montgomery, Alabama. Colonel Huett has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Alabama, a Master of Arts from Webster University, and he completed all course requirements towards a Doctor of Public Administration Degree.

Walter Woods ~ 77

Walter Woods, served two tours in Vietnam and 20 years in the U. S. Army retiring as a Master Sergeant. His decorations, medals, citations and campaign ribbons awarded include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Bronze Start Medal (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), Good Conduct Medal (with Bronze, five Loops), Meritorious Service Medal, NCO Professional



Development Ribbon (Numeral five), National Defense Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (Numeral three), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (with Palm) and Vietnam Service Medal(with one Silver Service Star). His overseas tours were at Inchon, Korea, Heidelberg, Germany, Camp Evans, South Vietnam, Long Bien/Siagion, South Vietnam and Ayers Kasenne “the Rock” at Kiuch Gons, Germany.

Woods volunteered and entered the Army at the induction center at

Montgomery, AL, and was transferred to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for in processing followed by basic training and an assignment to the Military Police School at Fort Gordon, GA. He also served as a drill sergeant and as an armor crewman. Woods completed training at the Sergeant’s Major Academy at Ft. Bliss, TX.

Woods was born November 13, 1942, near Thomasville, AL, to his parents, Brady Woods, Sr. and Ethel Grayson Woods. After graduation from Thomasville High School, he joined the U. S. Army, received an Associate Degree in General Management from the El Paso Community College. He taught JROTC at G.W. Carver High School in Montgomery, AL, for 20 years. He has worked as a security guard at the Montgomery Zoo. Since 2004, Woods has been fully retired.

Woods and his wife, Shirley, have three children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He is an active member of Montgomery’s Eastmont Baptist Church where he has served as a deacon and as a member of the choir. In his leisure time, Woods enjoys attending high school football, baseball and basketball games

In 2007, Woods trained with the International Association of Fire Chaplains at Kansas City MO, and for over nine years he has served as a chaplain with the Montgomery, AL, Fire Department. In the event of a sudden death, seriously injured firefighter or line of duty death, he provides counseling to firefighters and other department members. In addition, for over eight years, he has served with the Central AL Chapter of the American Red Cross, and whenever he is on call, he serves 24/7 even on weekends to assist clients whenever fires cause people’s homes to become damaged and unlivable. He interviews them and gives ARC debit cards to clients which can be used to provide clothing, temporary lodging, food, etc.

Wood’s conclusions about his military career are, “I have the satisfaction of having served the country. I have accomplished a goal of receiving an education and training.”

Everett K. Cole ~ 70

Everett K. Cole is a U. S. Marine who served in combat in Vietnam, stepped on a mine May 22, 1969 and immediately suffered the loss of the right leg at the ankle with multiple severe shrapnel injuries to the left lower leg, damage to the knee and severe muscle damage to the left thigh. Heroic measures of doctors and nurses saved the left leg from amputation, at that time. The left leg was amputated above the knee in August, 2014, due to a series of infections following five failed knee replacements. He remains steadfastly loyal to the Marine Corps and the United



States. This remarkable man’s life personifies courage and determination to survive and to achieve in spite of extreme circumstances. He received the following medals and awards for his military service: Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal with ‘V’, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, VietNam Service Medal, Viet Nam Cross of Gallantry and VietNam Campaign Medal with 60 devices.

Everett was born March 7, 1949, in Moss Point, MS, to his parents, C.W. Cole and Helen R. Cole. He was reared in Century, FL, Cantonment, FL, and Pensacola, FL, and he attended Tate High School through the 10th grade and attended Escambia High School until March, 1967. In May, 1968, he was notified to report for a physical for the military draft and then joined the U. S. Marine Corps May 20, 1968, at age 19. He completed Marine Corps Boot Camp at Parris Island, SC, October 21, 1968, and he was sent to the Marine Corps Camp LeJeune, NC, for infantry training for eight weeks. After reporting to the Marine Corps Camp Pendleton, CA, he received two more weeks of training followed by five days in Okinawa arriving for combat in Vietnam February 6, 1969.

Everett’s four months tour of duty in Vietnam ended when he triggered a landmine resulting in catastrophic injuries to his legs. Everett concludes that because his injuries occurred about 10:15 a.m. instead of p.m., he was quickly medevaced by helicopter to a Naval hospital in Vietnam by 10:30 a.m. which prevented his becoming a casualty. He also credits God’s hand in saving his life. One hour before he was wounded, the lieutenant leading his unit had the patrol element practice

drills to know what to do if someone might be wounded. Everett’s best friend was assigned to carry the radio for the squad, and this was his first patrol as radio man. When the explosion went off, Everett could hear the transmission for a chopper. As it turned out, a chopper with the call sign “Lady Ace” intercepted the message and stated that he was in the air with another wounded Marine and could take a couple more Marines. This Lady Ace became Everett’s rescue angel. The records show total rescue time was 12 minutes! After triage in Vietnam, he was sent to the 106th U. S. General Army Hospital in Yokohama, Japan, for three weeks where more of his right leg was amputated followed by treatment at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital in Philadelphia, PA, for four months. Everett was then sent to the VA Hospital in Montgomery, AL, where he met his future wife, Alice, who was employed there. After one year of treatment in military and VA hospitals, he was discharged May 30, 1970. Everett was medically retired from military service and in 1974 given permanent medical disability retirement from the Marine Corps.

Since then, Everett states, “I have lived my life to the fullest and the best that I could. Vietnam stole my youth. I never had a chance to grow up.”He married in 1970, and using the Chapter 31, Vocational Rehab benefits from the VA, he attended Alabama Christian College (Faulkner University) for two years receiving an Associate Degree transferring to Huntingdon College graduating with a B.A. in Secondary Education in May, 1975. Instead of teaching, Everett was offered a job with the VA, where he worked at the VA Regional Office in Montgomery reaching the level of GS-13 helping veterans by reviewing decisions made about veterans including processing education awards for G.I. Bill requests, reviewing disability ratings and serving as an adjudicator on legal documents retiring April 4, 2004, at the end of 30 years of service.

Since retirement, Everett has enjoyed playing guitar, fishing, hunting, bush hogging, cutting trails and preparing roads on his farm in rural Montgomery County, AL, traveling with his wife to visit all 50 States for which he had given his legs and being with his three daughters and eight grandchildren. He and his wife attend the Liberty Church of Christ in Hope Hull, AL. Everett serves as the Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 2205 whose members have all answered America’s call, and now as combat wounded veterans, they continue to serve America by helping active duty military, veterans, their families and those who have borne the burden of battle. Everett is also a Lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and a member of the America Legion. He is active in Veteran non-profit support organizations such as AHEROUsa, Soldiers Freedom Outdoors, The Independence Fund, Independence Corps, and Purple Heart Cruise encouraging and being encouraged by fellow veterans.

Although Everett suffered traumatic injuries at age 19, he retains his loyalty to the U. S. Marine Corps saying, “It gave me the ability to overcome saying, “I can’t.” It gave me the drive to be the kind of man that I should be. I believe in courage, commitment and honor. I’ve tried to live my life by that including God, family and the Corps. My wife of 49 years deserves the title of Marine as much as I do because of what she has gone through with me. I have always had a wife who listens.”

Jerry Glen Wheat ~ 82

Jerry Glen Wheat served in the United States Air Force for 20 years as an aircraft mechanic including three remote tours, namely, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Vietnam. Because of his distinguished service, he received the following medals: GCM Good Conduct Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, VSM Vietnam Service Medal, VCM Vietnam Campaign Medal, NDSM National



Defense Service Medal, AFOUA Air Force Outstanding Unit Award With One Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, AFLSA Air Force Longevity Service Award with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, DFC Distinguished Flying Cross - Combat Special Operations Group 267 Headquarters Seventh Air Force issued August 21, 1972, and AM Air Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters. (He completed more than 60 combat missions.) His work as an aircraft mechanic involved inspecting, servicing and repairing aircraft. He did troubleshooting and maintenance to the structure, the engines, and the components inside for the mission criteria including electronic warfare. The safety of the aircraft and the success of every mission hinged on the integrity of the aircraft maintained by his role as an aircraft mechanic.

Wheat was born January 4, 1938, in Fountain Run, KY, to his parents, William H. Wheat and Ophie Beatrice Wheat. He graduated from Allen County High School in Scottsville, KY, and immediately after graduation, he volun-

teered for military service in the United States Air Force July 9, 1958. Wheat completed Basic Training at Lackland AFB, TX. Because of his experience using farm machinery during his youth, he had developed an aptitude for mechanical skills and became an aircraft mechanic after completing training at a technical school at Shepard AFB, TX. His first of four assignments to Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, was for one year. His first overseas assignment was to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, for 13 months where he maintained the C47 and C54 aircraft. He was then sent to Andrews AFB, MD, for four years where he serviced the T29, 131, C54 and C118 aircraft. In 1965, he returned to Maxwell AFB to serve with the 3805 Maintenance Squadron for one year. In January, 1966, he was sent to his second remote to the Danang Air Base in Vietnam to serve with the 31 Air Command Squadron where he was the Crew Chief of the C123 aircraft for one year. Wheat returned to Maxwell AFB for a three-year assignment as the Flight Engineer on the T29 aircraft doing training missions. In September, 1970, he was sent to his third remote to Nakhon Phanom Air Base, Thailand, as a Flight Engineer on a WWII vintage C47 aircraft, electronic warfare detachment doing surveillance plotting 40 bombing missions. In September, 1971, he was sent to England AFB, LA, for special operations training Vietnamese, Laotians and South Americans for two years. His last assignment was a return to Maxwell AFB where he served as a Flight Engineer in a C131 and as a Flight Engineer in the Maintenance Department. He went into cross training in fire-fighting and rescue. Wheat retired July 1, 1978, at the rank of Master Sergeant.

After retirement, he began college at night school at Troy State University at Montgomery with a major in criminal justice. He then worked for 20 years for the Department of Defense at Maxwell AFB in aircraft maintenance and became an aircraft management technician and an assistant aircraft manager.

Wheat and his wife, Dorothy Lawson Wheat, have been married over 60 years, and they have two sons, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They enjoy horticulture and crafts using driftwood making things out of wood selling some products at craft shows. Wheat enjoys boating and fishing as well as taking grandchildren on trips.

Wheat’s conclusions about his military serve are, “Serving in the military was an honor for me. I was subject to being drafted into the military right after high school because I was not married. I wanted to enter the military branch that I preferred which was the Air Force not realizing that I would ever stay 20 years. I went on and made it a career, and I have never been sorry. It was one of my duties in life.”



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

Southern Cuisine

We ate our way through Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day. It was like we were bears preparing for hibernation. The problem being we are about halfway through winter and we have yet to hibernate.

I suggest we slow down with preparing large family meals for the rest of winter. It should be an easy task since there are no major “feast” days until March. Except if you have a large family to start with, and for Valentine's Day and a stray family birthday, try to refrain from honing your culinary skills.

Instead hone your organizational skills by inventorying your freezer(s), refrigerator(s) and pantry. Find out what left-overs you have “squirreled” away with the intentions of preparing a different gourmet feast. What are you going to do with the freezer-burnt leftover turkey and ham. Why are you saving the burnt marshmallow topped, syrup floating sweet potatoes and the leftover fruitcake.



This is a good time to research my past articles about keeping a pantry. Just kidding! I am going to refresh your memory about keeping a well stocked pantry. Remember a pantry should reflect your skills as a cook. The tools(pots, pans, cutlery, etc.) you use do not change unless you break them or they lost their effectiveness for the purpose they were designed. What will change in a well stock pantry are the basic items that you use in most of your meals. After preparing all those meals in the past months, you may be in short supply of some basic items. This returns to the problem of living in a food desert. When you run out of cornmeal or flour, it is not likely that you will grind our own corn or wheat. The nearest store to me is six miles away. Though it has in the past months greatly improved the number of selections offered, the store is still limited in the number of products, even though they are the largest grocery store in Lowndes County. The next full size grocery store is thirteen miles away in Montgomery County and it is still a small limited selection store. For specialty items like gourmet cheeses and deli meats, a larger selection of brand names to choose from, a wider variety of produce to pick from plus live cooking demonstrations and samples, one has to find a tier one grocery store. For those of you that lived in Texas and will understand, I miss my HEB.

So, your choices are, keep a well stock pantry or shop everyday. I do like to shop but I don't like the drives that take as much time as the shopping. I keep a well stocked pantry so my shopping excursions are usually for inspiration and finding new products. Produce is at the top of the list when I go shopping. The next items on the list are to re-stock the pantry.

The following lists are basic guidelines to restock your depleted pantry. Personal tastes and availability will determine the specific items in your pantry.

I have the list broken down into twelve categories, this too can be fine tuned for your specific taste and how you want to organize your pantry.

- BASICS**
Salt, pepper, oils, vinegar
- BAKING BASICS**
Flour, baking soda, baking powder, vanilla extract, evaporated milk
- SWEETENERS**
Sugar (brown and white, and/or artificial), honey, maple syrup
- DRINKS**
Coffee (ground, instant), Tea(loose and/or bagged)
- RICE & GRAINS**
Rice, your preference, white rice has a longer shelf life), pastas(dried), bread-crumbs
- SNACKS & CEREALS**
Crackers, popcorn, chips, dried fruit, sunflower seeds, peanut butter, oats, applesauce
- CANNED GOODS**
Chicken (stock or broth), beans(navy, black, chickpeas, pintos), vegetables(corn, green beans), chipotle in adobo, olives(green and black), salsa, tomatoes(diced, crushed, whole, your option), tomato paste, tuna, anchovies.
- SPICES & HERBS**
Bay leaves, Cajun seasoning, chili powder, curry powder, ground garlic, onion powder, ground cloves, whole cloves, ground cinnamon, whole stick cinnamon, crushed red pepper, oregano, paprika(plain and smoked),thyme,sesame seeds,ground ginger,whole nutmeg.
- REFRIGERATOR**
Milk, eggs, butter(salted and unsalted), cheese(cheddar and mozzarella), goat, Parmesan.
- FRESH**
Carrots, celery, tomatoes, bell peppers, leaf greens, lettuce, onions, lime, lemons, potatoes.
- CONDIMENTS**
Jelly and jams, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, pickles, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, Asian fish sauce, pickled jalapenos, capers.
- FREEZER**
Ground meats, boneless chicken, bacon, veggies, berries, dough(pizza crust, pie crust, puff pastry

You have a list of items in your pantry, but do you keep tract of the amounts of each item. Most items have an expiration or use by date imprinted on the container. Even if the date has not come yet, some items, like spices loose their potency over time. Some items have a long shelf-life and can be purchased in larger quantities. These items include:

- White rice
 - Oats
 - Honey, could crystallize but can be heated to melt crystals
 - Sugar, adsorbs moisture and will get hard, same as with brown sugar
 - Salt
 - Dried Beans
 - Vinegar
 - Dried Pasta
 - Hard Liquor
 - Powdered milk
- Most of these items will last a long time if stored in airtight containers in a dark and cool storage area.

With our pantry stocked, it is time to start cooking. For the waning days of winter a hearty thick bowl of chili does wonders for the soul. This recipe is even better if you are in a hurry to get a meal on the table because you have every ingredient in your pantry(well you should)!

THREE BEAN PANTRY CHILI

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
 - 3 tablespoons tomato paste
 - 1 chipotle in adobo, smashed with a fork into a fine paste
 - 3 tablespoons chili powder
 - 1 teaspoon dried oregano
 - Two 16-ounce jars salsa (about 3 1/2 cups)
 - Three 15-ounce cans beans, such as kidney, or your preference, drained (but not rinsed)
 - Three 15-ounce cans beans, such as black or pinto beans, or your preference, drained (but not rinsed)
 - One 15-ounce can corn, drained (but not rinsed)
 - 1 cup long-grain white rice
 - 1/4 cup cider vinegar



- GARNISH:**
- Tortilla chips and sliced pickled jalapeños.

- METHOD:**
- Heat the oil in a medium pot over medium-high heat.
 - Add the tomato paste and cook, smearing and stirring constantly with a heat-proof spatula or flat-edged wooden spoon, until dark and aromatic, about 90 seconds.
 - Add the chipotle, chili powder and oregano, and cook, stirring, for 1 minute.
 - Stir in the salsa and 1 1/4 cup water. Stir in the beans and hominy.
 - Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium-low, cover and simmer for 25 minutes, stirring occasionally.
 - Meanwhile, bring 1 1/2 cups water to a boil in a small saucepan with a lid.
 - Stir in the rice, reduce the heat to medium low, cover and simmer until the water is absorbed, about 15 minutes. Remove from the heat and let stand, covered, 5 minutes.
 - Remove the chili from the heat, stir in the cider vinegar and let stand 1 minute.
 - Fluff the rice with a fork, divide it among 6 serving bowls and top with the chili.
 - Serve with pickled jalapenos and tortilla chips, if desired.

Since Valentine's Day in close and we are discussing preparing meals from your pantry, here is a recipe that fits the bill. It is not your typical Valentine's entree but should remind you of chicken piccata but it does fit in with the items that are in your pantry. The recipe makes a spirited wine sauce. To make more of a Valentine meal have an appetizer of gourmet cheeses, crackers and fig jam, with fresh strawberries, and grapes. Tell your ECHO to play some soothing music. A Red Velvet Pound cake with a cream cheese frosting will be a suitable dessert.

VALENTINE PANTRY ENTREE

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 8 oz. multigrain spaghetti
 - 1 c. fresh flat-leaf parsley
 - 1 lemon
 - 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts (see note)
 - Kosher salt
 - Pepper
 - 2 tbsp. olive oil
 - 4 cloves garlic
 - 1 tbsp. capers
 - 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
 - 1/2 c. dry white wine



- METHOD:**
- Cook the pasta according to package directions. Reserve 1/2 cup of the cooking water, drain the pasta and return it to the pot; then toss with 1/2 cup parsley and the lemon zest and juice.
 - Meanwhile, thinly slice the chicken crosswise into 1/4-inch-thick pieces and season with 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add half the chicken and cook until golden brown, 1 to 2 minutes per side; transfer to a bowl.
 - Reduce heat to medium, add the remaining oil and chicken and cook for 1 minute. Turn the chicken, scatter the garlic, capers and red pepper over the top and cook 1 minute more. Return the first batch of chicken to the skillet and toss to combine.
 - Add the wine and simmer for 1 minute. Remove from heat, sprinkle the remaining parsley over the top, then toss with the pasta (adding some of the reserved pasta water if needed).
- Note:** My preference is skinless boneless thighs.

One can not think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.



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Judge
Peggy Givhan

millar and lamb's ears to serve as gray and pale green contrasts to the brighter colors. However most gardeners leave spaces for later additions or work around the perennials.

Now is a great time to plant a variety of spring bulbs which should be available at nurseries and garden centers in your area. The only bulbs that should not be planted are tulips and Asian lilies. The tulips must be refrigerated for at least a month to 6 weeks, and the Asian lilies need to be planted in the fall in order to bloom in late spring and early summer. Daffodils, narcissus, and paper whites are all good choices to plant this month. (All daffodils belong in the large family of Narcissus.) Sometimes I stagger the plantings from one area to another to extend the bloom. Planting a mass of daffodils creates a spectacular visual sight. Of course, you can force the paper whites indoors and plant later in the garden. Besides the bright colors, the name of the game is fragrance. If you are planting daffodils in non-gumbo soil, even the King Alfred's will return and multiply. I have found that Carlton, Ice Follies and Mount Hood varieties do not do well in the clay soil, multiplying and blooming like clockwork. I can attest to these since my farm which has clay soil. Beside old churches and old cemeteries, one can find old fashioned daffodils thriving and demonstrating that bulbs can have a long life span. Crocus, muscari, hyacinth, amaryllis, and crinum are just some of the other bulbs in the parade of color for the spring. So February can be the month of anticipation, waiting for the first and last bulbs to bloom.

In naturalizing bulbs in our area, we do not have to dig each hole which is a back breaking job. In mass plantings outside of the flower beds, remove grass and weeds down to the bare soil. Place the bulbs on top of the ground and cover them with good top soil to the depth of 2-3 inches. If necessary, put a light pine straw covering to prevent erosion until the bulbs roots are established and they burst into bloom. As far as fertilizers, I tend not to use bone meal because it may attract pests.

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for February by Peggy Givhan

Cupid is busy in February shooting his arrows of love because February has been called the month of love and Valentines.

Many receive funny cards, romantic cards, chocolates and bouquets of flowers. So what if we are to eat less sweets, go ahead and enjoy a couple pieces of candy. Many of our beds are already blooming with winter annuals such as pansies and dianthus. I use dusty

With winter soon to be over, there are some garden chores that can be taken care of now.

1. Remove all debris such as twigs, sticks and dead plant material as insects thrive in this environment.
2. Cut back and divide perennials. In doing this, the perennials are not root bound, and voila, there suddenly are new plants.
3. Study the garden, noting what did well and what did not. Revise the old plan, adding new flowers or make a new one.
4. Browse through flower catalogs, search through garden centers and nurseries for what is needed.
5. Plant the appropriate bulbs.
6. Check garden tools, cleaning them with a light solution of Clorox, and if past their prime, purchasing new.

GOOD GARDENING

Paper Whites capnbob.us

Daffodils i2.mirror.co.uk

Building Better Roads
By John Martin
Continued frompage 5A

When plans are made to build a new road, we must always ask ourselves is it really necessary. In some cases it might be, but many others have later proven to be schemes to enhance the property values of certain politicians and/or their friends with new highways that have far less value than their costs.

A good example is Montgomery's outer loop. Public persuaders fought a hard battle claiming that it would divert a great deal of traffic from the congested southern and eastern bypasses. Now after over two decades of construction, many millions of dollars in expenditures, and thousands of acres of farmland destroyed, the relief has been minimal. It is just too far away to be used by the majority of people.

I personally attended a couple of public meetings that took place when the loop was being planned. I suggested that instead of building the loop, why not improve the existing bypasses around Montgomery by widening them as needed, building the necessary viaducts and service roads, and making them controlled access like the interstates? I also asked a couple of the engineers how the cost would compare to the cost of the new loop. They admitted it would be about a third as much. They also hinted that they might do it someday.

But of course, they opted for the loop instead. That was their plan, and they were not going to change their minds. To them, their juicy contracts had far more value than performing public services for the people. Today our bypasses are as congested as ever.

Another problem we have is shoddy construction. For starters, a good road base must be made of a properly graded, well compacted mixture of gravel, sand and clay—several feet thick in some cases. If this is not done, the pounding of heavy trucks will destroy the pavement even if it is adequately applied.

The mixture and application of asphalt pavement is critical. If the weather is cold or wet, or if the mixture is not sufficiently heated before application, it

will fail in a short time. It must be thoroughly compacted while still hot to avoid voids or "honeycomb." And finally, the mix must be a precise blend of sand, gravel and asphalt of proper proportions. Professors at the University of Alabama have studied many examples of the mixes and observed that the asphalt content in nearly every case was at the bare minimum, not the optimum.

Even when properly applied, asphalt pavements have a typical life of only about eight years. After that time, the roads must be re-surfaced. It is not only costly, but it also imposes serious delays while flag men block traffic in both directions. Motorists must wait 30 minutes or more for their turns through one-lane stretches of three to five miles.

If built correctly, concrete roads last far longer. I have on very rare occasions traveled on concrete roads built in the 1930's and 40's that were still surprisingly smooth after over 50 or 60 years of pounding by heavy trucks. As a sharp contrast, I have experienced a great deal of roughness on many brand new concrete interstates. When riding in a heavy truck, this roughness is very pronounced and can without question illustrate that the road is being battered to pieces. The question I am compelled to ask is, "how were road builders able to make concrete roads smooth years ago, but cannot do the same today?"

We must also take a look at how roads are being built in Europe and particularly in Germany. Our interstates were modeled after the autobahns, but our standards fall far short of theirs. Their curves usually have greater radii, and grades are limited to only 2% in most areas, except in the mountains where they can go as high as 4%. Some of our interstates have grades of up to 8%, necessitating runaway truck ramps in many places. Our interstate pavement thickness is typically 8 to 11 inches. In Germany, an autobahn pavement is 27 inches of solid concrete, and the surface is always smooth and lasts for many years, oblivious to the heavy trucks and 200 mph traffic.

Of course, building roads like this would cost more initially, but once built, their long term maintenance is much, much less, and the obnoxious roadblocks now needed for resurfacing would be much less frequent.



Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Home Town Community News

Happy New Year!
We look forward to this next year and receiving your community news, birthdays and anniversaries!

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

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

Veterans Celebrating February Birthdays

Morrow, John F.	2/2/1922	98
Lowe, Winfred	2/2/1926	94
Panza, Joe	2/2/1939	81
Christian, Dudley Frank	2/6/1950	70
Forster, Richard	2/6/1928	92
Winn, George C.	2/6/1924	96
Combs, James Harris	2/15/1941	79
Crooks, Eugene F.	2/16/1927	93
King, Donald Charles	2/21/1935	85
Maxwell, Wille Lee	2/22/1922	98
Duncan, William Ellis	2/23/1923	97

Happy Anniversary

14 Gordon & Vicki Davis	20 Hayden & Dee Ward
Clark & Anita Jones	21 Tom & Bettye Garlington
Josh & Jamie McCandless	Gilbert & Ethel Sellers (64th)
16 Gordon & Becky Burton (41st)	22 Jerry & Debra Morrison (35th)
20 Chuck & Susan Gambrell	28 Pat & Butch Moseley (61st)

Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Webb, Cecile Morgan (94)died December 15, 2019
McBryde, Barbara Byers (98)died December 16, 2019
Faulk, Winn Seaborn LaFayette (71)died December 17, 2019
Barbee, Marie F. (89)died December 21, 2019
Mitchum, John Pios (84)died December 23, 2019
Best, Dewey Elkanah (88)died December 27, 2019
Springer, Eugenia "Genie" Thagard (86)died December 29, 2019
Hicks, Mary Glen "GenGen" (89)died December 30, 2019
Montiel, Sr., Judge Mark Gonzalo (62)died January 2, 2020
Crooks, Richard Douglas (61)died January 3, 2020
Engelhardt, Virginia McCall (80)died January 6, 2020
Henderson, Geneva Garner (95)died January 6, 2020
Lanier, Jr., Clifford Anderson (83)died January 6, 2020
Mason, John "Johnny" (57)died January 6, 2020
McGaha, Elton Ashley (88)died January 6, 2020
Richardson, Sarah Cook (91)died January 6, 2020
Ryan, Jr., Bennie Stoddard (85)died January 7, 2020
Scott, Anderson Butler (58)died January 11, 2020
Lamar, Emilie Deloison Lewis (97)died January 12, 2020
Moseley, Adine Horn (91)died January 14, 2020
Edwards, John R. (82)died January 19, 2020
Houlton, Sr., Roy H. (91)died January 19, 2020
Honaker, Steven Lee (66)died January 23, 2020
Duncan, Howard Lanier (78)died January 27, 2020
Posey, Gardner Jackson "Jack"died January 27, 2020

February Birthdays



- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Sara Margaret Auerbach | Randy Smith |
| George Evans | 17 Brian Betz |
| Mary Johnson | William L. Carl (83rd) |
| 2 Thelma Alexander | Chuck Glasscock (56th) |
| Brewer Box | Kathi Farley |
| Shelby Smith | Willa Faye Munson |
| Alvin Turner | Anastasia Meadow Takacs (4th) |
| 3 Del Atkinson | Gavin Noah Takacs (4th) |
| Pam Pouncey | Alice Tyson |
| Sybil Foshee | Jean Warren |
| Helen Lankford | 18 Chip Norris |
| Genye Messick | Kermit Paramore |
| Wayne Robinson | 19 Anita Jones |
| 4 Paige Box | Barbara Pugh |
| Anna Haigler Johnson | Chuck Lear |
| Helen Rahn Millican | Dawn Johnson |
| 5 Peggy Agent | 20 Ann Moore |
| Jean Fuller | Hayden Ward |
| Cruise Johnson | Todd Windham |
| Beth Norris | 21 Victoria L. Carl (20th) |
| Lila Webster | Alyssa Lear |
| 6 Amanda Edwards | Jessica Burgess |
| Morgan Lee Madison (9th) | Jerrell Campbell |
| Donna Spradley | Jane Russell |
| 7 Rhonda Black | Shirley Yarbrough |
| Mary Helen Fleming | 22 Ellen Adcock |
| Shelvie Freeman | Douglas Evans (70th) |
| Rick Marshall | Jean Finlayson |
| Rodney Powell | Hettie H. Harrington |
| 8 John Barnes | Tim Meadows |
| Claudine Nobles | Willie Stephens |
| Sharon Owens | 23 Dorothy Bennett |
| Janet Phillips | Virgil Culpepper |
| Abigail Roux | Bill Duncan (97th) |
| 9 Lori Meadows | Nathan Horsley |
| Lucille Wilson | Ann Spheres |
| 10 Jim Soule | 24 Katherine Andrews |
| Mittie B. Stockman (93rd) | Cheryl Jarrell |
| Jeanne Villar | 25 Bettye Garlington |
| 11 Glen Hataway | John Higgins |
| Steve Law | Lewis Mulleck |
| Earline Wood | Shanny Sansom |
| 12 Chas Hammock (11th) | Willie Pearl Shepherd |
| Susan Gambrell | 26 Erma Dillard |
| Dot Hill | Cassidy Gwin |
| 14 Nancy Andrews | Dean Moore |
| Carolyn Bowden | Carolyn Watson |
| Michael Coker | 27 Portia Goss |
| Lyda Crowe | Evans Hartzog |
| Drew Martin | Jamie Hall |
| Hamil Martin | Mary Horton |
| Dorothy Sparrow | Carol Spencer |
| Zac Swearingen | 28 Joy Carlisle |
| 15 Mildred Durden | Mary Daniels |
| Mike Green | Debi Nowakowski |
| Nancy Rabren | Weldon Payne |
| Susan Terrell | Charlene Schofield |
| 16 James Ellis Fleming (14th) | Freddie Oswalt |
| Joan Kirk | 29 Mandy Azar |
| Clark Jones | |

Belated birthday wishes to Jeannette Long.
She celebrated her 87th birthday on January 11, 2020.
She recently zip-lined in Costa Rica.

HAPPY
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In Memory Of

James Daniel McDonald – January 4, 2020
Theodore Darwin Thompson – January 5, 2020
Elmer Leavelle Dickens, Jr. – January 6, 2020
Charles Ray Carpenter – January 6, 2020
Frances Delene Grier – January 6, 2020
Fred Wayne Browning – January 9, 2020
Wilburn Clytt Bedsole – January 9, 2020
Donna Lee Denson – January 10, 2020
Jane Irene Wall – January 10, 2020
Carolyn Johnson – January 14, 2020
Emma Louise Stoddard – January 16, 2020
Barbara Jane Sims – January 16, 2020
Ruth Ann Ziem – January 17, 2020
Brandon Steven Hutson – January 20, 2020
Glenn Edward Reeves – January 21, 2020
Everett Leon Gilliland – January 21, 2020
Patsy Ann Hammitt – January 23, 2020
Charlie Clyde Knight – January 24, 2020
Lorene Emfinger – January 26, 2020
Heather Nicole Baker – January 27, 2020

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Years and Laughter:

Everybody
has a Krystal story!

By Amanda Walker

Krystal is the South's oldest fast food restaurant chain. They have been making little square hamburgers since 1932.

Having been around for so long, everybody seems to have a Krystal story. If for no other reason, you can go through a drive-thru and have a big bag of them riding shotgun with you for just over \$5.

Krystal has always been a friend to night people.

Back during the late 80s and early 90s people liked to line dance. People still like to line dance I suppose, but back then it was extremely popular. It didn't matter what anyone did for a living, come Friday night there would be bank executives and welders and educators who would come out all dressed up like they were about to go join the wagon train. And then they would commence to dancing side by side in a line until closing time.

Women could wear short skirts, long skirts, or tight jeans, but they absolutely had to have on a button down plaid shirt and genuine leather cowboy boots. They could be ostrich leather. They could be bright red with tassels, but the boots were a necessity. Hats were optional.

That was the routine. Some people went on Friday nights, some went on Saturday nights, some went on both nights. It didn't matter if you could dance or not. And when the Diplomat made its last call...Krystal cast a welcoming glow just down the Bypass.

It was where we would go when the party was over, but the night still felt young or seemed to loom too long.

I moved to Montgomery from Clanton once I graduated from high school. I started college and took a job at Country's Barbecue. The supervisors would plan work schedules around classes for several of us, which meant we all had the opportunity to help close a few nights a week.

Closing meant two or three of us would have to stay a couple hours past the time customers had left and the doors were locked. There was a lot of cleaning and vacuuming that had to be done and then we would turn the overhead music up and roll silverware. Country music. It played in the background of all of our conversations.

Some nights we rushed.

But other nights we would talk later than the tasks before us required. We would let ourselves out the side door into the quiet air with midnight approaching...and drive across the street to Krystal. No matter how late we worked, they would still be open.

Some nights I would go alone. I would sit in a corner booth watching what few cars still out on the Bypass, while contemplating the space between where I had always been and where I intended to go – with the company of couple of little square burgers.

Krystal filed a petition for federal bankruptcy protection Tuesday, January 2nd, in Dunwoody, Georgia where they are now based. Officials cited having more obligations than assets, a security issue involving payment cards used at certain location, and offering inexpensive food at a time when customers tastes and preferences have shifted as reasons for the filings.

Krystal will reportedly remain open as they pursue an orderly sale of the business. They hope to emerge from the restructuring, and I hope they do too. Saying goodbye to Krystal would be like losing an old friend. Even if you don't hang out like you once did...there are memories.

Amanda Walker is a contributor with AL.com The Selma Times Journal, Thomasville Times, West Alabama Watchman, and Alabama Gazette. Contact her at Walker-world77@msn.com or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.



Trisston's Tidbits...

“God's Living Valentine”

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

Valentine's Day! There's truly not another day quite like it. Millions, perhaps billions, of dollars are spent each year to celebrate this day. Then, after the hundreds of pounds of chocolate have been gobbled up and the millions of cards have

been exchanged, there comes the inevitable follow up...February 15.

That's the day when we go back to our daily grind and all that focus on love typically gets thrown out with the wrappers and cards. This probably happens because we put so much emphasis on the temporary and emotionally driven feeling called love, which is why it is so important to remember that God sends us a very different message.

“For the mountains may move and the hills disappear, but even then, my faithful love for you will remain. My covenant of blessing will never be broken.” says the LORD, who has mercy on you.” Isaiah 54:10

Isn't this amazing? Long after our flowers have faded and the feelings have waned, God's love endures beyond even the foundations of the earth! That's because His love for us isn't centered in our beauty, behavior or even our love for Him. God's love flows from the unconditional affection and commitment of the perfect Father's heart.

And here is the best part! When we decide to share the love that God has for us with others, it will have an eternal impact. In fact, loving others the way that God loves us is the only meaningful thing that will last forever. Love will never become obsolete **(1 Corinthians 13:1-8)**.

This Valentine's Day remember that love is so much more than flowers and candy and cards. It is even more than the deepest feelings you experience, because real love is expressed by unconditional commitment and unwavering dedication to our loved ones—which should be everyone!

That's why God didn't spend billions of dollars on us, He sacrificed His price-less Child. He didn't send us flowers, but He allowed a crown of thorns to be put on Jesus' brow. He didn't send us a card, but He demonstrated the ultimate Valentine.

Let's make every day a “Valentine's Day”. For God so loved the world, and so should we. I invite you to allow yourself to be God's living Valentine to a world that desperately needs to know what love is truly all about.

Many Blessings & Much Love!

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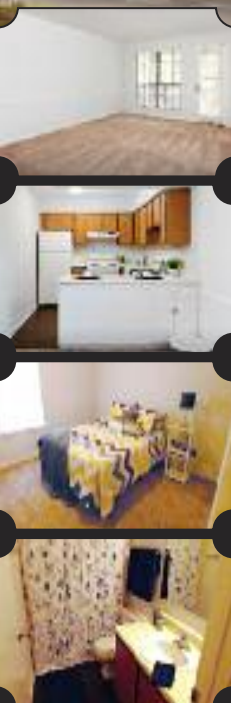
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Alabama Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration
4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100
Montgomery, Alabama 36116



WHO DO I CONTACT - SOCIAL SECURITY OR MEDICARE?

Social Security offers retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. Medicare provides health insurance. Because these services are often related, you may not know which agency to contact for help. The table below can help you quickly figure out where to go. Please share this table with family and friends.

Topic	Social Security	Medicare	Resources
How do I report a death?		X	Contact your local Social Security Office or call 1-800 772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)
How can I check Medicare eligibility?	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare
What does Medicare cover?		X	www.medicare.gov/what-medicare-covers
How do I sign up for Hospital Insurance? (Part A)	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare
How do I sign up for Medical Insurance? (Part B)	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare
How do I apply for Extra Help with Medicare Prescription drug coverage? (Part D)	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare/prescriptionhelp
How can I check the status of Medicare Part A or B claims?		X	www.mymedicare.gov
Where do I find forms for filing a Medicare appeal or let someone speak with Medicare on my behalf?		X	www.medicare.gov/claims-appeals/how-do-i-file-an-appeal
How to appeal an income-related monthly adjustment amount decision?	X		
<i>for people who pay a higher Part B or D premium, if their income is over a certain amount</i>			www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/disabilityappeal.html
How can I request a replacement Medicare card online?	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount
If I already get benefits or have Medicare, how do I report a change of address or phone number?	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount
What do Medicare health and prescription drug plans in my area cost, and what services do they offer?	X		www.medicare.gov/plan-compare
Which doctors, health care providers, and suppliers participate in Medicare?		X	www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/find-compare-doctors-hospitals-other-providers
Where do I find publications about Medicare?	X	X	www.ssa.gov/pubs/?topic=Medicare www.medicare.gov/publications
Where can I find out more about a Medicare (Part D) and enroll?	X		www.medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d/how-to-prescription-drug-plan-get-prescription-drug-coverage
Where can I find a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy in my area?		X	www.medicare.gov/medigap-supplemental-insurance-plans

On January 14, 1998, the Honorable Governor Fob James, Jr., issued a proclamation declaring the month of February as ALABAMA STATE FLAG MONTH. He also statement in the proclamation, that every school, in Alabama, should display the State Flag during the month of February and every month thereafter.

History is very important to our growth as a people, a state and a country. Without our history where is our future?

