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



PREPARING FOR AND PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF EBOLA AT HOME

Like many Americans, I am seriously concerned about the effectiveness of our country's response to the Ebola outbreak and how it will affect our ability to protect Americans from this threat. I recently wrote President Obama a letter calling on him to take more decisive action to prevent American citizens from further exposure. Specifically, I am calling for the United States to:

1. *Institute a temporary travel ban by immediately restricting travel visas for individuals from the West African counties hardest hit by Ebola.*
2. *Enhance airport screening for all U. S. airports; and*
3. *Institute a mandatory quarantine of individuals who have been in direct contact with the Ebola virus.*

We need to approach the Ebola outbreak like a mission and fight it aggressively. Several experimental drugs exist to combat symptoms and treat the infected. Health officials are making concerted efforts to expedite further production and to send available vaccines to the affected areas. The Department of Defense has deployed military advisors to Western Africa to oversee medical facility construction and provide medical expertise. Additionally, the CDC is working in conjunction with many other federal agencies to train officials to identify and prevent sick passengers from traveling internationally. These efforts include coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and the Department of State.

Our nation's actions to contain this disease and prevent it from spreading further should ensure the safety of all involved, including the members of the military. The Pentagon has ensured that

Department of Defense personnel are outfitted with the proper equipment while working to prevent sick passengers from boarding planes and ships.

Our state officials and hospital network are proactively preparing to handle cases, should they occur. I appreciate the leadership of the Dr. Don Williamson and his team at the Alabama Department of Public Health in keeping the public aware of the latest information.

My office remains in close contact with the agencies involved in combating this threat. Federal agencies have a critical job to do in such times of crisis, and it is important that they get it right. As a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Subcommittee overseeing the budget for the CDC and the National Institutes of Health, I am closely monitoring this situation as Congress considers agency funding bills for Fiscal Year 2015.

ROBY COMMENTS ON VA TERMINATION

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – U.S. Representative Martha Roby today commented on the Department of Veterans Affairs action to terminate former Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System Director James Talton.

Talton was placed on administrative leave in August and then "proposed" for termination pending review earlier this month, all while continuing to be paid. On Friday, termination action became official.

Per the recently-enacted VA reform law,

Talton may still appeal the decision, but will no longer receive pay. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Talton's is the first full termination decision taken under the new law.

"Those who presided over the misconduct, negligence and systemic fraud in Central Alabama must be held accountable," Rep. Roby said.

"Responsibility for what has taken place at the Central Alabama VA doesn't rest with one person. I don't expect the director to be the last one fired, nor should he be.

"A key reason a culture of complacency has festered for years at the Central Alabama VA is the

consequence-free environment it has been. It is what happens when employees see clear misconduct and even criminal behavior repeatedly go unpunished.

"The work here isn't done. Last week, Deputy VA Secretary Sloan Gibson told me he would be personally involved in overseeing reforms in Central Alabama. I believe direct oversight from the senior level at the VA enhances accountability and improves our ability to get real change in Central Alabama.

"Instilling accountability at the VA is a monumental task, but it is essential to ensuring a health care system that doesn't leave veterans behind."



Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers



Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His column appears weekly in 72 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at www.steveflowers.us

The 2014 General Election is Tuesday. It is set to be uneventful. I predicted over a year ago that this election year was going to be dull and, folks, my prognostication has come to fruition. This year has been a yawner from the get go.

Even the GOP and Democratic primaries in June were void of any drama. As the results trickled in from the summer primaries, there were absolutely no surprises or upsets. Even in the face of historic low voter turnout, every favorite or incumbent prevailed and usually by the margin suggested by polling.

The low voter interest and predictability were for obvious reasons. There have simply not been any close or interesting statewide races this year. The governor's race is generally the paramount premier political show every four years, but not this year.

Gov. Robert Bentley began the year with incredible approval ratings in the polls. His popularity does not stem from his job performance as much as it does from his likeability factor. Alabamians simply like the retired physician. Most importantly, they trust him. He reminds older Alabamians of the country doctors who once made house calls. Bentley feels as comfortable as an old shoe.

The Democrats have become the minority party in Alabama state politics. So much so that winning the Republican primary for governor is tantamount to election in the Heart of Dixie. Bentley won the Republican nomination in June with an amazing 90% of the vote against two token opponents.

The Democrats fielded a credible candidate in Parker Griffith. Ironically, both Bentley and Griffith are retired physicians. I doubt that will ever happen again in Alabama history where two 72-year-old retired physicians are the two candidates for governor. At least whoever is elected governor will be intelligent.

Griffith has governmental experience. He has served one term in the State Senate and one term in Congress from Huntsville. Being from Huntsville is one of the reasons Griffith's name identification remains fairly low. Most voters do not get much news from Madison County, which itself probably feels a closer

kinship to Nashville and Tennessee.

Nevertheless, Griffith has run a valiant campaign. He has attacked Bentley on the issues. He has stressed several major topics on which the two doctors differ. Griffith supports expanding Medicaid and starting a state lottery for education. He describes Bentley as a nice man but too beholden to the extreme right wing. He has also criticized Bentley for signing a school choice bill that Griffith says has "choked and bled dry" the state's public schools. Griffith's sharpest attack against Bentley has been on Bentley refusing to expand Medicaid. He says, "Our people are without health care only because Gov. Bentley doesn't like who's in the White House." Regardless, the polling has shown for months that Gov. Bentley commands a 20-point lead over his Democratic challenger, Dr. Griffith.

Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey should have no trouble disposing of former Cullman State Representative, James Fields, in her bid for a second term. Popular State Treasurer, Young Boozer, will waltz to a second four-year term. John Merrill, who ran a spirited race for Secretary of State in the Republican primary, will have little trouble turning back a challenge from Democrat Lula Albert-Kaigler and Jim Ziegler should easily defeat Miranda Joseph in the State Auditor's race.

All Republicans have an inherent advantage on a statewide ballot. This should help incumbent Luther Strange in his bid for reelection as Attorney General. However, this will be the closest race to watch next Tuesday.

Strange is being challenged by Montgomery State Rep. Joe Hubbard. Young Mr. Hubbard, who is the great grandson of Senator Lister Hill, has run a well-financed and organized campaign. If he falls short, it will be because he is a Democrat and a good many Alabama voters may mistake him for the embattled Speaker of the House, Mike Hubbard, who has been bombarded with negative publicity for over a year.

Do not forget to vote next Tuesday.

October 29, 2014



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FAREWELL TO D. T. MARSHALL



**Chief Derrick
Cunningham**

This is probably my last article I will write for the Gazette. By the time this issue is published the election for Montgomery County Sheriff will be decided and I will be ending my 36 year career in law enforcement, 20 years at the Montgomery Police Department and 16 years as your Sheriff. I announced last summer that I was retiring and I was supporting Chief Deputy Derrick Cunningham as the next Sheriff of Montgomery County.

I have known Derrick since he worked for me investigating violent crimes at the Police Department. I got to know the kind of man he was and I was grateful when he accepted my offer to become my Chief Deputy here at the Sheriff's Office. There is no doubt in my mind that if he is elected, he is the best person for the job and he will continue to serve the citizens of Montgomery in a manner that I have tried to do in the past 16 years. He has worked very hard on his education obtaining his Bachelors degree and Masters degree since becoming the Chief Deputy. He has graduated from the FBI National Academy, he is the Homeland Security coordinator for Montgomery County, he runs the day to day operations of the Sheriff's Office, he has started many programs that help out the Citizens of Montgomery County and he does so many other things that are too numerous to mention in this article. Thanks to his guidance, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is one of the best trained and best equipped law enforcement agencies in the State of Alabama. To get an idea of some of the things that he has done check out our website at www.montgomerysheriff.com. I know

that the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will be in good hands with a Sheriff Derrick Cunningham at the helm.

I leave this office with mixed emotions knowing that I am entering a new phase of my life. After 36 years it will be really difficult to get up in the morning knowing that I will not have the challenge that law enforcement gives. I really enjoyed doing the work for the citizens that I have done both at the Police Department and at the Sheriff's Office. I realized that after 4 elections that it was time to step down and pass the torch to someone with a fresh mind. I believe that one of the problems with elected officials who homestead a position is that they lose their focus on why they first ran for office. They become complacent and take their position for granted. I did not want this happen to me because too many people depend on the Sheriff and what he can do for all citizens.

I leave knowing that I did my very best for Montgomery County and hope to see many of you in the future. It is time for this old Sheriff to go out to pasture and to relax and maybe do some fishing. I want to thank each and every person who supported me throughout the years and for all of you who showed your faith in me by voting for me in the last 4 elections.

I feel confident that you will elect Chief Cunningham and be assured that he will be an outstanding Sheriff for Montgomery County.

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

The **Alabama Gazette** wishes to thank Sheriff D. T. Marshall for his 14 years as a contributing writer with this newspaper. He was in our very first issue back in October 2000.

He has informed our countless readers of important issues facing Montgomery County citizens. He has covered everything from gun laws, safety for our children, notification of crimes in the Montgomery County area and much

more.

As Sheriff he has begun many programs to help and encourage our children, youth and our senior citizens. His team of dedicated law enforcement men and women have been outstanding.

"THANK YOU" Sheriff D.T. Marshall for being a part of the Alabama Gazette. We will miss you! God Bless for the good work you have done and have a great retirement!

Thank You

D. T. Marshall

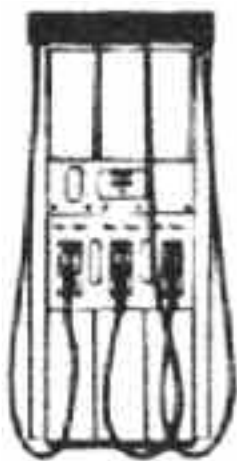
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Robservations...by Robert Tate

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“I AM CONFUSED—NOT REALLY”

There is a line from my favorite WWII movie, **12 O'clock High**, where newly promoted LTC Harvey Stovall, played by Dean Jagger, is sitting in the office with Gregory Peck's character, General Savage, and two other officers. The 918th Bomb

Group had just completed their most challenging mission to date and was scheduled to fly a mission against the same target the following day. As the men are discussing the day's events, Stovall, quite drunk, stands up and interrupts the conversation, "I am confused," he says. "I was thinking, which is a thing a man should not do." Well, I too am confused.

It is funny how some things just simply will not go away. In my last column I talked about some of the funny things I have encountered recently having to do with race. To be fair, racism and bigotry certainly come from both sides of the aisle. But last week while my wife and I were in Gatlinburg, I saw a pickup truck drive by with the largest Confederate flag I have seen in years. Yes they were probably trying to make a statement but those who know me absolutely know I could care less about that flag. It doesn't bother me in the least but just don't stick it in my face and start screaming at me. To me, it is much like the Swastika. For someone who has studied the German Luftwaffe for over 45 years, I have come face-to-face with that image tens of thousands of times. It doesn't bother me to see it in a historical context. However, put it on a flag, stick it in my face and tell me Hitler had the right idea and you and I are going to have a big problem. But the pickup with the flag reminded me of something.

While I was recovering from rotator cuff surgery several years ago, I had the opportunity to watch way too much television and I often got sucked into watching History Channel's *Gangland*. If you have never watched this series, let there be no doubt that there are some disturbed individuals on this planet. But as I watched a lot of the episodes, it didn't surprise me at how violent and mean so many of these people are. Whether it was the cutting off of body parts, burning people alive or the killing of over 1,500 people per year in one city alone, none of it really surprised me. Sickened? Yes. Surprised? No. Why? Because most of these people are doing exactly what evil people do when God is not present in their life. **John 10:10** tells us that Satan comes to "steal, kill and destroy." Why should the horrific actions of these Godless gangs be a shock to us?

Then one night I was watching an episode that dealt with the Aryan Nations, White Supremacists and KKK. As I watched the hour-long episode, I became more and more confused. Toward the end of the episode they showed about 30 people doing the Nazi salute to both a burning cross and swastika. Meanwhile they were saying, "For our Christ, for our race." You know how a puppy tilts his head when he hears an odd noise? Well, that was me watching the television.

Let's address some facts here. The Aryan Nations and KKK, like the Nazis in WW II Germany, hate Jews – no surprise here. The Nazi regime in its concept and practice, was atheist. Period. No question. As a small sample, each of the 21 main defendants at Nuremberg claimed to be either Lutheran or Catholic, but their actions clearly demonstrate otherwise. The Aryans, too, claim to be Christian. Of course these people hate just about everybody not like them but they hold a special hate in their hearts for the Jew. Drum Roll Please!! Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior was a Jew. He was a Rabbi. There is no question, no doubt. Jesus Christ was Jewish yet the Aryans hate Jews. Once again, basic math states if $a=b$ and $b=c$ then $a=c$. If they hate Jews and Christ was a Jew, then they love Christ? Wha-what???

Next, here goes the next heart breaker for the hard core Aryans out there. Jesus Christ was most likely not white. Just because a lot of paintings depict Him that way, it doesn't necessarily make it so. He was and most likely looked Middle

Eastern like everybody else from, guess where? The Middle East. Modern scientific and historical findings support this reality. For most Christians, this however, really doesn't (or shouldn't) matter anyway. As for me, I could care less. Why should I stress and argue about what the Man who gave His life for me looks like?

The Aryans and KKK hate the Jews and people of color, yet most of the main heroes in the Bible were both. How can they hate so vehemently and still claim to be Christian? **Numbers 23:8** says, "How shall I curse, whom God has not cursed? And how can I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?" In **1 Corinthians 10:32**, we are told to, "Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God. . ." Yet at their very core, this is exactly what these groups do. They curse God's covenant people and unwittingly curse Christ and in turn His church. Amazingly, they somehow think they are doing it for a noble cause. They think they are exalting Christ while simultaneously spurning His heritage. There is no logic in that – just hate and sin. They have allowed Satan to successfully corrupt their perception of the incorruptible Word of God. How sad is that?

When Jesus gave us the love commandment in **Matthew 22:37-40**, He instructed us to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. He then said a second commandment, upon which the whole Law and Prophets depended, was to love our neighbors as ourselves. This folks is a commandment from the Lord, not a mere suggestion. Yes as humans we all blow it and miss the mark with regards to loving others. We all do, we all have. (Just ask most Tennessee fans about Lane Kiffin). But if your entire doctrine is based upon hate and exclusion, then you really have a problem because no matter what you say, your organization cannot be based upon God's Word and thus your organization cannot be Christian. Sorry.

Twice per month when I am not flying, I do a prison ministry at the Red Eagle Honor Farm with another man from my church. One night it was my turn to share the Word and I talked about the Neo-Nazis and KKK. The majority of guys in the chapel that night were Black and I started talking about this show *Gangland* on HBO. I looked at the guys and told them that of all the gang shows I watched during my 3 month rehab, I felt the sorriest for the Neo-Nazis and the Klan. Imagine the looks I initially got. This certainly seemed strange coming from a Black guy but I had my reasons.

As I explained to the men out at Red Eagle, when I looked at each of the gangs and their works, again I saw them doing the work of Satan in their lives. No God, no Truth, why should we expect them to act differently? The Aryan types, however, twisted as their ideology clearly is, still bases its hate upon a sick distortion of the Bible. I said I feel sorry for them because they have and use the Bible, read it, although out of context, eisegesisly, and use their distortions to blindly further their clearly anti-Christian agenda. The real Truth is there, staring them in the face and yet they don't see it – perhaps don't want to see it. I find that incredibly sad. I also believe a lot of those people are love starved and if they are at least willing to look toward the Bible for answers, then with proper instruction, love and truth, I know they will eventually see their folly.

This is exactly what Lutheran Minister Henry Gerecke discovered while ministering to the main 17 Lutheran defendants at Nuremberg. During Gerecke's yearlong ministry, clearly some of the most hate filled, anti-Semitic men the world has ever known, when shown the love of Christ and the veracity of His Word, had to take note. As a result, seven of these men, real Nazis, unworthy of God's mercy according to "our" standards and judgments, witnessed the parapets of their hate crumble uselessly before the light of Truth and gave their lives to Christ.

The bottom line here is that God's grace and mercy extends to all who seek it; no matter what. I heard a line in a movie once that said, "God doesn't care who you were but who you are." Hate and bigotry, no matter how you package it, is wrong and reprehensible. To try and use God's Word to justify an untenable position is even worse.



THE DAN MORRIS SHOW



WETUMPKA TEA PARTY TO HOST

AN EXPLANATION OF 'CONVENTION OF STATES'

The Wetumpka Tea Party will host Mark Meckler 'one of the nation's most effective grassroots activists' at the Wednesday, November 19th meeting which will be in the cafeteria area of the Elmore County Hospital at 500 Hospital Drive in Wetumpka beginning at 6:30pm.

After he co-founded and was the national coordinator of the Tea Party Patriots, Meckler founded Citizens for Self-Governance to revolutionize American government and is the leader of the Convention of States Project. Founded in 2012, this grass roots initiative expands and directs the bipartisan self-governance movement. He appears regularly on, among others, MSNBC, ABC, NBC, Fox News, etc.

Wetumpka Tea Party President Becky Gerittson stresses that the WTP is hosting Meckler as a source of information about the Convention of States and is not endorsing the formation of a Convention of the States.

The Wetumpka Tea Party generally meets in the cafeteria area of the Elmore Community Hospital, 500 Hospital Drive, Wetumpka 36092. For more information about the Wetumpka Tea Party, up-coming events, etc., go to www.wetumpkateaparty.com/



Marcia Chambliss



TO WHOM DO YOU GIVE THANKS?

is definitely one of my favorite months, primarily because it seems that people exhibit far more of an attitude of thankfulness than during any other time of the year. Along with my absolute gratitude for all that God has provided, I venture to guess that some of us are more than a little thankful that another election season of road signs, phone polling, and negative advertising is ending. We'll soon learn if those who are either returned to office or newly elected at all levels of governing will be serious about addressing the current crises that face us.

As the threat of looming debt and spending, unsecured borders, and fear of pandemic disease increases daily, I still want to believe that this current election cycle has resulted in providing some true public servants who see the dangers we all face. We certainly have more than an adequate supply of politicians playing insider games to further their political careers while ignoring these serious threats to our national security, as well as far too many advocating legislation that drives our nation deeper into a labyrinth of oppressive big government.

While recently listening to Mark Levin, my favorite conservative, once again make the case for a smaller and more limited government by giving examples of how our powerful centralized government fails its citizens, a question emerged for our nation that we must address.

Why do we keep looking to government to solve the problems that big government creates?

Our federal government has become so incredibly large that we cannot possibly name all of the bureaus or departments we've allowed elected officials to create. Most are now agencies without a sunset provision, existing into perpetuity, and we really have no idea as to their total cost or effectiveness.

If departments are ineffective or unsuccessful in their purpose, we're told it's only because they need more money. Only in the world of government are unproductive ventures rewarded with budget increases, and only in government is a reduction in the amount of increased spending considered a cut in spending. It's not the way to successfully manage a household budget and it's painfully

obvious that it's a dangerous path in managing government.

Levin's examples included the fact that when the government says it's going to end poverty, we end up with more poverty. When government says it's going to expand education opportunities, it expands illiteracy. When government says it's going to feed children in school lunch programs, it sends children home hungry. And now that government says it's going to expand health care, well, you get the picture.

Too many have bought into the lie that big government can do a better job of managing our lives than we can individually, and the worship of government has created a dependency culture that is leading us down a dangerous road that threatens our freedoms and sovereignty as a nation.

How very apropos at this point in time are the words spoken by President Ronald Reagan at his 1981 Inaugural Address: "In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." Unfortunately, there are too many elected on both sides of the political aisle who want us to believe that Washington, D.C. can solve all our ills if only we put our trust in them. While understanding that words are increasingly cheap during elections, I remain hopeful that there will be some true public servants that emerge from this political cycle. There may be only a small remnant of statesmen who place our state and nation ahead of political careers, but working for their election is crucial and why we must stay involved to continue the fight for limited government.

As we enter into this glorious Thanksgiving season, my humble prayer is that as a nation we take an honest assessment of just who or what we are worshipping. If government is your answer - be careful - idolatry never ends well.

Marcia Chambliss is the Alabama State Coordinator of Smart Girl Politics, a 501(c) (3) non-profit dedicated to the education and training of activists and candidates, and Smart Girl Politics Action, <http://sgpaction.com>, a 501(c) (4) which focuses on conservative issues. She can be reached at: Marcia@sgpaction.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics Action.

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Woods & Waters with Steve

LET'S BAG A BIGGIN'!

Well folks, it's finally November, which is when gun season for deer hunting kicks off! With both Northern and Southern zones starting on the 22nd of November, all of us are dusting off those orange caps and vests, sighting in the old rifle, and scouting around for the best spot to bring home a buck. You've got muzzleloader season starting on the 17th, and youth seasons starts on the 14th! In the Southern



This Montgomery County buck was killed by Bennett Head from Auburn, his first deer kill.

Zone, there's also a period from December 1st through 10th where gun hunting is out, and archery is king again! But don't worry, because from February 1st through 10th, we've got an extended gun season in the Southern Zone!

Despite all the kinds of hunting we have down here in Alabama, deer hunting is still easily the most well-known type of hunting we do. In fact, you

could say we've raised it to a science. A very well-thought out, researched, and applied science!

Any seasoned veteran of the woods knows how the laws regarding harvest limits, season open and close dates, and many other things have changed as the years have gone by. Doe tags, doe days, and other measures taken to help manage Alabama's deer population have all been implemented, and the changes this year are no different in their aim. This year, you can harvest one buck a day and one doe a day. You can harvest a total of three bucks a season, with at least one (if you bag all three!) having four antler points of 1 inch or greater, except in Barbour county.

So, you've got your license, your harvest record, your rifle's sighted in, you got your ammo, your orange vest or hat, and all the other necessities of deer hunting! All of that preparation's good, but you've still got a few other things to consider! Are you going to hunt in a blind on the ground, a box stand or ladder stand above the ground, or maybe stalk a buck or doe? Will you hunt on a food plot, or in a bottom, or maybe along a power line?

Any guy or gal that's serious about bagging a buck knows this year's got a great deal of potential! I've seen more than my fair share of deer this year, in the fields and in the wooded bottoms. Summer's left most of us out of the deer's habitat, so with little pressure, the deer aren't spooked out of the better hunting spots. Pressure's a big deal, so keep it in mind while choosing where you're gonna set up! On top of all of that, this is setting up to be a great year for the acorn crop from the hardwoods, so if you've



A nice Bama Buck killed by Joseph Curtis last season

got a ladder stand in a pretty little hardwood bottom, you can bet on some action there!

So, you're ready to set your spot, but not so fast! There's a few other things to consider! This time of year, the wind typically blows from the North-West, to the South-East, but may be a little different on the exact location. You always want to do your best to have the wind blowing in your face, carrying your scent away from any deer that might wander in front of you. The eyes, ears, and especially the nose of a deer are all fine tools for detecting predators, and we're definitely included in that list!

With recent changes, you can also use feed, like corn, but there are a couple of rules for that too. It can't be in sight, behind either natural vegetation or natural contours of the land, and must be at least 100 yards away. This is considered okay for supplemental feeding, but baiting is still out of the question!

I've only touched on some of the more basic things related to deer hunting, and it'd take a book or two to go over it all, but the best teacher is experience! So get out there, and bag you a biggin'!



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Reprint from last month for all of those who may have missed it.

MEMORIES

"Pressed between the Pages of Our Minds"



**Sports Editor,
Ed Jones**

In the spring of 1955, a new high school was being born on Ann Street in what was then East Montgomery. At the time, Sidney Lanier High School, which had been an intellectual bastion of excellence and an athletic power in the state of Alabama, was bulging at the seams, with over 2,000 students. This was somewhat confusing news to nineteen Lanier football players that would be eligible to transfer to the new school, which would be named Robert E. Lee High School. We had all grown up hoping to play football at Lanier, so there was some hesitation on our part as to what to do.

Some fellow by the name of **Tom Jones** had been hired by the Board of Education to be the head football coach. Frankly, none of us had ever heard of Coach Tom Jones. However, he had been a very successful coach at Hayneville High School in Lowndes County, a 1-A school in our 4-A classification system in Alabama. There he coached outstanding players like **QB Mac Champion**, **FB Wilber Supple** and **HB Todd Meadows**. It would not be long before we, along with every football fan in Alabama would be familiar with the name of Tom Jones.

Tom passed away recently at the age of 90. A great offensive mind is gone, but his influence remains. This is his story.

In the fall of 1954, **Coach Bill Moseley's** brother and assistant coach, **Doug Moseley**, was named head coach at Lanier. Bill had decided to go back to Kentucky to coach football. Doug was an All-American center and linebacker for **Coach Bryant** in 1950. This will be important to remember later in this story. He coached similar to his brother Bill, but with less personal interest in each player. This will also be important later in the story.

Most of the guys had heard little about the new school. We thought that it might be a small military school. My inclination was to stay at Lanier. That would change. **Coach Neal Posey**, the Lanier basketball coach had been named athletic director at Lee. Coach Posey called for a meeting of all Lanier football players that lived in the new school district that would serve Lee High School. That only involved nineteen players who were upcoming juniors and seniors. We had the choice to transfer or stay at Lanier, but we did not know enough about the choice to make that decision.

Our meeting with Coach Posey was held in the Lanier gymnasium in the spring of 1955. He told us that **Coach Jim Chafin**, the first year line coach at Lanier would be going to Lee also to coach the line and be the baseball coach. Coach Chafin was very well liked by the players. Posey did an excellent job of convincing the guys that Robert E. Lee would be a first class school and would have a first class football program. He told us that the senior class would be allowed to pick the colors, the nickname, the name of

the yearbook and the name of the school newspaper. He said that Coach Tom Jones wanted the colors to be dark red and white so that the offense could hide the ball better. We did not go against the wishes of the new coach at a later meeting where all of the above named decisions were made. All but four players agreed to transfer.

So, in the spring of 1955, fifteen "former" Lanier players put on brand new practice uniforms of the Robert E. Lee Generals. We met our new head coach for the first time in the dressing room where most of us had played junior high ball under Coach Kyle Renfroe. Renfroe had been offered the Lee job but decided to continue coaching at Capitol Heights Junior High School. However, he was very helpful to the new Lee Coaching Staff.

It was mentioned earlier that Doug Moseley was a consensus All-American football player. He was not really popular with the new Lee "recruits". Only one of the players that transferred was a full time starter at Lanier. That was All-State left halfback Earl Mills, who would make All-American at Lee. We kind of thought that "Coach Doug", as we called him, gave preferential consideration to the "Cloverdale and Baldwin Boys". So, Coach Tom Jones won us over



1961 State Championship Team

Pete Poole, Dickie Waites, Tom Jones and Johnny Beasley

quickly with this opening remark, "Boys I don't think you have to be an All-American to be a good football coach". That was all he had to say. We were ready to go to work.

All of the spring practices were held at Capitol Heights. There was no grass and it was littered with cinders. There were lots of cinder cuts and skinned elbows that spring. The Lee field was still under construction. We would first put foot on the Lee practice field in August of 1955.

I was privileged to be one of fifteen young men who played both for Sidney Lanier and Robert E. Lee. So, that's what Coach Tom Jones had to work with. Incoming sophomores from Capitol Heights helped, especially fullback Carl Hopson and center Billy Williams. Now, Coach Jones had seventeen players. Lee students who had never played football helped to provide enough depth for Coach Jones to record a 6-4 season that fall playing a big boy schedule. The only losses were to Ramsey, Phillips, Fairfield and Opelika.

Jones would only lose eight more times in the next ten years on the way to six state championships. That first team accounted for one-third of all his

losses at Lee. But, the foundation had been laid!

Tom Jones, who played for the great "Hot" **O'Brien** at Tallassee, would take over the duties of athletic director from Posey, who had taken a job outside of coaching. Someone had to replace Posey as basketball coach. **Coach Leon Ford** was picked for that job along with the duties of coaching the ends in football. **Coach George Peters** was selected to coach the "B" Team.

Tom Jones was known for his quick, fast offenses throughout a magnificent high school coaching career. Check out the following statistics:

7 yrs @ Hayneville H/S - 46 wins-16 losses-8 ties = 71.4%
11 yrs @ Robert E. Lee - 93 wins-12 losses-5 ties = 86.8%
18 yrs /H/S Coaching 139 wins-28 losses-13 ties = 80.8%

To put this into proper perspective, any coach at any level that wins 68% of his games is considered a great coach.

Very few in the history of the game of football have won 86% of his games at any one school.

The Auburn alumni in Montgomery "encouraged" **Coach Ralph "Shug" Jordan** to hire Tom Jones as his offensive coach. Coach Jordan, like all success-



Coach Tom Jones and Auburn's First Heisman Trophy winner, Pat Sullivan

ful college coaches, was butt-headed and didn't like alumni telling him what to do. So, he appeased most people by hiring Tom Jones as his freshman coach and full time recruiter. This occurred in the late 60's when Auburn was in a slump of mediocrity. Auburn had lost five straight games to Alabama. Tom did a good job with each freshman class and recruited some excellent players to Auburn. His most famous class was the 1968 class that included a guy named Pat Sullivan and a guy named Terry Beasley. Tom might have taught them a thing or two, you think? Auburn beat Alabama in '69, '70 and '72.

With the success Tom had at Auburn, Troy came calling to see if Tom could get the Trojans out of a long slump. It did not work out for Tom or for Troy. Even though Troy was Tom's alma mater it just was not a good fit. The Troy of today does not resemble the Troy that hired Tom Jones.

Getting a bit long in the tooth, and having been away from his wife Evelyn and his family so much, Tom decided to give up coaching and try the insurance business. Anyone that knew Tom could have predicted that the insurance gig was not going to work. That interfered too much with Tom's passion for hunting and fishing, mainly hunting. He also found that to receive a full retirement from the state, he would need two more years in the Alabama Educational System. There just happened to be a coaching job open. Guess where? Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery - he took it. After two years, Tom gave it up for good and retired to his beloved home in Lowndesboro, which he had kept through all the moves. He and Evelyn lived there peacefully for many years.

Occasionally, I would run into Tom at Cramton Bowl. We would sit there and discuss what we would have done differently, as Montgomery's public high schools began to self destruct. Sometimes, I would meet Tom and Todd Meadows for breakfast at the only restaurant in Lowndesboro, or at his home. We didn't go to his home often because our visits interfered with Tom's "soap operas".

Tom was always the offensive coach that I first met in the fall of 1955. But, like myself, he was finally satisfied to just talk about it, and not do it. He died in that same quiet, serene setting in Lowndesboro with Evelyn by his side.

The likes of his offensive mind we will likely never see again!



Outside Lowndesboro Home



FORMER LANIER PLAYERS WHO MADE UP THE NUCLEUS OF THE FIRST LEE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM IN 1955
10- Ed Jones QB/HB, 44- Jackie Spencer HB, 40- Ed Spencer HB, 32- Mickey Newman FB, 13- Cliff Little QB,
20- Earl Mills HB, 75- Billy McNair T, 80- Charles Tatum E, 66- James Johnson G, 64- Judson Huett G,
61- Charles Brophy G, 50- Durden Lee C, 82- Pat Garner E. Not pictured: Raymond Parker G and Rex Akin T.

Bench-Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

LAW, ECONOMICS AND THE ECONOMICS OF LAW PRACTICE



Judge Philip Dale Segrest

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Everyone is probably aware of the strong ties that exist between law and economics. Both law and economics are social systems. Every member of society necessarily participates in both systems. It might be more accurate to say that both law and economics are sub-systems within the total framework of society.

The two systems - law and economics - are supported by differing motivational forces, and to some extent, exist independently of each other as systems. Human motivation is always complex. Adam Smith assigned "enlightened self-interest" as the motivational basis for his atomistic theory of economics. Somewhat similarly, Thomas Hobbes believed that "self-preservation" is the first law of nature. Needless to say, the motivational forces that support both economics and law are far more complex than either Smith or Hobbes suggested, but their suggestion helps one to understand the role of the elemental motive forces that energize the systems.

Regardless of the similarities of the underlying motivational force, the organization of these systems have evolved quite independently. Economics, beginning with the kind of reasoning that Adam Smith expressed in *The Wealth of Nations* arises in the marketplace. In western society we strongly believe that a free market economy is the most efficient means of satisfying the greatest good for the greatest number - a concept that Jeremy Bentham and other Utilitarians helped popularize. Law, on the contrary, has its institutional home in the governmental system—not in the free market. Human motive force is a pre-requisite for the effectiveness of law, as I asserted in my 1994 book, *Conscience and Command*, but the enforcement of law in the modern world is vested in governmental entities. Government draws on the normative force that arises in society to energize law. Morality, of course, is not a governmental function, but the same normative motive force that energizes law arises in society and is the motivational basis for morality, independent of government.

In earlier columns, we have alluded to the connections between law and economics. In the series of articles dealing with family law, I described the effects of the introduction conflicting of economic motive forces into the family. As important as child support and spousal support are, their impact in the legal system introduces conflicting economic motivation that can lead to the destruction of the important emotional aspects of family. The economic conflict creates tensions that are not good for children. Economics is also a strong factor in criminal justice.

Economically, the people who most often become involved in crime are those who do not have strong talents that provide an economic contribution to society.

When we discussed the impact of differing racial cultures in a series of articles, we pointed out that four hundred years of slavery and segregation did not inspire a black culture to strongly endorse the existing legal system. In the absence of a strong working system of law, economic development is difficult, and these difficulties plaque Alabama's Black Belt counties. Strong economic development depends on the existence of property rights and enforcement of contracts.

The interplay between law and economics, and the impact of the economics of law practice on the legal systems, are fertile areas for discussion. In the series of columns that we will now undertake, we will be discussing how the economics of law practice tend to shape the legal system itself. We will discuss the economic motives of corporate America and its relationship to defense firms, who are normally paid on hourly rate. We will also be discussing the economics of law practice for Plaintiff's attorneys who are usually paid on a contingency fee basis. And of course, we will note the negative implications of a system that matches plaintiff's lawyers who are compensated on a contingency basis against defense lawyers computed an hourly rate basis. We will discuss the pervasive presence of liability insurance. It is time for the legal system to recognize the fact that insurance spreads the risk of loss that is involved in litigation and that we are not dealing with insurance in the legal system with sound policy. For instance, automobile liability insurance is required by law, and everyone - jurors included - knows that, but the law still fails to take that knowledge into account. We will be discussing the implications of all of the foregoing issues for the legal system. The economics of law practice, ironically, renders the legal system less efficient for conflict resolution, often actually creating conflict.

BAD BEHAVIOR, CRIME, CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, PRISON, AND READING

By Dr. David Nichols



Dr. David Nichols

It was Christmas Eve morning, 1980, in a small quaint college town - Montevallo. Within a few hours most everyone had heard the gruesome news. A long-time 86 year-old distinguished widow of the former Dean of the Alabama College (now the University of Montevallo) Mrs. Orr, had been found brutally raped and murdered in her home.

I grew up in this quiet, relatively safe town where I began the first grade, graduated from Montevallo High School and, literally across the Oak Street, I earned several degrees from the University. While teaching four years at Montevallo High School I began to work part-time as a police officer at both the City and the University police departments. Soon I would make an unprecedented career move and was appointed as the University Police Chief. This is where my direct involvement with this hideous crime began.

Before the sun set on my hometown that Christmas Eve, we had two suspects in custody as they left a trail of evidence from the widow's home to their own homes. Interestingly, I had taught both of these young men at Montevallo High School and eventually assisted in taking them into custody. The day before, they had done yard work for the lady which ended in a dispute over what she paid them versus the quality of their work. The evidence and their confessions matched perfectly. Both Victor Kennedy and Darrel Grayson were eventually tried, sentenced to First Degree Murder, and the death penalty.

Montevallo served as the model town-gown community. Yet, it was more than one community. It was a city with segregated neighborhoods and racially integrated schools. The University was a beacon on a hill to some with its cobble stoned streets, rows of big beautiful pecan trees and ivy covered buildings with an air of academic arrogance in the halls of higher learning. Its location was near the center of the town and within walking distance to most of its diverse neighborhoods.

The University and three public schools were in close proximity and worked collaboratively in the best interest of each. Obviously, as with most other universities the University of Montevallo selected some of the highest achieving students from many public schools. However, the Montevallo schools were typical public schools.

By the time these two boys arrived at the High School neither of them could read on grade level and, as is often a result, they misbehaved in school. They dropped out of school after the tenth grade and did yard work and drank alcohol to excess. It should be clear that not learning to read is no excuse for

misbehavior of any kind. However, we know that approximately 70% of Alabama's prisoners are illiterate and some correlation exists between illiteracy and contact with the criminal system.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) with regard to an illiterate person, "The average costs to the U.S. economy is approximately \$240,000 over his/her lifetime in lower tax contributions, higher reliance on Medicaid and Medicare, higher rates of criminal activity, and more reliance on welfare." Also, the NCES reports that the 2011 statistics show that only 62% of Alabama eighth graders could read at or above the basis reading level.

In his book, *The Educated Child*, 1991, William (Bill) Bennett, former U.S. Secretary of Education, stated that if a child cannot read on grade level by the end of the third grade they have an 80% chance of dropping out of school. Local educators and the State of Alabama have certainly made strides in raising tests scores in math, science, and reading. Yet, as Winston Churchill said: "Never say we did our best. Do what is necessary." In essence we pay taxes to have our children educated and then when that ends in failure we pay even more taxes to house them, feed them, incarcerate them and for services to protect ourselves.

A few years ago, I took a day off to visit a few locations in Montevallo. Among them was the Montevallo Cemetery where many folks I'd known were laid to rest. As I walked among the head markers and graves I happened up on a simple footstone which read "Victor Kennedy" with his dates of birth and death... he was electrocuted at age 38. As I stood there I looked up the hill and, to my near wilted surprise I could see the name "ORR" on a large head stone.

All parents are urged to become active in your child's education. For those in the early grades it is you responsibility to demand to know on what level your child is reading and if it's not proficient demand to know why.

Dr. David Nichols, Ed. D. is a retired education administrator and a law enforcement leader. He has served at every level of K - 12 Education and in several roles at the university level. He is a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. He served on two local school boards and earned the "Master Level" School Board member awarded by the Alabama Association of School Boards. Dr. Nichols has published widely in both careers.



John Sophocleus

THINK

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

TALLASSEE: BATTLES FOR THE ARMORY SESQUICENTENNIAL

The 17th Annual "Battles for the Armory" War Between the States Reenactment will be held November 7th, 8th and 9th at Gibson's View Plantation in Tallassee. The event commemorates the 1864 Battles of Chehaw Station and Franklin which saved Tallassee's Confederate Armory from destruction by Union Army raiders. Heralding this year's event as the 150th anniversary of the battles, the Alabama Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans wisely selected this reenactment as the State Division's sesquicentennial event for 2014.

A brief history of the battles begins with facts determining the location of the carbine factory in Tallassee. In April 1864 Col. Josiah Gorgas, Chief of the Confederate Ordnance Bureau wanted to move the Richmond Carbine Factory to a more secure location. Several locations were considered (including Macon and Athens in Georgia) but the little cotton mill town of Tallassee was selected because it seemed to meet the criteria Col. Gorgas desired. Tallassee was advantageously remote, making it less vulnerable to enemy attack and Gorgas knew the nearby Tallapoosa River would provide a reliable power source. Two officers spent several days in Tallassee and submitted a detailed report to Col. Gorgas who approved the 1844 structure (built as a cotton mill by Thomas Barnett) for the armory at Tallassee to manufacture the new model .58 caliber muzzle-loading carbines. Throughout June, July and August of 1864 metal working machinery, gunsmiths, blacksmiths and their apprentices began arriving in Tallassee. The sudden and very visible increase in activity at a little cotton mill town in East Alabama meant it didn't take long for Union forces to discover the facility had been moved from Richmond to Tallassee.

The official record of the "Battle of Franklin" is chronicled under "Wilson's Raid" as "Skirmish off the Georgia Road." Gen. Wilson's forces left Montgomery on April 14th headed to Columbus, Ga. On April 15th two companies were sent out in advance of the brigade with orders to "destroy some mills and bridges on the Tallapoosa River." One account from Virginia Noble Golden's, "A History of Tallassee" explained upon reaching Cowles Station downriver, the officer in charge asked a local black man to guide him to Tallassee. The "guide" told the commander they'd have to cross the river to the west side of Cowles Ferry. The commander's outdated map showed Tallassee on the east side of the Tallapoosa River, so the Union commander, thinking the black man was trying to mislead him, ordered him shot!

Union troops continued up the east bank of the river, but were met by a "superior force" of the local home guard and militia from the area. When the Union commander finally realized his mistake, he was unwilling to retrace his path for fear of running into Gen. Forrest's Calvary in hot pursuit of Wilson's forces. Making their way eastward, the Union detachment rejoined Wilson's command near Auburn and never had an opportunity to fire upon the Confederate Armory at Tallassee.

All was almost lost again in mid July when Major General Lovell H. Rousseau swept across Alabama with 2,500 Union Cavalry armed with new Spencer repeating carbines. After fighting a major engagement near Decatur on July 14, 1864 against units of the 6th and 8th Alabama Cavalry, Rousseau and his men advanced along the railroad, burning and destroying railroad bridges, buildings and supplies along the way. In Dadeville they destroyed the depot and several miles of railroad track, burned a locomotive and six boxcars loaded with leather, nails and shovels, likely headed to Tallassee. Rousseau's aim was to destroy the Montgomery and West Point Railroad between Opelika and Chehaw Station. For over a week "Rousseau's Raiders" as

they were known, roamed through eastern Alabama, leaving a path of destruction through Auburn, Loachapoka, Notasulga and other villages along the line.

On the morning of July 18th Rousseau sent Major Baird, commander of the 5th Iowa with a detachment of his regiment and detachment of the 4th Tennessee Calvary (Tennesseans who committed acts of war against their own State) to Chehaw Station between Tuskegee and Tallassee to begin destroying the railroad and any mills or bridges along the way. Upon arrival at Chehaw Station, Major Baird and his detachment were met by a unit of the Tuskegee Home Guard. During the skirmish which ensued (referred to as the "Battle of Chehaw") a train arrived carrying a battalion of 16 and 17 year old cadets from the University of Alabama who had been training in Selma for six months in preparation to fight the invasion. Armed with old flintlock, muzzle-loading muskets and one small cannon, the cadets joined the fray. As the battle intensified, a group of mounted militia from Tuskegee (clad in brown linen) appeared and



assisted the home guard and the cadets. Arrival of the Confederate militia prompted Baird to order his troops to withdraw. Rousseau's report to Gen. Sherman estimated Confederate dead at about 40, while Union losses were small. Rousseau's main force proceeded through Chambers County and back into Georgia.

Meeting what the Union record reported as a "superior Confederate force" of Tallassee Home Guard (comprised of young boys, old men and a group of local militia) the Tallassee Armory was saved at the "Battle of Franklin." Little doubt Gen. Forrest's presence in the area also compelled Gen. Wilson's forces to decide not to fight their way to Tallassee. It is comforting to meet those who understand how we benefitted from not suffering more devastation due to the efforts of these brave souls defending themselves from the forces pressing our State back into federal control - slowly establishing the Union as forced coalition. Holding constitutional conventions to voluntarily and bloodlessly exit a corrupt central authority and maintain independence was no more, 'progressing' us into the mess we observe today. We've showed ourselves to simply be an extension of the European ebb and flow of tyranny.

It is disheartening to hear far too many today delight in what Sherman did to Georgia and Carolina. To militarily accomplish the wealth transfers which the federal government couldn't do politically is the most terrible time in our nation's history. Anyone who holds truth dear cannot quibble about the gallantry and heroism by soldiers on **both** sides; similarly no one can dispute who was the aggressor/invasor and who defending their homeland. The Tallassee Armory still stands today as the only Confederate Arsenal not destroyed by Union forces, thanks to the local home guard, a small group of mounted militia from nearby Tuskegee and the 16 to 17 year old cadets from the University of Alabama at the "Battle of Franklin." Many thanks to all who have preserved this history in fact and in Spirit.



Today, the fate of the 500 carbines manufactured in Tallassee is unknown. Near the end of the war Major Taylor (commander at Tallassee) was ordered to load all machinery and rifles on wagons and ferry across the river to Cowles Station. From there the Tallassee Carbines were to be shipped to Macon by rail. Only about a dozen Tallassee Carbines are known to have survived. One is on display at Confederate Memorial Park near Marbury, Alabama and another is at the Columbus, Georgia Museum. Union forces were under orders to destroy any ordinance that could be used by the Confederacy. By the time the shipment of rifles reached Macon, the city had fallen to Union forces. The 500 Tallassee Carbines were likely burned or thrown into the Oakmulgee River; the few which survived were probably taken as souvenirs by Union officers.

Reenactment of the battles begins with 'School Day' on Friday, November 7th with 10 to 12 different stations which include a Confederate flag demonstration, period dance, period music, infantry, artillery, cavalry, a field hospital, blacksmith, period toys, games and more. The registration fee is \$5 per student. To register students for School Day, contact Sharon Kilpatrick at tallasseecitylib@gmail.com or phone 334-283-2732.

A ladies tea on Saturday morning at 10am; tours of the Confederate Armory from 11am until 1pm; a period ball Saturday evening at dark in the Anthony family barn and a period church service at 11AM Sunday at the barn are all a part of the 150th anniversary program. Battles will be reenacted at 2pm Saturday, November 8th and Sunday, November 9th. There is NO reenactor fee. Registration forms can be obtained along with more information about the "Battles for the Armory" at tallasseearmoryguards.org. Living histories, carriage rides and demonstrations will be conducted beginning at 9am each day of the battles. Admission for the general public is \$5. There will be numerous period vendors, called sutlers and period/modern food vendors. Gibson's View Plantation is located about 1 mile off Alabama Highway 229 South of Tallassee on Elmore County Road 4. There will be signs along I-85 and Highway 229 leading into Tallassee to help find your way.

Postscript: many have asked my thoughts and/or expected my column to be on the 23 felony counts Speaker Hubbard recently indicted by a Lee County Grand Jury. I was shocked Mr. Hubbard couldn't stall Judge Walker (yet again) until after the election as accomplished in his low turn-out June primary win over Sandy Toomer. Reports of \$1million unsecured loans (after NOT performing on past loans because of his poor business acumen) do appear to prolong/deny justice; it would've been an improvement for indictment to be well behind us and done back in April if not for all the stalling tactics. More importantly, this seems to be a moment to pause in prayer. A prayer of thanks for sufficiently rebuked and honorable men like Representative Wren who saved us the cost and further embarrassment to our State by pleading guilty, resigning from office and allow justice to better proceed. May our Heavenly Father see fit to receive Rep. Wren as the penitent thief in his final and most important judgment. I further pray Mr. Hubbard and his minions follow this honorable example and path of the penitent thief in preservation of their souls and allow us to move forward out of the darkness they've cast upon our State.

Community Lifestyles



Cities, Towns and Communities:
Pike Road, Cecil, Mathews, Pine Level, Grady,
Ramer, Lapine, Snowdown, Pintlala, Hope Hull
and Catoma



Surrounding Town and Communities:
Autaugaville, Billingsley, Booth, Marbury,
Pine Level, Independence, Statesville,
Jones and Vida



Surrounding Town and Communities:
Millbrook, Coosada, Elmore, Eclectic, Tallassee,
Titus, Santuck, Slapout, Rockford, Deatsville,
Kent, Red Hill, Weoka and Robinson Springs



Surrounding Town and Communities:
Tallassee, Rockford, Deatsville, Kent,
Red Hill, Weoka

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Ronald A. Holtsford



THANKS (for lawyers) GIVING

Last month, the Alabama State Bar celebrated Pro Bono Month. Pro Bono in this context is the offering of free legal services to low income individuals. October was filled with events on almost every day, which included workshops for the elderly, homeless, clinics for legal issues sometimes encountered by low-income individuals such as eviction and domestic issues and even guidance for individuals that might represent themselves in District Court. These events were available all over the State.

Lawyer jokes have always been popular among non-lawyers and most of these jokes suggest that lawyers in general will go to unscrupulous levels to make financial gains. Certainly there are some attorneys that do very well financially and some lawsuits that one might read about seem frivolous. One of the popular lawsuits that seemed skewed involved the lady that spilled the hot coffee in her lap that she purchased at a fast food restaurant. When I had the opportunity to learn some of the details about this case I was surprised. The lady that was burned was a passenger in a vehicle with a family member and not the driver. When she spilled her coffee in the vehicle, they had pulled into a parking place. The spill did not occur while the vehicle was in motion. I also had the opportunity to see photographs of the burns sustained and they were truly terrible. If the lawsuit had not been brought then action would not have been taken to prevent future burns. It's often easy to joke about lawyers until you need one.

The truth is many lawyers sign up to participate in either State Bar sponsored Pro Bono activities or sign up to participate in the programs sponsored by the Bar of some of the larger cities, such as Birmingham, Mobile and Montgomery. Lawyers participate generally in areas of law that they specialize.

Another way that attorneys assist low income individuals is through some of the very law firms that people try to joke about. Think about it in that those that have the least assets have the least access to legal representation. Low income and less sophisticated individuals have always been more prone to being taken advantage of by unscrupulous individuals and companies. Plaintiff firms generally provide legal assistance on a contingency basis to those that have been harmed whether it be an individual, a representative of someone badly injured, the heirs of one that wrongly dies or a group of people that suffer some great wrong.

Then there are lawyers that assist their family, friends, fellow parishioners or just people they meet that are down on their luck at little or no cost to these clients. You see, lawyers appreciate the education that they were able to achieve and see a responsibility to assist those that have less access to legal assistance.

I recently lost a friend who I was blessed to meet as a classmate in law school. Don was a police officer when he started law school and was looking at how he would spend the remainder of his work career and how he could best provide for his family. After Don left law enforcement, Don became very involved in his church. Don was a man of Faith and often assisted people he met with legal needs but also with other needs or things that Don felt would encourage them. You see, Don was a sheepdog. Sheepdog is a term that Sherriff Marshall wrote about in the October, Alabama Gazette. A sheepdog is a person that is not a member of the flock (sheep) or one that preys on the sheep (wolf). A sheepdog is one that protects the flock and that runs to the danger. Don protected his wife, daughters and grandsons and Don protected the sheep from the wolves. Desiring to contribute to my spiritual growth Don offered to sponsor me and allow me to participate in the Walk to Emmaus following his own experience. What a friend and brother in Christ that offers to stand in your stead and to watch over your family in your absence.

At Don's funeral his wife told me that Don loved me as a friend. Guys don't tend to use that "L" word when they talk about their male friends, but Don was man enough to confide his feelings with his wife and best friend, Judy. I shed a few tears as I listened to the pastor talk about Don. One story concerned a man that Don arrested who remarked that Don was the nicest police officer he had ever met. Don and Judy were inseparable in the nearly twenty years that I had to know them and it seemed they were always laughing.

My friend Don was not someone that needed to be "preached into Heaven"; Don was already there and will wait that short time for his family and friends to arrive. I believe that Jesus welcomed Don and said to him, "I know you. Well done my good and faithful servant".

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

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

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SECURE, TRUSTED AND RELIABLE IDENTIFICATION (STAR I.D.) IS ALABAMA'S REAL ID

As your Alabama driver license expiration nears, we at the Alabama Department of Public Safety encourage you to consider a more secure alternative.

A step beyond an ordinary Alabama driver license or non-driver ID, Secure, Trusted and Reliable Identification (STAR I.D.) is Alabama's REAL ID Act of 2005-compliant document that was introduced during a September 2011 news conference with Gov. Robert Bentley.

Congress passed this legislation to ensure safety of citizens and combat fraud following acts of terrorism committed against the United States, and it modified U.S. federal law pertaining to the security, authentication and issuance procedure standards for state driver licenses and identification cards. Alabama is one of about 41 states and U.S. territories that are complying with this federal regulation. And while some of these states and territories chose to comply and require everyone to obtain a REAL ID, Alabama chose to fully comply but allow individuals to decide for themselves.

Before making a decision, you should know when enforcement begins, you will need either a valid U.S. passport or a STAR I.D. to board commercial aircraft for domestic flights or to enter certain regulated federal facilities.

Originally, the federal government directed Alabama to announce the following STAR I.D. deadlines: Dec. 1, 2014, for individuals born after Dec. 1, 1964; and Dec. 1, 2017, for individuals born on or before Dec. 1, 1964. At the end of December 2013, however, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced its phased enforcement plan that would allow it to implement the act in a "measured, fair and responsible way," with the deadline for boarding aircraft set for "no sooner than 2016."

That means you have no reason to panic if you're interested in obtaining a STAR I.D. It is fine to wait until you are set to renew your regular Alabama driver license or non-driver ID.

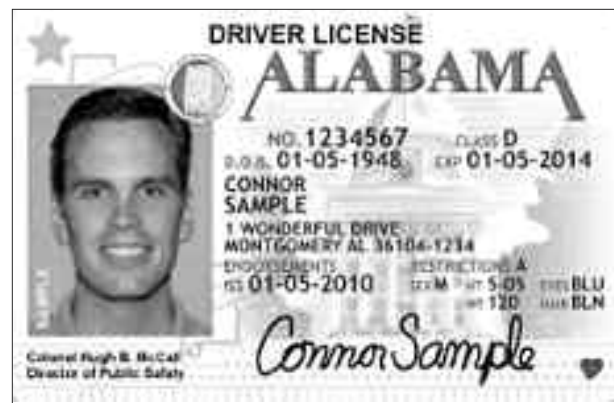
But to make obtaining a STAR I.D. easier on yourself, do keep in mind these three key points:

- You must visit an Alabama Department of Public Safety Driver License Examining Office (available in each county). STAR I.D. is not available at county probate or license commissioner offices. (A complete list of DPS offices can be found at <http://dps.alabama.gov/Home/DriverLicensePages/wfStarIDOfficeLocations.aspx>)
- Bring along your birth certificate, Social Security card and *two* documents verifying your principal residence. You will need these additional documents to

establish your identity, date of birth, authorized presence in the United States and address of your principal residence. (A complete list of required documents with examples is at <http://dps.alabama.gov/Home/wfContent.aspx?ID=80&PLH1=plhDriverLicense-StarIDDocumentList>)

- STAR I.D. costs no more than a regular Alabama driver license or non-driver ID (\$23.50 for a renewal, \$18.50 for a duplicate).

For additional information on STAR I.D., please visit <http://dps.alabama.gov/Home/wfContent.aspx?ID=80&PLH1=plhDriverLicense-StarIDHome>.





The Signing of the Mayflower Compact



Katherine Dang, One of America's foremost scholars on America's Providential History, and President of the Philomath Foundation, in California.

There can be no more appropriate celebration of Thanksgiving than the family gathered around the table remembering the

origin of this uniquely American celebration begun at Plymouth Plantation. Picture the Pilgrim Fathers out in the open with friendly Indians sharing the bread and wild game and a new friendship unequalled in History. The character of the Pilgrims is worthy of study in every generation. Miss Dang gives us scholarly research which will be new to most Americans reading the article. We select it, hoping that you will be inspired to take the story to your Thanksgiving gathering and re-claim the heritage, yes the blessing, for your family. Knowledge of the Bible and a commitment to its Truth is the challenge for every generation, and crucial to ours.

philomathfoundation.com

"The Bible itself, particularly the Geneva edition of 1560 and the Authorized Version of 1611, is the single most important primary source for the intellectual history of colonial America." (Lawrence Cremin)

"It has been estimated that over 40 per cent of the books printed in England between 1480 and 1640 were religious in theme, as were some 50 per cent of those printed by the American press between 1639 and 1689. Bibles, service books, and systematic theological treatises accounted for a good part of this reading matter; but the bulk of it consisted of miscellaneous works of edification, that is, anthologies of prayer, popular sermons, manuals of conduct, exemplary biographies, guides to living and dying – in short, didactic material seeking to specify the nature and character of piety. . . . No phase of Christian living was without its vade mecum setting forth appropriate thoughts and behavior for every occasion." From Governor William Bradford's records: ". . . many became enlightened by ye word of god, and had their ignorance & sins discovered unto them, and begane by his grace to rforme their lives, and make conscience of their ways. . . so many therefore of these professors . . . whose harts ye Lord had touched with heavenly Zeale for his trueth. . . shoke of this yoake of antichristian bondage, and as ye Lords free peope, joined them selves (by a covenant of the Lord) into a church estate, in ye fellowship of ye gospel, to walke in all his ways, make known or to be made known unto them. . . ."

The Forefather's Monument graphically depicts the historic Christian origin of America's form of civil government: local self-government.

The Christian who became the Pilgrim of Plymouth viewed The Bible as the supreme judge of the actions and affections of man.

His education from The Bible framed his character and conscience and his ideas and principles in regard to home, church and civil government: government by consent, local self-government and voluntary union: thereby presenting to the world the answer to despotic churches and civil governments.

He established a free church in a free state. In protecting the unhindered advancement of the Gospel, he, as well, established a community free from religious tyranny.

He institutionalized every man's right to exercise his own volition in matters of belief and religious expression.

From the Genesis of the New England Churches, by Leonard Beacon, one reads:

". . . The Pilgrim was a Separatist, not only from the Anglican Prayer book and Queen Elizabeth's episcopacy, but from all national churches. . . . The Pilgrim wanted liberty for himself and his wife and little ones, and for his brethren, to walk with god in a Christian life as the rules and motives of such a life were revealed to him from God's Word. For that he

went into exile; for that he crossed the ocean; for that he made his home in a wilderness."

The Pilgrims chose for their church and civil leaders men of knowledge and high intellect and accomplishments.

James Daugherty in his Landing of the Pilgrims says of **Elder William Brewster**:

"He was Steward of the Manor and collected the rents from the tenants of the wide domain of the Archbishop of York. He was the administer of the law and justice for the district. A man of learning . . . had attended Cambridge in his youth, where he had studied Greek and Latin. Later, in the service of Queen Elizabeth, he had accompanied one of her ambassadors on an important mission to the Low Countries. He had seen the great world, yet he had come back to this remote corner of England to be Postmaster at Scrooby where his father had held the same office. Although Brewster had moved among the great ones of his day, he was neither proud nor vain. He was respected by his superiors for his wisdom and godliness."

Of **Pastor John Robinson**, Bradford says: ". . . for besides his singular abilities in devine things (wherein he excelled), he was also very able to give directions in civill affairs, and to foresee dangers & inconveniences; by wch means he was very helpful to their outward estats. . . ."

Biographer **Cotton Mather** writes of **Governor William Bradford** as:

"A person of study as well as action. . . he attained unto a notable skill in languages: the Dutch tongue was become almost as vernacular to him as the English; the French tongue he could also manage; the Latin and the Greek he had mastered; but the Hebrew he would see with his own eyes the ancient oracles of God in their native beauty."

"He was also well-skilled in History, in Antiquity, and in Philosophy, and for Theology he became so versed in it, that he was an irrefragable disputant against errors, especially those of Anabaptism, which with trouble, he saw rising in the colony."

As the Pilgrims practiced local self-government in church affairs, they would practice local self-government in their civil affairs, applying the Scriptural form of government in both ecclesiastical and political assemblies; the manner of gov't of a Separatist religious body, became a pattern for Plymouth's political body.

It was only natural that The Mayflower Compact reflected the experience of a people educated in the Bible, and who established New Testament local self-governing churches, which would pattern a civil government after the fact.

His capacity for Biblical reasoning culminated in the writing of the Mayflower Compact. In the untamed, unsettled wilderness of America, , in ye first colonie in ye Northerne parts of Virginia, the Pilgrim established the first self-governing political institution of civil government in the history of mankind, which thereafter became the model of local self-government and independency for every succeeding American colonial settlement.

"It was thought good there should be an Association or Agreement, that we should combine together in one body; Governors as we should, by common consent, agree to make and choose: and set our hands to this that follows, word for word." The Pilgrims (some say Elder Brewster) composed The Mayflower Compact "In ye name of God": By the authority of Him whom they believed ordained the institution of civil government, that men should establish civil rulers among themselves, who are as servants of God, to administer justice between men living in common society, fulfilling man's mutual duty to keep one another safe.

The people chose their rulers and made their own laws to which, they on their own volition agreed to obey.

"In the name of God. . . We . . . covenant & combine our selves together into a civil body politick, for our better ordering & preservation. . . . to enacte, constitute, and frame such just & equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time. . . . we promise all due submission and

obedience. . . . we have hereunder subscribed our names. . . ."

There is genius in the Mayflower Compact. It was non-sectarian; no State church nor religion is established.

It did not establish a parish of King James's Church as no submission is owed to the King's religious beliefs; as the Pilgrim would not violate his conscience, he would not have another violate his.

It secured freedom to follow a Christian conscience, without imposing upon another individual's conscience by the establishment of a state religion or sect thereof; "haveing undertaken, for ye glorie of God, and advancemente of ye Christian faith, and honour of our king & countrie. . . .(coercion is unchristian; Christianity advances liberty)"

No unlawful authority is owed submission; "due" submission is lawful submission; lawful submission is obedience to lawful authority. They would not submit to unlawful authority, such as submission to religious and ecclesiastical tyranny.

It sees no contradiction in being a Christian and a loyal subject to the king. To a Pilgrim, a Christian submits to all lawful authority. Lawful authority is authority only ordained and delegated by God.

My love for American is from a deep place of thanksgiving.

As a student of history, I know for thousands of years, mankind knew only one form of government: centralized, despotic government. America established the first republic founded upon self-government, a government of, for and by the people themselves; by a people who from their education were capable of making their own laws through rulers and lawmakers from among themselves. America's republic, only 238 years old, proves to be the alternative to all the murder, mayhem, misery, squalor and impoverishment men have known for millenniums.

Nowhere in the world can men experience the degree of individual liberty as one does in America. Americans enjoy: religious liberty, freedom from the belief of another; civil liberty, freedom from the interference of civil rulers into the personal affairs of the individual; economic liberty, freedom to enjoy the fruits of one's own labor; and political liberty, freedom from the control of another nation.

Americans enjoy these liberties because of a constitutional form of government which secures individual liberty, protections not granted to mankind elsewhere which have histories only of despotic and tyrannical governments. Individuals have lived and shall live who enjoy nothing of the liberties Americans do.

Personally, a sobering thought comes to mind, that as a daughter of Chinese emigrants, I am only one ship-load from China; had my father and mother never emigrated to America, two years before Mao-tse-Tung and his vicious brand of tyranny overtook China—with the blood of 80 millions of Chinese on his hands—I would have been born under that tyranny and my life, today, would be bound by fear to the state and ignorant of the divine principles of liberty and self-government.

As the history of America testifies, when people learn these principles, and in them, abide in protected liberty, they will of certainty flourish in every area of life and living. In 1790, a year after the ratification of the Constitution of the United States, Samuel Adams states:

"Let divines and philosophers, statesmen and patriots, unite their endeavors to renovate the age by impressing the minds of men with the importance of educating their little boys and girls; of inculcating in the minds of youth the fear and love of the Deity and universal philanthropy; and, in subordination to these great principles, the love of their country; of instructing them in the art of self-government, without which they never can act a wise part in the government of societies, great or small. . . ."

So, it is one thing to achieve freedom and another thing to maintain it.



Dr. John Bitter
Editor-Senior Section

Gazette Seniors...

**YOU MAY BE
OVER THE HILL**
"...if you recall that
people used to wear Blue
Jeans because they were
the cheapest trousers one
could buy."

SENIOR LEGISLATORS WRAP IT UP

Alabama's senior legislators concluded their three-day session on October 22, in the old House of Representatives Chamber in the Alabama Capitol building.

During their session they studied 58 resolutions submitted by the various members and selected 10 to submit to the Governor and the Legislature for their consideration and possible action.

The ten resolutions that had a direct impact on the State's senior population, in order of popularity, were:

Legislation to *provide funding formobile medical vehicles to more fully cover the State's needs in that regard.*

The second resolution, in order of importance, called for an increase in the monthly personal needs allowance of Medicaid nursing home residents.

A third called for certification and criminal background checks for all non-family, in home adult caregivers for home bound seniors.

Another resolution passed by the senior legislators called for *an expansion of the training of healthcare providers who work with Alzheimer's and dementia patients.*

The senior legislators also urged that *nursing homes which create "Dementia Units, employ additional staff members trained in the appropriate nursing skills needed to minister to the special needs of their patients.*

A perennial resolution that passed called for *nursing home residents to have video cameras in their rooms to document evidence of substandard care and possible abuse.*

Another resolution that emerged from the three-day session urged *increased funding for the State's senior services department as well as the various area agencies on aging.*

The legislators also took note of the changes that have taken place over the years *as they relate to facilities that once catered to seniors who were relatively free of dependence on others to assist them in their daily activities. When the Elder Justice Act was passed a half century ago, lawmakers took the term "independent living" to mean just that.* However, over the years these facilities have catered to an increasing number of seniors who, in fact, required various forms of assistance in their daily lives, but who were not afforded the

protection and oversight the law mandated to residents of assisted living facilities and nursing homes. These residents may express their grievances to an "Ombudsman," who then investigates their concern and attempts to alleviate this oversight; while residents of "independent living facilities" enjoy no such protection.

Rounding out the list of resolutions was a call for *additional help for respite assistance for family members caring for dementia patients.*

And the last resolution adopted recognized that *57 percent of the recipients of Medicaid payments in Alabama are seniors who reside in nursing homes or other long-term care facilities, and should be eligible for expanded services under the Affordable Care Act.*

Normally the ASHL meets in the House Chamber located in the State Office Building, but that venue is temporarily closed.

For some of the delegates this will be like a homecoming, since a good many of them had close relationships of a variety of sorts with this venue. In those days the focus was on how well the State was doing with respect to educating its young people; especially so in the new integrated school environment.

Today the focus is on how well the State is handling its responsibilities toward its senior citizens, and how well the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature can convince their legislative counterparts of the importance of insuring that the special needs of the State's senior citizens are being met.

ASHL members have been successful over the years in helping to bring about many changes to and improvements in the way the State carries out its responsibility to its senior residents.

Senior lawmakers in most states meet in this manner to propose and track legislation effecting their elderly constituency.

NOVEMBER FIRSTS

On the first day of November, 1848, the first medical school for females opened in Boston, with 12 aspiring physicians; and 102 years later a couple of Puerto Ricans tried to assassinate Pres. Harry S Truman.

The following date, in 1734, frontiersman Daniel Boone was born, and on this date in 1795, James K. Polk, our 11th President, came into this world.

Also on Nov. 2, in 1889, both North and South Dakota joined the Union; the 39th and 40th states respectively.

On the third day of November, we old timers remember how the Chicago Tribune got it wrong in 1948 by proclaiming from its front page: Dewey Defeats Truman. He wished.

Later, on this day in 1979, the U.S. Embassy was taken over by revolutionaries; was there a message we missed there?

Way back, on November 6 in 1869, the first intercollegiate football game was played between Rutgers and Princeton; and in 2004, November 9 was set aside as Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day. No relationship between the two events.

On November 10, the Nation focuses its attention on Lung Cancer; followed the next day by Veterans Day.

Other special days in November are: World Kindness Day on the 13th; World Peace Day on the 17th and Stop the Violence Day on the 22nd.

But your reporter's favorite day is November 30th: Play Hookey Day. Did a lot of that in the mid-1940's; made up for it later on.

And so ends the month of November. Santa comes next month; if you've been good.



Kylle' McKinney

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FACES AND FACTS TELL THE STORY OF DISABILITY

November is Family Stories Month. Every family has stories—stories are a great way to carry on family legacies, pass lessons on to future generations, and share what is important to your family with the rest of the world. Your family stories may include ones about the birth of a child, serving in war, helping people in need, or the deaths of loved ones.

We'd like to share some stories about what it means to receive disability benefits from Social Security. And we have a website that does just that: *The Faces and Facts of Disability*, ready for you to explore at: www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts.

Learning the facts and hearing people's stories about disability allows for a fuller understanding of what is perhaps the most misunderstood Social Security program.

The Social Security Act sets a very strict definition of disability. To receive disability benefits, a person must have an impairment expected to last at least a year or result in death. The impairment must be so severe that it renders the person unable to perform not only his or her previous work, but also any other substantial work in the national job market. Social Security does not provide temporary or partial disability benefits. Because the eligibility requirements are so strict, Social Security disability beneficiaries are among the most severely impaired people in the country and tend to have high death rates.

In addition, Social Security conducts a periodic review of people who receive disability benefits to ensure they remain eligible for disability. Social Security aggressively works to prevent, detect, and prosecute fraud. Social Security often investigates suspicious disability claims before making a decision to award benefits—proactively stopping fraud before it happens. These steps help ensure only those eligible have access to disability benefits.

If you want to learn more about what happens behind the scenes when someone applies for disability benefits, watch our seven-part video series on the process at www.socialsecurity.gov/socialmedia/webinars.

Please read and watch some of the stories about real cases of people who have benefited from Social Security by visiting the Faces and Facts of Disability website at www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts.

Family and personal stories are great ways to discover important truths.

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SENIORS OVER SIXTY SENIOR CENTER

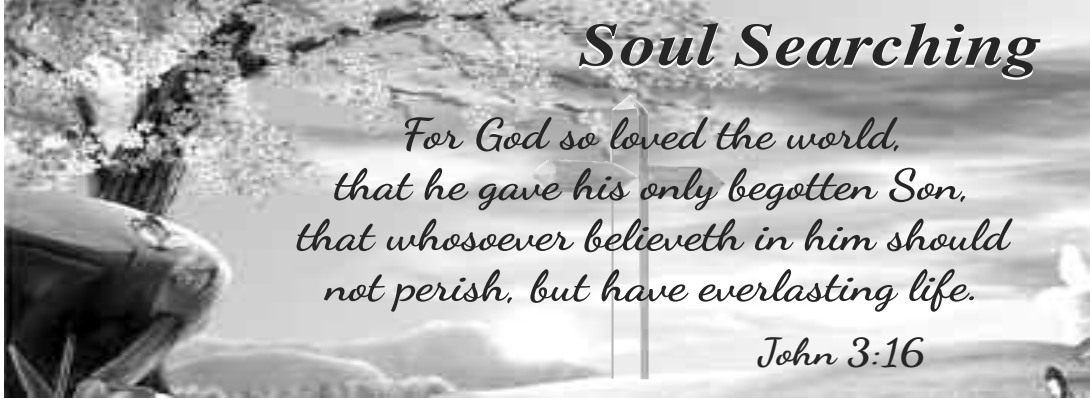
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Soul Searching

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

John 3:16

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL
Eastern Hills
Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama



HOW TO KNOW IF YOU ARE THANKFUL

What's the first thing which comes to mind when you think of November? For me, it's Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is filled with grand memories of family together and fabulous meals. As I have come to look at life from a longer perspective, it seems that it was easier to celebrate Thanksgiving than to be truly thankful. Thanksgiving was never intended to be a one-day holiday, but rather, a pause from life to express together thanks for the blessings which are ours throughout the year. As people more prone to selfish interests than gratitude, real thanksgiving is an intentional act more than a natural occurrence, unless we have trained our hearts.

That's where this unique passage from the pen of Paul comes in. He said, "Rejoice always; Pray without ceasing; In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Jesus Christ" (I Thessalonians 5:16-17). His words challenge me. How do I give thanks "in everything?" What exactly does Paul mean?

I was helped along the way when I realized that God does not intend for us to be thankful "for" everything that happens, but He does expect us to be thankful "in" everything that happens.

What's the difference? Maybe these simple comparisons can help in seeing the contrast Paul has in mind.

- When you're involved in a car accident – You don't thank God for the accident, you thank Him that you weren't hurt more severely.
- When you break your leg – You don't thank God for the broken leg, you thank Him for pain medicine and physicians to fix your leg.
- When you have dirty dishes – You don't thank God for the opportunity to wash dishes, you thank Him that you have food to eat.

If we unpack further what Paul is saying, perhaps we could understand it under three headings.

One is prayer. To the Philippians Paul wrote, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done." Instead of worrying, he prayed and trusted God. It seems to me that people complain more and pray less. It's hard to be truly thankful and grumpy at the same time. I have found praying people to be optimistic people. One of the ways to know if you are thankful is to measure your prayer life. Do you spend more time worrying than praying? Have you thanked God for what He has already done in your life?

A second is perspective. One day a TV reporter asked a mason, "How do you like your job? I hate it, he said. It's the most boring job in the world." That same reporter asked another mason on the other side of the building the same question. "Oh it's great because I see myself building an architectural masterpiece." Here are two men in the same situation, but with two very different perspectives.

Paul put his emotional, mental and spiritual focus on the good things He had in Christ. It would have been easy for Paul to feel sorry for himself. The Jews sought to put him to death. The Romans hunted him like a dog and imprisoned him with chains. Even his best friends deserted him, yet he gave thanks for every situation because He knew God is in control of whatever might happen to him. Paul thanked God in every situation because he knew that God could use it to bring greater maturity, wisdom and usefulness.

Paul saw every hardship as a catalyst for developing great Godly character, wisdom and holiness.

A third is priority. One of the great lessons of life to learn is that happiness is always a bi-product of something else, not a goal to seek for itself. People who spend their life trying to be happy fail miserably. Those who find purpose and meaning combined with a proper work ethic discover happiness and fulfillment.

The problem with learning to be thankful for many is that it is associated primarily with material things or easy living. Paul defined it as an attitude about all circumstances, not just those which seem fortunate. It's possible to be thankful if you haven't gotten a promotion, if you have faced hardship or have a child who is ill.

A father whose job took him away from home often and carried heavy responsibilities finally got time to take his family on a vacation. He decided to go camping to a remote area where there was plenty of recreation and relaxation. All went well the first day or two as they enjoyed the beauty of nature and fun of being together. By the next day his son was bored and said, "Daddy, I'd like camping a lot more if we could have our house and television."

We have become so used to things that we consider them essential to the enjoyment of life. I'm afraid we have forgotten how glorious it is to be alive, to love and to be loved, to serve, to be healthy, to have friends and most of all, to fellowship with our Heavenly Father.

Someone said, "To have faith on a full stomach may be just contentment. Faith on an empty stomach is whole different matter."

You will be blessed to meditate on what Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers, – II Corinthians 6:10 – "Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything" (II Cor. 6:10). Happiness comes not from "things" and "circumstances". True joy comes only from the Lord. People with joy in their heart are thankful people. Someone said, "If we are not thankful for what we have, we will not be grateful for what we do not have yet."

So how do you know you are thankful? Let me ask a few simple questions. Which do you tend to talk about more...your blessings, or your disappointments? Are you a complainer, always grumbling, always finding fault with your circumstances? Are you content with what you have, or always dissatisfied and wanting more? Do you find it easier to count your blessings, or is it easier to count your afflictions? Do you express thanks to others when they help you, or do you just see it as their duty?

Being thankful isn't really hard, but it does take practice. It works best when bathed in prayer, bolstered with a healthy perspective on life and blessed with priorities which lead to happiness.

While it is a little long to print here, let me suggest those of you with internet access read the poem, "Forgive Me When I Whine" by Latif Jan Afridi. I think you will find it a helpful reminder of what Thanksgiving is all about.

Finally, have you noticed how Thanksgiving is associated with Christian faith? It is the Bible which reminds us of the importance of being thankful. Real gratitude ultimately rests in recognition of the author of life and blessings.

Imagine this, "The worst moment for an atheist is when he is thankful and has no God to thank." What if after one of life's great experiences we had no God to thank? How wonderful it is that we do have a Heavenly Father from whom all blessings flow!"

What
ARE...You
Thankful
for?



**HONORING AND THANKING
ALL WHO HAVE SERVED
AND ARE SERVING NOW
ON NOVEMBER 11, 2014**

Pike Road News



Town of Pike Road
9575 Vaughn Road
Pike Road, AL 36064
Gordon Stone, Mayor

Mary Catherine Barganier,
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PIKE ROAD LADIES AUXILIARY ADOPT-A-FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Santa & Mrs. Claus will soon arrive in Pike Road

Christmas is a few weeks away and, for an increasing number of citizens, there will not be money for Santa. The Pike Road Ladies Auxiliary, a non-profit community organization, is searching for a family to adopt for Christmas. The adopt-a-family program aids families in crisis – those struggling with illness, homelessness, poverty or unemployment.

Each year the Pike Road Ladies Auxiliary provides gifts for the children, gift certificates, food, etc. to one or two families. It is preferred that the family reside in the Town of Pike Road, Waugh, Mt. Meigs, Rolling Hills, Cecil and Mathews. Consideration may be given to family within close proximity.

A brief summary (no more than 100 words)

explaining the family's situation is required. We need the family name, number of children, address and phone number in addition to the summary explaining the circumstances that lead to the referral. Auxiliary members select the family we feel most deserving. Once the family is selected, we request that a release of information form be signed between the family and our auxiliary. Santa and Mrs. Claus will accompany us to the home to deliver the gifts.

The required information should be emailed pikeroadladiesaux@gmail.com or you may phone 300-4791 to discuss other options for information to be received. The deadline for entries is December 1, 2014.



David Spooner

Retired Chef

Volunteer Fireman,
 Lowndesboro V.F.D.

Senior Warden,
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
 Lowndesboro

Town Councilman,
 Town of Lowndesboro

Southern Cuisine with David Spooner

Writing about such a broad topic as Southern Cuisine sends my mind in so many directions. In my last article, I introduced a part of my childhood and memories of spending time with my grandmother and recipes that have been pasted on.

My picture in the last issue was an old picture taken when I won my first SPAMERICA'S CUP. I have updated my picture from a cook that experimented with a fusion of techniques and flavors to a chef that likes to cook foods the way they used to be prepared. Simple ingredients, fresh produce, a variety of spices and that was raised or grown as close to home as possible. This is what makes food in the south so comforting.

Southern Cuisine is a melting pot of comfort foods with influences from Native Americans, English, Spanish, French and West Africans. A menu of fried chicken, pork chops, butter beans, stewed okra, greens, and sweet tea can only be described as Southern. But so can Gulf Coast fare such as jambalaya, gumbo and blackened shrimp. Or low-country favorites, She crab soup, Captain Country, perlaw and Hoppin' John. Not to leave out Florida with conch fritters, swamp cabbage and Key Lime pie. You eat what the territory provides.

And who could pass up a snack of RC Cola and Moon Pies? Or a pimento cheese sandwich with fried green tomatoes. And throw in some deviled eggs.

I have a collection of about 600 cookbooks and a collection of recipes that is in the thousands. And I get excited when I find a church published cookbook from the South. The older the better. Some of the cookbooks have sections about sauces and condiments. Two items that I think people don't use enough. But I digress.

The recipes in older cookbooks used real ingredients such as sweet milk and heavy cream, butter, bacon drippings, lots of eggs, and lard. So beware faint of heart, my recipes are going to include real ingredients, not quinoa, not low fat cheese, or sugar free caffeine free anything. Some of the recipes call for items such as a crust for a nine inch pie pan, or melted shortening. Use the pie crust you prefer and the shortening you like best. But when the recipe calls for lard or a specific ingredient, don't substitute something else. Pie crusts are to die for when made with lard. Another topic, another time.

These are my variations of recipes I have found in these gems of long lost cookbooks. They will all have a common link. They are a snapshot of the lives of the people who submitted them, their favorite recipe and like so many of the recipes that I will share with you, handed down from generation to generation.

These two recipes today are both about 100 years old. Be aware that some old recipes were guidelines not set rules and some of the recipes I have were handwritten. So sometimes what was written wasn't exactly what was meant. That's the joy of cooking, experimenting with flavors and customizing it to your tastes.

The crawfish pie is a great change from quiche and the Maque Choux is the Cajun succotash.

Crawfish Pie

2 cups rough cut spicy cooked crawfish tails
 ¼ tsp salt and pepper
 1 lrg onion, chopped
 ½ tsp red pepper flakes
 ½ cup seasoned bread crumbs
 2 cloves minced garlic
 1 beaten egg
 ¼ cup chopped green onions
 Double crust for a nine inch pie
 ¼ cup dried parsley flakes
 ¾ cup chopped celery
 ½ cup butter
 1 small green bell pepper chopped

1 cup heavy cream

In pot, sauté onion, bell pepper, celery and garlic in butter until softened. Add cream, green onion and parsley and simmer 10 minutes. Add crawfish until just heated and remove from stove. Add bread crumbs, egg and spices. Mix well and pour into pie shell. Top with second crust and slit two or three times for ventilation. Bake at 450 for 10 minutes, reduce heat to 350 for 30 minutes or until crust is golden brown.

Cajun Bacon Corn Maque Choux

6 strips of bacon, cooked, crumbled
 ¼ to ½ cup heavy cream
 Saved bacon drippings
 Cajun seasoning to taste
 1 lrg yellow onion, chopped
 3 cups fresh corn kernels
 1 cup fresh sliced okra
 ½ cup chopped green bell pepper
 2 cloves garlic minced
 1 cup diced tomato
 ¼ cup chopped green onion

1/3 cup chicken stock

In a large skillet with the reserved bacon drippings, over medium heat, add yellow onion, bell pepper. Sauté until tender (about 5 min.) Add corn, bacon, okra, garlic and chicken stock and cook until almost evaporated and corn is tender. Add cream and cook the cream down until thick. Add tomatoes to heat, season to taste and serve. Garnish with green onions.



**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

SOUTHERN GARDENING

NOVEMBER POTPOURRI - by Peggy Givhan

Everyone loves a holiday, and in the south, we do love holidays that have a close association with food. And Thanksgiving is a prime example. People plan their menus weeks in advance and have family and friends over for a meal which is really a feast. The sideboard groans with casseroles, turkey either roasted or fried, dressings with who know what all has been added, and the desserts which would win first place in many county fairs. But the real meaning of Thanksgiving is just that-we as a family and as a nation are so thankful for the bounty showered upon us from the good Lord. Thanksgiving should not just be one day out of the year, but everyday. I am grateful that we in America share in this tradition.

At St. John's Episcopal Church on Madison Avenue, we hold a fall bazaar which include home cooked baked goods such as pies cakes, cheese muffins, cinnamon rolls, pantry items, frozen casseroles, arts and crafts items, garden plants and ornaments, Christmas items, and much more. There is a luncheon served which can be purchased at the door to eat on the premises or taken out. All purchases are tax deductible. Mark your calendars for November 19th, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and be ahead of the game for your Thanksgiving feast.

When spring comes and we see many gardens awash in the oriental poppies and seas of gorgeous larkspur we regret that we did not take time to throw a few seeds in November. So do not miss out again this year. Larkspur is absolutely the next best thing to delphiniums, the King of the spring flowers. And in many ways superior to delphiniums since they do not need to be staked and are very easily grown from seed. Delphiniums are quite finicky and if not sown under strict conditions damp off and die. For both the poppies and larkspur, we just need bare ground, no mulch, and the seed. Scatter the seed upon the bare ground, and rake some soil lightly over the top of the seed. They need sun and a light sprinkling of water and off you are to a spectacular showy spring combo.

FALL POT GARDENS

Since we have gotten all the life and love out of many of our summer annuals, you may want some really great plant combinations that, when planted now, will carry your pot garden through the winter months. These plants love cold weather, and will give you not only color but texture as well. Many pots which were in a shady area in the summer suddenly have sun from a southern exposure. Here are some different pot planting of flowers, herbs and vegetables that I recommend because these are readily available in the market place.

1. Snap dragons, tall and dwarf, come in an infinite array of colors; curly parsley which is a great filler, and dusty miller are one choice. I think that the tall snaps with the parsley under planted and clumps of the dusty miller to the side would be quite showy. And besides, the more you cut the snaps and the parsley the happier they become. Don't we just love happy, robust plants. I would fertilize with any commercial fertilizer and work into the soil before planting. Osmocote, a timed release fertilizer, needs around 60 degrees to be effective, so don't waste your money now. It is a superb fertilizer in spring, summer and fall since it will not burn the plants. As with any fertilizing program, always water it into the soil well either before or after planting.

2. Petunias, ornamental cabbage and dark green kale gives the impression of a tight pin cushion with the added trailing of the petunias. If you get all white petunias, this will stand out at night along with the white and pale creams of the

cabbage. Petunias are very fragrant and also requires sun to thrive, even in the winter. I have a stand of petunias in pots in my back yard that are three years old.

3. Pansies, plus thyme and oregano is effective. The yellow pansies so not require as much sun light as the other colors.



4. Tall carnations and dianthus, which are shorter, are also a stunning combination and very fragrant.

5. Geraniums, which I save over the summer, are coming into their own in fall and do well with petunias and dianthus tucked into the front of the pots. Remember to dead head the geraniums and they will last even through frost. On extra cold days, I usually just tarp them, as they can take a good bit of cold.

6. Other herbs which mix well in pots and also in the beds are: rosemary, cilantro, fennel, marjoram, and flat or Italian parsley.

Another easy trick to the pot garden is to plant tulips amongst the flowers and herbs in late December. Purchase these right away and keep them in the crisper of the refrigerator for 6 weeks before planting, so they will bloom on long stems. Daffodils planted this way make for a nice surprise in the early spring. One good thing about daffodils is that they do not need refrigeration.

FALL FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Maybe it is time for us to branch out this fall and use some unconventional plant materials for bringing fall into our homes. I love nothing better to roam the country roads and cut interesting foliage such as the red and orange sumac, sourwood, and maple; the orange berries of the deciduous holly, maybe some white cotton stalks; the tall plumes of grasses; some yellow golden rod; berries from Nandina, also call Heavenly bamboo; and the bright fuchsia beauty berry. Dogwood trees have a multi color fall beauty which should not be overlooked along with its bright red fruit. I have picked up the lime green knobby fruit of the mock orange tree, sprayed it with a lacquer hairspray, placed them on wooden skewers, and put these in the arrangement.

GOOD GARDENING

"The Kritter Korner"

"GROUND HOG OR WOOD CHUCK"



The groundhog, or woodchuck, is one of 14 species of marmots. These rodents live a feast-or-famine lifestyle and gorge themselves all summer to build up plentiful reserves of fat. After the first frost, they retreat to their underground burrows and snooze until spring, drawing their sustenance from body fat. While hibernating, the animal's heart rate plunges, and its body temperature is not much warmer than the temperature inside its burrow. Groundhog hibernation gave rise to the popular American custom of Groundhog Day, held on the second of February every year. Tradition dictates that if a groundhog sees its shadow that day, there will be six more weeks of winter, though such a prediction seems a sure bet over much of the groundhog's North American range. In the spring, females welcome a litter of perhaps a half dozen newborns, which stay with their mother for several months.

Groundhogs are the largest members of the squirrel family they weigh 13 to 15 lbs. Though they are usually seen on the ground, they can climb trees and are also capable swimmers. These rodents frequent the areas where woodlands meet open spaces, like fields, roads, or streams. Here they eat grasses and plants as well as fruits and tree bark. Groundhogs are the bane of many a gardener. They can decimate a plot while voraciously feeding during the summer and fall seasons.



Patricia Killough



HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

November Birthdays



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Barbie O'Neal
Kelei Lewis
Jimmie Mims
Bobbie Parker | Mary Elizabeth Dean
Mae H. Poole
Katherine Huro
Debbie Johnson
Heather Killough |
| 2 Al Flanary
Bill Grubs
Mary Ellis Killough (6th)
Mike Lane | 16 Thomas Joseph Boyd
Alton Haraway |
| 3 Larry Chambers
Doug Sellers | 17 Dan Fowler
Bill Harper
Mary Holman
Cara Stafford |
| 4 Jo Guthrie (88th)
Patrick Sikes (4th) | 18 Billy Jack Beck
Doug Cole |
| 5 Mike Davis
Margaret Ann Morgan | 19 Laird Bone
Mattie Sherman |
| 6 Faye Deal
Teresa Seevers | 20 Sharon Harper
Rich Takacs |
| 7 Carol Harrison
Debbie Green
Jane Camille Robinson
Helen Struthers
Paula Barker | 21 Helen Beasley (90th)
James Miller |
| 8 Mildred Kendrick (90th)
Trey Mainor
Gerry Williams | 22 Annette Banks
Randy Bishop
Amy Grubbs
Ed Grubbs
Lee Hartley
Tommy Jones
Virginia Shearin
Locke White
Charles Wilkerson
Charles Winsett |
| 9 Kristen Butler
Carl McDevitt
John Porterfield
Jamalyn Smith
Patrice Wasden | 23 Joyce Mims
Peggy Cole
Brittany Hord |
| 10 Frances Dover
Gayle Harper
Myra Mills
Manly Swearingen | 24 Helen Cain
Howard Duncan
Donald McClain
Pearl McClain
Jerry Shadrick |
| 11 Robert Sandifer
Faye Best
Jo Hurley
John Messick
Warren Miller
Mary Talley
Tom Vocino
LeeAnn Willams (33rd) | 25 Colonel Durden
Bonnie Morris |
| 13 Sarah Bone
Jenelle Jones
Norman Rahn
Janet Roughton
Marie Penn | 26 Faye Spivey |
| 14 Shawn Adams
Kenneth Banks
Houston Harris
Walker Meadows
Xan Morrows
Spears Rhodes | 27 Annabelle O'Neal (4th)
Vaughn Lowery
Jessika Wallace |
| 15 Larry Browder | 28 Marilyn Oliver
Betty Spivey |
| | 29 Weston Browder
Mavis Kratzer |
| | 30 Brittany Abott
Kaitlin Castleberry
Drew Meadows (6th)
Jackie Moseley
Boyd Partridge
Jim Tinney
Earle Williams |

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 Reese & Tina Campbell | Todd & Sandy Rogers (11th) |
| Harmon & Bobbie Nell Williams (59th) | 16 Stephen & Joyce Turnipseed |
| 5 Brad & Julie Echols | 17 Clyde & Audrey Alison (35th) |
| 7 Jud & Jane Huett (55th) | Chip & Tricia Norris |
| Brian & Jennifer Rushing (5th) | 21 Boyd & Ashley Partridge (5th) |
| 9 Don & Tanya Cooley | Doug & Cindy Young |
| Tommy & Patti Maihan (29th) | Gary & Martha French (40th) |
| 10 Tanner & Shannon Grant | 24 Gary & Debbie Partridge |
| Manly & Kris Swearingen | 27 Mike & Wanda Horsley |
| Tom & Jayne Ward | 28 Andre & Beverly Stephens |
| 14 Jim & Frances Ard | |

Sympathy to the families of...

- Brock, James Moody (76).....died September 29, 2014
 Hudson, Dr. Bryant Heflin, III (71).....died September 29, 2014
 Ingram, Donna (53).....died September 29, 2014
 Graves, Elliott W. (24).....died October 2, 2014
 Davis, Charles Chilion, III (Chuck) (65).....died October 6, 2014
 Wallace, Melissa Poundstone (66).....died October 8, 2014
 Watt, Donald Harrison, Sr. (93).....died October 8, 2014
 Browder, Glenn Warren, Sr. (77).....died October 12, 2014
 Henry, Jean Humphries.....died October 14, 2014
 Hubbert, Dr. Paul R. (78).....died October 14, 2014
 Wingard, Mary Ellen (92).....died October 16, 2014
 Brown, Frank Harvey (Sonny) (86).....died October 22, 2014

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN

Founded in 1828 at LeGrand, Alabama, Providence Annual Homecoming was held on Sunday, October 26, 2014. Pastor Aaron Fleming led the morning worship with music provided by Bobbie Nell Williams, Anne Louise Pass and Jane Chesnutt. The church and surrounding grounds were beautifully decorated by Michael Respass and Jimmy Sellars. Over 125 people were in attendance.

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BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED

Terry Boyd and Stephanie Selva celebrated their birthdays on October 27, 2014 at Jan's Beachouse & Bar in Montgomery. Stephanie was born on her uncle Terry's 14th birthday 40 years ago. They were joined by family and friends that celebrated with them.

Today's Woman

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

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2014 Breast Cancer Support Group

MEETING SCHEDULE

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5:30 - 7:30

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Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms. Wheelchair
America/Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"GOD'S GOODNESS"

Sometimes it's hard to believe in the goodness of God. For many, holidays like Thanksgiving are not a time of truly giving thanks, but a painful reminder of what is not. Families aren't always the safe place they were created to be. Maybe someone is sick or maybe someone is missing. Maybe the economic crisis has hit close to home. The chaos of the holiday season officially kicks off, adding even more stress. There are countless reasons why this "bountiful feast" can feel more like an "unbearable beast."

For all that Thanksgiving brings with it, there is one fact that remains unchanged year in and year out: *God's goodness*. God seeks to do good things because it is in his very nature to do so. He wants to bless us, embrace us, and care for us. He longs to show his goodness to us.

Whatever your circumstances this season, do not doubt God's goodness towards you. Sometimes He allows us to go through difficulties, but He certainly does not leave you alone in them and His promises never fail.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his loyal love endures! Let those delivered by the Lord speak out, those whom he delivered from the power of the enemy, and gathered from foreign lands, from east and west, from north and south. They wandered through the wilderness on a desert road; they found no city in which to live. They were hungry and thirsty; they fainted from exhaustion. They cried out to the Lord in their distress; he delivered them from their troubles." (Psalm 107:1-6)

Indeed, He is good and He will bring you through. At times, I am overwhelmed that we serve an all powerful God whose goodness overflows into our lives every day. Even in the midst of trials, God is seeking our good, to teach us something, and draw us closer to him.

This Thanksgiving, in the midst of turkey, pie, football, and parties, don't forget to take some time treasuring God's goodness to you. Thank Him, praise Him, and *"let those delivered by the Lord speak out."*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SAV-A-LIFE MINISTRY TO HOST ANNUAL GALA

Montgomery, Ala. -- Sav-A-Life Montgomery is having its annual fundraising gala on Thursday, November 6, 2014. Sav-A-Life is a non-profit Christian ministry that has been serving women and men in the Montgomery community for 32 years. It exists to promote a culture of life, health and morality.

The event will be from 7-9 p.m. in Wesley Hall at Frazer United Methodist Church. Dinner is complimentary, and guests will be given the opportunity to make a financial contribution.

Kirk Walden, author of "The Wall," will be the guest speaker for the evening. Walden released his first book in 2013, which addresses how Christians can work together to rebuild a culture of life in America today.

Sav-A-Life welcomes those who are interested in learning more about their ministry to join them for this "Celebration of Life" gala. Reservations should be made in advance by contacting Bethany Garth, Advancement Director.

Sav-A-Life Montgomery, Inc.
Bethany Garth
Advancement Director
334.260.8010
bethany@firstchoicewmc.com



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