



KAY IVEY BRINGS FRESH IDEAS AS ALABAMA'S SECOND WOMAN GOVERNOR

Montgomery Rotary Club Member assumes the Office of GOVERNOR for the STATE OF ALABAMA.

Governor Kay Ivey assumed the office of Governor for the State of Alabama on April 10, 2017.

Here are a few things you may not know.
Governor Kay is the second woman to serve as Governor. Lurleen Wallace, wife of George C. Wallace was the first.
Kay grew up in Camden (pop. 2,000), Wilcox County and worked on the family farm. (Former Senator and current U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions is also from Wilcox County as well as the great baseball player Hank Aaron).



banker with a passion for teaching financial literacy to young people.
In the 70's she served in then Governor Fob James cabinet, later as a member to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, won consecutive races for State Treasurer in 2002 and 2006. Most recently, Kay has served as Alabama's first female Lt. Governor. She was in her second term when she took office last month.
Acting Chief Justice Lynn Stewart using the Alabama State Bible, which has been used to swear in governors since 1853 led Ivey in delivering the Oath of Office, officially marking the beginning of Ivey's term as governor.
After the ceremony Governor Kay stated, "I will serve for the glory of God and the good of mankind. I ask for prayers and support, especially over the next days and upcoming weeks. Let's use this opportunity to make Alabama even better and your government more effective."
Governor Ivey is a member of the First Baptist Church of Montgomery. Pictured beside her as she is sworn in as Governor is Senior Pastor Jay Wolf. She participates in a number of civic activities. For example, Kay has been a loyal member of the Montgomery Rotary Club for over a quarter of a century. She is a Paul Harris Fellow and attends regularly.
President Donald Trump called Kay a few days ago to congratulate her and wish her well on her new role as Governor. Kay is an outspoken critic of Obamacare, she is pro-life, and has an A rating from the NRA.
Kay is a great lady and leader. She has lived the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self".



Other Rotarian State Governors include:

- John Hickenlooper, Colorado
Nathan Deal, Georgia
Bruce Rauner, Illinois (honorary)
Rick Snyder, Michigan (honorary)
- Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania (former)
Henry McMaster, South Carolina
Matt Mead, Wyoming (honorary)

Dear Mom

by Anonymous

Dear Mom, I said a prayer for you
to thank the Lord above
For blessing me with a lifetime
of your tenderhearted love.

I thanked God for the caring
you've shown me through the years,
For the closeness we've enjoyed
in time of laughter and of tears.

And so, I thank you from the heart
for all you've done for me
And I bless the Lord for giving me
the best mother there could be




...a fixture in
Montgomery for
100 years!

Chris Hot Dog celebrates 100th Anniversary!

On April 29th, 2017 Chris Hot Dogs celebrated their 100th Anniversary by having a huge blowout in downtown Montgomery. From 11 am to 4 pm streets were blocked off to hold all the festivities including a car show, a corn hole tournament, live entertainment and curbside service like they had when they originally opened.
The event was FREE and open to the public






Don't let the Flu get the best of you!

Talk to your Adams Drugs
Pharmacist TODAY
about your Flu shot.

Twelve Convenient Locations
to Serve You in the River Region.


www.adamsdrugs.net

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

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
MONTGOMERY, AL
PERMIT #69

Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 9AM-5:30PM
Saturday - 9AM-5PM
Sunday - Closed





1778 E. Main St.,
Prattville, AL 36066
(334) 365-6552



Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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



Well, folks, let’s put the final coup de grace to the Robert Bentley six year Governor’s reign and move on. Ole Bentley was quite a story his last two years. He had become the ringleader of a circus and an infamous national cartoon character. The salacious and lurid details of his affair with Mrs. Rebekah Mason were a never ending, titillating saga. The story, along with his picture, could aptly be a plot for a tabloid or a Soap Opera. I will actually be surprised if it does not make it to television or even the movies.

Unfortunately, this story will be his legacy as governor. He has no public policy initiatives to tout for posterity. He will be known as the “Luv Gov.”

Our last two governors may not have gone to jail like previous ones, but they garnered terrific nicknames for their exploits over their last year in office.

Bob Riley spent his last year doing the bidding of the Indian Gambling syndicate and his cowboy and Indian escapades closing down all the non-Indian casinos earned him the nickname of “Bingo Bob.”

Ole Bentley, who appeared to be the least likely person to play the part, became a sex crazed philanderer. His and Rebekah’s sordid romance tapes sounded like the x-rated version of Barney Fife sweet talking Thelma Lou. Even the national media dubbed him the “Luv Gov”.

Bentley never really showed any genuine remorse or contrition. Even when he read his prepared resignation speech, it did not seem heartfelt or sincere. They were just words wrapped in religion. He never seemed to apologize from the heart. He still seemed a little bit naughty.

Having taught Sunday school for many years, one would have thought Bentley had taught some from the book of Proverbs. One of Solomon’s greatest proverbs says, “Pride goeth before a fall.”

Early in the day of Bentley’s resignation, I was walking around the Capitol with rumors swirling that Bentley’s demise was imminent at any time. I was wishing the best for ole Bentley. I thought about ole Big Jim Folsom standing on the Capitol steps when the press would pound on him and ask him to resign. He would say to them, “Y’all ain’t gonna get old Big Jim to quit. When I was

a boy, growing up in Coffee County my old pappy would make me get out of bed before daylight and go work in the fields chopping cotton and plowing behind a mule. I’d see a rain cloud come up and start praying for rain so I could quit for a while. My pappy would say boy it may cloud up but it ain’t gonna rain on Big Jim.”

Well, bless his heart, it did rain on Bentley. He’s gone. Kay Ivey will serve out the remaining 19 months of his term. She may decide to run for a full term of her own as governor. As the incumbent governor, she would be a viable candidate.

There is an ever-growing list of potential and probable horses that are gearing up for the 2018 gubernatorial derby. The list of viable candidates is at about a dozen.

However, let me tell you again, like I have been telling you for years, Alabamians like to vote for a dark horse for governor – one who has not been around the political track. Let me give you the names of two very rich businessmen who could pull off a Fob James 1978 like coup.

Jimmy Rane, known as “Yella Fella” from his ads of riding a horse and wearing a big yellow hat advertising his yellow lumber, started out and built Great Southern Wood out of Abbeville where he was born and raised and still calls home. Forbes magazine has his net worth at \$600 million.

Johnny Johns became CEO of Birmingham based Protective Life at a young age. He built the company started by Colonel Rushton into one of the largest life insurance companies in the world. When an international corporation bought Protective several years ago, Johnny walked away with \$300 million. He is known throughout Birmingham as one of the most civic minded people in the Magic City.

Either one of these two distinguished gentlemen could easily buy the governor’s office with their pocket change and they may be interested.

May 3, 2017



ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

I SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED

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

Way back in 2010, there was a huge debate in the Montgomery Advertiser over whether the God of our Bible and the Koran’s Allah are the same deity. I bring this up now because recently I have heard the same argument raise its ugly head yet again. I knew I had written something about it then so I dug it out and have wiped away some dust from it. One thing I have never intended is for my "**Robservations**" column to become a Christian mouthpiece. Those of you who read my column probably know this to be true. That being said, every now and then there comes a time when I feel obligated to comment on issues dealing with a Christian theme. Below is what I wrote back then and remains relevant today.

Over the past several weeks, the Montgomery Advertiser has run a series of letters to the editor dealing with the controversy of God of the Bible and the Koran. Several writers wrote in claiming that the two were the same. Below is the letter I wrote in response.

GOD AND ALLAH NOT THE SAME

In the words of Popeye, "I've taken all I can stands and I can't stands no more." In response to the letters by David Wideman and Don Nolte, I'm sorry to burst their misinformed bubbles but the God of the Bible and Koran are not, cannot and will never be the same entity. By the nature of the two texts, we clearly see they are not. God never changes (Mal 3:6) where Allah changes and substitutes one revelation for another because he can (S.2:106, S.16:101).

In the Bible, the kingdom of God is "not eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom 14:17) where the Koran's heaven is a place where men will have "damsels pure and holy," where they are made" ever virgins, dear to their spouses, of equal age" (S.4:57, S.56:35-38). The Bible tells us that God cannot tempt with evil (Jas 1:13) yet the Koran says, "Verily, the hypocrites seek to deceive Allah, but it is He Who deceives them (S.4:112).

Most important is the fact that God of the Bible is a Triune: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Koran is clear that Allah is not. Folks, the list goes on. Christians be careful. Do your own research and you will clearly see that God and Allah, by their nature, character and doctrine, are not the same. Do not be fooled by these wolves in sheep's clothing.

To be honest, I was a little surprised by some of the responses both in the paper and on their website. You know, when I sit in the cockpit with another pilot for 20 - 30 hours over a three to four-day trip, if we get along well, we rack up some interesting conversations. Needless to say, often times the conversation revolves around religion. Most of the time it is interesting and rarely contentious. Many of us have similar views but of course, not all of us. I have had conversations at least twice with Christian men who also erroneously believed that the God of the Bible and Koran were the same entity. Of course I had to address this fallacious notion immediately.

First of all, let me be clear about something. I am not sitting here at my computer writing this column claiming Islam is this or that. It is not my place to do so. They believe what they believe and I believe what I believe and we just have to agree to disagree on most subjects. As a Christian, however, I am obligated to set the record straight, through Scripture, as to what is and is not correct regarding our doctrine. (In other words, we cannot let the non-Christian define our doctrine for us.) Regardless of whatever OT roots people feel Christianity and Islam have in common, no matter how you deal the cards, the God of the Bible and Allah are not the same deity. Like I said in my letter to the Montgomery Advertiser, through their doctrine, personalities, character and actions, they cannot possibly be the same. It is sort of like looking at the two pictures in the Sunday paper where you try to spot the differences. No matter how much they look alike, the fact that there are differences present, by definition they cannot be the same.

I am not going to get into long protracted examples right now because anybody wanting to research the truth for themselves can go to various websites such as <http://www.answering-islam.org/Shamoun/god.htm> or to books like [The Islamic Invasion](#) by Robert Morey or [Inside Islam](#) by Reza F. Safa. What

is important to realize, however, is that as Christians we cannot be in the mode of apologizing for our beliefs or allowing known lies to go unchallenged. There is one thing I admire about the Muslims I've known and that is they never apologize for what they believe. Nor should they. They are firmly rooted in what the doctrine of the Koran says. Although we clearly disagree with their doctrine, they are unwavering in their faith and unwilling to give in to outside pressure.

As Christians, it seems that we are unfortunately too willing to back down from a stance, cave in to pressure, or refuse to stand fast to our convictions in the face of opposition. As soon as someone claimed the God of the Bible and the Koran were the same, many people agreed whole heartedly and jumped on the bandwagon regardless of what the two texts actually say about the issue. This is just one of the many issues where I see our acquiescent behavior.

I flew with one Captain back in April who told me that Christianity was out of touch with the times, that Christians needed to get in touch with the modern world and that Christianity needed to evolve with societal norms. I said, "Sorry, but **Hebrews 13:8** says, '*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.*' **Malachi 3:6** says, '*I the Lord do not change.*' Sorry, but you are wrong. It is not up to Christianity to change to fit your idea of society." I remember he just looked at me but didn't say another word. What could he say? "Oh yeah."

As Christians, our best weapon is the Word of God. It is truth, it is incorruptible, it is the basis for our faith. **John 17:17** says, "**Sanctify them in truth. Your Word is truth.**" If you stand on the Word, your enemy has nowhere to turn but to lies, deceit, slight-of-hand and inaccuracies. When I was reading some of the blog comments on the net, one female was persistent in her belief that the two deities were indeed the same. I responded to her with doctrinal fact while another person responded by calling her a name. While she spent several posts responding to the personal attack on her, she never once responded to my posts. She was completely unwilling to challenge the Word of God. Why? She couldn't. When faced with fact, a lot of people's arguments cannot stand up to the scrutiny. Remember two months ago when I mentioned the S-I-N Alert? [Skew the Argument - Ignore the facts - Name call.] If we, as Christians stand on the Word and stand on fact, from where can the enemy possibly attack us? With lies, falsehoods and emotion completely devoid of truth or fact - that's where.

I for one am not willing to apologize for our beliefs. I am not going to deny or excuse Jesus' righteous position in our lives. If the truth is too painful for some to grasp, I'm sorry. At the same time, I believe we can stick to our beliefs and share the truth with others without resorting to name calling or being mean spirited. (Like I saw on some of the Internet posts) **Proverbs 8:7-8** says, "**For my mouth will utter truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing crooked or perverted in them.**"

Undoubtedly it can be a fine balancing act. Speaking truth while doing it with love. But worse, in my opinion, is to be confronted with something patently false about our doctrine and not correcting the lie immediately. If someone tells us it is up to Christianity to change to fit society, correct them - it isn't. If someone tells you that the God of the Bible and Allah are the same, don't let that lie go unchallenged - they aren't. If someone tells you Jesus would be in favor of abortion (like a bumper sticker I recently saw) point them to Scripture and do not let them off the hook without being heard. If someone tells you "God hates homosexuals" or "God hates soldiers" like the Westboro Baptist protesters claim, tell them " **1 John 4:8** tells me God is love. Although God does hate sin, it is impossible for Him to hate the sinner." We have to know our doctrine, be willing to defend our doctrine and be prepared for the challenges that are undoubtedly going to come our way. If we are unwilling or incapable of defending the Word, those who are deceived will continue living in their world of lies. **II Corinthians 4:4** tells us that "**The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving. . .**" Realize this is where these people are coming from and it is up to us to open their non-seeing eyes with love but also without compromise.



Ronald A. Holtsford

to pay longer per person than they did for our grandparents or maybe great grandparents.

When my grandfather had a heart attack in the 60’s and another in 1974 that was eventually fatal, rest seemed to be the big part of the treatment. Now if a heart attack is diagnosed and treated quickly enough with a stent and proper medications a pretty full life may be available for many more years. Rather than Cobalt 60 radiation therapy treatment from the 1970’s calculated by hand, high-energy xray radiation therapy is available and sensitive organs receive considerably less dose with higher more lethal dose delivered to tumors.

Being a lawyer I agree with litigation in reasonable medical malpractice circumstances. But I see doctors constantly running scared of being in a lawsuit. A friend of mine works in a medical field that supports emergency room services. My friend tells me of the nurse practitioners and physician assistants that support the ER doctors and like their MD or DO counterparts order a plethora of tests in fear of not having met the standard of care. Even under Obamacare’s attempt to cover everyone, many still have no health insurance and use the emergency room as a clinic, arriving many days after a slight fall or cold, etc requiring at times the use of multiple ER services. While my personal physician has known me for many years and can generally use reasonable approaches to diagnose any malady of mine, its not that way in other circumstances where a long term relationship has not been established and a fear of a lawsuit may drive the diagnosis of an illness or injury rather than more straightforward approaches learned in medical school or their years of experience.

Finally to your question. In higher technology areas of medicine such as radiology, radiation oncology, cardiology, etc. doctors are being checked on their approach to treatment by insurance companies. Included are specialties where

I need a treatment to save my life and my doctor says the insurance company is deciding what they will pay for.
When did the insurance company become my doctor?

There are so many things that have affected medical treatment in the last thirty years or more. Technology has come so far and because of it we are living longer and we are paying much more for health care.

Living longer means less populous generations than the Baby Boomer generation will have to pay Social Security for that group and Medicare will have

the treatments are incredibly expensive such as when using chemotherapy. Insurance companies may employ their own physicians or use a company such as Care Core.

What I am seeing are doctors determining based on studies, normal organ tolerance, and their years of experience in their specialty that their chosen modality for treatment will not be paid for by the insurance company because their doctor employed or contracted, possibly not credentialed in the area of practice in question has turned down payment for the modality best considered by your doctor. If nurses or billing personnel are unable to convince an insurance company of payment for a specific modality, then your doctor will have to put aside clinical duties in order to fill out paperwork or participate in a telephone call peer to peer review to plead your case for a certain treatment. I am told Medicare seems headed the way of the insurance companies.

For the past few years doctors and hospitals have sought to qualify under “Meaningful Use” in order to be paid additional funds under Medicare. Medicare is now moving away from the Sustainable Growth Rate formula for payment and Meaningful Use to MACRA and Quality Payment Programs. Supposedly this initiative will cause Providers to provide more cost efficient care and result in healthier patients. Ideally this sounds good, but I think in the interest of Providers staying afloat to pay their staff, etc. they may change the way they practice medicine geared towards “whatever it takes” rather than quality patient care. We will see.

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

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

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

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



Marcia Chambliss

The title of a recent Christian podcast that I follow intrigued me with the title “Pedestal People,” and while neither participant in the discussion lives anywhere close to our beautiful state, I had to wonder if perhaps they had been peeking into the political intrigue of the last few years.

I imagine that the overwhelming majority of Alabamians join me in being vastly disappointed or even disgusted by the current politics of our state. Granted, there are always those who will delight in the demise of those on the opposite side of the political aisle, and I confess that I’ve shared those same sentiments in the past. I’ve celebrated candidate victories and relished in the defeat of the opposition party, but in watching what has happened in Alabama politics since the campaign cycle of 2010, all I really feel right now is sadness for our state.

I suppose it’s our human nature that has a need to place people on pedestals. We certainly do it routinely with our athletes and our entertainment icons, so it’s not a surprise that we also elevate those for whom we vote to the same stature. As questioned in the referenced podcast regarding our rush to put people on those pedestals, are we really that desperate for a hero?

While I still believe there are many who have a genuine desire for public service, and what has transpired of late isn’t a blanket indictment of all who currently serve, I’m afraid that our political system as we now know it holds an intoxicating draw for more a few who are more than willing to climb up on that pedestal as a means of feeding their ego as well as attaining great influence, as that influence so easily and often reaps financial benefit.

But we know what tends to follow that hero worship – an inevitable “fall from grace” – and then for some reason we’re shocked that the illusion of our latest hero is shattered.

Seeking public office isn’t the problem; it’s the seeking of power and influence once that office is attained that is increasingly destructive to that individual and the heart and soul of our political process. Most of the influence consists of power behind the scenes, far from the public eye, and the accompanying



The Illusion of ‘Pedestal People’

corruption continues regardless of political party or individual. It’s one of the reasons it seems to only be a matter of time before whomever we elect gets caught up in their own hero mentality and starts forgetting that the office they hold doesn’t belong to them or the power brokers, but to those they represent. The effects of the pedestal are addicting, and the hosts of the podcast referred to the lust of influence being similar to a drug, even labeling it as “trafficking in influence.”

Whether or not we want to acknowledge it, our political problems and every other issue of conflict in our world originates from our pride. Those we elect are too often quite proud of the influence they’ve accumulated, while their electorate supporters gloat over the political victory. But I’m afraid that our pride in winning creates an even bigger problem as it often discourages us from following up with the accountability that is crucial for good government. Regardless of the political party, we’re too willing to make excuses for corruption if our “side” won and calling it out is too many times condemned as a sign of betrayal to the brand.

I had hoped that the public corruption trial and conviction of our former Speaker of the House would have served as a wake-up call for those in public office, but I’m not sure that the message was loud enough. For the rest of us, maybe we’ll begin to think twice about our role in enabling those political pedestals and our own hero worship.

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. – Proverbs 16:18 (NIV)

1 Jacobsen, Wayne; Cummings, Brad. “Pedestal People.” The God Journey, episode #578, April 14, 2017. <http://thegodjourney.com/2017/04/14/pedestal-people-578/>

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

The Alabama
Gazette

12 E. Jefferson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Office (334)356-6700

Owner/Publisher
Managing Editor
Loretta Grant

Owner/Publisher
Samuel Adams

Marie Hudson ~ Layout, Office
Hazel Harsey ~ Accounting
Sharron Smith ~ Marketing
& Sales Director
Nancy Smith ~ Wetumpka
Events & Reporting

www.alabamagazette.com
alabamagazette@gmail.com

Published by:
Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC
Volume 17 - Issue 8 Copyright 2017
The Alabama Gazette 20 pages- 2 Sec.

Contributing Writers:
Bobbie Ames
Chris “Chip” Beeker, Jr.
Dr. John Bitter
Michael Brooks
Trisston Burrows
Marcia Chambliss
Sheriff Derrick Cunningham
Steve Flowers
Judge Peggy Givhan
Ronald Holtsford
Ed Jones
Patricia Killough
Steve Long
Dr. Rick Marshall
John Martin
Kyllé McKinney
Sheriff Joe Sedinger
John Sophocleus
David Spooner
Robert Tate
Ron VanHerwyn

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

Help Wanted!
Professional
Experienced Salesman!
Great Potential Income!
Call 334-356-6700



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

John Sophocleus

You can email me at: GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com.

THINK



On Goat Hill: Sparks fly, Passed gas, Constipated internet...

Putting ‘Dr. Gov. StrangeLuv’ embarrassment in our rear view mirror, WSFA (4/12/17) reported replacement Gov. Kay Ivey’s second day in office jettisoned more of the former corrupt governor’s ‘work.’ Ivey abolished Bentley’s Office of Rural Development created in 2011 under the umbrella of ADECA (Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs) ostensibly to improve and advance education, healthcare, and economic development in rural parts of the State. *"Rural Alabama is near and dear to my heart,"* Ivey said; WSFA further quoted her with, *"Don't forget I'm from rural Wilcox County. My decision to shutter the Office of Rural Development will refocus rural development efforts into existing agencies."* Her decision terminated State employment for Ron Sparks, a former Ag Commissioner who ran against Bentley in the 2010 gubernatorial race. In the spirit of our rigged duopoly spoils system of ‘bi-partisanship’ Sparks was hired to run this redundant bureaucratic position.

Perhaps, Ms. Ivey will also rescind the ‘trumped up’ Dr. StrangeLuvGuv pay increases for staff many saw as hush money for Bentley’s cover-up and tampering in the Felon Hubbard trial. Another noteworthy member of the “ex-Dr. Governor” staff put out of our employ is Stan Stabler, Bentley's replacement for Secretary of ALEA (Alabama Law Enforcement Agency) after the suspiciously timed termination of Spencer Collier not aiding and abetting the desired cover-up(s). Ivey accepted Stabler's resignation prompting retirement, so it seems yet another ‘public servant’ drove up their pay to further burden RSA payouts. Jon Mason (well paid husband of the Dr. Governor’s former top aide/girl toy Rebekah Mason) was also fired. It seems Ms. Ivey was unwilling to continue to pay for Mr. Mason’s public services - maybe he was confused with the protection afforded in tenured academia where sexual affairs (or football scandal, etc.) locks into higher/longer payouts instead of just deserts like termination.

I certainly applaud Ms. Ivey’s efforts to remove waste from the State budget and pray she goes after more egregious wasteful redundancies under her stewardship. I want my legislators to shepherd our State to improving the general welfare of our State - i.e., make sure our Ag Community is not abused by disuniform taxation, eminent domain abuse, spread of unsustainable urban growth, etc. It takes a certain level of understanding of how the real world works (hard to imagine my State Senator has a current CDL and really understands what makes a farm, light switch, vehicle, etc. function) to be effective toward this end. I’m glad Sen. Whatley is taking the “right to repair” seriously to protect our farmers from Apple, John Deere, et al types trying to extract as much as they can from this socially productive segment of our economy.

Ms. Ivey showing similar rigor ending the corporate welfare side of ADECA championing wealth redistributions to specific business interests (which has been even more deleterious to the general welfare of our State) would be worthy of greater applause. As one of the first to sound the alarm on how despicable Dr. Gov. Bentley had become (May 2011 Gazette column) it was easy to forecast where he was headed getting cozy with BCA thugs. Thankfully the AEA self destructed enough, unable to bail out yet another corrupt politician to leverage extracting more out of our State. Sad to witness this once good man allowing a little BCA corruption into his life to see it permeate toward an end of this sort, perhaps others are Goat Hill are learning. I thank Mr. Bentley for leaving (even if not coming clean about AG deals and avoiding criminal consequences) so we would not endure yet another Siegleman, Hubbard ordeal to discipline him in the courts.

Gov. Ivey also announced an election for the Senate seat currently held by ‘Big Luther StrangeLuvGuv.’ Hard to dodge the “Gerald Ford” stigma of brokering a deal for the Senate seat... thoughts of Blagojevich also come to mind like a belch from a bad onion. Some forecast Luther will be able to easily overcome this ‘Visual Art of the Deal’ made with Bentley. Big ‘Cash Register’ Shelby mentoring the Bentley installed senator (think how well Lowder mentored Felon Hubbard) on ways to effectively milk the office for cash will go a long way toward influencing the low voter turnout results as desired. It appears Secretary John ‘One Day at Time’ Merrill will make sure this special election runs the full duration possible to finance making the Dr. StrangeLuvGuv deal more permanent. A non-duopoly Party candidate won’t be able to collect the 33,000 signatures the Secretary of State would actually verify to be allowed on the ballot in one of the most anti-competitive States in the nation. Taxpayers continue to finance Party primaries Democrats and Republicans use as fundraisers. The general election ballot, taxpayers ARE obliged to provide, is restricted for duopoly candidates. It is foolish to expect improved results to choose from proffered by such a corrupt, rigged system. Fascinating to observe so many screaming like scorched cats about the expenses for an activity (the election, NOT the primaries) the State has a constitutional obligation to provide while remaining hypocritically silent about much greater wastes on endeavours the State has no business addressing.

As Ivey’s initial sparks fly, thankfully legislators have not ‘passed the gas’ tax. As Trump further champions his big govt. bent and displays poor business acumen w.r.t. understanding debt, an attempt for another FDR type wasteful explosion of spending is in the works. The 9 cent/gal. tax is in play on Goat Hill to fuel a more over-built/unsustainable road system in Alabama. The parasites don’t want any flutulence impeding a smooth move to their transfers if/when Trump gets his way - i.e., don’t want legislators struggling to find matching money for their largess. This IS one of those of those times to contact your Congressperson (Mo Brooks is the only one in our delegation with the intelligence and integrity to possibly do something about it) to try and block ‘Moscow on the Potomac’ from doing more harm here at home.

My county administrator and highway engineer have also been shilling for an additional 3 cent/gal. gas tax threatening to rip up roads they currently fail to properly maintain nor followed the law when initially built as they’re more interested in transferring wealth to crony contractors, developers and suppliers than for the safety of the traveling public. Why send another \$29 million in ATRIP II dollars to a county which holds a special election to pass a tax for parks & recreation (clearly not wanted by the more representative general election voters) instead of improving their roads? Worse still, County Access Management Policies and Sub-division Regulations prescribe one thing, but County officials spend my tax dollars to circumvent the law/policies. Little surprise soon thereafter these corrupt public servants then complain for more money after NOT following the law to use monies provided.

When the County obtains a developer’s performance bond to guarantee improvements on a road, the policy triggers a listing of the improvements and estimate; neither were required by my County officials. The Engineer is required to certify compliance with this County policy - he did not. Before connecting, it is required to comply with ALDOT’s “County Road Design” -- it was not. When exceeding 100 VPD (Vehicles Per Day) improvements are required; no improvements were made. The unlawful Engineer (not bonded as required) used his ‘discretion’ to redirect my tax dollars to impose his own flawed traffic study. The Engineer’s discretion (which the commission very publicly stands behind) conveniently forecasts just below VPD requirements to release bonds so developers do not pay for the increased demand they put on county infrastructure where every actual VPD count reveals how poor this public servant’s discretion has been. Now, this corrupt County commission claims they don’t have the money and must address higher priorities. Well, they HAD money. They instead subsidize developers spreading this unsustainable cancer in my county to now beggar money from Goat Hill to further cover-up their incompetence and systematically harming those (mostly poor rural motorists and black churches in the County) least able fight this cancer.

I’ll leave related issues of wrongful railroad crossing closures, using County resources to clear and grub for corrupt mayors, interesting “windfalls” from Highway Department auctions, etc. to another column. After fighting this corrupt/incompetent (does it matter which?) public servant and County Commission for years, we’ve FINALLY got them to follow the law and bond their engineer. This

doesn’t resolve all that’s been unlawful done placing my County in unnecessary jeopardy. Perhaps Goat Hill would be better served to ensure their laws are followed and incompetent/unlawful ‘public servants’ of this sort indeed vacate their office as prescribed, fines paid, etc. instead of throwing more money to subsidize even more harm.

Enough on unpassed gas taxes to address our constipated internet. Seems those with IQs hard pressed to rival temperature readings on a warm Summer day in Alabama are mesmerized by the finding most new businesses and the lion’s share of economic growth for the entire nation has been generated by only twenty counties since the Great Bush/Obama Bailout debacle began. Seems our newly installed House member (after Sec. Merrill eliminated an election) is intrigued that most of these counties have tech-intensive industries like those associated with Silicon Valley, CA. You know the foolish saying, “If you build it, they will come.” Sports fanatics and others easily duped are affable prey for this; those who ask for some justification in the numbers are vilified. Little surprise Rep. Lovvorn has shown himself to be so dim in understanding how the real world works, other House members are starting to notice. Even I thought it would take a little more time for Lovvorn to out himself in this regard.

A few foolish cities (for example Chattanooga, TN) have attempted to attract hi-tech industries by providing municipal broadband network, prompting our newly installed House member from Lee County to shill for this same sort of failed BCA mentality in the Heart of Dixie. No doubt Felon Hubbard’s level of intelligence and integrity carries on in his replacement. The City of Opelika (pop. < 30,000) has already contributed an unjustifiable financial commitment of over \$40 mil. to become Alabama’s first “Gig City” as a municipal provider of high-speed Internet, yet the network provided through Opelika Power Services [OPS] has few customers signed up for gigabit service. The State legislature is considering Lovvorn’s bill to extend the OPS network to all of Lee County. Little surprise the BCA would use their newly installed Hubbard replacement for more failed economic development of this sort. It is clear Lovvorn is ill-equipped to evaluate results of other municipal systems and provide a competent cost-benefit analysis for his constituents. Those who live on public paychecks seem to have a bigger ‘blind spot’ understanding why private firms are reluctant to serve high-cost areas with low demand. The short-term concomitant benefits of higher paying jobs for a few recipients of the wealth transfer and accompanying unsustainable economic growth are the usual ‘siren song’ for municipal broadband services to clumsily step in where private industry cannot justify the costs. Many of these municipal systems serve areas already covered by the private sector slowing their revenue streams which impedes their ability to grow.

The so-called “success story” of Chattanooga rarely includes the huge federal subsidy (\$111 million in grants; approx. \$2,000 per subscriber) required for the system to exist in the tale of this City’s Gig debacle. Other horrific tales rarely spoke of... the city council of Provo, UT sold their \$39 million fiber network to Google for \$1; Groton, CN city residents are STILL paying for a \$38 million network sold for \$550,000; Four city officials in Bristol, VA (a more recent example of Felon Hubbard type business acumen in an Internet system) are in prison. I applaud when a PRIVATE provider takes on the risk/reward of installing and managing a fiber network. Kansas City [2012] was the first US city to deploy Google’s fiber network and this city’s GDP growth still lagged behind the national average. Google wisely stopped their fiber deployment as economic growth didn’t meet expectations. Chattanooga’s subsidized result also has not outgrown its peers.

Easy to dupe someone like Lovvorn into thinking a ‘magic bullet’ like super high-speed Internet is the only ingredient needed to energize an economy. Defining, enforcing and maintaining an uncorrupted environment to facilitate the peaceful, voluntary exchange of property to promote the general welfare of our State is difficult. Shillin’ for the BCA and other feel good moments are easy. OPS currently reports a large loss on its publicly available financial statements. Lack of financial detail concerning the telecom side of Opelika Power’s business and redistributing costs (already \$28 million of debt) to electric ratepayers makes forecasting future gain/loss difficult. If/when the existing municipal system is unable to sustain itself going forward (a likely result if the history of all the other subsidized municipal systems is any guide) proposals to further increase coverage will exacerbate the failed result.

Additional cost for fiber lines to rural areas of Lee County with lower population density than Opelika? Will rural customers absorb these costs through some extra-jurisdictional transfer? Is such a thing legal? I’m guessing this is of little concern for a Mayor who shills for Felon Hubbard before sentencing and it appears consequences never come to bear when you have others paying legal bills. As the swirling mix of cross-subsidies vortex into the usual regress of loss and bankruptcy, will captive electric and sewer ratepayers in Opelika (currently subsidizing this telecommunications division debacle) further shoulder this added burden to temporarily or perpetually subsidize the rural residents of the county, the city of Auburn, and perhaps beyond? Until these questions are answered, any changes to State laws allowing city officials to further saddle constituents in debt to ‘compete with private companies in the telecommunications (or any other) business must be tabled.

In closing, I found it odd how strongly Sen. Whatley championed this subsidy to rural folks. If my complaints to him these past years about how despicable city and county governments treat rural citizens in any way drove the Senator’s resolve in this matter, I publicly ask forgiveness. It is tyranny how much has been extracted from me and my bride in occupational taxes these past decades, yet I can not vote on those extracting from me. We subsidize the cancerous, unsustainable growth harming our quality of life and proffer increasingly unsafe travels into work to pay this wrongful tax. I indeed pay a lot to have the high speed internet (I’m using as I type) in rural Lee County; doesn’t mean I want to ‘progress’ into another iteration of more cross-subsidy to make amends for current wrongful result. Time for Goat Hill to promote détente... I’m again asking folks to support Sen. Whatley’s efforts allow residents OUTSIDE the local occupational tax jurisdictions in Alabama to deduct this tax from their State income tax returns. I can use those savings to increase how willing and able I am to buy higher speed internet (or put up an antenna, buy cable or satellite, etc. to reduce my specific band use) in rural Lee County to alleviate the constipation and keep internet flow more regular.

Postscript: many have asked my thoughts on the federal ruling to force Auburn to allow Richard Spencer’s 1st Amendment right to speak. There’s no authorization in US Constitution for the federal government to be involved in education, but since AU accepts federal dollars (I’m not going to devote type to absurd incorporation doctrine’s flawed logic) it IS within the federal court’s jurisdiction to compel AU as they did. If Auburn were a private entity they could discriminate against Mr. Spencer. As a State entity I hope our State courts would similarly compel AU given Alabama Constitution provisions on freedom of speech. It is educational for college students to be exposed to the Richard Spencer and Maxine Waters types of this world. Students are well served to see extremists of this sort in fact exist and perhaps they will listen more carefully to decide for themselves on the positions they espouse and defend. When exposed to these extremists perhaps they’ll acquire a healthy disdain for the big govt. moderates who broker the deals between these extremists ‘progressing’ us into the ‘worse of both worlds’ result decaying the general welfare of our nation. The most notable and quotable from the entire episode came from Sheriff Jay Jones when pressed on how Spencer would endanger the public. His response, “We handle the Iron Bowl every year, I think we can handle this,” was perfect. It is possible many who came for the Spencer show learned a lot more about others, as well as themselves, than the similarly mindless cheer-leading and trash talk associated with the Iron Bowl. Although AU administrators lost the moral high ground having to be compelled, I couldn’t be more proud of how Auburn students and our law enforcement handled themselves... ‘Enlightened’ Berkley academics, administrators and students - eat your heart out!



U.S. Representative Martha Roby’s (R-Ala.) bill to provide greater choice and increased time flexibility in the workplace passed through committee Wednesday. This was a key legislative step toward full House passage.

H.R. 1180, the Working Families Flexibility Act, would give private sector employees the option to convert their accrued overtime into paid time off. This compensatory time, or “comp time,” would be completely voluntary for the employer and employee with strong worker protections to prohibit coercion. Comp time is already widely used by government employees.


Rep. Roby thanked the House Committee on Education and the Workforce for its swift action on her bill, and she said today’s working parents need more choice and flexibility with their time.

“As a working mom, I understand all too well the challenges that working parents face in juggling a career and managing a family,” Roby said. “Whether it’s coaching a child’s tee ball team or caring for an aging parent, family responsibilities often require time away from work. Congress can’t legislative another hour into the day, but we can give working parents more choices over how they use their time.”

Roby’s bill would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA), which regulates workforce practices. In 1985, Congress amended the FLSA to allow the use of comp time in government agencies, but the practice remains prohibited in the private sector. Rep. Roby said she introduced this bill because she believes all workers should have access to this flexibility benefit.

“The Working Families Flexibility Act would finally offer Americans working in the private sector what their peers in the public sector already enjoy: more freedom and more control over their time so they can spend it the way they choose.”

Included with this article are a fact sheet, more information on the bill’s worker protections, and a myth vs. fact sheet from the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.



FACT SHEET

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2017

BACKGROUND: The American workforce has transformed dramatically over the years and the needs of workers in the 21st century have changed as well. Millennials now represent the majority of the workforce, and many young Americans work full time while pursuing a college degree. Additionally, more single moms and dads are in the workforce. And more kids are raised in households where both parents work.


With these changes, Americans are demanding more flexibility in the workplace. In fact, 85 percent of employees say workplace flexibility is important when considering a new job. Unfortunately, an outdated federal law has become a barrier to workers who want more freedom to balance work and personal obligations. State and local government employees have long been able to choose paid time off as compensation for working overtime hours. However, the federal government prohibits private-sector workers from enjoying this same benefit.

To modernize the law and better meet the needs of the 21st century workforce, Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) introduced the *Working Families Flexibility Act* (H.R. 1180). The legislation would amend the *Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938* to allow private-sector employers to offer employees the choice of paid time off in lieu of cash wages for overtime hours worked. It is a pro-family, pro-worker proposal that gives workers the flexibility to spend time with family, attend teacher conferences, care for aging parents, stay home with a newborn, or attend to other personal needs that may arise.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT:

- Allows employers to offer employees a choice between cash wages and comp time** for overtime hours worked. Employees who want to receive cash wages would continue to do so. No employee can be forced to take comp time instead of receiving cash wages.
- Protects employees by requiring the employer and the employee to complete a written agreement to use comp time**, entered into knowingly and voluntarily by the employee. Where the employee is represented by a union, the agreement to take comp time must be part of the collective bargaining agreement negotiated between the union and the employer.
- Retains all existing employee protections in current law, including the 40-hour workweek** and how overtime compensation is accrued. The bill adds additional safeguards for workers to ensure the choice and use of comp time are truly voluntary.
- Allows employees to accrue up to 160 hours of comp time each year.** An employer would be required to pay cash wages at the overtime rate of time-and-a-half for any unused time at the end of the year. Workers are free to ‘cash out’ their accrued comp time whenever they choose to do so.

Roby’s Working Families Flexibility Act Passes Committee



MYTH VS. FACT: WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2017

Myth: H.R. 1180 will result in employees working longer hours for less pay.
Fact: The Working Families Flexibility Act safeguards workers’ time and wages.

- Receiving paid time off or ‘comp time’ for working overtime hours is completely voluntary. An employee who prefers to receive cash payment for overtime hours worked is always free to do so.
- Employers and employees are required to complete a written comp time agreement. An employee can withdraw from this agreement at any time and receive cash wages for accrued comp time.
- Comp time is accrued at the same rate as overtime cash wages. Employees who work more than 40 hours a week will accrue paid time off at a rate of time-and-a-half for overtime hours worked.
- Workers can cash out their accrued comp time whenever they choose. Employers are required to provide cash wages within 30 days of receiving an employee request.

Myth: H.R. 1180 will allow employers to control when workers use their comp time.
Fact: The Working Families Flexibility Act protects employees’ use of the comp time they’ve earned.


- The Working Families Flexibility Act allows workers to use their comp time whenever they choose as long as they provide reasonable notice and the leave is not overly disruptive.
- The ‘unduly disrupt’ provision included in H.R. 1180 is the same standard used today for public employees receiving comp time, which has worked well for over 30 years.
- All existing enforcement remedies — including action by the Department of Labor — are available if a worker believes he or she has been unfairly treated.
- The Working Families Flexibility Act will promote greater workplace flexibility for employees while protecting the business needs of employers.

Myth: H.R. 1180 will allow employers to force workers to take comp time.
Fact: The Working Families Flexibility Act prohibits worker coercion.

- The decision to use comp time is completely voluntary. An employee who prefers to receive cash payment for overtime hours worked is always free to do so.
- H.R. 1180 explicitly prohibits an employer from ‘directly or indirectly intimidating, threatening, or coercing or attempting to intimidate, threaten, or coerce an employee’ into taking or not taking comp time.
- An employer who violates these anti-coercion provisions will be liable to the affected employee for ‘double damages,’ which includes both the amount of comp time owed and an equal amount in cash wages.
- In addition to new provisions prohibiting coercion, H.R. 1180 ensures all existing enforcement remedies — including action by the Department of Labor — are available to workers if an employer fails to pay cash wages for overtime hours worked.

Myth: This bill is unnecessary because current law already allows for workplace flexibility.
Fact: The Working Families Flexibility Act empowers workers with more options.

- Under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, private-sector employees may only use paid time off during the same pay period in which it is accrued. Paid time off cannot be saved by the employee for future use outside the pay period.
- The law currently allows public-sector employees to accrue comp time to be used at their discretion so long as reasonable notice is given and the leave does not unduly disrupt the workplace.
- H.R. 1180 provides private-sector employees with comp time benefits similar to those of public employees.



WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2017
Empowering families and protecting workers

To help Americans balance the needs of family and work, Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL) introduced the *Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017* (H.R. 1180). This commonsense legislation would allow private-sector workers to choose paid time off or ‘comp time’ instead of cash wages as compensation for working overtime hours. Public-sector employees have enjoyed this benefit for almost 30 years. It’s time private-sector workers had the same opportunity. The *Working Families Flexibility Act* includes numerous protections to ensure workers can choose whichever overtime compensation they prefer.

- The decision to receive comp time is completely voluntary.** An employee who prefers to receive cash payment for overtime hours worked is always free to do so.
- Workers can withdraw from a comp time agreement whenever they choose.** An employee who changes his or her mind will receive cash wages at the overtime rate of time-and-a-half for accrued comp time within 30 days.
- All existing protections in the Fair Labor Standards Act are maintained,** including the 40-hour work week and how overtime compensation is accrued.
- It is up to the employee to decide when to use his or her comp time**, as long as he or she provides reasonable notice and the requested time off does is not overly disruptive — the same standard used for public-sector workers.
- An employee can cash out his or her unused comp time for any reason and at any time.** Employers are required to provide cash wages at the overtime rate of time-and-a-half within 30 days of receiving an employee request.
- No worker can be intimidated, coerced, or forced to accept comp time instead of cash wages.** Employers who coerce employees into choosing comp time would be liable to the employees for double damages.
- All existing enforcement remedies — including action by the U.S. Department of Labor — are available to workers** if an employer fails to pay cash wages for overtime hours or unreasonably refuses to allow workers to use accrued comp time.
- Employers must provide employees 30 days’ notice of a decision to discontinue offering comp time**, providing workers and their families an opportunity to adjust to this change in the workplace.



John Martin

Capital Punishment

Capital punishment is a topic that many people want to avoid discussing. Opinions about it are all over the map—from people who are totally opposed to the ones who would like to round up huge numbers of criminals and “fry ‘em till their eyeballs pop out.” Arguments about the right thing to do for various crimes have persisted for many decades and will likely continue through the foreseeable future.

The death penalty dates far back before the dawn of written history, and multitudes of different methods have evolved over the millennia. Nearly all of them were horribly cruel—burning at the stake, burial alive, crucifixion, drawing and quartering, keelhauling, and impaling—just to mention a few.

In more recent history, when people became more civilized, they developed less cruel methods—beheading, firing squads, hanging, electrocution, the gas chamber, and finally lethal injection.

There are two primary reasons to justify a death penalty:

1. Some people (terrorists and mass murderers for example) are just too dangerous to be allowed to remain in society. Even in prison they can collude with others and plan more acts of terror and destruction. There is a possibility of escape, and it does happen on rare occasions. A much greater risk of escape is being traded for other people being held captive in other countries. A perfect example a few years ago was when our so-called “President” with the blessings of Congress released five of the world’s most dangerous terrorists from GITMO in exchange for one American deserter. We still don’t know how many innocent people those five have massacred since then. And we don’t know how many other GITMO inmates might be turned loose in the future.

2. It costs a great deal of money to keep people in prison. They have to be housed, fed, clothed, and guarded. Health care must be provided. If the prisoners have a reasonable chance of being rehabilitated and then released to be honest citizens, prison and then parole is a viable option. But people with mindsets of destruction with no remorse will only spend their time and effort planning the most evil deeds imaginable. And they can and will influence the minds of the other prisoners and even terrorize and/or kill some of them. For them, life without parole is not a viable option.

Obviously, a death penalty has a legitimate purpose. Some people are just too

dangerous to have around. We don’t need to overcrowd our prisons and waste our taxes with that kind of incorrigible riffraff.

One problem is that some people are hard-core opponents—that having the state kill people regardless of how dangerous they are—is morally wrong. This has led to protracted, expensive trials and repeated appeals that routinely delay executions for years, often 20 or more. This is a sharp contrast to earlier decades of speedy trials (as stated in our Constitution) and prompt executions within a few days. In addition, these delays impose needless mental anguish onto the criminals, the victims, and the taxpayers who are footing the bill.

Oddly, the same people who whine about the cruelty of executions are strangely quiet about the routine homosexual rapes and other abuses that aggressive inmates and sometimes the staff impose upon the weaker ones.

Torture and suffering have no place in a civilized society. The purpose of a death penalty is not revenge. It is to remove the dangerous people. Since we now have painless methods, the argument of cruelty does not wash. In fact, it is a great deal more humane than locking people up in cages for the rest of their lives and letting them waste away. And don’t forget that the taxpayers would be relieved of the needless expenses of supporting them.

What is the most practical method to carry out an execution? Most people agree that electrocution and the right types of poisoning, if done properly, are the best ways to do the job.

In the early 1900’s electrocution gradually replaced hanging as a preferred method. A few states, like California, opted for a gas chamber. In recent years, lethal injection has become the choice of many states, including Alabama. Many people today believe that it is the most peaceful and pain-free procedure. Most of the time, it has worked very well. But right here in Alabama, a glitch recently caused a botched execution, and the drug company that had provided the specialized chemicals has shut off supplies.

But other ordinary chemicals can be substituted. Humane shelters routinely put many thousands of surplus animals to sleep with no problems. Why can’t it be done with human animals? Jack Kevorkian’s three stage device had always worked very well with no mishaps, and the chemicals for it are readily available. An even simpler procedure is carbon monoxide. A person breathing it just falls asleep, peacefully. It should be more expedient than our current snafu-prone injections or the cyanide pellets dropped into acid that California has been using.

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



Steve Long

Woods & Waters with Steve



ANOTHER ALABAMA TURKEY SEASON IN THE BOOKS

Folks, it’s been a pretty interesting turkey season this year! The Alabama thunder chickens were gobbling and thundering the first part of the season, but that quickly changed, as it always does. The first three weeks of the season were outstanding, with the toms running everywhere. If I had been just hunting for myself, I probably would have hit bag limit in the first two weeks alone.

Of course, after those first three weeks, the season took a turn for the quiet, as the birds had had their fill of talkin, and decided to hang out with the hens.



Dr. Ryan McWhorter and his daughter Iyla, on a recent morning in Bullock County Alabama

Sure, some days you could get one to gobble back at you, but between the silence and the frequently changing weather, it could be a bit discouraging to head out in the woods this year. Still, some folks persevered, and were rewarded for their effort! I’ve been taking folks out to the woods as a guide throughout the season, and we did get to see plenty of birds. Some mornings, we got good looks, and managed a few hits and misses. Other days, nothing but the sound of boots marching through hardwood bottoms and across the edges of fields. Throw in the amount of sign we’ve seen of predators like coyotes into the mix, and it’s no wonder that these birds have been scarce.

Despite the ups and downs, I got to spend a lot of time hunting with a whole range of folks, some who were old friends, and others who I met for the first time. That’s one of the greatest parts about the sport of turkey hunting, and being an outdoorsman in general; it’s a

unique opportunity to bond with all of the folks we take with us. A lot of folks I took with me had never been turkey hunting in Alabama before, and they quickly

discovered why the sport down here is seen as a challenge. Those toms can be like ghosts, and if you’re hunting for a big one, you better be ready. Those birds didn’t get old by being dumb!

Of course, wrapping up the season, Outdoor Alabama has sent out a survey for a lot of hunters, and it’d be pretty nice of folks to answer it by May 5th to help out the folks that keep our state a hunting paradise. Of course, like any survey there’s always that one question. For me, it was “Do you think there are too many turkey hunters?” in regards to limited turkey populations. It cracked me up pretty good! That natural competitor in me says, “Of course! Too many fellas I’ve gotta share those birds with!” But in all truth, I don’t think that’ll be an issue for a long time. In fact, back when I started turkey hunting decades ago, I would drive to the property, and would hardly see any trucks or vehicles out on the road. Nowadays, I can’t hardly pass an iron gate without seeing at least two trucks parked at it! Organizations like the NWTF and other conservational efforts have been tremendous in growing the sport, and it’s with their help that we can continue improving the state’s turkey population, and of course, the hunting! So be sure to check out the NWTF, Outdoor Alabama, and other great groups to help with the sport!

Now, even though Alabama’s season is closed, keep in mind that there is still some hunting left to be done elsewhere. As for myself, I’ll be headed to South Dakota with a few buddies, like Duane Cochrane and Greg Cole from Huntsville. We’ll have the pleasure of being guided by my longtime friend Terry Sieveke in his own backyard of South Dakota. It’s always a blast to visit other parts of the nation and see what kind of hunting they offer.

But hey, tell me all about your season! If you’ve got some stories to share, or some birds to show-off, drop me a line at slong1960@hotmail.com. It’s always great to hear about an exciting hunt, even if I wasn’t there!

So good work on another season finished, and if you’re gonna be like me and travel for a little more fun, be safe and enjoy the trip! Go get ‘em!



Andy Whitaker of Wildlife Trends Journal with a big old South Dakota bird

Kritter Korner

Binturongs/Bearcat



Binturongs have a body length between 24 - 38 inches, a tail length between 22 - 35 inches and they weigh between 20 - 31 lbs. Their fur is thick, coarse and black in color and they have a long, bushy, fully prehensile tail. Their ears are small and rounded and they have tufts of hair on the end. They have small eyes that are reddish/brown in color. Binturongs are excellent climbers and they can rotate their hind legs backwards so they can still grip onto a tree when climbing down it head first. They have scent glands under their tail and on their feet and they use these and urine to scent mark areas. They have a variety of vocalizations that they use to communicate including howls, grunts and hisses. Binturongs can be found in the rainforests of south and south east Asia. They are nocturnal animals and they spend their time up in the rainforest canopy. They are usually solitary but can sometimes be found in small family groups consisting of a female and her young. Binturongs mainly feed on fruit but they will also eat birds, fish,



Ron VanHerwyn

Ron's Kritter Kids (wildlife education) *Wildlife education & wildlife rescue*

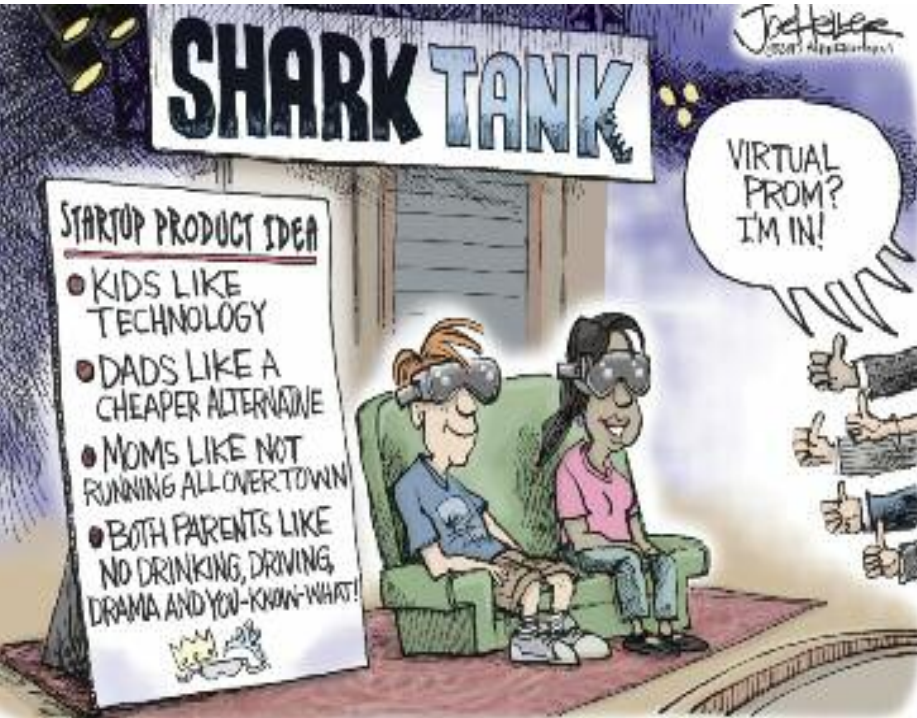
Wildlife education & wildlife rescue is a program to educate as many people as possible about wildlife indigenous to Alabama and the repercussions that occur when we build and take away their homes.

TOURS AVAILABLE

Please call: 334-301-5131/334-301-5128 • No daily hours available.

Email: kritterkids@yahoo.com
Website: <http://kritterkids.webs.com/>

rodents, eggs, invertebrates, leaves, shoots and carrion. Binturongs do not have a breeding season but most breeding occurs during February, March, April, July and November. After a gestation period of 90 - 92 days, 2 - 3 cubs are born. They remain hidden in their mother’s thick fur for a few days and at 6 - 8 weeks old they begin to eat solid food. They reach adult size in one year and females reach sexual maturity at 2 - 3 years of age. Humans are one of the main predators of Binturongs. Binturongs are also known as: Bearcat, Palawan Bearcat, Asian Bearcat and Malay Civet Cat. Binturongs are sometimes kept as pets. Female Binturongs are approximately 20% larger than males. Binturongs are one of only two carnivores that have a prehensile tail, the other is the kinkajou. Prehensile describes an appendage or organ that has the ability to curl around objects and grip them. The word Prehensile is derived from the Latin prehendere which means to grasp. They smell like buttered popcorn a scent marking smell. They can live to 20 years old in the wild and over 20 in captivity.





College Football,
Ed Jones

primary focus when building a successful offense at all levels of football except for professional football. Because of the high percentage of passes in the NFL it is much easier to move a guard to center without much loss of production.

Alabama and Auburn are blessed with outstanding quarterbacks. They will both enter the 2017 football season with two quarterbacks that are capable of leading their team to the SEC Championship and beyond. We will try to give you a thumbnail sketch of these four quarterbacks. For this piece, statistics will not be featured. Statistics do not always give one a complete picture of the value that a quarterback has to his team. In 2014 Alabama quarterback **Blake Sims**, a converted halfback, set almost every Alabama passing record during the season under new offensive coordinator **Lane**

THE QUARTERBACKS

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



Jarrett Stidham



Jalen Hurts



Sean White



Tua Tagovailoa

Kiffin. However, during the national championship playoff games, he was just not good enough at the position to lead Alabama to the promised land. Statistics are more important to the Sunday papers than to the coaching staff.

Let’s look at Auburn first. For four years Auburn has lost 18 games playing “Big Boy” football without a really outstanding quarterback.

In 2017 there is more excitement about the quarterback position than I have seen since the **Cam Newton** year when the Tigers won the national championship. **Jarrett Stidham** started six games for a very good Baylor team in 2015 as a freshman. Due to the unrest at Baylor and the dismissal of the very successful **Art Briles**, Stidham decided to take a year off and attend a junior college that had no football team. That made him immediately eligible to any team that could recruit him. Auburn won out over dozens of teams that were vying for his services. At 6-3, 210 lbs. he is a true dual threat quarterback with a live arm and good legs. He should fit in very well in the zone read, run first offense, that **Coach Gus Malzahn** introduced in 2013. There have been changes in the system every year but the threat of the zone read offensive system has remained the mainstay of the offense. With the departure of **Rhett Lashlee** to Connecticut and the hiring of new offensive coordinator **Chip Lindsey**, there will certainly be more changes. For example in the last two years, the tight end has only caught two passes. That to me is incredible. This is one statistic that should certainly cause concern to any coaching staff in America. Lindsey has already changed this dynamic. More emphasis will be placed on throwing the ball deep and involving the tight end as a weapon instead of a distraction.

For the first time in Malzahn’s tenure Auburn will have two quarterbacks that can win for him. Already mentioned is the outstanding sophomore transfer, Jarrett Stidham. However, Stidham will not just be handed the job. He will face fierce competition from junior **Sean White**. White has two years of experience as a starter. He is not as talented as Stidham, but he is double tough and the players love him. His forte is confidence in himself which spills over to the rest of the team. They will play hard for him. He is not a great runner. He is an adequate passer. He sees the field well. In the past two years

Peyton Manning was denied the Heisman Trophy, the selection committee for this honor is a joke.

At 6-2, 210 lbs., Jalen Hurts enters his sophomore season as the favorite to be Alabama’s starter again. He has a few more weapons than he did last year. Alabama has three highly tested running backs in **Bo Scarborough**, **Damien Harris** and **B. J. Emmons**. In addition there are two freshmen that will certainly contribute to the running game. **Najee Harris** and **Brian Robinson** are fully equipped to play if needed. One of them will probably be red-shirted. There is not much more that can be said about the play of Jalen Hurts. He has three more years to improve. He must improve because there is a freshman from Hawaii that will be nipping at this heels during those three years. **Tua Tagovailoa** is the real deal. He was the highest rated quarterback in the nation in high school last year. At 6-2, 200 lbs. Tua is almost college ready. He is mature. He is quick and he has a “Snake Like” delivery when he lets the ball go. He has a slight wind up type motion that can be improved on. But he gets the ball out very quick. That is a big advantage in that the defenders don’t have as much time to react to the ball. It is my opinion that he will start the 2017 season as the back up quarterback to Jalen Hurts. It is also my opinion that he will play quite a lot as well. **Coach Nick Saban** has had three quarterbacks to transfer in the last two years due to their lack of playing time. He most certainly has to keep Tagovailoa happy in some way. This is a plus for the 2017 season, but it could develop into a problem in the future. Right now Jalen Hurts is ahead but not by much. It will be interesting to see how Saban handles this with his new offensive coordinator **Brian Daboll**. The “genius” of Lane Kiffin will be displayed somewhere in South Florida this year. The Tide should get back to the offense that has made Alabama feared over the years. Saban wants his offense to be so physical that in the fourth quarter, most of the players on the opponents defense will decide that they really don’t like football very much.

Alabama opens with a projected national power, Florida State, in Atlanta. We will know how good Alabama is after that game. Auburn plays Clemson at Clemson in their second game. So, it will not take long for us to know “what’s what” as my old friend “Monk” Gafford used to say.



Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor
Senior Section

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

You may be over
the hill if... you start losing your
memory. On the birth side: you
learn something new every day.

A rebellious nation

Will Americans ever learn?

The antics of former **National Security Adviser Susan Rice** suggest that what a good many of those in our government employ have learned; especially as it relates to doing well in government employ.

Today's post presidential election nonsense suggests that while most Americans don't feed at the public trough, some do it with a vengeance.

It's difficult for the “old-timer” faction in America to come to grips with the absolute iodicity that has been taking place in the U.S., especially as it relates to our latest presidential election, but it goes way back.

The recent disclosures that Ms. Rice is worth an estimated \$40 million; which is not bad for a federal worker. We've seen a lot of excessive feeding at the public trough in our life times, but none so disgraceful as what we most recently witnessed.

Way back in antiqity the wardens of insane asylums would sell tickets to the local gentry which would allow them to come to the facility and observe the antics of the inmates. It was good fun to see them stumble about in mindless stupors; well worth the few shillings of admission the local residents had paid. In a way, TV has brought this back into vogue.

In our country, as early as the close of the 18th Century, Americans have been treated to similar nonsense in Washington, D.C., the major difference being the means by which this political idiocy is disseminated to the public.

Back when the U.S. of A. was first getting its political feet wet, one of its major concerns as a newly forming nation concerned fiscal responsibility: Now that the new nation has been formed, how were “Americans” going to pay for it? And, apparently, we still haven't mastered this complexity. Our government just blindly runs up the debt; which, in round numbers, is \$13,000,000,000,000 plus. That's what Americans owe.

Now that's a lot of dollars we owe other nations. Think about it. The total population of the United States is only 322,762,018.

Two of the major architects in the formation of our new nation were Alexander

CHASING A DREAM

By Dr. John Bitter

Throughout history pet owners who have tired of their animal have taken it far out in the country and dropped it off, mistakenly believing that this was the end of the story.

Usually; however, within a day or two who shows up at the back door but the unwanted critter.

And so it has been with government health care; such as the ever popular, but hopeless, Obamacare.

Some years ago Teddy Kennedy's efforts to launch a similar federal health care program caught your writer's attention. On the surface, this looked like a fine solution to a growing problem.

However, after some extensive research it became clear that national healthcare was a quagmire that the wise man avoided.

The concept of federally planned and subsidized health care was a specter one didn't really want haunting his or her house. But, try to tell that to governmental do gooders.

For one thing, there are too many factions involved in the process, each with its own point of view on how nationalized health planning should be handled. The wisest choice; however, seemed to be: leave it alone!

Look at who the major players have been:

The providers of health care: doctors, hospital administrators, nurses, social planners, the clergy, do-gooders of a variety of motivations, and the list goes on. Each player has his or own philosophy on managing an inclusive health care program; his or her own philosophy on how health care delivery should be handled.

And each proponent of how efficient health care should be managed is a health care provider: the entity responsible for handling the new system. This list of narrow focused do gooders grows with each attempt.

They bicker and argue, and in the end, nothing is accomplished. But they plod along. And, historically, none of them has succeeded—including the last President of the United States The scenario is usually a big fanfare on how the government is going to, magically, come up with a solution to this historic problem. But when the dust settles, it's swept under the carpet until the next patron comes along and fans the flames. And at the end of their effort, they go down in flames.

For a good many years your writer studied, wrote about, and actually became a player in the health planning process, only to come to the conclusion that government-handled health care will never come to fruition. There were too many factions, each with its own objective, and often in fierce conflict with the other players, all of which spelled disaster. Yet they press on.

And so it shall be with Obamacare. The previous president, and his minions, produced Obamacare, which never really got off the ground. It consumed millions of dollars, held out false promises to many citizens in need of a well organized health care system, and eventually ended up like Franz Kafka's Hunger Artist, it just withered away because there was nothing that could be done to remedy his situation.

It makes for good theater, but there's really no hope for any of these proposals to succeed.

The human factor won't allow it.

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS
IN THE ALABAMA GAZETTE.
GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH US!
334-356-6700

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: ALABAMAGAZETTE.COM

Hamilton, who was then Secretary of the Treasury, and Thomas Jefferson, the fledgling nation's Secretary of State.

Hamilton loosely interpreted the Constitution, and felt that a strong federal government, coupled with a free run with the national checkbook, was the way to go. He felt that the federal government should assume the debts incurred by the 13 new states in their conflict with Great Britain, and that the fledgling nation should be run by a strong federal government.

For some reason he believed that plunging the nation into debt was a sure way to insure its citizens would rejoice at having a monumental debt on their back, and give them a sense of respect for their government. Does this sound familiar?

Thomas Jefferson, on the other hand, believed in a strict interpretation of the Constitution; that the individual states should bear this responsibility, in opposition to Hamilton's belief that Congress should run the show in any manner its members might choose, and it would be paid for by taxing it citizens, or by just generously printing money--or a combination of both. But, when the impact of Hamilton's plan was felt by the nation's whiskey distillers they rebelled at the idea of having their product taxed; a response that gave birth to the infamous Whiskey Rebellion; and which inspired the French peasantry. We all know where this led.

Then, as his term in Washington reached an end, President Washington called for unity among “citizens by birth or choice,” advocating moderation. He defended religious pluralism, proposed a foreign policy of independence (not isolation), and believed that an educated electorate was essential to democracy. Washington hoped he had established the precedent for the peaceful transfer of power. As it turned out, the process just got worse with each election term; look what we have today. Washington’s message was adopted by his protege Jefferson, and after years of opposition, it was quoted by Lincoln in his defense of the Union.

Woodrow Wilson invoked it for nation-building; Eisenhower for the Cold War; and Ronald Reagan for religion. Now, many of us wonder, will Washington's Farewell Address inspire a new generation to re-center its politics and reunite our nation through lessons rooted in Washington’s experience. Or will it flounder in a morass of argument, nit picking, lies, innuendo, and an agonizing disrespect for the nation we all once loved and respected; such as is the situation we're witness to today.

This leaves those of us who can still think straight to ask: Where are the statesmen when you need them?

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

By Dr. John Bitter

It would seem rather logical that since May is *Older Americans Month*, that this section of the page be devoted to stuff related senior citizens.

A month long celebration is also designated as *National Blood Pressure Month*. And at places such as Elmcroft, nurses are always underfoot taking the residents' blood pressure.

Since many of us old timers require occasional to frequent care from nurses, we would be remiss if we didn't take note of the fact that the first full week in the month is *Nurse's Week*, and the 6th of the month is *National Nurses Day*.

Added to all of this is the reality that paramedics are frequently called to attend to one medical problem or another at the seniors' home. It's only fitting, then, that the Gazette recognize that the fourth week of the month is *Emergency Medical Services Month*.

Moving along to other days that have a designation relative to seniors, the 8th is *Victory in Europe Day*, commemorating the end of the war in that theater, and the 16th is *Wear Purple for Peace Day*.

And the 20th of May has been celebrated for years as *Armed Forces Day*. Most seniors can relate to some or all of this.

On the 26th we celebrate *Sally Ride Day*, honoring the first American woman in space. She was also the youngest American astronaut.

Rounding out the month of May, on the 29th to be exact, we bow our heads on *Memorial Day*.

And so it is for the month of May.

ELIZABETH H. WRIGHT APARTMENTS

Independent Senior Living • 62 and older



Spacious 1 Bedroom • 1 Bath apartments
Rent is based on income
rent includes utilities
(On the Campus of Faulkner University)



5201 W. Alabama Christian Dr.
Montgomery, Al. 36109
(334) 386-7490 TDD 334-557-6252
or 557-6254





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

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

Soul Searching

Mistakes The Wise Avoid

Just recently two incidents on airlines involving conflicts between passengers and employees took place. One involved removing a passenger who did not want to give up his seat by force. He was injured in the process and the airline has suffered significant criticism and loss of value in the process in addition to the lawsuit which will follow. The other involved a passenger who was struck with a baby stroller due to an over-zealous employee taking control of a situation. Instead of making things worse, the airline quickly expressed concern for the family and upgraded them for the rest of their trip. The manner of handling the first one was a major mistake for the airline.

Mistakes happen not only in business, but in our personal lives. The Bible wisely reminds us, *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* What that means is that we are all fail in one way or another. Some are as simple as dialing a wrong number while others can be a reputation stealer or even worse, life threatening. I am not equating the words sin and mistake, but suggesting all of us have fallen short in always making right decisions.

One important thing to remember about any mistakes that we make in life is they are generally not fatal. And even more importantly, they can be forgiven in Christ.

In **Luke 12**, Jesus told the parable about a rich man who failed in knowing what to do with the material blessings of life. He tore down his barns to build bigger ones so that all he thought about was his own pleasure and wealth. But his life was taken because of his selfishness and greed. In other words, the man’s success led to his own downfall and demise. What a terrible mistake.

There were at least three mistakes this man made. **First**, in planning for himself, he forgot his neighbor. With a good crop coming in, the man said, “What shall I do with my money?” “How shall I spend my money on me?” Obviously, he wasn’t thinking about anybody but himself.

Any time we think primarily about ourselves, our wants, our needs and fail to consider others, we are headed for trouble! An interesting observation was made by Solomon in **Proverbs 11:24-25**, *“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”*

“Two friends met for dinner in a restaurant. Each one requested fish and after a few minutes the waiter came back with their order. Two pieces of fish, a large one and medium-sized one, were on the same platter. One of the men proceeded to serve his friend. Placing the medium-sized piece of fish on a plate, he handed it across the table to his friend. His friend said, “Well, you certainly do have a lot of nerve!” “What’s the matter?” asked the other man. “Look at what you’ve done! You’ve given me the smaller piece of fish and you kept the big one for yourself.” The man responded, “Well, how would you have served the fish?” The angry man said, “If I were serving, I would have given you the bigger piece.” “Well,” replied the man, “I’ve got the bigger piece of fish, don’t I?”

So what’s the lesson in this silly story? Any time we want the bigger piece of anything it is because we are thinking only of ourselves! And there are lots of us who want the bigger piece of fish in every situation of life without concern for the needs of others. The Bible says, “Jesus went about doing good.” He challenges us to “bear one another’s burdens” and “to love our neighbors as ourselves.” This might be a good time to ask how we treat our neighbors. Have we made any mistakes in thinking only of our wants and desires?

Second, in considering his goods, he forgot the giver. The rich fool thought about his material goods, but not about the giver of the goods! James reminds us “Every good and perfect gift is from above...” Our vision problems are not related just to the rays of light our eyes sense, but rather, to the goodness of God.

Have you ever caught yourself complaining about your situation in life and been humbled by learning about someone else’s situation which was far worse

from a worldly standpoint? It’s real easy to take our blessings for granted and complain about what we have, forgetting how good God has been to us. Some people are about as insensitive as someone who complains about his toe hurting until he looks around and sees a veteran who lost his legs fighting for his country.

In **I Corinthians** Paul asked a powerful question, *“What are you so puffed up about? What do you have that God hasn’t given you? And if all you have is from God, why act as though you are so great, and as though you have accomplished something on your own?”*

Charles Kingsley said, “If you want to be miserable, think much about yourself, about what you want, what you like, what respect people ought to pay you, and what people think of you.” Eugene Bertin also said it well when he wrote, “It is when we forget ourselves that we do things that are remembered.”

The **third** mistake the man made was that in providing for his body, he forgot his soul. His motto was “Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” All this rich fool was thinking about was the “here and now,” not the hereafter. Again consider the words of James, “Now, listen you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”


James compares our lives to a mist that appears in the sky and then suddenly it is gone! Life is short! No matter how long we live on earth. Whether we acknowledge it or not, there is life after this life and it is eternal. The question is, are we making plans for the next life?

Did you hear about the man who brushed his teeth twice a day? His doctors examined him twice a year. He stuck to a diet with plenty of fresh vegetables and fruits. He exercised regularly and got at least eight hours of sleep every night. This man never smoked, drank, nor lost his temper. He was all set to live to be a hundred years old. But his funeral will be held Wednesday. He is survived by eighteen specialists, four health institutes, six gyms and numerous manufacturers of health foods and antiseptics.

He made just one mistake: he forgot God!

Isn’t that man like so many other people in our world? They think about the body, enjoying the pleasures of this life, but they forget all about the fact that some day they are going to die. Then what?

We’re all going to make mistakes in life. My prayer is that we will not be guilty of the same ones which took the life and eternal soul of the rich fool spoken about by Jesus. Don’t forget your neighbor, don’t forget the giver and don’t forget you have a soul which is going to live forever in heaven or in the place called hell.



Welcome
Eastern Hills

Come & join us on
SUNDAY MORNING

Bible Study:
9:00 AM

Worship:
10:15 AM

www.ehbconline.com



Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

GOD HAS THE FRIED CHICKEN

I first heard the story years ago on Christian television when the author, Bob Benson of Nashville Christian music fame, told it. He called it the baloney sandwich story. And it's still a good one.

A man had to work half a day one Saturday and belatedly remembered the church picnic was that afternoon at City Park. Since he lived alone and didn't cook much, all he found in the refrigerator was a crinkled piece of baloney and just enough mustard in the bottom of the jar to get it all over his fingers as he fished it out with a knife. He put the sandwich in a paper bag and set off for the picnic.

A large crowd gathered that day for the festivities. Families joined in the three-legged race, the horseshoe toss and the traditional softball game.

Later in the afternoon it was time to eat. The man found himself at a table next to a family who'd brought a large picnic basket. As they unpacked the basket, he saw fried chicken, potato salad, homemade rolls, lemon meringue pie and what we Southerners call "sweet tea."
(The late Grady Nutt used to call this syrupy stuff "40 weight tea"!).

So there the man sat all alone with his baloney sandwich. Sensing his plight, the family beckoned him to join their table. "Let's put our food together and share," they said.
"Oh, no, I couldn't do that," he said.

But the family insisted there was plenty of fried chicken, potato salad and rolls.

"And our family just loves baloney sandwiches," they said.

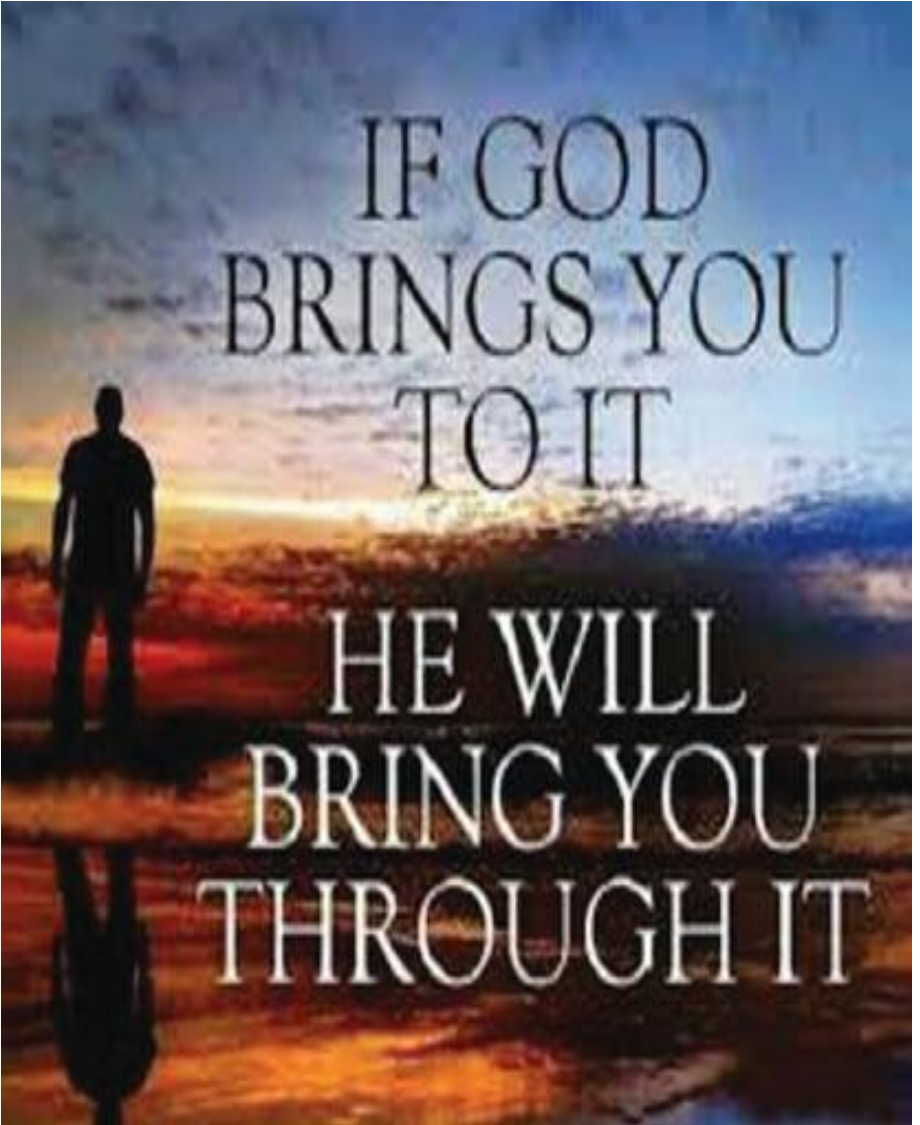
And so the man sat there eating like a king when he came like a pauper.

I told this story to a friend years ago who had a different take. He began to use it to put pompous Christians in their place by saying, "Hush! God doesn't need your baloney--he has the fried chicken!"

But actually the story is best used to describe what the Christian life is all about. We come to Christ bringing what we have: hopes, dreams, failures and sin. God comes to the relationship bringing what he has and shares with us. And we're the better for this.

What does God bring to the table? He removes guilt by bringing forgiveness of sin. He gives a new family. We join other forgiven sinners--the church--who love and encourage us on our spiritual journey.

And he also brings eternal life. Our greatest fear is death, but Jesus is the pioneer of our faith (**Hebrews 12:2**). He safely navigated the valley of the shadow of death and now promises to be our guide when death comes for us.



Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. The church's website is siluriabaptist.com.



The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

George Washington The Father of Our Country

His Character and Influence on our Nation, Part Two

As a young boy, George was educated at home. During two periods of time, he went to a local village school, but most of his education came from home by his father and older brothers, Lawrence and Augustine. Throughout his life, he praised his mother and acknowledged the great debt that he owed her for the daily habits and faithfulness of her love of Scripture. They quoted it daily together in the home. The "**Rules of Civility**" that his father brought back from the school in England were lived out in his life, throughout his life. The book has been published and re-published in America even until today. I have a copy of the 110 Rules of conduct, published in the 1980's, which I treasure.

George was visiting cousins 18 miles away when his father became critically ill, and he was rushed home. His father died the next day, April 12, 1743. Imagine the shock to them all, and the burden placed on Mary Washington. We are fortunate to have many records, and some in amazing detail of his outstanding Christian mother. The early death of her husband proved her Christian character was firmly grounded, and that her industriousness enabled



George Washington as a British Colonial Colonel in the Virginia Regiment

her to manage a huge burden of responsibilities with amazing ability and without great material resources. Lawrence, in describing his step-mother, wrote "*of her well ordered household.*" He spoke of George's love of his mother, and of her trust in Divine Providence for her son. Those closest to Mary Washington knew that everyday, without fail, she went to a secluded spot for her special prayer time. We can imagine how much of the prayer was for her son, so often in danger, and always with staggering responsibilities.

One can imagine how difficult it was for George, after his father's death, to manage the school work and the farm labor. The serious study of agriculture had long interested him and the fascination of growing tobacco was a great learning

experience for him, as he worked alongside the farm workers. The tiny little tobacco plants had to be transplanted in long field rows, weeds had to be controlled, and George had to master the skills to inspire the workers. So many journalists have poured over his notebooks, still in the Washington Archives.

After August Washington's death, there had to be an inventory of his possessions. The entire list is available for us to review. The remarkable thing about looking over the list is to see how very simply this family lived. There is no evidence of elegance, of elaborate home furnishings. Everything was adequate but not ornate. George had a great inheritance, none the less. His life was full of energy, courage, wisdom, influence, and always...assurance of eternal life. All of the research of the several centuries, documents the fact, that George's entire life shows that his parents gave their "all" to form the Christian character in their son. As we study his life, we see that he never, NEVER, misused his power as Commander in Chief in the American Revolution or as President of the United States. Never did he bully his contemporaries or even act "less" than the gentleman that he was. He never misused his authority.

One of the first "grown up books" that he referred to was a book that focused on living out Christianity. It was by the Rev. Thomas Comber and titled, Discourses. On the first page, he would have read these words: "*Prayer is the lifting up of the soul, to converse with God and a means to obtain all of His blessings.*" He read about confessing one's sins, and being assured of being forgiven. Scriptures were explained thoroughly, such as in "*The Lord's Prayer*" and multitudes of Old and New Testament passages. The Anglican Church in that day reflected the great teaching of the Reformation.

His First Great Achievement for His Nation

In the fall of 1753, French forces had taken command of the Ohio Valley. Governor Dinwiddie searched for someone to deliver a letter to the French commander, that this territory was British territory, and that the French must withdraw. George, now 21 years old, volunteered to carry the letter. This was a one thousand mile wilderness journey undertaken during the winter months. His guide was Christopher Gist, referred to as "*the most experienced frontiersman trader of the day.*" Both men left a written account of the journey, relating the contacts with the Indians, including their efforts at managing Indian diplomacy. The cold was so severe, that Gist wrote of having all of his fingers and some toes frozen. At one time during the journey, they constructed a raft, but had only one small hatchet and no other tools. They wrote of being thrown off the raft at one point.

Because of this experience and his faithfulness, George would later serve as an aide to Governor Bradford in another expedition against the French. The battle was chaos and ended in defeat for George's forces. This would be the only defeat that George would experience throughout his life.

Greatly respected by now, George was chosen at age 23, to head the position of Commander in Chief of the Frontier Forces of Virginia. For three long years he fought against the French and Indian forces. Everyday there was a fight for food, for munitions, for uniforms, for transport, for military equipment, and for wages to pay his men. Through these experiences he learned the greatest lesson of all: that discipline and self-government is the very soul of an army. In these three years, he was being trained to lead the American Revolution.

Washington Irving's Life of Washington, has a steel engraving showing George Washington as a young man. A man who knew Washington well, wrote, after seeing the engraving,"It is the best likeness of the Chief, the one of all others most resembling him."

Perhaps His Greatest Achievement

For eight long years, he carried this burden, inspired his soldiers, fought the British and displayed genius in leading his army to victory. Sometimes overlooked is the confidence of the folk back home in whom he had instilled total trust, by his faith, by his leadership, and by his vision for our new nation.

The world was watching. There had never been a Revolution like this one. Ours should be called The War for Independence, for that is what it was. The only objective was freedom for the new nation. He trained his leaders carefully, and they in turn, trained the troops for the entire army. Discipline and courage prevailed. Military experts claim that George Washington accomplished more with less resources than any military leader in world history. He determined to have a Union of 13 Colonies, where each one retained their liberty and rule of law.

The tragedies suffered at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777 and 1778, were beyond our ability even to comprehend such suffering. Supplies were lacking, pay was 4-5 months behind, and there were no barracks, huts, or shelters. The tents were hardly shelters and winter had set in. Food and clothing were far from adequate. The fact that several thousand soldiers remained to endure such pain can only be explained by Washington's leadership. He walked among the troops during the night hours. They saw tears on many occasions and wrote about it. The Valley Forge story gives us a glimmer of the price that many paid for our liberty. Looking back over that time period, Washington later wrote, "*Naked and starving though they were, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiers.*"

U. S. Senator Albert J. Beveridge made a thorough study of Washington's life, career and achievements. He concluded from his study, "***Washington was the soul of the American cause. Washington was the government. Washington was the Revolution.***"

The Senator was correct in his assessment. George Washington was the only American leader that we could name who had the total trust of the American people. They had complete trust in his leadership and he instilled in them a trust for the Union being formed for their liberty. Under different leadership, we may never have had the Constitution that we have today, where the colonies retained their liberty and rule of law, and the Union did as well. Thanks to Washington's leadership, the Constitution became a reality. He instilled assurance and confidence that this was God's Providence for the new nation. Thirty of the 55 delegates to the Convention had been officers under his command during the Revolution. Think about that.

Within the new government, there were warring factions. Washington had the patience and wisdom to cut through the chaos, reaching out to the ordinary citizens. At the opening of the Constitutional Convention, Washington is quoted as saying. "*Let us raise a standard to which the wise and the honest can repair, the outcome is in the hand of God.*" John Fiske wrote about Washington's influence throughout the convention, speaking of "*Washington's glorious spirit.*"

It is likely that Washington would have liked to retire to his farm after the war was over. However, he had been prepared Providentially to take the Presidency. He was the only man in whom every state could place their trust. By this time, he had the respect of many foreign nations. His sincerity and modesty was evident at his Inauguration. In his first official act, he promised "*my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the council of nations, and whose Providential aids can supply every human defect.*"

Looking over his two terms as President, he prayed for our nation: "*That Heaven may continue to grant you the choicest tokens of His beneficence---that your union and brotherly affection be perpetual--that the free constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained--that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue--that in time, the happiness of the people of these states under the auspices of Liberty may be made complete.*"

I want to quote one of the two scholars who founded the Foundation for American Christian Education in the 1960s in San Francisco, California. They compiled more primary research on Washington that any current foundation in the nation. Their book referenced below is a treasure. Quoting Verna Hall on the subject of Washington's character:

"If one is not himself knowledgeable of the admonitions in the Bible, the fruits of the Spirit, the fruits of the flesh, he cannot fully comprehend the life of George Washington. Additionally, even a Christian must not judge Washington from a doctrinal or sectarian prejudice, otherwise, the full wonder of this Bible-Christian life cannot be recognized. George Washington is unique, but not unique from his times. He is the natural product of a Bible believing people. If one would really know George Washington, he must be a Bible-believing scholar such as he."
Verna M. Hall, Foundation for American Christian Education.

“Virginia gave us this inspired man--This unblemished gentleman---What can we give her back but love and praise?”
James Russell Lowell

Valley Forge, 1777,
"Let vice and immorality of every kind be discouraged as much as possible in your regiment, and see, as a Chaplain is allowed to it, that the men regularly attend Worship. Gaming of every kind is expressly forbid as the foundation of evil, and the ruin of many a brave, and good officer. Games of exercise for amusement, may be not only allowed, but encouraged."
George Washington

The Marquis De Lafayette arrived from France in 1777 and developed a Father–Son relationship with George Washington. He fought in many battles and was wounded at Brandywine. His love for Washington led him to name his own son, George Washington Lafayette.

Recommended reading:
The Making of GEORGE WASHINGTON by William Wilber.

The book, George Washington, The Character And Influence of One Man is available at Emerald Mountain Christian School by calling Bobbie Ames at 398-1141. It is also available from the publisher, The Foundation for American Christian Education, through their website at ***FACE.Net***.

Community Lifestyles

We are proud to announce that The Alabama Gazette is also being delivered in parts of Crenshaw, Butler, Pike, Lee and Talladega Counties. If you cannot find the Gazette in your area, please check out our website: www.alabamagazette.com



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



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



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



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

9TH ANNUAL

June 9-10th Tallassee Now!

www.tallasseenow.com

ALABAMA POWER THURLOW DAM TOUR



Begins at 8:30 - 1:00 - Every 20 minutes.
Only Saturday, June 10th.

Original Kandu Band In Concert
Friday Night 9-11 pm
Local artist performing from 6-9.

Food Vendors

Friday night concert - bring you blankets and/or lawn chairs.
Concessions!

Car Show

all day Saturday June 10th
inside Stadium and THS Tech Center.

Trophy Room Open 9-1 Saturday.

Receipt Redemption for BBQ plates. See website.

5K Run / Walk

June 9th - 5:50 pm
Meet at green space on South Ann Avenue.



Confederate Armory Tours
9-1 Saturday, June 10th

New Event!
Petting Zoo - 22 Animals
Domestic & Exotic
Friday 5:30 - 7:30
Saturday 9:00 - 1:00

Museum Tours
Friday, June 9th - 10-2
Saturday June 10 - 9-3



What's Kasasa?

It's like a **FREE ATM** on every corner.

PrimeSouth BANK

Free Kasasa checking refunds your ATM fees, nationwide.* So even if you use one of the big banks' ATMs, we'll pay you back. No more searching for a "free" ATM.

primesouthbank.com

Ask for **free KASASA** checking.

* Limitations Apply. Please see Deposit Agreement and all disclosures received at account opening. Including the bank's current fee schedule for other restrictions and charges.

Member FDIC

TALLASSEE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
"Community Working Together"

THE BEST BBQ IN THE SOUTH.

Tallassee Chamber of Commerce

Machone Royce



Montgomery County Law

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.montgomerysheriff.com

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

(334) 832-4980



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

Camp Show & Tell

We are currently taking applications for our Show and Tell 2017 Summer Camp. This camp, hosted by Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the staff of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will be held July 31st.-August 4th.

During this camp, youth explore and enjoy a week of outdoor fun and recreation. This mentoring based camp, also offers workshops addressing bullying and the effects of bullying behaviors, substance abuse awareness and prevention and environmental safety and education. This camp is free of charge and open on a first



come, first serve basis to 100 boys and girls living in Montgomery County between the ages of 9-11. Applications can be picked up through June 1st, at the Administrative Office of the Sheriff, 100 South Lawrence Street, 2nd floor, Monday- Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m. **This annual event is one of many of Sheriff Cunningham's Youth Focused Activities.**

Medication Disposal

On Friday, March 17, 2017, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office unveiled their new drug collection unit they received as part of CVS Health's Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Grant Program. The new unit will be located at the Administrative Office of the Sheriff, at 100 South Lawrence (2nd floor lobby) and will provide residents with a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication, including controlled substances.



The new drug disposal unit will help to reduce the amount of unneeded medicine in residents' homes and decrease the potential for prescription drug abuse, which has soared in recent years, especially among teenagers. More than 70 percent of teenagers say it is easy to get prescription drugs from their parents' medicine cabinets, according to a **Partnership for Drug-Free Kids** study. Proper drug disposal also helps to prevent the contamination of local landfills and water supplies from unused medication.

Firearms Familiarization Course

Sign up NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Course scheduled for Saturday, June 10th, and learn how to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world.



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

Course Requirements:

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

Pistol Permit Questions? 334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?

LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org 334.832.1339

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

Sheriff's Office APP

We are getting a lot of positive feedback from our new Sheriff's Office APP! In case you missed last month's article, here it is again...



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

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

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

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

Youth Fishing Rodeo

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office invites boys and girls ages 6-12 to grab their fishing rods, bait and tackle and join us for our annual youth fishing rodeo. Please make sure a parent/guardian attends but only boys and girls are allowed to fish.



**Saturday, June 17, 2017
6:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Montgomery County Ponds,
Highway 231 South
(Troy highway)
Across from Meriweather Rd.**



**** We will have our Senior Fishing Rodeo on Tuesday, September 12th...more details to come****



Neighborhood Watch/Crime Prevention

If you are planning to develop a Neighborhood Watch or Crime Prevention Program, please do not hesitate to contact the Sheriff's Office at 832.7106 to set up a time for us to come out and speak to your group!



Building Renovations

We are progressing as planned on our 1st floor of the Annex I building at 100 South Lawrence. If you need to access this area, please check with our building security personnel at the public entrance door at 100 South Lawrence. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

THANK YOU...

Thank you to everyone that came out for our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Auburn Montgomery. All the children left with their baskets full and fun was had by all!

We would also like to thank everyone for making our annual Deputy Dave Day a huge success! All the kids were excited to see Deputy Dave, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office official mascot, as well as Sheriff Cunningham and the Sheriff's Office staff!

Thank you for your continued support of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!



Invites you to join us to

Eat, Drink, Laugh & Learn

Speaker Dinner with
Dr. Erik Roberson
UAB Research Specialist
Discussing new strides in the care
of Alzheimers and Autism

... plus a night of laughter with
Special Entertainment:
Melody Knighton,
Comedian/Lucille Ball Impersonator
A Tribute to the Lucy Show

Tuesday, May 16, 2017
6:00 p.m. Reception-Auction
7:00 p.m. Dinner

RSA Activity Center
201 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery



UAB MEDICINE
Knowledge that will change your world

JAY L. SMITH
FAMILY FOUNDATION



Lucille Ball
Impersonator
Tribute to Lucy Show

Baptist
HEALTH



Tickets: \$50 each
purchase on line at
www.alzheimersoutreach.com
or at the door.

RSVP: Lynn Cox, 334.215.4463
lpcox@LRBmarketing.com

Alzheimer's research being conducted at UAB. For the past year, I have been working with Alzheimer's-Autism Outreach Group helping them publicize their mission of supporting this research along with raising funds for the Drone Project, an initiative to provide Search and Rescue Drones equipped with thermal imaging cameras to the Montgomery Sheriff's Office. These drones will be used to locate persons with Alzheimer's, Dementia or Autism who have wandered off and become lost.

Guest speaker, Dr. Erik Roberson, M.D. Ph.D., Associate Professor Neurology and Neurobiology at UAB and Director of UAB's Center for Neurodegeneration and Experimental Therapeutics.

Along with Dr. Roberson, there will be special entertainment provided by Melody Knighton, artist, comedian and Lucille Ball impersonator.

You can purchase tickets at www.alzheimersoutreach.com or get them from me or at the door.

Lynn Cox | Owner, 7051 Fain Park Drive, Suite 123, Montgomery, AL 36117
334.296.5880

*Life is not about waiting
for the storm to pass,
it's about learning to
Dance in the Rain*



**EMERALD MOUNTAIN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

*Today Our Students Are Learning HIS Story.
Tomorrow HE Will Use Them To Shape History.*

www.emcspatriots.org

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

• We teach, without apology, the fundamental truths of the Bible, in a total and excellent academic program, K-12 grades.

• We teach the concepts (principles) of Biblical Law and Reformation doctrine.

• We teach the concepts of Constitutional government with limited powers.

**REGISTRATION
FOR THE
2017 - 2018
SCHOOL YEAR
BEGINNING
MARCH 1, 2017
INTERVIEWS ARE
WELCOME!!**

Shuttle service from East Montgomery



**Call Janice Dillard
at 334-850-5510
for all your Tallassee
Quarterly advertising needs.**

*Thanks to all our
Tallassee Quarterly
advertisers*

*If you have a business...
don't miss advertising in the next issue!*



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

Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris "Chip" Becker, Jr.

A Time Such as This

From April 19, 1943, to May 16, 1943, an event known as the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was fought. In November 1940, when the invading German forces built a wall around a Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, Poland, 400,000 Jews were trapped inside. Because the Germans cruelly limited the amount of food that was allowed into the ghetto, starvation and illness claimed the lives of thousands each month. But the Jews weren't dying fast enough to satisfy Adolph Hitler, who ordered the Nazis to deport roughly 265,000 of those snared in the ghetto to the Treblinka Killing Center. The German soldiers shot tens of thousands of other Jews during the deportation process. After watching the Germans kill their loved ones daily for nearly two months, the estimated 60,000 Jews who remained were terrified. They were living a never ending nightmare from which they would never awaken. On April 19, 1943, thousands of Nazis armed with machine guns, flamethrowers, and tanks gathered outside the gates of the ghetto ready to exterminate those Jews remaining inside.

Upon storming the ghetto's gates, the Germans were stunned when they were met by an armed Jewish resistance led by Mordecai Anielwascz. Mordecai had prepared for a time such as the one he faced. He had spent months smuggling guns and bullets into the ghetto. Even so, he was only able to obtain a small number of firearms, most of which were pistols. Despite being outnumbered and outgunned, Mordecai and those fighting desperately beside him celebrated their victory on the first day as the Nazis fled the ghetto. Although the Germans had conquered the rest of Poland in only 18 days, amazingly, roughly 750 Jews with little to no firearm training were able to effectively use the few guns and little ammunition they had to keep the powerful German forces at bay for 28 days! Mordecai's wise decision to get all the guns he could kept him, his fellow fighters, and the other Jews alive until the last bullet was fired.

In light of historical events like the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, it is unbelievable that liberals today still argue that we should disarm our citizens by enacting and enforcing laws that will prevent law-abiding people from owning and possessing guns. The Second Amendment doesn't just protect our right to defend ourselves from criminals living among us; it protects our right to defend ourselves from anyone who may seek to do us harm. Years ago we would not have imagined that an invading force could wreak havoc on Americans. 9/11 changed that. Today we know that organized forces can enter our country and target us. If that happens, like the Jews in Warsaw, we may need guns to defend ourselves, our families, and our homes. It may be that we have been born for a time such as that. As a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association and strong supporter of gun rights, I urge you to stay armed and to stay vigilant!

PIKE ROAD FIRE DEPARTMENT HOLDS HOUSING CEREMONY FOR NEW FIRE ENGINE

The Pike Road Fire Department held a ceremony to celebrate the recent purchase of a new fire engine. The ceremony which has been a tradition of fire departments since the 1800's was held on April 30, 2017 at 2 pm. The ceremony included local dignitaries, members of the Pike Road Fire Department board, and members of the Pike Road Fire Department. The community was invited to attend. Those in attendance were asked to take part in the ceremonial washing of the truck, which is part of putting it in service.



General specifics about the new fire engine:

- 2017 KME • 450hp Cummins motor •
- 1,000 gallon water tank • 50 gallon foam tank
- 1,500 gallons per minute pump
- Command Light, light tower

Pike Road Fire Department, Station 2
334 Bridlebrook Blvd., Pike Road, Alabama 36064

David Hughes, Captain
Pike Road Fire Department
Contact email: 106@pikeroadfire.com
Contact phone: 334-651-2512
www.pikeroadfire.com

**Call Nancy Smith at
334-207-2864
for all your
Wetumpka Events.**

*Thanks to all our
Wetumpka Gazette
advertisers*



AUTAUGA COUNTY



Autauga County Law

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.autaugasheriff.org

162 W 4th St, Prattville, AL
 (334) 361-2500



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

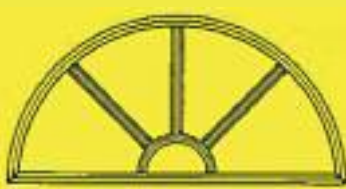
The Autauga County Sheriff's Office participated with Law Day for many 2nd graders from Autauga County public and private schools on Friday April 7, 2017.



The kids are greeted by Sheriff Sedinger and escorted to the Courtroom to watch the mock trial between Mr. Pig and the Big Bad Wolf. It is fun for all who participate and watch. The children also get to visit with **Eddie Eagle** and **McGruff the Crime Dog**, as well as get their fingerprints made, visit

with the Prattville Police and Fire Departments and with the agencies from the Courthouse. Law Day would not be possible without the event organizers: Kelly Lee, Judge Joy Booth, and Kim Kervin. Thank you to all ladies for all you do to support the children of Autauga County!





**CAROL LEMON
REALTY**

744 S. Memorial Drive
PRATTVILLE, AL 36067

Office 334-365-4404
Fax 334-365-8535
1-800-862-1335
Cell 334-315-2715



Carol Lemon

Broker

E-Mail: CLR@mindspring.com
www.carollemonrealtors.com



1312 CROWS PASS

Approx. 1 1/2 acres in the city on large corner lot, level, no sloping & rolling. This custom built home may be the one! Features 3 bedrooms and office or could be 4th bedroom. Open floor plan, Huge greatroom with fireplace, separate dining room with wood floor. Kitchen with stove, dishwasher, disposal, breakfast bar, built-in china cabinet with glass pane doors and a breakfast room too!



1960 CALUMET PARKWAY

This is a charmer! Three bedrooms, two baths, greatroom, formal dining room, kitchen with all appliances, breakfast area, large laundry room. 1,545 sq. ft. covered patio, two car carport detached and storage building. Convenient to all shopping and restaurants. \$500.00 bonus with accepted contract.

*Let us help you with all your Real Estate needs!
Buying or Selling...we are here for you!*

**TERMITE
CONTROL**

**PROFESSIONAL
PEST CONTROL**



Serving the public since 1967.

GREG BOWEN
334-365-4610

740 MEMORIAL DR.
PRATTVILLE, AL 36067

MEDAC, PC

Johnnie W. Strickland, Jr. MD

270 Interstate Commercial Park Loop
Bradbury Place, Prattville, AL 36066

334-361-8225

johnnie@medac4u.com
www.Medac4u.com



"Every cell in your body functions like a car; it has its own engine. You can put the best gasoline (food) in, and the best oil (vitamins/minerals); but if you throw sand (chemical toxins & heavy metals) into the motor, the first two don't matter. At MEDAC, PC, we focus on helping to get the sand out of your motor. We also help with the food and the oil so that your motor can hum and run in the optimal way it was designed."



Capital City Master Gardener Association
Montgomery, Alabama

Lunch and Learn Program

(Montgomery)

1st Wednesday of Every Month

12:00-1:00 P.M. FREE PROGRAMS

Armory Learning Arts Center
1018 Madison Avenue, Montgomery 36104

May 3	<i>Herbs - Growing, Drying, & Storing</i>
June 7	<i>Selecting & Caring for Roses</i>
July 5	<i>Name that Tree</i>
August 2	<i>Water Wisely- Drip Irrigation</i>
September 6	<i>Fall Gardening for Spring Color</i>
October 4	<i>October Backyard Varmints</i>
November 1	<i>Papercrete</i>
December 6	<i>Houseplants</i>

FREE- Tea and Water Provided

Contact Name: Montgomery County Extension Office
Phone: 334-270-4133

Event Website: <http://www.aces.e...capcitymga.org>
Email: jones57@aces.edu

Call Eric Barnes at 235-1618...

...for your Autauga County advertising needs. Advertise your business in the next issue of The Alabama Gazette!

Call our office at 356-6700 for rates and information. Thanks to all our Autauga County advertisers.

Southern Gardening Potpourri for May by Peggy Givhan

**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

What has happened to this year? It is almost half gone and what else is half gone are all the winter annuals we have enjoyed since at least November or December. We need to begin planning this month for summer replacements for these flowers. The nurseries and garden centers have suddenly brought in huge inventories of flowering plants and shrubs.

Also, there are great selections for our herb lovers, who want a head start by purchasing plants rather than waiting to germinate seed.

Let's talk about sowing seed into the garden for blooms, texture or culinary uses. **May is the month to sow many flower seed for summer bloom.** Many flowers, such as **cosmos, zinnias, and cleome spiker flowers** prefer to be sown directly into the garden rather than planting in trays or flats and then transplanted. I place good sterile top soil on top of the garden soil which is cleared of weeds. Then, just sprinkle the seed on top of the loose soil, and tap with a rake. Water daily if necessary to keep ground slightly moist and wait about 10 days or more for germination. The seed packet should note this year's date for the best germination. When the seedlings appear you may have to thin them after they have shown 4-6 leaflets. I try to thin 2 out of 3, and may scoop these and immediately transplant in another spot. Now just allow them to grow, adding some light liquid fertilizer and then when 6 inches tall, add osmocote. And **voila**, flowers will appear about 6 weeks after sowing. This is certainly a much cheaper alternative than buying packets or trays for \$2.00 or \$12.00. But some of us get impatient and want instant gratification. The bottom line is to make sure you have the right plant for the right spot in the garden.

And speaking about bulbs such as **narcissus** and **daffodils**, we must let the leaves die back or the blooms next year will stunted bloom heads. It usually takes about 3-4 weeks for the leaves to turn yellow and be flush with the ground. If you want to cut them off at this point, then that is ok. As much as the deep south loves the gorgeous blooms of **tulips**, we have to treat them as annuals and yank them out of the ground and purchase new bulbs next fall.

However, I have a friend from Troy who has every year the most beautiful tulips, and this year was no exception. He allows the foliage to die back, very much like the drill in daffodil culture. Then he lifts the bulbs out of the ground, puts them in sand in the bottom of a brown paper bag with a tad of insect dust for the remainder of the summer. In late fall, he puts them in a refrigerator for 6 to 8 weeks before planting. He also is a primitive artist and has done creative paintings on boards, driftwood, and even corrugated tin. His subjects range from tulips, and of course other southern primitive subjects. You see Mr. Lowery's art at different shows throughout Alabama and he signs the works, Wally.

PLANT OF THE MONTH Hyacinth Bean --Dolichos lablab

When I went to one of the nurseries last week, I noticed there were many lime leafed potato vines in stock. This sighting brought forth memories from five years ago when I last grew the **Hyacinth Bean**. What an arresting vine with long strands of purple flowers, and dark green leaves similar in shape to kudzu. Probably the seed would need to be ordered, and soaked overnight



Dolichos lablab

before planting. A show stopper of a vine, it is fast growing and perfect if you need a quick screen. The seeds are formed on long dark burgundy velvet pods, which can be saved and the seed replanted year after year. The flowers resemble tiny sweet peas which are lavender, purple and white. I highly recommend this vine. In fact, I am going to order the seed today.



Purple Hyacinth BEAN

GOOD GARDENING.



Chef David Spooner
Retired Chef

Volunteer Fireman, Lowndesboro V.F.D.

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

Chairman, Board of Registrars, Lowndes County

Southern Cuisine

You are ready to try a new dish. You went to the market and bought the freshest items you could find, and they were from a local farm. You get home and open the cookbook and the instructions are as complicated as the startup guide to your weather radio. You cannot plug it in and hope it knows where you live and which NOAA radio station covers your area.

There is food you should not be eating if the instructions are as simple as *"Heat and serve"*. Likewise, if they are too complicated the *"joy of cooking"* is gone. There are recipes that tell you what knife, pan, tray, or container to use to make that dish. The recipes may say "using a chef's knife..." or "carefully place vegetable in deep pan" or "place in steamer for 5 minutes". Vague instructions and what if you do not have a steamer and just what is a chef's knife.

Just as in most professions, there are tools of the trade. Moreover, as one becomes more proficient in their trade, they may need tools that are more specialized. If you believe the advertisements on TV cooking shows that say you cannot in your right mind try to cook your food unless you buy this "upgraded, self-sautéing, self-cleaning, copper clad, organic, non GMO, ceramic coated, left-handed widget." But wait, if you buy one before this show ends, you can get a second one free, just pay separate postage and handling!

I have written about the ingredients of the recipes but have not spent much time on the tools needed in the kitchen to cook those ingredients. The recipes listed here and not simple and quick recipes. They will require many utensils and certain appliances. I have to admit that I have utensils in my kitchen that I have not used in a long time. Nevertheless, I keep telling myself that I will need it sometime in the future, and I think I know about where it is. The website, [Country Living, Feb 16, 2017](#), article has a list of 25 Vintage Kitchen Tools You Don't See Anymore. I have 13 gadgets on the list and have only used 11 within the last six months. I have a large deep oval ceramic French roasting pot that is stuffed with over 60 different spoons, spatulas, strainers, presses, tongs, whisks, ladles, mashers and a set of Graham Kerr's, [The Galloping Gourmet](#), wooden cooking tools! If there is someone that can talk about items you do not need in the kitchen, I am the one.

The first instruction in a recipe is usually to slice, cut, chiffonade, or pare something. I have twelve paring style knives and eleven chef's knives or slicers of some sort. You can get by with three, an eight to ten inch chef's knife or an Asian style knife such as a Santoku, a three-inch paring knife and a serrated bread knife. My suggestion is do not buy a complete set of different knives from one manufacturer. One knife in the set may be a great knife but the others may be of lesser quality. As you progress in your skills and needs, then kitchen shears or a long slicer should be your next purchase.

The knives I use the most are chef's knives and a Santoku that I purchased at a membership warehouse store. They are for commercial kitchen use and they each came in a two pack. No worries about cutting your hand fishing for your knives in a sink of soapy water; these are dishwasher-safe.

Other sharp things that you may need include a cheese grater. I have a large stand-up triangle grater with a knob on top to hold. In addition, a smaller one that fits across the month of a bowl and a smaller hand held grater and hand held rasps, used for hard cheese and hard chocolate. The large grater will cover most of your needs.

Peelers are handy to have unless you want to peel with your paring knife. My chef once told me that I was taking too much time using a peeler and should use a paring knife to peel potatoes. We had a race, I used my peeler, and the chef used his paring knife. I was not as fast as the chef with a paring knife was but I had more potato by weight when I got through using a peeler. More usable product meant less food cost, meant I could still use my peeler.

Let us say the next instruction in the recipe is to sauté vegetables for three minutes. Do you have a sauté pan? Do you need a sauté pan? In Alton Brown's [Gear for the Kitchen](#), seven pots, and pans covers just about any cooking situation you find yourself. His list includes, a

- 12-inch cast-iron skillet,**
- 10-inch stainless-steel frying pan,**
- 8-inch non-stick aluminum frying pan,**
- 8- to 12-inch sauté pan,**
- 3- to 4-quart saucepan with lid,**
- 8- to 12-quart stockpot with lid,**
- 5-quart Dutch oven with lid**

However, you also cook in glass and ceramic casserole dishes, metal baking pans and sheet pans and muffin tins. Buy these as needed and should be limited in how many you buy, because just like pots and pans, they take up a lot of room.

Buying pots and frying pans and baking pans can be daunting trying to decide on the type of metal of the pans, how deep, with or without end handles, and are the handles oven safe. A few short rules will help in your selection: season your new cast iron pan and keep it seasoned, it will last you a lifetime, other pans should have a fairly thick bottom, to keep from burning your food. If you buy anodized aluminum, which is a good choice, never ever put it in the dishwasher.

Follow these steps to season your cast iron pan(s) and they will be your favorite cooking vessels.

- Heat oven to 350 degrees
- If the piece is new, soak it in hot soapy water for 5 minutes, then wash and let air dry. If you are re-seasoning an old piece, skip this step.
- Place a sheet pan with a lip or a large disposable foil roaster on the bottom rack of the oven.
- Place the cast iron on the middle rack. Place a tablespoon of vegetable shortening in the center of each piece.
- When the cast iron is warm enough to melt the shortening but not too hot to handle, remove from the oven, and rub the shortening all over the pan including the outside, bottom, and handles using a paper towel.
- Place the cast iron back in the oven, upside DOWN. You do not want the oil to pool in the bottom of the pan.
- Turn the oven off after one hour and allow the cast iron to cure in the oven until cool.
- When the cast iron is cool enough to touch, wipe off any excess fat and store.

Your recipe may ask you to puree or process something. This will require something you plug in. This list can get long and expensive. If you are planning to do much baking, a stand mixer is a necessary have. Otherwise, a hand mixer will handle most occasions. If you like smoothies and margaritas, get a blender and if you have a drip coffee maker get a blade-style coffee grinder. Other appliances to consider:

- Toaster oven, Immersion blender, Griddle, Food processor**
- Automatic coffee maker.**
- Do not buy a waffle iron unless the plates are reversible and machine washable and nonstick.**
- And no home would be complete without a Crock Pot.**



So your recipe says to cut something up and you have your knives. You mixed the ingredients with your mixers or blenders and cooked it in your pans. Now if you have a large deep oval ceramic French roasting pot that is stuffed with over 60 different spoons, spatulas, strainers, presses, tongs, whisks, ladles, mashers and a set of Graham Kerr's, [The Galloping Gourmet](#), wooden cooking tools you have a fairly well equipped kitchen. Except for **few thermometers, Scale, Rolling pins, Flour sifter, Can opener, Juicer, Salad spinner and Fire extinguisher.**

Maybe a few others items I forgot.

Here is a recipe that uses at least fourteen items that you should have in your kitchen. It is a waffle recipe that uses real ingredients, like eggs, flour, whole milk, and sour cream. It is not a frozen waffle. If you insist on using the toaster, make up a batch, freeze them, and then put in the toaster the next time you want waffles. The extra work to make these is worth it.

PECAN SOUR CREAM WAFFLES

INGREDIENTS

1-cup whole of half pecans	2-teaspoons baking powder
1-cup whole milk	1-teaspoon baking soda
1-cup sour cream	½-teaspoon cinnamon
Two large eggs	½-teaspoon kosher salt
3-tablespoons butter melted	Non-stick vegetable spray
1-teaspoon vanilla extract	
One and one half cups all-purpose flour	

METHOD

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Toast pecans in oven on sheet pan. Shake the pan once or twice to brown the pecans evenly. Roast no longer than six minutes.
- Chop pecans into the size Grape Nut nuggets.
- Preheat waffle iron.
- In a large bowl, whisk together the milk, sour cream, eggs, butter, and vanilla. Into a second large bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt and form a well in the center of the dry mixture.
- Add the wet mixture to the well and fold it into the dry mixture with a rubber spatula.
- Do not over-mix. The batter will be lumpy. Stir in the pecans just before cooking the waffles.
- Lightly spray the plates of waffle iron and use about ½ to ¾ cup batter or more per waffle depending on size of your waffle iron.
- Cook about seven to 10 minutes or until golden brown crust appears.
- Remove with fork, place on dinner plate, and if your oven is still warm from roasting your pecans store the batches there until you are finished cooking.

Serve warm. Yield: 6 to 8 waffles

Remember that waffles are not just for breakfast. Chicken and Waffles, Waffle Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Chili and Waffles, Monte Cristo Waffle Sandwich, Maple Bacon Waffle Bread Pudding, and Waffle Pizza come right in mind.

We have used the waffle iron, and various other utensils, so let us get some practice with the cast iron skillet.

Read this recipe thoroughly before starting, prep time is at least 24 hours.

SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN SALAD WITH HONEY MUSTARD DRESSING

INGREDIENTS

For the Chicken:	2 cups buttermilk
¼-teaspoon cayenne pepper	2 teaspoons kosher salt
¼-teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning	One and one-quarter cups canola oil
¼-teaspoon dry mustard	2 cups all-purpose flour
¼-teaspoon chili powder	
Four boneless, skinless chicken breasts	
For the Salad:	For the Dressing
Two hearts romaine lettuce cut into bite size pieces	5 tablespoons honey
One red bell pepper cored seeded and slice thin	3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
½ red onion sliced thin	Two tablespoons rice wine vinegar

METHOD

- Cut the chicken breasts into strips and place in large zip lock bag with spice mixture.
- Add buttermilk and seal while removing as much air as possible. Refrigerate 24 hours.
- Place the honey, mustard, and vinegar in a small stainless steel bowl and whisk to combine. Set aside.
- Place lettuce, red pepper, and red onion in a large mixing bowl and set aside.
- In a 12-inch cast-iron skillet, warm the oil to 350 degrees over medium heat.
- Remove chicken from refrigerator, add salt to the bag, and shake to combine.
- Pour flour into a 9 x 13-inch metal pan.
- Using tongs remove chicken from bag and dredge it in the flour.
- Then place the chicken in the skillet and only turning once cook until the internal temperature reaches 160 degrees.
- Remove chicken and place on cooling rack placed over paper towels.
- When chicken has cooled, chop it into bite-size pieces and place chicken in bowl with salad, add the dressing and toss with salad tongs.
- Transfer to large bowl and serve.

You could top your waffle with your salad for a hearty meal.

Remember that kitchen gadgets multiply like coat hangers. After a while, what started as a few gadgets will start taking over drawers, storage tubs, and large deep oval ceramic French roasting pots!

Recipes and lists adapted from Alton Brown's [Gear For Your Kitchen, 2003](#)

MAY Tuesday Special

Dirty Fries
topped with
Shredded Pork
\$9.50
Every Tuesday



**210 Wasden Road
Hope Hull, AL
(334) 280-0012**

Hours:
Monday - Saturday
10:30 am - 8:00 pm
Sunday
10:30 am - 2:00 pm



**For Dependability...
Call Tillery**

264-2388

TILLERY

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING INC.

Since 1974

- Residential Comfort Specialists
 - Repairs
 - Replacements
- Peace of mind from \$15 per mo.

Call TODAY to schedule a

***It's time for a complete
Summer checkup for your
Air Conditioning System.***



www.tilleryheatingandair.com

ALLIC #84787



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

*By Kyle' D. McKinney
kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov
(334) 479-1242--Cell
(334) 272-7630--Fax*

WHAT YOU CAN TEACH YOUR GRANDCHILD ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY



One of the greatest gifts you can give a grandchild is the gift of financial literacy. Helping them save money early in life and showing them how to make wise spending decisions goes a long way toward a bright financial future. As they get older, they may want to save for special purchases or their college education. You can encourage them when they get their first job to begin saving for the future, including their retirement.

Planning for the Future with my Social Security

When you celebrate their graduation from high school, you can also remind them to set up a my Social Security account. They need to be age 18 or older, have a U. S. mailing address and a valid email address, and have a Social Security number. And while their retirement is many years away, you can explain the importance of reviewing their earnings record each year since Social Security uses the record of earnings to compute their future benefits. As they start their first major job and begin saving, they'll be able to monitor the growth of the estimates of benefits available to them. You can access my Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Saving For Retirement with myRA

The U. S. Treasury recently introduced a retirement savings account for a simple, safe, and affordable way to save for retirement. It's perfect for people whose employer doesn't offer a savings plan. There are no costs or fees to open and maintain a myRA account. The account won't lose money and is backed by the U. S. Treasury. The individual chooses the amount to save. The account is portable and moves with them from job to job. The account owner can withdraw the money they put in without tax or penalty. You can learn more about myRA at www.myra.gov.

Share How Social Security Works

You can share your knowledge about Social Security with your young savers by explaining how the program works and how it has worked for you. About 96 percent of all Americans are covered by Social Security. Social Security is financed through workers' contributions, which are matched by their employers. We use the contributions to pay current benefits. Any unused money goes into a trust fund. Nearly all working people pay Social Security taxes and about 61 million people receive monthly Social Security benefits. About 42 million of those beneficiaries are retirees and their families. Encourage them to watch our Social Security 101 video at www.socialsecurity.gov/multimedia/webinars/social_security_101.html.

Share Your Retirement Stories

Social Security replaces about 40 percent of an average worker's income, but financial planners suggest that most retirees need about 70 percent to live comfortably in retirement. Americans need more than Social Security to achieve that comfortable retirement. They need private pensions, savings, and investments. That means starting to save early and monitoring your Social Security record for accuracy. You can share lessons from your own life about saving and planning for retirement. Remember, the best place anyone of any age can visit for quick, easy information about Social Security is www.socialsecurity.gov.

Your personal stories about how you prepared for retirement and what role Social Security plays can help them see what is needed for a secure financial future. Give them the gift of financial literacy today.

Pump Repairs

**6908 Norman Bridge Road,
Montgomery, Al.**

(334) 281-1258

or 1-800-242-8904

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



THE RAMER BANK



CINDY OVERSTREET, BRANCH MANAGER

**Ramer, AL 36069
334-562-3257**

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Complete the form below for Home Delivery. Please Print.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **St:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: () _____ **Email:** _____

Indicate the date of your beginning issue. _____ Gift subscription _____

____ I enclose my check for \$15.00 for 6 monthly issues to *The Wetumpka Gazette*

____ I enclose my check for \$30.00 for 12 monthly issues of *The Alabama Gazette*

____ I enclose my check for \$45.00, which would include a 6-month subscription to *The Wetumpka Gazette* and a 12 month subscription to *The Alabama Gazette*

Mail Subscription form and check to:

Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC
12 E. Jefferson St.
Montgomery, AL 36104

OR

The Wetumpka Gazette
109 Company Street, Suite 210
Wetumpka, AL 36092

OR visit our website: www.alabamagazette.com to pay with PayPal (enter amount).

Email: alabamagazette@gmail.com (334) 356-6700 wetumpkagazette@gmail.com

**The Alabama Gazette &
Wetumpka Gazette invite
our readers to enjoy these
newspapers delivered to
their home.**

**We offer to you a
“shipping and handling
subscription.”**

**Take advantage of this
offer today!
See details on the left.**



Patricia Killough

Home Town Community News

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

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

Birthday Wishes



for Sarah Kate Selvage

Sarah Kate was 2 years old on April 22, 2017. She celebrated at her school on Friday the 21st with cupcakes with her classmates and went to the Zoo on the 22nd with family and friends.

Baby Shower



for Baby Hank

A baby shower honoring parents to be Trey and Christine Mason was held on March 31, 2017 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Greg Waller in Ramer.

Everyone had a great time celebrating the upcoming arrival.

Baby Hank is due to arrive at the end of June.

May Birthdays



- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Maggie Brown | Devery Wright |
| Judy Grubbs | 17 Wendy Haddox |
| Weston Ashley Sellars (6th) | Bertha Graham |
| Pat Duffell Smith | Rosa Nell Watkins |
| 3 Scarlett Box | 18 Georgia Armstrong |
| 4 Brittney Belcher (18th) | Ken Stafford |
| Teresa Grant | 19 Connie Butts |
| Forrest Taylor (23rd) | Dorothy Hall |
| 5 Ashton Box | 20 Maggie Royster |
| Connie Bowden | 21 Rhonda Alexander |
| Olivia Propst | Al Barnett |
| Jayne Ward | Ashley Boyd (42nd) |
| 6 Ed Jones (79th) | Susan Johnson |
| Michael Mckenzie | Daniel Selvage (9th) |
| 7 Tory Alexander | Sophia Vazquez |
| Bryson Box (14th) | 22 Tom Broadway |
| 8 John P. Hanson | Eeron Grant (98th) |
| Michael Moseley (49th) | Aileen Kovacic |
| Mary Peoples | Hunter Meadows (20th) |
| Janet Suddith | Brad Williams (38th) |
| Trinity Woodall | 23 Rene Barnett (96th) |
| 9 Walter Cooper (79th) | Susanne Boyd |
| Jim Garrett | Frank Clayton |
| Bill Jones | Julia Grant |
| Paul "Moon" Jones | Hazel Norman |
| Jo Oswald | Mike Sikes (40th) |
| 10 Mary Ann Pickard (91st) | Casey Woodall |
| Nicole Sansom | 24 Brantley Box (17th) |
| 11 Johnson Alexander | Sydney Ellen Grant |
| Pam Lynch | Wallace Smith |
| Barbara Strickland (67th) | Seth Meadows |
| Dee Dee Ward | 25 Wynne Ross (43rd) |
| 12 Mary Ellen Grant | Norman Mitchell |
| Tanya Moore (51st) | Hamer Phillips |
| Liz Morris | 26 Paula Burgess |
| Mary White | Mary Louise Dobbs |
| Zack Witherington | Rachael Doran |
| 13 Betty Casey | 27 Ronnie Broom |
| Chris Cordle | Emmie Abelia Johnson (2nd) |
| Raven Johnson | Coley Jones |
| Debbie Mills | Carrie Rhodes |
| 14 Luke Dickinson | 28 Brian McCord |
| Victor Chad Mason (Trace) (4th) | 30 Michele Blount |
| 15 Ann Macon Adams | Kate Sansom |
| Waldon Woodall (59th) | 31 Betty Crowe |
| 16 Milton Bridges | Susan Daffron (69th) |
| Lonnie Smith | Stacie Vinson (93rd) |
| Stephan Turnipseed | |

Happy Belated Birthday Wishes to Dalton Stephens.
Dalton was 7 on April 12th, 2017.

Send us your birthdays and anniversaries. We will be happy to include them in the Alabama Gazette.

If you see a birthday person or anniversary that needs to come off these list, please contact us at **334-356-6700** or email us at alabamagazette@gmail.com

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 Thomas & Betty Chesnutt (70th) | 16 Austin & Ashley Owens (7th) |
| 6 Corey & Alicia Smith (21st) | 17 Carl & Faye Boyd (41st) |
| Pat & Lonnie Smith (48th) | 19 Billy & Ann Cox (69th) |
| 8 Billy & Courtney Whigham | 21 Allan & Shannon Vinson (11th) |
| 10 Clint & Tiffany Andrews | 28 Carl & Betsy Penn (55th) |
| Ashley & Susanne Boyd | 29 Joe & Gail Cotney |
| Al & Shirley Decker (60th) | 30 Richard & Gwen Walters |
| 11 Roger & Sandy Brown | Carma & Bill Marks (51st) |
| 15 Travis & Christle Jordan (12th) | 31 Mike & Connie Northcutt (41st) |

Remembering Lester Smith Hill, Jr.



Lester Smith Hill, Jr. 87, of Prattville, passed away Sunday, April 23, 2017. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM Wednesday April 26th at Ridout's Prattville Chapel with Pastor Stan Holt officiating. Mr. Hill was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Doris Elizabeth Hill and a son James Michael O'Dell. He is survived by wife Mary Hill; four daughters, Kay Nelson, Cathie (Jacky) Leverette, Marcie Hill, Esther LaDonna (Jeremy) Brooks; a sister Bobbie (Stan) Bailey; six grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild. Pallbearers will be Chason Smitherman, Bryan Nelson, B.J. Leverette, Randy Ashcraft, Steven Smith, Jr. and Journey O'Donnell. Memorial contributions may be made to the Montgomery Area Humane Shelter in memory of Mr. Hill and on behalf of "Susie", his loving Chihuahua and companion.

Sympathy to the families of...

Slay, Eva Russell (96)died April 2, 2017
Cawthon, Dr. Kathleen Strickland (93).....died April 6, 2017
Day, Daniel "Danny" Lea (63)died April 7, 2017
Carter, Willis Lee "Buck" (76)died April 12, 2017
English, Violet Doviak, (95)died April 13, 2017
Brunner, Mary Olive Scrushydied April 15, 2017
McGee, Millicent "Millie" Lenora Scrushy (92).....died April 16, 2017
Preble, Ruth Boyd (87).....died April 17, 2017
Gilder, John Scott (62)died April 19, 2017
Griffin, Martha Massey (101)died April 20, 2017
Hill, Lester Smith, Jr. (87).....died April 23, 2017



In Memory of PREBLE, Ruth Boyd

She was a resident of Montgomery, AL. She died April 17, 2017 at the age or 87. Visitation was held Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at Leak Memory Chapel. Graveside Services were held Thursday, April 20, 2017, at 3:30 PM, at Forest Hills Memorial Park, Snowdown, Alabama, with the Reverend Art Long officiating. She was predeceased by her husband, William "Bill" Preble; her parents, Dempsey and Ruth Boyd; her brothers, David and Clower Boyd; and two sisters, Ann Shaw and Minnie Lou Berrey. She is survived by a brother, Warner (Margaret) Boyd, Sprague, Alabama; two sisters, Ethleen Bazzell, Montgomery, Alabama, and Sue Drake, Miami Lakes, Florida; and numerous nieces and nephews. The aunt of the Gazette's Community Editors, Patricia Killough.

TODAY'S WOMAN

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

Kentucky theme Graduation Tea



Kaylee Pullin, Lindsey Johnson, Alex Wyrosdick

A fun time was had by many at a Kentucky Derby theme graduation tea celebration for Lindsey Ellen Johnson hosted by her Grandmother, Wilda Britton. Sunday, afternoon on April 23, friends joined Mrs. Britton and Lindsey's mother, Alison Johnson, to congratulate Lindsey on a successful high school career and shower her with well wishes and good luck on her future college plans. When arriving to the celebration, Lindsey's grandfather greeted the young ladies at their car offering to shuttle them to the home on their golf cart. The guests were greeted by hand-painted jockey silks, red roses, and horse shoes lining the walkway to the Britton's home. Mrs. Britton

adorned her home with red roses, big hats, pearls, and horse shoes making the well-wishers feel whisked away to the Kentucky Derby. While attending the celebration, everyone enjoyed finger sandwiches, fruit salad, brownie bites, and custom made cookies decorated with Lindsey's monogram and shaped like the well-known "Derby Hat". They sipped mock mint julips and pink lemonade. Lindsey is a graduating senior of Macon East Academy. Her high school accomplishments include being a National Honor Society member, Mu Alpha Theta Society member, Varsity Football water girl, kindergarten buddy program, Spanish club member, varsity softball pitcher, Varsity softball captain, 2015 6A AHSAA State Champion (Wetumpka High School), 2016 2A AISA State Champion (Macon East Academy), 2016-2017 Wendy's High School Heisman Nominee, and Jackie Frost Scholarship Recipient. Lindsey has received an athletic scholarship to William Carey University in Hattiesburg, MS, to continue her softball career. Lindsey will major in Nursing.



Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms. Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"Happy 9th Wedding Anniversary"

This month my husband, Brian, and I will celebrate our 9th wedding anniversary. We have been through countless testings, trials, joys, and valleys together. And even though we are long past that exciting "newly budding romance" stage in our relationship where we are winning each other's hearts, we are arriving at the "deep love and appreciation" stage where we are truly able to cherish each other's hearts.

So, how do we continually cherish each other even after so many years together? For me, the secret lies in keeping my personal relationship with Jesus Christ at the center of my existence. As a wife, there is always a temptation to look to my husband to meet needs and desires in my heart that only Christ can truly fulfill. Whenever I start expecting Brian to be the perfect Prince Charming of my childhood fairy tales, I end up focusing on his shortcomings as a husband. When I look to my husband to fulfill me at the deepest level, I put unhealthy pressure upon him. As wonderful as Brian is.... he is still human and he will still let me down at times. I find that I can only love and cherish my husband well when Jesus Christ is my first and ultimate Bridegroom. When I'm fulfilled in Jesus Christ, I don't spend all my time and energy trying to make Brian into my romantic fairy-tale ideal. Rather, I am free to serve him and love him, without constantly focusing on whether or not he's living up to my "Prince Charming" expectations every moment of the day.

As Brian builds his life around Christ, he is naturally a reflection of Christ in the way he treats me. And as I build my life around Christ, I learn to love my husband as God has called me to love him. That is what makes a marriage gain more and more beauty as the years go by.

C.T. Studd said, "Marriage can either be a taste of heaven on earth, or a taste of hell on earth, depending on where you place the Cross." Selfishness will destroy the beauty of a marriage faster than anything else. But coming to the cross and getting self out of the way, sets the stage for a romance that can truly stand the test of time!

"I have found the one whom my soul loves", Song of Solomon 3:4

As our 9th anniversary approaches, I am filled with gratitude and amazement at the beauty of God's ways. Brian and I are expecting our next year together to be even better than the 9 years we have had thus far, because we know the place that Christ has in our marriage. Just like the water that Jesus turned into wine at the wedding celebration. The best is always saved for last when He is the Guest of honor!

Happy 9th Wedding Anniversary, Brian!! I love you!

Many blessings!

Advertise your business in
The ALABAMA GAZETTE!
Call 356-6700

VIVIX, slow aging at the Cellular Level

Feel Younger, Longer,
or Your Money Back

Shaklee
Creating Healthier Lives™
Independent Distributor



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



First Choice
Women's Medical Center

We're here for you.



Your CHOICE
STARTS HERE



First Choice
Women's Medical Center

380 Mendel Parkway
Montgomery, AL 36117

1.334.260.8010

www.FirstChoiceMontgomery.com



SCAN FOR APPT.

2017 Meeting Schedule



Breast Cancer Support
Group Meetings

Support group meetings are free, do not require pre-registration
and convene the 2nd Tuesday of each month at:

Frazer United Methodist Church

6000 Atlanta Highway • Room 8114 • Mathison Activity Center • Montgomery, AL

5:30 PM

Social time with light meal

6:15 PM

Program followed by Q & A

Tuesday, May 9th

CANCER: Opportunity of a Lifetime

Presented by Jenny Dodson, Breast Cancer Survivor

CONTACT US! (334) 220-4599

womenofhope@charter.net • www.thewomenofhope.org

Gazette Community Marketplace



Call Susan at 334-546-5093 or 334-356-6700 to place your Classified Ad.

Auctions

Sealed Bid Action

2014 Porche Cayenne

May 29 at 1 p.m.

Send Bids to:

A-Z Auto Repair

1953 Mobile Road

Montgomery, AL 36108

"Reserve must be met"

Internet Services

Connect & Share

It Is Harvest Tyme...

Plant Your Seeds...

Stream Online

or

Broadcast With Us!

For More information

HarvestTyme.org



Help Wanted

Now Hiring

Advertising Sales Consultants

The Alabama Gazette, a locally owned bi-monthly community newspaper, headquartered in beautiful downtown Montgomery, is seeking an experienced advertising sales consultant.

Send resume to:

sharron.alabamagazette@gmail.com

Alabama Gazette
12 E. Jefferson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-356-6700

Automobiles For Sale

1989 Gold Lincoln

Town Car Signature Series. Almost Factory Condition. \$54,000 actual miles. Must drive. \$7,000.

Call Ed Jones
334-207-1010.

2003 Cadillac Deville

84,000 miles. Slightly dented on passenger door. Great interior. Only \$4,200. Call 334-657-7736.



Run Your Ad Here!

Only \$15
per issue.

Run Your Ad Here!

Only \$15
per issue.

Business Opportunity

Great Opportunity

Anyone who is interested in supplemental income or making a career in multi-level sales contact:

Ed Jones at 334-207-1010



New, Boss Laser Machine For Sale Model LS-1416

Start a new laser engraving business or ad never used.

Includes:

- 50 W CO2 Laser Tube
- CW-300 Water Chiller
- BossOne Computer with per-installed software
- Matching steel stand and exhaust fan & venting, Paid \$5,685, will sell for \$5,000.

Please call 334-593-4838, for more information. If no answer, please leave a message and we will call you back ASAP.



**SUBSCRIBE
NOW
TO THE
ALABAMA
GAZETTE!**

**HAVE THE
GAZETTE
DELIVERED
TO YOUR
HOME.**

**ONLY
\$30
PER
YEAR**

**TO READ
THE
GAZETTE
IN THE
COMFORT
OF YOUR
OWN HOME.**

**See
Subscription
form on
page 7B.**



NOTICE...

*THE ALABAMA
GAZETTE IS A*

FREE

*newspaper
at this time.*

*It can be picked up
throughout the
River Region.
The "Shipping and
Handling
Subscription"
is for your
convenience
to enjoy reading in
your own home.*

*You may subscribe
online with
Paypal at:
alabamagazette.com
or call our office at
334-356-6700.*

Employment

Now Hiring

Advertising Sales Consultants

The Alabama Gazette, a locally owned bi-monthly community newspaper, headquartered in beautiful downtown Montgomery, is seeking an experienced advertising sales consultant.

As a member of our sales team, you will have the responsibility of selling and growing areas of print and digital sales for our publications. You will serve advertisers in an assigned geographic territory of the River Region. Your primary focus is to introduce multi-media solutions to business owners and store managers and show them how advertising and networking through The Alabama Gazette products can help grow their business.

What we're looking for: A smart and creative person who understands marketing and can put together advertising packages to benefit our advertisers and help their business grow. If you have computer experience, and some knowledge of social media and smartphones...that's a start and we would like to meet with you. You should

also understand the language of advertising, marketing and online advertising.

Schedule and Compensation: Our work schedule will be flexible, however structured. The more you sell the more you make. Compensation is based on your sales. **You decide how much you want to make every month.**

Outside sales experience, preferably in advertising is helpful. Must have a valid drivers license and automobile insurance.

If you meet our requirements and want to work, we would like to meet with you. Please send your cover letter and resume via email to alabamagazette@gmail.com or call for an appointment.

*(Other possible positions upcoming.
Important! If you have any experience
with other newspapers please give us a call.
We are growing in all areas!)*

Alabama Gazette
12 E. Jefferson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-356-6700

ADVERTISE WITH US NOW!

**ATTRACT NEW CUSTOMERS
GAIN MORE BUSINESS**

