



The Alabama Gazette

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY ~ AUTAUGA COUNTY ~ ELMORE COUNTY ~ CRENSHAW COUNTY ~ TALLAPOOSA COUNTY ~ PIKE COUNTY



Flag Day

June 14, 2014

I AM YOUR FLAG PAGE 4



THEMETAPICTURE.COM

Happy Fathers Day!!

Especially the father who gives all and serves his country.

VOTER APATHY IN ALABAMA JUNE PRIMARIES.

Low voter turnout! Important races decided with few votes, especially in local races.

GOVERNOR ROBERT BENTLEY WINS BIG!



- Democrat candidate Parker Griffin will be facing Governor Bentley in the November 4, 2014 General Election.
- Lt. Governor Kay Ivey wins big and will meet Democrat opponent Rep. James Fields in the November 4, 2014 General Election.
- The race for Secretary of State for the Republican Party will be decided in a run off between Reese McKinney and John Merrill on July 15th.



A PORTRAIT OF PATRIOTISM - See pg. 12



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**PRIME BURGLARY SEASON
IS COMING!**

START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM



**Chief Derrick
Cunningham**

Prime Burglary season will soon be here again as the summer days approach. It is time to assess our homes and businesses to make sure that we are secure and we have a record of our belongings. It is also time to consider joining a Neighbor Watch program.

Neighborhood watch, block watch, town watch, whatever the title, initiatives are one of the better ways to prevent crime, attend to home and personal security, address the safety of our children as well as reduce fear and isolation. Civic involvement and collaborative problem solving helps neighborhoods reduce crime by significant numbers. Our citizens are our eyes and ears in Montgomery County and you are the ones who help catch these criminals who are out there to prey on you. We have solved many crimes because of a concerned neighbor who saw something out of the way and called us.



In early 1972, the National Sheriff's Association created a model program to today's neighborhood watch program. At the time Police Chiefs were searching for ways to attack the increasing burglar rate across the country and recognized that communities able to secure the assistance of their residents in observing, recognizing, and reporting suspicious or criminal activities were better able to keep the burglary rate down and reduce other crimes. Today, neighborhood watch is the largest single organized

crime prevention project in the nation. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is active with Neighborhood Watch Associations to educate neighborhoods on the importance of these associations. We teach the importance of communities becoming and remaining involved in their community to reduce crime because together we can make a difference!

Several communities in Montgomery County have neighborhood watch programs. They are: Eastwood Villa Association; Grady Association; Mount Carmel Neighborhood Association; Narrow Lane/Mcinnis Neighborhood Association; S.W. Snowdown Chambers Road Association; Sprague-Ada-Legrans Association; the Timberlake Association; Lagos Del Sol Neighborhood Association and the Knollwood Homeowners Association. Of course there are many other such organizations in the City of Montgomery. If you are interested in joining or starting a Neighborhood association, please contact Lt. Clarence Brannon at:

ClarenceBrannon@mc-ala.org or call our community services division at 832-1369 or email MCSOSupportservices@mc-ala.org.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will check your home for you while you are away on vacation. Deputies will check your property, your windows and doors to ensure that they are undisturbed. If you live outside of the City limits, please call 334-832-4980 to set up a vacation home check if you are going to be gone. If you reside in the City of Montgomery contact the Montgomery Police Department at 241-4800. If you have any question, contact support services at 832-1369 or email MCSOSupportservices@mc-ala.org.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office also offers a free Business and Church watch program. This program allows us to get in contact with your authorized personnel and key holders of your facility in a faster manner in the event of an emergency at your business or House of Worship. Our deputies often encounter unsecured doors while on patrol and this program allows our dispatchers to notify you by phone of the problems they have found. If you enroll in the program, your building will have a gold colored Sheriff's Office sticker with a special decal number that is posted on your door. This decal number is unique to your business and enables us to determine who to call in case of an emergency. It is important that you update

your information every six months to keep you information current. To enroll, you can email MCSOSupportservices@mc-ala.org or call 832-1369 for an application.

Not everyone has cellular service so the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has added 4 kiosks for the public to use in the case of an emergency.



Pike Road call box



Sikes & Kohn call box



Ramer call box



K-9 unit call box

The kiosks are simple to use, just push a button and it dials straight in to the MCSO dispatch center in order to get help to a rural location quicker. Some of the kiosks are equipped with a camera. You can find these emergency call boxes at the Ramer substation, the K-9 kennel on highway 331 just outside of Snowdown, the Pike Road town hall and in the parking lot of Sikes and Kohn on highway 231 in Pine Level.

We plan on starting another session of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office's Citizens Academy early next month. The Citizens Academy was founded to teach the citizens of Montgomery County how the Sheriff's Office is operated. Every phase of operation is carefully examined, giving our citizens an insiders look at the nuts and bolts of law enforcement. We are proud to offer the Academy as a public service and we are confident that it promotes public safety by keeping Montgomery Citizens informed about our laws, why we have them and how they are enforced. The citizens Academy includes members from all communities of Montgomery and Montgomery County. It meets for six weeks, one hour per week at our office at 115 S. Perry

Street. We guarantee that our students will have fun learning about patrol, K-9, Sex offenders, Civil process, warrants, the detention facility, investigations, and the last meeting will be at our training facility where we will have a cook out. You will have a chance to fire our weapons and a chance to use our shoot-don't shoot simulator. For information, call 832-1369 or go to our web site at montgomerysheriff.com. Get informed about law enforcement and sign up today.

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



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RACE AND INCARCERATION

By Judge Dale Segrest



Judge Philip Dale Segrest

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

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In the past couple of articles we have discussed the alarming increase in the rate of incarceration. We have pointed to the fact that an increase in the rate of incarceration signifies that criminal law is not working very well. Ironically, the criminal justice system seems to take pride in the number of cases processed, and the number of convictions. But law works well when people obey the law. Now we turn to an alarming demographic fact about incarceration in these United States.

The rate of incarceration of members of the black race is greatly disproportionate to the percentage of members of the black race in the total population. This fact is often cited by civil rights advocates to show that the legal system is discriminatory, prejudiced, unjust and unfair to black people. Occasionally that contention is countered with the suggestion that it simply shows that blacks commit more crimes than whites. It is not the purpose of this article to pit those two contentions against each other. There is a simple explanation as to why both statements may be true. (This is not to suggest that profiling doesn't exist or that race cannot produce prejudicial reactions in law enforcement.) The simple explanation is that 400 years of slavery and segregation for African Americans did not instill into the sub-culture a natural tendency to turn to the law, derived from European models, for the solution to its problems. Slavery and segregation brought about the evolution of a cultural system for African Americans, particularly in the South, that differs from the historically dominant culture. Often people in the black culture best protect their interest and their population by distancing themselves as far from legal system as possible. The advantages of distance created a black solidarity came to be firmly established in the culture. It was the best way to survive. The cultural system has its way of dealing with conflict that is not factors centered in the Euro-American legal system. A cultural system 400 years in the making did not disappear overnight. It is embedded in family, church, and community relations. Self-help and tolerance are important factors in the system.

Other factors contributing to the rate of incarceration that we have discussed in previous columns also affect members of the black race just as much as they affect anyone else. Lack of education and skills improves the possibility of incarceration. Those factors contribute to the rate of black individuals just as they contribute for others. In fact, these factors that make individual candidates

for incarceration probably have a disproportionate impact on the black population. Given the fact that the criminal justice system is not working extremely well to begin with, in bringing about desired behavior, there is not a great deal of inducement to the black community to alter its cultural defenses against the criminal justice system. "Self-help" remedies lead to incarceration.

Our legal system has attempted to deal with the cultural problems by applying individual remedies. Cultural differences are social differences. A cultural system is a social system. Individual remedies will never resolve problems arising from differences that arise from differences in social systems. A broader systemic solution is needed.

In our previous columns we suggested that early intervention. Making certain that every young person, regardless of race, has the opportunity to develop social instincts and moral insight that is necessary in order to have the opportunity to do well in the modern world is essential. That is the beginning point for solving the problem. Family values also need to be emphasized. Families are the beginning point for moral formation. Schools need to continue to do everything that they can to foster moral development, but the task is difficult for the very reasons mentioned above. Churches need to become much more aggressively involved. Community building organizations need to arise to erase the cultural disadvantages arising from cultural differences, while at the same time promoting all of the advantages of a pluralistic society. Communities need to intercept problems long before they result in criminal activity. We need to develop a community spirit that includes everyone. The Criminal Justice System needs to become effective as a system that produces non-criminal behavior. Incarceration in a central system should be used, as I have suggested, only as a last resort. In a subsequent column we will provide a brief description of a concept that I called "Probation Sponsorship" and attempted to implement at a Circuit Court Judge in Alabama's Fifth Judicial Circuit.



Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers



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

You know the results of Tuesday's primary elections. However, my column had to go to press prior to Tuesday's vote. Therefore, we will discuss and analyze the outcome next week.

It is doubtful that there were any surprises.

Gov. Robert Bentley more than likely waltzed to the GOP nomination. He will probably face Parker Griffith in this fall's General Election. Ironically, both Griffith and Bentley are 72-year-old retired physicians. It is not likely that matchup has ever occurred in an Alabama Governor's race.

Sen. Jeff Sessions was on the GOP ballot yesterday but it was only a formality. Sessions has drawn a base on balls for his fourth six-year term in Washington. Our congressional delegation will continue to be made up of eight Republicans and one Democrat. We will have six GOP congress people and one lone Democrat. Both of our U.S. Senators, Sessions and Richard Shelby, are Republican.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the historic watershed Goldwater Republican southern landslide. That 1964 election changed the partisan political landscape of the Deep South. On this date in 1964 our entire congressional delegation was all Democratic. What a difference 50 years makes.

Let me take you back to the fall of 1964. Our senatorial team of Lister Hill and John Sparkman was unparalleled. This duo was the envy of every state in the nation. Along with Hill and Sparkman, strolling along the Potomac from Alabama at that time was an eight member congressional delegation that boasted over 120 years of longevity in Washington.

Among the group were the likes of George Andrews, George Grant, Albert Rains, Bob Jones, Carl Elliot, Armistead Selden, Kenneth Roberts and George Huddleston. These gentlemen were similar in backgrounds. It was as though they were born planning their paths to Congress. Amazingly all eight graduated from the University of Alabama Law School and were all attorneys by profession.

George Andrews was born in Barbour County, the Home of Governors. He served for years from the old 3rd District, which covered the southeastern part of the state.

George Grant was also born in Barbour County. However, he practiced law in Troy before going to Congress in 1938. Grant followed Lister Hill as the Representative of the 2nd District for 28 years.

Albert Rains represented the 5th District for 20 years. He was a very effective Congressman for the people of Gadsden and Sand Mountain. He was a successful businessman and banker besides being an attorney and congressman.

Rains' friend and neighbor to the north was the legendary Bob Jones of Scottsboro. Bob Jones very effectively represented the Tennessee Valley for over 20 years.

Carl Elliot of Walker County was born in rural Franklin County. He represented the northwest Alabama area for 16 years. He was a legendary liberal. Like all of his colleagues at this time, he was a graduate of the University of Alabama Law School and a true Horatio Alger story.

Armistead Selden was an aristocratic Black Belter from Greensboro. He represented his home area for two decades.

Kenneth Roberts was born in Piedmont and practiced law in Anniston before going to Congress in 1951. He served the area where he was born for 14 years in Washington.

George Huddleston was Birmingham's Congressman in 1964. He was born in Birmingham and was a U.S. Attorney before representing Jefferson County for 12 years in Congress.

These gentlemen assumed that they would be in Congress forever as they strolled along the Potomac in the fall of 1964. However, there were some strong headwinds howling back home in Alabama. This storm cloud was hovering over the entire South.

Lyndon Johnson and the Democrats had passed a Civil Rights Act earlier that year. White southerners were livid. They vented their anger on the national Democratic Party on Election Day in November of 1964.

The South changed Parties that day. This sea change was known as the Goldwater landslide. Alabamians not only voted for Barry Goldwater for President, they vehemently pulled the Republican lever. Thus, voting for every Republican on the ballot.

This straight ticket voting wiped out five of Alabama's veteran Democratic Congressmen. Included in the carnage were George Grant, Albert Rains, Carl Elliott, Kenneth Roberts and George Huddleston. These men had a total of 90 years of seniority. The GOP tidal wave swept a lot of Alabama Washington ammunition into the Potomac on that day 50 years ago this year.

June 4, 2014



June 14 is Flag Day and July 4 marks our Independence Day, and I want to thank all of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to remember me and honor me on those days and throughout the year. I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America. I am the red, white and blue. I am the same old flag that has flown over our great land for some 236 years, but many stars have been added and much blood has been shed for me since I was first raised up a flagpole.

I was created by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. It was resolved that I would have 13 stripes, alternating red and white, with a union of 13 stars of white on a blue field, representing a new constellation. It was decreed that there would be one stripe and one star for each of the 13 states or original colonies.

My colors were to be red for valor, zeal and fervor; white for hope, purity and cleanliness of life, and blue, the color of heaven, for reverence to God, justice and truth.

My stars and stripes were increased to 14 in 1795 with the admission of Vermont and Kentucky into the Union. But as other states came into my fold, it became evident that there would soon be too many

I AM YOUR FLAG

stripes. In 1818, Congress enacted that the number of stripes be reduced to 13 and restricted to that number, representing the 13 original states. A star would be added for each new state.

I was first carried into battle at Brandywine on Sept. 11, 1777. I was a young flag, infused with patriotism and yearning to be free. I would fly at Saratoga and Yorktown, before gaining the freedom I would so richly represent for generations to come. I was now the flag of a new nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.

During the War of 1812, I would inspire a man named Francis Scott Key to write a song about me, as I proudly flew above Fort McHenry, through the rockets' red glare and the bombs bursting in air.

I would be carried into many more battles to ensure that I would never be trampled on again. At Gettysburg, I would nearly be torn apart as fathers and brothers, cousins and in-laws would be pitted against each other, almost destroying the very essence of my being. I was deeply saddened and tattered and never in my long life, would so many die to preserve the union. It was the darkest time in my long life as the flag of the American people.

I would go on to represent the American nation in many more hard-fought battles: At San Juan Hill, Verdun, Pearl Harbor, the Normandy beaches, the Battle of the Bulge, Iwo Jima, Inchon, Vietnam, Desert Storm and the Balkans. Today, I am being carried into battle against worldwide terrorism.

The American people have many special ways in which they care for and show their respect for me. They used to only display me during daylight hours with special exceptions. But now I can fly 24 hours a day as long as there is a direct light shining on my beautiful stars and stripes.

There is a federal flag code that governs how

I will be displayed and how I will be treated. There are many ways to display me, but all these honor me at all times. I know that you as Americans have always pledged allegiance to me. I am never dipped to any person or thing. When I am no longer fit to fly, because I am worn out, I am always given a proper funeral, by burning until there is nothing remaining. This is the dignified way to dispose of me.

Throughout this great nation you will see me flying from flagpoles, churches, schools and many public buildings. I also love the fact that I proudly fly at the homes of people like you. I come in all sizes and am made from a variety of different materials. The weather has everything to do with my good looks and when the fog, sleet, rain or snow have cleared, I will still fly proudly.

Although battered and even burned at times, I have always managed to remain the shining symbol of independence, individual liberty and freedom for all. I continue to be a beacon of enduring hope for the oppressed people of the world. I fly over a nation made up of every racial stock of the earth, and I give comfort to the downtrodden.

Many people call me "Old Glory". Others call me "The Star Spangled Banner". But whatever you call me, I am your flag, the proud flag of the United States of America.

Editor's note: The preceding essay on the meaning of the American flag has been presented by its author, William Stewart, to many Montgomery area elementary schools and received considerable community acclaim. In January, Lt. Col. Stewart had the opportunity to present his remarks to the Alabama State House of Representatives. We would like to sincerely thank the Exchange Club of Montgomery for bringing these words to our attention, so they could be shared with Exchangers across our nation.



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



ROBY ANNOUNCES 2014 MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) today announced her 2014 military academy appointments. As a Member of Congress, Rep. Roby may nominate eligible students for consideration for appointment to the prestigious United States Air Force, Naval, Military and Merchant Marine Academies.

"One of the highlights of my job is being able to nominate young men and women for an appointment to our nation's military academies," Rep. Roby said. "I have the utmost respect for any individual who signs up to serve their country in the armed forces. These students have shown academic, leadership and character qualities that make them excellent candidates for a military academy. I know I join their families, teachers and friends in congratulating these students on such a momentous accomplishment. I wish them all the best in the next chapter of their lives."

The following students were accepted for appointments to U.S. Military Academies after becoming eligible for consideration through an official nomination from Rep. Roby earlier this year:

Joshua Aaron Alseben. A Dothan native, Joshua is the son of Stephen and Vivian Alseben. He is currently enrolled at Houston Academy in Dothan. Alseben received an official appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

Timothy Aaron Brown. A Midland City native, Timothy is the son of Dr. Bryan and Donna Brown.

He is currently attending Providence Christian School in Dothan. Brown received an official appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

Joseph Elwood Flemming. A Prattville native, Joseph is the son of Robert and Dawn Flemming. He is currently attending school at Prattville Christian Academy. Flemming received an official appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

Nicholas James Godeke. An Ozark native, Nicholas is the son of Robert and Virginia Godeke. He is a student at Carroll High School in Ozark. Godeke received an official appointment from the United States Military Academy (West Point).

Robert Preston Kennedy. A Montgomery native, Robert is the son of Robert and Claire Kennedy. He is currently attending Ezekiel Academy in Montgomery. Kennedy received an official appointment to the United States Military Academy (West Point).

Thomas Edward Lambert. Also a Montgomery resident, Thomas is the son of Stephen and Laura Lambert. He is a student at Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP) in Montgomery. Lambert received an official appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

Kenneth Wayne Levens. Another Prattville native, Kenneth is the son of Cathy Levens and the late Kenneth Levens. He is a student at Prattville High School. Levens received an official appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

Richard E. McCant. Another Montgomery native, Richard is the son of Kazumi McCant. He is also a student at Loveless Academic Magnet Program

(LAMP). McCant received an official appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

Ryan Christopher Seamands. An Enterprise resident, Ryan is the son of Tammy and Greg Seamands. He is currently a student at Enterprise High School. Seamands received an official appointment to the United States Military Academy (West Point).

Zachary John Willis. Also a Prattville native, Zachary the son of Jeff and Rachel Jones. He is currently also in school at Prattville Christian Academy. Willis received an official appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

Once nominated, accepted candidates receive offers directly from the Academy. Students attending a service academy make a commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation.

Nominations for appointments to military academies are based on a "whole person" evaluation. Factors such as academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, leadership skills, physical aptitude, character and motivation are considered and compared with other applicants.

Rep. Roby's nominations are based off a review and interview with an independent panel of former service academy graduates from throughout Alabama's Second Congressional District.

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Marcia Chambliss

SGP SMART GIRL POLITICS

DISCARDING THE SEEDS OF BITTERNESS

transformally transforming the United States of America.” But while most discussion centers on the increasing size of government and the dependency on it, there is another segment this transformation that I believe is just as dangerous.

We’re bombarded daily with news designed to divide us. Ideological debate and differences of opinion are increasingly personalized and demonized, and there are times when I am convinced that the “transformation of America” is nothing more than a deliberate means to sow seeds of bitterness.

I recently heard a teaching sermon about handling bitterness in our lives. The point was made that sowing seeds of bitterness is a poison to our souls. Roots of bitterness can be so deeply buried in one’s heart and can tragically destroy individuals and their family. In the same manner, how is it not a poison to our nation, and a serious threat to destroy it?

Politically, this bitterness is an ideal means of keeping citizens at odds with each other so that those in power maintain control. But on a recent evening in Wilcox County, residents of diverse race, age, gender, income, and political ideology all came together in an ongoing effort to rid their county of corruption. Rather than allowing seeds of bitterness to take root and further divide, they are uniting to effect positive change for all.

Not only are these citizens meeting on a regular basis to discuss issues of corruption and mismanagement at the county level, the Impact Group of Wilcox has filed two lawsuits, one which details the findings of the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts and alleges the deliberate misuse of county funds which the county so desperately needs.

The suit details a pattern of fiscal abuse which includes: the operation of county vehicles for personal use with some commissioners using vehicles outside of the county; purchase of land without obtaining an appraisal; deficit spending from various county funds; creating positions outside of the commission authority; and commissioners who received water and garbage service but failed to remit payment for a full calendar year. In the case of the land purchase, the owner was the same individual appointed to the created position. According to

the suit, this individual “did not have an office or a job description, nor did he perform any work as part of that position.”

The problems in Wilcox County appear to be longstanding and this grassroots group knows that they are fighting a political machine that will not easily give up control. In addition to filing the lawsuit, they are working to educate the citizens of their county and expose the corruption, especially during this election cycle. Citizens are being encouraged to turn out to vote rather than simply accept that nothing will change. Will they prevail? Perhaps – perhaps not. They also know they are fighting a corrupt voting process with an excessive number of absentee ballots, a practice that is decades old and won’t be easily defeated. Although Wilcox County receives plenty of press regarding its dismal economic outlook, the mainstream media, in my opinion, has failed to bring adequate attention to the efforts of this diverse and determined group to fight the corruption that plagues their county.

So why do I bring up Wilcox County? Because the spirit of unity that was relayed to me by someone who attended that recent meeting confirms that people from all walks of life still care about exposing corruption at all levels of government. Given the demographics of that group, I daresay that they have differing party affiliations and likely disagree about other issues. But political corruption is never exclusive or limited by party line, nor does it resolve without exposure and action by an involved electorate.

Despite their differences, the citizens of Wilcox County have found common ground and are choosing to concentrate on solving problems rather than focusing on racial, socioeconomic, or other differences, real or perceived, that foster bitterness. The poison of bitterness has unfortunately turned us into a society that prefers to itemize and bemoan a perpetual and growing list of grievances instead of recognizing that our nation remains the dream of so many born elsewhere.

Perhaps we can all learn a bit from the unity demonstrated by the Impact Group of Wilcox.

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

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Becky Gerritson

The Wetumpka Tea Party...

will host New Zealander Trevor Loudon, author of the books ‘Barack Obama and the Enemies Within’ and the sequel ‘The Enemies Within: Communists, Socialists and the Progressives in the US Congress’ on Monday evening, June 16th 6:30-8:30 pm cafeteria area of the Elmore Community Hospital 500 Hospital Drive, Wetumpka

For more information about the Wetumpka Tea Party, up-coming events, etc., go to www.wetumpkateaparty.com/



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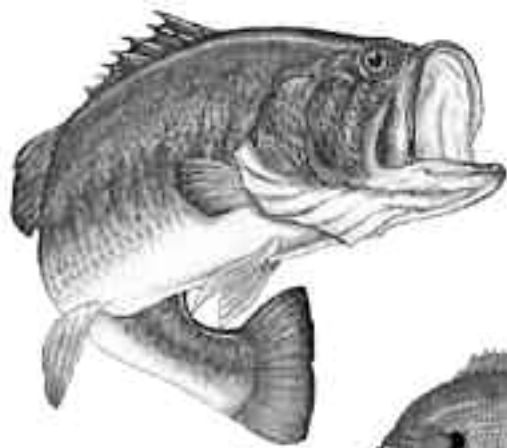
PUT MORE BASS IN THE BOAT!!

With June comes hot weather, but the fishing can be just as hot. Bluegill will bed around the full moon of this month, which falls on the 13th, and the bass are in a feeding mood following the spawn. Last month, we shared some tips on how to improve your bream fishing. In this month's article, we will look at some tactics that should help you put more bass in the boat.

As we move into June and the water warms, the bass gradually shift to deeper water and by the end of the month they will occupy their summer haunts. During each day of this transition, fishing may vary greatly, with bass moving in and out of feeding areas. When fishing Lake Martin and Lake Jordan, I use buzzbaits early around grass beds and fallen trees and then move on to my favorite structure to fish... piers. Shade provides slightly cooler water and bass will move under piers to avoid the sunlight. Fishing a lizard, a finesse worm on a shaky head or a jig is my favorite tactic when trying to catch bass around piers, but I've had success using crankbaits and spinnerbaits as well. One feature I look for is deep water at the end of the pier... 8 to 10 feet if possible. Most piers have sunken trees or brush piles around them, which also act as fish attractants, so I start out fishing the outer areas of the pier before actually fishing the pier itself. Many fish will suspend over the submerged brush, which is usually located several feet away from the pier. If you move in to fish the pier first, many fish will actually be under your boat, so start working your bait 10 to 15 feet away from the actual structure. And as an added bonus, the great thing about fishing piers is that you can fish them all day. Just be respectful of the fact that you are fishing around someone else's property. I've heard of fishermen actually getting out of their boat and fishing off of someone's pier. Things like this give all fishermen a bad name, so respect the property you're fishing around and try to be careful where you cast.

Another pattern that develops on Lake Martin in June is that large schools of shad begin showing up around all of the open-water humps and large rock points. Large schools of spotted bass suspend beneath the schools of shad and follow their movements closely. Early morning and late-afternoon fishing around the humps and rock outcroppings can produce some explosive strikes from the abundant spotted bass. Topwater baits such as a Tiny Torpedo, Spittin Image and Zara Spook produce the type of noise and action that the spots prefer.

These fish always put up a good fight, and multiple fish can normally be caught from each school before they spook back below the surface. One easy aspect of chasing these fish is nearly all of the major humps and rock points of



Bluegill

Lake Martin are marked with a hazard buoy, so all the best fishing areas are already marked. Just remember the fish around the humps are most active around daybreak and sunset.

Bass fishing is also good in farm ponds this month. Your best fishing tends to be early morning and late afternoon in these smaller bodies of water, but the action can be fast and furious. Spinnerbaits, lizards and worms will all catch fish, but if you've read my articles in the past, you know my favorite pond lure is a lip-less crankbait. The Rattle Trap and Hot Spot are two of the more popular brands, but Rapala and several other manufacturers make a version of this bait. I prefer the 1/8 ounce model in chrome, with either a blue or black back. It doesn't take much skill to use this lure, simply cast it out and reel it back in. You want to use a fairly rapid retrieve to keep the lure off of the bottom, but sometimes a stop and go retrieve is what the fish want. Try reeling it for several yards, stop the reel for a second and then continue reeling. The strike will usually come as you start your retrieve after stopping it.

Bluegills spawn from May through August, but the sunny, warm days of June, with water temperatures in the 75-degree range, are the prime times to pursue these saucer-shaped, scrappy panfish. During this time, male bluegills will build and defend plate-shaped nests, typically 1 to 2 feet in diameter. The females lay eggs in these nests and the males fertilize the eggs, guard them from predators and keep them silt-free by fanning over the eggs with their tails. Soon, a new generation of fast-growing bluegills is swimming around and if there isn't a thinning of the population by fishermen, too many bluegills quickly become a problem. They will become stunted and never reach the desired size for fishermen, which is 8 inches or longer. Like we talked about last month, when looking for big bluegills, start by looking for the plate-shaped spawning beds. Generally, larger nests mean larger bluegills and large quantities of beds mean large numbers of bluegills. While remote,

private lakes and farm ponds may provide good bluegill fishing, public waters can provide excellent bluegill fishing too. Anglers play an important role in thinning a lake's bluegill population, so our local public lakes are just as likely to be good bluegill producers as private ponds.

Next month, we will look at ways to catch fish during the heat of the summer. July days can be unbearably hot, but you can still catch fish if you know what to do. We will explore some catfishing tactics as well as other ways to help improve your summer angling. And don't forget...if you get a chance, introduce someone to the sport of fishing.



75 years ago on June 2, 1939, twins were born to Emmett and Estelle Mosely at the home of Frank and Mollie Stephens in Ramer, Alabama. Both Patrick Andrew and Michael Frank attended MCHS from 1945 - 1957 and Auburn University, graduating in the 60's with degrees in engineering and building science. Both married their high school sweethearts and now have 7 children and 13 grandchildren between them. Pat and Mike have remained active in their respective communities, churches and professions.

THE SPORTS PAGE

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**Sports Editor,
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Memories

Pressed Between The Pages Of My Mind

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." (Proverbs 17:17). When I was a young boy, I always wanted a brother, but, it was not to be. One day in the eighth grade at Capitol Heights Junior High School, my life changed in a way that I could not have predicted. My blue and white bicycle with the fenders off, and blue and white stripes on the wheels,

was my only means of transportation at the time. One of the members of the football team had a Florida drivers license, which one could obtain at the age of fourteen in those days. He also had an old blue 1948 Plymouth that his Florida grandmother had given him. He was the only person at the school that had a car. So, you can imagine how popular he was. This particular afternoon was no different than most. It was spring. School was out for the day and every one was playing around before going home. But, this day may have been when I started growing up. The boy with the blue Plymouth asked me if I wanted to go for a ride. His name was **Durden Lee**. He lived around the corner from me, but we had never been close friends. That was going to change this day. I asked another guy that lived in my neighborhood if he would ride my blue bike home, and let me pick it up later. Unknown to us at the time, he would become a star running back at Robert E. Lee High School and play college football at Auburn. His name was **Jackie Spencer**. I never saw that bike again. I began riding in style with the very popular Durden Lee. Since he was popular, I became popular, I think. For over a year, I didn't even think about that bicycle. When I went to get it, Jackie and some of his pals had taken the wheels off and made a cart out of my bike and another bike. What did I care? I'm riding around town with Durden Lee and his football buddies.

This was the beginning of a life-long relationship that can only be understood by the previously quoted proverb. Durden's father was killed in World War II. He had no brothers or sisters either. I had found my brother. We were friends to the very end. We were born to take care of each other...and we did. He was the brother I never had. I was the brother he never had. A few months ago, my brother took his last breath only minutes after I kissed him and told him, as I had thousands of times... "brother, I love you"!

Durden Coleman Lee, 76 was carried to his final resting place in Montgomery by eight former teammates at Robert E. Lee High School. Durden was our center and a captain of the first Lee football team. Another captain, **Charles Tatum**, came from all the way from Muldoon, Texas to help us honor our great friend. He was a friend at all times, but he was my brother. I could not write this tribute to Durden at the time of his death. There just had to be some time to heal.

Durden left behind his wife Pat, his son Bubba and two daughters, Cathy and Lila, to carry on without him. As a man, he was tough, but sweet. As a football coach he was one of the best. For eleven years he coached his Capitol Heights Bulldogs to many city championships. He sent many players to Lee that were well prepared to wear the red and white of the Generals; **Sim Byrd, Terry Beasley, Connie Frederick, Cedrick McIntyre**...just to name a few. He could have moved into high school, and maybe college. He was the best offensive line coach that I encountered in my ten years of coaching. He taught me a lot about football and a lot about love.

Durden and I were two of fifteen boys who had the distinct privilege of playing two years as a Lanier Poet and on the first Robert E. Lee football team in 1955. I was just fortunate to come along for the ride. We picked the colors. We picked the nickname Generals. We have been picking each other up for the last fifty-nine years. Most of us are still here. The captain just went on ahead of us to check out the playing field up there. We will be following, though we know not when. Thanks to my brother Durden, it has been a good ride.



**Durden Lee, center and
linebacker, Sidney Lanier -
co-captain, Robert E. Lee**

"There is a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace." (Ecclesiastes 3:2-8)



During the course of a man's life, he comes in contact with a few people that have a profound impact on the direction of his life. I had always been drawn like a magnet to the game of football. Until the fifth grade my experience had been limited to sand-lot football with boys from my neighborhood on Vonora Avenue in Montgomery, Alabama.



**Bobby Spann, captain and
quarterback, Sidney Lanier -
fullback, Troy State University**

That's a two block street connecting Madison Avenue and Upper Wetumpka Road, only a nine iron shot from Cramton Bowl. Every time the lights went on at "The Bowl", I would go over the fence and not stop running until the police were no longer in sight. It made no difference whether it was Lanier, Loretta, Starke or Williams playing, my little skinny body was going to be in the stands.

My first experience on a team was in the fifth grade where I was surprised to find that I was one of the fastest players on the team in the 80 lb. YMCA League. I played right half-back in the Notre Dame Box offensive formation. When we shifted right, I became a wing-back. When we shifted left, I became the tailback. Speed was my only weapon. I was really small. I could have played in the 80 lb. league through the ninth grade but my age made me have to go up to the 100 lb. league in the eighth grade. A serious concussion along with a broken nose knocked me out of football for two years. My weight upon graduating from the ninth grade was 90 lbs. You might say everyone grew up and passed me by. In the junior high school yearbook I wrote that my goal was to be 6'0" tall and

weigh 200 lbs. That of course was one of my silly jokes that helped me cope with being so small.

In the eighth grade I had dreams about being as big and strong as a boy that had transferred to Capitol Heights Junior High School named **Bobby Spann**. He was a well built boy that excelled on the football team. He did well with the girls too. He was also a perpetual practical joker. All three talents I admired. We were not close friends at the time. Later we would become teammates at Lanier High School. I did finally get to be as big as my goal, albeit after getting out of the military. However, I never did grow to be as good as Spann.

Recently **Robert Till "Bobby" Spann** of Nashville, Georgia died after a short battle with cancer. He was 76 years old. He served as captain and quarterback for the undefeated Sidney Lanier Poets of 1955. He could have chosen to come with us to Robert E. Lee but decided to stay at Lanier. Bobby had scholarship offers to Alabama and Kentucky, but his desire to become an engineer delayed his decision to the point where both scholarships had been given to other players.

He was invited to play for **Coach Bobby Bowden's** first collegiate team at South Georgia College. Spann went over there for part of a season, but, he really wanted to play a better brand of football. Besides, he had never heard of Bobby Bowden. **Earl Kreis**, a local contractor who Bobby had gained his interest in engineering from, called him while he was still in Georgia. Earl told him not to come back to Montgomery, but to drive straight to Troy. He told Bobby that **Coach Bill Clipson** had him a scholarship waiting on him. There he found a home and a new position on the Troy State Red Wave football team. They were known as Red Wave back then. Bobby Spann started at fullback for two years at Troy where he majored in pre-engineering. But he still wanted to be an engineer more than he wanted to play football. That desire led him to enroll in the University of Alabama's Engineering School, where he proudly graduated with his coveted engineering degree. He graduated fifth in his class. Bobby married Melba Lindsey, who he had met in junior high school. Spann played halfback at Capitol Heights under the legendary **Coach Kyle Renfroe**. In his ninth grade, the Capitol Heights team, led by **Durden Lee, Earl Mills, and Wendell Conner**, was undefeated and unscored on. Somehow, Bobby learned how to succeed. He put his mind and his training to work and built a very successful business in Nashville, Specialty Converting & Supply Company, which he was CEO of at the time of his death. Bobby Spann was buried in Nashville alongside his wife Melba who died in 2004. He will be missed by many, but most by his teammates from Lanier and from those who chose to transfer to Robert E. Lee in the fall of 1955.



Ronald A. Holtsford



WAR ON CHRISTIANITY, PART II

As I reviewed the published article in THE ALABAMA GAZETTE from May 2014, I had the

realization that another front has been used to attack Christianity; the movies. From about the time that Clark Gable uttered his “d” word in **Gone With the Wind**, producers and directors have pushed the envelope with “mild” profanity to non-stop profanity, sexual innuendo to outright nudity and sex on the silver screen. This includes the gross violence on the screen.

When I was a kid most of the movies were family appropriate; now the family appropriate and especially kid appropriate movies are harder to find. There are a few sets of moviemakers that seek to provide wholesome entertainment on the big screen, but often these movies are neglected by the big name reviewers or given a bad review. I have avoided some movies where Christian reviewers pointed out the worldly or ungodly attributes. I belong to a men’s accountability group at Church. Each meeting we report to the other’s four things; how our Bible reading time is, how our prayer time is, how have we done with our “eyes” and have we answered truthfully about the prior three items. For men there are a lot of things we need to avoid seeing that pop up on the internet which includes stories on Fox News and other usually conservative news outlets about various entertainers, etc. Watching a movie with ungodly content is equally sinful to looking at lustful images.

When a movie with Judeo-Christian influenced content comes out it’s usually one that the Christian community supports. My wife, Jennifer recently attended a movie that she really enjoyed and I have asked for her review as a contrast to the secular reviewers.

I want to give you some of the worldly reviews; many of the big newspapers did not include a review at all. I sometimes use the **Flixster** app to locate a movie that my wife and I might see and often we rely on it’s attached reviews when we are unfamiliar with the movie. **Flixster** uses the **Rotten Tomatoes** reviews that said for this particular movie, 7% of the top movie reviewers and 14% of all reviewers gave this movie a good rating but 86% of the audiences gave it a good rating. The primary review seen of this movie on Rotten Tomatoes, say “Cheap-looking, unfunny, and kind of sexist to boot, (the yet to be named movie in this article) is a disappointment from start to finish.”

Christy Lemire of **rogerebert.com** says of the movie,

“depressingly regressive and borderline dangerous, in the name of wacky laughs. But it also wants to be “About Something.” It wants to inspire as well as entertain. It’s “The Hangover” aimed at Christian audiences, and if that sounds like an impossible prospect, well, that’s because it is.” She went on to say, “But the ultimate message here is unmistakable, regardless of your religious beliefs: A woman’s place is in the home, not out on the town”.

Rafer Guzman of Newsday called it “unintentionally grotesque” and “worthy of damnation.” New York Times, Neil Genzlinger said that the character Allyson is “an insult to the millions of women who have much more to deal with.”

Finally, Jerry Roberts who reviews for **Armchair Cinema** and claims Birmingham, AL as his hometown where the movie was filmed says,

“There are no laughs in (you still have to wait on the name of the movie). None. Nada. Zilch. Zero. Bupkis. Maybe there’s a smile, but that’s not exactly high praise. When you can say that about a comedy, it pretty much empties out the entire picture. Here’s a movie in which the only comic highpoint is a shout-out to Pinterest – it does them no favors. The directors here are The Erwin Brothers whose apparent goal is to bring the kind of *Hangover*-style antics to a Christian-based audience without all the immoral filth. It’s a nice gesture, but in restraining the comedy their movie comes off like a limp sitcom pilot – the kind that doesn’t get picked up. With this, and last year’s anti-abortion misfire *October Baby*, it is clear that the Erwin Brothers need to work on the filmmaking before they try to send a message. This time they’ve made a low-impact comedy so generic that it might as well have come stamped with a barcode.”

After reading the reviews by the professionals, I want you to read the review of the now named movie, “**Mother’s Night Out**” by my wife, Jennifer. My wonderful wife is a stay at home Mom and she definitely has an incredibly hard job. Regardless of the played out scenarios or the fictitious characters of this movie,

I trust my wife as a reviewer both for content, moral direction and entertainment value.

I went to see the movie Mom’s Night Out with no real expectations. I heard two ladies at Bible study talking about going to the sneak preview and that it was funny. I did not know anything about the plot. Closer to the opening night, I heard a few people saying that they had heard the movie was getting bad reviews, but I didn’t see any of them and still had no idea about the plot. The actors that I immediately recognized were Patricia Heaton, Sean Astin, and Trace Adkins. I recognized several others from the movie Courageous. The movie focused on a young, stay at home mother with three children, two of her friends and their families. She is writing a blog that is not doing well. Her husband is away a good bit because of traveling with his job. There were scenes that touched all emotions. Anger, fear, suspense, hilarity, heartwarming (to the point of tears). A couple of scenes that were particularly touching to me was when she was on the phone with her husband. Her daughter drew a picture of their family for her for Mother’s Day and brought it to her while she was on the phone. It only had her and the three children in it. She asked her daughter where her daddy was, and she pointed to an airplane at the top of the drawing and said that he was on the plane, like he always was. Dad hears what she has said. The daughter says she is going to finish the drawing as Mom continues to talk to dad on the phone. In a minute, Mom looks up to see that her daughter has finished the drawing on a wall in the family room. Later, as she is trying to clean up the mess, she has to paint to cover the drawing. She paints over some of the scribbles, but ends up putting picture frames around the drawings her daughter has drawn of their family. Heartwarming, right? I teared up and wondered if I would ever be a good mother like that. Another scene was when Trace Adkins, who played a really rough looking motorcycle gang member, is talking to Mom. He tells her that he has never forgotten what his mother told him every night before he went to bed. She had told him that Jesus loved him and there was never any place he could run that Jesus wouldn’t be with him. It made me think about how important things are that we say to our children. The crazy scenes worked out like some thing from Toy Story when the toys are trying to make their way back to Andy. The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Parenting is such an important job. Mom’s Night Out was a great movie. I would love to see it again, and would also recommend it to anyone...male or female!

My wife and several other ladies in her “Mother’s of Pre Schoolers” Group saw the movie. From what I was told their take was totally the opposite of the “professional” reviewers. I don’t know the intent of the negative reviewers though one must consider whether such a review is an attempt to belittle a Faith based film. There is a big audience looking for Faith based films even if the acting or production is not exceptional. Amoral influence by filmmakers supports a way of thinking opposed to many Americans and we must fight back against those that seek to influence what God has defined as right and wrong.

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

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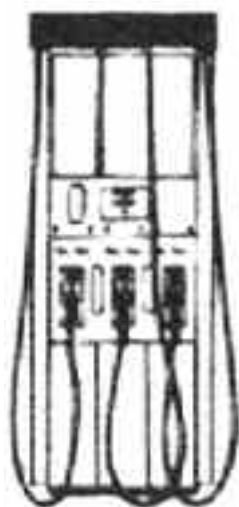
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Robservations...by Robert Tate

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

TRAINING AND STANDARDIZATION: OFTEN OVERLOOKED KEYS TO SAFETY AND SUCCESS

I just recently finished a month of training in Atlanta learning to fly a new airplane. For the last 12 years or so, I have been flying the Boeing 757 and 767 but now I will be flying the Boeing 717. A lot of folks had been following me on Facebook and saw pictures I posted of me and my copilot "enjoying" the training program. But as long and painful as the training may have been, there was a definite reason for it. The reason U.S. airlines remain the best and safest in the world is because of the training and standards we impose upon ourselves. Training and standardization in our world is the difference between success and failure. In the airline industry, failure is insupportable because failure usually means bent metal and broken bodies. Both are clearly unacceptable. Let's take a quick look at ideas and concepts behind training and why it is so important. But first, let's look at the Titanic.

Sunday night, 14 April 1912, at approximately 2340 local time, the RMS Titanic's brush with an iceberg sealed not only its fate, but forever locked that event into maritime lore. The fact that the mighty steamer died 2 hours and 40 minutes after the collision is not the only story here. Neither is the fact that out of some 2,207 souls on board, 1,502 of them perished in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. What is important, however, is that in the midst of this most tragic of avoidable events, many people died needlessly due to deficiencies in White Star Line crew training and standardization.

Looking back through the rose-colored glasses of historical hindsight, if it were not so tragic, White Star's lack of standardization and training for the Titanic crew would be almost laughable. It has been reported that prior to leaving Southampton, England none of the crew had been given lifeboat drills or training. Indeed, the highest ranking surviving crewmember, Charles Lightoller, testified that Lifeboat 6 for example, was filled with as many people as he (not White Star) considered safe. He also testified that he (not the engineers who designed the ship) felt it would have been impossible to lower the lifeboats to the water while filled to capacity since the mechanism to lower the boats would likely collapse under the weight. Lifeboat 6 was therefore launched with only 28 people when the lifeboats had been tested and certified to carry 65 adult males.

Likewise, on the morning of tragedy Captain Smith cancelled a scheduled life boat drill in order to allow people to attend church. Finally, while some crewmembers allowed men to board the lifeboats if no women were present, other crewmembers refused even if that meant sending the boats out only partially filled. The results should not be surprising. What we clearly see was a dire situation aggravated by a crew who not only lacked the requisite emergency training but a crew that willfully discarded safety training for their passengers and lacked a consistent standardized approach to the completion of their duties.

TRAINING

Any expert, regardless of the nature of their business, will tell you the importance of training. In many cases, it is training that separates success from failure and for those professions entrusted with the safety and survival of its customers, this is even more important. In my opinion as a professional pilot, there is nothing more important and critical to safe operation than a robust initial training, continuation training and standardization program.

In the airline industry, pilot training is thorough and intense. It helps that most major airlines hire pilots with thousands of hours of flying time, but still our training involves detailed systems knowledge of the aircraft we will be flying, cockpit procedural training, flight management system training and eventually training in the full motion simulators. There we learn to fly the airplane and are able to practice both normal and emergency procedures. All of this training is designed to ensure pilots are capable of performing to a set standard when we finally get to the real aircraft. Even after we reach "the line," our first flights are with an instructor who further trains us on more line oriented operations. For those who cannot perform satisfactorily, and this is indeed extremely rare, they are unceremoniously released from the company. But it is this training that results in such a high rate of safety for our passengers.

DELTA FLIGHT 191

On the afternoon of 2 August 1985, a Delta L-1011 on approach to Dallas-Ft Worth encountered a severe windshear condition. A windshear is a rapid change in wind speed and direction that can have dire effects on the performance capabilities of any aircraft encountering the shear. In addition to changes in wind speed and/ or direction, significant vertical downdrafts can occur. If an airplane is too low to recover, these vertical wind components can slam the aircraft into the ground. On this afternoon, the Delta L-1011 encountered such a shear with subsequent downdraft.

Flight 191's normal approach speed (Vref) was 149 knots and when the

aircraft first encountered the windshear, the airspeed rapidly increased to 173 knots. As the pilots corrected, the decreasing performance portion of the shear made the airspeed rapidly drop off to 133 knots and then dramatically down to 119 knots; a full 30 knots below Vref. Associated with the decrease in airspeed was a pronounced downdraft that drove the aircraft toward the ground at 1700 feet per minute (fpm). On a normal precision instrument approach, the vertical speed (VSI) is approximately 700-800 fpm. The result? Delta flight 191 impacted the ground over a mile from the approach end to runway 17L, bounced, hit a car on the highway and finally crashed after hitting two 4-million gallon water tanks at the airport. 8 crew, 126 passengers and one person on the highway died in the crash.

THE UPSIDE?

Because of this accident there immediately became an increased awareness of windshear associated with large thunderstorms. As a result, at least at my airline, every year during continuation training, a portion of our simulator training is dedicated to recognition and practicing the standard recovery procedure should windshear be encountered. During my B-717 simulator training, as well as all of my Delta training, we spent quite a bit of time working on the windshear escape maneuver during take-off and landing. In addition to these procedures, aircraft and airports have radar systems that also detect and help us avoid windshear since early detection affords a better opportunity to escape its deadly power.

This is just one area where our training increases your safety. From engine failures, electric, hydraulic and other mechanical malfunctions to standard normal operating procedures that carry us through our daily flying, it is our robust training that ensures continued safe operation. The remarkable and unquestioned safety record of the American airline industry is a testament to

both the quality of people flying our airplanes as well as the value of such training.

Johns Hopkins researchers have stated that between 1983 and 1996, of the 371 major airline crashes they identified, 38% were attributed to pilot error. (Not bad considering I bet close to 99% of all car accidents are driver error) Of the 1,735 commuter accidents, 74% were pilot error while 85% of the 29,798 general aviation accidents can be attributed to pilot error. These represent the reality that better trained pilots have fewer accidents. Likewise, their findings show that between 1983 and 1989, pilot error accounted for 43% of airline accidents and in the 1960s pilots were responsible for 45-65% of the airline accidents. These figures further illustrate that better training in addition to better equipment continues to reduce the number of airline accidents.

What makes the airline industry so successful, however, is that once accidents occur (and they are inevitable), the FAA and individual companies quickly identify the problem and work to train crews up to a standard so as not to repeat the same accident. Certainly when one looks at the history of air disasters flown by professional pilots, seldom do you see the exact same mistake twice. Although there are areas that need constant vigilance and continued training like runway incursions at some of the busiest and most confusing airports around the world, excellent crew training continues to be the linchpin to our successful aviation system.



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By Bobbie Ames

A PORTRAIT OF PATRIOTISM



Washington crossing the Delaware

This story of Patriotism begins in the life of a nine year old boy, standing on the deck that would bring his parents, his sister, and Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze, up the Delaware River, to dock at the port of Philadelphia. Suddenly, the outline of the city, the largest city in the New World was visible, the church steeples, the tall buildings. Soon his feet would touch the ground of the United States of America, where he was coming to live.

Emanuel Leutze was born March 24, 1816, in Gmund, Württemberg, Germany. The village, 31 miles northeast of Stuttgart, was famed as a center for silver craftsmanship. His father, Gottlieb, was a skilled metal craftsman, who brought his wife, Catherine, daughter, Louisa, and son, Emanuel, to America to escape political oppression. Germany of the early nineteenth century had been completely humbled by Napoleon, and her people frustrated. Poverty ridden citizens were disillusioned. Stories of freedom for all peoples in far away America of their Revolution offered hope.

Emanuel's mother, Catherine, had been married earlier and had two sons by her first husband, who died young. Son Jacob had emigrated to Pennsylvania in America, and offered them encouragement for such a venture. Emanuel's father, Gottlieb, was successful in a comb manufacturing business, and he concluded that he could be successful in the New World. Beginning with his life savings, and his manufacturing equipment, and with State permission, they sailed in the summer of 1825, on the sloop, The William Henry. Joining with other German-American colonists who had settled mainly in the Pennsylvania and Virginia colonies, and had fought for the American side in the Revolution for Independence. The German-American Patriotism was a sharp contrast with many of the English colonists still torn between loyalties.

Emanuel had no doubt heard the stories of the Rev. Heinrich M. Muhlenberg, patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America, a great lover of freedom himself, and whose son, John, was Colonel of the Eighth Virginia Regiment, personally commissioned by George Washington, his intimate friend. In the Colonel's Valedictory Address, in 1776, he calls his soldiers: "The endangered fatherland, to which we owe wealth and blood, needs our arms---it calls its sons to drive off the oppressor. The Holy Scriptures says, There is a time for everything in this world. A time to talk, a time to be silent, and a time to preach and to pray. And also a time to fight and this time has come. Therefore whoever loves freedom in his new fatherland, he may follow me."

Young Emanuel absorbed all the stories of the Revolution, and his love for even the sight of the Delaware River would be destined to last his lifetime, so evident as his life story unfolds. He lived near it in Philadelphia, and traveled on it extensively throughout his life.

Although his father was well trained and successful as a silversmith, he contracted an incurable disease and his wife, Catherine, could hardly keep the business going of making combs. It was necessary for Emanuel to quit school in order to help the family survive. He was young but sought odd jobs for a small pay. Every spare hour that he had to himself would be spent observing the art collection at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. Established in 1805, it was the first and most noted art collection in the United States. It's beginning was in the dreams of Charles Peale, in 1791, for a great school of art to encourage and attract the gifted young Americans. The first major exhibition was held in Independence Hall in 1805, and centered on the History of American Art. The Franklin Institute and the Peale Museum were in

close proximity for this small boy, who longed to study art, and one day paint America's story on canvas. Not having the money to study, he took his sketch book to the museums, and for hours, would study the oil portraits of the founders of our nation. He was absorbed with the stories of Columbus and already painting scenes from 1492. As he grew older, he absorbed everything that he would learn about George Washington, the father of his adopted country. He knew in his heart that he was destined to be a painter and that he would paint scenes of the history of our country. He would strive for excellence as an honor to those artists whom he studied in the museums: Benjamin West, Thomas Sully, John Trumbull, Henry Inman, and others. Dreaming was his escape from the sadness of his father's illness, and the deep distress of the mother he adored. In the midst of it all, he was the encourager to his sister, Louisa, assuring her that he would always be there for her.

Trumbull's dramatized scenes from American History, "Burgoyne's Surrender at Saratoga," "Cornwallis; Surrender at Yorktown," "The Signing of the Declaration of Independence," and other historical paintings brought him to envision the climax to his life's work would be to paint the scene for the most glorious of all the events of the Revolution. His painting would have to be massive and it would have to show the courage and the danger, and point to what ultimately brought success. Even among his dreams, he knew what he must learn to bring this all about. He must study how to bring faces to life, how to draw details of clothing, and positions of the human frames, and much more. All the while he was dreaming, he was taking odd jobs to help his mother and sister. In the Philadelphia Directory of 1831, is listed, "Catherine Leutze, widow of Gottlieb Leutze, comb mfr." His father had died, and he felt responsibility for the family.

Scarcely twenty five years after his death, books about George Washington were circulating. Though few books were published then, the most prominent story in oral and written print was the story of George Washington crossing the Delaware River. Around the corner from the Leutze home, was the home where Betsy Ross lived and made the first American Flag for George Washington from a sketch he gave to her. Just four squares away was the Presidential residence of George Washington. Nearby was the spot where Ben Franklin had experimented with a front door key in one of his electricity experiments. We can just imagine how he internalized these stories of independence and liberty, and possibility for all.

As his art work improved, he entered contests and won! He attended the Washington Birthday Ball at the White House when he was 20 years old, and quickly became known. Washington would become home for a time, and then he moved to Fredericksburg, VA. This was a time of tremendous growth through a chance meeting with a prominent citizen, John Minor, who served as a mentor and secured commissions for him. His first large canvas painting was of Hagar and Ishmael, a scene that focused on hardship and the overcoming power of the valiant. His charm, good looks, and obviously being a promising painter of the day placed his name on many tongues. Having a prominent aristocratic patron in John Minor, was a great blessing. Minor had given up his law practice, and concentrated on Virginia History. He promoted the fables of Br'er Fox and Br'er Rabbit, and had them published widely.

With growing success in America, Luetze still felt the need of going to the center of the Art World in Europe. He chose to study in Dusseldorf, Germany, the home of his birth. During the daylight hours, he painted, and in the nighttime, he studied German and Art History. He delighted the art critics, and before long, the word "genius" was attached to his name in Germany. His work was prominent in American, and now in Germany.

He was invited to exhibit his Columbus painting in the most prestigious Art Academy, where the most revered master teacher, Karl F. Lessing, offered to give him lessons. Lessing's own paintings "depicted grand historic characters whom he seeks to honor." This will also be said of Luetze's painting of "Washington Crossing the Delaware," that it too depicts strong men who were the soldier-patriots who opened the door for Liberty for All. How proud Luetze would be that both his son and grandsons were Admirals in the US Navy, and that descendants are patriots today.

Years in Europe was successful in every way. He returned home with a dearly loved wife, four children, and fame. His boyhood dream of painting George Washington crossing the Delaware River was realized on a canvas 20 feet by 12 feet. The painting portrays the turning point in the War for Independence. Ann Hawkes Hutton, an authority and author on both Leutze and the painting, explains that the artist knew that his canvas "must bring to life that dramatic epoch in human affairs. It should portray that moment in Washington's career, when his thoughts, preparation, and experience converge into an action destined for victorious achievement. The face on the canvas must mirror his leadership and should reveal calm confidence to overbalance the fears and anxieties of the hard-pressed American troops. It must show nobility without aloofness and dignity without dullness."

Hutton cites the portrait as the climax of his career in his own mind. He had made endless sketches of Washington and separate sketches of every individual before the group was assembled in the painting. Washington is the central figure, of course, wearing yellow knee breeches, high boots, a dark coat lined with yellow, a gray military coat lined with red, and a black cocked hat. His sword hangs at his left side, and in his right hand he holds a spy glass. His expression dominates the painting, in the same way that his personality dominates the crossing itself, and the ultimate success of the American Revolution

Most of the boats in the crossing were Durham boats ordinarily used to haul iron from the Durham furnace near Easton, Pa, down the Delaware to Philadelphia. Though the American Flag had not been adopted in 1776, it was rightly used to symbolize the new nation. Actually, Washington no doubt, flew a flag on the boat. We just don't know which flag. Remember, that Betsy Ross made the first American Flag from the sketch Washington gave her.

The famed canvas was exhibited in 1851 in the capitol of the United States and later owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Leutze painted numerous smaller versions of the painting, and exhibited in numerous exhibitions. The original one, owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art was loaned to the Washington Park Crossing, which was like a "homecoming" for the painting. At one particular exhibit in New York, patrons were reminded, of the man and the hour: "It was the gloomiest time of the long, weary, and the unequal strife, with the gigantic power of England, that the passage of the Delaware took place. The darkest hour of the night overshadowed the noble spirits that held in their keeping---the welfare of their country---the freedom of the world, but they quailed not, for he who was their leader stood firm amid all their peril, hopefully before them, and resting under God, on His unequalled wisdom and fortitude, they then saw that the deepest night does foretell the coming day, for the dawn of their liberty---dim, rayless, almost chilling. But still dawn---soon struggled through the gloom---With his eyes fixed calmly on the desired shore, stands the Father of Our Country."

In his Farewell Address, Washington still speaks to us today, of Patriotism, "The name of American which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the pride of Patriotism."

Acknowledgement of a primary source for this article: Portrait of Patriotism, by Ann Hawkes Hutton, Chilton Book Company, Radnor, Pa. 1975, 2nd edition copyright, 1950

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PIKE ROAD LADIES AUXILIARY WASH OUT CANCER



Pike Road Ladies Auxiliary takes the top spot three years in a row with over \$4000.00 raised for the Pike Road Relay for Life Event. When it comes to raising funds, the Pike Road Ladies Auxiliary has a great track record and a big part of their success is having a supportive community. As a team in the Relay for Life movement, the ladies auxiliary held a variety of fund raisers to meet their goal.

This year's team made up of fifteen members took top honor as top team fund raiser. The ladies used the theme "wash out cancer." The tent was decorated as a wash room adorned with a home-made washer and dryer. Relay team members included: Dana Grubbs, Ashia Bennett, Jessica Shaw, Amanda Davis, Jeanine Hughes, Amanda Moore, Barbara Ratliff, Debbie Green, Whitney McClelland, Elizabeth Lee, Gracie McIntosh, Hayley Cohen, Jennifer Hagans, Ellie Schaid and Brooke Hardy.

The Pike Road Relay for Life, which is a function of the American Cancer Society, was held on Friday, May 2 beginning at 6 p.m. at Founders Park in Park Road. It is an organized fund-raising walk to raise money for cancer patients. Teams of people camp out around a track and take turns walking around the track. Food, games and activities provide entertainment.



This month we are going to try to help you understand

one of the most intelligent animals in the Us. The raccoon.

The Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) is native to North and South America having a range that extends from Southern Canada to the northern reaches of Argentina. Raccoons have feral populations in Europe, especially Germany, where they escaped from fur farms and were set loose to be hunted for sport during the time of World War II. The raccoon gets its name from the Algonquin word arakun which means "one who scratches with his hands." Raccoons are plantigrade animals, walking on the entirety of their foot – heel to toe. Bears and humans do this as well.

Raccoons are probably the most recognized animal in the United States. Their distinctive black masks and ringed tails make them easy to identify. There are 6 species of raccoon, but there are not many traits that differentiate them. Raccoons are generally 2 ½ feet long from nose tip to tail tip. Their average weight range is 12 - 16 pounds, with raccoons in colder territories weighing considerably more. The largest raccoon on record weighed over 60 lbs. Raccoons can live for 15 years, but most only live to be 5 or 6 in captivity a raccoon can live up to 20 years old. The oldest recorded raccoon was 22 years. Adult raccoons don't have many predators, except man. Humans hunt them for fur and meat and many are run-over or killed off as pests.

Raccoons are amazingly adaptable and have probably benefited more from the presence of humans than not. Although they prefer wooded territory close to water, raccoons have no problem surviving in urban environments and as human populations have spread into less hospitable territories, raccoon populations have spread with them. Raccoons nest in tree hollows or empty



"The Kritter Korner" THE RACCOON

underground dens but are equally at home in abandoned cars, sewers or your chimney. They are generalists, rapidly adapting to ever changing environments and food sources.

Raccoons are highly intelligent and have a manual dexterity that comes close to that of apes. Their long delicate fingers easily open clam shells, trash cans and doors. They are true omnivores and are opportunistic in their diet. They will eat fruit, insects, berries, nuts, eggs, small rodents, grapes, corn, crabs, crayfish and anything edible you may have left in the backyard. It was once thought that raccoons washed their food. They do not. Raccoons have a highly sensitive sense of touch which water helps to enhance. Even when water is unavailable, raccoons will use the same motions while they manipulate their food or objects they are interested in. This tactile experience gives the raccoon a better sense of what it will be eating. It is as if they "see" with their hands.

Raccoon kits (usually 3 – 6 of them) are born 2 months after mating. They are weaned by 8 weeks, and soon after will go on foraging trips with their mother. She will teach them how to climb, swim and find food. This is the only time you will typically see groups of raccoons together. Be cautious about approaching them. Females will be extremely aggressive and ferocious if they feel their young are threatened. A mother raccoon is like a Grizzly bear with cubs. Many raccoon kits will "winter over" with their mothers and not leave until spring.

Raccoons do not hibernate they go through a period of decreased activity in the winter which is referred to as a daily Torpor, but they will feed heavily

in the fall, storing extra fat so they can stay in their burrows through the worst parts of winter.

Raccoons are generally nocturnal, but are seen more frequently during the day foraging for food, mother raccoons are seen a lot during the day with her babies. These is called a Nursery, Should you find a baby raccoon secure it right where it is for about an hour, then return and see if its still there, normally mother raccoons will return and get their baby they are extremely maternal. Should you come back and the baby is still there locate a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and let them take care of the animals. They are trained to care for wildlife

The raccoon's scientific name, *Procyon lotor*, means "washer dog" although it is a closer relative to the bear family and the Ringtail Lemurs and Coatimundis. Population densities of raccoons in urban areas are 20 times higher than for raccoons in rural environments.

Raccoons have a large array of vocalizations. They purr, whistle, growl, hiss, scream and even whinny.

Raccoons have been kept as pets (President Coolidge and his wife had one named Rebecca), and while young, seem happy to be in human company. As they mature, especially during mating season, they can become increasingly destructive and aggressive.

A raccoon's hands are so nimble they can unlace a shoe, unlatch a cage and deftly retrieve small coins from pockets, if they watch you assemble something they can disassemble it backwards.

Raccoons are excellent climbers; they can climb head upwards, down wards side ways. A raccoon can do 360 degrees. An avid climber.

Raccoons are called Boars and Sows. Their babies are called "Kits".

A raccoon can remember a task it was taught 3 years after.





John Sophocleus

THINK

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

ANOTHER DEFINING ISSUE IN ALABAMA'S POLITICAL MINEFIELD...

I remain a steadfast advocate of ABOLISHING the waste of our taxpayer dollars on all primary elections and the further waste from any absurd run-offs which may follow. Time for parties to pay for their OWN primaries instead of using them as yet another money mill for the political duopoly reaffirmed by this corrupt political process every election cycle; obviously this will not change under our current politburo result. With all the discussion of campaign finance reform (oft used for incumbency protection), revised redistricting rules, term limits, etc. the political environment can not become very competitive and improve until restrictive ballot access laws are removed. I've long awaited a Secretary of State aspirant with the courage and wisdom to champion rules where EVERY candidate shall pay the marginal cost of being placed on general election ballots (regardless of party affiliation, if any) to defray expenses for providing the republican form of government (guaranteed in Art. 4, Sec. 4) as well as completely release taxpayers from funding all Party primaries and runoffs.

Nonetheless as the June 3rd primary approaches, it seems another defining moment is coming to fore much like the Amendment One \$1.2 billion tax increase advanced by the Riley administration - defeated 2 to 1 by the sage voters of our State. Imagine how much worse off the State would be today with yet another billion extracted from productive (esp. struggling small businesses responsible for most of our job creation) members of our economy. Many still recall "Big Government Bob's" Amendment One tax explosion attempt; evoking memories of how our House Speaker and his minions operate more than a decade later. Voters overwhelming shut down of Amendment One in 2003 prompted the current use of special elections, attempted unauthorized rewrites, etc. to circumvent the electorate and our State constitution.

So what could be looming on the horizon to conjure memories of the Hubbard/Riley full court press attempt to take yet another \$1.2 billion so many years ago? -- imposing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) upon our State. A recent Gallup poll on the initiative found over one third of parent's were unaware of 'Common Core' even with it getting national press when Indiana dropped the standards citing budget concerns. The National Educators Association criticism of CCSS also got noticed by national news outlets, further fueling complaints of insufficient input from parents and educators, highlighting suspicion of purposefully trying to keep a large, sweeping issue out of view. Sarah Perry of the Christian Post further quoted the Gallup poll, "fewer than four in 10 parents (38 percent) appear to be knowledgeable about the standards, saying they have heard either a great deal or a fair amount about them. Nearly as many - 31 percent - have heard nothing, while another 30 percent have heard only a little" to support the notion of poor canvassing of stakeholders.

Little surprise CCSS is the next step from Republocrat Nixon's unauthorized federal Dept. of Education to W's 'No Child Left Behind' (a.k.a. no special interest left behind) for Obama to take the next step on the Soviet path we've 'progressed' into these past several score. The usual query applies: if these are such a great set of curricula or standards, why must they be mandated? Furthermore, when something claims bi-partisan support, be VERY wary as it usually means the brokered theft is all the larger and wider. Let's get the federal government OUT of education to focus on the few things the central government is actually authorised to address.

Ms. Perry wrote the reason for the mix of subterfuge and force is, "local school districts desperate for an infusion of much-needed federal 'Race to the Top' funding. The official standards website claims the process was transparent and state-led. Neither claim is accurate. Instead, the standards were created by private trade associations, the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), neither of which has policy-making authority from any legislative body, and both of which are privately incorporated and funded. It is not surprising then, that Dr. Sandra Stotsky, creator of the now-defunct Massachusetts K-12 state standards, professor of education reform at the University of Arkansas, and a member of Common Core's Validation Committee, has written that "a gigantic fraud has been perpetrated on this country, in particular on parents in this country, by those developing, promoting, or endorsing Common Core's standards."

In short, this is more 'Romneycare' out of Massachusetts as a 'template' to further destroy education now that Republocrat healthcare has been imposed with Messrs. Obama and Roberts help. By now, one would think it'd be increasingly clear this Soviet model is a template for failure, esp. with the observed ORomneycare result. The federal government can't even accomplish healthcare for our Veterans, something actually authorised to DC. Taking on even more liabilities for national healthcare (completing the big government Nixonian vision) is destined to fail if history is any guide.

Some (although barely reported) refused to endorse CCSS standards including Dr. James Milgram, Professor emeritus of mathematics at Stanford University; the ONLY mathematician on the validation committee. Names of the 29 drafters in the 'Standards Development Work Group,' were finally provided when enough parents, concerned with the dearth of transparency in the CCSS process pressed the issue to find only one teacher of English. David Coleman and Susan Pimental, the leading English Language Arts drafters, are not widely known names in this field. Ms. Perry's Christian Post Op Ed also noted Drs. Stotsky and Milgram refused to endorse the Standards, sworn to secrecy about the process of the standards' development and the content. The more Perry looked into CCSS, the more questions she offered, closing with the

following queries: Why was there so much secrecy surrounding the development of Common Core Standards? Why the rabid commitment to confidentiality in the creation of transformational educational standards, those that are guiding and instructing students in 44 states? Why no minutes of Work Group meetings? Why no state legislative debates?

I find myself reminded of another Nixon Republocrat gem - the Metric Conversion Act of 1975. Freedom of choice to use English or Metric in education, production, patents, etc. was too much for our 'Moscow on the Potomac' to bear. There were simply too many campaign donors to cash in on wanting to steal from small businesses, consumers, students and taxpayers by mandating use of metric. The usual public interest rhetoric was in full court press - i.e., "easier for students" and "standardization" poppycock. The private interest reality was the National Bureau of Standards wanted their budget increased, publishers wanted to sell mandated new editions, teachers wanted the funding for education programs to facilitate the change, sign makers selling more aluminum blanks with expensive reflective decals and the biggest hog at the trough, toolmakers requiring most technicians to keep TWO sets of tools. Four decades later we know it was just another scam. Students clearly do not think it any 'easier' as they still default to English measurements and standardization is NOT enforced because demand for English tools would have disappeared by now and the toolmakers were the biggest special interest paying the DC politburo for this wealth transfer in their favor.

This is what's being fought here with CCSS in Alabama. The usual suspects want to extract even more from our failing education systems, more interested in wealth transfers (and perhaps govt. subsidized football) than preparing our children to become independent thinkers and problem solvers. Tea Party types (think the same brave twelve who served the Quo Warranto to stop Sen. Marsh's unauthorized constitutional rewrite scheme) blocked \$100 million lined up for favorable contracts to redistribute wealth from Alabama taxpayers this session. Gov. Bentley may be turning his back on the AEA, BCA, et al parasites and return to caring about citizens (young and old) as well as the taxpayers in our State after recently changing course on Common Core, but I'm not convinced. The outcome of this primary can make a difference if successful in removing some key pro-govt. thugs in power who will not allow issues of this sort be decided on a general election ballot, knowing they'll not pass nor allow I & R (<http://frankdillman.com/political/I&R/History-of-I&R-let-bamavote.pdf>) to remove the harmful laws imposed upon us or recall corrupt elected officials.

Does Alabama really want to keep reelecting big govt. Republocrats of this deleterious spirit? The most insidious ones must be removed in the primaries since they have little/no competition in the general election. Much effort has been put into recruiting and getting these few viable small govt. conservative alternative candidates on primary ballots to break up the stranglehold this duopoly has on our State. In the months to come we'll likely see the teachers unions come out against Common Core, not because they care about students, it is a simple substitution effect. They do not want to see the theft from taxpayers they're accustomed to receiving being redistributed to crony contractors/vendors who've paid the political machine for this transfer in their favor.

I suspect my next column will write itself as the primary results are known and you'll hear mainstream extremists press and pundits claim the TEA Party/Liberty movement is dead! It is clear the big govt. thugs have done well talking a good game to once again fool primary voters into having the usual big govt. Donkey poop and Elephant poop to complain about allowed on the November general election ballot so there will be little change in DC and Montgomery. Alabama's restrictive ballot access laws (supported by incompetent jurist Myron Thompson who has shown great disregard for voter civil rights in Alabama) make it almost impossible to have non-duopoly candidates to elect. Looks like I'll again be using a lot of ink writing in candidates in November as I refuse to waste my vote on big govt. Republocrat extremists who continue to 'progress' us into the mess we suffer. Just as I'm proud to say I didn't vote for any of thugs who pressed for the Amendment One tax explosion; I will make the same claim about the Common Core boondoggle. The dollar amount may be smaller in comparison, but the long term harm promises to be much more deleterious to our posterity.

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**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

SOUTHERN GARDENING

JUNE POTPOURRI - by Peggy Givhan

As I was busy hoeing out the pink and white buttercups or *Oenothera*, which proliferates like mice, someone tapped me on the back and wanted to dig out the rest to replant in their garden. The first question I asked, was why? They responded that it is so delicate and beautiful appearing so easy to grow.

They wanted to relocate it before it turned to seed so they would have more next year. And I said, "it is ok with me, just know that they can get away from you, quickly". Which brought up the saying, one man's weed is another man's flower. We all have some prejudices on flower preferences, such as, I have a friend who hates petunias, and another lantana. Beats me as to why, so I searched my feelings about flowers, and came up with a slight loathing for flowers that do not drop their dead heads, which means constant dead heading. So after soul searching, I can understand these prejudices.

I have a back area of a bed at the farm that just does not get enough water after the taller plants get up. I do not want to pay to change out the sprinkler heads, so decided I may just find a way to have both situations and not cost me an arm and a leg. I will call these tough plants which are drought resistance, well with some water, and are acceptable. They have to measure up to some criteria such as summer blooming, sun loving or five hours of sunlight per day, relatively pest free, and reliably good bloomers. My list includes:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Blue Salvia</i> | 6. <i>Black-eyed Susans</i> |
| 2. <i>Ageratum</i> | 7. <i>Globe Amaranth (gompfhrena)</i> |
| 3. <i>Dusty Miller</i> | 8. <i>Portulaca</i> |
| 4. <i>Cosmos</i> | 9. <i>Cornflower</i> |
| 5. <i>Artemisia</i> | 10. <i>Queen Anne's Lace</i> |

Some of these plants can be purchased, and other will have to sown into the garden right away.

I found an old, old out of print garden book I had purchased in London 20 years ago. In the front of the book, it detailed some flowers to grow in the garden for an outdoor wedding. At the end of the chapter, I noted this ditty. "Black-eyed Susan married Sweet William after he Aster. His rival had been, Ragged Robin, but the groom's Tulips sealed the engagement. Their Four O'clock wedding was announced by the Bells of Ireland and Bluebells. The bride was given away by Poppy and Jack in the Pulpit officiated. Let not the Passionflower love affair, made under the Star of Bethlehem, turn into Touch-Me-Not."

PLANT OF THE MONTH

MONDO GRASS (*Orphiopogon japonicas*)--If this is not a signature plant of the South, along with the Cast Iron Plant, nothing else is. Mondo has so many uses in the garden that is hard to name them all. One use is as a border grass, lining beds, pathways and curbing which is my least favorite of its uses. It is a wonderful ground cover on steep banks, under Magnolias, Oak trees, and other hard to grow spots. Once established, it is drought tolerant, spreads easily, and is virtually pest free. Mondo



will grow just about anywhere from full sun to dense shade. There are many interesting kinds of Mondo such as variegated and a giant type that grows to nearly two feet. Once it is established there is no worry about it dying off as it can last a half century. If you are looking for the perfect plant to grow between stepping stones, try *Orphiopogon planiscapus 'Nanus'*, which has a tightly tufted structure. Another great feature of Mondo is that it is evergreen. Mondo can also be a pass along plant for neighbors and friends. Dig up some clumps along the edges and it fills right in. All plants have some type of bloom, and mondo has very inconspicuous spikes of pink flowers close to the ground hidden in its foliage. Birds like to feed on its bluish metallic berries held on short spikes.

GOOD GARDENING.

FINAL DAY LILLY SALE *Mimi's Garden*

2014 Annual & Closing Sale

Saturday, June 7, 2014

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

at the home of Margaret Boyd

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Kyle McKinney

By **Kyle D. McKinney**
Alabama Public Affairs Specialist
Social Security Administration
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Suite 100
kyle.mckinney@ssa.gov

If you're crazy about juggling, there's a holiday just for you: Juggling Day on June 17. The International Juggling Association created this holiday in 1947, earmarking a day for everyone from juggling

junkies to inexperienced novices to try their hand at juggling.

These days, with busy schedules and constant multi-tasking, it seems the most common kind of juggling for people is managing the multiple chores and obligations of everyday life. That's why Social Security created a suite of online services that makes doing business with us a snap.

The best way to juggle a multitude of Social Security tasks online is by creating a personal my Social Security account. It's easy to register for your personalized online account, and, once you do, you can complete a number of tasks. Check it out at: www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Your account gives you immediate access to your personal Social Security information. During your working years, you can use my Social Security to view your Social Security Statement to check your earnings record and see estimates of the future retirement, disability, and survivor benefits you and your family may receive. Are you already receiving benefits? You can use your online account to

SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE SERVICES MAKE JUGGLING EASY

immediately get your proof of benefits letter, change your address or phone number on our records, start or change your direct deposit, and check your benefit and payment information.

In addition to using my Social Security, there are a number of other things you can do online with Social Security. For example, you can use the Retirement Estimator to plug in different numbers, retirement dates, and scenarios to help you decide the best time for you to retire. It's available at:

www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

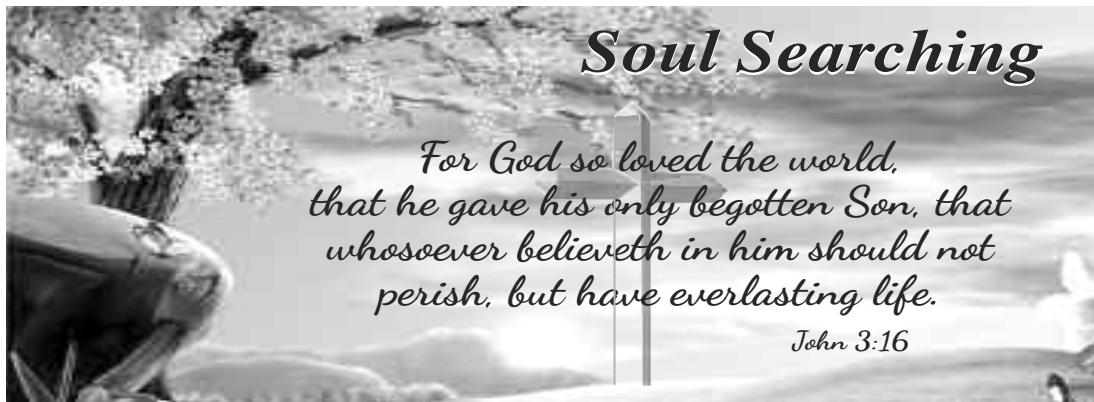
And when that time comes, you can apply for retirement benefits online at: www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/about.htm. It can take as little as 15 minutes from start to finish. In most cases, once you submit your electronic application, that's it, you're done—no papers to sign or documents to submit.

From getting the skinny on how to get a replacement Social Security card to an online application for disability benefits, the place to go for juggling all of the services and information offered by Social Security is our website:

www.socialsecurity.gov.

Regardless of how many Social Security tasks you may have, leave the juggling to the jugglers and take care of business the easy way at:

www.socialsecurity.gov.



Soul Searching

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

John 3:16

PASSING THE FAITH, WHOSE JOB IS THAT?

Recently the heading of a short article caught my eye. It read, "Discipleship, Whose Responsibility?" Certainly as a Pastor the subject of "Discipleship" grabbed my attention. After all, that's part of my job along with other ministers, isn't it? That was just the point in asking the question. Is it really the church's job or the home?

I am reminded of a supposed event for one preacher. He was new in the small church and was asked to substitute in a boy's class since the teacher was out one Sunday morning. He decided to see what they knew, so he asked who knocked down the walls of Jericho. All the boys denied having done it. He was appalled at their ignorance. So at the next Deacon's meeting he told them about the experience. "Not one of the boys in our church knows who knocked down the walls of Jericho," he lamented. The group was silent for awhile and finally one seasoned man spoke up. "Preacher, this seems to be bothering you a lot. But I've known those boys all their lives and they're good boys. If they said they didn't do it, I believe them. Let's just take some money out of our church repair fund and fix the wall and let it go at that."

We laugh, but in truth, Biblical ignorance is more widespread than we think. The obvious fact is no church nor any parent can do it all. Everyone is busy at home these days. Schedules of work, school, sports and lots of other things compete for parent's time with children. But we must consider that at best among church going families, the church has the child for thirty to forty hours a year in Sunday School. The parents in the home have many multiples of that time. If just a fraction is spent in talking about the Lord and encouraging faith, it can make a huge difference down the road for a child.

The transition in the nature of the family and faith in our own country has forced us to reexamine and reevaluate the basic tasks of the home and family. Many churches and families are becoming keenly aware that something big is happening in America. We face a rapidly changing culture with regard to the religious training of their children.

Believe it or not, the Israelites discovered the same problem of how to pass faith to the next generation thousands of years ago. The minority of the people of God lived surrounded by the pluralism of nations which might have swallowed up the children of Israel had they not taken their faith seriously and passed it on to their children and to their children's children.

The famous speech by Moses about this matter is found in Deuteronomy 6 in your Bible. Our Jewish friends know it as the Shema. It has been repeated in the homes of faithful Jews since the days of Moses. The Shema vowed commitment to God and accepted responsibility to pass on the precepts of faith to the next generation. This ancient text reminds us of the ongoing principle that the primary task for discipleship rests not with the priests in the Temple or Synagogue or today with ministers in Christian churches, but with the family.

Take note of these significant words, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy might, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shall talk of them, and thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house and on the gates." (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Consider with me both the implications of these words and the application in our lives today. The father would daily recite these words before his family clearly stating his faith in God. They lived in a place with many gods. His God was not simply one of many. In that day we would call them pagan gods and their worship was crude. However, we live in a day of many gods also. They don't require animal sacrifices and strange religious practices as much as expect the sacrifice of our time and money and give in exchange entertainment but not peace, excitement but no hope. Some men and women have made a god of their jobs and have no time or emotional energy for each other or their children. While there is nothing wrong with relaxation and recreation or even a good job, they can easily become gods of this world taking the place of real worship of a living God with whom we can have a personal relationship.

Furthermore, the Shema states not only the foundations of faith for the parents, but their responsibility to pass it on to their children. If their children married foreigners and adopted an alien religion, the Hebrew faith would disappear. The same thing could be said of the Christian faith today. If the church and the family are not working together, the church has little chance of giving a sure foundation for a life which will reflect faith in Christ. Children usually reflect the values of parents more than anyone or anything else in their lives. Our children know exactly how we spend our money, what we do with our spare time, what words we use when we are excited or angry and what we think of the Lord.

The Shema also provides for an external witness. Verses 8-9 show us that the Israelites had visual reminders everywhere about God. They were on their hands, their foreheads, on their doors and on their gates: "Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates." Many Jews took this literally by putting passages

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL
Eastern Hills
Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama



of Scripture into little boxes called phylacteries and attaching them to their hands and foreheads. They would also put mezuzahs containing this passage on the doors of their homes. The idea is that God's Word is to be so central to your family's life that your kids think about it every time they turn around. The principle here is this: whatever we need to do to remind us of God, we should do it. Proverbs 3:3 says, "Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."

While it's ok to put up literal reminders, our "hands" represent our actions, our "foreheads" represent our thoughts and attitudes, our "door frames" symbolize our homes and the "gates" refer to social life outside of our homes. Remember that Jesus was not impressed with the Pharisees who took this passage literally but didn't apply it their lives in Matthew 23:5: "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long." The great need of our day is to have our homes so full of the Word of God that our children can't help but see and hear it wherever they go and whatever they do. The bottom line is this, we are to make God real to our kids.

Let me summarize what I have been trying to say in this article with these words. I am convinced that Christian parenting must be based on simple, yet profound principles of faith, family and the church. Every successful family passing their faith to their children reflects these values. Here they are:

- * *Nothing is more important than someone's relationship with God.*
- * *No one has more potential to influence a child's relationship with God than a parent.*
- * *No one has more potential to influence the parent than the church.*
- * *The church's potential to influence a child dramatically increases when it partners with a parent.*
- * *The parent's potential to influence a child dramatically increases when that parent partners with the church.*

Just imagine what would happen in our nation if every family adopted these principles. Of course not all will do so. But then again, you and I are not responsible for what everyone else does, just what we do. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or just someone who loves and cares about children, you can do something to help pass our faith to those who will come after us. If we fail, there won't be anyone to give it to the next after them!

Because later this month we celebrate Father's Day and so much of successful faith sharing needs to come from Godly fathers, let me share the following story.

When this boy was small a dad overheard he and his two buddies talking in the backyard one day. One boy said proudly, "My dad knows the mayor of our town!" The second boy said, "That's nothing. My dad knows the governor of our state!" Wondering what was coming next, this dad heard his son say, "That's nothing. My dad knows God!" The father slipped away after hearing this, and with tears flowing down his cheeks dropped to his knees and prayed earnestly and gratefully, "O God, I pray that my boy will always be able to say, 'My dad knows God.'"

It is my prayer that every father knows God and that his faith will be so transparent that his children will never have to wonder what dad believes.

Fairview United Methodist Church

5500 Old Selma Road
Montgomery, Al. 36108
334-263-7258

Fairview UMC announces a yard sale/bake sale, June 7th, from 6:00am till we run out of treasures/food or 12:00 noon, whichever comes first. All proceeds will go to support our Missions Program, specifically our Mission to India. Come one Come all. Find that treasure you have wanted pick up a baked good for dessert.

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Dr. John Bitter
Editor-Senior Section

Gazette Seniors...

COMING HOME ~ AGAIN

**YOU MAY BE
OVER THE HILL**
...if you no longer keep
a list of places that are
"open all night."

which is that we will meet in the old House Chamber of the Alabama State Capitol building from October 20 through 23. It served as the State's fifth capitol, having been so designated in 1846; and was also the first capitol of the Confederacy for a short time, and it was at its steps that the historic Selma to Montgomery March culminated on March 25, 1965.

The structure was built on land specifically set aside for that purpose by one of Montgomery's founders, Andrew Dexter, where, prior to its construction, goats had grazed; ergo, its nickname: Goat Hill.

The State's first legislative session there was in 1851, and 150 years later, Gov. John Patterson had hoisted the Confederate banner from its dome, where it remained until 1993.

The Alabama Legislature met there continuously until 1985, when it moved to its present location in the Alabama State House.

In the process of the relocation, someone forgot to install the lettering: "Alabama State House" on the exterior of the building, causing many first-time visitors a good degree of confusion.

This year's session of the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature will be significant to your correspondent, and some others, for a number of reasons, not the least of



It was here that your humble scribe first met two distinguished gentlemen, for whom he held great respect and admiration. One was the first executive director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the late Dr. Clanton W. Williams; and the first executive director of the Alabama Ethics Commission, Melvin Cooper, who is now among his colleagues on the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature. We would spend many enjoyable hours discussing their respective challenges, which your writer passed off, half in jest, as losing battles.

Getting back to the Capitol, its architectural style is basically Greek Revival, with some Beaux Arts additions.

It's a good climb up to the capitol itself, and once you're in there and if you have any breath left, there's a beautiful cantilevered stairway that spirals up to the third floor, which was built by a freed slave, who served as a member of the House of Representatives during the Reconstruction Era.

Also, one of the highlights on the ground floor of the rotunda is a sculpture of former Gov. Lurleen B. Wallace, Alabama's first woman governor.

In the right wing of the Capitol, the House of Representatives met, and this is where the ASHL will meet during its October session.

The front steps up to the Capitol are made of Alabama marble, and at the front portico is set in the marble floor a six-pointed brass star where Jefferson Davis stood on February 18, 1861, to be sworn in as the President of the Confederate States of America.

The October meeting of the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature should be a memorable occasion, and for your humble scribe, and for ASHL Speaker Cooper; it will be like coming home. But, as Thomas Wolf had posthumously published in 1940: You can't go home again.



IMPORTANT INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM RESUMES IN JUNE

The "Who's Lookin' Out for You" series of informational program for seniors is gearing up with a vengeance at its new location at Cara Vita Village at the end of Fieldcrest Drive.

June 10th, at 10 a.m. - Alabama's Senior Services Commissioner, Neal G. Morrison, will launch the effort. He'll be talking about the myriad of services his department stands ready to furnish seniors, and will most likely share some handouts.

June 17th, at 10 a.m. - The personable patient advocate at Jackson Hospital, J. Mark Springer, will tell participants what they need to know and what to bring with them when they're hospitalized. He's a personable and interesting person; you won't want to miss his visit.

June 24th - Assistant State Attorney General Monica Sheeler will be on hand to talk about scams and pitfalls that await seniors, and how they may best protect themselves. This is another hour that will be well worth one's while.

The programs are not limited only to residents, rather all seniors are welcome to come and learn more about who's looking out for their best interests. *That's each Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Cara Vita Village, 4000 Fieldcrest Drive.* You can't miss it.

And looking ahead; because elder abuse has become such a national blight, and since the Central Alabama Aging Consortium has been a leader in the passage of elder abuse legislation, its only fitting that representatives of that agency host an informational program for all seniors in the area, also to be held at Cara Vita in July; details to follow.

The program will focus on the new Elder Abuse Protection Tool Kit that provides a cornucopia of useful material for seniors and contains a listing of resources that are available to them, as well as questions they should ask of people who confront them with "golden opportunities." Red Flags they should be watchful for are discussed, as well as a host of other golden nuggets about which every senior should know.

Agency Consortium representatives, as well as members of the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature spent a good part of the last five years working to see the enactment of two pieces of legislation that forthrightly address the growing elder abuse problem, and in putting together this tool kit which serves as a guide for seniors in their efforts to protect themselves from increasing number and variety of predators that are lurking in the shadows to separate them from whatever assets they may possess.

No senior citizens should miss this opportunity to avail themselves of information that will protect them from the perils that threaten them in their "golden years."

Mark your calendar and make preparations on June 10, to come to Cara Vita Village for the launching there of "Who's Lookin' Out for You?" You can't afford to miss it.

JUNE CALENDAR

Here it is, June already, and the nation is still intact. Spring ends and summer begins this month. June has three gems: pearl, alexandrite, and the moonstone. And rose is this month's flower.

In the U.S. we celebrate Flag Day on the 14th, two days after the folks in the Philippines celebrated their independence. The Swedes celebrated their Flag Day on the 6th, and in Finland it will be celebrated on the Saturday closest to the 24th, which will have been the 21st.

Kentucky became our 15th state on June 1, 1792 and Tennessee became the 16th on June 1, 1796.

Some notables who were born in June are:

Nathan Hale	June 6, 1755	George W. Goethals	June 29, 1858
Cole Porter	June 9, 1893	<i>(the builder of the Panama Canal)</i>	
George Bush	June 12, 1924	William James Mayo	June 29, 1861
Gen. Infield Scott	June 13, 1786	<i>(American Surgeon)</i>	
Daniel Carter Beard	June 21, 1850	YMCA was first organized	
<i>(founder of the Boy Scouts of America)</i>		in London on	June 6, 1844.
E. I. Du Pont	June 24, 1771	The Democratic Party headquarters	
Pearl S. Buck (novelist)	June 26, 1892	in the Watergate Tower was	
Helen Keller	June 27, 1880	burglarized	June 17, 1972.

James Whitcomb Riley wrote:

*Then let us, one and all, be contented with our lot;
The June is here this morning, and the sun is shining hot;
Oh! let us fill our hearts up with the glory of the day,
And banish ev'ry doubt and care and sorrow far away.*

GLOSSARY OF OBAMACARE TERMS

A Rand Corp. survey of adults who gained health insurance between last September and mid-March estimates a net gain of 9.3 million newly insured persons. With this great surge in people in this country who will be covered by the Obamacare program's gaggle of federal officials; in preparation for the surge, a group of top civil service executives put together a glossary of pertinent medical terms for use by federal employees who will be newly hired to administer the program. The following are a few examples of definitions submitted by the federal bureaucrats:

TERM	DEFINITION
Artery	The academic study of painting and the fine arts
Bacteria	The rear entrance of a cafeteria
Barium	What doctors do with a patient who has expired
Bowels	Letters of the alphabet such as a, e, i, o, and u
Caesarean Section	A neighborhood in Rome
Cat Scan	Searching for a lost kitty
Cauterize	Making eye contact with a woman
Colic	a sheep dog

More new terms next month.

Patricia Killough



HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

June Birthdays



- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Ruby Henley | Julie Echols |
| 2 Christian Grant | Kelly Kilgore |
| Amber Holbrook | Ruth Preble (85th) |
| Pat Moseley | 15 Angie Ashurst |
| Mike Moseley | Mary G. Thaggard |
| Barbara White | Caty Jane Turnipseed |
| 3 Eleanor Haynie | 16 Saralu Belkofer |
| Margie Johnson | Robert Gardner |
| Kade Wallace | David Morrow |
| 5 Braden Crowe | Terri Taylor |
| Michelle Crowe | Carson Tucker |
| Lane Carter Johnson | Garrett Tucker |
| Maggie Mills | Anna Shay Wasden |
| Johnny Rush | 17 Susan McGuire |
| 6 John Michael Higgins | 18 Mary Jane Flurry |
| William Grant | Marion Grant |
| June Sellers | Jonathan Lowe |
| 7 Jeannie Handey | Frieda McDevitt (92nd) |
| Frank Litchfield | 19 David Vinson |
| James Stanley | 20 Linda Reynolds |
| 8 Georgie Harris | Michael Taylor |
| 9 Faye Boyd | 21 Catherine Bracknell (91st) |
| Laura Smith | Mary Raley |
| 10 Juanita Beckman | 22 Nita Tidwell (91st) |
| Seth Lumley | 23 Thomas Berrey |
| Justin Manning | 24 Alice Ivey |
| Melinda Newell | 25 Janet Treat |
| Sylvia Phillips | 27 John Donahey |
| 11 David Livingston | 28 Paul Hanson |
| Ashley Owens | Tricia Norris |
| 12 Gary Crowe | 29 Ansley Brown |
| Charlotte Gaston | Lauren Moffitt |
| Beverly Ming | Dot Rebren |
| Mackenzie Richardson (6th) | 30 Kathy Blount |
| Madilyn Sellers (6th) | Wyatt Echols |
| 13 Rachel Miller | Jonathan Killough |
| 14 Kerry Brown | |



Daniel Selvage

celebrated his 6th birthday on May 21, with a party at his school, Coosada Elementary, and then at his god mother's home with family and friends.



Daniel and his dad Jason

Luke 18:16

But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.



In Memory of David Grant Selvage

April 30, 2014 - May 17, 2014

Selvage, David "Grant", born April 30, 2014, passed away in his mother's arms May 17, 2014. He is survived by his parents, Jason and Stephanie Selvage; brother, Daniel Selvage; grandparents, John and Patricia Killough, Greg and Ruth Selvage; special godmother, Ethleen Bazzell; and great grandmother, Sara Boyd. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and close friends. Grant was predeceased by his paternal great grand-

parents, Newman & Kate Selvage and Ilene Rains; maternal great grandparents, Tommy Killough & Estelle Trotter and David Boyd. He was also predeceased by his uncle Charles Bazzell and his great, great grandparents. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the nurses and doctors at Baptist East, Baptist South, and Children's Hospital NICU-6th floor for the exceptional care given to Grant during his birth, illness, and passing. We appreciate the outpouring of love and prayers given to our family during this time. We praise God for giving us the opportunity to be Grant's parents for a short time, and are comforted in knowing he's in Jesus' arms until we meet again. A memorial service will be held at Leak Memory Chapel, Tuesday, May 20th at 4:00pm, with visitation to follow after the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to HALO, P.O. Box 582 Wetumpka, AL 36092, Children's Hospital, NICU, Birmingham, AL., the Footprints Ministry, P.O. Box 240133, Montgomery, AL 36124 or to your favorite charity or church in Grant's memory. On line condolences may be made at www.LEAK-MC.com.

Sympathy to the families of...

- Turner, W. C. "Curly" (64)died April 21, 2014
 Johnson, Mary Cunningham (91)died April 22, 2014
 Sellers, June Hardy (95)died April 24, 2014
 Parkhurst Hannah Elizabeth (18).....died April 26, 2014
 Waller, Richard M. (78).....died April 28, 2014
 Gilmore, Ernest Calvin (87)died April 29, 2014
 Bailey, George F., Jr. (85)died April 30, 2014
 Hayes, Gay Nelle (87).....died May 5, 2014
 Ferrall, Rosie Lee Bush (78)died May 5, 2014
 Niesen, Ruth Jarrett (95).....died May 5, 2014
 Lumpkin, Norman (75).....died May 6, 2014
 Brassell, James Thomas "Tom" (92).....died May 12, 2014
 Jordan, Willie Ballard (76)died May 15, 2014
 Selvage, Baby David Grant (17 days)died May 17, 2014
 Godwin, Margaret Lambert (87)died May 18, 2014
 Blackmon, Arlen Jackie (68).....died May 19, 2014
 Edge, Dawn (40)died May 24, 2014
 Edwards, Jane Cantey (74).....died May 24, 2014
 McGlamry, Virginia Rose Washburn (75).....died May 24, 2014

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Bill & Harlan Ratliff (58th) | 15 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Nester |
| 2 Glenn & Sue Borders | Felix & Janice Norman |
| Tony & Kate Smith | 17 Blake & Michelle Webb |
| 3 Joe & Amy Boyd | 18 Lere & Kim Evans |
| Tom & Vivian Ledbetter | Eddie & Rhonda Spivey |
| Rick & Ann Pascal | 21 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Cobb |
| 4 Claude & Joan Collier | Lowell Thomas & |
| 5 Frank & Linda Clayton | Julianne Hataway (56th) |
| Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ming | 22 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Crutchfield |
| 6 Shayne & Patrice Wasden | Ron & Jan Johnson |
| 7 Charlie & Sybil Foshee | 23 Harold & Susie Van Patten |
| 8 Ken & Karen Deavers | Mike & Mary Pat Sikes |
| Jim & Joy Fleming | Matt & Melanie Smith |
| 9 Slade & Skeeter Rhodes | Dan & Marcelle Thompson |
| 11 Jason & Hope Marsh | 24 Bill & Vangie Walmsley |
| George & Edna Shellman | 25 Mike & Brenda Moseley (54th) |
| Mr. & Mrs. Steve Young | 28 Vance & Ruth Cordle |
| 12 Bobby & Nicole Burton | 29 Billy & Betty Gallops (46th) |
| Tommy & Jennifer Champion | 30 Gary & Linda Beaty |
| | George & Liz McCurdy (57th) |



Collier / Royal June 4, 1954



Joan and Claude 2014

A "Sock Hop" surprise party for Claude and Joan Collier's 60th wedding anniversary was held on Sunday, May 25th at Story Road Place in Ramer, AL. The party was given by their daughter, Sheila Ann Rosenbaum and her husband Bob, and their son Claudie Collier and his wife Sheila Marie. Also attending were grandsons and spouses Clinton and Erica Walker, Austin and Kate Walker and Will Collier. A great time of celebration was had by all.

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"Take a Stand"

Have you ever noticed when you step out to do something for God the enemy will send challenges and distractions to knock you off course? I sure have. How reassuring it is to know that God is working behind the scenes for you and for me.

Romans 8:31 says in part, "... If God be for us, who will be against us"

Isn't it amazing what God will do in your life when you face your challenges and hold on to the promises found in His Word? When you take a stand, you make a declaration of your faith in God and automatically a shield of protection is placed around you.

"Fear not; stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will work for you today." Exodus 14:13

So take a stand today! Stay the course the Lord has set for you. Take a stand in your prayer time, in your Bible-study time, in your actions... Take a stand and see God's awesomeness in every area of your life!

Many Blessings!



Vacation Bible School

**Snowdown Baptist Church
June 15th - 20th, 2014**

**Sunday thru Friday - 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Every night 5:30 meal.**

CLASS OF 1945 REUNION



The graduating Class of 1945 of the Montgomery County High School at Ramer, Alabama, met for the annual reunion at Red's Little Schoolhouse Restaurant on Saturday, May 3, 2014 for a fine time of fellowship and

delicious country cooking.

Charlie Miller, who served as the Class President for all the years in Senior High School, presided.

Time was spent reminiscing about life styles of homes and schools at the time of youth of the attendees.

In attendance were Charles & R. Lease Miller from Tucker GA, Margaret Tompkins Rogers & Fariior and Margaret Meriwether Tompkins from Montgomery, AL, Cecil & Sibyl Dorsey from Luverne, AL, Tommy & Blanche Champion from Lapine, AL, Floyd Glenn & Mary Glenn Hicks and Laurie Smilie Sanders from Ramer, AL.

Plans were made for another Class Reunion in May of 2015.

Recipe for: Sloppy Joes II

1 pound lean ground beef	1 teaspoon prepared yellow mustard
1/4 cup chopped onion	3/4 cup ketchup
1/4 cup chopped green bell pepper	3 teaspoons brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder	salt to taste
	ground black pepper to taste

1. In a medium skillet over medium heat, brown the ground beef, onion, and green pepper; drain off liquids.
2. Stir in the garlic powder, mustard, ketchup, and brown sugar; mix thoroughly. Reduce heat, and simmer for 30 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

"This is the recipe my mother used for sloppy joes and it always gets compliments!" Recipe by Tamara

Original recipe makes 6 servings

Allrecipes.com

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