



Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

www.steveflowers.us



Chancellor Finis St. John and the University of Alabama System

Our 1901 Alabama Constitution has been rightfully criticized as being archaic. However, it was simply a reflection of the times. The authors and crafters of our document were well educated gentry. Therefore they appreciated and realized the importance of having a prized capstone university.

The University of Alabama was founded in 1831 and had become one of the premier southern universities by the time of the Civil War. It was not by coincidence that one of the primary missions of the northern Union invasion of the South was to burn and raze the University of Alabama campus. They knew the importance of a state having an exemplary institution of higher learning.

Therefore, when the authors of our Constitution crafted their document, they chose to place the University of Alabama above politics and keep the institution in the auspices of high-minded individuals who would be above reproach and petty politics.

The Constitution created a self-appointing, perpetual Board of Trustees to guide and govern the university. This concept has played out magnificently throughout the years. The Board of Trustees has been made up of men and women over the past two centuries who have been leaders of our state. These board members have not only been the most distinguished, erudite people in Alabama, but also those known for their integrity and humility.

Thus it was a unique and yet brilliant decision to choose someone from the Board of Trustees to head the University of Alabama System. In July 2018, Finis E. St. John IV, who had served 17 years on the University System Board was named Chancellor.

He became the Chief Executive Officer of what would be comparable to a Fortune 500 company. The University of Alabama System is not only Alabama's largest higher education enterprise, it is Alabama's largest employer with over 45,000 employees and an economic impact of over \$10 billion per year.

The Alabama System is comprised of three dynamic institutions: The University of Alabama main campus in Tuscaloosa, University of Alabama at Huntsville and the University of Alabama at Birmingham which comprises our world renowned UAB Health System. UAB alone is by far Jefferson County's largest

employer and economic engine, it is indeed the State of Alabama's number one employer and economic ingredient.

It would have been an easy choice for the Board to choose to bring in an academician from an Ivy League school to head this prestigious institution. The choice of Finis St. John reflects the collective wisdom of this austere body. Why not select someone who has been an integral part of the governing and spearheading of the unparalleled growth of our state's crown jewel and most significant financial and educational and research institution.

Finis St. John IV, better known by colleagues and older acquaintances as Fess, is widely respected. He knows Alabama, its history, and its attributes. His family settled in Alabama in 1838 and have been leaders in our state throughout the state's history.

Chancellor Finus "Fess" St. John was the most outstanding leader on campus during his four years at the University of Alabama in the 1970s. He graduated magna cum laude and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and ODK and graduated with honors.

After his undergraduate process at the Capstone, he was accepted and proceeded to the prestigious University of Virginia School of Law. He graduated at the top of his law school class in 1982 and clerked for a federal judge for a while before coming home to Cullman to join his family law firm.

The St. John law firm in Cullman, that Fess joined 36 years ago, is one of Alabama's oldest law firms. The St. John family has a long and distinguished history of service. His father, grandfather and great grandfather served in the Alabama Legislature. His mother was the first female attorney in Cullman and his great great grandfather, who arrived in Cullman in 1838 and was soon elected to the Alabama General Assembly, was instrumental in creating our state's public education system.

Chancellor St. John understands and knows the history and potential of our state in a very unique way. This, coupled with his brilliant intellect, makes him ideal. If anyone was ever born to lead the current University of Alabama System, it is Finus "Fess" St. John, IV.



Ronald A. Holtsford

WILL YOU COMMENT ON THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION CLAUSE FOUND IN THE 1ST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND ANY RECENT CHANGES?



The First Amendment to the Constitution is a part of those first ten amendments also referred to as the Bill of Rights. The portion of the first amendment that relates to religion reads,

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Unfortunately there are not many writings that exist regarding the discussions on this amendment. It seems that the final language was a collection of suggested amendments.

Prior to the ratification of the Constitution there was a series of newspaper articles published under the name of Publius. These articles were published by 3-4 notable Federalists which supported a stronger central government and were attempting to influence its ratification. In opposition to the Constitution were the anti Federalists who published under other names. The anti Federalists believed the President may be like a monarch and that Federal powers of the judiciary, etc. would become too great. It was a compromise of the Federalists and the anti Federalists that the first ten amendments address the liberties of individuals.

Steven K. Green then an Associate Professor of Law published in Volume 38 of the Creighton Law Review, 2005, the article Federalism and the Establishment Clause: A Reassessment. Professor Green did an excellent review on the Federalist and anti- Federalist positions. He pointed out that before the Constitution there were some states that favored certain religious denominations or if they didn't they still might have religious tests for political candidates. He discussed various points of view including thoughts that the intent by various jurists was more for the

Federal government to stay out of state established denominations. Page 771, stated the following:

*James Madison expressed similar views on the lack of federal authority over religious matters, stating: "[t]here is not a shadow of right in the federal government to intermeddle with religion. Its least interference [with religion] could be a most flagrant usurpation."*5 7 While Madison could simply have been asserting a lack of federal power over national religious matters rather than a lack of authority over state religious laws, other federalists were more explicit in their remarks about the federalist limitations to the Constitution. James Iredell, later to become justice of the Supreme Court, replied to concerns that the federal religious test ban could be enforced on state governments:

They [Congress] certainly have no authority to interfere in the establishment of any religion whatsoever, and I am astonished that any gentleman should conceive they have. Is there any power given to Congress in matters of religion? Can they pass a single act to impair our religious liberties? If they could, it would be a just cause of alarm.

Had Congress undertaken to guarantee religious freedom, or any particular species of it, they would then have had a pretence

to interfere in a subject they have nothing to do with. Each state, so far as the clause in question does not interfere, must be left to the operation of its own principles. 58

Madison's statement was one of special interest in that he said that government should not have authority over religion. I suppose that the first suggestion of that was by a very learned Sunday school teacher of mine just a few weeks ago as he mentioned that in reference to the Establishment Clause. My Sunday School teacher has this quarter been going over the History of Christianity. It has been a great class and the teacher is very knowledgeable and at times a bit over our heads. I think of interest has been the growth of Christianity and its connection to the Catholic Church. While there have been times when the papacy has been given to members of certain aristocratic families or there have been multiple popes or a pope that was very young or a pope that fathered several children, located in multiple places or even involved in murder, it has navigated a bumpy road That is not a criticism at all of the papacy or Catholic Church but rather to point out the downfall of a religious institution when governments are involved. It was not until the 1930's when Mussolini allowed the Pope to have their own sovereign and neutral state. The Vatican almost had issues with occupying German soldiers during early World War II when harboring a few allied pilots that had been shot down.

I favor being a more strict Constitutionalist when it comes to Constitutional interpretation. Some jurists do not believe in trying to understand the original intent of the Framers and then there are others who believe the Constitution to be an ever-evolving and living document. I think if the anti Federalist of old were to read the opinions of today they would know that the Federalists had won, that states have lost some powers, that some individuals have gained appropriate rights and some have lost rights especially the unborn who don't necessarily have a right to life. While the right to worship is untouched the right to express public display of religion is restrained with religious symbols of Christmas and Hanukah necessarily displayed with mythical secular symbols so as not to offend the few.

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

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

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



ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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

MICHAEL WHO?

Before I get started, I would like to express my condolences to the Ed Jones family on his passing this past week. I got to meet him when I first started writing for the Gazette and he was always kind, encouraging and respectful to me. A true gentleman and I for one will miss reading his column.

Okay, for starters let me get this out in the open. I do not like the idea of Michael Bloomberg as POTUS. I know he is a billionaire and probably could not care less what I think and to be honest, I could care less that he could care less. When he came to Montgomery, I had a couple of friends meet him in a show of support. I wanted to go and heckle the heck out of him but figured I would get beat up and arrested by the oh so tolerant Left. The man has certainly made the most out of his businesses, certainly to be applauded, and based upon his audience seems to say the right things that people want to hear. That is of course until he goes of script, speaks his mind and then we can enjoy watching the train wreck developing.

I will be honest with you. I don't see how in the heck any female, Black, Hispanic or farmer could actually support him. I have taken the liberty of copying some quotes, words from his own mouth and put them below. To be honest, if any Republican issued similar filth, their career would be ended immediately; rightfully so. Heck, here you have clear access into the way he sees the world and yet people still want to defend him. When confronted with his own words, one of his answers was simply along the lines of, *"I don't think that way anymore."* The quotes in this Robservation come from:

- <https://newsone.com/3902452/michael-bloomberg-racist-quotes-through-years/>
- <https://reason.com/2020/02/11/bloombergs-awful-old-quotes-defending-unconstitutional-stop-and-frisk-are-coming-back-to-haunt-him/>
- <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/12/16/bloomberg-faces-backlash-derogatory-comments-women-booklet/>
- <https://lidblog.com/bloomberg-farmers/>
- <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2020/02/the-case-for-michael-bloomberg-democratic-primary-plutocracy.html>

RACIAL PROFILING - Yeah. As former mayor of New York City, he pretty much loved and approved of it. While speaking at the Aspen Institute in 2015, apparently believing all blacks look exactly alike, Bloomberg said, *"Ninety-five percent of murders — murderers and murder victims fit one M.O. You can just take a description, Xerox it, and pass it out to all the cops. They are male, minorities, 16-25. That's true in New York, that's true in virtually every city (inaudible). And that's where the real crime is. You've got to get the guns out of the hands of people that are getting killed."*

Wow, that is pretty bad. You know what happens when you have idiots thinking that all Blacks, all Whites, all women, all LGBT or all "Any-Ethnic-Group looks the same?" This is what happens. Last February, Eastern Illinois University student Jaylan Butler, traveling on the team bus and returning from a championship swim meet, was standing outside the bus when police rolled up on him, guns drawn and face planted him on the ground with one police officer putting the gun barrel against his forehead saying that if he moved he was going to blow his %\$#@& head off. I guess it didn't matter that he was dressed like all the other team members and the coach tried to tell the officers they had the wrong guy, it did not matter. He remained cuffed for a period of time and was eventually released. This is what happens when a "any Black-man-will-do" attitude prevails. <https://time.com/5785070/black-college-swimmer-lawsuit-police-illinois/> The ACLU actually reported that 90% of Stop and Frisk people of color were in fact innocent of any crime.

Bloomberg also defended the police for *"arresting kids for marijuana that are all minorities"* because we all know that only Blacks and Hispanics smoke pot. Hmmmm. Why do you think members of Congress and the Senate make sure they are exempt from random drug testing while the rest of us are not? Why is it a violation of their right to privacy but not ours? "Well, Rob. You fly jets and have the lives of a couple hundred people in your hands." Yeah, true but these lawmakers make decisions affecting 350 million Americans. I would love to see them get random drug tests. I bet you some of them would fail

miserably. But I digress.

To his credit, Bloomberg did apologize for his untenable position that has since been deemed unconstitutional. Yeah, his apology apparently only came after throwing his hat in the presidential ring, as brought out in an interview with Gayle King, so I am sure we can all be assured he really means it.

- *"Put the cops where the crime is, which means in minority neighborhoods. So one of the unintended consequences is, 'Oh my god, you're arresting kids for marijuana that are all minorities.' Yes, that's true. Why? Because we put all the cops in minority neighborhoods. Yes, that's true. Why do we do it? Because that's where all the crime is. And the way you get the guns out of the kids' hands is to throw them up against the walls and frisk them."*

WELL-SPOKEN - Bloomberg stated that Corey Booker, aka Spartacus, was "well-spoken." Oy! How could Bloomberg not know that this moniker is quite the racist line? My God, I have heard this a thousand times. "Gee Rob, you speak so well." Really? Holy Cow, what the heck year is this? That is exactly the kind of dufus comments I have put up with my entire adult life. Bloomberg should have known better. But wait, it is clear he simply doesn't care. Well-spoken? Get me outta here!

SEXIST - And you thought President Trumps locker-room talk was bad. In the 1990s, one female employee reported that when she told Bloomberg she was pregnant, he told her to *"Kill it."* *"He told me to 'kill it' in a serious monotone voice,"* the woman alleged in a lawsuit. *"I asked 'What? What did you just say?'"* He looked at me and repeated in a deliberate manner *'kill it.'"* Ouch!! Nice, huh? How about these choice words from a court filing? Bloomberg allegedly said, "I'd like to do that piece of meat," and "I would DO you in a second." He has consistently denied all allegations. In all, 17 women have taken some sort of legal action in 30 years with three cases specifically naming Bloomberg and his role in the toxic corporate culture. None of the cases ever made it to trial with four dismissed, five settled out of court and three still active. Another beauty:

- *"If women wanted to be appreciated for their brains, they'd go to the library instead of to Bloomingdales."* And, *"I know for a fact that any self-respecting woman who walks past a construction site doesn't get a whistle will turn around and walk past again and again until she does get one."* Really?

FARMERS - Yeah, he pretty much disrespected our farmers. His campaign tried to clean up his mistake by saying he was talking about farmers centuries ago but once he started comparing modern technological industry, he pulled modern day farmers, some pretty smart, tech savvy, ultra-adaptive and awesome people by the way, into his myopic discussion. More gray matter? He should be ashamed; if he has any.

- I could teach anybody, even people in this room so no offense intended, to be a farmer. It's a process. You dig a hole, you put a seed in, you put dirt on top, add water, up comes the corn. You could learn that ... Then you have 300 years of the industrial society. You put the piece of metal on the lathe, you turn the crank in the direction of the arrow and you can have a job. And we created a lot of jobs. At one point, 98% of the world worked in agriculture; today it's 2% in the United States. Now comes the information economy, and the information economy is fundamentally different because it's built around replacing people with technology ... You have to have a lot more gray matter. In other words, Bloomberg honestly believes that tech folks are smart, which they are, but farmers are inherently stupid or unable to cope with modern technology.

To be totally honest, although I believe him to be a racist, sexist and condescending elitist, I can say that I agree with him on quite a few of his political stances. Many of which are quite conservative. Take a look at https://www.ontheissues.org/Mike_Bloomberg.htm for his stances on all major issues. That being said, a couple of his stances are a "No way in heck I would ever vote for this guy."

Enough said for now. Thus far he has insulted minorities, women and farmers and I have not even mentioned anything yet about the NRA and the 2nd Amendment yet and his apparent approval of the repulsive banking practice called "red lining." Enjoy looking that one up.

 Home Delivery 334-356-6700 20 years of printing the People's Paper with God, Family & Country taking front and center. Renowned writers bring the latest commentary on federal, state and local news. Never miss an issue with home delivery! Cost covers S&H along with full online access to all the issues at www.alabamagazette.com .  The Alabama Gazette is free and can be picked up at locations around the River Region.	THE ALABAMA GAZETTE HOME DELIVERY FORM Send My S&H/Home Delivery to: Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> My check for \$35 for ONE 12-Month S&H/Home Delivery is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> My check for \$70 for TWO 12-Month S&H/Home Deliveries is enclosed. Complete this form and return to: The Alabama Gazette, 12 E. Jefferson Street, Montgomery, AL 36104	Send a Gift S&H/Home Delivery to: Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail: _____ <div>START MONTH</div>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



12 E. Jefferson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
www.alabamagazette.com
alabamagazette@gmail.com

The Alabama
Gazette
Office (334) 356-6700
Published by:
Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC
Volume 20 -Issue 6
Copyright 2020
The Alabama Gazette
20 pages
2 Sections



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

Co-Owner/Publisher Loretta Grant	Co-Owner/Publisher Samuel Adams
---------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------



John W. Giles

Rush – A Man Way Ahead Of His Time

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

In 1987, I sold my portion of Giles Enterprises and did a little real estate development in 1988 and in 1989 joined the Hunt Administration as Small Business Advocate for the State of Alabama. Also in 1988, on a scratchy low powered AM radio station in Montgomery Alabama, a strange, but different kind of radio talk show was launched, “[The Rush Limbaugh Show](#).” I was 34 then, and now 31 years later, I am 65 and still mesmerized by the depth, insight, revelation and the almost prophetic sense Rush has on current affairs and public policy issues.

I smile thinking back on the intro song, when a base guitar and drums start up and what sounds like a little off key lead guitar pitching in with what became then and still today the Rush Limbaugh [theme song](#). His lofty tone of being on loan by God and having half of his brain tied around behind his back made us all smile as this trademark became the template for news talk radio. Out of thin air, he created this notion of Excellence In Broadcasting (EIB), which further etched his brand into the American political architecture. He was trademarked for shuffling papers as he articulately made clear his precise points. My fellow Republicans, tradesmen on the job site of our real estate endeavors and friends in church were all quoting Rush like one would quote scripture. He was a modern day conservative authority figure.

Mind you, in 1988 there was no public internet, let alone social media. Talk radio became the gateway for the average citizen to get well acquainted, educated, and armed with facts on current affairs. This forum exponentially shaped the economic, social, moral and constitutional conservative mindset in this country. Following Rush, the Apostle of News Talk Radio, he led the way for other shows to begin springing up across the nation. However, Air America, a nationally syndicated radio network was set up to carry the liberal talk show hosts, failed after six struggling years. Fast forward to 1994, Rush’s audience and other talk radio audiences were exponentially growing, and still there was very little internet access except through AOL, do you remember that? Newt Gingrich led the GOP with the “Contract with America.” Rush and the newbies of talk radio were pounding this daily, the result, we historically swept the US House into a GOP controlled body, which was the first-time in 40 years. Rush Limbaugh and this emerging generation of conservative news talk show hosts were shaping minds of all ages and arming them with facts, which makes a lethal body politic from those politicians wanting to hide from their record and the facts surrounding any one given issue.

Governor James who I had a great honor and pleasure of serving in his administration always told me this, “Giles, if you give the people ALL of the facts, they make sound, rational and right decisions,” The key word is ALL the facts. Rush Limbaugh led a coalition of talk radio hosts across the country that made it their daily job to educate voters and arm them with ALL the facts. Rush has a gifted way of getting to the root of an issue, and in an almost prophetic manner, accurately forecast the optics, messaging and outcomes over any one given issue. Like a bird dog pointing a covey of quail, Rush has a 100% accurate

sixth sense about him and like an old yard dog, would grip it in his teeth and not let go.

Rush Limbaugh un-mistakenly is the Patriarch of Conservative News Talk Radio. He has been a consistent economic, social, moral and constitutional conservative for decades. The average person on the street today, with the internet and voices like Rush Limbaugh have become a very knowledgeable educated electorate. Tuesday night, at the State of the Union Speech, President Trump recognized Limbaugh with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award and was presented live in the gallery by First Lady Melania Trump.

Monday, February 3rd, Rush broke the news to the world that he was in hand to hand combat with Stage 4 Lung Cancer. Stage 4 cancer generally is conclusive news, but we are all praying for a healing to take place. Rush is irreplaceable, it will take ten men to fill these shoes. Like the woman healed of the issue of blood by touching the hem of Jesus garment, we ask the Great Physician to touch Rush in the same way.

I have often quoted George William Childs before, but he once said, “I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without a eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand, before their burial, post-mortem kindness does not cheer the burdened spirit and flowers on a coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary way.”

Rush, we are all praying for you to defeat this battle with lung cancer, fully recover and return to your appointed post each day for the American people. In the event, God is ready for you to make that final journey and exchange the temporal for the eternal, we all want to anoint you beforehand as Childs admonishes us to do. You are on our daily prayer list and you will forever be the most anointed renowned Patriarch in your field.

History will kindly showcase you as a profound man ahead of your time.

It is true; Rush Limbaugh is on loan to us by God.



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

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

The Great American Comeback

It was President Trump at his finest. Trump highlighted the booming economy, articulated his foreign policy, and tied his vision for the American future to its heroic past. He awarded a scholarship in real time, bestowed a Medal of Freedom in real time, and dramatically reunited a family with their soldier husband and father, making for the most emotional State of the Union address since President Reagan first began highlighting American heroes in the gallery during his annual address.

But ultimately the speech was epic because the facts are so good. Clearly on the other side of the aisle led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi Democrats clearly had made an agreement to be hostile to President Trump. Many of them sat on their hands no matter the topic. Which only showcased their pettiness.

The president spoke around the elites in Washington and the media to average Americans, who are experiencing what he called a “blue-collar boom.” Reminding Americans of past presidents who made excuses for the eroding of American wealth, power, and prestige. He focused instead on the outstanding results of his regulatory reform, tax cuts, and renegotiated trade agreements.

He cited new jobs, low unemployment rates, decreases in poverty, increases in the work force, increases in wages, the improvement of the manufacturing sector, and much more.

Part of Pelosi’s visible frustration with Trump is that he didn’t seem to even care that she had just led her caucus into a partisan impeachment of him. Instead, he focused on what could be accomplished for Americans if the parties work together instead of in a constant state of resistance. He noted that criminal justice reform and the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement were done by Republicans and Democrats working together.

As President Trump listed economic successes, going into detail about how the economy is new helping minorities and women, Democrats’ refusal to clap looked odd. By the time people were refusing to clap for 100-year-old heroes such as Tuskegee Airman Brigadier General Charles McGee, the oppositional stance looked downright absurd.

In a strong statement that angered Democrats, especially their presidential candidates “*Socialism destroys nations*,” he said, “*But always remember, freedom unifies the soul*.”

He reaffirmed his administration’s commitment to core religious values by stating “*My Administration is also defending religious liberty, and that includes the constitutional right to pray in public schools. In America, we do not punish prayer. We do not tear down crosses. We do not ban symbols of faith. We do not muzzle preachers and pastors. In America, we celebrate faith. We cherish religion. We lift our voices in prayer, and we raise our sights to the glory of God*.” This statement was aimed right at the Democratic mantra of a completely secular state, void of religion in all facets of public life.

President Trump highlighted how the booming economy is helping black Americans. He emphasized how his criminal justice reform, a key issue for African Americans, gives felons a second chance.

The American heroes he referenced included the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Harriet Tubman, and various black Americans in the balcony. And he talked about Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

One of the reasons President Trump won in 2016 was his opposition to the way we fight wars, not always to win. At the same time, he is willing to use American force to advance American interests much to the dismay of the so-called elite experts. When discussing his desire to end the war in Afghanistan, he said of America’s warfighters that they are “*the best in the world, and they*

either want to fight to win or not fight at all.”

Trump highlighted the cost to the American warfighters and their families because of the way we have fought wars. He told the stories of people who had lost lives and limbs as a result of serving in combat zones.

“*War places a heavy burden on our nation’s extraordinary military families*,” Trump said, introducing Amy Williams and her two young children. Husband and Father Sargent First Class Townsend Williams was described as serving his fourth tour in Afghanistan.

In a final example of Trump’s effective handling of the televised moment, he announced to Amy and her kids that Williams was surprising them by coming home. He walked down the steps to greet them.

At the same time, it wasn’t all restraint. Explaining his decision to kill Baghdadi and Soleimani, he said, “*Our message to the terrorists is clear: You will never escape American justice. If you attack our citizens, you forfeit your life!*”

This foreign policy has been confusing to so many in the establishment, but it is a return to the foreign policy embraced by Republican presidents Eisenhower through Reagan, peace through strength.

Apart from the dramatic stories of Americans in the galley, the strongest part of the speech was the ending, where President Trump spoke with pride about America’s frontier spirit and work ethic. “*This is our glorious and magnificent inheritance*,” he said. “*We are Americans. We are the pioneers. We are the pathfinders. We settled the new world, we build the modern world, and we changed history forever by embracing the eternal truth that everyone is made equal by the hand of Almighty God*.”

The decision to be hostile throughout the speech caused Democrats to look small, petty and Unamerican. This was punctuated by the clueless Nancy Pelosi ripping up her copy of the speech. This was an insult in most American’s mind to all the American hero’s that the President praised in his speech. The president however acted and spoke like who he is, The Leader of the free world.

TERMITE
CONTROL

PROFESSIONAL
PEST CONTROL



Serving the public for over 50 years.

GREG BOWEN
334-365-4610

740 MEMORIAL DR.
PRATTVILLE, AL 36067



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

John Sophocleus

THINK

GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com.

What’s New *Hypocrat?*
Time to Abolish Parties in
the ‘Age of Impeachment’



Hypocrisy in overdrive these past months, now less fueled by DC politburo members, is decelerating back to ‘*coasting speed*’ toward the usual destination of ‘Dershowitzian’ good intentions (feigned, foolish or sincere) if history is any guide. The 1990s US House turned a blind eye to “*Whitewatergate*” (as Ken Starr’s absurdly long investigation uncovered too much dirt on too many politburo members) and focused on a ‘seedy’ blue dress - showing how much they truly care about sexual harassment, abuse of power and obstruction of Congress by an executive. Yet the 2018 US House **could** clearly see corruption in Russia (Mueller’s investigation quickly delivered many indictments, guilty pleas and convictions - again uncovering too much dirt on DC swampers) but decided to focus on Ukraine - **esp.** when Biden’s blatant abuse of power could provide ‘*inoculation*’ for BOTH Joe and the current executive in the next duopoly party controlled elections. I find myself among the ‘silent non-duped’ to borrow a little from Mr. Nixon, who would like to see Messrs. Biden **and** Trump in the same federal prison cell.

In ***Mere Christianity*** C.S. Lewis wrote, “[*The Devil*] always sends errors into the world in pairs - pairs of opposites. And he always encourages us to spend a lot of time thinking which is the worse. You see why, of course? He relies on your extra dislike of the one error to draw you gradually into the opposite one. But do not let us be fooled. We have to keep our eyes on the goal and go straight through between both errors. We have no other concern than that with either of them.”

Some readers will recall this is nothing new, I’ve been an equal opportunity advocate of prosecuting our Blue and Red Party public servants. ALDoT Directors Butts **and** Roberts; Governors Siegleman **and** Riley; Clinton **and** Trump - still waiting to ‘*lock her up*’ which of course will **not** happen given the ‘honor’ among these political thieves and ‘artful deals’ among swampers. The change in demeanor by some who appreciated all my efforts to expose Felon Hubbard (still awaiting his public service to show we’re serious about disciplining corruption in Alabama) when I say Mr. Biden has **also** earned conviction and prison time is most illustrative - *i.e.*, it is about control/party **not** principle/righteousness for most. Little difference between facilitating Hubbard’s \$12k/mo. wealth transfer from the gas industry here and Biden’s \$50k/mo. in Ukraine except dollar amounts, company names and locations. Super Tuesday will provide insight (with a ‘super-delegate’ rigging caveat) on Democrat voter attitudes on refusing to give Candidate Biden a pass - even with the successful ‘inoculation acquittal show’ in DC for current duopoly front-runners. Republican voters are less able to show discipline in some primaries where the Red Party removed the presidential race - e.g. no contest in SC last month, but unsuccessful at eliminating Trump’s competition in NH’s early primary. Hopefully the other ‘silent non-duped’ voters like me who cannot cast for Messrs. Biden or Trump and keep their souls will still show to polls to be counted as willing to vote for decency over corruption. I forecast using more ink than usual this November writing in candidates (*e.g.*, Casson for US House) blocked from ballots.

Even without including ‘fool blown’ authoritarians like Bolton going berserk to provide further evidence or witnessing once good men like Mulvaney broken and destroyed by this recent Biden/Trump juggernaut it was nonetheless captivating to watch the politburo fiddle while burning a few more of our precious few remaining shreds of Constitutional constraints in DC. Even more mesmerizing to behold than Ken Starr’s ‘two-step tiptoe thru the bull tulips’ was witnessing Dershowitz (age 60) *v.* Dershowitz (age 81). A duel of ‘witz’ with one unarmed opponent - not that I think this public servant has any trouble looking in the mirror debating himself given his desired rewards and others defended. It is a shame his instruction is heralded as top notch because of degrees and Ivey League schools instead of logic, reason and substance. After torturing the clear text (and failure to understand there was no federal code to

be more specific when writing and ratifying the Constitution in 1789) I still wanted Dr. Dershowitz to illustrate what ‘misdemeanor treason’ looks like. Dershowitz, Jr., Starr, Dershowitz, Sr., Sycophant & Howe could be the top defense attorney law firm in our new Age of Impeachment to broker future inoculation acquittal deals to ‘fix’ things for the most powerful duopoly offenders. They are the next iteration on our leviathan path to the junk-heap of history; like big govt. moderates who are well rewarded ‘getting things done’ to give us the worst of both worlds instead of allowing what’s left of a barely functioning system block extremism. With the recent ‘Pardon Spree’ that would’ve made Gerald Ford blush, perhaps “The Fixer’ will be an addition to the Age of Impeachment legal dream team shingle.

At risk of attenuating the Ric Flair *v.* Hulk Hogan type entertainment value in future Age of Impeachment ‘pro-wraslin’ events, let’s abolish parties. Once again the biggest source of the problem is we do not follow Art. 1, Sec. 2 of the Constitution to have a representative House; hyper-gerrymandered results with restrictive ballot access laws drive the rigged election results as most rational citizens have grown indifferent to which thief gets the office. Many problems ‘cascade’ (as we said in my automotive days) from that initial failure/fraud. Unlikely a majority in the House could have been mustered for impeachment with a representative body - but if we had the Constitutionally correct number of House members we would not observe the same choices for many federal offices. I’ll not further aggravate readers on the travesty of the 17th Amendment and how the Senate has been a boon for ‘Cash Register’ Shelby types - yet another big govt. Democrat of no integrity turned Republican to keep his cash flow churning. Sadly there was no Goldwater in the Senate as in the Nixon days to tell the executive it was time to resign before being impeached. McCain certainly was no Goldwater and anything close like Mr. Flake exited the duopoly madness.

I know it sounds extreme to abolish parties, but no more extreme than the call for term-limits without amendment, an unconstitutional 435 limit the dumb masses applaud with one for every 700,000+ population (instead of 30,00+) representation or ‘Baby face’ Pete’s pandering to abolish the Electoral College, etc. At least do away with the blue/red soviet monikers in our next inoculation acquittal show. I don’t care if the prosecutors are Democrats or the defendant is a Republican. Sadly, the ‘biggest loser’ (ops, I don’t think that’s a Trump show) was the Truth written by Jefferson’s brave pen in the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence. Hard to imagine anything angered the King more than TJ’s compelling argument against ‘Divine Right’ - all men are indeed created equal. Sadly most do not even see the real object in play is more power to politburo members in general (esp. to be pardoned with impunity) and Absolute Power to the executive more specifically. With guardians of this Truth like Dershowitz, Starr, Dershowitz, Cohen, et al exacerbated by an unrepresentative House and the ‘money mill’ (post 17th Amendment) Senate now well ensconced any effort toward a righteous, Constitutionally correct path becomes less possible.

In closing, does anyone really think one of the more fiscally rational Democrats (I could at least **consider** voting for) will be their nominee? It is clear no small govt. conservative will **ever** be allowed the Red Party nomination. But wait, I’m now supposed to be enamored with another big govt. New York billionaire Republican - oh no, how clumsy of me, he’s a Democrat now...

Postscript: I was saddened when informed fellow *Alabama Gazette* columnist **Ed Jones**, our delightful and sage sports writer - a.k.a., “*Mr. College Football*” -- died Monday, February 17th. As the Greeks say, “Eonia immeni,” - i.e., may Ed’s memory be eternal through Jesus Christ. He certainly let the Holy Spirit show through him and will be dearly missed by colleagues, family, friends and his readers.



by John Martin

The Demise of the Democrats

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

Back in the day, in the 1800’s, the Democratic Party in the United States stood solidly for our fundamental Constitutional principles—liberty, justice, and free enterprise.

But as the 20th century rolled around, many of our Democrats slipped over toward statism, socialism, and even communism. During that time, the American people suffered under the administrations of three of our most terrible presidents—Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, and Lyndon Johnson. The only decent Democrat was John F. Kennedy. By the century’s end, many of our cherished liberties had been gravely compromised, and even some Republicans were showing serious signs of decay.

Up until the 1970’s, here in Alabama, our elected officials were mostly Democrats, but back then, we did have a few who were fiscally conservative and pro-freedom. Senator Jim Allen was an outstanding example, and was Alabama’s most conservative senator in the last 80 years. He was noted for taking the strongest stand against Jimmy Carter’s Panama Canal giveaway, fighting it tooth and nail. One of our greatest state representatives was Bob McKee, who was also a Democrat. But he did switch to Republican in the 1980’s, when the Republicans were making strong gains across the state.

In 1968, when George Wallace ran for president, he opted for neither party. He claimed there wasn’t a dime’s worth of difference between the Republicans and the Democrats. He ran as a third option and actually won five states—the last time that happened in an American presidential election.

But there was a difference. Our greatest 20th century presidents—Calvin Coolidge, Dwight Eisenhower, and Ronald Reagan were all Republicans. There was no doubt that the Republicans stood much closer to fiscal responsibility and “truth, justice, and the American way” than the Democrats.

Now, as we finish the first two decades of the 21st century, the gap between the two parties has widened even more. We now have a sizable number of Republicans that stands close to the ethics and principles of our founding fathers. But nearly all of the Democrats have slipped frighteningly close to the ideals of Marx, Lenin, Stalin, and Kim Jong Un. That includes every single one of the Democratic presidential candidates.

Fortunately, we have a web site that gives a measured score for every House and Senate member’s votes from 2011 through 2019—Freedomworks. A quick glance at anyone’s scorecard can give you an evaluation of how well he supports limited government and freedom. And if one wants to know how he voted on a specific issue, and get a description of it, he can find it on this site.

Here is a chart that I constructed that graphically illustrates where our representatives and senators stand in relation to the principles of a free nation. Anybody can readily see that many Republicans have at least decent scores and that the Democrats are concentrated far down toward the totalitarian bottom.

Over half of the Republicans score 70% or above, the minimum grade (C-) for a student to graduate from school. Twenty-nine score “A” grades of 90% or

above, and six earned a perfect score of 100%.

The Democrats are pitiful. Almost all of them fall below 20%. About half of them are down to 12% or below. Twenty-seven are only 2%. The two highest scoring Democrats top out at 37%—barely above half of a minimum passing grade.

If you were a school teacher and your students had an average score of 12% and a top score of 37%, you would cringe. The children’s parents would be screaming, and the school’s principal would probably call you into his office to discuss your dismissal.

This year’s Democratic presidential candidate menagerie is a circus, a very scary circus. They are literally tripping over each other to propose the most outrageous, abusive, and tyrannical policies and acts of treason that only the most warped minds could imagine—gun confiscation, red flag laws, Medicare for all, reinstating the individual mandate, opening the floodgates to import dangerous potential terrorists, freebies for illegal aliens, new and increased taxes, carbon taxes, climate change proposals, massive spending increases and greater indebtedness, more extreme safety and environmental regulations, bailouts for giant corporations, “free” college tuition, full-time government jobs paying at least \$15 per hour with full benefits, privacy invasions, and many others. Their objective is to greatly expand government and enlarge the swamp that Donald Trump is attempting to drain against the wind of current Democratic opponents.

So why are we allowing such incompetent people to run (actually RUIN) our country by electing them to high positions of authority? That is national suicide.

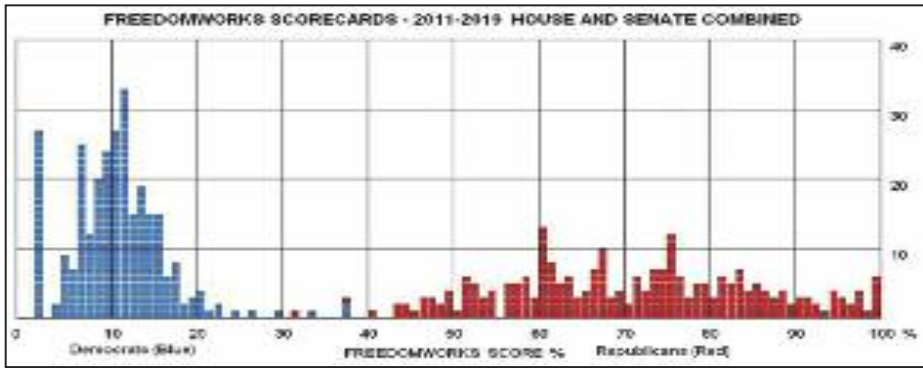
When you step into the voting booth, think about it.

NOTE:

Freedomworks scores are revised regularly. Today’s scores may not exactly match the chart, which was derived from score totals in January. Since then, scores from 2020 have been added.

REFERENCE:

<http://congress.freedomworks.org/legislators>





Stan Hurst
Associate Sports Writer

now it's time to focus on America's Favorite Past Time; Baseball.

I wonder and worry about the game today. It's hard to follow until the season gets almost to the All Star break. By then I can finally manage to figure out who's where, with trades, free agency and suspensions, who can follow it. So by the break I begin to enjoy the game again. The caveat being, I must watch the Opening Day Games. I have to admit, I sure enjoyed the Major League Network this season past.

I have so many great baseball memories.

Some of you will remember listening to the St Louis Cardinals on AM radio. There were many Cardinal fans in the South. Primarily speaking, that was the only baseball we could get. Dizzy Dean, Stan Musial and Joe Garagiola to name a few. My Dad and Grandad were Cardinals fan. While my dad always denied it; I think I'm named after Musial.

Those of my generation grew up watching and more importantly, playing baseball. My grandad Taylor, born in 1900 introduced me to the game as a youngster. He played as a youngster and as young man. For his generation it wasn't the score that actually decided the game, rather which team won the fight after. The most shocking of many stories my grandfather shared was during the normal fight following one of his games a kid on the other team broke proper decorum and pulled a switchblade knife on my grandfather, to which he promptly responded my knocking the knife out of his with a baseball bat. Well it broke his wrist; but that's baseball back in the day.

I grew up in Jacksonville Florida and in the early sixties we got our third TV station; ABC. They carried the Pirates games and the Braves games in the afternoons. We were big Pirates fans, as a middle infielder myself, I loved Gene Alley and Bill Mazeroski. Gene Alley playing short stop and Mazeroski at second, they could turn a double play like nobodies business. I must have chewed a five gallon pail of bubble gum to finally get both of their baseball cards. By the time I was old enough to go to the minor teams games in Jacksonville, they were the triple A Suns, a Mets affiliate. When my grandfather Taylor was my age, they were the Jacksonville Tars.

So much of my time growing up was with my grandfather. Watching baseball, talking baseball and practicing hitting, throwing and catching. He had such great experiences and stories. While my baseball coaches taught me the fundamentals with endless drills in practice, my grandfather taught me more. He taught me the thinking part of the game, how to be mentally tough, to move on to the next play if I made a mistake, leaning into pitch and getting thunked was as good as a hit. My grandfather taught me life lessons through baseball. That's truly what baseball used to be, and still is to a lesser degree; learning lessons. Overcoming adversity and relying on your team mates to pick you up. We spent our times together, with him teaching me and telling me about watching Babe Ruth play, and so many anecdotal stories about the Babe, Carl Hubbell, Joe DiMaggio. And we watched so many great players, Willie Mays, Roberto Clemente Hank Aaron, Bob Gibson and occasionally if we were really lucky, we got to see Sandy Koufax pitch.

Sandy Koufax, what a great story.



Dodgers come running to sign him. Campanis reported to Walter Alston the

Koufax pitched in high school but primarily was a basketball player. When it was time for college Koufax was a walk on for the basketball team at Cincinnati. The real reason is that he knew the basketball team traveled and he thought it would be a great way to meet more girls. While he did pitch at Cincinnati it was one season only. In his only season, Koufax went 3-1 with a 2.81 ERA, 51 strikeouts and 30 walks in 32 innings. Bill Zinser with the Dodgers originally scouted him and recommended the Dodgers sign him. Well that scouting report was somehow got lost and it was not until Al Campanis had him work out in the gym at Lafayette University did the

manager of the Dodgers that he had caught "lightning in a bottle" and that they better sign Koufax as soon as possible. He had a very impressive career shortened by arthritis in his left elbow. Koufax retired at 30 years old. There are so many Koufax stories, one of my favorites is this one. When asked in a post game press conference a reporter asked gregariously; "Sandy, what was your best pitch tonight, the curve ball or the fast ball?" To which Koufax quickly replied; "neither, it's the one I threw behind the first batters head!"

My all time favorite pitcher is Bob Gibson.

With a lifetime 2.91 ERA, 251 wins and a whopping 3117 strikeouts. Gibson lead the Cards to victory in the 1967 World Series, winning all three appearances including winning game seven. Now this is pure baseball lore, but I hold it to be true. After the 1967 World Series the Major Leagues lowered the pitchers mound from 15 to 10 inches. Why? Bob Gibson! well that's the tale and I'm



convinced it's true. The best Bob Gibson story must be the mound visit by Tim McCarver. "Red" Schoendienst, the Cardinals Manger signaled for McCarver to make a mound visit. As soon as McCarver arrived Gibson told him, before he could say a word; "What are you doing out here? The only thing you know about pitching is that it's hard to hit. Now get back behind the plate, and don't come out here again."

FOR GIBSON, BASEBALL WAS NOT A GAME, IT WAS WAR!

The 2020 Season is upon us, all players were to report for spring training February 17th. The Grape Fruit League has already played a couple of times.

I don't feel the same way about baseball as I did while a kid and a young man. The 1968 Tigers, Micky Lolich and Denny McClain; champions. Remember the Oakland A's dominance in the early 1970's. They won three straight World Series 1972, 73, 74. Now after the baseball strike, the "juicing" players used to cheat their way to stats and records, I'm not the fan I once was. I'm also not so much a fan of the analysis into paralysis that over shadows the games today. It takes away the mystery and mystic of the game.

Watching games in the present brings back the memories of the past. These memories are a sort of anesthetic that allows me to still see as many games as possible. For the most part the corporate ownership of teams is far too much about making a buck. Baseball is not entertainment as hard as they are trying to make it so. Baseball is purely a game to be digested and enjoyed. To conjure over and argue over.

Sandy Koufax said, "The game has a cleanness. If you do a good job, the numbers say so. You don't have to ask anyone or play politics. You don't have to wait for the reviews." That's still true today, just peel the onion enough and you'll find it.

Play Ball!

Baseball officially begins March 26th.

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

Support our Kids playing Baseball!

There is a place for every child. Encourage, your kids and grandchildren to play ball! Many life lessons are learned on the baseball field. And show up and support them!

Beginning with T-Ball for 5 and six year olds, Coach Pitch for 7 and 8 year olds; these years are so much fun and entertaining to watch. Then Dixie Youth starts and the fireworks really begin when the kids start pitching. Nine and ten year olds are the Dixie Youth Minor Leagues, Eleven and twelve year olds are the Majors and finally thirteen and fourteen year olds are Dixie Boys.

Now if you think draft day is a formality, let me clue you in a bit. Draft day for Dixie Baseball is more like a group of poker players and has an atmosphere sort of like a group of Arab traders in one of those open markets. I miss those days of coaching and managing my sons baseball teams.

And please volunteer! Take your turn and work the concession stand, and enjoy it. Fields have to be prepared and lined off, dugouts have to be cleaned out. Somebody besides the managers and coaches are needed for everything from batting practice to hitting fly balls to the outfielders. As a for Manager of a Dixie Youth Team, you just can't have too much help.

Most Importantly, let me encourage you to please support the kids, encourage all of them, do not be critical. The hardest thing in the world to do is hit a flying sphere with a cylinder. Thank about it.

Above all; be nice to the Umpires!

Montgomery Dixie Baseball tryouts were held February 20th and draft day was Sunday afternoon February 23rd.

EDWARD “COACH” HENRY JONES III



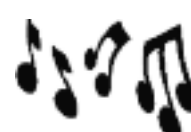
He Did It His Way!

May 6, 1938 – February 17, 2020

A man of many talents and ambitions. One minute he was Johnny Cash, maybe Hank Williams, college football encyclopedia, songwriter, TV personality, radio sports commentator, business owner, used car salesman, investor, and let us not forget a FRIEND. If he was your friend...he was your true friend. He cared about his fellow man. He wanted the best for the people around him. He was loyal to his commitments. He wasn't perfect. He was opinionated and ornery. He ate McDonalds most every day (the cheap meal) and ignored most of his health issues when possible. He was his own man and don't tell him any different. He would have loved just being a songwriter and entertainer. Simple..but complicated! Didn't give himself enough credit. HE DID IT HIS WAY!

Football Editor
Alabama Gazette Publishing
2005 - 2020

Musician



He “hated” computers!
He would only use his
faithful typewriter.



LOVED COLLEGE FOOTBALL



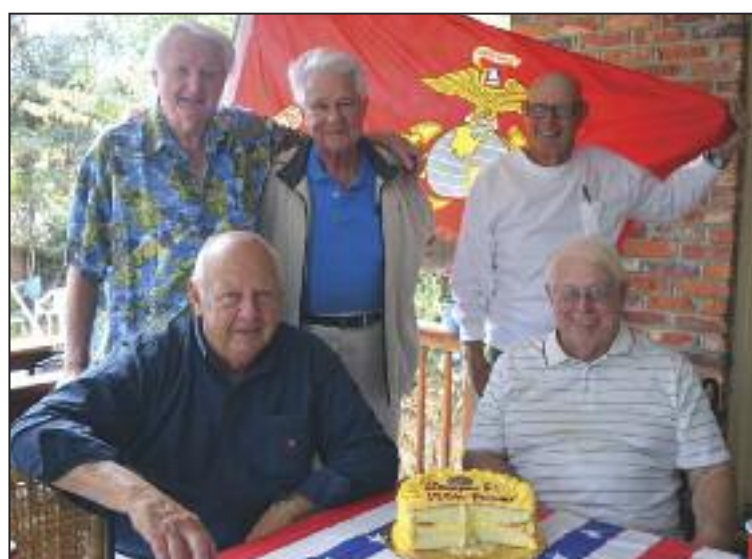
Bart Starr, Bill Moseley and Ed



L-R: Loretta Grant, Mr. Ed, Sam Adams

The Gazette staff, writers, advertisers and readers will certainly miss the “best football sports writer” in Alabama.

*We will certainly miss “Mr. Ed”
Our famous
Football Editor*



Ed and Marine Buddies



**We shall fight on
the beaches.
We shall fight on the
landing grounds.
We shall fight in the fields
And in the streets.
We shall fight in the hills.
WE SHALL NEVER
SURRENDER”**

WINSTON CHURCHILL - 1040



Prayer
Oh Lord, reveal thy self
unto my children.
Give unto them of thy
grace and mercy and
help them to receive
you unto their hearts.

Edward Henry Jones, III, of Montgomery, passed away Monday, February 17, 2020. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Henry Jones, Jr and Margaret Alford Jones and his son, Mike Jones. He is survived by his wife, Betty Hall Jones, son, Bart Jones (Kelly) and daughter, Teresa Hink (Jeff); daughter in law, LaChelle Jones and his grandchildren, Chris Jones, Tyler Jones Neal (Austin) and Jack Jones..

Coach Ed Jones graduated from Robert E. Lee high school in 1957, Auburn University and Huntington College. He was also a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity at Auburn University. He was a teacher and coach at Catholic and Sidney Lanier High Schools. He was a veteran of the US Marine Corp and retired from the Alabama Army National Guard. Coach Jones was a writer, publisher, editor, Radio Announcer and a consultant for various sports publication and media.

Services for Coach was held Thursday, February 20, 2020 at Leak Memory Chapel at 2:30 PM with visitation from 1:00 – 2:30 also at Leak Memory Chapel.

Serving as pallbearers, Jim Alford, Wayne Shows, Ricky Jones, Chris Nolan, Jerry Walls, Charlie Trotman, Paul Wingard and Zack Azar. Honorary pallbearers will be all his former players.

Memorials can be made to Snowdown United Methodist Church and the Montgomery Humane Shelter.

CUBA

Rotarian Trip to Cuba ... continued from page 1A



Maria Mendez pictured with Little League team after receiving their jerseys from the Rotarians.



Maria Mendez pictured with Little League team after receiving their jerseys from the Rotarians.



Rotary Monument in Cienfuegos dedicated to its founder.



DAY ONE: Rotarians stayed at the Five-Star Iberostar Parque Central Hotel in the downtown Havana.



DAY TWO: FSRC presented Little League uniforms to several teams in and around Havana.



DAY THREE: An all-day excursion to family-run tobacco farms was on the agenda for the third day. **INSET:** Sam Adams takes a deep wiff of fresh tobacco leaves.

But a recent trip in February 2020, sponsored by the Fairhope, Alabama Sunset Rotary Club, provided an opportunity to build a bridge of understanding and friendship with the Cuban people apart from its government.

Rotary is an international organizations of 1.2 million Rotarians in over 200 countries around the world. Those countries come in many ruling forms including democracies, republics, socialists, monarchies, communists and commonwealths, to name a few.

The trip leader of the contingent to Cuba was Cuban American Rotarian Maria Mendez, who fled Cuba with her parents to the U.S. prior to the government overthrow in 1959.

Many of her extended family members remain in her hometown of Cienfuegos on the southern coast of the Cuban island.

Maria came from a very successful and distinguished family. They lost everything as a result of the military coups that lead to exile, imprisonment and/or death to those that opposed the Castro regime.

After graduating from the University of Florida, Maria has had a successful career in her own right which has culminated in being the Director of Latin American Trade and Development for the Alabama State Port Authority in Mobile.

Maria has long put aside any anger or resentment she may have harbored since the coups and has focused on helping and working with the Cubans to build positive relationships where possible. Rotary's Past District Governor Sam Adams joined the group after realizing that Alabama has many positive connections with Cuba. The Rotary Motto "Service Above Self" was the catalyst that motivated Rotarians and friends to conduct a humanitarian effort to display Rotary's willingness to aid and work along side its neighbor (being inspired by Christ's parable found in Luke 10:25-37) by promoting peace and conflict prevention.

But one might ask why should a state like Alabama and an organization like Rotary get involved with the well being of Cuba?

The answers lie in our extensive history between the three entities. Here are just a few bullet point relationships:

1. Cuba's Spanish Governor Hernando DeSoto discovered and explored the interior land of what we now call Alabama in 1540.
2. The Guillott brothers, from Havana, attended Spring Hill College in Mobile in 1860 and upon their return to Cuba in 1864 introduced the game of baseball to the island and since then it has become Cuba's national sport.
3. In 1902, Dr William Gorgas, from Mobile, successfully eradicated an epidemic of yellow fever from Havana
4. The Havana Rotary Club formed in 1916 was the site for the first Rotary Club in Cuba, and Frank Glass, from Montgomery, served as its District Governor (District 5 included Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Cuba). It was the first non English speaking club for Rotary.
5. Over 60 Rotary clubs populated Cuba up until 1960 when all civic clubs were banned by the newly formed government by Castro
6. Since 1993, Mobile has been an official Sister City with Havana.
7. For more than 40 years the University of Alabama has had a working relationship with Cuba. Since 2002, almost 100 teachers have traveled to Cuba many repeatedly, to conduct research and creative work. Approximately 100 students have participated in study abroad programs in Cuba.

Recently, Fairhope Sunset RC has conducted several people to people official visits to Cuba for educational and humanitarian purposes including the latest effort which has led to the distribution of little league baseball uniforms to children in and around Havana in honor of Havana's 500 anniversary, as well as Alabama's 200th anniversary both occurring in the 2019-20 timeframe.

DAY 1:

This Fairhope Sunset Rotary Club (FSRC) adventure began on February 15, 2019 for one week. Two groups leaving from Atlanta and Miami respectively flew a short hour and a half landing in Havana, the only airport allowed to receive U S citizens.

The FSRC traveled under an authorized VISA issued by the Treasury Department which allows 12 different categories permitting visitation, including education and humanitarian purposes.

We met our escort in the parking lot and both groups boarded the bus to go to the Five-Star Iberostar Parque Central Hotel in the downtown Havana. That night we went to a private home which hosted a lavish supper for the weary travelers.

Cuba is on central time like Alabama, but the rush of meeting airplane and bus schedules took its toll.

DAY 2:

The following day on Sunday we boarded our bus and delivered the FSRC Little League uniforms to several teams in and around Havana. Most of the settings were in what we might consider bleak conditions, but the children and parents were happy, polite and welcoming to us. Maria and Sam explained why the FSRC had decided to give the uniforms which was based on:

1. Anniversaries, Havana 500, Alabama 200;
2. The baseball history of the Mobile and Havana, and
3. the areas of Rotary focus of peace and helping children.

The uniforms bore native flowers from both regions. On the back of the jersey a reference is made to 1864 baseball birth in Cuba.

The FSRC Rotary symbol is displayed over the heart, as permitted by Rotary International. After these festive occasions, the tour took a somber trip to Necropolis Cristobal Colon, also known as the Christopher Columbus Cemetery, which serves as the second largest cemetery in the Western Hemisphere. A Rotary plot is also present where any Cuban Rotarian could be buried.

Sadly, after the Revolution, it fell into disrepair and needs help. After a delicious meal at a local restaurant, the group boarded classic convertibles of the 1950s to take in a show at the Tropicana celebrating its 80th anniversary. At its conclusion we headed to out hotel to prepare for the next day.

DAY 3

Our band of Rotarians and friends boarded the bus early for an all day excursion to some family tobacco farms in the Vinales Valley, home of many of the world famous Cuban cigars.

Under Cuban law, no farm can be over about 160 acres, but families can own the land for agricultural purposes.

Ninety percent of the crops are sold to the government and sent to the factories for production. As we returned that night to Havana, one could not help but see the striking resemblance of the Cuban Capitol building to our own Capitol in Washington D.C.

Indeed, the Cuban structure was built using the same design as ours. It was constructed in three years between 1926-1929 using profits from sugar production. It housed the Cuban Congress from 1929-1959 and subsequently was used as the Cuban Academy of Science. It now houses the Cuban National Congress.

Rotarian Trip to Cuba ... continued on next page

Rotarian Trip to Cuba ... continued on next page

DAY 4-5

The next morning, Marianela San Pedro, a reporter for Radio Havana interviewed members of our team regarding the Rotary Club's trip to Havana. The interview took place in the luxurious lobby of our Iberostar Hotel. The Iberostar Group is owned by Spanish billionaire Miguel Rossello, the third generation heir to a shoe-making business.

Amy Thompson, from Mobile, helped translate and shared her observations with the reporter who was unfamiliar with Rotary and the outreach it has around the world.

Later that morning, the FSRC travelled to Old Havana and saw many structures dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries.

Fortresses and castles towered over the streets while a myriad of statues dedicated to heroes on horses seemed to parade down the Malecon (a broad roadway with a seawall). A Rotary statue erected in 1950 stands to pay homage to 50 or so Cuban seaman who perished while defending the Gulf of Mexico from Nazi U boats during WWII.

After lunch, the bus took us on an educational tour of some interesting sites to include Mirador Backonayagua, the highest bridge in Cuba and Cuevas de Bellamar, Cuba's largest cave. We hiked though tight spots and viewed beautiful rock and crystal formations. We reached our next destination, the Melia Varadero Hotel just in time to hop on a 70-foot catamaran and sail to a remote island for dinner. This 5-star, all-inclusive, facility is owned by another Spanish company. To get there, one must drive down some barren windswept shoreline to a remote but beautiful vista of the Caribbean. The road traffic is sparse and one often sees workers lined up to pick up a public bus or hitchhike with others which is allowed and encouraged due to the lack of transportation options.

As we settled down for the evening we enjoyed the daily Mojito, a rum-based concoction, a staple for the island.

The road network on a map appears to be extensive, but with speed limits not to exceed 60 mph, it takes a long time to get anywhere. Some routes exceeded four hours in duration on major thoroughfares. Two lane roads were slow, full of curves and potholes. The pace gave the traveler an opportunity to see first-hand the vast agrarian society found in outlying regions.

Groves of banana trees, fields of rice and tobacco, along with small farms dotted the landscape.

We stopped at Finca Agroecologicael Paraiso, a farm to table establishment that explained the cultivation, growth, harvest and distribution process. The farmer, whose name is Ravdel, raises peacocks and gives horse rides to supplement family income. Upon return, dinner was served at San Cristobal Paladar, a private Cuban restaurant in Old Havana.

DAY 6

Our next adventure took us to the cultural Mecca of Cuba, Cienfuegos. We explored Parque Jose Marti, a writer and philosopher who served as a catalyst for independence for the island. This square is replete with monuments and towers.

Art studios were common up and down the streets along with a famous theatre. The Catholic Church was the centerpiece of the area. Sixty percent of the population professes to be Catholic but only 5% practice. Protestants represent about 5% of Cubans.

While the State does not impede the practice of any religion, it is quick to monitor activities. Atheism conforms to the Marxist-Leninist doctrine, and Castro directed that non-atheists could not be a part of the Communist Party membership.

The walking tour also gave the visitor an opportunity to see how food staples are sold, including water. The process of food distribution is much different than our free market system and goods are often scarce.



DAY FOUR/FIVE: A Rotary statue erected in 1950 stands to pay homage to 50 or so Cuban seaman who perished while defending the Gulf of Mexico from Nazi U boats during WWII.

DAY 7

The bus took us on another 4-hour excursion to Trinidad, so named in honor of the Holy Trinity. Trinidad was the original landing spot for U.S. military's amphibious assault for the failed U.S. Bay of Pigs offensive to overthrow Castro. The terrain in Trinidad was hospitable and the population supportive. But our U.S. Intelligence changed the drop off point to a location, which had volcanic rock on the ocean floor and swamp at the beachhead, which made traversing almost impossible.

This town is older than Havana and still seems to be frozen in time.

Upon our return, the final evening's meal was at the La Barraca in the Hotel Nacional de Cuba, the country's leading hotel since 1930, when it is reputed to have been built and owned by the Mafia. We were once again serenaded with lovely Cuban music, and we walked in parts of the hotel frequented by movie stars and leaders from around the world.

DAY 8

On our final day, with passport in hand, we ventured to the airport and made a quick trip through Customs. The facility is roughly the size of Montgomery's airport, but the structure and equipment could be dated back to the 1950's.

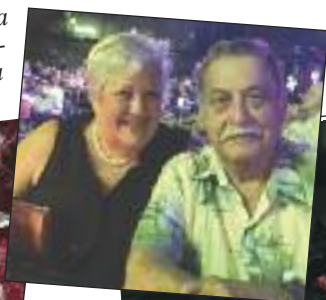
No one violated the 50-cigar limit per person rule, no contraband rum, and no CUCs were confiscated. CUC or Cuba Convertible Currency trades at about 87 U.S. cents for every 1.00 CUC as opposed to the peso which is 24 pesos to the dollar.

It is reported that the Cuban CUC will soon be phased out to give way to the more convertible peso.

In closing, no disparagement is made or intended toward the Cuban people. They appear to be doing the best they can under a governmental regime that has placed them in a Twilight-Zone-like environment looking from the inside out.

Every person should see what Communism has wrought to our neighbors to the south. Travelers should not be bedazzled by anecdotal opulence but instead experience the harsh realities that face Cubans every day. One extended visit will quickly reinforce your faith and support in Capitalism.

DAY TWO: The day ended with a delicious meal at a local restaurant, the group boarded classic convertibles of the 1950s to take in a show at the Tropicana celebrating its 80th anniversary.



DAY TWO: Rotarians tour took a somber trip to Necropolis Cristobal Colon; second largest cemetery in the Western Hemisphere



Members of the group took time out to enjoy the popular tourist spots.



Maria and her husband Jesus Mendez in Cuba's largest cave.



Ravdel, a local farmer, explains the farm to table approach used in Cuba.



Little Leaguer eating Moon Pie during exhibition game.



Sam Adams enjoys time spent with one of the Little League players.



Fruit stand along the side of road.



Political signs litter the entire island.



Streets of Trinidad.

for a Final
Glimpse of Cuba
turn to page 9B



Kick Back Ranch

& Event Center, LLC

SATURDAY APRIL 4
11AM - 7PM

ENTRY \$5
7 YRS & UP
6 YRS & UNDER FREE

FRONTIER DAY

FOOD
ENTERTAINMENT
MARKETPLACE

GAMES
BULL RIDES
FUN

ACCEPTING
VENDORS!
FIND
APPLICATION
ON WEBSITE

CALL: 334.286.4140 / KICKBACKRANCH.NET

FOR EVENT DETAILS & VENDOR INFO EMAIL: DARYA@THEKICKBACKRANCH.COM

414 UNION ACADEMY ADA RD, RAMER, AL

MEMORY CAFE

ST PATRICK'S DAY

MEMORY CAFES ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA ALONG WITH THEIR CARE PARTNERS. THE CAFE WILL INCLUDE LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND PROVIDES AN ENGAGING EXPERIENCE FOR THOSE TOUCHED BY DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARE PARTNERS.

MARCH 17 | 1:30 PM
E.L. LOWDER LIBRARY
2590 BELL ROAD
MONTGOMERY, AL 36117



PLEASE RSVP TO ABBEY ROGERS

AT 334-240-4680 OR ABBEY.ROGERS@ADSS.ALABAMA.GOV

For Dependability...
Call Tillery
264-2388
TILLERY

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING INC.

- Residential Comfort Specialists
- Repairs
- Replacements

Now is the time to have your
A/C checked for the summer!

www.tilleryheatingandair.com

Since 1974

ALLIC#84787



“THE PEOPLE’S PAPER”

THE ALABAMA

Gazette

1B



Montgomery, Autauga, Elmore, Crenshaw, Tallapoosa, Pike and Surrounding Counties

Community Lifestyles





Dr. Lester Spencer

Lead Pastor

St. James United Methodist Church

9045 Vaughn Road

Montgomery, Al

Soul Searching

Escape from Alcatraz

Alcatraz Island sits in the middle of San Francisco Bay, surrounded by almost two miles of turbulent and treacherous water. For nearly one hundred years, the island housed a prison, and the place earned the nickname “The Rock” because it was inescapable.

Constructed as a United States Army fortress in the 1850s, the twenty-two-acre island became an Army prison during the Civil War. In 1933, Alcatraz was turned over to the Department of Justice to be used as a federal penitentiary, and during the next thirty years, it housed some notorious criminals—Al Capone, Whitey Bulger, Bumpy Johnson, and Arthur “Doc” Barker, son of the infamous Ma Barker, were among its denizens.

Prisoners sent to Alcatraz did not escape, and those who tried served as a caution to the rest. Doc Barker successfully climbed the prison walls but was shot to death on the beach while trying to construct a makeshift raft. Joseph Bowers was shot while trying to climb the fence and died from injuries sustained in the fall. Aaron Burgett overpowered a guard while taking out the garbage. He jumped into the water and tried to swim, but his body was found two weeks later floating in the bay. Over the years, fourteen documented escape attempts ended in prisoners being killed or presumed drowned in San Francisco Bay.

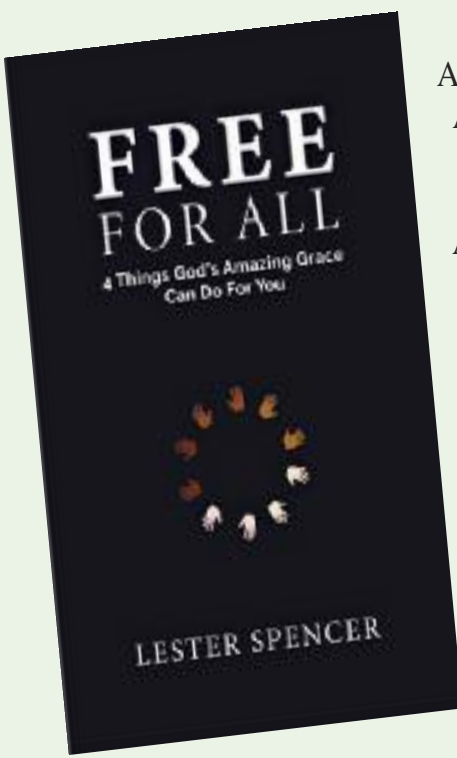
There’s usually an exception to every rule, and someone did escape Alcatraz. No swimming, no makeshift life raft, though. Four inmates simply walked out in 1903. An inmate who was the brains behind the operation worked in the prison print shop. He created a copy of a piece of letterhead bearing the War Department logo and on it wrote a letter remitting the sentences of himself and three other prisoners. He forged the signatures of Judge Henry Morrow and Major Williams. A second prisoner, who worked as a prison postal clerk, smuggled the letters out of the prison. An outside accomplice mailed them to the prison commander, Major Paxton. Believing the documents to be authentic, Paxton released the four prisoners. These inmates who escaped by means of a fake pardon were never found.

You’ve been granted a pardon—a genuine one! You’ve been set free, and your release orders were signed by the One who judges all humankind. That’s the whole point of these verses in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians:

God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a [free] gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. (2:8-10, NLT)

You’ve been set free, and your release orders were signed by the One who judges all mankind.

Free For All



A new book by Lester Spencer Available on December 15th on Amazon in paperback and digital format. And at Saint James Church.

Also available at sjlife.com

Dr Spencer is Lead Pastor at Saint James Church in Montgomery, Alabama and writes the Soul Searching column for Alabama Gazette each month.



FirstChoice Women's Medical Center

We're here for you.



SCAN FOR APPT.



Your CHOICE STARTS HERE



www.FirstChoiceMontgomery.com

380 Mendel Parkway

Montgomery, AL 36117

334-260-8010

Support LIFE!



ELMORE COUNTY PREGNANCY CENTER

104 Company St

Wetumpka, Alabama

@elmorecountypregnancycenter

Call (334) 567-1955



LIFE ON WHEELS

We are serving women in Montgomery, Elmore, and Autauga counties five days a week! Check our schedule tab to see our location or call us on the mobile unit at 334-202-4994.

www.lifeonwheelsalabama.com/



Check out our mobile

Honoring Our Heroes

By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Walter Mabry Whetstone Sr. Age 100

Walter Mabry Whetstone Sr. at 100 years of age is the oldest living WWII veteran in Elmore County, AL, as of February 16, 2020. He served in the Army in the liberation of Italy. Whetstone received the following medals: European



African Service Medal, Easter Service Medal with Two Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal and WWII Victory Medal.

Whetstone was born January 2, 1920, in Weoka, a rural community in Elmore County, AL, to his parents, Theophilus Walton Whetstone and Ethel Wood Whetstone. He completed grades one through eight at the local Antioch School and graduated from Eclectic High School in 1936.

Whetstone engaged in farming with his father until he was drafted in January, 1942, into the U. S. Army. He reported to Anniston, AL, to Atlanta,

GA, and then to Ft. Knox, KY, where he was put in charge of armor for over one year where he oversaw the repairs to guns. Whetstone was then sent to Ft. Bragg, NC., and then to OK, where he joined the 525th Field Artillery. He was sent to Ft. Lee, VA, and then sailed to Naples, Italy.

Whetstone survived injuries during combat in the Apennine Mountains and the Po Valley; however he vividly recalls the instant death of a soldier next to him. One day while eating breakfast, an enemy shell exploded near him and others. He jumped up and shouted, "You missed me, and I am going back to Weoka!" The Italian Campaign was the most costly in terms of casualties lost by the Allies and the Germans during WWII. The German Armed Forces surrendered in Italy in May, 1945.

Whetstone recalls that his unit moved out of the mountainous area when President FDR passed away. After the Germans surrendered, for 85 days, he was engaged in salvaging equipment and taking German prisoners back to Germany via trains. Whetstone returned to America and was discharged in December, 1946, having served almost five years.

After retuning home to Weoka, AL, he resumed farming raising cotton for two years. Whetstone worked at the munitions depot where ammunition was made and prepared for the military in Anniston, AL, for over four years. Whetstone resumed his military service joining the AL Army National Guard working at its headquarters in Montgomery, AL, retiring as the Supervisor of Armaments for the Army National Guard November 2, 1980, with almost 30 years of military service including his service with the regular Army during WWII.

Whetstone was married to his wife, Hazel, 44 years before she passed away. They had four children, seven grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. His wife, Bertha, and he have been married for 29 years. Whetstone built the house in which they live. They have enjoyed traveling to each of the United States and to foreign countries. They have been active members of the Trinity (Carolina) Methodist Church where they cleaned out the cemetery and served the community and the congregation.

Whetstone concludes about his WWII combat experiences saying, "It made a profound difference to me. It taught me that we were not all that smart. I respect the military."

Sylvester Cannon ~ Age 93

Sylvester Cannon is a U. S. military veteran who served in the Army for 10 months January 8, 1946, until December 13, 1946. This service followed the surrender of the Germans to the Allies May 7, 1945, and the Japanese September



2, 1945. He refers to his Army service in Munich, Germany, as "clean-up" during the early post WWII occupation. Cannon received the following medals:

European African Middle Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and National Defense Medal.

Cannon was born in Dozier, AL, July 15, 1926, to his parents, Sam and Susie Cannon. He was reared in rural Butler County, AL, and was drafted into service with the Army at age 18 before finishing high school; however after military service in the Army, he received his High School Diploma and studied briefly at Alabama State University.

Cannon was recalled to active duty; however, when given the opportunity to choose which branch of the military that he preferred, he selected the U. S. Air Force in which he served three years. In 1952, when he was recalled for service with the Air Force, he worked as a cook at Gunter Field which is now named Maxwell Air Force Base: Gunter Annex at Montgomery, AL. Following that, he served in the Air Force Reserves and then in the Alabama Air Force National Guard. MSgt. Cannon retired from all military service July 15, 1986, with a full military pension.

Since retirement from military service, Cannon worked in the U. S. Postal Service at Gunter Annex, Montgomery, AL, delivering mail throughout the military base. Cannon is a 33rd Degree Free Mason. Cannon is an avid bowler and has won numerous bowling trophies. He has served as a deacon at the Mobile Heights Baptist Church in Montgomery. He and his wife, Alma, were married 55 years before she passed. They had three children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

MSgt. Sylvester Cannon reflects upon his military service saying, "*It was a good experience. I was happy to serve my country.*"

Dudley Frank Christian ~ 70 Chief Warrant Officer Five (Ret), United States Army

Command Chief Warrant Office /CCWO Dudley Frank Christian is a valiant U. S. Army veteran who served 32 years including a tour of duty as a helicopter pilot in Can Tho, Vietnam. His helicopters were shot down twice in the midst of



heavy enemy gunfire during combat assaults and during numerous flights into Cambodia searching for the enemy, yet he survived these harrowing ordeals and continued to serve his country.

Christian was born February 6, 1950, in Louisville, KY, to his parents, William Raymond Christian and Joanne O'Brien Christian. Christian comes from a family who has served in the U. S. military; his father, father-in-law, and two uncles served in WWII and Korea. His mother worked as a nurse at a VA Hospital. Because of his parents' work schedules, during his childhood, he spent much time with his paternal grandparents in Morehead, KY. He graduated from Waggener High School in St. Mathews, KY. He married his wife, Faye Roberts, shortly after graduation, and they had two sons, Brien Layne Christian (deceased), and Elijah Ray Christian who is a Wetumpka, AL Police Sergeant. Elijah continues the family's

service to God, country, and the community.

Christian's military service began in 1969 when he volunteered for the draft hoping to be able to have more opportunities to select the Army's military specialty occupation that he preferred which was to serve as a helicopter pilot. He graduated from Basic Training at Ft. Knox, KY, as an Honor Graduate and holder of the highest Physical Training Score which gave him an accelerated promotion. Christian was selected to attend crew chief door gunner schools at Ft. Rucker, AL, then on to Airborne Paratrooper training at Ft. Benning, GA. He applied for Warrant Officer Flight Training and was approved by a Board of Colonels to attend helicopter flight school. Christian completed primary helicopter flight training at Ft. Wolters, TX, before attending advanced helicopter flight training at Ft. Rucker, AL. Christian was then sent to the Republic of South Vietnam to join the 162nd Assault Helicopter Company as a pilot where he earned thirteen Air Medals before being medevaced back to the United States. After he convalesced from his injuries, he was stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY. Mr. Christian attended the first Army Air Assault School there at Ft. Campbell as part of the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division. Many other duty assignments followed. He was chosen as the first full time Command Chief Warrant Officer ever in the United States Military by Major General Clyde A. Hennies in 1996 and served at that distinguished position until his retirement in 2001 when he was awarded the Legion of Merit award issued by the U. S. Army and presented by Major General Willie A. Alexander. Mr. Christian had served his country for 32 years and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer Five, the highest rank in the Warrant Officer Corps.

Since retirement, he graduated from Faulkner University with a B.S. Degree and a Master's Degree in Business Management. He also attended Jones Law School for two years. He worked across the U.S.A. as a U.S. Government Contracting Officer before retiring from government service.

Chief Christian is a devoted American who vigorously supports his country and is prepared to defend it against all enemies or detractors. He states, "*I was born a patriot, raised a patriot, and will die as a patriot.*" He and his wife started out with nothing. Christian considers this Army wife his heroine. "*I love her so, and I wanted to make her proud. It was a good life. There were tough times, but we persevered. The geographical separations were really hard.*" Linda Faye Roberts Christian, Dudley's wife and he just celebrated fifty-one years of marriage.

His mother quoted words to him from the Bible's book of Deuteronomy **28:7**: "*The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you.*" These words sustained him and provided much comfort to Christian when he was in combat in Vietnam and throughout his military career.

Become a monthly sponsor of this page.

Call 334-356-6700 for information.



John M. Long dead at 94

By Cliff Lusk

The hay is back in the barn: Legendary band director, composer and musician dead at 94

Troy University has lost a legend. Dr. Johnny M. Long passed away at his home on Monday evening at age 94 after a brief illness and more than a year of declining health.



“Dr. Johnny Long has been an icon of Troy University and band music throughout the world. His leadership, not only of the Sound of the South Marching Band and the University but also to generations of musicians, conductors and music educators across the globe, has made a significant impact in bringing our world and our cultures closer together,” said Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr. “He promoted the very best in his students, in music and in understanding of our world. His death leaves a void in leadership in many areas, and his friendship will be deeply missed.”

Dr. Long, who served as director of bands at TROY from 1965-1996, was a past president of the American Bandmasters Association and is a member of the National Band Association’s Hall of Fame of Distinguished Band Conductors and the Alabama Bandmasters Hall of Fame. In 2010, Dr. Long was named honorary president of the National Band Association, and in 2011, was the subject of a feature piece for CBS Evening News on his continued involvement as conductor of the Southeast Alabama Community Band. In 2012, he was elected Honorary Life Member of the American Bandmasters Association.

He continued to serve the University as Director of Bands Emeritus and Professor of Music Emeritus.

A native of Guntersville, Dr. Long was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa honor society, Phi Delta Kappa, Kappa Kappa Psi honorary band fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha, Delta Chi fraternity and Phi Eta Sigma. He was an active guest conductor, speaker, clinician and adjudicator through the United States, Europe, Canada and Mexico. In 2005, he was honored by the Alabama Music Educators Association with its Barbara Odom Award for lifetime achievements in music education, and holds the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the National Eagle Scout Association.

During his 31-year career at TROY, Dr. Long also served the University in various capacities, including chair of the music department, dean of the School

of Arts and Sciences and dean of the School of Fine Arts. Two buildings on the Troy Campus bear his name – John Maloy Long Hall and the Hawkins-Adams-Long Hall of Honor, which houses the NBA’s Hall of Fame.

Under his direction, the University’s “Sound of the South” marching band represented the state in two presidential inaugural parades (Nixon and Reagan) and served as the official band for two presidential visits to Alabama.

“Dr. John M. Long was the Director of Bands from 1965 – 1996. During that time, he built the band program into one of national prominence and quality. He has produced thousands of band directors and musicians who have gone on to careers throughout the United States in all areas of music and music education,” said Director of Bands Dr. Mark Walker.



“Dr. Long loved his students, family, friends, and Troy University. His influence is evident in band directors throughout the country. He will be sorely missed and forever remembered,” he said.

Before coming to Troy University, Dr. Long directed several high school bands in the state of Alabama, including a stint as band director at Marshall County High School before even receiving his high school diploma and Montgomery’s Robert E. Lee High School, recognized as one of the top high school bands in the country during his tenure. Hundreds of his former students have followed him into the career of music education.

He served in the U.S. Army as a bandsman in World War II, serving in Iraq, Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East.

He completed his bachelor’s degree at Jacksonville State University, a master’s degree at the University of Alabama and received an honorary doctorate from Jacksonville State.



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

Death, Taxes and Prosperity

The only two sure things in life, according to the saying, are death and taxes. Should businesses profit when one of their employees dies? They can avoid taxes, and this reduces our prosperity.

By Daniel Sutter
I first read about “*Janitors Insurance*” or “*Dead Peasants Insurance*” in Harvard Professor Michael Sandel’s What Money Can’t Buy. Professor Sandel used the case to criticize how this affected businesses’ view of workers: “Creating conditions where workers are worth more dead than alive objectifies them; it treats them as commodity futures rather than as employees whose value to the company lies in the work they do.”

Corporations have legitimate reasons to take out insurance on top executives. A good CEO has a vision and strategy for a company, which subordinates may not fully grasp. The sudden and unexpected death of a leader can cost a company. The insurance industry creates value by covering such losses.

By contrast, firms’ financial interest in most employees is more modest. Employees are certainly worth more than their salary, because they know and are good at their jobs. Hiring and training a replacement takes time and money. The stake, however, is small relative to the insurance policies companies take out, like a \$250,000 policy for a convenience store clerk. And companies keep the policies after employees quit or retire, so they are not protecting against losses from separation.

Janitors (and executives) Insurance policies are not for the employees’ benefit; they are “company owned,” meaning that the business pays the premiums and is the beneficiary. Many businesses do offer life insurance as an employee benefit. Employees and their families are the beneficiaries of these policies.

Although Professor Sandel refers in the above quote to an employee being worth more dead than alive, no one accuses businesses of hastening employees’ deaths to collect Janitors Insurance.

Our tax code incentivizes businesses to purchase Janitors Insurance. Life

insurance is an investment yielding a return on the premiums paid. The insurance company invests the premiums and shares some of the returns through a more generous benefit to make life insurance more attractive to potential customers.

Significantly for our story, life insurance death benefits are generally tax free. This allows businesses tax-free investment income.

We might want to blame corporations for trying to pay less in taxes, but this would be misplaced. Public finance economics distinguishes between tax avoidance and tax evasion. Avoidance legally reduces taxes owed, while evasion involves law breaking. Economists assume that individuals and businesses will engage in avoidance. Indeed, numerous ads during income tax season encourage us to avoid paying too much. We control tax evasion through legal and moral sanctions.

Efforts like Janitors Insurance to avoid taxes divert businesses’ effort away from earning profits. The time and effort managers use devising new tax dodges cannot be spent making new or improved goods and services or lowering costs, activities which make our economy more prosperous. Avoiding taxes merely makes someone else pay for government. When businesses find avoiding taxes more profitable than producing goods and services, our economy grows more slowly.

Considerable investment went into developing Janitors Insurance. Corporations lobbied states during the 1980s for laws allowing the insuring of all employees, not just executives. And explaining the legality and wisdom of Janitors Insurance to top management must have taken many meetings.

We like taxing businesses because they appear rich. Yet the question of who truly pays business taxes is very complicated. Taxes can reduce worker pay, while many working Americans own stocks through a pension or IRA.

Because of these uncertainties and the enormous cost of making tax avoidance more profitable than production, many economists support lower business taxes. The Tax Cuts and Job Act of 2017 indeed cut the corporate tax rate from 35 to 21 percent. Time will tell, but this tax cut should reduce businesses’ use of Janitors Insurance.

20 YEAR
ALABAMA
GAZETTE
ADVERTISER

PUMP REPAIRS

6908 Norman Bridge Road,
Montgomery, Alabama

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

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



20 YEAR
ALABAMA
GAZETTE
ADVERTISER

THE RAMER BANK

“There is a difference in hometown banking!”

**105 Main Street,
Ramer, AL
36069**

334-562-3257

Ramer Bank is an affiliate of Brantley Bank& Trust





Chef
David Spooner
Retired Chef

*Volunteer Fireman,
Lowndesboro V.F.D.
St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, Lowndesboro
Board of Registrars,
Lowndes County*

Southern Cuisine



I attended a Beekeeping symposium last month after having mixed luck with my hives. There was an entire-day beginner’s class to review what you have been doing right with your bees and to keep from doing things wrong. I have been able to collect 3 gallons of honey from my first hive but the next two hives collapsed. Besides the classes I went around talking and asking questions to the vendors showcasing the latest technology and hardware. Learn a few things that will help me, but I only bought a tee-shirt with the logo of beekeepers at Auburn, “AU bees”.

Beekeeping is not a cheap hobby but an important part of the ecosystem. Over the past decade colonies of bees have been disappearing and we are not quite sure why. “Colony collapse disorder” has caused billions of bees to leave their hives and never return and in some areas 90% of the bees have disappeared.

Here are some interesting facts about bees; they are the only insects that produce food eaten by man, and the honey has been used as an antiseptic and first aid treatment for burns and cuts, and is incredibly healthy and includes enzymes, vitamins, minerals and pinocembrin, an antioxidant associated with improved brain function. But, most important is what would happen if there were no more bees. The world would lose all the plants that bees pollinate. Then lose all the animals that eat those plants and so on up the food chain. I have read that the greatest impact if there were no more bees would be that man would only have four years left to live. But research is coming close to discovering ways to keep bees healthy and thriving. Beekeeping is a thriving industry with more people building hives and also planting flowers and plants to attract and help feed bees.

The month of March has several important celebration days.

- March 3:** What If Cats and Dogs Had Opposable Thumbs Day
- March 9:** International Fanny Pack Day
- March 13:** National Ear Muff Day and National Chicken Noodle Soup Day
- March 17:** National Irish Food Day In celebration of Saint Patrick’s Day, try making some traditional Irish food—from Irish Soda Bread to Corned Beef and Cabbage.
- March 21:** Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
- March 23:** National Chips and Dips Day
- March 30:** National Turkey Neck Soup Day. An old American way to celebrate the end of Winter and the promise of Spring. Turkey Neck Soup is pretty much what it says – a soup whose stock is made from turkey necks. The tough neck meat helps make soups richer.

According to an almanac, the best days in March to bake are the 4th and 5th. Best days to pickle vegetables and fruit are the 12th and 13th. The best days to make jams and jellies is the 21st and 22nd. The only weekend is when you can make your jams and jellies.

Spring break is this month and for families with kids in school or parents that work for schools the normal routine changes. There are people wanting to get fed every mealtime. And the mealtimes get pushed about because there are things to do and places to go. Some go on trips like to the beach or skiing. Some start their gardens and tend to their yards. I start on my beehives.

The weather is iffy this time of year. There is still cold days and the threat of rain looms.

This is the time for hardy stews and warming soups. A time for meals that can be made in large portions and ahead of time, ready when the need arises. This is the time I like to fix something that has not been on my menus for awhile. This month I decided to make French Onion Soup. The soup does not need many ingredients. Yet it is rich and satisfying, especially when you serve it right out of the oven with the cheese bubbling and the whiff of the broth fills the air. I found three recipes that looked promising and read the comments from people that already made the soups. I edited out parts of the recipes that others did not like and I agreed with. All three of the recipes had tweaks to the broth that was the deciding issue for my final recipe.

FRENCH ONION SOUP

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 5 Large yellow onions, peeled, halved and sliced ¼-inch thick.
 - Yield 3 to 4 pounds.
 - ¼ pound butter
 - 1 bay leaf
 - Pinch of salt
 - ½ cup dry sherry
 - ½ cup brandy
 - 1 ½ cups dry white wine
 - 1 can beef consommé soup
 - 2 quarts beef broth
 - 1 loaf of hard crust country bread. Best if bread is no bigger across than the soup crocks you are using.
 - Sliced Swiss cheese, one per serving or Gruyere, Mozzarella grated about a cup



- Makes about 3 quarts, servings depends on size of bowl
- METHOD:**
- Trim the ends off each onion then halve lengthwise. Remove peel and finely slice into half-moon shapes.
 - In a large deep fry pan, at medium-high heat, melt butter and add onions and sprinkle with a little salt. Sauté the onions stirring occasionally, until they have reached a golden brown or dark mahogany color. This should take up to 45 minutes to an hour.
 - If you cook on gas, turn the gas burner off and then add the sherry, brandy and wine. Turn the gas back on and reduce to syrup consistency. Add the consommé and the beef broth and bring to a simmer for at least 20 minutes.
 - Turn on oven broiler. Cut the bread in slices that will fit your toaster and toast to a medium brown.
 - Ladle hot soup into oven proof soup crocks leaving about one inch for the bread. Top with bread and then top with cheese.
 - Broil until cheese is bubbly and golden, 1 to 2 minutes.

This or any soup will be fine for a tide you over until the next meal or as a part of a larger meal. Lunch, dinner and supper can be “fly by” meals when everyone is off doing whatever they can during spring break. But breakfast can be a set meal where everyone gets together, somewhat, and plans the days activities. Nothing beats a meal that can be made in advance, serves many, is popular, and fills you up to tackle the day without stopping in an hour because you

are hungry. Nothing does these things like a casserole and not too many menu items do this like a “biscuits and sausage gravy” casserole. There is no reason why this can not be served at lunch or dinner. It can be served at supper, too! My grandparents had four meals a day. Supper usually consisted of eggs poached with toast or a biscuit, sausage or bacon, and plenty of hot sauce. To get back at task on hand, I am preparing this casserole for Sunday breakfast at church. Along with cheese grits, fruit and juice.

This dish isn’t better or worse than cooking biscuits and making gravy and pouring the gravy over the biscuits and then serve. It is just easier to do for a

BISCUITS AND GRAVY CASSEROLE

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 2 cans (16 oz. each) large butter milk biscuits
 - 1 pound ground breakfast sausage (your choice, mild or spicy) see notes:
 - 4 tablespoons flour
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 2 tablespoons fresh ground black pepper
 - 1 teaspoon garlic powder (optional)
 - 3 cups whole milk
 - 2 Tablespoons melted butter



- METHOD:**
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
 - Coat a 9X13 casserole dish with cooking spray.
 - Open both cans of biscuits and cut into fourths.
 - Arrange one can of the cut biscuits evenly around the bottom of the sprayed dish.
 - Bake for ten minutes or until nicely browned.
 - While biscuits are baking, brown the sausage over medium high until cook through. Reduce to medium heat. Mix flour, salt, pepper and garlic in a small bowl and then stir the flour mixture into the sausage until completely absorbed. Then add milk and stir frequently until the mixture starts to simmer. Reduce heat and stir frequently until it starts to thicken. Pour gravy over the cooked biscuits and top with the second can of cut biscuits. Bake for about 15 minutes or until the biscuits are a golden brown.
 - Brush the melted butter over the tops of the biscuits. Serve.
- Notes:** I am making two casserole dishes, so I am combining completely one pound of mild and one pound of spicy sausage. Then dividing it up for the two dishes.
- Serves 8-10 in a 9X13 dish.

group of people where there isn’t a full kitchen available. Which is the main reason for casseroles anyway.

ONE CAN NOT THINK WELL, LOVE WELL, SLEEP WELL, IF ONE HAS NOT DINED WELL.

Every Thursday
in March
3 Piece Baked
Chicken
(breast, leg & thigh)
\$11.99

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

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



Judge
Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for March

by Peggy Givhan

When we have come full swing into March, I always say that spring has sprung. Time to get serious about gardening such as making a plan if you have not done so, searching for plants at the various garden centers and nurseries, and getting seed out for sowing. Now is also a great time to plant lettuce, collard,

mustard and turnip greens. Herbs are also a great choice now, such as parsley, coriander, thyme, marjoram, oregano, dill and basil. If you have an area of the bed that consistently gets too much water, try watercress. They love wet feet.

If you prefer to start with seed, go ahead and sow these this month. One thing I do after I sow seed is to mark the area with spray paint so I do not accidentally overplant the area with new found flowers. Also since this a cooler time of year, you can fertilize with a commercial grade fertilizer such as 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 rather than the more expensive Osmocote or other time release fertilizers. Just spread the commercial fertilizer on top of the soil, work in with a rake, then plant. Many times in the heat of the summer, throwing this commercial grade fertilizer in the garden with young plants, tends to burn the leaves and can even kill the plants. Most of the time, woody stemmed flowers, such as hibiscus, allamanda, plumbago, roses are not as sensitive.

It may not be too late to put out aluminum sulfate around mop head hydrangeas to turn them blue rather than pink, when they bloom later. Remember, whether one is fertilizing or using aluminum sulfate on hydrangeas, come out about 2-3 feet from the plant. Also, do not cut back dead stalks on the common hydrangeas as they bloom on dead wood. But the Endless Summer varieties will bloom on last years' wood and new growth this year. There are newer varieties which have stronger stems to hold up their very large bloom heads. One, which is an improvement on the Anabelle series which have white blooms, is the Incrediball. The main feature of this newer arborescens variety sports head sized white blooms which keep blooming all summer. These varieties prefer the shade and more acid to acid neutral soil. However, the peegee or paniculata variety tolerates alkaline soils and tolerates more sun

exposure. One example would be Limelight and this one is commonly found in the River Region area stores.

PLANT OF THE MONTH - COREOPSIS

A wild flower found in meadows and on the side of highways, makes a great addition to any perennial garden. Easy to grow from seed, it produces profuse yellow to white to mauve blooms. It grows from fibrous-rooted crowns, forming large clumps. This large genus comes from the Aster family with daisy like blooms. The common name is tickseed, and blooms late spring through summer. It thrives in full sun and has a wide range of heights, from a foot tall to 6 feet tall. Coreopsis is drought tolerant when established but overly moist soils cause them to flop. Although these can be grown from seed, propagation is easy through stem cuttings in early summer. The cuttings root easily and can be planted in the same season. They make great cut flowers, are excellent border plants and make good companions to Echinacea or coneflower, phlox, Liatris, Gaillardia or blanket flowers.



GOOD GARDENING.

www.floridaholidayreview.com.

THE REAL HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK’S DAY

When you think of St. Patrick’s Day, you probably think of green beer, shot glass necklaces that say “Kiss Me I’m Irish,” and everybody talking about how Irish they suddenly are. That’s all well and good, but I bet you don’t know much about the holiday’s origins, or the saint it celebrates. Well, take off that stupid hat, stop talking like a leprechaun for a second, and educate yourself a smidge.

St. Patrick, considered the patron saint of Ireland, was actually born in Banna Venta Berniae, a town in Roman Britain, sometime in the late 300s AD. That’s right, Patrick wasn’t Irish. And his name wasn’t Patrick either—it was Maewyn Succat, but he didn’t care for that so he chose to be known as Patricius down the line. He actually had many monikers throughout his life: he was known by many as Magonus, by others as Succetus, and to some as Cothirthiacus. But we’ll just call him Patrick since everybody else does. Has a nice ring to it...

His father, Calpornius, was a deacon in the early Christian church, but Patrick wasn’t much of a believer himself. It wasn’t until he was captured by Irish pirates at the age of 16 and enslaved for six years as a shepherd that he chose to convert to Christianity. While in northeastern Ireland, Patrick learned the Irish language and culture before attempting to escape back to Britain. But Patrick wasn’t very good at escaping apparently, because he was captured again. This time by the French. He was held in France where he learned all about monasticism before he was released and sent home to Britain where he continued to study Christianity well into his twenties. Eventually, Patrick claimed he had a vision that told him to bring Christianity to the Irish people, who were predominantly pagan and druidic at the time, so Patrick he made his way back to Ireland and brought a big ol’ bag of Christianity with him.

When Patrick arrived back in Ireland, however, he and his preaching ways were not welcomed, so he had to leave and land on some small islands off the coast. There he began to gain followers, and he eventually moved to the mainland to spread Christian ideologies across Ireland for many years to come. During this time, Patrick baptized thousands of people (some say 100,000), ordained new priests, guided women to nunhood, converted the sons of kings in the region, and aided in the formation of over 300 churches.

Folklore also tells of Patrick banishing all the snakes from Ireland, but as badass as that may sound, there were never actually any snakes on the island to begin with. Lame, I know. But Patrick may be the one responsible for popularizing the shamrock, or that three-leafed plant you’ll see plastered all over the place today. According to legend, Patrick used it to teach the Irish the concept of the Christian Holy Trinity. They already had triple deities and regarded the number three highly, so Patrick’s use of the shamrock may have helped him win a great deal of favor with the Irish.

These days, Patricius is known to most as Saint Patrick. Though he’s not technically a canonized saint by the Catholic Church, he’s well-regarded throughout the Christian world. But why the holiday? Why always March 17? What’s with the green? And why do we think of a non-Irish, non-snake charmer as a symbol of Ireland?



St. Paddy’s Day started as a religious celebration in the 17th century to commemorate the life of Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. This “Feast Day” always took place on the anniversary of Patrick’s death, which was believed to be March 17, 461 AD. In the early 18th century, Irish immigrants brought the tradition over to the American colonies, and it was there that Saint Patrick started to become the symbol of Irish heritage and culture that he is today. As more Irish came across the Atlantic, the Feast Day celebration slowly grew in popularity. So much so, in fact, the first ever St. Patrick’s Day parade was held in Boston in 1737.

By the mid 19th century, the United States saw a massive influx of Irish immigrants hoping to escape the Great Famine. This transformed the relatively small-scale Feast Day observance into a full-blown celebration that people wanted to be a part of whether they were Irish or not. In 1903, Feast Day became a national holiday in Ireland, and over time it transformed into what is now called St. Patrick’s Day. The holiday has since been celebrated all over the world in countries like the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Russia, and even throughout Asia. As it happens, St. Paddy’s Day is so popular, it’s thought to be celebrated in more countries than any other national festival. What was once a fairly chill day of going to mass, watching a parade, and eating a hearty meal with family has transformed into the biggest party in the world.

If you’re wondering why you’re wearing green right now, there’s more to it than protection from pinching fingers. It goes back to the Irish Rebellion, when Irish soldiers wore green as they fought off the British in their trademark red. Until then, the color associated with St. Patrick and Feast Day was actually blue. The song soldiers sang during the war in 1798, “The Wearing of the Green,” changed all of that and made green, the color of shamrocks, Ireland’s mainstay color. From then on, people wore green on St. Patrick’s Day in solidarity. And when Chicago dyed their river green for the first time in 1962, the practice of wearing and decorating in green became a part of pop culture. It’s now commonplace to bust out your best greens mid-March.



www.montgomeryareafoodbank.org



Feeding Hope Across Alabama

521 Trade Center Street,
Montgomery, AL 36108
Ph: 334-263-3784
Fax: 334-262-6854
Office Hours: 7:00 am - 4:00 pm
Delivery Hours: 7:00 am - 3:00 pm
Call for Appointments

SUPPORT YOUR AREA FOOD BANK

Home Town Community News

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to

alabamagazette@gmail.com

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

Patricia Killough
Community Editor

March Birthdays



- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Jean Bennett
Davis Abbott Mason (2nd)
Brett O'Neal
Donna Ross | 15 George Handey
Sandy Stephans Rogers
Betty Lossman
David Hancock |
| 2 Amie Dean
Bill Oates
Norma Renfro | 16 Lisa Gordan Hester |
| 3 Dorothy Fuller (82nd)
Frank Reynolds | 18 William Watters Box
George McKinley (73rd)
Robert Singleton
Jacque Takacs
Olivia Thomas (85th)
Kayla Woodall |
| 4 Todd Cole
Russ Russell | 19 Charlotte Crane
Keisha Glasscock |
| 5 Glen Yost | 20 Connie Crowe |
| 6 Gayle Bosworth
Emmett Poundstone
Marjorie Wright | 21 Hannah Yost
Murlyne Clements
Dorothy Lasaine
Phillip Reeves (69th) |
| 7 Everett Cole
Laura Lane
Tony Law
Michael Carroll
Brad Wallace | 22 Kentston Whigham (7th) |
| 8 Frances Ard
Linda Clayton
David Ehrlich | 23 Ben Garrett
Laura Hudson
Morgan James
Brandy Landreau
Dawn Lane
Lallage Neil |
| 9 Grace Neighbors (93rd)
Courtney Whigham | 24 Robert Adams
Zenias Mims |
| 10 Jane Grubbs
Paula Lansdon
Cory Smith
Jeanne Villar
Michael Weldon | 25 Deborah Cox
Hunter Hannon
Wanda Madison |
| 11 Dr. John Bitter
Glenn Harper
Herb Meadows | 26 Ruby Macon |
| 12 Angie Ferreira | 27 Renee Grant
Cynthia Harper
Wendy Powell |
| 13 Linda Richardson
Samantha Jane Rice (9th) | 29 Delicia Fuller |
| 14 Brian Takacs
Dana Webster (65th) | 31 Carlie Corbin |

(Send us YOUR Birthdays!)

Veterans Celebrating March Birthdays

Adrian Jack Lively ~ March 2, 1940 ~ Age 80

Robert Douglas Pike ~ March 24, 1925 ~ Age 95

Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Evans, Alfred Leonard "Len" (50)died January 27, 2020
 Dean, James "Jimmy" Edwards (63)died January 31, 2020
 Black, Phillip Anderson (86)died February 1, 2020
 Mills, Pauline McCoy (85)died February 1, 2020
 Andrew, Joe Randall (72)died February 6, 2020
 Forester, Richard A "Dick" (91)died February 6, 2020
 Porter, William "Bill" Adam (79)died February 9, 2020
 Randall, Ann Reese (78)died February 9, 2020
 Smith, Sherry D.died February 10, 2020
 Bozeman, James "Jimmy" Ira (69)died February 12, 2020
 Capouya, Dr. Ralph Eli (93)died February 13, 2020
 Folsom, Father William "Bill" Preston, Jr. (93)died February 14, 2020
 Loeb, Joan Byck (88)died February 15, 2020
 Downes, Mary Gaynell (84)died February 16, 2020
 Jones, III, "Coach Ed" Edward Henry (81)died February 17, 2020
 Sullivan, Charles "Tommy" (83)died February 17, 2020
 Wood, Bertha Rhodes (93)died February 20, 2020
 Trammell, Edith Rae Jernigan (97)died February 22, 2020
 Sikes, Melvin (75)died February 24, 2020
 Moore, Malissa Walton (61)died February 25, 2020
 Pirtle, Dr. Winston H., D.V.M., J.D.died February 26, 2020
 Scrushy, George Edwin (91)died February 26, 2020

SWING IN TO SPRING

FEATURING

The Capitol Sounds Concert Band
& The Montgomery Recreators

St. James United Methodist Church

Thursday, March 12, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Ed & Dot Truitt (67th) | Ken & Linda Stringer (58th) |
| 5 Frank & Helen Ralph | 18 George & Lynn McKinley |
| 7 Bobby & Myra Mills | 21 Craig & Mindy Trotter (10th) |
| Jim & Barbara Garrett | 23 Paul & Cynthia Harper |
| John & Melanie Higgins | 25 Tim & Nicole Sansom |
| 9 Fred & Connie Crowe | 26 Elvin & Cam Stanton |
| Sonja & Steve Campbell (46th) | 27 Al & Conni Barnett |
| 10 Willard & Joyce Haines (68th) | Mike & Cindy Smith |
| 14 Nicholas & Sally Corley | 29 Bill & Vickie Gulsby |
| 15 Jim & Linda Richardson | |

(Send us YOUR anniversaries!)

Dr. Winston H. Pirtle, D.V.M., J.D.

died February 26, 2020

Our hearts are heavy as we share the passing of Dr. Winston Pirtle, a long time friend, family member and cherished doctor of Snowdown Veterinary Hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Pirtle Family as his presence will never be forgotten. He will always be a part of our hospital and community, and he will be missed greatly. (Facebook)

Dr. Pirtle is a native of Montgomery County, having grown up on a dairy farm south of the city. He is the only person in the Montgomery Bar Association that is both a licensed attorney and a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine. Dr. Pirtle is a graduate of Jones School of Law and was admitted to practice law in Alabama in 1999. Dr. Pirtle received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University in 1967. He established Snowdown Veterinary Hospital in 1973 and practiced general (large animal and small animal) veterinary medicine there until 2005. (mcbar.org)

Celebrating 40 Years of Service!

Gassett Funeral Home and Crematory, LLC

FUNERALS ~ CREMATIONS ~ PRE-ARRANGEMENTS ~ MONUMENTS



Front – Felecia Gassett Shockley, Glenda Gassett Terrell, Michele Gassett Henderson, Donna Boutwell. Back – Eddie Taylor, Dan Shockley, Alex Shockley, Joe Hooks, Mike Colquitt.

Family Owned
& Operated Since 1978.

204 East Charles Avenue
Wetumpka, Alabama
36092
334-567-8433

Where Superior Service
is Standard.

www.gassettfuneralhome.net

In Memory Of

Alice Ann Jennings – February 1, 2020
 Harlice Edward Kirby – February 2, 2020
 Billy Kyle Sewell – February 7, 2020
 Hebert Pat Vinzant – February 9, 2020
 Edward Dean Williams – February 11, 2020
 Walter Ercil Brown – February 12, 2020
 David Wayne Redman – February 12, 2020
 Lowell David Funderburk – February 12, 2020
 Florence Teresa Sullivan – February 13, 2020
 James Alford Blankenship – February 14, 2020
 Lavern Knight – February 18, 2020
 Phyllis Janelle Stoddard – February 18, 2020
 Velta Wesson – February 20, 2020
 Gertrude Jacquelyn McDonald – February 22, 2020
 Charles Thornton – February 25, 2020
 Walter Frank Pugh – February 24, 2020
 Timothy Arnold Futral – February 24, 2020
 Douglas Burke – February 27, 2020
 Jacqueline Harper – February 28, 2020

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Years and Laughter:

Socialism is not the answer

Most people – I think – are paying attention to the 2020 election. Whether watching Trump riding on what seems to be a rising tide, or following the Democratic primaries and caucuses, everybody is watching to some extent even if only for entertainment.

By Amanda Walker

Democratic Socialist Bernie Sanders is doing better than expected. Even the confused and chaotic Democratic party seem shocked at how well he is doing as attempts to usher in Michael Bloomberg continue.

I am not a socialist myself. I was interviewed years ago by Jean Martin, longtime beloved writer for the Selma Times Journal. In her article she described me as pretty and practical. I was a bit surprised by her description. She was being really generous with the first, and spot-on with the latter. I can be too practical. I rely too much on common sense and logic. I sometimes lean toward simplicity and minimalism. I appreciate freedom and value individualism greatly.

So by nature, I don't particularly understand socialism. I mean, I comprehend it, I just don't understand why anybody would want the government to control all aspects of economic activities including production, distribution, and consumption. It is the quickest way for everybody to become poor.

During the primary coverage, anytime Sanders supporters are asked why they support Senator Sanders' run for president I tend to listen.

I have never heard any of his supporters say anything other than they want free healthcare – for everyone, but mainly themselves I presume – and they want their student loan debt forgiven.

What justification is there for paying off student loans for people? If a person chooses the wrong career path for themselves, or they quit college, or they use student loan money for other things than education, or they chose to major in something that has no field of jobs when completed, why is the government – or rather the tax payers – responsible for those student loans?

If debt is forgiven for those who don't pay, would not then those who did pay their loans back or never got them in the first place deserve the same amount of money given to them via check or tax credit?

The answer to that of course is the idea of free college education for all. And free education for all would equate to a useless education for everybody.

Student loans are not mandatory. Those considering a loan should think it through, then think it through again. Make sure your career choice is going to pay enough to cover the student loan and also cover living expenses. Maybe consider a community college. Consider a skill, a trade, or a vocation like nursing. If you are willing to get a skill or vocation, and if you are willing to work, you will not have an issue with paying back student loan debt.

If you learn an in-demand skill – whether through a certification program, an apprentice program, or on the job training – you will not be haunted by student loan debt because you will be making over a hundred thousand dollars a year within a five year time span. You will be able to make a living, plus you will also have health insurance provided by your employer.

It is a win/win situation, and eliminates the silly notion of turning the United States of America into a socialist country.

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



Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms.Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits...

“Victorious”

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

Have you ever won something? Maybe it was winning your favorite card game, being the first to cross the finish line in a marathon, or winning a door prize at an event. When you do well or win something, it is a really great feeling.

"No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us." Roman 8:37

That feeling of victory is how we should be living our lives every day. God tells us that He made us more than victorious. Another translation says **“we are more than conquerors”**. That means that you are winners. You can walk around with your head held high because you know that you're a winner. You've got value to God because He placed value on you. God loves you and has an awesome plan for your life.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

So, be encouraged today. You are a winner because of who God says you are. You can experience victory every day because of who God made you to be.

Many Blessings!

HUGE INDOOR YARD SALE



RAIN OR SHINE

Woodland United Methodist Church

4428 Wallahatchie Road, Pike Road, Alabama 36064

**Friday, March 6th, 6pM-9pm
Saturday, March 7th -7am - Noon**

Everything is priced to sell! Furniture, antiques, books, clothes (many with the tags still on!), baby toys, glassware, appliances and so much more...Follow the signs!

All proceeds will be used to support our 2020 Mission Teams.



20 YEAR ALABAMA GAZETTE ADVERTISER

VIVIX, slow aging at the Cellular Level

Feel Younger, Longer, or Your Money Back

Shaklee®
Creating Healthier Lives™

Independent Distributor

334-288-8624

CONTACT ALICE COLE FOR ALL YOUR SHAKLEE NEEDS!
PWS.SHAKLEE.COM/ACOLE

55+ Independent Senior Community
334-281-4523

SERENITY APARTMENTS®
at Bell Oaks
AN ELEVATION COMMUNITY

Providing residents with comfort and convenience, Serenity Apartments offers: large common areas for gathering, spacious community dining room, outdoor patio, barbecue area, lush courtyards, three elevators, library, fitness center, comfortable media room, washer/dryer hookups, two laundry facilities, indoor postal service, handicapped parking, on site maintenance, paid water and trash pickup, monthly newsletter and calendar with social events.

AFFORDABLE RATES
1 Bedroom - From \$650
2 Bedroom - From \$775

3160 Bell Oaks Circle, Montgomery, AL 36116
www.serenityapartmentsatbelloaks.com

ELIZABETH H. WRIGHT APARTMENTS

Independent Senior Living • 62 and older



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

**5201 W. Alabama Christian Dr.
Montgomery, Al. 36109**

**(334) 386-7490 TDD 334-557-6252
or 557-6254**





Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Montgomery County Alabama Sheriff's Office

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.montgomerysheriff.com

(334) 832-4980



Chief Deputy
Kevin J. Murphy

Citizens Academy

We have begun our Citizens Academy for the new year! If you're not familiar with our Citizens Academy, it was established in 1997 to educate the citizens of Montgomery County on how the Sheriff's Office operates and to promote public safety among our community members. Classes are designed to be interesting as well as informative. Citizens are given an opportunity to ride with a Deputy on patrol, tour the County Jail, volunteer at events that are sponsored by the Sheriff's Office as well as train on the Firearms Training Simulator.



The Citizens Academy is a 'free' 6-week course that meets on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at our office, located at 115 South Perry Street. All material will be discussed during the meetings and neither homework nor physical activity is required.

Requirements:

- Resident of Montgomery County
- At least 21 years of age or older
- Pass a criminal background check
- Attend weekly meetings

Course Dates:

**March 2, 2020 –April 6, 2020

Applications can also be requested by calling 832-1339 or request by mail or fax.

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Attn: Citizens Academy Registration
115 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
Fax request to 832-7113

**If you missed the first class, you can still attend the course, please contact our Administrative Division at 832-1339 TODAY!

Firearms Familiarization Course

Register NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Courses for 2020!

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

Course Requirements:

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



2020 Course Dates:

March 14	June 6	September 5
April 18	July 11	October 10
	August 8	

Pistol Permit Questions?

334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?

Lisa.Crenshaw@mc-ala.org

334.832.1339

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

Annual
Easter Egg Hunt

hosted by:
Sheriff Derrick Cunningham
and the staff of the
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Saturday, April 11, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Auburn Montgomery
(near the gymnasium)
For kids ages 1-11

For more information, call 832-1339

Please join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11, 2020, at 10:00am, at Auburn Montgomery (near the gymnasium). We invite all children between the ages of 1-11 to come out with their Easter basket and join in on the fun!

We start promptly at 10:00am, so make sure you arrive in plenty of time! Sheriff Cunningham, his Staff and the Easter Bunny look forward to meeting with you all!



Social Media

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

Social Media Search

Facebook**Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Alabama**
Instagram**Mcsoal**
Snapchat**mcso.alabama**
Twitter**MG_Twitter**



Sheriff's Office App

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



Autauga County Alabama SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Joe Sedinger

162 W 4th Street
Prattville, AL

(334) 361-2500

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.autaugasheriff.org

Autauga County Sheriff's Office

Citizens Academy Application

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

You can request an application by calling 334-361-2503.

Applications must be received by Friday February 28, 2020.



**Support Your
Local
Law
Enforcement!!**



**DUNK A DEPUTY/COP,
NEWS REPORTER & A CRIMESTOPPER**
MAY 9, 2020 • 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

IN SUPPORT OF CENTRAL ALABAMA CRIMESTOPPERS

5 YEARS=\$5,000.00

THIS YEAR OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$5,000.00! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO CRIMESTOPPERS BEFORE CITYFEST YOU CAN DROP DONATIONS OFF AT THE AUTAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. IF YOU DONATE \$100.00 OR MORE BEFORE FRIDAY APRIL 17, 2020 YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR ON A SPONSOR BANNER.



Spring is in the Air ... Sit Back, Relax, and have some Fun!

THEME: CANDY

ACROSS

- 1. Unfathomably deep chasm
- 6. Lawyer group
- 9. Factoid
- 13. Non-flat area
- 14. Loquacious person’s gift
- 15. Member of clergy
- 16. Kitty sounds
- 17. Mesozoic one
- 18. All thumbs
- 19. *Who’s Pieces?
- 21. *Life ____
- 23. Comic book cry
- 24. Evening in Roma
- 25. Boar’s mate
- 28. Bank deposit
- 30. Actress Ali or singer Tim
- 35. Flying saucers
- 37. Yeahs’ opposers
- 39. One of the Muses
- 40. Ancient region of western Europe
- 41. *Sweet bear
- 43. In a little while, old-fashioned
- 44. Like a neon sign
- 46. Fashion’s “New Look” inventor
- 47. Weasel’s cousin
- 48. Cash in credit card points, e.g.
- 50. “Good grief!”



- 52. The Old Man’s turf
- 53. Tucked in
- 55. Sine ____ non
- 57. **Gimme a break” bar
- 60. *Egg with a surprise
- 63. Southwestern hut
- 64. Step on it
- 66. Small Asian ungulate
- 68. What radiology and biology have in common
- 69. Chihuahua’s cry
- 70. a.k.a. Ernest?
- 71. Japanese money, pl.
- 72. Blitzed
- 73. Industrious

DOWN

- 1. Similar to an adder
- 2. View from a moving train
- 3. Yesteryear
- 4. Shopping ____
- 5. Creates disorder
- 6. Forever and a day
- 7. *Hershey made the first American milk chocolate one
- 8. Belittle
- 9. Have supper
- 10. Tennis serving whiz
- 11. Memorial Day solo
- 12. “The ____ of Racing in the Rain”
- 15. Fast and lively
- 20. Increasing
- 22. Location of ulna
- 24. Hindered
- 25. *Principal candy ingredient
- 26. Allowed into a bar, e.g.
- 27. Past tense of will
- 29. Glorify
- 31. SI unit of mass
- 32. Raja’s wife, pl.
- 33. Do penance
- 34. *Famous fictional bar
- 36. ____ gin

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
	19					20			21	22			
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33
35			36		37			38		39			
40					41				42		43		
44				45		46					47		
48					49		50			51		52	
				53		54			55		56		
	57	58	59					60				61	62
63						64	65			66			67
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

GRAND ALASKAN CRUISE & TOUR

12 days, departs May - Sep, 2020

VMT vacations

*Before one per person based on double occupancy plus 1299 taxes & fees. Single supplements and optional upgrades may apply. Airfare subject to availability. Offer applies to new bookings only made by 3/31/20. Other terms and conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

© StaticPoint Media

FROM \$1,749
\$1,499*

1-844-870-9263

Promo code N7017

- 38. Smoke plus fog
 - 42. Baghdad resident
 - 45. Not strongly
 - 49. CEO’s deg.
 - 51. Fertilized
 - 54. C2H5
 - 56. “J” ____ ” by #46 Across
 - 57. Green superfood
- 58. Desktop picture
 - 59. Facebook photo links
 - 60. Not disregarded, as in a promise
 - 61. Marine eagle
 - 62. Surprise at a speakeasy
 - 63. *Almond-induced state
 - 65. Cardinal 3
 - 67. Bovine hangout

BASEBALL Word Search

puzzles-to-print.com

R	S	R	K	J	B	K	A	O	S	K	R	A	P	E	X	B	F	Q
E	E	E	L	M	L	E	A	J	T	B	P	U	K	S	T	G	T	N
O	K	H	Z	A	C	A	R	D	I	Z	U	U	C	O	N	E	M	A
K	J	C	W	P	E	G	B	C	H	S	W	A	E	L	X	E	Y	S
X	P	T	A	N	O	I	P	M	A	H	C	K	D	N	E	W	L	S
J	E	I	O	H	N	N	D	P	H	O	I	O	W	C	I	Q	L	I
B	L	P	B	M	X	M	R	X	M	D	U	O	R	B	N	L	A	S
A	A	G	H	W	U	M	I	T	T	B	R	I	C	E	B	N	B	T
H	B	N	P	B	Y	H	S	X	L	H	V	I	T	Q	I	U	D	D
W	P	I	H	B	X	A	C	E	T	B	Z	D	L	T	P	I	N	T
L	L	T	P	S	V	E	H	N	U	K	Q	U	N	E	H	U	U	T
L	E	R	A	E	R	E	W	L	H	P	N	Z	D	A	G	L	O	C
S	I	A	S	M	A	C	C	U	F	T	X	I	O	G	I	W	R	R
U	V	T	G	D	Q	L	L	T	U	F	T	B	N	O	T	B	G	G
V	L	S	E	U	U	U	Z	O	E	K	B	S	T	E	H	L	F	Y
X	D	R	D	O	E	J	H	J	N	M	G	F	R	A	J	A	T	G
U	N	I	F	O	R	M	R	M	T	A	L	Z	E	I	B	E	A	N
W	O	H	M	S	H	U	L	E	Y	A	L	E	K	T	F	T	U	Z
I	J	E	N	A	N	P	C	R	E	T	T	I	H	O	N	S	A	S

ASSIST

AT BAT

BUNT

CARD

CHAMPION

CLUB

DECK

DOUBLE HEADER

FIRST

FOUL

GROUND BALL

HELMET

HITS

LEAGUE

LINEUP

LOSE

MITT

NINE

NO-HITTER

OUT

PARK

RUN

SAVES

SCORE

STARTING PITCHER

STEAL

TAG

THROW

UNIFORM

WALK

Final Glimpse of Cuba

continued from page 9A



Sam addressing the crowd as coach interprets.



Glimpse of a home and rural life.



Off the coast of Cuba near Trinidad.



The group enjoyed scenery by horseback.



Local farmers gather tobacco by hand.



Cuba’s capital building in Havana is a beautiful sight by night.



Maria Mendez and Sam Adams.



Maria has the inaugural dinner of a new restaurant with Chef Gabo. A step toward entrepreneurship for small business in Cuba.



The Alabama Gazette

ALABAMA
Farmers and Consumers' Bulletin

The Fleeting Fig
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

"The 'Amazing' can only be created by facing fear, risk, and failure during the process."

~ Superman

Let us give you an amazing opportunity to change your life ... join Alabama Gazette Publishing's sales team and create your own income networking businesses locally and throughout the State with one or all of its publications!

Call (334) 356-6700

or email: alabamagazette@gmail.com

We need YOU to become a part of the fastest growing Newspaper in Central Alabama!

Earn Now!



Join our TEAM!

Full & Part-time Opportunities

Enjoy Reading the New Alabama Farmers and Consumers' Bulletin!

From the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, news and reports that affect YOU the consumer, as well as classifieds throughout the State!

If you haven't seen the latest **Alabama Farmers and Consumers' Bulletin**, do you know what are you missing? This 120-year-old publication now boasts full-color pages with more content. Subscribers love the new look, and it's a whole new opportunity for advertisers to reach thousands of rural Alabamians and others in the Ag Industry! Also, Subscribers receive FREE classified listings! Don't miss the next issue ... send in your subscription today!

\$18* per year!

12 issues a year!



*In-state, \$18/yr. Out-of-state, \$22/yr.

Subscribe to (subscription cost is shipping & handling)



Fill out the form below & return it with your check, payable to:

Alabama Farmers and Consumers' Bulletin (AFCB)
P.O. Box 3336 / Montgomery, AL 36109-0336

☐ In-State Residents
\$18 for 1 year (12 issues)

☐ Out-of-State Residents
\$22 for 1 year (12 issues)

☐ NEW Subscription

☐ Renewal

☐ Address Change

Subscription number (if known): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Home No: _____ Cell No: _____

E-mail: _____ County: _____

Pick up the **NEW Fleeting Fig** at local establishments for fun, trivia, interesting articles and more! Contact the Gazette about advertising opportunities for your business ... we are all about Networking! Another publication free to the public by The Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC.

