

HOUSTON DEVASTATION

THE HEART of AMERICA IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE!



THE ALABAMA Gazette



**ALABAMA'S
FREE
PRESS**

Take One!

VOL. 17. ISSUE 12 ~ September 2017

alabamagazette@gmail.com

Online: www.alabamagazette.com

28 Pages – 4 Sections ©2017

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

334-356-6700



**Remember 3,000 lives!
Our world is less safe
now than then.**

**Know that HATE is the
ruler of destruction!**

**Remembering the
UNITY of our
America on 9/11.**

SEPTEMBER 11TH

We will never forget!



LABOR DAY

September 4

Always the first Monday in September, Labor Day was the idea of Peter J. Maguire (although recent research has shown that it might have been his brother Matthew's idea), a labor union leader who in 1882 proposed a celebration honoring the American worker.

Have a Safe & Happy Holiday


DESTRUCTION OF CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS

This is the new sacrament of the leftist whackos out there. They want to rid the entire country of all Confederate monuments and in effect, removing all vestiges of this painful and dark chapter in American history. I saw the irreverent Al Sharpton on television tonight calling for the defunding of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial because the founder once owned slaves. Some knuckleheads are also calling for the destruction of Mt. Rushmore as well. For crying out loud, someone was caught the other day trying to dig up a Confederate soldier. You kidding me? Opinions are indeed like rear ends; everybody has one and most of them are rather unpleasant, but here's mine. These monuments DO NOT BOTHER ME. Look, unfortunately most people cannot be intellectually honest or are not smart enough to see the difference between a historical monument and some idiot waving a Confederate

Battle Flag in my face. One is not a problem, the other is a big problem.

The way I see it, as a published historian, I love history. Good, bad, painful, racist, bigoted, bloody, peaceful you name it. I love the lessons learned and understanding that the nature of history is that once it is done, it cannot be undone. No matter how distasteful it may be, you cannot undo it so it is best to learn from it. Removing monuments does nothing to change what has already happened and by ignoring your history guess what? Yeah, yeah like the saying goes, "You are doomed to repeat it."

This is an excerpt from Rob's observations on page 3A.



Rob Tate
Alabama Gazette
Contributing Writer

Feature Articles for September, 2017...

Bat-Guano Craz
By Rob Tate page 3A
~~~~~


**Taking Down Monuments...  
Like a Form of Free Speech?**  
By Ron Holtsford page 4A  
~~~~~

**Preventing Nuclear War in a
Nuclear World**
Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation page 5A
~~~~~

**Top 40 Football Picks for 2017**  
By Ed Jones, Football Editor page 1B

## Monuments?

The actual destruction of a monument is protected by the following:



**By Ronald A. Holtsford**  
Contributing Writer

(1) Section 13A-7-21, Code of Alabama  
**Criminal mischief in the first degree.**

(a) A person commits the crime of criminal mischief in the first degree if, with intent to damage property, and having no right to do so or any reasonable ground to believe that he or she has such a right, he or she inflicts damages to property:

(1) In an amount exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500); or

(2) By means of an explosion.

(b) Criminal mischief in the first degree is a Class C felony.

and,

(2) The Alabama Memorial Preservation Act. Act 2017-354 reads in part in the introduction as;

To create the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act of 2017, to prohibit the relocation, removal, alteration, renaming, or other disturbance of any architecturally significant building, memorial building, memorial street, or monument located on public property which has been in place for 40 or more years; to provide a mechanism for the relocation, removal, alteration, renaming, or other disturbance of any architecturally significant building, memorial building, memorial street, or monument located on public property which has been in place for at least 20 years and less than 40 years; to provide a mechanism for the renaming of a memorial school which is located on public property and has been so situated for 20 or more years; to prohibit any person from preventing the governmental entity responsible for maintaining the monuments, memorial streets, architecturally significant buildings, and memorial buildings from taking proper measures to protect, preserve, care for, repair, or restore the monuments, streets, or buildings;

The Act does provide that the initial members of the Council having oversight be appointed by 1 September 2017 (by the time this goes to print) and have their first organizational meeting on 1 October 2017.

**This is an excerpt from Ronald A. Holtsford's article on page 4A**



visit us on  
**facebook**



**Check out what's happening in the River Region:  
Autauga County - Elmore County - Montgomery County & Surrounding area.**

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

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
MONTGOMERY, AL

**PERMIT #69**

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

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



**Bryan Jewelry**



# Planes, Terrorists, the Threat of Missiles or tons of RAINDROPS UNITE America as it should be!

*Harvey made landfall as a Category-4 hurricane before weakening to a tropical storm that circled southwestern Texas for days and shattered the continuous U.S. rainfall record for a tropical storm according to the National Weather Service.*



## RECOVERY IS IN THE EARLY STAGES. MORE HELP IS NEEDED!

### NEW LIFE IS BORN IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM

Greg and Annie Smith remains amazed and grateful to the neighbors and firemen who helped them, as well as, the medical team members who assisted them.

*“It is absolutely incredible how many people responded and was trying to help us,” Annie said.*



## UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE MARTHA ROBY

ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT

### There’s an App for That...



*Martha Roby represents Alabama’s 2nd Congressional District. She lives in Montgomery, Alabama with her husband, Riley and her two children.*

I’m a big believer in helping our students prepare for the careers of tomorrow. I’ve had a lot to say about the great work our state is doing to promote career and technical education and how Congress is supporting those efforts through funding and policy improvements. Wherever there is an emerging industry with the opportunity for job growth, we need to be helping students develop the skills to compete for those jobs. With industries like auto manufacturing and aerospace, Alabama has proven we can compete with anyone in the world. Now, under the leadership of Governor Kay Ivey and Alabama Community College System Chancellor Jimmy Baker, there are some very exciting opportunities on the horizon with the computer science industry in our state.

That’s why I’m pleased to announce that Alabama’s 2nd Congressional District will be actively participating in the 2017 Congressional App Challenge. From now until November, I will be encouraging high school students to submit their original computer, tablet, or smartphone application designs. Submissions will be judged by a panel of local computer science educators and innovators, and the winner will be invited to Washington, D.C. to show off their design in the U.S. Capitol.

For decades, Congress has sponsored an art competition to encourage high school students’ participation in the arts. Every year, my staff and I very much look forward to getting to host the art competition winners in Washington, D.C. and display their work in the Capitol. This year’s winning piece actually went viral on social media for its beautiful design and clever name.

A few years ago, Congress voted to host a similar competition for coding and computer science. The Internet Education Foundation, a non-partisan, non-profit entity was selected to be the official sponsor for the academic completion, and several corporate sponsors in the tech industry have signed on as well.

Given the tremendous growth of the coding industry, it makes sense to encourage students’ participation in this emerging field. For most of us, the idea of designing the code to run computer or phone applications is difficult to grasp. But, if you think about it, we now use computer applications every day to interact with each other, pay bills, or play games. For every application there is a team of designers and coding engineers, which is why computer science is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the

average pay for a computer programmer is just under \$80,000 a year or more than \$38 an hour.

I’m especially pleased to see several high schools around the state develop coursework for coding and computer science. Houston Academy in Dothan, LAMP High School and Catholic High School in Montgomery, Elmore County High School in Eclectic, and Prattville High School all have Advanced Placement Computer Science courses where students are learning cutting-edge skills. In fact, this week I will be visiting Prattville High School’s new AP Computer Science class to see the instruction firsthand.

I am eager to get students at Prattville and all throughout our state involved in the Congressional App Challenge. If you’re a parent or an educator interested in getting your students involved, please contact my office or visit [www.CongressionalAppChallenge.us](http://www.CongressionalAppChallenge.us) for more information. The deadline to submit an application is November 1, so don’t delay. I hope to make this an annual competition throughout Alabama’s 2nd Congressional District.

**Representative Martha Roby**  
[robypress@mail.house.gov](mailto:robypress@mail.house.gov)



## 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](http://www.steveflowers.us)



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

Most people would assume that as the race for the open U.S. Senate began that Luther Strange, the appointed incumbent, was the favorite. However, polling indicated that Roy Moore was the favorite and still is as we head towards the September 26 runoff.

The initial polling showed that Moore had a hardcore 30 percent. It was and is as solid as a rock. He had 30 percent from the get-go. He had 30 percent mid-way in the race and he had 30 percent at the end. It was also a fact that with a low voter turnout that his 30 percent would become accentuated because the final poll and the one that counts is election day and who actually shows up to vote. Moore’s supporters are more ardent and are going to show up to vote for him come hell or high water. They are also older, and older people tend to vote; 65-80 year old voters are always more likely to vote.

The turnout on August 15 was 18 percent and Moore’s vote total was 39 percent. Allow me to crow a little – the day before the election I predicted an 18 percent turnout and that Moore would get 39 percent. I missed Luther Strange by some six points. I had him at 27 percent. He did better than I thought. He garnered 33 percent.

There was only six points separating Strange and Moore. This is not an insurmountable obstacle to overcome. My early handicapping of the runoff has it as a dead heat between Moore and Strange.

As the race began, it was apparent that it was a two-man race between Moore and Strange. Moore began with an immovable evangelical block and the Washington Republican Senate leadership made it clear that they were going to treat Strange as an incumbent and that they were going to give him unlimited resources. They weren’t just whistling Dixie. They put their money where their mouth was. They must have spent \$5 million.

When you have that kind of money and the national powerbrokers and hierarchy dictating their choice, you not only have all the media ads available, you also have access to the very best hired guns, pollsters and media gurus in the country. They are the best gunslingers in the land. They do not lose many gunfights and they like to go negative.

It was obvious that these pros saw that Donald Trump or at least his public policies are extremely popular among Alabama Republican primary voters. There-

fore, their script for Luther Strange was to say he was on Donald Trump’s side and would be for the Trump agenda to make America great again.

Luther stuck to the script and did a good job avoiding any negative questions about the questionable Robert Bentley appointment. Unlimited money washes away any unsavory scenarios and allows you to dictate the narrative.

The early polling revealed that the Bentley appointment was an albatross for Luther. I do not personally believe that Luther and Bentley ever discussed the Bentley investigation. However, to most people it looked as though the appointment was a brazen deal or at least collusion and in politics, perception is reality.

Therefore, for this reason on Luther’s part and for obvious reasons on Moore’s part, they both began with high negatives. Internal polling showed that there was fertile ground for a third person to win this race.

That third person emerged in the form of Tennessee Valley Congressman, Mo Brooks. He is a firebrand arch conservative intellectual, Tea Party, Freedom Caucus, true believing ideologue. He was bold enough to take on the Mitch McConnell super PAC big money Washington establishment. He had \$1.2 million in his Congressional campaign account and 20 percent statewide name recognition from his Congressional district.

Mo did not plan on being shot at by a left wing Bernie Sanders socialist nut while practicing baseball for the Republican Party baseball team. However, the exposure gave him \$2 million in free publicity. You could have no better introduction to Alabama GOP Primary voters.

The Washington Luther Strange gunslingers saw the momentum that Mo had. He was about to catch Luther and they stopped him dead in his tracks with an ad that said he was not going to vote for Donald Trump last year.

When Trump endorsed Big Luther it closed the deal. Luther had his place in the runoff and Mo has to fight to keep his U.S. House seat.

The final results were predictable. Roy Moore led with 39 percent; Luther Strange got a strong 33 percent; and Mo Brooks finished with a respectable 20 percent.

The runoff between Strange and Moore is too close to call at this time.





# ROBSERVATIONS...

## Bat-Guano Crazy

by Robert Tate

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

As I sit here writing this Robservation, another “car into the crowd” attack just happened in Barcelona, Spain; 14 dead and a hundred or so injured. CNN, not surprisingly, suggested that it was a “copycat” of the Charlottesville, VA attack from earlier in the week. Of course, it couldn’t be a copycat of Niece, Antwerp, London or dozens of other similar attacks around the world. Right? But to fit their crazy narrative, the press had to claim it might be related to Charlottesville. I am here to tell you that after the last week of news, I am convinced the whole world is turning crazy. Bat-guano crazy. Here goes some of the more insane things I heard this week. At the end, you can read my very first “Dear T8er” letter.

**1. ICELAND HAS ERADICATED DOWNS SYNDROME** – Now that is an amazing news headline. Icelandic scientists have discovered a cure for Downs Syndrome and according to one study, less than 5 Down Syndrome babies were born in that country last year. What an astonishing story. I was intrigued because I have a younger sister with Downs. Then you read a little further and realize that they have almost eradicated this syndrome, not because of stellar science but because they are aborting almost every kid that tests positive for Downs. Mom’s are given a choice to be tested, which is supposedly 85% accurate, and then given the choice to abort or not. It is not mandatory yet. But come on. Bottom line, the Icelanders can boast, “We have killed Downs Syndrome by killing our babies.” That is definitely not something to be proud of.

**2. DESTRUCTION OF CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS** – This is the new sacrament of the leftist whackos out there. They want to rid the entire country of all Confederate monuments and in effect, removing all vestiges of this painful and dark chapter in American history. I saw the irreverent Al Sharpton on television tonight calling for the defunding of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial because the founder once owned slaves. Some knuckleheads are also calling for the destruction of Mt. Rushmore as well. For crying out loud, someone was caught the other day trying to dig up a Confederate soldier. You kidding me? Opinions are indeed like rear ends; everybody has one and most of them are rather unpleasant, but here’s mine. These monuments DO NOT BOTHER ME. Look, unfortunately most people cannot be intellectually honest or are not smart enough to see the difference between a historical monument and some idiot waving a Confederate Battle Flag in my face. One is not a problem, the other is a big problem.

The way I see it, as a published historian, I love history. Good, bad, painful, racist, bigoted, bloody, peaceful you name it. I love the lessons learned and understanding that the nature of history is that once it is done, it cannot be undone. No matter how distasteful it may be, you cannot undo it so it is best to learn from it. Removing monuments does nothing to change what has already happened and by ignoring your history guess what? Yeah, yeah like the saying goes, “You are doomed to repeat it.”

People who know me know that I am a WWII German Luftwaffe historian. I love studying what the German Air Force did in WWII and admire the technical acumen of many of their aces; arguably the best fighter pilots in the war. I have sat in many living rooms, interviewed many of them and found them to be nice old men who had a pretty crappy job to do. As their top ace, Erich Hartmann (352 kills) told me one day, “At a time in my life when I should have been playing soccer with these boys, my government made me go out and kill them instead.” So does the fact that I can respect their achievements make me a Nazi or Nazi sympathizer? I had an idiot boss one day call me a Nazi because I studied the Luftwaffe. Come on people, I am a black guy, remember? Black Nazi? Oy!! Do you think all German soldiers were Nazis? Really? That would be like me saying that all Americans in WWII were racist, bigoted, card carrying Klansmen. It just isn’t so. Sorry but it isn’t. Not even close. Read your history. There were many good men who fought on the wrong team. I’m sure even the most ardent, hardcore Auburn vs. Alabama fans can admit to this reality. As a young German kid, I am thinking, “Let me see, I can learn to fly and fight and possibly survive the war or I can rot inside a concentration camp and die.” Not too tough a choice.

So as a historian, I can unapologetically compartmentalize my ideas and clearly see the difference between some idiot waving a Nazi flag and me walking through a German museum and seeing a Messerschmitt without the Swastika on the tail because it may be offensive to some. Although I want to see the airplane painted as it appeared in the war, at the same time I can sort of understand the museum’s decision. The destruction of military history inside Germany, however, that I cannot understand nor support.

It is the same for the Confederate brouhaha in our country today. Monuments are coming down almost daily now, either by city decree or the criminal actions of the hoodlum ANTIFA folks. I have heard, yet again, the cry for Stone Mountain in Georgia to be destroyed and it will only be a matter of time before some call for the destruction of the White House of the Confederacy here in our city of Montgomery. Wait for it. It is going to happen. When it does and rallies form, I know exactly what side I will be standing on. Again, no matter how distasteful it is, history needs to be continually reviewed and studied in order to not repeat similar mistakes again and again. On another note, equally important in my eyes, is that all descendants of those who fought in the Civil War have the right to honor their ancestors. Simple.

**PRESIDENT TRUMP RHETORIC** – OMG!! The press had a field day with President Trump’s “fiery” talk against North Korea. I honestly could not believe what I was hearing. After threats from North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un,

President Trump responded with, “They will be met with fire, fury and frankly power the likes of which this world has never seen before.” Collectively, almost the entire press corps peed their pants in disbelief. According to them, President Trump’s words were reckless, not helpful, divisive, you name it. Anything but what needed to be said.

Look, this is the real world. Not Fantasy Island with Mr. Roarke and Tattoo. This is life. Real life. A President-of-the-United-States-responsible-for-over-300-million-lives kind of real life. We had another country (NOKO) actually say they were going to attack the U.S. with nuclear weapons. Weapons they are now currently testing. I dare say that neither Russia nor China would sit back and take such a threat sitting down. Yet we are supposed to? No! They had to be made to understand that if they dropped a nuke on American soil or on an American territory like Guam, they might as well call Rand-McNally and get them to redraw some lines because NOKO was no longer going to exist as we know it. Sometimes you have no choice but to punch a bully in the face to make him understand you mean business. The key to any coercive strategy (something I taught for several years at Maxwell AFB) is the entity you are trying to coerce must not ever doubt that you are willing and able to do what you say you are going to do. Unlike President Obama’s feckless Syrian red-line in the sand, Kim Jong Un now understands what is at stake and what will be the result of any ill-advised actions against the U.S.

For grins, I looked up some of my favorite quotes from two of my favorite WWII leaders. Of course, Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Arthur “Bomber” Harris, Commander of RAF Bomber Command from February 1942 through the end of the war. Keep in mind, at the time, there were those similar idiots in England who also thought this rhetoric was too strong. I think the 11 million people killed in concentration camps and the 50-80 million total killed would probably disagree.

### WINSTON CHURCHILL

“We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. 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. . .”  
“To achieve the extirpation of Nazi tyranny there are no lengths of violence to which we will not go.”

### BOMBER HARRIS

“The Nazis entered this war under the rather childish delusion that they were going to bomb everyone else, and nobody was going to bomb them. At Rotterdam, London, Warsaw, and half a hundred other places, they put their rather naive theory into operation. They sowed the wind, and now they are going to reap the whirlwind.”(Hosea 8:7) -- Remember, this quote followed the German Blitz against British cities where some 40,000+ people were killed.  
“Dresden? There is not such a place any longer. I want to point out, that besides Essen, we never actually considered any particular industrial sites as targets. The destruction of industrial sites always was some sort of bonus for us. Our real targets always were the inner cities.”

“We are going to scourge the Third Reich from end to end. We are bombing Germany city by city and ever more terribly in order to make it impossible for her to go in with the war. That is our object, and we shall pursue it relentlessly.”  
Tough talk; tough men; tough times. Suck it up, Buttercup.

**3. MARIA CHAPPELLE-NADEL** – Who? Yeah, that is what I said. For what it is worth, she is the idiot democratic state senator from Missouri who posted on Facebook, and you cannot make this stuff up, and I quote, “I hope Trump is assassinated.” Let me see, sitting politician, calling for the assassination of our current President? And she is not in jail, why? Would love to see the moment the Secret Service guys show up at her door. I know, I know. It will because Trump is racist. Sheesh!

**4. CHARLOTTESVILLE RIOTS** – Because of space, I will not get into this today. For another time for sure. Let’s just wait and see what other news comes out of this incident.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear T8er,

I am the leader of the free world but continually get blow back from my opposition, the press and even people on my side. It is very frustrating and disheartening. I am not sure what to do. Any advice?  
POTUS

Dear POTUS,

I know you are probably used to being the smartest guy in the room. In the league you are now playing, that is likely not the case. Use your advisors. Trust them. If you don’t, get rid of them. Next, don’t continually take the bait of the radical press that takes you off of your programmed track. They are doing that to good effect right now. You need to see this. Therefore, resist the temptation to continually fight the battle that you cannot win. This is your Kobayashi Maru, just like Captain Kirk of Star Trek. In this battle, however, you cannot cheat to win. But rather trust in the sage words of Winston Churchill who once penned, “You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks at you.”

T8er

Robert Tate

The Alabama  
**Gazette**

12 E. Jefferson Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Owner/Publisher  
Managing Editor  
Loretta Grant**

**Owner/Publisher  
Samuel Adams**

Sharron Smith ~ Marketing & Sales Director  
Janice Dillard ~ Marketing Director Eclectic & Tallassee  
Susan Crawford ~ Classifieds, Accounting, & Social Media  
Brian McCord ~ Delivery  
James Brown ~ Sales Associate  
Eric Barnes ~ Sales Associate  
www.alabamagazette.com  
alabamagazette@gmail.com

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

Published by: Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC  
Volume 17 - Issue 12 Copyright 2017  
The Alabama Gazette 24 pages- 4 Sec.

The Gazette, (now *The Alabama Gazette*) was created in year 2000 for the people of Central Alabama with the intent of being a thought-provoking, non-partisan publication reaching over 20,000 readers monthly. Written comments, stories, advertisements, social and church events, as well as classifieds are always welcome. The publisher is not responsible for errors in text reprinted from other sources. Furthermore, this publication does not

establish due diligence on authors or advertisers and cannot guarantee that their offerings or writings are correct or suitable. We assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. We reserve the right to print, edit or condense any and all contents submitted. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising and submissions at its own discretion. All articles, ads and photographs may be subject to copy-right.

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





**Ronald A. Holtsford**

(1) Section 13A-7-21, Code of Alabama

**Criminal mischief in the first degree.**

(a) A person commits the crime of criminal mischief in the first degree if, with intent to damage property, and having no right to do so or any reasonable ground to believe that he or she has such a right, he or she inflicts damages to property:

(1) In an amount exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500); or

(2) By means of an explosion.

(b) Criminal mischief in the first degree is a Class C felony.  
and,

(2) The Alabama Memorial Preservation Act. Act 2017-354 reads in part in the introduction as;

To create the Alabama Memorial Preservation Act of 2017, to prohibit the re-location, removal, alteration, renaming, or other disturbance of any architecturally significant building, memorial building, memorial street, or monument located on public property which has been in place or 40 or more years; to provide a mechanism for the relocation, removal, alteration, renaming, or other disturbance of any architecturally significant building, memorial building, memorial street, or monument located on public property which has been in place for at least 20 years and less than 40 years; to provide a mechanism for the renaming of a memorial school which is located on public property and has been so situated for 20 or more years; to prohibit any person from preventing the governmental entity responsible for maintaining the monuments, memorial streets, architecturally significant buildings, and memorial buildings from taking proper measures to protect, preserve, care for, repair, or restore the monuments, streets, or buildings;

The Act does provide that the initial members of the Council having oversight be appointed by 1 September 2017 (by the time this goes to print) and have their first organizational meeting on 1 October 2017.

There are exceptions in that the Alabama Department of Transportation and universities may move monuments as well as a few other entities in the interest of construction.

Furthermore, the Act provides that should the Attorney General of the State of Alabama determine that there has been a violation then the entity that exercises control over the protected structure or street then that entity shall be fined \$25,000.00 for each violation. The fine shall be collected, forwarded to the Alabama State Treasurer and deposited into the Alabama State Historic Preservation Fund.

Again to reiterate, the tearing down of monuments is protected and has no rights under the free expression of speech. If done on private property it seems there would be less protection except that trespass now enters into the picture.

It appears at this writing that the mayor of Birmingham has covered the Confederate statue in a city run park and is having a structure built around it to hide it.

***1,529 Protesters vandalized and attempted to take down the Peace Monument in Piedmont Park in Atlanta on Sunday, mistaking it for a pro-Confederate statue.***

*The protesters were marching in response to the violent protests in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Saturday where one woman died after being deliberately hit by a car, and two law enforcement personnel were killed when the helicopter they were in crashed.*

*“The Atlanta march traveled from Woodruff Park to Piedmont Park Sunday, where some damaged the Peace Monument, erected in 1911,” a blog on the Atlanta Journal-Constitution website said <<http://buzz.blog.ajc.com/2017/08/14/atlantas-peace-monument-desecrated-by-protesters-champions-unity-not-the-confederacy/>>. “The sculpture features an angel standing above a Confederate soldier, guiding him to lay down his weapon.”*

*But the memorial attacked by protesters — some dressed in black and wearing masks — was erected to encourage healing and reconciliation:*  
*by PENNY STARR -16 Aug 2017*



## ISN’T TAKING DOWN MONUMENTS THAT YOU DON’T LIKE A FORM OF FREE SPEECH?

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

I think it is clear that the mayor has violated this Act and hopefully the Attorney General will act as directed and the mayor reverse his decision in accordance with the law before Birmingham parts with \$25,000.00 plus of taxpayer money.

I think that President Trump’s remarks about the violence stemming from the removal of a statue of General Robert E. Lee from both sides in Charlottesville, VA is correct. The violence that occurred is abhorrent. The stance of the white supremacists that attended really have nothing to do with the monument but hate. The stance of the alt left group that attended wanted nothing more than to destroy history and make some attempt at correcting a wrong that occurred not in their life time or the lifetime of their parents or their grandparents or great grandparents, but possibly in the lifetime of their great-great grandparents. Probably the names of which they do not know.

The ONLY groups that have rights to the symbols of the Confederacy are their successors such as the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Their use is limited to a respectful display that honors their forefathers, people that they know their names and something about them. Civil War re-enactors can use these symbols in the re-creation of historical events. ANY group that uses Confederate symbols out of hate has NO right to display them.

Victors write history books and have drilled into every public school child that the War Between the States (the official name given the War by Congress) was over slavery, period. BALONEY! Lincoln early on wrote that he didn’t care if slaves were freed, the North invaded a South that generated significant export tariffs via cotton to help pay for the government as there was no income tax. The South fought back an invader, clarifying the rights of states, which yes included the right to have slaves. Slavery is a horrible institution! Remember that the Northern slave traders captured and sold slaves to the South and that the United States flag flew over the institution of slavery much longer than the Confederate National flag(s). The Emancipation Proclamation came after a few years of war and freed slaves ONLY in the rebelling states.

Robert E. Lee was a great general. Robert E. Lee was a man of character that rivaled the absolute top handful of great men in America. The Confederate soldier left family and home, marched great distances, lived off of inadequate supplies, equipment, uniforms, food and usually fought superior numbers. They were defending home and family hopefully keeping the war from them. I had ten great-great and great-great-great grandfathers to fight for the South. Some were captured at War’s end, some wounded and one at age 40 died of disease. I am proud of my ancestors, I know their names, I have pictures of three of them and I know something about their lives. From what I can discern they were men of character and at least some men of faith.

Those of us that honor our Confederate ancestors should NEVER treat monuments having no familial connection by destroying them and NO ONE should mistreat monuments that we hold dear unless you truly wish to divide our nation through destroying history.

*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."*

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



## A Wall is Not the Answer

**By John Martin**

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



From the beginning of his Presidential campaign, Donald Trump has promised to build a wall along the Mexican border—“A big beautiful wall... and we will make Mexico pay for it.”

Unfortunately, a wall, even if built and financed by Mexico, will do little to stem the tide attempting to gain refuge in our country. We already know that China built a huge and very expensive wall to ward off invaders from the north, and it was an utter failure. We also know that illegals are circumventing our current border fences via tunnels, boat rides around the ends, rides in shipping containers, false ID’s and various other ruses.

And right now, we have a much more serious threat: During the Obama administration, our immigration dilemma has gone from bad to unspeakably terrible. The imposition of sanctuary cities and the mass influx of anti-American hordes from the Middle East have infected our country with potential powder kegs that we must defuse before a civil war erupts. A wall would do nothing to mitigate it.

Trump’s proposed wall is estimated to cost between 12 and 15 billion dollars, but it will probably cost a great deal more. Mexico will likely refuse to pay for any of it, and being a poor country, it probably would not even be able to do it. Then Trump would resort to his proposed 20% duty on Mexican goods, which of course would come from the pockets of Americans who buy them.

The top priority in minimizing the illegal alien problem is to remove the welfare magnet. This one thing is the primary incentive that draws freeloaders across our border. At taxpayer expense, America currently provides direct financial transfers, medical benefits, food, and education at an estimated cost of \$100 billion—every year.

Government-run welfare programs of any kind are a national disaster. But when we provide benefits to people who are invading our country, the consequences are doubled, or even tripled. If these practices continue, our great nation will literally collapse under a hammer of altruism.

The no-brainer sanctuary cities must be eliminated. To abate the “anchor baby” problem, the only workable solution is to repeal the obsolete portion of the 14th amendment—the one that grants automatic citizenship for merely being born on American soil. We must grant automatic citizenship only when both parents are bona fide American citizens.

Legal immigration must also be severely limited, and we must impose severe background checks to insure that people bent on crime and terrorism do not slip through. President Trump recently made a good move when he announced that America’s legal immigration limit would be reduced by 50%.

We must address the extremists who have invaded Shelbyville, Dearborn, Minneapolis, “Islamberg,” and all other gathering places and training grounds. With strict immigration policies, we can stop the invasion of “refugees” bent on converting America into a radical Islamic state.

A second action that must be taken is to end our insane “war” on drugs. During the 40+ years since it was created by Richard Nixon, it has cost over a trillion dollars, more than doubled our crime rate, seized millions of dollars worth of property from innocent people through asset forfeiture, and has produced no benefits whatsoever. Smuggling has become an enormous cash cow for the drug lords. However, we now know that since several states have legalized marijuana, smuggling from Mexico has dropped by 50% since 2010. End drug prohibition, and the drug cartels will wither and die. How many people in Washington will have enough backbone to get this done?

The third step is to stop the warmongering in the Middle East. Bring our troops home. The culture of those people is radically different from our own. We cannot help them. We cannot convert them. We cannot save them. We should stop being the world’s biggest bully. We cannot and should not attempt to police the world. We cannot stop the carnage. We can only make it worse. But we can, and must, prevent the carnage and maiming of American citizens.

This is the three step solution to deal with immigration. Its cost will be minimal; in fact it will save more money than it will cost. We won’t be enemies with the rest of the world. We won’t have terrorists invading our country. We can live in peace. We can trade freely without punitive duties and tariffs. We can travel around the world without having half of it hating our guts. The world will respect us like it has never respected us before.

*For more information, see Ron Paul’s article, “A Better Solution than Trump’s Border Wall” at*

<https://www.lewrockwell.com/2017/01/ron-paul/better-solution-wall/>





# The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

Bobbie Ames writes from The Hoffman Education Center for the Family, where the ministry promotes Christian Education that is foundational to the Historic Biblical Principle Approach. Consulting services are available through the Hoffman Research Library. She can be reached at P. O. Box 241405, Montgomery, AL 36124, or at *bobbiehames@gmail.com*.

## Preventing Nuclear War in a Nuclear World

### Mindszenty Report

August 2017 Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation Vol. LIX-No. 8

On August 6 and 9, 1945, the United States dropped two nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These weapons were used to bring to a conclusion a global war that caused the deaths of approximately 50 million people. The two bombings killed 129,000 people. The destruction caused by these two nuclear bombs brought an immediate surrender by Japan. This was the last time nuclear weapons were used in war. The realization that nuclear war threatened mankind itself prevented their use over the last seventy years.

Today, however, the world stands arguably closer to nuclear war than ever before, even at the height of the Cold War. We live in a world in which nuclear proliferation has grown, with hostile foreign powers including North Korea and Iran having developed or standing close to developing nuclear weapons and missiles capable of attacking their neighbors and potentially the United States itself in the near future.

On this anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we examine the threat of nuclear war today. North Korea and Iran pose serious threats to the United States and our regional allies. The response by the Trump administration to these threats will be of vital importance to the future of the United States and the world. Many Americans, especially young people, hardly remember the tragedy of World War II and the millions of people, civilians and soldiers, who suffered and died in that global conflagration. A generation of young Americans has been miseducated to think of war in morally relativistic ways. Many students have been taught that President Truman ordered the use of nuclear weapons not to end a war, but as a means of intimidating Stalin and the Soviet Union.

The lesson taught to students today is that the United States is no better than any other nation, perhaps even worse. Students are asked misleading questions: If the United States has nuclear weapons, why shouldn't every other nation have nuclear capacity? The United States is a superpower with the nuclear capability to destroy the world, so why don't we set a moral standard by declaring unilateral nuclear disarmament? Surely, other nations will follow, right? President Trump's belligerent stance toward North Korea and Iran is only dangerous saber-rattling that is going to lead to an accidental mishap, so why isn't his administration pursuing serious international diplomacy?

### The Smithsonian and Revisionist History

The first public signs of moral relativism about President Truman's decision to use nuclear weapons came in the mid-1990's when the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (NASM) proposed an exhibition of the Enola Gay, the B-29 Superfortress plane used to drop the nuclear bomb on Hiroshima. A group of veterans concerned about the deterioration of the Enola Gay, which had been put into storage by the Smithsonian, asked that the plane be restored and put on public display for the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

The issue of restoration and exhibition of the Enola Gay was under discussion when Martin Harwit became the new director of NASM in 1987. Harwit shared a belief common to a new generation of museum directors that museum exhibits should be representations of public conscience and opportunities for public debate.<sup>1</sup>

While the Enola Gay exhibit was being discussed within the bowels of NASM's bureaucracy, Harwit proceeded with another exhibit, "Legend, Memory, and the Great War in Air." The purpose of this exhibit was to demystify the myths of World War I. Specifically, the exhibit sought to show the public that air power is just another instrument of death and should not be glorified. This exhibit came under criticism for projecting revisionist history. Criticism of the First World War airplane exhibit set the backdrop for the proposed Second World War exhibit, which would feature the Enola Gay.

A planning committee for the Second World War and Enola Gay exhibit developed a 300-page text and illustrations. The committee opened discussions with Japan to get artifacts from Hiroshima and Nagasaki to show the destruction of the two cities and to offer a balanced account of the bombings. In reviewing the script, the executive director of the Air Force Association, Monroe W. Hatch, was outraged. He contended that the exhibit did not present an accurate picture of the war and treated Japan and the United States as if they were morally equivalent. In fact, he accused the Smithsonian of giving greater benefit of the doubt to Japan, the aggressor in the war. Hatch's letter set off a mobilization of veterans' and military groups, including the American Legion, protesting the proposed exhibit.

In response, Harwit took to the *Washington Post* to defend the exhibit. He claimed that the exhibit was intended to honor the American soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the Pacific war against Japan. He maintained, however, that the exhibit required an accurate portrayal of the reality of the atomic war and its consequences. Under increased pressure, the Smithsonian proposed removing photos of Hiroshima and Nagasaki victims, which angered Japan. As the controversy continued, the Smithsonian announced that it was downsizing the exhibit and not including commentary text. In May 1995, Harwit resigned his position as director.

### Charges of Anti-Japanese Racism

For the left, Harwit became a martyr, a victim of right-wing historical cleansing. Academic historians took up the cause that their expertise and understanding of the complexities of history were being once more ignored by an ignorant public. By the mid-1990s, academic historians were already developing a literature about American racism in the Pacific campaign, articulated by John W. Dower in *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (1997).

Dower argued that the war waged in the Pacific by American soldiers was especially brutal because of white racism toward Japanese soldiers. He maintained, joined by others in the academy, that Japanese soldiers were treated more brutally than German soldiers were treated in the European theater. The implication was that the decision to drop the bomb on Japan was made easier because the Japanese were seen as subhuman, unlike Germans on the western front. (The imputed racism of American soldiers in Vietnam was also appearing in academic literature.)

The controversy of Truman's decision to use nuclear weapons in Japan as a diplomatic instrument to intimidate Stalin reemerged. Revisionist historians asserted that Truman overstated his claim that tens of thousands of American lives would have been lost in a planned invasion of Japan if the atomic weapon had not been used. These revisionist arguments are debunked by University of Notre Dame historian Fr. Wilson Miscamble in *The Most Controversial Decision: Truman, the Atomic Bomb and the Defeat of Japan* (2011). Truman's decision was determined by a single standard: Save American lives. Ending the war and saving American lives was his obligation as commander-in-chief.

Fr. Miscamble was not alone in challenging revisionist foreign policy and Cold War history. Challenges to revisionist Cold War history have been provided by Yale University historian John Gaddis on the origins of the Cold War, and the extent of Soviet spy activity in the United States in the 1930s and 1940s has been detailed in important studies by scholars Harvey Klehr and John Haynes.<sup>2</sup> Whether these scholarly challenges have made a full impact in college and high school classrooms is doubtful, given that these days teachers give more attention to abuses of minorities, women and gays than to political or diplomatic history.

In most college and high school classrooms, abuses by other nations and cultures of human rights is placed within a relativistic moral, cultural and historical context, except when it comes to the United States. The lesson taught is that everyone shares a blame for war and there is no justification for any war. The concept of a just war—the justification of war if a nation is attacked or about to be attacked—is omitted due to its Christian origins.

### Obama Deserted Missile Defense

Nations have the right to protect themselves. For the United States, this means having well-developed nuclear defenses. Missile defense remains absolutely critical to American defense and to our European and Asian allies. The recent successful testing of an intercontinental missile by North Korea on July 4 gave new urgency to installing missile defense systems in South Korea and Japan.

One of Obama's first actions as president was to abandon the Pentagon plan to build a missile defense system in Europe.<sup>3</sup> This marked a sharp break with policies developed by the previous President George W. Bush administration. President Obama's decision to abandon the development of a missile defense shield in Europe was a direct response to and an attempt to appease Putin's protest against the missile defense shield, which he described as a "direct threat" to Russia. Putin expressly condemned the placement of the missile defense shield in Poland, a nation that had once been part of the Soviet bloc. In 2009, Obama and his new Secretary of State Hillary Clinton were determined to repair U.S.-Russian relations, which had soured under the Bush administration. In his first days in office, President Bush, too, had tried to accommodate Putin, only to realize that Putin's charm was deceptive and that Russia should be considered an American foe.

Obama came into office convinced that he could succeed in winning Putin over as an American friend. Like presidents before him, dating back to Franklin Roosevelt and initially Harry S. Truman, Obama was convinced that Russia was by nature insecure and that if the right reassurance was given, Russian leadership would realize that American and Russian interests were compatible. Obama and his new foreign policy team set out to "reset" relations with Russia. The new Obama team believed that Russia had been unnecessarily antagonized by the United States and its allies by the expansion of NATO to include former Soviet bloc countries such as Poland. Putin had not been shown enough respect as a world leader, so the task of the new administration was to allay Russian insecurities. The first step was to abandon the planned missile defense system.

### Allies Felt Betrayed by Obama

The decision not to build a missile defense system in Europe caused political trouble for our allies. In Poland and the Czech Republic, the proposed missile defense system had created a great deal of controversy which had entered into Polish domestic politics. Those Polish and Czech leaders who had cast their lot with the Americans were left high and dry by the Obama administration. Negotiations over the placement of the missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic had occurred over the previous six years. Czech and Polish officials involved in these negotiations felt that Obama's announcement was a complete betrayal.

In announcing his decision, Obama declared that a new approach, one "stronger, swifter, and smarter" was needed.<sup>4</sup> Obama told the press that a more modest missile defense system would be installed aimed at Iran's short-range and medium-range missiles. Obama declared that updated intelligence revealed that Iran's development of long-range missiles and a nuclear program was progressing more slowly than previously thought. Unnamed sources in the Obama administration suggested that Obama's decision to abandon the missile defense system would help the new president secure Moscow's cooperation on a possible new sanctions package against Iran and further arms reduction with Russia.

### A World Without Nuclear Weapons

While North Korea develops nuclear weapons and long-range delivery missiles, the United Nations continues to pursue a global treaty to ban nuclear weapons. In May 2017 the United Nations disarmament panel presented the first draft of a treaty to ban all nuclear weapons. The United States has boycotted the negotiations for such a treaty, calling its goals naïve and unattainable.<sup>5</sup> Treaty supporters, however, believe that if enough countries sign on to the treaty, political and moral mobilization will force nuclear powers to agree to the treaty.

The treaty draft commits nations to "never use nuclear weapons" or "develop, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other explosive devices." The draft remains in negotiation. Heading the effort is Elayne G. Whyte Gomez, Costa Rican ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva. Nikki R. Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, publicly rejected negotiations when they began two months ago.

The United States' opposition to the treaty was criticized by Daryl G. Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, an advocacy group in Washington, DC. He avowed, "The vast majority of world states say nuclear weapons are not essential for security, and that we want to reduce their salience by banning them. That is a contribution to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons."<sup>6</sup> He was supported by Beatrice Finn, executive director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, a coalition of more than 440 pro-disarmament groups in 100 countries.<sup>7</sup> Finn took to the internet with an extensive interview with VICE magazine, a popular web site for young people.

The mayor of Hiroshima, Kazumi Matsui, was brought out to testify before the U.N. disarmament panel concerning "the earnest wishes of hibakush [atomic bomb survivors] for the elimination of nuclear weapons."<sup>8</sup> The disarmament activists, much like environmentalists, social justice warriors, and anti-homelessness folks, are good at pulling heartstrings. After all, who is really pro-nuclear war? Who believes the use of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima did not cause suffering?

Continued on page3B





Marcia Chambliss

than ever I’m ready for college football and the diversion it brings.

Or maybe, it’s the special U.S. Senate election and my disgust with the nasty campaign ads generated from the power structure in DC wanting to select our next senator that has irritated me more than normal in the last few weeks.

I desperately want to think there are still good men and women who want to serve in public office for the right reasons, but with each election cycle, I find myself increasingly frustrated that far too many of those we elect, and specifically some we re-elect, have little intention of fixing anything in this country, because solving our problems would likely eliminate their campaign sound bites, and a divided nation keeps the power base intact.

How many campaign cycles have we now endured the promises of “fixing” the problems with our healthcare system? Not only was there a failure to repeal and/or replace Obamacare (which isn’t truly healthcare – only a dismantling of health insurance) but Congress will now likely bailout the health exchanges – a move that will only “fix” things for the insurance companies, not hard-working Americans who will continue to struggle with the rising premiums required to fund the system. And for those who still believe Obamacare to be a lifesaver, time will prove that our choices for quality healthcare will continue to erode.

But nothing has me more irritated than the promises of “helping the children,” because our public school system in Montgomery County continues to underperform and underserve a vast majority of our students. Granted, there are pockets of success throughout the state, but the children in the Montgomery County system are being sorely shortchanged which in turn negatively impacts the perception and growth of our county.

Bringing up the topic of education is as dangerous as discussing religion, and everyone has an opinion as to what works and what doesn’t. I’m not an education policy guru nor an educator, so I will leave those discussions to others more qualified to expound on those details. But I’m a taxpayer, and a resident of a county that is failing to adequately provide educational opportunities to children unable to afford private options, and that has a direct impact on my community and my state.

So do those we elect to serve on our local and state school boards want to correct the problems? I truly want to believe they do, but recent events have led

me to a different conclusion, one that will very likely step on lots of toes.

The Alabama State Board of Education may well terminate the contract of our current State Superintendent Michael Sentence. Many will applaud this action should it happen; I will not. Why? Because I’m of the belief that our education problems are so widespread and deeply rooted that no one person can possibly turn this ship around with only one year on the job. As stated in a piece written by Caleb Crosby, President and CEO for the Alabama Policy Institute Alabama coach Nick Saban had a 6-6 first year record and even lost to Auburn yet he wasn’t fired after his first season. I have no idea if Superintendent Sentence has a similar ability to turn our education system around, but surely we can allow him longer than one year on the job given the failing mess he inherited upon his arrival.

While many say this superintendent was never qualified for the position because he’s never taught in a classroom, our last local superintendent came from a classroom setting, yet Montgomery County schools are now under the intervention of the State Department of Education. Because I can remember my educator mother’s frustrations with former teachers promoted to administrators who made her life miserable in the classroom, I’m not sure that argument is one that should be a primary reason for termination.

Others have been opposed to Superintendent Sentence because he’s not born and reared in Alabama, but that argument also fails when you consider he was involved as a reformer in one of the most successful school systems in the nation. Why wouldn’t we want to try and implement some of his ideas that improved education elsewhere rather than maintain the status quo with the same ideas and policies that are not helping our students reach their full potential?

I’m afraid that the displeasure with our current superintendent has more to do with the fact that reformers aren’t ever popular, especially when their ideas clash with the existing power structure. Yes, Superintendent Sentence has made admitted mistakes in his first year, and appears willing to correct those mistakes because he wants time to improve the education system for our students. Unfortunately, our state education hierarchy is fraught with politics, and those who don’t play that game well end up losing.

Time will tell if Alabama students will continue losing as well.

Marcia Chambliss has been involved in grassroots conservative politics since 2009 and has contributed opinion articles pertaining to politics and cultural issues to The Alabama Gazette since 2010.

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



## Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris “Chip” Beeker, Jr.  
Alabama the Beautiful

The end of summer is approaching and we are nearing my favorite time of the year – fall. Fall in the south brings with it nights around a campfire, football games, more time spent in the great outdoors, and, thankfully, some cooler weather. It is a great chance to get out and enjoy our wonderful state parks. I am certainly biased to Alabama but some of the world’s most beautiful natural sites can be found within our state and many of those are at Alabama state parks.

Alabama is home to 22 state parks, each having an individual flavor. There are many things that you and your family can do at these parks. Those include golfing, fishing, hiking, bicycling, swimming, and many others. Quite often you will also find that a state park offers a great place to stay during your visit. Some parks have resorts while others feature cabins, cottages, or excellent campgrounds. In fact, Wind Creek State Park, located on Lake Martin, has one of the largest state-owned campgrounds in the entire country.

I urge you to find out about the different ranger-led events that many of our state parks regularly offer. These events present outstanding opportunities to go on hikes, make crafts, listen to an educational presentation, or even watch a movie. A park employee is always on hand to make sure that everyone has a great and safe time. Most of these events will fit every budget because they are free. What a wonderful way to spend time with your family and create memories that will last a lifetime!

At the risk of causing you to not think about other parks, I would like to highlight a few of them. In northeastern Alabama you will find Cathedral State Park, an unbelievable natural phenomenon. Inside this mammoth cave you will find “Goliath”- one of the largest stalagmites in the world. It measures 45 feet tall and 243 feet in circumference.

Those of you living in central Alabama should take advantage of Oak Mountain State Park, the largest of our state parks. There you can rent boats, hike, or ride your bicycle on one of the BMX courses. And, of course, in the southern part of our state you will find Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores. There you can enjoy the stunning white sand beach while you watch the surf and seagulls. Again, please don’t think that these are the only state parks you can visit. Contact the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to find out more about the others.

I truly appreciate the great outdoors and realize how fortunate we are to live in a state that is home to these marvelous examples of God’s handiwork. I hope that you and others in our state take advantage of these parks by visiting them soon and often. Whether you’re on a day trip or a weekend getaway, there’s something for everyone at an Alabama state park. Get outdoors and enjoy Alabama the Beautiful!

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



Buddy Hicks

built up quite a nest egg. Then one day you leave for a new job with benefits that include a 401k. Now you are faced with dilemma of what to do with your 401k assets at your old job. Before you make any hasty decisions, please sit down with an advisor and learn what your options are and how each could affect your retirement going forward.

One option may be to leave your money right where it is. The old company may not require you to move it out and you may be happy with how it is currently invested. If that is even allowed, understand that you may no longer be able to contribute to that plan and therefore you will not be receiving any matches. You also are still subject to the rules of that plan for that money. You’ll be restricted to the investment options in that plan for that money and you will have no control over the fees within that plan.

If you don’t leave it where it is at, then where else can you put it? The next option would be to roll it over into the 401k plan at your new job. This is pretty common. There is no tax impact if the transfer is handled properly. Keep in mind, that even if you are receiving matches at your new job, you won’t receive any matches on the money that is rolled over. Only on new payroll contributions. It can be in-

Wealth Management Group, LLC  
334-440-6379  
bhicks@wmgadvisers.net

You’ve been working the same job for years and dutifully contributing to your 401k and may be receiving matches. You’ve

vested right along with any new contributions and matches but you will be subject to the new plan’s rules and fees and will be limited to the plan’s investment options.

The third option is You can choose to take it all out in one lump sum to spend it how you feel like you need to spend it but keep in mind that there are tax consequences and possible penalties associated with any withdrawal made prior to age 59 ½. You see, your money is growing tax deferred which means that as long as it is in a qualified retirement account, the principle and any interest you earn is not taxed until you withdraw the money. Once you withdraw it, it is no longer qualified and the IRS wants their cut.

Another option is to roll it over into a Traditional IRA account. As long as it is rolled from one qualified retirement account to another within a given timeframe, it is typically not a taxable event and therefore you will not owe any taxes or penalties. Keep in mind that similar to a 401k, premature withdrawals from an IRA may result in taxes and penalties. If you set up an IRA account with an Advisor like myself, who is fully registered, then you may have a wider variety of investment options to choose from and your retirement assets may be consolidated into one plan. Fees and expenses will likely increase should you decide to move from an employer-sponsored plan to an IRA. Everyone’s situation and circumstances are differ-

ent. That is why it is so very important to educate yourself and assess your specific situation. The information that I have provided here should be enough to make you think about what to do before making a major decision about your 401k plan. Just remember that no matter what you do, this is your money for your retirement and if you know your options then you can make the best decision for you and your retirement.

Buddy Hicks is a Financial Advisor with Wealth Management Group LLC an affiliate firm of Securian Financial Services and has over 18 years of experience in the financial services business. He is Life and Health Insurance licensed and FINRA registered with his Series 7 and Series 66 which allows him to be an Investment Advisor Representative and Registered Representative of and offer securities and investment advisory services through Securian Financial Services Inc, member FINRA / SIPC. He is an Alumnus of Troy University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business/Finance. He takes a process approach with all of his clients to help determine their goals and then works with them to put a strategy in place to help reach those goals. An area of importance of Buddy’s is his ability to intuitively listen to his clients so that he can fully understand their current situation and what their future needs might be.

Investments will fluctuate and when redeemed may be worth more or less than when originally invested.  
1877667 Tracking DOFU 0817

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





# Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor Senior Section

## Unwanted Guests

You may be over the hill if... if there's more fiber in your cereal than in your carpets.

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

As of a year ago, the U.S. population was 322,762,018, a rise of more than 2.4 million than was counted a year ago. Unfortunately, an estimated 11.4 million of this number are illegal entrants into the United States, a good many of whom have their lives subsidized by the U.S. taxpayer; and more than 11 million of them are here illegally—many of whom are on the U.S. dole. Which is costing the American taxpayer better than \$54.5 billion a year in dollars that could have been spent of making life better and more comfortable for its legal residents.

Not only is this a huge drain on the taxpayer, many of these immigrants are criminals who are stealing from our citizens, murdering them and raping our women.

Add to this is the reality that we're protecting many of these wrongdoers—and appear to be proud of it.

Some Americans are even welcome in a good many of our cities, placing an even greater burden on American law enforcement and its welfare expenditures.

On top of all this insanity is the fact that our elected governmental represen-

tatives are vigorously welcoming these illegal residents, they're paying for their welfare out of taxpayer dollars that were intended to be used to care for legal residents of the United States of America.

Many Americans are working hard in order to eke out a subsistence living, or are risking their lives in defense of their country; while non-American residents are raping, murdering and robbing, to the one extent; or just basking in the luxury of idolatry, at the expense of a hard working citizen.

Why, one must wonder, should hard working citizens be obliged to contend with these flagrant abuses of their hospitality. They earned whatever luxuries they may now enjoy; why should they be asked to put up with the abuses that are heaped upon them by criminals, vagrants, and other ne'er do wells who have earned nothing?

Americans deserve better than this from their elected representatives.

This is not what the Founding Fathers were ready to fight for—and many to die for.

Quod erat demonstrandum!

## World War II

By Dr. John Bitter

Some seventy six years ago your writer was earning his Merit Badges as a new Boy Scout, and was reminiscing over his first year in the “World of Work.” He was thinking over his bi-weekly salary that put a handsome \$20 in his pocket twice a month—before taxes.

Yet to come that year was the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the realization that our country was now engaged in World War II.

Now, nearly nine decades later, ushered into his life is a war-time era, replete with realities that never had existed before.

Manhood came earlier than expected for thousands of America's young men back then—some of whom would never return home.

Lounging around in countless senior citizen homes are gray-haired men and women who still have vivid memories of this earlier era, and fears of what could happen again, in their lifetime today.

So, what can our senior population expect over the next few years?

No sooner had the dust settled in World War II countries, than the Nation was involved in the Korean Conflict, followed by Vietnam. America has been engaged in “Helper Wars” of one stripe or another, and the country has been involved in one war or another ever since.

SUCCESSFUL Aging INITIATIVE

September 15  
Registration  
Deadline

The ABCs  
of AGING

Karen Bixler  
Montgomery Co Extension  
Office  
5340 Atlanta Hwy  
Montgomery, AL 36109

Contact Informaiton for the  
Successful Aging Initiative  
334.270.4133  
bixlekr@aces.edu

Thursday, October 5, 2017  
MUREAL CRUMP SENIOR CENTER

- 7:45 am Registration
- View Exhibits
- Health Screenings
- 9:00 am Opening Remarks
- 9:15 am General Session
- 10:00 am Break/View Exhibits
- Health Screenings
- 10:45 am Concurrent Workshops
- 11:45 am Lunch Program
- Musical Entertainment
- SAI Honors
- Senior Songfest
- 1:15 pm Conference Evaluation
- Door Prizes/Closing Remarks
- 2:00 pm Adjourn

This represents a tentative schedule.

## 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



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

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



## LEARNING THE LINGO OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Is Social Security a topic in your conversations these days? Are you familiar with the lingo used to describe Social Security benefits, or does it sound like a new vocabulary to you?

Social Security employees strive to explain benefits using easy-to-understand, plain language. But if a technical term or acronym (an abbreviation of the first letters of words in a phrase) that you don't know slips into the conversation or appears in written material, you can easily find the meaning in our online glossary at [www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/glossary](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/glossary).

Social Security acronyms function as verbal shorthand in our financial planning conversations. If you're nearing retirement, you may want to know what PIA (primary insurance amount), FRA (full retirement age), and DRCs (delayed retirement credits) mean. These terms involve your benefit amount based on when you decide to take it.

If you take your retirement benefit at FRA, you'll receive the full PIA (amount payable for a retired worker who starts benefits at full retirement age). So, FRA is an age and PIA is an amount.

What about DRCs? Delayed retirement credits are the incremental increases added to the PIA if you delay taking retirement benefits beyond your full retirement age. If you wait to begin benefits beyond FRA — say, at age 68 or even 70 — your benefit increases.

Once you receive benefits, you get a COLA most years. But don't expect a refreshing drink — a COLA is a Cost of Living Adjustment, and that will usually

mean a little extra money in your monthly payment.

Knowing some of these terms can help you fine-tune your conversations about Social Security. If one of those unknown terms or acronyms does come up in conversation, you can be the one to supply the definition using our online glossary. Sometimes learning the lingo can deepen your understanding of how Social Security works for you. Discover more at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).



Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached by e-mail at [kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov](mailto:kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov).



# Montgomery County Law

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.montgomerysheriff.com](http://www.montgomerysheriff.com)

(334) 832-4980

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

**Sheriff Derrick  
Cunningham**



**Chief Deputy  
Kevin J. Murphy**

## Sheriff's Office APP



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

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a new phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

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

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

## Citizens Academy

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for our Citizens Academy. The Citizens Academy 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 1 meeting a week

Next Class Date:

September 11, 2017 – October 28, 2017

For More Information:

Applications can 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

## Medication Disposal

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

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



## Firearms Familiarization Course

Sign up NOW for our  
Firearms Familiarization Course scheduled for  
**Saturday, October 14th**

and learn how to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world.

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

### Course Requirements:

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

334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?  
[LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org](mailto:LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org)

334.832.1339

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



## Senior Fishing Rodeo

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office invites all seniors (55 and over) to grab their fishing rods, bait and tackle and join us for our annual Senior Fishing Rodeo.

**Tuesday, September 12, 2017**

6:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Montgomery County Ponds,  
Highway 231 South (Troy highway)  
Across from Meriwether Road



**\*\*LOOK FOR THE BLUE FLASHING LIGHTS\*\***





Ed Jones  
Football Writer

# THE BEST OF 2017



Picking the top football teams in the country for the 2017 season was very difficult. There are more good teams this year than in other years it seems.

There will be more ten win seasons this year than ever as far as my calculations are concerned. It is my belief that there will also be no undefeated teams as we end the regular season. The Alabama - Florida State game on September 2nd in Atlanta will not determine who wins the national championship, but it will give the winner a little cushion for the rest of the season.

Florida State, Alabama, Ohio State, Washington, Penn State and Oklahoma State have the best chance to fill the top four spots of the final College Football Play Off Ranking in December. However, a team from anywhere in the top fifteen could get hot and knock some of these teams out. That is why college football is so popular. The play off system has certainly raised the interest level for the sport.

In the NFL it is probable that a team with four or five losses could win their division, win their conference championship and play in the Super Bowl. In college, two losses will almost always knock a team out of contention. Of course the NFL season is decided over a sixteen game schedule where the college game

is determined over a twelve game schedule unless a team agrees to play Hawaii. Then thirteen games are allowed.

When my interest peaked regarding the pre-season polls there was only the Associated Press Poll (AP) and the United Press International Poll (UPI). Now there are dozens of polls that come out, some as early as July. The UPI Poll was replaced by the Amway Coaches Poll. None are really scientific even though some polls refer to their “nine sets of indicators” calling for a team to win so many games.

My top forty teams are based on their record, their strength of schedule, the strength of their opponents schedule and to some degree on the history of the teams, and the history of their coach. In order to get myself off the hook when my top forty does not perform well, I call my picks “projections” instead of predictions. It works. It is my desire that you look at my poll, compare it to your favorite poll and have fun taking pot shots at me in December.

Tee it up boys. It’s gonna’ be a long three months.

**MAY YOUR FAVORITE TEAM  
OUTPERFORM YOUR EXPECTATIONS!**

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

## Ed Jones TOP 40

| Team                | Projected Record |  | Team                        | Projected Record |
|---------------------|------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Florida St.....  | 11-1             |  | 21. Louisville .....        | 9-3              |
| 2. Alabama.....     | 11-1             |  | 22. Appalachian St.....     | 10-2             |
| 3. Ohio St. ....    | 11-1             |  | 23. Memphis.....            | 9-3              |
| 4. Washington.....  | 11-1             |  | 24. Toledo.....             | 10-2             |
| 5. Oklahoma St..... | 11-1             |  | 25. Oregon .....            | 8-4              |
| 6. Penn State.....  | 10-2             |  | 26. Boise St. ....          | 9-3              |
| 7. Oklahoma .....   | 10-2             |  | 27. N. Western.....         | 8-4              |
| 8. USC.....         | 10-2             |  | 28. Notre Dame .....        | 8-4              |
| 9. Auburn.....      | 10-2             |  | 29. Virginia Tech.....      | 9-3              |
| 10. Miami.....      | 10-2             |  | 30. Stanford.....           | 8-4              |
| 11. Clemson .....   | 9-3              |  | 31. Kansas St.....          | 8-4              |
| 12. LSU .....       | 10-2             |  | 32. Tennessee .....         | 8-4              |
| 13. Wisconsin.....  | 10-2             |  | 33. Michigan.....           | 8-4              |
| 14. Georgia .....   | 9-3              |  | 34. Washington St.....      | 8-4              |
| 15. S. Florida..... | 11-1             |  | 35. Iowa .....              | 8-4              |
| 16. Florida .....   | 9-3              |  | 36. Colorado St. ....       | 9-3              |
| 17. Nebraska .....  | 9-3              |  | 37. North Carolina St. .... | 8-4              |
| 18. TCU.....        | 9-3              |  | 38. Texas .....             | 8-4              |
| 19. UCLA.....       | 9-3              |  | 39. South Carolina.....     | 7-5              |
| 20. Houston .....   | 9-3              |  | 40. Texas A&M.....          | 7-5              |

Follow Football on EVTV-10



Follow us on....



If you love  
football...  
don't miss  
a single show!

*“Talking Football All Year!”*

### THE RAMER BANK



CINDY OVERSTREET, BRANCH MANAGER

Ramer, AL 36069  
334-562-3257

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

*“There is a  
difference in  
hometown banking!”*







# Woods & Waters

Steve Long **with** Steve

## SOA's, or Special Opportunity Areas.



Summer's put the heat on us pretty hard this year, and I'm itching for college football to kick back into gear. Aside from the usual, though, I'm also looking into something new called SOA's, or Special Opportunity Areas. It's a concept being established by Alabama DCNR's Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division and the Forever Wild Land Trust.

The problem being addressed is that, with the vast majority of land in the state of Alabama being privately owned instead of publically available, it's getting tougher and tougher for hunters to find a nice slice of public hunting land to go hunting on. The SOA would be a smaller, several hundred acre section of land that's been carefully maintained and managed for, for example, deer hunting.

The tracts of land would be purchased through Pittman-Robertson and Forever Wild Funding. Director Chuck Sykes of the WFF is spearheading this program, and David Ranier of Outdoor Alabama wrote an excellent article on it. Director Sykes is modeling this program after hunting lodges, but without the high costs. There is no charge for applying to hunt on an SOA, aside from having the proper hunting license and a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) license. You gotta take care of your own food, lodging, gas, and other hunting necessities, of course, but aside from those things, it's basically free, but with no camping. Another neat feature is that non-residents can apply as well. I mean, they pay for a non-resident license to hunt in Alabama, so they're putting in a fair share as well.

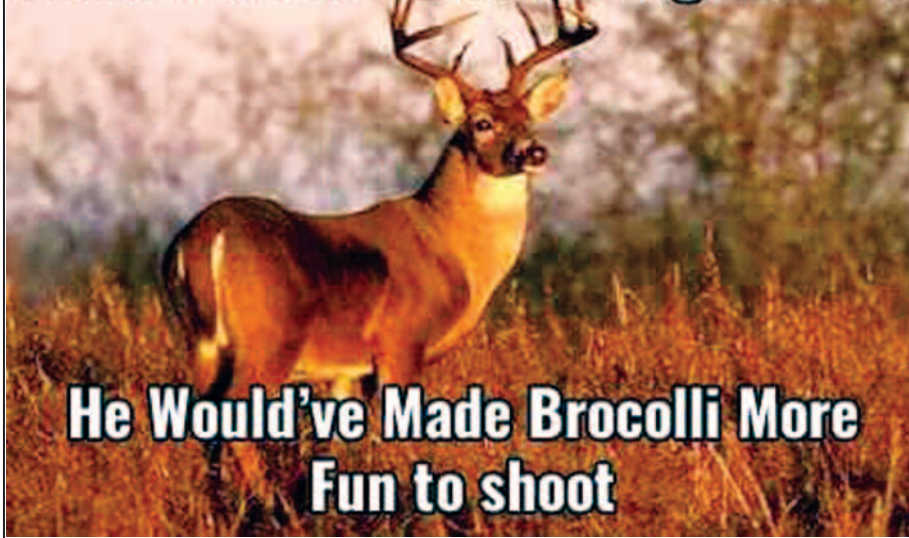
You get your Conservation ID number, and you register. That's it. Once all the registrations are in, a computer will randomly select folks for hunting units on each SOA. As for the SOA's themselves, they are divided up into Hunting Units. Each unit will take a hunter or two for a 2 or 4 day hunt, then take a little time off to keep pressure down. After all, if you just keep chasing after deer in the same place, you won't have deer there for very long!

The new SOA's that will be available for this upcoming season are Cedar Creek in Dallas County, Uchee Creek in Russell County, and Crow Creek in Jackson County. The Fred T. Simpson SOA was available for youth hunts and limited adult archery, but has transitioned to full-on hunting for this coming season to help reduce deer population. Interestingly enough, Crow Creek will be open for waterfowl hunting, where a successful applicant can bring along three buddies to hunt with them.

Director Sykes believes that helping hunters with more manageable land sizes will make hunting on public land far more appealing. After all, grabbing a map and picking a place on a 20,000 acre lot isn't exactly the simplest matter. Who knows what you'll find, or who else will be there? This system takes a tremendous amount of guesswork out of the equation, making for a more enjoyable hunt, regardless of your experience.

Speaking of experience, Cedar Creek SOA will also be home to a new pilot

## If God Wanted Us to Be Vegetarians



project being introduced this year. For a few lucky folks, there will be mentored hunts this season. Aimed at college-aged young adults and the like, the idea is for folks who never really got into hunting or never learned how at a younger age to get a crash course on a weekend hunt, learning about the dos and don'ts of chasing after deer. Hunting safety, sighting in rifles, and learning to recognize signs of game animals are all included as lessons. A weekend style hunt, the hunter will hopefully harvest a deer. It'll get processed, and the hunter will spend the weekend at the lodge, eating wild game, and basically getting to experience all those things we more experienced hunters did growing up.

If that's the sort of thing that interests you, or maybe someone you know, applications can be made on [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com). Just search for mentored hunts on the website. Only a lucky few will be chosen, but that ought to be an experience they'll never forget!

Naturally, a big part of SOA's will be the boost to the local economy. These are 2 and 4 day hunts, and you gotta eat and sleep somewhere! The WFF always strives to make sure their projects are good for our local economies, and this one seems to fit the bill nicely.

That's a whole lot of stuff to digest at once, so feel free to visit [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com) for more info, and for David Ranier's excellent write-up. I've been pretty focused on the recent Buckmaster's Expo, along with all of my other usual work, and I'm looking forward to everything kicking into high gear this coming deer season. So get out there, get your hunting stuff ready, watch a little football in another week, and go get 'em!

# Kritter Korner

## BATS...



There are many things we think of when the word bat is spoken; such as Vampires, Dacula, rabies and diseases. Yes diseases are true but not as dramatic as is put out. All mammals can contract and carry rabies; however bats are not asymptomatic carriers of the disease. In reality, bats contract rabies

far less than other animals. Less than 1/2 of 1% of all bats may contract the disease. A variety of wild animals (rabies vector species) can catch rabies, including foxes, skunks, raccoons, coyotes and bats. Cats and dogs and even livestock can also contract rabies. **Bats are an asset to our eco system and survival, one bat can consume over a 1000 insects in one night.** This keeps our corps from being infested and destroyed and our persons from being bombarded by insects every time we walk outside

**Bats are the only mammals that can fly.** They are also among the only mammals known to feed on blood. Common misconceptions and fears about bats have led many people to regard the creatures as unclean disease carriers, but bats are actually very helpful in controlling the population of crop-destroying insects. There are more than 900 species of bats in the world 47 of them live in the USA and 16 live in our great State of Alabama. Some experts estimate the number to be as high as 1,200 species. Bats make up one-fifth of the mammal population on Earth.

Bats are divided into two main types: megabats and microbats. Megabats include flying foxes and Old World fruit bats. They tend to be larger than microbats, but some microbats are actually larger than some megabats. Flying foxes are the largest bats. Some species have wingspans of 5 to 6 feet and weigh up to 2.2 lbs. One of the smallest megabats, the long-tongued fruit bat has a wingspan of only 10 inches. This bat weighs about half an ounce. Among microbats, the largest species is the false vampire or spectral bat with a wingspan of up to 40 inches. It weighs 5 to 6.7 ounces.

The smallest bat is the bumblebee bat. It grows to only about 1.25 inches long and weighs about 2 grams. Bats live all over the world, except for some islands, and the Arctic and Antarctica. They mostly prefer warmer areas that are closer to the equator, and they can be found in rain forests, mountains, farmland, woods and cities. Bats have two strategies for weathering the cold. Some migrate to warmer areas, while others go into torpor. In this short-term form of hibernation, they reduce their metabolic rate which lowers its body temperature, and slows its breathing and heart rate. Bats roost in trees, caves, mines and barns, anyplace that provides shelter from the weather, protection from predators and seclusion for rearing the animals' young. Bats live together in groups called colonies, which contain 100 to 1,000 bats.

These mammals are also nocturnal, meaning that they sleep during the day and are awake at night. Some may fly up to 31 miles to find food during their nightly journeys. In the day, they sleep upside down from trees or the roofs of caves, holding on with their sharp claws.

Most bats eat flowers, small insects, fruits, nectar, pollen and leaves, though it depends on the type of bat. Megabats usually eat fruits, and microbats generally eat insects. The Malayan flying fox has a big appetite. It can eat half its body weight every day. The vampire bat outdoes even that, though, eating twice its weight in one day. The brown bat can eat up to 1,000 small insects in an hour. Some bats will squeeze fruits in their mouths and drink the juices.

Vampire bats like a juice of a different type, though. They do indeed drink

blood, mainly from cattle and deer, but they don't suck blood like the legends say. Rather, they make a V-shaped cut and then lick up the blood.

Bats have some unique mating behaviors not seen in other animals. Male and female bats meet in hibernation sites, called hibernacula, where they breed. "Bats 'swarm' around in huge numbers, chasing each other and performing spectacular aerobatics. It's not clear how the bats choose their mates, but it may be that females seek out the most agile males. During the swarming event, breeding pairs will go off to secluded spots in the cave to mate in private. Mating occurs in the late summer and early autumn, and the females store the males' sperm until the next spring. A pregnant female will carry her young for a gestation periods of 40 days to six months. Then, she will give birth to one baby, called a pup. The pup will weigh about one-fourth as much as its mother at birth. Young bats drink milk from their mothers to survive, much like other mammals. The mothers and pups stay in groups, separate from the males. The other mothers help take care of the pup until it is old enough to care for itself. Bats are essential to our eco system. Many bat species around the world are threatened with extinction. The Red list identifies more than 250 species as endangered, vulnerable or "near threatened."

The Bulmer fruit bat is the world's most endangered bat. It is only found in one cave in Papua New Guinea. According to the Red List, there are only around 160 individuals left in this colony. A fungus that causes a disease called white-nose syndrome has devastated bats in North America. This white, powdery-looking fungus, a member of a group of cold-loving fungi called Geomyces, coats the muzzles, ears and wings of bats and has meant death for hundreds of thousands of the animals in the northeastern United States. Bats "see" using echolocation. The animals make high-frequency yells and analyze the location of objects around them by perceiving how the sound bounces back off the object showing the angle at which sound bounces back can tell the bat the object's size. Some horseshoe bats can hover and pluck insects from spider webs. An anticoagulant in vampire bat saliva has been adapted for use in increasing blood flow in patients with stroke or heart disease.

There are 16 species of bats living in the State of Alabama:

Little Brown Myotis  
Southeastern Myotis  
Gray Myotis  
Northern  
Long-eared Myotis  
Small-footed Myotis

Indiana Myotis  
Silver-haired Bat  
Tri-colored bat  
Big Brown Bat  
Eastern Red Bat  
Seminole Bat

Hoary Bat  
Northern Yellow Bat  
Evening Bat  
Rafinesque's  
Big-eared Bat  
Brazilian Free-tailed Bat



**Ron VanHerwyn**

## Ron's Kritter Kids (wildlife education)

### Wildlife education & wildlife rescue

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

#### TOURS AVAILABLE

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

Email: [kritterkids@yahoo.com](mailto:kritterkids@yahoo.com)

Website: <http://kritterkids.webs.com/>





**Judge  
Peggy Givhan**

# Southern Gardening Potpourri for September

by Peggy Givhan

**The lazy, hazy days of summer are coming to a close, and fall is upon us. Where has this year gone?**

With much anticipation for football season, Labor Day, county fairs, Halloween, back to school, and cooler temperatures, we turn to the garden with our creative juices flowing. Some of us like to have perhaps a theme either in our choices of color, or in the plants we choose. For instance, red, white and blue for Labor Day, or deciding to redo a bed with nothing but herbs or perennials. One good idea would be to fill the garden beds with flowers and herbs which are bee friendly. With the bee population being stressed and decreasing, it should be every gardeners' duty to include some of these plants in their beds for the bees to gather nectar.

1. **Monarda or Bee Balm**
2. **Lemon balm**
3. **Sage**
4. **Rosemary**
5. **Echinacea or Cone flower**
6. **Chives**
7. **Basil**
8. **Butterfly Weed**

September is also the transition month between summer and fall when we need to pull out spent annuals, acquire winter annuals and perhaps perennials, which will be bigger and better next year. Perennials planted now will increase their root size before we have to cut them back after the hard freeze. If you can acquire some biennials such as foxglove, holly hocks, and delphiniums, even better. As I have stated in the past, fox glove (*digitalis*) puts on quite a show when featured in pots. A grouping of holly hocks and delphiniums add height to the beds, and also interest. Many varieties need to be staked, but a few of these plants go a long way. This labor of love will reward you with quite a show in the spring.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH-- CYPRESS VINE



Cypress Vine (*Ipomoea quamoclit*) by all accounts is one of the easiest plants to grow. It is an incredibly fast growing vine that is tough, easy to control, and constant flowering from spring to frost. One can see it growing on guardrails off highways, on fences, and up trees. The fern like foliage that is a mid-green is a contrast to its red tubular shaped flowers. Since these vines are annuals, they re-seed with small black seeds. Hummingbirds and butterflies flock to these flowers.

They like moist well drained soil, very little fertilizer, and tolerates sun and partial shade. To extend the beauty of these red flowers, plant a moon vine in with these, and now you have double the blooms in red and white. If you do not see the plant in garden centers, most catalogs carry the seed. One can also gather the seed from the vines one sees on the side of the road.

**GOOD GARDENING!**

**HAPPY LABOR DAY**

Stay Cool!!

**We're Local.**

A GEICO office is in your area.



**Perry Hudson**  
(334) 651-0397

5163 Atlanta Hwy, Montgomery  
(Next to Faulkner University)  
[geico.com/montgomery](http://geico.com/montgomery)



**For Dependability...  
Call Tillery  
264-2388**

**Tillery can take care of your**

- ✓ Break-downs
- ✓ Repairs
- ✓ System Upgrades
- ✓ and REPLACEMENT if needed!

**Best  
Service  
in town!**

[www.tilleryheatingandair.com](http://www.tilleryheatingandair.com)

ALLIC #84787

## Preventing Nuclear War in a Nuclear World

*Continued from page 5A*

Americans were not buying into the nuclear-ban project. Nor were any of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, including Britain, China, France or Russia. India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel did not enlist either. Instead, conservatives such as Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) warned that "It's better to win an arms race than lose a war." Indeed, Cotton proposed legislation to ramp up the development of intercontinental ballistic missile interceptors and space-based sensors to detect launches. Given the rapid development of a nuclearized North Korea, acceleration of American nuclear missile defenses makes sense; much more sense than trying to ban nuclear weapons or debating whether nuclear weapons should have been used to end the Second World War.

### Historical Lessons of War

The lessons of history can be stern as any biblical lesson from the Old Testament. These lessons cannot be refuted by social justice rhetoric. The lessons of World War II are these and apply to all modern wars:

1. War leads to unforeseen and tragic consequences and should be a last resort.
2. Victory in war is usually the result of technological superiority, whether it be in the form of a steel sword, a chariot, a tank or a nuclear weapon.
3. A nation prepared for war often avoids war. This lesson was captured by Ronald Reagan in the motto "peace through strength."

Moral equivalence, the belief that all cultures and nations and governments should be valued equally, might be satisfying to social justice warriors in our classrooms and to UN delegates meeting in Geneva. History teaches us that wars sometime cannot be avoided in a world of tyrants, aggressors and dangerous actors such as North Korea.

Moral equivalence is not only irrelevant in such a world; it is actually destructive. Moral equivalence creates the conditions for war by encouraging pacifist sentiment. Pacifism can be misperceived by aggressors as weakness. United States learned this in the Second World War after the Japanese became convinced that Americans were a weak people unwilling to fight for their principles, who would fold after the attack on Pearl Harbor. After the Second World War,

Americans decided that never again would we be unprepared to defend the nation. Our enemies should understand this today. Indeed, "peace through strength" should be our renewed motto.

1 A good summary of the Enola Gay controversy is found in "Controversy Over the Enola Gay Exhibit," October 17, 2016, [www.atomicheritage.org/history/controversy-over-enola-gay-exhibition](http://www.atomicheritage.org/history/controversy-over-enola-gay-exhibition). Martin Harwit presents his defense in his book, *An Exhibit Denied: Lobbying the History of the Enola Gay* (1995). An academic defense of Harwit and the alleged shutting down of public debate is found in David Thelan, "History After the Enola Gay Controversy: An Introduction," *The Journal of American History*, 82:3 (1995).

2 John Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History* (2007), and John Haynes and Harvey Klehr, *Decoding Venona: Soviet Espionage in America* (1999).

3 Andrew E. Kramer, "Russia Calls New Missile Defense System a 'Direct Threat,'" *New York Times*, May 12, 2016.

4 Luke Harding and Ian Traynor, "Obama Abandons Missile Defense Shield in Europe," *September 17, 2009*.

5 Rick Glastone, "U.N. Panel Releases Draft of Treaty to Ban Nuclear Arms," *New York Times*, May 22, 2017.

6 Quoted by Rick Glastone, "U.N. Panel Releases Draft of Treaty to Ban Nuclear Arms," *New York Times*, May 22, 2017.

7 Mark Hay, "It's Time to Ban Nuclear Weapons," *VICE magazine*, June 14, 2017.

8 "Hiroshima Mayor Calls on U.N. to Adopt Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty," *The Japan Times*, June 16, 2017.

9 Joel Gehrke, "Tom Cotton: U.S. Has to Win Nuclear 'Arms Race' with Russia and China," *Washington Examiner*, June 26, 2017.

The Mindszenty Report is published monthly by  
Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation 7800 Bonhomme Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Phone 314-727-6279 Fax 314-727-5897

Subscription rate: \$25 per year Outside the U.S.A. \$35

The Mindszenty Report is not copyrighted, and subscribers are invited to have it printed in their local newspapers.

Contributions to the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Eleanor Schlafy, Publisher

e-mail: [info@mindszenty.org](mailto:info@mindszenty.org)

web site: [www.mindszenty.org](http://www.mindszenty.org)

[orders.inquiries@mindszenty.org](mailto:orders.inquiries@mindszenty.org)



# Charlie Davis Motorz

830 Coiseum Blvd. ~ Montgomery, AL. 334-356-0610

[www.charliefavismotorz.com](http://www.charliefavismotorz.com)

## Quality Used Cars

- Hand Selected
- History Checked
- Meticulously Inspected
- Thouroughtly Reconditioned
- Warranty Included
- Great Financing



2016 Toyoto Camry - \$16,900



2011 Buick Enclave CXL - \$15,991



2010 Chevrolet Camaro - \$16,991



2015 Dodge Challenger SXT - \$18,991



2016 Chevrolet Malibu - \$15,991



2016 Nissan Altima - \$16,991



2016 Chrysler 200 - \$14,481



2016 Chevrolet Malibu - \$16,990

## Alabama Gazette Community Marketplace



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

### RV's Motor Homes



#### 2006 Wildwood

27FBSS LE (27 ft long)  
New roof in 2016

Ventless washer and dryer/2015  
30 asmp electrical system  
240 sq ft w/sides open.

Large bath Sleeps 4+  
Queen bed Flat Screen TV

**\$8,900**

call 210-771-5990 or 334-356-6700  
email: [tobiaslgrant@gmail.com](mailto:tobiaslgrant@gmail.com)

### Apartments Available

#### AHEPA 23-II

Affordable Senior  
Housing Available  
Now. 1BR apartments

Minimum age 62.

Unfurnished. HUD

income limits.

285 Sylvest Drive

Montgomery

334-274-0076



TTY 800-548-2546

Run  
Your Ad  
Here!

### Start Your Own Business



#### New, Boss Laser Machine For Sale Model LS-1416

Start a new laser engraving business or ad  
never used.

Includes:

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

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

## Now Hiring Advertising Sales Consultants

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

**What we're looking for:** A smart and creative person who understands marketing and can put together advertising packages to benefit our advertisers and help their business

grow. If you have computer experience, and some knowledge of social media and smartphones...that's a start and we would like to meet with you. You should also understand the language of advertising, marketing and online advertising.

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

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

## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Complete the form below for Home Delivery. Please Print.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate the date of your beginning issue. \_\_\_\_\_ Gift subscription \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Mail Subscription form and check to:  
Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC 12 E. Jefferson St.  
Montgomery, AL 36104 OR The Wetumpka Gazette  
109 Company Street, Suite 210  
Wetumpka, AL 36092

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

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



# Community Lifestyles

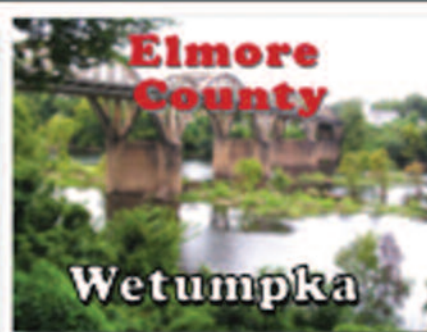
We are proud to announce that The Alabama Gazette is also being delivered in parts of Crenshaw, Butler, Pike, Lee and Talladega Counties. If you cannot find the Gazette in your area, please check out our website: [www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com)



**Montgomery County**  
Cities, Towns and Communities:  
Pike Road, Cecil, Matthews, Pine Level, Grady, Rawser, Logrove, Snowden, Pistola, Hope Hull and Calissa



**Autauga County**  
Surrounding Town and Communities:  
Anteagville, Billingsley, Bostk, Marbury, Pine Level, Independence, Stateville, Jones and Vide



**Elmore County**  
Surrounding Town and Communities:  
Millbrook, Coxsada, Elmore, Eclectic, Tallassee, Titus, Sautuck, Slapout, Rockford, Deatsville, Kent, Red Hill, Weeks and Robinson Springs



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

## Welcome



The Institute for Total Eye Care, P.C. is happy to announce

**Elizabeth B. Keeble, M.D.**

will be joining the practice in August 2017. Dr. Keeble was born in Opelika, Alabama, but raised in Lanett, Alabama. She attended Huntingdon College here in Montgomery where she obtained a bachelor's of art degree in Biology and graduated Cum Laude.

She then attended the University of

South Alabama in Mobile and obtained her Doctor of Medicine. She completed an internship at Baptist Health System in Birmingham and her ophthalmology residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Institute for Total Eye Care, P.C.

**Call Today  
to schedule your  
appointment with  
Dr. Keeble  
334-277-9111  
or 1-800-255-3012**

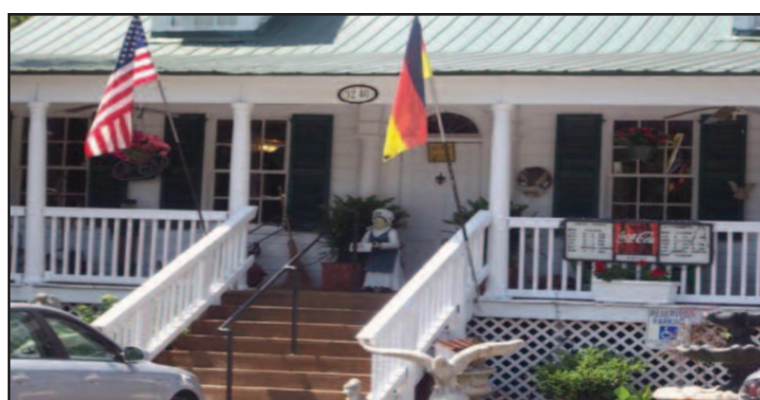
## Historic Millbrook

The Millbrook Pallet Depot and the Plantation House are located in historic Millbrook near the sports complex and park.

Vernon Moody and Renate Lindsey are local residents who have invested their time, money and lives in serving and growing the Millbrook area.



Moody said that he hopes the Millbrook Pallet Depot, featuring a unique selection of beautiful gift items for home and office, will encourage others to join them in bringing business to Millbrook. Renate's restaurant, The Plantation House, take pride in serving the best food bar in the area. She personally sees that the food is of highest quality and each dish has a special Renate flavor.



**"A special place for your special occasion"**  
**Plantation House & Gardens**  
**Restaurant and Catering**  
**Join Us in October for**



**Millbrook Pallet Depot features a wide selection of one-of-a-kind furniture and home decor created from recycled pallet wood. We also have Project Pallet Board and Headboards for all size beds.**



**Visit us  
Thurs. - Sat.  
10 am to 6 pm**

**3540 Grandview Rd.  
Millbrook, AL.  
334-201-1888**

facebook



**3240 Grandview Road  
Millbrook, Al.**

**334-285-1466**

**Hours of Operation:**  
**Wednesday 11a.m. until 2p.m.**  
**Thursday through Friday 11a.m. until 2p.m.**  
**and 5p.m. until 8p.m.**  
**Sunday 11a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Available for Special Events and Parties on  
Monday, Tuesday and Saturday**





## AUTAUGA COUNTY

# Autauga County Law

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**  
[www.autaugasheriff.org](http://www.autaugasheriff.org)

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



**Sheriff Joe Sedinger**

## Marbury Town Hall Meeting

There was a Town Hall Meeting held at the Marbury High School on Monday, August 14, 2017 which began at 6pm.

About 15 residents from the area were in attendance. This meeting was held to inform the citizens on what each office did for the citizens and services offered. There was a time after each speaker for questions.

We would like to thank all the speakers who came out to speak to the local residents: Secretary of State John Merrill; Circuit Clerk Debra Hill; Circuit Court Judge Bill Lewis; Sheriff Joe Sedinger; District 88 Representative Paul Beckman; District 30 Senator Clyde Chambliss; District 4 Commissioner Jay Thompson; Autauga County Coroner Buster Barber, and Probate Judge Al Booth.

**The next Town Hall Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2017 beginning at 6pm at the Billingsley Community Center.**

*Welcome by  
Mrs. Melba Chandler*



**Probate Judge Al Booth**



**Sheriff Joe Sedinger**

**Secretary of State John Merrill**



*Senator Clyde Chambliss*



*House District 88 Representative  
Paul Beckman*



*Circuit Court Judge Bill Lewis*



*District 4 Commissioner Jay Thompson*



*Circuit Clerk Debra Hill*





**CAROL LEMON  
REALTY**

744 S. Memorial Drive  
PRATTVILLE, AL 36067

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



**Carol Lemon**  
Broker

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



**1990 SUNCREST DRIVE**

This single-family home features 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths and approx. 2,941 sq. ft. The property lot size of 1.46 acres and was built in 1986. Double pane windows, fire-place, carpet, hardwood and tile floors. Gas heat



**1960 CALUMET PARKWAY**

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

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

**TERMITE  
CONTROL**

**PROFESSIONAL  
PEST CONTROL**



*Serving the public for over 50 years.*

**GREG BOWEN**  
334-365-4610

**740 MEMORIAL DR.**  
PRATTVILLE, AL 36067

**MEDAC, PC**

**Johnnie W. Strickland, Jr. MD**

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

**334-361-8225**

johnnie@medac4u.com

www.Medac4u.com



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

## Prattville's Way Off Broadway Theatre to Present A Charlie Brown Christmas

Prattville's Way Off Broadway Theater is proud to announce its production of A Charlie Brown Christmas, directed by Pamela Trammell. The play will open December 7 and will run Thursday-Sunday through December 17. The classic animated television special A Charlie Brown Christmas comes to life in this faithful stage adaptation in which Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the rest of the Peanuts Gang discover the true meaning of Christmas.

Auditions will be held Sunday, September 17, and Monday, September 18, at 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Way Off Broadway Theater, located in the Prattville Cultural Arts Building, 203 West 4th Street, Prattville, Alabama 36067. You need to attend only one audition session to be considered for a role. Callbacks will be held at a later date, if necessary.

There are parts for five boy/youth and five girls/youth, ages 6-18, as well as a boy or girl actor for the role of Snoopy. There are roles for an adult male for the narrator and another adult role either male or female. A chorus ensemble and extras will be selected as well. The actors should be able to sing, especially the main characters, or be able to sing with a group.

Auditions are open to anyone interested and no prepared pieces are required. You will be asked to do cold readings from the script. Acting resumes and pictures are appreciated, but not necessary. Please bring with you all available information as far as scheduling conflicts from October through December.

A Charlie Brown Christmas was first shown as an animated television special in 1965 and has been part of the holiday tradition ever since. The stage adaptation was completed in 2013. A Charlie Brown Christmas will be produced by special arrangement with the Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc., New York, New York.

For more information, contact the Special Events Office  
at 334-595-0854 or visit [wobt.prattvilleal.gov](http://wobt.prattvilleal.gov).

## A CHARLIE BROWN Christmas

by Charles M. Schulz

BASED ON THE TELEVISION SPECIAL BY BILL MELENDEZ  
AND LEE MENDELSON  
STAGE ADAPTATION BY ERIC SCHAEFFER  
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH ARTHUR WHITELAW AND RUBY PERSSON  
DIRECTED BY PAMELA TRAMMELL



**AUDITIONS**

**SEPT. 17 AND 18**

**FROM 6:30 TO 8:30 PM**

**334-595-0854**

PRATTVILLE'S  
**WOBT**  
WAY OFF BROADWAY THEATRE

## TOWN HALL MEETING

You are cordially invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting.

**Thursday; September 14, 2017**

**Billingsley Community Center**

**6pm—9pm**

Come out to a Town Hall Meeting to speak with your local elected officials. Please come out and meet with representatives from the following public offices: Sheriff Joe Seding, Revenue Commissioner Kathy Evans, County, Probate Judge Al Booth, District Court Judge Joy Booth, Circuit Clerk Debra Hill, Circuit Court Judge Bill Lewis, and Coroner Buster Barber. After a short presentation from each office, you will have an opportunity to ask questions or voice your concerns.

Hotdogs, chips and drinks will be provided for all who attend.



**VOICE YOUR  
CONCERNS!**

**NOW WHAT DO WE  
DO WITH ALL THOSE  
ECLIPSE GLASSES?**



Joe Keller

## Pump Repairs

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

**(334) 281-1258**

**or 1-800-242-8904**

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



Call Eric Barnes at 235-1618 or 356-6700 for your Autauga County advertising needs.

Advertise your business in the next issue of The Alabama Gazette!

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





**Chef David Spooner**  
*Retired Chef*

*Volunteer Fireman,  
Lowndesboro V.F.D.*

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

*Chairman,  
Board of Registrars,  
Lowndes County*

The other producers in the garden are my peppers. I am still picking Carolina Reapers and Ghost Peppers, up to over a 200 peppers so far and the bushes are looking good. My wife, Anne, and I said we were not going to do a lot of canning this summer. With the water baths for sterilizing the jars and for the canning, our kitchen turns into a sauna. The heat overwhelms the air conditioner in the sunroom. There is a bright side; since there was not any fruit to can, our power bill was a tad lower. We cannot cool or heat our house very well, but to keep the house warm we will do all of our canning this winter. Canning and keeping the house warm, two pluses! It had better be a cold winter!

Since summer does not officially end until the 22nd of this month, you do not have much time left to get all of your summer cooking in. In addition, you still need to hone your skills on the grill.

**Remember that football is back!** So start this season out by trying something new to grill besides the usual pork, beef, and chicken. Try some grilled fish, and since this fish is raised just an hour drive west of here, try catfish. The catfish raised here, at the Miller Catfish Farm, in Greensboro, Alabama, is an example some of the best catfish around. You need to get on-line and visit US-CATFISH.COM for more information about the catfish that is raised in the USA. The catfish raised here is grain-fed (soy, wheat, corn) hence the name AT ITS BEST GRILLED CATFISH. This recipe has the catfish fillets threaded on skewers to simplify the grilling; it cooks faster, less chance of fish sticking to grill and falling through the grill. Serving is the easiest; the fish stays on the skewer from grill to plate.

### AT ITS BEST GRILLED CATFISH

#### INGREDIENTS

- Two teaspoons grated lemon rind
- ½-teaspoon fennel seeds, crushed
- ¼-teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- Two (4-ounce) US farm raised catfish fillets
- Vegetable cooking spray

#### DIRECTIONS

Combine first four ingredients and rub mixture on both sides of the fillets. Cover and chill at least 4 hours. Cut each fillet length-wise into two strips. Thread evenly onto four (eight-inch) skewers. Coat grill rack with cooking spray and place on grill over medium-hot coals. Place fish on rack and cook for about 6 minutes on each side or until the fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Serve with a vegetable side or make a delicious grilled catfish taco, with a jicama slaw.

Danny, from the Miller Catfish Farm suggested marinating the catfish in a mixture of Dale's, lemon juice and melted butter. I have not tried this yet, but if you do, let me know what you think or even call Danny at the Miller Catfish Farm in Greensboro, he will love to talk to you.

There are as many vegetable recipes as there vegetables that are available for this time of year. Since we are going to hone our skills on the grill with the catfish, why not keep the grill going and prepare a vegetable side dish on the same grill. Another plus for this recipe is you can use your 10-inch cast iron skillet.

Yield: two servings

This also a test on your multi-tasking skills.

### FRESH GEORGIA PEACH COBLER

#### INGREDIENTS

- |                             |                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1-cup flour                 | 1-teaspoon cinnamon                                                                                              |
| 2 Tbs. sugar                | 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg                                                                                       |
| 1 1/2 tsps. baking powder   | 1-tablespoon lemon juice                                                                                         |
| 1/4 tsp salt                | 2-tablespoon butter                                                                                              |
| 4 tablespoons butter        | ¼-teaspoon salt                                                                                                  |
| One egg, beaten             |                                                                                                                  |
| 1/4 cup milk                | 7 cups sliced peeled fresh peaches (or if need-be, 2 20 ounce bags of frozen sliced peaches, thawed and drained) |
| 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed |                                                                                                                  |
| ¾-cup sugar                 |                                                                                                                  |
| 2-tablespoons flour         |                                                                                                                  |

#### DIRECTIONS

In a mixing bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Cut in the 4 Tbsp. butter with a pastry blender till mixture is crumbly. Stir the milk into beaten egg and add to flour mixture until just moistened, 8-10 strokes. Do not overmix batter. Set aside.

In a small saucepan combine brown sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, lemon juice, 2 Tbsp. butter and a cup of water. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens. Then stir in peaches. Continue cooking approximately 5 minutes. Pour saucepan mixture into a 10-inch cast iron skillet. Spoon the flour mixture on top in 6-7 dollops. Bake on 400F grill until topping is golden brown and done inside. Maybe 25-30 minutes. Since the peach mixture is cooked before putting in the skillet, the timing may be shorter. Use the dollops on top as your judge. Serve hot with ice cream.



### SOUTHERN RATATOUILLE

A Southern version of a healthy, classic French summer dish. The bacon and fried egg provides richness and protein. This can be made indoors on a stove, but the smoke from the grill will add some depth of flavor to this dish.

#### INGREDIENTS

- |                                                   |                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 2 slices thick cut bacon                          | 2 teaspoons sherry vinegar                         |
| 2 Tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided     | 4 leaves basil, sliced thin, plus more for garnish |
| 1 clove garlic, crushed                           | 2 sprigs of thyme, use just the stripped leaves    |
| 1 zucchini or similar squash, cubed               | 4 whole eggs                                       |
| 6 whole small tender okra, sliced ¼ inch thick    | 1/2 cups parmesan cheese savings                   |
| 2 whole large, ripe, heirloom tomatoes, quartered | 4 slices French bread, toasted for dipping         |

#### DIRECTIONS

In a medium skillet or 10-inch cast iron over medium high heat, cook bacon; drain on paper towels. Once cooled, loosely chop the bacon.

To the same skillet, add 1-tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil and sautéed garlic over medium heat, until fragrant and translucent. Add the remaining tablespoon of olive oil and the eggplant. Once eggplant starts to soften, add zucchini or squash, then okra. Sauté the vegetables for a few minutes, stirring occasionally. When the vegetables are cooked but still tender, add bacon, tomatoes, sherry vinegar, basil, and thyme.

Turn heat up to let tomatoes melt and form a thin sauce. Cook for a few minutes until sauce has reduced a bit.

Set ratatouille aside.

Fry eggs, preferably over easy and in some bacon fat or butter. Divide ratatouille between large plates. Top each with the fried egg and garnish with Parmesan shavings and fresh basil.

Serve with sliced French bread.

The last part of honing your grilling and multi-tasking skills is to make a dessert for this meal. Use a cast iron skillet for this if available.

I am adding another recipe for a grilled salad. I know that this may be too many grilled items for a meal. You can always save this for another time when your entire meal is cooked indoors and add this as a change of pace.

### GRILLED ROMAINE with BLUE CHEESE-BACON VINAIGRETTE

#### INGREDIENTS

- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- ¾ cup chopped red onion
- ½ pound bacon, chopped
- ½-cup balsamic vinegar
- Three heads romaine lettuce halved lengthwise.
- COSTCO sells a baby romaine that is just the right size.
- ½ cup crumbled blue cheese
- Freshly cracked black pepper



#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat grill to high. Heat 1-tablespoon olive oil in a sauté pan over high heat. Add onion and bacon, cook until bacon is crispy. Add vinegar and one-tablespoon olive oil and stir to combine. Remove from heat and set aside. Brush cut side of romaine with the two remaining tablespoons of olive oil. Place cut side down on the grill and quickly sear. Serve lettuce cut side up, drizzle with balsamic dressing, sprinkled with blue cheese, and freshly ground black pepper.

With the Catfish, the Ratatouille, the Cobbler, and the Grilled Romaine, you have helped promote the Catfish industry in the USA, and helped local produce providers. You have also prepared ingredients in a different way than they are usually served.

Yield: six.

Think outside the box!



## Remember me?

For six years, I had the privilege of serving as Alabama's Attorney General. During that time, I got up every day and was driven to do everything in my power to make Alabama safer for your family. I did that as we rewrote Alabama's sex offender law, making it the toughest in the nation. I did that as we used those new laws to prosecute those who prey on our kids and, in the process, won the single most severe sentence ever handed down against a child pornographer. I did it as we sued drug companies that had stolen from Medicaid. I did that as we held BP accountable for polluting our Gulf coast, leading to them being forced to pay over one BILLION dollars in damages to our state. I did it as we prosecuted rapists and murderers. I did it as I stood beside crime victims at parole hearings where hard fought convictions can be undone in the blink of an eye.

Since leaving office six years ago, I have been up to more of the same. I opened a law firm where, along with my law partner, JW Godwin, we still spend our time standing up for Alabamians who have suffered injuries. When people ask me what kind of law we practice, I always tell them that we help hurting people. We help those who have been hurt in a car wreck that was not their fault or in a nursing home or by bad medicines or even by a doctor. Because information is power, I am pleased to have this space to provide some regular advice and answer the most commonly asked legal questions.

If you find yourself in a wreck, there are some important things you should do:

**Take pictures** – pictures of the scene, pictures of your car, and pictures of the other car

**Get the names of witnesses.** Sometimes the police do not get their names or they leave before the police arrive and, once they are gone, they can often be impossible to find.

**Go to the doctor and take care of your health!** Even if you do not think you are hurt, go to the doctor and get checked out and be sure.

**Call a lawyer and take care of your future.** You can be sure that the insurance company has lawyers and adjusters who are working to protect them. Besides, the call is usually free and does not commit you to anything.

**Never talk to an adjuster.** They are not calling because they are concerned about how you are doing. They are calling to try and gather information that will protect the insurance company.

I pray that you never need any of the advice in this column. If you ever do, though, I hope that you will remember something I have shared with you and that it will ensure that you are treated fairly. **If you have questions, send them to me and I will answer them in a future column. This advice is, after all, just another way that I am still protecting you.**

## From The Desk of Troy King

When you trusted me to serve as Alabama's Attorney General, I was proud to get up every day and fight for you. Whether it was drug companies that stole from Medicaid, BP that nearly destroyed our beautiful coast or criminals who hurt, raped and killed our people, I stood up on your behalf to those who wronged Alabama and her people. Today, I still spend my time standing up for Alabamians who have been hurt. If you have been hurt in a wreck and it was not your fault or if someone you love has been hurt in a nursing home, I would be honored if you trusted me to be your lawyer...again. Call me. You'll find me still doing what I have done longest and best – still protecting you.




**The Law Offices Of  
TROY KING**  
Suite 203, 7065 Fain Park Drive  
Montgomery, AL. 36117  
Office: 334-215-4440  
Toll Free: 855-335-8769 | Fax: 334-215-4438  
[www.stillprotectingyou.com](http://www.stillprotectingyou.com)

The Alabama State Bar Association requires the following disclaimer to be published here: "No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be provided by these lawyers is better than those provided by other lawyers."

## Tuskegee's Construction Science and Management Program Receives First-Ever Accreditation

For the first time in Tuskegee University's history, its Construction Science and Management program is accredited by the American Council for Construction Education — making it one of only two accredited bachelor's degree programs in Alabama, and one of only three accredited HBCU programs nationally. The program's five-year accreditation status extends through July 2022.

"Accreditation by ACCE demonstrates the increasing academic rigor of programs like those in our Department of Construction Science and Management, as well as the solid value and competitive edge a Tuskegee University degree offers our graduates," said Dr. Charlotte P. Morris, Tuskegee's interim president.

Accreditation by ACCE promotes and improves construction education in colleges and universities by gathering input from construction professionals and construction educators to establish and maintain standards and criteria for accreditation, provide guidance to those programs seeking to achieve accredited status, and carry out the accreditation process.

"ACCE accreditation assists construction education programs like ours maintain contact with practicing professionals and remain current with emerging technologies in the field," said Dr. Carla Jackson Bell, dean of the Robert R. Taylor School of Architecture and Construction Science. "It also provides a network through which we can promote our academic program, exchange best practices with institutional peers and access construction industry contacts nationwide."

The accrediting report cited a number of the program's strengths — especially its faculty's commitment to inspiring, mentoring and interacting with its students; the strong support the university administration demonstrates for the program; and the passion the program's students exhibit for their chosen major.

Rogers Hunt III, MEng., head of the Department of Construction Science and Management, indicated the program's new accreditation status benefits prospective students and the industry alike.

"Accreditation helps prospective students identify institutions that offer quality construction education pro-



L-R: William Lewis, Instructor; Kimberly B. Bivins, M.Eng., Assistant Professor; Dr. Carla J. Bell, Dean; Rogers Hunt III, M.Eng., Department Head and Assistant Professor; and Dr. Joel Wao, Assistant Professor.

grams," Hunt said. "Construction industry employers benefit by easily identifying job applicants with the potential for making lasting industry and professional contributions."

It is that academic-industry partnership that undergirds the "undeveloped potentials" cited by ACCE in its accrediting report. These — along with students collaborating with their peers in the school's Architecture program and having greater access to hands-on opportunities — are vital to preparing students for careers in the field.

"ACCE has challenged our program to deepen and strengthen our partnerships with industry through our recently formed Construction Science and Management Industry Advisory Board," Rogers said. "By securing additional industry partnerships, we in turn can provide our students with more hands-on experiences and professional mentoring relationships."

Construction education at Tuskegee University dates back to 1883. The program is part of the Robert R. Taylor School of Architecture and Construction Science, named after Taylor who was the first accredited African-American architect and the first to receive an architecture degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and who served as Tuskegee's first director of Mechanical Industries in 1901. The university formally established the Construction Science and Management program in 1933, making it the country's oldest bachelor's degree program in the field — a fact recognized by the American Council for Construction Education.

For more information about the program's ACCE accreditation, visit [www.acce-hq.org/accreditation](http://www.acce-hq.org/accreditation), and the Robert J. Taylor School of Architecture and Construction Science at <http://tuskegee.edu/tsacs>.

**September  
Thursday  
Special**

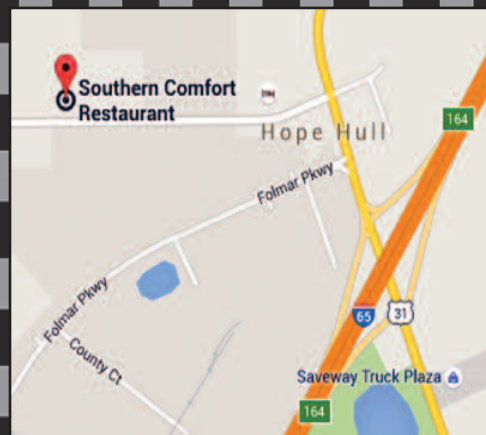
**Hot and Sweet  
Wings  
with  
Curly Fries**

**\$10.75**



**SOUTHERN  
COMFORT  
RESTAURANT**

**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**

**Support our ADVERTISERS!  
The make this newspaper possible!**



**Feeding Hope  
Across  
Alabama**

**SUPPORT  
YOUR AREA  
FOOD BANK**

**[www.montgomeryareafoodbank.org](http://www.montgomeryareafoodbank.org)**

**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**



# TODAY'S WOMAN

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



## Tears and Laughter:

By Amanda Walker

Amanda Walker is a blogger and contributor with The Alabama Gazette, AL.com, The Thomasville Times, West Alabama Watchman, and Wilcox Progressive Era.

Walkerworld77@msn.com or at  
https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.

### How to live in a county that is dying

Prior to reading the interview with respected historian Wayne Flynt on Al.com, I knew that the Black Belt has its challenges.

I knew, because I started writing about them when it became clear years ago that many of the most challenging issues were never making it across the Wilcox County line. The poverty level and unemployment rate are well-reported, but political corruption, poor leadership, and candidates winning elections through illegal absentee voting have also helped to stall an already failing economy. It has created and fueled a subculture of people with just enough education to know hustling pays more than a low-skill, minimum wage position.

Even in writing about it on a continual basis, I allowed for the possibility circumstances could change, or that I was wrong about it. But, nope. Once Wayne Flynt is quoted as saying it, it is difficult to pretend the words aren't true. He said Wilcox is one of Alabama's dying counties, and that Kay Ivey knows it too.

He calls her Kay.



Governor Kay Ivey

than they were in 1860, which is hard for people to comprehend when I say that, but it's true."

We live in a county that is dying on the vine. Flynt said we don't have to acknowledge it, but that we must know, by the circumstances of our lives.

In other words, by continuing to live in a place that is dying, we accept certain truths about our circumstances, even if we refuse to admit it. I don't know any more if we are in denial, or if we just don't believe in dwelling on things we can't change.

It is hard to paint a pretty picture of a place this is mostly poor and uneducated. Maybe that is why we hold tight to what we do have – heritage, home, and one another. We still pass around old recipes and the latest baby. We keep our traditions and trinkets from the past – our footed punch bowls, rusted farm tools, and jelly jars filled with buttons from clothes old family wore.

We value garden spots, fishing holes, and fields of hay. We hunt most everything that roams and flies. We like fires. If there is no fireplace, then outside in a bare spot works too. Not so much in the summer, but as soon as the first cool nights arrive, we build fires just for the pleasure of sitting around them talking, and telling stories that take us back through time.

It is a mystery even to us sometimes what keeps us bound to a land so simple, yet laden with problems. But then again, who could turn away from a place they love when it's dying. Besides, lot of us wouldn't know how to live anywhere else. It's just who we are as people I guess.



Trisston  
Wright Burrows  
Ms. Wheelchair  
America/  
Alabama 2005

labor to say goodbye to Summer, to go camping, to squeeze in one last trip to the beach, to eat barbecue,...to just enjoy!

If you think about it, God has already created a special day for those of us who labor. As Christians, our very own Labor Day doesn't come only once a year and it doesn't only come on the first Monday of each September. That special day for us comes every seventh day of the week. If we are smart, we try very hard to honor it. We take that seventh day to stop from our labor and relax a bit. Our bodies weren't created to run full steam ahead each and every day. We were created in His image! Think about it...if our God and creator, the great I Am himself rested from His labor on the seventh day, how much more so do we need that rest?!?!

Friends, our bodies were made with Sabbath DNA. God placed this spiritual genetic matter within each cell that makes up our miraculous body. So, while you are taking an American Labor Day rest by traveling, painting your house, or doing yard work, remember that God had something even better for His children in mind... a weekly rest, a weekly time-out from our hard work. A time-out from our labor, we all need!

Remember, God didn't make rest on the Sabbath day a gentle suggestion, He made it a command.

Happy Labor Day & Many Blessings!

## Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows  
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

### "Happy Labor Day!"

Did you know that the Labor Day holiday originally started in the late 1800's? Can you imagine how excited the people were to take a day off from working. Some may have thought, "What a wonderful and new idea!" Created and implemented as a day of rest by those hard-working blue-collar laborers in New York City. This day continues to be one that we as a nation look forward to every September.

In many ways, Labor Day has become a man-made American Sabbath day. A yearly day of rest from our



## VIVIX, slow aging at the Cellular Level

Feel Younger, Longer,  
or Your Money Back



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



## Join Us for our 2017 Signature Luncheon

Monday, October 2, 2017, 11:30 am  
doors open at 11:00 am

Embassy Suites Hotel Montgomery  
300 Jallapoosa Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

"Faces of Hope" Speaker:  
Ronda Walker

Montgomery County Commissioner  
Breast Cancer Survivor

Tickets Available  
from any Women of Hope Member or  
online at [www.thewomenofhope.org](http://www.thewomenofhope.org)

For more information contact  
(334) 220-4599  
[womenofhope@charter.net](mailto:womenofhope@charter.net)



380 Mendel Parkway  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
1.334.260.8010

[www.FirstChoiceMontgomery.com](http://www.FirstChoiceMontgomery.com)



SCAN FOR APPT.



# Home Town Community News

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

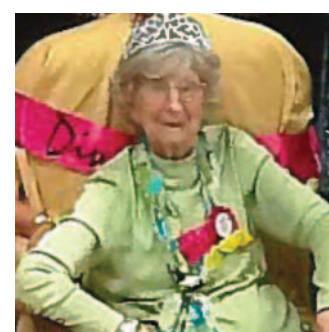
The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions as space permits.

**Patricia Killough**



Dear Ms. Killough;  
Hello my name is Emily Hicks. I turned 10 years old on July 29 and I celebrated my birthday, on Sunday July 30th with my family and friends. As you can see in the attached photo we had so much fun. My Nana, Billie Hicks is sending you this photo of my party. I hope you will be able to publish it.

**Thanks Emily for sharing your birthday with us!**



**Frances Smith will Celebrate her 101st Birthday September 26, 2017.**

*She is a resident of Prattville and worked over 58 years in retail in the River Region Area. She still enjoys life and people!*



Earl Russell, Carl Boyd and Weldon Payne hosted their 17th Annual Ada Pasture Party at Earl's Barn on Smiley Ferry Road on August 19th. Food, beverages and live entertainment was enjoyed by all. Carl and Earl each celebrate their August birthdays.

**PIKE ROAD FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT**  
Pike Road Fire Department  
3427 Wallahatchie Road  
Pike Road, Alabama 36064



The Pike Road Fire Department received \$252,621 in grant funds. The funds were a combination of \$177,500 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, \$62,971 from the Town of Pike Road, and \$2,000 from the Pike Road Civic Club. The rest of the funds were budgeted by the department. The funds were used to purchase 32 self-contained breathing apparatus with cylinders and spares, individual masks, a telemetry and locator/rescue system, two rapid intervention team bags (for firefighter rescue) and two masks with thermal imaging cameras.

The new equipment will allow the department to replace aging equipment and provide more advance equipment to the department. "It is tremendous for our membership, it helps us to provide high quality fire services and meet our safety standards for the members. We want to thank all the organizations that contributed to the effort." said Chief Matt Missildine.



David Hughes, Captain ~ email: 106@pikeroadfire.com ~334-651-2512  
[www.pikeroadfire.com](http://www.pikeroadfire.com)

## September Birthdays



- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Joe Boyd (78th)            | 19 Beth Cline                |
| 2 John Hannon                | Bobby Hudson                 |
| 3 Dian Majors                | 20 Lynn Davis                |
| Leslie Riley                 | Carol Hudson                 |
| 4 Jimmy Dick                 | 21 Hank Henderson (95th)     |
| Gary French                  | Marlee Day Smith (8th)       |
| Tim Riley                    | Kristen Taylor               |
| Britney Williams             | Sarah Kate Taylor            |
| 5 Joyce Moore (77th)         | 22 Bertha Reagan Bell        |
| 6 Ethleen Bazzell (78th)     | Tom Garlington               |
| Bonnie Edwards               | David Webb                   |
| Diana Elliott                | 23 Era Hall                  |
| C. J. Faulk (83rd)           | Kirksey Jones                |
| 7 Tanner Grant               | 24 Barbara Berg              |
| Ruby Law                     | Ava Catherine Crowe (9th)    |
| 8 Adam Broadway              | Lynda Maddox                 |
| 9 Kendra Devon Lamar         | Catherine Preston            |
| Marietta Russell             | Chrystal Rahn                |
| Jesse Southern (93rd)        | R. J. Seevers                |
| 10 Terry Dotherow            | 25 Brenda Abrams             |
| 11 Traci Weafer              | Linda Abrams                 |
| 12 Warner Boyd (81st)        | Marilyn Blair (95th)         |
| Catherine Jane Grubbs (11th) | Sonny Cauthen (68th)         |
| Brian Hudson                 | Rocene Fowler                |
| 13 Donna Mulcahy             | Betty Gafford                |
| Debbie Partridge (60th)      | Baxter Moseley (22nd)        |
| 14 Elaine Webb               | 26 Emily Lamar (95th)        |
| 15 Shannon Flores (45th)     | Barbara Mitchell             |
| 16 Phyllis McCalman          | <b>Frances Smith (101st)</b> |
| Dick Payson (83rd)           | 27 Roy Stephens (88th)       |
| 17 Mike (Pete) Moore         | 29 Elvin Stanton             |
| Mandy Stringer (14th)        | 30 Scott Borders (55th)      |
| 18 Don Dawkins               | Lydia Brown                  |
| Dale Jones                   | Kim Butler                   |
| Jace McClelland (4th)        | Susan Feaga                  |
| Betty Russell                | Hunter O'Neal (13th)         |
| Eddie Spivey                 | Mike Smith                   |

### Belated August Birthdays!

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Clint Comer      | August 9    |
| Betty Maddox     | August 17   |
| Joe Poole (70th) | August 19th |
| Linda Birchfield | August 22   |

## Happy Anniversary

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Joe & Jean Douglas             | 20 Jason & Stephanie Selvage (14th) |
| 3 Howard & Martha Stripling      | 21 Tony & Janie Drake               |
| 4 Don & Barbara White            | 22 Hank & Geneva Henderson (75th)   |
| 6 Thomas & Louise Light          | James & Sherry Tucker               |
| 7 Gary & Lyda Crowe              | 24 Larry & Linda Browder            |
| Ralph & Brenda Davis             | 25 Chuck & Betty Gentry Holmes      |
| Steve & Paige Stringer           | 26 Jose' & Susan Guevara            |
| 10 Mike & Linda Reynolds         | 28 Morgan & Ashley James            |
| 12 Warner & Margaret Boyd (61st) | Chris & Kelley Grantham             |
| 16 Skip & Connie Mainor (4th)    |                                     |
| 17 Hugh & Helen Gordon (69th)    |                                     |
| Andy & Lori Meadows              |                                     |
| 18 James & Sarah Glass (7th)     |                                     |

**Belated 50th Anniversary  
Frank & Mary Monroe  
August 26, 2017**

## Sympathy to the families of...

Sadler III, John Allen (69) ..... died July 24, 2017  
Kimbrough, Thomas S. (90) ..... died July 27, 2017  
Roberts, James Daniel (83) ..... died July 27, 2017  
Waller, Martha Jeanne Sharp (90) ..... died July 28, 2017  
Dailey, Roxie Irene Holmberg (68) ..... died July 30, 2017  
Hargrove, Elisa Archuleta (93) ..... died August 1, 2017  
Englehardt III, M.D., Samuel Martin ..... died August 4, 2017  
Smith, Martha May (83) ..... died August 4, 2017  
Cooper, Terrell Lynn "Terry" (62) ..... died August 5, 2017  
Horn, Hortense Browder (90) ..... died August 7, 2017  
Funderburk, Charles B. (92) ..... died August 10, 2017  
Solomon, Richard Michael (60) ..... died August 11, 2017  
Phelps, Peggy Lynn Broadway ..... died August 14, 2017  
Rawls, Henry Walton (91) ..... died August 18, 2017  
Lewis, Jerry (Comedian & Actor) (91) ..... died August 20, 2017  
Dean, Robert D. (Bobby) (Bo) (84) ..... died August 21, 2017  
Defee, Betty Pettus (92) ..... died August 26, 2017

## Good Bye Summer!!

**Woodland United Methodist  
Church of Pike Road**  
4428 Wallahatchie Road  
Pike Road, AL 36064 • 334.272.7230

**HOME COMING**  
Sunday, September 24, 2017  
*Please join us for our  
62nd Anniversary*





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

## THE MARSHALL MOMENT

### THE JOURNEY

# Soul Searching

Someone said, “When those who have been around longest share their experiences in life’s journey, our future paths become more understandable.” There’s truth in those words which can apply to many areas of life, including our faith journey. As one who has worked at my own pilgrimage and given my life to help others do so for many years, I would like to offer some observations about the Christian journey.

First, a journey of uncertainty requires direction. I am amazed that many people begin the Christian journey looking backwards and thinking mostly of a jump into eternity without much thought about what happens in between. I learned pretty early in life it matters not so much exactly where you are as much as the direction you are moving. Without direction and purpose, a journey is not much more than a wandering experience which may be only a circle.

Paul helped us so much with his memorable words as written to the Philip-pians. *“But this one thing I do, forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward.” (Phil. 3:13-14)* Christianity is little more than a reli-gious coat we put on without a purpose of becoming like Christ. Paul’s direction in life was intimate fellowship with Christ.

The early followers of Christ were called disciples, and rightly so. But they were more than men who followed Christ up and down roads. They followed because He had become their life. Every Christian today is called to follow with the same intent. The very concept of a destination means that all other destina-tions are ruled out. Would those who know you best describe your life as one whose purpose is to become like Christ?

Second, a journey of performance requires dedication. Paul further explored the depths of this journey with a description of the costs. *“I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.” (I Cor.9:27)* Paul precedes these verses with an analogy of a runner. Serious running requires discipline. They will not attain the fitness desired without the required routine. So it is with the Christian life.

In particular, note that Paul’s concern was not to impress others with his disci-pline, but rather not to be embarrassed at the end. Runners in a race may not be able to keep the same pace as everyone else, but they want to do their best. No runner wants to be labeled a slacker, one who didn’t give his best.

We remember how the disciples first called to leave their nets and follow. As their journey continued it required interaction with people. Jesus told them He would make them “fishers of men.” But there came a day when He taught them about submission in a much deeper sense. *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Matt. 15:24)*

Discipleship is a journey of continuing maturity and increased commitment to be ready to imitate Christ in our “performance.” Paul’s words to runners were “run to win.” I hope that is your desire also.

Third, a journey of endurance requires strength. One Tuesday early in the 1923 season, the Yankee’s regular first baseman, Wally Pip, was bothered by a headache. Before the game he asked the team trainer to get him some aspirin. The manager, Mike Huggins, overheard the conversation and told Wally to take the day off. He would start a rookie named Lou Gehrig at first base.

Gehrig took over for Pip at first base and stayed there for fifteen years. He compiled a major league record of 2,130 consecutive games not counting World Series games. For his awesome endurance, he was eventually known as the “Iron Horse.”

There is a message here for us. We need to be able to “take the field” of Christianity with the same hard work and steadfast endurance. Different than a famous ball player, we can’t do it on our own. Every ounce of desire and energy will be tested. The limits of our own strength will be revealed. Unfortunately, that is where many Christians shift into neutral. They have never learned the power of faith to give us endurance.

The writer of Hebrews understood the process clearly as he wrote, *“Let us run with patience the race marked out for us.” (Hebrews 12:1)* I am reminded of the problems Peter ran into the night of Jesus’s betrayal. He never would have believed his own weakness as revealed in the denial of Christ three times in just a few minutes. As he was confronted with his inability to endure, he wept bitterly.

You and I are not immune to failure along the journey to maturity. Pressures from within and without in the world systems sometimes drive us to wrong choices. During those tough times, if we rely on our own strength, we will stumble.

Strength for endurance comes only through grace experienced in a closer walk with our Lord. He will help us to be successful in spiritual warfare. Again the writer of Hebrews reminds us of resources for the journey. Our Lord will *“equip you with everything good for doing his will...” (Hebrews 13:21)*

**Christianity is not so much a matter of denomination, church identity or worship style. It is ultimately about a direction in life which honors Christ.** With each successive call “to follow”, there is a challenge to a deeper devotion and a growing need for endurance. As we experience failure and re-nwal in our journey following Him, we become aware that it is the strength He gives us which makes us able to endure. In so doing we become winners for Christ in this life, the only thing we have to offer Him which He can use.

## If I Were the Devil...

By Paul Harvey - Original 1964

If I Were the Devil

If I were the Prince of Darkness I would want to en-gulf the whole earth in darkness.

I’d have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I would not be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree.

So I should set about however necessary, to take over the United States.

I would begin with a campaign of whispers.

With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whispers to you as I whispered to Eve, “Do as you please.”

To the young I would whisper “The Bible is a myth.” I would convince them that “man created God,” in- stead of the other way around. I would confide that “what is bad is good and what is good is square.”

In the ears of the young married I would whisper that work is debasing, that cocktail parties are good for you. I would caution them not to be “extreme” in religion, in patriotism, in moral conduct.

And the old I would teach to pray — to say after me — “Our father which are in Washington.”



Then I’d get organized.

I’d educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull, un- interesting.

I’d threaten TV with dirtier movies, and vice-versa.

I’d infiltrate unions and urge more loafing, less work. Idle hands usually work for me.

I’d peddle narcotics to whom I could, I’d sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction, I’d tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the Devil, I would encourage schools to re- fine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emo- tions; let those run wild.

I’d designate an atheist to front for me before the highest courts and I’d get preachers to say, “She’s right.”

With flattery and promises of power I would get the courts to vote against God and in favor of pornogra- phy.

Thus I would evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, then from the Houses of Con- gress.

Then in his own churches I’d substitute psychology for religion and deity science.

If I were Satan I’d make the symbol of Easter an egg.

And the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the Devil I’d take from those who have and give to those who wanted until I had killed the in- centive of the ambitious. Then my police state would force everybody back to work. Then I would separate families, putting children in uniform, women in coal mines and objectors in slave-labor camps.

If I were Satan I’d just keep doing what I’m doing and the whole world go to hell as sure as the Devil.



## The Shack

A friend kept encouraging me to read “The Shack” so I could discuss it with her. I told her I don’t read much fiction and kept putting her off. But I found the DVD at the local library last week and watched this version of William P. Young’s 2007 book. I must say, though the viewing took two nights, it was hard to hit “pause” and go to bed!

“The Shack” deals with tragedy when a little girl is kidnapped and murdered. In this regard, the book isn’t sugar-coated. Tragedy is part and parcel of life, and one of the most difficult things to deal with in a life of faith. “Why do good people suffer?” is a question as old as the book of Job, and the answer, or what we have of it, depends on one’s theological slant.

One branch of Christendom insists God decrees all things and ultimately gets glory from all things. Another branch insists God may or may not decree all things--there are forces in our world that bring about bad things, such as human will and Satan. And those in this camp say we must have faith to believe we’ll be stronger and better for having faced tragedy, and one God will offer an ac- counting.

Whatever the case, Mack Phillips and his wife entered a period of grief. Mack eventually received a unique invitation to meet God. One surprise in the film is that he experiences God in a different way since God is female.

Of course, the author is taking some liberties. Biblical culture was male-domi- nated and God is almost uniformly referred to in the scripture as male. I suppose if we were pressed on this we’d admit that maleness and femaleness is a human quality and really transcends the nature of God. But in our everyday Christianity we refer to God as Jesus did: “Our father.

The author uses word and drama to demonstrate God’s love for all, even for the evil man who took the Phillips’ daughter. This was the most significant idea I came away with. God does, indeed, love everyone. Jesus prayed forgiveness for those who murdered him, so this concept really shouldn’t be surprising.

To those who suggest “The Shack” takes liberties with scripture I’d simply say the book doesn’t claim to be scripture. It’s a parable, just like John Bunyan used in “The Pilgrim’s Progress”—now a classic. “The Shack” probably won’t achieve Bunyan’s status, but it’s simply one man’s attempt to explain to this generation that God doesn’t abandon us in our pain. It’s true, and we trust some hear this who might not come and hear a sermon in church.

*Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. The church's website is [siluriabaptist.com](http://siluriabaptist.com).*



# ELMORE COUNTY

ECLECTIC, AL

## City of Eclectic

**Free Admissions!**



Bring the entire family!  
There's fun for everyone!

## Vendors!

For more information contact:

Town of Eclectic

145 Main Street - P.O. Box 240430

Eclectic, AL 36024 - 334-541-3481

[www.townofeclectic.com](http://www.townofeclectic.com)

Early Bird Booth Spaces \$20 - \$30

Late fee \$10 after September 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Antique Car Show



Entertainment featuring  
Local Artist

Dog Show

Photo Contest

Art Contest

## Kids Zone

Includes inflatables, puppet shows, pony rides,  
face painting and more! ALL Free!



## Alabama Cotton Queen Pageant



### Pageant Rules:

Contestants will be judged on Poise, Appearance, and Personality! Contestants age 9-19 will interview with the judges. All contestants must be an Alabama resident, must be unmarried, are not currently, nor have ever been pregnant, must be willing and available to represent the Alabama Cotton Festival at events throughout the year.

**All contestants must submit a photography along with entry form and entry fee by September 29 2017. No refunds.**

**Registration Fee: \$40**

### Age Categories:

- 0 - 2 years of age: Baby Mr. & Miss Alabama Cotton (Sunday attire or Pageant wear.)
- 3 - 4 years of age: Tenny Mr. & Miss Alabama Cotton (Sunday attire or Pageant wear.)
- 5 - 6 years of age: Tiny Mr. & Miss Alabama Cotton (Sunday attire or Pageant wear.)
- 6 - 8 years of age: Petite Miss Alabama Cotton (Sunday attire or Pageant wear.)
- 9 - 11 years of age: Junior Miss Alabama Cotton (Sunday attire or Pageant wear.)
- 12 - 14 years of age: Teen Miss Alabama Cotton (Pageant wear Required.)
- 15 - 19 years of age: Queen Miss Alabama Cotton (Pageant wear Required.)

Miss Alabama Cotton Queen is a statewide Title.

**5 x 7 Photograph Required with each age category.**

### Most Photogenic Contest

0-19 years of age. \$10 Entry Fee. Winner will receive a Plaque. You can submit an additional photo for this contest.

- All Contestants will receive trophies.
- Miss Alabama Cotton Queen will receive a Savings Bond, Crown, Sash, Trophy, page in up coming Elmore County High School program & other gifts.
- Most Photogenic - A winner will be awarded in each category/age group.
- Only contestants that pay the additional fee will be entered into Most Photogenic!



For more information

**Elizabeth Geer**

**334-641-3581**

**Cell: 334-580-9803**

[www.townofeclectic.com](http://www.townofeclectic.com)



## 19th Annual Taste of Eclectic

**Monday, September 11, 2017**

**Elmore County High School**

**5:30 - 7:00 pm**

For more Information:

Dean Williams

(334)-399-6451

Jeanne Osborne

(334)-580-9730

Glenda Beasley

(334)-567-5940

Verdie Nummy

(334)-312-4746



[eclecticthebeautiful@gmail.com](mailto:eclecticthebeautiful@gmail.com)

*We moved!*

*Now at 20 Main Street.*

## Bless Your Heart

**Grand Opening**

**September 9th - 10:00-6:00**



Gifts,  
Home  
Decor and  
Decorating  
Services.

Hours:  
Tuesday-  
Saturday  
10-6



# Ingram Road Bridge Projects

Wetumpka, AL - The Elmore County Commission through our Highway Department is actively working to complete the approach work for the two bridge replacements on Ingram Rd. H&L Construction completed their federally funded contract work to construct two reinforced concrete box culverts the week of July 15th. County forces moved in immediately after the contractor completed their responsibilities and has been diligently working to construct the remaining gabion basket retaining walls, place backfill material and base the road in preparation for paving.

County forces are working to try to reopen the road at both culverts as soon as possible to accommodate traffic for school buses for the Elmore County Board of Education. The completion of this project, like all road projects, is dependent on weather conditions, so the County Highway Department is communicating frequently with County Board of Education personnel to keep them informed of the most current conditions.

The County Highway Department is focusing its efforts to open the structure just south of Myrick Road first as it services over 3000 vehicles per day. Crews will then shift all their attention to the structure just north of Myrick road for completion. The northern structure services around 850 vehicles per day.

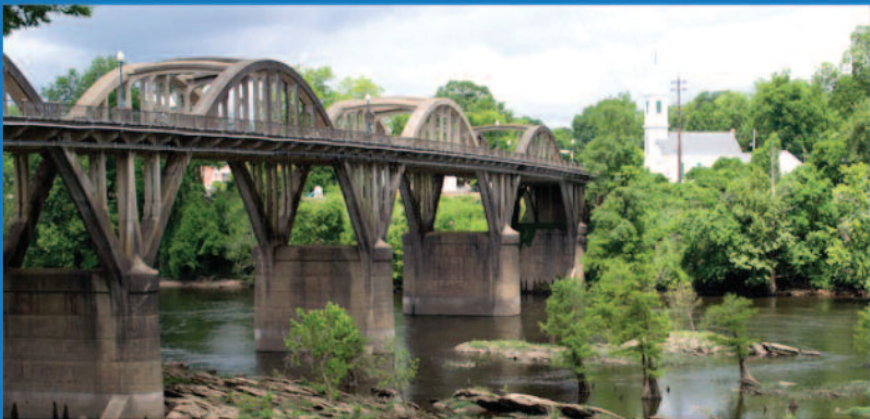
The Elmore County Commission appreciates the patience that has been exhibited by the citizens affected by this improvement project. In addition, the Commission would also like to express its thanks to the men and women of our Highway Department, Elmore Water

Authority and Millbrook Water and Sewer who have worked tirelessly to complete their portions of these projects. The Commission will release opening times for each structure as soon as practical.

Any questions related to this project can be directed to Richie Beyer, Elmore County Engineer at [wrbechd@elmoreco.org](mailto:wrbechd@elmoreco.org) or 334-567-1162.



# City of Wetumpka



## Keep growing.

We call Wetumpka home too. We are proud to be part of this community and to have the privilege of helping businesses continue to flourish here. Thank you, Wetumpka, for allowing us to be your trusted resource for business advisory and tax services.

Personal and Business Accounting | Personal and Business Tax Services

That's just the way we do business.

  
**JACKSON THORNTON**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS | CONSULTANTS  
[jacksonthornton.com/wetumpka](http://jacksonthornton.com/wetumpka) 334.567.3400

## Need A Ride?

If you are unable to drive? Medi-Rides Transport is a non-emergency transportation company provides reliable and affordable service to medical, dialysis, cancer treatments, and personal appointments, throughout Montgomery, Elmore, Macon, Tallapoosa, Autauga, and Jefferson Counties. *Soon to offer stretcher services.*



### Services include:

- Hospital Discharge
- Dialysis
- Radiation
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- and more

### Reservations:

**Before you call...**

Know the passenger's full name, complete pick-up address and room number if applicable.

Know the exact address of the destination.

Know the time of the appointment..

Know how or who will be paying for the passenger's trip. If the passenger is being transferred or discharged confirm, if the passenger will need to use a wheelchair for the trip.

### Rates:

Mileage will be computed from point of origin to destination point. After Hours: Applies only on transports made on Saturday, Sunday, Legal Holidays and all hours from 6 pm to 6 am.

### Hours:

Monday - Friday 8am - 8pm  
Saturday - Sunday Closed



173 Hill Street, Ste 103e Wetumpka, Alabama

Call 334-478-3857

## Wetumpka Depot Players

Entertaining, Educating and Reaching Out to the Community since 1980



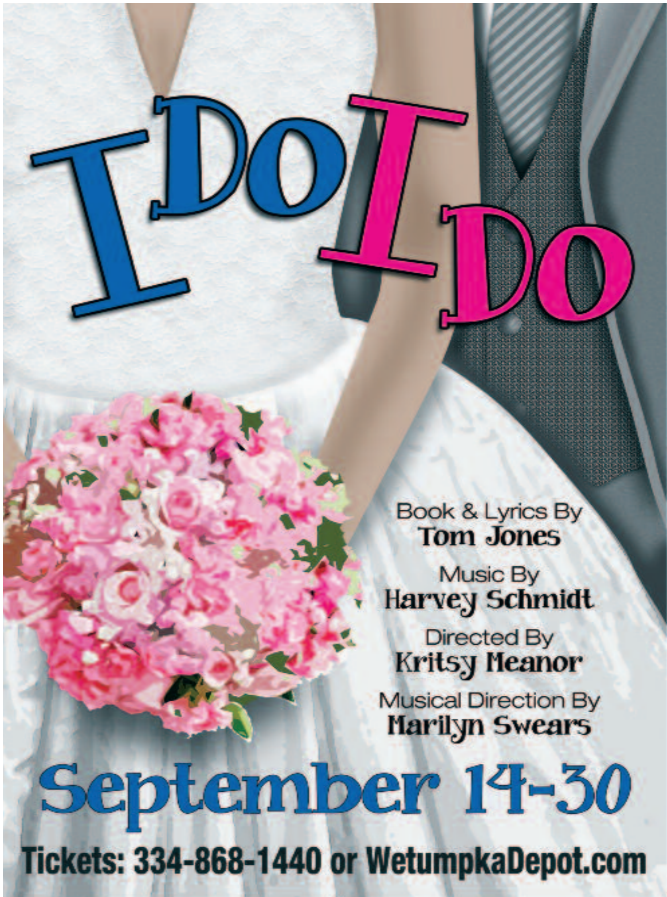
*Matinee*  
*Sunday*  
*2:00 pm*  
*September*  
*24th.*

# I Do! I Do!

*Performances*  
*September 14-30*

*Order tickets at:*

<http://www.wetumpkadepot.com/ticket-sales.html>



Book & Lyrics By  
**Tom Jones**  
Music By  
**Harvey Schmidt**  
Directed By  
**Kritsy Meador**  
Musical Direction By  
**Marilyn Swears**

**September 14-30**

Tickets: 334-868-1440 or [WetumpkaDepot.com](http://WetumpkaDepot.com)



# Elmore County Pregnancy Center

*a trusted and safe place to turn to for help ~ FREE pregnancy test*  
 104 Company St., Wetumpka, AL 36092

*PRAYER MATTERS!*



**334-567-1955**  
***www.hopewetumpka.org***

**Ultrasounds  
 Now Available!**

OUR FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Free pregnancy tests
- Earn While You Learn Program  
*(Through this program you can receive FREE diapers, wipes, baby clothing, maternity items and toiletries.)*
- Confidential peer counseling for your family to prepare for thriving as a parent
- Ultrasound to verify your pregnancy  
*(available only on Thursday mornings)*
- Education about pregnancy, adoption, abortion and alternatives
- Outreach to families of pregnant teens
- Post-abortion support
- Pregnancy and fetal-development information
- Abstinence education and encouragement
- Relationships built on God’s love and strength



Pregnancy is beautiful. But sometimes, it takes a mom (and other family members!) some time to see that beauty. By offering FREE pregnancy tests, we are able to join the baby’s story very early.

The relationships we form with our families may start with a pregnancy test, but they can last forever. Christ-centered peer counseling and friendship are the foundations of each encounter.

We are glad to serve you. Please contact us or drop by our center.

Advertise  
 your  
 business in  
 The  
 Alabama  
 Gazette  
 City of  
 Wetumpka.



FUNERALS - CREMATIONS – PRE-ARRANGEMENTS - MONUMENTS

*Since 1978 Gassett Funeral Home has prided itself on offering the finest of services and facilities to the families of the River Region. Built upon the foundation of superior service; we’ve upheld that commitment for nearly 40 years as the areas continuously family owned/operated funeral home. And now, as Wetumpka’s only on-site crematory.*



The Gassett Funeral Home Family



Joe Allen Gassett  
*Founder*  
 1942 - 2009

**GASSETT**  
*Funeral Home and Crematory*

204 East Charles Avenue – P.O. Box 54  
 Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

[www.gassettfuneralhome.net](http://www.gassettfuneralhome.net)      567-8433



**A New  
 Look  
 For The  
 DELI!**



- Awards   • Engraving
- Eagles/Clocks   • Accessories
- Jewelry.   • Alabama/Auburn
- Licensed Gear   • Alabama Clay
- New Line of Children’s Clothes
- Specialty T-Shirts

**Expanded Gift Shop Area  
 Ready For You To Shop!**



**Johnny Oates**  
 109 Company Street, Suite 110  
 Wetumpka, Alabama 36092  
**334-478-4970**  
*riverperkcoffee@gmail.com*

# WETUMPKA SENIOR CENTER

120 Cotton Street, Wetumpka, AL 36092 • 334-567-1335  
 Check out their website for calendar events.

Call  
*Sharron Smith*  
 for all your  
 advertising  
 needs.  
 334-868-3203







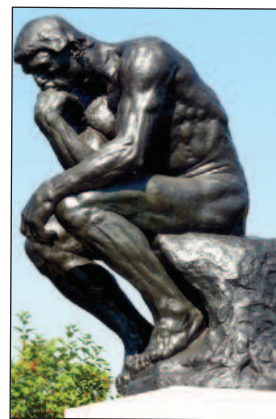
*The views of submitted editorials  
may not be the express views of  
The Alabama Gazette.*

John Sophocleus

THINK

*GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com.*

# Battles for the Tallassee Armory: 20th Reenactment November 10th and 11th



Tallassee Armory Guards (SCV Camp 1921) 20th remembrance of the "Battles for the Armory" War Between the States reenactment is appropriately set for **Veteran's day weekend November 10 and 11** this year. The 2017 event has added an Arts & Crafts fair adjacent to the battlefield on Gibson's View Plantation in Tallassee. The event offers an opportunity to view and buy artistic works of local craftsmen on the same ticket issued to observe the reenactment, and to shop War Between the States era Sutlers' tents where unique items pertaining to America's devastating 1861 to 1865 conflict may be purchased. **Tallassee has the only standing Confederate Armory remaining in the South.**

My brief history of the Tallassee Armory begins in 1861, noting Tallassee was home to one of the largest and most productive Southeast cotton mills in full operation, powered by the fast moving waters of the Tallapoosa River. In April 1864, Col. Josiah Gorgas, Chief of the Confederate Ordnance Bureau wanted to move the Richmond Carbine Factory to a more secure location. Several locations were considered (including Macon and Athens in Georgia) but the little cotton mill town of Tallassee was selected as it seemed to meet Col. Gorgas desired criteria. Tallassee was strategically remote, making it less vulnerable to enemy attack and Gorgas knew the nearby Tallapoosa River would provide a reliable power source. Two officers spent several days in Tallassee and submitted a detailed report to Col. Gorgas who approved the 1844 structure (built as a cotton mill by Thomas Barnett) for the armory at Tallassee to manufacture the new model .58 c aliber muzzle-loading carbines. Throughout June, July and August of 1864 metal working machinery, gunsmiths, blacksmiths and their apprentices began arriving in Tallassee. This sudden and very visible increased activity in a little East Alabama cotton mill town meant it didn't take long for Union forces to discover the facility had been moved from Richmond to Tallassee.

The Tallassee Mill complex was almost lost mid-July of 1864 when Major General Lovell H. Rousseau swept across Alabama with 2,500 Union Cavalry armed with new Spencer repeating carbines. After fighting a major engagement near Decatur on July 14, 1864 against units of the 6th and 8th Alabama Cavalry, Rousseau and his men advanced along the railroad, burning and destroying railroad bridges, buildings and supplies along the way. In Dadeville they destroyed the depot and several miles of railroad track, burned a locomotive and six boxcars loaded with leather, nails and shovels, likely headed to Tallassee. Rousseau's aim was to destroy the Montgomery and West Point Railroad between Opelika and Chehaw Station. For over a week "Rousseau's Raiders" as they were known, roamed through eastern Alabama, leaving a path of destruction through Auburn, Loachapoka, Notasulga and other villages along the line, but somehow missed the opportunity to destroy the carbine factory and cotton mill at Tallassee. On the morning of July 18th Rousseau sent Major Baird, commander of the 5th Iowa with a detachment of his regiment and detachment of the 4th Tennessee Calvary (Tennesseans who had committed acts of war against their own State) to Chehaw Station between Tuskegee and Tallassee tasked with destroying the railroad and any mills or bridges along the way. Upon arrival at Chehaw Station, Major Baird and his detachment were met by a unit of the Tuskegee Home Guard. During the skirmish (referred to as the "Battle of Chehaw") a train arrived carrying a battalion of 16 and 17 year old University of Alabama cadets who had been training in Selma for six months in preparation to fight the federal invaders. Armed with old flintlock, muzzle-loading muskets and one small cannon, the cadets joined the fray. As the battle intensified, a group of mounted militia from Tuskegee (clad in brown linen) appeared and assisted the home guard and UA cadets. Arrival of the Confederate militia pressed Baird's order for his troops to withdraw. Rousseau's report to Gen. Sherman estimated Confederate dead at about 40, while Union losses were small. Rousseau's main force proceeded through Chambers County and back into Georgia.

The Tallassee cotton mill and the Confederate Armory again avoided destruction at the close of the war in April of 1865. The official record of the "Bat-



tle of Franklin" is chronicled under "Wilson's Raid" as "Skirmish off the Georgia Road." On April 14, Gen. Wilson's forces left Montgomery headed to Columbus, Ga., on route the following day, two companies were dispatched in advance of the brigade with orders to "destroy some mills and bridges on the Tallapoosa River." This was 6 days after Gen. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox, it is hard to imagine (in the post telegraph era) the news had not made it this far South. One account from Virginia Noble Golden's, "A History of Tallassee" explained upon reaching



Cowle's Station downriver, the officer in charge asked a local black man to guide him to Tallassee. The "guide" told the commander they'd have to cross the river to the west side of Cowles Ferry. The commander's outdated map showed Tallassee on the east side of the Tallapoosa River, so the Union commander, thinking the black man was trying to mislead him, ordered him shot!

Union troops continued up the east bank of the river, but were met by what Union officers logged as a "superior Confederate force" of Tallassee Home Guard; actually comprised of young boys, old men and a group of local militia. So the Tallassee Armory was saved at the "Battle of Franklin" by a 'superior force' of our local home guard and militia from the area. When the Union commander finally realized his mistake, reluctance to retrace his path is understandable with Gen. Forrest's Calvary in the area pursuing Wilson's forces. Making their way further eastward, the Union detachment rejoined Wilson's command near Auburn and never had an opportunity to fire upon the Confederate Armory at Tallassee.

Little doubt Gen. Forrest's presence compelled Gen. Wilson's forces to decide not to fight their way to Tallassee. It is comforting to meet those who understand how we benefited from not suffering more devastation due to the efforts of these brave souls defending themselves from the forces coercing our State into federal hegemony - slowly establishing the Union as the forced coalition blindly accepted today. Holding constitutional conventions to voluntarily and bloodlessly exit a corrupt central authority and maintain independence was no more, 'progressing' us into the mess we've observed these past several score.

Today, the fate of the 500 carbines manufactured in Tallassee is unknown. Near the end of the war Major Taylor (commander at Tallassee) was ordered to load all machinery and rifles on wagons and ferry across the river to Cowles Station. From there the Tallassee Carbines were to be shipped to Macon by

rail. Only about a dozen Tallassee Carbines are known to have survived. One is on display at Confederate Memorial Park near Marbury, Alabama and another can be found in the Columbus, Georgia Museum. Union forces were under orders to destroy any ordinance which could be used by the Confederacy. When the shipment of rifles reached Macon, the city had already fallen to Union forces. The 500 Tallassee Carbines were likely burned or thrown into the Oakmulgee River; the few which survived were probably taken as souvenirs by Union officers.

It is disheartening to hear far too many today delight in what Sherman did to Georgia and Carolina. No one makes this more clear than Johnny Taylor in his "Union at All Costs" book. To militarily accomplish the Republicans' desired wealth transfers which the federal government couldn't acquire politically is the most terrible time in our nation's history. Anyone who holds truth dear cannot quibble about the gallantry and heroism by soldiers on both sides; similarly no one can dispute who was the aggressor/invasor and who was defending their homeland. The Tallassee Armory still stands today as the only Confederate Arsenal not destroyed by Union forces, thanks to the local home guard, a small group of mounted militia from nearby Tuskegee and the 16 to 17 year old cadets from the

University of Alabama at the "Battle of Chehaw." Many thanks to all who have preserved this history in fact and in Spirit.

Battle reenactments begin with 'School Day' on Thursday, November 9th where 8 to 10 different living history stations are provided which often include a Confederate flag demonstration, period dance, period music, infantry, artillery, cavalry, a field hospital, blacksmith, period toys, games and more. The registration fee is \$5 per student. To register students for School Day, contact: **Julie Bodenheimer at: 334-546-5902, or email: reenactor@gmail.com;** more general information about the event may be obtained at:

**334-283-6888 or from: csaisliberty@yahoo.com**

**The traditional 'ladies tea' begins Saturday morning at 10 a.m., then tours of the Confederate Armory from 11a.m. until 1p.m. A period ball Saturday evening at dark in the Anthony family barn and a period church service at 11a.m. Sunday at the barn are all a part of the 20th anniversary program.**

The remaining battle reenactments begin at 2 p.m. Saturday (Nov. 10th) and Sunday (Nov. 11th). There's NO reenactor fee, registration forms can be obtained along with more information about the "Battles for the Armory" at [tallasseearmoryguards.org](http://tallasseearmoryguards.org). Living histories, carriage rides and demonstrations will be conducted beginning at 9am each day of the battles. Admission for the general public is \$5. Again, there will be plenty of period vendors (a.k.a., sutlers) and period/modern food vendors with the Arts and Crafts fair included in the \$5 ticket. Gibson's View Plantation is located half a mile off Alabama Highway 229 South of Tallassee on Elmore County Road 4 (Rifle Range Road) and the SCV will make sure signs along I-85 and Highway 229 leading into Tallassee help find your way.

**Postscript:** *many have asked my thoughts on the August 15th special election results. It was discouraging to see the two small govt. conservative candidates (Brooks and Pittman) combined result wouldn't break into the second highest position. The run-off is between the big govt. corporate welfare queen (Strange) and the big govt. social welfare champion (Moore) on September 26th. There's little doubt Moore's dependable block of voters, aided and abetted by Sen. Whatley's legislation (prohibiting some voters from participating in a taxpayer provided primary run-off) will carry the day for candidate Moore. Brooks and Pittman voters I've interacted with assert they're voting for Moore to make a statement against the Trump endorsement in bed with the McConnell machine. Alabama may be the first effective flare shot over the swamp where good folks start to see the great deceiver is the biggest swamp monster. With the Trump endorsement and McConnell establishment money outspending the rest of the field (tenfold by some accounts) for Strange to still finish a distant second with about 26 thousand fewer votes than Moore's 165 thousand vote total is indeed remarkable.*