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Who is the Lord that we might believe on Him?

John 9:36

Advocate - Lamb of God - The Resurrection & the Life - Shepherd &
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Immanuel - Son of Man - Dayspring - The Amen - King of the Jews -
Prophet - Redeemer - Anchor - Bright & Morning Star -
The Way, the Truth, & the Life - Chosen One.

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Jesus Christ



The Alabama
Gazette staff
wishes each and
everyone a very
Blessed Christmas.

And when they were come into the house, they saw
the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down,
and worshipped him: and when they had opened
their treasures, they presented unto him gifts;
gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2: 11

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from
their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

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THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION...

Friends,

Instead of committing to executing our laws faithfully like he swore an oath to do, President Obama last week announced that he would do the opposite.

I suppose we shouldn't be surprised. President Obama believes he is above the law - above our Constitution - and that he alone can rule this country. That's not just wrong, it's dangerous. And every American who believes in our way of life ought to be outraged.

Executive amnesty won't fix our immigration system. It will break it further by inviting even more illegal immigrants to cross our borders and poisoning any progress Congress might make toward real immigration reform.

Despite the President's ill-advised decision, the American people need to know that Congress is working to make it right. We are looking at ways to stop the President before he does permanent damage to this country.

I recorded my thoughts on the President's actions. I hope you'll take a look and share with your family and friends.

"President Obama believes he is above the law... that he alone can rule this country."

That's not just wrong, it's dangerous."

Rep. Roby comments on Obama's Executive Amnesty Plan at:
[facebook.com/Representative.Martha.Roby](https://www.facebook.com/Representative.Martha.Roby)



Marcia Chambliss

turn. We've already felt the cold of the approaching winter, bringing delight to hunters across the state. While our sportsmen (and women) take to the woods of Alabama to fill their freezers with venison, there are far more dangerous animals for which we have little to no control - lame duck members of Congress and a lame duck president.

Lame duck sessions occur after each November mid-term election, and just as a wild animal is more likely to attack when wounded, newly-defeated members of Congress see little downside to imposing unpopular or detrimental legislation before vacating office.

Hardly an endangered species, short sessions of Congress were originally of a longer duration as House member's terms expired on the 4th day of March every other year. Communications and modes of transportation during the early days of our nation necessitated the longer period of time between elections and seating of a new Congress. If not for the ratification of the 20th Amendment in 1933, imagine the mischief that would occur in this day and age with lame duck sessions lasting into the month of March.

But lame duck sessions of the past will likely pale in comparison to what is likely to occur in the next days and weeks. As I work towards my article deadline, liberal news sources are anxiously awaiting President Obama's address to the nation and announcement of major immigration executive orders to "fix our broken immigration system." What our president and the mainstream media always fail to mention is that our system is broken because current laws are not being enforced.

Leftists and the complicit media are already pushing the meme that whatever actions these executive orders involve, there will be no difference as compared to orders issued by former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush. Not so fast, according to an excellent commentary "Obama's Unilateral Amnesty Really Will Be Unprecedented - and Unconstitutional" released on 11/19/14 by Hans von Spakovsky and John G. Malcolm of The Heritage Foundation. Contrary to what you will likely read in the mainstream press, Presidents Reagan and Bush did not defy Congress with their executive orders but instead "made administrative corrections



LAME DUCKS AND LAWLESSNESS

The mid-term elections are finally over and the holiday season is in retail overdrive wherever we

designed to carry out congressional intent."¹

While on the subject of executive orders, there's another Internet meme making the rounds which indicates that President Obama has issued fewer executive orders than most recent Republican presidents with the not-so-subtle innuendo that Obama's orders are despised because of his race. Once again, the left plays fast and loose with facts as the number of orders isn't the issue - it's the content. Executive orders that either attempt to make law or prevent existing law from being administered is beyond the scope of presidential authority and violates the separation of powers so crucial to our constitutional republic.

On the other side of the aisle, conservatives unfortunately have as much concern with Republicans during the lame duck session as we do with Democrats and the president. In spite of controlling the House and the constitutional power of the purse strings since the 2010 midterm election, we've been told repeatedly that until we take back the Senate, there is little that can be done to stop the policies of the Obama administration. But even after knowing the GOP takes control of the Senate in January, House Republican leadership at the time of my deadline is considering voting on a long-term omnibus spending bill instead of a short-term continuing resolution that would fund government until the newly-elected majority is seated. Why surrender the constitutional power given by the voters in November? There are truly times when I question if some Republicans in Congress truly want to halt the destruction, or if running against the current policies simply makes for great campaign material. I would hope they remember what's most important during the next two years is protecting the Republic - not the political futures of the D.C. ruling class.

Based on what the pundits are predicting from the Obama administration, it would appear that those of us who believe in the rule of law best take cover because the lame ducks have declared open season on America.

¹ <http://dailysignal.com/2014/11/19/obamas-unilateral-amnesty-really-will-unprecedented-unconstitutional/>

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



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WELCOME SHERIFF ELECT DERRICK CUNNINGHAM



Sheriff Elect
Derrick Cunningham

First, let me start off my very first article in the Gazette by thanking the voters in Montgomery County for their overwhelming support and encouragement. I feel that I have been very fortunate in having the best trainer, mentor, and most of all, friend, for the past 16 years in preparation for the position of Sheriff of Montgomery County.

I would like to thank Sheriff D. T. Marshall for this opportunity to learn the responsibilities of this job from a dedicated law enforcement officer. I credit Sheriff Marshall with my victory of becoming the 39th Sheriff of Montgomery County. When the Sheriff won his first election back in 1998, he had the freedom of choice to select anybody in the United States to be his Chief Deputy. He selected me so I give him the credit for this victory for allowing me to prepare myself for this position. Sheriff Marshall and I have worked together since 1998 in the Sheriff's Office. I have had my hands in on every aspect of the Sheriff's Office. We have brought new technology, community programs, completed a new Detention Facility, organized various units such as Sex Offender Notification and were instrumental in establishing the Community Corrections program. I feel that together, Sheriff Marshall

and I, have made the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office a law enforcement agency in which the citizens of Montgomery can take justifiable pride.

I will officially be sworn in on January 19, 2015. I hope to have the ceremony on Friday, January 16, 2015. I will then be ready to assume the duties of the office on Tuesday the 20th of January following the holiday on Monday.

I would like to remind the citizens of Montgomery County that our office will continue to have an open door policy related to any issues in our communities. We still want your input on how we can help you.

Many of the citizens in Montgomery have inquired as to the changes that will be made initially. Let me say that working as the Chief Deputy for the past 16 years has been great, and Sheriff Marshall has allowed me to run the day to day operations of our office. With that being said, I have already started making changes throughout my entire 16 years as Chief Deputy. I plan to continue on the road we began 16 years ago. With God's help, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will continue to be of service to the citizens of Montgomery County.

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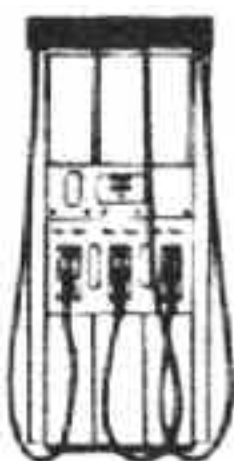
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Robservations...by Robert Tate

OH, JOHNNY.

The views of this editorial
may not express the views of
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look directly at her. As she brooded over her mug of hot coffee, she thought to herself that it could have been much worse. He could have been an Oakland Raiders fan.

She wiped a single tear from her eye and opened her Ipad. She surfed the local and state news reports as an ad popped up on her screen. "Single in Birmingham" flashed in big crimson letters. "Yeah, right," she thought. Upset with her current love life, or rather lack thereof, she clicked on the picture of the cute guy with the chiseled chest and washboard abs. A multitude of ads and images came up. Intrigued, she clicked on another site.

Once there she found dozens of personal ads promising "love," "companionship," "financial stability," and every sort of assurance a young woman could ever want or imagine. As she read through the list, one ad in particular caught her attention. The picture was of a healthy man in his late forties to early fifties wearing an expensive, black Armani suit leaning up against a yellow Ferrari that was parked in front of his classic WWII P-51 Mustang. His rugged good looks, clean shaved appearance and to be honest, apparent wealth instantly appealed to Mary. It was his written ad, however, that sealed the deal.

"Widowed, forty-something man tired of the dating rat race. Lost my beloved wife to cancer last year after 25 years of marriage. I am a Christian man in search of a woman with similar Christian values." Mary looks up at the Nativity scene on her mantel and nods to herself, "Well, that's me alright." She reads further, "Not into games, too old for that. Looks not important. Honesty, fairness and loyalty are paramount. I will honor and respect any woman I meet and will not deceive in anyway. I am just lonely and want to spend my time with a woman who will appreciate me and my God. If interested, call Johnny at 555-555-0327."

Mary puts down her Ipad and ponders what she just read. "Is this possible? Guys like this really don't exist, do they." But after her date with left-eye the night before and the disastrous time with the Tibetan Siamese twins the week before, she thought this couldn't possibly miss. How could the government allow a website to promote false advertisements like this? And surely, if it were a lie, she would eventually find out. She pondered another minute, reached for the phone and dialed.

"Hello."

The voice on the other line was more than she had hoped for. His voice was calm and soothing with a twinge of Texas hill country in his accent. She was immediately smitten. "Hello, is this Johnny?" The conversation went smoothly from the start and she could tell that Johnny still pined for his wife since she noticed he held back the tears when questioned about her. They agreed to meet later that week since Johnny had an important meeting in Washington D.C. the next day. Yes, Friday would be perfect. She agreed that he would pick her up at her home at 1700 sharp and they would go to one of the fanciest restaurants in town followed by a night of dancing. Finally, the stars were beginning to align in her favor.

Over the next couple of days, Mary busied herself with getting her hair done, a manicure, a pedicure, spa treatments and buying the perfect dress and other sundry items for her date. They talked two to three times per day on the phone and she began to feel a connection she had never felt before. She even told her best friend that although they had never met and she really knew nothing about him, she felt she was falling in love with Johnny. He had and promised everything anybody could ever want.

Friday night at precisely 1700, Mary heard a car turn onto her driveway. She was upstairs putting the final touches onto an already finished masterpiece of feminine appearance. The dress, the makeup, the hair, the perfume; all of it was certain to impress Johnny. As she looked out the window, the doorbell rang. She looked out the window too late and was not able to get an image of her date but noticed an ugly, 1970's era Ford Pinto in the driveway. The car, once white, was now primarily an ugly primer orange with just a few mottled areas of white visible among the various dents and dings. "That's odd," Mary thought but refused to allow the obvious to cloud her judgment.

She grabbed her shawl, killed the light and bolted down the stairs. She didn't want to keep her prince waiting any longer than necessary. Certainly, any man that had personal meetings in Washington had to be of some importance; definitely more than any of the men she encountered there in town. Before she opened the door, she took a deep breath and tried to calm her shaking hands and racing heart. She felt like a giddy little 17 year-old school girl instead of the 33 year-old woman who had been through so much the past few years.

In that moment, Mary thought about her best friends Frank and Becky who had been married for over 35 years. They were almost like surrogate parents to the heartbroken Mary. They told her repeatedly to be careful with Johnny and that she needed to find out more about him before she goes willy-nilly into the night with a man she admittedly knows nothing about. "How do you know he is telling you the truth?" "How can you be sure of all his promises?" Infatuated with the thought of a long sought after romantic relationship, Mary rebuffed her friend's questions. When her coworker said she thought she saw the same stock photograph on another dating site, Mary dismissed it as jealousy and ignorance. "No," she argued. "This is the right man for me. I know it. I can feel it. Why can't any of you just be happy for me? No one would create such huge lie and expect not to ever get caught. I'm going Friday and that's that. I'll talk to you on Saturday."

Mary took a deep breath, straightened her dress and nervously opened the door. Her smile quickly faded as she noticed the man standing in front of her. Instead of a neatly dressed and handsome middle-aged man, she was staring into the bloodshot eyes of twenty-something kid. From the unkempt hair, facial tattoo and ratty clothing, it was all too much to take in at once. "Johnny," she muttered quietly, "is that you?" The man smiled, showing the lack of a considerable number of teeth and nodded "yes" to the question.

"But the Ferrari!"

"Sorry. Pinto. 1972."

"The meeting in Washington, D. C.?"

"Nope. I had to buy some pot over on Washington Avenue."

"What about the airplane?"

"Yeah, right! Do I look like a pilot to you?"

"But I trusted you. I believed you. You deliberately deceived me."

How could you?"

The man now looked deep into Mary's blue-grey eyes and said, "If I had been honest with you, would you have actually gone out with me? Would you have given me a second thought? Would I have stood a snowball's chance in hell?" Mary looks down and away. Johnny speaks up again. "I did what I had to do in order to get a date. Face it, you messed up. You trusted me. So now I guess you are stuck with me. So are we still going out or what?"

* * * * *

Okay, so what does this story have to do with anything? Yes it is a play on an idea that the Obama administration, in concert with M.I.T. economist **Dr. Jonathan Gruber**, intentionally duped the American public, and more specifically Congress, and was not forthright in detailing all the aspects of Obamacare. There is so much information about this to go around that I did not want to simply rehash it. At the end of the column you will find links to several articles and videos about Jonathan Gruber and the administration's deceit of the American people. From Nancy Pelosi stating in a news conference she had no idea who Gruber was although she sang his praises in a Q&A session in November 2009, to the President claiming Gruber was not on his staff (maybe technically correct but he was a paid advisor). This claim despite former President Obama advisor Steve Rattner claiming that Gruber was basically "the man" when it came to crafting Obamacare.

Like Mary in our story, she was seduced by a series of well-crafted lies. Even if her new beau turns out to be a really neat guy, he only got his "foot in the door" based upon his lies. Of course, the question becomes do the ends justify the means? Even if Obamacare helps millions of people, does it make the government's subterfuge acceptable? I don't think so. Had the government been totally honest, would the bill have passed? Jonathan Gruber clearly admits that an intentional "lack of transparency" was critical to passing such legislation. And let us not forget the immortal words of Queen Pelosi who said, "But we have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it – away from the fog of the controversy." Oy!!

I for one cannot believe Gruber is not sitting behind one of those long tables being grilled for his major part to play in such a huge government backed deception. But since it passed because of admitted lies, like Mary, we are going to be forced to live with it.

<https://hotair.com/archives/2014/11/19/tapper-gruber-exposes-explicit-obama-lie-on-obamacare/>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/marc-thiessen-thanks-to-Johnny-gruber-for-revealing-obamacare-deception/2014/11/17/356514b2-6e72-11e4-893f-86bd390a3340_story.html

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/11/18/politics/gruber-obamacare-promises/index.html>

<http://theweek.com/speedreads/index/272009/speedreads-pelosi-says-shes-never-heard-of-gruber-but-she-cited-him-by-name-in-2009>

<http://nation.foxnews.com/2014/11/13/watch-pelosi-says-she-doesnt-know-who-obamacare-architect-Johnny-gruber-video-proves>

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/11/steve-rattner-Johnny-gruber-obamacare-112983.html>

<http://www.inquisitr.com/1616211/obama-claims-Johnny-gruber-didnt-work-on-obamacare-staff-video/>

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Ronald A. Holtsford

WHAT IS LEGALISM?



Legalism is in the broadest sense a strict and maybe even overbearing adherence to laws.

In Chinese philosophy, legalism attained prominence in about 500 to 200 B.C. Legalism in Chinese philosophy is a belief that government should be modeled reactively to a belief that the human condition is one of selfishness and short sidedness. Therefore for a ruler to be effective, they believed that the people must be absolutely loyal based on a set of laws with strong governmental control and a set of rewards and punishment.

In China it eventually backfired under the Qin Dynasty due to their brutal implementation and the eventual overthrow of that Dynasty. That overthrow discredited that philosophy.

In theological use it can be divided into three forms.

The first form of Legalism requires that a person follow strict rules; in Christianity it means following those rules to obtain salvation. It's not necessarily a belief of "works" being necessary to achieve salvation though works may be a part of that belief. That form of Legalism may include following the Ten Commandments to achieve salvation. Certainly I believe that the Ten Commandments should be followed, but I don't believe it alone provides salvation and an eternal place in Heaven.

Now let's see, I recall these are Commandments from God and not suggestions. They are from Exodus 20;

"And God spoke all these words:

- 1 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."
- 3 "You shall have no other gods before me."
- 4 "You shall not make for yourself an image in the

form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

- 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,
- 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- 7 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
- 8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
- 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
- 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.
- 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
- 12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.
- 13 "You shall not murder.
- 14 "You shall not commit adultery.
- 15 "You shall not steal.
- 16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
- 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Unfortunately we all sin and none of us have followed these all without fail.

The second form of Legalism in Christianity is a belief that one must follow the laws in order to keep their salvation.

The third form of Legalism in Christianity is a judgment by Christians or even those of other religions where some judge fellow believers that they feel do not keep the laws as well as they and thus do not rise to the same level of holiness. An example is found in Matthew 12:1:

1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat.

2 But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples do what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath."... Jesus went on to say regarding King David in Matthew 12:4, "He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests."

Each year as Christmas draws near, I think about the birth of Jesus Christ; He was fully man and fully God. The most important Christian celebration is Easter when we celebrate a risen Christ, the Son of God who had paid the ultimate sin offering. Knowing that Jesus rose from the dead is the proof and the hope of our eternal residence with God in Heaven if we believe in Him and ask for salvation.

Note that I said, "ask". What a novel concept to ask for salvation and to believe. You don't have to strictly follow the law to gain or keep salvation and we certainly are not to judge others relative to our own observance of religious laws. But if we truly love someone, especially Jesus who willingly died for our sins and loves us more than any earthly person, how could one not want to do what God commands to show our love and to please him. A good friend of mine was telling me about a conversation with his thirty-year-old son. He mentioned to his son that he and his siblings were good kids while growing up. The son answered, "We didn't want to disappoint you".

On December 25th we celebrate Christmas and to many it means the Birth of Christ. God loves us so much he gave us the gift of His only Son. We only need to ask for Salvation. Then we will seek to do what is right out of love because we will not want to disappoint.

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

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

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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers



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

Mike Hubbard is the political story of the year because our 2014 state elections were so mundane. The October indictment of the Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives overshadows all other political events in the state, even the reelection of Gov. Robert Bentley, which was a foregone conclusion. In fact, if Hubbard had not been indicted, it would have been the political story of the year.

Speculation had been rampant for well over a year that the very powerful leader of the House would be indicted by a Lee County Grand Jury. Every time I had lunch at a Montgomery restaurant someone would come up to me and say, "It's coming down today" or "Hubbard is turning himself in this afternoon." About once a month I would get a call with some information. It was always a false rumor. However, the prevailing opinion was that Hubbard inevitably would be indicted.

After all, a good prosecutor can indict a potato and politicians are not as popular as potatoes, so they are pretty easy prey. Especially when you spend two years and over \$2 million and unlimited investigative time examining everything he ever did in his life, an indictment is going to be returned. The surprising aspect was that nobody else was indicted with him. The most damaging for Hubbard was the magnitude and number of indictments against him.

The prosecutor in this case is the premier political corruption hammer in the state, one Matt Hart. He has been the lead dog on every major political corruption case in the state in the last decade. It is apparent that Mr. Hart is out to prosecute and send Mr. Hubbard to jail. He was not going for an indictment. He wants a conviction. That is the reason he took so long to complete the grand jury investigation. He has built an extensive case with all the i's dotted and t's crossed.

The Speaker has a long legal road ahead of him. It will probably take over a year or more to resolve. There are 23 felony counts. If convicted on any one of them, Hubbard faces a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment and fines up to \$30,000, which are class B felonies under the ethics laws. The sweeping charges

allow a jury 23 different chances to convict. The odds are they will find one of the charges meritorious. Hubbard is in a tough spot but he is a tough man.

In all my years of following Alabama politics, I have never seen a Speaker obtain the kind of power Hubbard has amassed over a short four year period, and I have seen some tough and powerful Speakers, including Rankin Fite, Sage Lyons, and Jimmy Clark. They knew how to rule, but Mr. Hubbard has corralled more power than any of them.

Over the last quadrennium Hubbard ruled the Alabama House like a dictator. The first term Republicans, who were swept into office in 2010, followed him like sheep. It was an amazing dictatorship. All of the power, decision making and fundraising began and ended in the Speaker's office. Hubbard ran a tight ship.

Hubbard is not going to go down without a fight. The question becomes how many of his loyal followers will go down with him. Hubbard is credited with orchestrating the GOP takeover of the Alabama legislature in 2010. He recruited and financed many of the new members' campaigns. They, in turn, became his loyal subjects.

The day after the indictment, Hubbard held a pep rally in Auburn denouncing the 23 count indictment as a political conspiracy by fellow Republican Attorney General Luther Strange to keep Hubbard out of the 2018 Governor's Race. His attorney, as well as 3rd District Congressman, Mike Rogers, also said as much. Standing alongside Speaker Hubbard were a host of GOP Legislators loyal to their Speaker.

The first official business of the House of Representatives when they convene in their organizational session in January will be the election of the Speaker of the House. Hubbard seems determined to ask his loyal followers to fall on the sword for him. The big question is how many will.

Therefore, the biggest story of 2014 will transcend into 2015 and maybe also become the biggest story of next year.

November 26, 2014



Steve Long

Woods & Waters with Steve



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GUN SEASON FOR DEER HUNTING

As I type up this article, we're counting down the days, hours, and minutes till the start of gun season! With bow and muzzleloader seasons underway, there's already been plenty of action for the avid outdoorsman, and the best part is still yet to come!

I've had a few folks hunting with me during muzzleloader season, and they're seeing deer everywhere! Average field count is almost 40 deer a hunt! Between



Phil Sags from New York City killed this buck at Great Southern Outdoors during the muzzleloader season

of acorns this year, we should have another fantastic year out in the field.

So do you have all of your equipment ready to roll out? There's still time to check out all of your basics, like hunter's orange, sighting in your rifle and having a few bullets, good, warm clothing, and a little good luck to go with all of that! Make sure you've got a game plan; do you know which stand or stands you want to hunt in, or what plots you'll be over? Is there going to be anybody else nearby? Make sure to get your head in the game early, so you'll have less to worry about in the field.

And speaking of the field, make sure you've got your hunting license and harvest record with you! And while you're at it, take along the Game Check app on your smartphone, and help out with the state's field studies! No, it's not required, but every bit of harvest data we send in helps our wildlife biologists, as well as our lawmakers, to ensure that we can maintain a healthy population of deer for future generations. So that's definitely something we should all add to the checklist!

Those same future generations can get a great head start out here, with a little help from all of us seasoned veterans. Not only do we get to share our great passion and tradition that comes with the outdoors, but we also



Tyler Hill with a beautiful 10 point killed in Dallas County during bow season

get our kids up and out of the house. In today's world of computers and technology, more and more children are inside, pent up and not getting enough work or exercise. This can contribute to early onset diabetes, which can have disastrous results. One easy way to help is to get kids active and involved with the outdoors, and deer season is one of the best opportunities for it! With all the walking and stalking we do on a good day's hunt, everyone gets a fair bit of exercise, which might just be the spark to start something even greater.

So, get your gear, your gun, and your friends and family together, and get ready for a season to remember! And if you're looking for me, I'll be right out there with all of you! Good hunting!

the cold weather, the lack of pressure, and a great crop

The Bobcats are a very adaptable animal that appears to be living in the urban environment due to human expansion; they are very reclusive and hardly ever seen. The adult male bobcats weigh 20 to 30 pounds and average 3 feet in length. The females are considerably smaller and may weigh less than a large house cat. Bobcats can be various shades of buff and brown, with dark brown or black stripes and spots on some parts of the body. The tip of the tail and the backs of the ears are black. They have short ear tufts, and ruffs of hair on the side of the head, giving the appearance of sideburns.

Bobcats home on cliffs, outcroppings, and ledges are important to bobcats for shelter, raising young and resting sites. Large brush or log piles and hollow trees or logs are used in wooded areas. Finding bobcats in open fields, meadows and agricultural areas is not uncommon, provided enough brushy or timbered areas for escape cover is nearby. Bobcats occur less frequently in areas of deep winter snow. Unlike lynx, bobcats have relatively small feet and snow greatly reduces their mobility and ability to catch prey. The home range size of bobcats in varies from 2.5 to six square miles for adult males, about half that for adult females.

Bobcats are opportunistic and will prey upon a wide variety of animals. Their food sources include mice, voles, rabbits, gophers, mountain beaver, yellow bellied marmots, fawns; also insects, reptiles, birds, and carrion. Domestic animals occasionally taken include house cats, poultry, small pigs, and lambs. Bobcats hunt primarily by sight and sound, which means they spend much of their time sitting or crouching, watching, and listening. Once they've located prey, they stalk within range of a quick dash and then pounce. A bobcat will cover the remains of a large kill with debris such as snow, grass, or leaves. The bobcat will revisit a carcass until most of it is consumed.

Bobcats are solitary animals. Males and females only associate for the brief time required for courtship and mating. A litter of about 3 kittens is born between April and July in dens found in caves, rock crevices, or hollow logs or trees. The den is carefully lined with dry leaves, moss, or grass formed into a shallow depression. Young bobcats disperse when they are about 8 months old. Bobcats are known to live up to 12 years in the wild, but the average life expectancy is probably closer to 3-4 years.

In captivity, they may live 25 years. Few predators other than cougars and humans are able to kill an adult bobcat. Adult bobcats may receive fatal or debilitating injuries from prey animals. Young bobcats are killed by eagles, great horned owls, coyotes, foxes, bears, and adult male bobcats.

Because of their elusive nature and caution around humans, bobcats are seldom seen. In areas occupied by humans, these cats typically limit their activity to night hours. (In dim light, bobcats see up to six times better than humans.) In undisturbed areas, they can be active at dawn or dusk if prey is active at that time. However, bobcats may be active during any time of day. Bobcats travel in predictable patterns along logging roads, railways, and trails made by other animals to move between resting areas, food sources, or hunting areas.

Evidence of a bobcat's presence may include tracks in snow or mud, droppings, feeding areas, and claw marks on tree trunks. The bobcat track is easily

" The Kritter Korner" BOBCATS



distinguished with a round shape, four toes and no claws evident. It is generally twice the size of a domestic cat's print and loosely resembles that of a coyote or dog but is more rounded. At greater speeds the toes of the front foot spread easier than that of the hind one which has a smaller ball pad. Fine muddy silt leaves the clearest tracks.

Bobcats generally cover their droppings with loose soil, snow, leaves or other material. When visible, their droppings typically resemble those of most species in the dog and cat families. A bobcat will eat the carcass of a large mammal, like a cougar, it will cover the carcass remains and frequently return to feed on it. Being smaller than a cougar, a bobcat only reaches out 15 inches to rake up debris to cover the food cache. These marks, and the bobcat's much smaller tracks, help distinguish between bobcat and cougar caches.

Like house cats scratching furniture, bobcats mark their territory boundaries by leaving claw marks on trees, stumps, and occasionally fence posts. Bobcat claw marks are normally 2 to 3 feet above the ground; domestic cat scratching occurs at a height of about 1-1/2 to 2 feet.

Bobcats rarely vocalize, although they often yowl and hiss during the mating season, especially when competing males have intentions toward the same receptive female. Such wails have been likened to a child crying, a woman's scream, and the screeching of someone in terrible pain.

Bobcats are not often responsible for killing domestic animals, but occasionally are responsible for losses of poultry, lambs, small goats, pigs, and house cats, bobcats tend to use wild animals as prey items. Once a bobcat causes damage for the first time, it gets easier for the animal to do it again. Remember predators follow prey. You must prevent the buildup of feeder foods under bird feeders. Bobcats are attracted to the many birds and rodents that come to feeders. Feed dogs and cats indoors and clean up after them. If you must feed outside, do so in the morning or midday, and pick up food and water bowls, as well as leftovers and spilled food as soon as pets have finished eating. Water, pet food and droppings attract small mammals that, in turn, attract bobcats. +Keep dogs and cats indoors, especially from dusk to dawn. Left outside at night, small dogs and cats may become prey for bobcats (which have attacked cocker-spaniel-size dogs). Enclose poultry (chickens, ducks, and turkeys) in a secure outdoor pen and house. Bobcats will eat poultry if they can get to them.

There are other killers of poultry to include coyotes, foxes, skunks, raccoons, feral cats, dogs, opossums, weasels, hawks, and large owls.

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Ron VanHerwyn



Sports Editor,
Ed Jones

DEEP SOUTH CONFERENCE?

It has been heartbreaking to me as a football fan to watch some of the teams in the south who have moved up to Division I-A football over the last decade. Teams like Troy, UAB, South Alabama and Georgia State were probably correct in the assessment of moving into the top class of college football with the plethora of bowl games available, the promise of more money in the coffers due to expanded crowds and fan bases. Also the alumni of colleges who were stuck in what they considered the oblivion of Division I-AA or Division II-A. There may have been other considerations, but this was the impetus that had the alumni licking their lips at the prospect of playing teams like Alabama and Auburn. Georgia for instance beat Troy 66-0 on September 20 of this year in Athens. What amount of money could be enjoyed by the university at the expense of an embarrassment like that. It is a given that Troy beat Mississippi State during a down year and also beat Missouri during a down year for the Tigers from Columbia. The Missouri game was the first big conference team to come to Troy. The game was won on a fumble recovery for a touchdown and other mistakes by Missouri. It was at this game that I thought that Troy may be able to compete with the “big boys”.

Games like the Missouri win and the Mississippi State win have been few and far between. Troy even persuaded Duke to come to Troy this year. Duke will go to a bowl this year but is not considered a powerhouse in the Atlantic Coast Conference. The score was Duke 34, Troy 17. Well, that was a close game to the Troy faithful continuing to perpetuate the myth that Troy can eventually play with the Alabamas, the Auburns, the Georgias. **Coach Larry Blakeney** will be retiring from Troy with the most wins by a college coach in the State of Alabama, even eclipsing his own college coach, **Ralph “Shug” Jordan** who won 176 games at Auburn. Larry coached, promoted, worked as hard as he could during his tenure at Troy. It must be pointed out however that many of those wins came in Division II-A and Division I-AA. The next coach at Troy will find the going just as tough as Coach Blakeney did.

Just picking on Troy is not my intention. It is simply the football program that I am most familiar with that is in this twilight zone between Division I-A and Division I-AA.

University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) has been in this quagmire for thirty years or more. They even beat LSU in Baton Rouge when **Nick Saban** was the LSU coach. Everybody got excited. What have they done since. Their record is worse than Troy’s, playing what I call the “Big Boys”. The University of Alabama System has carried the load of UAB football from its inception. There is constant rumor that funding will not be available any longer. That makes it extremely difficult to build a program with that hanging over your head. Although UAB plays Troy each year, the attendance is not what one would expect of two D-IA teams. UAB plays in Conference USA along with Southern Mississippi, a team we will discuss later. Troy plays in the Sun Belt Conference where they have to travel to Idaho and New Mexico State.

There are two other teams in the Sun Belt Conference that are in the “twilight zone” mentioned above. That is Georgia State in Atlanta and South Alabama in Mobile. South Alabama is having moderate success in that they are breaking even on the field, but not in the finance department.

Southern Mississippi has been in Division I-A for as long as I can remember. I first saw them play when the Golden Eagles beat a good Alabama team in Cramton Bowl in 1953. That has been the highlight of the not so storied history of Southern Mississippi football. They won no games in 2013 and will lose eight or nine this year. With the advent of the great programs at Ole Miss and Mississippi State, Southern Miss has been relegated to “baby brother”. They are out funded, out recruited and out coached. They can no longer be relevant in the State of Mississippi. The pool of football players is just not good enough to divide three ways any longer.

Now, we have discussed the difficult situation with five schools that are already in Division I-A. Would these universities consider going down one classification in order to compete on the field and compete at the financial office? Probably not, but the following is a scenario that could work if phased in over a period of three years.

Troy, UAB, South Alabama, Georgia State and Southern Mississippi could begin the process of forming a new conference of Division I-AA schools called the DEEP SOUTH CONFERENCE.

Schools that are playing at the Division I-AA level now who should be added to the Deep South Conference are Alabama State in Montgomery, Alabama A&M in Huntsville, Jacksonville State in Jacksonville and Samford in Birmingham. Three years is an ample time to make the move to the Deep South Conference. This gives us nine teams by 2017.

There are three Division II teams that are playing above their classification for the most part that could easily make the transition to Division I-AA in three years. They are North Alabama in Florence, West Georgia in Carrollton and Tuskegee in Tuskegee.

Division I-A teams would have to give up from 85 football scholarships down to 65. This sounds like a tremendous blow. But if you are not winning and making money, this would be a considerable savings in tuition room and board, and medical insurance not to mention the savings in cost of travel. No more Idaho’s or New Mexico State’s.

In addition to losing 20 scholarships, Division I-AA teams can only schedule eleven games because each team will be eligible for the I-AA National Championship Play-offs, if they qualify. Therefore a nine game rotating schedule would allow each team to play nine conference games and two out of conference. This means you could schedule Michigan State as did Jacksonville State this year, travel to East Lansing, Michigan, get beat 45-7 and come home with a nice check. Or you could schedule West Alabama, who I did not include in the proposed Deep South Conference because their potential fan base is seriously limited. The twelve teams recommended in this scenario would never have to travel more than approximately 300 miles. In some cases only forty or fifty miles. The savings would be tremendous. The chance of winning will be much better and the attendance at a winning Division I-AA program will certainly outdistance the present attendance of presently losing Division I-A programs. Winning is contagious. So is losing!

Of course I have only given a scenario that could and should work. However, I am not naive enough to believe that all of the above schools would authorize such a drastic move. But, it is something to think about.

It just hurts me to see players and coaches be embarrassed and sometimes injured, playing programs that are just one step ahead of them. I don’t see Troy, UAB, Southern Mississippi, Georgia State, South Alabama ever reaching the goals that they set out to accomplish. There are just not enough good football players in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia to support programs other than Auburn, Alabama, Ole Miss, Mississippi, Georgia and Georgia Tech. Any other Division I-A program in these three states will always suffer no matter who the coach is or what the alumni base wants to accomplish.

THE SPORTS PAGE

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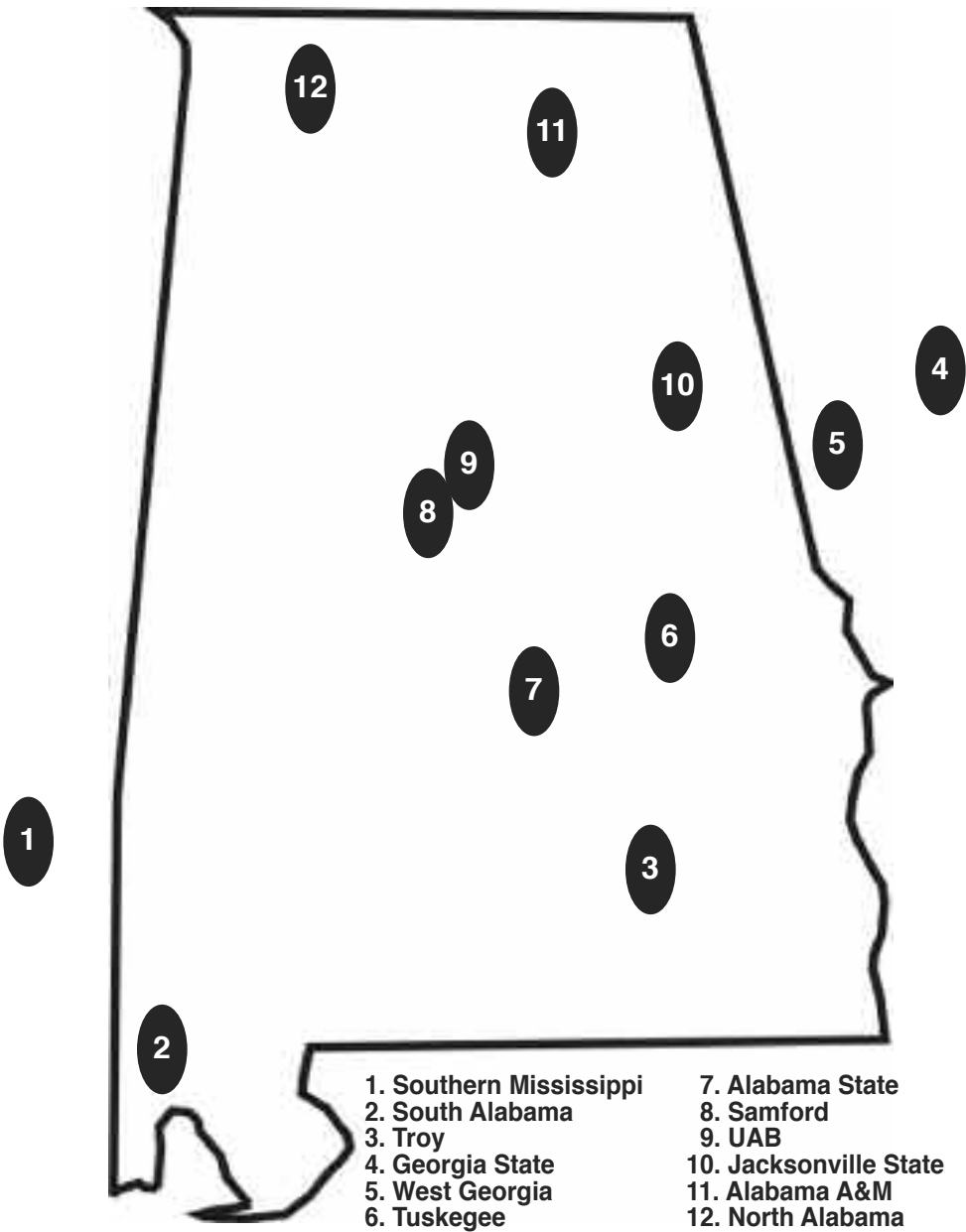
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John Sophocleus

THINK

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

Reason for The Season

As children Christmas specials became less mesmerizing and parental expectations pressed to show awareness and understanding of maturing into an adult orthodox Christian, this phrase shepherded my attention toward thinking; what really was the reason? Clearly it was not Charlie Brown, a drummer boy, Frosty, Rudolph, et al anymore than “Santa” or Christmas trees, lights and presents. Given my namesake, Saint John the Theologian (orthodox Christians have trouble identifying with naming children after politicians and other fads) I was more specifically charged with knowing, along with keeping and passing on the theology of Christianity. As it became more apparent I was too simple minded to meet such high expectations, my folks didn’t seem terribly disappointed. What I lacked in philosophical acumen I made up in heart for loathing the mean spirited who took advantage of others. I’d later jest to be more John the Baptist than John the Theologian, but what Mother wants to name her son after one who speaks God’s truth to power to lose their head upon behest of an abusive potentate?

One of the many things to remember in veneration of the Nativity is what Mary & Joseph endured and sacrificed to bring God’s greatest servant into this world to show us the path to His Father, our Heavenly Father. Among the greatest displays of affection to God (back to the days of Abraham and Isaac in **Genesis 23:15**) is the parent who loves God even more than their own children. Baptism is one of the most profound sacraments I’ve ever witnessed in orthodoxy. I often wonder if parents truly understand what they are committing to; perhaps if they did, it would lead them to take their responsibility to God more seriously. Similarly, the success and blessings of another sacrament (the marriage to my wonderful bride) wouldn’t come from the earthly love we share for each other; it has resulted from the greatest love in both our lives is God. As greater evil and hatred of potentates was thrust upon us, the more powerful God’s love was shown to us. The power of God’s enduring love is a truly remarkable thing to remember at Christmas and every day of the year.

Now long in the tooth from the days of Santa, presents, and other childish delights, there are very few material things I hold dear in this world. When the federal govt. takes the first home you ever paid off, a politically connected insurance company induces lying on a witness stand to steal the expensive to replace, dependable vehicle held dear for 25 years and 1/3 million miles, etc., one embraces Scriptural wisdom on the matter. I must admit I still cherish every tool from my earthly father still in use so many decades later and for some reason my Mother saw fit to recently give me her Bible she’s had since college. It is what got me thinking about my Christmas column for this year. Many years ago, searching for an answer for the reason, her Bible shepherded me to **1 John 3:8** “*Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*”

Again, for someone attracted to simple, correct theological answers and more interested in reading about cars, planes, ships and trains - this seemed a very clear, easy to follow, straightforward answer for the reason. As always, I ask those with deeper understanding to forgive this lowly Instructor of economics who is better equipped to discuss Jesus’ anger at the moneychanger or the ways of Zaccheaus than modern theology. The text about making a ‘practice of sinning’ also captured this young reader’s attention. It seemed wise to not make a habit of sinning if one wants to follow the righteous path Jesus shown us to follow.

As my journey into the real world continued to reconcile with my spiritual education another indelible “Christmas moment” was first hearing the haunting lyrics of Simon & Garfunkel’s **Silent Night/7 O’clock News** (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1X_a9o4ezw). Mom was a big fan of “Sounds of Silence” and “Bridge Over Troubled Waters” for me to recognize the names and listen. After hearing this rendition of Silent Night, I wanted to hear more. By the time I heard the lyrics of “The Boxer” I’d be a long time fan. More to the point, this rendition of “Silent Night” made it clear God’s word was not some ethereal notion to dust off and pay lip service to at Christmas and Easter. It was every bit as profound in application to LBJ & Nixon as to Tiberius & Diocletian. If I wanted to make a difference toward a better world, knowledge of this wisdom was required, but the courage to actually live and apply it mattered most.

With this in mind for Christmas 2014, I’ll ask my readers to consider additional prayer for Alabama this year. The devil’s work brought together Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, Pilate, et al efforts to destroy Jesus and the Spirit of righteousness. Today we observe well orchestrated efforts (from specifically crafted pockets of power, abuse of the election process, etc.) to take from good citizens of our State. Their hollow (yet highly politically charged) rhetoric is just as effective to obfuscate their corruption as the Machiavellian clergy inciting the crowd to cry for Barabbas over Jesus. Few are surprised a powerful politician from a hyper-gerrymandered district (spending \$2 mil. to secure a \$40k/yr. office) can reduce turnout so mostly his minions cast votes to hold onto power and keep the graft churning. All the while claiming persecution and promising freedom, the corrupt did nothing to stop actual persecution of others nor used their power to reduce tyranny. Noticeably absent when a justice was persecuted for his stance on the Ten Commandments, when asked to stop government kicking out homeowners, requested to stop his insurance mandates, etc.

Nothing new, **2 Peter 2:19** is clear on the matter, “*While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption.*” This may direct the prayers requested by the wife of a powerful Alabama politician with many (displaying the practice) felony indictments for corruption by a just process of a Judge and Grand Jury in a city mired in corruption. **Genesis 18:26** teaches us a mere 50 righteous within the city of Sodom would spare all in the place and by some estimates the fifty was a very small (<5%) number. You may recall **Genesis 18:28** as a rare time God agreed to be quibbled with to allow a reduction to 45 if indeed found, yet so completely corrupt Sodom was still not spared. By some accounts there was one (8%) hold out on a recent Lee County jury to not go along with the 11 unwilling to discipline corruption, but she capitulated - i.e., the future of more corruption in our county which has permeated throughout the State will likely continue to grow with the usual end result of cancers of this sort.

Prayers this Christmas for the increasingly few who are trying to spare us the fate of unbridled corruption in Alabama to keep their resolve and carry on are probably not the sort of prayer corrupt politburo members and their families had in mind. Nonetheless to show God enough good citizens still crave His love and are not turning away from His Son we celebrate this time of year is as apropos as ever. Accepting decriminalization of political corruption is the path to Sodom. We were showing so much progress in convicting Jimmy Butts, Richard Scrushy, Don Siegelman, types even if letting worse offenders go unpunished in this world. Pray we stay on this more difficult, righteous path.

No one has shown more courage and decency in the matter than 59 year old Representative Gregory David Wren (District 75) who saved our State the cost and further embarrassment upon pleading guilty to his corruption. Mr. Wren also worked toward earning our forgiveness by resigning his position in the House instead of being reelected. Wren knowingly used his office to obtain confidential information then provided the information to a private company receiving a personal gain of \$24k in payments (small in comparison to other corruption cases) for the information. Wren agreed to pay back the \$24k in restitution to the State along with a 12 month suspended sentence and two years probation.

Former Representative Wren’s acceptance of responsibility and cooperation with the State to increase the probability of getting other, far more egregious offenders is worthy of note. Pray for Mr. Wren’s further courage toward contrition in reducing corruption. If he does so (sufficiently rebuked in my opinion) he certainly deserves our prayers to be received as the penitent thief comforted by Jesus even as He was suffering the terrible evil of Rome and her corrupt minions. Pray most of all for those who do not have the courage and decency of Mr. Wren; looking to man’s judgment which matters more to them (to continue their corruption) easily fooled and manipulated unlike God’s judgment. Sad many will find this column not in keeping with their Spirit of Christmas preferring cookies, lights, presents and Santa over recognizing the evil Jesus came into the world to destroy. It is indeed the Reason for the Season and refusing to acknowledge those practicing such great sin and corruption in the State (esp. for those who benefit from the devil’s work) doesn’t make it OK, go away or truly venerate the Holy Spirit Christians are charged with keeping everyday and especially this time of year.

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The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

Who Is The Lord That I Might Believe On Him?
(John 9:36)

I recently saw a poster titled, "And He Shall Be Called." It had over 50 names for the persons of the Godhead, the Trinity. I bought the poster and have been thrilled at where the study leads. This column will share just a small bit of information about the names, as space permits. God revealed Himself as Father to the nation of Israel, (**Deut. 32:6**). He created Israel to be His special people in order to manifest His Providence. The Bible has many instances where God revealed Himself as **Father**, at times to kings and prophets, and even to shepherds. But in reading the Old and New Testaments, it is evident that having that personal relationship with God, of intimacy, was brought to us when the Father gave His only Son for our redemption. Jesus came to make the Father known to us, individually. Jesus came to show us the Father's Glory, and to enable us to enter into the Covenant of Grace, which the Father has made possible through His Son.

We have the record in Scripture, of centuries, when God revealed Himself to His people. He created a nation for His people to know Him intimately, as a Father to that nation. Yet, they really didn't "get it."

The term "**Father**" as we understand it in New Testament times has been revealed by the Son, who came to demonstrate the depth of His Father's love. While not using the intimate term "**Father**" as often in the Old Testament, our Creator God was revealed to Israel, and demonstrated compassion, grace, loving kindness, and patience, as a loving father. If we ordinary folk knew the languages of Scripture, we could obviously research the Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic names for God, many of which seem to be more "titles" than names. In those rich languages, we would discover much about His nature and His personhood. Even we, who have not studied those languages, are comfortable from our devotional reading with names such as **Yahweh, Elohim, Emmanuel**, etc, and understand that there is a reference to character within these names.

Paul writes that Jesus is "**the Image of the invisible God**," (**Col 1:15**) Because Glory belongs to God alone, Jesus came first of all, to reveal, display, His Father's Glory in all its majesty. Through his earthly ministry, death, resurrection, Jesus honored the King of Glory, His Father, in sovereignty, honor, praise, sacrifice, forgiveness, and redemption. To miss the Fatherhood of God is a personal tragedy that deprives a sinner of victory. When He created each one of us, He breathed his own breath of life into us individually, and loves us enough to give His only Son to redeem us for eternity. Though he was known as the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the Old Testament closes with a note of sadness, a longing for something more.....an open confession of our sinfulness and need of a savior. Acknowledging that God's people had not kept His way, Malachi mourns for his people; "**Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the Covenant of our fathers.**" (**Mal.2:10**)

Jesus came as our Advocate, in order to bring us into a right relationship with the Father who loves us. For centuries, men had been offering animal sacrifices to seek justification. Now, we had an Advocate with the Father, Jesus the Son, who was willing to be the propitiation for our sins through His atoning sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary. John writes these assuring and comforting words about our Advocate. "**My little children, these things that I write unto**

you, that you sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father." (**1 John 2:1**).

Another name, similar to Advocate, is Mediator. To understand the importance of this name is to understand Jesus being both God and Man, with the dual nature of both divine and human. Only Jesus Christ is able to represent both sides, God and man. The writer of Hebrews states, "**But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by which he also is the Mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.**" And the writer additionally states, "**And to Jesus, the mediator of the New Covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.**" (**12:24**) God had taken the children of Israel "by the hand" to lead them out of Egypt and established a Covenant with them, which they chose not to keep.

Jesus is revealed as the Lamb of God, and the glory of His sacrifice knows no end. In the closing chapters of Revelation, we read that in the New Jerusalem, "**the city had no need for the sun, neither for the moon, to shine in it; for the Glory of God did lighten it and the Lamb is the Light thereof. And the nations that are saved shall walk in the Light of it.**" (**Rev. 21:23-24**). John wrote about that unforgettable scene of John the Baptist, crying in the wilderness, "make straight the way of the Lord." While John was baptizing beyond Jordan, he saw Jesus approach, and declared, "**Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.**" (**John.1:29**)

At Christmas, our most frequent name for referencing Jesus is Savior--Savior of the World. In John chapter four, we read of the Samaritans accepting Jesus as Savior. (**John 4: 41-42**) God had always been proclaimed as the "**Hope of Israel**," **the "Hope of their fathers," "the God of Salvation," the Savior of all men," Savior of the body,**" The Psalms are filled with hope of a Savior. Despite all of this reference to God as the Savior, the people who proclaimed hope turned away. Whether it was a golden calf or some other idol, they discarded their memory of God's deliverance and promises, and turned away from the God of Salvation.

Others claimed to be Messiah, according to the historian, Flavius Josephus. King David was called "**the Lord's anointed.**" Jesus claimed to the Churches, "**I am the root and offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning Star.**" (**Rev. 22:16**) Paul writes to the Ephesians that Christ is the Head of the Church (universal), He is indeed the Savior of the Body (the Church). (**Eph.5:23**) Paul speaks to the healing and wholeness that faith in Christ brings to the believer. (**Acts 3:6,16**)

Christ is called the Corner Stone. "**The stone which the builders rejected has become the head stone of the corner.**" (**Ps. 118:22**) When Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the stone was a picture of God's Kingdom. Stones have powerful meaning in Scripture. You may remember that Joshua called the 12 tribes together, just after crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land. He had each tribe gather a large stone and they built an altar before they proceeded. It was to instruct the fathers to remember the Providence of God in their deliverance, and be instructed to teach the children diligently. Chapter 4 tells this glorious commission to families about the religious training of children. God intended "**these stones to be a memorial unto the children of Israel forever.**" Only God, through His Covenant relationship, can deliver anyone out of bondage.

Christ as Cornerstone is a call to families to make their lives "**living stones**" **through reconciliation with the only One who makes it possible.** (**Eph. 2:16**)

After Jesus fed the multitudes and they had witnessed Him performing miracles, He said, "**I am the Bread of Life, he who comes to me will not hunger, and he who believes in me will never thirst.**" (**John 6:25**)

He makes it clear to them, that the source of life, with all of its human needs, lies in a Relationship with Him. In our churches, we take Communion, bread and juice, remembering that only He is the Bread of Life.

He is also the Door, by Him, "**if any man enters, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**" (**John 10:9**) He is the Good Shepherd, the True Vine, the Light of the World, the Way, The Truth, and the Life. When Martha said to Jesus, "had you been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus responded, "**I am the Resurrection and the Life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.**" (**John 11:25**)

He is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. He is the only Begotten Son, the Second Person of the Trinity. He is the Bright and Morning Star. He is the **Image of the Invisible God**, He is our **Redeemer and Lord**, He is the **Author and Finisher of our Faith**. He is our wonderful **Counselor**. He is the **Christ of Christmas**, and His arms are open for you. He had given His Word as a Lamp unto our feet and a Light unto our path. The greatest Christmas gift that we could receive would be quality time to contemplate His Love for us, whom He created in His image, and who loves for us to reflect His character in our lives,

How deep the Father's love for us

*How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss -
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.*

*Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.*

*I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart -
His wounds have paid my ransom.*

Stuart Townend
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BREWBAKER MOTORS

Bench-Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

THE CONUNDRUM OF LAW PRACTICE IN CONFLICT RESOLUTIONS

In our preceding article we introduced the current series dealing with law, economics and the economics of law practice. Several upcoming articles will deal with the economics of law practice. In order to understand some of the problems associated with the economics of law practice it will be necessary to explain and understand certain dynamics about the nature of law.

In 1913, an East European legal philosopher named **Eugen Ehrlich**, in his book *Fundamental Principles of the Sociology of Law*, made the important point that there are two kinds of law. First there is what he called the rules of conduct. Rules of conduct actually regulate the daily activities of everyone in society in the ordinary course of their affairs. They blend imperceptibly with morality, customs, and other normative forces. It is very important that everyone follow the rules of conduct, that they keep their promises, that they avoid harming others, and do their duty. In order for the world to survive and move forward, everyone must actually do more than is required by duty and engage in meaningful activities. Everyone must follow the rules in order for our society to function. Courts and government are in the background, not the forefront, of these rules. Rules of conduct have much of their origin in morality and customs, which arise naturally in society.

Secondly, there are the rules of decision. These are the rules with which courts and lawyers are concerned when it becomes necessary to resolve conflicts. Conflicts are often couched in terms of violation of the rules of conduct. The law as used in the context of conflict resolution could be either a statute that has been enacted by a legislative body or as previously declared by a court. If the rules used to resolve a conflict have not been clearly articulated in statute or in a previously decided case, sometimes courts must look to the more nebulous rules of conduct and actually articulate the principle upon which the conflict is resolved. This is the basis for case law.

Unfortunately, in the United States, law schools and legal philosophers during the past 150 years have over-emphasized the importance of the rules of decision and underestimated the importance of the rules of conduct. The Eugen Ehrlich book had little impact in the development of legal philosophy in the United States. The result of this emphasis on the rules of decisions and the rules

of conduct was the highly questionable conclusion that courts "make" law. **Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.**, a Harvard professor and eventually Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court actually said, "Law is what a court does." During the past 100 years, courts have often assumed that it is their function to make law.

What does all of this have to do with the economics of law practice? Lawyers make money by dealing with the rules of decision not the rules of conduct. Theoretically the legal system exists to resolve conflicts. Unfortunately, the economic motives of the legal profession do not necessarily promote the most efficient resolution of a conflict.

The system actually feeds on conflict and prospers from it. An old joke in the legal profession is "Do me a favor; sue my client." In the previous column we pointed out that plaintiff's lawyers are usually paid on a contingent fee basis.

Defense lawyers are usually paid on an hourly rate basis. It requires little thought to see how such a system could actually lead to more conflict rather than conflict resolution.

In the next column we will deal with the transition of law from being primarily focused as a profession to being primarily operation of a business. Unfortunately the more effective the business of law practice becomes, the more ineffective it is in achieving the optimal conflict resolution for the benefit of all of society. The successful operation of the legal business creates a need for conflict in order to satisfy the economic needs of the legal business.

When law- the rules of conduct- actually work; they prevent conflict. But the absence of conflict does not support the business of law practice.



Judge Philip Dale Segrest

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

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LIKE OBAMA CARE, "OBAMA CORE" IS UNRAVELING

The private-federal partnership which created "**Common Core State Standards**" (CCSS) or Common Core is now beginning to unravel in many states across the U.S. In an opinion article published in the September 2014 edition of *The Alabama Gazette* I presented the origin, key players, ideology and nationally developed standards related to Common Core. As David Axelrod, Senior Advisor to President Obama, stated, "CCSS was initiative of the Obama Administration". It includes fundamental changes and omissions of U.S. historical facts, is far less "God and Country" than former standards and texts, complicates math, and attempts to influence our children toward social/cultural/religious views contrary to long-held traditional and family values.

Common Core is to education as Obama Care is to health insurance. The similarities are strikingly similar. Both were initiated and written with little transparency. Both were developed with a top-down approach with insignificant input from local or state education sources. Both were concocted by a few individuals and high stakes corporate entities. Both have hidden agendas and are not good for the recipients. Both were attempts to place control, administration, and enforcement under the power of the federal government – the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). Like Obama Care, the reality of Common Core has been increasingly exposed and a national grassroots push back is underway.

The Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." And since the U.S. Supreme Court has not declared that education is a fundamental interest, states have absolute power in the area of education. We elect state and local school boards because we believe local oversight is better than what federal bureaucrats know and control with regard to educating our children.

In brief, Common Core was hatched between private entities such as Bill and Melinda Gates who own Microsoft instruction products and the Pearson Foundation (Pearson Publishing, Inc.). The USDOE awarded two consortia \$350 million to develop standards while claiming them as state developed standards. In fact, these consortia developed 85% of the Common Core standards/curriculum leaving only 15% for each state to develop. Standards and uniform national assessments were written by *Achieve Inc. and ACT Inc. The assessments are aligned with the Common Core but do not assess any state-developed standards/curriculum - the 15%.

THE UNDOING OF OBAMA CORE

It was Democratic Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, who made the infamous statement: "We have to pass the bill (Obama Care) before you can find out what is in it". How profoundly related to Common Core! Most states were persuaded by dangling federal funding to accept what they had not actually read. Shame on Alabama State Board of Education members who voted in support of this omnibus federal power grab aimed to dictate and control the standards and curriculum of Alabama's schools. Even more disappointing was the lack of

assiduous leadership of Alabama's State Superintendent of Education, Tommy Bice, who made the recommendation to the State School Board. As growing opposition of Obama Core continues in Alabama and across the country Mr. Bice's leadership and prudence should be called into question. It was recognized as flawed from the outset among a few informed State Board of Education members and proponents of excellence in educating Alabama's children.

Here is a snapshot of the fallout in states across America as the unpiloted Common Core standards and curriculum are revealed.

The states which have not adopted Common Core include: Alaska, Indiana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia. Officials in **Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, and Tennessee** have or are preparing to opt out of nationally-based assessments. **South Carolina's** legislature passed a law which will replace Common Core standards and aligned assessments beginning in 2015. **Missouri**, currently using Common Core, has a new state law creating task forces to develop state standards by 2016. **North Carolina** has new legislation to abolish CCSS and re-write its own standards. In **New Hampshire** local school boards decide whether or not they adopt Common Core. Both **Iowa** and **Utah** have resisted full adoption of CCSS choosing to maintain state control of standards and testing. **New York, Ohio, Colorado, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maine** are grappling with repealing Common Core. **Alabama** adopted Common Core along with the national uniform CCSS aligned assessments though disguised it by folding it into an existing program called "College and Career Readiness Standards."

Before assuming that folks in Alabama and millions of parents and teachers throughout the nation are right wing naysayers, it should be noted that the nation's largest teachers' union, the National Teachers' Association (NEA), which supported Common Core during its inception in 2009, has now reversed its position. NEA's President Dennis Van Rockel sent a letter to all NEA members expressing his shared frustration and anger regarding the poor rollout of Common Core. The second largest teachers' union, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) is also not pleased with CCSS. AFT's President Randi Weingarten said: "You think Obama Care is bad? The implementation of Common Core is far worse."

David Nichols, Ed. D., is a regular contributing author for the Alabama Gazette. His fields of expertise and interests are education and law enforcement as he served in professional leadership roles in both fields. As a hands-on practitioner, leader, conference speaker, expert witness, consultant, teacher and author of journal articles and books. He has served in elected and appointed offices to include the Shelby County Board of Education, the Jacksonville City Board of Education, Montevallo City Council, Shelby County Planning Commission and other local boards and committees.



Dr. David Nichols

Pike Road News



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WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT NEWS AND EVENTS IN THE TOWN OF PIKE ROAD? LIKE US ON FACEBOOK OR FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

PIKE ROAD LADIES AUXILIARY LADIES MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Pike Road Ladies Auxiliary is a community based non-profit organization and exists for the purpose of providing support and services to Pike Road and surrounding communities. The auxiliary is an integral part of the community working to encourage and strengthen society. The Pike Road Ladies Auxiliary inspires people to take action and become involved.

The auxiliary is family and community focused. We reach out to those in need with our adopt-a-family Christmas program, care packages, fund raisers for Relay for Life, sponsor of the annual 9/11 ceremony to remember firefighters who lost their lives while honoring those who serve today, assist families in crises (medical, food, burial, house fires, etc.), and donates stuffed animals to a local children's agency. In addition, we partner with various businesses and organizations on projects. We are people helping make connections.

Some wonder why people volunteer. Volunteering is one of the best ways to make new friends and strengthen existing relationships. Volunteering strengthens your ties to the community, exposing you to people with common interest, neighborhood resources and fulfilling activities. By volunteering it

provides a boost to self-confidence, self-esteem, gives you a sense of pride and helps you feel good about yourself.

Volunteers are a valuable resource. Volunteering is not about money. Volunteering is about giving, contributing, and helping other individuals and the community at large. It is working with others to make a meaningful contribution to a better community.

The Pike Road Ladies Auxiliary is a diverse group of ladies of all ages. Each of us has a common goal and interest in making a difference in the community. The Pike Road Ladies Auxiliary believes that everyone should have the chance to make a difference. We believe the best way to make this happen is to help connect good people with a good cause that needs them. If you are interested in making a difference in the community, join our team and add a new dimension to your life and someone else's. For more information email pikeroadladiesaux@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at Pike Road Ladies Auxiliary – be sure to “like us.”

Volunteer – Get Involved!

PIKE ROAD LADIES AUXILIARY ADOPT-A-FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Santa & Mrs. Claus will soon arrive in Pike Road

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

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

A brief summary (no more than 100 words) explaining the family's situation is required. We need the family name, number of children, address and phone number in addition to the summary explaining the circumstances that lead to the referral. Auxiliary members select the family we feel most deserving. Once the family is selected, we request that a release of information form be signed between the family and our auxiliary. Santa and Mrs. Claus will accompany us to the home to deliver the gifts.

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



Glenda DeRamus Does it Again!

Deramus Hearing Center was established in 1982. It is the oldest independent hearing center in Montgomery. Over the years, they have grown to serve the River Region with offices in Montgomery, Selma, Opelika, and Clanton, Alabama.

This company not only cares about their patients, but their community as a whole. Glenda Deramus, is involved in many charitable organizations such as Good Morning Montgomery Kiwanis Club, Easter Seals of Alabama, Through the Grace of God Ministries, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, RiverEdge Church of Montgomery, and Medical Outreach Ministries. And in recent years, Deramus Hearing has done several hearing aid giveaways for individuals who couldn't afford hearing aids. Many of her employees have seen first hand the excitement and enthusiasm that radiates throughout her; it can be seen in her eyes, the love of giving back to the River Region. Her motto is, "It's better to give than to receive." Glenda understands the frustrations of people not being able to hear their loved ones, so she and her company do the best that they can to help them hear again. So with the efforts and community commitment of Glenda Deramus, she has been honored with the 2014 Montgomery Chamber of Commerce Point of Light Award, which is given annually to women and minority business owners who have made a difference in his or her communities, and she has done just that.

Glenda also challenged other Ear, Nose, and Throat doctors, and all of the Audiologists in the River Region to join her to create a team effort to give back.

You can hear firsthand what others are saying by going to deramushearingcenters.net.

2014 Point of Light Award Recipient!





David Spooner
Retired Chef
Volunteer Fireman,
Lowndesboro V.F.D.
Senior Warden,
St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Lowndesboro
Town Councilman,
Town of Lowndesboro

Southern Cuisine

with David Spooner

The story of Southern Cuisine makes for many cookbooks and even novels, but I am not here to write a literary masterpiece. I have stories to tell, but its practical information that will make your life in a kitchen easier and more enjoyable.

Friends have asked for information on basic cooking techniques and simple recipes. They liked the hints I gave them about what to keep in a pantry, especially since we live twenty miles from a major grocery store. It is so easy these days to go to the store and find a pre-mixed salad in a bag, already cooked meat that you just heat in a microwave, vegetables that have a sauce in a microwave bag, and a pre-made dessert frozen and ready to thaw and eat. This may save you some time in the kitchen but what does it actually cost per serving and have you read the labels on the packaging?

It's scary! On both counts.

Remember that Southern Cuisine is also about handing down tradition and teaching the future generations the practical knowledge that you will use everyday. It is using math to scale recipes, using your senses of taste and smell, organization and planning. And starting you own family traditions with your sons and daughters. Thanksgiving is all about tradition. This year my wife taught our son and daughter-in-law how to make cornbread dressing. It ended up expanding to include an aunt and went from three pans to seven pans.

There are times that it just takes more than one person to prep a meal. And this is a time when you can share ideas and remember good meals and how to better your not so good meals. Get your children involved so when mealtime comes they can show off their contribution to the meal.

Now the practical; if you plan to have turkey at Christmas and your turkey at Thanksgiving wasn't quite the masterpiece you hoped for or you don't do turkey because it is too daunting, maybe these tips will help.

Common complaints include; the turkey was dry, it was tasteless, not enough or too much turkey, it was still frozen or cold when it should be ready for cooking, can't tell if it is done and there is no room in the oven for the turkey and everything else you want to bake.

Let's start with too much or not enough turkey. If you are cooking to feed people only for that one meal, then plan on ¾ to one pound of turkey per person: a ten pound turkey will feed up to ten people. If you want to have leftovers, try for slightly more than a pound per person. And if you need a large turkey, try cooking two smaller ones (instead of a twenty pound turkey, cook two ten pounders). They defrost faster, cook faster and stay moister. Just roast them side by side. That eliminates the frozen or cold turkey two hours before dinner time. Remember to take the package out from inside the turkey (gizzard, neck, etc.) as soon as the turkey is defrosted.

The oven space problem can be eliminated by using a roaster. They come in all sizes and prices. The one I use cost the least for the greatest size. As long as it has a simple temperature control and is easy to clean. And it can sit on a

counter, freeing up all your oven space. When we are not using it for roasting, we use it to sterilize our canning jars and lids. Alton Brown would be proud of our multitasking.

If a dry turkey is the problem, try brining. I believe you should brine every large or thick piece of meat. It will keep the meat moist during longer cooking times waiting for the center to get to temperature. Simple brine is just water, salt and sugar. Add about a cup of salt and a cup of sugar to two gallons of water and stir until dissolved. The trick is to put the turkey in a container that will keep the bird submerged and you can put it in the refrigerator. They do make large plastic re-sealable bags and there are bags made just for brining turkeys. For your first time, use the specialty bag and then you will know what to do the next time. Brine it overnight and then rinse and pat dry the turkey and prepare it for your cooking method.



Stuff the cavity with something instead of dressing. Cut up onion, garlic, lemon slices, and /or thyme, sage, rosemary, whatever you prefer. Leave some air space, not a packed mass.

And the most important, temperature. The oven temperature can be 350 degrees, but you must monitor the turkey temperature. Don't depend on the pop up if your turkey has one. Buy a good meat thermometer, and check the temperature of the turkey at the thickest part (breast and between thigh and body cavity). Most sources say to cook until internal is 180 degrees. Let rest for ten to twenty minutes, depending on turkey size.

These are not the only directions needed for cooking a turkey but are ones that may help reduce your stress and improve your outcome.

Have I told you I love okra? Any way you fix it, I'll eat it. Stewed in a little water and lots of butter, or coated with cornmeal and fried, I don't care. But if you want them for a snack as a finger food, then you should bake them.

Baked Okra

- 1 pound of whole fresh okra
- 1-2 teaspoons granulated garlic
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of fresh ground pepper
- ¼ cup light vegetable oil

Pre heat oven to 425 degrees. Coat okra with oil in a large bowl and then toss in remain-

ing ingredients. Spread okra on a foil lined cookie sheet so they don't overlap. Roast for about 15 minutes or until lightly browned.

Now cook up some sausage gravy and pour it over freshly baked biscuits, dip your baked okra in pimento cheese while sipping your favorite hot beverage and watch SEC football on these cold winter days.

Sandra Neville Shell

SANDY'S DANDIES SOUTHERN COOKBOOK

Sandy's Dandies Southern Cookbook is a fabulous cookbook that shares savory recipes. Sandy's Dandies consist of the following sections: appetizers and beverages, soups and salads, vegetables and side dishes, main dishes, breads and rolls, desserts, cookies and candies and This and That. You will love the Helpful Hints sections.

Sandra Neville Shell is the author of Sandy's Dandies Southern Cookbook. Sandra is a native of Montgomery Alabama. She now resides at Lake Martin, Alabama with her husband of 50+ years. She has always been interested in cooking. Sandra attended Cloverdale Junior High School where in the 9th grade she took Home Economics

in 1954. This is where Sandy's Dandies started. It was her project to create a cookbook.

Over the years Sandra has collected recipes that she loved and made them her own. During this time, she accumulated many recipes in a card index file. She unequivocally published Sandy's Dandies Southern Cookbook for her children. She wanted to leave them all her beloved and delicious recipes. After much consideration and discussion with her family, we decided to share Sandy's Dandies Southern Cookbook with others.

You will find that her recipes are easy to follow and require no special trip to the grocery store. Most of the ingredients that are used in Sandy's Dandies Southern Cookbook will be found in your own pantry. You will impress your family and friends with these treasured recipes.

Sandy's Dandies Southern Cookbook has been very successful since it was published the first of August. More than 300 copies of Sandy's Dandies Cookbook have been sold by word of mouth only. Having a website has just been a bonus, www.sandysdandiescookbook.com. You can purchase a cookbook for \$15 plus \$3 shipping from: Sandy's Dandies Cookbook, 308 Dopson Point Road, Tallassee, Al. 36078. Just send us a check and we will have your copy of Sandy's Dandies Southern Cookbook in the mail to you.

Sandy's Dandies Southern Cookbook has been recognized in The Montgomery Independent in October 2014. In November 2014, River Region BOOM also published an article about Sandy's Dandies Cookbook.

Cookbooks make wonderful gifts that can be treasured for many years to come. Sandy's Dandies Southern Cookbook is a great gift to give at the Holiday season and make wonderful teacher gifts.



**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

Christmas is just around the corner and it is a busy, busy time of the year. It is also good to remind ourselves that we should busy ourselves getting closer to family and friends. Plan activities and outings to include children such as viewing the lights at the zoo, or going to a Holiday Pops concert, or having a Christmas cookie bake-a-thon at home. Then make enough to share

some of the cookies with residents at a local nursing home. So do not let the time slip away, just start planning the outing, or getting tickets to the concert, or getting out the cook book for the cookie recipe.

There has been much written about how to attract butterflies into the garden setting, but have we thought about attracting our avian friends? Bird feeders are an avenue for this purpose, but have you thought of planting berry producing tree and shrubs? There are dozens of worthy shrubs which can fill the bill in this regard, which produce showy berries in late fall and throughout winter. Here are some plants which you can plant in you garden or yard that will give the birds something to chirp about.

1. **Evergreen hollies**- the contrast between their dark green leaves and bright orange berries are striking and attract birds.
2. **Alabama deciduous hollies**-after loosing it leaves, the orange berries dance along the stalks to the delight of birds.
3. **Chokeberries**-there are 2 varieties of the black chokeberry which are deciduous and there are many red varieties. Recently I walked some property I own in Dallas County, I noticed both varieties full of berries and obvious signs of bird feedings.
4. **Mahonia**- there are several varieties which will attract birds. Mahonia fruit with a blue berry on evergreen gray green leaves.
5. **Sumac**-with bright yellow and red foliage sport heavy swags of bright red fruit that draw dozens of bird varieties. Sumacs are quite evident this time of year along highways and country roads.
6. **Southern Wax Myrtle**-these shrubs have blue gray fruit, but some 25 species of birds will have a feast on this shrub.

SOUTHERN GARDENING

DECEMBER POTPOURRI - *by Peggy Givhan*

PLANT OF THE MONTH - CHRISTMAS CACTUS

Someone asked me recently to comment about the care of Christmas Cactus (Schlumbergia spp.) First of all, they can bloom at any time of the year, but most commonly around Thanksgiving and Christmas. They naturally respond to shorter



days and cooler weather by growing buds at the end of their stems, call cladodes. These are short flattened stems which act as leaves. They come in a variety of colors, including red which is popular around Christmas. Keep the plant cool and keep the humidity as high as possible. It does not like wet feet, so never let it sit in water, and give it in-

direct sunlight. Christmas Cacti are readily available in nurseries and garden centers now and make wonderful gifts.

Chores in the garden this time of year mainly consist of raking leaves, cutting back spent perennials, and discarding any dead annuals. Also remember we can still seed poppies, and larkspur for a beautiful spring show. Both poppies and larkspur seed are sown by raking over the area, sowing the seed, barely raking some dirt over the top. Leave these areas without mulch as the seed will not germinate next spring. It is easier to accomplish this task if you would fill in a to do list, and write it down.

*T'is the season to be merry... have a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Good Gardening!*

SELECTING A LOCALLY GROWN CHRISTMAS TREE



By Mallory Kelley Regional Extension Agent
Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Can you believe Christmas is right around the corner? Next week many people will start putting up there Christmas trees. Here are some helpful tips and things to consider when purchasing a Christmas tree. You often hear "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" and that not only goes for fruits and vegetables, but also Christmas trees. There are many advantages to buying an Alabama-grown Christmas tree instead of an artificial tree or a live tree grown in another state. Alabama has between 50 and 60 Christmas tree growers representing a \$3 million industry which helps the economy of Alabama, but there are also many other benefits to buying a local Christmas tree.

Buying a locally grown Christmas tree guarantees its freshness. From the standpoint of freshness, Alabama-grown trees have a distinct advantage as they are chosen and cut from the farm nearby. In contrast, many of the trees you purchase at grocery stores or other retail outlets --- typically firs, spruces and scotch pines were grown in another state and were likely cut weeks earlier which tells me they will be shedding their needles in my living room.

With an Alabama farm-grown tree, you're also buying a unique experience. Choosing and cutting a tree from an Alabama farm guarantees you and your family the freshest trees that will last much longer and a Christmas memory that you will cherish for a lifetime. So if you are heading out to a Christmas tree farm in Alabama, what type of trees will you find and what should you be looking for? The most popular Alabama-grown tree is the Leyland cypress tree (widely known as the Southern Christmas tree), the Arizona cypress which is typically available in two varieties, 'Blue Ice' and 'Carolina Sapphire' and the Virginia pines. The Leyland cypress has a natural color and, unlike many northern-grown varieties, it doesn't shed after cutting. In fact, as long as it receives an adequate amount of water, Leyland cypress trees can last from Thanksgiving well past New Year's. A few people still prefer the red cedar, though one disadvantage is that they are extremely sticky compared with other varieties. Still, it remains the preferred tree among a small number of Alabamians who remember this very fragrant tree from childhood.

Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and

Auburn University) is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. Educational programs of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or national origin. www.aces.edu

Leyland and Arizona cypress trees are considered especially safe for the

home and are far less prone to drying than northern-grown trees such as firs and spruce. Fir and spruce trees are characterized by heavy sap which tends to clog after the tree is cut and prevents the uptake of water causing the tree to dry out much fast resulting in needle shed. If you prefer not to cut down a tree only for a few weeks of decorations there are other alternatives. Christmas trees that either have been bagged in burlap or planted in a container have become a popular alternative for environmentally conscious consumers. It's best to keep these trees away from heaters or warm areas in the home. Otherwise, the tree will have a harder time adapting to the colder conditions outside after planting. Also, avoid buying live firs and spruce trees as neither of these are adapted to Alabama's warmer climate.



The Leyland and Arizona cypress make excellent additions to the landscape and are well-suited as screening plants. However, they grow to be very large trees, as high as 50 feet and should be planted at least 12 feet apart. For this reason, many homeowners would not find it practical to plant a live tree every year after Christmas. Finally, if you do decide to go to the farm and cut that locally grown Christmas tree make sure you recycle it. Many communities throughout Alabama have established Christmas tree recycling programs. You should call your city hall for more details.

Source: Dr. Ken Tilt, Professor of Horticulture, Auburn University
Autauga County Extension Office 2226 Highway 14 West, Suite E Autaugaville,
AL 36003 Telephone: (334) 361-7273 Fax: (334) 361-7275



Dr. John Bitter
Editor-Senior Section

Gazette Seniors...

MERRY CHRISTMAS

YOU MAY BE
OVER THE HILL
"...if you weren't
concerned about
recriminations if you wished
someone a "Merry Christmas."

Over the last nearly three and a half centuries, we learn from searching the Internet, that 10 significant events have taken place on Christmas day, beginning with the birth of Isaac Newton, the British scientist who first put his finger on just what gravity was. He was born on Christmas Day in 1642.

The next significant Christmas Day event occurred 134 years later, when George Washington crossed the Delaware River in 1776.

Nothing significant happened again on Christmas Day for another 142 years, when, during the height of World War I, on this holiest of days, German and American soldiers put down their

weapons, exchanged gifts, sang carols, and played a few games of soccer—all the while wishing one another a Merry Christmas. Then it was back to the trenches and resuming the slaughter.

From the battlefield to outer space, it was on Christmas Eve, 1968, that America's first manned space mission, Apollo 8, circled the moon.

Christmas 1977 was a sad day, in that famed comedian Charlie Chaplin passed away. Famed for his roles as "The Tramp" and the "Great Dictator, among many others, Charley Chaplin brought joy and laughter to many.

Only two years elapsed before the next *Merry Christmas!*

significant Christmas occasion, when, in 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan.

In 1990, the Internet came to life, and we haven't had a moment's peace since.

And rounding out the list of ten significant Yuletide events, it was on Christmas Day in 1991, that Mikhail Gorbachev called it quits, after giving the U.S., and other nations around the world, a goodly number of sleepless nights and uneasy days.

So, as we celebrate another Yule season, we can only wonder: What's next?

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The raucous din of tasteless Christmas tunes emanating from the public address systems in virtually every retail establishment in the nation tells us that it's that time of the year again. Each year one begins to feel that the mechanical and electronic holiday cacophony we encounter loses sight of what the holiday represents. Christmas is probably the most cherished holiday of the year for most Christians. Ironically, statistics reveal that the number of Americans claiming to be Christians is declining with the passing of each year. As of 2012, 73 percent of the country's population claimed to be Christian; down 13 percent from the year 1990.

All of which may account for the weird policies being adopted in schools and workplaces across the country. Before long, wishing someone a "Merry Christmas" may become a federal offense.

The data tells us that we may have just cause to believe that those of the human race who purport to subscribe to scripture may be losing sight of the meaning of Christmas.

Although we started counting our centuries from the birth of Christ, it was a goodly number of years before Christianity emerged as a religion.

We equate Christmas with the birth of Jesus, or Joshua; a name that is said to mean "salvation;" which is what it's all about.

Ironically, although we began to count time from the birth of Christ, B.C., a few thousand years had elapsed before "Christianity" emerged as a religion.

In the biblical books of **Isiah**, **Matthew** and **Luke** the coming of Jesus is foretold, It was in Luke where the angels appeared to the shepherds and made their announcement. And in **John 3:16**, one can read that: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

This, and a few other related passages, is what keeps the Christians going.

In **Romans** and in **James** and **Corinthians**, we learn that the whole purpose of all this was to fill folks with hope.

There are at least 28 references in 13 books of the Bible which should suggest to the reader that the birth of Christ was an eventful occasion and was well worth celebrating. And if one peruses the literature of most of the other religions in the world, somewhat of a similar scenario emerges.

People want and need something to adhere to, to believe in, and to sustain them through the various tribulations of life. So, why not celebrate Christmas? Why not share our joy with others, even though they may not be of a like mind? Christmastime is a joyous time for everyone; not only just the preachers and the retail merchants.

It should remind us that there is a purpose in life. It should encourage us to think kindly of one another. Christmastime provides us with beautiful music and songs to sing. And it encourages us to think that there are better times ahead; and that even Dickens' little Tiny Tim, racked with rickets and tuberculosis, could maintain a positive outlook as he proclaimed at Christmastime: "God bless us, every one."

And to this your humble scribe adds his own good wishes:
Merry Christmas!

BILL RICHARDS HONORED

No good work goes unpublished; or something like that.

And so it is with the good deeds performed by a local gentlemen by the name of William Richards. He is a man who has served his country well, has served his fellow seniors by his active involvement with the local AARP chapter, and by a long-time representative to the Alabama Silver-Haired Legislature.

So, it's only just that he should be recognized and rewarded for his selfless service. An endeavor that took place on the 17th of November at Montgomery's spacious Crump Center of Cong. Dickinson Drive.

"Bill" Richards was honored on November 17, by being awarded the AARP's top volunteer award: "The Andrus Award for Community Service."

The award is named in honor of Ethel Percy Andrus, long-time educator, who founded the AARP in 1958.

In a special ceremony at last month's regular AARP Chapter meeting, AARP dignitaries were on hand at the Crump Center in Montgomery, to make the presentation to Mr. Richards in recognition of his energetic efforts on behalf of America's senior citizens.

Some time ago Mr. Richards began efforts to find a solution to a growing problem in America: Elder Abuse. He started submitting resolutions at the annual sessions of the ASHL, with disappointing result, but he persevered.

Finally, after a few frustrating efforts, fruition seemed to be at hand. Again, to no avail. On the last day of the annual session of the Alabama Legislature, a bill he had been vigorously supporting, suddenly disappeared from existence, and he ground his teeth in frustration.

The next year success appeared at hand, but once again, on the session's last day, the Elder Abuse bill did a Cheshire Cat imitation, and suddenly disappeared, leaving only a smile—or was it a smirk?

Undaunted, Bill pressed on, and Alabama now has one of the strongest Elder Abuse laws in the nation; which is just one, and perhaps the major, reason for his honor.

Also among the accomplishments for which this award was based, was Mr. Richards', active service as an officer of the local AARP Chapter, of which he was its president, until ill health sidelined him from active involvement.

In addition to his AARP efforts, his work with the ASHL, with the Montgomery Area Food Bank, the Sunshine Center, and Friends of the Crump Center, and his efforts to focus attention on the plight of so many of today's seniors, he received the Community Service Award a couple of years ago for his advocacy work for seniors by the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Local Chapter members, State officials, friends, and family joined him at the Crump Center on November 17, for the presentation of the award.

It was my pleasure to have worked with Bill, and this honor was a testimonial to the caliber of individuals who comprise the membership of the local AARP chapter, and his colleagues on the ASHL.

Well done Bill.

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OCTOBER 6

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from The Alabama Gazette



Soul Searching

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL
Eastern Hills Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama



Christmas Peace

Someone said, "The most commonly misused and misapplied word in the language of man, is 'LOVE'. If that is so, then surely the second most misused and misapplied word is, 'PEACE'."

Josh Liebman made a list as a young man of all the things he wanted in life. It was quite long and detailed including health, love, talent, usefulness and various accumulations of things. A wise old friend of the family looked at the list and said, "Joshua, this is an excellent list, set down in a reasonable order, but it appears, young man, that you have omitted the most important element of all." "And what is that?" Josh asked. The wise old man replied by taking a pencil and crossing out all the others. Then he wrote in, "peace of mind."

Peace is a central element of Christmas. Peace of mind is the intended result of what Christmas is about. We read in Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

Certainly the events of that first Christmas were anything but peaceful. For Mary and Joseph the traveling was not easy. They were in a strange place with nowhere to stay. Even worse, imagine the uncertainty and difficulty in those circumstances delivering a baby. In fact, we would call this situation more fearful than peaceful.

But then, we are reminded of the meaning of peace. "Peace is not the absence of war, like darkness is the absence of light. Peace is not refraining from shooting your neighbor when his dog digs a hole in your new lawn. Peace is not avoiding a fight with your spouse by avoiding the hot topic. While a beautiful setting, peace is not found in the stillness of a mountain meadow or the disjointed tinkling of New Age music with your tea."

Furthermore, war, not peace still exists in our world. There are religious, civil, cultural and international wars. No peace treaty that man has ever devised has been kept.

So it might seem that peace is nothing more than an elusive dream, far beyond our ability to accomplish or possess. It is true that life is often filled with trying and difficult times. All of us are subject to trials, hurts, suffering and disharmony. How can we reconcile the angel's announcement with the evidence before us?

I think the starting place, is to reconcile this announcement with the rest of scripture itself, and have an understanding of what is really being said here in Luke 2:14. Verse 12 says, ***"And this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger"***.

Immediately following these words, the multitude of angels appear with the herald angel, and begin to sing God's praises and His blessing.

"Our first clue, then, is that God's glory and man's peace rests in that manger. The angels are saying that through the birth of Christ, true peace will come to the earth. His coming means peace with God, and peace given by God through Christ." One writer has said, "It is the work of Christ to bring peace into all human relations - in man's relation to God, to himself (his own feelings, desires, etc), to his life's circumstances (calamities and trials), and to his fellow-men."

The angel is not wishing us peace in the way we might say to each other in a Christmas card, "May you have peace in this season". It is not said with the same shallow intent of the "Peace signs" and slogans of the 1960's in our own country; when the hippies held up their fingers in the shape of a 'v' and smiled through

their clouds of incense and their drug-fogged minds.

It was an announcement that true and lasting peace will come on earth to the hearts of those who are redeemed in Christ...who through faith become the sons of God. It is knowing that in spite of whatever happens, God will never leave us alone without His presence or resources.

However, there are some things which can rob us of peace this Christmas. One thief that breaks into our peace is guilt. We know what that is, the emotional conflict that arises out of our second thoughts concerning past actions or even anticipated ones. However, the Christmas message is not for perfect people but sinners like us. God sent a Savior to wipe away the sin of our lives. The gift of Jesus to us is forgiveness. Forgiveness is not simply thought to have but an experience of the heart brought about by genuine repentance.

I am reminded of the truth of ***Psalms 103:2-5, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion; who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle."***

Another great peace destroyer is grief. Christmas brings all kinds of hurtful memories like the loss of a loved one in death, loss of a job or loss of support from a close friend. Christmas is about a God who cares about our hurts and shares our pain. Peter encouraged those who hurt to ***"Cast all your anxiety on the Lord because He cares about you"*** (1 Peter 5:7).

How do we cast our grief upon the Lord? Obviously prayer and meditation is a good beginning point. Also, grief is helped by sharing with a Pastor or talking with a trusted friend. Another good exercise is to write down your feelings on a sheet of paper. Sometimes simple actions can have a powerful effect in releasing the pain of grief.

Another helpful element to put our grief in some perspective from which we may heal is to ask ourselves two simple questions: "How could life be worse? How could life be better?" It is often the case that such questions can open our minds to the potential of understanding God's blessings in spite of our losses.

It is essential that we learn to move on from grief and to do whatever it takes to make some changes. Permanent grief is not a Christian alternative to life. "Sustained grief is like glue to the soles of our shoes; it stops us in our tracks."

A third peace stealer is a grudge. Grudges are resentment and malice toward someone. It is amazing to me how many people walk around with grudges in their heart. Life does hurt and sometimes it is at the words or actions of others. How we respond will determine our level of peace. Like grief, this is not a place Christians should be content to reside emotionally or spiritually.

Faith in the Christ we celebrate at Christmas is the key to all three of these peace stealers. Having the peace of Christ must be an intentional decision and a step of faith. We can't do it alone. If it was easy, we wouldn't need God's help. But with God's strength infused into our souls, all things are possible.

We will all celebrate Christmas in some way this year. Be sure you worship a living Christ, not just a babe born in a manger in Bethlehem. Remember that gifts are more than items in boxes wrapped in pretty paper. The greatest gift you may give someone or receive may be forgiveness, letting go of a past hurt and faith to face the future.

It has been said that there are two kinds of Christmas gifts: the ones you don't like and the ones you don't get. God's peace is a gift you will like, and it is a gift you can get if you seek it in Jesus Christ.



Kylle' McKinney

By Kyle' D. McKinney
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Social Security Administration
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December 21 is National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. Since 1990, on or near the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, the National Coalition for the Homeless brings attention to and seeks compassion for the homeless who have died because they didn't have a warm, safe place to sleep. Even as the recovery works its way through the entire economy, no one is immune to potentially being homeless. People in our community—colleagues and family members, military veterans, and our friends—might be too proud to ask for help. Too often, homelessness ends in tragedy.

Social Security provides services to the homeless and you can find these services at www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness. Those who are homeless can apply for benefits and, if they are eligible, their benefits can be deposited directly into a personal banking account, a Direct Express debit bank card, or another

HELP SOCIAL SECURITY HELP THE HOMELESS

electronic account. They can also have benefits mailed to a third party, or if necessary, a representative payee can receive their funds.

Social Security also collaborates with other agencies to help the homeless. At www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness/collaborations.htm, you can read more about the Health Care for the Homeless program that provides grants to a network of local public and non-profit private organizations. Social Security also participates in the Federal Interagency Reentry Council, as well as the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program. PATH helps people with serious mental health issues or people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Every day, and especially on December 21, remember those living without a place to call home. Homelessness is a complicated and emotional issue, but we can help our brothers and sisters—friends and family—access the safety net that Social Security provides. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness to learn more.

Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached by e-mail at kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov

Patricia Killough



HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

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

December Birthdays



- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Chris Hudson | Cindy Stone |
| Emma Louise Wingard | Ruth Cordle |
| 2 Faye Ann Mount | 20 Maggie Mills |
| Mike Northcutt | Susan Yost |
| Skeeter Rhodes | 21 Katherine(Kaki) Hines |
| 3 Alison Lee Riley | 22 Austin Champion |
| Cam Stanton | Paul Harper |
| 4 Gail Cotney | Robert Harrington |
| 5 Don Byrd | 23 Kodee Harrison |
| 7 Jeannie Leigh Boyles | Carla Johnson |
| Tobias Grant | 24 Joyce Turnipseed |
| Belle Sansom | Kaitlin Rowe |
| 8 Meredith Sellars | 25 JESUS CHRIST |
| 11 Lauren Lane | Eldridge Bracknell |
| Chad Roberson | Nancy Setzer |
| Justin Sessions | 27 Sandy Brown |
| 12 Mollie Higgins | Austin Yost |
| 13 Anita Tylicki | 28 Andy Meadows |
| Jeanette Kinman | William Webb |
| Landon Meadows | 29 Amy Boyd |
| 14 Fred Crowe | Mallory McGough |
| Ken Stringer | Mary Pat Sikes |
| 17 Betty Armistead | 30 Tiffany Hammock |
| Travers Grant | Scott Takacs |
| Dorothy Kiser | Sarah Watkins |
| Deborah Kirk | 31 Bethany Black Neubauer |
| Martha French | Addison Wise |
| 19 Brad Echols | |

Belated Happy Birthday to Sandy Garner on November 20, 2014

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dec. 1 Troy & Kim Worrell | Dec. 14 Ronnie & Michelle Blount |
| Dec. 4 Rich & Jacque Takacs | Scott & Debbie Mills |
| Dec. 7 Del & Prasertsi Atkinson | Dec. 16 Robert & Georgia Armstrong |
| Dec. 8 Buddy & Rhonda Black | Bill & Barbara Berg |
| Dec. 9 Perry & Nancy Butler | Dec. 18 William(Windy) & |
| Danny & Kristie Richardson | Linda Wingard (44th) |
| Dec. 10 Heath & Dana Crowe | Dec. 20 Wayne & Sarah Watkins |
| Jim & Jeanette Kinma (55th) | Dec. 23 Rex & Esther Jones (54th) |
| Floyd & Mary Price | Dec. 30 George & Jeannie Handey |
| Dec. 12 Tom & Caroline Vocino | |

Sympathy to the families of...

Rohlig, Harold Ernst Hermann (88)died October 25, 2014
 Walters, Tula Elizabeth Polland (90)died October 26, 2014
 Simmons, Tillman Edward (80)died November 1, 2014
 Bush, Charlie Washington (94)died November 3, 2014
 Stone, Robert Jerry (81)died November 5, 2014
 Wilkinson, Mary Gandy (95)died November 6, 2014
 Loomis, Keith Stanley (54)died November 12, 2014
 McMurtrey, Charles Leonard, Jr. (78)died November 13, 2014
 Stough, Janice Johnsondied November 16, 2014
 Hall, Malcolm C. (90)died November 17, 2014
 Lee, Alice Finch (103)died November 17, 2014
 Brennan, Cyril Grey "Bok" (87)died November 19, 2014
 Edwards, Raven Jude (8)died November 19, 2014
 Lawson, Willie Mae "MaeMae" Pritchett (77)died November 19, 2014
 McBride, Dr. Richard L. (80)died November 19, 2014
 Hall, Richard E. (94)died November 20, 2014

Today's Woman



Trisston Wright
Burrows
Ms.Wheelchair
America/Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"CHRISTMAS IS SPELLED L-O-V-E"

Christmas is spelled L-O-V-E. What is the Christmas message? **John 3:16.** God gave us the gift of love on Christmas Day.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." - **John 3:16.**

As a popular song says, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love." I need it. You need it. Your spouse needs it. Your child needs it. An elderly man or woman sitting alone in a nursing home today needs it. A child abandoned and alone in a children's home needs it, too. Everyone needs it! God sent His one and only Son as our Savior. He knew we couldn't save ourselves. So He sent His Son to be born in a manger, to die on a cross, to rise again into glory, and to come again. So this Christmas Season, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas...for the Savior has come to give us the greatest gift of all. LOVE!

Merry Christmas & Many Blessings!

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Sunday, December 14 • 10:30 am

Service of Hope & Healing
December 18th • 7:00 pm

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
4:00 pm and 5:30 pm

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Rogers Reminds College Students about Available Summer Internships

Opportunities available in each of his D.C. and District offices.

(WASHINGTON, DC)---Congressman Mike Rogers announced that the deadline for applying for summer internships in his offices will be February 13, 2015. The internship program is designed to offer select college students a hands-on opportunity to learn about the legislative process, as well as the day-to-day operations of a Congressional office.

To be considered for an internship, students must submit a current resume, cover letter and short writing sample to the Congressman's intern coordinator.

Please visit <http://mike-rogers.house.gov/constituent-services/internships> for more information, or call Rogers' Washington, D.C. office at 202.225.3261.



ABBEY AT THE ARCHIVES

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY TO HOST PREVIEW SCREENING OF THE NEW SEASON PREMIERE OF DOWNTON ABBEY ON DECEMBER 11TH

The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH), in partnership with Alabama Public Television (APT), will host **Abbey at the Archives** on **Thursday, December 11, 2014**. Two preview screenings of the first hour of the new, season five premiere of *Downton Abbey* will be shown at 4 pm and 6 pm. A special presentation of 1920's fashions from the Archives collection will precede each screening at 3:45 pm and 5:45 pm respectively.

Period attire is encouraged. Refreshments will be served. The event is free to the public, but a ticket will be necessary to attend the event as seating is very limited. Tickets for each showing will be available for pick-up only at the ADAH beginning Monday, December 1. They can be picked up in the ADAH's Museum Store from 8:30 to 4:00, Monday through Saturday. Tickets are limited to 4 per person.



For more information, call (334) 353-3312 or visit archives.alabama.gov.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is located in downtown Montgomery, across the street from the State Capitol. The Archives serves as Alabama's official government records repository, is a special collections library and research facility, and is home to the Museum of Alabama. The Archives and the Museum are open Monday - Saturday, 8:30 - 4:30 and the Research Room is open Tuesday - Friday and the second Saturday of the month from 8:30 - 4:30. Admission is always free.

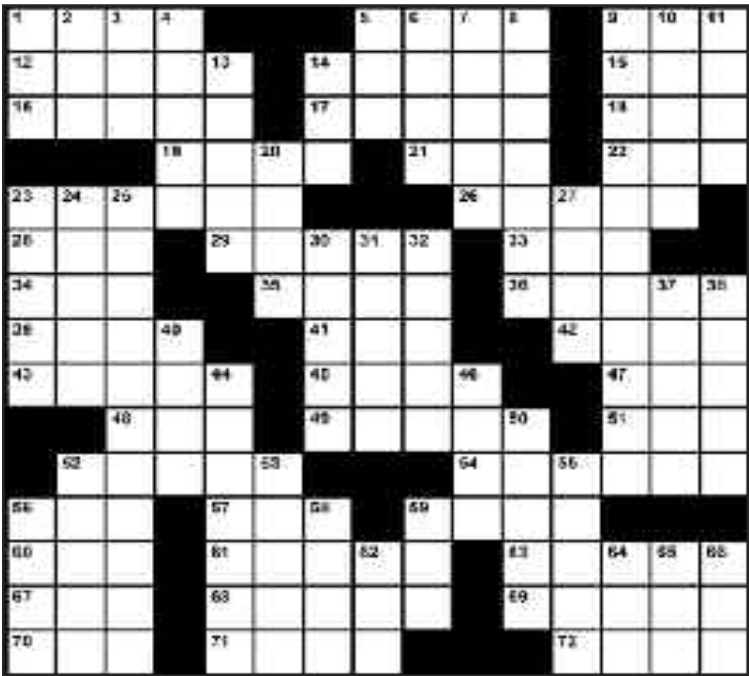
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RELAX! JUST FOR FUN!



- Across**
- 1. Hill dwellers
 - 5. Track shape
 - 9. Explosive device
 - 12. Genealogy
 - 14. Metier
 - 15. "___ you sure?"
 - 16. Cad
 - 17. Flocks
 - 18. Drink that can be hot or cold
 - 19. "Who ___?"
 - 21. "Indeed"
 - 22. Get your ___ to the ground

- 23. Ghost
- 26. Openings
- 28. Brown colored
- 29. Pace
- 33. Shuteye
- 34. Fully anesthetized
- 35. In good health
- 36. Passes through in circular motions
- 39. Exploits
- 41. Nipper
- 42. Palm hit
- 43. Leaks
- 45. Headed for overtime
- 47. Stretch out
- 48. Three sheets to the wind
- 49. Farm hat
- 51. ...and justice for ___
- 52. Mosquito wounds
- 54. Sensation of throat dryness
- 56. Dowel
- 57. Cork sound
- 59. Transferred money
- 60. Get on in years
- 61. 747, e.g.
- 63. Flirt
- 67. Panel truck
- 68. Enthusiastic
- 69. Full from food

- 70. Lord of the Rings tree shepherd
 - 71. "50 First Dates" star, Barrymore
 - 72. Starring role
- Down**
- 1. Something curved in shape
 - 2. Not for love ___ money
 - 3. Nail's home
 - 4. Pilot
 - 5. Vein contents
 - 6. Diversify
 - 7. Combined sums
 - 8. Teachers' bailiwick
 - 9. Reliable fleet provider
 - 10. Fields, of study
 - 11. Brandy flavor
 - 13. Icecream treat made with bananas
 - 14. Definite article
 - 20. Agonize over
 - 23. Portly
 - 24. Stop
 - 25. Savvy
 - 27. Feed bag contents
 - 30. Cheesy sandwiches
 - 31. Braid
 - 32. More advanced in years

- 37. Train tracks
- 38. Won a bee
- 40. Incision
- 44. Trod
- 46. Figures
- 50. Wine with fish?
- 52. Got going
- 53. Power type
- 55. Something to shoot for
- 56. Surface the road
- 58. Leaf
- 59. Part of w.p.m.
- 62. Opposite of used
- 64. Enjoyed good food
- 65. Beach water
- 66. Kind of user



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