



The Alabama Gazette

ALABAMA'S FREE Press



TAKE ONE!

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automatic guarantee!*



Chief Justice
Roy S. Moore

COURT OF THE JUDICIARY CASE NO. 46

IN THE MATTER OF:
ROY S. MOORE
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Alabama

ORDER

All pending summary-judgement motions
in the matter are DENIED.

The trial of this matter is set for
September 28, 2016, beginning at 9 a.m.
in the Supreme Court Courtroom,
300 Dexter Avenue,
Montgomery, Alabama.

ORDERED this 8th day of August, 2016.

J. Michael Joiner, Chief Judge

W. N. Watson	Jeffrey T. Brock
L. Gwaltney McCollum, Jr.	James W. Woodroof, Jr.
Laura Petro	S. Dagnal Rowe, Sr.
Lucinda Samford Cannon	Daryl O. Perkins

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The Best of 2016



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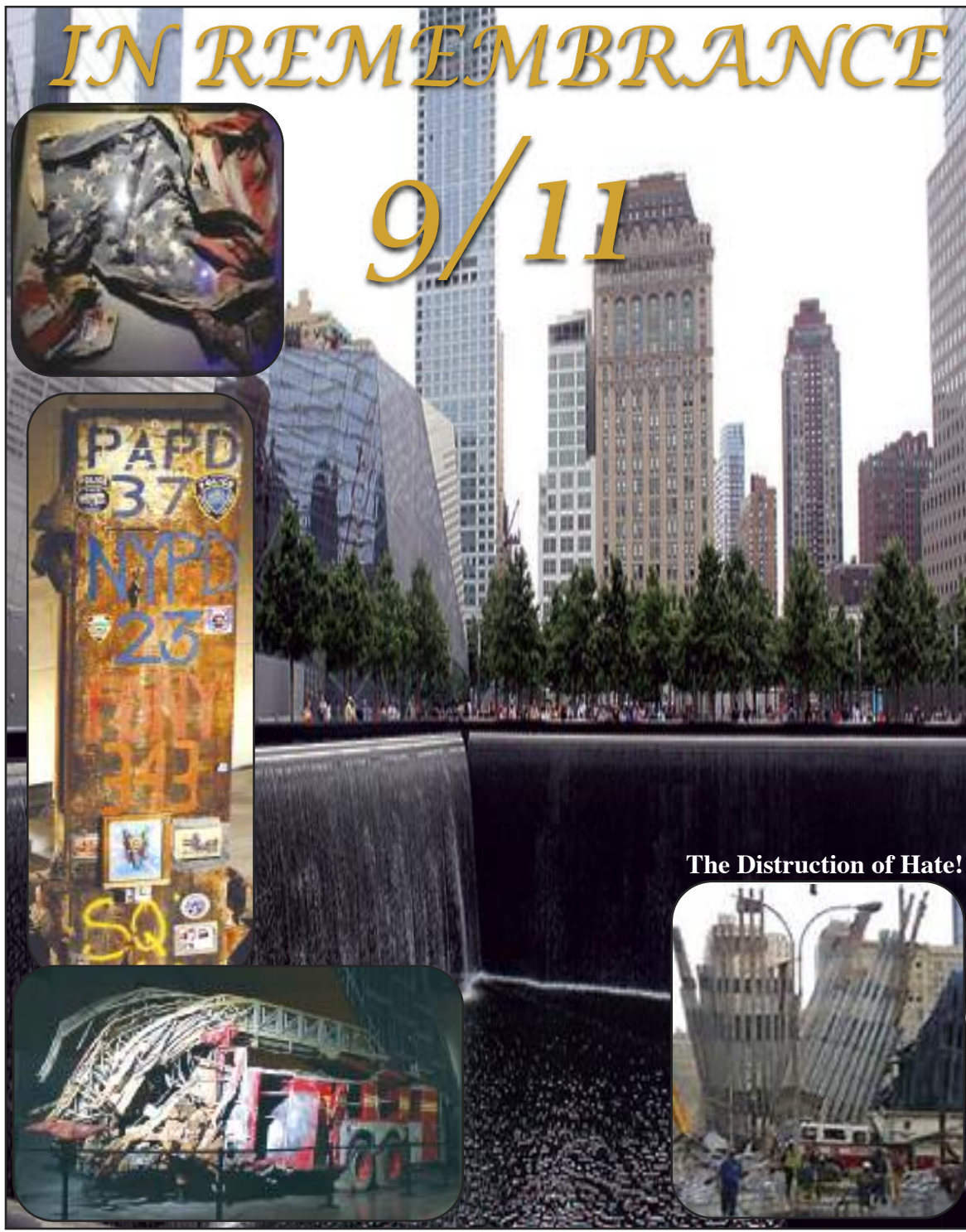


I AM ALONE (DEPRESSION)

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welcomes all
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IN REMEMBRANCE

9/11

The Distruction of Hate!

Constitution Day - September 17th...

Did you know we have a Constitution Day honoring
American's greatest document for freedom in the world?

Read story on page 3A.

Happy birthday to our Constitution!



If it had a cake, there would be over 220
candles on it. In 1956, President Dwight
D. Eisenhower proclaimed September
17-23 Constitution Week to remember
the signing of our most important legal
document. Our Constitution was
approved and signed on September 17,
1787, in Philadelphia by the delegates
of twelve states. Rhode Island was not
represented and did not approve it. Of
course, to become binding on the states
it still had to be ratified by nine states.
This happened on June 21, 1788, as
New Hampshire became the ninth state
to ratify it.

A Bill of Rights was added to insure further protection for the people
and the states from the federal government.

LABOR DAY...SEPTEMBER 5, 2016...

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ROBSERVATIONS...

Bits and Pieces; Pt.5

by Robert Tate

Sitting here on vacation, there are so many things going on but today I only want to cover two items for now. There are sunny beaches to see so here goes.

1. The Olympics:

First of all, after all the negative press about Rio before the games began, I did enjoy watching the Olympics on television for the past two weeks; for the most part. After all, during the games only one severed arm washed up in the Olympic bay, only one mugger was shot dead by a Russian diplomat and after only a week, the green "fart-smelling" water in the diving pool cleared up. Nice!!

First of all, my hats off the entire American Olympic team. At the time of this writing, the American team has clearly outpaced the rest of the world by scoring 105 total medals with 38 gold, 35 silver and 32 bronze. The next closest nation is Great Britain with 61 total medals. The women's gymnastics team was awesome and the US swim team, excluding the offsite antics of some of our swimmers, was equally impressive. I for one never get tired of hearing our national anthem being played.

Of course there were some disappointments and upsets but when top athletes compete, you never know for sure what is going to happen. A prime example was the Japanese beating the US men in the 4 x 100 relay. Wha-what?? That is before they were disqualified, yet again, for an illegal baton pass. Perhaps most disappointing to me was yet again NBC's coverage of the games. Yeah I get it that you could find other Olympic games on some other obscure channels but for crying out loud, there is more to the Olympics than swimming, gymnastics, track, diving and volleyball. There are 41 different sports played at the games and the one category of "Athletics," a.k.a. Track and Field, covers another 47 events.

If you were to tune into NBC coverage at night, you would never know this. My point, all of these athletes train most of their lives for this one moment in time and I think the major television outlet should showcase the work of all these athletes. Having a black belt in Isshinryu Karate, I would love to have watched some Tae Kwon Do matches but no luck. Likewise, I remember back in the days of Sugar Ray Leonard and Cuban Teofilo Stevenson, boxing was showcased on television. For the last two summer Olympics, not a chance. So we send many of these young men and women who compete in "obscure" sports and reward them by ignoring their contributions. This is unfortunate. I know people will just say to turn the channel and watch another station to possibly see some other sports but NBC should not play such favoritism. But then again, why should I be surprised when I look at their "unbiased" coverage of the political landscape.

2. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC:

The wife and I are finishing up a vacation trip to New Jersey. I am actually writing this in my brother's dining room. On our first day here in Jersey, my brother, his girlfriend, my wife and I drove over to Washington DC. Our primary purpose was to go to the Holocaust Museum. We also toured the Washington Monument and World War II Memorial but without a doubt, the Holocaust Museum was the highlight, not only of DC but our entire vacation thus far.

First of all, I have to get this out. Yes, if you visit Washington DC, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is a MUST SEE. I have been to many WWII museums, I have seen hundreds of photographs, watched dozens of WWII videos and movies covering the holocaust and nothing comes close to this experience. Nothing. I would say that if you were to take a child, depending on their age, you may want to cover their eyes when approaching certain displays.

The museum gives us three full floors of movies, videos, slide shows, audio presentations, models and artifacts to view. Some of these to be honest are quite horrific and some from Russian archives have not been readily seen in the West. Of some of the many artifacts there are

large concrete fragments from the Chelmno crematorium blown up by the SS in April 1943 in an attempt to hide their activities. There is the actual Tarnow Cemetery gate where between September 1939 and June 1942, 5-10,000 Jews were killed. They have an actual cobblestone street which was part of the Warsaw Ghetto, an actual "Karlsruhe" freight car used to transport Jews to camps. To add to this experience the freight car is resting on actual tracks that led to the Treblinka station. So many fascinating artifacts are there that you can easily spend 5 hours or more and not see or hear everything.

3. Room of Shoes

For me, the most visceral and disconcerting display was the room of shoes. As you come out of a hallway and turn a corner, you are confronted with a room with nothing but thousands of shoes. Each of these shoes belonged to someone killed at a camp. In typical German efficiency, when people were "processed," everything about them was taken away. Clothes, shoes,



jewelry, and even hair was taken, catalogued and then stored. When the camp at Auschwitz was liberated for example, over 15,000 pounds of hair was found stored and bundled into canvas bags. But for me, it was the room of shoes where I say more tears than in ANY exhibit I have ever seen. Black, white, asian, old, young, even one young muslim girl stood looking at those shoes with a face full of tears. I heard one woman crying and turned to see it was my wife reading the following passage from Elie Wiesel's book, "Night."

"Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky. Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever. Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never."

Yes my friends, I highly recommend this museum/ memorial experience. One of the poignant yet unfortunate truths was as after we got home, I showed my brother almost identical photographs of trenches lined with dead bodies recently shot by ISIS. Dead babies, decimated towns and a world once again in denial of the evil in man's heart. A sick denial that again allows for such criminal activity to go on with world watching in disbelief. The only difference between the Nazis and the ISIS scourge is a matter of degree. If these guys had the opportunity and capability to perform a holocaust on the same scale as the Nazis, you had better believe they would. It is up to all of us in the free world to ensure this never happens again. This is the true value of museums such as this. Without them, people would argue that these crimes never happened and if they did, that it could never happen. I am here to tell you they are all dead wrong.

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POLITICAL CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

For many years, I have wondered about the procedures employers use to select applicants who apply for jobs. The first qualifications that come to mind are education and experience—presumably the more of each, the better. From my observations, employers like to see resumes that have a complete list of previous employment, with exact dates and other trivia, with no gaps, going all the way back to high school or earlier. Other qualifications, like talent, honesty, dependability, health, and other attributes seem to go onto the back burner if they are even considered at all. As a result, I have seen many examples of incompetent klutzes receiving multiple offers for well-paying positions while other highly skilled, dependable people spend months or even years to land positions of any kind—just because they are too honest to lie or embellish their resumes to cover all the gaps.

The question is why don't employers try hiring some people based on their talent and ability, on a trial basis if necessary, to see what they can do. They would have far better odds in getting employees that will help their companies grow and prosper.

So what does that have to do with ordinary people who do not own or run businesses? Everything! Every grown person has the authority to hire people—the most important employees we would ever hire—our public representatives, from the President down to the lowliest city councilman. But sadly, many people don't seem to have a clue on how to judge the candidates.

The election of 2008 was one of our most catastrophic national disasters. For President, the Republicans rejected **Ron Paul**, one of our greatest national heroes with a near perfect lifetime record that dates back to the 1970's. Another

fine candidate, **Herman Cain**, was also cast aside. Instead, they nominated one of their weakest members—**John McCain**. The Democrats did far worse, nominating a hard-core Muslim socialist who was raised in Indonesia. In the general election, the American people snookered themselves by electing this man who has been waging a jihad against American principles and free enterprise for the past seven and a half years and enough socialists in both houses to provide a filibuster-proof majority in the years 2009-2010. The result has been volumes of radical, unconstitutional legislation that must be repealed before an economic collapse destroys us all.

In this year's primary (2016), most of us have still done a deplorable job of making our selections. The Republicans turned down their finest Presidential contenders, **Rand Paul** and **Ted Cruz**—both with nearly perfect voting records in the Senate. The Democrats nominated **Hillary Clinton**, the second most dangerous person to ever run for the office (behind **Barack Obama**).

Long before one steps into a voting booth, he should carefully study all of the candidates. First he should understand that a lot of experience (or "seniority" as it is often called) is not necessarily a good thing. In many cases, it is a negative. A crooked candidate with experience can and probably will steal a great deal more of our revenue than an equally crooked one with none. That's why we have term limits for some offices and proposals for the same for additional ones. Therefore, experienced candidates with high name recognition, high campaign contributions and lots of advertising should be avoided unless they have strong records of fiscal restraint and upholding Constitutional principles. In our area, a good example was the highly principled **Becky Gerritson** vs. the experienced but unrestrained incumbent **Martha Roby** (U. S. Congress, district 2).

Continued on page 5A



Cobblestone street from the Warsaw Ghetto.



John Martin

The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

CONSTITUTION DAY

SEPTEMBER 17 By Max Lyons, Ph.D.

Max Lyons, Ph.D.

Director of Teaching Services
The Foundation for American Christian Education

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Biblical Principles in our Federal and State Constitutions and Other Founding Documents

For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.

Deuteronomy 4:7-10

Introduction

Happy birthday to our Constitution! If it had a cake, there would be over 220 candles on it. In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed

September 17-23 Constitution Week to remember the signing of our most important legal document. Our Constitution was approved and signed on September 17, 1787, in Philadelphia by the delegates of twelve states. Rhode Island was not represented and did not approve it. Of course, to become

binding on the states it still had to be ratified by nine states. This happened on June 21, 1788, as New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it. A Bill of Rights was added to insure further protection for the people and the states from the federal government. Since the Bill of Rights was added, our Constitution has only been amended sixteen times. This is amazing, confirming the fact that our Constitution is the world's most enduring written constitution! British Prime Minister William Gladstone once remarked that our Constitution is, "the most remarkable work known...in modern times to have been produced by the human intellect, at a single stroke." Gladstone is correct that this is a remarkable work, but those who have done their research know that this was not a work that was produced solely by the human intellect. It was a work that was produced predominantly by Christians who applied their understanding of the Scriptures to civil government.

Our state constitutions, the Declaration of Independence, the federal Constitution and other founding documents were so Biblically based that in 1892 the Supreme Court was prompted to conclude that we were a Christian nation:

This is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation...these are not individual sayings, declarations of private persons; they are organic utterances; they speak the voice of the entire people...these and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation¹ (Church of Holy Trinity vs. US)

Notice that the Supreme Court indicates that their conclusions are based upon organic utterances. Organic means belonging to the fundamental or constitutional law. In other words the evidence that we are a Christian nation is found in our written founding documents. Let us briefly look at some of that evidence, including our federal Constitution.

Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms

The document that was the precursor to the Declaration of Independence was the July 1775 *Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms*. Our representatives meeting in Philadelphia made this declaration just one year before they declared independence. It is full of references to God, recognizing His sovereignty. Here are a few phrases giving evidence of its Biblical nature:

- *If it was possible for men, who exercise their reason to believe, that the divine Author of our existence intended a part of the human race to hold an absolute property in, and an unbounded power over others, marked out by his infinite goodness and wisdom...*
- *But a reverence for our great Creator, principles of humanity, and the dictates of common sense, must convince all those who reflect upon the subject, that government was instituted to promote the welfare of mankind, and ought to be administered for the attainment of that end.*
- *Our forefathers, inhabitants of the island of Great Britain, left their native land, to seek on these shores a residence for civil and religious freedom.*
- *Our cause is just. Our union is perfect. Our internal resources are great, and, if necessary, foreign assistance is undoubtedly attainable. We gratefully acknowledge, as signal instances of the Divine favor towards us, that his Providence would not permit us to be called into this sincere controversy, until we were grown up to our present strength, had been previously exercised on warlike operation, and possessed of the means of defending ourselves. With hearts fortified with these animating reflections, we most solemnly, before God and the world, declare, that exerting the utmost energy of those powers, which our beneficent Creator hath graciously bestowed upon us, the arms we have been compelled by our enemies to assume, we will, in defiance of every hazard, with unabating firmness and perseverance, employ for the preservation of our liberties; being with one mind resolved to die freemen rather than to live slaves.*

- *With an humble confidence on the mercies of the supreme and impartial judge and ruler of the Universe, we most devoutly implore his divine goodness to protect us happily through this great conflict, to dispose our adversaries to reconciliation on reasonable terms, and thereby to relieve the empire from the calamities of civil war.²*

The Declaration of Independence:

Other than the indirect references to God and Biblical principles, there are four direct references to God in the Declaration of Independence:

- *laws of nature and of nature's God*, indicating God as the Supreme lawgiver.
- *that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights*, acknowledging God as the all-powerful Creator who alone is the author of rights which, since they are not granted by man, cannot be taken away.
- *appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world*, indicating that God is the ultimate and supreme Judge who is judged by no man yet stands in judgment of all including civil rulers and governments.
- *with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence*, affirming that their hope and trust in this life is not in man, but in a God who cares for His creation and watches over all, ordering their steps and intervening in their lives.

State Constitutions

As you read these excerpts from our state constitutions, bear in mind that religion in that day was understood in a different way than how we use this word today. Here is Webster's original definition of *religion*:

Religion in its most comprehensive sense, includes a belief in the being and perfection of God, in the revelation of his will to man, in man's obligation to obey his commands, in a state of reward and punishment, and in man's accountability to God; and also true godliness or piety of life, with the practice of all moral duties. It therefore comprehends theology, as a system of doctrines or principles, as well as practical piety; for the practice of moral duties without a belief in a divine lawgiver, and without reference to his will or commands, is not religion.³

Constitution of Delaware, Article 22:

Every person who shall be chosen a member of either house, or appointed to any office or place of trust...shall...make and subscribe the following declaration, to wit: I, _____, do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration.⁴

Constitution of Maryland, Article 36:

That, as it is the duty of every man to worship God in such manner as he thinks most acceptable to him; all persons, professing the Christian religion, are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty; wherefore no person ought by any law to be molested in his person or estate on account of his religious persuasion, or profession, or for his religious practice; unless, under color of religion, any man shall disturb the good order, peace or safety of the State, or shall infringe the laws of morality, or injure others, in their natural, civil, or religious rights...⁵

Constitution of Massachusetts, Article II:

It is the right as well as the duty of all men in society, publicly, and at stated seasons, to worship the SUPREME BEING, the great Creator and Preserver of the universe.⁶

Constitution of New Hampshire, Article V:

Every individual has a natural and unalienable right to worship GOD according to the dictates of his own conscience, and reason; and no subject shall be hurt, molested, or restrained in his person, liberty or estate for worshipping GOD, in the manner and season most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience; or for his religious profession, sentiments, or persuasion provided he doth not disturb the public peace or disturb others in their religious worship.⁷

Constitution of Vermont, Article III:

That all men have a natural and unalienable right to worship ALMIGHTY GOD, according to the dictates of their own consciences and understanding, regulated by the word of GOD; and that no man ought, or of right can be compelled to attend any religious worship, or erect, or support any place of worship, or maintain any minister, contrary to the dictates of his conscience; nor can any man who professes the Protestant religion, be justly deprived or abridged of any civil right, as a citizen, on account of his religious sentiment, or peculiar mode of religious worship, and that no authority can, or ought to be vested in or assumed by, any power whatsoever, that shall, in any case, interfere with, or in any manner control, the rights of conscience, in the free exercise of religious worship: nevertheless, every sect or denomination of people ought to observe the Sabbath, or the Lord's day, and keep up, and support, some sort of religious worship, which to them shall seem most agreeable to the revealed will of GOD.⁸

Constitution of Virginia, Sections 15 & 16:

That no free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people, but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue, and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles. That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other.⁹

Human Government Must be Limited

One of the most fundamental and absolutely essential Biblical principles embodied in all of our founding documents and specifically our federal Constitution is the principle of limitation of all human governments. This is God's idea, fully declared in His Word. It is necessary because of the fallen nature of man, which of course also is the reason for the necessity of civil government. English philosopher John Locke lived in a day when the idea of limits on civil government or limits on the civil ruler were questioned. In reality, in all of history, man has dealt with this issue. The doctrine of the divine right of kings, absolutism or the absolute power of the monarchy or king has been around for thousands of years. In the early 1600's Robert Filmer, a country squire, wrote *Patriarcha*, a defense of absolute royal power. For this great act he was knighted by Charles I. Filmer stated:

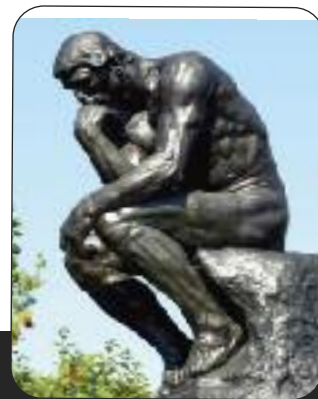
The greatest liberty in the world—if it be duly considered—is for a people to live under a monarch. It is the Magna Charta of this kingdom; all other

Continued on page 9A

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

John Sophocleus

THINK



‘BIDNESS AS USUAL’ IN LEE COUNTY & ALABAMA

Forgive the overload of issues to address starting in Lee County. **It seems removing Hubbard as Speaker of the House made little difference.** It became crystal clear Hubbard minions would shamelessly continue their crony ‘bidness as usual’ practices when it was revealed Auburn City Schools contracted with felon Hubbard in July awarding exclusive authority to broadcast Auburn School sports for free. With a heavy hand I type the courage and sacrifice of true Auburn men (specifically Buddy Mitchell) have been for naught in the attempt to remove this pollutant from our Plains of Dixie.

This school system (flush with overpaid educrats) turned down proposals from larger stations offering payment for exclusive broadcast authority. According to Bill Britt (*Alabama Political Reporter*) a comparison of the plans show Tiger Communications’ signal of 25,000 watts and the biggest coverage area in the county had offered \$11,500/yr. for five years - i.e., a total of \$57,500. The next largest station (iHeart Media with a signal of 6,000 watts) bid \$1000/yr. for a total of \$5,000. Hubbard’s Auburn Network with only 4,200 watts was awarded the contract and paid **NOTHING**.

No surprise to those who know the ‘bidness as usual’ paradigm - perhaps it was foolish to think the dozen felony convictions would slow the pace of these parasites sucking our economy sluggish. In August 2013 **APR** discovered the same day the House bill allowing a tax referendum for Auburn Schools was certified, Hubbard’s Auburn Network contracted the exclusive authority to broadcast Auburn High School sports. This coincidence helped fuel rumors and speculation Hubbard agreed to muscle this tax referendum to pass the House in exchange for Auburn School Superintendent Karen Delano’s promise to grant Hubbard the broadcast contract for the city’s high school sports programs.

Repeated **APR** attempts to contact Delano’s office at the time proffered promises Delano would respond but never did according to Mr. Britt. HB266 received House Certification on May 20, 2013, becoming Act No. 2013-321 allowing the City of Auburn to hold a referendum to raise ad valorem tax on property owners in the city. For over six decades WAUD radio (Tiger Communications) was the home of the Auburn High School team broadcasts. In 2013, Auburn City School Superintendent Delano failed to inform owner Tom Hayley of Hubbard’s deal. Hubbard’s **\$0** versus Hayley’s **\$57,000** raises questions worthy of further investigation about our impenitent felon and shows nothing has changed. Sound, accomplished businesspeople like Mr. Hayley who truly care about AHS are put out so parasites like Hubbard can continue to feed on productive citizens, students and taxpayers.

Those sickened by the Riley & Assoc/BCA as usual machine have called for Auburn City Schools Superintendent Karen Delano’s immediate resignation. Most notable Mike Hooks of Auburn who sounded the alarm these parasites are still alive and actively feeding upon us. DeLano certainly fits in with Riley, Hubbard, Lowder, et al types who see government education as little more than a fat hog to keep their pork churning. This is the same superintendent who told the community in 2013 if we didn’t support the proposed massive property tax increase, we were not "for the children of Auburn" - straight from the Riley Amendment 1 tax explosion playbook. Mr. Hooks’ Op-ed also reminded readers DeLano claimed the tax hike was necessary to fund the new \$96 mil. high school project, to avoid cutting sports, music, arts and even buses. The tax hike failed (54% to 46%) yet the new high school will open on schedule and the AHS band plays on. DeLano also magically found over \$600,000 to put in AstroTurf at Duck Samford Stadium where natural grass had sufficed for nearly half a century. Hooks further noted her hiring the highest paid football coach in Alabama, then she recently found \$6.8 mil. dollars for two lots of dirt to possibly build another high school, even while the new \$96 mil. dollar high school is under construction. DeLano is yet another ‘public servant’ who’s earned grand jury investigation along with many other Hubbard minions.

Further evidence of ‘bidness as usual’ was found in a recent e-mail (as if e-mails used adjudicating the 23 felony charges weren’t despicable enough) from felon Hubbard to “business leader(s)” encouraging them to read his latest motion. Mr. Britt (**APR**) cited Hubbard’s text, “...it very clearly lays out multiple reasons a new trial should be held, explains why the verdict on each charge was incorrect and how it negatively impacts business moving forward.” It smells like more spin from a desperate thief still attempting to delay and deny justice in desperate need of cash for his over-paid/under-performing ‘dream team’ criminal defense. Maybe a little more difficult these days to get unsecured loans from a buddy at a local bank...

AGAIN Hubbard filed a motion in Lee County Circuit Court (8/5/16) to dismiss all charges against him or grant him a new trial, then four days later sent his plea to business leaders. **APR** further cited from the letter Hubbard claims Judge Walker allowed “ridiculous...interpretations of the ethics law... which were never contemplated when passed,” and that the ruling makes it “impossible” for a lawmaker to have a “private sector job and not violate the law.” Hubbard’s dire warning to business owners claims the court’s rulings have “very serious issues with businesses and associations who employ lobbyists.” He further warns company owners the court has found, “every member of a board is now a principal,” and that, “even asking for advice is a ‘thing of value’ and therefore a crime.”

According to **APR**, the BCA is lobbying for legislation to make only the signer of the Principal statement accountable under the ethics law. Hubbard also reminded recipients about prosecutorial misconduct, which he alleges, “... took place prior to the trial.” He closed with, “I hope you will read it and feel free to share it with others who may not understand exactly what took place and the dangerous precedent it sets.” Indeed dangerous to incompetent businesspeople like Hubbard who cannot survive in a competitive environment without cronyism and favoritism. Again, ‘bidness as usual.’ Hubbard’s most recent pleading, this email, letter, etc. provides nothing new for the court (or us) to consider, just another replay of his slick PR spin attempting impact public opinion and acquire more money for his expensive marquis player ‘dream team’ defense. Mr. Britt claimed, “Those with close ties to Hubbard say he recently received a fifty-thousand dollar check to cover the most recent round of motions. Hubbard’s past reliance on campaign contributions to fund his defense is no longer viable. Those within his circle claim he is leaning on old friends to funnel money through third-parties into a legal defense fund as a way to postpone prison. The email presents him as a man desperately trolling for friends and cash.”

On a brighter note, the State stepped up to the plate and filed a Supplemental Brief in support of ordering Hubbard to pay \$1.1 mil. in restitution for his criminal acts. It seems the prosecution took Judge Walker’s well founded concerns seriously before sentencing felon Hubbard. Walker was very clear the State would have to make a sound case for his consideration before assigning any amounts in restitution. The brief argues the court should not allow felon Hubbard to keep his ill-gotten gains, obtained as a result of breaching the public’s trust. I think Jake Walker will find the prosecution’s assertion that unless the court orders restitution, “Hubbard and his businesses will continue

reaping the returns from his sale of his office as Speaker, even after he serves his prison sentence,” most compelling.

Further evidence to forecast ‘bidness as usual’ will continue in Hubbard’s hyper-gerrymandered District 79 came in the form of Joe Lovvorn’s local donors and PAC’s (totalling \$61,050) making it clear this ‘good ole joe’ is the anointed one to be felon Hubbard’s replacement. The primary PAC’s are all apparently run by Fine, Geddie & Associates (SAVEPAC, BIPAC, NEWPAC) and the biggest is from group out of Atlanta, Halstead Family Foundation (\$10,000) There a three big local donors at \$5,000+ (Allen Harris, Alice Henderson & James Parker) then the usual contractors/developers wanting subsidies and bonds released to avoid paying for the increased cost on our infrastructure to promote more of the cancerous, unsustainable growth harming our county. Most revealing Lovvorn is being groomed as felon Hubbard’s heir comes from campaign contributions by Robert Lowder (who first mentored Hubbard on how to milk the system) and Robert Dumas (another ‘public servant’ on the AU BoT) to lowly realtors the government pays well to appraise properties they want to take at a third of the legal compensation so property owners must waste their time and money in the courts. Swatek, Azbell, Ross & Howe names in the mix (for the more ‘plugged-in’ folks - esp. those following the Hubbard felonies trial) make it all the more clear ‘fireman joe’ Lovvorn is a Hubbard man to keep the graft churning. Disappointing to see my insurance agent among the bigger Lovvorn donors - seems those telling me he’s changed and to look elsewhere for coverage may have merit.

Another ‘bidness as usual’ clash in Lee County comes in the form of Constitution Party candidate Kenneth Busby’s efforts to get on the Nov. general election ballot for District 1. After Busby submitted a more than sufficient number of signatures for verification, Probate Judge English wrote the AG for an opinion in regards to numerous parts of the ballot access laws he seemed unable to understand/follow. The opinion answered our befuddled Probate Judge’s questions pressuring Mr. English to finally begin the verification process **FIVE** months after properly submitted.

Candidate Busby’s major concerns dealt with the timing of the Convention and the fact this Probate Judge had somehow missed the filed statement of action recorded in Mr. English’s office (at his request) the Friday before the petitions were turned in. Both issues were found to be unnecessary steps according to the AG’s opinion stating Minor parties were not subject to section 17-13-42 or 17-13-50(b). This only left the question of how many signatures were required and where those electors had to reside. The Opinion stated that “Pursuant to section 17-16-22 of the Code of Alabama, the Constitution Party is required to submit the signatures of at least 159 electors who are registered to vote in Lee County Commission District 1. This number represents three percent of the qualified electors who cast ballots for the office of Governor in the last general election in District 1 of Lee County.”

With all the stalling exacerbated by one of the most anti-competitive ballot access environments in the nation, Busby still awaits notification from Judge English on validation of his petition signatures. Mr. Busby said, “After reading the opinion and knowing that the majority of our petitions came from door to door solicitation in the district I have every confidence that we will exceed the required 159 signatures and be on the ballot in November.” Mr. Busby’s opponent, Ms. Eckman was one of the most vocal commissioners pressing for **special** election abuse to get the recent sales tax to pass after failing on two **general** election ballots more reflective of citizens’ preference; some readers may recall my “Political Theft By Deception” (<http://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2014/10/01/news/political-theft-by-deception/316.html>) column on the matter.

What Mr. Busby experienced in Lee Co. is not unusual. Macon Co. Commission candidate Frank Dillman is also getting discriminated against for third party and independent ballot access. Much like Judge Bill English, Probate Judge Alfonza Menefee not acknowledging or replying to Dillman’s written and telephonic inquires have been discouraging and serve the purpose of stalling and exacerbating this anti-competitive result. Dillman contacted the SoS for answers which could have been determined and received more efficiently directly from the probate judge. Petitions submitted mid November took almost three weeks to move up one flight of stairs for verification by the registrar, who received instructions to hold onto them until the Judge requests them.

Nervous about not hearing from the judge three months later, Dillman made an appointment about a week before the primary election deadline to be informed, “of course you are qualified, everyone knows that,” according to Mr. Dillman. Poor way of receiving his first official notification, but as I type Candidate Dillman still has **not** been given (as requested) an official document stating he’ll be on the Nov. 8th ballot. Another Macon County resident wanting to run for office as an independent submitted petitions the day before the March deadline and as is also unsure of his status **FIVE** months later according to Mr. Dillman who further stated, “The system of filing and cooperation by the Probate Judge has been most frustrating as compared to all other aspects of my desire to serve Macon County residents and visitors. In this day and age, not having the records on-line is beyond reason -- that is unless it is by design, which certainly is a strong possibility. The current system is without checks upon someone who may abuse authority and power to stymie an independent candidate in an 80% one-party county is overwhelming.”

For evidence of ‘bidness as usual’ at the State level, Chair of the ATPCC Planning Committee, Dr. Lou Campomenosi (Political Science, Tulane University) has been most illustrative this summer. The ATPCC is widely accepted as “The Hub” of the real T.E.A. Party in Alabama and has been successful at not being co-opted by the traditional/big-govt. Republicans. He sounded the alarm on a bill attempting to make the State Board of Education an appointed entity rather than elected (as currently determined) writing, “**SOUND FAMILIAR? SAME POWER GRAB BY THE BCA THAT THEY TRIED TO DO LAST SESSION WHEN THEY TRIED TO MAKE JIM ZEIGLER’S STATE AUDITOR POSITION AN APPOINTED OFFICE TOO!** If they try this gambit again, regardless of whatever office they are attempting to control, they must be stopped!!” The ATPCC has recently again said **NO** to any lottery scheme for a variety of reasons most notable the supposed “need” for a lottery would be eliminated if Hubbard and Marsh had been fiscally responsible and accomplished their most pressing task - i.e., Balance the budget without gimmicks, kicking the can down the road, bond and spend, special election abuse to raid the ETF, etc. With recent reports of record revenue collection, it doesn’t escape these T.E.A. party folks Alabama has a spending problem and malfeasance in allocation of existing revenues sent to Montgomery.

Dr. Campomenosi didn’t hold back in his exchange with GOP Chair Bill Armistead writing, “the perception that Canary can call Marsh, issue him some

Continue on page 5A

Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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



With Labor Day approaching it signifies that the long hot summer will soon be coming to an end. It seems that the summers are getting hotter and hotter. I was born and raised in south Alabama so I was accustomed to long hot summers. I remember when there was no air conditioning in houses or cars. It was hot, but seems hotter today. I think we have gotten softer. It also seems that we do not have the spring or fall seasons anymore. All of a sudden one day in mid May it is 86 degrees and it never goes below that through mid September, or maybe even October. We have about 5 months out of the year where the temperature is mostly in the 90s.

This Monday is Labor Day. It usually does not cool off much, but we Alabamians seem to think that Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer. I guess it is because it also usually marks the beginning of college football season. For those of us who are political junkies Labor Day also marks the beginning of the political season.

In past political years most campaigns for the November general election kicked off on Labor Day. This year is a biggie because 2016 is a presidential year. This year will bring to life one of the nastiest presidential races in memory. Both candidates already have unfavorable ratings of over 50 percent. That means that whoever is elected, the majority of the people in the country will hate their president.

In bygone days, every major candidate for statewide office would be in northwest Alabama this Monday. There is an event held in the northwest corner of Alabama known as the Terry Family Reunion. It is the largest family reunion in Alabama. Serious Alabama politicians know about this annual event that has been going on for many years. Not everyone who attends this family reunion has Terry family roots, but a good many do. It has become a must do event for aspiring statewide and definitely local candidates. Every candidate for Sheriff, Probate Judge, Legislature or Constable will be at the Terry Reunion, which is held in the corner of Lawrence County. It is an event for all politicians but especially for those from the Quad Cities of Sheffield, Florence, Tusculumbia,

and Muscle Shoals and also for politicians from the counties of Colbert, Lauderdale, Franklin, Lawrence, and Morgan. In the past you can be assured that every statewide candidate for Lt. Governor, Supreme Court, and every other constitutional office would be there.

The Terry Family Reunion will have everything to eat, especially good barbecue. There will be political speeches and lots of one on one campaigning. Although there will be Labor Day barbecues from one end of the state to the other, none will be as political as the Terry Family Reunion just south of Tusculumbia and just north of Moulton and Russellville.

Labor Day is also a day to salute the American worker. We salute and honor our working men and women. As we salute and honor our Alabama workers, it should be noted that Alabama has historically been one of the most unionized states in the South.

Even with the upcoming presidential election on the horizon, I do not see how the last one third of this political year could be nearly as exciting or eventful as the first two thirds of the year have been in Alabama politics. The Mike Hubbard conviction, the Roy Moore removal from the bench, and the sensational salacious Robert Bentley saga are fodder for another book.

The legislature does not appear overly interested in moving forward with impeachment proceedings against ole Bentley. It is common knowledge that the feds are interested in and investigating his affair. Therefore, their poking their nose into his business would be like getting the cart ahead of the horse. It would also amount to the pot calling the kettle black. It would be hard to explain or defend voting for a man indicted for 23 counts of felony ethics law transgressions as your leader/speaker and then voting to impeach a poor old 74-year-old retired doctor, who has not stolen a dime and does not even take a salary as governor. It would give a new meaning to the word hypocrisy.

Happy Labor Day!

August 30, 2016

POLITICAL CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

Continued from page 2A

Learn how to research the internet. The New American and Freedomworks can provide voting records for Congressmen and Senators. LowRockwell.com can provide additional information on these and others. The scores are given as percentages of a perfect score of 100. Grading them is easy, just like in school—90+ = A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, and below 60 is a failure. Look at the scores. The majority of our Congressmen and Senators are failures, and that includes all of the Democrats.

Study the candidates' web sites. How do they stand on important issues? **Check their voting records and their ideologies.** Have they done, or do they plan any actions that jeopardize our individual liberty and laissez-faire economics? **Or will they work hard to limit the power of government, eliminate needless programs and projects, and do everything they can to reduce spending, taxes and regulations?**

For this year, much of this research is now a moot point. Most of the best candidates have been eliminated in the primary. All we have left is the general election, where many of our choices will be the lesser of two evils. The good news is that making these choices will be easy, since the greater evil is nearly always a Democrat. So VOTE

REPUBLICAN or a THIRD PARTY (Libertarian or Constitution).

I have never been able to understand how so many people, including college graduates and those with high IQs, cannot comprehend one of the most fundamental principles of economics—that taxing (stealing) money from the productive people of society and handing it over to criminals, illegal immigrants, deadbeats, freeloaders, and reckless child-bearers is not going to produce anything except additional criminals, illegal immigrants, deadbeats, freeloaders and reckless child-bearers. These can some day outnumber, out vote and overthrow our great nation. Don't let this catastrophe happen.

Vote wisely!

“BIDNESS AS USUAL”

Continued from 4A

orders and that ends our repeal Common Core efforts for another year, is unacceptable and in my view should concern you in the most fundamental way possible: Has Marsh tarnished the GOP brand by his actions as publicly reported? My answer is a resounding YES. Something else that I mentioned, but did not elaborate on is the stench of corruption coming from what Hubbard has done.” He went on with a reminder, “... just a short time ago, Hubbard was trying to destroy you and the State TEA parties rallied behind you to help you fend off his attempted takeover. **Bill, now is the time to help us get rid of Hubbard and his ilk! Join us in a GOP reform campaign to put power back in the hands of the people not the Canary led moneyed interests.**” I'm not one to hold my breath that a known, long established corrupt Party (allowed back into our State instead of replacing the corrupt modern Democrat Party) will ever change.

It was hopeful to see the ATPCC more interested in reforming ballot access laws in our State to bring some competition to politics. The duopoly will not take anyone seriously until they are on general election ballots and beat the margin of victory to be the deciding factor. If small govt. Constitution Party, Libertarian Party, Independent, (dare I type T.E.A. Party?) candidates are on the general election ballot to run when two big govt. candidates are put on the ballot, the duopoly will take notice of the issue(s) getting voters to the polls to win. Seems more likely Democrats may return to the Party of Jefferson, small govt., low taxes, etc. to improve the general welfare of citizens than Republicans ever changing from the Party of big govt., corporate welfare, fiat currency and DC hegemony they've always been.

'Dr. Lou' was at his best taking on the BCA in the 'double-dark money' fight few have reported on. One of best moments in the 2014 election cycle was the showdown between John Rice's ALFG and Del Marsh's Riley & Assoc/BCA minions. When it came toe to toe, Rice said he'd disclose his donors when the BCA double-dark thugs disclosed theirs. Armistead, et al big govt. Republicans wouldn't have anything to do with that! Rice sure made his point that day... still no reform of those laws to end their effective 'hide the money' game these past years Rice's anti-corruption efforts have been pressing for in Montgomery.

Campomenosi wrote, “Bill: I saw what Sims had in his ‘Yellowhammer’ piece about John Rice's Foundation and I want to offer a few points that you need to think about before you get sucked too much further into a Hubbard trap. If you don't know that Sims is a Hubbard lackey, ask some people who know who he is and who supports him: your good buddy Hubbard. Two years ago I successfully fought to have Sims removed from being a speaker at our Tea Party Welcome Back Rally in Montgomery for just that reason. John Rice has not taken any AEA money—ask him before you launch any more misguided missiles. Think carefully about this b/c it pertains to the real corruption that the moneyed elites (including Bob Riley and his team of jackals) have brought to the Legislature since Hubbard parlayed illegal campaign funds to bankroll the GOP victory in 2010. **QUESTION: Did you get concerned when BCA head honcho Billy Canary recently said he had a conference call with ‘your’ GOP “senate leadership” where two dozen of the (so called) most “important business executives in Alabama” told the “senate leaders” that they wanted Common Core to not be repealed?** Did you know that prior to that conference call, Marsh had told Beason that his compromise bill would be brought up for a vote? That was confirmed to us by other senators we trust who were working with Scott--thus our elation at finally getting a bill up for a vote. Then, after the "Canary" conference call, a funny thing happened on the way to the vote: Marsh then double crossed Beason by refusing to bring his "compromise bill" to the floor. Coincidence? I doubt it. And you should too. And while we all know how slippery politics is, our senators were confident that prior to that 'CANARY CALL' we would have a vote--then zero, zip, nada, AGAIN and please--don't put this off on the 'opt out' part of Beason's compromise--Marsh new about opt out when he told Beason there would be a vote.”

He closed (again all in caps) with a bang, “**YOU CHOOSE TO DISK JOHN RICE IN A HUBBARD RUN RAG WHEN JOHN HAS SINGLEHANDEDLY FIELDLED GOOD CANDIDATES TO RUN AGAINST THE SCUM THE GOP HAVE AS “LEADERS” -- HUBBARD AND MARSH. WHAT A JOKE.**” No doubt this recent flap is intertwined with the Common Core/State Superintendent of Education fight so many have asked me to write about, but I've already typed far too much. Frankly, I STILL can't figure out what happened, Capitol Hotline (<https://www.facebook.com/Capitol-Hotline-51116412268940/?fref=ts>) has been most informative and I don't want to berate Betty Peters until I get the facts - that one may take a LONG phone call...

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Steve Long

Woods & Waters with Steve



MAKING SURE WE LEAVE A GOOD IMPRESSION WITH NON-HUNTERS

I know a lot of you folks have deer on the brain for just about every waking moment, and I can say that I'm no different. I'm always thinking about all the different things that go with it, and with my work at QDMA, I'm also looking at what hunting means to us as both individuals and as members of society at large. Ultimately, I'm also thinking about what will lead to maintaining deer hunting as one of our great heritages that we can proudly pass down to the next generation.

For starters, we need to always obey the law. Those laws are put into place for good reason, and we need to ensure that we always strive to follow them. It's not just about putting a deer on the ground at all costs; we're ultimately responsible for the deer population and the public's perception of hunters. Each of us is an ambassador for deer hunting, and our individual actions each reflect upon us all. The law, and good ethics, is what separates the good hunters from the ones that bring down the public on our heads. While we shouldn't hide the fact that we are hunters, waltzing up to the local diner covered in blood isn't really appropriate, either, nor is acting a fool in public while wearing camo and hunter's orange. I can't tell you how to live your life, but I do ask you to think about how your image affects the rest of us deer hunters. So, in addition to providing better hunting for ourselves and future generations and maintaining a good public image, obeying the law also promotes safety. So please, take some time before this season kicks off, and review your local guidelines for deer hunting.

My next point is about deer hunters sticking together. We're blessed to have such a diverse array of options for communication, what with the boom of social media. However, the Internet is a huge double-edged sword; people, who are perfectly



Andy Whitaker of Wildlife Trends Journal with a nice Bama Buck

happen, but let's be respectful, both in person and online, especially if the other hunter is still following the law and hunting ethically.

If we're going to help ensure the future of deer hunting, then we need to get involved in its future. I love what I do as a hunter, and ultimately that's what lead me to working for QDMA. Now, you don't have to quit your day job to get involved, but being a part of a larger organization does help with lobbying our government to ensure favorable laws for deer hunters and hunting in general. The more hunters we have, the more pull we can throw for hunting. Responsible land management is another simple way to get involved, and QDMA has all kinds of tools to assist you with that. And of course, education is a great way to get involved, both self-education and teaching new hunters about deer hunting.

This brings me to the final point; introducing new hunters. As I mentioned earlier, hunters make up only 6% of the US population. That's not as big a number as I thought, myself, but it does show a trend that less and less people are getting out there. Each one of us, being the ambassadors that we are, can introduce someone to the joys of the outdoors and hunting every year, and I strongly encourage you to do so. It not only promotes hunting as a whole, but safe, legal, and ethical practices that help making deer hunting what it is. It's the kind of gift that not everyone can give; only 6% of the US has that skill and knowledge. So if your neighbors have a kid or two that's always wondered why you're leaving at 5 in the morning wearing all that camouflage, or if a buddy at work says they've never been, try and find a way to get them involved. Deer hunting is the great sport it is today because of how easy it is to get hooked, and we can only make that better with effort.

My time with QDMA makes me realize how lucky we are to have deer hunting, and the impact we can have on something that simple, as well as the impact it has on us. We can always make our mark on it, and improve it for the following generations of hunters. **So get out there, get educated, be united, stand firm, and go get'em!**

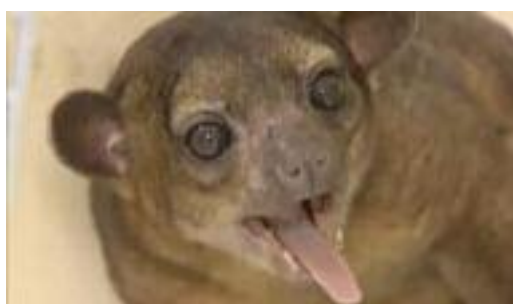


Be on the lookout for fawns as you bush hog your fields

normal in person, can lose their minds and argue over the most childish of things. Public perception is pretty darn important to deer hunting, and things like Facebook are how other people are learning about who we are. So before you hit submit on that response, make sure you really mean what you're saying. Ultimately, hunters only make up about 6% of the US population, so while there's a lot of us, we're still a minority, so we've gotta stick together. Disagreements

Kritter Korner

Kinkajou



The kinkajous are from Central and South America, they primarily live in trees, hang by their tail, and love to eat fruit and honey. However, the kinkajou (*Potos flavus*) is not a primate. Actually more closely-related to raccoons, coatis and lemurs.

Kinkajous are one of only two members of the Carnivora order

with prehensile tails, the other being the binturong. Fully-grown kinkajous weigh 8-10 lbs and have a total body length of 16-24 inches. In addition, their powerful tails may equal or exceed their bodies in length. Kinkajous have five toes on each foot and possess the ability to turn their back feet backwards. This allows them to descend trees headfirst.

Despite being grouped as carnivores, most of the kinkajou's diet is made up of ripe fruit such as figs as well as honey. Small mammals, insects, and eggs are also eaten as well as flowers and nectar. They are called honey bears because they raid bees' nests. They use their long, skinny tongues to slurp honey from a hive, and also to remove insects like termites from their nests. Their 5-inch-long tongue can reach inside flowers or beehives for tasty honey or nectar.

Their short, dense fur provides a natural protection from bee stings. Their dexterous paws help them manipulate food. They often hang by their tail while reaching for their next piece of fruit! Kinkajous are important pollinators. As they travel from flower to flower to drink nectar, the flower's pollen sticks to their face and then smears off at the next flower. Their particular feeding habits make

it an important pollinator in the rainforest ecosystem.

Kinkajous live in rainforest canopy ranging from southern Mexico to much of northern South America. They are nocturnal animals that usually forage alone in the dark of night, returning to sleep in tree



holes with a family unit during daylight hours as a group they are called a troop.

Kinkajous breed throughout the year and can live for well over twenty years. The oldest living kinkajou in captivity was 41 years old. They can be quite noisy with their high-pitched squeaks, hisses, and barks. They screech and bark all around the forest, earning them yet another nickname: la llorona, Spanish for the crying woman.

Many people own and want to own a kinkajou as a exotic pet. Before you make that decision check your state and federal laws on ownership.

Kinkajous are beautiful animals and can make wonderful pets, since their personalities are often playful, yet docile and sweet. They are not destructive animals and have been known to be kept in the house without a cage. Kinkajous are generally quiet and docile, and they have no noticeable odor. We have a kinkajou and his name is Balou. He is a handsome little fellow with the cute factor radiating. **If you would like to meet him give us a call or send us an email.**



Ron VanHerwyn



Balou is our kinkajou, he is standing up.

Ron's kritter kids (wildlife education) Wildlife education & wildlife rescue

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

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THE BEST OF 2016



Contrary to popular belief, soccer is not the fastest growing sport in America. College football is. In the last four years, thirty-six football programs have been started or re-started at NCAA, NAIA or independent institutions. There are now almost 130 Division I teams competing among NCAA member institutions alone. The success of professional football is also at an all-time high. This includes the National Football League, the Canadian Football League and the Arena Football League.

eight national championships using the play-off system in place. The exception was Florida State over Auburn (SEC) in 2013 and Ohio State over Alabama (SEC) in 2014. Alabama has four, Florida has two, LSU and Auburn have one each. Why is that? There is not just one reason. The climate is favorable to football in the south. Have you ever been to a game at Ann Arbor, Michigan in December?

**Sports Editor,
Ed Jones**

In the south, college football is king. As the 2016 season approaches, the Alabama Gazette has covered the pre-season devoted to the race for the Eastern and Western Division Titles in the SEC. Also in September, we will take a look at what we think are the top college football teams in America. **Football 365** is the name of a TV/radio show that we started in 2014, signifying that football is never "over" for the more maniacal fans, of which there are millions in the south, southwest and in Nebraska.

The overall talent pool for skill positions is greater in the south. **Don Hutson**, who was a teammate of **Bear Bryant** at Alabama in the early thirties, is still considered the best receiver of all time for his exploits with the Green Bay Packers. Name the latest great receiver that has come out of Wisconsin in your lifetime. The abundance of black athletes who are playing skill positions makes it easier to recruit for southern teams. The opposite was true at one time regarding offensive and defensive linemen. Auburn and Alabama had many great linemen who were recruited out of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. There is a significant gene pool of big men of Scandinavian/Norwegian heritage in the northeastern states. That is not as important as it once was.

- 1. Pre-season ~ May-September
- 2. Season ~ September-December
- 3. Bowls/NFL ~ December-February
- 4. Recruiting ~ January-March
- 5. Spring Practice ~ March-May
- 6. NFL Combine/Draft ~ March-April

With the advent of integration, more black athletes, whose ancestors were actually bred for size, strength and stamina during the early days of the slave trade, have found a way to prosperity through college football all over the country. Check the rosters of any SEC school and you will find them there in abundance. The really good ones become millionaires in the NFL.

The SEC Media Days in July were once again a three ring circus with the coaches at center ring, the hundreds of members of the media occupying one ring and a few players from each team filling out the last ring. As has been my custom for the last few years, I did not seek media credentials to this "circus." It seems to me that we can just about get enough information off the internet, from television sports and the extensive newspaper coverage that is available if one stays in Montgomery. The air conditioning is better, the food is cheaper and the "rent" at my house is certainly cheaper than the exorbitant motel rooms in and around the convention site. According to my calculations, this will save me or my company between \$500 to \$1,000. And, another benefit of staying at home is that I tend to get more sleep. This is probably healthier for a man of my years. I do miss one thing about not being at this convention. I miss seeing my old friends from the coaching profession and from my involvement with the media over the last few decades. Of course, the people that I knew well have retired, become incapacitated or have expired. That takes a little sting out of not going every year. Maybe again someday!

The average pay for head coaches in the other four power conferences is just over three million. The investment in football in the south is just greater than in other parts of the country. Head coaches in the SEC average over four million a year. Assistant coaches are paid more at SEC schools than many head coaches. Millionaires are serving as offensive or defensive coordinators in the SEC. The fans love it. The administrators want it. The Board of Trustees demand it! College football is one of the south's most successful and profitable businesses.

There are several important games on the opening weekend of college football;
Alabama/USC, Auburn/Clemson, Florida St./Ole Miss, LSU/Wisconsin, Texas A&M/UCLA, Georgia/N. Carolina, Oklahoma/Houston, Notre Dame/Texas.

All of the winners will be one step closer to the play-offs. The losers will have to scramble back into contention by not losing another game.

This is the way I see the teams ending their regular schedule. Of course, the top four will be selected by the play-off committee in November.

Check with me in December!

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

Ed Jones TOP 40

Team	Projected Record
1. LSU	12-0
2. Oklahoma	12-0
3. Alabama	11-1
4. Florida St.	11-1
5. Clemson	11-1
6. Michigan	11-1
7. Tennessee	10-2
8. Ohio St.	10-2
9. Stanford	10-2
10. Georgia	10-2
11. Iowa	10-2
12. Notre Dame	9-3
13. Washington	9-3
14. UCLA	9-3
15. Michigan St.	9-3
16. TCU	9-3
17. Louisville	10-2
18. Miami	9-3
19. Texas	9-3
20. Baylor	9-3



Team	Projected Record
21. San Diego St.	11-1
22. Houston	10-2
23. Nebraska	9-3
24. Auburn	9-3
25. USC	9-3
26. N. Carolina	9-3
27. Oregon	9-3
28. Arkansas	8-4
29. Ole Miss	8-4
30. Oklahoma St.	9-3
31. Boise St.	10-2
32. Florida	8-4
33. Air Force	9-3
34. Wisconsin	8-4
35. Navy	9-3
36. Texas A&M	8-4
37. Penn St.	8-4
38. Toledo	10-2
39. Utah	8-4
40. W. Michigan	10-2

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Where is the fine line between government and religion where one does not encroach upon the other?



That is a great question and to be honest I think you will receive various answers even among Constitutional attorneys. To begin to try to find that line, it must start with the plain language of the Constitution.

While religion is not per se addressed within the body of the main Constitution, religion is addressed within the First Amendment. Many people think about the Constitution's First Amendment only having to do with free speech but it also includes two sections about religion. **The First Amendment reads:**

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Note that the first part says that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. That first part has become the predominant subject of many lawsuits and Constitutional issues that have included Christmas displays, public school groups and athletics at public schools, which includes colleges and has even touched some of the various courts which has included the Alabama Supreme Court building. This will be the greater part of our discussion and include a recent opinion by the Attorney General of Texas.

The second part of the first sentence says, ". . . , prohibiting the free exercise thereof" which seems to have been relevant in many cases but like the Tenth Amendment which seems to hold little power (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) it is largely felt that no one is prohibited from the free exercise of their religious beliefs. When I was in high school in the early to mid seventies I was able to participate in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a school group dedicated to talking about our faith not only to each other but to others throughout the school, a morning prayer over the intercom by a student government officer and prayer before athletic events. These were student led, not exclusive of anyone that wanted to be a part and with my recall no one was ever made to be a part of what was done. To get back on point however, citizens can choose to participate in religious worship of any kind and while anything that seems to be endorsed by a governmental entity or publicly funded will for the most part not be allowed by the respective entity tied to our tax dollars, the bottom line is that one is not prevented from overall worship but rather there is a restriction of activities that overlap with that tax funded entity.

As far as "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion", many have long held that the intent of the Framers was to prevent a state religion such as the Church of England. Over many cases it has come to mean that no function of government shall suggest that they favor any religion of any sort. Christmas/ Hanukkah decorations placed in various towns and cities may include

a manger scene, a Menorah as well as a neutral "holiday" tree and maybe a Santa Clause. The tree which ties even back to pagans and the Santa Clause are considered historical and while displayed alongside a manger scene have been considered in context as acceptable. There has been a range of events tied with public schools which may only require it be student led to requiring that the event be held off site from the public building.

A recent opinion by the Attorney General of Texas is interesting. Note that the opinion is just that, an opinion and has not yet been scrutinized by a Court so it may be in the end that the opinion is not valid. However, it seems that the Attorney General has thoughtfully considered Supreme Court and lower Court decisions that might impact the events in question.

Montgomery County, Texas, Justice of the Peace, Wayne Mack (he is also the coroner) instituted a program whereby a religious leader of any faith might lead the courtroom in prayer. Prior to the prayers, anyone in attendance is given the opportunity to leave the courtroom with a promise that attendance shall have no effect on the outcome of their case. JP Mack had received a letter of caution from the Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct. Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick who has been vocal about his Christian beliefs requested the Attorney General's opinion.

AG Paxton, in his six-page opinion summarized his opinion saying, "A Justice of the Peace does not violate the Establishment Clause by opening a court session with the statement "God save the State of Texas and this Honorable Court." A court would likely conclude that a Justice of the Peace's practice of opening daily court proceedings with a prayer by a volunteer chaplain as you describe is sufficiently similar to the facts in *Galloway (Town of Greece v. Galloway, 134 S. Ct. 1811, 1825 (2014))* such that the practice does not violate the Establishment Clause. A court would likely conclude that the volunteer chaplain program you describe, which allows religious leaders to provide counseling to individuals in distress upon request, does not violate the Establishment Clause."

The Freedom from Religion Foundation has expressed an interest in the case and anyone "exposed to the prayers" that may wish to sue.

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

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



Marcia Chambliss



Continuing Despite Our Discouragement

Our nation is less than 90 days away from electing the next president of our United States of America, although "united" seems to be a misnomer with the divisive political and cultural elements at work in our nation.

This certainly has not been the presidential cycle I anticipated nor is it one that persuades me to think that the result in November will heal our wounds and place our nation on a corrected path to fiscal solvency. Regardless of the outcome, limited constitutional government will take yet another hit in the executive office of America, and likely in the seats of Congress as well.

As it relates to politics, this has by far been my greatest season of discontent. The serious fiscal and culture-related issues we face at the local, state, and national levels are certainly enough to discourage the most hard-core conservative activist, but a recent devotional reading was a source of enlightenment as to the root of my frustration.

The devotion relates the struggles of Elijah in confronting the corrupt rulers of Israel and the exhaustion and feelings of isolation that he experienced in those conflicts. From Elijah's perspective, he was fighting the battles for faith by himself and experiencing some serious depression as a result. Elijah certainly wasn't the only Old Testament prophet who knew those feeling of despair, as Habakkuk shared similar feelings of anguish while he cried out to God for justice. Both prophets are actually described as "activists," albeit spiritual ones in the devotion, and the point was made that the feelings of exhaustion and isolation are classic negative activist symptoms.

How similar are the feelings and response of constitutional and social conservatives regarding our own efforts in our nation? We just don't seem to be winning very many battles of late and are simply drained by defeat.

Whether we lose to those on the political left or to the big government politicians on the right – though it is much harder to stomach from those who pretend to be with us long enough to be elected – continual political defeat is a bitter pill to swallow, and it's one I unfortunately know all too well.

Is it the overwhelming number of issues that require our constant attention and action, or our culture of champions and wanting to only be on the winning team that discourages us from standing up and showing up for the battles we might lose? Is it possibly a fear of rejection, or going against the new cultural "normal" that will label us as intolerant, backwards, or worse?

In the devotional scripture references, God assured Elijah that there were indeed thousands of others who were engaged in the battle of faith and He reminded Habakkuk that even though his vision was limited to what he could see, there was something working behind the scenes. The message of living by faith is one that we make very difficult to follow if we are only consumed with the immediate results of our work, and I think that is what many conservative activists are feeling these days.

I confess to the same feelings of despair with our current political system and those we elect to serve. I've experienced far too many hours of wondering why bother to remain informed and respond with efforts that appear woefully inadequate to influence policy when the Goliaths of special interests and anti-conservative sentiment run rampant in our country.

I considered the perfect timing of this devotional encouragement as yet another political issue emerged with the special session of our Alabama Legislature to

consider a lottery bill, and further heartened as work done "behind the scenes" led to the emergence of a coalition of principled House representatives who attempted to keep a poorly-designed lottery bill off the November ballot by the proper adherence of procedural rules.

While my opposition to a lottery as a means of resolving budgetary shortfalls includes my concerns regarding the negative impact on families and their financial resources, it includes my skepticism that this legislative body can produce any legislation that will contain the corruption that is sure to follow the expansion of gambling in our state.

To me, it's a lazy way of funding government and one that puts the burden on those who can least afford the expense. Yes, it's a personal choice to gamble in any form, but the lure of easy money is most likely to prey on those desperate for a way out of a financial situation, or those who have a difficult time with addiction issues. I'm also of the belief that it further erodes the work ethic on which our nation was built, and contributes more to the entitlement mentality that is destined to destroy us all.

So as I once again take my concerns to my elected representatives regarding this issue and others to come, I will strive to remember that while I may certainly be discouraged by the things that I can see, our continuing efforts for good government are desperately needed and must never be viewed as wasted. ***What might be going on "behind the scenes" is quite possibly a result of the seeds we have sown.***



Oswaldo Chavez,
MS, LMFT-S, LPC-S, NCC
Clinical Counselor, Non-profit organization.

Family Therapy

I AM ALONE (DEPRESSION)

Feeling down from time to time is a normal part of life, but when emotions such as hopelessness and despair take hold and just won't go away, you may have depression. Depression makes it tough to complete daily task from eating to taking a shower to going to work. But no matter how hopeless you feel, you can get better. Learning about depression—and the many things you can do to help yourself—is the first step to overcoming the problem.

What is depression?

Depression is a common and debilitating mood disorder that is affecting more and more people around the world. In 2014, an estimated 15.7 million adults aged 18 or older in the United States had at least one major depressive episode in the past year. This number represented 6.7% of all U.S. adults (National Institute of Mental Health, 2104).

While some people describe depression as “Life having no meaning” or having a feeling of impending doom, others feel lifeless, empty, and apathetic. When you're trapped in depression, it feels like nothing will ever change. But it's important to remember that feelings of helplessness and hopelessness are symptoms of depression—not the reality of your current situation.

Symptoms of Depression

- Feelings of sadness, worthlessness, or guilt
- Poor appetite or eating too much
- Lack of energy
- Loss of interest in and withdrawal from usual activities
- Trouble sleeping or sleeping too much
- Nervousness and worry
- Irritability or restlessness
- Inability to think or concentrate
- Increased risk-taking behavior, including reckless driving or substance abuse
- Chronic pain or other physical problems that do not respond to treatment
- Abuse of drugs, medications and alcohol
- Repeated thoughts of death or suicide

Food for Thought

Move your body!

When you are depressed, just getting out of bed can seem very difficult, let alone working out! However exercise has been proven to be an excellent source of combating depression and one of the best tools in your recovery arsenal. Research shows that regular exercise can be as effective as medication for relieving depression symptoms. To get the most benefit, aim for at least 30 minutes of exercise per day. I would encourage before you start any exercise regimen you consult with your physician. I always encourage people to think outside the box sometime when it comes to exercise people in their mind think that they have to lift weights run 10 miles, be creative. Exercise can be anything from mowing the lawn, doing the laundry to washing your car. A 10-minute walk can improve your mood for two hours.

Support your health!

Shoot for eight hours of sleep. Research shows that when we have slept sufficiently your body has time to restart itself and reenergize the body. Depression typically involves sleep problems; whether you're sleeping too little or too much, your mood suffers. Another good way to support your health is to expose yourself to sunlight every day. If you every wonder why people who stay locked up in their homes get depressed more often than those who go outside research has also shown that exposure to sunlight can help battle the blues. Aim for at least 15 minutes of sunlight a day to boost your mood. I also encouraged people to challenge the negative thoughts that come cascading thru your mind when you're depressed, you leap to the worst possible conclusions. Tell yourself what is positive in your life what success have you had in your life. I am sure you can find several examples it is all about your perspective. I encourage you to do something new. Go to a racetrack a museum. Pick up a used book and read it on a park bench. Volunteer at a local church. Take a language class. Try to have fun. Life is to short to stay depressed. If you're depressed, make time for things you enjoy. Force yourself to do it because depression makes it so that you don't want to do anything.

Depression Resource- National Institute of Mental Health
<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/depression/index.shtml>

Hector Oswaldo Chavez, MS, is a Marriage and Family Therapist, Professional Counselor, and Substance Abuse Counselor. He serves on multiple boards and has worked in a variety of clinical settings such as with the Army, Navy, Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient, Community Mental Health, and Private Practice. His professional views may not necessarily reflect the views of other mental health or medical professionals. If you have any personal or family concerns about the topic discussed, please seek professional assistance.

Constitution Day, September 17th

Continued from page 3A

shows or pretexts of liberty are but several degrees of slavery, and a liberty only to destroy liberty.¹⁰

The amazing thing is, Filmer makes his case for monarchy from the Scriptures! He argues that all power derives from the father's power over his child, which is absolute. Since kings are an extension of earthly power, we must honor them as we would our natural fathers.

John Locke in his *First Treatise on Civil Government* devastates Filmer's argument by properly interpreting the Scriptures. He points out first that the Bible says to honor your father and your mother. He wonders what Filmer concludes about the mother aspect since he only talks about the male king as head. Then Locke points out that children are only to obey their parents absolutely until they reach the age of maturity and reason. Since a king has adults as his subjects he cannot claim authority over them as a parent over a child.

Our federal Constitution is an expressed powers document, which means the federal government was given only a few, implicitly stated powers. All other powers were reserved to the States or the people. This is a very important statement, that the federal government was to be limited, just as state governmental power was limited and indeed all civil power in our country had been limited.

Civil government is an institution created by God, and its purpose is the protection of life, liberty and property. (Romans 13:1). Civil government has the power of the sword to enforce its will: it has a monopoly on the use of deadly force. Therefore, its power must be carefully guarded lest it be abused! God limits civil government; our Founding Fathers recognized this fact and incorporated this idea into the Constitution. The history of man has been the history of the abuse of the power of civil government (I Samuel 8: II Chronicles 10). In America, our civil government has grown to proportions far beyond Biblical and constitutional boundaries, threatening to swallow up the liberties of states, churches, businesses, homes and individuals. A total tax burden of 40–50% is proof of this assertion. The tax rate that caused our Founders to declare the British government tyrannical was estimated to be less than 5%. The following article from WORLD Magazine illustrates the problem: What book has 75,606 pages, which no one has read completely, but its contents cost the nation hundreds of billions of dollars? The answer is the Federal Register, which lists the rules and regulations that businesses and citizens of the United States must follow.

The Cato Institute, in a study called The Ten Thousand Commandments, reports that the register continued to grow under the Bush administration, with federal agencies issuing 4,167 new rules last year. (The unreadable book had merely 74,258 pages in the final year of the Clinton administration.)

The estimated cost of all of these arcane rules to businesses and their customers: \$860 billion, or five times the current projected budget deficit.¹¹

The ultimate reason for a growing external civil government is the decrease of Christian self-government. Therefore, the ultimate solution to this problem is not found in passing some sort of legislation, but in restoring Christian self-government to the American people and leadership. A Christian government, with laws based upon the Law of God, would provide the greatest degree of liberty to a people. Our Constitution codified the idea of the limits of civil government and this is a fundamental principle of government that we need to restore!

The Preamble to the Constitution

The Preamble to the Constitution is a bold declaration that acknowledges God's sovereignty over civil governments, for it expresses in a very concise way what God has declared to be the purpose of civil government. It declares that government is to do the following:

- establish justice* (I Peter 2:14; Genesis 9:6)
- ensure domestic tranquility* (I Timothy 2:1; 2)
- provide for the common defense* (Romans 13:4; Luke 22:36)
- promote the general welfare* (Romans 13:4)
- secure the blessings of liberty* (Genesis 1:27; II Corinthians 3:17; Ecclesiastes 5:19)

Biblical Principles of Government

Other principles either contained in the Constitution or which can be deduced from other founding documents include:

1. A Sovereign God presides over the affairs of men and nations. He alone is our ruler and all earthly rulers must be in submission to Him. (Psalms 2, 47:2; 103:19, and 146:3; Matthew 28:18; Acts 12:21–23; Daniel 4:31–37; 5:18–21)
2. In a Christian nation, civil laws should be based upon God's law. (Deuteronomy 4:7–8 and Matthew 5:17–19)
3. All men are equal before God and before the laws that they make. (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 22:16; Romans 3:9; and II Chronicles 19:17)
4. Individuals are created to, and able to govern themselves under God's government. (Proverbs 6:6–8, 16:32, 25:28; II Corinthians 9:27)
5. Man has inalienable rights that come from God (Alienate—withdraw or transfer). (Galatians 5:1; I Corinthians 9:19; I Peter 2:16)
6. For a republic to be maintained, the people must be virtuous. (Matthew 25:23; Proverbs 11:10, 14:34, 28:2, and 29:2,8)
7. Constitutional government means government by laws, not the arbitrary rule of men. (Deuteronomy 4:8; 17:14–20; Hebrews 8:10)
8. Proper government is representative government. (Titus 1:6–9; II Corinthians 5:21; Exodus 18:13–21)
9. The power of government, held in the hands of representatives, ought to reside in Christians. (I Corinthians 6:2; II Samuel 23:3–4; Exodus 18:21; Proverbs 29:2)
10. The primary responsibility of government is to protect property, both external and internal. (Romans 13:1; Proverbs 15:25; Matthew 23:14)
11. Government should provide impartial judgement. (Deuteronomy 1:16–17)
12. In recognition of the fallen nature of man, the powers of civil government must be separated. (I Samuel 8; Isaiah 33:22; Jeremiah 17:5,9)
13. A dual system of government (Federalism) keeps power decentralized. (Matthew 22:36); The Hebrew people were members of tribes (like states) and were Israelites (like national government).
14. Trial by jury protects the citizens from unconstitutional laws. (Deuteronomy 19:15; II Corinthians 13:1; Matthew 18:16; Acts 25:16; and Numbers 35:24)

Celebrate Constitution Day with Your Family!

- **Fly the flag** (your neighbors may ask why you are flying the flag and you can help them become aware of this commemoration).
- **Read parts of the Constitution with your family.**
- **Recite the preamble** in unison.
- **Visit the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom** in the National Archives in Washington D.C. where the Constitution is on display. <http://www.archives.gov/>
- Ask family members to share what they love about our Constitution.
- Find and read the twenty powers given to the federal government in the Constitution.

Endnotes

1. **David Barton**, *The Myth of Separation* (Aledo, Texas: Wallbuilder Press, 1989), 83
2. **Richard Perry**, Editor, *Sources of Our Liberties* (Buffalo, NY: William S. Hein and Co., 1991), 295–300.
3. **Noah Webster**, *American Dictionary of the English Language* (San Francisco, CA: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1967)
4. **David Barton**, *The Myth of Separation*, 23.
5. **Richard Perry**, editor, *Sources Of Our Liberties* (Buffalo, NY: William S. Hein & Co., 1991), 349 6. Ibid, 374
7. Ibid, 382
8. Ibid, 365
9. Ibid, 312
10. **John Locke**, *Of Civil Government* (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1924) introduction
11. Ruled and Regulated, WORLD Magazine (September 13, 2003).

This article was referenced from **Max Lyons** book, *Celebrate Our Christian Holidays Like You Were There*. (Publisher: The Biblical Thinker LLC: Date: February 2012)

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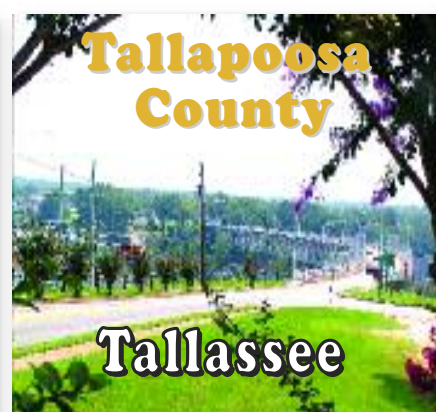
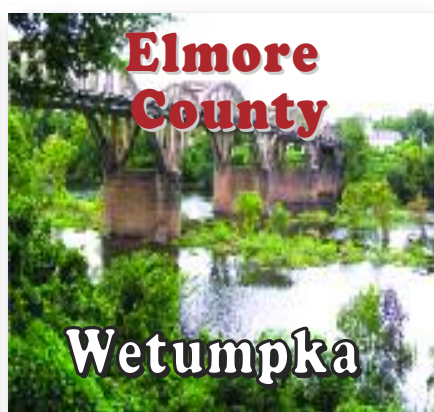
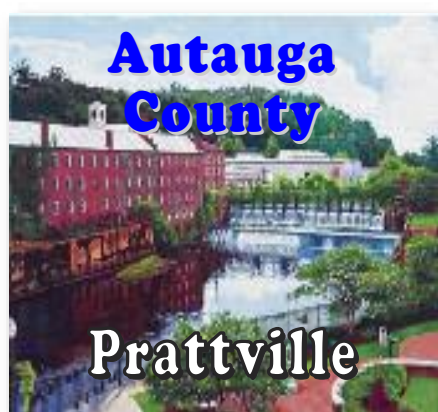
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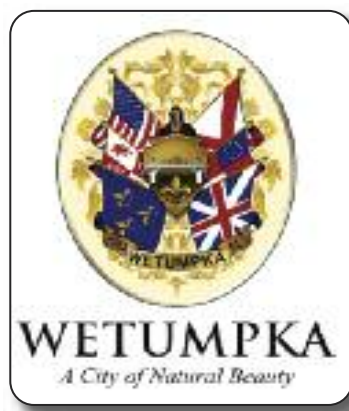
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From the desk of Mayor Jerry Willis

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Wetumpka for re-electing me as your mayor for four more years. Your confidence in me is humbling and I will continue to work hard to make Wetumpka the best it can be. I enter these next four years with excitement for Wetumpka's future.

We have a tremendous number of projects we are working on and more coming our way. We hope to announce these new opportunities in the next

few months as well as beginning phase 2 of the downtown redevelopment project and completing the Riverwalk extension.

It's important that we all work together to continue the progress we have all worked hard for. You have elected me to lead this City and I will do so by listening to the voices of the people. As always, I have an open door policy and would love to hear from you.

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There are people who make a living by separating good, honest, hard-working, trusting people from their hard earned money. Please be aware of these SCAMS! There is not a Police Department or Sheriff's Office around that will call you on the phone and tell you that there is a warrant for your arrest, and you can get out of it by going to the store and buying credit or gift cards. That is NOT how the Judicial System in Alabama works. If someone is asking for payment in Green Dot Cards, iTunes Cards, or other types of gift cards... YOU ARE BEING SCAMMED! Please do not become a victim.

Identity Theft is a growing concern, especially in Autauga County. There is not a week that goes by without one or more of my deputies that has to do a report for a victim of Identity Theft. Once your identity is stolen it can be difficult to get it back like it was before it was stolen. Here are a few tips to help protect your identity:

- ✓ Install passwords on your credit card, bank and phone accounts. Avoid using information like your mother's maiden name, birth day, or Social Security Number. Don't use the same password for more than one account.
- ✓ Protect your deposit slips and check book.
- ✓ Monitor your accounts and keep receipts to review against your monthly statements.
- ✓ **DO NOT GIVE OUT INFORMATION OVER THE PHONE OR INTERNET TO UNSOLICITED CONTACTS!** If you did not request contact with a credit card company, bank official, internet service provider, or a government office, these calls are a SCAM. Please do not provide any names, Social Security Numbers, or account numbers.
- ✓ Guard your mail from theft. If you see someone going through neighbors mailboxes, report it at once to your local law enforcement agency.
- ✓ Buy a shredder! Shred all documents that show personal, financial and medical information before you throw them away.
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- ✓ Only carry the debit/credit cards and identification you need. Never carry your social security card.
- ✓ Secure personal information in a safe place. Write down all your credit card numbers and contact phone numbers in case they are lost or stolen, you have a list to call to report.
- ✓ **ONLY GIVE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!**
- ✓ Order a copy of your credit report each year and review it for accuracy. Checking your report will show any unauthorized accounts using your identity.

If you would like a copy of the book **Safe and Secure** or how to recover from Identity Theft, please stop by the Autauga County Sheriff's Office during business hours and request a copy.

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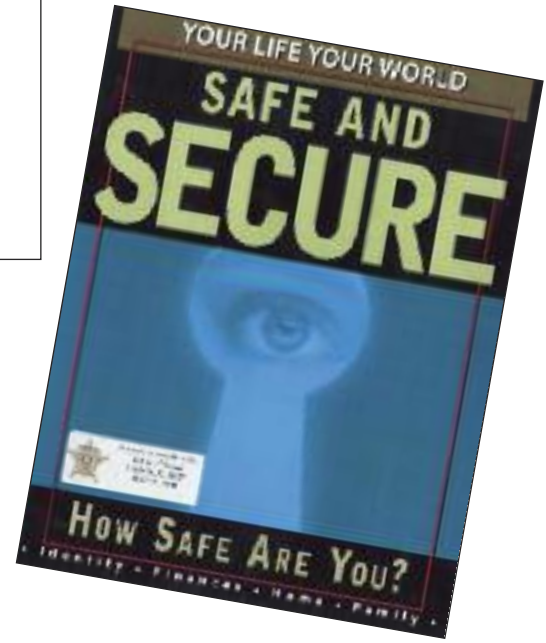
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TransUnion 1-800-680-7289
- 2 Order Your Credit Reports**
Each company's credit report about you is slightly different, so order a report from each company. When you order, you must answer some questions to prove your identity. Read your reports carefully to see if the information is correct. If you see mistakes or signs of fraud, contact the credit reporting company.
- 3 Create an Identity Theft Report**
An Identity Theft Report can help you get fraudulent information removed from your credit report, stop a company from collecting debts caused by identity theft, and get information about accounts a thief opened in your name. To create an Identity Theft Report:
 - file a complaint with the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint or 1-877-438-4338, TTY: 1-865-653-4261. Your completed complaint is called an FTC Affidavit.
 - take your FTC Affidavit to your local police, or to the police where the theft occurred, and file a police report. Get a copy of the police report.
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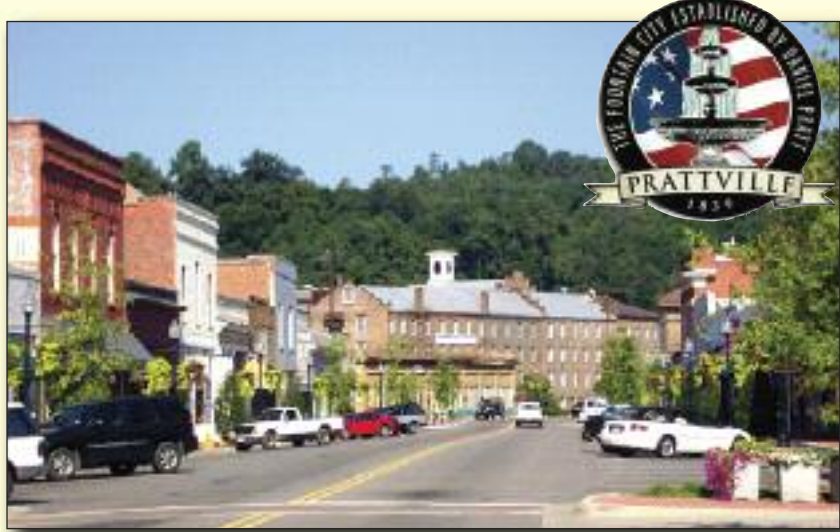
PRATTVILLE TO HOLD 177TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The City of Prattville will celebrate its 177th Year with a big birthday bash on Saturday, September 10. This celebration will feature a FREE concert featuring *The Bryan Jackson Band* from 6-10 p.m. in Downtown Prattville.

This family friendly event will be the 3th annual celebration and there will be food vendors with a variety of food and cool treats to choose from. Some of our Downtown eateries and shops will be open as well, so you can get a bite to eat before the concert. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and coolers, but no alcoholic beverages or glass containers please.

Mark your calendar for a great concert and lots of fun in Downtown Prattville.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 334-595-0800 or visit the website at www.prattvilleal.gov.



Prattville Farmers Market 2016!

The Farmers Market will be held EVERY SATURDAY June 4th thru September 24th. 7:00 a.m. until 12 noon.

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Southern Cuisine



recipe for the biscuits:

BISCUITS

INGREDIENTS

1 cup Whole White Wheat flour
1 cup all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon salt

1 Tablespoons baking powder
1 1/2 cups milk of choice

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Mix together all ingredients.
3. Use an ice cream scoop with a release lever to scoop balls of dough onto a parchment lined surface.
4. Bake 12-15 minutes.

Note: I am not sure if the milk of choice in this recipe is like 2% or 1% or can you use soy milk or almond milk.

CATFISH WITH PECAN SAUCE

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 pounds catfish fillets
1 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

2 heaping tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 teaspoon Worcestershire Sauce
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon peel, no pith

Sauce:

6 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup chopped pecans

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees
2. Lightly grease a baking dish large enough to hold the fish in a single layer and arrange the fillets in the dish. Add enough water to come halfway up the fish, then add lemon juice.
3. Cover with greased piece of wax paper. Bake 10 minutes for each inch of thickness. Transfer fish to hot platter.
4. While fish is baking, prepare the *Pecan Sauce*. In a small frying pan melt the butter over low heat. Add the pecans, parsley, lemon juice, Worcestershire, and lemon peel and cook for 1 to 2 minutes, until the sauce is heated and the nuts are toasted. Spoon Pecan Sauce over the hot fillets and serve immediately.

Coleslaw is next on the list. It is fairly simple, don't use mayonnaise. I would recommend low or non-fat Greek yogurt.

Jambalaya is made with brown rice and turkey sausage. Don't use bottled hot sauce. The salt content in these will make you head spin.

And fried green tomatoes as you guessed are not dropped into a fryer or skillet inches deep in oil. They get a coating of flour, egg whites and panko. Then pan seared in olive oil.

Red beans and rice are not red anymore and the rice is brown. Substitute black beans, chicken or turkey sausage and brown rice for this dish. I you spice up your beans and find some andouille turkey sausage, this will be as good as the original.

Mashed potatoes is simple, use sweet potatoes. I switched to sweet potatoes long ago. When baked potatoes are on a menu and white and sweet potatoes are both offered, I get the sweet potato but with the toppings for the white potato. Not the brown sugar and butter they think everyone should have. The sweet potato is a complex carb. I just have to watch what toppings I load up on.

Sweet tea is the easiest of them all. There is not one sweetener that to me has that distinct taste of cane sugar. Just use a little less. Period.

Just to prove that there are other ways to cook catfish, I found a recipe from Nathalie Dupree's *SOUTHERN MEMORIES* for Catfish with Pecan Sauce. She describes the dish as delicate and very simple.

So as you sit there in front of your TV, with some talking head telling you how to cook, remember that Chef's don't make mistakes, they invent new dishes. So get your happy self in the kitchen and invent something!

I packed my lunch for work this morning. It would be the usual mix of leftovers from a dinner my wife and I had earlier in the week or something my wife and I made to have for lunch for the week. My lunch came from me opening the icebox and putting together a meal from the leftovers. This time it was a pork loin that I stuffed with fruits that were grown in our yard. I made the stuffing from pears, frozen and dried figs, apples, and peaches, chopped into small dice of about 1/4 to 1/2 inch. I put a small amount of chicken stock, a half cup of chopped walnuts, and a quarter cup each of Spiced Fig preserves and Bourbon Peach preserves into a pot with the fruit and cook the mixture down until it was a fairly thick and dry and ready to stuff into the pork loin. The preserves were from last years crop that we jarred. A microwavable bowl with a layer of leftover rice, a slice of the stuffed loin and topped

with leftover stuffing would be my entree for lunch. My appetizer was pimento stuffed jalapenos wrapped in bacon and the pimento cheese I made.

The standby for lunches if we don't have enough leftovers will be soup. It is a vegetable soup made from what leftover vegetables we have and fresh, frozen and or canned vegetables we have in the pantry. It changes weekly, a bean and vegetable soup, a vegetable broth soup or a cream based soup. My wife likes to make the soups, since that is her mainstay for lunch. After making a large pot of soup, she puts it in wide mouth canning jars, puts on the lid and freezes them. Wide mouth jars are freezable and easier to eat out of. She takes a jar to work and by the time lunch comes around, a few minutes in a microwave and she has a nice hot meal. A bag of crackers completes it.

The TV cooking shows are right to some degree, you can spend a weekend afternoon and prepare meals for the week. It doesn't take that long to prepare a evening meal if you have a well stocked pantry, have some basic go-to recipes that you can start from and plan your menu before hand.

Speaking of TV cooking shows, here is some bad news. The meals that are prepared on cooking shows are not the healthiest of meals. I believe it was because of high calories and large portion sizes. So people that cook the meals they saw on TV are heavier by about 15 pounds than people that just watch. And another bad thing is the study was only done with women. So like the saying goes, "Never trust a skinny chef."

As usual, I was doing some research on Alabama food, what was popular then and now, what was the influences and what is in the future. I found a list of food that were attributed to Alabama in a book, *NATIONAL COOKBOOK: A KITCHEN AMERICANA* by Sheila Hibben, Harper & Bros. 1932. This list has more than 22 items and some seem pretty straight forward. Potato Soup, Stuffed Squash, Corn Pone, Beaten Biscuits and Fresh Fig Ice Cream. Some, GOOGLE and WIKIPEDIA couldn't find. I found some in my copy of *THE WHITEHOUSE COOKBOOK*, Hugo Ziemann Saalfeld Publishing Co., 1919. The Baked Oyster Omelet is something I'm going to try, I found a recent recipe which is easy, bake oysters, add to omelet. The second recipe comes from the WHITEHOUSE cookbook. It calls for a white sauce, cayenne pepper and chopped parsley. Sounds good.

Here are some of the recipes listed in the book, Rich Amelia, Fish Pudding, Methodist Biscuit, Curds and Cream and Aunt Sue's Snowballs. I'll stick to blogs, apps and Pinterest for recipes that I want to try.

I am going to share a recipe I found handwritten on a index card, written with an ink pen. You know the writing instrument used to write in ink before the ball point pen.

The card was in my 1919 printing of the WHITEHOUSE COOKBOOK along with a business memo note with a business name and telephone number for Long Beach California that only had 5 digits.

The recipe is for DATE STICKS. After the name of the recipe the person wrote Delicious. I am copying the recipe just as on the card.

DATE STICKS

INGREDIENTS

3 eggs -- 2 eggs plenty
1 cup of sugar
1 cup of bread flour
1 teaspoon baking powder

Dash salt
1 cup nuts (Broken)
1 cup Dates (chopped)
1 teaspoon vanilla

METHOD

1. Beat eggs till light & slowly add sugar. Beat well.
2. Sift dry ingredients and add.
3. Fold in nuts, dates & vanilla
4. Turn into well greased pan (shallow)
5. Bake 350 for 20 to 30 minutes.
6. Cut in bars and roll in powdered sugar.

I want to get back to the weight gain and watching TV story.

I don't think that the TV shows are at fault. It's the couch potatoes that watch the shows. You can watch a show that has moderate amount of fats and sugar in their dishes. But then if you sit there and watch the show and then go to your kitchen and prepare the dish and then have it for a meal later, you have most likely, not burn the calories in your coffee creamer you had that morning.

I say it's not the foods fault. Critics say there is too much fat, too many carbs, too much sugar in Southern cooking. There are a lot of calories from fat, sugar, and carbs because the people that were developing the Southern style of cooking, were hard working, poor and the menus spoke of what was available to eat. And they burned up those calories mighty quickly.

I guess it is harder to get people off their couches and start burning a few thousand extra calories working and exercising than to make them eat healthier food. I like my couch and would never trade Collard greens "pot lycker" for brown miso soup with tofu cubes!

But, there is always a but. Your health is very important and eating a healthy diet is one key part in maintaining you health. And there is nothing better than comfort food to help you maintain your sanity in the world today.

I found a few changes or "hacks" you can use to make Southern Cooking healthier. I won't say it will taste better but it will be better for you.

Let's start with catfish. To make it healthier, don't fry it, bake it. Add some lemon juice, maybe Cajun seasoning(watch for the salt), and don't let it dry out. If you want to fry it, don't use a cornbread batter, but a dusting of cornmeal. And fry it in a healthier oil like canola.

Next on the list is collard greens. Sorry but you can not cook them with ham hocks, bacon or butter. Watch the salt added to the pot and use red pepper flakes, onions and garlic for flavor.

Make barbecue pork with your own homemade BBQ sauce. Store bought sauces have a lot of sugar. Save the sugar for your sweet tea. A base of tomato sauce, apple cider vinegar and maple syrup is a good start for your own sauce.

Biscuits and gravy is for me the hardest item to change. Recipes I found used cashews and almond milk. I'm sorry but I'm not going to make my gravy with almond milk and cashews. I'll use turkey sausage in the gravy and use this

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Southern Gardening Potpourri for September by Peggy Givhan

Judge Peggy Givhan

We are heading into the home stretch of 2016, and September can be a spectacular month for the garden. Many flower beds have that tired, fatigued and worn out appearance. And rightfully so, since the summer garden has been producing since late May. Between the stifling heat and daily rains which have left some areas soggy, the annuals need a facelift. Many annuals such as coleus, zinnias, and cleome, can be pruned back and with some liquid fertilizer, are ready for the second act in late September. If you have let some of these annuals go to seed, they are now on life support and can not be resuscitated. We can still pull out the zinnias, and reseed these areas. They will bloom by mid October and go about their business until the cold takes them down.

another spectacular biennial available at nurseries or garden centers. Get as many as you can get your hands on and plant immediately. Their blooms are all shades of blue to almost a white blue. Most of the old fashioned varieties have to be staked, but this is a small effort compared to the heavenly display in spring.

If you have geraniums, and begonias, cut these back now, but use a liquid fertilizer. These will bloom their hearts out in the fall. They and petunias glory in cooler nights. Why do I suggest feeding these plants with a liquid fertilizer? The answer is the heat. With high 90 degree temperatures, stronger fertilizers could very easily burn the roots. That is fatal to the plant. Osmocote, a timed release fertilizer is the exception.



Mums

Besides some of our plants being weary, some of our gardeners get weary of moving forward with a fall garden. Let's not think of gardening as hard work with pulling weeds, planting, pruning, refurbishing or tilling soil, and getting our hands dirty. Let's think of all the positive attribute of gardening. Consider gardening as a vehicle to reconnect with nature which relieves stress, or a method to help feed pollinators, also a means to provide herbs and vegetables, or as the supreme expression of one's creativity. Whatever we think of gardening, the bottom line is that gardening should be FUN.

If we see large empty areas where we have to pull out this month, one reliable filler would be mums. Do not purchase small 4" pots of mums, they will not have time to get large enough to fill in. To properly grow mums, the smaller plants would have to be planted in early spring, disbudded of bloom heads in June so that they have time to grow and bloom in the fall. So the solution is to buy bigger pots, plunge into the empty spots and enjoy.



Delphinium

This summer I found at a garden center a tray of foxglove or Digitalis. Lucky me, for I planted some in pots, and others in a semi shady area of the beds. These foxglove will have plenty of time to produce a healthy root system, winter over and be show stopping beautiful next spring. These are, of course, biennials which do not bloom the first year, bloom the second season, then die. Delphinium is

HAPPY LABOR DAY AND GOOD GARDENING!



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



PREPARE FOR YOUR DISABILITY INTERVIEW: TIPS FROM SOCIAL SECURITY

By Kyle' D. McKinney

When a person becomes disabled, it can be a very stressful time in their life. There are many questions and unknowns when you have to transition out of the workforce due to medical issues. While an employer may offer short or long-term disability, most people faced with a disability will file for benefits with Social Security.

enough in Social Security taxes to be covered, we will ask you questions about:



If you're facing life with a disability and don't know where to start, we encourage you to visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi. You can apply for benefits on our website; it's the most convenient way. Additionally, you can contact us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit your local office if you wish to apply for disability benefits. When applying for benefits, you should be prepared to answer a number of questions including:

- ☞ Your current living arrangement, including who lives there and household expenses;
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You can view our disability starter kit at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits.htm.

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Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor
Senior Section

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

You may be over
the hill if...
you realize that you
started out with nothing,
and today you
still have most of it.

Why? Whatever happened to Utopia?

Early on in your chronicler's quest for knowledge an interesting work was perused, the title of which was: The Republic.

Its author was a Greek philosopher named Plato, who, in a sense invented education, and who really seemed to have a handle on things worth knowing.

He envisioned Utopia, a civilization run by philosopher kings, whose sole purpose was to see that the people were afforded an education, and that they were taught by knowledgeable educators whose sole purpose in life was to insure that their charges were taught the things they needed to know in order to become valuable and useful citizens. Among his early proteges was Aristotle; and it all seemed to be going well from there.

In his Republic, those in charge of things, the philosopher kings, had one responsibility: sharing their knowledge with their charges, and insuring that the end product would be a civilization of educated individuals whose primary consideration was that this knowledge would be enhanced and passed on to others.

These revelations were found to be quite inspiring: that man should be infused with a thirst for knowledge, and that he would pass this knowledge on to others; along with it a sense of values.

But, after reading the mighty tome was finished, and a musing over its content began, the first question that presented itself was: If this is certainly the right way for a society to conduct itself, why isn't it? And then the answer came crashing down: No wonder his book was often referred to as Utopia, the word translates as "No place." And, unfortunately, No place like Plato's Utopia exists; especially on these shores.

The theory behind the book was profound: Competent and knowledgeable philosopher kings, would share with society their knowledge and wisdom, in order that society might put this knowledge to work, and that society would, in turn, enhance it and pass it along to generations to come.

But, when one includes the human factor, Utopia falls apart.

Look at our society today. Is there anything anywhere that even closely resembles Utopia? Are there philosopher kings about who might teach generations of potential philosopher kings what they have learned, and enhanced upon?

No! Not even close. In fact, we're sinking into a quagmire of ignorance that

would reduce Plato and his disciples to tears.

And why, one may ask, are we allowing this to happen to us, and to those younger generations who look to us for guidance?

Mainly, it's because we view life from a "What's in it for me" perspective. Or, worse yet, from no perspective at all.

And why is this so? One may ask.

For one thing, our society, and the education program within it, is a prime example.

For the most part, both have a "what's in it for me?" outlook on life. Here we also have "The blind leading the blind," a concept that goes back to 27 BC, but is at its pinnacle today.

Look at our schools, as an example. Within our educational institutions the major concern is not one of teaching young people, of passing along to generations to come information that may help them to become greater and more productive heirs to the society they are entering into.

Rather, their major concerns are: Will I get tenure? Why am I not receiving a higher salary? Why must I do this, or that. And, most importantly: **What's in it for me?**

Is it any wonder, then, that the primary question posed by students, as their teachers introduce them to new knowledge, is: "Will this be on the test?" And, "What's in it for me?"

What the students don't understand, because they are never taught it, is that the knowledge they needed was not on the test because the teacher didn't have the time to introduce this knowledge into his or her classroom lectures. They had other things to do beside explain the important factor: Why? It's because teachers are required to insure that an attractive bulletin board is conspicuously displayed, that the teachers desk looks neat, that the blackboards present a pleasant appearance, and a host of other non-educational factors—most of which have little to do with knowledge, or the gaining thereof.

Two questions that are seldom asked, and are seldom answered any more are: Why aren't teachers teaching? And why aren't learners learning?

And this is why we have no Utopia today.

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Pick a Word

Adjectives get a good play in our daily lives. Far too many times they're used incorrectly, and in some cases, not frequently enough.

Take, for example, the current Democratic candidate for the presidency, Her PR flaks employ as many attractive adjectives as they can, most of which are from the right side of the ledger.

But there are a good many others that more accurately and precisely describe the woman, starting off alphabetically with the three adjectives that begin with the letter a.

These being: aggressive, aloof, and arrogant. No three words in our lexicon do a better job of describing the candidate than these.

Then, Belligerent and big-headed follow alphabetically. The letter C provide three opportunities: cruel, and cunning, cynical, followed in the D's with deceitful, dishonest, and domineering.

The F's didn't provide anything useful, but with the letter g, we have: greedy. This one probably should have been capitalized also.

Harsh was the only adjective available in this alphabetical category; but next in line we have intolerant and irresponsible.

Jealous and lazy could be of service, as could the words Machiavellian and just plain mean. In the n column we could make use of narrow minded, and nasty, and in the O's obsessive and obstinate.

Moving along to the next letter in the alphabet pompous jumps right off the page at us, and both quarrelsome and quick-tempered fit nicely.

In the s' we're overwhelmed with: secretive, selfish, self-centered, sneaky, and stubborn. And the T's give us tactless and thoughtless.

And rounding out the alphabetical listing we have: untrustworthy and vain. Vengeful and vulgar might easily sneak onto the list, but this seems sufficient for one person. The letters x and z didn't make the grade; but if one took the time, they would also produce worthwhile adjectives.

How much more of all this the American people can take will likely be decided in the upcoming general election.

Cross your fingers.

Clinton Legacy

What is there about the White House that makes the Clinton family feel obliged to heap disgrace upon it?

Bill, through his peccadillo with Monica; and now Hillary and her e-mail hanky-panky—even before she makes her way into the presidency, have certainly cast a shadow over this once revered and respected structure.

It was generally the case throughout our history, that the President of the United States had the decency to wait until he was inaugurated before tarnishing the crown. With the Clinton's, they bring it with them.

Over the years the United States has suffered some embarrassment through the antics of its president, but the shadow that the Clinton family has cast over this nation is monumental.

And this doesn't touch on the money scandals that are waiting to be revealed.

The Clinton saga makes Dickens' Tale of Two Cities pale in comparison

One must wonder what's in store for Chelsea?



*"Whoever is kind to
the needy
honors God."*
~ Proverbs 14:31

We go through life thinking, "That would never happen to us.", but truth is **NOTHING** is guaranteed. We don't know what tomorrow holds or even the next minute for that is why. **BUT GOD does and that is why Pilots For Christ is in existence.**

PFC is a group of Christian pilots and volunteers whose aim is to help those in need of transportation due to medical reasons and are not able to travel any other way but by plane. **PFC** is not an air ambulance or a medical aircraft but they believe that it is their mission through the call of our *Holy Father* to help those that are in need and can not afford the costs.



Pilots For Christ does not receive any form of government funding and does not get reimbursements from insurance companies. They are fully funded by individuals, churches, civic organizations, and businesses. If you feel that the Lord has put it on your heart to make a contribution please visit their website at www.pilotsforchrist.net, and as always your gift is tax deductible.

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

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

Christianity and Freedom

Soul Searching

Of all the people in the world, what group enjoys the greatest amount of freedom? "Americans" might be the preferred answer, although some people in other

places might disagree. Strangely, however, the answer has nothing to do with borders within which someone lives. Of all the people in the world, those who enjoy the greatest amount of freedom are Christians. In fact, Christians living under an atheistic dictator enjoy more freedom than a person without faith living right in America.

Of course, you recognize this matter comes down to the definition of freedom. From the point of view outside faith, Christians aren't free at all. There is a verse in the Bible which says "*The love of Christ constrains us...*" (II Cor. 5:14) Christians often refer to doing "God's will." To some, that doesn't sound much like freedom.

It wouldn't sound much like freedom when other person's definition is to live without constraints and to do as one pleases. It means being your own boss, making your own decisions without any outside restraint. Such an idea means choosing to go to school or not, to work or not or to live as undisciplined life as possible. As good as that may sound on paper, it doesn't lead to much productivity or happiness. There really is no such thing as total freedom. Neither are most of those very free who seek that kind of freedom. The usual application of that philosophy of life is slavery to something else such as broken lives, failing health, various addictions and loss of job or worse.

The point of this article is not to point an accusing finger at those with whom we might not agree, but rather, to lift up a positive word about Christianity and personal freedom in Christ. It is a discussion I think we must have in a post-modern society and one in which Christianity is less of an influence than it once was. We must consider that freedom is not as simple a concept as it may sound at first in both the social as well as spiritual arena of life.

There are those who think Christianity is the enemy of freedom. For example, some think Christianity is culturally rigid and the religion of the white man. One writer has said of the faith, "It forces people from different cultures into a single mold. It is the enemy of pluralism. Actually that is not so.

Christianity has been highly adaptive wherever it goes. We don't have to go far in our own state to see how faith is practiced in very different styles and structures which address a broad spectrum of cultures. In our own city we have churches under a number of language groups each having their own manner of worship and making disciples. Go to the large metropolitan areas of our land and you would be amazed at the number and variety of practices of the Christian faith. They may be different than our practices, but are genuinely Christian from their understanding of the Bible and faith.

Christianity did begin in a small part of the world but has spread and adapted to every culture and people group. Christianity thrives in Africa, South America and continues to grow in the Asian world as well as being a vital part of American history. In each of these places one finds uniqueness in expression of the faith and an ability to relate to a Savior in Jesus Christ. Why the ability to adapt anywhere? Christianity addresses the sense of sin and lostness present in people everywhere rather than simply trying to make churches all alike. It does not require its followers to wear certain garments or to have specified methods and times of prayer.

Cultural diversity was built into the New Testament. There wasn't a more different people from the beginning than Gentiles and Jews. Christianity holds out the hope of one day being where there is no tongue, tribe, people or nation. (Is.

60 and Rev. 21) Christianity is not a western religion which destroys the cultures it touches. Instead, it lifts people out of poverty, stands against injustice, uplifts women and seeks to give hope to the hopeless.

In contrast to what some claim, Christianity is about freedom. It is about the freedom to become the person God created no longer under the burden of sin. It is the freedom to be and to do. To appreciate this freedom in Christ, one has to understand freedom is about choice, not lack of any restraint and not shifting into neutral. Freedom cannot be defined in negative terms or as the absence of confinement or direction.

For example, if someone wants to be a musician or an athlete, that person expects hours of training and practice. It is the exchange of the freedom to do nothing in order to engage in something you were free and wanted to do. Christians live their lives under Christ because it gives them the ability to fulfill a purpose.

It is much like falling in love. The very word implies a choice not to love anyone else or anything else in the same way. It is a commitment of time, energy, emotion, finances, etc. Someone said, "If you want to keep your heart intact, love no one." But does that really work? Yes, it limits your freedom while at the same time allows you to be free to be yourself.

We love Christ and one another because we have been freed to do so. We understand that an athlete who plays football is free to do so within the boundaries of the field and not the parking lot. In the same way a fish is only free to breathe if it is in water. Otherwise, even though it is surrounded by oxygen in the air, it will die. The fish dies if we do not honor its purpose of life in creation. The Christian does not flourish except within the tenets of his or her faith which become the boundaries of life.

We submit because we want to be on His team, not because we are forced. Have you ever thought about how many athletes and mommas and daddies would give anything they had if their sons could play football at AL and AU? They would not complain or worry if their son's freedom to do as he pleases was curtailed if he got a scholarship to play football at the highest level. It's all relative to choices which add meaning to life.

Let me be honest, "It's far easier for me to love God than to love myself or anything else." I am free in Christ to be me. You also discover in life that loving is easy when you love a person. It doesn't feel oppressive to give a present to someone you love.

That's why for the Christian, it's not hard to love Jesus. He has done so much for us. Freedom for Christians is not about the absence of limitations and structure to live, but finding the right ones that fit our nature and liberate us. So when the Bible says, "The love of Christ constrains us," it simply means that you aren't afraid of giving up personal freedom in order to find real freedom in Him.



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9:00 AM
Worship:
10:15 AM**

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Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

THE GOOD AND THE BAD SIDE OF ANGER

I went to the business office to get a purchase order for office supplies; I think it was a box of file folders or paper clips, and the attendant questioned me like I was Oliver Twist asking for more gruel! I felt anything like a professional. My face began to burn and I stepped outside before saying something I might regret. Most of us have been in similar situations and know the body language of anger. Our face flushes, our jaws tighten, our eyes become narrow slits and often our voices are raised an octave or two. Anger is normal and natural.

It's noteworthy that the Apostle Paul wrote about two kinds of anger in Ephesians--an anger we must avoid (4:31) and an anger we harness for good (4:26).

Destructive anger brings physical harm, degradation of character or self-esteem and loss of fellowship with God. We've said about others, "That just didn't sound like him." Anger can turn us into a different person--a person others don't like and a person we don't like!

Jesus warned in the Sermon on the Mount that we must not harbor anger in

lives. He noted the Old Testament forbade murder, but it's like murdering another person in our hearts if we hold animosity for them.

Remember the housefly who gorged himself on stale baloney and then climbed up the knife handle to fly away, but fell dead. The moral is don't fly off the handle when you're full of baloney!

But there is an anger that leads to constructive change in our lives and in our society. We've seen several notable examples in recent years.

Adam Walsh was abducted and killed in 1981. His father, John, has done more than anyone to highlight the issue of child exploitation and abduction. Many businesses now have "Code Adam" when a child is reported missing. President Bush signed the Adam Walsh Child Safety Act in 2006.

Candace Lightner was heart-broken in 1981 when her daughter Cari, age 13, was killed by a drunk driver. Lightner was angry when she learned the driver had two previous offenses with minimal sentencing. She founded Mothers Against Drunk Driving which has done more than any other group to raise awareness of this problem.

And closer to home, we remember the sad story of Natalee Holloway who disappeared in 2005 in Aruba. Her mother, Beth, founded the Safe Travels organization and speaks to young people around the nation about protecting themselves when traveling overseas.

Anger can be good if it leads to positive change.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala., and adjunct instructor of speech at Jefferson State Community College, Hoover. Permission is granted to use this material with attribution.



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Patricia Killough



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

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

Home Town Community News

September Birthdays



- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Joe Boyd (77th) | 19 Beth Cline |
| 2 John Hannon | Bobby Hudson |
| 3 Dian Majors | 20 Lynn Davis |
| Leslie Riley | Carol Hudson |
| 4 Jimmy Dick | 21 Hank Henderson (94th) |
| Gary French | Marlee Day Smith (7th) |
| Tim Riley | Kristen Taylor |
| Britney Williams | Sarah Kate Taylor |
| 5 Joyce Moore | 22 Bertha Reagan Bell |
| 6 Ethleen Bazzell (77th) | Tom Garlington |
| Bonnie Edwards | David Webb |
| Diana Elliott | 23 Era Hall |
| C. J. Faulk (82nd) | Kirksey Jones |
| 7 Tanner Grant | 24 Barbara Berg |
| Ruby Law | Ava Catherine Crowe (8th) |
| 8 Adam Broadway | Lynda Maddox |
| 9 Kendra Devon Lamar | Catherine Preston |
| Marietta Russell | Chrystal Rahn |
| Jesse Southern (92nd) | R. J. Seevers |
| 10 Terry Dotherow | 25 Brenda Abrams |
| 11 Traci Weafer | Linda Abrams |
| 12 Warner Boyd (80th) | Marilyn Blair (94th) |
| Catherine Jane Grubbs (10th) | Sonny Cauthen (67th) |
| Brian Hudson | Rocene Fowler |
| 13 Donna Mulcahy | Betty Gafford |
| Debbie Partridge (59th) | Baxter Moseley (21st) |
| 14 Elaine Webb | 26 Emily Lamar (94th) |
| 15 Shannon Flores (44th) | Barbara Mitchell |
| 16 Phyllis McCalman | 27 Roy Stephens (87th) |
| Dick Payson (82nd) | 29 Elvin Stanton |
| 17 Mike (Pete) Moore | 30 Scott Borders (54th) |
| Mandy Stringer (13th) | Lydia Brown |
| 18 Don Dawkins | Kim Butler |
| Dale Jones | Susan Feaga |
| Jace McClelland (3rd) | Hunter O'Neal (12th) |
| Betty Russell | Mike Smith |
| Eddie Spivey | |



Pasture Party!

The 16th Annual Ada Pasture Party was held on Saturday, August 20, 2016 at Earl's Barn on Smiley Ferry Road. Over 100 guests enjoyed the delicious food, live music and fellowship. The appetizers were prepared by Carl and Terry Boyd, the meal was catered The Old Barn in Goshen and the music was provided by *Charlie C and The Cuzamatics*. The party was hosted by Earl Russell, Carl Boyd, Weldon Payne and Hartley McLaney.



Bridal Tea

A bridal tea honoring Audrey Grant was held on Sunday, August 14, 2016 at Sampey Memorial Baptist Church in Ramer.

The tea was hosted by the ladies of Sampey Memorial.

A September wedding is planned for Audrey and Michael Thomas Freeman.

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

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

Woodland United Methodist Church of Pike Road

4428 Wallahatchie Road
Pike Road, AL 36064 • 334.272.7230

HOME COMING

Sunday, September 25, 2016

Please join us for our 61st Anniversary

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Joe & Jean Douglas | Andy & Lori Meadows |
| 3 Howard & Martha Stripling | 18 James & Sarah Glass (6th) |
| 4 Don & Barbara White | 20 Jason & Stephanie Selvage (13th) |
| 6 Thomas & Louise Light | 21 Tony & Janie Drake |
| 7 Gary & Lyda Crowe | 22 Hank & Geneva Henderson (74th) |
| Ralph & Brenda Davis | James & Sherry Tucker |
| Steve & Paige Stringer | 24 Larry & Linda Browder |
| 10 Mike & Linda Reynolds | 25 Chuck & Betty Gentry Holmes |
| 12 Warner & Margaret Boyd (60th) | 26 Jose' & Susan Guevara |
| 16 Skip & Connie Mainor (3rd) | 28 Morgan & Ashley James |
| 17 Hugh & Helen Gordon (68th) | Chris & Kelley Grantham |

Sympathy to the families of...

- Butts, Hilda Adelaide Tidwell (86)died July 22, 2016
 Seale, John Francis, Jr. (76).....died July 22, 2016
 Gambacurta, Charles Robert (71).....died July 26, 2016
 Jeter, Mary Louise "Lu" (91).....died July 27, 2016
 Swanner, Johnnie Ray (85).....died July 29, 2016
 Graves, Donald W. (CMSGT, Ret.) (84)died July 31, 2016
 Livingston, William "Sonny" Kyle, Jr. (78)died August 1, 2016
 Sells, Robert E. "Bob" (CW4, Ret.) (86)died August 4, 2016
 Vaughn, Lillian Fuqua (93).....died August 4, 2016
 Young, Earl Stephen (76)died August 8, 2016
 Tatum, John Houston, Jr. (69).....died August 14, 2016
 McGuire, Frances McMeekin (92).....died August 17, 2016
 Russell, Carolyn Davis (83)died August 19, 2016



Louisiana Relief Fund Donations Needed...

Rotary District 6200
District Administrator Kat Crappel
2266 S. College Road Extension,
Suite C, Lafayette, LA 70508

Checks that need to be addressed to the following:

The Rotary District 6200 Foundation
Also designate the check for Disaster Relief.

All donations will receive a receipt letter from our Foundation Chair PDG Mike Collins.

As the waters recede the volunteer physical assistance would be greatly welcomed. The contact for this will be Rotarian from the Sulphur Sunrise Rotary Club and District 6200 Disaster Relief Chair Larry Agee (klagee@yahoo.com) Also executive director of Disaster Aid USA.

He will be focusing on the manpower needed to assist all the affected areas in Louisiana. (Districts affected the most are 6200 and 6840 but I know that 6190 and 6820 received a lot of rain as well - Regardless of Districts - we will be helping all affected.)

ATTENTION!

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TODAY'S WOMAN

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



To accomplish our mission, we need your help. The ministry of Mary Ellen's Hearth requires renewed and sustained commitments from old friends and new alike. We need your support in order to help the women we care for build new lives for themselves and their children.

- \$50 - \$75 Encourager
- \$76 - 150 Friend
- \$151 - \$250 Supporter
- \$251 - \$500 Ally
- \$500+ Partner

Receive news and updates about God's work being done through the ministry & volunteer opportunities at Mary Ellen's Hearth

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Thank you for your support! To donate by mail, please remove or copy this form and include it with your check. Visit our website to make online donations and read more about our program.

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 (334) 264-4108
info@nellieburge.org
maryellenshearth.org



Trisston Wright Burrows
 Ms. Wheelchair America/ Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"Find Rest in the Lord"

It's September! And, Labor Day in the United States is upon us. It is a day known for taking a break from work. For most Americans, it means family BBQs, swimming, beach/lake fun, shopping, or camping. Labor Day traditionally marks the end of summer. It also typically means back to school and back to football season. Woo Hoo! War Eagle and Roll Tide from my house-hold divided!! Ha-Ha!

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." **Matthew 11:28**

Before we know it, Christmas will be here and 2016 will be history. How has your year measured up so far? How has your "work" for the Lord come along??

Now is as good of time as any to examine how each one of us is doing. Think about it... Are we listening to God by reading His word? Are we shared the gospel message? How are the things we do and the choices we make reflecting God's glory and bringing Him honor?

I encourage you as you move forward during these last few months of this year to find some time to simply rest in the comfort of God's word. And, remember to put God first in all that you say and all that you do.

Happy Labor Day & Many Blessings!



Red Cross and Sport Clips Haircuts offer free haircut coupon to blood and platelet donors in September

(Aug. 22, 2016) – The American Red Cross and Sport Clips Haircuts are teaming up to offer a free haircut coupon to those who come out to donate blood or platelets during September.

"The Red Cross and Sport Clips have partnered for several years to help ensure blood is available for patients in need leading into fall," said Donna M. Morrissey, director of national partnerships, Red Cross Biomedical Services. "We are excited to partner once again for this year's Saving Lives Never Looked So Good campaign and offer a coupon for a free haircut to volunteer blood and platelet donors in appreciation for their lifesaving gift."

Those who come out to give blood or platelets Sept. 1-30 will receive a coupon for a free haircut via email several days after their donation. The coupon is valid through Nov. 6, 2016, at participating Sport Clips locations, and donors must have a valid email address on record to receive the coupon.

"The need for blood touches so many lives – not just those who need blood, but their family members and loved ones too. This is one way Sport Clips can thank those who give the gift of life to support the life-saving mission of the Red Cross. They donate blood and we give them a free haircut," said Amanda Palm, corporate communications manager of Sport Clips.

Donors of all blood types are urged to give. To schedule an appointment to donate, use the free **Blood Donor App**, visit redcrossblood.org or call **1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**. Donation appointments and completion of a **RapidPass** online health history questionnaire are encouraged to help reduce wait times.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities

- 9/5/2016:** 12 - 6 p.m., Montgomery Blood Donation Center, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery
- 9/12/2016:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Gunter Annex Air Force Base Bldg. 892, 490 East Moore Drive, Montgomery
- 9/12/2016:** 12 - 6 p.m., Montgomery Blood Donation Center, 5015 Woods Crossing, Montgomery

We Are Growing!



Montgomery Christian School...

is beginning our tenth year of service to children and families in Montgomery by providing an affordable, challenging academic curriculum with a strong commitment to seeing every subject from a Christian world view. Housed at Trinity Presbyterian Church since inception, the school has grown from a kindergarten with ten students in 2007, to currently serving over 70 students from kindergarten through fifth grade. At this time, we are preparing for a move to satisfy the growing wait list of potential students.

Montgomery Christian School offers affordable tuition based on family income for people who could not otherwise consider sending their children to a private, Christian school. Montgomery Christian School's curriculum also includes enrichment programs such as art, dance and music as part of their curriculum. Montgomery Christian School's education also places an emphasis on good citizenship and good moral character to help lay the foundation for our students to become better citizens for our community.

For more information about our school, please feel free to visit our website at www.montgomerychristianschool.com or contact Kathi Atkins at katkins@montgomerychristianschool.org or by calling **334-386-1749**.



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SCAN FOR APPT.



Dr. Sharon Reynolds-Cook is a christian author and Dr. of Divinity. She has a new release entitled **The Wounded Spirit** that deals with overcoming church hurts and disappointments!

Dr. Reynolds-Cook will hold a **BOOK SIGNING** at the **E. L. Lowder Regional Branch Library** on Bell Road on **Friday, September 2nd at 3:00 p.m.**

To order books contact:
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 Montgomery, AL 36125

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Books are \$25.00



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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

Citizens Academy

We are preparing for our next Citizens Academy which will begin on October 2nd and conclude on November 14th. If you haven't heard about our



Citizens Academy, you're missing out. The course consists of one night a week for one hour for a period of six weeks. You will learn about each department of the Sheriff's Office and how they operate and protect you, the citizen.

Registration is limited so please register now!!

These are the requirements:

- Resident of Montgomery County
- At least 21 years of age or older
- Pass a criminal background check
- Attend weekly meetings
- Applications can also be requested by calling 334-832-1339 or request by mail or fax

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

Senior Fishing Rodeo

*Seniors, mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 13th, for our Senior Fishing Rodeo! All senior citizens, 55 years young and up, are invited to fish at the Montgomery County ponds located seven miles from the Southern Boulevard on Highway 231 South, across from Meriwether



Road and Sweet Creek Farm Market. There will be portable bathrooms on premise and the ponds are handicap accessible.

There will be deputies at the road with emergency lights displayed so you can't miss it...

JUST LOOK FOR THE FLASHING BLUE LIGHTS!

Please plan to be there between 5:30 & 6:00am to get started fishing before the heat gets too unbearable. We will fish, if weather permits, until 12:00 Noon. **Please do not bring children to this event as we have a Kids Fishing Rodeo annually in June for our youth to attend.**

We will provide snacks and drinks...you provide the bait and tackle and whatever you catch is yours to keep!

Firearms Familiarization Course

Sign up NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Course scheduled for August 13th and learn how to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. Our course is held one Saturday a month and has been scheduled for the following dates:

Saturday, September 24th • Saturday, October 8th

The class is held at our Firing Range and lasts all day and is FREE to Montgomery County citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class.

All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

Course Requirements:

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

Pistol Permit Questions? 334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?

LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org • 334.832.1339

Your safety is our primary concern; therefore, we ask that you **DO NOT BRING CHILDREN TO THIS CLASS.**



THANK YOU...Town of Pike Road National Night Out

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Town of Pike Road for having us out again this year for *National Night Out*. Communities came together to discuss how to be more aware of their surroundings and what you can do to prevent crime.



U.S. Army PAYS Program



The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and U. S. Army PAYS Program came together on Friday, August 19th, for a signing ceremony that initiated a bond between the two in which retired personnel or those ending their tour of duty with the Army are guaranteed a job interview with the Sheriff's Office once they apply. This

is sure to be a great opportunity for the Sheriff's Office to work with our veterans insuring that they will be given an opportunity to extend their careers. The Sheriff's Office is excited to be a part of this opportunity and several dignitaries came out to the ceremony including U. S. Representative Martha Roby, local officials and military dignitaries.



Camp Show-n-Tell

Camp Show-n-Tell was a huge success again!



Each year we take 100 boys and girls for a free, week long camp to promote positive interaction and life rewarding skills with our youth (ages 9-11) who have succeeded during the school year. This year was no exception! If you were not able to attend camp this year, please mark your calendar for April 1, 2017, which is when applications are available.

Thank you YMCA Camp Chandler for another wonderful camp year!

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