

THE GAZETTE IS "THE VOICE OF REASON"!



**Alabama State
Legislative Recap
What You Need to Know!**



**TOP TEN 2024
ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE
BILLS PASSED**

The 2024 Alabama regular legislative session ended on Thursday, May 9. A lot of bills passed and became law this session, and many didn't – gambling was one of those. These are the top ten issues that the Legislature actually passed. By Brandon Moseley

SCHOOL CHOICE	School Choice - Governor Kay Ivey got behind and the Legislature passed legislation that will give every parent in the state a chance to go the public, private, or religious school that best meets the needs of that family. Up to \$7,000 will be paid to the school of the parent's choice. The program is limited to just \$100 million in the first year, but there is an opportunity for the Legislature to grow the program in subsequent years if the demand is there.
RECORD BUDGETS	Record Budgets – conservative budgeting, a decade of economic development focused on growth, and overspending by the federal government has led to soaring state revenues. Alabama is in the strongest shape fiscally it has ever been in and that translated into legislators dividing up \$14 billion in two budgets and three supplemental appropriations.
IVF BILL	IVF – legislators gave fertility clinics engaged in in-vitro fertilization limited civil and criminal immunity allowing families undergoing these treatments to continue receiving treatments in Alabama. This became necessary after a controversial Alabama Supreme court ruling made the legal validity of these treatments suspect.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER	Public Health Officer – the Legislature passed legislation to make the Alabama Public Health Officer a cabinet member. Since the 1870s, the position – one of the most powerful in state government – has been appointed by the leadership of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama.
SECRET BALLOTS FOR UNION VOTES	Secret Ballots for Union Votes - the Legislature passed legislation clawing back incentives to businesses that unionize without having a secret ballot vote. This prevents unions from using card check to unionize without a vote.
STRICTER PENALTIES ON FALSE REPORTING OF CRIMES	Stricter Penalties on False Reporting of Crimes - the Legislature passed legislation increasing the punishment for persons convicted of falsifying a report of a crime. The goal is to deter people from making false reports to law enforcement.
CHILDCARE TAX CREDIT	Childcare Tax Credit - the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed legislation creating new tax credits for working families and employers to pay for childcare. For too many families, childcare is a barrier to entering the workforce.
GEOLOGICAL PORE STORAGE OF GASES	Geological Pore Storage of Gases – the Legislature approved legislation to allow manufacturers and power generators to store waste gases – particularly carbon dioxide (CO2) underground in pore space that was previously created by the pumping of oil and natural gas. This will allow industrialists to store greenhouse emissions underground rather than releasing them into the atmosphere allowing them to meet new EPA regulations on emissions protecting Alabama jobs.
ALLOWED JOE BIDEN ON THE ALABAMA BALLOT	Allowed Joe Biden on the Alabama Ballot – the 2024 Democratic National Convention is after the deadline for qualifying for the Alabama ballot. This meant that Joseph R. Biden and Kamala Harris would not even appear on the ballot. Gov. Ivey has signed legislation giving the parties 74 days instead of 82 to make certain that the Democratic nominees for President and Vice President will be on the November 5, 2024 general election ballot.
CAMERAS TO ARREST DANGEROUS DRIVERS	Cameras to Arrest Dangerous Drivers – we have all been on the road and seen people drag racing or dangerous exhibition driving. If a police officer was not there to witness the action, then they get away with it. To deal with this growing problem the Legislature passed and the governor signed legislation allowing law enforcement agencies in the state to use cameras to catch persons who are racing or driving extremely recklessly – so called exhibition driving. This does not allow the use of speed or traffic light cameras.

The 2024 Alabama regular legislative session ended on Thursday, May 9. A lot of bills passed and became law this session, and many didn't – gambling was one of those. These are the top ten issues that the Legislature actually passed. The Alabama Legislature will return in 2025 for their next scheduled session. To connect with the author of this story, or to comment, email brandonmreporter@gmail.com

Termite Control



ARROW PEST CONTROL



PROFESSIONAL PEST CONTROL

SERVING THE PUBLIC FOR OVER 50 YEARS!

Thanks for all your support over the years!

740 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PRATTVILLE, AL. 36067

GREG BOWEN
334-365-4610

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE ALABAMA GAZETTE.

We have found a new printer!
Hope to **GROW** and want **YOU** to **GROW** with us!

Call: 334-356-6700

Also have employment opportunities!



Bryan Jewelry

(334) 365-6552

M-F: 9-5 Sat: 9-5
Sunday: Closed

1778 E. Main Street
Prattville, AL 36067





INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE With Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at: <https://steveflowers.us/>

Democrat Wins a House Seat in Alabama

The national media has been keenly interested that a Democrat has been elected to an Alabama House of Representatives seat. I have had several inquiries from national news and political publications asking me to explain and analyze this phenomenon. They are particularly interested in the fact that women's reproductive rights was a central focus of this special election in Huntsville.

Democrat Marilyn Lands indeed won a resounding victory in House District 10, a Madison County seat, in a special election last month. She made woman's reproductive rights the primary issue of her campaign.

Alabama is without a doubt one of the most Republican states in America. Every statewide elected office is held by a Republican, and the Republican dominance in the Alabama Legislature is categorized as being a super-Republican majority. Therefore, the lines are drawn to favor Republican incumbents.

However, I might add, that Democratic incumbents are complicit, and very happily go along with Republicans when drawing heavily favored partisan districts because they entrench them in their seats also. This gerrymandering drawing of Alabama legislative seats is more to protect incumbents, than to help a party. When the dust settled after the last reapportionment, it was recognized and acknowledged that there were only two competitive, swing purple House seats in the state – one in Montgomery and the one in Huntsville, which Marilyn Lands won as a Democrat in last month's special election.

This Huntsville district is really an anomaly. It is more reflective of the nation than Alabama. Huntsville itself is really like a different state. It is as though the people in the research triangle of North Carolina and the Silicon Valley of California, were plucked up and placed in North Alabama in the super high-tech aerospace City of Huntsville. Ms. Lands' House District 10 seat sits in the center of the Redstone Arsenal and has the highest percentage of Ph.D.'s in the nation. In fact, a few years ago, I spoke to the Huntsville Rotary Club. It was the largest Rotary Club I had ever seen, probably 300. They met in the Von Braun Civic Center. As I was getting up to speak, my observation was that I was looking at one of the most intellectual and sophisticated Rotary Clubs I had ever seen. So, I posed this question to the group, as I began my talk, "How many of you have



Democrat Marilyn Lands

an advanced degree, master's, or doctorate, in aerospace engineering?" Almost half raised their hand. When I began to regale them with past Alabama political stories and legends, they looked at me as though I was talking about politics on Mars. In short, Ms. Marilyn Lands' district is truly a purple, nationally reflective district. In the 2020 Presidential Election, it split almost evenly between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden.

A special election also blurs the distinction between party labels. There are no heavyweight GOP standard bearers, like Trump and Governor Ivey, on top of the ticket to steer voters to simply voting a straight lever-pulling party vote. It becomes a local vote for the person running the race, similar to a mayor's race, which is non-partisan.

Marilyn Lands was a better candidate and campaigner than her Republican opponent. She was an experienced campaigner. She lost a narrow race to her GOP opponent in 2022. She outworked her opponent, significantly. She did run a one-issue campaign. She ran on women's reproductive rights, and it worked and resonated.

So, in answer to the national media's inquiry, "Is this a bad sign for the Republican Party, nationally, in this year's election," my answer is a resounding, "Yes." The abortion issue is a losing issue for Republicans. It has been since Roe v. Wade was overturned almost two years ago in June 2022. The proof is in the pudding, Republicans have lost every election since then, when they should have won. That issue was defeated two to one by voters in the most conservative state in America – Kansas. Trump is wise enough to avoid this issue, it is an Achilles Heel to the Republican Party come November. Mainstream women voters, Democrats, Independents, and yes, Republican women want the right to make that choice when it comes to reproductive rights.

Marilyn Lands might have won this Special Election closely because she was a better candidate. However, she would not have won this purple swing national seat with a 62 to 38 landslide, if she had not run on the reproductive issue.

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



Ronald A. Holtsford

Q: My wife is beginning to show signs of dementia, maybe even Alzheimer's. What type things should I do to prepare us should she become incapacitated?

I think that you are doing the hardest thing and the best thing for your wife and yourself by facing this right now. When our loved ones are faced with such devastating diseases it's easier to not face it and believe they will improve. Being proactive will have you prepared.

First I will advise that you visit an attorney that can assist you with estate planning. The three basic documents that your wife will need (and you) are a Last Will and Testament, Durable Power of Attorney (health and Financial) and an Advance Directive. Even if she has these documents, if they were prepared more than 3-5 years ago or there have been other significant changes in your lives (family, health or financial), then I would advise that you both consider new documents.

If your wife is in early stages as you state and still has times of clarity, then she should be able to state her wishes for a Will, The capacity requirement for a Will is lower than that required to have a Power of Attorney and Advance Directive prepared. As I have said so often, if you don't have a Will, the State of Alabama has one for you via the rules of intestacy. As an example, the share for the spouse is stated in the following manner:

§ 43-8-41. Share of the spouse

The intestate share of the surviving spouse is as follows:

- (1) If there is no surviving issue or parent of the decedent, the entire intestate estate;
- (2) If there is no surviving issue but the decedent is survived by a parent or parents, the first \$100,000.00 in value, plus one-half of the balance of the intestate estate;
- (3) If there are surviving issue all of whom are issue of the surviving spouse also, the first \$50,000.00 in value, plus one-half of the balance of the intestate estate;
- (4) If there are surviving issue one or more of whom are not issue of the surviving spouse, one-half of the intestate estate

Without a Will you can see that you might end up with significantly less than what you thought. Additionally, the Administrator (Personal Representative) must be bonded and an inventory is required of the assets of the decedent. A Will usually states there will be no requirement of a bond or inventory.

The next document is a Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA). While there are different types there are two popular types of a financial DPOA. The Durable Power of Attorney is probably the most popular and must contain a statement that the POA is effective even in your incapacity to make it durable. The other is a "springing" POA in which a certain event must occur to have it "spring" into action. Such an event is usually your incapacity, which would have to be established by a physician. It can make the effectiveness a bit subjective. One of my attorney friends has compared the two documents by asking, "If you are going to trust someone under your POA when you are incapacitated, why not trust them now?" Alabama has adopted a Uniform Power of Attorney Act, which became effective 1 January 2012. There is a statutory form, but most attorneys seem to prefer to work the statutory form into their own tried and true document. This form does NOT invalidate prior POA's that meet the legal definition of an effective Alabama POA.

While I have been told that the proxy selection discussed below in the Advance Directive for Health Care can be used in general health settings, I prefer to prepare a health care power of attorney which better delineates the available powers and desires of the principal.

The capacity requirement to name someone to act under your POA is roughly the required capacity to enter into a contract. As an example, could your wife enter into a contract to buy an automobile?

The final document is the Advance Directive. It consists of the Living Will and Health Care Proxy. It allows you to make decisions about life support measures and artificially provided food and hydration should you be in such a condition that you will die in the near future and are unable to communicate your wishes about your health care.

Additionally, you will want to consider future care. Are you and your family willing and able to provide care for your wife at home? Alzheimer's patients can become violent at times and family members have been hurt badly by loved ones because they allowed the affected family member to get between then and an escape route (out of a room). Just because your wife may be a small woman she is very capable of hurting someone else badly when she fears for her life and maybe has access to an item such as a cane that can become an effective weapon. Will you want to hire sitters? What about Assisted Living? Assisted living can only keep Alzheimer's patients for a certain portion of their illness. After that it is necessary to go to a SCALF (Specialty Care Assisted Living Facility) or even on to a skilled long term care facility (nursing home). If your wife is a veteran she may be eligible for VA care if necessary. You also have to consider how to pay for the more advanced care. If very wealthy you can pay for it or if poor you can have Medicaid cover it in the case of being impoverished. For those in between there may very limited Medicare coverage, selling assets to cover the cost, a viatical settlement of an insurance policy, a reverse mortgage (I am not fond of these in most cases as they require payoff within six months after the last person dies or leaves the home permanently) for in home care or the very best is a long term care insurance policy. If your wife is having symptoms of dementia, has other major health issues or is elderly she may well not be eligible to purchase such insurance. I think long term care insurance is the best hedge against the potential for long term care, but it is always a gamble as with many insurances as you may never need it, just as you may never need homeowner's or car insurance.

Also consider what you might do if you have to take the car keys away from your wife. This will probably need a family pow wow and a visit to the doctor. The doctor can make an assessment with a promise of a future assessment if your wife needs to give up driving. This may give your wife something to look forward to and a reason to be more compliant if she believes she may get her driving privileges back.

Taking these steps will hopefully by pass most reasons to seek a conservatorship or guardianship through the Court in the future.

I hope that you will talk to your attorney or an elder law attorney about these things in the near future. The Alabama State Bar also has a referral service if needed.

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

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

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



12 E. Jefferson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Vol. 24, Issues 8
©2024



The Alabama
Gazette
Office (334) 356-6700

The Alabama
Gazette
12 pages



TeamTidbits@gmail.com
www.TeamTidbits.com
334-356-6700

www.alabamagazette.com
alabamagazette@gmail.com



ADVERTISER YOUR BUSINESS IN
THE ALABAMA GAZETTE!
(INCLUDES PRINT & ONLINE)

CALL: 334-356-6700

Support our advertisers!
They make this newspaper possible!

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



Robservations...

By: Rob Tate

YOU KNOW WHAT I HATE?

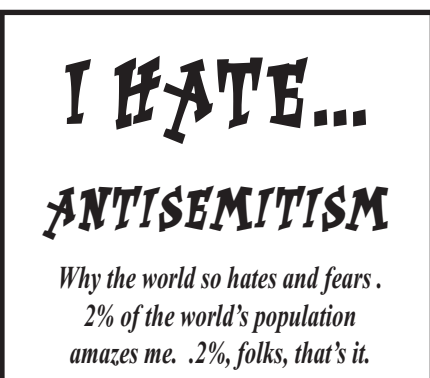
I really do not hate a lot of things. I do hate broccoli. I hate asparagus, kale and many things that belong under a lawn mower. I do like cucumbers, green beans, peas, lettuce, slaw and to me, the best green food is. . . you guessed it – key lime pie. I hate willful ignorance to where you point something out as undeniable truth yet people still want to disagree with you.

When I was still in the Air Force, I was teaching out at Maxwell AFB when an instructor from another seminar came into my room and asked if I could come down to his class and answer a question. When I got there, the question dealt with placing KC-135 tanker aircraft at a certain airfield. They wanted to also place the E-3 AWACS at that base. There were some constraints placed in the exercise so they wanted to know if it was feasible. The students had made some planning assumptions but one was mostly incorrect. They were basing the placement of the two aircraft on being the same size. I stated that although the two aircraft, with the exception of the radar on top of the AWACS or the boom on the tanker, looked similar, they were two different airplanes. I stated that the AWACS was somewhat larger than the tanker.

Enter an A-10 pilot who was in the class. He told me they were in fact the same airplane. The AWACS was just a tanker with the radar on top. I said that was incorrect. I told the class that a general way to remember the two is that the KC-135 is approximately 135' wide by 135' long. Actually, it is 136' x 130'. I then told them an AWACS is approximately 150' x 150' although it is 152' x 145'. The student then said that he had seen the two planes on the ramp and knew what he was talking about. I asked the class, "Do you guys realize that I flew both airplanes, had over 4,500 hours on them and was an instructor/evaluator pilot on the AWACS?" The A-10 pilot doubled down on his stupidity. "No. They are the same airplane."

At this point I am pretty angry. I leave the room, go to my office and print out the official Air Force specs on both airplanes. I print them out and carry them down to the classroom. I showed the class the official sizes of the airplanes. It didn't matter. Not only would the A-10 pilot not budge, but he was able to convince two or three other students to follow his stupidity. This is what I mean when I say willful ignorance. No matter what contrary "facts" are placed before someone, they will not budge from what they want to believe.

But in the world today, do you know *what I REALLY hate?* I mean from the depths of my soul; with every fiber of my being? I hate antisemitism. I hate it. It sickens me in every way. I hate the fact that antisemitism is in vogue now in the country where I grew up. When I lived in New Jersey, most of my best friends were Jewish. I had Jewish girlfriends, teammates, movie buddies, etc. My absolute best friend from second grade through high school was Jewish. (As a side note, the night of his bar mitzvah, we went to see the movie *The Exorcist*. Big mistake.)



I watch the hate spewing from the wretched and distorted faces on so many of our clearly not-so "elite" universities and people somehow see it as normal and acceptable. What I see on television today is disgraceful. Who are these people to think they have the right to dictate foreign policy to the US and more importantly, tell Israel they have to suck up what Hamas delivered in October? Can you imagine the Allies stopping the war before the Germans and Japanese were defeated in 1945? Would we have listened to a bunch of foul-mouthed college kids? No. We are to believe Jews are bad; Jews are wretched; Jewhave tails. What is next? The hate and fear for the Jewish people is unending. *Why the world so hates and fears .2% of the world's population amazes me. .2%, folks, that's it.*

The UN is equally pathetic. Again, let us not forget 7 October 2023. It was not Israeli commandos paragliding into Gaza and killing thousands of Palestinians. Yet the UN continually, as totally predicably, condemns Israel yet remains mostly silent on the Ukraine or the Uyghurs in China.

So other than our colleges and universities being breeding grounds for communism and socialism, why will these institutions not be more proactive in supporting their Jewish populations? I already answered this question. If I oversaw DHS, yes, I would be there when these cretins are arrested. I would have two piles if you will. US citizens and non-citizens. Non-citizens, your deportation process has just begun. You would be done. Out. Sorry, not sorry. Do you think for one second we should allow non-citizens to bring their antisemitic crap from their home country and spew their filth here? No. Sorry, not sorry. And let's not be deceived, a simple protest and calling for repeated October 7th style events forever (as some screamed), is not the same. If you are a non-citizen and calling for the death to all Jews, some of which are obviously American citizens, in the perfect world, within a month you would be on a slow-moving shrimp boat back to anywhere but here.

The bottom line, in my view, there is no place for this behavior in my world. Zero. When I was flying with the Saudi Air Force, we had a Lt.Col. that we called Colonel Zieg Heil. From the moment he stepped on the jet (including mission planning the day before) until the post mission debrief was completed, all he talked about was how much he hated Jews. He talked about the Israeli weather machine that prevented rain in Saudi Arabia (you cannot make this stuff up) to Jews doing and controlling everything under the sun. Although I was only a Captain at the time, as the aircraft commander, would still tell the Lt. Col. to be quiet if had nothing positive to say. I didn't want to hear it for 9.5 hours in the jet.

The behavior of many of our young people is disgusting and disturbing. The next few weeks should be interesting. But I must ask myself, do I think Israel does everything right? The answer is, no. Who does? Regardless, I still put my unwavering support behind Israel because no matter what, at this time in history, they are our biggest ally in the Middle East.

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



John Sophocleus

Prof. Roberts, there's a Cancer on the Presidency...

The Lagniappe returned to reporting on AU corruption with a piece on Matrix https://www.lagniappemobile.com/townnews/police/in-the-matrix-auburn-university-pays-1-million-a-year-to-controversial-firm/article_f088d0c2-eacc-11ee-81f0-0f2cf0b748a3.html?fbclid=IwAR15aB7ymWly9QAaqZeU-JELJJYM9qW9IKf8NjpxFAIAAdAyC2xOsV8tavUEw/ which appears a first salvo on another series by investigative reporter Rob Holbert.

Some forecast these courageous articles by one of our best reporters in the State may finally end Roberts' presidency. A presidency filled with impropriety and intentional cover-ups like Aistrup's \$500,000 federal court determination not witnessed since the public servant 'daze' of Prof. Ed Richardson. Lavish incomes allocated to malicious administrators along with legal fees to crony law firms, settlements and judgments against such 'pillagers' on the plains of Dixie (plains once held dear by kindred Spirits in the Auburn Creed) are incredible sums by any reasonable comparison.

Lagniappe's reporting exposed \$90k/year UA payments to a high profile political columnist who shamelessly shills for the 'Shelby Britt' to Felon Hubbard parasites destroying our quality of life. Little doubt this 'hired gun' payment is now accomplished via some other 'Birmingham Downtowner' funding scheme which uses our "education industrial complex" institutions as well-oiled money laundering machines for favoured apparatchiks, politburo members and other high-end political prostitutes. Reporter Holbert's [4/25/24] piece focused more specifically on \$1 mil./year AU payments to a controversial firm headed by one dubbed 'Skeletor' according to some of the Montgomery insiders I've interviewed, proffering credibility for such nomenclature. These insiders were VERY clear they must remain anonymous given Skeletor's history and connection to some of the most 'morally challenged' among the Intel community tied to AU.

Readers unfamiliar with Skeletor influence in Alabama politics these past decades may want to begin with lawsuits between Perkins and former Matrix CEO Jeff Pitts which included revealing supportive documents on par with BCA Bill Canary, Sen. Shelby, Gov. Riley, Felon Hubbard, et al email correspondences submitted to Judge Jake Walker's Lee County Circuit Court. The intrigue swirling around Alabama Power/Southern Company, Florida Power & Light minions attracted international attention [*Guardian* in UK] to investigative news articles about Matrix published in the *Orlando Sentinel*, *Miami Herald*, *Florida Times Union*, *Tampa Tribune*, *NPR*, and the investigative site *Floodlight*, along with Lagniappe and *al.com* cited by Holbert.

Investigation into Matrix efforts to impact news coverage of utility companies seemed of little interest last I spoke with Twinkle... sad our PSC seems disinterested in power companies' spending on Skeletor type activities. Much of the Pecker/National Enquirer 'influence peddling' (for those keeping up with the Trump trial Kabuki theatre in NY) type payments appear to be laundered via APCO's Charles D. McCrary Institute. The Alabama Power Foundation promised a \$10 mil. donation about ten years ago for creation of this entity in honor of their recently retired president and CEO, later installed onto the AU BoT. McCrary now serves as a member of the Institute's advisory board along with fellow APCO minions Zeke Smith and Jim Helibron. Also worthy of note from Holbert's reporting, Smith took McCrary's place on the AU BoT.

APCO did pay a more reasonable amount for this named Institute (unlike YellaGrubber: <https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2019/10/01/opinion/the-au-horror-picture-show-bride-of-felonstein-meets-yellagrubbear/1750.html> for his student/taxpayer funded 'Hell's Kitchen' boondoggle) seemingly used to launder political hack payments. Observers of the rise and fall of Felon Hubbard understood the 'Bride of Felonstein' role in that chapter of the AU Horror Picture Show staged with amazing benefits 'magically' bestowed upon her on the Plains of Dixie. Bill Britt [*Alabama Political Reporter*] uncovered some important nuggets years ago with their classic article entitled, "Hubbard: Keeping it in the Family," seemingly before receiving APCO 'influence peddling'

payments. This appointment to College of Human Science Dean is yet another example of "Auburn being Auburn" as ALL of her degrees and academic record occurred at AU, the home base and training ground of her fellow grifter public servant mate.

Prison was a great place for Felon Hubbard types to leverage laundered hush money payments of this sort. Most real universities do not hire their own PhD students as tenure-track faculty and then magically make them lavishly overpaid and underworked public administrators. Auburn is no longer a real university now morphed into a junior college (where culinary arts belong) sponsoring semi-pro football and basketball teams. Felon Hubbard's fat Southeast Gas Association checks keeping it "All in the Auburn Family" weren't enough - but they LOVE Auburn... just ask these political parasites.

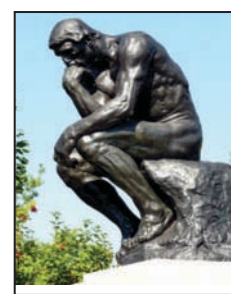
For those who truly care about AU, it is time to boycott sports shows, stop reading *APR*, YellaHubbard, et al 'Pravda on the Plains' propaganda from highly overpaid hired guns and look to corruption fighters like Holbert at Lagniappe, Attorney Harry Still 'Backstory' podcasts and of course the *Alabama Gazette* with the addition of Brandon Moseley who stand against Pecker Skeletor types who's stock and trade is to intimidate in their relentlessly comprehensive efforts to influence litigation and public perception of corrupt institutions like AU and their administrators. Matrix payments smack of the hide behind 'Legal Fees' playbook used to cloak how money is specifically spent... from our corrupt Lee Co. Commission, AU, EAMC locally all the way up to Biden/Trump crime family White House 'ledgerdmain' - faux spelling intended...

With enough light on AU's exorbitant payments to political operatives of such ill repute, President Chris Roberts was asked about the school's involvement with Matrix. Roberts had shown questionable public servant skills in what is now one of the longest ongoing federal lawsuits where even former President Steven 'Crash' Leath was unwilling to stand with Roberts' poor administrative decisions. Auburn likes to bring in corrupt 'public servants' they immediately exercise leverage over to keep the graft churning. Roberts was already a well-known quantity in this sort of public service and already in a compromised position in federal court documents. Again, no problem 'stalling and spinning' in our federal courts - esp. when you have 'peckers' like Matrix led by 'Skeletor' to protect the long list of parasites feeding on our students and taxpayers.

Seems the usual Matrix/ McCrary Institute playbook doesn't work as well when you have the *Wall St. Journal*, *Chronicle of Higher Ed*, *Lagniappe*, *Gazette* type newspapers along with Harry Still, Michael Pickens podcasts in the mix undoing false narratives and fluff-pieces. Soul crushing to witness once normal, uncorrupted players from an installed Dept. Head to remove elected chairs up to Executive Vice President retired U.S. Army Lt. General and former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency Ron Burgess (also noted by Holbert serving as Matrix's contact at Auburn) polluted by all this undisciplined corruption. Does anyone really think, given Gov. Ivey's dirty laundry associated with college funding, she'll stand up against these demons? I do relish thinking what could've been if voters elected Dr. Jimmy Blake as Governor to clean house at Alabama and Auburn in 2022.

Writing this AU horror-movie chapter would be parody of the White House 50 years ago with President Nixon being briefed by counsel John Dean (also worried about obstruction of justice charges) and the fates of favoured aides, Chief of Staff H. R. "Bob" Haldeman and Chief Domestic Adviser John D. Ehrlichman completely intertwined in the web of the president's corruption and cover-up. Courageous reporters and publishers made the cancer on Nixon's presidency untenable, even with the Skeletors (vulgarily named 'Rat F-ers' in the Watergate era) in full spin and intimidation. Easy to script a similar moment when Roberts' legal counsel and his incompetent law firm must similarly the cancer on his presidency and advise him to resign, with public servants McCrary and YellaGrubber waiting in the hall.

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



THINK



A TALE OF TWO COURTS AND THEIR RESPONSE TO ROE V. WADE'S DEMISE

For the past half century, state courts have largely toed the line and followed the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* (1973) decision creating a "right" to abortion and thereby invalidating the abortion laws of nearly all states.

Col John Eidsmoe

But the U.S. Supreme Court has overruled *Roe v. Wade* in its *Dobbs v. Jackson* (2023) decision, so state and lower federal courts are no longer bound by that earlier decision. Join me as I tell a "Tale of Two Courts," how two state supreme courts have addressed preborn human life since the *Dobbs* decision

ALABAMA

By many accounts, the Alabama Supreme Court, by its recent *Aysenne v. Center for Reproductive Medicine* decision, has transformed itself into a theocratic autocracy. They have created a right to life for embryos conceived in vitro out of thin air, many claim, effectively shutting down the practice of in vitro fertilization and thereby depriving countless would-be parents of the opportunity to have families.

In fact, the Alabama Supreme Court has faithfully followed the Alabama Constitution. In 2018, the people of Alabama ratified the Sanctity of Life Amendment, which reads:

"(a) This state acknowledges, declares, and affirms that it is the public policy of this state to recognize and support the sanctity of unborn life and the rights of unborn children, including the right to life.

"(b) This state further acknowledges, declares, and affirms that it is the public policy of this state to ensure the protection of the rights of the unborn child in all manners and measures lawful and appropriate.

"(c) Nothing in this constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of abortion."

In keeping with this amendment, the following year (2019), Alabama adopted one of the strongest abortion laws in the nation.

Protecting unborn human persons, the Sanctity of Life Amendment makes no exceptions for children conceived in vitro. Children conceived in vitro are therefore "unborn children," entitled to "the rights of unborn children, including the right to life." Further, the Amendment establishes that Alabama's public policy seeks to "ensure the protection of the rights of the unborn child in all manners and measures lawful and appropriate."

The Alabama Supreme Court therefore acted with judicial restraint and followed the doctrine of strict construction, interpreting the Alabama Constitution as written. Any other interpretation would have constituted judicial activism, twisting the Constitution to mean something it doesn't say.

The case arose out of a lawsuit alleging that an Alabama clinic negligently allowed the destruction of frozen embryos. Ruling that these frozen embryos were unborn children under the Alabama Constitution, the Alabama Supreme Court sent the case back to the trial court for further adjudication. Fearing that they could be held liable for discarded frozen embryos, the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital suspended its in vitro program, and several other hospitals followed suit.

This prompted Alabama to adopt SB159. This new law does not dispute the court's finding that frozen embryos are human persons, but it exempts IVF providers from liability for the destruction of frozen embryos. Now that SB159 is law, many IVF providers are back in business.

Alabama House Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter says "IVF is as pro-life as it gets." I might be inclined to agree – unless I were a discarded frozen embryo.

I sympathize with would-be parents who cannot conceive a child, and I understand their hope that IVF can enable them to have the family they so desperately want. And I would be less troubled if the bill provided immunity only for the unintentional destruction of frozen embryos, but it appears to protect their intentional destruction as well.

IVF clinics commonly produce multiple frozen embryos so the would-be parents can select one to be their child, while the others are either consigned to labs or discarded. But if the Alabama Constitution is correct – and I believe it is – these frozen embryos are human persons, and they have a right to life. Can we justify a practice that allows the killing of multiple preborn children so that parents can fulfill their dreams of raising families?

As medical science advances, the moral dilemma will become more difficult. At present, a frozen embryo can develop into a full-term baby only if it is implanted in a woman's womb. But that will likely change.

Medical science is working on the development of artificial wombs, or possibly the wombs of animals such as sheep. Once medical science achieves ectogenesis (production of a baby outside the mother's body), this frozen embryo may develop into a full-term baby, and then into a child and an adult, without ever being implanted in a mother's womb. Can we doubt that such a person is a human being?

If we grant that this adult person who was conceived in vitro and was never implanted in a womb and never born is nonetheless a human being, when did that person become human? The answer must be at fertilization, for at that point the child has all the DNA largely determining his sex, skin tone, hair color, and so much about the adult person that child will become. And if so, that child at fertilization has the God-given right to life that the Alabama Constitution recognizes, and that the Alabama Supreme Court has affirmed.

Maybe medical science will provide a solution to this dilemma. As Chief Justice Parker pointed out in his concurring opinion, some countries already limit the number of frozen embryos that can be produced. But while we recognize the joy of parents that their hopes for a child can finally be fulfilled, we must also remember that each frozen embryo produced in vitro is a human person whose life must be protected.

Are we really certain that God wants us to venture along these uncharted, trackless paths?

Let us proceed with caution.

ARIZONA

Can a "dead" statute be brought back to life? The Arizona Supreme Court seems to think so. In *Planned Parenthood v. Kristin Mayes/Hazelrigg* (2024), the Court ruled that Arizona's 1864 abortion statute – consigned to the morgue in 1973 when the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated abortion laws by declaring abortion a constitutional right in *Roe v. Wade* – is now valid and enforceable because *Roe v. Wade* was overruled.

Many commentators, a few of whom may have read the *Planned Parenthood* decision, say the Arizona Supreme Court's judicial activism is exceeded only by their political incorrectness. Taking a 160-year-old abortion statute thrown by the wayside back in 1973 and declaring that this statute is now back on the books, prohibiting all abortions except those necessary to save the life of the mother – why, that's like breathing life into Ezekiel's valley of dry bones (37:1-14)!

Foundation for Moral Law

One Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104.
(334) 262-1245.

But what did the Court really do?

Let's look at the facts:

- The Arizona statute was passed by the Legislature in 1864 and was in keeping with abortion laws adopted in states across the country, which recognized developments in medical science proving the preborn child is a living person.
- That statute was effective until the Supreme Court fabricated a supposed "right" to abortion in *Roe v. Wade* (1973), enjoining the enforcement of the Arizona abortion law. However, the Legislature never changed the law nor removed it from the books.
- The U.S. Supreme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade* in *Dobbs v. Jackson* (2022), holding that, because there is no right to abortion in the U.S. Constitution, states are free to regulate abortion as they deem appropriate.

- Because the *Roe* decision is no longer in effect, there is now no federal reason Arizona cannot enforce its abortion law. The Arizona abortion law is therefore in effect once again.

Two questions are worthy of consideration:

- If a court decision invalidating a state law is overruled, is that state law "resurrected," or does the Legislature have to pass it again? Courts and legal scholars are unclear; suffice it to say, the Arizona Supreme Court's position is within the mainstream of jurisprudence.

- Did the Arizona Legislature effectively repeal the 1864 statute by passing a new statute prohibiting abortion later than 15 weeks after conception? The Court considered that question and noted that nothing in the new statute repealed the old statute; in fact, the new statute specifically stated that the act does not "create or recognize a right to abortion" or "repeal, by implication or otherwise, section 13-3603, Arizona Revised Statutes, or any other applicable state law regulating or restricting abortion."

Just as the Alabama Supreme Court rightly concluded that the Alabama Constitution's protection of preborn children includes frozen embryos, so the Arizona Supreme Court rightly concluded that the 1864 law is still in effect. Deciding otherwise would have been judicial activism in the extreme. It is the responsibility of legislators, not judges, to determine whether laws are too old and need to be replaced. The 10 Commandments with their prohibitions against murder and theft are 3,400 years old, but they are hardly outdated.

How should we respond these decisions?

First, we should thank God that courageous Christian jurists like Justice Alito at the U.S. Supreme Court, Chief Justice Parker at the Alabama Supreme Court, and Justice Lopez at the Arizona Supreme Court had the insight and courage to follow the Constitution and to protect the preborn right to life.

Second, we should consider the practical consequences of their decisions. *Dobbs* led to a backlash, partly among those misled to think the Supreme Court outlawed abortion. (It didn't; it left the issue to the states where it belongs.) Pro-abortion measures were passed and pro-life measures were defeated in legislatures and in popular referenda, even in conservative states. The Alabama *LePage* decision and the Arizona *Planned Parenthood* decision threaten even greater backlashes. If we overrule *Roe v. Wade* (the worst constitutional atrocity since *Dred Scot*) but the result is the defeat of pro-life legislators and other candidates across the board, along with the enactment of abortion-demand laws in every state, have we really scored a victory for the pro-life cause and the lives of the preborn?

I'm still thinking about this. But I'm starting to conclude that, when enacting righteous laws and policies, legislatures and courts cannot get too far in front of public opinion. Otherwise, the people will dig in their heels and rebel.

E. C. Wines, a great Bible scholar whose "[Commentaries on the Laws of the Ancient Hebrews](#)" (1853) is a classic, observed that a literal application of the Mosaic Law "overlooks a material distinction – the distinction between laws intrinsically the wisest, and laws which are the wisest only when viewed as relating to times and circumstances." He continued:

"Civil laws, whatever be their source, to be adapted to the wants of any given community, must arise out of circumstances, and be relative to certain specific ends; which ends, under other circumstances, it might be the height of folly to pursue. When Solon was asked whether he had given the best laws to the Athenians, he replied: 'I have given them the best that they were able to bear.' Sage response! Is it not of much the same nature with that declaration of divine wisdom to the Jews, which has so perplexed biblical inquirers, 'I gave them also statutes that were not good,' [Ezekiel 20:25] that is, laws not absolutely the best, though they were relatively so. Montesquieu, with that penetration which belongs to all his philosophical reflections, has observed, that the passage cited above, is the sponge that wipes out all the difficulties, which are to be found in the law of Moses. ...

"A wise legislator, whether divine or human, in framing a new code of laws for a people, will give attention to considerations of climate, of religion, of existing institutions, of settled maxims of government, of precedent, of morals, of customs, and of manners. Out of all these there arises a general tone, or habit, of feeling, thinking, and acting, which constitutes what may be called the spirit of the nation. Now, a lawgiver shows himself deficient in legislative wisdom, who makes laws which shock the general sentiment of the people, laws which are at war with prevalent notions and rooted customs, which strip men of long-established and favorite rights. ...

"The principle that laws must be relative to circumstances, that they must grow out of the state of society, and be adopted to its wants, is founded in reason, and confirmed by experience."

Does this mean we give up our legal and political struggle for the civil rights of the preborn? Absolutely not!

But while we litigate and legislate, we must also educate. We must impress people with the personhood of the preborn -- an easy task, because biblical testimony and scientific evidence are both clear. The New Testament tells us that John the Baptist "leaped for joy" in his mother's womb when Mary, who was carrying Jesus in her womb, entered her presence (Luke 1:41). Modern medicine tells us that from the moment of fertilization the preborn child has a DNA all its own, different from its father, mother, and every other person.

The battle for preborn life did not culminate with the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision. It now enters an intensified stage – the battle for the hearts and minds and souls of men. But it is a winnable war, so let us press on to victory!

Col. Eidsmoe serves as Professor of Constitutional Law for the Oak Brook College of Law & Government Policy (obcl.edu) and as Senior Counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law (morallaw.org). He may be contacted for speaking engagements at eidsmoeja@juno.com. Portions of this column are excerpted from Col. Eidsmoe's columns for 1819 News.



Alabama on Path for Economic Prosperity

In what is the crowning economic achievement for this legislative session, Governor Kay Ivey and the state's legislative leadership have once again demonstrated their unwavering commitment to the prosperity of Alabamians. With the signing of the groundbreaking "Working for Alabama" legislative package, Alabama has taken a monumental step towards transforming its

workforce and invigorating its economy. This bipartisan effort is a testament to the power of collaboration and the shared vision of a brighter future for the state.

Governor Ivey, alongside Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth, Senate President Pro Tem Greg Reed, House Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter, Senate Minority Leader Bobby Singleton, House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels, and BCA President Helena Duncan, have ushered in a new era of economic development and workforce empowerment with the enactment of this legislation. The "Working for Alabama" package is not just a collection of bills; it is a strategic blueprint designed to address some of Alabama's most pressing challenges and unlock its full potential.

One of the most significant achievements of this legislative package is its focus on increasing Alabama's Labor Force Participation Rate. Currently ranked 47th in the nation, Alabama faces a considerable challenge in mobilizing its working-age population. The package includes crucial measures like the Alabama Workforce Transformation Act and the Alabama Career Pathways Act, which aim to equip Alabamians with the skills and training needed for high-paying, 21st-century jobs. This initiative is poised to bring thousands of individuals into the workforce, driving economic growth and enhancing the quality of life across the state.

Governor Ivey's leadership in spearheading this initiative cannot be overstated. Her vision for a stronger Alabama is reflected in every aspect of the "Working for Alabama" package. By addressing barriers such as affordable childcare and housing, the state is making it easier for Alabamians to join the workforce and contribute to the state's economic success. As Speaker Ledbetter aptly put it, "We have to keep pushing forward," and this legislative package is a giant leap in the right direction.

The bipartisan nature of this achievement is particularly noteworthy. Senate Minority Leader Bobby Singleton and House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels have demonstrated that when leaders put aside partisan differences and work



Perry O. Hooper Jr.

Founder Let the People Speak
 Founder Patriots First
 Former Alabama State Representative
 Alabama State Republican Executive Committee



together, they can achieve remarkable results. This cooperative spirit is essential for addressing the diverse needs of Alabama's communities, especially in rural areas that require targeted support and investment.

The announcement of Meta's \$800 million data center in Montgomery is a direct testament to the positive impact of Alabama's proactive economic strategies. This new facility, which will bring 100 high tech operational jobs and significant construction employment, highlights Alabama's growing appeal to major tech companies. Meta's decision to expand its footprint in Alabama is a vote of confidence in the state's economic future and the effectiveness of its workforce development initiatives.

Senate President Pro Tem Greg Reed's remarks underscore the strategic importance of these investments: "Our state has positioned itself to be a national economic and workforce development leader for years to come." With the "Working for Alabama" package, the state is laying a solid foundation for sustained economic growth and competitiveness on a national and global scale.

BCA President Helena Duncan's endorsement further reinforces the significance of this legislative achievement. By creating a job-ready workforce and fostering a business-friendly environment, Alabama is setting the stage for continued investment and innovation. The collaboration between state leaders and corporate partners like Alabama Power exemplifies the collective effort required to drive meaningful change and secure a prosperous future for all Alabamians.

The "Working for Alabama" legislative package is a landmark accomplishment that will resonate for years to come. Governor Ivey and Alabama's legislative leadership have shown remarkable foresight and dedication in addressing the state's economic challenges head-on. As we celebrate this milestone, we can look forward to more announcements like Meta's, heralding a new era of growth, opportunity, and success for Alabama. With this visionary leadership, the best is yet to come for great state.

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

On the Brink: The High Stakes of Alabama's 2nd Congressional District Election

Our country is at a crossroads, teetering on the edge of disaster. The path we are currently on is one of rampant government overreach, economic stagnation, and a disturbing erosion of our constitutional freedoms. The radical left's agenda is pushing us further away from the foundational principles that made America great. We cannot stand idly by as our nation is led astray by those who prioritize political correctness over common sense, and special interests over the needs of hardworking Americans. It is imperative that we change course now, restoring the values of personal liberty, limited government, and economic prosperity. This election is not just another political battle; it is a fight for the very soul of our nation, and we must rise to the occasion.

Caroleene Dobson has emerged as the Republican nominee for District 2 after a fiercely contested runoff. It is time to put aside any personal preferences and rally behind Caroleene with unwavering support. This upcoming general election is the most significant in our lifetime, and unity is our greatest strength.

Ronald Reagan once said, "There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit." This wisdom is more relevant than ever. Caroleene Dobson is now the standard-bearer of our ideals, facing off against Democrat Shomari Figures and the leftist agenda.

Shomari Figures, epitomizes the very definition of a Washington insider. Unlike Caroleene, who was raised on a farm in rural Alabama and is deeply connected to the values and concerns of our community, Figures has spent years entrenched in the political machinery of Washington, D.C. This detachment from the everyday realities of Alabama's hardworking families makes him completely unsuited to represent our district. Figures' career in the capital is marked by allegiance to the establishment and the leftist agenda, prioritizing political gamesmanship over the genuine needs of the people. Electing a candidate like Shomari Figures would mean endorsing a continuation of the swamp's influence, rather than embracing the fresh, principled leadership that Caroleene Dobson offers.

The stakes in this election could not be higher. Currently Republican control of the House hangs by a single vote. The outcome in November may very well determine which party controls the United States House of Representatives. Losing this seat to the Democrats is not just a defeat in one district; it could shift the balance of power, leading to consequences we shudder to imagine.

As Republicans, we stand for a strong national defense, a robust economy, freedom from government overreach, and the preservation of our constitutional rights. Caroleene Dobson embodies these principles. She represents the spirit of service and commitment to governance that honors the legacy of those who have fought for and built this great nation.

This election directly influences President Donald J. Trump's ability to restart his transformative agenda to make America Great Again. A Republican majority in the House is crucial for advancing policies that secure our borders, rejuvenate our economy, and protect our constitutional freedoms against government overreach. Every congressional seat, especially Alabama's 2nd District, is vital for maintaining Republican leadership and achieving President Trump's vision for America.

We stand at the brink of a transformative moment that will determine whether we preserve the America we know and love or succumb to a future dictated by radical leftist policies and unchecked government power. This election is not just about one district or one seat: it is about safeguarding our freedoms, our economy, and our way of life. The stakes could not be higher. If we fail to secure victory, we risk watching our nation devolve into something unrecognizable, where the core values that define us are eroded beyond repair. We must rally, unite, and fight with everything we have to ensure that Caroleene Dobson triumphs in November. Our future, our children's future, and the future of this great republic depend on it.

By: Perry O. Hooper, Jr. is a former State Representative, a frequently published political commentator, and was the 2016 Chair of the Trump Victory Campaign.

Paid Political Ad for by Let the People Speak, 2037 Hazel Hedge, Montgomery, AL 36106

HISTORICAL NEWS WE CAN USE!



Justice Will Sellers

One Hundred years ago, Congress passed, and President Calvin Coolidge signed a new immigration bill. While relatively uncontroversial in the United States - it had passed the Senate 69-9 and 308-62 in the House - the Act had a global impact.

Its genesis was a study completed by the Dillingham Commission, which was formed by President Theodore Roosevelt and tasked with studying and identifying which immigrants would contribute most to the social fabric of America.

The commission unfortunately embraced various theories combining racial superiority concepts of social Darwinism with eugenics, so, to no one's surprise, the resulting profile of an ideal American immigrant looked remarkably like members of the committee.

The panel would review and ultimately adopt standards of suitability ranging from physical details like posture, head size and facial features to grades on literacy tests that focused more on aptitude for learning rather than ability to read or write.

Scientists and academics nationwide embraced these outward manifestations to divide the "desirable" immigrants from those more susceptible to crime, disease and incompetence, and applauded the commission's findings incorporated in the Act which provided a basis for excluding certain immigrants.

Prior to passage of the federal law, immigration issues were handled at points of entry as typified by the Ellis Island experience in which huddled masses from far-away nations were processed and generally only turned back for obvious reasons like illness.

The new law required those seeking entry to America to first secure a travel visa, which was allotted on a quota system that severely limited immigration from Eastern and Southern Europe. Because immigration from Asia was expressly prohibited, the law has been commonly known as the "Japanese Exclusion Act."

Labor unions particularly supported the new law as it eliminated cheap immigrant labor and allowed for union workers to maintain their hegemony in providing workers for America's expanding industry.

While limiting immigration on the basis of country of origin, the Act did not limit immigration from the Western Hemisphere, so those from Canada and Mexico were welcomed without the need for a visa, literacy test, or proper eugenic profile; Mexican laborers, however, were charged a \$10 tax to enter the United States.

Sensing that the borders with our neighbors might be a source of problems, the Border Patrol was established to make sure that the prohibitions of the federal law were respected, and immigrants from outside the Western Hemisphere could not sneak across.

Thus, the 100th anniversary of the 1924 Immigration Act is also the centennial of the US Border Patrol. Creating this federal agency later demonstrated that Congress was correct in assuming that immigrants from outside Latin America would attempt to use the southern border as an entry point to avoid the immigration limitations assessed at ports.

Perhaps the most significant impact of the law was the humiliating effect it had on Japan. America had previously limited immigration from China specifically,

but Japan's immigration was limited by an unwritten and covert "gentlemen's agreement." The 1924 immigration law removed any pretense that citizens of Japan were not wanted.

It is not a stretch to say that some of the seeds of anti-Americanism that would create open hostilities between the countries were contained in this Act. Prior to this time, Japan admired the young country of America and saw many benefits in becoming a trading partner and friend. The Japanese people even adopted aspects of American culture ranging from clothing to baseball.

Japan was a bona fide world power and had entered World War I as an ally, believing its interest more aligned with the United States and Great Britain. There was a strong sentiment in Japan to reform its government to be more like its Western allies, and its representatives attended the Versailles Conference to voice concern about the future of the world.

Specifically, Japan advocated for loosening restrictions on immigration to ban discrimination based on race and religion, which was a quite progressive view for 1919. Unfortunately, President Wilson worked to make sure these proposals were not incorporated into the final agreement to form the League of Nations.

But even so, Japan's pride at having a place at the conference and the honor of having its diplomats respected as part of the League of Nations boosted national morale. In imitation of its new allies, Japan created a constitutional monarchy with a democratically elected parliament. In short, Japan had achieved world-wide recognition as a geo-political leader and actor on the world stage following World War I.

After the immigration law was enacted Japanese-American relations soured. Within the short time it took for news to reach Japan of the Act's limitations, a young citizen of Japan set himself on fire in front of the US Embassy in Tokyo, tariffs on American businesses and industries doubled, and Japanese embassies in America and other countries lodged protests as some ambassadors resigned.

No one in Japan could understand why they would be singled out. They needed no sophisticated interpreter to explain the Act; for all the pretexts and explanations, nothing could escape the simple fact that the immigration law deemed Japan as an unworthy, second-class country.

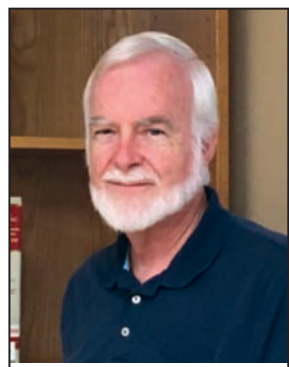
Try as some Americans might, there was no way to sugarcoat in diplomatic terms that the Act was demeaning and promoted the inferiority of Asian culture in general and Japan in particular. The earlier honors of equality and recognition as an ally were diminished, if not forgotten.

And among those in Japan who resisted changes to constitutional government and the embrace of American culture, the Act allowed them to question the shift toward democracy. Recalcitrant Japanese nobility used the Act to show American deceit and provided a basis to urge a rejection of American culture, economy and institutions.

Instead of incorporating Japan into its sphere of influence, the Act alienated Japan from the United States and was one step of many that lead to confrontation and ultimately, a second world war.

Will Sellers is a graduate of Hillsdale College and an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama. He is best reached at jws@willsellers.com.

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



John Taylor

The Election of 1860: Consolidation, Corporatism, and Empire

The election of 1860 featured four presidential candidates: Stephen Douglas, John Breckinridge, John Bell, and Abraham Lincoln.

Stephen A. Douglas – Nicknamed the Little Giant due to his 5' 4" stature, Illinois-native Douglas was a political giant. A wealthy land speculator and lobbyist for the Illinois Central Railroad, Douglas supported the Missouri Compromise, then sponsored the Kansas-

Nebraska Act of 1854, whose popular sovereignty provision virtually negated the Missouri Compromise. He created the Freeport Doctrine that claimed, "in spite of the Dred Scott decision, slavery could be excluded from territories of the United States by local legislation." Initially the presidential favorite, the landscape began to change during the 1858 Lincoln-

Southern Democrats opposed Douglas. Reflecting his Northern Democrat supporters, Douglas opposed westward slavery expansion, feeling the area should be for Whites only. Douglas and Vice-Presidential candidate Herschel Johnson received 1,380,202 votes, 29.5% of the total, and 12% of the electoral votes. He only carried Missouri.

John Cabell Breckinridge – Kentucky-born Breckinridge studied law at Transylvania University and began practicing in 1841. In 1851 he was elected to the House of Representatives and later became U.S. Vice-President under Buchanan. At thirty-six years of age, he remains the youngest Vice-President in U.S. history. A Southern Democrat from a former Whig stronghold, Breckinridge was soft on secession, preferring an intact Union. He understood that, according to the constitution, slavery could not be excluded from the territories. (The Republican Party Platform argued otherwise.) Some contend the Southern Democrats' schism helped get Lincoln elected. The so-called "fire eaters" walked out of the May 3, 1860, Democratic Convention in Charleston, South Carolina, as well as the reconvened convention in Baltimore, Maryland on June 18, 1860.

Breckinridge, with Vice President Joseph Lane, carried the Deep South States, Texas, Delaware, and Maryland. He received 848,019 votes, 72 electoral votes, with just over 18% of the total vote.

John Bell – Tennessee-born Bell graduated in 1814 from Cumberland College in Nashville, and began practicing law in 1816. He served seven consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat. Bell fell out with Andrew Jackson over his refusal to renew the charter of the Bank of the United States. Bell became a member of the Whig Party. He was appointed Secretary of War in 1841 by President William H. Harrison. After Harrison died, Bell resigned due to President John Tyler's support of States' Rights Democrats. Initially anti-secession, Bell reversed his stance after Fort Sumter and Lincoln's request for troops to invade the seceded States.

A Whig Party remnant "organized as the Constitutional Union party and held a national convention in Baltimore in May 1860. Delegates nominated Bell for president and Edward Everett of Massachusetts for vice president." The Constitutional Union Party was neutral on slavery. Bell carried Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky, receiving 590,901 votes, 39 electoral votes, and 12.6% of the total vote.

Abraham Lincoln – Lincoln became the Republican candidate after "wheeling and dealing" at the Republican Convention in Chicago. Heavily supported by corporate and banking interests in the Northeast and Upper Midwest, Lincoln was not on the ballot in ten Southern States, appearing on twenty-three of the thirty-three States' ballots in the Union at election time (Kansas became a State in January 1861).

Lincoln only received 1,364 votes in Kentucky and 1,887 votes in Virginia, but carried the New England States, the Upper Midwest, California, and Oregon. He was elected with 1,866,452 votes, 180 electoral votes, and 39.8% of the total.

Lincoln's supporters included:

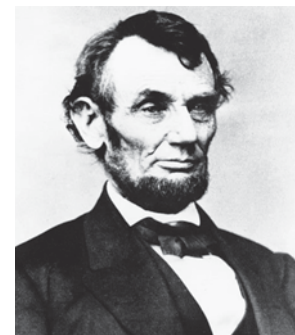
- **Banker Jay Cooke** (Jay Cooke & Company). Salmon Chase granted Cooke's firm monopoly status relative to the sale of U.S. government bonds. Cooke and his brother, H.C. Cooke (a Republican Party founder) supported the "corporate welfare" financing of a transcontinental railroad.
- **Vermont Congressman Justin Morrill**, a protectionist, steel manufacturer, and Republican founder and Henry Charles Carey, Pennsylvania economist, publicist, and steel industry lobbyist. Both vehemently supported the Morrill Tariff, which economically punished the South.
- **Pennsylvania Representative Thaddeus Stevens**, Radical Republican owner of Caledonia Iron Works (near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania). He benefitted significantly from Lincoln's protectionist policies and was adamant that slavery be contained in the South and Border States.
- Two of the Secret Six (Northerners who financed **John Brown**) stood to benefit from higher tariffs/corporate welfare. **Gerrit Smith**, of Peterboro, New York, owned the Great Wharves at the harbor in Oswego, New York. **George Luther Stearns**, from Medford, Massachusetts, was involved with ship chandlery and later in the manufacture of sheet and pipe-lead.
- **Radical Republicans**, e.g., newspaper editor **Joseph Medill**, **Michigan Senator and Detroit Mayor Zachariah Chandler**, **Ohio Senator Ben Wade**, and others.

All candidates except Lincoln were anti-war and open to peaceful negotiations. Lincoln's election crushed federalism, planted the seeds of empire, and led to what Doug Casey describes as: "State corporatism, where corporations and the State work hand-in-glove."

Sources:

Paul M. Angle, "Freeport Doctrine," Encyclopedia.com—Dictionary of American History, The Gale Group, 2003, <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3401801612.html>; Donald R. McClarey and Paul Zummo, "Breckinridge Platform 1860," Almost Chosen People, A blog about American History, and the development of a great Nation, October 6, 2010, <http://almostchosenpeople.wordpress.com/2010/10/06/breckinridge-platform-1860/>; "1860 Lincoln v. Douglas v. Breckinridge v. Bell," John Bell, HarpWeek Explore History, <http://elections.harpweek.com/1860/bio-1860-Full.asp?UniqueID=1>; Mike Scruggs, "Understanding the Causes of the Civil War: A Brief Explanation of the Impact of the Morrill Tariff," The Tribune Papers, June 4, 2005, <http://ashevilletribune.com/archives/censored-truths/Morrill%20Tariff.html>; Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation, by John M. Taylor; and New American Dream: "You'll Own Nothing and Be Happy," Doug Casey, from LewRockwell.com. In 1864, even J.P. Morgan noted the corrupt politicians and contractors with their hands out all over Washington, D.C. NOTE: The Morrill Tariff was named after Justin S. Morrill.

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





Kyle McKinney



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



Email: KYLLE.MCKINNEY@SSA.GOV

Fax: (334) 272-7630

Cell: (334) 479-1242

**SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS
ARE SAFER AT HOME**

WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU HAVE A SOCIAL SECURITY OR SSI OVERPAYMENT

An overpayment occurs when Social Security pays a person more money in Social Security benefits or SSI payments than should have been paid. The amount of the overpayment is the difference between the payment received and the amount that was due.

Social Security is required by law to adjust benefits or recover debts when an overpayment occurs. If you receive an overpayment notice, it will explain why you've been overpaid, the overpayment amount, your repayment options, and your appeal and waiver rights.

After receiving an overpayment notice, you can:

Repay the overpayment in full or through a repayment plan by check, money order, credit card or by monthly reductions from your Social Security benefit. You may be able to make a full or partial repayment using Pay.gov or your bank's online bill pay option. We offer flexible repayment plans, including payments as low as \$10 per month.

Appeal the overpayment if you don't agree that you've been overpaid, or you believe the amount is incorrect. You can request a **non-medical reconsideration online** or you can submit a completed **SSA-561, Request for Reconsideration**, to your local Social Security office.

Request that we waive the overpayment if you believe you are not at fault for causing the overpayment AND you cannot afford to pay the money back or it is unfair for some other reason. You can ask for a waiver by submitting a completed **SSA-632, Request for Waiver of Overpayment Recovery**, to your local office. If your overpayment is \$1,000 or less, we may be able to process your waiver request quickly by telephone. You can contact your local office or call us at 1-800-772-1213, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Request a different repayment amount if you are unable to meet your necessary living expenses due to the current repayment amount. If you are unable to repay the debt within 60 months* due to the negotiated repayment amount, you will be asked to complete form SSA-634, Request for Change in Overpayment Recovery Rate. You can find the form at www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-634.pdf.

*This is a recent policy change. Previous policy required the completion of the SSA-634 if the overpayment could not be repaid within 36 months.

To learn more about overpayments and our process, visit our Understanding SSI Overpayments webpage at www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-overpay-ussi.htm, read our **Overpayments fact sheet** at www.ssa.gov/marketing/assets/materials/EN-05-10106.pdf, or watch our **Overpayment** video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxYYcjgkFvM.

ON THE GO? YOU CAN STILL USE SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE WHEN TRAVELING

Social Security is here for you when you travel, whether you're in the United States or in another country. Our online services page at www.ssa.gov/onlineservices provides you with a wide variety of self-service options you can use on your mobile phone, tablet, or computer.

Through our online services, you can:

- Find out if you qualify for benefits.
- Apply for Social Security retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits.
- Get your Social Security Statement.
- Request a replacement Social Security card.
- Appeal a decision.

Do you receive Social Security benefits or Medicare? If so, you can create or log in to your personal my Social Security account to:

- Get your benefit verification letter.
- Check your information and benefit amount.
- Change your address and telephone number.
- Start or change your direct deposit.
- Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season.
- Report your wages if you work and receive disability benefits or SSI.

Create a personal my Social Security account today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to take advantage of these easy-to-use features. Also, please share our online services page with family and friends who need this important information.

SOCIAL SECURITY HONORS OUR MILITARY HEROES



On Memorial Day, our nation honors military service members who have given their lives to preserve our freedoms. Families, friends, and communities come together to remember the great sacrifices of military members and ensure their legacies live on.

The benefits we provide can help the families of deceased military service members.

HOW YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THIEVES

Identity theft is when someone uses your personal information to impersonate you or steal from you. These crimes can impact your physical, mental, and emotional health and lead to lost opportunities that are often hard to measure. Learning more about identity theft can help you keep your personal information safe.

Types of Identity Theft

There are 2 types of identity theft you should be aware of:

- Thieves stealing your data, physically or digitally, without contacting you directly.
- Thieves contacting you directly and convincing you to provide sensitive information.

In these instances, you may never know how the thief got your information.

How Identity Thieves Use Your Information

Identity thieves steal personal information like your name, address, credit card or bank account numbers, Social Security number (SSN), and medical insurance account numbers. They use this information to:

- Buy items with your credit cards or bank accounts.
- Obtain new credit cards or accounts in your name.
- Use your SSN to get a job.
- Open phone or utility accounts in your name.
- Steal your tax refund.
- Use your health insurance to obtain medical care.
- Pretend to be you if they are arrested.

How to Spot Identity Theft

To spot identity theft:

- Keep track of your mail for missing bills or other documents.
- Review your credit card and bank statements for unauthorized transactions.
- Obtain and review your credit reports regularly to make sure they do not include accounts you have not opened.

Ways to Prevent Identity Theft

While no plan is perfect, taking the precautions below can help you better protect your personal information:

- Protect documents that have personal information.
- Ask questions before giving out your SSN.
- Protect your personal information online and on your phone by using a strong password and adding multi-factor authentication when offered.
- Safeguard your information on social networks.

What to Do if You Believe Someone Has Stolen Your Identity

- Report fraud to the company where it occurred.
- Contact a credit bureau to place a fraud alert on your credit report.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at www.identitytheft.gov.
- File a police report.

For more information about how to protect your SSN from identity thieves, read our publication, Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10064.pdf. Please report suspected Social Security imposter scams — and other Social Security fraud — on the Office of Inspector General's **website** at www.oig.ssa.gov/report.

It's important to protect yourself against identity theft because it can damage your credit status. Repairing this damage can cost you a great deal of time and money.

Please share this information with your family and friends.

For example, surviving spouses and dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. You can learn more about those benefits at www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors.

We also offer support to wounded warriors. Social Security benefits protect veterans when injuries prevent them from returning to active duty or performing other work. Both the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Social Security have disability programs. You may qualify for disability benefits through one or both programs. Read our fact sheet, "**Social Security Disability and Veterans Affairs Disability — How Do They Compare?**" at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-125.pdf. Depending on your situation, some members of your family, including your dependent children or spouse, may be eligible to receive Social Security benefits.

Wounded military service members can receive quicker processing of their Social Security disability claims. If you are a veteran with a 100% Permanent & Total compensation rating from Veterans Affairs, we'll expedite your disability claim. Thinking about retirement or know a veteran who is? Military service members can receive Social Security benefits in addition to their military retirement benefits. For details, visit our webpage for veterans, available at www.ssa.gov/people/veterans. Please share this information with the military families you know. We honor and thank the veterans who bravely served and died for our country and the military service members who serve today.

Vicki's Lunch Van

Vicki's is a Proud Sponsor of "Honoring Our Heros"

Voted the "Best Hamburger" in the Tri-County area!

T-F:
10:30 A.M.
3:00 P.M.

106 Coliseum Blvd., Montgomery, AL

Community Lifestyles



NOTICE!
PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE
AND VIEW THIS ISSUE AND
UPCOMING ISSUES ALONG
WITH CURRENT NEWS!
www.alabamagazette.com

Honoring Our Heroes



Captain James Edward Klingler



Colonel Dr Patricia Thomas



Hope you enjoy reading the Gazette as much as these veterans.



Sergeant First Class Eddie Frank Harris



Col John William Schmidt



Sergeant First Class James Edward Pierson:



Tech Sergeant Donald Allen Heila



Col DennyRea



Aviation Machinist Mate James L. Tatum: Age 100

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Edward G. Platt May 2nd
Jimmy F. Meacham May 5th
Linda L. Boyle May 6th
Joel Burdette, May 6th
Sandra Dee Lucas May 13th
Paul Williamson May 14th
David L. McFarland May 16th
Lenora White May 19th
Richard Aldridge May 20th

Ronald Balkcom May 20th
Willie Durham May 22nd
Charles Lynn May 23rd
Johnny Saxton May 25th
Dennis M. Drew May 27th
Ell White May 27th
Joseph Simon May 29th
Jamie M. LyBrands May 30th
Danny M. McDonald May 30th

VETERANS CRISIS LINE - DIAL 988 then PRESS 1 www.veteranscrisisline.net



Col Stefan Eisen Jr.: Age 69



Col Stefan Eisen Jr. served 30 years in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) included: (1) Fighter/Instructor Pilot (Other) for fifteen years, (2) Academic Instructor at Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College for five years, (3) Support Commander for eight years and (4) Commander: Pilot Training for two years. His distinguished service included his being awarded the following medals, citations, badges and ribbons: Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Training Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and one Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Col Eisen was born June 19, 1954 in Montreal, Canada, to his parents, Stefan and Gertrude Eisen. He was reared for seven years there, and then he was reared in Danielson, CT, where he graduated from Killingly High School in 1972. As a youth, he always wanted to fly, and often he flew gliders with his father. He obtained his glider pilot's license before he obtained his automobile driver's license. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1976 and entered the U.S. Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant on June 2, 1976. Later, using the G.I. Bill, he received a Master of Systems Management from St. Mary's University in 1985 and a Doctorate of Public Administration from the University of Alabama in 2003.

Col Stefan's military career encompassed 11 different assignments with increasing leadership responsibility with each new duty station. His first assignment was at Columbus AFB, MS, for one year where he underwent Air Force Pilot Training in the T-37 and the T-38. He then served four years from 1978-1982, at Sheppard AFB, TX, where he served as a T-38 Instructor Pilot (IP) and Flight Evaluator (FE) with three different programs: the Fixed Wing Conversion program, the German Air Force pilot training program finally serving as the initial cadre to stand-up the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJJPT) program. Next, he was sent to the Pentagon where he served as an Air Staff Training (ASTRA) officer for a one year internship from 1982-1983. He then served at Randolph AFB, TX, where he was a T-38 instructor upgrade IP and Flight Commander for two years. He remained there and served as a HQ Air Training Command T-38 Stan/Eval Pilot and FE for two more years. His next assignment was at Maxwell AFB, AL, first as a student at the Air Command and Staff and then as a faculty member for 1.5 years. He then was transferred to the Squadron Officers School to serve as the 38th Student

Squadron Commander for two years. He returned to serve at Columbus AFB, MS, for three years during 1991-1994, where he first served as the 50th Flying Training Squadron (T-38) Operations Officer and then as the 37th Flying Training Squadron (T-37) Squadron Commander.

During 1994-1995, Col Eisen attended and graduated from the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, R.I. with a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies. He returned to serve at Maxwell AFB, AL, as a member of the Air War College faculty from 1996-1997. He remained at Maxwell AFB and became the first Commandant of the Air and Space Basic Course School where he served for 1.5 years. He was then transferred to Lackland AFB, TX. From 1998-2000, he served as the Basic Military Training Commander. He then returned again to Maxwell AFB, AL, where he first served as the Commander of Air Force ROTC from 2000-2002. His final assignment was the Air War College's Dean of Faculty and Academics from 2003-2006. Col Eisen retired from military service on June 30, 2006.

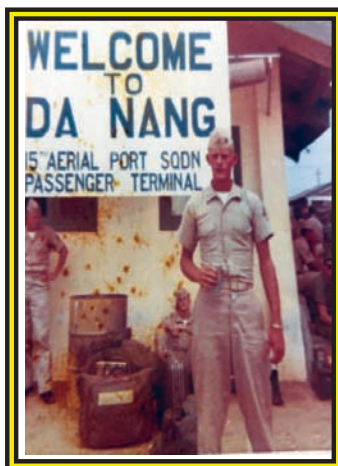
Col Eisen and his wife, Catherine, were married 40 years until she passed away in 2018. He and his wife, Mary Kay, have been married three years. Since his military retirement, he served as the founder and the Director of the Air Force Negotiation Center from 2006-2018 at Maxwell AFB. His real joy now is accompanying his daughter Johnanna, who is autistic as they volunteer at the Maxwell AFB Thrift Shop, the AL Library for the Blind and the Montgomery Humane Society. Johanna is also active in tennis through the Dream Court adaptive tennis program. Johanna enjoys softball with the Montgomery Miracle League where Stefan serves as a pitcher. Johanna rounds out her athletic interests by riding horseback with MANE, an adaptive equestrian program. When not being Johanna's buddy, Col Eisen serves on the Board of Visitors at the University of Alabama's Office of Teaching Innovation and Digital Education (OTIDE). He also serves as the Public Affairs Officer for the Air Force Association's Montgomery Chapter 102, and he is a life member of the Military Officers Association of America. He continues to work part time as a professor of research for the Air University's On-Line Master's Program (OLMP). He is often found in his or a friend's garage working on one of his three Corvettes either getting them ready for a charity car show or driving at a regional track. He also serves as the secretary for the Capital City Corvette Club.

Col Eisen's reflections and conclusions about his military service are, "I loved the people with whom I worked. I still keep in close touch with friends from my Air Force Academy as well as active duty days. I was lucky with the things that I got to do." He would like to be remembered as a good friend and that he always tried to do his best.





Sergeant Edwin Lloyd Faulkner: Age 77



Sergeant (Sgt) Edwin Lloyd Faulkner served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Machine Gunner (331). He received the following medals, awards, citations and ribbons: Purple Heart Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with one star, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation and Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

Sgt Faulkner was born June 29, 1946 in Troy, AL, to his parents, Edwin H. and Nellie Faulkner. He was reared in Union Springs, AL, and he graduated from Union Springs High School in 1964.

Sgt Faulkner volunteered for military service, was sworn in at Birmingham, AL and began serving in the U.S. Marine Corps August 3, 1964. His beginning salary in the U.S. Marine Corps was \$78.00 per month. He completed 13 weeks of Boot Camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina. He received the legendary training in physical, mental and moral toughness to fight among the Marine Corps ranks. There he learned that it is not enough to endure, but a Marine must prevail.

He was then assigned to D Company, 1st Marine Battalion, 6th Marine Division as an infantry machine gunner at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he trained with the use of mortars and machine guns for 30 days in Infantry at Camp Geiger, part of the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., complex and home to the United States Marine Corps School of Infantry East for all Marines recruited through the Eastern Recruiting Region. He remained at Camp Lejeune for one year in 1965 with a Weapons Platoon attached to an Infantry Platoon. While there, he was on standby and served Temporary Duty (TDY) in Santo Domingo during a civil war for 30 days. He continued to train at Camp Lejeune until he was sent to Vietnam in December 1965. He was transferred to M Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Division in Vietnam located just below the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). He was sent to San Diego for three weeks of jungle training followed by three weeks in Okinawa for more training. From there, he sailed for nine days on the attack ship, the AP/-248 USS Paul Revere to Vietnam.

Sgt Faulkner landed at the harbor near Hue Phu Bai, Vietnam, and traveled with Marines via truck which was referred to as a cattle car to a compound outside Hue Phu Bai. From there he went north and served in the northern part of Vietnam near the DMZ at Dong Ha which was one of the longest and bloodiest battles of the war and Quang Tri where an intense, sustained rocket and artillery barrages occurred. His platoon would take hostile territory on night patrols.

He was subjected to Agent Orange while serving there. His time in Vietnam consisted of daily patrols of designated territory and occasional night ambushes. During the numerous patrols, there was frequent contact with the Vietnamese Gorillas and the North Vietnamese Army. Some battles were light, while others were heavy resulting in many wounded and casualties. While in

Vietnam, his Company participated in 10 operations having code names like Operation Cherokee, Operation Hastings, Operation Wayne, etc. As operations could last several days, the objective was to take a territory from the Viet Cong and keep it occupied by American forces. He was initially a gun team leader as well as the gunner. He was promoted twice within six months. The last promotion resulted in his becoming a machine gun squad leader supervising two machine gun teams. They slept only four hours each night with two hours at a time. They endured many nightly mortar attacks. Meals consisted of C-rations three times each day and sometimes less than three. On one occasion, there was no food or water for two days because the area was too hostile for helicopters to bring in supplies. He served in Vietnam for 10 months. During a heavy battle, Sgt Faulkner was blown up by a landmine suffering severe wounds on December 21, 1966. He was medevac'd via helicopter to a field hospital where he underwent hours of surgery. Then he was hospitalized and treated in Da Nang, the Philippine Islands, Japan and at the Naval Air Station Hospital in Pensacola, FL, where he endured more surgeries, rehabilitation and physical therapy for six months. After completing treatments and rehabilitation, he was assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina for 16 months as the coach and then as a Primary Marksmanship Instructor on the rifle range where Marine recruits were instructed for two weeks. While there, he was promoted to Sergeant (E-5). Sgt Faulkner completed his military service August 2, 1968.

After his military service, Sgt Faulkner used the G.I. Bill and received a BS Degree in Accounting from Auburn University in 1972. He first worked as an accountant with the CPA firm, Kent, Nobles and Martin, in Montgomery, AL, for one year. He then worked for 25 years with the Alabama Department of Transportation in Finance retiring as Assistant Director in 1998. Next, he worked as the Chief Financial Officer of Kyser Corporation, a holding company, in Montgomery for one year. His final employment was the Finance Director of the City of Montgomery for 14 years during 1999-2013.



Sgt Faulkner and his wife, Joy, have been married 52 years, and they have three children and five grandchildren. He enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, trail riding on horses, quail hunting and traveling. He continues to serve on various civic boards and is currently the president of the City of Montgomery Retiree's Association. He is also an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery. He attends Wesley Methodist Church in Montgomery.

Sgt Faulkner's conclusions about his Marine military service are, "When I hit the ground in Vietnam, I was a 19 year-old kid. I realized quickly the importance of a soldier in this country. Without soldiers, this country would never have been established nor sustained. It saddens me today that a large portion of this country is anti-military. Although I was reared in Union Springs, I grew up in the Marine Corps. It gave me the foundation that made me the man that I am today."



Sergeant Major Robert E. Parker: Age: 81



Sergeant Major (SgtMaj) Robert E. Parker served 22 years in the U.S. Marine Corps including two tours in Vietnam: (1) November 28, 1965 to December 10, 1966 and (2) February 13, 1969 to February 21, 1970. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) included: Infantryman (0300) for six months, Rifleman (0311), Basic Artilleryman (0800), Recruiter, Supply Chief, 1st Sergeant Command and Sgt. Maj Command (9999). He received multiple Purple Hearts and also the Rifle and Pistol Expert Badge and six Good Conduct Medals. He is a member of the J.R. Thomas Memorial Chapter #2205 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

SgtMaj Parker was born October 14, 1942 to his parents, Paul C. Parker and Ruby Lee Bullock Parker in Memphis, TN. His father served in the U.S. Marine Corps and served at Iwo Jima reaching the rank of Master Sergeant. His grandfather served in the U.S. Army in WWI at the rank of Sergeant Major. He was reared in Memphis, TN, and in Quitman County, MS. He dropped out of high school to work to support his four sisters and one brother. At age 17, he volunteered to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps beginning his service May 30, 1960.

SgtMaj Parker completed 16 weeks of Boot Camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina. He earned \$60.00 per month. He then participated in Infantry training at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and was promoted to Private 1st Class. From Camp Lejeune, he was sent to Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis with the Delta Battery, 3rd Battalion. He also went to Haiti and to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where Marines were ambushed on the main street.

Next, he took his own leave time to go to Camp Sukiran, Okinawa, to complete training at the Army's Jump School. He had originally committed to four years of Marine service, but a year before that term ended, he reenlisted for two years in the Marine Corps. He was assigned to the 2nd Field Artillery Battery where he learned to fire the 155 mm guns and rifles. He remained in Artillery until he was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant.

SgtMaj Parker deployed to Vietnam in November 1965 traveling on the WWII liberty troop ship, USS Bayfield (APA-33). The Marines onboard called the ship, the Bathless Bayfield, because there were no fresh water facilities on the ship for the 30-day voyage. Only the ship's crew had fresh water for baths, and the Marines had to use salt water. The ship stopped at Taiwan, and the movie star, Steve McQueen, was filming the movie, The Sand Pebbles, an American epic war film. McQueen invited the Marines to visit the movie's set and have a beer. Then the ship docked at Da Nang one week later. He flew by helicopter to Hue Phu-Bai to the I and was attached to the Mortars 2/12, 3rd Battalion 4th Marines 3rd Marine Division in the northern most region in South Vietnam where he participated in combat operations against Viet Cong Guerilla forces for a few months. He was transferred to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. He was then transferred to Okinawa to join India Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. He traveled on the USS Valley Forge, an LPH-8, with a helicopter landing pad to Subic Bay, Philippines, for jungle training returning to Vietnam on the ship, the USS Princeton, from which he and his fellow Marines made helicopter raids. Then he served in Operation Nathan Hale which was a joint forces operation. He made one ship to shore landing on a LCVP boat which sailors often nicknamed the Higgins Boat, the "Papa Boat" or "Peter Boat" to differentiate it from other landing craft such as the LCU and the LCM landing craft. He then went to a series of operations, Deck House one, two, three and four. His group transferred to the USS Iwo Jima (LDH-7) landing helicopter deck, They completed Deck House four and then served in Operation Hastings which was involved in bad times with grizzly fire fights. He spent time on Hill 55 in a sniper activities in Operation Hastings 1st Marine Division. He and his Marines were ambushed at a banana plantation. He was wounded from an ambush that used a directional bounding mine (Chi Cam mine) and taken by

medevac to a hospital ship and then returned to combat. He then participated in Operation Prairie with the 30th Battalion, 5th Marines at Chu Lai. He was transferred back to the Iwo Jima, an amphibious landing ship, and then to Phu Bai. He was a forward observer in observation calling in naval, air and artillery support.

SgtMaj Parker was sent to Norman, OK, to the Instructor's Staff to learn to shoot the 155 mm guns as a battery gunnery sergeant. This was in preparation for his second one-year tour to Vietnam for Operation Deck House. He was assigned to the C Battery 1st Battalion 11th Marines 1st Marine Division at an advanced combat base near Hill 55. There he was wounded again in his upper arms by shrapnel. He bravely continued fighting and looking after his Marines although he received multiple wounds. He felt that he was older and more experienced than they were, and it was his job to keep them alive. Deck House Four was awesome and gruesome with some hand-to-hand combat. Next, he was transferred to the 2nd Battalion 26th Marines and continued with the special landing forces (SLFP) in 1965. He served on the USS Iwo Jima and traveled by Mike boats with the 2nd Battalion 12th Marines. They disembarked at China Beach, Na Nang, and drove via trucks to Happy Valley where he was assigned to combat duty. After two weeks, the Marines drove via trucks on Highway 1 to Phu Bai with the 3rd Battalion 4th Marines. Next, he was sent to the Inspector Instructor Staff at Norman, OK, where he recovered from some of his wounds.

SgtMaj Parker returned to Vietnam for a second tour in 1969 and was assigned to 1st Marine Division, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine located south of Cau Do Bridge just south of Da Nang about 20 miles from Hill 55. He was again wounded May 9, 1969. He remained in Vietnam until rotated back to the USA in 1970.

SgtMaj Parker then attended the Marine Recruiter's School at Parris Island, N.C., followed by assignment in 1970 at Mankato, MN, where he served as a recruiter for three years. He then returned to Camp Lejeune as a Supply Inspector with the 2nd Marine Division and was promoted to 1st Sergeant in two years. He was then assigned to serve on the USS FDR Roosevelt, a Mid-way class aircraft carrier, in the Mediterranean Sea. After nine months, the ship was deactivated at Newport Naval Station, R.I. He then served on the Inspector Service Staff training Marine Reserves in Montgomery, AL. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major, and he was reassigned to serve at Iwakuni, Japan, with support for 2,000 Marines. His final duty station was at the Marine Air Station Cherry Point for nine months where he retired November 30, 1981.

After SgtMaj Parker's military retirement, he used the G.I. Bill and received a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice from Coastal Carolina College.



He then attended the Montgomery AL Police Academy and worked for the Montgomery Police Department from 1983-2004. At the rank of Corporal, he was in charge of Firearms Training. He is certified in traffic accidents, patrolling and investigators. He is a member of the Redland Baptist Church, Wetumpka, AL, and the Masonic Order #7 in Millbrook, AL. He enjoys fishing. Sgt Maj Parker and his wife, Edith, were married 55 years until she passed. They had three children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

SgtMaj Parker's conclusions about his military service are: "The Marine Corps is my life. It means everything to me. It is my mother, my father and my home. To this day, I would die for the Marines. It took me in and straightened me out." He would like to be remembered as a good man, father and Marine. Semper Fidelis!



Judge
Peggy Givhan

SOUTHERN GARDENING

Potpourri for May

"April showers bring May flowers"

The old adage, "April showers bring May flowers" will hopefully hold true for May 2023. And with these showers come many weeds. Before getting down to the business of actually planting, preparing the beds is a must. And this includes weeding, adding any soil or organic material, and applying fertilizer.

Over the years, many newer gardeners have asked how much water do flowers and shrubs require. Of course, some plants need more water than others. As a rule of thumb, a woody stemmed flower requires less water than a herbaceous plant.

Watering requirements also depend on the time of the year. Naturally plants take less water in the dead of winter than in the middle of July. For example, the common marigold can thrive in constantly wet soil which would rot impatiens. Let me put it this way, there are always exceptions to the rule. When purchasing unfamiliar flowers and plants, the plant label is a good guide for watering requirements. Below are some general guidelines which have helped me over the years.

General Watering information:

1. Water flowers and shrubs before noon, so that they dry out, as opposed to later in the day this time of the year. This timing is essential to allow the moisture on the leaves and the top layer of soil to dry out. If the watering takes place in the late afternoon and/or evening, the soil will be warm and together with the wet foliage, it creates a magnet for mold, fungus and pesky insects. And if the soil has been mulched to conserve water, then watering before noon can be critical for the health of the plants. Watering before noon allows the maximum amount of water to reach the roots before the water evaporates.

2. Many people believe that they have adequately watered their plants by sprinkling the ground or pot with a hand held hose. Much of the time, although the ground looks wet, only the surface of the dirt is wet and not the roots. The best rule of thumb is to poke an index finger into the ground to the depth of the first knuckle. If the soil feels watered, the watering is complete.

3. The above caveats are good for the pot garden.

4. Although overwatering plants is rare, it can also be a problem. Most flowers and shrubs do not like what is called "wet feet", which means that the roots are sitting in water. Poor drainage rots the roots, leading to death of the plant. In pot gardens, the cause usually can be attributed to the drainage hole being stopped up with the pot collecting water.

5. To prevent poor drainage in flower pots, no matter the size, add gravel or broken pottery over the bottom hole. This prevents caking of the soil which acts like a plug in a bathtub drain. If the soil in the garden does not drain, the first thing to notice is yellowing of the leaves which alerts one to the poor drainage issue. Also, when lifting the plant, the plant roots may have an odor attributed to what has become sour soil. So the remedy would be to take all plants out of the ground, and raise the beds between 4-6 inches. Of course those plants with the rotten roots should be discarded.

PLANT OF THE MONTH- -CLEMATIS

Clematis is a member of the Buttercup family and includes climbing species and shrubby forms. Most are familiar with the woody stemmed vines, which produce showy bright flowers in the spring. I have had clematis vines for years which bloom off the dead wood. Spectacular saucer sized flowers adorn the vines. They need moist humus rich soil and at least 4 hours of sun per day. Some say that if you put their feet in the shade and their heads in the sun, they will thrive.



Reprint - May - 2023

Happy Gardening

The Right Side of Flying



I just returned from Texas. I make a few trips there each year now. I get to hang out with some incredible guys. Some I've known for years, and some I meet for the first time. This last event was around a golf weekend. I don't play golf any longer, but I, along with a host, put on an event each year for 12 guys. These events are called Circle Events, and you can check out my website to learn more. But my point in mentioning them is not for promotion, but to establish that

I fly quite often. And while I've never flown first-class, I do upgrade to a seat with more legroom. On longer trips especially, it's worth every extra dime. And while there are a few more perks, I still have to walk on the left side of the retractable stanchion. You know, those 4-inch bands of material held up on each side by a stainless-steel post. You see, when an airline puts passengers on a plane, first-class passengers get to go on first and they get to walk on the right side of the stanchion as they approach the door. Everyone else gets to go through the same door, but we have to walk on the left side of the stanchion. And first-class is always seated first, so the rest of us can view their comfortable confines as we fight for the closest overhead bin. Have you ever wondered why first-class is seated first? Do you think it's because they want to spend an extra 30 minutes on a plane? I think not. Once again, it is to remind us 19c-left-side-of-the-stanchion people, that they and we are not the same. Oh, it's not necessarily the people in first class that feel this way. It's the airlines that want us to sense that we are so close, and yet so far away. And they reinforce it one last time by closing that little 3-foot-see-through curtain, to remind us of the difference. Because after all, doesn't everyone want to walk on the right side of the stanchion to get to the same door?

I arrived at the security gate to the golf course we had reservations for. It was swank. When I showed up, I'm sure they thought I was part of the grounds-keeping crew. Oh, there's nothing wrong with that crew. It's just they are not the same as the residents and members. How do I know? There was a left road and a right road. Both went to the same place, but the way one entered needed always to remind each person, there are some who deserve to get in more than others.

Some of you think heaven has a left road and a right road. You think while there may only be one door, there will be the left-of-the-stanchion people and the right-of-the-stanchion people. And you'll be on the left side. But here's the good news. Not only is there only one door, but there is also only one class. Jesus saw to that when he paid for each of our tickets. Grace makes us all right-side-of-the-stanchion children and residents. Get comfy. God gave you priority status.

Gary Miller has written *Outdoor Truths* articles for 20 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations.
gary@outdoortruths.org



Gary Miller



Reflections.....

By : Michael J. Brooks
SILURIA BAPTIST CHURCH

Dressing In Our Sunday Best

It was a church conflict in my early days over something that's a "back burner" issue now.

We had a college student helping on an interim basis with our music. One Sunday she came to church dressed casually. I asked her in the following week to dress more formally for the pulpit. She grew angry and asked what dress had to do with worship. I gently explained I believed that we represented God and needed to dress accordingly.

When I was in college our pastor, Bill Jackson, took several of us "preacher boys" to the sanctuary and showed us how to sit on the platform without slouching. He also instructed us to wear crisp white shirts and to be sure our socks were long enough. I'm not sure this kind of teaching is offered anymore!

The student was angry enough to meet with our deacon chairman. He told her she must follow the direction of the pastor or not work at our church. God bless him. I didn't want to see conflict, and I tried to avoid it, but this issue wasn't of my making. Most employees have job requirements, and this was one I thought was important.

I look back with regret that this young lady was incensed enough to leave us.

Today it's common to call a music director the "worship leader," or the "worship pastor," and this is fine. But I

tend to agree with Baptist statesman Jerry Vines who insisted in his book, "Bring Me A Minstrel," that the pastor is the worship leader. He's the arbiter of what's appropriate in worship. And church leaders who support this are to be treasured. But the train has left the station on pulpit attire.

Contemporary church leaders suggested we "dress down" to relate to people, and to counter the common excuse that "we don't have church clothes and therefore can't come." *So, we live in a new era.*

One of my cousins was an itinerant evangelist, and he often joked at the expense of prominent deacons. He talked about how the chemical elements of the human body were actually worth very little. Then he'd say, "Look at Bro. Jones. He's wearing a \$50 tie around a nickel neck!"

This quip won't work today because Bro. Jones doesn't wear a tie, nor do many pastors. And I don't know any churches fussing and fighting about pulpit wear anyway.

When people ask me what's appropriate to wear on Sunday, I simply say the Bible exhorts modesty, but other than this, we don't have a dress code.

I yet believe the standard is greater for pulpit leaders, but the standard isn't represented by clothing as much as it used to be.

DC TREE SERVICE

STUMP GRINDING

DAVID HORN

**30 Years of Serving the
Tri-County Area**

**We are here for YOU!
Just Call -
We'll be there!**

**Locally
Owned**

334-201-4385

GOT PLANS FOR SUNDAY?

JOIN US AT SILURIA BAPTIST CHURCH.

SILURIA MILL VILLAGE, ALABASTER

Sunday Morning Bible Study @ 9:15 and Worship @ 10:30

Wednesday Night Youth, Children, & Adults @ 6:30

siluriabaptist.com



Home Town Community News

Patricia Boyd Killough

Happy 16th
Birthday
to my Grandson..
Daniel Selvage

May Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 Judy Grubbs
Weston Ashley Sellars
Pat Duffell Smith | 15 Ann Macon Adams
Waldon Woodall |
| 3 Scarlett Box
Teresa Grant
Sandra Pugh
Forrest Taylor | 16 Lonnie Smith
Stephan Turnipseed
Devery Wright |
| 5 Ashton Box
Debra Findley
Jayne Ward | 18 Ken Stafford |
| 7 Tory Alexander
Bryson Box (18th) | 19 Connie Butts |
| 8 John P. Hanson
Michael Moseley | 20 Maggie Royster |
| 9 Jim Garrett | 21 Rhonda Alexander
Al Barnett |
| 10 Nicole Sansom | 22 Ashley Boyd
Daniel Selvage |
| 11 Johnson Alexander
Pam Lynch
Barbara Strickland
Dee Dee Ward | 23 Hunter Meadows
Brad Williams |
| 12 Mary Ellen Grant
Liz Morris | 24 Susanne Boyd
Julia Grant
Mike Sikes
Casey Woodall |
| 13 Betty Casey
Chris Cordle
Debbie Mills | 25 Wynne Ross Sloane |
| 14 Luke Dickinson
Victor Chad Mason (Trace) | 26 Carrie Rhodes |
| | 30 Michele Blount
Kate Sansom |
| | 31 Betty Crowe
Susan Daffron |

MAY Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 Haley & Josh Bass (5th) | 21 Allan & Shannon Vinson (18th) |
| 6 Corey & Alicia Smith (27th) | 29 Joe & Gail Cotney |
| 8 Billy & Courtney Whigham | 30 Richard & Gwen Walters
Carma & Bill Marks (58th) |
| 10 Clint & Tiffany Andrews | 31 Mike & Connie Northcutt (48th) |
| 11 Roger & Sandy Brown | |
| 15 Travis & Christle Jordan (18th) | |
| 15 Woody & Linda Foxworth | |
| 17 Carl & Faye Boyd (49th) | |

MAY Obituaries

- Howell, Jr. Dr. Eugene "Blue" Milton (85).....April 2
Smilie, Mary Emma Sellers (93).....April 3
Grider, Charles Leroy (74).....April 5
Stringfellow, Elizabeth "Polly" Spivery Hughes (92).....April 6
Boswell, John "Devin" (26).....April 8
Fields, Jr., Paul Beckman (81).....April 11
Foster, Randy Paul (71).....April 13
Embery, Joan Thompson (90).....April 15
Arnett, Ellis Kate (92).....April 15
Thompson, Florence Paulk (96).....April 16
Ward, William "Bill" C. (86).....April 19
Ellison, Dorothy "Dottie" Reeves (53).....April 20
Clark, Glenda Elizabeth Till (87).....April 22
Hancock, Virginia "Ginny" Taylor (77).....April 23
Rush, Gerene Henley (73).....April 23
Duncan, Gerald W. (52).....April 24
Katechis, Theophilos "Theo" Chris (78).....April 24
Craig, Ann Carroll Golson (84).....April 27
Wolf, Patrick Tomas Ielaidmis (27).....May 2
Hill, Lois "Faye" Salter (89).....May 3
Moncus, Richard Holt (87).....May 3
Morrison, Jane Byron (81)May 5

Special Golden Birthdays

- Shirley Watt - 101 - April 24th
Frankie Davis - 100 - April 21st
Sara Reeder - 101 - June 8th



Today's Woman

The Value of a Woman.

Be very careful if you make a woman cry
because God counts her tears.

By: Amanda Walker

TEARS & LAUGHTER



Trisston's Tidbits:

By: Trisston Wright Burrows

Ms. Wheelchair
America/Alabama 2005

site.trisstonwrightburrows.com



BE SMART, TAKE AWAY YOUR CHILD'S SMART PHONE

The new book, "The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness," has started a conversation about what age kids should be given a cell phone.

The author, Jonathan Haidt, is a social psychologist, and he suggests that teens should only be given flip phones for communication and have little to no access to social media until they are 16.

Parents like what he has to say, though kids maybe not so much.

Mental health collapsed in America and countries around the world in 2012. The transition from play-based childhoods to phone-based childhoods contributed to the mental health crisis because it is not human...and children are.

The stranger danger attitude made the real world seem dangerous and allowed kids to be lured into an addictive virtual world and away from free play and independent thinking. Parents thought they were keeping their children safe but had no awareness of the dangers smart phones would invite. Social media platforms were de-designed for adults, not children with developing minds.

Anxiety and depression, self-harm, and suicide rates among teenagers are still rising. Parallel to the mental health crisis is the drug crisis and there is an obvious direct connection between these two and the smart phone.

I can tell you from personal experience that your teenager can access a full drug menu on Snapchat. They can find a dealer, that dealer may not even be from this country, and drugs can be delivered to your house to your child. Drug dealers do not keep the same hours as you. They will come

out late in the wee hours of the morning like a roach.

Drug dealers are not worried about the well-being of your child. They think in dollars, not sense. They are not concerned about the possible ramifications of overdose, addiction, or arrest.

I live in the country behind a locked iron gate, and drugs were thrown over our fence. Alcohol was delivered in a similar manner.

Life has taught me that what this new book suggests is true. My only question is why cave at 16?

If you have a well-adjusted 16-year-old, why put a smart phone in their hand? Maybe the right time for your child to have a smart phone is when they are grown and can get in their car, drive to the phone store, and sign their own contract.

Maybe another conversation worth having is if social media is that bad for a girl's mental health, then is it really all that great for her mother's mental health? I am just curious. Because if you don't feel super secure about yourself when you are young - while everything is still light, tight, and yet affected by years of gravitational pull and stress - how secure do you think you will feel about yourself years later? Moms get anxious and depressed too. It is okay to go cold turkey with all social media. Chances are nobody will miss you in the virtual world, you will feel happier in the real world, and you may find you have more free time. Try it.

Amanda Walker is a columnist and contributor with AL.com, The Birmingham News, Selma Times Journal, Thomasville Times, West Alabama Watchman, and Alabama Gazette. Contact her at Walkerworld77@msn.com or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." - Ephesians 4:2

Shaklee
Independent Distributor

Healthy Living starts here!

Alice Cole (334) 467-0867
<https://us.shaklee.com/site/acole/storefront>

The way banking should be.



BRANTLEY BANK & TRUST CO.

Brantley : (334) 527-3206 9402 North Main Street
Ramer : (334) 562-3257 105 Main Street
www.Brantleybank.com



#50621 BBT TheWayBankingShouldBe_AGA.6875x3.125.indd 1

9/13/19 12:11 PM



Elmore County Pregnancy Center

104 Company St., Wetumpka, Alabama
@elmorecountypregnancycenter
Call (334) 567-1955

Worried about privacy?
CONFIDENTIALITY IS OUR PRIORITY.



FIRST CHOICE WOMEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

Website: firstchoicemontgomery.com

Phone: (334) 260-8010

Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Fri. - 8:30 - Noon

380 Mendel Pkwy E Montgomery, AL 36117



Brandon Moseley

Brandon Moseley is the Lead Reporter and Content Manager at the Alabama Gazette. Brandon is a native of Alabama and a graduate of Auburn University. His articles on the Alabama political scene have been published in over a half dozen newspapers and online publications across Alabama.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!
Brandon...gives you legislative updates, state and national news, and commentary daily!

CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE AT:
www.alabamagazette.com OR brandonmreporter@gmail.com

Governor Kay Ivey announces the Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences in Demopolis

On Tuesday, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey (R) was in Demopolis for a formal bill signing ceremony for legislation to create the new Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences to be located in Demopolis in rural Marengo County.

Ivey was joined at the announcement by the legislation’s sponsors – Senate Minority Leader Bobby Singleton (D-Greensboro) and Representative Cynthia Almond (R-Tuscaloosa). They were joined there by Rep. Artis “A.J.” McCampbell (D-Linden), Demopolis Mayor Rob Collins, and other dignitaries.

“Establishing this specialty school here in Demopolis is no doubt the most significant investment in West Alabama in decades,” said Gov. Ivey. “But it’s much more than that. The Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences will help more Alabama students open the door to their futures. It will bring more men and women into our healthcare workforce. It will change the trajectory of rural health care in our state.”

“Mayor...Rob – this significant legislative achievement would not have been possible without the unbelievable community support,” Ivey continued. “I mean...how many communities across this state could say they had a watch party for the State of the State address? Well, y’all can! And I am truly grateful. Just as your community support helped us get this enabling legislation and funding across the finish line...I am confident it will ultimately help this school and its future students be successful.”

“Let me leave y’all with this challenge today. Let’s get this school built,” stated Ivey. “Let’s get this school opened in under two years. Let’s get this funded in my final budget as governor. And let’s get students from all over Alabama in the Alabama School of Healthcare Sciences. Together, I know we can make this a success that will change Alabama for the better. Thank you, again, for all y’all have done. This is our opportunity. Let’s not waste a moment. And let’s get the job done!”

The school will be a state-run boarding school for high school students who are looking to enter a healthcare related field. Students can gain practical experience working at the nearby Demopolis hospital while they work on getting an assistant nurse certification. Upon graduation students can either go straight into the growing healthcare sector or they can pursue a post-graduation

certification from the Alabama community college system in the healthcare sector, or they can pursue an associate or bachelor’s degree, presumably in a field such as nursing or pre-medical school.

The State of Alabama already funds the Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham, the Alabama School of Math and Sciences, and the Alabama School of Cybertechnology and Engineering in Huntsville.

Students will be able to forgo spending four years in a typical high school environment and can instead move to Demopolis to fast track their healthcare sector career with a practical healthcare centered course of study.

“The School of Healthcare Science is just another beacon that the state of Alabama would be able to brag on around the world and show that there is a pattern by which we can take rural areas and develop them to meet the needs of our public here in the state of Alabama,” said Singleton during the Senate debate. “When we came up with this concept and this idea of the Alabama School of Health Sciences in Demopolis, Alabama we partnered with the local hospital which is a subsidiary of UAB. UAB faculty and staff along with the administrator Mr. Doug Brewer all came together with the County Commission, the Mayor, City Council came together to form an organization around this particular high school, ready to receive it, ready to embrace it, ready to endorse it; because we know that West Alabama and Demopolis is a place to where people would be proud.”

To connect with the author of this story, or to comment, email brandonmreporter@gmail.com

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



Don't let the Poarch Creek Indians STEAL ALABAMA

SAY NO TO THEIR GAMBLING CASINO

Call your local Legislator...
 Alabama House of Representatives - 334-261-0500
 Alabama Senate - 334-261-0800

<https://www.dontbanbingo.com/>

PAID FOR BY SMITHMACK, L.L.C.
 429 Green Springs Highway
 Birmingham, AL 35209