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Happy 4th of July

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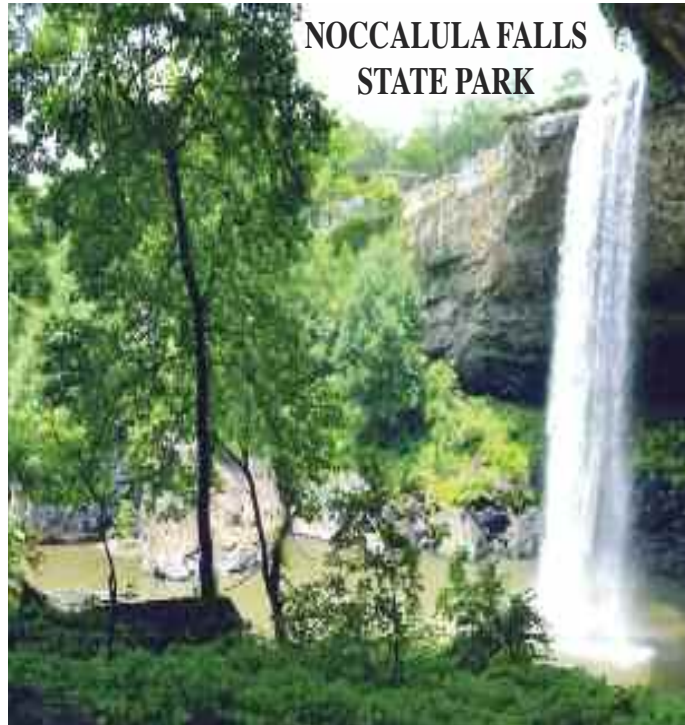
Historic Webber Building Partially Crumbles!



See historical review of Webber Building on page 10.

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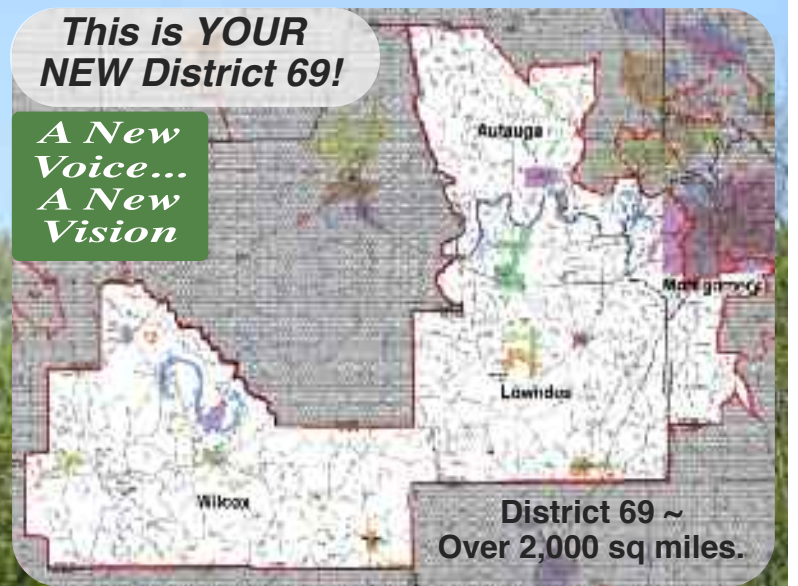
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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers



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

A recent Fortune magazine article ranks Alabama as one of the top ten states when it comes to corruption. We were ranked number six.

The rankings were determined by a study of convictions of public officials for violations of federal corruption laws between 1976 and 2008. A good many of our sister southern states also made the list. Not surprisingly Louisiana came in at number two. They are a perennial corruption leader. It is part of their culture. They are proud of their status as one of the nation's most corrupt environs. They are probably disappointed that they are not number one. Mississippi grabbed that ranking. Our sister states of Kentucky, Florida and Tennessee made the top ten along with us. That is six of the top ten. It looks like a final Associated Press Top Ten College Football ranking. It looks like corruption and college football go hand-in-hand.

There actually might be a tie to the two in our next corruption scandal. A Lee County Grand Jury has been scrutinizing House Speaker Mike Hubbard of Auburn for close to a year. Hubbard's business career has revolved around being the producer of programming for Auburn athletics, more specifically, Auburn football. The Grand Jury may be looking into this contract to televise Auburn football. There has been a lot of smoke, speculation, and rampant rumors coming out of Auburn and Lee County for quite awhile. It's about time they either fish or cut bait.

It is easy to indict someone. There is an old saying that you can indict a potato and it rings true. If they do not indict Mike Hubbard then he comes back stronger than ever. He is a powerful Speaker of the House and if he survives this invasion then "Katie bar the door" for his enemies. There is another old tried and true saying made famous by Machiavelli that if you attempt to slay the King, make sure you kill him.

The first name on Hubbard's enemy list is his nemesis, Attorney General Luther Strange. Big Luther brought the investigation against Hubbard for political purposes. Perusing the future political landscape Luther saw that Gov. Bentley would breeze to reelection this year. It looked to him as though he and Hubbard would be the two top rivals for the brass ring in 2018. Ironically, neither one of

them will likely win the governor's race in 2018. A cursory historic study of past governor's races reveals that an unknown dark horse will come out of the blue and win. Especially, when current office holders, who voters perceive as jockeying for the throne, snipe and connive against each other.

To come after someone politically with a witch hunt prosecution is a heavy sword to play. Unfortunately, this card has been played far too many times in Alabama politics. Politically prosecuting someone is persecution in the highest form.

Hubbard and his allies will never forgive nor forget this calculated attack by Big Luther. They will seek retribution. In fact, they already have. The Attorney General's budget was cut to zero next year.

Luther Strange's selective prosecution has not been hidden and has surprisingly been noted by rank and file Alabama voters. The average citizen, even the Tea Partiers, are aware that all of the Indian casinos as well as Greene County gaming facilities are open. Yet, the one with the largest out of state allure and the state's Crown jewel casino, Victoryland, in Macon County is closed down. The Macon County track has the strongest constitutional amendment of all locations. The people of Macon County approved it overwhelmingly and any high level federal tribunal void of Alabama politics would laugh at Bob Riley's and Luther Strange's heavy handed political grandstanding. There have also been over 2,000 jobs lost in one of Alabama's poorer counties.

Turn about may be fair play. Big Luther may be on the hot seat himself. In a recent ruling out of Greene County, a Jefferson County judge, Houston Brown, angrily decried the actions of Luther Strange and his agents. The judge declared, "It is apparent the State has presented statements which are clearly false, misleading, and made with a reckless disregard for the truth." Judge Brown's ruling is a devastating blow to the credibility and integrity of Luther Strange's staff.

In conjunction with this stinging judicial rebuke, District Attorney Greg Griggers has secured an indictment of three people on Attorney General Luther Strange's staff for "perjury and lying." The three indicted Strange staffers are the same men used to close down VictoryLand.

June 25, 2014



**SHERIFF
D. T. MARSHALL**

The Alabama Gun act is now a year old and we continue to receive questions about it. I will reprint an article I did last July in an attempt to help the public with this law.

The Alabama Gun Act of 2013, formally known as **SB 286** and **Act 2013-283**, was signed into law by Governor Bentley on May 21, 2013. It came into effect on AUGUST 1, 2013. This bill was a compromise between the NRA, the legislature, Alabama Sheriff's Association, the District Attorney's Association and other law enforcement entities. The first version was a very dangerous bill, not only for law enforcement but for the citizens of Alabama. This is generally a much safer bill that protects a person's right to bear and keep arms and at the same time protects the general public to a great extent. I will attempt to go over this bill without giving legal advice, but trying to inform the public of this bills' content.

13A-11-52 states: Except as otherwise provided in this article, no person shall carry a pistol about his person on private property NOT his own or under his control UNLESS the person has the consent of the owner or legal possessor of the premises. It exempts law enforcement and other such entities from this article. Basically it says that you CANNOT carry a pistol, concealed, or not, on other people's property without their permission so don't try to carry your gun into a businesses without their permission.

13A11-70 defines a pistol as any firearm with a barrel that is less than 12 inches in length which is self explanatory. It also defines a crime of violence and a "person".

13A11-73 states:

(a) Except on land under his or her control or in his or her own abode or his or her own fixed place of business, no person shall carry a pistol in any vehicle or concealed on or about his or her person, without a permit.

(b) Except as otherwise prohibited by law, a person legally permitted to possess a pistol, but who does not possess a valid concealed weapon permit, may possess an UNLOADED pistol in his or her motor vehicle if the pistol is LOCKED in a compartment or container that is in or affixed securely to the vehicle and out of reach of the driver and any passenger in the vehicle.

This basically says that to carry concealed or in your vehicle, you need a permit. If you have no permit, you need to unload your gun and lock it in a secured container in your trunk, or, if in a truck, you will need some type of secured and locked container such as a locking tool box.

13A-11-75 deals with the pistol permit process. The Sheriff of a county, upon the application of any person RESIDING in that county, within 30 days from receipt of a complete application and a accompanying fee, SHALL issue or renew a permit for such person to carry a pistol in a vehicle or concealed on or about his or her person within this state for one to five year increments, as requested by the person seeking the permit, from the date of issue, unless the Sheriff determines that the person is prohibited from the possession of a pistol or firearm pursuant to state OR federal law, or has a reasonable suspicion that the person may use a weapon unlawfully or in such other manner that would endanger the person's self or others. The Sheriff SHALL provide a written statement of the reasons for a denial of a permit and the evidence upon which it is based must be disclosed to the applicant, unless disclosure would interfere with a criminal investigation.

This section authorizes the Sheriff to revoke a permit issued for any reason that could lead to a denial of a permit under that subdivision. The Sheriff SHALL provide a written statement of reasons for the revocation of a permit.

A person whose permit is denied or revoked may appeal, within 30 days of notification to the district court of the county where the denial or revocation was issued. The district court shall review the appeal and issue a determination providing the reasons for the determination within 30 days of receipt of the appeal.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a Sheriff to disregard any federal law or regulation pertaining to the purchase or possession of a firearm.

To obtain a pistol permit in Montgomery County, you must reside in this county, you must truthfully and honestly fill out an application with all of the information requested and be legally permitted under STATE and FEDERAL law to possess a firearm. You will be notified within 30 days if your permit has been approved or denied after checking all available data bases. In the past it has taken about 2 weeks so hopefully you will be advised about your application earlier than the law requires. If you are denied or revoked, you have 30 days after you are notified to appeal to District Court and the District Court judge will then have 30 days to issue his decision.

Don't forget to specify the length of time, 1-5 years that you would like for your permit issued. The cost is the same, \$20 a year, for each year that you request.

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**Chief Derrick
Cunningham**

THE ALABAMA GUN ACT

If you are a business owner, you need to be aware of section 4 of this bill. Subsection (a) states that except as provided in subsection (b), a public or private employer may restrict or prohibit its employees, including those with a permit issued or recognized under **Section 13A-11-75, Code of Alabama 1975**, from carrying firearms while on the employer's property or while engaged in the duties of the person's employment.

(b). A public or private employer may not restrict or prohibit the transportation or storage of a lawfully possessed firearm or ammunition in an employee's privately owned motor vehicle while parked or operated in a public or private parking area if the employee has a valid concealed weapon permit or if the weapon is any firearm legal for use for hunting in Alabama other than a pistol and the employee possesses a valid Alabama hunting license; the weapon is unloaded at all times on the property; it is during a season in which hunting is permitted by Alabama law or regulation; the employee is legally permitted to possess a firearm; the employee has no documented prior workplace incidents involving the threat of physical injury or which resulted in physical injury.

The motor vehicle must be operated or parked in a location where it is otherwise permitted to be. If the employee is in the vehicle, the weapon must be kept from ordinary observation within the person's motor vehicle. If the vehicle is unattended by the employee, the weapon must be kept from ordinary observation and locked within a compartment, container, or in the interior of the person's privately owned motor vehicle or in a compartment or container securely affixed to the motor vehicle.

I strongly recommend that a business owner or employer read **Act 2013-283** to understand what they can and cannot do under this law. The Auburn Cooperative Extension service has put out an excellent video for employers and can be found on their website, WAKA has a link to it and our website will have a link to it. An employer can be held legally responsible for some actions and has immunity for other actions concerning weapons in employee's vehicles in the parking lot.

Section 6 says that in addition to any other place limited by state or federal law, a person, including a person with a permit may not knowingly possess or carry a firearm in the building of a police, sheriff or highway patrol station; inside or on the premises of a prison, jail, halfway house, community corrections facility, or other detention facility for those who have been charged with or convicted of a criminal or juvenile offense; inside or on the premises of a facility which provides inpatient or custodial care of those with psychiatric, mental, or emotional disorders; inside a courthouse, courthouse annex, a building in which a District Attorney's office is located, or a building in which a county commission or city council is currently having a regularly scheduled or specially called meeting, inside any facility hosting an athletic event not related to or involving firearms which is sponsored by a private or public elementary or secondary school or any private or public institution or postsecondary education, unless the person has a permit; inside any facility hosting a professional athletic event not related to or involving firearms, unless the person has a permit.

A person, including a person with a permit, may not, without the express permission of a person or entity with authority over the premises, knowingly possess or carry a firearm inside any building or facility to which access of unauthorized persons and prohibited articles is limited during normal hours of operation by the continuous posting of guards and the use of other security features, including, but not limited to, magnetometers, key cards, biometric screening devices, or turnstiles or other physical barriers.

The person or entity with authority over the premises just listed shall place a notice at the public entrances of such premises or buildings alerting those entering that firearms are prohibited.

This is a comprehensive bill and should be read and understood by every person who is carrying or who is planning to carry a firearm. It is an individual's responsibility to know and obey the law.

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

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UNITED STATES
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ROBY RESPONDS TO FURTHER REPORTS OF VA ABUSE IN MONTGOMERY

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) is responding to reports of further misconduct at the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System (CAVHCS). More than 1,200 pulmonary patients' records were manipulated by a Montgomery VA physician to show tests that never occurred, according to a report released by the United States Office of Special Counsel (OSC) on Monday.

Even after confirming the allegations were true, the VA Office of Medical Inspector (OMI) downplayed the blatant misconduct, saying patient health was not proven to be "endangered." For this reason, the pulmonologist is still employed by CAVHCS, the Associated Press reports.

"How can anyone think that falsifying more than 1,200 pulmonary records does not endanger patient health," Rep. Roby asked. "What good is a 'watch-dog' if they are just going to downplay such obviously egregious behavior?"

"My office continues to look into numerous specific issues raised by constituents, and what we are learning is alarming. The Special Counsel's report is entirely consistent with what we have been

hearing in terms of both phony medical practices and the VA's own inspectors' apparent inability to act aggressively on complaints.

"I am pleased that the Office of Special Counsel seems to be doing what the VA and its inspectors have thus far failed to accomplish: provide a simple, straightforward, and commonsense assessment of some of the serious problems at the VA. Too often, information from the VA has been clouded in confusing doublespeak. This I know from personal experience."

In a letter to President Obama on Monday, Special Counsel Carolyn Lerner chided the VA's OMI for the handling of whistleblower complaints that turned out to be true, writing that "Too frequently, the VA has failed to use information from whistleblowers to identify and address systemic concerns that impact patient care."

The letter cited the previously-unrevealed instance in which a Montgomery-based VA pulmonologist "copied prior provider notes to represent current readings in over 1,200 patient records."

"Unfortunately, these are not isolated examples," Lerner writes. "Rather these are cases of a troubling pattern of deficient patient care at VA facilities nationwide, and the continued resistance by the VA, and OMI [Office of Medical Inspector] in most cases, to recognize and address the impact on the health and safety of veterans."

A copy of the letter is available online. The U.S. Office of Special Counsel is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency that handles whistleblower issues.

Rep. Roby has been actively engaged in efforts to improve VA services even before the now-brewing scandal became public. Most recently, Rep. Roby dispatched top staff members to Montgomery to field information from whistleblowers about the continued reports of systemic problems at CAVHCS.

Rep. Roby now serves on the House Appropriations Committee, including the Subcommittee for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.

For more information contact Communications Director Todd Stacy at 202-226-1567/ todd.stacy@mail.house.gov.

Bench-Bar- & Beyond

PROBATION SPONSORSHIP

By Judge Dale Segrest



Judge Philip Dale Segrest

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In last month's column we discussed how cultural differences impact the criminal justice system. Four hundred years of slavery and segregation created a cultural system in our black communities. That system did not disappear just because the legal system was finally corrected to treat all persons equally. The cultural system that evolved appears to still have notable influence in many areas. As we pointed out, its "self-help" enforcement system is a factor in the higher rate of incarceration of blacks in the criminal justice system.

There are programs that can be implemented to help alleviate the problems arising from cultural differences. During my tenure as a circuit judge, I created a program that I called "Probation Sponsorship." The idea of Probation Sponsorship is to give persons who find themselves on the receiving end of the criminal justice system an opportunity to display a willingness to correct their behavior instead of going to the penitentiary. Traditional probation alone does not seem to be very effective, and needs to be supported by efforts that provide the natural forces of moral formation.

In earlier columns we discussed the role of the peer group in moral formation. The idea of Probation Sponsorship is to have the person who might otherwise go to the penitentiary recruit reputable friends from his or her own community and have them work with that individual to assure good behavior. The probation enlists a peer group to assist in successful completion of probation. That peer group is quite different from the "peers" in the central penitentiary. There should not be a wide cultural divide between the probation sponsors and the probationer. Churches can take an active role in providing probation sponsors. The probationers are much more likely to feel compelled to adhere to the standards expected by the sponsors. Sponsors should help make certain the probationer attends court when necessary, meets with the probation officer when necessary, seeks employment, takes advantage of educational opportunities, pays the required court costs, and avoids "friends" and places that are likely to get the probationer in trouble. The court should supervise the probation sponsorship and actually have the probationer and his sponsors appear periodically to make progress reports. Likewise, the probation officer should carry out the traditional functions of a probation officer. If drugs are a part of the problem, the sponsors

should make certain that the probationer adheres to the requirements of whatever treatment program is required by the court. The court referral officers can provide helpful services.

Although Probation Sponsorship provides an opportunity to solve some of the problems arising from cultural differences, it is not called a race-based program. It should be available to all prospective probationers. Solutions to cultural problems that are based on race, and require continued racial identification cannot ultimately solve the problems of cultural differences. But Probation Sponsorship is a way for the local community and its organizations

to take charge of its own problems. Central penitentiaries with revolving doors-especially with regard to non-violent crimes- are not a solution at all. They are graduate schools, offering degrees in criminal conduct. Penitentiaries surround the person convicted of crime with a peer group that is not at all likely to instill the appropriate values bring about the required changes.

To fully grasp the significance of the suggestions in this column requires an understanding of the function of law that differs from popular political perceptions. Law is not what a court does, as suggested by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. Law establishes the parameters for acceptable human behavior, and courts become involved only after law, in that sense, has been violated. Courts provide remedies for violations. The rules for decision are not the rules for conduct in society. In an earlier column we suggested that the purpose of criminal law is to produce correct behavior, and that success cannot be measured by the number of people that are convicted of crimes and sent to the penitentiary. Probation Sponsorship would offer a glimmer of hope for producing desirable, law-abiding, behavior.

One of the inevitable problems with all programs and with the criminal justice system itself is cost. While theoretically the probation sponsors serve as sponsors simply as friends of the probationer, nevertheless, the court costs, court referral fees, probation fees, and other costs that are now imposed by the criminal justice system probably cause the system to produce exactly the opposite result needed. I will return to this subject in a future column.



Marcia Chambliss



THE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES...

disorder world, Americans are increasingly challenged to focus on one problem before being distracted with yet another headline-grabbing issue or scandal.

I have to wonder if this isn't all by design. The Friday afternoon news dumps of late certainly appear to confirm my suspicions, and there are times I question just how many Americans even care.

In the midst of new information regarding Benghazi, "lost" IRS emails, the trading of terrorists who remain a threat to our nation, and the ISIS invasion of Iraq, the situation on our southern border has reached a crisis level and demands immediate action, yet there is no indication that the federal government seriously intends to stop the recent surge of illegal alien minors. Instead, the only efforts appear to involve the housing of the illegals in locations across the country.

According to Texas Governor Rick Perry, law enforcement is apprehending a thousand people a day, mostly from Central America, and these numbers are only from the state of Texas. Make no mistake; this is an invasion of epic proportions and will have a detrimental impact throughout our nation.

Is this a deliberate attempt to overload our system with new residents and push for amnesty on humanitarian grounds? Many conservatives believe this is precisely the motive, with several citing the Cloward-Piven strategy first introduced in 1966 by Richard Cloward and Frances Fox Piven, married sociology professors and political activists who taught at the Columbia University School of Social Work. The premise of their strategy involved "a massive drive to recruit the poor onto the welfare rolls" which "would precipitate a profound financial and political crisis."¹

Will this "humanitarian crisis" lead to a more vocal and aggressive demand for amnesty?

Our country has always been an incredible melting pot, a nation of immigrants who have contributed so much to the fabric of our republic, but the majority have immigrated legally with the dream of becoming an American citizen through the naturalization process. If we merely warehouse masses of people who come primarily for whatever government benefit they can obtain, we face the alarming risk of becoming a society of residents who have little to no sense of American history or even a basic understanding of what civic involvement entails.

We are also a nation of laws, or so we are told. Yet the immigration laws in place are routinely ignored or selectively enforced. Those on the left are salivating over the prospect of amnesty and the additions to their voter rolls, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is eager to utilize the cheap labor for the corporatist segment.

Conservatives are not anti-immigrant; we simply want those who come to our country to do so legally. Living in the shadows only leads to more poverty and does nothing to increase the quality of life for those who are seeking a better world in which to raise their families. But we are alarmed by the very real threat that our open borders presents to the security of our nation.

If the mainstream media reports on the crisis at all, it will be to focus on the plight of young children who are fleeing violence in Central America; however, those who follow conservative news outlets find that an alarming number of these "children" are 17 years of age or older with possible connections to gang members. How many of those "children" will be relocated to other states rather than face deportation? Given the limited resources at our border, how many of these illegals also include those intent on executing acts of terrorism on U.S. soil who will slip through undetected?

If the threat of criminals and terrorists slipping through during this crisis isn't enough, consider the health risks of thousands of non-immunized migrants being housed in whatever facility can be utilized to handle the daily influx of humanity. Due to the sheer numbers of people being processed, screening for diseases is essentially non-existent and the overcrowding of facilities renders quarantine virtually impossible.

Get ready, Alabama. The stream of illegal immigrants will not be contained in our border states so your elected representation needs to hear your concerns.

America is in yet another crisis and I can't help but remember the words of former Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel: "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste." The Cloward-Piven strategy of overwhelming the system may well be this administration's design for America...and, unfortunately for those taxpayers who fund the system, the transformation continues.

1 Cloward, Richard; Piven, Frances (May 2, 1966, originally published in The Nation) "The Weight of the Poor: A Strategy to End Poverty"

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

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Woods & Waters with Zack

BAITING CATFISH AND HOW TO FIND THEM

The heat and humidity of mid-summer are not only trying on one's temperament, but can result in brutal conditions for fishing as well. With temperatures soaring into the upper 90's and heat indexes in the triple digits, it doesn't sound much like fishing weather. However, catfish enthusiasts will tell you that the best time to catch these whiskered fish is during hot weather...often the hotter the better. And the month of July surely fits the bill for hot weather. This month we'll look at some tips and techniques for catching hot weather cats.

First, before getting into the actual fishing techniques, it might be helpful to take a look at the natural feeding habits of this species. Catfish are omnivorous feeders with a well-developed sense of smell. This means that they consume a wide variety of food items and are most often attracted to "smelly" types of food. Small catfish, those less than 14 inches, feed primarily on bottom-dwelling organisms, like aquatic insect larvae and other invertebrates. As cats reach the 16-inch and larger size, the bulk of their diet is made up of fish, either dead or alive. Another important factor is that catfish feed more heavily right after dark.

Catfish inhabit all kinds of water; farm ponds, streams, rivers and lakes. But no matter what type of water, cats will be found only in selective parts, not evenly distributed throughout the whole area. Just moving fifteen or twenty feet in one direction or the other might mean the difference between success and failure. Fishing for catfish is a game of look and find. You travel and cover a lot of water, either from the bank or from a boat, until you find a gathering of catfish. The mistake that most angler make is that they stay in one place and stay there for hours, hoping the catfish will "start biting". Try 10 to 15 minutes in one spot, and if by then you haven't had a bite, move to another location.

Tackle is an important consideration when setting out after catfish. The most important part of the terminal tackle is the sinker and the hook. Catfisherman don't have to worry about the size, shape and color of lures, but hooks and sinkers, as inexpensive as they are, are very important. Always use the lightest weight necessary, and always use a slip sinker or Carolina rig. With any resistance on the line whatsoever, most catfish will leave the bait in search of another meal. A common mistake that many catfisherman make is to use a hook that is too large. A small hook will subdue even a large catfish, but it is very difficult to catch a smaller cat, around a pound in size, on a hook larger than a 2/0, and often a 1/0 hook is better and always make sure that your hook is sharp. Many catfisherman have gone to the circle hook. With these, a hook set is not required and they hold the fish exceptionally well. When using chicken liver or a dough type stink bait, a spring treble hook is the way to go.

An ideal rig for catfishing is a 6 1/2 to 7-foot medium action rod and a good quality spinning or baitcasting reel. A smooth, adjustable drag is a must and I prefer 14 to 17 pound test line. Smaller fish can put up a respectable fight on this tackle, yet it has sufficient backbone to whip a larger catfish. Just don't get too excited and lose command of the situation. I've heard it said that fish seldom break lines...fishermen do.

I could write an entire column on which baits you can use for catfish,

because cats will eat almost anything. One of the largest blue cats ever landed was caught on Spam!

However, while cats can be caught on everything from pieces of Ivory soap to hot dogs, some of the most productive baits are chicken livers, cut shad, stink baits and worms.

Arguably, no bait is more closely associated with catfishing than chicken liver. The reason is simple; livers produce catfish and lots of them. With their strong, meaty smell, chicken livers draw cats from a broad area and once cats find the bait, they can't resist them. Livers are inexpensive and available at any grocery store, and while they may not catch many huge catfish, they are extremely productive on cats up to about 10 pounds. When fishing with liver, it's best to use a small spring treble hook. The spring helps hold the liver onto the hook and it allows the bait to stay in place during your cast. Just keep in mind that livers tend to work best for the first 15 or 20 minutes that they are on the hook. After that, they lose a lot of their natural juices and thus, much of their appeal. Anglers would be wise to re-bait periodically and to always begin with a fresh piece after moving to a new spot.

Cut shad seem to work better than whole shad because body fluids from these oily baits can attract catfish from a long distance. The bait can be prepared several different ways. Some fishermen filet strips from the belly or the sides and others just cut the bait into chunks. Vary what you use until you determine what the catfish want.

Stink baits, or dip baits all have one thing in common...they smell bad. However, a foul odor is not enough to make a tub of bait attractive to cats. A dip must have a cheese base or some kind of protein content. A good dip is soft enough that it breaks up gradually, but solid enough that it doesn't wash away too quickly. In current, where dip baits are at their best, that can be a delicate balance. That is why most catfisherman use a "rubber worm", which is a tube with holes in it, that is designed to hold the bait initially, but release it gradually. Most come pre-rigged with a treble hook and leader and some dip baits include one or two "worms" with a can of dip.

Live worms have always been popular bait for catfish. Generally speaking, the rule for worms and catfish is, the bigger the better. Even small cats like big, juicy worms so a good idea is to wad two or three on a hook if you are using small to medium size worms. Unlike other species, catfish don't care how worms are strung on the hook so the more worm that is wrapped around the hook, the better your chances of hooking the cats that bite.

And lastly, catfish are sensitive to sound when they are in water 3 to 6 feet deep. Don't be talking loudly or playing loud music while catfishing because this could surely affect the bite.

Hopefully, these tips will help you put more catfish on the stringer, because July can be a tough month to fish. Next month, we'll look at some more hot weather fishing tips. If you get a chance this summer, take a young person fishing and introduce them to the great outdoors.

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRIES

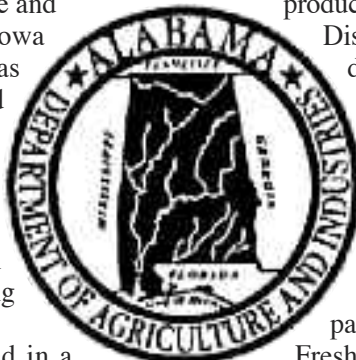
CAUSE OF DIE-OFF AT DEER BREEDING FACILITY IN NORTH ALABAMA DETERMINED

Montgomery, AL – The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) cooperating with the USDA Reference Lab in Iowa has confirmed that Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) also known as ovine herpesvirus-2 (OvHV-2) caused a recent die-off at a licensed deer-breeding facility in North Alabama. MCF is a potentially fatal viral disease of cloven-hoofed (even-hoofed) animals such as cattle, deer, and pigs.

Since the outbreak began in May, the die-off was contained to the breeding facility, and now that the cause of death has been determined, all preventative measures to stop the virus from spreading to the remainder of the whitetail herd have been taken.

Domesticated sheep who were not symptomatic, housed in a pen adjacent to the deer, initially had the virus that spread to the deer. Herpes viruses are widely distributed in nature, and long-lived infections can occur in multiple animal species. The herpes virus associated with sheep is called ovine herpesvirus-2 (OvHV-2). OvHV-2 is the predominant cause of MCF outside of Africa and is a cause of disease in domesticated animals and whitetail deer in the United States. Often domestic sheep are infected with the OvHV-2 virus; however, these sheep are usually clinically normal.

MCF poses no threat to humans, pets or any other domesticated livestock and these affected deer will not transmit this virus to other deer or livestock. According to State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier, "This isolated incident reminds



producers how important it is to have strict bio-security measures in place. Diseases like MCF that are asymptomatic in domestic animals can be devastating to native wild animals."

Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries John McMillan said, "This case shows how critical the working relationship is between our agency and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The cause of the die-off was concluded, and both agencies assisted the facility owner with the determining the best course of action."

The facility passed a routine herd inspection earlier this year as part of a joint monitoring program between the DCNR's Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) and the ADAI.

"Artificial conditions such as the penning of multiple species together like wild sheep and deer can spread pathogens that are normally restricted to one species," said Kevin Dodd, WFF Chief of Enforcement.

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Amy Belcher
Communications Director
Alabama Dept. of Agriculture & Industries
334/240-7126 office



**Sports Editor,
Ed Jones**

Auburn Tigers for instance. They play a formidable schedule in 2014 which includes Kansas State, LSU, Mississippi State, South Carolina, Ole Miss, Texas A&M, Georgia and Alabama. That schedule includes eight teams that will be ranked in the top twenty-five. Let's assume that LSU, South Carolina and Georgia lose some key players and are not at full speed when they play Auburn, or are not really as good as advertised. In this case, Auburn has had schedule luck.

Since Auburn and Alabama are being considered as possible teams to make the first play-off for Division I schools, we will take a look at their schedules for 2014 and see what they have to do to make this historic play-off. Alabama has the best chance according to most of the pundits who spend their time worrying with these type things. So, we will look at the Crimson Tide first. We will analyze the Auburn schedule next month!

Provided that Jacob Coker, the junior transfer from Florida State, gives Alabama the quarterback skills and leadership that coach Nick Saban wants, the Tide can have a real shot at the play-offs this year. Everything else is in place. He is the missing piece of the puzzle. They have the best set of running backs in the country. They have the best set of wide receivers in the country. They have an experienced offensive line. The defense is always good under Saban. It will be again this year. There is a lot of anxiety among the Crimson faithful as to how the new offensive coordinator will perform. Lane Kiffin is the fourth coordinator that Nick Saban has hired in his seven years of leading the Tide. Rest assured, the offensive coordinator at Alabama only does what Coach Saban has approved. That will not change.

AUGUST 30 - West Virginia is Alabama's opening game in Atlanta. This is the third straight season that Alabama opens the season at a neutral site. It is also the first meeting between West Virginia and Alabama. Not to worry. The Mountaineers have a goofy coach by the name of Dana Holgerson who hasn't learned that blocking and tackling is the first order of business.

SEPTEMBER 6 - Florida Atlantic in Tuscaloosa is like throwing a very game squirrel in a bear's cage. Blake Sims will have a good second half.

SEPTEMBER 13 - Southern Miss will enter Bryant Denny Stadium all fired up. The Golden Eagles have been a thorn in Alabama's side since they beat Alabama 7-0 in 1953 in Montgomery's Cramton Bowl. Their record for the last two years is 1-22. Coach Todd Monden, in his second year, will see how far he has to go.

SEPTEMBER 20 - Florida comes calling for the third straight Alabama home game. Coach Will Muschamp's four year record is 22-16. Following Urban Meyer has not been fun for the former "head coach in waiting" at Texas. Even worse was last year when the Gators were 4-8, hardly what fans are used to in Gainesville. With new offensive coordinator Kurt Roper coming over from Duke, there is some optimism that he can put some teeth in the Gators. I do expect Florida to be

WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT?

Talent - Coaching - Schedule

The truth is that all three are very important. But another factor in the success of a football team is injury luck. That means if the team has good coaching, good talent and a favorable schedule, but don't lose any key players during the course of the season, the talent level will not drop below good. This is called injury luck. Then there is the other major factor, schedule luck. Take the

better this year but at the end of the year they could wilt again after playing Alabama, Tennessee, LSU, Missouri, Georgia, Vanderbilt and South Carolina before their semi-annual trip to Tallahassee. That is no formula for a successful resurgence.

SEPTEMBER 27 - OPEN
OCTOBER 4 - Ole Miss will be waiting on the Tide to ride a few miles down to Oxford hoping their pre-season hype is not just pre-season hype. There is just something about Coach Hugh Freeze that I have not bought into. Everybody is picking the Rebels to be a top twenty team. They may be with six offensive starters returning and nine defensive starters return-



*Jacob Coker
Alabama*

ing. This could be a trap game for Alabama after a week off, but, I don't see it.
OCTOBER 11 - Arkansas catches the Tide in its second road game. Coach Bret Bielema is coming off a 3-9 season, his second at Fayetteville. His attempt to turn the "Hogs" into the "Wisconsin of the West" has been less than spectacular. Beefing up the Razorbacks will help his brute force approach, but the SEC is already brutal. No chance. Alabama wins.

OCTOBER 18 - Texas A&M comes to Tuscaloosa without Johnny Manziel. Coach Kevin Sumlin has been lauded all over the country for his revival of Texas A&M. He needs to thank the former staff for recruiting the best college quarterback I have ever seen, "Johnny Football". Sumlin had a good record at Houston before moving to College Station. He is a good recruiter. This year will tell us really what kind of coach he is. With fourteen returning starters, Coach Sumlin has a good nucleus, but the one starter that he won't have back is the one that concerns me. Alabama finally beats A&M at home.

OCTOBER 25 - Tennessee will be waiting in Neyland Stadium, hoping to upset Alabama on Shield-Watkins Field. Coach Butch Jones didn't inherit a tough football team from Derek Dooley last year. Dooley forgot everything his daddy taught him about defense and having a sound running game. Coach Jones is gradually getting a few tough as well as talented football players to come and wear Tennessee Orange. His first year they played hard but still came up with only five wins. Jones will probably take the Vols to a bowl in his second year, but they won't take Alabama.

NOVEMBER 1 - OPEN

NOVEMBER 8 - LSU at Baton Rouge is no picnic. Coach Les Miles has done well with Saban's Tide over the time Coach Saban has been at Alabama. There is still this idea that Miles has had success because of what he inherited from Saban. That's old news. Miles will be starting his tenth year in Tiger Town. Despite his unorthodox decisions, his overall record at LSU is 95-24. Their schedule in 2014 is very favorable. Only Alabama and Auburn stand in their way. This one looks like a toss-up to me.

NOVEMBER 15 - After getting knocked around in Baton Rouge, Alabama will host the most physical team in the SEC when the Mississippi State Bulldogs come to town. Coach Dan Mullen is in this sixth year with the Bulldogs. His record is 36-28 including four bowl games. Everyone in Starkville is expecting this to be his best team. So are the experts. This means that Alabama can't be thinking about LSU or Auburn. They have a tough battle in order to subdue these Bulldogs. This they should eventually do.

NOVEMBER 22 - Western Carolina will provide an opportunity for Alabama to heal from encounters with LSU and Mississippi State. Coach Saban probably won't do it, but it would be smart to take every starter out before the half. One senseless key injury would give Auburn an even better chance than they have.

NOVEMBER 29 - Auburn comes to Tuscaloosa either battered by a tough schedule, or flying high on eagles wings ready to take the SEC West away from Alabama again. For me the Iron Bowl was in Birmingham where Auburn and Alabama played every year from 1948 to 1989. Coach Ralph "Shug" Jordan was asked about his thoughts about not getting a good bowl bid one year. His answer was, "I'm not thinking about it at all. I'm thinking about 'The Iron Bowl'." The name stuck. It's alright if you still want to call it the Iron Bowl. It's just not the same to me.

So, to sum up the Alabama of 2014, they will be favored in every game. They will put the best team on the field every Saturday. Only a Sabanese decision will prevent a 11-0 regular season record and a chance to go all the way. Beware! Beware! of the Alabama kicking game. It has cost them dearly for three years. It could cost them again!

NEXT MONTH WE WILL DO A GAME BY GAME ANALYSIS OF THE AUBURN TIGERS 2014 SCHEDULE.

THE SPORTS PAGE

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Ronald A. Holtsford



WHY IS IT NOT CRIMINAL TO BURN A UNITED STATES FLAG?

If done in a manner of disrespect, patriotically and emotionally I would think that it would be criminal and I would say give that individual a chance to live in another country!

The United States Code §43-1-8 says:

Sec. 8. Respect for flag

...No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

- (a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- (b) The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- (c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- (d) The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white, and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.
- (e) The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- (f) The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- (g) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
- (h) The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- (i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- (j) No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- (k) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

So in the proper disposal of a worn United States flag, it is proper to do so respectfully, preferably by burning. However, I'm sure though that you are referring to a disrespectful burning of the flag.

One of the most defining United States Supreme Court cases involving the disrespectful burning of the United States flag, is Texas v. Johnson, 1989 (5-4 majority decision). Johnson burned a United States flag during the 1984 Republican National Convention in Dallas in protest of Reagan policies. With Johnson and others shouting slogans against the first Reagan administration, there was no doubt that their verbal speech was protected under the First Amendment as it did not otherwise violate other statutes, but what about Johnson's symbolic gesture?

A lower Texas Court had convicted Johnson criminally under a misdemeanor punishable statute for desecrating a venerated object, which was affirmed at a higher court. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals reversed the decision and the United States Supreme Court granted the appellants the right of review.

At issue was whether Johnson's burning of the United States flag was expressive conduct allowing First Amendment protection in his conviction? The Supreme Court had long recognized at this point that protected speech was not only protected by the written or spoken word. Johnson had not caused a real breach of the peace even though his action had angered some and the fire had not injured anyone. The State of Texas conceded that Johnson's conduct was expressive, which left the State's assertion at a point that Johnson's conduct was so serious as to cause a disruption of the peace. The Court rejected the idea that burning the flag amounted to "fighting words" in which an average person would retaliate. The Texas law was not aimed at retaining the physical integrity of the flag since disposal of worn flags is allowed by burning. The majority, in affirming the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals went on to say, "We do not consecrate the flag by punishing its desecration, for in doing so we dilute the freedom that this cherished emblem represents".

Three of the four dissenting Justices responded by saying, "The Court decides that the American Flag is just another symbol, about which not only must opinions pro and con be tolerated, but for which the most minimal public respect may not be enjoined. The government may conscript men into the Armed Forces where they must fight and perhaps die for the Flag, but the government may not prohibit the public burning of the banner under which they fight." How true.

Fly your Flag not only on July 4th, but every day. If your flag is worn, allow the American Legion or the Boy Scouts to respectfully dispose of it. Have a great Independence Day!

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

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

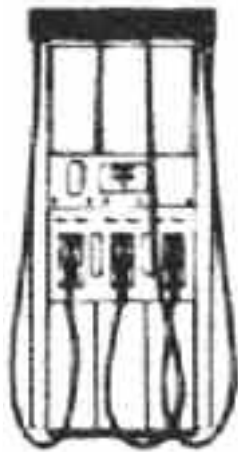
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Robservations...by Robert Tate

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

WHA-WHAT??

Forrest Gump said, "I am not a smart man, but I know what love is." In that vein I say, "I don't fancy myself a super smart man, but I know idiocy when I see it." Oh my, what in the heck is going on in this country and with this administration? Every day now it seems as though they are embroiled in yet another scandal. From Lois Lerner and the IRS, the sudden surge of illegal immigrants (undocumented Democrats), to the meltdown in the Middle East, I have to shake my head in disgust almost every day. Even my dad, who voted for President Obama twice (sigh) will not even talk to me anymore about him and what he is doing. When pressed, my dad just huffs and quickly changes the subject. But let me just go into a topic that should have every American troubled and demanding of answers. It is a topic I am sure every reader out there has an opinion on.

SERGEANT BOWE BERGDAHL.

Okay, so let me get this straight. We released five senior Taliban leaders for one American soldier. And this was good in what way? Before anybody starts throwing things and stabbing my picture, let me start by saying that on a personal level, I am happy for Bergdahl's family. I am glad that they have him back in American hands, although at the time of this writing, as far as I know, he has not yet even talked to his parents. But before the tickertape comes flying down Broadway, there are many troubling questions yet to be answered.

What we do know about Sgt. Bergdahl is that without a doubt, 100% he deliberately walked away from his unit in Afghanistan. Heck, he left a note behind confirming his intentions and the fact that he wanted to renounce his citizenship because of his shame of being an American.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2014/06/03/wartime-messages-to-parents-fellow-soldiers-reveal-troubled-bergdahl/>

What his true intentions were have not been made public but in a nutshell, if he indeed walked away from his unit, he deserted. Period, dot. End of discussion really on that matter. It is an ugly word with an ugly connotation but it is what it is. What I find really disturbing about this is not just that he likely deserted, not all people are cut out for combat, but how lightly many people view his actions. It is treated almost as if it were stealing a piece of candy out of a candy store.

Desertion is a serious offense in the military. Really serious. Did you know that historians estimate that in WWII, up to 25,000 German deserters were either shot or guillotined and tens of thousands more died alongside Jews and other "undesirables" in concentration camps. Others were sent to "punishment battalions" where they were always assigned the most hazardous tasks; an almost guaranteed death sentence.

http://articles.philly.com/1995-04-29/news/25687513_1_deserters-adolf-hitler-mein-kampf

Likewise, we had some 21,000 deserters during WWII and out of 49 death sentences handed out, only one man, Private Eddie Slovik was shot for his "purely military crime" of desertion.

Yes I hear heads popping out there and NO I do not necessarily advocate such an extreme punishment for Sgt. Bergdahl but if he did indeed desert, he must be punished according to the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) even if it just means a courts martial. If his desertion included instances of aiding and abetting the enemy (as has been suggested), who knows what the punishment will be. As an American, I believe Bergdahl deserves his time in court before any real judgment can be levied and his innocence remains intact until proven otherwise.

Where I am going with this is the oft quoted "leave no man behind." In normal circumstances I would agree 100% but if a man willingly goes to the enemy, does he still deserve the same unwritten rule? I'm just asking. Many military people I have heard on television believe the answer is, "no." But if the answer is yes, so be it, but should that also include the release of 5 senior enemy commanders in time of war? This I will answer, NO.

THE TALIBAN FIVE: WHO ARE THESE GUYS

According to Wikipedia, here is the low down on the bad guys given up in the trade. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliban_Five

1. **Mohammad Fazl** – Fazl served as Chief of Staff of the Taliban Army. He was associated with terrorist groups opposing US and Coalition forces. According to documents from the Joint Task Force Guantánamo, Fazl is "wanted by the UN for possible War crimes including the murder of thousands of Shiites". The document stated Fazl has become a recruiting symbol for the Taliban.
2. **Khairullah Khairkhwa** – Khairkhwa was the interior minister under the Taliban. He helped found the Taliban in 1994. He was directly associated with Osama Bin Laden and Taliban Supreme Commander Mullah Muhammad Omar. Likely involved with militant training, he was also "a

narcotics trafficker and probably used his position and influences to become one of the major opium drug lords in Western Afghanistan", and probably used profits from drugs to promote Taliban interests.

3. **Norullah Noori** – Nori served as the governor of Balkh and Laghman provinces in the Taliban regime. He was a senior Taliban military commander in Mazar-e-Sharif. Nori is "wanted by the United Nations for possible war crimes including the murder of thousands of Shiite Muslims" along with Fazl. According to Barnett Rubin, they were "responsible for ethno-sectarian massacres in northern Afghanistan" along with their enemies.
4. **Mohammed Nabi Omari** – Nabi was the Taliban's chief of communications. Nabi had "operational ties to Anti-Coalition Militia (ACM) groups including al-Qaida, the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, and the Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin". He also "maintained weapons caches and facilitated the smuggling of fighters and weapons".
5. **Abdul Haq Wasiq** – Wasiq was deputy chief of the Taliban regime's intelligence service. Wasiq had direct access to Taliban and Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin leaders, and was "central to the Taliban's efforts to form alliances with other Islamic fundamentalist groups to fight alongside the Taliban against US and Coalition forces after the 11 September 2001 attacks".

As we look at these lovely men, let's take a look at some other fairly evil men who held similar positions within the Third Reich.

1. **Wilhelm Keitel** – Field Marshal and chief of staff of the Armed Forces High Command 1938-1945
2. **Wilhelm Frick** – Reichs Minister of Interior (1933-1943) and Reich protector of Bohemia-Moravia 1943-1945.
3. **Arthur Seyss-Inquart** – Governor of Austria and Reich Commissioner of occupied Holland or Hans Frank – Governor General of Poland (Responsible for ¾ of the Jewish deaths in that country).
4. **Alfred Jodl** – General, Chief of Operations High Command of Armed Forces.
5. **Ernest Kaltenbrunner** – Chief of Security Police.

Let's say the year is 1944 and we were in possession of these Nazis (who btw were each tried in Nuremberg), do you think for one second we would have released them back into the fight for the release of one soldier? Again, let me answer for those who may be struggling with this one. "NO!" I heard some folks on the news talking about how prisoner swaps have happened throughout history in time of war and that is true. No doubt. But I defy somebody to find me an actual historical case where during a time of war, several senior enemy leaders were traded for one soldier; especially a soldier who was captured under such questionable circumstances.

Whatever the political reasons were that pushed this trade forward, in my opinion, were an abomination. As my wife says, "If we are to keep fighting politically correct wars, then it is the politicians that need to go over there and fight." How true. Again, on a personal level, I am glad Sergeant Bergdahl is back in the states (if this is where in fact he wants to be) and he will see his family again. I would never want to see an American languish amongst our enemies. But the manner of his repatriation must be looked at closely and not flippantly signed off as "the right thing to do." Once again, we are left scratching our heads at something our current administration has done seemingly contradictory to common sense. If they had to bring Sgt. Bergdahl home immediately, there had to be another way other than putting bad guys back into the fight. And I wonder what this administration is going to say after Americans are killed at the hands of or by the planning of one of these guys. Will they still say it was worth it? Will they say it was the only course of action they had? Will they argue it was the right thing to do? Of course they will but we all know the real answer to that question, don't we?

GITMO DETAINEES SWAPPED FOR SGT. BERGDAHL

Photo: From Wikileaks



KHAIR ULLA SAID WALI KHAIRKHWAWA



MULLA MOHAMMAD FAZL



ABDUL HAQ WASIQ



MOHAMMAD NABI OMARI



MULLAH NORULLAH NORI

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Mayor Todd Strange and Chief Kevin Murphy at June 21st news conference

Two Golden Rules

1. Every lawyer worth his salt knows that whenever you call a witness to the stand, never ask a question in which you do not already know the answer.
2. Never criticize your employee in public. On June 21st, Mayor Todd Strange called a "joint" press conference to discuss a personnel matter without regard to either.

automobile accidents on Chantilly Parkway in which he was later charged with a felony. Pat Murphy subsequently committed suicide on June 1st. Mayor

Strange texts Chief Murphy that they needed to have a discussion about the Chief's future. On June 13, Strange notifies Chief Murphy that he will not actively serve in the MPD. No published formal complaints regarding harassment or hostile work environments have been filed against the Chief. On June 20 in Huntsville, Kevin Murphy received the Policeman of the Year Award. John E. Brown serves as Interim Chief of Police.



Twice during this most poorly devised personnel action Chief Murphy quipped, "I'm not done yet." He did not elaborate. In the end, this whole distasteful episode is worthy of some classic Yogi Berrisms. What will happen next? "It's tough too make predictions, especially about the future". Todd Strange, "...the non conversation has produced what I talked about earlier". Even Napoleon had his Watergate.



www.lawenforcementtoday.com

Rep. John Lewis with Chief Kevin Murphy as Murphy presents his police badge to Rep. Lewis

The Mayor announced the retirement of Police Chief Kevin Murphy, but the environment was anything but cordial. The Mayor spoke highly of The Chief's accomplishments during his brief stint as the head of the MPD. The kumbaya moment continued as Murphy lavished praise on and fondness for the Department in which he worked for over a quarter of a century. However, ten minutes into his talk, the tone turned sour as Murphy explained that the decision to retire was not his. The next forty minutes became contentious and accusatory from both sides without either revealing many facts and instead raising quite a few questions. But in the end, Murphy acknowledged that he serves at the pleasure of the Mayor and he has accepted Strange's decision. His resignation is effective September 30 with full pay while on administrative leave.

Speculation abounds as to the motivation for the de facto dismissal. Public Safety Director and the Chief's supervisor, Chris Murphy, has gone on the TV circuit to defend the decision while Kevin Murphy rehabilitates his reputation via TV and talk radio. He is postured by others for a possible run for Mayor next year.

Here are some **undisputed facts**: None of the current majors or captains have more than two years experience. The annual 2013 Christmas Party for the MPD was canceled. The Chief's twin brother, on May 19th was involved in two

Downtown Montgomery Renovations... Historic Webber Building Partially Crumbles!

On June 26th, a cornerstone of downtown Montgomery came tumbling down. The historic Webber building collapsed as workers renovated the 160 year old structure. No one was injured as the northeast wall was sheared from the once beautiful hotel. Several men reported hearing the masonry pop while bricks flew through the air as if ghosts of the bygone day were in revolt.

The four story brick edifice had weathered wars, depressions and modernization, but it could not withstand the act of its own renovation.

Home to a post office, a barber shop and a "Hole in the Wall" saloon, the structure served as Montgomery's first theatre. The notorious John Wilkes Booth performed here. The song "Dixie" is reputed to have been written within these walls. Later it became the Webber Department Store up until the mid 1990s.

The Montgomery Riverfront Development Foundation purchased the vacant structure for \$325,000. A flat roof was replaced with metal trusses and a metal roof. That downward pressure and loose footings could be the reason for the collapse. An investigation is planned to determine the cause of this unfortunate event.

David Payne, current co-owner, was thankful that no one was injured. "It was a miracle no one was hurt, the rest is just sticks and bricks, sticks and bricks." But for us Gumps, this ghost meant much more.



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**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

SOUTHERN GARDENING

JULY POTPOURRI - by Peggy Givhan

First of all, **HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY** to all of our readers. We do have so much to be thankful for in this wonderful country of ours. So, be proud to be an American.

July can be a brutal month for the garden with intense heat and in many years, drought. For those of us who have sprinkler systems, we are basically in control of our flower beds and can make the needed adjustments of the time and amount of watering. This means that we are aware if some areas get too much water or some areas of the beds do not get enough. I almost lost some newly planted purple verbena in the front of a bed which would have enough water for an established plant but not enough for it. I saved it in the nick of time with extra water which shows we need to be aware of our plants. For those who do not have a central sprinkling system, timers with shut off valves can serve the purpose with just a little more work.

There are many plants which do not do well unless planted at certain times, but there are other warm weather annuals that can be planted through out the summer growing season. I like to start many flowers from seed and seed the beds weeks apart to have young plants coming along. Zinnias, cleome and cosmos are my three favorites for this technique. Or just sow the seed, let these grow and bloom, then, pull them out and start all over. I have even planted a new crop in mid to late August for dazzling October blooms. As I have warned often in the past, after sowing the seed, do not mulch as the seed will have a difficult time germinating. Just last week, after having killed the weeds with round-up, I needed an instant bed of blooming flowers. My choice was 6" pots of peach dragon wing begonias which has made a spectacular splash against gray granite blocks. These landscape begonias can be planted all summer also. My only task with this bed beside water, is to prune them back in late July. They will get so top heavy by then if one does not cut them back, they will just flop over. This bed will be beautiful until a hard freeze.

Recently I came across a listing of good gardening books and guides which I shall share. I have most of these books for reference and they are outstanding. I will divide them into categories.

General Gardening: American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants by Brickell and Zuk.

Roses: Antique Roses of the South by William C. Welch.

Herbs: Landscaping with Herbs by Jim Wilson.

Shrubs: Durr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs by Michael A. Durr.
Manual of Woody Landscape Plants by Michael Durr.

Garden Design: Color in your Garden by Penelope Hobhouse.

Daffodils: Daffodils for American Gardens by Brent and Becky Heath.

Perennials: Designing with Perennials by Pamela J. Harper

PLANT OF THE MONTH--HIBISCUS MOSCHEUTOS



These hibiscus actually look unreal due to the size of their flowers. Large dinner plate size blooms in dazzling white, pink, wine and red with contrasting throats can truly be called Southern Exotic. They are deciduous, like moist soils, and bloom from late spring until late summer. These are hardy perennials and keep returning year after year. Another Southern exotic is the Confederate rose mallow (Hibiscus mutabilis) which has double peony-like blooms with flowers that change from pure white in the morning, to pink and then red as the day progresses.

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The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

THE INHERITANCE OF THE COMMON LAW IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION

WILL WE LIVE UNDER THE RULE OF LAW, OR THE RULE OF MAN?

The concept of man in the Common Law of England is one of the most civilizing forces in all of History. For centuries the Common Law was recorded and declared as "the highest inheritance of the King, by which he and all his subjects shall be ruled. And if there were no law, there would be no king, and no inheritance." In the last decade of Elizabeth's reign, an entry in her Court Cases was this affirmation, "The Common Law is the best and surest inheritance that any subject hath, and to lose it is to lose all."

In the 18th century our Founding Fathers brought to our shores with them, the Commentaries on the Laws of England, by William Blackstone. He called these rights "imperishable and the best birthright and noblest inheritance of mankind."



William Blackstone

In every century the line of succession had been to the king, to his subjects, and to mankind, all under the Rule of Law given to Moses and throughout the Holy Scriptures.

In the decade before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, more than 2500 copies of Blackstone's Commentaries had been received by the Colonies of the Atlantic Seaboard, nearly as many as were circulated in England. Every college and university in early America used them as the "gospel on law.." We have used Blackstone in our Christian school in teaching high school students for more than forty years. The Common Law has been the organic unity of the legal institutions in all states except for Louisiana. Australia and New Zealand also belong to the living tradition of the Common Law.

In the laws of King Alfred, there was no sign of Roman Law. but translations of the Ten Commandments and passages from Exodus and Apostolic History, etc. When William the Conqueror took possession of England, he proclaimed, "One God shall be honored in the whole of the kingdom, and that the Christian Faith shall be kept inviolate."

The separate organization of the King's Courts and the Courts Christian, later to be called the Ecclesiastical Courts of the Church of England, was confirmed by the first clause of the Magna Carta: "We have granted to God, and by our present charta, have confirmed for us and for our heirs, forever that the Church of England shall be free and shall all its laws in their integrity and all its liberties unimpaired."

The twofold jurisdiction and discipline of temporal and spiritual courts was a regular feature of England and America from the 1600's until the 1800's when erosion slowly took place.

The Conqueror was also concerned with the Family, with inheritance, with the matter of private property rights. The Charter he gave to the people read, "I will that every child be his father's heir, after his father's day, and I will not endure that any man offer any wrong to you. God keep you." He believed that a mark of tyranny is to rob man out of his rightful inheritance.

When the Conqueror arrived in England, the slave trade was thriving. These were men and women usually slaves from birth, usually attached to the soil and often sold with the land. This was much against the proclamation of Augustine, who declared, "God did not make man to lord it over his fellows, but only to be masters of irrational creatures." He also wrote, "The desire to rule over our equals is an intolerable lust of souls."

In 1215, the year of the Magna Carta, a decree from the Fourth Lateran Council called for all men and women to confess sins, and to receive Holy Communion. The sinfulness of every human being was acknowledged and a call for repentance individually and corporately was frequent throughout the land. The sense of human equality was espoused in church and in literature, becoming a leading principle of English law. From the writing of Sir Thomas More (Everyman is to Everyman an 'even Christian') to Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, we see where men and women are to meet on equal terms and follow life's Pilgrimage. Shakespeare's thought is explicit in Piers Plowman:

*"For we are all Christ's creatures, and of his coffer rich,
And brethren of one blood.....alike, as beggars and earls."*

The Common Law was not tolerant of Slavery. It was a slow process before the Social System recognized the intellectual and moral autonomy of Everyman. "A free man is able to manage and maintain his own family, educate his own children, administer his own property and live in a free community."

The thoughts of Erasmus, "Nature, or rather God, hath shaped this creature (that is man) not to war, but to friendship, not to destruction, but to health, not to wrong, but to kindness and benevolence."

In stark contrast, Thomas Hobbes, and others sharing his worldview, look at man in need to external authorities (The State) and sees a solution for man in totalitarianism. Do we not see this all over the world today, where the Moral Law does not exist as Supreme, Tyranny fills the void.

In the Classical and Christian tradition which animates the Common Law, the political community consists of three parts; the individual, the family, and the city, or state. On the deepest level in the life of the individual, the life of the conscience and mind where everyman is alone with his Creator, and hopefully, his Redeemer. On the next level is the life of the individual within his family. Aristotle and Aquinas both greatly influenced the philosophy of the Common and Moral Law. They saw three levels of living in community; Ethics, Economics, and Politics, but they saw that the basis for living on these levels in the responsibility and quality of family life. The good must be achieved by prudence, by science....a difference in training for ethics, for family life, for economics, and the politics. It the teaching here sounds very different from what we

have in education today, indeed it is

The Law of Succession was to protect the family in terms of private property. The sanctity of the family was to protect the development of the next generation to his highest potential, so that the community will exist in peace and in liberty. and within that revered law.

The language of an Irish Judge is cited with approval in the England Courts: "The authority of the Father to guide and govern the education of his child is a very sacred thing bestowed by the Almighty and to be sustained to the uttermost by human law." Ignorance is never condoned in Christianity and educating the children was an imperative, with the family held accountable. Naturally there were varying views on educating children so far as content, methods, occupational goals. Reading, writing, reasoning from the Scriptures was always paramount with Christian families.

The Reformation was a transforming worldview over England and Europe. The Pilgrims and Puritans brought it to our shores with true piety and lived the Gospel out in their communities. They certainly left the model for faith and practice, and for education of children as well. The Mass Law of 1642 addressed the importance of children being taught to read and understanding the principles of the Christian religion. In January, 1643 A Grant for Land for Schools is recorded in Dedham, Mass. to be used for a community free school. The citizens votes for the necessary finances and it was locally conducted. The Old Deluder Satan Act, a Mass Bay Law of 1647 read, "It being the chief project of the old deluder Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures, and fearful that the knowledge might be buried in the graves of their fathers." This act provided for a community of .50 families to establish a school, and a community of 100 families to establish a grammar school. The goal was to preserve Christianity and to prepare the youth for the university.

American Statesmen to the man, valued education and was passionate about diffusing knowledge more generally through the masses of the population than had every been done before. Ben Franklin was a leader in a "Committee of Guardians" who took it upon themselves to provide education for free blacks and to superintend the instruction in the schools. Furthermore, this committee took the responsibility to procure employment for these youths among various trades.

In a Public School Society meeting in Conn., in 1809, a comment was recorded that "It is uncommon (in New England) to find a poor man who cannot read and write, and that it is rare in Europe to find a poor man who can read and write."

To understand the importance of the First Amendment to the U S Constitution, one must understand the life of the early Republic and the inheritance of the Common Law, so dearly cherished and defended for centuries by colonial antecedents. When the officers of the Crown and a series of Royal Governors threatened their liberty, Samuel Adams and others recognized the threat of tyranny lurking just over the horizon and organized the Sons of Liberty. It was one battle after another: The Stamp Act, The Sugar Act, the Townsend Act, and on and on. When the colonies saw their common danger, they saw their mutual dependence and united for action.

Continued on page 15



SENATE BILL 38 IN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE: IT'S SIGNIFICANCE

schools are not subject to licensure, or regulation by any subdivision of the State, including the State Department of Education. Teachers are also protected in the bill's section on Certification.

Public Hearings were held in both the House and Senate Education Committees where the bill was affirmed overwhelmingly. It passed the entire Legislature, with virtually no strong opposition. Parents make tremendous financial sacrifices to support Christian schools, and they do this because of their personal convictions concerning their obligation to their children. Christians believe that they are commanded by the Scriptures to teach their children "diligently" the faith they hold as the basis for all of faith and practice.

Alabama's overreach in 2013 was not the first time that a State Department of Education has attempted to usurp parental rights. Other states have made numerous and failing attempts. Thirty two parents brought suit (1977) against the State Board of Education in Kentucky when their school was ordered to be regulated or they would cease to operate. Parents were threatened to be prosecuted for truancy. Parents claimed that the licensing scheme to their schools would violate their religious liberty. After a year's harassment of parents, they went to trial a year later, in June of 1978. Famed attorney, William Bentley Ball represented the parents and Prophet-like in appearance, Rousas John Rushdoony stressed the Levitical ministry of the Christian School. Children must be kept in an environment conducive to the faith in the formative years. In October, Judge Meigs ruled in favor of the parents., calling the State's scheme "poorly conceived, ill defined, and quite direct interference with plaintiff's religious liberty."

Educators hastened to the Supreme Court of Kentucky. The Supreme Court handed down their decision in three weeks in favor of the schools, citing an ancient provision or the Commonwealth of Kentucky, (its Section 5 which reads), "no man shall

be compelled to send his child to any school to which he may be conscientiously opposed".

The Amish were charged with violation of a Wisconsin law which required parents to send their children to High School. A year earlier the State Supreme Court had ruled against the Amish and the U.S. Supreme Court had refused to hear the case. The Amish were deeply religious people and peaceful to the point of non-resistance, even to the rudest harassment. Living in farm communities, they were separate in term of their faith and culture, and always law abiding and always living our their faith in harmony. After the State's case was presented, William Bentley Ball put the local sheriff on the stand. He testified to their unique way of life, in which there was never, never, burglary, arson, assault, narcotics, abuse, reckless driving, truancy, theft, etc. It was clearly a First Amendment case where the free exercise of religion must be protected. Does not the highest Public Interest consist in the enjoyment of Religious Liberty?

The Alabama Legislature in to be commended for affirming our First Amendment Rights. One member of the Senate wisely noted, "It seems to me that most public schools still have plenty of room for improvement before they start trying to "improve" those not receiving any government funds." No ministry displays commitment and sacrifice more than Christian Schools, where parents sacrifice beyond measure and the teachers and administrators serve at much lower pay, but serve with what attorney William Bentley Ball observed with "ardent zeal."

Senator Brewbaker served in the field of Education during a term of Governor James, has long been thoroughly informed, and a source of wisdom regarding Alabama Education and beyond. His early lead in this matter was joined by many, for which the parents and educators affected by the joyous outcome are most grateful.

Last July 5, 2013, the Alabama State Department of Education notified the Christian and private schools of their intention to license, regulate and tax these schools. Completely unexpected, these school leaders and parents reacted to the letter with determined opposition. They contacted members of the Alabama Legislature, and Senator Dick Brewbaker took the lead in preparing legislation to deal with the threat to the right of parents to control the education of their children.

At the same time that these schools and families were dealing with the threat of control by the State, the entire public school system was implementing Common Core Standards, also called College and Career Ready Standards, which had been passed by the State Board of Education, before these standards had even been thoroughly reviewed. Two private trade organizations had developed those standards, and by the fall of 2013, two members of the State Board voiced opposition to them. These two very serious issues were placed with Education Committees in both the House and Senate, and would take time to reach a consensus, if at all. There was much information and some confusion on the issues.

Senator Brewbaker was joined by Senator Dell Marsh in support of the parents' constitutional right to retain control of their children's education, and S.B. 38 clarified the autonomy of these non public schools: Private, Church, Parochial, Home Schools and Religious Schools. The bill affirmed that these

Continued from page 14

When the movement came to replace the Articles of Confederation, and the formation of a constitution was put forward, Sam Adams was hesitant to support a national government. Elected a delegate to the national ratification convention, he revealed his conviction, "As I enter the building, I stumble on the threshold. I meet with a national government, instead of a Federal Union of Sovereign States." His fear was that a national government would have too much power and not long remain free. His voice was muted by others who gave us the Declaration and the Constitution, both preserving the Moral and Common law.



"This great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religions but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."
-Patrick Henry

Patrick Henry, the true "Trumpet Voice" of Freedom proclaimed, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason, people of other

faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship" Educated at home by his father, and in a local common school, Henry certainly possessed an eloquence unmatched in his day. He too was skeptical of a national government and an enemy of any "over reaching" of government. He, **George Mason, John Tyler, Benjamin Harrison, James Monroe**, and others are largely responsible for the assurance that the Constitution would have the **Bill of Rights** from the beginning. **The First Amendment has remained the most crucial one, and the protection of Conscience** today is a vital issue in families over Education, as in all of life matters.

By the early 1800s the Unitarian "conquest" of New England churches had taken place. In 1837, Mass formed the very first State Board of Public Instruction. Other states followed suit. **Until the Unitarian influence became prominent in New England churches and Legislature, all schooling had been Christian education. Horace Mann** was then President of the Mass. State Senate, and close to **Governor Edward Everett**. Both were followers of Germany's Hegelian philosophy which claimed that nothing was absolute and that man's ideas were superior to the Bible. In Mass, **Secular Humanism** was formally pushed through as taught in the **German State of Prussia**. Such a radical change from **McGuffey's Readers** which had sold over 122 million copies throughout the colonies. Much Christian teaching and older textbooks were retained for many years in many colonies, as well as the **1828 Webster's Dictionary** with

its Biblical references throughout.

With **John Dewey** came sweeping changes in the textbooks. A philosophy professor at Columbia University and the University of Chicago, Dewey was a Hegelian, holding that truth is always in process. Morals change, society changes, and his theme was "*Change and Adjust, Change and Adjust.*" **He was the first President of the American Humanist Society and he signed the Humanist Manifesto in 1953.** It opens with this declaration, "The time has come for widespread recognition of the radical changes in religious beliefs throughout the modern world." He offers a new religion, Humanism: man is the measure of all things. The time had passed for Theism. Dewey's most ardent followers were the university professors who would train the next generation of educators. Most of those early ones came from Europe, schooled in Hegel's philosophy. **The National Education Association** went along with the dramatic shift in Education's content and objectives. To achieve their goals, History must be distorted to remove the greatness of Western Civilization, and children would be given a new inheritance to replace the Judeo-Christian foundation which proclaimed liberty to Everyman.

It would be a new religion to which the curriculum would conform.

Dr. Paul Vitz, a famed psychologist, and many others have sounded alarms for the public. They condemned the educational mind control techniques of Values Clarification, Magic Circle, Quest, and all the programs that government schools have used for many decades. We have been keenly aware of these programs in undermining the academic and moral training of our children.

We recently observed D Day across our land. What was won that day on the Normandy beaches was our freedom, and yet, is that in more danger today than ever before? Five Supreme Court Justices---Blackmun, Kennedy, O'Connor, Stevens, and Souter----tell you that there is a fundamental right to kill a human being. **Can we say that we live under the Rule of Moral Law? When a parent no longer has the right to educate his child by the dictates of his conscience, do we really have liberty? How will Christian parents deal with Deut 6:7? God's command is to teach the children in the "discipline and instruction of the Lord. "Isn't the issue for all of us in all of life this: Obedience to the Lord? And is the First Amendment still protection for this Liberty of Conscience? We need the kind of education that the Pilgrim and Puritan fathers brought with them, fear and disdain for tyranny, a love of the Moral and Common law, building on the cherished liberties. If one generation becomes the Mere Creature of the State, America will not longer exist as we have known it.** Restoration begins with the individual mind and heart, and then within the family. Mal. 2: 15. "He seeks godly offspring. Therefore, take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of your youth." Be not afraid, "The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe." Proverbs 29:25.



John Sophocleus

THINK

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

Hubbard Tweets, Gaming the System, Failing as Christian Servants...

Upon receipt of very delayed primary election numbers from Clarion Hotel voting machines providing noticeably skewed tallies (two to one margins where other boxes in the district were close) Speaker Hubbard tweeted, "I am deeply grateful that the GOP voters of my district have put their faith in me once again." Shortly thereafter, one of my most astute colleagues (James Hines from Mobile) sent me the following, "Are a majority of Republicans in Auburn really that stupid? ...or does Hubbard actually spread his graft that broadly?"

Now we know this result was not necessarily proffered by a majority of Republicans, furthermore Speaker Hubbard is a master at 'gaming the system' he played an integral role in establishing. Poor voter turnout in Lee County at 16% (the State-wide result was over a third higher) suggests the majority of Republicans were not the problem; the corporate welfare advocates/big govt. conservative Republican minions are the ones who showed to keep the graft churning. This is the problem - i.e., answer to the second part of Mr. Hines' query is Speaker Hubbard doesn't have to spread the graft broadly; he's gerrymandered his district for his self-serving/private interest purposes which motivates his avaricious minions to provide the observed result. Hubbard is outstanding at picking voters for himself and his cronies. Furthermore, the Hubbard/Riley machine learned from the 2002 gubernatorial result and 2003 failed Amendment One tax explosion attempt in high turnout/more inclusive elections. It is difficult for big govt. Republicrats to win in a general election with broader voter turnout/sampling of the population to get the wealth transfers redistributive extremists desire.

The Montgomery **AP** reported the 22% State-wide turnout was well below the 2010 primary 32% turnout when both political parties had very active races to determine gubernatorial candidates unlike the recent Bentley and Griffith results. 22% was also well below Secretary of State Jim Bennett's predicted turnout of 25 to 27 percent who also predicts a paltry 5% turnout for the July 15th runoff. Further evidence Alabama taxpayers have no reason to waste time, money and effort on primaries the parties could determine/fund on their own dime instead of yet another money mill for party bosses like Mr. Hubbard to exploit. Can anyone honestly say the July 15th outcomes will provide any better representation upon receiving the majority of a 5% turnout? What an embarrassment to our State, but it sure makes gaming the system easy for the big govt. Republicrats extracting wealth transfers from our productive members of society. Speaker Hubbard's prowess at 'gaming the system' became legendary after amending our State constitution with a yes vote from only 14% of eligible voters to rob our trust fund and redistribute to his cronies wasting \$3 million on a special election weeks before a general election where his political theft would fail again.

Some in Lee County also noted the 'Hubbard gaming show' in action bombing the Circuit Court with motions to stall the May 20th decision on the corruption investigation less than two weeks before the primary election. It would have been difficult for Mr. Hubbard to overcome the facts as his usual banter of being hated for his 'conservatism' is increasingly considered a joke by small govt. voters who know how the Hubbard/Marsh/Riley crony contract machine works. The stall worked perfectly to postpone the decision to after the primary. Days after the delayed Clarion Hotel primary election results were delivered, Mr. Britt (**Alabama Political Reporter**) reported Judge Jacob Walker ruled in favour of the State in the Barry Moore case where documents reveal Speaker Hubbard is under criminal investigation in the ruling against Moore's request to dismiss the felony case. Judge Walker also found acting Attorney General Van Davis (along with Matt Hart and William Duffy) have authority to conduct the Grand Jury investigation. Mr. Britt asserts the most revealing text in the decision is Speaker Hubbard as the central figure in the Lee County investigation and noted, "Hubbard and his white collar defense attorney J. Mark White have constantly denied or spun any hint that Hubbard was the key figure in the investigation. Now, the actual letter granting Davis his powers show that Hubbard, has been the subject of the investigation all along."

For those who do not know, Jacob Walker is a righteous jurist who can not be bought and follows the law very well so it is difficult to reverse his decisions. It was clear when the attorneys were stalling and made us (me and my bride) homeless for almost a year, Judge Walker did not take kindly to their obvious and vulgar tactic. His decision was so well done it survived three motions for summary judgment where Myron Thompson had to wrongfully pluck it from the federal judge who kept ruling correctly to block our 5th Amendment civil rights in Alabama. Judge Walker has stood up to Hubbard crony Bobby Lowder when this 'public servant' was trying to further take from our students and taxpayers - Mr. Boulevard learned from a pro! I've observed Judge Walker justly dispose of arsonists, thieves and even have the courage to over-ride juries who do not have the courage to correctly apply the death penalty when just. In short, the Hubbard, et al political thieves have much to worry about in Jacob Walker's court - he has the courage to discipline Mr. Hubbard when the gerrymandered, gamed result is no longer working to remove corruption in Lee County.

It is also worthy of note to illustrate how the Hubbard machine was working overtime when the chief law enforcement officer of Lee County (Jay Jones) appeared in an ad blathering, "I believe in Mike Hubbard" among other minions. Readers of my column know how revealing I find individuals (esp. those who worship governments as their god) who espouse belief in others like Mr. Boulevard who name their children after political hacks shamelessly used in political ads. Perhaps as an orthodox Christian I take my namesake too seriously. More to the point it is completely inappropriate for Sheriff Jones to come out in a political ad publically supporting someone under ACTIVE investigation by a grand jury in the county where he is the presiding chief executive law enforcement officer. At the time, lowly citizens like myself could not definitively claim Jones was shilling for someone under investigation, NOW we can. Let me be among the first to publically request Mr. Jones resign (and likely receive a bloated public servant's retirement) and apologize to Lee County. I'd suggest in return for a plea bargain immunizing against future ethics investigation into the matter, but there's little probability of such action as the Hubbard/Riley ethics reform was for incumbency protection and Sheriff Jones was clearly operating toward that end. As for the ever important element of timing, resign NOW so we may get names on the November general election ballot without wasting money on special elections or getting the political machine to install a replacement.

Many have asked me to quickly explain what the corruption investigation is all about. The best, quickest read to illustrate is the Buddy Mitchell affidavit stating how Mr. Hubbard used his connections to tailor Auburn University contracts over those trying to honestly compete. This one episode alone bilked Auburn students and taxpayers out of \$4million according to the Alabama Political Reporter, telling of a tearful Mike Hubbard pleading he will lose his business and home if has to compete. In contrast, Mr. Hubbard never shed one tear when he, Congressman Riley, et al did nothing as their crony contracts made me and my bride homeless from the house we held legal title to and paying taxes on so others could live in our home. Politicians like 'Spender of House' Hubbard can't understand how honest people can make ends meet to own their home outright, live within their means, not use their friends and family to lie and shill for them - esp. with all the taxes and crushing programs he's imposed upon our State.

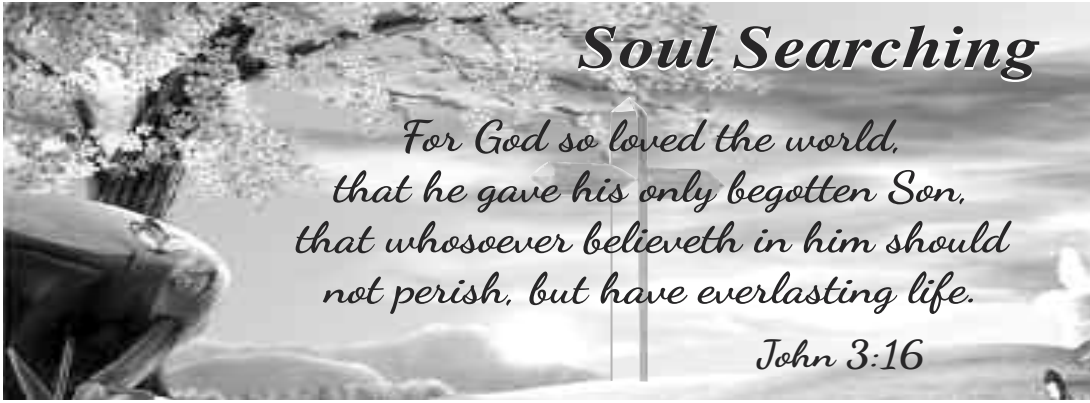
I like to close with matters of the Spirit which are of the greatest import. Mr. Hubbard has continued to show himself a small man in mind, body and spirit. The sincerely sad thing is Mike was in a position where he could have done great things and his memory would be eternal though the name of Jesus Christ instead of names on airports, buildings, roads and other man-made Nimrodian trappings. This is what he worships, names and uses his prodigy to obtain, etc. - it is the usual result of avarice run amok in those who cannot control themselves. On June 3rd at the Clarion Hotel parking lot Messrs Hubbard and Riley (giddy in their ability to game the system; as if it were a matter of skill instead of lack of Spirit) allegedly asked a Toomer volunteer, "How do you like supporting a loser?" Although a volunteer who spent some time at the parking lot that day, obviously it wasn't me as I don't think either has the courage to ask someone they know can/will respond to their childish, impish hubris... it kills the buzz. Nonetheless, I'd like to finish with providing an answer, whether or not it was indeed asked.

I did not find it fun to support Mr. Toomer, but my duty as a citizen of my State and servant of God. While individuals of Mr. Hubbard's intellect and integrity seem to think elections and bank accounts are the ultimate judge, I was baptized and taught by parents who did not name me after a politician but John the theologian. I was taught the only hero of substance in my life should be Jesus Christ, not the Cam Newtons, Ronald Reagans or other flawed men of this world. However poorly I've lived up to my namesake I want to go to my ultimate judgment not being one of those referred to in Mr. Hubbard's tweet who shown faith in a corrupt politician that day. I want to be enumerated among those who supported a righteous man like Sandy Toomer struggling to follow Christ's path, not in pursuit of redistributed wealth in their favor drunk with power from a gamed system to sustain their avarice. This is where we fail as Christian servants. I don't know if saying I didn't participate because it was impossible to beat the corrupt, gerrymandered, gamed system will suffice. A precious few supported efforts against the corruption of Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, Pilate, et al - so we must do the same, however small in comparison. This is were I pray for God's mercy in the end as I pray for Judge Walker's continued courage and wisdom to discipline this lost soul where the voters couldn't/didn't. Furthermore, it is our Christian duty to Mr. Hubbard in hopes that he may be sufficiently rebuked and shepherd Mike to follow the path of the penitent thief before it is too late... for someone who has shown such great acumen with respect to the importance timing.

"Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

- Thomas Paine

The Alabama Gazette welcomes all "Letters to the Editor". Email us at alabamagazette@gmail.com.
Please check out our website: alabamagazette.com



Soul Searching

*For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should
not perish, but have everlasting life.*

John 3:16

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL
Eastern Hills
Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama



THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS GOVERNMENT

Like you, I hear my share of what's wrong with government. And it's not just what's going on in Washington, sometimes it is just as likely to refer to our state or city. One doesn't have to look far to find something wrong or policies with which we disagree. Just as quickly I would point out that most of us do want the protections and privileges which are ours as citizens.

The purpose of this article is not to find something else to complain about or a political party to blame. Rather, it is to help us be constructive and Christian in our approach to the authorities over us.

Let's begin with how our Lord dealt with matters of state when confronted by a group of Pharisees who sought to get Him in trouble. "Should they pay taxes to an emperor who had conquered and taken over God's people?" Our Lord says it like this within Matthew's gospel: "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's"

If our Lord said a simple "no," He would have been labeled an insurrectionist, and would be in trouble with Roman authorities. If Jesus had said, "yes," he would have alienated many Jewish Zealots who despised Roman occupation. I think Jesus was teaching a most important principle. There are those things that are more or less political, and those that are eternal. It is incumbent upon his followers to know the difference and to act appropriately.

Leap forward to the founding of our country. James Madison, Father of the Constitution and intimate friend of Thomas Jefferson, wrote in his famous article, "Memorial and Remonstrance," "Before any man can be considered as a member of civil society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe..."

Now this is a big statement by a founder of our nation and the "father" of its constitution. He is saying, in effect, that for America, the civil arena—the public square—is not for people who subject themselves first to "Caesar," but to citizens who subject themselves to God.

As Christians we are citizens of two worlds, both that which is to come and the one of our earthly existence. To what, then, is "Caesar" entitled? What a Christian owes his government?

Perhaps the first and most important thing a Christian owes his government is his prayers. Hear Paul's words to Timothy, "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority. . ." Note the four synonyms which bring out the richness of his petition. "Entreaties" are supplications, requests made with urgency. Are our prayers serious requests to God or more in the form of complaints about what we do not like? Prayer stands for humble reverence appreciating our place before God. Petitions speak to intercession on behalf of another. It reminds us to pray specifically and by name for our leaders. "Giving thanks" should never be forgotten because no matter how much we may disagree with policies or politicians, we have been incredibly blessed. If you can't thank Him for all that is going on, you certainly can find something to be grateful for. Is it not possible, considering the corruption and scandal which plagues much of our government, that some could be avoided if we took more seriously our duty to pray for those in power?

The Christian citizen also owes his government his obedience. In Romans 13 Paul admonishes his readers to "be subject to those in authority." The Apostle Peter said, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man." Much misunderstanding has existed about the word "ordinance." Does it mean every single law has the same weight or that the government will always be right? Are Christians to go against conscience and the Bible if a law is passed which is in opposition to those convictions? This is a very sensitive and serious subject. We should understand what Peter meant by choosing that word. It was not a word generally used to apply to a single law. It implied the institution of government. Christians should respect and honor their government except in the most specific ways which are a clear violation of conscience. One example currently in the news has to do with abortion. Even if the government allows it, Christians should not be forced to fund or participate in organizations which support abortion. There are a few other issues which might fall into this category. The purpose of these scriptures is to affirm the necessity of orderliness and civility. Christian citizens are not called to be anarchists. Neither are they called to do harm to others which whom they disagree politically or socially.

The Christian owes his government a vote of his convictions and involvement in the process of government. There is perhaps no more mistaken idea than one which holds that God's people have no place in political activity. Look at those in the Bible who were involved in every level of political activity.

God told Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation of people. This is politics at its beginning. Joseph was raised by God to become second in command of the most powerful nation of his time. He was in essence if not in title, the Vice President of Egypt! Moses was the "Lawgiver." Most of the laws of Moses are still on the legal books of our day. Daniel by his influence changed a King and his kingdom. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and the Prophets, spoke against the

Politics of their day and called their nation back to God. David was King of Israel, the leader of his nation. "If the process of government is ordained by God then each and every follower of Christ has a responsibility to be involved in the election of Godly people to public office."

"Simply put -- you can't separate Politics from the Word of God or the people of God and no earthly government will never be pleasing to God unless Christians are part of it." You may have heard some politicians say, "Let us take care of the government and you can take care of your religion." But I would ask you how will we take care of our religion if we lose the right to practice it? What good is all of our spirituality if a future government strips away our right for religious freedom in our Land?"

The writer of Proverbs states, "When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan." The United States has a wonderful Constitution but it is worthless if righteous people are not ruling. Paper does not rule -- people do. And whether the righteous or wicked rule depends on whether or not righteous people vote.

Finally, the Christian citizen owes his government support. Without question this is one expectation which is sometimes difficult to enjoy. None of us like paying taxes. While we enjoy the benefits of government such as national security, police and fire protection, education and streets, none of us like to pay for them. In particular, we usually have different ideas about the priorities the government places on the funds we are taxed to pay.

Not only did Jesus tell us to "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's," Paul mentioned this also in Romans. He mentions "tribute" which referred to direct taxes like an income tax, as well as "custom" which usually was an indirect kind of tax like sales tax. It is clear from the Bible that we are obliged to pay our taxes no matter what we feel about them. Certainly it is our right to seek to elect officials who will make policy about taxes and budgets more to our liking.

It is not wrong for a Christian to use every government allowed means to pay the least taxes necessary. No one should want to pay more taxes than legally required. However, the Lord is not pleased with someone who knowingly and intentionally cheats on his taxes. A Christian has no more right to choose which tax laws to obey than which red lights to stop at or which other law to obey or not to obey.

The Christian and his government relations are a matter not only of obedience, but witness. A Christian who does not respect his governing authorities, even when he disagrees politically, is likely to be a person who does not respect other authorities including even the Lord. What we owe our national, state and local leaders on the human level -- prayer, obedience, support and respect, we owe to God on an absolute level. It is not uncommon for people to speak ill of leaders and to call on them to change their ways. Unfortunately, these same people are unaware of their own need to repent of ways which are a hindrance to Christian witness. Only when we truly obey and reverence God can we be the Christian citizens we should be.

As we come to celebrate the birthday of our nation this month, I close with these words from Psalm 33: "But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth--he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unflinching love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unflinching love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you."

Open Prayer Meeting!
Every Tuesday at 12 Noon

**A special time to pray for our government
and its leaders. Just drop by any Tuesday and
join this special prayer group.**



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
THE RIVER CITY CHURCH
(formerly Dexter Avenue UMC)

301 Dexter Avenue, Downtown Montgomery



Dr. John Bitter
Editor-Senior Section

Gazette Seniors...

**YOU MAY BE
OVER THE HILL**
...if you no longer keep
a list of places that are
"open all night."

"WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

As vast as the American English language is, we hardly need to supplement it with made up words, especially proper nouns that we have metamorphed into verbs.

A typical example of this is a noun that we use and hear used as a verb almost every day: Xerox. Someone is always xeroxing something on the local copy machine. But if one were to stand on propriety, even the folks at Xerox couldn't xerox anything, any more than the people at Canon could canon a copy, or the people at Hewlett Packard would want to hewlett something.

Many of us, during the summer, found ourselves out in the garden working vigorously with our weed eater to clean out the unnecessary foliage. But wait. Was it a Weed Eater we were using, or was it a trimming device made by Black and Decker, or one of the other corporations that have produced and sell instruments for clearing the weeds out of our garden?

There is a tendency in our usage of our language to lump products of a similar nature into the name, or noun, of the more popular or common member of the manufacturers of such items.

TRADE MARKS

Imagine how the folks at Chevrolet or Chrysler would feel if people called all automobiles fords? Such a fate did befall corn flakes, raisin bran and shredded wheat. Which is why the Kellogg Company tries desperately to convince writers that Snap Crackle and Pop are registered trade marks which represent Rice Krispies—also a registered trade mark.

Tottering precipitously on the edge of losing their identity to common usage and shifting from proper nouns to common nouns are Clorox, Day Glo, Formica, Tobasco, and Frigidaire; who are close to joining lanolin, dry ice, linoleum, and escalator products whose identities degenerated from a proud trademark to common nouns used to describe a host of like products.

Coke is another brand name that is often used to refer to a variety of carbonated soft drinks. "Gimme a Coke," says the thirsty customer. "What kind do you want," asks the counter person, "Diet Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, or Seven Up?"

So far Florsheim doesn't refer to all men's footwear, although Reeboks are often used as synonyms for any number of athletic shoes.

Cuisinart is fighting desperately to avoid the fate which befell Mix Master; becoming a household word which describes a variety of food processors. So, too, does Kleenex hope to escape from being confused with every other nose tissue on the market. More power to them in their quest to avoid the fates of nylon and cube steaks. Not all blue jeans are Levis; but they're headed in that direction.

CALL MANPOWER

The folks at Kelly Services are quick to point out that their employees are not just any temporaries. So if you want a Kelly Girl don't call Manpower.

Likewise, Rolodex Corp. Wants you to think only of their product when you're ready to purchase an organizer for your telephone numbers, and Spackle asks you to remember that when you're headed for the hardware store to get something to patch up cracks and crevices, that there are a lot of products which may be suitable to the task, but there's only one Spackle, spelled with an @.

Weight Watchers, Laundromat, Nutra Sweet, and TV Guide are also concerned about their identities, wishing not to meet the same fates as high octane, and yoyo in the graveyard of trademarks which used to have a specific identity; but are now generalities.

And talk about unintended consequences, look what happened to poor Thomas Crapper, who was also known as "John." He's the poor chap who, in the 1800s improved on what was then called the "water closet." Tinkering around with the mechanisms that operated the early flush toilet he created the convenience that still bears his name--in less sophisticated circles.

Maybe Juliet was on to something when she asked: "What's in a name? That which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet. . ."

WHO'S ON FIRST?

WHO" PROGRAM ALIVE AND WELL

The time has been changed to 10:30 a.m.

The focus hasn't changed: It's still important information for senior citizens, through a program entitled: "Who's Lookin' out for You?"

The place is relatively new: Cara Vita Village at the end of Fieldcrest Drive.

The day of the week; however, has been moved from Tuesdays to Wednesday.

Midway through the month Gazette publisher **Loretta Grant** filled in for ailing Mark Springer, Jackson Hospital's ailing patient services representative; and Assistant Attorney General **Monica Sheeler** closed out the month with some advice on avoiding wrongdoers.

STARTING OFF - In July, the program gets under way on **July 2**, when **Beverly Perkins**, et al. Will be there to tell about what the Montgomery Area Council on Aging provides at the Archibald Center on Jefferson Street in downtown Montgomery.

WEEK TWO - **July 9**, **Susan Segrest** and some of her merry madcaps will be at Cara Vita to walk you through the new Elder Abuse Tool Kit. You won't want to miss this important program. Folks have been working long and hard to assemble this essential part of a senior's "must have" information.

MID-MONTH - **July 16**, **Prof. John Craft**, who teaches law at Faulkner University, and has been a stalwart in the development of the Elder Abuse Task Force, will be at Cara Vita at 10 a.m. to discuss legal matters of concern to Golden Agers.

FOURTH WEEK - **July 23**, the two, new **Ombudspersons** for the Central Alabama Aging Consortium will be here to talk about their roll in lookin' out for the well being of our senior population. A lot is being done in this regard, so don't miss this one. Come and meet **Monica Barnes** and **Laura Runyan**.

AND SO ENDS JULY

July 30, Wrapping up the month, **Dr. Tom Geary**, who heads the Bureau of Health Provider Standards for the State, will share with his audience information about the standards providers of services to seniors must meet, and share with you other information about how he and his staff may be of help.

And that wraps up July, as our program gets under way at its new location: Cara Vita Village; and at its new time: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. See you there!



Kyle McKinney

By **Kyle D. McKinney**
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In the United States, people do a lot to recognize and honor the heroes who serve in the Armed Forces and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. July is an appropriate month to recognize veterans and wounded warriors, as we celebrate our nation's independence.

On July 12, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law a measure to award the U.S. Medal of Honor "to such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities during the present insurrection." The first Medal of Honor went to Private Jacob Parrott during the Civil War for his role in the Great Locomotive Chase. According to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, a total of 3,487 medals have been awarded.

Such recognition is important, but perhaps just as important is awarding Social Security benefits to veterans as well. Earnings for active duty military service or active duty training have been covered under Social Security since 1957. Social Security also has covered inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) since 1988.

In fact, more than one out of five adult Social Security beneficiaries has served in the military. Veterans and their families make up 35 percent of those receiving Social Security.

If you served in the military before 1957, you did not pay Social Security taxes, but you received special credit for some of your service.

SOCIAL SECURITY HONORS VETERANS

You can get both Social Security benefits and military retirement. Generally, there is no reduction of Social Security benefits because of your military retirement benefits. You'll get your full Social Security benefit based on your earnings. If you served in the Armed Forces and you're planning your retirement, you'll want to read our publication, Military Service And Social Security at:

www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

If you are disabled and can no longer work, you may also want to read our publication, Disability Benefits For Wounded Warriors, available at the same web address. Note that Social Security offers veterans expedited processing on their applications for disability benefits.

Another reason July is significant to veterans: on July 3, 1930, Congress signed a bill to authorize the President to issue an executive order establishing the Veterans Administration, or VA. President Herbert Hoover signed Executive Order 5398 to create the VA on July 21 of that same year, 84 years ago. Learn more about the VA and types of benefits it provides at www.va.gov.

Also, you can learn more about military service and Social Security benefits by visiting the Military Service page for wounded warriors and veterans at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/veterans.htm. Social Security thanks you for your service, and we hope we can now be of service to you.

Social Security Administration
4344 Carmichael Road
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Montgomery, AL 36106
(866) 593-0914 Ext: 26265-Office
(334) 369-8355--Cell
Social Security Benefits America



HSEC THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF ELMORE COUNTY

www.elmorehumane.org

WE ARE OPEN FOR ADOPTIONS MON-THURS 10-4, FRI 10-5 AND SAT 9-3



Rusty is a Dalmatian/Lab mix boy, about eight months old and he loves to romp, chase toys and just have fun! Rusty (and his two brothers) will be in the 50 lb. range when fully grown and are just great pups in need of loving homes.

Our normal adoption fees are \$100 for dogs & \$50 for cats under 1 year old; cats over one year old can be adopted by approved adopters for a donation of their choosing. This adoption fee completely covers the mandatory spay or neuter, basic immunizations, de-worming, microchip, heartworm check for dogs, rabies vaccination if old enough, 45 days of pet health insurance and a free health exam with your participating veterinarian.

NEWS FROM THE SHELTER



Twelve years in a row and we cannot thank **The Predators Motorcycle Association** enough for hosting another successful **Cruisin' fer Critters** in June! It was certainly a scorcher

which makes us even more thankful for the tremendous support from each and every member of The Predators and all who joined in on the day's activities bringing in well over \$8500 for our 'critters' as a result. Kudos to Sundown East & Papa T's Sports Bar for being the perfect place for 'Cruisin,' Coustic Chaos for rocking the

house out, Big D for cooking up some tasty grilled goodies, and the following generous sponsors: Amsoil Oil, Stacy Lewis, Chappel Tire Service, Lisa Hamilton, Dr. Stephen McCulloch DMD, Wetumpka Tire & Auto, Joe Hudson Collision Center, Paul's Body & Paint Shop, City Wide Investigators, Forest Hills Garage, K&D Automotive, Bumpers Texaco, Rodger & Tommie Dunning, Déjà Vu Billiards, Papa T's Bar & Grill, Frank Ander, Production Automation, Georgia Grace – James Kirkley & Aw-Shucks Oyster Bar. We are so grateful to everyone who came and joined in the fun, tackled the route in the heat and supported this annual tradition so that we can continue to do our very best by all the animals that come to us in need of our care. We are so lucky to have the members and supporters of The Predator's Motorcycle Association in our corner – thank you so very much!

Our Wags & Whiskers Silent Auction

Friday, August 1st

If you have something you want to donate, please get it to us no later than July 1st so we can get it photographed and get the program finalized. Items received after July 1st will be held for our 2015 auction. Remember you can preview every item in our auction by going to www.elmorehumane.com – just hover over each photo to read the details on the item and help you plan your bidding ahead of time. If you have any questions about our auction just give us a call at 334-567-3377, email us at hselco@bellsouth.net or go to our auction website for more information.

E-mail: hselco@bellsouth.net • PHONE: (334) 567-3377 • FAX: (334) 567-8774

The Humane Society Of Elmore County • 255 Central Plank Road (Hwy 9) Wetumpka, Alabama 36092



Pepe Le Pew

This month's animal is everybody's favorite "little stinker" the Skunk. The striped skunk is a cat-sized mammal, and is fearless. Skunks are not only fearless but supermen that are immune to ven-

omous snakes. They are the most common member of the Mustelidae family: Weasels, Minks, Badgers, and Otters.

They are easily recognized by their characteristic thick, glossy black fur and the white stripe that extends posteriorly from its head to its bushy tail. It has a small head and short legs with plantigrade feet. Striped skunks vary in weight (8-12 lbs) and length with the tail being 12-15 inches. Males are generally 10% larger than females.

They are best known for their unique odor (Mephitis is Latin for bad odor). Although not an aggressive animal, when provoked both sexes release musk from well-developed scent glands located on either side of the anus at the base of the tail. At close range, the strong odor causes severe tearing of the eyes and, in some cases, nausea. They can spray up

to 10-15 feet. The sticky secretion is produced by a pair of anal glands. All weasel (Mustelidae) related animal's have them. Once a skunk sprays it takes them 10 days to regenerate their musk glands. We have discovered that Dawn dish soap and vinegar are excellent for removing the smell.

Skunks have an elaborate warning behavior: they curl the tail over the back, stomp, show off their teeth, grunt, puff, curb their backs, beat the ground with their limbs and execute their famous stunt walking on their front limbs. This means an imminent shot is coming! If not enough, with head and tail forward and arched back, and gushes precisely the liquid towards the enemy. There's nothing like a animal with a built in chemical weapon.

The presence of the striped skunk from Canada, North America to the tip of South American.. Although they prefer semi-open areas with woodland, brush land and open fields, striped skunks have a high tolerance for humans. They frequently forego their usual den habitat and occupy abandoned buildings or move under houses.

Striped skunks are omnivorous but are more insectivorous than any other carnivore. They feed on small mammals such as rats, mice, snakes and frogs, vegetable matter, fruits, wild berries, leaves sometimes cadavers, but the majority of their diet consists of insects and other invertebrates they dig up with their

fore claws. They also attack bee hives without being annoyed by the stings; skunks will eat the bees rolling them with their tongue getting rid of the stinger.

In the fall skunks acquire a layer of fat and by early December, they begin a winter sleep that is not a true hibernation. They will become active during mild periods and inside the den. They have between one and three 10 minute activity periods per day. Some dens have been known to have 20 skunks curled up together but usually less than that. They have been known to share dens with foxes, raccoons. Typically the females and babies will head to the den when the temperatures reach zero degrees Celsius.

In the Northern states skunks hibernate similar to that of bears 75-100 days. They breed in late February or early March. After a pregnancy of approximately 63 days, the female gives birth to a litter containing 4-6 young. A young baby of a striped skunk is called a 'kit'. A striped skunk group is called a 'surfeit or stink'. Musk glands are functional in the young at about 28 days of age.

The striped skunk has secure conservation status. The average life span is 10 years, but few live beyond three years, but in captivity they can live to the ripe old age of 14. Mortality occurs from a variety of sources including predation, disease, road kill and farm machinery. Although once an important pelt, the striped skunk is currently of minor importance to the fur trade.

Their main predators are Great horned owls and bobcats. Skunks are known to be major carriers of the rabies virus and therefore, tend to be a focus in disease management projects.

Ron & Angie VanHerwyn, *Kritter kids*

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Facebook - Ron's kritter kids (Wildlife education)



Recipe for: Chipotle Crusted Pork Tenderloin

1 teaspoon onion powder	1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon garlic powder	4 tablespoons brown sugar
3 tablespoons chipotle chile powder	2 (3/4 pound) pork tenderloins

1. Preheat grill for medium-high heat.
2. In a large resealable plastic bag, combine the onion powder, garlic powder, chipotle chile powder, salt, and brown sugar. Place tenderloins in bag and shake, coating meat evenly. Refrigerate for 10 to 15 minutes.
3. Lightly oil grill grate, and arrange meat on grate. Cook for 20 minutes, turning meat every 5 minutes. Remove from grill, let stand for 5 to 10 minutes before slicing.

Original recipe makes 6 servings

Allrecipes.com

Medac, PC
Johnnie W. Strickland, Jr. MD270 Interstate Commercial
Park Loop Bradbury Place
Prattville, AL 36066**334-361-8225**johnnie@medac4u.com
www.Medac4u.com**Recipe for: Unbelievable Chicken**

1/4 cup cider vinegar	1/2 cup brown sugar
3 tablespoons prepared coarse-ground mustard	1 1/2 teaspoons salt
3 cloves garlic, peeled and minced	ground black pepper to taste
1 lime, juiced	6 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 lemon, juiced	6 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
	skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

1. In a large glass bowl, mix the cider vinegar, mustard, garlic, lime juice, lemon juice, brown sugar, salt, and pepper. Whisk in the olive oil. Place chicken in the mixture. Cover, and marinate 8 hours, or overnight.
2. Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat.
3. Lightly oil the grill grate. Place chicken on the prepared grill, and cook 6 to 8 minutes per side, until juices run clear. Discard marinade.

Original recipe makes 6 servings

Allrecipes.com

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Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"The Priceless Gift of Freedom"

In the United States on the 4th of July, we are celebrating a priceless gift. It's a gift that many of us received when we were born, that some are receiving for the first time, and a gift that tragically, some will never experience. That gift is freedom. And much like the things that are most important in life -- the air we breathe, our lives, our homes, our families -- it's easy to take for granted.

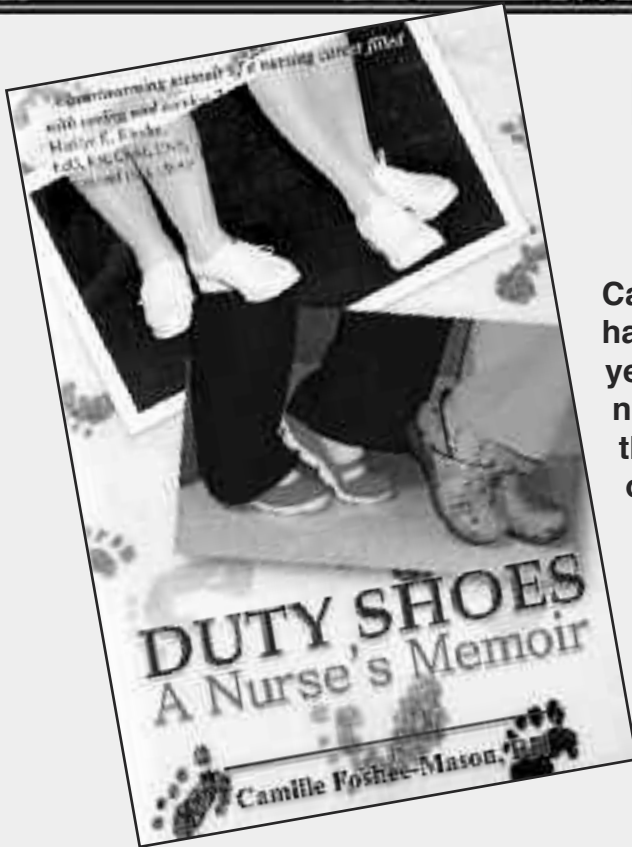
Ironically, many of the people who appreciate most the freedom we are celebrating are those who know the least about this iconic day. But their fresh perspective on the priceless gift we share can inspire us to remain grateful every day.

Anyone who has experienced horrific persecution for their personal beliefs has a deep awareness of the unmistakable value of freedom. The men and women who founded this country were themselves victims of persecution, and fought to preserve freedom at any cost. The liberty they sought meant freedom to have faith, to lose it, to change it.

Joshua 24:15 tells us, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Today, because of their sacrifice, the priceless gift of freedom is ours. This 4th of July, let's remember those in our world who long for the freedom we experience every day. On this day that we celebrate freedom, let's seek freedom for the oppressed. I hope that on this Independence Day, we can remember not only to be grateful for this priceless gift, but to be generous with it as well.

Many Blessings!



Nurses make a difference!

Camille Foshee-Mason, RN has a career spanning 40 years as a registered nurse. *Duty Shoes* depicts the changes in nursing over the years as well as its countless rewards. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book will go for nursing scholarships.

NURSES IN WHITE

*You've never seen such an impressive site
When the nurses on duty were dressed in white,
Uniforms starched and ironed just so.*

*Caps were pinned securely in place:
Every hair was up and out fo our face.
Displayed on our collars, our pins with pride.
Our schools and its teachings we did abide.*

*With honor and dedication we performed our tasks.
We knew what to do, no questions asked.
We urgently heeded the Code 10 call.
Highly skilled and confident one and all.*

*Doctors wrote each order with care.
To carry them out, we were always there.
A back rub, a touch, a listening ear,
We won patients' trust and calmed their fear.*

*Technology and ideas have changed our past,
But the nurse in white will forever last.
In the pages of history, there we will be
For all generations of nurses to see.*

Camille Foshee-Mason RN

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Pike Road News



Town of Pike Road
 9575 Vaughn Road
 Pike Road, AL 36064
 Gordon Stone, Mayor

Mary Catherine Barganier,
 Communication Director
 (334) 272-9883



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

FIGHT FIRES – SAVE LIVES VOLUNTEER TODAY BY JOINING YOUR LOCAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT!

Every day, thousands of small communities across the country rely on volunteer fire departments to keep them safe and protect their property. Volunteer and combination fire departments across the country struggle with recruitment. Approximately 80% of the fire services is volunteer fire departments.

The push is on for more people to join the ranks in Volunteer Fire Departments. Montgomery County Fire Association President, Mike Green says “there is a need for more volunteer firefighters, first responders and support staff in all eight of the Montgomery County volunteer fire departments (**Catoma VFD, Pintlala VFD, Snowdoun VFD, Waugh-Mt. Meigs VFD, North Montgomery VFD, Pike Road VFD, South Montgomery VFD, and Rolling Hills VFD**). The need is due to the fact fewer people are volunteering today. In addition, the economy is such more people are spending time working and less time volunteering.”

“Volunteer Fire Departments offer something for everyone. One of the greatest rewards is knowing you are helping your neighbors. We are looking for people who want to give back to their community; this is a great opportunity for

people to give back. We have a continuing commitment to recruit and train,” said Green.

Volunteers come from all walks of life. The fire departments also want people to understand what the fire department is about and how the department operates. Locally, the fire departments provide much needed services; often times responding to non-fire situations where expertise in various rescue techniques are required. For more information on becoming a part of the fire department which serves your area, visit the Montgomery County Fire Association website at www.mcavfd.org.

Catoma VFD
 Fire Chief: Bobby Brooks
 334-612-9127



Pintlala VFD
 Fire Chief: John Meadows

Pike Road VFD
 Fire Chief: Mike Green
 For more information or questions please email info@pikeroadfire.com or call Station #1 Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. thru noon at 334-271-1048.

Rolling Hills VFD
 Fire Chief: John Polke
jppolke@charter.net

Snowdoun VFD

South Montgomery VFD

Waugh / Mt.Meigs VFD

NEW HOME CARE AGENCY IN THE PIKE ROAD COMMUNITY

The Austin Agency, a private duty home care agency based in Pike Road, is announcing its opening as of July 1, 2014. They will be providing reliable and affordable home care to clients throughout the Pike Road and Montgomery area. From companionship to around-the-clock home care, The Austin Agency’s services are designed to bring a peace of mind to individuals needing extra care for their love ones. This agency will offer a variety of innovative, community services including Coming Home: A Transitional Care Program, ensuring clients have a smooth post-discharge from facility to home. Call today, to learn more!

The Austin Agency 334-315-4023



**BELATED
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 WISHES TO
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 GEORGE H. W.
 BUSH
 ON HIS
 90TH BIRTHDAY**

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Bob & Liz Morris | 19 Don & Nance Rabren |
| 3 Everett & Alice Cole (43rd) | 20 Spears & Carrie Rhodes |
| Dennis & Karen Weber | 21 Justin & Bethany Mims |
| 8 Bill & Charlotte Gaston | Shannon & Cindy K. Miles |
| 9 Carl & Miriam Head (65th) | 25 Linda & Wayne Roy |
| 10 Fred & Jeanette Waldo (55th) | 26 Blake & Amanda Wise |
| 13 Don & Beverly Dawkins | 28 Archie & Charlotte Mote (59th) |
| 16 Laird & Sarah Bone | 31 Zachery & Jennifer Gibbs |

BELATED SYMPATHY

To the family of J. L. Hall, 92, husband of Catherine Hall, who passed away on April 25th, 2014

Sympathy to the families of...

- Christian, Christy Marie (18).....died June 1, 2014
- Polizos, Gus V. (94)died June 3, 2014
- Westcott, John Anderson (88)died June 5, 2014
- Graves, Dr. William Charles (73)died June 6, 2014
- Reagan, Louise Norman (92).....died June 6, 2014
- Law, Helen Amason (101).....died June 7, 2014
- Frith, Alicia Cowles (30)died June 8, 2014
- Horne, Howard James (79)died June 9, 2014
- Rives, Harry Clayton (93)died June 16, 2014
- Kendrick, Ben (66).....died June 17, 2014
- Stough, Mary Grace (89).....died June 17, 2014
- McCalman, Joy Langford (91).....died June 20, 2014

The WINDS of WAR WEATHERVANE



Patricia Killough



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

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

HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

July Birthdays



- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Alan Moore | Annie Burchard |
| Butch (Mary) Moseley | Miriam Head (84th) |
| Linda Foxworth | Sheriff D. T. Marshall |
| 2 Lexie Turnipseed | Lansdon O'Mailia |
| George Pugh | 15 Joan Collier |
| Voncille Talley | Farley Pugh |
| 4 Audrey Grant | Summer Rice |
| Peggy Hubbard | Paige Stringer |
| David Johnson | 16 Charlie Lamar |
| Lynn McKinley | Elden McKemy (98th) |
| Cindy Smith | Sherry Tucker |
| 5 Ann Emory Harris | 18 Linda Carleton |
| Kathy Ingram | Ann Marie Dean |
| Joyce Todd | Laurie Smilie Sanders (87) |
| 6 Pres. George Bush (68th) | Sharon K. Walker |
| Skip Mainor | 19 Geneva Henderson |
| Glenn Stringer | Mary Lamar |
| Amber Wooten | Emma Ruthe Walker |
| 7 Knox Crowe | 20 Frances Bush (88th) |
| Carolyn Grant | Tony Mitchell |
| Willie B. Jackson | Cordelia Roton (99th) |
| Taylor Mills | 22 Freddie Strength (65th) |
| Brian Mosley | Vangie Walmsley |
| Greg Mosley | 23 Helen Broadway |
| Cindy Young | Zachery Dibole |
| Betty Vann | Matthew Grant |
| 8 Mickie Ann Boyd | Rusty Moseley |
| Helen Dibole | Jim Scott |
| Fred Setzer | 24 Barbara Garrett |
| 9 Joe Douglas | 25 Sara Boyd (86th) |
| Katherine Kirk | Ashley Corbin |
| Kathryn Ann Sikes (1st) | Becky Windham |
| Doris Wallace (85th) | 26 Jason Adams |
| 10 Nelda Harrod | Judy Mann |
| Pam Stewart | Stacy Dickinson |
| Al Webb | 27 Jimmy Norman (56th) |
| 11 Abby Boyd | 28 Arnold Fuller |
| Luke Frady | Melanie Higgins |
| Ann Green Tucker | 29 Hilda Glover |
| James Tucker | Jim Staggers (Prattville) (102 years) |
| Trenton Windham | 30 Shawn O'Mailia |
| 12 Cary Dean | Emory Tucker |
| Felix Norman (69th) | Ronnie Wallace |
| Bonnie Williams | 31 Meloney Gwin |
| 13 Jeremy Dickinson | Caroline Vocino |
| 14 Missy Boyd (52nd) | Marie Hudson (61st) |



Matthew, Daniel and Luke on board the train at the park.

Friends, Matthew Dickinson, Daniel Selvage and Luke Dickinson visited Nocalula Falls Park on Wednesday, June 18, 2014. They had a great time riding the train, feeding and petting different animals, walking the rough terrain to get to the falls and eating lunch at Jacks. The next day they toured the caverns at Cathedral Caverns in Grant, Alabama.

Brandi Terrell and Lee-Gray Boze

were married on Saturday May 31, 2014 at the Avenue of the Oaks in Pike Road, AL. The brides parents are Mack and Susan Terrell and the grooms parents are Betsy Boze and Ken Boze. After a two week honeymoon in Vietnam the couple will reside in Menlo-Park, California.



Stacie Mae Tomlin Vinson



entered her tenth decade as a War Eagle fan on Saturday, May 31, 2014 when she turned 90



years old. Her son, David Vinson and daughter, Charlene McClanahan had a surprise party for her at the Auburn Basketball Arena. A large number of family and friends showed up to help her celebrate in true Auburn style. Miss Stacie grew up in Clayton and Lewisville, AL., lived and worked in Montgomery and now resides in LaGrange GA.



HAPPY 85TH
Ruth Boyd Preble
 celebrated her birthday with friends and family on
 June 14, 2014

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Nancy A.

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