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*See page 11...*

**Why Celebrate Christmas?**



*Here are three simple reasons why we should celebrate Christmas and why it can have a profound impact on our lives:*

Christmas is a time of celebration!  
*"I bring you good news of great joy for all people." Luke 2:10*

We should celebrate the fact that we have been given good news of great joy....for ALL people. Christmas should be a season of joy with a party atmosphere. Specifically, a joyful birthday party for Jesus.

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*See page: \_12\_ Pastor Lester Spencer, St. James Methodist Church*

**PEARL HARBOR - DECEMBER 7, 1941  
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**December 7, 1941**

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# Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He served 16 years in the state legislature.

www.steveflowers.us

## Election Year Observations



### Kay Ivey is Governor Again

Governor Kay Ivey's 2022 reelection victory run has been very impressive. Some of you may be wondering how quickly I have been able to resolve that she has indeed culminated her victorious run when the General Election was held Tuesday and my column's published date is Wednesday. It is simply as I have told you numerous times over the past two decades, winning the Republican Primary for governor in the Heart of Dixie is tantamount to election. The General Election is Alabama is an afterthought. We are a one-party state when it comes to statewide races.

Kay Ivey laid to rest the last hope of the Alabama Democrats being able to win a statewide race, especially for governor in my lifetime and probably in yours, when she beat Walt Maddox like a rented mule in 2018.

Walt Maddox was the best shot and best mule the Democrats could ever dream up. Maddox is the young, articulate mayor of Tuscaloosa. He has been and had been mayor of the Druid City for a good while. He has been an excellent mayor with an impeccable record. He ran a good well run, well financed campaign for governor. He got 40% of the vote. This seems to be the threshold for a Democrat for governor.

Therefore, Kay Ivey's 2022 run may not be as impressive as her 2018 race. Although, this run has been extremely impressive. Probably the reason that 2022 has gone so well is because she ran so well in 2018. She beat a very formidable field four years ago. She beat the popular mayor of Huntsville, Tommy Battle, in the Republican Primary. His credentials and fundraising prowess were equal to Maddox's, if not better.

Having beaten the 2018 thoroughbreds, Battle and Maddox, so thoroughly, made serious candidates not even consider challenging her. In 2022, to compare Lindy Blanchard, Tim James and Yolanda Flowers to Tommy Battle and Walt Maddox is like comparing Mutt to Jeff.

Governor Kay Ivey has done a good job as governor during the four years, 2019-2022, and folks knew that, and they knew her. There also have not been any scandals or controversy. She had garnered one of the finest men and managers in Alabama political history, Congressman Jo Bonner, to be her

right arm and Chief of Staff. They together ran a pretty solid ship of state.

Most of us who follow Alabama politics felt like Kay was going to only serve one four-year term when she won the 2018 race. She, deep down, may have thought the same thing. Therefore, she governed with the attitude of what is right for the state and not what is right for reelection.

When she decided to run, most of us were in agreement that she would win. She would be well financed, and national polls revealed that she was one of the most popular incumbent governors in the nation.

My thoughts were and I conveyed to you, that the only way Kay Ivey could lose the race was if she beat herself. If she misspoke or did a debate and made a miscue or misstep. She did none of the above.

She ran a perfectly scripted, flawless campaign. She campaigned as governor and looked gubernatorial. Most importantly, her campaign TV ads were brilliant. They were folksy with the perfect Alabama flavor. They had her looking good, speaking well and southern with a grandmotherly appeal. They made her age and demeanor an advantage. She came out of the campaign being better liked than before. Some of her ads came close to being racist when she said, "Folks think we ought to require our schools to teach everyone to speak Spanish. Well, I say, 'No Way Jose'." This prompted ultra-liberal Democrats around the nation to deride her. When Maxine Waters, the liberal Democratic California Congresswoman criticized her, Kay quipped, "I ought to give Maxine Waters an in-kind contribution proxy for her help in my Alabama Republican Primary campaign."

The big question in the Republican Primary was whether Kay Ivey could win the May 24 Primary without having to go to a June 21 runoff to win. Some doubted that anyone could beat eight opponents without a runoff, especially given that Blanchard and James spent a total of \$16 million dollars. She proved them wrong. She beat the field of eight without a runoff and got 54% percent of the vote.

My guess is that she got a higher percent than that on Tuesday.

Kay Ivey is Governor, again.

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



## HAVE THERE BEEN ANY INTERESTING CASES RECENTLY?

Yes, the United States Supreme Court heard the below case in December 2021 and issued the opinion in June 2022. The majority opinion was written by Chief Justice John Roberts. The other five mostly conservative justices concurred in the opinion and the more liberal leaning three justices during that Court's term dissented.

Ronald A. Holtsford

The Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution is found in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights and states in part, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; "

While the more common cases involve the "separation of church and state" (Establishment Clause) cases, this one hinges more on the "Free Exercise" clause for those of a more conservative leaning.

The case of Carson v. Makin arose from the state of Maine. The state of Maine provides for tuition assistance to parents who live in parts of the state that have no secondary school or do not contract with a nearby secondary school. The parents designate the school that they would like the state to transmit payments to for tuition assistance. While schools participating in the program must have certain accreditations, they may otherwise differ from the public schools in various ways. Beginning in 1981, Maine would only give tuition assistance payments to non-sectarian schools.

The petitioners sought tuition assistance for their children to Bangor Christian Schools and Temple Academy. Though both schools qualified as being appropriately accredited, they did not qualify for tuition assistance since they were not nonsectarian. The Petitioners sued the Maine Department of Education asserting that their rights under the Free Exercise clause were violated as well as the Fourteenth Amendment, Equal Protection clause. The constitutional claims were rejected by the District Court and the decision was affirmed by the First Circuit.

The Free Exercise Clause in the opinion of the Court "protects against "indirect coercion or penalties on the free exercise of religion, not just outright prohibitions"". In both Missouri and Montana there were cases where those states provided aid to either a non profit in Missouri or scholarship funding in Montana, provided neither had religious affiliation. In both cases it was held that such laws violated the Free Exercise Clause by making otherwise qualifying institutions ineligible because of religious affiliation. Both cases were supported by the Free Exercise Clause. Justice Roberts wrote, "Maine's program cannot survive strict scrutiny. A neutral benefit program in which public funds flow to religious organizations through the independent choices of private benefit recipients does not offend the Establishment Clause."

While the First Circuit held that the non-sectarian requirement was constitutional "because the benefit was properly viewed not as tuition payments to be used at approved private schools but instead as funding for the "rough equivalent of the public school education that Maine may permissibly require to be secular." Justice Roberts points out that the statute provides tuition assistance at a public or private school selected by the parent. It does not say it has to provide a public education. He further pointed out that while public schools generally accept any student, a private school does not. Private schools may also charge a tuition many times greater than that amount offered by the Maine tuition assistance program.

Finally, Justice Roberts wrote, ""it is clear that there is no 'historic and substantial' tradition against aiding [private religious] schools" that is "comparable." Espinoza, 591 U. S., at \_\_\_\_." For the reasons above the Court majority reversed the holding of the lower courts and remanded back to the trial court for reconsideration based on the decision of the US Supreme Court.

In a separate dissenting opinion, Justice Sotomayor wrote a "snippy" comment in, "what a difference five years makes. In 2017, I feared that the Court was "lead[ing] us . . . to a place where separation of church and state is a constitutional slogan, not a constitutional commitment." Trinity Lutheran, 582 U. S., at \_\_\_\_ (dissenting opinion) (slip op., at 27). Today, the Court leads us to a place where separation of church and state becomes a constitutional violation. If a State cannot offer subsidies to its citizens without being required to fund religious exercise, any State that values its historic antiestablishment interests more than this Court does will have to curtail the support it offers to its citizens. With growing concern for where this Court will lead us next, I respectfully dissent."

**I pray that each of you have a  
Blessed, Happy and Merry Christmas or Hanukkah!**

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# ROBSERVATIONS... by Robert Tate

## MAXWELL, OH MAXWELL!!

After the most recent election, Mrs. Grant gave me a call and told me she was pretty much sick of politics and asked if I would like to write something about Maxwell AFB. Definitely nothing about Gislene Maxwell. That is for another day. Since Maxwell AFB is, and has been such an integral part of the city of Montgomery, I said I would love to. Personally, I would love to see even more interactions between the city, definitely this newspaper and the Maxwell/Gunter AFB family.

My first exposure to Maxwell AFB came in 1989 when I came here for Squadron Officer's School. I was a Captain way back then flying the NATO AWACS out of Geilenkirchen, Germany. So, it was a welcome trip back to the States for me. That was back in the days of absolutely nothing going on downtown and to be honest, Montgomery was quite underwhelming. But the base was wonderful for me. I often found myself in the Air University library and AU Bookstore just cramming my face in dozens of WWII books and documents. It was much better than Santa's Playland.

My second experience was when I was assigned here in 1995. Following my two-year stint assigned to the Royal Saudi Air Force as an instructor pilot, I came to Maxwell to be a military doctrine analyst. If that sounds boring, it was. After attending the Joint Doctrine Air Campaign Course (JDACC), I became an instructor in the course until I left the Air Force to go fly for Delta. I immediately entered the AF Reserve and worked for a little over a year in the Historical Research Agency (even more face time in WWII books and documents) and then returned to the LeMay Center and began teaching the JDACC, now the Joint Air Operations Planning Course, for almost nine years. I have been fortunate in that I have had a lot of experience with this base. I can honestly say that I have used a lot of my experience in the academic world here at Maxwell in each of my three books. I gained insight that I otherwise never would have.

**"In 1910, the Wright brothers opened the nation's first civilian flying school on a parcel of land that would eventually become Maxwell Field in November 1922"**



**Top Left:** First civilian flight school hangar built by the brothers. Written on the bldg are names of the companies that helped purchase the land (1922) **Top Right:** Plane in flight over the fields near the school hangar (Circa 1922)  
**Below:** Students and onlookers checking out the newly opened "Wright Brothers School of Flight" on land that would eventually be Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL  
Photos courtesy of: www.media.defense.gov

It was during my second experience with Maxwell that I really began to learn about its storied history. *In 1910, the Wright brothers opened the nation's first civilian flying school on a parcel of land that would eventually become Maxwell Field in November 1922;* yes, 100 years ago. During World War II, Maxwell was the Southeast Army Air Force Training Center and was responsible for both basic and advanced flight training for thousands of American and Allied pilots. During their training, 98 Royal Air Force and French air cadets died here in Montgomery.

From 1932 – 1936, The Air Corps first aerial demonstration team, the Flying Trapeziers were based out of Maxwell Field. Led by Claire Chennault, the group included Haywood Hansell, John Williamson and William McDonald.

In four years, they performed approximately 50 flight demonstrations in the 1930s. Maxwell became the "intellectual center" of the Air Corps universe. In July of 1931 until 1940, Maxwell was home to the Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS). The building they used is remains among the more prominent buildings still in use on the base. Such significant air power leaders such as "Hap" Arnold, Claire Chennault, Jimmy Doolittle, Ira Eaker, Muir Fairchild, Harold George, Haywood Hansell, Curtis LeMay, Nathan Twining and more were all graduates of the school. Of the graduates, one of the more interesting was Colonel Burton Andrus who became the Commandant of the Nuremberg prison during the first of the Nazi trials. Also, several graduates of the school gathered in Washington D.C. in the summer of 1941 to take part in the Air War Plans Division. These men were integral in formulating initial doctrinal thought on strategic bombing and producing a procurement plan that was used in building the force structure needed to defeat the German Luftwaffe and destroy the German war making capabilities. Their efforts and the importance of their work cannot be underestimated.

Following the war, the Air University was established at Maxwell in 1946. Since then, Maxwell has continued to be the education leader for the United States Air Force. Almost every senior Air Force officer and non-commissioned officer, and many from other branches of service and countries, have spent some time at either Maxwell AFB or its Gunter Annex. Today, these bases house Air War College, Air Command and Staff College, International Officer School, Officer Training School, the AF Judge Advocate General's School, the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Air Force Senior NCO Academy, First Sergeant Academy, the NCO Academy, Airman Leadership School, the Historical Research Agency and Alabama's only Air Force Reserve Unit, the 908th Airlift Wing.

There is no doubt that the history of Maxwell AFB and its link to Montgomery is something to be proud of. Now, in 2022, Maxwell AFB has turned its aging C-130 fleet and will be acquiring the Air Force's newest helicopter, the MH-139 "Grey Wolf." Maxwell will be the home to the MH-139 Formal Training Unit (FTU). That means all pilots assigned to this new aircraft will be coming through Maxwell AFB for their training. This is pretty exciting stuff actually. I have gone through my share of FTUs in the past and it is always an interesting time. The hardest part for me will be the trading of the beautiful hum of the C-130 engines for the sound of helicopter rotors beating the air. Still a beautiful sound but just different. In all of my 14,000+ flying hours, I have exactly 0.0 in helicopters. If I ever get the chance to catch a ride on one of those helicopters, I will be there with bells on. Heck yeah, no doubt. So, this has been my break from the elections. There is so much to discuss but for now, will leave that for another day. As for Maxwell AFB, I think we have a lot to be proud of here in Montgomery. The historic past and now the brighter than ever future gives all of us something to look forward to. Hopefully in the near future, Maxwell will once again sponsor a great airshow for the city. Hint, hint!!



### DID YOU KNOW?

In the history of these United States, no major political party or presidential candidate ever campaigned on abolishing slavery in the States where it existed. This included the presidential election of 1860 in which Abraham Lincoln was elected president with less than 40% of the popular vote.

The Republican platform of 1860 consisted of 17 Declarations or planks, stating the position of the Party on the issues of the day. The platform did have a plank opposing the extension of slavery into the territories of these United States.

"We deny the authority of Congress, of a territorial legislature, or any individual to give legal existence to slavery in any territory of the United States." Declaration 8.

However, that same Republican Party platform affirmed the right of states to control their own internal affairs (state sovereignty) which would have included slavery in those states.

"That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of states and especially the right of each state to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgement exclusively, is essential to the balance of powers on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric rests." Declaration 4.



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## The Failure of the Pilgrims’ First Christmas



Justice Will Sellers

The Pilgrims’ first Christmas in the new world was remarkable, but not for the reasons you’d think.

On December 25, 1621, William Bradford, the governor of the Plymouth Colony, prohibited the celebration of Christmas. But he wasn’t a Scrooge or a Grinch; he was simply following his religious conviction. He believed that Sunday was the only day for celebration and time off from work. While the Pilgrims’ first Thanksgiving was like our celebration, their first Christmas bore no resemblance to our current observance of this secular and religious holiday.

On that first Christmas Day in Plymouth, some colonists objected to working, claiming that their conscience required them to observe the day referred to as Nativity. Thinking that the appeal to conscience was an attempt to use the day for devotion and personal reflection, those conscientious objectors were excused from participating in the work detail. However, when Governor Bradford saw they were using the day for merriment and games, he confiscated their “toys” and explained that it was not permitted for some colonists to work while others engaged in frivolous activities.

The celebration of Christmas was off to an inauspicious start in the New World. Succumbing to this early American leadership, some 20 years later, the English Parliament would also ban the celebration of Christmas.

This belief that Christmas Day was not to be celebrated was the synthesis of two trends. First, the Puritans could find no support for the celebrations of Holy Days in Scripture. They found nothing in the New Testament authorizing any day for religious observance other than Sunday.

The Catholic tradition, which was affirmed by the Anglican church, permitted the celebration of over 90 holidays or feast days commemorating any number of Saints’ Days or other historical religious events. Combine this with the strict observance of Sunday, and in a work year, more than a third of the calendar was devoted to something other than work. Thus, the second trend eliminating Christmas celebration was the need for manual labor to sustain the colony.

So religious beliefs and economic necessity combined to limit time off from work to only one day a week. Taking the Old Testament admonition strictly, the Pilgrims believed in a six-day work week. Only Sunday was reserved as the day for worship and rest from work.

As the colony was first constituted, everything was held in communal form without specific rights to private property. Work was a necessity, so everyone had to farm the community farmland and participate in the survival of the colony. The excitement to be in a new land and the freedom to practice their religious faith sustained the enthusiasm for participation in this communal structure. But soon, production died down as colonists came to realize there was no incentive to work harder to produce more as the benefit for initiative did not exist.

Having everything in common had drastic results. Food became scarce, and rationing was required. Notwithstanding sermons to the contrary, a sense of

agrarian slothfulness pervaded the colony since there was no difference in the distribution of the crops between the hard workers and the slackers. As this situation began a downward spiral, more work was required, but yields remained dismal.

Christmas then was not de-listed for strictly religious reasons but reflected the imposed work ethic that of necessity limited time off and required the colonists to labor. Celebration was a luxury that was inconsistent with subsistence farming for a community that truly lived from hand to mouth.

In as much as the puritans based their decision to limit holidays on their Biblical interpretation, they failed to fully appreciate one of the bedrock doctrines of their faith: total depravity -- the corruption of human nature by original sin and its practical application to the economics of their community. Had they fully understood the ramification of this doctrine, they would never have established an economy based on a communal structure that limited private property. Believing that human nature is flawed and selfish, the colony leadership should have known that any system based on voluntary goodness was bound to fail.

William Bradford would learn this the hard way as the production from crops lessened, and the colony came close to starvation. It was only then that the political economy was changed to allow private property. This critical change created a system in which the selfishness of original sin was harnessed so people could experience the direct correlation between hard work and abundance. Instead of having a common storehouse, people were allowed to produce what they could, consume what they needed and then barter and trade with others. In fact, the initial stages of development of the Plymouth Colony are in and of itself a lesson in micro-economics.

Once this new system was adopted, the colony began to thrive and prosper while the government of the colony became less focused on forcing people to work, measuring the fruits of the common labor, and restricting activities. Rather, the colonial government became a manager of individual rights, encouraging industry and promoting a free trading system. Not that they did any of this perfectly, but whether they knew it or not, they had moved from a command economy to a free market system. Regardless of the label, the practical effect was that a system of private ownership worked and allowed the colony to sustain itself.

The acknowledgment and celebration of Christmas would take a bit longer to be recognized. Puritan, if not evangelical, theology would develop to accept the various celebrations listed in the Old Testament as a basis to celebrate holidays other than Sunday. Unlike Thanksgiving, we cannot find inspiration for the Pilgrims’ first Christmas, but we can profit by their example and appreciate that the celebration of holidays, like Christmas, is a luxury inspired by freedom and produced courtesy of free market capitalism.

*Will Sellers is a 1985 graduate of Hillsdale College and an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama. He is best reached at [jws@willsellers.com](mailto:jws@willsellers.com)*



Dan Sutter

Economic freedom refers to freedoms to buy, sell, work, and start businesses. A free economy relies on “personal choice and markets to answer basic economic questions such as what is to be produced, how it is to be produced, how much is produced, and for whom is production intended.” Free markets presumably produce prosperity; measuring how closely economies approach the free market ideal is crucial to testing the markets and prosperity hypothesis.

The state economic freedom index involves ten component variables aggregated into three areas: government spending, taxation, and labor market freedom. Each component is scored from 0 to 10, with 10 the highest observed amount of freedom and 0 the least. A state’s score averages the three area scores. The 2022 rankings use data from 2020 due to lags in the compilation and publication of some components.

Alabama’s economic freedom score is 6.41, up slightly from, and ranks 22nd. The top-rated state is Florida with a score of 7.94 while New York ranks last at 4.25. We rank 32nd on government spending, 9th on taxation, and 22nd on labor market freedom.

Our rank is respectable but trails three of our neighbors. Florida, as mentioned, ranks 1st, Tennessee ties for 4th, and Georgia is 8th; we beat only #37 Mississippi. Competition between states is real, so trailing our neighbors might affect the recruitment of businesses to Alabama.

Choices must be made in constructing any metric, and we should ask if plausible alternative choices might affect our score. The minimum wage is one component of labor market freedom. Alabama does not have a state minimum wage and prohibits cities from imposing their own. Yet we do not get a score of 10 on this component because the index applies the Federal minimum wage in states without a minimum wage.

Labor market freedom also includes the percentage of unionized workers. The EFNA does not use Right-to-Work status of states. Unions in principle

## Economic Freedom in Alabama 2022

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are voluntary organizations, but the government often sets the rules for unionization to favor unions. Our score for this component exceeds the national average but would be better if adjusted for Right-to-Work.

The average score for states increased slightly from 2019, from 6.13 to 6.23. By contrast, Fraser’s Economic Freedom of the World (EFW) reported declines due to the COVID-19 response. Why the difference?

The EFNA compiles two state freedom measures, one including national policies to parallel EFW ratings, and one using state policies. My discussion above refers to the state-focused metric. The EFNA scores including national policies declined since the COVID policies affecting measured economic freedom – trillions in spending, money supply growth, and restrictions on international travel – originated in Washington.

States enacted stay at home orders and closed businesses and schools, but these do not enter the economic freedom index. Yet many regulations were also relaxed during the pandemic, like to-go alcohol sales by restaurants, occupational licensing, and telehealth. The EFNA also misses this deregulation.

The pandemic highlights a weakness in the EFNA, not accounting for state constitutional limits. Alabama has a state income tax, but our constitution limits the maximum rate. This provides greater certainty regarding future policy than in a state with a similar top tax rate and no constitutional cap. Alabama’s constitution also limits the maximum rate and base for the property tax.

America’s founders thought that true freedom meant that government could not infringe freedom. If government can take your property but chooses not to, your property arguably is not yours by right. The Bill of Rights prohibits Congress from trespassing on our rights.

Many Americans were shocked by state business closures and stay-at-home orders. The lack of constitutional limits on emergency powers compromises our property rights and personal freedom. These constitutional infirmities should be addressed before the next pandemic.

*Daniel Sutter is the Charles G. Koch Professor of Economics with the Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University and host of Conversations on TrojanVision. The opinions expressed in this column are the author’s and do not necessarily reflect the views of Troy University.*

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John Sophocleus

Straight-ticket voting AND the most restrictive ballot access laws in the nation; which will once again block political competition in Alabama.

Most notable, even with mass straight-ticket and ‘write-in’ gubernatorial race votes (trumping up signature requirements to impede competition) was Dr. James ‘Jimmy’ Blake’s 3% result. This would suffice for ballot retention in most States. Some voters, who actually take voting seriously (didn’t mindlessly bubble-mark the Blue or Red socialist party) first learned of competition reading the Nov. 8th ballot when carefully considering the candidates in each race on Election Day. Indeed hard to believe, after being blocked for TWENTY years, the Libertarian Party of Alabama [LPA] was on the ballot.

The duopoly [Democrat and Republican Parties] wants the LPA blocked and forgotten again for another twenty years. They certainly benefit from straight-ticket voting in Alabama, one of the last with six other States to still allow this anti-competitive device. No surprise now a supermajority Red State with many politburo members who recently wore the Blue political gang colours under past, different ‘turf’ allocations in Alabama.

Thankfully a few in the media did have the courage and integrity to cover LPA candidates and efforts to bring political competition to the most anti-competitive State in the nation. Most notable to Gazette readers may be John-Martin’s November column. Hard to imagine much improving in Alabama with straight-tickets (not candidates) winning elections for these two old, broken parties and continued success blocking others [like the 50 year old LPA] from competing. Difficult to take a candidate(s) seriously receiving millions of dollars in campaign contributions and/or highly paid lobbyists but won’t give voters a debate in their race.

By some estimates about 265,000 straight-tickers only voted in three [Governor, US Senate and AG] Statewide races in another low-turnout election where over 60% of eligible voters did not participate. Worst turnout for a mid-term election in 36 years; hyper-corrupt Lee County continued to be the lowest in the State with 33% turnout. If the media had done more informing/reporting, there may’ve been more participation given how many said they didn’t know there was competition on the Nov. 8th ballot to express their voice against the duopoly. Perhaps when poor jurists like Myron Thompson are gone and we have a Secretary of State who runs their office more in the Spirit of liberty and competition, things may change.

In closing, few things were more revealing of duopoly collusion (outside of explicit text in AL Dist. 79 Lovvorn race) than Democrats putting up a throw-away candidate for Governor but no Lt. Gov. candidate to trump-up signature requirements for ballot access; aided and abetted by Republican losers like Odle’s write-in campaign. All Statewide LPA candidates which earned more than 10% in their race would’ve retained ballot access in every other State in the nation except Alabama. Why did duopoly PACs press straight-ticket voting as Nov. 8th approached? Fear of the LPA breaking the most anti-competitive 20% barrier in the nation and having to really compete with other candidates

on a more level playing field for a complete next election cycle. This is why the Blue and Red socialist parties in our State have little worry of being removed from the hyper-gerrymandered political turf they’ve agreed upon.

\*\*\*Last month’s article was printed from my proof article which was not up to my normal standard. Did not mean to disappoint my readers!

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

## The Undisputed Winners of Alabama’s 2022 Election.....



### Postscript:

Long-time readers may recall past columns about widespread malice and corruption at AU, including ‘All the Speaker’s Men and the Collapse of Auburn Athletics,’ ‘The Auburn Greed,’ ‘AU Horror Picture Show,’ etc.

Professor Michael Stern, former and I pray restored Chair of the Econ Department, made numerous contributions to these important columns as well as major media articles which appeared in the Wall Street Journal and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Honored to be a Gazette writer making a difference in Alabama seeing it submitted in federal court along with the WSJ and Chronicle.

Stern suffered a four-year legal battle defending his (and others) First Amendment civil right to speak about important matters concerning the integrity of AU. The justice delayed, long awaited two-week trial commenced on Halloween in the downtown Opelika Federal Courthouse. An eight-member jury of honorable Alabama citizens found Professor Stern’s civil rights had been violated and most revealing, those rights had been violated with malice. Many pray AU will change course to the righteous path of this once great university. If recalcitrant, further prayers this Federal Court continues the noble task of having the courage and wisdom of justly shepherding AU away from their malice and greed.

Congrats to Prof. Stern’s victory on our behalf against one of the most corrupt administrators I suffered during my 30 years in academia. I did my best to get this corrupt Dean removed for his wrongdoings soon after he was installed, upon observing his malice against one of the top English Instructors in my college. AU settled to avoid airing a small sample of the pattern and practice of corruption throughout Auburn, made public due to Prof. Stern’s successful efforts in the federal court. In spite of past efforts to expose and remove this malicious cancer from AU and attenuate further harm, the President and legal counsel KEPT him employed as Dean to continue getting his jollies.

AU malfeasance has now cost students and taxpayers another \$700,000 for this corrupt administrator’s malice who was reward with handsome paychecks and continued harming and polluting AU. <https://www.theplainsman.com/article/2022/11/verdict-determined-in-former-economic-chairs-lawsuit-against-former-auburn-officials> I forecast many future civil rights lawsuits against AU will be similarly successful at curbing ‘Auburn Greed.’ The corruption at AU from sham majors to ‘cluster’ athletes to an FAR (Faculty Athletic Representative) who did nothing when complaining softball players were being raped is despicable. Shame on recently reinstalled Gov. Ivey who’s allowed this malice to continue out of control for so long... of course voters have a long history of allowing a BCA prostitute of this sort harm college students with the tax-deferred college savings program scandal.

*God’s speed on future civil rights cases against AU malice and corruption - esp. the one against the recently installed AU president which began when he was Dean... much like football coaches, the more incompetent/corrupt administrator you are, the more you get paid. Amazing how few seem to understand this perverse reward structure. I’m ashamed of what AU has become under our corrupt Governors, Board of Trustees, Presidents, Provosts, Deans, et al... Stern’s victory makes me hopeful sound juries will continue to discipline AU corruption and make it a place worthy for me to work again, **Deo volente!***



THINK



John M. Taylor

The State of Alabama is filled with interesting history. At least two schools of thought exist about the name’s origin. One contends it is derived from Alabamas or Alibamons, a tribe in the Creek Indian Confederacy. The other claims it is the combination of two Choctaw words (Alba and Amo), generally thought to mean “vegetation gatherers.” Either way, the name has American Indian roots. The mild climate, fertile soil, and abundance of water, create an indelible link to agriculture. Those living in Alabama--American Indians, Europeans, Blacks, etc., were predominantly agricultural people. Thomas Jefferson noted, “Those who labour in the earth are the chosen people of God, if ever he had a chosen people...” Being principally agrarian, Alabama (and the South in general) operated most efficiently under a free market system, whereas, more industrialized areas often favored protectionism (protection from competition). This argument reached its tipping point in 1861.

After the South was denied Independence, Confederate General Patrick R. Cleburne accurately predicted the winner’s false portrayal of Southern Patriots:

**“Surrender means that the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern school teachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the War; will be impressed by all the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit subjects for derision.”**

Brown University President Francis Wayland said the South should be “the new missionary ground for the national schoolteacher.” President Hill of Harvard claimed the North was tasked with “spreading knowledge and culture over the regions that sat in darkness.” Of course, they meant the South, where “English America” began and the region heavily involved with writing the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the U.S.

Constitution. Yet, somehow, these self-righteous Northern “educators” tried to portray the South as backward hicks living in a wasteland. Perhaps this type of arrogance is the source of the designation, “educated idiots.”

To cloak the unconstitutional invasion of sovereign States and their post-war theft of money and property, the “Yankees” sought to manipulate the narrative. Controlling education was crucial as a means of indoctrinating future generations. In this manner, descendants of Confederate Veterans could be conditioned to view independence as folly. Since memories fade and individuals who fought for self-government passed on--those dictating the narrative could more readily demonize Southern Patriots. Indeed, the centralization of power, education, and “allowable” information described by Huxley, Orwell, and others is a near fait accompli. One has to wonder if there are any limits to this sinister and fake agenda that encourages people to loathe themselves and their ancestors.



**First White House of the Confederacy**  
644 Washington Ave Montgomery, AL  
**OPEN:** MON-FRI: 8:00-3:30p.m.  
**CLOSED:** Weekends & State Holidays  
Tours are self guided  
Admission is **FREE!**

Sitting near the Alabama State Capitol, on Washington Avenue in Montgomery, is the building now known as The First White House of the Confederacy. This 1834 “Italianized” home was built by and served as a primary residence for William Sayre, councilman, mayor, and railroad advocate. Prior to 1861, multiple individuals in banking, ironworks,

cotton brokerage, etc., occupied the building as they worked to promote the modernization of Montgomery.

From February through late May of 1861, the house served as the executive residency of President Jefferson Davis and his family. This was during the brief time that Montgomery was the capitol of the Confederate States of America before being moved to Richmond, Virginia. The house contains many artifacts pertaining to Davis’ residency. The two-story house is immaculately maintained and the guides are well versed in not only the history of Davis and his family but also the social and economic conditions before and after the War for Southern Independence. So, visit the First White House of the Confederacy and find out about a multitude of topics, including the Southern philosophies regarding agrarianism, limited government, Christianity, Jim Limber, and a plethora of other subjects. [The Curator is especially knowledgeable about all of these subjects.]

Alabama is filled with places dedicated to the Confederate States, the War of 1812, the American Revolution, Southeastern Indian tribes, and numerous other events and individuals linked to the State’s history. Ignore the “infant-bleating” drivel from leftist, “pseudo-journalist” hacks and “Soros-driven” organizations and their anti-Southern and anti-Christian agenda, and visit these places to gain a better understanding of history, i.e., educate yourself. These snapshots in time represent money well spent in a government system notorious for funding vacuous and useless projects.

During the Christmas Holidays, I would like to encourage everyone to visit *The First White House of the Confederacy, Confederate Memorial Park, Joe Wheeler House, John W. Inzer Museum, Tannehill, and other places throughout Alabama* to learn more about the Southern side of history—much has survived despite the intentional efforts to destroy it!

**Sources:** The First White House of the Confederacy--Montgomery, Alabama, at: <https://www.thefirstwhitehouse.com/;VisitingMontgomery, at: https://visitingmontgomery.com/play/first-white-house-of-the-confederacy>

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

## The Southern Side of Alabama’s History





John Martin

to switch to “sustainable” sources of energy and implement a “carbon tax” to enforce it.

Climate change is real. That’s nature. It will continue to change just like it has done for the past 4.5 billion years. We routinely go through solar maximums and minimums, variations in the Earth’s tilt, and volcanic eruptions that occasionally do serious disruptions. Studies of ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica have proven it.

Over time, we will suffer catastrophic global warming. As our sun consumes its hydrogen and burns more helium, it slowly gets hotter and hotter. In about a billion years, the Earth will become uninhabitable. The sun will slowly continue heating through another four billion years until it expands into a red giant and swallows the inner planets. That is the normal evolution of a star, and there is nothing any human can do to stop it.

Carbon dioxide is a hot issue. During the last 200 years, CO2 levels have risen from about 250 parts per million to about 415. That is a sizable increase, and doomsayers are panicking about it being a “greenhouse gas.” But they fail to understand that over most of the Earth’s history, CO2 levels were **MUCH HIGHER**. Fossil records prove that both plants and animals flourished with it. We have also experimented with CO2 enriched greenhouses and have proven its enhancement of plant growth.

Increased CO2 enables plants to grow more vigorously, and it also increases their drought resistance. Parts of the Sahara Desert are beginning to re-green because of it. Another fact few people understand is that **plants cannot live and produce oxygen if our CO2 drops much below 175 ppm**. They could literally die, and our oxygen would soon drop to a fatal level. Our pre-industrial levels of 250 ppm in the 1700’s were only slightly higher.

How much CO2 would it take to become hazardous? The levels in office buildings routinely reach 1450 ppm with no ill effects. **Get over it. CO2 is not a threat.**

So what is a threat? While government regulators are crying “wolf” about CO2 and climate change, they are essentially approving the massive and widespread spraying of insecticides that are wiping out our beneficial insects. Whatever the reasons, they are pursuing the non-threats with draconian intensity and punitive actions while letting the real threats go unabated.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon signed an executive order to create the Environmental Protection Agency, with an intended purpose of providing technical assistance and setting goals and standards. Before the year’s end, new acts and amendments from Congress followed, including regulatory authority and an expansion of the Clean Air Act.

In its earlier years, the EPA actually performed useful work to mitigate toxic waste, pesticides, noxious chemicals and particulates. It discontinued lead compounds in fuels and paints. It worked to remove raw sewage, oil spills, and other dangerous agents from our rivers and waterways. Our air and water improved significantly, and we soon reached the practical limit of effective environmental cleanups.

By 1980, the EPA had become over-funded and overstaffed. Its budget had grown to about \$5.4 billion with a workforce of about 13,000 while it was running out of problems with practical solutions. It had outgrown its useful purpose. But instead of downsizing and letting free markets run the economy, it concocted abusive mandates with heavy penalties to address tiny, often unsolvable violations. The “Superfund” had also been created and was hitting the chemical and petroleum industries with a punitive excise tax that continued until 1995, and then was reauthorized during the Biden regime in 2021.

***“The EPA has done its job and has now become a roadblock. Scrap it and get it out of the way”.***

In 1981, EPA administrator Anne Gorsuch understood that the EPA was over-regulating and was too large and not cost-effective. The EPA’s regulatory powers were hamstringing America’s industry and destroying our tax base. In spite of these warnings, The EPA’s overreach did not abate. It has continued to grow until the present day.

Emissions have been reduced to their practical limits—automotive down 97% and industrial down nearly 100%. The EPA has done its job and has now become a roadblock. Scrap it and get it out of the way.

Protecting endangered plants and animals should seem simple—just quit killing them and destroying their habitats. The problem is the enforcement; much of it is not only silly and useless, but punitive and oppressive. Today’s environmental laws, like many others, target and punish innocent people (primarily the end users) much more vigorously than the criminals who actually do the damage (poachers and illegal loggers).

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) doesn’t just prohibit killing protected birds and destroying their habitats; it prohibits the mere possession or trading of any of their parts. **ALL** birds shed feathers while molting and scatter them everywhere. **WHY** does it have to be illegal for anyone to pick them up and collect them? **WHY** do agents have to waste their time and resources and our taxes to abuse, arrest, fine and incarcerate anybody for this utterly harmless past time? And it’s not just bird feathers. **WHY** can’t people be allowed to salvage any endangered animal or plant parts from dead specimens (like road kills, etc.)? **WHY** can’t a scrimshaw artist be allowed to collect the teeth from a dead, beached sperm whale?

# Environmental Madness

What about antiques? Have you heard the story of Geronimo’s War Bonnet? It had legally belonged to a family for decades. But because it was made with 48 golden eagle tail feathers (a native tradition, of course), government agents seized it and persecuted its owner.

On October 19, 1907, Geronimo gave his bonnet, along with his costume and moccasins, to two friends, Texas Ranger Jack Moore and oilman, C.W. Deming. In 1999, federal agents seized the bonnet and arrested Deming’s grandson Leighton Deming and an Atlanta art broker, charging them with violating a 61-year-old federal law prohibiting interstate trafficking in eagle feathers. The men had to shell out \$50,000 each for bail, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert E. Goldman said they could serve up to five years in prison if convicted. Deming was even more upset by having to forfeit his family heirloom to the U.S. government. Recently, sizable numbers of trees have been “protected” in a similar manner. If certain trees are endangered, just quit cutting them and provide protected habitats. Better yet, collect some seeds and plant some more. But brain-dead officials have a “better” idea—persecute people who have any wood from these trees, regardless of how legal it was in the past, and seize it.

On a hot August day in 2011, armed federal marshals stormed the Gibson Guitar Corporation and seized \$262,000 worth of exotic wood, including ebony and rosewood allegedly illegally imported from Madagascar. They charged CEO Henry Juskiewicz with “trafficking in illegally obtained wood” and imposed a \$300,000 fine and an additional \$50,000 for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Now, get ready for the ULTIMATE environmental outrage. It’s from Kenya—that little African country that’s better known for its long-distance runners and Obama’s family.

Kenya is famous for its wildlife parks and their elephants. Like its neighbors, it is suffering greatly from poachers who kill the animals and sell the ivory, horns, teeth, skins, and related items on the black market.

On April 30, 2016, in Nairobi National Park, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta personally lit a huge bonfire and set ablaze 105 tons of confiscated ivory to make a statement to wildlife poachers. A trade expert from CNN reported that it came from as many as 8000 elephants and had a value of \$100 million.

The fire also consumed 1.35 tons of rhinoceros horns worth another \$80 million along with other poached items. Kenya had previously conducted three similar but smaller ivory burns since 1989, but this was the largest in history by a factor of seven.

About 450,000 to 500,000 elephants live in Africa, and poachers kill more than 30,000 every year. But destroying the ivory does absolutely nothing to save the elephants. Instead, it only makes it scarcer and more valuable, which in turn encourages more poaching.

***“About 450,00 to 500,00 elephants live in Africa and poachers kill more than 30,000 every day”.***

The logical and common sense action would be to repeal the international ban on ivory trading, along with similar bans on other items. Let it be sold on the open market, and use the revenue to hire rangers and other staff to guard the parks. The guards could be issued rifles and other weapons and authorized to shoot and kill every last poacher on sight.

Botswana has about half of Africa’s elephants and opposes Kenya’s motives. It has some of the strongest policies against poaching on the continent, including a shoot-to-kill order. It works. Kenya’s lost \$180 million from destroyed ivory and rhino horns could have financed enough security to dispatch its poachers once and for all.

Finally, if these policies should ever become inadequate, the African nations could make a stronger statement by hanging the poachers’ dead bodies in trees along well-traveled roadsides.

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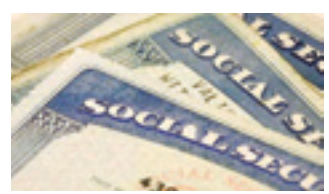






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 4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100  
 Montgomery, Alabama 36116



## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA) SERVICES IN MONTGOMERY

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM SOCIAL SECURITY

The holiday season brings us feelings of warmth and joy. At Social Security, we want you to know we share the same joy when it comes to serving you, whether it be in person, by telephone, or online. Our online services are available to help you do business with us in an easy, convenient, and secure way. It all starts with a personal my Social Security account. More than 70 million people have signed up for their personal account to conduct their business online!

You can create a personal my Social Security account to:

- Apply for retirement, spouses, or disability benefits.
- Apply for Medicare.
- Check your application status.

If you receive benefits, you can use your personal my Social Security account to:

- Change your address. (Social Security benefits only)
- Set up or change your direct deposit information. (Social Security benefits only)
- Instantly get proof of benefits.
- Print your **SSA-1099**.

If you do not receive Social Security benefits, you can use a personal my Social Security account to:

- Get personalized retirement benefit estimates.
- Get your Social Security Statement.
- Get estimates for spouse's benefits.
- Get instant proof that you do not receive benefits.

You can use our services on-the-go or from the comfort of your home. Please visit [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) to view the services available to you. We want you to have a safe, happy holiday season and know that we are here for you.

### UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

We are here for surviving family members when a worker dies. In the event of your death, certain members of your family may be eligible for survivors benefits. This includes surviving spouses, surviving divorced spouses, children, and dependent parents.

The amount of benefits your survivors receive depends on your lifetime earnings. The higher your earnings, the higher their benefits. That's why it's important to make sure your earnings history is correct in our records. You can do this by creating a personal my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/my-account](http://www.ssa.gov/my-account). A personal my Social Security account is secure and gives you immediate access to your earnings records, benefit estimates, and Social Security Statement.

You may also want to visit our Survivors Benefits page at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors). This page can help you understand your and your family's Social Security protections as you plan your financial future.

Please visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or read our publication, Survivors Benefits, at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10084.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10084.pdf) for more information. You can also help us spread the word by sharing this information with your family and friends.

### SOCIAL SECURITY SUPPORT RURAL COMMUNITIES

Social Security touches the lives of nearly every American. Millions count on us — retirees who worked hard their whole lives, people no longer able to work due to disability, dependents, and survivors. As a member of the Rural Partners Network, we want to continue reaching out to rural communities.

We make it easy for you to access our programs and services. Our website offers a convenient way to apply online for benefits. You can apply online for:

- **Retirement or Spouse's Benefits** – You must be at least 61 years and nine months in age and want your benefits to start in no more than four months. Check out our Apply for Benefits page at [www.ssa.gov/retireonline](http://www.ssa.gov/retireonline) for information on how to apply.

- **Disability Benefits** – Our disability program pays benefits to workers and certain family members who are “insured.” This means that they worked long enough – and recently enough – and paid Social Security taxes on their earnings. Start our online application at [www.ssa.gov/disabilityonline](http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityonline) to begin the process.

- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** – SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness, or people older than age 65, who have low income and resources. Visit [www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi) to begin your application online, or tell us that you want to apply or help someone else apply and we will contact you to schedule an appointment.

- **Medicare** – Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people who are age 65 and older, some people younger than 65 who have disabilities, and people with end-stage renal disease. If you are not already receiving Social Security benefits, you should apply for Medicare three months before turning age 65 on our Medicare Benefits page at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare).

- **Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Costs** – Extra Help helps pay for monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and co-payments related to Medicare prescription drug coverage. Apply at [www.ssa.gov/extrahelp](http://www.ssa.gov/extrahelp).

We also encourage rural community leaders to encourage people to sign up for a personal my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). With a personal my Social Security account, you can request a replacement Social Security card, verify earnings, get future benefit estimates, and obtain benefit verification letters.

We also provide survivors benefits to widows, widowers, and dependents of eligible workers. This benefit is particularly important to young families with children. You cannot apply for survivors benefits online. Visit our website for more information at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors).

If you are not able to use our online services, call our **National toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213**. We may be able to help by phone and, if an office visit is required, we can make an appointment to reduce the time waiting in an office.

We remain committed to helping maintain the well-being and protection of the people we serve—including those in rural areas. Please share this information with others in your local community.



### SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCREASE IN 2023

Approximately **70 million Americans will see an 8.7% increase in their Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in 2023**. On average, Social Security benefits will increase by more than \$140 per month starting in January.

Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W). The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are higher. The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) helps to offset these costs.

We will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees. But if you want to know your new benefit amount sooner, you can securely obtain your Social Security COLA notice online using the Message Center in your personal my Social Security account. You can access this information in early December, prior to receiving the mailed notice. Benefit amounts will not be available before December. Since you will receive the COLA notice online or in the mail, you don't need to contact us to get your new benefit amount.

If you prefer to access your COLA notice online and not receive the mailed notice, **you can log in to your personal my Social Security account to opt out by changing your Preferences in the Message Center**. You can update your preferences to opt out of the mailed COLA notice, and any other notices that are available online. Did you know you can receive a text or email alert when there is a new message waiting for you? That way, you always know when we have something important for you – like your COLA notice. If you don't have an account yet, you must create one by November 15, 2022 to receive the 2023 COLA notice online.

“Medicare premiums are going down and Social Security benefits are going up in 2023, which will give seniors more peace of mind and breathing room. This year's substantial Social Security cost-of-living adjustment is the first time in over a decade that Medicare premiums are not rising and shows that we can provide more support to older Americans who count on the benefits they have earned,” Acting Commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi said.

January 2023 marks when other changes will happen based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax in 2023 will be higher. The retirement earnings test exempt amount will also change in 2023.

Be among the first to know! Sign up for or log in to your personal my Social Security account today. Choose email or text under “Message Center Preferences” to receive courtesy notifications.



**MACOA continues to serve seniors!**

**The Montgomery Area Council On Aging (MACOA)**  
**SERVING SENIORS FOR 48 Yrs.**

The Montgomery Area Council On Aging assists senior citizens by providing services to promote independent living, by offering opportunities to enhance quality of life, and by increasing community awareness of senior issues. You can help! MACOA needs volunteers once a week to deliver meals.



Loretta Grant & Donna Marietta

*If you can help, please call 334-263-0532.*  
 115 East Jefferson Street / Montgomery, AL 36104 /  
<https://www.macoa.org>

*The Alabama Gazette is a active supporter of MACOA. We enjoyed having the staff of MACOA at our recent 23rd Anniversary Open House.*





## Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

(334) 832-4980 ♦ [www.montgomerysheriff.com](http://www.montgomerysheriff.com)



Chief Deputy Murphy



The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will once again be sponsoring our Christmas Angel Tree. Our Christmas Angel Tree will benefit the homeless at local shelters. Each ornament will have various items that are needed that we often take for granted. Please contact our Administrative Division at 832.1339, if you're interested in sponsoring an ornament.

We ask that you return your ornament with your unwrapped items, or we can arrange to pick up the items from you, no later than December 9th, so that we have time sort, pack and deliver the gifts prior to Christmas.

Thank you for your support in this wonderful season!!!



This years Toy Drive was a great succes!  
It's all about making children's dreams come true for Christmas!

## Social Media

### Social Media Search

Facebook . . . . .

Sheriff of Montgomery  
Alabama

Instagram Mcsoal



### What is Smart911 ?

I strongly encourage all citizens to download the Smart911free app to your cellphone OR register your landline number at [www.Smart911.com](http://www.Smart911.com) to assist first responders in the event of an emergency. There's a misconception that law enforcement can pinpoint your location when you call 911 from a phone; however, first responders can only pinpoint the "vicinity" of your location which is why Smart911 is so important. Smart911 will allow pertinent information to be stored into a profile database so that in the event of an emergency, vital information is readily available to first responders or EMS which could mean life or death!

Again, Smart911 is available through your app store OR by simply registering at [www.Smart911.com](http://www.Smart911.com). I hope you will all take advantage of this beneficial tool!

### Why Should You Sign Up For Smart911

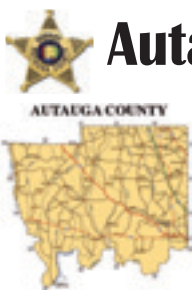


## Sheriff's Office App

If you haven't already heard, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

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

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



### Autauga Co, Ala.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

(334) 361-2500

162 W 4th Street, Prattville, AL

[www.autaugasheriff.org](http://www.autaugasheriff.org)



Sheriff Joe Sedinger



### ELMORE CO ALA

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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8955 US-231

Wetumpka, AL 36092

<https://www.elmoreso.com>



Sheriff Bill Franklin



### Lowndes

(334) 548-2222

1 S Washington St  
Hayneville, AL 36040

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/LowndesCountyAlabamaSheriffsOffice/)

[LowndesCountyAlabamaSheriffsOffice/](http://www.facebook.com/LowndesCountyAlabamaSheriffsOffice/)



Sheriff Chris West



### Crenshaw Co Ala

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

(334) 335-4850

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[www.facebook.com/crenshawcountysso](http://www.facebook.com/crenshawcountysso)



Sheriff Terry L. Mears

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# PEARL HARBOR DECEMBER 14, 1941



## Honoring Our Heroes

### Dr. Martha Poole Simmons: A Journey of Service



### Dr. Martha Poole Simmons



The Alabama Gazette wants to honor Martha for the many years of service to our veterans. She has spent countless hours interviewing, showing special attention, writing up stories of our great Veterans in our area that has served in so many of our American conflicts and wars.

### “THANK YOU”

She is amazing in all of her endeavors, especially with the American Red Cross and The Alabama Gazette. Her caring and tireless efforts have brought hope and recognition to hundreds. She is devoted to her God, her church and especially her country. What a pleasure to work with her over the years! She is our Hero!  
*Great to see her at our 23rd Anniversary Open House!*

*Have a Blessed Christmas Ms. Martha from the Gazette Staff and all the veterans you have blessed over these last 4 years.*



Msgt Kent Stephen Kline



Corp. Johnny Saxton and wife Sandra



SMsgt. Michael Alexander Springer

**Veterans  
love reading  
The Gazette!**



## HAPPY 103RD BIRTHDAY HELEN!!

### Helen Lattal

Helen Lattal is a veteran of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) having served with 8th Air Force Headquarters at High Wycombe, England. Her three years of service were 1942-1945 during WWII. Not only was she active in the Selma, AL, community for many years, but she also served three terms as the Commander of American Legion Post 20. She is well known in the veteran community and is a very passionate patriot. A special article about Helen was published by the Selma Times-Journal on Wednesday, January 14, 2004.



Helen was born in Norwalk, Connecticut, December 28, 1919. She was adopted at age two and lived there until she went into the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps at age 22. After WWII was over, she was discharged in October, 1945.

Having learned the secretarial skills of bookkeeping, verbatim shorthand and typing at Moody's Secretarial School in Connecticut where she won ribbons for her speed and accuracy in typing and taking shorthand, she was well prepared to handle such work. Helen worked for the draft board in Connecticut, and after Pearl Harbor, many volunteers came to the office where she interviewed them. In May, 1942, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) were started. Helen volunteered to serve because of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. She went to Ft. Devens, MA, to be assigned secretarial duties. She reported for active duty January 9, 1943, at Ft. Des Moines, Iowa, followed by basic training. She attended the Army Administrative School at Natchitoches, TX. Helen reported to Camp Shanks, New York, a staging area for overseas duty. She trained in water survival there because ships were being torpedoed. The Red Cross had coffee and donuts for the military as they boarded the ship for Europe.

On July 4, 1943, Helen sailed to ports at Ireland, Scotland and England to the 8th Air Force Headquarters at High Wycombe, England, commanded by General James Doolittle; Congress approved women going into the regular Army in July 1, 1943, and Helen became member of the Women's Army Corps (WAC). Helen worked in the areas of personnel and maintenance and served as the private secretary for Col. Elliot Roosevelt, the commander of the 8th Air Force Reconnaissance Wing. She also had temporary duty with General James Hill in the Army at Cheddington, England. In addition, she served as a courier. Living in quonset huts, she was issued a bicycle to get to work. Not only was she grateful for the opportunity, but also, she enjoyed going to the Service Clubs operated by the Red Cross in England. German bombers flew over High Wycombe where she lived and worked.

When WWII was over, she flew to Paris, where in October, 1945, Helen served at Orly, France, and Berlin and Frankfurt, Germany. She worked on pretrial investigations prior to the Nuremberg Trials. After being discharged, she returned to Connecticut and worked with servicemen at the Veterans' Service Center for two years. For three years, she was married to Col. Gerald E. Whaley whom she met at a conference at England where she was taking notes, and he was an attendee. They had one son, Paul Whaley, II, and one grandson. During the marriage, she came to live at Craig AFB. She refreshed her secretarial skills and worked at Selma as an office manager. Helen then worked at Craig Air Force Base until it closed. She was selected to be the Seminar Coordinator at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base where she worked until retirement in 1980. Her second husband, Judge Hugh Mallory, passed away after nine years.

Helen married Col. Anton (Tony) Lattal and they were married 16.5 years. The couple volunteered with the Black Belt American Red Cross. He worked in the pharmacy, and she worked in obstetrics at the Maxwell AFB hospital. She made calls overseas to military husbands providing notification of the birth of their babies. After a flood in Selma, she volunteered at a shelter for the American Red Cross (ARC) there. During 1982-1993, she served as a historian for the ARC at Selma retiring at age 82, and she was named the American Red Cross Volunteer of the Year.

One of the most memorable war experience was typing the awards for Clark Gable and Jimmy Stewart who served during WWII. Reflecting upon her WWII experiences, Helen said, *“We took everything in stride. I was so proud to serve. If Queen Elizabeth could drive an ambulance, I could serve. My family was very patriotic. I had top secret clearance at the rank of corporal. I was grateful that I could do the job of shorthand for which I was trained. I think it is great that women have come so far in the military. We were called the Trail Blazers. Women already had skills and were qualified for the jobs. I feel proud that I served. Our country was very good to the veterans after WWII. We could get our job back because that was the law. I think that it is great that women can do the jobs if they are capable.”*



## ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL



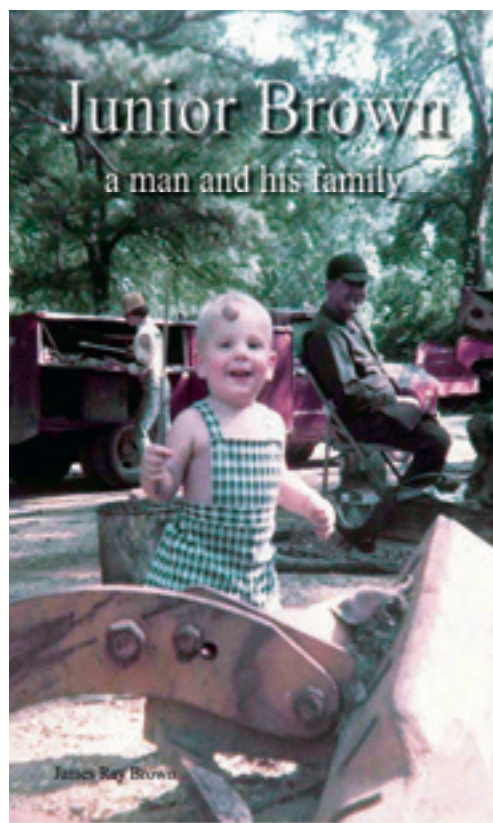
On November 11, 2022, Veterans Day was celebrated at The Crossings, a facility for independent living, assisted living and memory care in Montgomery, AL. Doris Norris, a United States Marine veteran, created a special exhibit on two walls honoring America's veterans.

## A Story of - The Essence of a Man and His Family...



**Junior Brown:** a man and his family tells the story of a young man fresh off the farm who finds himself as a Tank Commander attached to the British Eighth Army in the sands of North Africa. This member of the Task Force 5185-A helps the Allies run Rommel and the Afrika Corp from the continent. After his return home and recovery, Junior Brown marries and all is seemingly well when one morning, while expecting their third child, his wife falls to the kitchen floor. With her death this grief stricken man seeks a new bride, a

different future. Their three year courtship in the late 1950s blossoms into a 40 year marriage, but along the way these two are not without their own calamities ... Some 50 years ago, our author spent each day of the summer on the road serving as Junior Brown's legs while he serviced heavy equipment. Nine years later following his graduation from high school James Brown spent the next 15 months surviving alongside his father and Junior Brown's oldest son John. Here within these pages, the author's third self-published effort, is his attempt to capture the essence of a man and his family. After 23 years in the classroom and some time to reflect, for better or worse, this project is done.



## Veterans Celebrating December Birthdays

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mary LyBrands Dec. 1st         | 8. Lamar Smith, Dec. 19th              |
| 2. LeonArd Norman, Dec 1st        | 9. James Dyson, Dec.20th               |
| 3. Robert C. Carr Jr., Dec. 4th   | 10. William I. Chivalette, Dec. 20th   |
| 4. Nimrod Frazer. Dec.10th        | 11. David Gordon Stainbeck, Dec. 26th  |
| 5. Rhon Vernon Carleton, Dec 13th | 12. Helen Lattal, Dec.28th             |
| 6. David Payne, Dec. 14th         | 13. Billy Gillyard Mckenzie, Dec. 28th |
| 7. Robert Harper, Dec. 18th       |  |

## Veterans Crisis Line

[www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)



Central Alabama VA Medical Center/Regional Office  
215 Perry Hill Road  
Montgomery, Alabama 36109  
334-272-4670



Want to help veterans and their families in need this Christmas, Below you'll find great websites dedicated to helping with meaningful ways to honor the military community and support veterans this holiday season:

<https://veteran.com/christmas-programs-for-military-families-in-need/>  
<https://soldiersangels.org/holiday-adopt-a-family/>



Veterans are entitled to a patriotic ceremony at their funerals. **Raymond Keel** will provide this service for free!

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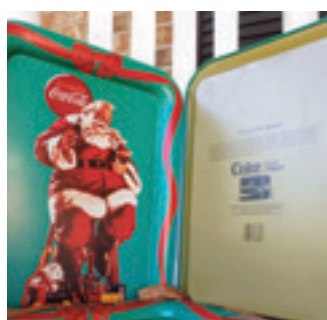
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**Dr. Lester Spencer**  
*Lead Pastor*  
**St. James Church**  
 9045 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL

# Soul Searching

## *Why Celebrate Christmas*

In his book, *The Purpose of Christmas*, Rick Warren states: “Regardless of your background, religion, problems or circumstances, Christmas really is the best news you could get. Beneath all the visible sights and sounds of Christmas are some simple yet profound truths that can transform your life for the better here on earth and for forever in eternity.” Pastor Rick is exactly right!

Here are three simple reasons why we should celebrate Christmas and why it can have a profound impact on our lives:

1. Christmas is a time of celebration!  
*“I bring you good news of great joy for all people.” Luke 2:10*

We should celebrate the fact that we have been given good news of great joy...for ALL people. Christmas should be a season of joy with a party atmosphere. Specifically, a joyful birthday party for Jesus.



and rescues us from our guilt and shame. Jesus the Savior was born to offer himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. *“She will give birth to a son, and you will give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” - Matthew 1:21*

And he saves us for a purpose. He doesn’t just save us from something, he saves us for something. He has a plan for your life. He saves us to set us a part of his purpose and plan. *“I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for good not for evil plans to give you a hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:11*

Celebrate Christmas because God is not only with us, but he is for us and has an amazing purpose and plan for our lives. You can have hope for the future because God

has saved you for a purpose beyond just yourself. He wants you to serve him with your life and to serve others as you share the good news with them as well. This gift of salvation is an eternal gift and ensures our eternity with Christ in heaven.

2. Christmas is a time for reconciliation! *“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.” - Luke 2:14*

Jesus came to reconcile us with God the Father. And he came to fill our hearts with his peace once we have been reconciled. When we reconcile with God, we make peace with God. Our relationship with God is made right through what we call “*justifying grace*”. When we accept that Jesus the Savior died on the cross for our sins and then we ask for forgiveness of our sins, God forgives us in that instant, and we are reconciled with God. **(1John 1:9)** We are justified which means we are made right with God. So, through the coming of the Savior at Christmas, we are reconciled to God.

This is not only an eternal gift, but it is a gift that is very practical and can be used everyday as we walk each step in peace with God. We no longer have to fret and worry about our relationship with the Lord, because we can walk in the faith that we are made right with him.

Christmas is also the perfect time to seek to offer grace and reconciliation to others with whom you may have experienced pain, difficulty or separation. Remember, what Paul wrote in *Ephesians 4:32*: *“forgive one another as Christ has forgiven you.”* Christmas is the season for reconciliation, forgiveness and grace!

I hope you will chose to celebrate Christmas this year! You now have three very good reasons!

And I invite you to celebrate Christmas with us this year at Saint James Church. Check out our Christmas schedule at [www.sjlife.com](http://www.sjlife.com) or visit us at 9045 Vaughn Road.

***Merry Christmas!***



**Contemporary Service - 11:00**

**Traditional Service 9 - 9:30**  
**Open Communion**

Christmas is a time to celebrate with great joy that we have been given the most expensive gift we will ever receive. It is priceless! God gave us himself wrapped in the person of Jesus. That is what we read in the Gospel Christmas story .... *“And his name shall be called Immanuel, which means God with us.” -Matthew 1:23*

**At Christmas, we celebrate that fact that God is with us... and that he is for us!**

1. Christmas is a time for salvation!  
*“Today .... there has been born to you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” - Luke 2:11*

Yes, we celebrate that a Savior was sent to rescue us from our sins and from ourselves. Jesus saves us from our sins. He saves us from our past mistakes



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Judge Peggy Givhan

We can count our blessings to include no lockdowns, no mandatory anything, where we can attend our houses of worship, and freely visit family and friends. One does not know how much we have while living in America until certain freedoms are taken away. Let's pray we never have to go through the last 2 years again.

It is time to bring home pots of bright poinsettias, narcissus, mulling spices to fragrant the home during the holidays, Christmas cactus, and garlands of greenery to decorate the house. You may want to invite friends over for a little Christmas cheer or have a neighborhood open house, inviting newcomers to enjoy and meet new people. Christmas is definitely a time for sharing goodwill and love. Love is truly the most important thing we can spread not only during this season, but all year round.

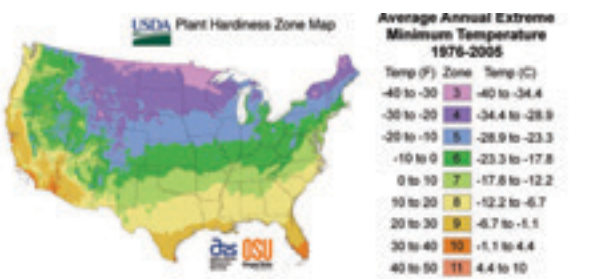


A beautiful Christmas Cactus in bloom

What to do in the December garden?

Whether we have had a hard freeze or not, we must prepare to shelter tender tropicals, and perennials from sure death. Cut back Dragon Wing begonias if in pot gardens and put them in pots and place in a garden shed or garage. I usually wrap the pots with newspaper for better insulation and this goes for all pots which are not brought into the house. Although Vinca is not a perennial here in **Zone 8**, last year I did an experiment by repotting some Vinca in a clay pot with soil which was about 6" down from the lip of the pot. Only tarping on the very coldest night, the Vinca came back this spring and is still going

strong. I plan on keeping it outside for another winter and see if it is truly a survivor. Go vinca. If you have Dragon Wing begonias which are planted in the ground, these can take a good bit of cold but they must be mulched heavily. The tropical Plumbago and Mexican Healthier can be left planted in the ground with mulch and will return in the spring. Bulbs that can be overwintered out of doors in pots or in the ground include: amaryllis, elephant ears, canna lilies, ginger lilies, daffodils, narcissus, but not tulips. Tulips and caladiums tend to rot if they are not lifted and stored during spring and summer.



Winter annuals can still be planted such as pansies, dianthus, dusty miller, lambs' ears and verben. Also certain herbs can be planted now and do well for years. These include parsley, cilantro, chives, oregano, marjoram, and mint. However, be careful with mint because it tends to spread. If it just gets into the grass, okay, but if it gets out into the flower beds, you will be weeding out mint from now on. Another rampant spreader is Mexican petunia or Ruellia, especially the variety with blue blooms. They spread through the running root system and even round-up does not completely eradicate it. I once saw a woman buy 10 pots of this plant at Lowe's, and wanted so much to ask her whether she knew that this plant would become a pest in a few years. She asked the sales girl for a perennial that has no pests, low maintenance and will multiply and spread. The Sales staff gave her what she wanted. Well, I want to talk to this lady in about 3 years on how well her Mexican petunia has spread. It will grow anywhere, even in pure gumbo. Now the variety with pink blooms is not as invasive.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY GARDENING



Gary Miller

comes to smell. Not only will I fire up my heater, but a mug of coffee sure helps knock the chill as well. Add those with a comfortable chair and my shooting sticks, and I'm pretty much able to stay as long as needed. What I can't do anything about is my inability to see in every direction. It seems there's always an obstacle and my chair forces me to face only one direction. So, what I try to do, is maneuver my chair up or back, and close to one side or the other, so I can have the optimal view. But as most of you know, there will be some deer sneak in from an area that I wasn't watching or couldn't see. It happens every time. Of course, that also goes for tree stand hunting. I don't know how many times a deer has seemingly just appeared under my stand. I don't know how I didn't see it or hear it coming. But there it is, and now I'm caught with a candy bar in one hand and unable to lay it down fast enough to pick up my firearm.

I also do this every day when I'm not hunting. Since I'm an addicted note-taker and list-maker; I sit down every day and write out what I want to

I've often noticed how deer live mostly in a quiet environment. Even this morning I watched one particular city dwelling doe begin to get a bit nervous when the noise of traffic began to surround her. She quickly moved to a quieter place. Not only do they prefer a soundless surrounding, but most of the time deer do very little vocal communication. It is easy to see how well this characteristic serves the deer. When it's quiet, any small or unfamiliar sound will cause them to be on alert.



Fine Art America

There is really much to be said for a life full of quiet moments. Then there's this time of year. A time when communication is at its highest and every form of it is used including sounds. Grunting, bleating, wheezing, and even the echo of fighting, send certain messages to all deer within an earshot. It is not coincidence that during the most important time of the year for



gary@outdoortruths.org

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

Gary can be reached via email at [gary@outdoortruths.org](mailto:gary@outdoortruths.org).

accomplish on that day. I have a master list that is made up of weekly to-dos, but out of that list comes my daily duties. Its where I'm setting my chair. It's where I'm focusing my attention. It's where I'm expecting to see all that's coming my way. But like my deer hunting, something or someone will always sneak in and show up from an unexpected time or place. Unlike my deer, much of the time I (you/we) look at my surprise arrival as something or someone keeping me from the ability to cross through one item on my list. After all, that's the goal, isn't it? I mean that's the animal I'm hunting for, isn't it? I mean that's the trophy I want at the end of the day, isn't it? Yes, that's my goal, or your goal, but maybe not God's goal. Maybe, that circumstance or person that came in unexpected was on God's list. And since he can see in every direction, maybe he placed us where we are today so we would be in the perfect position to be a part of a greater list.

So, today and this week, don't be mad if you don't cross everything off your list. And don't be upset with every interruption. What may be an interruption to you, might be God rearranging your schedule just a bit, to make sure you really are in the perfect place to have the greatest success – for you and others.

a deer and during a time when relationships are paramount, communication is important. And much can be said about this as well.

If you think about it, while relationships may begin from a number of ways, they are only enhancing to our lives if they involve communication. For instance, you may have a sister which means your relationship was not instigated by you or her but by birth. But if you never talk to that sister or communicate in any way, your relationship with her will never be meaningful and in fact will dissolve back to the very basics of a simple bloodline. Every healthy and beneficial relationship will be made up of heartfelt, open, and transparent communication. And without it, we are only fooling ourselves into thinking everything is alright.

In our spiritual lives, communication is the test of whether our connection with God is staying on the fringe of a basic relationship or if our daily life is being constantly enhanced by this kinship. During the most important periods of our life this communication will be the difference between living abundantly and existing meagerly. Don't be too prideful to communicate with God. Tell Him what's on your heart. He wants to hear and give you clear direction. Remember, sometimes being quiet may keep you safe but it may also keep you from the people and places that God has in store just for you.





# Home Town Community News

## NOTICE!

Please send Patricia your family and friends:

**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, WEDDINGS AND EVENTS to:**

**alabamagazette@gmail.com**

**Patricia Killough**  
Community Editor

Beginning January 2023, we will be updating our birthday and anniversaries section. If you would like a birthday, event, wedding, death or birth announcement placed in the Gazette, please send your submissions starting in January 2023. You can email them to us at: [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com) or mail them to us at:

Alabama Gazette  
12 E. Jefferson St.  
Montgomery, AL  
36104

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



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### Alabama Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Vercelli, Charlotte Jean Griefff 84.....Sept. 19  
Vercelli, Jeanine Sue 56.....Sept. 20  
Marz, David E. 90.....Oct. 21  
Parks, Maureen Auxford Tyson 92.....Oct. 24  
McCain, Ida McComas 88.....Oct. 25  
Kendrick, Peggy O'Neal 86.....Oct. 26  
Mills, Jr, Womac Franklin "Frank" 67.....Oct. 26  
Abbott, Stella Gertrude 91.....Oct. 27  
Eady, C. David 66.....Oct. 27  
Hightower, Ina Wynette Anderson 96.....Nov. 01  
Gibson, Andrew Mack 83.....Nov. 02  
Rodgers, Mary Anne "Boo" 86.....Nov. 04  
Driskill, Arthur Richard 94.....Nov. 06  
Simonton, Reatha 81.....Nov. 06  
Wallace, Verna Mae "Bonnie" Ott 82.....Nov. 06  
Huggins, Diane Irene DeBolt 86.....Nov. 07  
Taylor, Jr. Preston Edwin 74.....Nov. 07  
Yarbrough, Juanita Newman 97.....Nov. 07  
Aldridge, Olga Kanior 88.....Nov. 08

Golden, John Lee COL USAF Retired 79.....Nov. 09  
Forehand, Martee Bennett 56.....Nov. 12  
Milner, Betty Jean "Mama Bet" Daniel 90.....Nov. 12  
Capp, Gaby Salama 98.....Nov. 13  
Lowe, Jackie Lynn Johnson 68.....Nov. 13  
Bishop, Jr Randall "Randy" Geiger 75.....Nov. 15  
Pouncey, Dorothy Ann "Dot" 72.....Nov. 15  
Davis, Mary Virginia "Jennie" Lassiter 91.....Nov. 16  
Garrick, Maud Kirk 90.....Nov. 16  
Gibson, Sr. Henry Gray "Hoot" 87.....Nov. 16  
Evans, III Hugh Raymond 66.....Nov. 17  
Thomas, Randall "Bubba" 70.....Nov. 17  
Menefee, Jennifer E. Nelson 34.....Nov. 19  
Holmes, Virginia Brophy 82.....Nov. 21  
Slauson, Jr. Lonnie J. Brigadier General Ret. 88.....Nov. 22  
Lindsey, Clinton "Clint" Davis 42.....Nov. 23  
Ashmore, Ramsey Lamar 35.....Nov. 26  
Robinson, Dorothy "Dot" Jean 90.....Nov. 26

**Matthew Edwin Gilmore** (Mattie Gee), age 56, went to go play on the big stage on November 1, 2022. He was born in Hawaii and was a resident of Montgomery, Alabama. He is survived by his son, Stephen Gilmore, his step-children, Morgan Miles, Tyler Miles, Callie Miles, and his granddaughter Kyleigh Knight. Additionally,



he is survived by his brother Danny Gilmore (Penny Conway), former wife Dena Gilmore, Sisters in law Doris(Ann) & Maxine, and numerous nieces and nephews that he loved dearly. He is preceded in death by his mother, Claire Gilmore, and his brother John Gilmore (Larry). Matt was a lifelong musician, once belonging to The Spicolis and numerous other groups; he was currently engaged in the start of a new band, Whisky Stream, alongside his brother Danny. He was a computer genius, IT lord, graphic designer, and a yet to debut, comedian. Heaven is his home but earth will feel a void forever. Matt was cremated at Magnolia Cremations and Funeral Services and a celebration of life will be announced at a later date. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Matt's life.

Matt had worked with The Alabama Gazette staff since the beginning of the newspaper. He helped with computer technical problems and was always there with advice and suggestions.

He helped in his spare time, but always seemed to come to the aid of a friend.

He will be sorely missed.  
The Gazette Staff

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## In Memory Of

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Jason Allen Murrell.....October 31  
Donald McGhee Cannon.....November 1  
Martha Carol Bennett Murchison.....November 4  
Walter Lee Davis.....November 5  
Valera C. Chambers.....November 9  
Barbara Faye Dennis.....November 11  
Martee Bennett Forehand.....November 12  
Terry Lee Donner.....November 14  
William Herbert Varner.....November 15  
Judy Dawn Folmar.....November 15  
Genella A. Bedsole.....November 16  
Virginia Cardwell Holley Wood.....November 18  
Paula Elaine Colquitt.....November 19  
Jasper Beroujon.....November 20  
William Turner.....November 21  
Thomas McGregor.....November 23  
James "Jim" Harry.....November 25  
Alex Wayne Cumbie.....November 26  
Betty B. Hooks.....November 29  
Benny Harlan Collier.....November 29

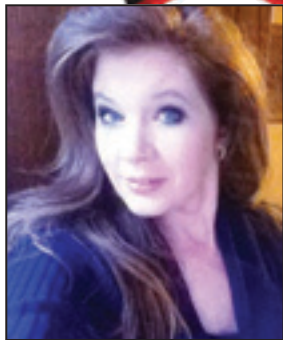


# Today's Woman

## Tears & LAUGHTER:

My official  
Christmas column!

By: Amanda Walker



Every year I claim to myself that I am going to write an official Christmas column. A column good enough to run every Christmas when the days just prior become so rushed and busy.

Something classic and timeless and wonderful. Something that everyone can enjoy year after year. Words that fill hearts with the spirit and cheer of Christmas. A thought provoking piece that reminds all minds the real reason.

I still haven't written it. At least not yet.

When I do though, it would have to include something about dollar store decorations and candles in frosted windows. Something about downtowns in small towns everywhere, the way they sparkle, twinkle, blink, and glow.

We decorate our houses in similar ways. We aim spotlights at our front entrances and outline our porches with garland and lights – to represent an everlasting light.

We hang wreaths on our windows and doors and mailboxes. Inside we adorn our trees with ornaments that have become as familiar as family.

We display Christmas cards and pictures. We make centerpieces for dining room tables. We hang stockings and fill crystal dishes with rock candy and peppermints and chocolates wrapped in shiny foil.

A true Christmas column would have to include something about how excited kids get. All of them it seems. Even kids who have little reason to expect much, get excited.

Some children and grown-ups alike get excited for Christmas, if for nothing other than the promise of hope.

Hope itself – the absolute and sure hope given by God through Jesus – is a gift. A gift for all generations. A hope that lightens our load, even in the rush of holiday happenings.

To write a real Christmas column, I would necessarily need to write about joy and love and faithfulness. But joy is hard to explain. Because joy is feeling, and so is love. Joy can overwhelm the emotions and override logic, just like love. Both are plentiful and contagious this time of year, or at least they should be...if we are doing Christmas right.

And of course no official Christmas column would be complete without mentioning memories. For some people, memories at Christmas make the rest of the upcoming year worthwhile. Walking back down memory lane is as satisfying to them as waking up on Christmas morning is to a child.

**It is why we tell the same stories every year about the people we loved who told them long before we did**

**It is why we make the same cakes and pies and cookies our great grandmothers baked using their same recipes**

**It is why we look for glimpses of them in the face of every new baby a family is blessed to welcome**

The ideal Christmas column would look back over the past with gratitude and forgiveness, holding to only the good. It would look to the future with assurance and anticipation. And it would serve as a reminder to pause and remember, for now, it is Christmas.

## TRISSTON'S TIDBITS

Joy, Peace and  
Abounding in Love

By: Trisston Burrows



Ms. Wheelchair America/  
Alabama 2005

Merry Christmas, my friends! In our Christmas card this year, my husband, Brian, and I chose the verse:

**"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit".**

Paul's prayer for the Christians in Rome found in this verse is often used in churches today as a closing benediction. It is a powerful statement about what God can do in the heart and mind of every Christian.

Paul makes this request of the God of hope, another beautiful name for God. He is the only lasting source of hope we have for meaning in this life and for a life beyond death. Paul asks that the God of hope fill these believers with all joy and peace "in believing" or as they trust in Him.

In other words, Paul is not asking God to simply dump joy and peace into their hearts without cause. He is asking that as these believers trust in God, their faith will bring joy and peace to their hearts. In other words, help them to keep believing so that they can experience joy and peace.

Finally, Paul asks that they might have this joy and peace in believing so that they may abound with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul is asking God to give them more than just regular human hopefulness. He is asking for supernatural, Holy Spirit-powered hopefulness.

What a fantastic prayer to ask God for others or for ourselves! What more could we wish for other believers than to be filled with joy and peace and abounding in hope?

**Friends, more than anything this Christmas, I pray this for you! May you be filled with joy and peace and abounding in hope!**

**Merry Christmas  
& Many Blessings**

Thanks Trisston for the many years of providing our readers with encouraging words each month. You have been a blessing to all of us at the Gazette and to all our readers. God bless you and Brian and have a Blessed New Year! The Gazette Staff

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



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# Southern Cuisine

**Chef David Spooner, Retired Chef**  
Volunteer Fireman, Lowndesboro V.F.D., St. Paul’s Episcopal Church,  
Lowndesboro Board of Registrars, Lowndes County

*I was scanning through some of my past articles searching for topics that I had mentioned in the past. The most obvious topic appears in the articles in the last two months of the year. What I had called the FOOD Months. The topic was*

*Guests and Food. The time when your house has the most guests, friends and family. And the time when the largest meals are usually prepared and served. I have had a lot of pushback about trying new dishes and alternative cooking methods for Thanksgiving. This is one of the holidays where the meal menu is set in stone. "This is the way we always served it, and nobody will eat it if it is not the way “Aunt Hettie” fixed it."*

## Sweet Potatoes

The one side dish that I always try to change is the sweet potatoes. I am not fond of canned or over-cooked sweet potatoes drowning in butter and brown sugar and with crispy browned marshmallows floating on top of the liquid sea of syrup and then with pecans that are so water logged, they sink to the bottom of the dish and

have lost their natural crunch. My contribution to an alternative side dish for Thanksgiving has some brown sugar, but no marshmallows, no pecans and no sea of sugar syrup. I found many recipes for different ways to roast sweet potatoes. I seem to be getting more popular to not raise your blood sugar when you eat sweet potatoes and to add some zip to the dish.



Merry Christmas  
Happy New Year

## Grandmother Tucker’s Dressing

*You know how to distinguish difference between a Southerner and a Northerner? Southerners have dressing with their turkey, Northerners have stuffing. Southerners also have a recipe for their dressing that has been handed down from generation to generation. posting our family’s recipe for our dressing, handed down for at least 5 generations. This weekend was the “make the dressing for the family’s day at our house.”*

**1. Make cornbread – I use buttermilk and lots of bacon grease (You can also use saved and frozen cornbread from other meals.) Crumble cornbread in a large bowl.**

**2. Cut 6 stalks of celery and 3 medium onions salt and pepper to taste, cover amply with chicken broth; cook until tender; set aside. The other thing I do is I cook the onions and celery in chicken broth and butter rather than water and adding melted butter later.)**

**3. Add to crumbled cornbread: 8 slices of toasted or dry bread, 1 sleeve of Ritz crackers, 8-10 biscuits or diner rolls and 1 sleeve saltine crackers. Crumble and mix together.**

**4. Add:**  
**1 can cream of chicken soup (I add 2 or 3 cans.)**  
**1 can cream of celery soup**  
**1 can chicken broth (I use the boxes.)**  
**3-4 eggs**  
**add by the spoonful, including the broth, celery and onion to taste**  
**salt and pepper to taste**  
**sprinkle of sage**  
**onion powder and celery salt to taste...you might not need this**  
**poultry seasoning if needed to taste**

(You will need more broth than this... You mix all of this with a big spoon or your hands until all of the crumbles of the breads are broken up...it’s the feel and texture of a thick cornbread mixture with onions and celery. You do not want to be able to see parts of a piece of bread or a biscuit. I use a hand mixer to mix everything completely. I also add about a half a stick of melted butter.)  
TASTE...even though it has raw eggs in it! I would be dead by now if it were dangerous! You want to check the salt pepper and sage flavors. Some broths are very salty and I don’t like a lot of sage.

Bake in a greased baking pan at 350 degrees for 45 minutes – check often to be sure it does not burn.

*I keep a baggie in the freezer and save those extra pieces of bread at the end of a loaf and the slice of cornbread that might be left over or biscuits so when it is time to make dressing..I have the breads ready. Originally dressing was a way to use all the stale breads. This is also a good time to use all of those frozen baggies of left over broth or the broth you put in ice cube trays over the year! Grandmother Fuller used to keep a large mason jar in the freezer and she would add to it when she had any left over broth. This recipe is exactly like my Grandmother Fuller’s except she loved sage (and I think she used too much)*



## Anne’s Gravy

*Some of the left overs can be used to make Anne’s Gravy. It has become a hand me down that goes well with the dressing.*

**Anne’s gravy**  
**1 can cream of chicken soup**  
**1 can cream of celery soup**  
**1 can chicken broth or more to make the gravy as thin or thick as you like.you can also use the broth the turkey**  
**2 or 3 boiled eggs diced – this will thicken the gravy some.**  
**Cooked onions and celery to taste.**  
**Chopped liver from the turkey or small pieces of dark turkey**



## Hot Crab or Clam Dip

**2 - eight ounce cream cheese, softened**  
**2 cans crab meat, drained**  
**½ stick butter**  
**¼ teaspoon garlic salt**  
**1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce**  
**½ half lemon juice**

**\*\*Lots of crackers.**



### Grandmother Fuller Says:

*Keep a jar of leftover vegetables in the freezer. When you are cleaning up after a meal and you have a spoonful of beans or corn ect.. Just add it to the jar rather than throwing it away. When the jar is full, its time to make vegetable soup!*

**Pro Tip:** *I make dressing on Veterans\ Day since I am usually off work. It “freezes beautifully”! On Thanksgiving morning, I defrost and bake.*

**Pro Tip:** *While in the kitchen trying to prepare dinner, have lots of dip to keep everyone busy and if you put it in the living room it will keep too many people from crowding the kitchen.*

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