





“THE PEOPLE’S PAPER”

THE ALABAMA

Bazette



ALABAMA'S
FREE PRESS

Take One!

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Happy Valentine's Day

February 14th

Take time to share a special "thanks" or just say "I Love You" this Valentines.



Upcoming Historical Series

Next 5 Issues

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Don't Miss A Single Issue!




USPS CELEBRATES ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL WITH 2019 STAMP FEBRUARY 23RD

www.archives.state.al.us

www.archives.state.al.gov

www.archives.state.al.org

State Emblem



Alabama Black Bear

State Mammal

Act. no. SB76, 2006

ABORTION vs. Life

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart...”

Jeremiah 1:5

“And they are beginning to realize that the world they live in is a place where the right thing is often hard, sometimes dangerous, and frequently unpopular.” Lois Lowry, Number The Stars.

I was scrolling through social media the day the law was passed in New York. My heart broke as I read posts declaring our country has taken another bold step in the direction of complacency. A step taken so that everyone is made to feel good and no one gets their feelings hurt. “For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them” Proverbs 1:32. Complacency and conviction cannot live in the same corner.

“It appears that the state of New York has legislated that an unborn baby can now be killed at term. They did this joyfully and celebrated by illuminating the Freedom Tower in pink light. As a board-certified practicing OB/GYN physician for over 30 years, I need to say publicly and unequivocally, that there is NEVER a medical reason to kill a baby at term. When complications of pregnancy endanger a mother’s life, we sometimes must deliver the baby early, but it is ALWAYS with the intent of doing whatever we can to do it safely for the baby too. The decision to kill an unborn baby at term is purely for convenience. It is murder. And now it won’t be long before a struggling mother with a 1 month old baby will argue for the right to kill her baby too, because taking care of him or her is just too difficult and inconvenient. When you are willing to rationalize murder, why be subject to a timeline? God help us.” By Dr. David McKnight. www.liveaction.com

You don’t have to travel to New York to be faced with the sadness of bloodshed. It’s at your backdoor. There is a booming business right here in Montgomery, Al that advocates for freedom of choice. The freedom to take life into your own hands. **Reproductive Health Services** sits at 812 S Perry Street in Downtown Montgomery, Al. While it’s not the only operating clinic here in Alabama, it boasts about providing services to those in Florida and Georgia as well. There are also clinics in Huntsville, Mobile, Tuscaloosa and Planned Parenthood is building a \$4 million dollar facility in Birmingham. Women are driving a long way to end their pregnancy; hours in the car contemplating and making excuses for the choice they are about to make. In Alabama, per law, you must wait 48 hours from your initial visit. Maybe this is hoping that she will make the decision to choose life over death. The choice, well if you choose to have an abortion, you might read up on the violations. Some are rather alarming.



“Based on the review of medical records and interview, it was determined the facility failed to report a patient who was 13 years of age to the Department of Human Resources in 1 of 2 records review of patients under the age of 14.” Information gathered from Abortiondocs.org/Reproductivehealthservices, 2018.

6,063 Alabama abortions in 2017 www.abort73.com

“An estimated 60 million unborn babies have been killed in the US since Roe V. Wade in 1973.” www.lifenews.com

“Statistics compiled by Worldometers indicate that there were nearly 42 million abortions world-wide in 2018.”

AS A WOMAN...GOD DID NOT GIVE ME THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE LIFE OR DEATH. IT IS NOT ABOUT POLITICS, RELIGION, LEGALITY OR MORALITY...IT IS ABOUT LIFE!

Amos 5:14-15 *“Do what is good and run from evil so that you may live! Then the LORD God of Heaven’s Armies will be your helper, just as you have claimed. 15Hate evil and love what is good; turn your courts into true halls of justice. Perhaps even yet the LORD God of Heaven’s Armies will have mercy on the remnant of his people.”*

ARE YOU COMPLACENT OR CONVICTED?

By Staff Writer Hannah Johnson

New monthly column.

Honoring Our Heros



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Martha Poole Simmons







Bryan Jewelry

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Hours:
Monday ~ Friday 9 ~ 5:30
Saturday ~ 9 ~ 5 • Sunday ~ Closed



The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

Bobbie Ames writes from The Hoffman Education Center for the Family, where the ministry promotes Christian Education that is foundational to the Historic Biblical Principle Approach. Consulting services are available through the Hoffman Research Library. She can be reached at P. O. Box 241405, Montgomery, AL 36124, or at *bobbiehames@gmail.com*.

"Sweet Home Alabama" We Celebrate Her 200th Birthday in 2019



Let's look at the emblems that reflect her history and share them with young people who have lost the study of true Alabama History in the new era in which we live. Thanks to the State Archives, it is available to us all. Make a visit in 2019.

Having come to Alabama as a bride at age 20, I was elated to find welcome in the Alabama Blackbelt of Dallas, Perry, and all surrounding counties. Loving history, I became absorbed in the State and her History. Little did I know that I would teach her History for many decades and never tire of it.
Mrs. Bobbie Ames

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### *Alabama Department of Archives and History*



*"We tell the story of the people of Alabama by preserving records and artifacts of historical value and promoting a better understanding of Alabama history."*  
*624 Washington Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
334-242-4435*

**The Alabama Great Seal** is an inspirational place to start. In 1817, William Wyatt Bibb was appointed governor of the brand new Alabama territory. He realized that he needed an official seal for his commissions and for other state papers. With permission of President Monroe and a law appointed by Congress, the territorial governor was authorized to select the design for a seal. Governor thought the best place to start was to have a map of the territory showing its rivers. It also showed the territories surrounding the Alabama territory. Later these became states also.

In 1819, when Alabama became officially a state, the legislature designated the seal as the Official State Seal. The State Seal remained unchanged until the Reconstruction period when the State Seal was abolished and a new Seal put in its place. It showed the beak of an eagle with the words, "Here We Rest." This seal was used for 71 years for official documents and letterheads.

In 1939, a bill was introduced by the Legislature to restore the original seal as "The Great Seal of Alabama". The bill was unanimously approved by the House and Senate. Around the new emblem were the words "Alabama Great Seal." Governor Frank Dixon approved the new law and a new seal was created by Act no 20.



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State Flag of Alabama

No official state flag existed from 1819 to 1861. On January 11, 1861 the Secession Convention passed a resolution designating a flag designed by a group of Montgomery women as their official flag. This flag has often been referred to as the "Republic of Alabama Flag."



One side of the flag displayed the goddess of liberty holding in her right hand the sword; in the left hand, a small flag with one star. In an arch above the figure were the words, "Independence Now and Forever." On the other side of the flag was a cotton plant with a coiled rattlesnake. Beneath the cotton plant are the Latin words: Noli Me Tangere, (Touch Me Not)

This flag was flown until Feb. 10, 1851, when it was removed to the governor's office after it was damaged by a severe storm. It was never flown again.

From March 4, 1861, until General James H. Wilson's occupation of Montgomery in April 1865, a Confederate national flag was flown. After the end of the Civil War the national flag was flown for all official occasions.

The present Alabama State flag was authorized by the Legislature in February 16, 1895, by Act 383. According to the Acts of Alabama, 1895, the state flag was to be a crimson cross of St. Andrew on a field of white. The bars forming the cross were not to be less than six inches broad and must extend diagonally across the flag from side to side. The act does not designate a square or a rectangular flag.

The Alabama flag is to be flown on the dome of the Capitol and is to be used by the state on all occasions when it is customary to display the flag.

In 1923, an Act was approved that mandates the state and national flags be flown every day when school is in session, and at all schools in the State which are supported even in part by public funds. (Acts of Alabama, 1893 and 1923)

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### Official Alabama State Song

The words to our State Song was written by Julia S. Tutwiler, a distinguished educator and humanitarian. It was first sung to an Austrian air, but in 1931, through the interest of the Alabama Federation of Music Clubs, the music written by Mrs. Edna Gussen of Birmingham, was adopted by the Legislature as the official State Song. The bill was approved by Gov. B. M. Miller. Act 128 adopted the words and the music as the State Song of Alabama, Acts of Alabama, March 1931.

The many Emblems of our State may be found on Alabama State Emblems from the Alabama Department of Archives and History. This is a fascinating read.  
<http://www.archives.alabama.gov/emblems/alabamasong.html>

### Alabama

Words by Julia S. Tutwiler  
Music by Edna Gockel Gussen

*Waiting till thy sculptor's chisel,  
Wake to like thy poet's dream;  
For not only wealth of nature,  
Wealth of mind hast thou to see.  
Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee!*

*1 - Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee,  
From thy Southern shore where groweth,  
By the sea thine orange tree.  
To thy Northern vale where floweth  
Deep and blue thy Tennessee.  
Alabama, Alabama  
We will aye be true to thee!*

*2 - Broad the Stream whose name thou bearest;  
Grand thy Bigbee rolls along;  
Fair thy Coosa-Tallapoosa  
Bold thy Warrior, dark and strong.  
Goodlier than the land that Moses  
Climbed lone Nebo's Mount to see  
Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee!*

*3 - From thy prairies broad and fertile,  
Where thy snow-white cotton shines.  
To the hills where coal and iron  
Hide in thy exhaustless mines.  
Strong-armed miners--sturdy farmers:  
Loyal hearts what'er we be.  
Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee!*

*4 - From the quarries where the marble  
White as that of Paros gleams*

*5 - Where the perfumed south-wind whispers,  
Thy magnolia groves among,  
Softer than a mother's kisses  
Sweeter than a mother's song;  
Where the golden jasmine trailing,  
Woos the treasure-laden bee,  
Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee!*

*6 - Brave and pure thy men and women,  
Better this than corn and wine,  
Make us worthy, God in Heaven,  
Of this goodly land of Thine;  
Hearts as open as our doorways,  
Liberal hands and spirits free,  
Alabama, Alabama,  
We will aye be true to thee!*

*7 - Little, little, can I give thee,  
Alabama, mother mine;  
But that little--hand, brain, spirit,  
All I have and am are thine.  
Take, O take the gift and giver.  
Take and serve thyself with me,  
Alabama, Alabama,  
I will aye be true to thee.*

### Alabama's Creed A Statement of Faith

*"I believe in Alabama, a state dedicated to a faith in God and the enlightenment of mankind; to a democracy that safeguards the liberties of each citizen, and to the conservation of her youth, her ideals and her soil. I believe it is my duty to obey her laws, to respect her flag, and to be alert to her needs and generous in my efforts to foster her advancements within the statehood of the world."*

Sources, Acts of Alabama, July 29, 1953

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ALABAMA EMBLEMS...be sure to follow this Alabama History series in the next 5 issues.. more emblems to follow each month.



**Monarch Butterfly
State Insect**

Act 89-935 - 1989



**Yellowhammer
State Bird**

Act of Alabama -1927



**Southern Long Leaf
Pine State Tree**

Acts 49-143, 1948
Act 97-548, 1997



**Red Camellia
State Flower**

Act 541 -1927



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



Infrastructure Program Should Be Priority 1

As the new quadrennium crests in Alabama government, everybody looks toward a new beginning. There is a new fresh four years ahead for the newly elected leaders. They are overwhelmingly Republican. The Governor is Republican and all of the accompanying constitutional officeholders are members of the GOP. More importantly, the State Legislature, both the House and the Senate are Republicans. In fact, over two-thirds of each chamber are Republican. It is a supermajority.

The cards are lining up for these leaders to leave a legacy. That legacy could and should be to rebuild Alabama's roads and bridges. The optimum word is infrastructure. Folks know that it is time. Alabamians see the needs everyday as they drive to work. The staunchest and most conservative people I know throughout the state tell me, adamantly, that they are flat ready to pay more in gasoline tax to fix their roads.

The hue and cry arises from rural folks whose roads are impassable from large potholes. Birmingham's roads are deplorable. Suburban commuters who have to travel highway 280 in Jefferson and Shelby counties are exasperated. Indeed, commuters in the state from all of our largest metro areas are acutely aware of the horrendous log jams they experience every day.

The country folks have figured out that it would be cheaper to pay more for gasoline than it is to pay for having their frontends aligned and tires balanced every few weeks from hitting holes in their roads. A good many of the rural bridges in the state have been condemned and are hazardous for heavy trucks and school buses to travel.

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has an unprecedented number of unmet repairs and expansions. A spokesman for ALDOT says there are \$10 billion of identified capacity projects and needs.

Some big-ticket items on the ALDOT list include a new Interstate 10 and bridge and Bayway widening project in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, the completion of the Birmingham northern beltline, the Montgomery Outer Loop, and additional lanes along the interstate in Huntsville.

Speaking of Huntsville, they are poised to be one of the fastest growing areas of the entire nation over the next decade. It is imperative that their infrastructure needs are met to keep pace with their expansion. Toyota-Mazda is set to build

their largest plant in the Huntsville-Madison metro area. They were assured that roads would be built to accommodate their location and expansion.

Alabama, like most states, relies on gasoline taxes to pay for their roads and bridges. It has been 26 years since our gas tax was raised. The last time that Alabama had an increase in our fuel tax was 1992. That state increase was just ahead of the last federal gas tax increase enacted by Congress.

President Donald Trump pledged while running and again after his election in 2016 to advance a massive infrastructure program, the largest in U.S. history. He signaled support for increasing the federal gasoline tax to pay for this American infrastructure initiative.

This rebuilding of America infrastructure is one of the bipartisan issues that both Democrats and Republicans are espousing.

It is a certainty that states will have to come up with matching dollars to get the federal money. Indeed, 28 states have raised or reformed their taxes since 2013 in anticipation of a federal tax increase which they will have to match.

This is the one issue in which both parties in Washington can come to an agreement. We in Alabama are not ahead of the curve, but we are poised to maybe come to grips with this issue.

A gasoline tax increase to fund infrastructure needs will be the paramount issue of 2019. My guess is that it will happen this year. Governor Kay Ivey, shortly after taking office, said she "supported an increase in the state gasoline tax to fix state roadways."

House Speaker, Mac McCutchen, of Huntsville, has trumpeted the need for a road program for years. Most of his Republican colleagues in the House ran for reelection without having to take a vow that they would not raise any new revenue or taxes.

The stars are aligned for Alabama to act. The time is now. The timing is good. We will probably never have the Chairman of the United States Senate Appropriations Committee as our Senior Senator ever again. Senator Richard Shelby will make sure that we get our fair share of the federal money. However, we must have the basic revenue to draw down the federal funds.

January 30, 2019

Trump's Year in Review

By Perry Hooper, Jr.

President Donald J. Trump approached 2018 just as he did 2017--fulfilling campaign promises and meeting new challenges head on. Here are some of his major accomplishments for the year:

- **Confronting China** - Much of the heartland anxiety that vaulted Trump into the Oval Office can be directly attributed to the abusive economic warfare waged for decades against the United States by China. No president, since the Chinese were allowed to join the World Trade Organization, has had the intestinal fortitude to confront China head-on until the election of Donald J. Trump. At long last American Workers have a champion in President Trump who slapped serious tariffs upon Beijing and finally forced the regime to negotiate fairly. America now embraces its strong bargaining position and demands reciprocity in trade and an end to the theft of our intellectual property.
- **Rebuilding our Military** – President Trump fulfilled yet another campaign promise in signing into law a defense bill that authorizes the building of hundreds of new planes, ships and tanks. The law adds thousands of troops to the size of the military, raises pay, modernizes the U.S. nuclear arsenal, and lays the groundwork for Mr. Trump's proposed "Space Force", in what the president called "the most significant investment in our military and in our war fighters in modern history."
- **Trump's Historic Impact on the Federal Judiciary** – As horrific as the process was, the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh secures another conservative jurist with an original, constitutional approach and a restrained view of judicial power. With Neil Gorsuch and Kavanaugh in place, President Trump has kept his promise to remake the high court with young, conservative thinkers set to influence the Supreme Court for generations. He is also reshaping the federal judiciary by continuing to have federal judges confirmed at a record pace — 30 appeals court judges and 53 district court judges, all lifetime appointments.
- **U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Deal** – Trump proved that America welcomes equitable global commerce by cementing a badly needed modernization of NAFTA. The USMCA provides a template for other such trade pacts and effectively isolates China's increasingly untenable posture.
- **Middle-Class Wages Increase, Unemployment Falls, and Optimism Rises** – Incomes in general soared in 2018, with average hourly earnings finally eclipsing a three percent growth for the first time since before the Great Recession. The news is even better for blue-collar workers, who now realize wage growth above that of white-collar workers for the first time in nearly a decade. African American joblessness in 2018 reached the lowest levels ever recorded. For Hispanics, in history there have been a total of 14 months with a jobless rate under 5 percent--13 of those months have unfolded under the leadership of President Trump.

- **Progress with North Korea** - Since the cease fire, nine different US presidents tried to stifle North Korea's nuclear ambitions and failed. In an historic summit President Trump and President Kim Jong-un signed an historic joint statement that marked the beginning of a process for North Korea's complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. Progress on other issues should soon follow, such as improvement in human rights and political reform, economic openness, and perhaps even reunification with South Korea.
- **Ending the Iran Nuclear Deal** – Gone are the days of coddling the mullahs who have terrorized America and our allies for decades. Instead of counting the billions of dollars of cash sent via secret nighttime flights by the Obama administration, the Tehran regime now faces a U.S. leadership determined to confront its tyranny and prevent its nuclearization.
- **Moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem** – Trump proved once again how different he is than past presidents who promised on the campaign trail to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem as required by US law since 1995--only President Trump made good on his pledge. He honored our ally, and recognized the obvious reality that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel.
- **Smashing the ISIS Caliphate** – Unlike his predecessor, who haughtily dismissed and ignored the ISIS threat as terrorists' "JV team," President Trump smartly dispatched limited U.S. troops to help our partners erase the territorial caliphate that had inflicted unspeakable human rights abuses.
- **Holding the Line with Migrant Caravans** – In the face of continual demagoguery from liberal politicians and their allies in the media, President Trump took a tough and principled stance against would-be trespassers. Lawless caravans assault our sovereignty and abuse our generous asylum statutes. Such provocations validate the need for a border wall along with reforms to immigration laws.
- **Record American Oil Production** – In 2018, the U.S. surpassed Russia and Saudi Arabia to become the world's largest producer of crude oil. Through aggressive regulatory relief and pro-energy moves like green-lighting the Keystone XL pipeline, President Trump paved the way for an independent energy future.

What am I predicting for 2019? One thing we can count on is that Trump will continue to be Trump, overturning the tables of the temple of the establishment much to the chagrin of the left and the delight of everyday Americans.

My new year's resolution for the Senate, The White House, and the Democratically controlled House is that they take the "high road" and work together to continue to make America Great Again!

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



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Ronald A. Holtsford

Is it good to think about any legal issues for the New Year?

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



Without specifics about yourself I’ll make this answer generic in a personal and in a business sense. I presume you looked at your financial estate planning (401k, mutual funds, stocks and bonds, life insurance, etc) and as you do you also think about your legal estate planning. After all you are a year older; you may have gotten married, had a new child, had a child reach the age of majority (19 years), gotten divorced or suffered the death of a spouse or even a child. You may have a child graduate, enter the workforce and be off your payroll. Your financial estate planning goes hand in hand with your legal estate planning and you should discuss that with your lawyer, not that he or she will try to advise you on whether your investment advisor is steering you correctly but rather the impact of your financial worth on your legal estate.

Gift Tax Exclusion

For 2019 the **gift tax exclusion** remains as changed in 2018 to \$15,000.00 a person, as a gift (child, grandchild, etc.) not requiring the filing of a Gift Tax return or up to \$30,000 to a person if both you and your spouse gift to the same person once per year. There is a lifetime generation skipping tax (GST) limit of \$11.2 million in 2019. There may be a tax advantage for the wealthy in that and if this seems to be something that might be helpful to your financial planning you should seek the advice of an accountant or other tax/ financial professional (may include a tax attorney). For 2018, there was a \$11.18 million total estate tax exemption per individual; 2019 will provide a \$11.2 million tax exemption. The total GST and total estate tax exemption are inclusive in total in that they cannot exceed \$11.2 million The portable portion mentioned above may be available to a surviving spouse who may be able to combine their unused estate credit amounts up to a total of \$22.4 million. Remember that life insurance is considered for estate tax purposes if you have control over the policy (i.e. ability to change the beneficiaries, cancel the policy, etc). Some individuals have large insurance policies and in the past not inconceivable for high middle class people to have an estate over prior limits but the possibility could even exist with some wealthier individuals. If you die in 2019 with an estate of greater than \$11.2 million then that amount over \$11.2 million will be taxed at 40%.

Last Will and Testament

With that said you need to pull out your **Last Will and Testament** and review it. If you have had any life changes (marriage, divorce, death, large inheritance, new child, etc.) a new Will may be in order. If you don’t have a Last Will and Testament you need to have a lawyer prepare one as soon as possible. Why do you need one? Because if you don’t then the State of Alabama has one for you. Some of the spousal examples under the rules of intestacy (dying without a Will); (1) first \$100,000 to spouse and then 1/2 of the remaining estate to the living parent(s) when there are no children, (2) if children then the spouse gets \$50,000 and 1/2 of the rest, (3) if one or more of the children are not yours then the surviving spouse only gets half of everything, period. This is probably not the estate plan you have in mind. There are internet sites and software programs that can also assist with a Last Will and Testament but there is no guarantee that it will pass muster regarding state rules on probate nor a guarantee that it will do what you want upon your death. The best chance of meeting estate goals is through a lawyer and if you are of moderate means, you may be surprised that it is less expensive than you think. In the long run a Will may save money since an intestate estate when probated requires the bonding of the Personal Representative and an inventory of the decedent’s estate. I run into too many old or non-attorney prepared defective Wills when it really counts and there is an attempt to probate the estate. Obviously such probate is not without issue.

Power of Attorney

Aside from the Last Will and Testament you may want to have a **Power of Attorney** prepared. Most prepared these days are durable which require wording that the power of attorney is effective even in your disability or incapacity. Powers of Attorney became a statutory form as of 1 January 2012. Most attorneys have concerns about the filling in the blank and initialing choices format and most now insert tried and true language used in their practices for their many years. A Power of Attorney is now by default a Durable power; however I insert the needed language anyway to make sure that there are no questions about it’s durability. A Power of Attorney (POA) can be very powerful and placed in the wrong hands can be damaging such as a daughter that is named AGENT and decides to sell your lake house and push you towards moving to an assisted living facility. On the other hand, naming a trusted AGENT and retaining the POA for future needs can be extremely beneficial. The POA can be used so that someone can write your bills for you during incapacity, file your taxes and with health/ Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act (HIPAA) provisions monitor your care with the doctors and hospital as well as handle medical insurance billing. The POA may also be used to nominate whom you would want as a conservator or guardian should one need to be named for you through a Court proceeding.

Advanced Directive for Health Care

The final personal document would be an **Advance Directive for Health Care**, which is composed of a Living Will and Health Care Proxy nomination. It will allow you to make certain decisions about end of life issues should you later become unable to speak for yourself and two doctors have determined that you will likely die in the near future. This is the document that Terri Schiavo DID NOT have and for that reason the court found the testimony of the “husband” who was then living with another woman to be credible as to Terri’s final wishes. Hmmmmm. Naming a **Health Care Proxy** is the same as naming a health care power-of-attorney such as under a POA. The proxy is given limited rights under which situations that they can make decisions. And by the way, the ex-spouse automatically loses that job as proxy upon divorce. That’s dodging a bullet!

Social Security - 2019 Medicare Part B

If retirement is nearing and you will also receive **Social Security** consider that the **2019 Medicare Part B** will move from the 2018, \$134.00 to \$135.50 per month dependent on whether the senior is subject to the statutory “hold harmless” provision. Those with higher incomes will pay higher Part B premiums. There is a \$185.00 (move from \$183.00 in 2018) Part B deductible for the year. If you need nursing home (skilled nursing) care under Part A, days 1-20 are fully covered provided you continue to meet Medicare’s requirements for those days; the co-payment for days 21-100 (if you qualify) will be \$170.50 per day (\$167.50 per day in 2018). After day 100 you are 100% on your own unless you have some other means of long term care payment. If you have not

already checked on long term health care insurance you should do so now. It not only will cover nursing home care but can also cover assisted living or in home care. If you consider this insurance also look carefully at the options since they may be equally as important as the policy itself. This includes inflation increases which are very important or even the option of continued coverage for a certain amount of time when one with “forgetfulness” forgets to pay the premium.

Affordable Care Act

Current tax law consideration is to remove the mandate under the **Affordable Care act (Obamacare)**. The time to make health care changes under the ACA has passed (open enrollment) unless you have a qualifying event or become eligible under Medicaid/ CHIP. Older Americans may be eligible both for Medicare and Medicaid and impoverished Americans may be Medicaid eligible when they cannot afford premiums under Obamacare and some Americans eligible for insurance from the market place with subsidized premiums.

A Sole Proprietorship

Limited Liability Company (LLC)

Registered Limited Liability Partnership

(RLLP or LLP)

If you are currently in business or considering a business what about entity? A **sole proprietorship** offers pass through taxation but no limited liability. Your personal and business assets are at risk in a law suit. A **Limited Liability Company (LLC)** or a **Registered Limited Liability Partnership (RLLP or LLP)** offers the same pass through tax advantages as well as limited liability. A “C” corporation offers the same limited liability but there is taxation on the corporation and taxation on the shareholders. If you are in one of these entities and about \$80,000.00 plus salary talk to your accountant about the possibility of an “**S**” **corporation election**. Current tax considerations suggest that pass through entities not involved as professional service businesses (accountants, attorneys, etc) such as sole proprietorships, LLC’s, LLP’s and S corporations may take an additional 20% off their income. Because pass through entities are taxed at the owner’s tax rate this will give an additional 20% decrease in taxable income.

In addition to the advantages of pass through taxation and limited liability there may also be some self-employment tax advantages since some of the income can be paid to a shareholder- employee as a profit distribution. The Internal Revenue Service however looks for Shareholder- Employees that pay themselves substandard salaries for their position in order that they can take more from the company as a distribution and save more on Self Employment taxes. The IRS will consider a reasonable income based on IRS summarized factors considered by a Court case from the Eighth Circuit which advised shareholders to give them careful consideration in establishing their compensation. The factors are:

- (1) Employee qualifications;
- (2) The nature, extent, and scope of the employee’s work;
- (3) The size and complexity of the business;
- (4) Prevailing general economic conditions;
- (5) The employee’s compensation as a percentage of gross and net income;
- (6) The employee-shareholder’s compensation compared with distributions to shareholders;
- (7) The employee-shareholder’s compensation compared with that to non-shareholder employees or paid in prior years;
- (8) Prevailing rates of compensation for comparable positions in comparable concerns; and
- (9) Comparison of compensation paid to a particular shareholder-employee in previous years where the corporation has a limited number of officers.

An “S” Corporation election only exists through the IRS and has specific requirements. So you can be an existing LLC, C Corporation, etc. but elect via the IRS as an “S” Corporation. Ask your accountant about whether it is right for your business.

I hope that this has helped with your question. If you need a lawyer you can contact the Alabama State Bar Lawyer Referral service or ask a trusted friend about a lawyer that they might recommend.

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

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

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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

DEFINE YOUR MOMENT

As I sat in my interview some 21 years ago, I watched as two senior Delta Airline Captains leafed through my logbook. Luckily for me, it was something that I had kept up with since my first day in pilot training. At the time as part of the interview process, in addition to a physical, psych-eval and lots of testing, there was a sit-down interview one v. three with an HR rep and in my case two Captains. They wanted to see your logbook to help verify hours flown.

I sat quietly watching my logbook’s pages being turned over one-by-one. Occasionally, one of the Captains would look up and ask me about something he saw. A location, type of mission, you name it. Why were some entries in red, some in black, some blue and others in green? “There is a definite method to my madness,” I told them. Black were ordinary sorties, blue were checkrides, green were my flights as an instructor or evaluator pilot giving checkrides and red entries were combat sorties flown during Gulf War 1.

Then came the squinted eyes, the smile, the showing of my logbook to the other two interviewers and the laughter. Then the question. “Mr. Tate. Explain to us why did you draw this wonderful picture of the Grim Reaper.” Pursing my lips and taking in a deep breath, my future job at Delta Airlines was on the line here but I had to tell the truth. “Sir, that is the day I almost died.”

When people ask me how long I have been flying, there are actually two answers. I imagine that I am not the only pilot in the galaxy like me. The first answer is April 1983. That is when I entered USAF pilot training in Del Rio, Texas. The second answer is 22 November, 1988. That is the day, or rather night, that I became a pilot.

5 June 1986

As a 25-year-old 1 LT. copilot flying the KC-135, my crew and I were launched on an early morning alert scramble out of Keflavik, Iceland. We were sent out over the North Atlantic to refuel an AWACS surveillance aircraft, the same type of plane I would be flying two years later. After air refueling, we proceeded back to Keflavik just as a major storm approached the field. As luck would have it, an F-15 was being vectored in with an inflight emergency and we had to hold waiting for our turn to land. Once we started our vectors in, the storm really started to beat up the airfield. At the time, they had six runways we could use. I think today there are only four useable.

As the storm hit, the winds were insane. They would shift 180 to 270 degrees with the winds 25 knots, gusting to 45 knots with peak gusts of 55 knots. In aviation terms, not good. Not good at all. With a maximum crosswind of 25 knots on a dry runway, 15 on a wet, at any one time, we potentially had crosswinds out of limits for every piece of asphalt on that base. Keep in mind that a strong, gusty crosswind landing in a B-707 type aircraft is one of the most difficult and challenging maneuvers we have.

Checking the winds were within limits and the captain, “Hemo,” tried one approach, got one tire on the ground, started sliding off the side of the runway and we went around. Next approach to another runway, no dice and we went around. On approach #3, another runway, all was acceptable until right as we crossed the runway threshold when we had a 45 knot windshear. Yes, a windshear will kill you. Just the year before, Delta flight 191 crashed in Dallas because of one.

Well, we hit the ground. HARD! And then BOUNCED! And then ROLLED!! All the crosswinds controls “Hemo” had were for naught when the winds shifted. We went from a normal landing attitude to 30-45 degrees of bank, close to stalling airspeed and the nose pointed in the direction of oblivion. Yeah, we were looking at the crash vehicles parked along the side of the runway. Never before or since have I grabbed the throttles from the other pilot and yelled, “Go Around!” Slamming the throttles full forward, the plane slowly wallowed into the air, trying to regain some semblance of flyable airspeed and we four ghosts thankfully climbed away from Keflavik.

There are those moments in time one never forgets. This is one of them. “Hemo,” with sweat pouring down his face looked over at me with these big, blue eyes and said, “This sucks.” I will never forget that. For as long as I live, that will be etched in my memory. He started saying, things like we needed to divert to Scotland, let’s get clearance, Nav do this, Nav do that!” Meanwhile, yours truly is looking at the gas and came to one conclusion. “Dude, we don’t have the gas. You gotta put her down over there,” pointing at the slowing disappearing island of Iceland. I felt like Merlin in “Top Gun” talking to Maverick. “Come on, Hemo. You gotta get back in there. We aren’t done yet.” Or Goose, “Do some of that pilot stuff.”

Long story short, our boom operator put on his parachute certain we were going to die. He didn’t want to burn so he was gonna bailout. (You cannot make this stuff up) I told him good luck since they would never find his body and he would be flying around the island for a decade with these winds. But after three more approaches and “Hemo” telling me, “If I don’t do it this time, its your turn,” he got the bird on the ground with about 2,000 pounds of gas remaining. That might seem like a lot but that is maybe one trip around the pattern before you become a 120,000-pound glider. During maintenance debrief, we were told how everybody was out watching, filming and waiting for the

crash (seriously) and they brought us a six-pack of beer since we survived. Just then, another maintenance guy came in and told us we had drug the right outboard engine on the runway. Wow!! Another five degrees of bank, ten feet lower altitude and yours truly would not be writing this today.

As you can imagine, that event had a huge impact on my psyche. Although three of my four checkrides at Fairchild AFB had been “Outstanding Performances,” most pilots at that time in Strategic Air Command never got one, this event really got to me. I guess when death knocks on your door and says, “Sup?”, it gets your attention. Because of my consistent performance at Fairchild over a two-year period, I was selected to fly the NATO AWACS.

Ahhhh, Germany. Beautiful country, nice people, rich history, crappy weather. Although I was a brand-new Captain in 1988, after being there just over a year, I was selected to upgrade to Aircraft Commander. In addition to my flying, I was instructing in the simulator, I had completed the flight safety course in Canada and was running the Flight Safety shop in the squadron. But there remained this pesky little thing called crosswind landings hanging out there. Although I could fake my way through them in the airplane and get a decent landing, I really did not have a good feel for them. I confided in my wife that until I did a real, no kidding max-crosswind landing in dog-poop weather, I was reluctant to upgrade. I mentioned my concern to a Canadian pilot, Major Claude Levasseur, the best pilot I have ever flown with bar none, and he took me into the simulator and showed me why the “American way” was stupid. I cannot thank him enough.

22 November 1988

I was flying an AC upgrade sortie from our base in Orland, Norway with a Norwegian Major Lundesgaard. Coming back to the base that night, there was heavy rain, strong gusty winds, and I had to fly a High TACAN penetration to an ILS circle to land to the opposite, wet runway with 17 knots crosswinds with low clouds and visibility just above that legal for a circling approach. Calling Hollywood. I know that means nothing to most of you but that type of approach under those conditions will put hair on your chest. I briefed the approach and looked at the instructor as to say, “You want it?” He looked at me and said, “Have fun, you’re in AC upgrade next week.” To his credit, he never doubted. As an instructor, I learned a lot from that.

On approach and during the circle to land, it was if gremlins were throwing 40-gallon bags of water and ice at us while trying to ride a pissed-off bucking bronco. By far the most difficult approach, until then, I had ever flown. People in the back were getting sick, some were scared and then came the landing. Remembering Claude Levasseur’s advice, and I mean this 100%, the only way any of us knew we were on the ground was the cycling of the anti-skid brakes. The IP and I looked at each other and he said, “Are we on the ground?” Of course, I acted as that was normal for me. Even the guys in the back came up to me afterwards and said they could not feel the airplane touchdown. I have never looked back since that November night. I have since learned that it is easier to get a good landing with a strong crosswind if done correctly. More than once I was on a flight with several instructor pilots during extreme crosswind conditions and more than once, the landing was deferred to me. Bring it.

The purpose of this story revolves around a quote from the movie, “Tin Cup.” “*When faced with a defining moment, either you define that moment or that moment defines you.*” That missed 2-foot putt at the Master’s for the championship, misspelling an easy word for the national spelling-bee championship, whatever. In life we all have challenging moments that we can control but don’t. To this day, I still remember this big, beautiful hanging curve ball that I friggen’ missed my senior year in high school. Had I screwed up that landing in Norway, who knows. I do know that nailing it cemented my flying career.



So back to the beginning, yes I have been flying since April 1983 but I have been a pilot since that cold and rainy Norwegian night in November 1988. At that point, I had seen it all and knew I could do anything in the jet. As for the Delta interview, they liked my brutal honesty with the Iceland story and although not the way they do things today, I was one of about 7 pilots given job offers that August afternoon in 1997.

So what is it going to be? Are you going to define your moment or is it going to define you? That is the question I want each of us to answer when the time comes.

It’s Time For A Makeover – Family Law

Did you know?

- Even though some mothers and fathers abandon their parental responsibilities, from drug addiction, domestic violence, and other factors; Surprisingly, the number one cause of children being raised without one of their parents (usually Fathers) are court orders issued by the state government.
- Each year, approximately 40,000 of Alabama’s children are separated from one of their parents by domestic court orders, reducing the child’s time with the non-custodial parent (usually Fathers) to as little as one to six days per month.
- Data published by the U.S. Health and Human Services and the Alabama Department of Human Resources indicates that children with limited or no

contact with one of their biological parents account for the majority of youth suicides, school dropouts, juvenile drug abusers, youths in prison, teenage pregnancies, and homeless and runaway children.

- A documentary title “Divorce Corp” shows how the family law system is about making money off the people who come to the courts. More money flows through the family courts, and into the hands of courthouse insiders, than in all other court system in America combined – over \$50 billion a year and growing.
- What’s the cost to taxpayers? According to the 2016 Republican Platform, nearly three-quarters of the \$450 billion that government spends annually on welfare goes to single-parent households. This is what it takes for a governmental village to raise a child, and the village is doing a tragically poor job of it.
- Courts need uniform guidelines for child custody determinations consistent with the research-based conclusions from the more than 40 international studies and consensus of over 100 social scientists regarding child custody.
- We’re working to update the child custody laws by the passage of the “Children’s Equal Access Act” during the 2019 legislative session.

The Alabama Family Rights Association is working to preserve, promote, and protect family rights. For more information visit ALFRA.ORG.

By: Kenneth Paschal, Pelham – Alabama, Alabama Family Rights Association State President, a child activist, and U.S. Army First Sergeant Retired.



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

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“Malice in Hubbardland”
(cont.)
Signs, chief swapping & special election abuse



“I don't like the looks of it,' said the King: 'however, it may kiss my hand, if it likes.' 'I'd rather not,' the Cat remarked.” *The King and the Cheshire Cat*, *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

Forgive the length of my last column, much to write about in retrospect and on the continuing malice ‘public servant’ Hubbard put in place and orchestrates in our State. First, many thanks for all the comments - as usual ‘nastygrams’ tend to be more entertaining than the kudos. Second, I had absolutely **NOTHING** to do with the on-line *O/A News* poll [https://www.oanow.com/should-the-auburn-city-council-vote-to-change-the-name/poll_6ed90f6a-0f6c-11e9b5a913f27181aa57.html?fbclid=IwAR122dwnV2PPXvfjdCqKWeEt8o-SpRS4_rAJ9bTk3s-JmE03uefu7BQmdhM] on removing ‘Mr. Boulevard’s’ sign in Auburn. Last I looked 16% wanted Hubbard’s name to remain venerated on the streets of this town I once held dear. Of course, he’s



King & Executioner looking for Cheshire cat

also emblazoned on a building to further display the shame of what is heralded in Auburn. The 16% who do **NOT** want Felon Hubbard’s name removed coincides with the small percent of eligible voters who reinstalled this ‘public servant’ in his low turnout, hyper-gerrymandered State House victories.

Others found facts on the corrupt Lee County Commission I regularly witness (with my eldest Godson) hard to believe; no one would seriously advocate voting against reinstating all those worthy taxes. With all due respect to Felon Hubbard’s minion Superintendent Delano I will **not** vote for **any** of them, even though I would have if placed on the last **general** election ballot. I understand most productive citizens will not even **know** there is a vote on February 19th (by design) to go put a little fear in these parasitic educrats for this misuse of special elections, but if enough showed to close the margin of victory, waste of this sort would attenuate. Taxpayers will spend \$80,000 on this **special** election, not that this school superintendant has shown much concern for taxpayer money these past years. “Political Theft By Deception” (<http://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2014/10/01/news/political-theft-by-deception/316.html>) is nothing new in Hubbardland, from the \$3 million wasted on the Statewide special election sham result (14% turnout 49 days before a general election) to rob the ETF back in 2012 to 4.5% turnout to get the last Lee County sales tax to pass after failing **twice** on a general election.

What can be more revealing Delano et al Hubbardland thugs have little confidence in their inferior, over-subsidized result than going through the effort to put these votes on a special election, waste tens of thousands of tax dollars and productive (non-special interested) voters time and effort instead of putting it on the recent general election to get a more representative result? I pray our honest legislators on Goat Hill follow-up on Sen. Glover’s recently passed amendment to again display courage and statesmanship in crafting sound text to stop political theft via this sort of deception to pass/reinstall tax increases.

Removing Hubbard as Speaker of the House has made little difference as this felon’s

minions shameless, crony ‘*bidness as usual*’ practices continue. Others expressed shared doubts Ms. Britt (former Chief of Staff to Sen. Shelby) replacing President/CEO Canary is in fact a sign of major changes at the BCA. She’s been a part of the ‘Cash-register’ Shelby ethos who’s amassed huge campaign contributions and is among our most incompetent Chairs of the US Senate appropriations committee. Sequestration was a gutless embarrassment and showed our Senator did not have the courage (or concern - does it really matter?) to make the tough decisions on funding - esp. on issues of defense/national security.

Further evidence *Malice in Hubbardland* is alive and well was revealed in the recent ‘chief swaps’ in the Heart of Dixie. Gov. Kay Ivey’s chief of staff Steve Pelham was installed as Auburn University chief of staff to replace President Leath’s Lackey who quickly left for NC upon evaluating the situation here, after narrowly escaping Iowa State. Pelham is also installed as vice president for economic development, effective February 1st so there’s plenty of largess in play in this dual role. Another longtime BCA type crony, Jo Bonner, moves into the Governor’s chief of staff slot vacated by Pelham... how convenient. Pelham allegedly hit it off with fellow ‘public servant’ Leath as this beleaguered president had to interact with the Gov. (as President of the AU Board of Trustees) in his poor handling of athletics scandals, FBI investigations, increased faculty lawsuits, etc. Several “Goat Hill insiders” I’ve spoken to assert Pelham has been the de facto governor under Ivey’s ‘AWOL stewardship’ these past years.

Pelham graduated from Auburn in 1979 with a bachelor’s degree in public administration, a program under recent scrutiny for possible ‘clustering’ of athletes under the Jay Jacobs administration. Some think Pelham’s move is just another Jacobs type ‘true Auburn man’ move to further plunder the RSA - “Trump up” his final three years of State paycheck earnings to further saddle Alabama taxpayers with greater burdens. After a few years as a private consultant, Pelham became Ivey’s chief of staff when she was elected Lt. Gov. in 2011 and continued as her top advisor as Governor. A cursory search suggests Pelham has been a successfully elusive ‘public servant’ who is among the many glad to see our recently re-installed AG quickly snuffed out Matt Hart and appears to have killed investigation into Hubbardland type corruption.

Others suggest Pelham will be an effective ‘hatchet man’ for President Leath at a University bent on crushing dissent from those trying to honestly move Auburn forward. Of course it is easier to simply reallocate some contract and grant accounting figures to appear to be classified an R1 university than to do the difficult work to provide an academic environment which rewards productivity over parasites and cronyism. Little surprise after so few pressed President Leath on his ‘*ledgerdemain*’ asserting 500 new hires where 40% are simply new employees replacing existing faculty lines/positions.

A reoccurring Hubbardland theme is suppression of dissenting speech. One would reasonably expect AAUP [American Association of University Professors] chapters to be bastions of free expression, yet the rot promoted by Hubbard (and fellow ‘public servant’ mentor Lowder) is so pervasive the AAUP chapter at Auburn has become a repressive force. Historically, the organization was dedicated to the principle of free speech and academic freedom, reflected by their annual Glenn Howze award, given to an individual who’d made significant contributions to advancing such principles at the University. After decades of exposure to Lowder, Hubbard and their assorted minions, even the AAUP chapter at Auburn is another weapon in their arsenal of suppression. The Glenn Howze award was presented continuously from 1994 to 2015, then suddenly no awards since 2016. Not for lack of a deserving candidate, but because there **was** an exemplary candidate.

Prof. Stern, the unflappable chair of the AU Econ Department courageously exposed interference of athletic department administrators (Felon Hubbard cronies) in the governance of academic curricula, including explicit institutional bribes in exchange for curricular decisions. Stern’s efforts received national exposure as a lead Sports article in the *Wall Street Journal* and later the front cover article of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Prof. Barry Burkhart, prior Glenn Howze award recipient and close personal friend of Howze wholeheartedly nominated Stern for the award. Sadly, the body-politic of the University had become so captured by the many years of Hubbard, Lowder et al corruption and repression, the cancer had deeply metastasized into this AAUP chapter. Rather than present the award to Stern, they were willing to disgrace Glenn Howze’s memory and end the award these past years. In 2016, the celebration of free speech literally and figuratively died at AU.

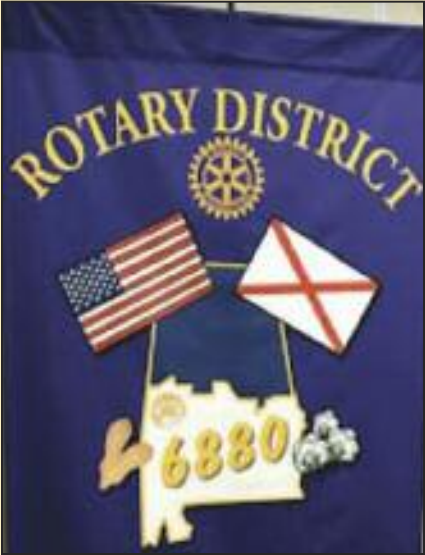
In closing, these Hubbardland ‘chief swaps’ undisciplined special election abuse, etc. offer little hope things will improve. Wish these thugs truly cared about the future debt/tax burden of our children and students instead of churning more graft and ‘trumping up’ their RSA checks. I grow wearing observing the ranks of these political ‘Hubbard Grubbers’ increasing, who genuinely believe being a good political thief is evidence of great business acumen - perhaps a sign of the times when an ‘*Art of the Steal*’ reality TV star is what these political grubbers aspire to... Funny thing, when I happen to channel surf on Saturday mornings to hear Hubbard Grubber on his radio station (always good to listen to the ads to know what businesses to avoid) I can’t help but think, man this guy could’ve been a decent disk jockey and may have had an honest decent life instead of being a ‘public servant.’

Signs of the Times



District 6880, A Banner Conference!

Some were hanging and some were handed out. Mayor Strange even coined DG Sam Adams with the City's Challenge Coin.



Rotary District 6880 recently celebrated its Midyear Conference in Montgomery with over 100 top Rotarians from 30 different cities in central and south Alabama.

DGN Jerry Blacklaw, Fairhope RC, emceed the Awards night. Some people think RI stands for Rotary International. Friday evening in Montgomery it stood for Recognition for Individuals (and clubs) doing great things for last year and so far. The DG Chain Awards were as follows:

DGN Award: AG Ken Robinson, Mobile, for work with clubs.

DGE Awards: P Maggie ,Troy Rotary Club, Leadership.

P Gordon, Chilton County RC Little Engine
PP Mickey, Event Execution in Biloxi and more
DG Awards Jackson RC for Diversity.

Demopolis RC, Recognition of Rotary Veterans.

Dothan RC, Membership Growth 1st Half

Rotary International presented approximately 20 awards and certificates to many clubs for everything from EREY to polio contributions and more. Montgomery RC topped all clubs (appx 650 clubs) in Zone 30 with its giving per capita for the polio plus program.

District 6940 Governor John Medina, Panhandle of Florida, gave special recognition to Clubs in Fairhope, Fairhope SS, Point Clear, Tallassee Opelika and Montgomery RC for their Hurricane Michael relief efforts.

Many unsung Rotarians contributed to the overall success of this event but two deserve special recognition: PP Rosemary Blackmon for beautiful table decorations and Eric Lewis for handling all of the IT requirements before and during the Conference.

Montgomery and polio survivor Dr. Susan Barfoot described her life long battle with polio. She thanked Rotary for its 40 year eradication effort and asked all to financially support this world wide cause.

Musicians Gypsy Cornbread from Prattville added just the right touch for the attitude adjustment time.

Former two term State Treasurer, Rotarian and PHF Young Boozer, III, inspired our Midyear attendees Friday evening by sharing his work philosophy couched in terms of the 4 Way Test.

He ran the Treasurer's Office with wisdom, efficiency, and integrity by following this simple phrase: 1-Do the Right Thing; 2- Do It the Right Way; 3-Do It Right Away.

He recited from his childhood memory Rudyard Kipling's famous poem "IF" Young Boozer is a wonderful example of a servant leader and an exceptional Rotarian.





Martha Poole Simmons

Honoring Our Heroes

By Martha Poole Simmons



Winfred Lowe

Winfred Lowe served in WWII in the Infantry Branch of the U. S. Army at Europe for 22 months where he was on the front line carrying an M1



rifle starting out in France and then to Germany and to Salzburg, Austria. Winfred completed high school after WWII, and he worked at a retail tractor dealer, Cotton Ford Tractor Company at Andalusia for 36 years. His wife, Mary Hudson, and he had three daughters. Winfred’s patriotism is still strong as evidenced by his words, “I was proud to serve my country, and I would do it again rather than let those people come here and do to us like they did to people in Europe. “ **On February 2, 2019, Winfred will celebrate his 93rd birthday.**

Richard A. Forster

Richard Forster served 20 years in the United States Air Force during WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. After serving in WWII, he served in the Air Force Reserve, was activated but not deployed during the Korean War and served one tour at Vietnam.



After retirement from the U. S. Air Force, he worked at a variety of jobs including operating a men’s clothing store and a child’s clothing store, serving as Director of the AL Department of Conservation and Resources and as a fund-raiser for non-profit organizations. When reflecting upon his military service, Richard stated, “I have no patience for those who are not patriotic to their country. We need greater emphasis in patriotism in our society, and the best way to teach and instill patriotism is in our schools.”

Richard was born February 6, 1928, at Buffalo, New York, and he had two brothers who served in the U.S. Army and three sisters with one serving in the Army. He and his wife, Doris Stark, had two sons and two daughters.



Richard Edward Bennett

Richard Edward Bennett served three years in the United States Army 1943-1946 during WWII. He completed basic training at Abilene Army Air Base, Texas, and he completed surgical technician training at the Fitzsimmons Army



Medical Center at Aurora, California, with further medical training at the Army’s hospital at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He was deployed to a military hospital set up on a large estate at Shewsbury, England, where he served taking care of wounded from the D Day landing. He was then sent to Germany with the 8th Infantry Battalion as WWII in Europe ended, and he was sent back to the U.S.A. just as the war with Japan ended. Richard was discharged in 1946. Richard was born January 16,1924, at Waukegan, Illinois, where he completed education in grades 1-12. Richard was married twice and divorced. He had six children with two daughters and four sons as well as six grand-



children and one great-grand child. He became a chiropractor and maintained a practice for 41 years. Having developed a friendship with the associate pastor of his church who had moved to Montgomery, Alabama and after visiting his friend there, he moved there too. Since retirement, Richard worked with a florist delivering flowers. He is an active member of the Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church of Montgomery where he engages in exercise programs for senior adults and participates in the men’s ministry and his Sunday school class. He enjoys playing dominoes and working with jigsaw puzzles. Richard maintains that he likes

to be active. He believes that God has been with him all of his life in the right place at the right time.

This Dick Bennett article and two pictures are submitted by Dr. Martha Poole Simmons. He has given permission for the articles and pictures to be printed in the AL Gazette.

Esther Varon

Esther Varon and her family escaped Jewish persecution and annihilation in Odessa, Russia, a port city on the Black Sea, and emigrated legally to the United



States where they became productive American citizens. The family fled the area because Jewish men were being conscripted and sent to the front and being killed in the fight for control of the country between the armies of the White Russians and the Bolsheviks. Their escape from growing anti-Semitism was literally a matter of life and death.

Esther’s father and mother, David and Frances, rode the Tran Siberian Railroad across Asia to Vladivostok and settled at Harbin, Manchuria, where Esther and her sister, Edith were born. David who was well educated and spoke English and German fluently worked with an American import-export company. In 1933-34, the Japanese took over Manchuria, invaded China and closed trading with the United States.

It became imperative for the family to leave Manchuria with the hope of legally emigrating to the United States.

Esther’s aunt who had married an American sailor lived at San Diego and helped Esther’s father to immigrate to the United States. Because Esther was 11 and one-half years old, she could travel using half-fare. Esther came with her father to San Diego. Esther’s mother and sister fled to Manila and were left there during WWII which was occupied by the Japanese. When General MacArthur liberated the Philippines, her mother and sister came to San Diego where they were reunited with Esther and her father.

At San Diego after graduating from high school, Esther attended a business school. She met her husband, Morris Varon, at the Jewish USO at the Jewish Temple. He was a United States Marine whose hometown was Montgomery, AL, where they were married. The couple opened a small restaurant and then a swanky one, Varon’s, on Woodley Road near Huntingdon College. The business thrived becoming not only a restaurant but also a deli, a gourmet wine and cheese shop, a café and a catering business. After it closed, he opened a luncheonette on McDonough Street, and Esther went to work as a revenue examiner with the City of Montgomery for nine years retiring in 1994.

Esther has five children, three daughters and two sons, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, all of whom have become well educated and successful. She has lived with her daughter, Susie, and her husband, Bruce, for twenty-three years. Before coming to live at Lake Jordan, she lived at Brandon, FL, for 12 years where she was active in the Newcomers and Homemakers Clubs. She enjoys traveling and playing bridge, and she creates exquisite jewelry.

Esther who will celebrate her 90th birthday January 5, 2019, is thankful for the love and support of her children which have made it possible for her to be where she is now. The Biblical Esther for whom Esther Fuchsman Varon was named means “star.” Both of these Esthers were part of a minor race held in low esteem but grew up to be courageous. God had a plan for the Biblical Esther and for Esther Varon. We can learn from how God works with ordinary people who submit to His way.

This article and pictures are submitted for publication in the AL Gazette by Dr. Martha Poole Simmons. Esther Varon has given permission for publication.



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Steve Long

Woods & Waters with Steve



IT’S THE SEASON FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE!



Ted DeVos
Bach and DeVos Forestry and Wildlife Services

Well, we finally made it to the month of February and we only have 6 days left in deer Season. But in February in Alabama another subject comes to my mind and that is the subject of Prescribe Burning. The following article is from one of the premier land managers in our state, Mr. Ted DeVos Of Bach and DeVos Forestry and Wildlife Services.

Images and thoughts of woodland fire are typically that it is bad! However, this is probably because most people are not familiar with the benefits of burning and have not taken the time to study prescribed burning and the ecology of their natural resources. Fire is as natural as rain and sunshine. It was always a part of the natural ecology of our landscape.

The difference in wildfires and prescribed fires is that wildfires often burn huge acreages, typically in dry times of year and can be uncontrolled, destroying trees, houses, crossing roads, etc. Prescribed fires, on the other hand, remove the same fuels that wildfires need but are done in a controlled manner with firelanes to contain the fire and in conditions that keep the fire low to the ground only burning the grasses and debris on the ground.

Prescribed fire is one of the most useful yet misunderstood and under-utilized tools in the land manager toolbox. While there has been some increase in the use of fire in woodlands in the last decade (over 1 million acres in Alabama in 2009), there are many more millions of acres that need burning and are not getting it.

In the deep southeast, fire has been an integral part of the evolution of our woodlands. Most of this area was forested in Longleaf pine and, historically, a burn interval of 2-5 years was the norm. Lightning or native American set fires burned vast acreages and the habitat it created was described by early explorers as "a vast forest of the most stately pine trees that can be imagined" and "passing through a level, open, airy pine forest, the stately trees scatteringly planted by nature, arising straight and erect from the green carpet, embellished with various grasses and flowering plants". Many people think old-growth hardwood forests of oak, beech and chestnut were the natural pre-settlement condition of the southeast, but regularly burned pines were covering most of Alabama. These early Alabama explorers also described abundant wildlife populations of deer, turkeys, bear, panthers, bison, elk, pigeons, etc. all dependant on the fire-maintained woodlands of the southeast. Needless to say, fire was and is an important driving force in our woodlands.

Today, we burn mostly to maintain wildlife habitat, manage timberland and try to prevent wildfires. The benefits of regular woodland burning include reducing hazardous fuel buildup that leads to wildfires, increasing aesthetic values and promote wildflower production, encourage a more sunny understory that grows more grasses and weeds providing food for all wildlife species, and help control some insects and diseases. Most species of wildlife in Alabama are benefitted significantly from regular burning.

While wildfires in the western states are usually seen on the evening news, southeastern wildfires can also be large and destroy many homes and businesses. Wildfires in Georgia and Florida are common, especially in dry years and can burn vast amounts of acres. The fires in Gatlinburg in the fall of 2016 are an excellent example of the lack of prescribed burning allowing massive fuel buildup to spark one of the worst natural disasters to hit Tennessee. This fire burned 16,000 acres and killed 14 people plus destroyed around 2,000 structures in and around Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

The traditional time for woodland burning in the southeast is from February – April. This is a time of drier fuels and lower humidity that are conducive to good burning. Some burning is also done from late spring through summer. If you do your own burning, smoke management is a major concern on all burns and knowing what your smoke is expected to do and where it will go is also important in planning the burn. Knowing where any housing developments, urban areas, airports, schools, hospitals, roads or other smoke-sensitive areas requires planning for wind directions and smoke dispersion levels for your burn area. For instance, if you have a road bordering your burn unit on the west and north side, you will need a north and west wind to move smoke away from this hazard. Typically, prescribed burners in Alabama are trained as Prescribed Burn Managers through the Alabama Forestry Commission. Most have been burning the woods a long time and have the experience it takes to keep fires contained and minimize disturbance to surrounding landowners. All fires less than ¼ acre in Alabama are required to have a burn permit issued by the Forestry Commission.

A variety of resources are available for those interested in prescribed burning. Websites like the Alabama Prescribed Fire Council (<http://alpfc.org/>), the Alabama Forestry Commission (<http://www.forestry.state.al.us/>), and the Southern Fire Exchange (<http://southernfireexchange.org/>) discuss the benefits of burning and techniques to conduct burn. At sites like these, you can get fire weather forecasts, drought conditions, smoke planning tools, Prescribed Burn Manager training and burn permits among other information.

So, if you see a smoke plume off in the distance, smell smoke in your neighborhood or see a burn near a road you are travelling, remember that these prescribed fires are good for the environment and may actually prevent a wildfire from happening near you!

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The Ethanol
Scandal

By John Martin

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

One of the biggest boondoggles ever imposed by our government has been the mandated addition of ethanol to gasoline. It has been done for over a decade, and we are still stuck with it today.

Of course, ethanol can be used to run an engine. Henry Ford used it in his Model T in 1908. During World War II, it substituted for scarce gasoline. Since then, gasoline and diesel have been the widely used fuels of choice.

In 2005, President George W. Bush signed the Renewable Fuels Standard, and then The Energy Independence and Security Act in 2007. These mandated the production of ethanol for fuel and its addition to gasoline.

Ethanol mixed with gasoline has serious downsides. The first is that it damages engines. Ethanol deteriorates rubber and plastic parts in the fuel system. It absorbs water vapor out of the air like a sponge. Over a fairly short time, the ethanol and water mix separates from the gasoline and can foul the engine. On a newer car that is used regularly, that may not be too serious, but in older cars and especially in the small motors of lawn mowers, trimmers, chain saws, boats, and ATV’s, the ethanol gunk can cause serious damage after they have been put away and used the following season.

Because ethanol is a water magnet, it causes water to accumulate in the bottom of a gas tank. In time, it will be enough to reach the fuel pump and stop the engine. It can happen at a most inconven-

ient time and / or place—like on a vacation hundreds of miles from home or any service one could trust. This is especially serious on newer cars that have no drain plugs on the bottoms of their gas tanks.

Ethanol is also less efficient than gasoline. Gasoline blended with ethanol has up to 20 to 30 percent less energy than pure gasoline. Most consumers are not aware of this.

But the really serious fault with ethanol is its cost of production. Adding ethanol to gasoline does not in any way reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. In fact, it increases it, seriously. Ethanol fuel is not saving the planet; it’s wasting it.

In 2001, Cornell University professor David Pimentel analyzed ethanol production and discovered its tremendous cost: First, the corn has to be planted and harvested. Then a distillation process produces 92 percent ethanol. Up to three additional steps are required to remove the remaining water to obtain the 99.8 percent ethanol that is required to add to gasoline.

In the end, the production of one gallon of ethanol consumes 131,000 BTU of energy. But when that gallon is burned, it yields only 77,000 BTU. We burn 131,000 BTU of fossil fuel to provide 77,000 BTU of “sustainable” ethanol. That’s a net loss of 54,000 BTU per gallon. Even a moron can comprehend that producing fuel in this manner is a no-brainer.

Pimentel said, “Abusing our precious croplands to grow corn for an energy-inefficient process that yields low-grade automobile fuel amounts to unsustainable, subsidized food burning.... Corn production in the U.S. erodes soil about 12 times faster than the soil can be reformed, and irrigating corn mines groundwater 25 percent faster than the

natural recharge rate of ground water. The environmental system in which corn is being produced is being rapidly degraded....”

Higher food prices are another downside. Ethanol consumes about 40 percent of the U. S. corn crop. That’s 40 percent less for ourselves, livestock, poultry and export.

For those who argue that we would have a corn surplus, how about planting less corn and using the land for other crops? To save the planet, we could plant industrial hemp and use the cellulose to save millions of trees.

We taxpayers are forced to shell out billions in federal and state subsidies for giant, corporate farms—many of them foreign owned. Small family farmers get little or nothing.

Every few years, our Congress votes on a farm bill. It is a gigantic corporate welfare package full of programs, regulations and expenses (including the ethanol mandate) that we would be better off without—runaway favors for politicians and cronies that are almost impossible to comprehend. Last year’s (2018) was \$867 billion—even bigger than our military budget of \$681 billion.

Call, write, e-mail, or tweet your Congressman and both Senators and tell them you have had a bellyful of this outrage.

SOURCES:
Pages, Jaime V., Tiberius Kraemer Oct. 9, 2018, Oct. 14, 2018. “Why does the US use ethanol in gasoline for automobiles and should it?” www.Quora.com.
Pimentel, David August 6, 2001. “Ethanol fuel from corn faulted as 'unsustainable subsidized food burning' in analysis by Cornell scientist. The Cornell Chronicle, Cornell University.
Bevill, K. 2008. “Building the ‘Minnesota Model.’” Ethanol Producer Magazine, April, pp. 114-120.

Thank you Ed for 16 years of great writing for the Alabama Gazette!



The Playoff

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

Ed Jones Football Writer

While the national championship in college football is still on our minds, it seemed to be a good time to discuss the pros and cons of our current playoff system, and the possibility of an eight team playoff system. First off, the four team playoff has been highly successful pitting the four best teams against each other to determine the national championship on the field rather than subjectively voting on a champion. In each of the six playoffs, the number one team and the number two team has met in the finals all but one year. That was in 2017 when Alabama finished fourth. After the smoke cleared Alabama played Georgia for the title. There is no question that Georgia and Alabama were the best two teams in the country. Ideally, that is all the whole “shooting match” is about; getting the two best teams in the championship game in order to determine who the best team in college football really is.



Coach Dabo Swinney hoists the 2018 Championship Trophy with QB Trevor Lawrence looking on

When the BCS (Bowl Championship Series) system was in place where only the two top teams were selected for the championship game, there was gnashing of teeth by the third and fourth team in the rankings. Since the four team playoff has been in effect, the fifth, sixth and seventh teams are unhappy every year. If for some ridiculous chance the NCAA someday adopts and eight team playoff, guess who will be crying foul? Of course it will be the ninth and tenth teams. There is no possible way to determine the national champion that is better than what we have at this time, the four team concept.

I for one was completely satisfied with the BCS where the national selection committee ranked 25 teams beginning at mid-season, and at the end of the season selected the top two teams to play for the championship. Only one time can I recall when the two best teams were not selected. That was in 2004 when Auburn’s undefeated team finished third to USC and Oklahoma. Auburn was probably better than Oklahoma, who lost decisively to USC. However, there is no way to please the teams who do not make it into the playoffs. The system is not designed to do anything other than bring the number one and number two teams together to play for the national championship.

In 2012, the topic of my column was suggestions as to how to handle a four team playoff and an eight team playoff. Nothing has really changed my mind about those suggestions. However, they do need tweeking. Under the present system, the four team playoff is reeking havoc on the college bowls. There must be some change in order for the NCAA Bowl System to survive. It has been too important to college football for so many years. The championship game was held on the first Monday in January, which this year was January 7. The problem is that the semi-final games are played too close to January 1st, which adversely affects the major bowl games normally held on that day; Rose, Sugar, Orange, Cotton and Fiesta. The Rose Bowl has willingly taken itself out of the playoff system with their automatic tie-in with the Big Ten and the PAC 10. Twice the Rose Bowl has been the site of the championship game. It is really not a great venue anymore because of the repairs, additions, modernizations that have not occurred over the years. In addition California is grossly inconvenient for teams from the eastern part of the United States. In general, fans do not desire to travel 4,000 miles roundtrip to see their team play. Neither do they desire to spend thousands of dollars on tickets and motel rooms that have been elevated in price to suit the occasion, or the exorbitant food prices that are hiked as well. To make it easier for fans to come to the championship game, the game should alternate between Atlanta and Dallas until better venues are built.

In my opinion the semi-final games should be held closer to the end of the season, possibly the third Saturday in December. This would give participating teams approximately three weeks from the date of the conference championship games to prepare. This would hardly affect the December bowl games. The bowls that have been held on the third Saturday in December would just have to find another date. This change would not compete with the January 1st bowl games as it does under the present schedule. The championship game could then



remain on the first Monday after the New Years Day bowl games.

There will always be conflicts. That is inevitable. There are just so many fans, so many dollars and so many TV viewers. Then, there are no more. As much as I like football, it seems that we have saturated December and January with football to the point where there are diminishing returns on the investment.

Now, to the possibility of an eight team playoff. Lets look at some aspects of the proposal that could be beneficial and some that would be detrimental. The only positive that I can see in this is the fact that more teams could participate, thereby satisfying those who say the present system is unfair. To me, that is a high price to pay for the problems that an eight team playoff would cause.

One problem is that this would water down the college football season. There would possibly be teams in the playoff with two losses and some with as many as three losses. That means that each regular season college game has less importance because a team could qualify with two or three losses. They could get hot in the playoffs and win the national championship without having to exhibit excellence in the regular season. I don’t like that.

Another problem is that it would add another game to the football season for eight quarter-final teams, two additional games for the semi-finalists and three more games for the two championship contending teams. The season is probably too long as it is. In order to win the national championship under this eight team system, a college football team would have to play 12 regular season games, a conference championship game, a quarter-final game, a semi-final game and the championship game for a total of 16 games. In my opinion that is just too much football for college kids.

There are other problems that will come up as well. It has been mentioned how the attendance, viewership and available dollars would be affected. Even the most dedicated fan is not going to the conference championship, the quarter-final game, the semi-final game and the championship game. I would probably watch them all on television because I am a football addict. You may be also. However, football addicts are not the norm. This glut of games will have a negative effect on each game. There are only so many football addicts around. Each game stands on its own as to the value it has to the advertiser, the television provider, the city, the site of the game and to the fan.

The more games that a player participates in, the more chance of a debilitating injury. The college football players of today are not going to give their all for “Ole State U.” if it is going to possibly cost them a signing bonus and a multi-million dollar contract in the NFL. I don’t like it but 90% of college players are playing as if it is an audition for the professional teams. Of those 90% will not make an NFL squad. The red jersey or the blue jersey does not mean to a college player what it used to. It’s all about the money now.

When a college player finishes his third year in college he can leave college, sign with a professional team and get rich. They are skipping their bowl games now. Some would probably skip a playoff game if their agent recommended it. Also, we have a “free agency” system approved by the NCAA. Any player can transfer anywhere for any reason. If they have graduated after three years, they can transfer and be immediately eligible. I can stomach the graduate transfer rule. I don’t like the free agency rule even a little bit.

The NCAA is slowly creating chaos in college football. There is only one way to stop them. That resolution was in effect as this college football season ended. Hit the NCAA in the pocketbook. As crowds dimiss, as TV revenue begins to demish, maybe the member schools which control the funding of the NCAA will rise up and save the greatest game of all time, college football!

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Approved and Adopted by the
Wetumpka City Council
January 17, 1983

The recovery process is moving forward. All departments are back up and in full operation in their temporary locations. The outpouring of support for our city has been fabulous with over 1,200 volunteers and equipment operators coming in to help with relief efforts. Surrounding cities have assisted us in every way possible as we continue our recovery process. We are very thankful to have such support from our neighboring cities. This process is not going to be a sprint, it is going to be a marathon that will not be a quick fix. It will take years to get back to exactly where we need to be but our future is bright. Our opportunities are going to be great as we move forward through planning and hard work to accomplish the task before us. Thanks for the phone calls, texts and financial donations to help us work through this disaster. May God bless each and every one of you.

— **Mayor Jerry Willis**

All Photos by Tiffany Baker



F-2 Tornado

Path of destruction
Saturday, January 19, 2019





U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

MARTHA ROBY*Representing Alabama's 2nd District*

Prayers for Wetumpka During this Time of Recovery

On the afternoon of Saturday, January 19, a powerful tornado hit the City of Wetumpka in Elmore County, ripping through the beautiful downtown area and inflicting heartbreaking and significant damage. By the grace of God, no lives were lost, and only minor injuries have been reported. Still, the destruction is extreme, and the road to recovery is long.

The Monday following the tornado, I joined Governor Kay Ivey and other local officials to spend time on the ground with those impacted. I had the opportunity to see the devastation firsthand, and it was heartbreaking, to say the least. The beautiful, historic First Presbyterian Church was destroyed, and First Baptist Church of Wetumpka sustained terrible damage. The Wetumpka Police Station, senior citizens center, and recreation center were also lost in the tornado. More than 35 homes and dozens of businesses were damaged or destroyed. Wetumpka and its residents are in the midst of determining the extent of damages and planning for what needs to be rebuilt, and we must do our very best to help however possible.

I am deeply grateful to the local leaders and first responders who immediately jumped to action to begin securing the area and putting the pieces back together for the people who have lost so much. During this very challenging time, it has also been encouraging to see the community come together and begin the rebuilding process like a family. Mere hours after the storm, the Elmore County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) heard from more than 1,000 individuals who signed up to volunteer their time and resources to the clean-up efforts.

**Governor Kay Ivey tours
Wetumpka's damaged area
offering hope & prayers.**

If you are local and personally interested in helping out with clean-up in downtown Wetumpka or in Elmore County, please contact the Elmore County EMA by calling (334) 567-6451. The Elmore County Commission and City of Wetumpka are tremendously appreciative of volunteers who are willing to assist, but they ask that volunteers please call ahead and follow instructions to ensure proper coordination in order to maximize recovery efforts and resources. If you are a resident of Wetumpka or Elmore County and need non-emergency assistance related to the tornado, please call 211 until further notice. Any emergency calls should still be directed to 911. Call the Elmore County EMA with any damage reports.

I would like to take this opportunity to directly address the people impacted by this tornado: **My office stands ready to assist in whatever ways we are able. My staff and I work for you, and we want to be a resource for you during this challenging time.**

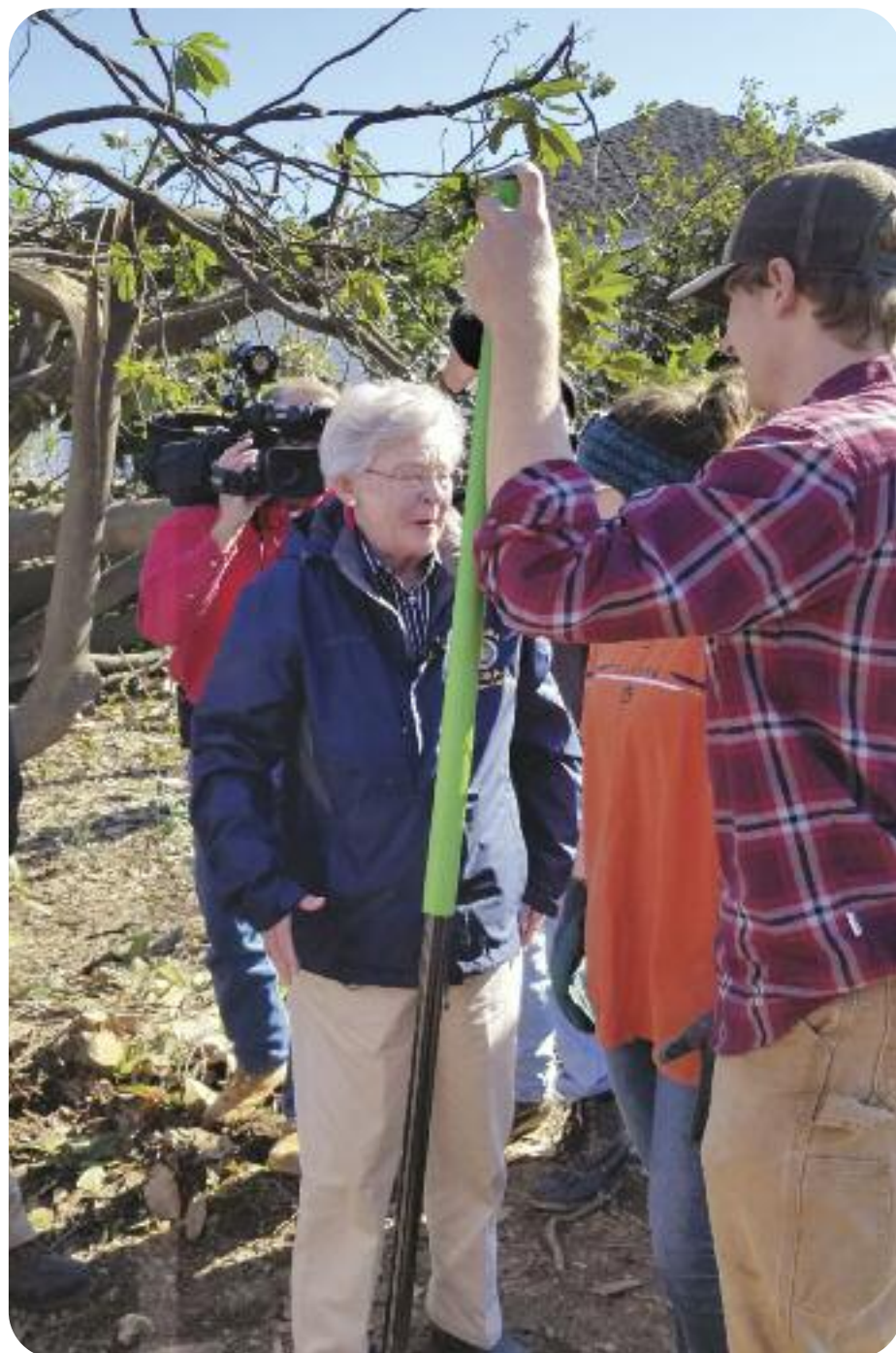
The rebuilding process won't be easy, but if we continue to work together and help each other out whenever possible, we will get through this. In the meantime, my family and I will continue to pray for all those impacted by this devastating event.

###

Martha Roby represents Alabama's Second Congressional District.

She lives in Montgomery, Alabama, with her husband Riley and their two children.

**People coming together
to help a city's destruction
in recovery.**



DONATE HERE

**Make checks payable to
Elmore County Disaster Relief Fund
or donate online at www.cacfinfo.org**



**Helping Elmore County Families
Chairman, Judge Glenn Goggans**

Donations can be made at First Community Bank,
PrimeSouth Bank, River Bank & Trust or online at www.cacfinfo.org

For more information, email tornadorelief@cityofwetumpka.com

Elmore County Disaster Relief Fund

Shortly after the April 27, 2011, tornado outbreak decimated portions of Alabama, the Elmore County Disaster Relief Fund was created to assist Elmore County citizens impacted by the damage. The fund, managed by a group of volunteer, community-minded individuals, processed over \$150,000 in donations and relief checks to those who had need. With the recent tornado impacting an over 18 mile tract from the City of Wetumpka to close to Lake Martin in Elmore County, the Elmore County Disaster Relief Fund has been activated to assist impacted residents with their unmet needs.

In partnership with the Central Alabama Community Foundation (CACF), all funds donated directly to the Elmore County Disaster Relief Fund or funds donated through the CACF for tornado relief will be administered by this group of volunteer individuals. Individuals impacted by the event may make application by email (tornadorelief@cityofwetumpka.com) or by mailing the application to PO Box 24, Wetumpka, AL 36092.

Individuals or groups wishing to donate to the Elmore County Disaster Relief Fund may do so by one of two ways:

**Visit a branch of First Community Bank, Prime South Bank
or River Bank and Trust; or**

Visit www.cacfinfo.org

and donate to the Wetumpka Tornado relief.



Dr. Lester Spencer

Lead Pastor

St. James United Methodist Church

9045 Vaughn Road

Montgomery, AL

Soul Searching

The Keeper of the Stream

*Several years ago, I read John Ortberg’s book, **Soul Keeping**, which I highly recommend. It’s one of my top ten favorite books. John opens the book with a Prologue entitled: “The Keeper of the Stream”. I invite you to read it carefully and reflect on this powerful parable about your soul.*

The Keeper of the Stream

"There once was a town high in the Alps that straddled the banks of a beautiful stream. The stream was fed by springs that were old as the earth and deep as the sea. The water was clear like crystal. Children laughed and played beside it; swans and geese swam on it. You could see the rocks and the sand and the rainbow trout that swarmed at the bottom of the stream.

High in the hills, far beyond anyone’s sight, lived an old man who served as Keeper of the Springs. He had been hired so long ago that now no one could remember a time when he wasn’t there. He would travel from one spring to another in the hills, removing branches or fallen leaves or debris that might pollute the water. But his work was unseen.

One year the town council decided they had better things to do with their money. No one supervised the old man anyway. They had roads to repair and taxes to collect and services to offer, and giving money to an unseen stream-cleaner had

become a luxury they could no longer afford. So the old man left his post.

High in the mountains, the springs went untended; twigs and branches and worse muddled the liquid flow. Mud and silt compacted the creek bed; farm wastes turned parts of the stream into stagnant bogs. For a time no one in the village noticed. But after a while, the water was not the same. It began to look brackish. The swans flew away to live elsewhere. The water no longer had a crisp scent that drew children to play by it. Some people in the town began to grow ill. All noticed the loss of sparkling beauty that used to flow between the banks of the streams that fed the town.

The life of the village depended on the stream, and the life of the stream depended on the keeper. The city council reconvened, the money was found, the old man was rehired.

After yet another time, the springs were cleaned, the stream was pure, children played again on its banks, illness was replaced by health, the swans came home, and the village came back to life. The life of a village depended on the health of the stream.

“The stream is your soul. And you are the keeper.”

(Ortberg, John (2014-04-22). Soul Keeping: Caring For the Most Important Part of You (pp. 13-14). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.)



By Daniel Sutter

Is Anything an Accident?

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 Econversations on TrojanVision. The opinions expressed in this column are the author’s and do not necessarily reflect the views of Troy University.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra has suggested charging Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) with murder in connection with last November’s Camp Fire. The deadliest wildfire in California history, Camp killed 86 people and destroyed the town of Paradise. A cause has not been officially determined, but evidence suggests that PG&E electric transmission wires may have started the blaze. The case illustrates a conundrum implied by the economics of accidents.

I do not wish to accuse PG&E of starting the Camp Fire; that is to be determined. But Mr. Becerra’s comments, numerous lawsuits already filed, and news reports of PG&E’s potential bankruptcy, I think, justify this discussion. I am not a lawyer and wish to focus on the economics, not the legal requirements of sustaining murder charges or winning a civil lawsuit.

The fire was not deliberately started and so in this sense was an accident. But could it have been avoided? Quite likely. Better maintenance on transmission lines and towers could have prevented aging, sagging power lines from sparking. Trimming trees would make high winds less likely to bring down power lines.

PG&E could also have shut down parts of the electric grid on high fire risk days. The company formalized planned blackouts to prevent wildfires earlier in 2018 and shut off power to over 60,000 customers on a high risk day in October. Southern California utilities have also used blackouts to prevent wildfires.

Power lines, of course, are not the only cause of wildfires; lightning and other human actions and carelessness are also causes. All power line related fires, however, could be prevented through enough maintenance, tree-trimming, and blackouts. If the Camp Fire could have been prevented, was it truly an accident?

Diligence and safety can prevent most types of accidents. Workplace accidents claimed over 5,000 lives in 2017. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has helped reduce workplace accidents significantly over the past fifty years. Still, more can always be done. Railings prevent falls; taller, sturdier railings make falls even less likely. Safety nets can help as well.

Auto accidents kill 35,000, injure millions, and cause billions in property damage each year. Most traffic accidents are due to driver error, mechanical failures, and unsafe roads and bridges and are preventable. Highway redesign could further reduce accidents. And driving very slowly - imagine a 25 mph national speed limit - would dramatically reduce accident severity.

Should we prevent all fires, workplace accidents, and highway crashes? Economics recommends balancing the benefits of preventing accidents against the costs. Such balancing will almost certainly involve accepting some accidents. Even if we think that human lives are infinitely valuable and should be saved whenever possible, accidents often involve fatal consequences either way. For instance, blacking out hospitals and nursing homes can cost lives. We will almost certainly choose a level of safety resulting in some accidents.

If we deliberately choose less than perfect safety, are the fires, workplace mishaps, and traffic crashes truly accidents? This is debatable. We know that drunk drivers do not intend to maim people, but we consider this act so reckless as to be criminal. Some commentators think that deaths from workplace accidents and product defects are best viewed as corporate murder.

Personally, I think that an important difference exists between mishaps occurring while pursuing a valuable and ethical goal and intentionally harming others. Still, many Americans find evaluating accident tradeoffs too explicitly discom-forting.

This is costly. As Vanderbilt economist Kip Viscusi notes, corporate America lags behind in applying risk analysis. Jurors find it offensive when a business determines how much it would cost to prevent deaths due to product design flaws or workplace risks and still chooses not to eliminate the risk. Because risk analysis seems to trigger mega-verdicts, businesses forego the analysis. Yet a lack of analysis merely leads to bad decisions, not safety.

Economics suggests that perhaps nothing is an accident. But as humans, we can intuitively distinguish intentional harms and unfortunate events. However we resolve the conundrum, ignorance of risk analysis is definitely not bliss.

TROY’s School of Accountancy AACSB accreditation places institution in elite status



Dr. Martin T. Olliff is a Professor of History and the Director of the Wiregrass Archives at the Dothan Campus.

TROY –Troy University’s Sorrell College of Business now stands as just one of 189 colleges of business worldwide to hold dual accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The accreditation of the School of Accountancy was announced today by AACSB, founded in 1916 and the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools. It is the largest business education network connecting students, educators and businesses worldwide. The Sorrell College received accreditation in November.

“Achieving AACSB accreditation for the School of Accountancy places Troy University on the very top tier of business schools worldwide. This monumental achievement signifies the deepest commitment by our faculty, staff and administrators to building value in every TROY degree and setting our graduates apart from others in a globally competitive business world,” said Troy Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr. “It is validation that the emphasis we

place on student success – both in the classroom and in business after they graduate – will result in highly skilled, globally competitive professionals.”

AACSB accreditation has been earned by only five percent of the world’s schools offering business degrees at the bachelor level or higher, with 831 institutions in 54 countries and territories. Today’s announcement moves to 189 the number maintaining a supplemental accreditation for their accounting programs.

“I’m very proud of our dedicated faculty and staff in achieving this important recognition for the School of Accountancy,” said Dr. Judson Edwards,

Dean of the Sorrell College of Business. “The Sorrell College now holds AACSB accreditation in both business and accounting, which is synonymous with ‘the highest standards of excellence’ for the academic programs we offer our students,” said Dr. Judson Edwards, Dean of the Sorrell College of Business. “We have laid a great foundation for the future through the attainment of dual AACSB accreditation, joining a select group of business schools representing the best universities in the world.”

AACSB Accreditation provides a framework of 15 international standards against which business schools assess the quality of their educational services. These standards ensure continuous improvement and provide focus for schools to deliver on their mission, innovate, and drive impact. AACSB-accredited schools have successfully completed a rigorous, multi-year process which includes self-assessment, plan development, and peer-review, ensuring that they have the resources, credentials, and commitment needed to provide students with a first-rate, future-focused business education.

To realize accounting accreditation, an institution must first earn or maintain AACSB Business Accreditation. Then, in addition to developing and implementing a mission-driven plan to satisfy the business accreditation quality standards, accounting accreditation requires the satisfaction of an additional set of accreditation standards that are specific to the discipline and profession of accounting.

“The faculty, administrative personnel, and students within the Troy University School of Accountancy are extremely excited to be recognized by AACSB International as an accounting program that meets the high standards of this accrediting body,” said Dr. Steve Grice, Director of the School of Accountancy. “This is an honor that adds value to every accounting degree earned by our alumni as well as those that will be earned by our current and future students. This is great time to be associated with the Troy University Sorrel College of Business and its School of Accountancy.”

THE ALABAMA Gazette

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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Montgomery County Alabama Sheriff's Office

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Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

Sheriff's Office Promotions

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Staff of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office hosted a promotional ceremony honoring the accomplishments of our men and women, who excel above and beyond the call of duty!



Pictured to the left are...
 Back Row: Montgomery County Commissioners
 (from left to right)
 Commissioner Dan Harris,
 Commissioner Doug Singleton,
 Chairman Elton Dean,
 Commissioner Isaiah Sankey

Front Row: Montgomery County Detention Facility Promotions
 (from left to right)
 Lt. Rhonda Blair,
 Lt. Oscar Richardson,
 Sgt. Shanerica Johnson,
 Sgt. Kimberly Mims-Harris,
 Sgt. Venechia Roberson,
 Cpl. Marendra Peck-Gardner,
 Cpl. James Moton,
 Cpl. Jeffrey Gouridine

Back Row: Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Enforcement Promotions
 (from left to right)
 Sgt. Jeff Davis,
 Lt. Jeremy Clemons,
 Lt. Fred Johnson,
 Cpl. Dewayne Ferguson,
 Sgt. David Alford,
 Sgt. Allen Pouncey,
 Cpl. Jonathan Lucas,
 Cpl. Chris Jones,
 Cpl. Troy Arnold,
 Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

Front Row: Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Enforcement Promotions
 (from left to right)
 Cpl. Thomas Mathews,
 Sgt. Ben Harrison,
 Major Gayle Atchison,
 Cpl. Kim Moron,
 Cpl. Roy Foster,
 Cpl. Abate Desta,
 Capt. Wes Richerson.



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Firearms Familiarization Course

Register NOW for any of our 2019 Firearms Familiarization Courses!

2019 Course Dates:

**March 9
 April 6
 June 8
 July 13**

**August 10
 September 7
 October 12**

We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world.

We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. The class is held at our Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and is **FREE** to Montgomery County residents! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

Course Requirements:

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



Pistol Permit Questions?

334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?

Lisa Crenshaw@mc-ala.org

334.832.1339

Your safety is our primary concern; therefore, we ask that you do not bring children to this class.

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 sheriff"
- OR**
- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
 - Click "Notifications"
 - Turn on "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

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

Support Your Local Law Enforcement!!

AUTAUGA COUNTY



Autauga County Alabama SHERIFF'S OFFICE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.autaughsheriff.org

162 W 4th St, Prattville, AL
(334) 361-2500



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

Important Contact Information

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162 West Fourth Street
Prattville, AL 36067-3049
Phone: (334) 361-2500

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Metro Jail.....	334-361-2600
Drug Enforcement.....	334-361-2540
Secret Witness.....	334-361-3803
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The Corrections Division of the Autauga County Sheriff's Office is responsible for housing incarcerated persons who are awaiting trial, or have been sentenced to serve time in the county facility. The Autauga Metro Jail also houses inmates arrested by the county's municipal police departments as well, including the City of Prattville and Town of Autaugaville.

The Corrections Division processes approximately 3400 inmates in and out of the jail annually, and maintains an average population of 160. There are 39 staff members assigned to the Metro Jail. The staff, headed by Jail Warden Captain Larry Nixon, is dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for inmates, as well as for visitors to the facility. It is our goal to treat everyone in a respectful and professional manner.



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201 Gin Shop Hill Road
Prattville, AL 36067

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Mark Thompson
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Desk Sergeant 334-595-0208
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TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Years and Laughter:

The American Dream Is Achievable, But It Requires Sobriety And Both Hands

By Amanda Walker

There seems to be a recurring subject in the headlines from various news outlets over the last few weeks concerning the American dream. Evidently it is out of reach, not available to everyone, and otherwise unattainable.

I had to look it up to see what it has even become. I feel like it keeps changing. Growing up I didn't have a dream. Mine was more of a goal. I wanted out. I marked the last 5 months of my senior year of high school off the calendar like a prisoner. I walked on the stage and got my diploma. I shook the man's hand, waved to everybody, and was out of town by midnight.

It was by coincidence that it happened on my eighteenth birthday. I considered it a fine ending and a great beginning. From that day forward, I thought I was living the American dream. I was broke, and was working 60 to 65 hours a week plus carrying a 20 hour schedule at college in a city where I didn't know my way around yet, but I thought I was living it. If I wanted to stop for Krystal burgers at midnight, I could. I called it freedom.

This was several years before so many Americans evolved into having to hold a smart phone in one hand and a touchscreen vape in the other.

The changes didn't happen overnight. American writer Lewis Grizzard used to say mixed doubles were replacing sex in the eighties, and before that it was writer James Trunslow Adams who first defined the idea of the American dream saying, "Life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement regardless of social class or circumstances of birth."

We all know it is not quite so simple as that. Life can be cruel and is usually unfair. Teachers can vouch for this. Every morning when the children gather in classrooms it is clear that some parents are a little more concerned about their kids being prepared to achieve the American dream than others. Poverty is one thing. But kids showing up from homes where dads are absent and moms are strung-out on meth is another. Children are likely not going to exceed even the lowest of expectations when the abusive voices from home are louder in their minds than the instruction being given in front of them. Even in ideal conditions, dreams that come true aren't given out like vaccines down at the health department.

The American dream is similar to dreams in all the other sovereign countries of the world in that it requires getting an education or learning a skill, it requires not quitting, it requires not getting a habit or substance abuse issue that takes you completely out of the pursuit or makes you have to start over – over and over again. It is probably also best on the road to making dreams coming true to try and not get multiple DUIs, divorces, or credit cards – not for any moral reason, but because none of them are cheap.

A lot of times, before realizing our dreams it may be necessary to first just reach a point of security where the freedom to make personal choices is possible – as opposed to just getting by. Dreams come true when you make the right choices all of the time. It has to become a lifestyle.

In *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote that those who pursue the American dream can never be satisfied or fully content because it involves continually reaching for more than we already have. I don't know if that is true, but the American dream is not going to fall into your world like a miracle. It takes a sober-minded plan, dedication...and often the use of both hands.



Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms.Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits...

“Persevere!”

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

Hi Friends! I hope this second month of the new year is finding you well. As a rule (my own rule), I tend to not share deeply personal stuff publicly. At the beginning of the year, God laid on my heart to share a post on social media about challenges that my husband, Brian, and I have been and are currently facing. I feel as if these

words flowed straight through me. I just had to keep up with typing! Isn't God awesome?!?!

Although, no details are shared, I feel that many people can relate to this powerful message. So, with Brian's blessings and without further a due, here we go....

“The past several years have tried to break us...much loss, pain, sadness, illness...such a spirit of heaviness. Some still too difficult to share. As Brian and I have walked through this difficult season in our lives, we have found out who is truly for us and has our backs. We have also met some pretty awesome people along the way. We are truly grateful for all of those who come along side of us to lend an ear, say a kind word of encouragement, lend a shoulder to cry on and so much more. Each of you are very special to us. We, also, have been reminded that there truly is a silver lining in every challenge....even if you have to look real hard for it sometimes.

Just like the caterpillar changes into a beautiful butterfly, I feel that perhaps all that we have been through serves as a catalyst for change in our lives....like a becoming or unveiling or maybe even an awakening so that we can live our best lives yet! May the tears of the past be the harvest of our future.

Some of you reading this may be able to relate. Please know that you are not alone. May we all have blessings of faith, hope, peace, joy, and love now and always ♥”

Thank you for allowing me to share these heartfelt words. My hope is, just as I do, you too will find encouragement.

James 1:2-4 tells us, *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”*

Many Blessings & Much Love!

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Director of Ministry Operations

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By Hannah Wilkinson
Johnson, Founder
LIFT Ministries

Seasonal Reasoning

To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under Heaven.

“I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.” Proverbs 16:17

October 28, 2015 I heard Him speaking to me. In my time of prayer, just as He often times does, He was speaking over my words. Loudly, boldly as to get my attention. “Read it, write it, speak it.” These are the words He spoke to me. “Women’s ministry. Seminary.” This was the commandment He gave me. I silenced this ridiculous thought. How in the world could God possibly use me to further His kingdom? A sinner. Just another ole Rahab. Pure and utter senselessness on my part. There is NO way He would call me to such a grand platform. This must be some sort of crazy manifestation of a dream I’ve concocted in my mind. But wait, I know this isn’t what I wanted to be when I grew up. I never played dress up like a preacher lady. I’m from the south and preachin is for the menfolk. The disciples led by example, but so did Mary Magdalene. Though I don’t feel as I have ever been possessed by the devil in the literal sense, there have been times where the devil led my life, just as he did in Mary Magdalene’s life. If He can use her to glorify His name, He can use me.

October 28, 2015, a day I’ll never forget, is the day I felt God breathe life back into a soul who was searching for an answer. It is also the day I began begging. Begging and pleading for Him to take this nonsense away from me. I began to pray for discernment. I tried to humble myself as Jesus had done, and laid face down on the floor and begged God from a place I felt couldn’t get any lower. If this wasn’t of God and was of man and was of the devil, that He would silence this idea and show me the path I was to walk down. How ridiculous that I would ever think that God could use me in this way. I began to immerse myself in His word. I read the Bible constantly. I prayed for hours a day. I talked to God. I begged and pleaded with Him. I listened and I wrote. I loved God on a whole different level than I had ever loved Him before. I sought Him every second of the day and in everything I saw and did. I began to pray everyday for God to specifically put me in uncomfortable positions, that I would have the opportunity to minister to people and be unashamed of Him. It became my mission and job. My baptismal vocation. He answered my prayers daily. He always gave me that daily heavenly ordained opportunity.

March 12, 2016 In an utter state of confusion and having this overwhelming sense of urgency and a desire to push away these thoughts I had been fighting for 4.5 months, I turned on my computer at work; at a job that I absolutely loved and felt that would be my next step in life permanently. There it was. A verse. The verse. The verse forever etched in my heart. Another heavenly validation.

“Therefore my brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure.” 2 Peter 1:10

There it was on the screen that had only moments before been black and without power. It didn’t make sense, but it plainly spoke loud and clear to me. Matter of factly, it gave me the answer to the question to which I had already known the answer. He told me what I was to do in October, I just didn’t listen and have the trust in Him that I needed to make my calling and election sure. Or maybe the months I had used to study His word and grow to know Him more were just stepping stones in the journey to making my calling sure. I’m not sure exactly how it was all supposed to work out, but God does and my faith is in Him, not myself. In relation to Matt getting the job and the 3 months that led up to that point I was in a state of the unknown. I didn’t have a clue where we would be. I didn’t know the outcome of the future, but I did have this peaceful knowledge that God had given me through prayer, that we would not be in the same place for the upcoming season. I loved UL and the people and the kids, but I knew God plucked me out of my comfort zone in Andalusia and dropped me into a place, where besides work (and one other precious soul) I didn’t have anyone to talk to or be friends with besides Jesus. Humility was on God’s agenda for me during those 10 months. I got a healthy dose of it. Long story short, I began praying that God would make a way for us and that He would begin to prepare the hearts of the people in whatever town we would be in next. That God would make them accepting of our family and the Word we would bring. That they would be accepting of our ministry to them, whatever that may be. I never



prayed to go anywhere specific, just where He led. So, as He always does, He fulfills His promises to us. He made the path incredibly easy. He allowed us to be shown without a shadow of a doubt where we would raise our family. Where we would begin my ministry. I didn’t see this aspect as clearly as I do now. I yet again fought what He told me to do. I tried to justify His calling in saying I would go back and get masters in special education and then maybe I should go into Christian counseling. I tried so hard to take His commandments in my life and make them into something relevant and relatable to a Christ filled path. I couldn’t even look at the course work because I found myself looking on websites of seminary schools. It was like He was saying to me, “you aren’t going to school to do anything other than what I have commanded you to do.” We got settled so to speak in July(not completely) and as the kids began school and football kicked off I began to feel His push again. I began to once again feel this insatiable desire to read His word and act on what He commanded. I had gotten in a funk the months prior and was feeling out of place again, like I wasn’t fulfilling His commandments in my life. In August I began to be convicted again, but this time with a little more gusto from God. When I woke up I would hear Him say to me repeatedly before my feet hit the floor, Luke 4:12 Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” I know this was Him reminding me that He has commanded me to do His works and I hadn’t taken the proper steps. It scared me. It scared me because I began to worry that He was going to start taking things away from me if I didn’t answer Him. He is a God of love, but also wrath. So, I began to pray for an opportunity in the community to arise that I would be able to be around like-minded people. That I would be given an opportunity to begin my ministry, small at first and as God desires, that it would reach as far as the east is from the west. I was given an opportunity to work at a local church. I know God ordained this opportunity for me to learn and be led. I was so honored to be given the opportunity, that I prayed for, to work with the community in ministry. This job opportunity is an answered prayer.

I spoke of this inner turmoil to someone out loud the other day regarding God’s wrath and my overwhelming sense of urgency to begin His work now. The devil heard me and I felt the him working against me. I also felt God overpowering the devil. I felt this desire for others to tell me I’m doing that right thing. God showed me that I didn’t need the acceptance and the validation from others, because He already given it to me. It has been an incredible experience the past two weeks, being in the midst of this war and seeing God prevail as He always does. There have been countless instances that God has tried to show me and I just didn’t get it, but I have finally submitted to God completely in this area. I feel like I can finally breathe again. I’m at peace knowing what my future holds because God promised me and I have faith.

“Riches and honor are with me, ensuring wealth and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice, granting an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasures.” Proverbs 16:18-21

God is so faithful to us in our prayers and our continuous seeking Him. I am learning to be obedient to Him. So, as I dive into His word again with the insatiable desire to know Him more, I now see His plan for me finally manifesting into something greater than I could’ve ever imagined.

“Therefore my brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure.” 2 Peter 1:10

I no longer ask Him to take this thought from my heart. I no longer believe that I am unworthy. I do not sit back and watch the devil try and steal my joy. I long to love God more. I long to feel His embrace. I long to lead others to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ by being His vessel. I long to have no human accolade, but that in all things the glory be given to whom it is owed, our Heavenly Father. I do not work to be seen, but yet to share His love as that of an innocent child or a faceless servant. I long only for Him to be given praise. I will never, in my human flesh, be enough to save anyone. That is the work of our Lord.



HEART LINKS

16th

Women’s Praise & Worship Night
February 22, 2019

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Speaker: Janeese Spencer
Director of Venture Life Coaching
Montgomery, AL

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Realtor ~ Brenda Herbaugh
Office Manager ~ Cindy Little
Social Media/Technical Support ~ Hunter George



Judge
Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for February

by Peggy Givhan

By the time February rolls around each year, there seems to be a reawakening. Bulbs shoot forth and flowering trees come out of what I term hibernation. Montgomery and the surrounding counties will soon have the appearance of a fairyland of flowers shrubs, trees and bulbs. Pansies planted last fall will perk up and bloom along with snap dragons, and dianthus. We should be seeing evidence of poppies

forming tiny gray-green clusters close to the ground. Nurseries should be stocked soon with Japanese magnolias, flowering quince, roses, wisteria, forsythia, crab apple, pittosporum and other spring bloomers. These can still be planted and will bloom in late spring. Also, it is not too late to plant daffodils. You need to make your purchases now, and plant them. Daffodils do not require much depth in planting, just about a couple of inches of soil spread over the bulb is enough. If you place them in existing beds, know that after blooming, the leaves will have to die back so that they can be nourished and thus multiply. There is a bulb fertilizer which has a main ingredient of bone meal. The down side of the bone meal is that it attract squirrels, and dogs. So, if you dig the fertilizer into the soil prior to placing the bulbs, this may thwart the animals. As an additional precaution, spread a light layer of pine straw over the location of the bulbs in order to hide them even more.

PLANT OF THE MONTH -- FLOWERING QUINCE (Chaenomeles speciosa)

Even the most hardened brown thumb will find success with this shrub. Totally indestructible is one description noted on Flowering Quince. It is the harbinger of spring and usually is in bloom after Ground Hog Day. When I tout this shrub as being something for everything and everybody, it is true. It will tolerate any soil type, sun or shade, extreme temperatures, and will thrive with neglect. This plant pairs well with daffodils and other ground covers. Also, as I am singing its praises, it makes a wonderful cut flower and can even be pruned by a chain saw and appear to never miss a beat. To propagate, in the spring, just root in water or rooting soil, and it can be divided. The intense color variety can not be beat--reds, fuchsia, pink, and two-toned variegated colors. One easy to raise herb that has many culinary uses, remember some herbs

are used purely for medicinal purposes, are Chives. A must for most herbs beds which mix well with parsley, marjoram, thyme dill and basil. The thin grass like leaves can be taken straight from the garden to pot so to speak. I use no pesticides in my gardens, so just rinsing them off and snipping into the stew, soup, sour cream for a heavenly dip, and what is better than cream cheese and chives finger sandwiches. Chives can be frozen and when thawed, taste like they have just been picked. Chives thrive in the garden setting and in pots, do great in rock gardens, and make a wonderful border plant for the flower garden. They do prefer dry soil conditions, but will tolerate some moisture. What a wonderful pass along plant. To divide, just dig out a clump. They do multiply quite rapidly and should be thinned over the years.



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START MONTH



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GET YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT STATEMENT (SSA-1099)

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A Social Security 1099 is a tax form Social Security mails each year in January to people who receive Social Security benefits. It shows the total amount of benefits you received from Social Security in the previous year so you know how much Social Security income to report to the IRS on your tax return.

If you live in the United States and you need a replacement form SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S, simply go online and request an instant, printable replacement form through your personal my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

A replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S is available for the previous tax year after February 1.

If you already have a my Social Security account, you can log in to your online account to view and print your SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S. If you don’t have access to a printer, you can save the document on your computer or laptop or even email it. If you don’t have a my Social Security account, creating one is very easy to do and usually takes less than 10 minutes.

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- Change your address and phone number;
- Change your direct deposit information;
- Request a replacement Medicare card; or
- Report your wages if you work and receive Social Security disability insurance or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.



If you’re a noncitizen who lives outside of the United States and you received or repaid Social Security benefits last year, we will send you form SSA-1042S in the mail. The forms SSA-1099 and SSA-1042S are not available for people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

With a personal my Social Security account, you can do much of your business with us online, on your time, like get a copy of your SSA-1099 form. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov to find out more.



Dr. John Bitter, Editor
Senior Section

Gazette Seniors...

New Year, New You?

A mind is a terrible thing to waste, and senior citizens these days are taking the old saying to heart. With more and more seniors taking the leap and enrolling in what are affectionately known as “*encore educations*” it stands to wonder, could we take note and follow?

There is a group of Americans that are furthering their education, some more than 50 years after they threw their caps in the air in celebratory fashion. There are a few things that factor into the choice to return to school. From staying competitive in the work force to second chapter careers or creating new challenges and learning new things to simply fulfilling a life long goal, there are many reasons the seniors of today are going to college. Would you take this giant leap of faith and expand your knowledge by returning to the classroom? According to www.hechingerreport.org “Peller’s organization is pushing the federal government to make the rules for receiving a Pell grant more flexible for older learners. These learners, Viar points out, are likely to increase, as the U.S. population grows considerably older. Higher education experts say it’s key to consider the needs of older college students when looking for ways to increase enrollment, retention and completion.”

For more information on furthering your education if you are a senior please visit:
educationconnection.com/Federal-Grants/PursueEducation
www.aarp.org

The US Department of Education



Picture courtesy of www.thefw.com

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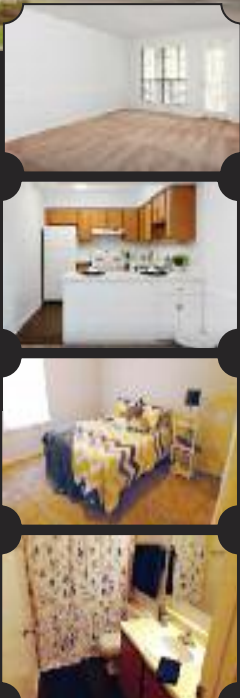
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Southern Cuisine

If you are a visual learner and would like to watch some of the best shows on the television for learning or to fine hone cooking skills, I found shows that fit the bill. **America’s Test Kitchen** and **Cook’s Country** are both very good shows. They both have their own magazines, cookbooks, and streaming services. They both can get expensive the more you get involved with the programs. **Good Eats** with Alton Brown has been a long running show even to the point that Alton has updated his early shows with a new series. Alton uses cinematographic techniques to the hilt in his explanations on how and why food taste and cook certain ways. I have three of his cookbooks and his apron.



A chef that has been on TV for a while is Jamie Oliver. His new show is Jamie’s 15-minute meals. I have watched many of his earlier shows and liked them. As of the time I am writing this article, I have not seen this show.

A chef friend of mine has seen it and tried soon of the meals and is amazed how well they taste and that you can prepare them in close to 15 minutes. **Tom Kerridge’s Proper Pub Food** is also one of my favorite shows. Tom and his pub have the distinction of being the first pub to earn a Michelin Star and a year later being the first pub to earn a second star. His show is just that, Proper Pub food. His recipes are not complicated but some of the ingredients will be a challenge to find. The last show on the list is any show that has Jacques Papin in it. He has appeared with Julia Child on TV and in joint cookbooks, has had his own shows, and has written many books. One of his books, **La Technique**, An **Illustrated Guide to the Fundamental Techniques of Cooking** was one of the books I used as I was training to be a chef.

These are some of the more conventional shows on TV. For some unconventional shows that are entertaining and somewhat instructional, try YouTube. I have not dwelled into all of the videos available, there are too many, and many are not worth your time. A few people have large followings and are noteworthy. One chef is Donal Skehan. He has 773,000 subscribers and 436 videos. One of his most watched videos is “*How to make a basic tomato sauce*”. It has had 986,935 views. The video is only three minutes long and you can make the sauce in 10 to 15 minutes.

There seems to be a trend with some of the new TV shows and the YouTube videos and even watching a commercial while watching a cooking show, and that is speed. Rachael Ray comes to my mind when one takes about how fast you can cook a meal. Many home cooks tried to prepare her meals in thirty minutes and many failed. There is another chef on TV, that has an “energetic persona and expert culinary skills”, Spencer Watts. His show “**Spencer’s 30**” has a new twist. He prepares a meal in thirty minutes for four people for thirty dollars.

My concern with these shows and there quick fixes, is that, as with Spencer, the chefs that can produce a quick meal are seasoned chefs. Excuse the pun. They have the skills and knowledge to bring together the subtle tastes and smells and flavors from the food being prepared and can do it quickly. Most have worked in restaurants and trained under a well-known chef. Moreover, if you look further into the meals and the recipes, you will find that there is only one item that is cooked. The rest are fresh ingredients that are tossed together and a quick three-ingredient dressing is mixed in.

I did not work in a restaurant. I was a banquet chef that prepared large amounts of food for a party two to three days out, and some of the items were brined or marinated for at least 12 hours and the sauces were made from stocks and demi-glace that were cooking for days. The demi-glace alone took 80 pounds of veal shanks and took three days to produce maybe 10 pounds of a dark rich smooth product. I am not saying that coating a piece of fish with mayonnaise, crushed potato chips, melted butter, dill, and parsley and baking it for twelve minutes doesn't produce a tasty and quick meal. However, there is more to preparing a meal for your family and friends than seeing how fast you can fix it. Remember this come Valentine’s Day while you are preparing a meal to impress your significant other.

Besides a source of entertainment, YouTube does have some excellent teaching videos. The last two videos I watched were how to replace the circuit board of a dishwasher and replace the clutch assembly on a washing machine. Not very exciting, but both appliances now work.

A friend of mine, David, sent me a link to a YouTube video called “**What's Eating Dan?**”

The video is about mushrooms and how we are cooking them the wrong way. A few tips from the piece is that you can wash mushrooms to clean them if the gills of the mushrooms are closed and should cook them in water first before adding oil. You will understand after watching the video.

Since we are on the topic of mushrooms, I decided to try several recipes with mushrooms. This is your chance to try different mushrooms and different cooking methods. When buying mushrooms check for freshness, no bruises or black spots and a popular method to store for about three days, place in a paper bag in the refrigerator. The cooking methods are similar to the video about mushrooms I mentioned earlier. The first recipe follows the guidelines from the video for cooking mushrooms. This recipe and the next are good for sides in meals with roasts or steaks. The third recipe is a complete meal.

CARAMELIZED MUSHROOMS

INGREDIENTS

- One ½ tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound mushrooms, older samples with slightly opened and darkened gills.
- 3 ounces peeled and thinly sliced shallots
- One tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley
- ½-teaspoon salt
- ½-teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

METHOD:

1. Heat oil in a skillet with a lid. When it is hot, add the mushrooms, and cook them covered over medium heat for twenty to twenty-five minutes, until all of the liquid that emerges from them has evaporated and the mushrooms are nicely browned.
2. Add the shallots to the skillet and sauté them uncovered for two to three minutes until they are soft and brown.
3. Add the butter, parsley, salt, and pepper and sauté for 10 seconds longer and serve immediately.



The next recipe will take some time to prepare due to the recipe calling for older and larger mushrooms with slightly opened gills. There will be a good

deal of moisture to evaporate before the mushroom will brown from cooking.

This recipe is also good to use in omelets or a topping for hamburgers. The last recipe is for a complete meal. When I first saw this recipe, all I could think

ROASTED MUSHROOMS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ pounds of wild mushrooms, your choice, be adventurous and try something other than white button, such as shiitake, oyster, morels, and Portobello, ends trimmed and cleaned
- One medium onion, finely chopped.
- Two garlic cloves smashed.
- Two juniper berries, crushed and can be found in the spice section of most grocery stores.
- ¼ teaspoon dried thyme
- Two tablespoons dry white wine
- 1-tablespoon olive oil



- 1-teaspoon cognac
- ½-teaspoon kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

METHOD:

1. Pre-heat oven to 375*
2. Cut the mushrooms lengthwise and into smaller pieces that still resemble the original shape.
3. Combine the mushrooms, onion, garlic, juniper berries, and thyme in an ovenproof casserole dish. Mix the wine, cognac, and oil in a dish, pour over the mushrooms, and toss to coat. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Cover the casserole dish with foil and roast for 35 to 40 minutes until the mushrooms are tender and there is no more liquid in the dish. If needed uncover to evaporate the rest of the liquid.
5. Continue to roast until slightly browned and toss with remaining oil.

Use in a recipe that calls for roasted mushrooms such as a roast or steaks. Serves four.

of was shrimp and grits. However, it sounds more refined if called polenta instead of grits. Nevertheless, there is a difference between polenta and grits. I will let you Google it. In addition, this recipe can be served as a meatless main course.

A ragout is a thick stew of vegetables and/or meats.

POLENTA with MUSHROOM RAGOUT

INGREDIENTS

- Polenta
- 2 cups water
- ½ cup yellow cornmeal
- ¼-teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper (for polenta and for grits I prefer ground white pepper. It does not look like you have some unknown species in your food)
- Mushroom Ragout
- One tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1-tablespoon peanut oil
- 1 small onion peeled and chopped (about ½ cup)
- 5 ounces of mushroom (your choice) cut into ½-inch pieces (2 cups)
- 3 cloves garlic finely chopped and crushed
- One ¼ cups plum tomatoes, seeded cut into ½ inch pieces



- 1-cup sweet corn (fresh, canned, or frozen)
- ½ cup chicken stock (lower salt is better)
- ¼-teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives

METHOD:

Polenta: Bring the water to a boil in a medium saucepan. While whisking sprinkle the cornmeal in. Add salt and pepper. Bring mixture to a boil, reduce to low, and cover to prevent splattering. Cook gently for 6 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally, until polenta is the consistency of a creamy puree. Set aside covered.

Mushroom ragout:

Heat the butter and oil in a large saucepan. When hot add onion and sauté for 30 seconds. Add mushrooms and sauté over high heat for about two minutes, until the liquid emerges and evaporates. Add the garlic, tomatoes, corn, stock, salt, and pepper, bring to a strong boil, and then reduce heat to medium and cook for an additional 2-3 minutes.

To serve, ladle the polenta into the center of shallow soup bowls, and pour the ragout on top, dividing it among the bowls. Sprinkle with the chives and serve. Serves four

I realized why all of a sudden, mushrooms were on my mind. With all the rain we have had, my yard looks like fairy playground. Mushrooms of all different sizes and type are sprouting up everywhere. The real problem is I dare not eat any of them. Remember all mushrooms are edible but some only once in a lifetime.

Falling in love is like eating mushrooms, you never know if it is the real thing until it is too late.

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Home Town Community News

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to

alabamagazette@gmail.com

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



Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Congratulations!!



John Killough

Patricia, John's wife, surprised him with a taco luncheon after church on Sunday, January 13th at Woodland UMC.

A large group helped him celebrate his 70th January 14, 2019.

He was truly surprised!!

Happy 90th Birthday

Gwen Pearson celebrated her January 8th, 90th birthday on Saturday, January 5, 2019.

A brunch was given by her family at the Montgomery Country Club.

The celebration was enjoyed by all in attendance.



80th Birthday Celebration!



Alva Chandler

Alva was 80 on Friday, January 18, 2019.

His wife Linda, held an "Open House" for him in their home on Saturday, January 19, 2019 to celebrate.

The party was attended by his family and friends.

Happy Anniversary

- 14 Gordon & Vicki Davis
Clark & Anita Jones
Josh & Jamie McCandless
16 Gordon & Becky Burton (40th)
20 Chuck & Susan Gambrell
Hayden & Dee Ward

- 21 Tom & Bettye Garlington
Gilbert & Ethel Sellers (63rd)
22 Jerry & Debra Morrison (34th)
28 Pat & Butch Moseley (60th)

Congratulations!!



Rev. Gary & Jerri Burton

50th Anniversary
Reverend Gary and Jerri Burton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 27, 2018.

He is the senior pastor and has been at Pintlala Baptist Church since 1972.

February Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Sara Margaret Auerbach | Randy Smith |
| George Evans | 17 Brian Betz |
| Mary Johnson | William L. Carl (82nd) |
| 2 Thelma Alexander | Chuck Glasscock (55th) |
| Brewer Box | Kathi Farley |
| Shelby Smith | Willa Faye Munson |
| Alvin Turner | Anastasia Meadow Takacs (3rd) |
| 3 Del Atkinson | Gavin Noah Takacs (3rd) |
| Pam Pouncey | Alice Tyson |
| Sybil Foshee | Jean Warren |
| Helen Lankford | 18 Chip Norris |
| Genye Messick | Kermit Paramore |
| Wayne Robinson | 19 Anita Jones |
| 4 Paige Box | Barbara Pugh |
| Anna Haigler Johnson | Chuck Lear |
| Helen Rahn Millican | Dawn Johnson |
| 5 Peggy Agent | 20 Ann Moore |
| Jean Fuller | Hayden Ward |
| Cruise Johnson | Todd Windham |
| Beth Norris | 21 Victoria L. Carl (19th) |
| Lila Webster | Alyssa Lear |
| 6 Amanda Edwards | Jessica Burgess |
| Morgan Lee Madison (8th) | Jerrell Campbell |
| Donna Spradley | Jane Russell |
| 7 Rhonda Black | Shirley Yarbrough |
| Mary Helen Fleming | 22 Ellen Adcock |
| Shelvie Freeman | Douglas Evans (69th) |
| Rick Marshall | Jean Finlayson |
| Rodney Powell | Hettie H. Harrington |
| 8 John Barnes | Tim Meadows |
| Claudine Nobles | Willie Stephens |
| Sharon Owens | 23 Dorothy Bennett |
| Janet Phillips | Virgil Culpepper |
| Abigail Roux | Bill Duncan (96th) |
| 9 Lori Meadows | Nathan Horsley |
| Lucille Wilson | Ann Spheres |
| 10 Jim Soule | 24 Katherine Andrews |
| Mittie B. Stockman (92nd) | Cheryl Jarrell |
| Jeanne Villar | 25 Bettye Garlington |
| 11 Glen Hataway | John Higgins |
| Steve Law | Lewis Mulleck |
| Earline Wood | Shanny Sansom |
| 12 Jean Cantey (90th) | Willie Pearl Shepherd |
| Chas Hammock (10th) | 26 Erma Dillard |
| 13 Susan Gambrell | Cassidy Gwin |
| Dot Hill | Dean Moore |
| 14 Nancy Andrews | Carolyn Watson |
| Carolyn Bowden | 27 Portia Goss |
| Michael Coker | Evans Hartzog |
| Lyda Crowe | Jamie Hall |
| Drew Martin | Mary Horton |
| Hamil Martin | Carol Spencer |
| Dorothy Sparrow | 28 Joy Carlisle |
| Zac Swearingen | Mary Daniels |
| 15 Mildred Durden | Debi Nowakowski |
| Mike Green | Weldon Payne |
| Nancy Rabren | Charlene Schofield |
| Susan Terrell | Freddie Oswalt |
| 16 James Ellis Fleming (13th) | 29 Mandy Azar |
| Joan Kirk | |
| Clark Jones | |



Justin Cody McCurdy and Landon Keith Reed

Jones, AL in Autauga County, are so proud of two of their young men who have just finished Basic Training.

Justin Cody McCurdy, Army National Guard
Son of Sheila and John McCurdy

Landon Keith Reed, United States Marine Corps
Son of Nancy and Keith Reed.

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William James Peiffer - January 3, 2019
Joan Perkins - January 3, 2019
Thomas Lafayette London, Sr. - January 3, 2019
Dorlous Mae Gates - January 4, 2019
Infant Addisyn Dickerson Smith - January 4, 2019
William Floyd Quillin - January 7, 2019
Valerie Marie Bechard - January 11, 2019
William Larry Martin - January 12, 2019
Leslie Greer McLean, Sr. - January 13, 2019
Michael Ray Thornton - January 16, 2019
Deborah Elizabeth Hall - January 18, 2019
Dr. Noel Clayton Walker - January 19, 2019
James McLeod Meadows - January 21, 2019
Mary Jeanette Welden - January 24, 2019
Billy Joe Lumpkin - January 25, 2019
Karen Denise Massey Maddaloni - January 26, 2019
Thomas Michael McGough - January 28, 2019
Mrs. Johnnie Marie Edwards - January 29, 2019
Stephen Douglas Sills - January 30, 2019

Judy Eloise Bailey Pugh A Woman of Grace

Hope Hull - Pugh, Judy Bailey, 75, was a Loving Wife, Mother, Mother-in-law and "MeMaw, as expressed by her loving family". She went to be with her Lord on January 22, 2019.



She was preceded in death by her parents Eloise Y. and Walter P. Bailey and an infant son, Joe Curtis Pugh, Jr. She is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Joe Curtis Pugh; her daughters, Samantha Pugh Casey (Todd) and Angelique Pugh; granddaughters, Hannah and Bethany Casey.

Born Judy Eloise Bailey on August 16, 1943, in Selma, Alabama. She was raised in McWilliams, Alabama by her widowed mother, along with her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Youngblood, Sr.

She was a member of Hope Hull United Methodist Church where she attended for over 40 years. She was a dedicated 23-year employee of the Montgomery Teachers/Tri-Rivers Federal Credit Union. She faced many personal challenges through the years

from serving as a military wife during Vietnam, the death of her first-born child in 1968, and a devastating house fire in 1983. Through all life's many trials, she always persevered with a strong love of the Lord and her family.

The family would like to give a special thanks to the many staff members of Kindred Hospice who provided such wonderful care during her illness.

Visitation was held on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at Hope Hull United Methodist Church, Hope Hull, AL. A Celebration of Life Service was held 11:00am Friday, January 25, 2019 at Hope Hull United Methodist Church. Burial followed at Hills Chapel Cemetery in Ramer, AL.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Ussery, III, Robert Casterline "Trip" (41).....died December 19, 2018
Sawada, Ben (89).....died December 21, 2018
Coleman, Sr., Dr. Floyd W. (79).....died December 30, 2018
Copeland, Elizabeth Rost (88).....died January 2, 2019
Strickland, Judith Ann Adams (80).....died January 5, 2019
Perry, Jule Wilson Willis (101).....died January 6, 2019
Williams, Randall Earl (76).....died January 6, 2019
Mellert, LaNola Bragg (82).....died January 7, 2019
Kamburis, Eleftheria Mellos "Ria".....died January 10, 2019
Horton, Wallace F. "Buck" (94).....died January 11, 2019
Brooks, Sara "Cooter" Sprague (91).....died January 13, 2019
Marks, Frances Keyton "Kitty" (97).....died January 13, 2019
Cobb, Charles Hugh (86).....died January 16, 2019
Little, Elizabeth "Betty" Marvin (92).....died January 16, 2019
Sinquefield, Ruth Reid (88).....died January 16, 2019
Allie, Jerry Lamar (83).....died January 17, 2019
Seabrooks, Emma Jean Athey (96).....died January 17, 2019
Zeigler, Marilyn Perkins (68).....died January 17, 2019
Benton, William Michael (73).....died January 18, 2019
Cobb, Velma Bing (89).....died January 18, 2019
Pitts, Margaret Anne Dean (100).....died January 18, 2019
Carlisle, June Marie McLain (88).....died January 20, 2019
Kohn, Edna Louise Brugh (87).....died January 20, 2019
Waites, Inez Whetstone (106).....died January 20, 2019
Pugh, Judy Bailey "MeMaw" (75).....died January 22, 2019
Hall, Clyde Eugene "Jimmy" (90).....died January 27, 2019
Mathews, Roy.....died January 29, 2019



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