

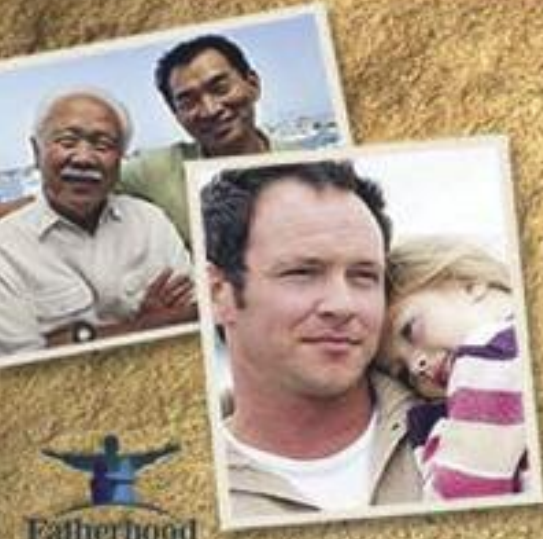


Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12

June 18, 2017



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## 2017 Regular Session of Alabama Legislature... What was Accomplished?



The end of the legislative season could not come soon enough for most Alabamians. As the gavel struck sine die (without further meeting) on Friday May 19th, many legislators, lobbyists and lay people left shaking their heads, some in disbelief, others in resignation, and a few with smiles on their faces. After a historic transition of leadership at the helm of state government, many feared what might transpire in the remaining time of this legislative session. However, what may be more important is what the legislature failed to address, that being the looming "prison crisis". The failure to shore up a plan to address the

- Act 321** Establishes non consensual towing vehicle charges by ALEA.
- Act 281** Creates a nondriver identification card for parolees.
- Act 284** Allows for a protective order in elder abuse cases and enhances penalties for violations.
- Act 279** Increases competitive bid law for The Department of Transportation contracts to \$50,000, all other state contracts \$10,000.
- HB 227** Provides legal immunity to one who rescues a child from a locked vehicle.
- HB 96** Criminalizes assisted suicides to a Class C felony and upon conviction face up to ten years in prison and be liable for civil damages.
- HB 98** Proposes a constitutional amendment to declare and affirm that it is the public policy of this state to support the sanctity of the unborn life and the rights of unborn children.
- Act 190** Expands the time for audit of credit unions from annually to 18 months.
- HB 95** Protects health care workers from liability for refusing to act if it violates their conscience.
- Act 132** Directs schools to administer a civics test that must be passed in order to graduate.
- HB 3** Allows non-resident college students to obtain resident hunting and fishing license.
- Act 66** Must knowingly engage in Medicaid fraud in order to be prosecuted within a six year period.
- Act 64** Extradition of alleged criminal can take place without an indictment from other state.
- Act 278** Called the Sunucate Bill removes the ban of over the counter sun screen from restricted medications prohibited at schools so as to protect students from harmful sun exposure.

lack of revenue for the general fund may be just as consequential. As the BP funds drop to zero next year, the Medicaid bills climb even higher. Some call this a perfect storm for a legislative basket turnover as voters may be forced to pay more and receive less from government. Governor Ivey weathered the squall with determination and finesse. She has signed a number of bills into law that will cement her legacy as a strong conservative and hard working executive.

According to the Alabama **LegiScan** website that monitors legislators across the country, Alabama's legislature passed a total of around 120 bills for Governor Ivey's signature. Some of the more highly visible new laws include:

- Act 2017-131** A judge may no longer override a jury's verdict in a capital murder case, **Section 13A-5-45. Signed April 11.** (Alabama was the only state in the nation that allowed the prior practice of allowing a judge to set aside the jury's verdict.) This Act was the first bill Governor Ivey signed into law.
- Act 417** The Fair Justice Act reduces the time for inmate appeals. The signing coincided with the execution of Thomas Arthur who had been on death row for 35 years. He was convicted for the murder of business man Troy Wicker. The appeals process for substantive and procedural issues would now run concurrently rather than consecutively. Presently, there are 188 death row inmates, only five are female. **Signed May 26.**
- HB 24** The State is prohibited from discriminating against child care service providers based on religious beliefs. **Signed May 3.** (LGBT groups opposed this Bill claiming faith based agencies could deny adoptions to gay couples based on religious beliefs)
- HB 284** The Act mandates insurance coverage for autism therapy. Caps were placed on coverage and it stops at age 18 and applies to companies with more than 50 employees. (Alabama was only one of five states that failed to provide some kind of coverage for autistic children.) **Signed May 19.**

**SB 129** The Special Education Trust Fund budget provides for 150 more teachers (grades 4-6), total expenditure, \$6.4 billion. **Signed May 19.**

**Act 354** This act prevents local governments from moving historical monuments on public property under most circumstances.

**Act 347 & 348** Reapportions Senate and House Districts pursuant to a Federal Court order.

Here are a few of the lesser known bills that passed that may have an impact on you if signed into law:

**Act 319** Relates to over the counter eyeglass purchases, regulating sales and enforcement.

Laws also changed in the following counties as relates to the local jurisdictions: Geneva, Tallapoosa, Sumter, Escambia, Hale, St. Clair, Jefferson, Randolph, Pickens, Franklin, Clay, Walker, Coffee, DeKalb, Marion County, Blount, Mobile, Washington, Shelby, Lowndes, Washington, Calhoun, Covington, Autauga, Baldwin, and Clay

Laws pertaining to military: **SB 22, 218, 203, 204, 97, 96.** All have been signed by the Governor.

For a full list of bills passed this session you may go to the Alabama Legislature website. <http://www.legislature.state.al.us/>

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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE **MARTHA**

**ROBY**

ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT



*Martha Roby represents Alabama's 2nd Congressional District. She lives in Montgomery, Alabama with her husband, Riley and her two children.*

## Roby Joins Ivanka Trump, Fellow Lawmakers at White House Listening Session on Human Trafficking

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-Ala.) joined a group of national leaders and lawmakers, including Ivanka Trump, at the White House for a listening session on human trafficking.

Since her recent assignment to the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Roby has made it a priority to address the growing problem of human trafficking. Last month the Committee approved Roby's bill, the Global Child Protection Act, which seeks to close loopholes in the law and crack down on global sex tourism. Roby thanked Ivanka Trump, her colleagues, and leaders from the Department of Justice for their focus on this issue and said she looks forward to working with them to address the problem for her constituents and all Americans.

"When I joined the Judiciary Committee this Congress, I made it clear that one of my top priorities is cracking down on human trafficking. This problem is very real, even in Alabama, as the stretch of highway between Birmingham and Atlanta is known to be a 'sex trafficking super highway.' Adults and children are being bought and sold as slaves in plain sight, and it is happening in our backyard. It is our responsibility to tackle this problem head-on," Roby said. "I appreciate the Trump Administration, and especially Ivanka Trump, for focusing on this issue and making it a priority. I look forward to working with this group of leaders to make a real difference with this terrible problem."

Other participants of today's listening session included House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Cal.), Senator Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), Representative Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), Representative Ed Royce (R-Cal.), Representative Susan Brooks (R-Ind.), Representative Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.), and others.



## ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

### WHERE IS A WINSTON CHURCHILL WHEN WE NEED HIM? AND YES, WE NEED HIM!!

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

I just returned from a 3-day trip, turned on the news and saw where 19 people have been killed at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England. Again, the sorrowful, cowardly words, "New Normal" raises its ugly head. No, I will not accept that. I won't. I can't. I refuse to. Anytime I go to the movies, a concert, the mall or out to dinner, I am supposed to have a reasonable expectation that I will get killed by some cretin with a grudge against the whole world? I DO NOT THINK SO!! Let me see, rapes and sexual assaults by the hundreds, cars burned by the thousands annually in France, indigenous Europeans told they cannot eat certain foods, wear certain clothes and heaven forbid they enter the well-known No-Go-Zones, people flattened by cars in several countries, and they too are expected to accept this life as their "new normal?" Heaven help us all if they ever get nuclear weapons.

The day after President Trump makes a speech about radical Islam while in Saudi Arabia and this happens. Coincidence? Like Gibbs from NCIS, I don't believe in them. Wake up people, there is an ever-growing hatred, a rabid evil that is spreading around the world and all most people want to do is look the other way. Most people only care about the latest I-Phone or other stupid gadget they can use to subdue their brains into unthinking, unproductive mush. Now more than any other time in the last 50+ years, we need men and women like a Winston Churchill to stand up and stand for something. Something of substance. Your family; your life; your culture; your people. Yes sports fans, there are some things that are worth fighting for and if you do not think so, find a hospital somewhere and see if they can surgically implant a backbone for you. This boorish behavior cannot be allowed to continue. What? Are we willing to hand the keys of our society over to those who have done nothing to create it and in no way respect it? Not me. Let's take a look at what Sir Winston Churchill had to say. Below is something I penned as my very first Robservation over six years ago. Still valid today? You betcha!!

#### Wars and Rumors of Wars

**In War: Resolution**  
**In Defeat: Defiance**  
**In Victory: Magnanimity**  
**In Peace: Good Will**

The time is quickly approaching in the war on terror where the stakes will increase exponentially. There are dozens of rogue nations and terrorist entities attempting to acquire nuclear weapons as a way of gaining political legitimacy or as a method of pushing their radical agendas throughout the world.

When I read the powerful words of the 20th Century's greatest statesman, Winston Churchill, I truly feel my inadequacy as a writer. He had a way of purporting the truth that could bring a chill down the spine of even the most hardened of opponents. Sir Isaiah Berlin wrote, "So hypnotic was the force of his word, so strong his faith, that by the sheer intensity of his eloquence he bound his spell upon [the British people]."

I took the liberty of quoting some of Churchill's most powerful speeches. Each quote, written over a half century ago, still rings true today. Substituting the words "communist," "neo-Fascist" and "Russian friends" with "Islamic fundamentalist" or "terrorists," and Churchill's words could have indeed been written specifically for crises now before us.

His words stand as unwavering principles that can neither be delegated nor ignored. We must be careful in allowing an enemy, one that continues to threaten the demise of an entire people (Israel among others), to obtain an arsenal of weapons that can directly challenge either our sovereignty or the survival of millions. If they (radical Islamists) do obtain such weapons, we must have a policy in place that clearly spells out "unacceptable" behavior and the consequences thereof. Read Churchill's words carefully, digest them conscientiously and meditate on them soulfully.

**[Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat: 13 May, 1940]** "You ask, what is our policy? I can say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny,

never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: It is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival. . . Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength."

**[Iron Curtain: 5 March 1946]** "It would nevertheless be wrong and imprudent to entrust the secret knowledge or experience of the atomic bomb, which the United States, Great Britain, and Canada now share, to the world organization, while it is still in its infancy. It would be criminal madness to cast it adrift in this still agitated and un-united world. No one in any county has slept less well in their beds because this knowledge and the method and the raw materials to apply it, are at present largely retained in American hands. I do not believe we should all have slept so soundly had the positions been reversed and if some Communist or neo-Fascist State monopolized for the time being these dread agencies. The fear of them alone might easily have been used to enforce totalitarian systems upon the free democratic world, with consequences appalling to human imagination. God has willed that this shall not be and we have at least a breathing space to set our house in order before this peril has to be encountered: and even then, if no effort is spared, we should still possess so formidable a superiority as to impose effective deterrents upon its employment, or threat of employment, by others. . .

"From what I have seen of our Russian friends and Allies during the war, I am convinced that there is nothing they admire so much as strength, and there is nothing for which they have less respect than for weakness, especially military weakness. For that reason, the old doctrine of a balance of power is unsound. We cannot afford, if we can help it, to work on narrow margins, offering temptations to a trial of strength. If the Western Democracies stand together in strict adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter, their influence for furthering those principles will be immense and no one is likely to molest them. If however they [the UN] become divided or falter in their duty (italics added) and if these all-important years are allowed to slip away then indeed catastrophe may overwhelm us."

Hear, hear!

All quotes from:  
 Robert Rhodes James, MP. Churchill Speaks 1897-1963: Collected Speeches in Peace and War. 1998. Barnes and Noble Books. New York.







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

**John Sophocleus**

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# THINK



## Brother Against Brother: searching for common ground

“Brother against brother” oft conjures remembrance of how a **voluntary** coalition of States morphed onto the **forced** coalition of states result observed these past several score. Mr. Trump swore his oath of office hand on the Lincoln bible to then speak of another **FDR** (increasing debt per capital twelve fold) type federal spending model in his inaugural address. President Trump recently asserted war between the States could’ve been avoided. Accomplished with compromise [lowering] tariffs to attenuate the Nullification Crisis when war between the States was imminent in the 1830s, it is certainly **possible** again. Ms. Clinton also failed to display much acumen for law and economics for non-duopoly voters to forecast she would be any improvement if elected. Mr. Trump offered little insight on how he would avoid making these same mistakes again pressing toward a path of great death and destruction - the usual end of command economies.

My column on electoral college versus popular vote victories [<http://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2016/12/01/opinion/bush-2000-versus-trump-2016/925.html>] shows only **two** times in US history where a Constitutionally correct HoR electoral college outcome does **NOT** match the popular vote outcome. The first was Grover Cleveland (only president to not serve **consecutive** terms) and Donald Trump. This is indeed extraordinary - Cleveland was the last ‘traditional Democrat’ president who returned battle flags to conquered states, refused to sign re-introduction of the unconstitutional federal income tax, made some progress curbing Union pension abuse, etc. This extraordinary result signaled the end of small govt. Democrats who were an effective force against the traditional big govt. Republicans. As Wilson made huge advances toward extracting more to DC under the militarily imposed centralized govt. result, we quickly ‘progressed’ into the return of Lincoln era **fiat** currency, **federal** income tax, class warfare, re-segregating the White House in keeping with the progressives’ agenda. This paved the way for even greater federal distortions under the Hoover/FDR, LBJ/Nixon, Bush/Obama results to ratchet US on our increasingly hegemonic path.

On vacation, Dave and Stan Laband engaged in dialogue transcribed into the following text to some major US papers. Some readers are familiar with David N. Laband, now an Emeritus Professor of Economics at Auburn University after recently retiring as Department Chair at Georgia Tech. Prof. Laband is among top economists in world rankings. I’ve been blessed to have such a great thinker shepherding my (less accomplished) thoughts these past decades. His brother Stanley J. Laband is the principal of a veteran-owned LLC which consults on thermal imaging systems. While I’ve not enjoyed as much interaction with Stan over the years, I have no doubt his ‘candlepower’ is on par with his younger bother Dave. I found their “Recommendations for Bridging America’s Political Divide,” a worthy read. The irony of this emanating from a great geographic divide like the Grand Canyon didn’t escape me...

*We are brothers. Both in our early 60s, we measure our political awareness back to President Nixon. One of us thinks Barack Obama was the worst president in his lifetime; the other thinks Donald Trump (already!) is the worst president in his lifetime. Not surprisingly, this means we tread carefully into, and out of, discussions involving politics. Surely, we are not unique in this respect -- we suspect the current political landscape in America threatens the familial harmony of millions of our fellow citizens. Yet despite our own sharp differences of opinion about our country’s two most recent presidents, we are the best of friends. We took the opportunity presented recently by a trip to the Grand Canyon to explore aspects of our politics that unite, rather than divide, us. Out of this discussion emerged several suggestions that we both agree strongly on.*

### Policy should focus on the General Welfare, not special interest handouts

*This is a first principle. America’s founders stressed the importance of government that promotes the “general Welfare” in the very first line of the U.S. Constitution. However, our general welfare is not promoted by Congress passing (and the President signing) legislation giving many billions of dollars in direct or indirect corporate welfare (e.g., ethanol blending requirements, agricultural subsidies, private monopolies, targeted tax breaks or government-backed loans for specific firms, and so on). Nor is the general welfare promoted by government actions that assist, and in many cases mandate, the well-being and separateness of specific groups at the expense of the general welfare. The tax code is rife with examples of provisions that set certain individuals in America apart from others. For example, why should individuals with children be tax-advantaged over those without children? Likewise, why should individuals who borrow money to buy homes be tax advantaged over those who rent or do not borrow? Why should the tax code subsidize college students or individuals who purchase certain appliances, windows, solar panels, electric vehicles, and so on? These are government policies that promote individual welfare, not the general welfare; they are divisive, not unifying.*

*We believe that most Americans agree strongly on a core set of things including, but not limited to: the importance of family and friends; a desire for safe places to work and live in; a belief in the ‘American Dream’ -- that **what** you do, not **who** you know, should determine success; the related understanding that equal opportunity, not equal outcomes, defines the American Dream; public officials are beholden to citizens, not vice-versa; and the ugly reality that demands by individuals or groups that they be treated differentially better than everyone else serve to divide, not unite, our country. We the people, and the government officials we elect, should focus on what unites us (laws that promote the general welfare), not on what divides us (laws that protect and enrich special interests). Little children operating a curbside lemonade stand enhances the general welfare; shutting it down for ‘health reasons’ is government overreach that diminishes the general welfare.*

### Laws should apply to the politicians that pass them

*Politicians are their own interest group and pass laws that afflict others while exempting themselves. Members of Congress do not worry about Obamacare or Trumpcare for the medical needs of themselves and their families, because they have exclusive access to a private, lavish, taxpayer-funded health care plan. They pass laws affecting everyone else’s pension plans, but not their own lucrative, taxpayer-funded pensions. Living with the consequences of your own actions helps enforce an implicit accountability that disciplines against over-reach. That politicians should be subject to the laws they pass is a no-brainer.*

### Compulsion should be avoided

*The incisive question to ask about any government action that makes something mandatory is: if the putative benefits are so compelling, why make purchase/participation compulsory? Why won’t individuals voluntarily behave*

*in ways that are consistent with the stated aim of the government action?*

*Government forces people to pay taxes because voluntary participation results in under-funded government, and the non-payers ‘free-ride’ on the payers. While services provided by the government may promote the general welfare, the distribution of contributions does not. Compulsory consumption amounts to a subsidy. Some people – perhaps a large percentage of people – are forced to buy certain goods (for example, CFL or LED lights) because getting rid of consumers’ opportunity to purchase a different light bulb (incandescent, halogen) makes the ‘winners’ feel better. They gain, others lose. This does not promote the general welfare.*

*Wouldn’t consumers voluntarily purchase these products without the government mandate? Why must individuals buy a government-mandate product that includes features they don’t want? Why should females be required to purchase health insurance that pays for Viagra? Why should males be forced to purchase health insurance that covers OB-GYN visits? Indeed, why should anyone be compelled to purchase health insurance or any other good or service? Compulsion does not enhance the general welfare. It reflects unwanted and arguably deeply resented government overreach and intrusion into individuals’ private lives.*

### Eliminate ballot access restrictions...

*That have been legislated by the two major political parties to cartelize American politics, making it virtually impossible for third-party candidates with creative ideas and policy prescriptions to successfully compete for public office. The two-party-only system failed Americans in 2016 by producing a Presidential election in which many individuals voted for the candidate they considered to be the lesser of two evils and many others did not vote because neither candidate was a compelling option.*

### Re-districting should be apolitical

*Gerrymandered congressional districts are a national disgrace that serve the parochial interests of the two-party duopoly, not the general welfare. A small handful of states (e.g., California) have moved in the direction of making redistricting apolitical by placing the process under the control of neutral boards, not state legislatures. This is what is known in the business world as ‘best practice.’*

*While we may disagree about specific government policies and figures, our shared interest in ‘big-picture’ aspects of our government, at all levels, means that our disagreements are short-lived and provocative, but not damaging.*

Hope you also found this a worthy read **and** sound starting point of common ground. 25% of eligible voters casting for one block of transfers over another block doesn’t provide much of an option for productive citizens hosting our proliferating array of wealth transfers. Voting for one extreme or the other conveys little information, esp. with so many voters **not** participating when dissatisfied with both extremes. When hundreds of thousands of voters who cast for their Senator do NOT cast in the presidential race, there’s something fundamentally wrong with the process - esp. when in a battleground/swing state which may impact the outcome on the margin. Some States, who fought to establish US as a forced coalition of states, now want to exit (e.g., CALexit) as they observe sending more dollars to DC (to accomplish things not authorized for the federal govt. to address) than they get in return. Some states which receive more (in excess of the dollar sent to DC) are finally starting to realize these distortions make their state (in general) worse off, while those who receive the crony contracts, largess, etc. enjoy the wealth transfer to the specific individual(s) who benefit. I grow weary of those who claim (perhaps disingenuously) they can’t understand those who voted for and continue to support Trump as he works to redistribute Obama transfers away from them to other recipients of the largess. They’re **trying** to send a message to **STOP** this proliferation destroying US but can’t communicate it via our current flawed process.

I recently attended another SoD (Seeds of Democracy) meeting where problems under our current ‘less than representative’ republic guaranteed in our Constitution were addressed, focused on beginning in Lee County. The Laband brothers offer some sound common ground to change our command economy path and set a course back toward liberty over hegemony and duopoly. “If these shadows go unaltered,” as Dickens penned, the rational forecast is another **brother against brother** outcome devoutly to be avoided.

**Postscript:** bittersweet to read stories on the 20th Anniversary of our apology for the deadly, shameful Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment. Civil rights attorney Fred Gray’s 1973 lawsuit won \$10 million for survivors of the ‘study.’ Exacerbating our shame, the government didn’t apologize until 1997. I’ve been a faculty advisor for many students groups at AU over the last 25 years. One of the proudest moments was to watch the zeal of Student Libertarians (most notably PhD candidate Scott Kjar) efforts championing more than apology, specifically prosecution of those known to commit these atrocities upon our citizens. Big government progressives (promoting racism, sterilization, etc.) protect their own thwarting all efforts to establish precedent of disciplining this here at home as we crow about prosecuting national socialists in Germany, etc. Given the poor record of public servants (Hubbard, Riley, Siegleman, Sessions, Sewell, Thompson, et al) tolerating civil rights abuses these past decades, it is little surprise justice for criminals responsible for this terrible chapter in our history will not see justice in this world after this long overdue apology.





# 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.  
[www.steveflowers.us](http://www.steveflowers.us)



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



As the race for our open U.S. Senate seat begins, let's look at the lay of the land.

First-of-all it will be a sprint. The race is upon us with the primaries on August 15 and the run-off six weeks later on September 26. The Republican primary victor will be coronated on December 12. We, in the Heart of Dixie, are a one party state when it comes to major statewide offices. Winning the GOP primary is tantamount to election. Therefore, our new senator will probably be elected on September 26.

With 11 Republicans in the race, it will be highly unlikely that anybody could win without a run-off, so the initial goal is to make the run-off. There are amazingly 19 total candidates who qualified. You can write the 8 Democrats off as irrelevant because a Democrat cannot win in Alabama. With 11 Republicans running, it appears to be a crowded race. However, 6 of the 11 are "run for the fun of it" qualifiers. Therefore, even though the field has a lot of horses, there are only 5 of the 19 who could be considered thoroughbreds and probably only 3 who have a viable chance to win.

Former Chief Justice Roy Moore and former State Attorney General and Robert Bentley appointee to the Senate, Luther Strange, are more than likely headed to a Republican run-off. Huntsville and Tennessee Valley Congressman Mo Brooks has the best chance to challenge for a run-off spot. Initial polling has Roy Moore at 30 percent, Luther Strange at 14 percent and Mo Brooks at 7 percent.

Roy Moore's removal from his post as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court by some vague Judicial Inquiry Commission for being against gay marriage has made him a hero and martyr among Alabama's conservative and religious voters. There is a pent up desire to right a wrong among the Alabama people. It is obviously showing up in the polling, but it could be illuminated and result in a higher than anticipated 30 percent.

Polls are a picture of the total pool of voters. However, the final poll and the one that really matters is who actually shows up to vote on August 15. Roy Moore's folks will be there, they are ardent and mad. They will not be at the lake or the beach. In fact, if there is an extremely low turnout, Moore could

conceivably win without a run-off. It is unlikely that occurs. However, he more than likely finishes first and has a spot in the run-off.

Luther Strange will be fighting to hold on to the other spot in the September 26 final dance. He will more than likely prevail in his quest to get into the run-off and keep the seat. Luther will have \$10 million of Washington establishment super PAC ammunition at his disposal. It is hard to overcome that kind of money. It is the mother's milk of politics. Luther is banking on the fact that most U.S. Senate seats are bought by special interest money. Folks, \$10 million dollars washes a lot of taint away from the Bentley to Luther deal.

It looks inevitable that Roy Moore and Luther Strange will be in a run-off and the prevailing opinion is that Moore cannot get over 50 percent. However, polling indicates that neither Moore nor Strange can get over 50 percent. They both have a large base of detractors.

This race was ripe to be won by an outside rich man who could spend \$10 million of their own money. "Yella Fella" Jimmy Rane walked away from a U.S. Senate seat that was his for the taking.

Congressman Mo Brooks has the best chance to knock Strange out of the run-off. He starts off with a base of support in the Tennessee Valley and \$1.2 million in his federal war chest. If he were to raise \$3 million, he would probably beat Luther and ultimately would probably beat Moore.

Brooks is to the right of Attila the Hun and belongs to a right wing congressional group known as the Freedom Caucus. There are some very rich right wing zealots around the country who give to Freedom Caucus candidates. They may load ole' Mo up and teach the Elitist Establishment Mitch McConnell crowd a lesson.

If State Senator, Trip Pittman, from Baldwin County could raise \$5 million he could sell. He is the only serious candidate from the vote rich Baldwin/Mobile area.

Dr. Randy Brinson has the perfect background, narrative and family values story. However, like Pittman, he needs \$5 million to tell his story.

May 31, 2017



Ronald A.  
Holtsford

## Why is it not criminal to burn a United States flag?

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



Patriotically and emotionally if the destruction of an American flag is done in a manner of disrespect, I would think that it should be criminal and I would say give that individual a chance to live in another country! I guess this country is so big on tolerance that about the only thing that I see as intolerant by this country is being disrespectful of minority groups (racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, religious, etc.). For

me to be a southern Christian white male, proud of my heritage I seem to be a perfect target of disrespect with nothing I can really do about it. But on to the disrespect of a U.S. flag;

The United States Code §43-1-8 says:

### Sec. 8. Respect for flag

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

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

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

One of the most defining United States Supreme Court cases involving the disrespectful burning of the United States flag, is Texas v. Johnson, 1989 (5-4 majority

decision). Johnson burned a United States flag during the 1984 Republican National Convention in Dallas in protest of Reagan policies. With Johnson and others shouting slogans against the first Reagan administration, there was no doubt that their verbal speech was protected under the First Amendment as it did not otherwise violate other statutes, but what about Johnson's symbolic gesture?

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

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

Three of the four dissenting Justices responded by saying, "The Court decides that the American Flag is just another symbol, about which not only must opinions pro and con be tolerated, but for which the most minimal public respect may not be enjoined. The government may conscript men into the Armed Forces where they must fight and perhaps die for the Flag, but the government may not prohibit the public burning of the banner under which they fight." How true. Then again, consider uprisings around the world, should one decide to burn their flag. What would the result of that person's freedom be?

Fly your Flag not only on Memorial Day, Flag Day (June 14) and Independence Day, but every day. If your flag is worn, allow the American Legion or the Boy Scouts to respectfully dispose of it. Have a great Memorial Day and remember those that gave their lives for this country.!

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

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Happy  
Father's  
Day

June 18, 2017



# The Chambliss Commentary



## Our Offended Nation



Marcia Chambliss

Have you been offended today? No? Well, you've likely not checked social media or various news outlets to learn what is trending as the offense of the day. It seems that there is a long list of things that are supposed to offend me, but in many ways it's just becoming tiresome chatter.

As I read and learn about these issues that are now serving as "triggers" for insult, I realized that our culture seemingly exists in a state of perpetual offense and outrage at any thought, speech, or person with which or whom we disagree. Are Americans so incredibly sensitive and unsure of our own belief systems that we can no longer have discussions about differences of opinion without being offended?

It's a mindset that has definitely infiltrated younger Americans, particularly those on college campuses where the outlook of being offended by differing viewpoints, particularly if those views lean conservative, is being openly encouraged. Increasingly, the concept of "free speech" is being reserved for those whose opinions fall more in line with the ideology of the left, and those with opposing conservative-leaning views are quickly labeled as racist, sexist, homophobic, or intolerant as a tactic to shut down any conversation.

We're currently in the season of commencement addresses and have already had two episodes of college graduates so offended by the selection of speakers that they have rudely interrupted one and walked out on another.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos was rudely and loudly booed by students during her recent commencement address at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida and many also turned their backs to her as she began to speak. While DeVos is by far my least favorite Cabinet appointment of the Trump administration, the level of disrespect shown to her was appalling.

Disagree with her policies all you wish, aspects of which this conservative also has serious concerns, but can we possibly differ in opinion while behaving

with some level of maturity? Who is shown to be intolerant here?

A planned walk-out protest by graduating seniors in opposition to Vice-President Mike Pence's address at the University of Notre Dame was far less disruptive, but still, at least in my opinion, in poor taste and enacted at an improper venue. Peaceful political protests are part and parcel of what makes America distinctly different from other nations and are an important and vital component of our democratic system, but marring the memory of such an important milestone ceremony for other students and their families simply reflects poorly on those who walked out.

While college students protest, the left-leaning media almost salivates over any opportunity to portray the current administration in a negative light, and as its liberal bias and seething anger over the results of the November election increases by the day, it fuels much of the offended mentality we now see.

I find it interesting that the Greek word for offense in Bible Scripture is *skandalon* and is translated in Strong's Concordance as a trap, snare, or stumbling block.\* Our declining level of civil political discourse appears to indicate that we are falling into a trap that continues to divide by identifying us as ever-increasing agitated factions rather than a nation with any semblance of a shared vision for the future. And as our enemies foreign and domestic well know, that is a destructive trap from which we may never escape.

\* Strong's Concordance, online version.

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?t=kjv&strongsg4625>

Marcia Chambliss has been involved in grassroots conservative politics since 2009 and has contributed opinion articles pertaining to politics and cultural issues to *The Alabama Gazette* since 2010.

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



## The Financial Corner

By Buddy Hicks

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### IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

It seems like things are just getting busier and busier. You get up in the morning and life takes over. Whether you're trying to get kids to where they need to go, both spouses are working or you travel for your job. There is always something going on or someplace you need to be. Time is precious and it feels like there is not enough of it to go around. When your day is finally over, you may only feel like relaxing before going to bed. Then you get up and do it all over again.

Day after day, it is easy to get caught up in the things that demand our attention; family, work, church, volunteering, etc. Then one day you wake up and you are turning 55 and it hits you that you might want to retire in the next 10-15 years. You've been so caught up in the here and now that you have not given much thought to your future and you're not sure that you will be prepared enough to retire comfortably and remain comfortably retired. **Well, it is not too late.** Schedule time to sit down with a Financial Advisor to talk about what your options are. Find one who will help you think about things you don't normally think about, one who will help you determine your goals and then put a strategy in place to help you achieve those goals.

Depending on where you are at in life, you may feel that you don't have enough time to prepare yourself for life after work. But even if you are starting late, you will be further along than before you started. You may have already started but you have not reviewed your strategy lately. Have someone take a look at your strategy to make sure it is still in line with your goals. It won't take long but it could open your eyes to some different strategies that may improve your position.

No matter how you do it, ACT! Take that first step and get the ball rolling. You'll be glad you did.

Buddy Hicks is a Financial Advisor with Wealth Management Group LLC an affiliate firm of Securian Financial Services and has over 18 years of experience in the financial services business. He is Life and Health Insurance licensed and FINRA registered with his Series 7 and Series 66 which allows him to be an Investment Advisor and Registered Representative of and offer securities and investment advisory services through Securian Financial Services Inc, member FINRA / SIPC. He is an Alumnus of Troy University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business/Finance. He takes a process approach with all of his clients to help determine their goals and then works with them to put a strategy in place to help reach those goals. An area of importance of Buddy's is his ability to intuitively listen to his clients so that he can fully understand their current situation and what their future needs are.



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

## Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris "Chip" Beeker, Jr.

### It All Starts in the Home

In his State of the Union address in January 1964, President Lyndon Johnson declared "an unconditional war on poverty in America." Since that time, our nation has spent trillions of dollars fighting a war it cannot win. That money has only given us welfare-dependent people who cannot see the importance of meeting their own needs. The "war on poverty" turned out to be another democrat debacle that has done nothing to eliminate poverty; in fact, there are more Americans living below the poverty line today than there were in 1964. When plotting their "war on poverty," the democrats failed to identify the real enemy. The problem is not "poverty;" it is the culture that embraces and encourages it.

Recently, I was pleased to read about a Republican-developed plan that attacks the root of the problem – a culture that views government and not parents as the primary provider for and educator of children. This plan, which has been proposed in Utah, should serve as a blueprint for other states and our nation. If enacted into law, the principles found in this plan can do something about the systemic causes of poverty in our country.

One precept espoused by the plan is that parents are expected to be the first teachers of their children. One by-product of the decades-long nanny state is that too many people producing children today don't understand that the word "parent" is a verb. They themselves need to be educated on how to teach their children and encouraged to do so. Another foundation of the plan is the promotion of a culture that supports consistent school attendance. Education, not another government check, is the way to escape poverty.

This plan also addresses the economic stability of families. It contains a recognition that families are at the center of economic stability. Its strategies are designed to help individuals improve their job skills and ensure that economic policies support putting people to work and keeping them there. The "War on Poverty" has produced the welfare state, inspired generations of Americans to reject work, and deprived millions of the pride one feels when he knows that he is meeting his family's needs. This colossal failure must end.

In too many homes the mailman is known as the "moneymen" because he brings the welfare checks. Too many people look to Congress and not themselves for increases in their income. Too many marriages have been destroyed because the husband is not needed to provide for his family. In fact, the failures of the welfare state are so many that you might conclude that the democrats created it to enslave people and prevent them from voting Republican. I encourage Alabama's leaders to review the Utah plan and, whenever possible, to follow its guiding principles of supporting parents and encouraging them to care for and properly train their children. The solution to the problem of poverty does not lie in Montgomery or Washington, D.C.; it lies in the home.

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

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# The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

## Christian Apologetics: The Answer to the Worldview Challenge



Several of our students from **Emerald Mountain Christian School** have accepted scholarships to attend The Summit in Manitou, Colorado, this summer to study Christian Apologetics. Students and teachers have attended the sessions at the Summit since the ministry was begun by Dr. David Noebel. He has been a college professor, a college president, and a candidate for Congress. He is an author, an editor, a public speaker, an ordained minister, and a recognized expert on Worldview analysis. He has done research on the decline of morality and spirituality in Western Civilization. All of this led to his passion to teach young people how to maintain their Christian faith.

In 1991, his book, *Understanding the Times*, served as a textbook for interpreting intellectual movements, including Biblical Christianity, secular humanism, Marxism-Leninism, The New Age Movement, Islam, and post-modernism.

Dr. Noebel served as founder and President of The Summit Ministry until just a few years ago, when he selected Dr. Jeff Myers to take the helm. Dr. Myers had been a professor at Bryan College, but long associated with Dr. Noebel and the Summit. He has been proven an able leader to carry on.

### The Apologetic Law

#### Seven Laws of the good apologist ANSWERS

**A**lways give the gospel first (Rom 1:16)

**N**ever be offensive (1 Peter 3:15-16)

**S**earch out the real issues (John 4:7-20)

**W**alls are to be removed

**E**vangelistic techniques are to be used (Acts 14,17)

**R**elationships are essential (1 Cor 5:9-11)

**S**pirit reliance, self doubts analyzed (Acts 1:8)

The valid concern was that young people were not equipped to defend their faith in colleges and universities, nor in the public square. How right he was! Few Christian churches teach a structured defense of one's faith in Christ. When I entered my Methodist college, the one that my mother had attended and loved, God's word had been compromised, and the theory of Evolution was considered acceptable. Now, researchers declare that less than 10% of college and university professors make any claim of being Christians. This alone should exhibit a need for ministries like The Summit to teach students how to defend their faith before they step foot on a college campus.

Jeanne Riley and I attended a summer session several years ago and were thrilled with hearing the top Christian Apologists in America, there to teach America's brightest students, many Christians, and some not yet Christians. They all had the opportunity to view their world in such a way as to live for God's Glory.

Leading young people to Christianity is so much more difficult if children have never been in church nor exposed to Christian teaching at home.

**Romans 8:5-8** spells it out in these verses.

5. "For those that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."
6. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
7. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.
8. So then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

A Christian worldview should be the possession of each Christian. God's Providence in the life of each person is a grand plan for that unique person, for his place in the family, community, and the world.

For every person, and for every family, there is a story, a narrative, and hopefully a legacy from generation to generation. Students at the Summit go deep into the elements of a worldview and how to interpret life's experiences in light of that worldview. Not only is Theology explored, where we focus on God and His Word, but Anthropology, giving a greater understanding of human beings, and our possibilities. How can we achieve the highest ethics in our daily life, the strongest moral character?

We are living in a Post Christian culture in America. While many nations are increasing greatly in Christian conversions, America is not. Pluralism is applauded in our nation. Humanism has turned American culture upside down. The purpose is to remove Christianity from schools, social service, law, and community life. Only private religious efforts can instill Christian values to children today. To have a Christian nation again, Christian values must dominate the legal and cultural foundations which govern our society.

Humanists deny the existence of God, and believe that the universe is self existing, and that all things evolve. They believe that man is only physical and that he is sufficient unto himself. Humanists believe that morals and values are all relative and situational.

Christians believe the Biblical account of man's creation, man's nature as a sinner, God's offer of salvation, and the reality of God's sovereign judgement.

The moving from Christian values to Humanistic values has been shifting over a long period of time. Christianity has been removed from the public schools by the Supreme Court and the obvious intent is to replace it with Humanism.

John Dewey, unfortunately, the most influential molder of public education,

signed The Humanist Manifesto in 1933. What John Dewey intended was to use the public education system, through deception, as a means to promote Secular Humanism as the religion of this nation, replacing our Judeo-Christian Heritage.

#### Whatever happened to Patriotism in America?

When the very foundations of True History and America's Founding Principles were abolished, so was Patriotism. **Test the younger generation and see it any of them learned these quotes and the stories behind each one.**

" *Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable.* "

" *We have met the enemy and they are ours.* "

" *Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute.* "

" *These are the times that try men's souls.* "

" *We must, indeed, all hang together, or must asurdly, we will all hang separately.* "

" *With malice toward none, with charity for all* "

" *Don't give up the ship.* "

#### Patriotism De-emphasized in America...

Patriotism has been de-emphasized in our schools and our American culture. Children do not know the glorious story of sacrifice and commitment, the willingness to die for liberty that our forefathers experienced.

Heroes have been abolished in favor of Dick and Jane's silliness. Nathan Hale was one of my childhood heroes. He was a school teacher, who did not live to see this 22nd birthday. But his words ring out... "*I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.*"

He requested a Bible and a minister at his hanging, and was denied both by his captors.

*Patriotism: Through God's Providence, Christian Liberty gave it birth, and Christian Liberty alone will restore it.*



**Dr. James Dobson**

*Family Talk*

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**THE MARSHALL MOMENT**

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

**Soul Searching****KEEP COOL WHILE THE HEAT IS ON**

I know it's hot outside, after all, it's June. However, the title of this article may be a bit misleading. It's really not about summer heat, but heat of a whole different kind, the heat of a man-made furnace.

No doubt you are familiar with one of the most dramatic and exciting stories in the Bible. It comes out of the book of Daniel. You will remember the incredible experience of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who were thrown into the fiery furnace. As far from reality as it might seem, it is a true event filled with life lessons for each of us.

It all began when King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold and commanded everyone to bow in honor of it. He stated that everyone who did not fall down and worship would be thrown into a blazing furnace. You can almost hear the thump of people's knees hitting the ground. Word got back to the King about three Hebrew teenagers who refused to bow down and worship the idol. It's hard to imagine all the emotions going through their minds with hearts almost beating out of their chests.

Pause with me to consider the situation. Sooner or later everyone who claims to be a Christian will be faced with temptation to compromise his or her faith. We live in a pagan society which gives lip service to Christianity as long as someone isn't too serious about it. That is especially true for those who go through our education systems and into the world as adults.

Observe with me their defiance. They wouldn't bow. That's devotion. Have you wondered why they were so devoted to God? Perhaps the secret to their courage was their upbringing during a time of revival in the land. You can read about it in **I Kings 22-23**. A young King Josiah had rediscovered the Word of God and had led the nation in repentance. These young men knew God's Word and had taken it to heart.

Look further with me into this intriguing story. Not only did they refuse to bow, they wouldn't bend. That's determination. Notice how it played out.

The old King immediately summoned and threatened the three Hebrews to be thrown into an even hotter fire if they did not bow on the spot. "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, 'O, King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.'

Aren't you moved with the quality of their faith? It was not the kind which says "I'll trust God if He delivers me." Instead, it was a resolute commitment to "trust God no matter what happened."

I wonder how many of us have that kind of faith. Too many wish to bargain with God. You hear it in statements like "God if you give me a good husband or wife, I'll serve you" or "God if you give me a good job, or good health, or plenty of money, I'll serve you." We must remember "God is not some heavenly puppet, and your prayer is not some string you pull." The only kind of faith which will get you through the fire is one committed to trust God even if a prayer is not answered in the way it was asked. "Too many of us don't have a faith to use the daring words of these young men, 'But if not...'"

There's a third component to this fabulous drama. The King orders the furnace to be heated even hotter and for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to be bound and thrown into the fire. The fire was so hot the soldiers who tossed them in died from the searing heat. In a few minutes King Nebuchadnezzar looks in and is amazed because he sees **FOUR** men walking around. Their bonds are burned off, but other than that they are unharmed. Nebuchadnezzar observes, "The fourth one looks like a son of the gods."

Who was the fourth man? Throughout history there has been a lot of debate about the fourth man in the fire. Along with many others, I believe it was an appearance of the Son of God before He came to earth in the flesh as Jesus. I

appreciated one writer who said, "If you have a problem believing the miracles of the Bible, you'll never really be able to know God." If you take all the miracles out of the Bible, you will have little left to read and believe.

They wouldn't burn. That's God's deliverance of the faithful. So what does their experience mean to us today? Let me offer four simple observations.

It reminds me that facing the fire becomes an instrument of witness. People know when we are in the fires of persecution or suffering. They pay attention to whether we believe what we say we believe when all is going well.

It also speaks to the devotion necessary to deal with peer pressure. Even when given a second chance to avoid the fire, they didn't bend. "In other words they had already determined beforehand they were going to be faithful to God." How did they do it? They had determined ahead of time to be faithful. If we are to avoid the pitfalls and traps of temptation and testing, we have to make commitments worth following ahead of time, not in the midst of a crisis.

Their experience is a powerful assurance that Jesus will be with us no matter what we face.

"Some are so careful to avoid the fires they miss the blessing of His presence with us. Problems are going to come. And it is during these times of fiery trials that we find the strength and grace of Jesus."

Finally, God uses fires to purify our faith. In **Malachi 3**, there is a verse which pictures God as a refiner of silver. "God is like a silversmith. You and I are the silver. The silversmith places the silver in the crucible [that's your personal furnace]. The Silversmith heats the crucible until the silver becomes liquid. The liquid silver sinks to the bottom and the impurities rise to the top. Then the silversmith takes a skimmer and he skims off the impurities. He carefully regulates the heat so the silver is not damaged, just hot enough to remove the impurities, any substance that pollutes the purity of the silver. Now, do you know how the Silversmith knows when the silver has become pure? It's when he can see a clear reflection of his own face in the surface of the molten silver".

I can just see Jesus, looking into the eyes of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the furnace. What did He see? He saw a reflection of the time when He himself would endure the fire of hell on the cross for each one of us. And when He saw that kind of unselfish nature, He said, "You boys can leave the fire, now because you have been purified."

I wonder what God sees in us when we go through the fiery trials of life. I hope He sees clearly the reflection of His Spirit and character. "Make up your mind. I won't bow. I won't bend. I won't burn. And when you do, God will deliver you through the fire!"

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**SUNDAY MORNING**

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**Worship:**  
**10:15 AM**

**Reflections**

By Michael J. Brooks

**ON REMEMBERING**

It's among the shortest verses in the New Testament, and it's also filled with some mystery. Jesus said, "**Remember Lot's wife**" (**Luke 17:32**). Mrs. Lot is a minor figure in the Old Testament. We don't even know her name. We only know she looked back at the burning Sodom and died.

Some believe this word is about disobedience; that is, God told Lot's family not to look back and that's all we need to know. In this regard, it would be like our first parents in Eden who were told not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We don't know exactly why, other than it was a matter of obedience to God.

Others see this as a warning about second thoughts. This interpretation is that Mrs. Lot looked back with sadness. She left Sodom, but Sodom was in her heart. This is akin to Jesus' word about putting our hand to the plow and refusing to look back.

We should remember many things, including those whose fingerprints are on our souls. So many men and women invested themselves in us by being patient and teaching us about life.

I recall teachers in junior and high school who did this for me. Mrs. Carlotta taught me to love history and Miss Petty taught me to love good grammar and good literature. Dr. W.T. Edwards taught us Greek at Samford University. We'd say, "Dr. Edwards, this material's over our heads!" He'd reply, "Boys, raise your heads."

I had Sunday School teachers who taught me to love scripture. I've never met a Sunday School teacher who was paid. These men and women volunteer to study the Bible and communicate its great truths to us week by week.

I remember godly deacons and pastors who loved me and encouraged me to find God's will for my life. These men would sacrifice anything to support the youth ministry, and this is true in most churches. And deacons were always in their place as helpers to our pastors.

A man in a pensive mood thought of a favorite teacher in high school. He found her address, took pen and paper and sent her a note of gratitude. A few days later he discovered a letter in his mailbox with a familiar penmanship.

"Dear William," she wrote. "Your note came on a cold, dreary day, and cheered me as nothing else had done in so long. You'll be interested to know that in my 40 years of teaching, yours is the only note of appreciation I've ever received."

Many of us are fortunate to have some folk around who invested in us. Perhaps we ought to take time to say thanks.

*Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. The church's website is [siluriabaptist.com](http://siluriabaptist.com).*







Steve Long

# Woods & Waters with Steve



## PREDATORS ARE A PROBLEM IN BAMA

I recently had lunch with Barry Estes with Alabama Hog Control, and we were talking about deer hunting and deer population. Barry made a point that really made me think. He said deer hunters spend tons of money on food plots,



Dr. Don Simmons and guide Steve Long with a nice Bama Hog

fertilizer and soil samples, but if they have a predator and hog problem, they are wasting money. He is dead on! Predators and hogs are knocking our deer and turkey populations down tremendously. Why not take some of your planting money and put it towards predator and hog control? Research has proven that both are detrimental to our wildlife; especially Wiley Coyote.

I recently read up on a few articles and talked to a few folks in the know, but an article written by Dave Samuel for Grand View Outdoors really dove into the

research and numbers. In the article, there's a lot of information provided that shows in certain areas, notably the South East of the US, there's a dramatic drop in fawn survival rates. Naturally, not every fawn makes it to adulthood, but due to adverse weather, food shortage, disease, cars, and predators, the mortality rate skyrockets for the little ones. In our area, it seems that coyotes are one of the primary culprits.

Heck, according to the article, even black bears and bobcats are getting into the mix. Easy prey makes for an easy meal. Of course, coyotes are still the most responsible for higher fawn mortality rates.

"But I see plenty of deer Steve, year-in year-out. Do we really have a coyote problem?" Absolutely. There are a lot of factors involved in what determines how many fawns survive, and the majority of which we can't do a thing about. Nature will run its course. Predators, however, can be affected. Hogs, while known for tearin up just about anything and everything, will also eat deer. There isn't much a hog won't eat, and if it's easy pickings, then you better believe they will go after a fawn. We don't have much trouble with bobcats or bears around here, and despite the odd sighting, mountain lions and panthers aren't really an issue to focus on. For us, it's mostly coyotes and then hogs.

As for the conversation Mr. Estes and I had, if you think your land is in the middle of what we call a Predator Pit Scenario, it would probably be a good idea to invest in some corral traps. Barry is definitely one of the best in the business, and you can read up more on his website, [www.alabamahogcontrol.com](http://www.alabamahogcontrol.com).

As always, while hogs tend to leave a big old calling card everywhere they go by wrecking the ground, rooting everything up, coyotes are a fair bit more elusive. Aside from finding tracks or scat on a trail, the only sure-fire way to find em is to call em. After sundown, they tend to be a bit more social and vocal, as they howl in groups to communicate across distances. If you've got the right setup, you can call for em every so often, using prey calls for instance. Also, there's no bag limit on coyotes during daytime hours in Alabama, so you can always post up and see if a prey call wakes one up for a little early supper.

Ultimately, it's up to you, the person in charge of the property, to figure out how to best proceed with taking care of your property and your deer herd, but it's not a bad idea to consider how to be more efficient with your spending of both time and money. So get out there, scout em out, track and trap them hogs, and go get'em!



## Kritter Korner

### Pronghorn

**Pronghorn is antelope-like animal that lives in North America.** There are four subspecies of pronghorn that can be found in Mexico, Arizona, throughout the Great Plains and in the Canada. Pronghorn inhabits open grasslands and deserts. It can survive on the altitude of up to 11 000 feet. Main factors that decrease number of pronghorns in the wild are habitat loss, hunting and manmade fences for the livestock (they disturb natural migratory routes). Mexican population of pronghorns is critically endangered (it may disappear from the wild in the near future).

They are usually 3 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet long. They can reach from 90 to 150 pounds of weight. Males are heavier than females. They are reddish brown in color and have a white belly and white stripes on their throat. Erected white hairs on the rump are used to inform other members of the group about potential danger. This patch of white fur can be seen miles away. Pronghorns can change position of hairs on the skin. Straight up hairs ensure circulation of the air near the skin and elimination of excess body heat during the hot days. During the cold nights, hairs lie flat, close to the body to prevent loss of body heat. Pronghorns have backward curled horns. Males have 9.8 inches

long horns with forward oriented prongs. Females have 4.7 inches long horns without prongs. Horns have bony base covered with layers of keratin and hairs that are shed annually after breeding season. Pronghorns are active both during the day and night. Pronghorns are herbivores (plant eaters). Their diet includes different types of grass, sagebrush, forbs, bushes and cacti. Pronghorns absorb water from the food they eat. Pronghorn returns food from the stomach back to the mouth and chew it several times before it becomes ready for intestinal digestion. Pronghorn is the second fastest animal on the land (cheetah is the

fastest). It can achieve speed of 53 miles per hour and run a mile and a half without slowing down. Main predators of pronghorns are coyotes, bobcats and wolves. Pronghorns are migratory animals. They travel long distances (170 miles) during seasonal migration each year. Males and females live in large herds (around 1000 animals) during the winter period. During the summer and spring, males and females live in separate herds. Mating season takes place during the autumn. Male gathers females (form a harem) on his territory and defends them aggressively from other males. Female gives birth to one or two babies in the spring. Babies stay with their mother until they reach the age of one year. Young animals reach sexual maturity at the age of 16 months. Pronghorns can survive 7 to 10 years in the wild and 12 years in the captivity.



Ron VanHerwyn



### Ron's Kritter Kids (wildlife education) Wildlife education & wildlife rescue

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# BAMA DOMINANT... WHY?

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

Maybe people will figure out why Alabama has had a definitive dominance over Auburn during the Saban years. No matter how hard one pulls for Auburn, no matter what the pre-season prognostications are, no matter how many Heisman Trophy candidates **Coach Gus Malzahn** has at his disposal, no matter how many new coaches Malzahn hires, no matter how many coaches **Nick Saban** loses, no matter what the schedule difficulty is, in ten years Coach Nick Saban has lost only three games to Auburn, one to Tommy Tuberville in 2007, one to Cam Newton in 2010 and one to Gus Malzahn in 2013.

Auburn folks get very excited every spring as Coach Malzahn shows us what he has coming back in the fall, including new signees and transfers. Some of my best friends tell me, "Auburn is gonna' be tough this year." They tell me how the offensive and defensive lines average 325 lbs. They tell me that Auburn has several backs that can run 4.3 40 yard dashes. They tell me about the new linebackers that are agile, mobile and hostile. They tell me about how the defensive backs and the wide receivers can jump higher than the tigers they are named for. They tell me about the new punter who averages 49.5 yards per punt. They tell me about the place-kicker who can hit the eye of an eagle flying behind the goal post at over 50 yards most of the time...Wait, that last sentence happens to be true!

Then, after losing again to Alabama, the coaches at Auburn are excited about where the players that are going on to the NFL will be drafted. Then the draft comes around and Auburn has three low to middle round draft choices. Alabama has ten players drafted, four in the first round and three in the second round. Hypothetically, can Auburn take its three drafted players, choose nineteen seniors who were not drafted and match them up with an Alabama? Can Alabama choose 12 seniors that were not drafted, add in the ten players that were drafted and match up with Auburn's hypothetical team? Would Alabama be favored heavily in a game between these two make believe teams? Of course Bama would be favored. Why? They have more good players than Auburn does! Why? They sign better players than Auburn does! Why? Nick Saban is the greatest recruiter in the history of college football! Why? I don't know!

The NCAA has passed a resolution allowing college football teams to have an early signing date beginning in 2018. That will occur on the second Wednesday in December which will be December 15th in 2018. Saban is unhappy about this change in recruiting. Will it affect his recruiting success? Probably not. Saban will adjust!

Is the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa a better location to want to play football than on the "Loveliest Village on the Plains?" Probably not! I spent five years of my young life at Auburn, during which time I visited some of my friends in Tuscaloosa on a few weekends. At that time there were more fun things to do at Auburn than there were at Tuscaloosa. Has this changed over the last 50 years? Probably not! So, what is going on in Tuscaloosa that is not going on in Auburn? I don't know.

It is my belief that Alabama's 1926 Rose Bowl win over a great Washington State team was the beginning of an "aura of invincibility myth" that exists to this day. The "Bama Machine", for a lack of a better terminology, has been highly successful in playing Alabama's Rose Bowl wins into a masterful advertising campaign for the Crimson Tide since that victory in 1926. Most of the college football fans and media at this time were in the east, midwest and the west coast. They were aware that Alabama fought for the South in the Civil War, but for the most part knew little about southern football. Alabama was a huge underdog to Washington State in 1926. However **Coach Wallace Wade** had the "Red Elephants" totally prepared. A halfback named **Johnny "Mack" Brown from Dothan was unstoppable as were the rest of Wade's team.** Alabama shocked the football world in 1926 by beating the "best team" in football 20-19. A legend was born and a myth created.

Auburn, on the other hand, went to its first bowl game in 1937, beating Villanova 6-0 in a bowl game in Havana, Cuba. The bowl didn't last long. This became known fondly as the "Rhumba Bowl". **Coach Jack Meagher (Mauer)** has gotten very little credit for the coaching job he did at Auburn. World War II interrupted what was becoming a brilliant career for Meagher. I was fortunate to know his son Pat who played halfback on the 1957 Auburn National Championship Team. I was unfortunate in not meeting Coach Meagher. Even though Auburn and Villanova were the first football teams to play outside the Continental United States, "Meagher's Marauders", as they later became known, didn't get as much attention nationwide as they should have gotten by beating a very good Villanova team. It just didn't stack up at the time to Alabama's Rose Bowl teams. Undaunted, Coach Meagher kept recruiting, kept coaching and kept Auburn in the college football news. In 1938, Auburn was invited to the Orange Bowl to play Michigan State. This got the attention of football fans and newspaper writers around the country. Of course Michigan State was favored to beat the "upstart" Auburn Tigers. But Jack Meagher was a better coach than most people realized. He had also been building a football program that would match the best in the country. One must realize that playing in the Orange Bowl was a big deal in 1938. The only bowl games at this time were the Rose Bowl, the Orange Bowl, the Sugar Bowl and the Cotton Bowl. Auburn did not win the game but gained the respect of the college football world by tying Michigan State 6-6, thus beginning a tradition of its own. Because of WWII, many players and coaches were called into the military, including Coach Meagher. All of college football declined over the next five or six years, except for Notre Dame and the two service academies.

Auburn did not reach the glory days of the 30's until **Coach Ralph "Shug" Jordan** from Selma was hired off of Coach "Wally" Butts' staff at Georgia. Since the hiring of Coach Jordan in 1951, Auburn has had a nationally respected football program. Auburn has built quite a tradition, winning many SEC Championships and two National Championships. Not many teams have won one national championship, let alone two.

*But... maybe... "Remember the Rose Bowl we'll win" is just easier to sell than "War Eagle fly down the field." Who knows?*



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R-3 • No. 93  
Green Bay Packers



**Carl Lawson**  
R-4 • No. 116  
Cincinnati Bengals



**Joshua Holsey**  
R-7 • No. 238  
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**Ed Jones**  
Football Writer



**Marlon Humphrey**  
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**Jonathan Allen**  
R-1 • No. 17  
Washington Redskins



**O. J. Howard**  
R-1 • No. 19  
Tampa Bay



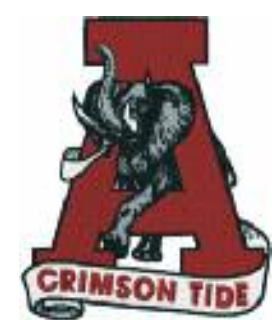
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S. F. 49ers



**Cam Robinson**  
R-2 • No. 34  
Jacksonville Jaguars



**Ryan Anderson**  
R-2 • No. 34  
Washington Redskins



**Dalvin Tomlinson**  
R-2 • No. 55  
N. Y. Giants



**Tim Williams**  
R-3 • No. 78  
Baltimore Ravens



**ArDarius Stewart**  
R-3 • No. 79  
N. Y. Jets



**Eddie Jackson**  
R-4 • No. 112  
Chicago Bears



# Southern

# Cuisine



Did you know that the third largest household expense is for Food? I think the two largest are housing and transportation. I cannot help you with where you live and how you get about, but I have touched upon, in past articles, ways to save on food. Keeping a well-stocked pantry and purchasing fresh local fruits and vegetables are not just money saving practices but also healthier.

I have stressed upon reading the fine print in the ingredients list hidden on the back of the food packaging. After reading some labels, I wonder if I should even eat the stuff. There is an alternative. I am a fan of Alton Brown on the Food Network because I like to learn how to make many items from scratch. If you watch him, you know that some of his alternatives for making food from scratch can be laborious tasks. To me, it boils down to Time and Money. A book by Jennifer Reese, "Make the Bread, Buy the Butter", sums it up. There are things that

you should not try to make thinking you will save money.

There are many choices to "store bought" products that can save you money and be healthier. Knowing how to make the alternative can be a lifesaver. Especially if you run out of an ingredient in the middle of some cooking project such as ten people are coming over for dinner tomorrow night.

I am going to break it down to "substitutions" and "alternatives". Substitutions are quick fixes that you need when you find out you are out of an ingredient in a recipe. In the art of baking, many substitutions are used. There is no baking powder in the cupboard and your recipe calls for one teaspoon. Combine a quarter teaspoon of baking soda, one half teaspoon of cream of tartar and one-quarter teaspoon of cornstarch.

Alternatives are not always money savers but are mostly healthier choices. My favorite alternative is subbing pasta with spaghetti squash. Pasta can be a cheaper dish, but one cup of pasta has 200 calories and 35 grams of carbs. Spaghetti squash has 40 calories and 10 grams of carbs per cup.

That does not say that all substitutions and alternatives are going to be better in taste or outcome of the recipes. Peanut butter is a good example. I do not like to buy peanut butter because I do not like all the added sugar. However, the peanut butter that does not have added sugar is usually more expensive. Since I cannot get the creamy texture of store bought peanut butter from my food processor or blender I buy expensive peanut butter.

Many items are better homemade, and you can tweak the recipes to suit your tastes. Pesto is a good example. The store bought is expensive and seems to have too much oil. Basil is more expensive than spinach and the cheese in this recipe is milder and softer than Parmesan.

## SPINACH-PISTACHIO PESTO

### INGREDIENTS

<b>Four cups spinach packed</b>	<b>One third cup shelled pistachios</b>
<b>One half cup grated Gruyere cheese</b>	<b>Two garlic cloves, chopped</b>
	<b>Juice from half a lemon</b>
	<b>One fourth teaspoon salt</b>

### METHOD

- Using a food processor, pulse all of the ingredients until a coarsely chopped.
- Scrap down the sides and then pulse while adding a steady stream of oil. Continue until pesto looks uniformly smooth.
- Add additional oil and lemon juice to use as a salad dressing.
- You can freeze leftover pesto in ice cube trays and then store in a zip lock bag for future use.

This is one of the best recipes to change to suit your taste and your pantry. Changing the base plant (kale, arugula, mint, cilantro) and changing the nuts (pine nuts, walnuts, pecans, pumpkin seeds, almonds) and the oil (walnut oil, olive oil, avocado oil, grape-seed oil) and the acid (white wine vinegar, red wine vinegar, cider vinegar, lemon juice) makes for a myriad of combinations.

Other items to make at home should include granola, BBQ sauce, pancake mix, croutons, salsa, and soup. So what to do with that bumper crop of tomatoes you will have in your garden this year. If you plan it, you could go the whole winter and not have to buy any tomato products, such as tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, pizza sauce, or ketchup. Now, remember when I said it boils down to time and money, this is the time you have to decide between the two. With the tomatoes you have, the first step to turning them into something different than slices for a hamburger or chunks for a salad, takes some time.

First, you make a tomato puree, and you can freeze some of that. The rest is cooked down to make tomato sauce. Freeze some of that and the rest goes to making tomato paste. Whatever your final product, you need to peel the tomatoes. My favorite way to peel tomatoes is the freezer, warm water method I saw on PINTEREST. First freeze the tomatoes. When ready, use a bowl or sink and fill with warm water. Working in small batches drop the tomatoes into the water and swish around to warm all of the skin. Then hold tomato in your hand and pinch the stem end of the tomato and the skin pops off. Of course this is basic information. What do you consider warm water. It makes a difference in the size and type of the tomatoes, and medium sized roma tomatoes work the best. A video to watch on PINTEREST takes about a minute. If you went

## DAVID'S FAVORITE HOMEMADE KETCHUP

*Word of warning: I usually, no, I always add more peppers or hot sauce to what I eat than the family can stand. If you are going to add heat to this recipe, start gently and add heat to your tolerance.*

### INGREDIENTS

<b>One six-ounce can tomato paste</b>	<b>One-teaspoon Coleman's English Mustard Powder</b>
<b>One fourth to one half cup apple cider vinegar</b>	<b>One or up to not too many drops of Melinda's Original Habanero Pepper Sauce Extra Hot (to taste)</b>
<b>One half teaspoon salt</b>	
<b>One half teaspoon dried oregano</b>	
<b>One half teaspoon cumin</b>	
<b>One eighth teaspoon ground black pepper</b>	

### METHOD

- Combine all ingredients in a bowl and whisk together.
- The amount of vinegar determines the acidity you want for your ketchup.
- Add water to vinegar mixture to always equal one half cup.
- Will keep well in refrigerator a few weeks.

through all the steps and ended up with your own tomato paste, then it is time to make your own ketchup. I do not go through all those steps because I lean toward saving time when it comes to ketchup and the fact that I cannot find my favorite Jalapeno Ketchup anymore. Therefore, I buy my tomato paste. If you shop like I do, you will find good and very inexpensive tomato paste. With this I can add whatever spices I want to make my custom ketchup.

I noticed that my shelves in the pantry are filling up with salad dressing cruets. It seems that the company wants you to buy the cruets thinking that you will keep buying the packaged mix. And they price it so think that you are saving money by getting a free cruet. If you have more than three cruets, start making your own mix.

## DRY SALAD MIXES FOR YOUR FANCY CRUET - ONION or GARLIC MIX

### INGREDIENTS

<b>One teaspoon onion powder or one half teaspoon garlic powder</b>	<b>One half teaspoon salt</b>
<b>One teaspoon parsley flakes, crumbled</b>	<b>One fourth teaspoon pepper</b>
<b>One half teaspoon dry mustard</b>	<b>Pinch of paprika</b>
	<b>Pinch of sugar</b>

Follow directions on side of cruet (one fourth cup vinegar, two tablespoons water, mix and shake. Let stand 30 minutes, add three fourths cup oil, shake well and serve).

## ITALIAN MIX

### INGREDIENTS

<b>One half teaspoon sugar</b>	<b>garlic powder, sweet red pepper flakes</b>
<b>One half teaspoon dry mustard</b>	<b>Pinch of paprika</b>
<b>One half teaspoon salt</b>	
<b>One quarter teaspoon each: pepper, oregano, onion powder,</b>	

Same directions as Onion Salad Mix.

Remember the ten people coming over for dinner tomorrow night? Have you decided what to serve? You look in the pantry and find bread and a few pantry basics. In your refrigerator there is some leftover cheese and the usual milk, butter and eggs. And you are wondering what else to do with that bumper crop of tomatoes.

This next recipe dates back at least to the 18th/19th century and is the early days answer to a grilled cheese sandwich. Before preparing this dish, you will find interesting tidbits about it in WIKIPEDIA. A quick search of mine in one of my cooking apps, came up with over fifty variations for Welsh Rarebit. It can be a quick nondescript dish of cheese and bread or a gourmet delight with cheese and bread and prosciutto, curry powder, waffles, and portabello mushrooms. A great recipe to use up leftovers and try your hand at different cheeses. But your guest deserve better than a plate of leftover pantry items, so read the ingredient list and go to the store and pick up what you need.

## WELSH RAREBIT

Adapted from Framed Cooks  
Serves five

### INGREDIENTS

<b>Two cups milk</b>	<b>One fourth teaspoon dry English mustard</b>
<b>Three fourths cup butter</b>	<b>Ten slices of cooked thick sliced smoked bacon</b>
<b>One fourth cup flour</b>	<b>Five slices of hard crusted sourdough bread, thick sliced and lightly toasted</b>
<b>Two cups grated sharp cheddar</b>	<b>Chopped parsley</b>
<b>One half cup English-style ale</b>	
<b>One half teaspoon tomato paste</b>	
<b>One teaspoon Worcestershire sauce</b>	

### METHOD

- Turn on oven broiler
- Heat milk in a small saucepan.
- Melt 1/4 cup butter in another saucepan, stir in flour and cook for 2 minutes.
- Whisk the hot milk into the flour butter mixture stirring constantly until thickened, about 5 minute. It is not just Cajuns that start every recipe with "First you make the roux."
- Add cheese, ale, tomato paste, Worcestershire sauce, and mustard and stir constantly over low heat until cheese has melted, about 3-5 minutes.
- Spread remaining butter on the bread and place on cookie sheet. Top bread with bacon then the tomato slices. Pour 1/2 cup cheese sauce over each bread slice.
- Broil until lightly browned about two minutes.
- Garnish with chopped parsley. Serve.

Growing up, I can remember my mother toasting a slice of bread, and then spreading mayonnaise on it, then adding a slice of tomato with a little salt and pepper, then a slice of American cheese on top. Putting it under the broiler until the cheese melted. Sliced the bread diagonally and served it with potato chips. Oh what memories!

## Today's wisdom.

Kitchen (kich-uhn) noun a gathering place for friends and family. a place where memories are homemade and seasoned with love.

*I just do not want to look back and think "I could have eaten that."*





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**Southern Gardening  
Potpourri for June      by Peggy Givhan**

June not only is the month for brides and weddings, but the first month of summer. Children are out of school, families take trips to the beach and our new graduates find themselves floating on cloud "9". For those of us who are not caught up in all this joy and celebration, we can spend free time sprucing up the garden scene, adding swathes of colorful flowers

across our home landscape. This month is a great time to complete our summer garden schemes made in the dead of winter. Or if you are sometimes like me, the garden scheme began later, like in March or April. The nurseries and garden centers display voluminous quantities of all sorts of plant material for your pots and flower beds. So lets pick up our garden gloves and trowels to create the most dazzling flower beds ever.

I have always looked at gardening as not only a creative endeavor, but a philosophy which centers on what pleases you, the creator. Gardens may change over the years, one year one may attempt to have nothing but colorful annuals, formal in structure, and other years, one may add tall stately perennials or biennials, with gradients of high and low to give more texture than color. Some gardeners have one plan that they have perfected over the years, and stick to that, not even changing the color scheme. Some want their flower garden to be finished with one planting and others want a changing kaleidoscope of plants. One thing about gardening, is that you learn a lot about yourself. You learn by making many mistakes, and allowing these mistakes to morph into successes.

I believe one attribute that all gardeners strive for is that the garden should be peaceful and restful to view and enjoy. If you are a beginning gardener, study, take notes and photos of the gardens at Botanical and other public gardens, study pictures of gardens in magazines, or attend courses to enhance your knowledge of how to start a garden. But the important item on the agenda is to get started, somewhere be it simple pots or a small flower bed. One can always expand from there.

Here is a list of really good gardening books that have helped me in my quest for being an expert gardener, which one day I hope to become:

1. **Manual of Woody Landscape**, by Michael A. Dirr
2. **Perennials for American Gardens**, by Ruth Rogers Clausen and Nickolas H. Ekstrom
3. **How to have a Green Thumb Without an Aching Back**, by Ruth Stout
4. **The Country Garden**, by Josephine Nuese.

**PLANT OF THE MONTH -- REX BEGONIAS - cultorum group**

What an enchanting and exotic collection of plants which are not grown for their flowering ability, but for leaf coloration and texture. My Grandmother



loved these begonias, and shared hundreds of rooted cuttings with her neighbors and friends. The intriguing puckering of leaves and the wide range of color variations lend these begonias to many different gardening opportunities from pots to the beds. Mostly shade loving, the variety, "Fireworks", are a perfect combination for Japanese painted fern, *Athyrium niponicum*. Soggy soil, over fertilization, and prolonged wet leaves is the kiss of death for these plants. They thrive in a well drained, humid, and shady environment. We are always searching for colorful plants that can jazz up these shady areas. Try these, you will become fascinated like myself.

**GOOD GARDENING.**



**Judge  
Peggy Givhan**



# Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor  
Senior Section

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

You may be over  
the hill if... you remember that  
when you entered the work  
force you had to work almost  
eight days straight to earn \$15.

## How do we define indivisible?

If we were looking for a definition of the adjective indivisible we would learn that it means “unable to be divided or separated.”

Now that's relatively straightforward and simple. It means that something that is indivisible is something that is a tight, complete entity that can't be chopped up into bits and pieces, into smaller portions that can be dealt with and employed according to one's individual wishes. Such as “One nation indivisible,” as the U.S.A. is supposed to be.

Unfortunately, America has strayed afar from this principle. Not since the 1860s has this nation been so seriously divided. When the Civil War got underway at least there was semblance of a reason for it. Now, a century and a half later, our nation is as divided, if not more so. But now there is no tangible reason for the division, other than ego, and that's not much of a reason. It's more of a flimsy excuse.

Most Americans, especially those in the latter years of their lives, recall as youngsters learning to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, a task that had a great significance on our young lives. We learned that the strength of our nation was that we were first and foremost Americans! We stood together, united, as a single entity. And, our nation, indivisible, endured through hard times and through war times.

For most of us “old timers,” learning the Pledge took place at a time when our nation was either anticipating a World War, or was already in it--up to our ears.

And it seemed like about once a week we were pledging our allegiance to our flag and the Republic for which it stood.

And, as the pledge so declared, whether we lived in the Rocky Mountains, basked on the shores of Hawaii, trudged through knee deep snows in the Dakotas, Minnesota, and other sub zero climates, or were still recovering from the War of Northern Aggression in the South, we were all Americans, and our loyalty to our nation was indivisible—pure and simple.

Fast forward more than half a century. Are we still reciting the pledge in our schools, and other American sites of congregation? Or, do our children even know what pledging one's allegiance means? How many of our citizens have even a reasonable understanding of what we mean by one nation indivisible? Actually, as a nation, we've become more divided than we were in 1861. So far, fortunately, the two sides aren't shooting at one another—yet.

But we have become a nation divided; this time, instead of regional, the split is primarily political, but there's also a major secondary factor as it relates to political attitudes; most Republicans lean to conservatism, there are a significant portion

of the GOP whose conservatism is more liberal; a leaning that can create attitudinal problems.

As we watch or listen to the daily news do we discern any semblance of allegiance? When the Rev. Francis Bellamy originally wrote the Pledge in 1892, it was directed at America's young people. But where are the young people of the 21st Century? Many of them are rioting in the streets of their own country, blindly dancing to the tunes of militant puppet masters, few of whom have any allegiance to an indivisible nation—rather, they're intent on simply dividing and weakening our country as much as is possible.

Where we used to end a presidential election with a new White House resident, and a return to business as usual, we're now knee deep in sour grapes and descriptive barrages of the most vicious and senseless vituperation our country has ever known.

And for what reason?

Ego.

The present presidential election has been held. The Republicans won - the Democrats lost. End of story.

Unfortunately, however, 2017 has ushered in a new era - an era of shame. And we're just going to have to learn to live with it. We've become:

One nation, needlessly and terribly divided.

America deserves better.

## June events

By Dr. John Bitter

By the time we reach the reader, we're well into the month of **June**, the first day of which was **National Doughnut Day**. The thought behind celebrating doughnuts dates back to World War I, when the Salvation Army's “Doughnut Dollies,” as they became known, served doughnuts to Americans fighting in Europe during World War I.

To help celebrate this event, both **Dunkin' Donuts** and **Krispy Kreme** donuts were giving out the pastries free of charge; one to a customer.

And, the dollies continue to provide the pastries, as well as a variety of other edible and tangible amenities to America's defenders overseas.

Moving right along, to the **fourth of the month** when Americans celebrate **National Cheese Day**.

After eating the doughnuts and cheeses, Americans might well put on their running togs on the **6th of the month** and participate in one of the **National Running Days**, that will be offered around the country.

The **6th** is also the day we honor the **World War II D-Day** invasion, a turning point in World War II. Also on this day one might celebrate **National Drive-in Movie Day** if there are still any left in the country.

On the **9th**, we celebrate **Donald Duck's birthday**.

On the **10th** both the **Ball Point pen** and **Iced Tea** will be honored, and on the **following day** we'll pay respects to **Corn on the Cob**. Yum yum.

Skip a day and then get out your hoe and weed your garden, on the date so designated.

Getting back to more serious celebrations, we honor our national colors on **Flag Day on the 14th**, and on the **following day** it's **National Flip Flop Day**, as well as **Smile Power Day**.

And keeping on with frivolity, the **16th of June** is **World Juggling Day** and **National Fudge Day**.

**June 18**, is both **Father's Day**, who also told us, “Eat your vegetables,” which is also honored on this date.

Jumping ahead to the **20th**, we have the **first day of Summer**, and **Ice Cream Soda Day**.

The **22nd** shares two holidays, one being **Take your Dog to Work Day**, and **National Chocolate Eclair Day**.

The **23rd** is the day to pitch your tent in the back yard and sleep the night away on the hard and bumpy ground to help celebrate the **Great American Backyard Camp out**, bumps and bugs included.

If you believe in fairies, the **24th** is **National Fairy Day**, and the **26th** is **National Chocolate Pudding Day**, and on the more serious side, **International Day Against Drug Abuse**, and **National Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**.

On **June 28**, those of us who once called Minnesota home, recall celebrating **Paul Bunyon Day**—as well they should.

On the **29th**, we pay our respects to those folks who enjoy jumping up in front of us at special events in order to be able to take picture; which seldom turn out to be what they imagined they would. One tiny speck looks like any other.

And to continue on with the camera theme, on this day one may cast an eye to the vast expanses of space in the hope of taking a picture of a meteor on the day set aside in its honor.

So, another auspicious month will provide us with no end of events to celebrate, and reasons to take pictures which seldom turn out they way we had hoped. Perhaps July will provide better fare.

## What's ahead?

By Dr. John Bitter

What shall we take from President Donald Trump's recent visit to the Middle East, coupled with the ever-growing reports of terrorism across the globe?

Will we see darkness fall from the wings of night... and witness the sadness and longing that is engulfing our world; which, rather than bordering on Utopian will we be blessed with the beginning of a period of rest; a period where we can begin to enjoy a rest from life's endless toil and endeavor?

If the reader has not yet recognized the words of Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's “*The Day is Done*,” struggle along.

As a result of our new President's visit to the Middle East, and beyond, will we metamorphose into a life filled with music and watch and listen gleefully as the songs of the poets drown out the empty words of generals and politicians, and may we rejoice as the night is filled with music, and take heart as our ever-growing collection of cares that infest our days fold their tents like the Arabs and silently steal away?

And now, 173 years after Longfellow's words were written, might this be possible should the ever multiplying gaggle of politicians, blowhards and sycophants pull themselves out of their mire of darkness and fill our nights with music. And the cares of the day, shall fold their tents, like the Arabs, and silently steal away.

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*Kylle McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached by e-mail at [kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov](mailto:kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov).*



John Martin

## Victimless "Crimes"

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

**DID YOU KNOW** that right here in America, "The Land of the Free," we have **FIVE TIMES** the percentage of our population in prison than the rest of the world? Of every 100,000 of our people, we have 756 locked up behind bars. This is a sharp contrast to the world average, which is only 158.

And of our 50 states, Alabama has the third highest incarceration rate [after Louisiana (1) and Mississippi (2)]. Yes, the Gulag Archipelago is right here in our own back yard. Since 1977, our prison population has shot up by 840% while the state's overall population has increased only 23%. Now our politicians are screaming for more money to build more prisons to relieve the overcrowding and to satisfy the federal courts.

Are we really five times more violent and crime-prone than everybody else? Not at all. For reasons only our corrupt politicians can justify, they have packed our prisons with people who have committed no crimes at all—victimless "crimes"—a staggering 86 percent of our prison population.

First let's define a crime: It is a willful and deliberate action to do bodily harm to other people and / or steal, damage or destroy other people's property. It would also include a willful attempt to do any of these things even if unsuccessful or a threat to do them. If these conditions are not met, then there is no crime.

**What is a victimless crime?** It is exactly that. It is a violation of one or more unconstitutional laws that have no legitimate purpose to protect the public from wrongdoing. There are multitudes of such laws everywhere—licensure, permits, prohibitions, mandates, regulations, code violations, assisted suicide, sale of sex toys, possession of "pornography," etc. The great majority of these are either totally unnecessary or are enforced to extremes far beyond acceptable limits.

The number one victimless "crime" by far is the prohibition against the possession, use and sale of recreational drugs by consenting adults. Like alcohol prohibition (long ago recognized as a failed "social experiment"), it has become an even greater social and economic disaster. Untold millions of people have suffered unspeakable anguish and economic tragedies as a result of its enforcement.

Prostitution and gambling are two others. Why are they considered crimes? It is government meddling into people's private affairs—a gross violation of the sovereignty of individuals. Call it immoral if you wish, but if it is with the consent of all parties involved, it is nobody else's business.

This is America, a nation that was founded upon individual rights. Government has NO legitimate authority to meddle. Its purpose is to protect the people from meddling by others, period. That is the foundation of our Constitution.

Imprisonment for victimless "crimes" imposes a heavy public burden. People who would otherwise be productive self-supporting citizens are denied their opportunities and forced to be burdens onto society. They can only consume and are rendered unable to produce. The cruelty of this practice is unconscionable.

Enforcing victimless "crimes" also imposes a heavy cost on enforcing genuine crimes. If the police are busy doing what they should not do, they are at those times unable to perform their legitimate duties.

Victimless crime enforcement has caused otherwise law-abiding citizens to partake in genuine crimes. Drug criminalization has highly inflated drug prices and created lucrative black markets for drug cartels and has spawned the proliferation of violent street gangs. The high prices have driven users to steal and loot to finance their habits.

Mandatory minimum sentencing has been heavily skewed onto victimless "crimes" and has exacerbated our prison problem. This has obligated the release of dangerous criminals to make space for more innocent victims of our upside-down justice system.

Now what should we do with our prisons? What we must NOT do is build more of them. But we do need to abate the overcrowding, which has been reported to be about double our prisons' capacities. The answer is simple: Review the records of all of the inmates and sort the ones who have done genuine crimes from those who have committed only consensual, i.e. victimless "crimes." Release and pardon the members of the latter group and give them enough counseling to go out and be productive citizens.

Instead of spending more money to build more gulags, we would end up saving money in two ways: First, the state would not have to feed and care for about half or more of our current prison population. Second, once released, the former inmates would be able to support themselves and become taxpayers instead of tax liabilities.

And the greatest benefit of all would be an end of the cruel and unjust incarceration of people who have done no harm to other people.

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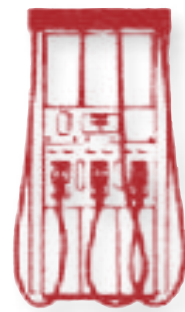
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## Financial Dangers

By Dr. John Bitter

We couldn't get Clint Eastwood to caution our residents about the financial dangers threatening our senior citizens, and Securities Commissioner Joseph P. Borg, wasn't available, so we relied on Clint Niemeyer, of the Alabama Securities Commission, to warn residents of Elmcroft of Halcyon assisted living facility about the securities fraud dangers that threaten them at every turn.

Many senior citizens recall the Great Depression and the misery that brought on.

When they matured and started to earn some money, many stashed a little bit aside, and by the time they reached senior status, many had a good bit of money buried in the back yard.

Sad to say, by this time there were many jackals lurking in the bushes whose sole raison d'etre, getting their hands on this savings stash.

And today this has turned into a cottage industry, with swindlers lounging about on every street corner, waiting to swindle some gullible senior citizen out of his or her savings.

Mr. Niemeyer spoke to a group of Elmcroft residents about the magnitude of this facet of elder abuse, advised the residents on how to protect themselves from securities fraud—a growing menace to our society.

Not only must seniors be wary of individual fraudsters, there are also many agencies and groups that have formed entities designed to separate them from their life's savings. It goes on every day, and gets worse with each passing day.

The goal of Mr. Niemeyer and his associates is to help seniors keep the wolves away from the door, so to speak.

Unfortunately, conning elders out of their hard-earned savings is a growing industry, which is why informational programs such as Mr. Niemeyer's, serve to warn seniors to check the registration, licensing, and background of persons selling securities and to check with the Alabama Securities Commission before investing any of their money into offers of securities, investment plans, financial planning.

If someone calls you, and offers you a free lunch, hear him out. But take a representative of the Alabama Securities Commission along with you.

And if you have any questions or suspicions, call them at 1-800-222-1253. You may save some money.



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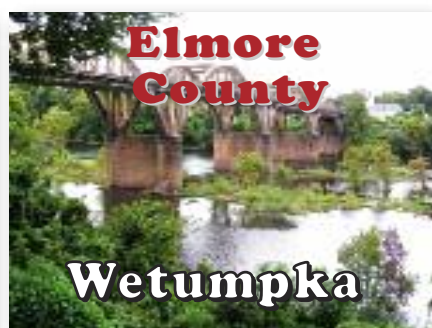
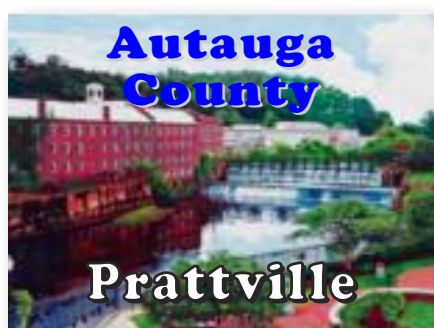
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## Tears and Laughter:

By Amanda Walker

### Two men in the Black Belt, 2017

The focal point of my backyard is a ten acre pond. Before it was a pond, it was a cotton field. You can't tell it just by looking anymore, but through the woods is an antebellum home that once oversaw it. It still stands silent and majestic. Its walls don't talk at all.

We could ride over to the river. We could be there within five minutes and from a secluded cliff we could look down at the sparkling Alabama River that once brought people in and carried away bales of Black Belt cotton. But the proof of it now lies beneath a watery grave and can only be seen in black and white pictures.

It was the black fertile soil that invited in agriculture and helped fuel it. This region was once the wealthiest in the nation. It was home to affluent men and accomplished women. They wore the finest of dresses and slept on the best of linens and furnished their homes with elaborately handsome furniture.

None of this remains. Only in fragments and pieces. In busted-up sets of dishes forgotten about in old china cabinets. What wealth remains in Wilcox County has more to do with pine trees and paper than the cotton plant.

The one way in, one way out road I live on is named after the son of a slave. Perry Johnson is said to have fathered 23 children, though a set of twins passed away at birth. Most of my neighbors, practically without exception are the sons, daughters, and extended relatives of his children.

There is calm here now. You can feel it in the evening shade. Even the spirit in the air seems to whisper peace. But I'm glad the ground can't talk. I know what was witnessed here and mirrored everywhere. You just would never know by the terrain.

Growing up I didn't expect that I would ever live on a farm. I was not a member of the FFA. And maybe in retrospect, I should have been. It's no secret that I have a fair amount of "Green Acres" in me. Usually my responsibility when it comes to farming is to stay out of the way. I'm too sensitive for some parts of it, and other parts can be tedious and unavoidably dangerous.

Such was the case this past Saturday morning, as it became clear that a first time mother cow needed help delivering. She had become panicked and unpredictable. It was more than one man could safely handle.

A neighbor came over and helped. These two men have helped one another many times over the past 25 years. They have prepped gardens that fed their families and other families. They have shared pears, pecans, Catawba worms and catfish. There has been an exchange of a couple of pet kittens and puppies along the way.

After storms they have worked together with other neighbors to cut fallen trees from the one way in, one way out road we all live on. If time allows, they will help one another again, both as neighbors and as friends.

They reminded each other of this assurance as they shook hands Saturday morning.

I don't think they have ever noticed their hands aren't the same color. It's just not something that matters to men in the Black Belt.

*Amanda Walker is a blogger and contributor with The Alabama Gazette, AL.com, The Thomasville Times, West Alabama Watchman, and Wilcox Progressive Era. Contact her at Walkerworld77@msn.com or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.*



Tay Knight

### Family Sunshine Center Board of Directors Appoints New Executive Director

On May 24, 2017, Family Sunshine Center Board President Jeri Groce announced the appointment of **Tay Knight** as the new executive director of the Family Sunshine Center. Tay began working with Karen on May 4, 2017 and will officially take the helm at Karen's departure on June 9, 2017.

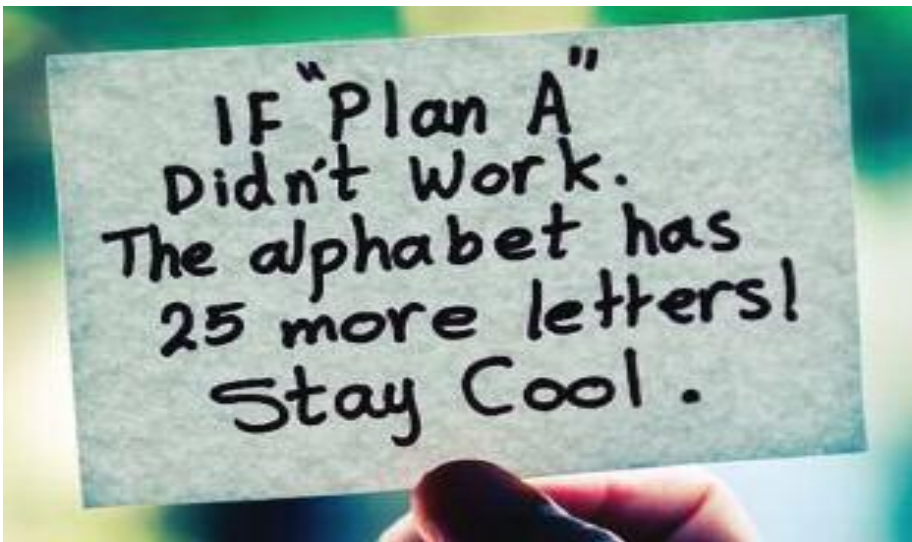
According to Groce, Karen Sellers informed the board late last year that she would like to retire sometime in 2017. At that time, the board began working on a plan to allow for Karen's departure in June. "We were very saddened by Karen's request to retire, but are very happy for her that she is looking forward to a much-deserved future of family, friends and fun," Groce said.

An executive search committee was appointed, chaired by FSC Board Vice President Kathy Gunter, and immediately went into action, honing a job description, looking at compensation and benefits, developing screening and interviewing tools and combing the country for just the right combination of leadership, development, administrative, community relations and other skills to lead the Family Sunshine Center into the future.

Tay is a Certified Public Accountant with 25 years' experience in accounting, auditing, and consulting. Most recently a partner in the public sector client service group of Warren Averett, she has been with that company since 1992. "My career in public accounting has afforded me the opportunity to build a diverse array of skills, expertise and relationships with client executives, accountants, industry experts, and community leaders," she said. Tay has specialized in non-profit auditing, and worked closely with the Alabama Association of Non-profits as a board member and leader, through which she has furthered her knowledge and expertise in non-profit management. Tay served on the Family Sunshine Center board of directors from 2006 to 2013, serving as president, vice president and treasurer. She also served on the agency's foundation board of directors, the board of the Leading Edge Institute, Auburn University's Women's Philanthropy Board and Connections Women's Leadership Initiative. Tay is a 1992 graduate of Troy University and obtained her CPA designation in 1992.

In June, Karen Sellers and the Family Sunshine Center will celebrate a 36-year anniversary. During that time, the center has moved from providing services in a small Victorian house to a full capacity service system involving multiple sites, including a 24-bed shelter, a Counseling Center, the Exodus Community transitional housing facility, the Brooks-Sellers One Place Family Justice Center and office space in outlying counties. Most recently, the Family Sunshine Center has added proven effective trauma-focused counseling services for children and sexual assault advocates/case managers in the more rural service areas, adding Dallas, Perry and Wilcox counties.

"The Search Committee worked diligently and thoroughly beginning in January to find the perfect Executive Director for the next phase in the life of the Family Sunshine Center. The Family Sunshine Center has been a central part of my life for so long and the lifesaving services are so important. I appreciate the members of the committee making it a priority to find the perfect person to lead it into the future, and I cannot imagine a more perfect fit than Tay Knight. I wish her all the best!" said outgoing Executive Director Karen Sellers



# 2017 PRATTVILLE FARMERS MARKET

**GRAND OPENING SATURDAY, MAY 20 7:00AM TIL 12 NOON**

At the Grove on Doster Road Across from Gillespie Senior Center and Pratt Park

**Featuring locally grown FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**  
Cooking Demonstrations and Samples  
Music — Art — Guest Speakers — Giveaways  
Fun and surprises for the entire family

For Information or to Register as a Vendor, Contact Special Events Office at 334-595-0854 or visit [www.prattvilleal.gov](http://www.prattvilleal.gov)

# 4TH OF JULY EVENTS

**Tuesday, July 4, 2017**

---

**16th Annual 4th of July Parade**

Begins at 9am and winds through downtown. Registration is required, but no entry fee.

Grand Marshals will be Prattville Fire Department and local Volunteer Fire Department Firefighters

**Lions Club BBQ and Arts & Crafts**

at Pratt Park from 10am-2pm

BBQ & Camp Stew sale, music, patriotic program, children's fun area and arts and crafts

---

**CARDBOARD BOAT RACES**

Teams will construct their boats on site with cardboard and duct tape. Races begin at 10:30 am. Registration required. \$5 per boat. Pool open 2-3pm.

---

**FIREWORKS at Stanley Jensen Stadium**

Gates open to public at 6pm and fireworks start at dark. Enjoy a concert by CREATIVITY, children's fun area and food vendors. **Free admission!**

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (334) 595-0800.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CHECK US OUT ON...**

[www.prattvilleal.gov](http://www.prattvilleal.gov)

**Advertise your business in The ALABAMA GAZETTE!**

**Call 356-6700**





**Sheriff Derrick Cunningham**

# Montgomery County Law

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[www.montgomerysheriff.com](http://www.montgomerysheriff.com)

**(334) 832-4980**



**Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy**

## Medication Disposal

On Friday, March 17, 2017, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office unveiled their new drug collection unit they received as part of CVS Health's Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Grant Program. The new unit will be located at the Administrative Office of the Sheriff, at 100 South Lawrence (2nd floor lobby) and will provide residents with a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication, including controlled substances.



The new drug disposal unit will help to reduce the amount of unneeded medicine in residents' homes and decrease the potential for prescription drug abuse, which has soared in recent years, especially among teenagers. More than 70 percent of teenagers say it is easy to get prescription drugs from their parents' medicine cabinets, according to a Partnership for Drug-Free Kids study. Proper drug disposal also helps to prevent the contamination of local landfills and water supplies from unused medication.

## Firearms Familiarization Course

Sign up NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Course scheduled for **Saturday, July 8th**, and learn how to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world.



The class is held at our newly dedicated Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and lasts most of the day and is FREE to Montgomery County citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (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?  
LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org • 334.832.1339

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

## Sheriff's Office APP

We are getting a lot of positive feedback from our new Sheriff's Office APP! In case you missed last month's article, here it is again...

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a new 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!

## Youth Fishing Rodeo

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office invites boys and girls ages 6-12 to grab their fishing rods, bait and tackle and join us for our annual youth fishing rodeo. Please make sure a parent/guardian attends but only boys and girls are allowed to fish.



**Saturday, June 17, 2017**  
**6:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**  
**Montgomery County Ponds,**  
**Highway 231 South**  
**(Troy highway)**  
**Across from Meriweather Rd.**



**\*\*We will have our Senior Fishing Rodeo on Tuesday, September 12th... more details to come\*\***



## Neighborhood Watch/Crime Prevention

If you are planning to develop a Neighborhood Watch or Crime Prevention Program, please do not hesitate to contact the Sheriff's Office at 832.7106 to set up a time for us to come out and speak to your group!



## Building Renovations



We are progressing as planned on our 1st floor of the Annex I building at 100 So. Lawrence.

If you need to access this area,

please check with our building security personnel at the public entrance door at 100 South Lawrence. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



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



AUTAUGA COUNTY

# Autauga County Law

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.ataugasheriff.org](http://www.ataugasheriff.org)

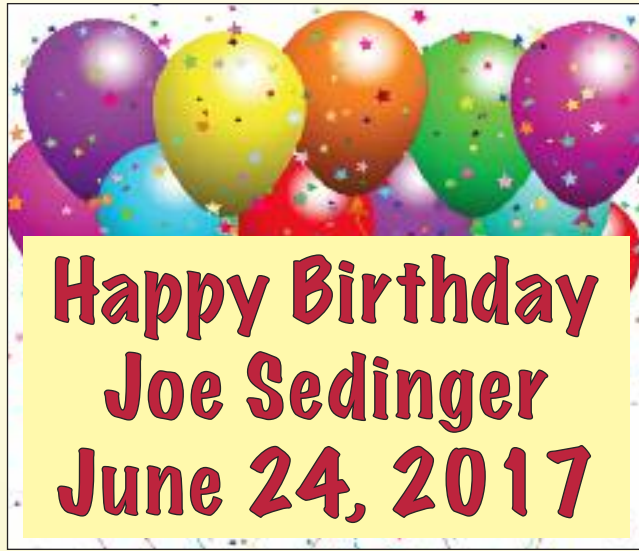
162 W 4th St, Prattville, AL  
**(334) 361-2500**



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

Sheriff Joe Sedinger invited all the County Employees and Courthouse Staff to have Lunch with the Sheriff. This was an appreciation lunch for all the employees as a thank you for supporting the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office works daily with these departments.

Lunch consisted of hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, mac & cheese, chips, desert and drinks. We would like to thank Merchant Food for the utensil kits, Buffalo Rock for the drinks, Arnold's Bread for the buns, and Stacey Williams for the chips. Most of all we would like to thank Sheriff Sedinger for providing the meal.







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**1960 CALUMET PARKWAY**  
This is a charmer! Three bedrooms, two baths, greatroom, formal dining room, kitchen with all appliances, breakfast area, large laundry room. 1,545 sq. ft. covered patio, two car carport detached and storage building. Convenient to all shopping and restaurants. \$500.00 bonus with accepted contract.

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johnnie@medac4u.com  
www.Medac4u.com




*"Every cell in your body functions like a car; it has its own engine. You can put the best gasoline (food) in, and the best oil (vitamins/minerals); but if you throw sand (chemical toxins & heavy metals) into the motor, the first two don't matter. At MEDAC, PC, we focus on helping to get the sand out of your motor. We also help with the food and the oil so that your motor can hum and run in the optimal way it was designed."*

**Creekwalk CONCERTS**

*Free Summer Concerts!*  
2nd and 4th Tuesdays of June and July at 7 PM



June 13 | OTI



June 27 | Bama Breeze



July 11 | John Bull Band



July 25 | Blackbird Pickers

Located on the Creekwalk behind City Hall.  
*Bring a Blanket or Chair and Enjoy the Music!*  
334-595.0854 \* www.prattvilleal.gov

The City of Prattville will hold summer youth theatre and art camps in June and July and the cost of each camp is only \$75 per week with all supplies furnished!



**2017 YOUTH ART CAMP**

**FOR KIDS AGES 7-12!**

**CAMP REGISTRATION FEE: \$75**  
(per week, includes all supplies)

at the Prattville Creative Arts Center

**JUNE 12-16 & JULY 10-14**



Camp is Monday-Friday. Reception will be held on Saturday.  
334.595.0854 | www.prattvilleal.gov

PRATTVILLE'S

**WOBT**

WAY OFF BROADWAY THEATRE

**CHILDREN'S THEATRE CAMP**

**JUNIOR THEATRE CAMP (K-6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE) JUNE 5-10, 2017.**  
This camp is geared toward Kindergarten through Sixth Graders with a production of *The Weird Wild and Wonderful Days of School*, by D. M. Larson, Copyright (c) 2012 by Freedrama.net. Dependent on the number of participants and patrons, we are planning to have two performances on June 10, 2017 at 1 and 3 PM. Cost is \$75 for the week.

**SENIOR THEATRE CAMP (7<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE) JUNE 19-24, 2017.**  
This camp is geared toward 7-12 graders with a production of *The Hysterical History of the Trojan War*, by D. M. Larson provided by Freedrama.net. Dependent on the number of participants and patrons, we are planning to have two performances on June 24, 2017 at 1 and 3 PM. Cost is \$75 for the week.

In both camps, aspiring young artists will be allowed to explore more of the theatre through workshops, hands-on crafts, and a full theatrical production at the end of the week. The students will assist with set and the props construction, have rehearsals, and be required to memorize lines.

**(334) 595-0854 | WWW.PRATTVILLEAL.GOV**

Prattville's Way Off Broadway Theatre will hold two theatre camps. Junior Theatre Camp for youth in grades K-6 will be held June 5-9, with performances on June 10. Senior Theatre Camp for youth in grades 7-12 will be held June 19-23, with performances on June 24. These camps will explore all parts of the theatre, both on and off stage, including acting, set design and costume design, as well as building self-confidence and working as a team. These camps will be directed by Zyna Captain, past president of Way Off Broadway Theatre, who has experience not only in acting, but within all parts of theatre production.

The Prattauga Guild will hold its annual summer camps June 12-16 and July 10-14 for children ages 7-12 years. On Saturday following each camp, the gallery will host an exhibit of the works created by the students. The camps will have a variety of projects in lots of different art media, such as acrylic and watercolor painting, drawing, collage, clay, mixed media, and more. The camps will be instructed by award-winning artist and well-known art instructor, Peggy Raines, founder and past president of the Prattauga Art Guild.



# Home Town Community News



Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)

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

Patricia Killough

## June Birthdays



- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Ruby Henley              | Kelly Kilgore          |
| 2 Christian Grant          | 15 Angie Ashurst       |
| Amber Holbrook             | Greyson James Looney   |
| Pat Moseley (78th)         | Mary G. Thaggard       |
| Mike Moseley (78th)        | Caty Jane Turnipseed   |
| Barbara White              | 16 Saralu Belkofer     |
| 3 Eleanor Haynie           | Robert Gardner         |
| Margie Johnson             | David Morrow           |
| Kade Wallace               | Terri Taylor           |
| 5 Braden Crowe             | Carson Tucker          |
| Michelle Crowe             | Garrett Tucker         |
| Lane Carter Johnson        | Anna Shay Wasden       |
| Maggie Mills               | 17 Susan McGuire       |
| Johnny Rush                | 18 Mary Jane Flurry    |
| 6 John Michael Higgins     | Marion Grant           |
| William Grant              | Jonathan Lowe          |
| 7 Jeannie Handey           | 19 David Vinson        |
| Frank Litchfield           | 20 Linda Reynolds      |
| James Stanley              | Michael Taylor         |
| 8 Georgie Harris           | 21 Mary Raley          |
| 9 Faye Boyd (60th)         | 22 Nita Tidwell (94th) |
| Laura Smith                | 23 Thomas Berrey       |
| 10 Juanita Beckman         | 24 Alice Ivey          |
| Jeffery Horton             | Joe Sedinger           |
| Seth Lumley                | 25 Janet Treat         |
| Justin Manning             | 26 Jan Morris          |
| Melinda Newell             | 27 John Donahey        |
| Sylvia Phillips            | 28 Paul Hanson         |
| 11 David Livingston        | Nadean Holley (103rd)  |
| Ashley Owens               | Tricia Norris          |
| 12 Gary Crowe              | 29 Ansley Brown        |
| Charlotte Gaston           | Lauren Moffitt         |
| Beverly Ming               | Dot Rebre              |
| Mackenzie Richardson (9th) | 30 Kathy Blount        |
| Madilyn Sellers (9th)      | Gordon Davis           |
| 13 Rachel Miller           | Wyatt Echols           |
| 14 Kerry Brown             | Jonathan Killough      |
| Julie Echols               |                        |

## Birthday Wishes



### Carson Hicks

My name is Carson Hicks. I turned one year old on May 26th. And we celebrated my party on the 21st at my PaPa and Nana's with my family and friends.

We had so much fun as you can see in the picture.

## Baby Shower for Baby Hank



A baby shower honoring parents to be Trey and Christine Mainor was held on March 31, 2017 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Greg Waller in Ramer.

Everyone had a great time celebrating the upcoming arrival.

Baby Hank is due to arrive at the end of June.

## Happy Anniversary

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Bill & Harlan Ratliff (61st) | 15 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Nester        |
| 2 Glenn & Sue Borders (61st)   | 18 Lera & Kim Evans             |
| Tony & Kate Smith              | Eddie & Rhonda Spivey           |
| 3 Joe & Amy Boyd               | 21 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Cobb        |
| Tom & Vivian Ledbetter         | Lowell Thomas &                 |
| Rick & Ann Pascal              | Julianne Hataway (59th)         |
| 4 Claude & Joan Collier        | 22 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Crutchfield  |
| 5 Frank & Linda Clayton        | Ron & Jan Johnson               |
| Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ming (62nd) | 23 Harold & Susie Van Patten    |
| 6 Shayne & Patrice Wasden      | Mike & Mary Pat Sikes           |
| 8 Ken & Karen Deavers          | Matt & Melanie Smith            |
| Jim & Joy Fleming              | Dan & Marcelle Thompson         |
| 9 Slade & Skeeter Rhodes       | 25 Mike & Brenda Moseley (57th) |
| 11 Jason & Hope Marsh          | 28 Vance & Ruth Cordle          |
| Mr. & Mrs. Steve Young         | 29 Billy & Betty Gallops (49th) |
| 12 Bobby & Nicole Burton       | 30 Gary & Linda Beaty           |
| Tommy & Jennifer Champion      | George & Liz McCurdy (60th)     |

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

## Sympathy to the families of...

- Jacobs, William Donald DMD .....died April 23, 2017  
 Reynolds, Gary Astion (32).....died April 25, 2017  
 Williams, James Harmon (82).....died April 27, 2017  
 Lushington, Blenda Melton (89) .....died May 4, 2017  
 McClurkin, Alma Moreno .....died May 4, 2017  
 Hall, Eleanor Janet (79) .....died May 9, 2017  
 Hare, Nell Helms (88) .....died May 20, 2017  
 Russell, James D. Jr. (87).....died May 21, 2017

*Granddaughters are Special! Especially if you have two the same age, twelve days apart, and graduating at the same time. The families of William & Loretta Grant are honored to have young women, who are not only beautiful, but who both graduated with honors.*

*Congratulations to:*

*Mary Ellen Grant and Sydney Ellen Grant*

Mary Ellen was honored as Valedictorian of her class with a 4.0 GPA. Is the recipient of the Maryville College Dean's Scholarship. She graduated from Chapman Christian Academy Montgomery, AL on Friday, May 19, 2017. She plans to attend Maryville College Maryville, Tennessee in the fall. She is the daughter of Tanner and Shannon Grant of Montgomery, AL.



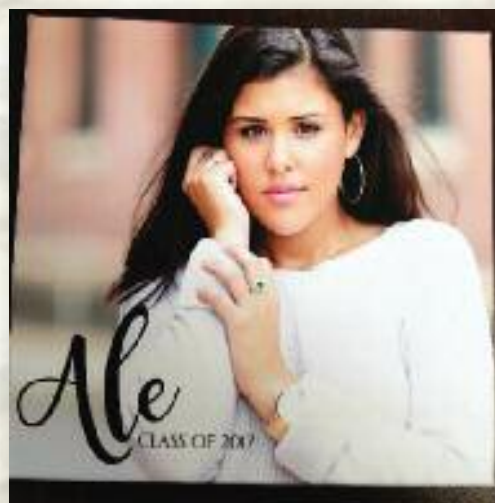
Sydney Ellen Grant Honor Graduate, AP Scholar, National Honor Society, National Beta Club, Zell Miller Scholarship recipient. She graduated from Howard High School, Macon, GA on Friday, May 26, 2017. Attending University of Georgia in the fall to study Biology on a Pre-Med track. She is the daughter of Travers and Renee Grant of Macon, Ga.



# TODAY'S WOMAN

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

## Alejandra "Sophie" Vazquez



Ale "Sofie" Vazquez, daughter of Julio & Christie Vazquez of Montgomery and granddaughter of Norman & Barbara Mitchell of Snowdown, will be attending Ave Maria University in Ave Maria, Florida (just outside of Naples) this Fall as a Freshman soccer recruit. She's a 3.4 scholar at Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School, where she has been an avid soccer player for six years. Ale has many accomplishments under her belt including member of National Society of High School Scholars for the past 2 years, member of Key Club, Spirit Club, FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), LifeTeen Youth Group as well as awarded MVP for the 2015-2016 soccer season and recipient of the Coach Jack Kersek Memorial Coaches Award for the 2016-2017 soccer season.

Ale will be studying Pre-Med/ Nursing at Ave Maria as she wants to help others. She is undecided on whether she will be an obstetrician or neo-natal nurse. Alabama Gazette wishes her well in her endeavors and knows she will be great whatever her decision!



## Trisston's Tidbits...

By: *Trisston Wright Burrows*  
[www.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

### "Freedom!"

Recently, my husband, Brian, and I participated in a bible study called Freedom. What a life-giving experience it has been for both of us!

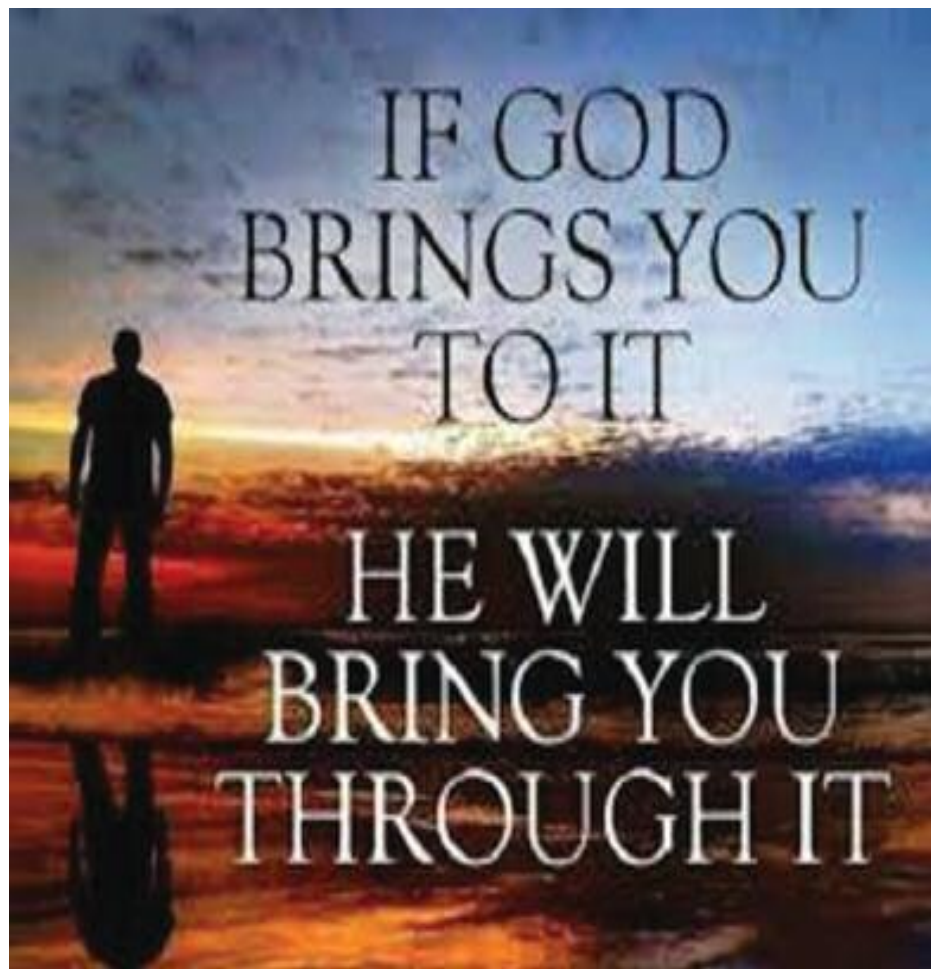
*"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."* Galatians 5:1

*Trisston Wright Burrows*  
*Ms. Wheelchair America/ Alabama 2005*

Sadly, for many Christians today, they don't have freedom. They may go to church, but they still carry burdens and guilt. God wants us to know that Jesus came so we can be free. Completely free!

How about you? You don't need to carry burdens and cares any longer. Jesus died so you can be free. Accept His finished work. Turn to Him. Allow Him to transform you into a new creation that radiates the hope of heaven in joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.

*"And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free"* John 8:32  
**Many Blessings!**



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SCAN FOR APPT.

## 2017 Meeting Schedule



*Breast Cancer Support Group Meetings*

**Tuesday, June 13th**

**New Radiation Technology: "Save the Breast for Later"**

Presented by Dr. Alexander Whitley, Radiation Oncologist  
Central Alabama Radiation Oncology

**Tuesday, July 11th**

**Evidently, God Had Another Plan For Me**

Presented by Donna McCord, Breast Cancer Survivor

**Tuesday, August 8th**

**#Godiswritingmystory**

Presented by Katie Griffies, Breast Cancer Survivor

**CONTACT US! (334) 220-4599**  
[womenofhope@charter.net](mailto:womenofhope@charter.net) • [www.thewomenofhope.org](http://www.thewomenofhope.org)



# An Outstanding Celebration!

By Ed Jones

Theo Katechis and his son, Gus, hit a home run with their celebration of 100 years of Chris' Hot Dogs on Saturday, April 29, 2017. Theo's father, Chris Katechis opened his hot dog business as World War I was coming to an end in 1917. It has been the longest sustained food business in Montgomery history. Over 2,000 loyal customers gathered at Chris' to pay their respect to the

Chris. Also, many entertainers have experienced its ambience, including Elvis once. The most popular entertainer/customer ever had to be Montgomery's own Hank Williams. Sometimes he would bring his guitar in and sing for the customers. Sometimes Chris would have to "throw" him out. Hank was not always on his best behavior you know!

I celebrated the occasion with many Montgomerians that I have known over the years; Bill Marks, Earl Garner, Billy Fowler and the ever interesting Ray Scott of Bass Master fame, just to name a few. The line to buy hot dogs stretched out into



Theo and Gus honored me with a memorable photo in front of Chris' at its 100th Anniversary celebration.



Bass Master Ray Scott hung around Chris' long enough for me to autograph a picture for him.

Katechis family for providing six generations with the best hot dogs in the known world. There were also over 100 old cars on display up and down Dexter Avenue, including my gold 1989 Lincoln Town Car, Signature Series. It looked kind of out of place with the Model "A" and Model "T" Fords, a really beautiful 1957 Chevrolet Impala Sports Coupe, and the most antique cars that I have ever seen in one place.

Most Alabama governors and several U. S. presidents have dined at



the street and up Dexter Avenue. Nobody stands in a line like that for a regular hot dog...Well, Chris' Hot Dogs ain't your regular hot dog!

## Proclamation By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, it is important to give appropriate recognition to past and present fathers for their unique and valuable role in the lives of their children and for providing the foundation for the healthy and social development of their families who are a vital interest in the future of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to encourage future fathers to be mindful of the importance of their role in the day-to-day lives of their children, families and society; and

WHEREAS, fatherhood demands sacrifice, and it is often difficult work; but, being a dad does not require perfection. Fathers are examples of success and are the ones who constantly push their children toward it. And where their own fathers fell short, they have an obligation to rise up and do better with their own children; and

WHEREAS, fathers try to do everything possible to provide a healthy social environment for their children; and

WHEREAS, according to Alabama DBR, these children are, on average, more likely to be poor, to use drugs, to experience health, educational, emotional, and behavioral problems, to be victims of child abuse, and to engage in criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, as we honor our fathers on father's Day, let us pledge to making concentrated steps to embrace our fathers and value our children's need for a father in their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, on this Father's Day, let's encourage fathers to recommit themselves to those duties that all parents share: to build a foundation for their children's dreams, to give them the love and support they need to fulfill them, and to stick with them the whole way through, no matter what difficulties may arise:

NOW THEREFORE, I Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim June 18, 2018 as

### Father's Day

in the State of Alabama. All Alabamians are encouraged to recognize the important role fathers play and join together in observing this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

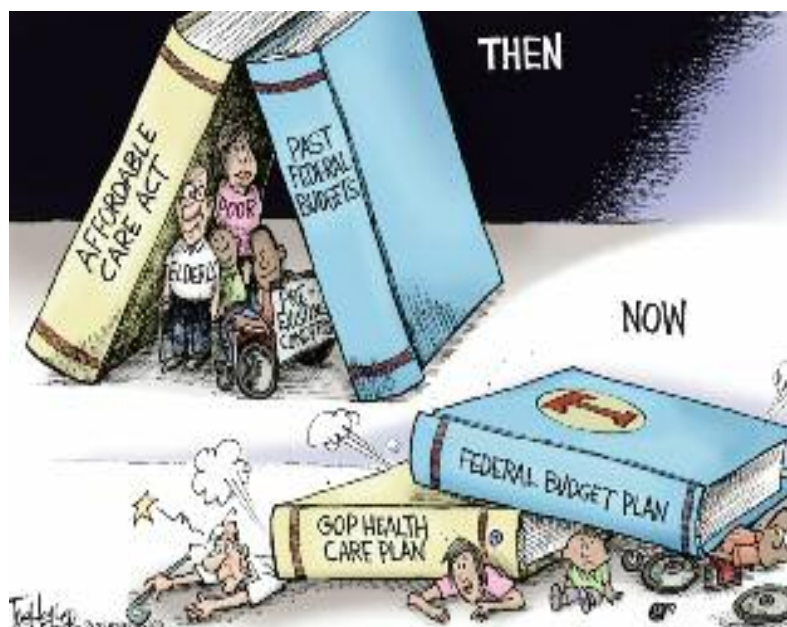


Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 2017.

*Kay Ivey*

Kay Ivey, Governor

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