



The Alabama
Gazette

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TAKE ONE!

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Alabama Gazette Celebrating 16 Years

OCTOBER

AWARENESS
OCTOBER
MONTH
BREAST CANCER

Supporting
the Fighters
Admiring
the Survivors
Remembering
the Taken
and never, ever
giving up hope.



A Month to re-evaluate our society!
Family Life ~ Health & Wellness ~
Our Faith ~ Commitments ~
Safety for our children!



Give Blood!

LIVER AWARENESS MONTH

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS encourages eligible donors to give blood to support patients undergoing liver and other types of transplants. Live transplants are the second most common transplant type in the U.S., and a single transplant patient may need more than 30 units of blood products.

Family Therapy



STRESS?



**No Worries,
We Have a
Toolbox
for That!**



Oswaldo Chavez,
MS, LMFT-S, LPC-S, NCC
Clinical Counselor
Non-profit organization

Coping with day-to-day stressors such as marriage, kids, work, finances, and life in general, is an important topic to examine. We all go through some type of struggle in our lives. I think the key is to remember that how

we respond to those stressors has an impact on what happens next. Most of us tend to focus on what we cannot do and not what we can do.

See story on page 12A

Getting things accomplished isn't nearly as important as taking time for love. Janette Oke

BE A BUDDY ...NOT A BULLY!

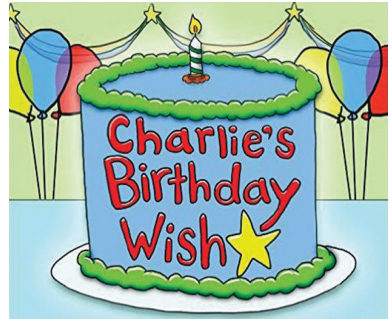
Two letters make a big difference!



**October is
National
Bullying
Prevention
Month**

Teaching children that friendships are not a right and must be earned. The short and long-term consequences of being a bully. Teaching children ways to be a good friend. The importance of forgiveness, and how parents, teachers and guardians can act as role models.

"The bully's point of view."



by Rene Micka
Pictures by Scott Sauer

Connect with Rene Micks at: www.betterdaybooks.net
Charles Birthday Wish is available in print and ebook format and can be purchased from Amazon, Barnes & Nobles and online booksellers.

AMERICA IS AT A CROSSROAD - THE AGENDA TO ERASE AMERICA

ALL IS NOT WELL IN AMERICA!

The enemy is targeting Christianity, and is doing so through attacking political and religious liberty. Pastors and chaplains are threatened, even chaplains at prison systems where they are so badly needed. Crosses are removed as "offensive." Such a thing would have been unthinkable when I was a child. Public schools have not only removed the teaching of the Bible as absolute moral Truth, but are redefining gender, if you can comprehend such a thing. Some are even removing the name of "girl"

"boy" on bathroom doors.

Many of those arriving on our shores come to destroy our country. Since January, 2015, over 50 U.S. citizens have been arrested for terror plots, according to **Todd Starnes** of Fox News. The ISIS strategy includes the use of the internet for propaganda to recruit young people to join their efforts. They are recruiting individuals to engage in "lone wolf" tactics, to act out terror in an American or European city. We have seen this in American cities in multiple states.

By Bobbie Ames

See story on page 13A

James Madison, writing in
The Federalist 51 wrote:

"If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place, oblige it to control itself."

Please see the October listings for



On Page 15A

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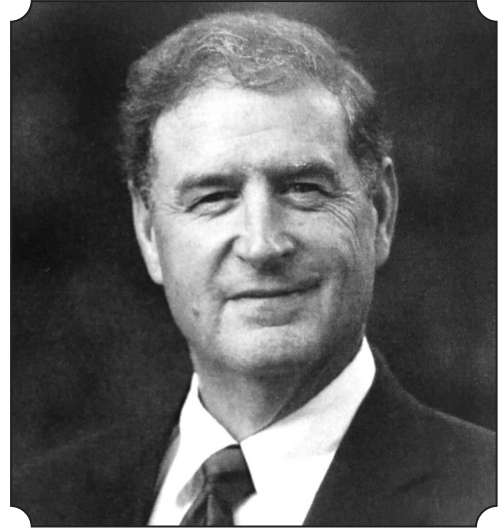


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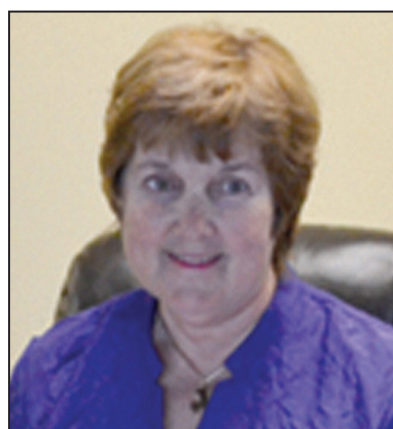
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Roby
for her
Washington
updates
for our
readers.*



Rep. Martha Roby
U.S. House of Representatives



UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

MARTHA ROBY

ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT



ROBY WEEKLY COLUMN:

Telling the Truth about “Women’s Health”

Thomas Jefferson once wrote, “*To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.*”

This simple principle explains why I have fought alongside fellow pro-life colleagues for years to prohibit federal funding from going to organizations that perform abortions, including **Planned Parenthood**. Not everyone is pro-life like I am, but those who are should not be forced to have their tax dollars fund an organization that aborts more than 350,000 unborn babies every year.

Federal law has long prohibited public funds from being used to actually perform abortions. However, Planned Parenthood gets millions in grants and reimbursements for the other services they provide, like pregnancy tests, birth control, pap smears, STD tests, and various treatments.

Of course, low-income women should have access to these critical services. But, why is it necessary for those services to be funded at the nation’s largest provider of abortion? It isn’t actually, but the abortion industry and its supporters want you to think it is.

When it comes to funding, they liked to pretend abortion doesn’t exist and that Planned Parenthood is the only place where low-income women can get health care. Taking away federal funding from Planned Parenthood means attacking “women’s health,” they say.

That’s not true. The truth is there are more than 13,000 Federally Qualified and Rural Health Centers throughout this country offering low-cost health care to women. In fact, these centers outnumber Planned Parenthood clinics 20-1.

If those who defend federal funding of Planned Parenthood truly just wanted to make sure low-income women have access to health care, and not abortion, why not agree to simply support these non-controversial community health centers instead?

That’s a question I posed on the House floor during a recent debate on a bill to stop federal funding from going to Planned Parenthood.

If this argument is really about making sure women have access to health care, I said, we could all agree right now to support these community health centers. But, that’s not what it is about. You see, while Federally Qualified and Rural Health Centers provide a wide range of medical services, they don’t perform abortions. And, that’s what they really want: to preserve the pipeline of funding to the nation’s largest abortion provider. Talk of “women’s health” is nothing but a charade; a false pretense that I believe more and more Americans are beginning to realize is phony.

The **Defunding Planned Parenthood Act** passed the House by a vote of 241-187, and it now will be up to the Senate to advance the bill to the president’s desk. Given the gridlock in the Senate and President Obama’s strong support of Planned Parenthood, I realize the chance of our bill becoming law is slim. However, that won’t stop me from fighting to advance the cause of defending the unborn.



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presented by
The Republican Club of Central Alabama



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Details at CentralALGOP.com



***Ronald A.
Holtsford***

Congratulations to the Alabama Gazette on hitting sixteen years of publication. How has the law changed in these sixteen years?

PART I (PART II will be in November 2015)

Article III, Section I of the United States says, “*The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.*”

Because the supreme law of the land is vested in the United States Supreme Court, let’s look at some cases since 2000.

In 2000, in ***Boy Scouts of America et al. v. Dale***, 530 **U.S. 640**, a five to four vote stated essentially that, “*the presence of that person affects in a significant way the group’s ability to advocate public or private viewpoints.*” A New Jersey Scoutmaster, James Dale made known his homosexuality and was expelled from the Boy Scouts. The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled for Dale saying that accommodation should be made for him but the United States Supreme Court felt that opposition to homosexuality by the Boy Scouts was an “expressive message”.

The 2001 case of ***Good News Club v. Milford Central School***, 533 **U.S. 98**, involved a public forum discussion of religion (Christianity) by a couple that resided in New York and the “Good News Club”. The Club held meetings for about 15 months until it was determined that the Establishment Clause was being violated. The Supreme Court decided that the Good News Club, though Christian in nature and providing singing and Bible lessons, was moral in nature. This was considered similar to the Boy Scouts and even an Aesop’s Fable group that imparted morals to the children. The children were instructed after school by non-school instructors. Participation was only with parental agreement and it was felt that the young children would not have understood that the group was endorsed by the government.

In ***Watchtower Society v. Village of Stratton***, 536 **U.S. 150**, 2002, the Village of Stratton required registration permits for anyone going door to door for such things as political, religious and unsolicited sales. The Supreme Court ruled 8-1 that such registration process violated speech under the First Amendment.

In ***Eldred v. Ashcroft***, 537 **U.S. 186** (2003), it was argued that the extension of copyrights by 20 years under the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act interfered with the then existing copyrights that were about to otherwise enter the public domain. The Supreme Court cited prior laws where terms were extended. The length of a human’s life was longer on the average than when prior laws were enacted and as well the European Union uses a life plus seventy years to protect copyrights and it was felt that United States copyrighted items should be protected for a similar time.

In ***Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow***, 542 **U.S. 1** (2004), it was challenged whether the term “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance violated

the Establishment Clause. The majority opinion by Chief Justice Rhenquist was that the term “under God” acknowledged the nation’s heritage and did not violate the Establishment Clause.

In ***Cutter v. Wilkinson***, 544 **U.S. 709** (2005), the question was whether the Federal Government under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act violated the Establishment Clause in accommodating prisoners not involved in mainstream religions. The Court determined that such accommodation did not violate the Constitution by such extra accommodation for persons that were Wiccan, Satanist, white supremacist Christian or worshipped the pagan Asatru.

The right to free speech was challenged in ***Garcetti v. Ceballos***, 547 **U.S. 410** (2006), in which Ceballos, as a Los Angeles deputy District Attorney had made statements regarding a Warrant and claimed he was retaliated against because of those statements. The Court majority held that being a public official did not protect him against disciplinary action for statements (free speech) that he made as opposed to making such statements as a private citizen.

Though overturned by other Courts, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 was upheld in ***Gonzales v. Carhart***, 550 **U.S. 124** (2007). Justice Thomas even stated that he did not believe at that time that the Supreme Court had enough power under the Commerce Clause to ban the law. You will recall the recent question by the Court regarding same sex marriage where the Court questioned its authority before overturning many existing State laws.

That concludes Part I of United States Supreme Court highlights (one case per year) during the years since publication of the ***Alabama Gazette*** began. Part II will be published in November 2015.

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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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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

Okay, I get it. I really do. The Syrian refugee crisis is a tragedy on a monumental scale. The picture of the dead child on the beach, the long lines, barbed wire fences and all the scenes reminiscent of the worst of WWII movies and documentaries, all work to pull and tear at our collective heart strings. But as with almost any story, there is always more than meets the eye.

It is a little difficult writing about this but alas, I feel the need to. Before someone reading this opines that I am a racist, let me remind them that Islam is not a race. What I believe has nothing to do with prejudice, bigotry or hate, but rather the cold, hard stuff too many people run away from. That stuff? Reality and truth. So buckle your seatbelts, here goes.

For starters, how about you guys putting the paper down for a second and going to your computer or iPad. Go ahead and “Google” something like “Refugee photos.” Take a look at dozens of photos of refugees from the last 100 years and tell me what you see. Obviously you see very sad, tired, and destitute people. Fear clearly grips the faces of many. But what else do you see? When I look at those photos, I see mostly old men and women, families, a lot of children with single parents and young kids. Now “Google” something like, “Syrian refugee photos.” Now, what do you see? Yes, you are going to see some of the same kind of images but you also see photos with hundreds and sometimes thousands of mostly young men; men of military age rushing the borders of southern Europe. Odd? You better believe it.

In wars past, most young men stayed behind to fight whatever was threatening their existence. Here, they are fighting to get into Europe. “Hey Rob, you can’t say that.” Okay, let’s look at some numbers. According to several sources, only 1 in 5 immigrants wanting to storm into Europe actually hails from Syria. 1 in 5 people. Although common core math has made cheese out of many-a-brain, that leaves 4 in 5 or 80% who are NOT refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria. Of the 213,000 refugees who arrived in Europe from April through June, only 44,000 were from Syria. Guess what, of those 213,000, 27,000 of them came from Afghanistan. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3240010/Number-refugees-arriving-Europe-soars-85-year-just-one-five-war-torn-Syria.html>

The cold hard reality is that the majority of the “refugees” who risk their lives trying to break into Europe are not seeking political asylum but rather seeking better economic conditions. This, people, makes the plight of many of these people a completely different ballgame. It is a ballgame in which countries in the EU have EVERY right to sit back and judge every entrant with special scrutiny. The protection of their people and the survival of their societies clearly outweighs the discomfort of any refugee. On top of this, if economics is the real reason for many of the immigrants, the EU countries clearly have the right to deny entrance to a swarm of people who will invariably disrupt the economic and social structures of their countries. The bottom line is to say every “refugee” is escaping the civil war in Syria is a lie.

For grins, let’s just say all of these people are legitimate war torn refugees. Please explain to me why in the heck most of the Muslim countries that are much closer (look at a map of the region) to Syria are not taking in ANY of these people? Why? Too be fair, Jordan and Lebanon are taking many of the Syrian refugees but the other nations in that region are remain silent and closed off. Also, if not for economic reasons, don’t you think most of these people would want to go to a place that is not just closer but to a place where the people think as they do, speak as they do and worship as they do? You would think people would seek out those who they have much more in common with than the Western European countries they are demanding entrance into. But who am I kidding here? You tell me why countries like Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are not welcoming these people with open arms while they are demanding the EU take them in. Saudi Arabia did however

offer to build 200 new mosques in Germany to handle all the new refugees. (<http://www.ibtimes.com/amid-muslim-refugee-crisis-saudi-arabia-vows-build-200-mosques-germany-2090905/> <http://www.wnd.com/2015/09/saudi-arabia-offers-to-build-200-mosques-in-germany/>)

Pretty altruistic of them huh? The battle cry that we in the West are not doing enough is smothered by the reality that most of their own people are doing nothing. Not only that, but it seems clear to me that once this “humanitarian crises” is over, these people have absolutely no plans to go back home. Seems a little suspicious to me.

I read one article about the five-member Habashieh family. At one level, like many refugee stories, it is sad. At one level you truly feel sorry for some of these people. But then you read further and you shake your head. Pull it up and read it for yourself. Initially they were sent to Berlin and then eventually sent to an area outside of Dresden in a city called Chemnitz. They hated it there because they wanted to be in Berlin. Yes, on one level I understand but on every other level the hair on my neck stands up. As a refugee, you really have no right to demand where you are going to placed. None. Zero. Zip. Zilch. Nadda. Be grateful that the German people have opened up their doors and allowed you to come in at all, which by the way, is the right thing to do if they are actually refugees. <http://news.yahoo.com/syrian-refugee-family-meets-rude-welcome-german-home-145719190.html>

Now let’s talk about that pesky little thing called National Security. ISIS has already stated that they would exploit this refugee crises in order to infiltrate Europe. Some estimates are that over 4,000 have already done so. Why wouldn’t they? These guys are not stupid and if we are willy-nilly going to let tens of thousands of people enter our borders unchecked, why in the heck wouldn’t they do so? I would. Especially after they have said they would!

Without a doubt, this situation is troubling. On one hand we have to ensure the safety and security of those legitimately fleeing the civil war in Syria. I believe we have to. I believe we should. At the same time, however, we have to be willing to look at those who are fleeing solely based on economic reasons and say, “Not so fast.” We are at a point where the West’s natural compassion for human life is coming face-to-face with the need for national security. To be sure, it is a difficult balancing act that must, however, be pursued.





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After a through review of the proposed nuclear agreement with Iran, including its annexes, we have come to the unfortunate conclusion that this deal does not achieve the minimum requirements necessary for an acceptable agreement.


The determined efforts by America’s negotiating team over the past many months deserve great respect, and we remain committed to a successful diplomatic process to bring about an end to Iran’s nuclear weapons quest.

Regrettably, however, the proposed deal falls short of its intentions to eliminate every Iranian pathway to a nuclear weapon. In fact, this deal will legitimize Iran as a nuclear threshold state in 15 years.


We believe the United States can, and must, do better.

NEGOTIATIONS with IRAN


6 UNACCEPTABLE CONSEQUENCES




1. LEGITIMIZE IRAN AS A NUCLEAR THRESHOLD STATE.




2. RAISE THE PROSPECT OF WAR.




3. SPUR A NUCLEAR ARMS RACE.



4. INCREASE IRANIAN SUPPORT OF TERRORISM.




5. STRENGTHEN THE IRANIAN REGIME.



6. UNDERMINE AND THREATEN REGIONAL ALLIES.

NEGOTIATIONS with IRAN

ANALYSIS: THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL




1. INSPECTIONS AND VERIFICATION

SATISFIED

NOT SATISFIED

☐

☐




2. POSSIBLE MILITARY DIMENSIONS

SATISFIED

NOT SATISFIED

☐

☐




3. SANCTIONS

SATISFIED

NOT SATISFIED

☐

☐




4. DURATION

SATISFIED

NOT SATISFIED

☐

☐




5. DISMANTLEMENT

SATISFIED

NOT SATISFIED

☐

☐



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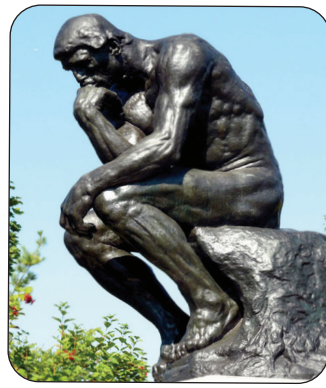
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John Sophocleus

THINK



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

Mr. Trump, “MANAGEMENT” is NOT an Answer...

...to those wanting a more rational, Constitutional Immigration Policy

I must begin with great delight in wishing the Alabama Gazette a very blessed Sweet Sixteen Anniversary as she remains a courageous “Voice of Reason” in our State. I honored to be a Gazette writer for a third of those years. Again I ask forgiveness from all those who write/tell me they do not agree. I do not write seeking agreement, but to advance thinking as charged by the moniker Loretta assigned my column in 2009. One of many lessons I’ve learned from Jesus’ teachings is those struggling to follow His path to our heavenly Father will oft be reviled by others. Jesus was not looking for agreement from corrupt clergy, moneychangers, Herod, et al. I’ve read nothing to suggest He expected agreement from Pilate, nor forecasted this Roman procurator would ‘do right’ in the end but nonetheless provided the opportunities to change one’s path. An integral part of the process is to first THINK about what one may do which will shepherd us towards the path Jesus Christ shown to the world. May God grant the Gazette many more years applying His word advancing the Holy Spirit to address our problems of today using the Wisdom of many ages past.

I’m not a fan of the current Don hype any more than I was a devotee of our hometown Don... Siegelman. Nonetheless, Trumpmania has the immigration debate heated up once again. In true “Reality Showmanship” DT has made for some great sound bites and TV ratings but little of substance. When asked how he would accomplish his ends of securing the border and getting Mexico to pay for it (and his answer to other issues) Mr. Trump simply asserted “MANAGEMENT.” Well management is NOT an answer, but nonetheless revealing. One who uses eminent domain takings, federal bankruptcy laws, etc. to redistribute wealth in their favor certainly must possess some effective management skills in responding to and using a corrupt system to amass such wealth. Hard not to recognize Mr. Trump’s acumen as one of our most accomplished corporate welfare queens. He is part of the elite establishment who knows how to be well rewarded for being a loser instead of having to compete where market forces may discipline or fire him. This ‘reality TV’ era of our sham (ballot access restricted) duopoly elections plays well in the polls, but doesn’t seem to be adding much of substance to the debate.

We have more Carly Fiorina blips to endure in the coming months. Once the mania fades perhaps a civil discussion may emerge to jettison the extremist policies our nation ‘ratcheted-up’ to even bigger, more intrusive government these past several score culminating into the broken system we observe today. I propose we move forward toward the rational, common sense vision put forth in our Constitution. Immigration and naturalization are included as one of the few things the federal government is authorised to address. Many would be amazed at how much the ‘GENERAL welfare’ would improve if the federal government only did those few things (the seventeen Judge Napolitano so often stresses) enumerated really well. Instead, the federal government is being strangled by all the unauthorized programs and policies we now observe, designed to benefit the SPECIFIC welfare of special interests.

From what I’ve witnessed of most currently elected to Congress, they seem to know very little of the letter much less the Spirit of the logic offered in the Constitution they’ve taken an oath to uphold. If they do know, it matters little since they do not act upon the knowledge and wisdom contained in the document, nor do I think they have the courage to do so when it is so much easier to join the DC extremists. If we didn’t have federal minimum wage laws, social security, mandated insurances, OSHA regulations, non-uniform tariffs, income taxes, etc. the inducement and incentive for illegal immigration would decrease. Many angered by illegal immigration refuse to admit they’re vexed by a symptom because they do not have the courage to stand up to these extremist policies exacerbating the problem.

My definition of an extremist politician is clear and simple. Either bureaucrats, executives, judges, lawmakers, et al adhere to what they’re authorised to address and hold to their oath, OR they exceed their authority and are extremists. To understand the more generic concern/complaint about immigration, one must make the connection to the labour issue... distortions of competitive forces in labour markets are nothing new. Some engaged in the task of writing and adopting the Constitution wanted to immediately abolish the importation of slave labour - but it was clear northern shipping interests would not secede from the Articles of Confederation to join ‘the more perfect union’ with a provision of this sort.

After some debate, 1808 was the agreed upon date (Art. 1, Sect. 9) where such abolition of imported labour would be allowed - i.e., giving shipping interests a couple decades to adjust and respond. For those who may not know, 1808 was in fact the year importation of slaves into the US was abolished... why that bicentennial was NOT recently celebrated speaks for itself to those cognizant of the efforts to advance ignorance of our economic history. The framers understood competition would further address this labour issue - e.g., individuals emancipating themselves, state emancipation laws, individuals emancipating their slaves, etc. would be more effective than force. In Maryland 49% of blacks were free in the 1860 census, even though they’d not yet abolished slavery like Pennsylvania just north of the Mason-Dixon line.

If we DID have/elect Congresspeople wanting to move forward toward a more Constitutional immigration policy - where would be a sound place to start? Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 states, “all imposts, duties and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States,” and it is universally accepted that “imposts, duties and excises” are antiquated words for what are more commonly called tariffs today - i.e., taxes on imports. Remember, before the Republican Party gave us the first income tax to finance a war for centralised government and corporate welfare, there were enough members of Congress who held to their oath of office and refused to allow such a deleterious tax upon their nation. Not only do higher income taxes increase incentives for illegal immigration and ‘underground’ labour markets - the income tax gets imbedded in prices of our exports to other nations. Furthermore, with so many items coming in ‘tariff free’ (remember all imports which come into the nation ABOVE and BELOW the average tariff rate are unconstitutional) the cost of trade is not incorporated into the price of imports, further distorting the balance of trade and labour markets.

This design leads to understanding why there is NOT a two year appropriations limit on the Navy, as is placed upon the Army - also not followed today. Those who wrote and ratified the Constitution wisely feared long standing federal armies, but understood a Navy would be an integral part of defining, defending and enforcing property rights on the high seas to allow trade to remain regular. That is why so much ink is spilled on maritime issues, piracy, etc. in the enumerated powers. Navy and Marines would operate under the same administration (reduce duplication) for immediate deployment requirements and Congress could decide to decrease or increase arsenals, bases, dock yards, forts, equipment, magazines, soldiers, sailors and ships when forecasting how great a

force would be required to address those few issues the people of the States ceded to federal authority.

With this logical and reasonable system of uniform tariffs put in place - those who benefit from the exchange are the ones who pay the tax - i.e., those purchasing and selling imports. Most positive economists champion the merit and efficiency of ‘user fees’ collected via voluntary exchange, a.k.a. ‘indirect taxes’ by some nomenclators. Tariff revenue was to be used to finance the Navy to curb piracy, customs officials/forts, improving and maintaining ports, canals, COIN money to have stable currency for international exchange, etc... So the cost of facilitating trade is incorporated in import prices to reduce distortions which arise if the costs of making this trade available to buyers and sellers are not included. I’m one of those annoying economists who often remind folks, “There’s no such thing as a Free Market.” There are many costs associated with making markets work - i.e., keeping them regular.

How does this translate into a more Constitutional immigration policy? Let’s use 10% as the uniform tariff rate regardless of what is being imported - i.e., the tax code will not be used to pick winners and losers with various rates. For a numerical illustration, consider an individual wanting to enter the US on a one year work visa, where US individual median income is \$25,000/year. The tariff would be \$2,500 paid to customs, subject to a rudimentary physical exam and international criminal check - no INS bureaucrats and immigration attorneys. Of course, this \$2,500 could be paid by sponsors, employers, charitable organizations, etc... furthermore, when job markets are tight, fewer immigrants will want to take on the expense of paying the tariff with a decreased likelihood of actually working.

Using the simple immigration policy above, the next step is to address a uniform naturalization policy to define the path to citizenship, given the design and spirit of our Constitution. It is tied to one of those few (and most thought provoking in my opinion) powers enumerated to Congress in determining the limited time which authors and inventors have exclusive rights (monopoly power) to their writings and discoveries/inventions to promote the useful arts and sciences. The obvious dilemma: without property rights of this sort - incentives to create, improve and innovate are decreased; make the time this monopoly power is conferred too long - the transfer to specific individuals/groups (usu. corporate interests) will be deleterious to the general welfare of the economy.

So let’s work through another numerical illustration, this time for an immigrant (again regardless of origin) seeking citizenship. I’ll pick 17 years as the limited time established by Congress for exclusivity. To give domestic labour some semblance of uniformity, the immigrant seeking citizenship would pay a \$42,500 (i.e., 17 times \$2,500) tariff to customs (which may be paid by anyone - private charitable groups, donors, employers, sponsors) and must pass a rudimentary exam on the US Constitution in a uniform language... how about English for kicks? Of course, the physical exam and criminal check would still apply and any prior year(s) paid in tariffs for work visas could be subtracted from \$42,500 total tariff - an amount which would be subject to revision at uniform intervals tied to median income. Anyone who paid 17 years of work visas - regardless of how the rates may change over the years -- would be eligible to take the citizenship exam if they so desire.

To those wanting to dismiss this simple proposal over what the extremists now have in place - please offer another which is more consistent with the design of the Constitution. Sorry Don - “MANAGEMENT” isn’t an answer -- specifics to address the problem within the constraints of the Constitution you’ll be taking an oath to uphold is what the non-reality show voters are looking for from you. Mr. Reagan type amnesties are not the answer. I expect there will be no shortage of complaints on how high these tariffs would be for immigrants yet great silence on how much domestic labour currently pays in direct (payroll) taxes and all the indirect taxes associated with domestic employment. Just because an increasing number of US citizens do not see nor understand how crushing this burden is in fact on our productive workers, doesn’t mean the burden is NOT there and greatly distorts outcomes in our labour markets. If you look at the cost associated with shuttling illegal immigrants back and forth, unpaid medical bills, so-called ‘anchor babies,’ dumping children, etc. an amount determined in this manner starts to quickly add up.

In closing, I find those who complain the loudest about immigration are those most quiet to offer alternatives. Sound proposals must have some understanding of how our federal government was designed to operate (not shown by the Clinton, Fiorina, Trump, Sanders, et al frontrunners) and be advanced by those who have the courage to put forth simple, rational, constitutionally correct policy instead of more politically correct, command and control outcomes designed to further empower the federal government. I’m sure some will be aghast at the notion of letting anyone, from any country of origin be eligible for a work visa and/or citizenship. It is time for biases and discrimination of this sort to end, allowing those with the drive, merit, work ethic and who are truly willing to put the effort toward wanting to be a part of making a place in the world secure for the blessings of liberty possible for themselves and their posterity. Some are championing bringing in hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees. I have no problem with any private individual or group who wants to pay to have them come for a year or more and see if they may become a productive member our nation of States; it is not something for the federal government to subsidize and indulge their preferences under our currently less representative political result.

Postscript: some have asked for my thoughts on the recent Wall Street Journal report about wrongful involvement of athletics in academic governance at AU. Far too many assert this is yet another example of ‘big money’ college football pressuring a university when it is a far more serious indictment of the lawlessness and unethical culture pervasive at the University. This culture has routinely manifested itself in blatant violations of legitimate established processes, but has also led to frequent selection of administrators on the basis of loyalty and pliability rather than competency and character. Many on campus recall the corrupt process which installed an internal provost who’s incompetence or malfeasance (does it matter which?) has put the integrity of our football and academic programs in question. This is the same deleterious culture and spirit which gave rise to and empowered the Speaker of the House. Those who read Buddy Mitchell’s affidavit on how this politician polluted Auburn athletics are not surprised this pollutant is permeating throughout the University and our State. Regardless of whether one is reading the Speaker’s 23-count felony indictment or the recent Wall Street Journal article, intellectually honest folks can’t help but sadly think of the popular new slogan: This is Auburn. Say a prayer for those brave few courageously trying to remove these pollutants.

Bench - Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

Judge Philip Dale Segrest

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Arbitration: The Public's Right to Know

This column will focus on the privatization of dispute resolution in arbitration. Congress enacted The Federal Arbitration Act that required arbitration in all matters involving interstate commerce where there was an arbitration agreement many years ago. In the 1980's the United States Supreme Court upheld that legislation. Since that time there has been extensive privatization of a very large amount dispute resolution. With rare exception Court proceedings are public proceedings, but arbitration is not. Juvenile Court proceedings are a recognized exception, but, in most other cases a judge must carefully examine and articulate policies for privatizing dispute resolution. The public has a very legitimate interest in dispute resolution for many policy reasons. For instance, in criminal cases, the defendants are entitled to a speedy and public trial. There is little to be said for resolving disputes in which the public has a very legitimate interest behind closed doors.

Most legislative bodies have adopted "sunshine laws" so that the business of almost all governmental bodies are open to the public. This recognizes that it is not a good idea for matters of public interest to be debated and decided behind closed doors. It is very important for the public to have access to information regarding the resolution of significant disputes. The resolution of a dispute, when decided by a court, results in a precedent. The reasons for deciding a case a certain way in one instance will provide good reasons for deciding it the same way if similar circumstances arise again. Precedent has been an extremely important element in the preservation of a consistent body of law in the Anglo-American system. Stare decisis assures consistency. Public trials and the reporting of the

results enable the general public to formulate a decision making process in order to comply with the law. Christopher Columbus Langdale instituted the case method of Law Study at Harvard University in 1871. That method quickly spread to law schools all across the nation.

Harvard Professor Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. who would later become Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, stated that "law is what a court does." If all important commercial disputes continue to be resolved behind closed doors; what will commercial law be fifty years from now? What will employment law be fifty years from now? In arbitration, the results of the



dispute resolution are not usually available for public scrutiny. Law Schools cannot examine the process by which arbitration decisions are reached. The similarity of the words arbitration and arbitrary is frightening. The decisions of arbitrators are not reported and cannot be systematically collected. Law Schools cannot instruct students on the meaning of arbitration results. Lawyers do not have access to the results of arbitration, to analyze for future use in advising clients.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution has been construed to require public access to this type of critical information. We seldom hear, however, of news media filing First Amendment lawsuits in order to gain access to

arbitration proceedings. The State of Delaware undertook to have its court proceedings involving commercial disputes resolved by Chancery Judges who would conduct proceedings similar to arbitration. They would deny access to the public. The Supreme Court of the United States that had decided that it was permissible for Corporate America to write contracts requiring the persons with whom they do business to arbitrate their disputes decided that Delaware could not use such proceedings. This appears to be totally inconsistent and appears to overlook the policy problems concerning the privatization of commercial disputes in arbitration.

Corporate America-the large corporations-have now constructed elaborate "dispute resolution" procedures to deal with their employees and their customers. The dispute resolution is more cumbersome than court proceedings. Disputes are resolved behind closed doors. Even if a large corporation grossly mistreats one or more of its employees, that dispute is not likely to gain the public eye and public attention that it deserves. There is no appeal from the results of arbitration. Therefore, there are no appellate decisions that are available to the public.

Arbitration deprives the public of critical information. It conceals from the public important aspects of dispute resolution in matters of extreme importance to the on-going affairs of this nation. It is not just a matter of depriving individuals of their day in court-it is a matter of depriving the public of critical information concerning how disputes are resolved. It represents abdication of responsibility by the Judicial Branch of government.

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



Marcia Chambliss



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Immigration: Our Founders Were Right

Many topics will dominate this presidential election cycle, yet nothing stirs emotions on either side quite like the national discussion on immigration. But this issue is hardly a new one as our Founding Fathers were debating it during the early years of our Republic.

Our Founders were scholarly and visionary men, and their careful deliberation of the issue of immigration is still relevant today because our national identity remains at state.

As much as our Founders embraced the idea of abundant immigration, an argument made often by proponents of open immigration, a balkanized nation without borders was not the America they envisioned.

From all indications, the Founders were more than welcoming to those from other countries who came here seeking freedom and opportunity. The new experiment of self-governance was a concept that they wanted to share with others seeking the blessings of liberty. Further, immigrants were encouraged to bring their skills and intellect to our new nation to help it grow and prosper. But while immigration was not opposed, it was well understood that the new republic would be endangered if large numbers of foreigners arrived without learning our language, understanding our principles of freedom, or accepting our institutions of governance.

What is being lost in today's debate about immigration is the failure of assimilation by those who come to our country.

Assimilation was required because the Founders were students of history who remembered what had happened to earlier republics such as Rome, and they believed that giving citizenship without assimilation was a recipe for disaster. As Alexander Hamilton noted in 1802: "Among other instances, it is know that hardly anything contributed more to the downfall of Rome than her precipitate communication of the privileges of citizenship to the inhabitants of Italy at large."¹

Efforts now underway to provide amnesty and a citizenship to those who enter illegally and fail to assimilate cheapens the entire concept of citizenship, as lately it has become a means of providing financial benefits to purchase loyalty to the ones who provide the goodies. In Mark Levin's latest book, *Plunder and Deceit*, Levin provides eye-opening statistics on the cost of uncontrolled immigration, including the cost of government benefits and services. According to The Heritage Foundation, illegal immigrants in FY 2010 received \$2.40 in benefits and services for each dollar paid in taxes.²

Hamilton's words are just as crucial today: "The safety of a republic depends essentially on the energy of a common national sentiment; on a uniformity of principles and habits; on the exemption of the citizens from foreign

bias, and prejudice; and on that love of country which will almost invariably be found to be closely connected with birth, education, and family."³

We've mistakenly replaced the common idea of citizenship with a

hyphenated America, and too many immigrants of today are seemingly encouraged to embrace that hyphenation by the various special interest groups who are anxious to exploit the separation for political or financial gain. Identity politics related to gender, heritage, skin color, religious preference, etc., results in political pandering to the separate groups, with absolutely no end in sight.

Our Founders didn't ask or require immigrants to abandon their ancestors' heritage but instead sought the creation of a national identity as Americans, and insisted on swift assimilation. Today, that national identity is being challenged because assimilation is discouraged and our separation is provoked.

The closing paragraph in Levin's chapter on immigration shows where we are heading as a nation. "The phrase *E Pluribus Unum*, 'out of many,

*one,' is part of the centerpiece of the Great Seal of the United States. It speaks to the unity of the state and the people, despite their diverse backgrounds, as one American identity with a distinctly American culture. The most troublesome aspect of unbridled immigration and hostility toward assimilation is the certainty with which it will disunite and unravel America – as millions of new immigrants self-segregate into ethnic, racial, and religious conclaves. It also clearly and hugely influences adversely the economy, employment, governmental spending, and more. And those who will suffer most are, yet again, younger people and future generations, who will inherit what has been wrought."*⁴

Are we now in full view of the divided America that our Founders feared?

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Steve Long

Woods & Waters with Steve



OCTOBER - DEER SEASON HAS FINALLY ARRIVED

It's that time of year when the weather's finally cooled off a little, the leaves are making a mess of the yard, and deer season has started again. On October 15th, the Northern Zone of Alabama began its bow season. And on the 25th, the Southern Zone, including Montgomery County, will start its bow season.

As I've mentioned before, there's more than a few changes that have been made for deer season this year. Obviously, we've got the change in starting date between zones. Another big change is the amount of deer that you can harvest. This season, you can harvest one doe a day, one buck a day, or one buck and one doe a day. You cannot harvest more than one of each gender. There's a three buck limit for the season as well, so you want to make sure you're picking your three potential trophies carefully! You also need to take care to record your harvested bucks on your Harvest Record, as it's required. You can also contribute to the Game Check program, but I'll get to that later.

What's really important to me, with all of these changes, isn't necessarily about the changes themselves. Instead, I think about why we've made these changes in Alabama. First of all, it's about proper management. Currently, the deer population in Alabama has been on the decrease, overall, but the buck to doe ratio has never been better. With proper harvesting and management, we can continue to improve the trophy buck hunting experience. But what about does?

Think about the 10 day delay in the start of the Southern Zone's season. Many does have birthed fawns not too long before the start of bow season, and those little deer can't fully fend for themselves without a little more time to grow and develop. Those 10 days can make a dramatic difference in the survivability rate of fawns. If you ask me, I'd suggest laying off of does from the beginning of the season, for just a little while. And if you see a doe with a couple of spotted fawns behind it, it's probably not just one deer you're taking the life of, but three.

That same train of thought can work for the end of the season too. During the rut, there's no real way of knowing what you're shooting, as does could be carrying a future trophy buck after conception, so again, you might be taking more than one deer with a single shot, if not a buck you'd rather let grow up to be that new addition to the wall over the fireplace!

All of these changes are based on hard-earned data that the state Biologists have analyzed and processed time and time again, year after year, to see how we can improve hunting in Alabama. At over \$1.8 billion a year, hunting brings a different kind of buck into the state in a big way. It's definitely in our financial interests to take good care of our deer population.

In fact, there's some speculation that there might be a shift in the start of archery season, or a two-week period of buck-only hunting. I'd be all for a trophy season!

So where does that data come from? Well, aside from their own field work, we now have the Game Check program available on your smart phone.

By putting in the data of your harvested deer, you can do your part to help us keep Alabama at the top of the list for trophy buck hunting destinations. I strongly encourage every hunter to contribute to the Game Check program!

Every bit of data helps us keep making changes for the better. So get out there, stick em, tag em, and report em to the program! Good huntin', yall!



Mark and Karen from Wisconsin took two nice Bama bruisers from Great Southern Outdoors in Bullock County last January



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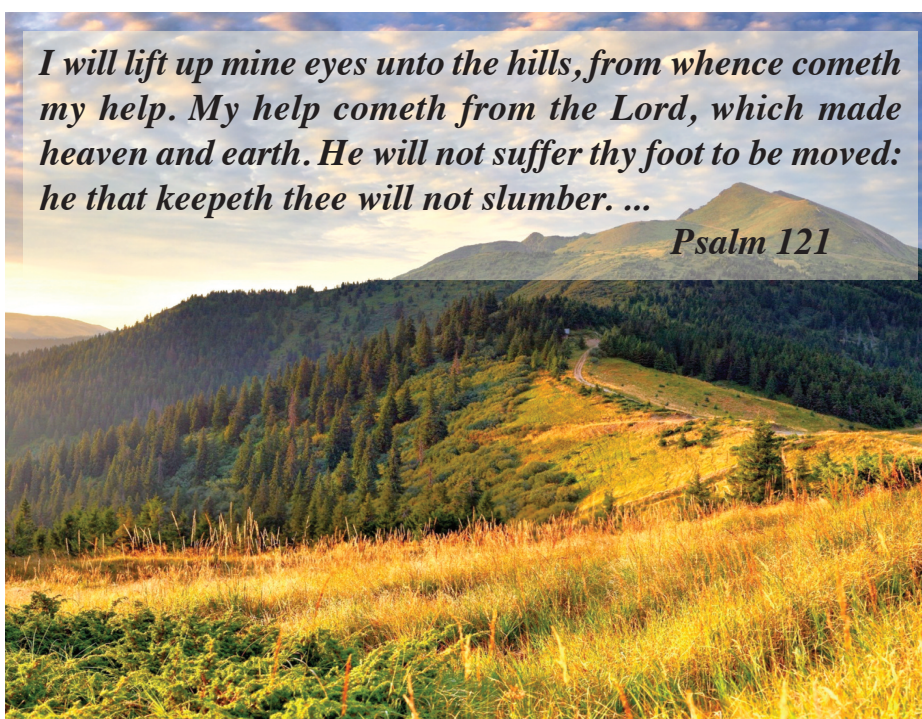
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I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. ...

Psalm 121



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



Sports Editor,
Ed Jones

PRETENDERS & CONTENDERS

The top teams in my “**Top Forty**” started the 2015 season well. *Alabama* smoked *Wisconsin* 35-17, *Auburn* got up 24-0 on *Louisville* then had to hang on as Bobby Petrino’s team came roaring back. *Ohio St.* dug the hole a little deeper for Frank Beamer’s *Virginia Tech*, 42-24. *TCU* handled *Minnesota* on the road 23-17. *Georgia* did a number on *La-Monroe*, 51-14. *UCLA* treated *Virginia* gingerly, 34-16. *USC* busted *Arkansas St.*, 55-6 only to lose to *Stanford* two weeks later 41-31. *Baylor* started their questionable schedule with a flogging of *SMU*, 56-21. *Michigan State* evidently borrowed *Oregon*’s old uniforms in order to beat the *Ducks* in Ann Arbor, 31-28. Coach Mark Antonio should be docked a month’s pay for embarrassing the proud Spartan Nation. *Florida State* used *Notre Dame*’s quarterback to humiliate *Texas St.*, 59-16. Just think what they could have done with Jacob Coker, now *Alabama*’s quarterback. *Notre Dame* embarrassed

Coach Malzahn has now led *Auburn* to two more *SEC* losses, making six straight conference losses. The **2015** team was ranked as high as number two in the pre-season polls. All polls had *Auburn* in the top ten. Why? Because the highly optimistic utterances from the football office at *Auburn* was that *Auburn* would be better in **2015** because of a *Heisman Trophy* candidate quarterback named Jeremy Johnson, an All-Everything wide receiver in Duke Williams and a defense headed up by the “greatest defensive mind in America”, Coach Will Muschamp. The national media drank the Kool-Aid®, the *SEC* writers drank the Kool-Aid®, and I drank the Kool-Aid®. What have the *Auburn* coaches been looking at during practice since **January 2015**? What would have been the results if Sean White had been named starting quarterback at the end of spring practice? What everyone forgot was that “*Malzahn the Magician*”, who most considered the foremost authority on offensive football in the United States and the best “read option coach in history”, lost his “*Mo-Jo*” in the middle of the 2014 season.

When *Auburn* tip toed out on the field in Atlanta to play *Louisville*, they had on orange fruitboots, orange and navy Argyle socks. I was devastated that Coach Gus Malzahn had stooped so low as to become one of those “gimmick” coaches that hardly ever win big. The only exception to my gimmick rule is *Oregon*, who is fed by the Nike sports nuts. They have over one hundred uniform combinations, some unrelated to their colors of green and gold. They have been playing in a weak PAC 12 Conference, Northern Division and have had some success, making three trips to the championship game. However, they can’t seem to remember their colors very well and seem to tackle the wrong man or throw to the wrong man in critical situations. Check their record this year. **Gimmicks don’t replace blocking and tackling!**

Maybe Gus Malzahn and Jay Jacobs have become footwear salesmen for UnderArmour®. What else would cause normally logical football men to dress Auburn like “faïres in the forest”.

Auburn is a proud institution. They have a proud history. *Auburn*’s football team has a strong tradition. That tradition does not include wearing orange fruitboots and Argyle socks. By the way Malzahn, what have those booties and socks done for you? Athletic Director Jay Jacobs should be reprimanded by the Auburn Board of Trustees for allowing one of his coaches to denigrate the football team with such ridiculous gimmicks. At one time the *Auburn* football uniform was voted the best looking football uniform in the nation. Maybe Coach Malzahn and Jay Jacobs are too young or too indifferent of this fact. *Auburn* has already burned the 2015 season by losing their first two conference games and barely winning the first two non-conference games. **TAKE THE BOOTIES AND ARGYLE SOCKS OFF! WAKE UP JAY JACOBS!** If they were free, give them to Goodwill. If you paid for them, you should be as embarrassed as the Auburn Nation is about this ridiculous change in the 2015 Auburn football uniform.

The only other team that should fall in the category of pretender is the aforementioned *Oregon*. They were a pre-season pick to make the play-offs by most. Thank goodness I had no such notions. Despite their insistence on looking stupid, I thought they would finish in the top twenty. Now I don’t know. They have *Auburn*’s identical record, having lost to *Michigan State* and *Utah*. They have *Arizona State*, *Stanford*, *USC*, and *Oregon State* to go.

Contenders

There are many. In my top four were *TCU*, who is winning but not impressively, *Ohio State* is doing the same. *UCLA* who lost their best football player, Miles Jack, who played linebacker and fullback, is still going strong. *Georgia* and *Alabama* are looking good, *Baylor* is rolling, *Stanford* and *USC* are hanging on. *Michigan State* is looking great as is *Notre Dame*. *Florida State* and *Clemson* will settle their status before the end of the year. Look out for *LSU*, *Ole’ Miss*, and *Oklahoma*. These are *CONTENDERS* and not *PRETENDERS*.



Who made the decision to wear these, and why?

The two pretenders are *Auburn* and *Oregon*. They both wear fruitboots. **What do you think Auburn people... fruitboots or football shoes and white athletic socks?**



UnderArmour® shoe salesmen or protectors of the Auburn tradition?



second-year coach, Charlie Strong, when he herded his *Longhorns* into *South Bend*, 38-3. *LSU* eeked by *Mississippi St.* in Starkville, 21-19, then massacred the *Auburn Tigers* in Baton Rouge, 45-21. The *Bengal Tigers* are better than advertised. Thus the season started, somewhat uneventful.

Most of the pre-season top teams did exactly as predicted. They won early. But, as the season approaches it’s mid-way point, the worm has turned for some. Others have reared their bowed up necks and announced their presence on the **2015** football scene. We will attempt to separate those who we consider “*contenders*” from those who have proven to be just “*pretenders*”.

Pretenders

At the top of this list has to be *Auburn*. Every pre-season poll had the *Tigers* ranked in the top ten and some in the top four including your’s truly. And, why not? After all Coach Gus Malzahn had hired the “best defensive mind in college football” to resurrect what used to be a proud and trusted defense under **Tommy Tuberville**, **Pat Dye**, **Ralph “Shug” Jordan**, **Jack Meagher**, **Mike Donahue**, and **John Heisman**. Coach Will Muschamp arrived on the plains with the fanfare of a small Pope. His dismissal from the head coaching job at *Florida* was not so bad after all. *Auburn* is paying the new defensive coordinator 1.6 million this year. That is more than what 60% of head coaches in Division-I make. In fact, Malzahn and Muschamp combined are making more **per year** than all of the above named Auburn coaches made. That is not necessarily bad. All successful coaches are being paid exorbitant salaries and service contracts to teach young men how to play football on it’s highest level. Now, if the money expended results in “fannies” in the seats, sold out season tickets, millions in sales of merchandise, invitations to major bowl games, conference championships and opportunities to play for national championships, it may be well spent!

Gus Malzahn rode into Auburn a few years ago on a white horse named “Cam”. The name of course comes from **Cam Newton**, the Heisman winning quarterback that Coach Malzahn coached to the national championship in 2010 as **Gene Chizik**’s offensive coordinator. Two years later a *Sun Belt Conference Championship* at *Arkansas State* and a very sad ending to Coach Gene Chizik’s tenure, catapulted “*Malzahn the Magician*” to the head coaching job at *Auburn*. I conferred this name on him after his miraculous **2013** season that came within one defensive stand and 13 seconds of winning the national championship. He did this with what I would describe as inferior talent. However, “*Malzahn the Magician*” lost his “*Mo-Jo*” in the fourth quarter of the 2014 *Texas A&M* game when *Auburn* had second down and goal on the one yard line with a perfect chance to win the game. Malzahn calls for the zone read to left of the formation which means quarterback Nick Marshal slides the football into the belly of running back Cameron Payne, then reads the offensive lineman before deciding to leave it with Payne or pull it and carry it himself. Since Coach Malzahn had been pushing Marshall for the *Heisman Trophy*, Marshall sees a chance to endure himself to the voters by pulling the football. Payne had a clear path to the end zone so he is sure Marshall would leave it with him and win the game. Not so, Marshall began tugging on the ball so that he could make the winning score. The result was a fumble and *Texas A&M* recovered – game over. Following this game Malzahn continued to make questionable decisions that caused *Auburn* to loose four out of it’s last five games.

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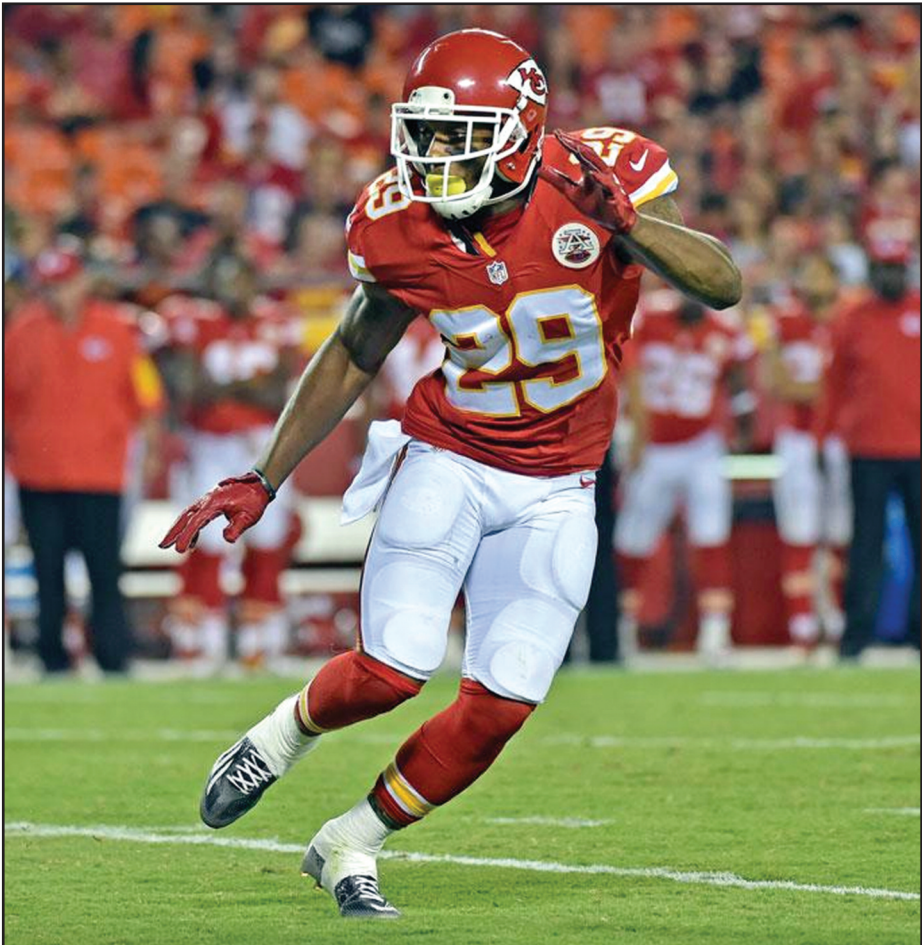
By Michael Hanich

In sports, there are always times when a player can get sidelined by a situation that they can not control, like an injury. There are also times when players get sidelined for reasons beyond sports. That is what happened to star Kansas City Chiefs Safety and former Tennessee star, **Eric Berry**. His NFL career was almost ended prematurely. After suffering from a high ankle sprain in the 2nd week of the 2014 season, Berry played four more games starting on November 2nd against the New York Jets. During a game against the Oakland Raiders on November 20th, Berry was experiencing chest pains. During a physical examination a mass in his chest was discovered. He was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma on December 8th. A cancer in the immune system would put his potential Hall of Fame NFL career on hold and possibly be life ending for Berry.



Eric Berry returns to Arrowhead Stadium

After many painful chemotherapies and long treatments, Eric Berry announced on July 28, 2015 that he was cleared of cancer. Eric experienced eight months of fighting a disease that put his life in danger. Now



Eric Berry returns to the Kansas City Chiefs after his bout with cancer.

the Kansas City Safety has a chance to not only improve his already impressive NFL career, but can now add beating cancer to his most memorable highlights. Next on his list is to get back on the field and play like he had never left in the first place.

Eric Berry's impressive resume first began when he was the #3 ranked player in the 2007 high school recruiting class. He was in the U.S Army All-American Bowl. Berry was one of the most complete defensive athletes to be recruited, so it was not a problem for him to get looked at by many colleges. Berry ultimately decided on the University of Tennessee where he turned to out be the most dominating defensive back in the nation. Berry was named SEC Defensive Player of the Year in 2007, as a freshman, by Sporting News. His 2008 sophomore year, Berry was SEC Defensive Player of the Year, 1st team All-SEC, **Jack Tatum Trophy** winner, and unanimous All-American. His Junior year in 2009 at Tennessee is where he was classified as one of the best defensive backs to ever play in the SEC. In 2009, Berry once again was 1st team All-SEC, unanimous All-American, and Jack Tatum Trophy winner again. His most prestigious honor was winning the the **Jim Thorpe Award** which is awarded to the best defensive back in the nation.

For Eric Berry, transitioning to the NFL was not hard at all. The Kansas City Chiefs took the strong safety from Tennessee with the 5th pick in the 1st round of the 2010 NFL Draft. In his first season in the NFL, Eric Berry became the 1st Chiefs rookie to be selected to the Pro Bowl since NFL Hall of Fame **Derrick Thomas**. So far in the NFL, Berry has been selected to three Pro Bowls (2010, 2012, & 2013), selected as 1st team All-Pro (2013), and been voted in as the #50th best players in the NFL (2014) by fellow players in the league. This is not a bad list of accomplishments considering the fact he was out for the 2011 season after tearing his ACL in the first game against the Buffalo Bills. With Berry now in remission of Hodgkin's Lymphoma, he will have plenty of time to make a successful comeback as he will be only 27 years old this December.

The most difficult part for Berry now is trying to get back onto the field and playing through the slight pain he has experienced from the chemotherapy. Eric played through a portion of the four pre-season games. He had to get into the rhythm of playing in the league again. Through most of last year, **Husain Abdullah** played at free safety where he proved to be a high level performance player for the Chiefs, especially in the passing game. **Ron Parker** took over for Berry at his original strong safety position. He showed a lot promise in the 2014 season with 94 tackles, 1 interception, and 12 pass deflections. In future games when Berry gets more comfortable, we could see a package with Berry at free safety and Parker at strong safety. In long passing situations, the Chiefs could put Berry at strong safety and Abdullah at free safety on the weak side of the offense.

The Kansas City Chiefs have so far played 2 games in the 2015 season with Berry in the rotation. Against the Houston Texans, Berry accounted for 2 tackles and one pass deflection as the Chiefs won a close game 27-20. It was Berry's first game since being diagnosed with Lymphoma. Berry did not start the game against the Texans in the first week nor did he start the next week against QB Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos at Arrowhead Stadium. Eric Berry was the last player to be introduced for the Chiefs as the crowd cheered heavily for his return to Arrowhead Stadium, completely cancer free. The Denver Broncos did win the with a 31-24 score. The Chiefs running back, Jamaal Charles, fumbled to give the Broncos' the game winning score. Berry had himself a good game as deep safety that negated Manning's long passing game. Berry had four solo tackles against the Broncos but acted as the field general he was before cancer. It will be a while before Berry will start for the Chiefs, but he is in the rotation for a majority of the games. He must regain the strength that he lost in chemotherapy. All we can say for now is that Eric Berry is back and may be better than ever. He is a player that we all should be cheering for this season and the next seasons to come.



Eric Berry with his mother during pre-game

Wolverines...another one of my favorite animals.

The wolverine is the mascot for the University of Michigan's football team and Michigan's state mammal. Wolverines look something like a mixture of a dog, a skunk, and a bear with short legs, long hair, and elongated snouts. Wolverines also have a distinctive mask of dark fur around their eyes and forehead, and a stripe of blond or ivory fur that runs from each shoulder to the base of the animal's tail. Wolverines are the largest of the weasel family. They are normally 26 to 34 inches from head to rump. Their tail adds another 7 to 10 inches to their length. They weigh 24 to 40 lbs.



though, and will go to great lengths to get it. They can travel 15 miles in a 24-hour period in search of food and will even eat dead animals they did not kill. Wolverines have a keen sense of smell; and can even smell prey 20 feet under the snow. They will dig down into burrows and kill hibernating animals. Wolverines are sneaky when finding food, too. They have strong jaws and teeth, and can crush a carcass and munch right through the bone. They have been known to eat the bones and teeth of their prey.

Wolverines also seem to be aware of how to store food. Research shows they use snow as refrigerators to keep their food fresh. During times when food is scarce, the wolverines will go back to their stockpile to retrieve a meal. Wolverines prefer colder areas because they use the snow for dens as well as food storage. They live in the Arctic and subarctic, in grasslands, Alpine forests, taiga, boreal forests and tundra of Europe, Asia, and in North America in the northern latitudes.

Wolverines are omnivores; they eat both meat and vegetation. Typical meals for a wolverine include large game like caribou, moose, mountain goats, as well as smaller animals like ground squirrels and rodents. They even eat birds' eggs and berries. They like meat best,

Wolverines are solitary creatures and need great swaths of territory to roam. Males mark their territory with their scent and only share their turf with females. Their territories can range from 40 miles to more than 372 miles. These hunters are nocturnal, which means they sleep during the day and hunt at night. Wolverines are polygamous, which means that a male will mate with several females. They mate from May to August. After mating, females create dens in which to have their young. These dens are often caves dug in the snow and can be up to 15 feet deep. Females give birth to two or three young at the same time every year, which is usually in the late winter or early spring. Most young are born between February and mid-March. The baby wolverines are called kits and are born with their eyes closed and are covered in white fur. While the females handle the bulk of the rearing, males will visit from time to time and care for the young. Sometimes, kits will stay with their mother until they are ready to have kits of their own. Wolverines are ready to reproduce at around 2 years old. Usually, though, kits head out on their own by September and typically live 7 to 12 years.

When they take a step, their paws spread to almost twice its original size as it presses against the ground. This makes it easier for wolverines to walk on snow. It's like built-in snowshoes. Other members of the weasel family include skunks, sea otters, badgers and ferrets. The wolverines are also called skunk bear, quick hatch (of Native American origin), carcajou (French for wolverine), gulo gulo means glutton and stink-bear. Wolverines are not on the endangered species list.



Ron VanHerwyn





Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist.
His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers.
He may be reached at www.steveflowers.us.



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

October 7, 2015:

In 1986 Richard Shelby was a 50-year-old congressman from Tuscaloosa. He was elected to congress eight years earlier, after two successful four-year terms in the Alabama State Senate. However, Shelby was ready to move up again. He was planning to run for the United States Senate.

Shelby had never lost a political race. He was six for six in races to represent his beloved Tuscaloosa and the people of West Alabama. He was a conservative Democrat, who had a stellar conservative voting record. He was safe in his U.S. House seat. In fact, it appeared that the congressional seat was his for life. His decision to challenge an incumbent U.S. Senator was a gamble.

Shelby's friends cautioned him that a race for the U.S. Senate against an incumbent would be an uphill battle and he should not risk his safe congressional seat. However, Shelby was undeterred in his decision.

One factor that the average political observer was not aware of was that Shelby probably sensed that his congressional district was destined to be the first African American district after reapportionment in 1990. The tea leaves were correct. That is what happened to Shelby's 7th district.

Although it would be a daunting task to upset an incumbent U.S. Senator, Jeremiah Denton had written the book on how to lose a Senate seat during his six-year term. Denton was elected as Alabama's first Republican senator since Reconstruction in 1980. He had been swept into office on the coattails of Ronald Reagan, who carried Alabama in a landslide. Alabamians knew very little about Denton, except that he had been a naval officer and a well-known national POW in the Vietnam War. His patriotic POW position sold well in Alabama, especially with Reagan headed to the White House.

Denton let it be known early that he wanted to be the moral police chief of the U.S. Senate. He clearly wanted to be the point man and most ardent voice for morality, chastity and anti-abortion issues. He was not interested in bringing home any bacon for Alabama or fixing any potholes. He actually bragged that

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## September 30, 2015:

The State of Alabama fiscal year begins this week and we finally have a budget for the year. Constitutionally, the only mandatory requirement that the Legislature has each year in their legislative session is to pass the budgets. The Education budget was approved during the four month Regular Session, but it was uncertain if we would have a budget for the beleaguered General Fund.

Gov. Robert Bentley called a Special Session in early summer to pass a budget. However, despite costing taxpayers around \$400,000, there was still no budget. Therefore, the Governor called yet another Special Session for September. The third time was a charm. A budget was passed with only two weeks to go until the fiscal year begins this Thursday.

It is uncertain what would have happened if the legislature had failed on their third try. Most people assumed the state would have simply closed down. The Governor and Legislature avoided a total shut down of State government. However, most state agencies and most state workers would argue that the recently passed budget partially shuts down state operations.

It is indeed a patched together, barebones budget. The \$1.7 billion General Fund Budget level funds the major departments of Medicaid, Corrections, Mental Health, Human Resources, Pardons and Paroles and the Court system. Most other State agencies saw cuts of between 5 to 10 percent from last year's budget.

In the end, the legislature cobbled a budget together by taking \$80 million dollars out of the Education coffers and also passing a 25 cents per pack increase on cigarettes, which will raise another \$70 million dollars. Therefore, the General Fund is receiving around \$150 million in additional funding.

Governor Robert Bentley began the year proposing a hodge podge of tax increases totaling \$720 million dollars of new money for the General Fund. He later pared that down to \$540 million dollars in proposals. The Legislature quickly and decisively made it clear to our old doctor governor that they were real Republicans and they did not want any part of new tax revenue. They sent Bentley a message that they adhered to the cardinal Rule of Republicanism, "No New Taxes." It also was made apparent to the administration that the Governor might propose, but the Legislature disposes when it comes to appropriating state dollars.

he was a national U.S. Senator and not an Alabama U.S. Senator, thus openly signaling that we would only have one U.S. Senator, Howell Heflin, to fight for our interests in Washington.

The examples of constituent neglect and disinterest by Denton are too numerous to recant, but a few examples will give you an idea of his cavalier attitude toward reelection. Each year the Alabama Farmers Federation sends an entourage of 200 to 300 of the most prominent farmers in the state to meet with and lobby their senators and congressmen on federal issues affecting farmers. These men are the most respected leaders and centers of influence in their counties. Heflin and the other congressmen literally met them at the airport to court them. They would have breakfast and dinner with them.

However, these farmers had to have an appointment with our "National Senator" Denton. They arrived at his office at the appointed time. All 300 of them were kept waiting 2 1/2 hours, then an aide came out to tell them that Denton was too busy dealing with national issues and did not have time to meet with them. One of the wealthiest and most prominent men in the state called Denton six times to simply express his opinion on an issue. Denton is yet to call him back. Thus, he vowed to give Denton's opponent all the money he needed to beat Denton.

In addition to not returning phone calls, Denton never answered letters from constituents, even heartfelt handwritten notes of interest on federal legislation. He was basically considered a nut in Washington and was consistently ranked the most ineffective senator in the 100-member Senate. He made colossal blunders in the 1986 campaign. He said he was too busy to come home and campaign and kiss babies.

Shelby beat Denton but it was close. Shelby had to spend some of his personal money the last week of the campaign to carry out the upset. Alabama has been the better for Richard Shelby's 1986 gamble. He has been our Senator for 30 years, having been reelected in 1992, 1998, 2004, and 2010. He will be easily reelected to a 6th six-year term next year.

In the end, however, the Legislature did adopt \$150 million of the \$540 million proposed by the Governor in February. As the final Special Session began, it was generally bounced about that \$200 million dollars was the amount needed to keep state government at least afloat for another year. Even though the large agencies like Medicaid and Prisons were level funded, they said rising costs could still affect basic services. This budget keeps prison capacity in the state at 200 percent. The Federal Courts took over California prisons at less than 150 percent of capacity.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management was emaciated. Its budget was reduced from \$1.2 million to \$280,000, a 77 percent cut. Their director indicated that they would make up their deficit by raising fees on permits by 20 percent.

The Department of Senior Services and the Attorney General's office were especially hit hard. Most insiders believe the Attorney General's budget has been targeted the past two years because Attorney General Luther Strange's office is prosecuting House Speaker Mike Hubbard.

The real loser in the General Fund battle is public education. For over three decades, from the 1970's to 1990's, education dollars were sacred. Dr. Paul Hubbert and his AEA were so powerful and dominant that he would have never allowed the Legislature to rob \$80 million from the educators to balance the General Fund Budget.

When the Republicans took control of the Legislature in 2010, they made it their mission to dismantle and destroy the AEA. They accomplished their mission in four short years. Therefore, it was an easy prey to simply take education money to resolve this year's dilemma.

This budget is only a short term fix. There were no long term solutions addressed. The General Fund Budget will need another transfusion next year, but for now the legislature has found an easy solution – just take it from education. The AEA has no political clout or power anymore. In fact, the AEA has been so decimated they do not even have a PAC.

Let the fiscal year begin. The next Regular Session is only four months away.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

By John Martin

In my last article, I explained the failures and consequences of welfare programs for the so-called "poor" or "less fortunate" members of society. But there are also various welfare programs, mostly state and local, for the rich corporate giants. They are frequently touted as "economic development" or "economic incentives." These come in various forms—outright grants, land, site development, roads, tax breaks, and various other freebies.

Alabama is no exception. Practically everybody who doesn't have his head buried in the sand has heard our politicians brag about the new jobs created by Mercedes, Honda, Toyota, Hyundai, and various others. Why did we shell out hundreds of millions of dollars to entice foreign corporations to come here? Did the Alabama people really get their money's worth?

Just do the math. Our taxpayers shelled out \$330 million for Mercedes to create about 1500 jobs. That's \$220,000 for each job. Hyundai cost us \$250 million for about 1000 jobs--\$250,000 per job. In addition, we must ask ourselves, "How many of these jobs went to the local people?" and "How many were given to people they brought in from elsewhere?"

Now let's compare these figures to a Mom and Pop business that is hiring four employees. Could anybody imagine asking for a million dollars to start up? A politician would just laugh, "Give you a million dollars to hire 4 people?" But once the numbers are crunched, the cost per job is exactly the same as Hyundai. And all 4 jobs would go to the local people.

I doubt any of our small businesses have asked for a handout of any kind to start up or continue operating. Everybody knows that people do it with their own money or by borrowing it by putting up something of value as collateral. They take their own risks and ask little or nothing from government—except to be left alone.



John Martin

But unfortunately, government does not leave them alone. Most businesses face multitudes of taxes and regulations that have continued to get worse and worse over the years. They are frequently penalized and sometimes put out of business for trivial infractions, especially those involving safety and the environment. They are largely treated with disdain by the same politicians who worship and coddle the foreign corporate giants.

Individuals and small businesses are the backbone of our economic system. Depending on the local areas, these are the ones who hire anywhere from three quarters to over nine tenths of the workforce. In the future, the smaller entities will gain even larger percentages while the corporate welfare recipients need fewer people as they continue with automation and state of the art robots.

In other words, rational economic development policies are turned upside down. Why is a job provided by foreigners valued so much more than one provided by the local people? Why do we have to heavily tax and regulate the small, local enterprises and hand it over to the multi-billion dollar giants? Why can't our public leaders understand this and give everybody an equal opportunity to hire himself in a laissez faire environment?

There is a simple solution to this travesty: Just stop the handouts. If outsiders want to start up here in Alabama, fine. But just tell them "You do it at your own expense; you buy your own land; you develop it yourselves; and you build your own roads and infrastructure. If another state offers incentives and we don't, go there and knock yourselves out. We aren't going to penalize our local people to give you a free ride."

If Alabama wants to do some serious economic development at a small cost, just leave the people alone. Get government out of the way. Let them do their businesses as they choose. Minimize and simplify regulations, and get rid of every last one that is not proven to be absolutely essential. Get rid of the use tax, business property tax, licensure, and other obstructions that generate little revenue that is largely consumed by bureaucracy but generate hardships onto our entire population.

The key to economic development is very simple—a free market and the absence of government meddling and interference. Economic development of any other kind is not a legitimate government function.

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





## Oswaldo Chavez,

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*Please feel free to email Oswaldo with any concern or questions you may have concerning your family or teen relationships. Att. Oswaldo e-mail: [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)*

**Coping with day-to-day stressors such as marriage, kids, work, finances, and life in general, is an important topic to examine.** We all



go through some type of struggle in our lives. I think the key is to remember that how we respond to those stressors has an impact on what happens next. Most of us tend to focus on what we cannot do and not what we can do. By that I mean, we focus on how horrible the situation is—how we will not be able to get through the problem. We tend to have a negative mindset. When we focus on the negatives in a situation we get angry, frustrated, our concentration worsens, our tolerance for others reduces; we may exhibit psychical symptoms such as headaches, body ache, or back pain, just to name a few. Internally, our body feels the stressors, and we increase the likelihood that we will get ill. If the stress continues and the body is unable to cope, there is likely to be a breakdown of bodily resources. It is in this stage that there may be a reduction of the levels of epinephrine and norepinephrine in the brain, a state related to depression.

Learning how to deal with change can be a very difficult task to complete at times; it can be so hard that it affects how one performs their job, or it can impede relational efficacy with family and friends. It can also cause elasticity in the family to reduce and become problematic if the appropriate resources are not utilized. When we encounter problems, it is important for the individual or family to get the proper education on the issue and the resources including support services like counseling, medical support, and other resources. Transition in an individual's life can be an arduous and a painstaking task that all of us face routinely. All these metamorphoses can cause distress or other unpleasant feelings such as anger, alienation, confusion, and discouragement, while others may tussle with the impact on one's social life, financial stability, medical accessibility, emotional health, and familial integrity. Accessing all the resources available can provide the individual and/or families the help that is needed to get through the current stressor. This is why it is imperative to gain additional tools and resources to cope more effectively as a family.

Having numerous years of experience as a medical provider, I have worked with children, families, and individuals with unpredictable life cycle situations. First and foremost, one needs to recognize, that in order to take care of other people's

needs, one must first take care of his or her own needs to be of any assistance. Here are five gadgets from my toolbox that I have found to be helpful to people with similar problems.

### TOOLS FOR STRESS RELIEF

#### 1. *Express Feelings.*

Talk, laugh, and cry. Many people feel better just by talking or expressing their feelings. Calling, emailing or texting a co-worker to let them know what is bothering you may help you feel that you're not alone in dealing with the stress. Talking to family about your perception is another great source of relieving stress. Having someone who can actively listen to your concerns makes many feel wanted and appreciated. I have had so many clients talk the entire session without me speaking a word. They later inform me that just being able to express themselves via the ability to communicate fear, disappointment, and laughter reduces or completely alleviates the stress.

#### 2. *Relax.*

Too often people do not take a break to rejuvenate. By that I mean sitting down reading a good book, listening to music, or participating in an activity that one enjoys or a hobby that takes the focus away from the problem. This gives the mind an opportunity to rest and calculate concurrently, by natural succession, a possible solution to the event that is causing the stressor. Two healthy ways to relax is simply having a siesta or, even better, taking a nice vacation when possible can aid the mind to replenish itself. Learning some simple relaxation methods such as breathing exercises or guided imagery can be very helpful in dealing with stress. Countless of my clients have stated that once they grasped the relaxation techniques, they were able to implement the relaxation approach into their everyday life, thus creating a healthy routine. If you have a spiritual belief, whatever it is, use it more often. Believe in it. What can it hurt? Nothing, it can only help. Spirituality, like relaxation techniques, puts the individual in a state of mind that is healing and helps the individual understand that he or she is not alone in the current situation. I have had numerous clients report that practicing their spiritually made them look at the problem in a positive way, and we all realize that there is light at the end of the tunnel!

#### 3. *Utilize Resources.*

Most people would rather try to solve their difficulties on their own. That is the best method in most cases in solving stressful situations; however, we do not always have all the answers. I have seen a multitude of clients come to me, after spending years spinning their wheels before seeking professional help to deal with stressful situations, only to find they had the answers to their problems but needed some guidance. Everyone needs help once in a while. A majority of one's normal resources are family, friends, co-workers, and employers. Periodically, we may need professional assis-



tance other than one's normal support system. Specific professionals that are utilized depend on the stressor. For example, one would see a physician when one is sick with a virus or broken bone. Each profession has a particular expertise that can help you with specific dilemmas. It is important to learn how to use the support resources before crises

occurs, so that one can focus on the stressor.

#### 4. *Exercise and Healthy Diet.*

Regular exercise is one of the best ways to manage stress. Walking is a great way to get started. Even everyday activities such as housekeeping or lawn mowing can reduce stress. Stretching can also relieve muscle tension. Eating three meals a day with a balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meat helps maintain a proper balance in the body. Drinking plenty of water keeps the body hydrated and assures all organs have the H2O conducive for proper functioning. Consulting with a doctor before starting any diet and exercise routine is also an important task to complete to ensure if any medical issues are present.

#### 5. *Maintain a Positive Attitude.*

Tomorrow will be a better day attitude brings about hope for the future and what will positively come next. The natural tendency is to think about what has negatively affected you such as losing a job, anger at friends, or wondering what you did wrong. When you focus on the negative events in your life, you're not allowing the seed of opportunity to be planted in your thoughts. Just think of it this way--instead of spending the energy on things that you cannot change, spend the energy on things that you can change such as your future, goals, and dreams. Take each situation as a learning experience in which you become stronger and more resilient.

## Food for Thought

We will all experience stress at some point or another, however, we all can utilize healthy tools to deal with the stressors when they come up. If you ask me what I do to reduce stressors, I often use exercise as a stress relief, as it releases toxins and other chemicals that the body has built up that are harmful. Additionally, the body also produces healthy chemicals that have been associated with happiness and improved health. I take that negative energy or thoughts out on the treadmill or weights. You don't have to be a member of a fitness club to use this method. I often tell clients to do something outside like walking or riding a bike that does not cost anything. In a recent article published on [Healthline.com](http://Healthline.com) "a research team noted that the only factor that affected participants' moods was the amount of sunlight they were exposed to on any given day. More sunlight meant better moods; less sunlight led to symptoms of depression." (**Sunlight: A Natural Way to Fight Stress** by Tayla Holman).

I want to also mention I utilize my spiritual beliefs. I learned quickly growing up watching my mother pray during difficult times. I saw how it made her feel better afterwards, and I saw too many times unexplainable healing in areas of my family and personal life that I cannot explain as a clinician and that's okay with me. It works for me today, as much or even more than it worked for me growing up. When I cannot fix the stressors or have some sort of relief with research based approaches, I go to God as I know Him. To this day, He has not let me down. God may not answer me like I need Him to, but He makes it work how it should be!

Remember, the key is to do something that is healthy and positive. It's okay to take care of yourself. I often work with single parents who say they do not have time to utilize the tools described above. I have to help the individual see how this self-care can be beneficial, not only to the parent but to the family, if the parent takes care of himself or herself. Frequently, individuals tell me, "I don't have the time." Make time for yourself! You deserve it; your family needs you to take care of yourself! If you don't, who will? Ultimately, the individual pays the price for not taking care of themselves with health issues like high blood pressure, sore muscles for no apparent reason, and headaches that seem to linger on. Take it from me, practice self love and use the toolbox.



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# The Education Station...

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

By Bobbie Ames

## AMERICA IS AT A CROSSROAD

### THE AGENDA TO ERASE AMERICA

**ALL IS NOT WELL IN AMERICA.** The enemy is targeting Christianity, and is doing so through attacking political and religious liberty. Pastors and chaplains are threatened, even chaplains at prison systems where they are so badly needed. Crosses are removed as “offensive.” Such a thing would have been unthinkable when I was a child. Public schools have not only removed the teaching of the Bible as absolute moral Truth, but are redefining gender, if you can comprehend such a thing. Some are even removing the name of “girl” “boy” on bathroom doors.

And many of those arriving on our shores come to destroy our country. Since January, 2015, over 50 U.S. citizens have been arrested for terror plots, according to **Todd Starnes** of **Fox News**. The ISIS strategy includes the use of the internet for propaganda to recruit young people to join their efforts. They are recruiting individuals to engage in “lone wolf” tactics, to act out terror in an American or European city. We have seen this in American cities in multiple states.

There have been 5,000 Westerners go to Syria to aid ISIS. Most of these have had high tech skills according to Todd Starnes, acclaimed reporter and author of the recently released, **God Less America**. These have gone to support radical Islam. In the Minneapolis-St. Paul area alone, there have been brought in 100,000 Somali Muslims. Very few people are aware that in America, city after city has been targeted as a Refugee resettlement location. Jim Simpson, author of the book, **The Red-Green Axis**, is alerting the nation to this mass immigration, which the mainline Media seems to be ignoring. The subtitle of his book is: *Refugees, Immigration and The Agenda to Erase America*, published by the Center for Security Policy in Washington, D.C.

**Terrorism is driven by the faulty faith of Islam and by an end time reward for Jihad.**

**Christ followers are driven by their faith in the person of Jesus Christ, the authority of his word, salvation by his grace through faith for all who believe, and by the promise of eternal life.**

So America is at a Crossroad today. The faith that made our country what she has been in the past and can be again tomorrow, has been compromised in government, in law, in the political system, and in personal choices. The weakening of the pulpits has weakened the churches and families of our nation. We all have a choice today as we stand at the crossroad.

In the Founding of our nation, the vast majority of citizens were Patriots in the most loyal manner. And as Christian Patriots, the vast majority practiced virtue in their private and public lives. When you read the writings of the **Founding Fathers**, you are reading the political philosophy that stemmed from the Orthodox Christian Protestant Reformation. This is what inspired their ideals and high standards, and compelled their strong admonitions to their fellow citizens.

Their Western civilized culture was new to the world stage. Harvard, Princeton, and Yale were founded as Bible Colleges. All were committed to educate pastors and a citizenry to oversee a just republican government. From the colleges and universities to the smallest common schools, this Christian world view was taught, and Patriotism was cherished. All education could truly be called Christian Education at that time.

So cherished was Scripture that principles from the Bible were embedded in every document: **The Magna Charta**, **The Articles of Confederation**, **The Declaration of Independence**, and **The Constitution**. For these to be maintained, citizens had to be taught diligently: history, duty, honor, virtue, citizenship, obligations, and willing obedience to the law.

As a History teacher for many decades, I love true History. Yes, I weep over our failings and try to learn from them. I love the South. The Southern States of the American Union provided 9 of our first 12 presidents. They provided 80% of the federal budget during that period. They birthed Statesmen that blessed the entire Union. They did not welcome “radicals.”

When the French Revolution came and its influence reached our shores, many were influenced in ways contrary to God's Word. What we refer to as Secular Humanism today, advanced in the marketplace, and then into education. It became rampant in the Northern States before we were aware of its creeping into the Southern culture as well. Expediency took the place of Duty, and Pragmatism replaced Virtue. The “Enlightenment” was really a rebellion against God. Not in every family, of course. The Sovereign God of the Universe has His remnant always.

We live in a Postmodern age which is anti-Biblical and therefore, non Christian. I trust that those reading this article are professing Christians, and recognize that we are the remnant whose goal must be to restore our culture to that of true Christianity, and our government to its Christian foundation. What would this mean? What would the government look like, if restored?

Let us say right here, because it is crucial: *Colonial education supported the Biblical view of the culture, the law, and political affairs. This was true of colleges and academies, for almost all were founded as Christian schools and colleges.* This continued long after the signing of the Constitution. It was the same for law and legal education. Every Colonial Charter was a Christian document.

**The Bible was the single most cited reference, as the most respected authoritative source to which political writers appealed.** Modern pastors would do well to read the sermons from the pulpits of America from the colonial period well into the early nineteenth century. The political sermons were addressed to the military, to governors, legislators, government officials, and many in the Halls of Congress. Reprinted and distributed, some even today, are inspiring messages badly needed in our time.

Our documents leave no doubt about the identity of our God. In **The Articles of Confederation**, He is called the “*Great Governor of the World.*” The understanding of the sin nature of man inspired the Framers to put checks and balances against the centralization of political power, and the rule of law against the arbitrary rule of man. The separation of powers, checks and balances,

and representative government, all stemmed from the teaching of Scripture concerning the Fall of Man, and the resulting sin nature in every man.

What do we mean when we say “*a Christian view of the world?*” Very simply, it means a Biblical view of God, man, life, politics, culture, and eternity. Therefore, the Framers gave us Law which incorporates that view of law and politics. That was a natural consensus in those days which has been lost in our time.

**John Jay**, writing in **The Federalist** reminds us of those days, “*Providence has been pleased to give us this one connected country to one connected people... a people descended from the same ancestors, speaking the same language, professing the same religion, attached to the same principles of government....*”

**James Madison**, writing in **The Federalist** 51 wrote: “*If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place, oblige it to control itself.*”

The Framers had seen the danger of one man rule, and saw the need of protecting the minority, as well as a majority. And the mixed form of our government protects everyone. The role of one man is in the executive department. Some components of majority rule are in the House of Representatives. More separation of powers are in the Senate and Courts.

The political principles in the Preamble to the Constitution came from the Bible. They affirmed God's created system of what we call Natural Law. Almost all of the Framers had studied and internalized **Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England**. They affirmed that “*God is the Supreme Judge of all of His Creation.*” “*Righteousness and Justice are the foundation of your throne...*” (**Psalms 89:14**)

So much of the Constitution is framed to insure Justice in the culture. This should not surprise any of us since the Ten Commandments are a summary

definition of Justice. I challenge the reader to read the

Commandments to verify this definition. As wonderful as our Constitution is, it cannot change the hearts of the American people. It cannot restore a broken family or restore domestic tranquility in this broken culture. So how do we secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity? God has told us that “*where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty.*” (**2 Cor. 3:17**)

It comes down to the remnant, doesn't it? If America will be born again, restored, and well again, the remnant is essential. Where are we today, when we are needed so badly? The citizens in our state and nation are diverse. Millions did not come from the Protestant Reformation tradition, and have never understood its background, or heard the Gospel. Millions are not even comfortable with the English language. They have come to these shores for multiple reasons, but many with hope for a better life. It is up to us as Christians, to identify what a better life is----- Eternal life, through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And with a growing Christian testimony, comes an understanding of justice, equality, opportunity, and domestic tranquility.

Our obligation to our fellow man is clearly set before us as true Christian Americans, to bear witness to the liberating power of the Gospel, through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Only as men and women are won to Christ, will they embrace His love for themselves. Only then can America become a beacon of light in a very dark world. **We have the Message: He is a Person, Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind, the only hope for America.**

Recommended reading of America's Christian History at [www.face.net](http://www.face.net).

Available locally **Christianity and the Constitution** by Dr. John Eidsmoe of Montgomery, Alabama.

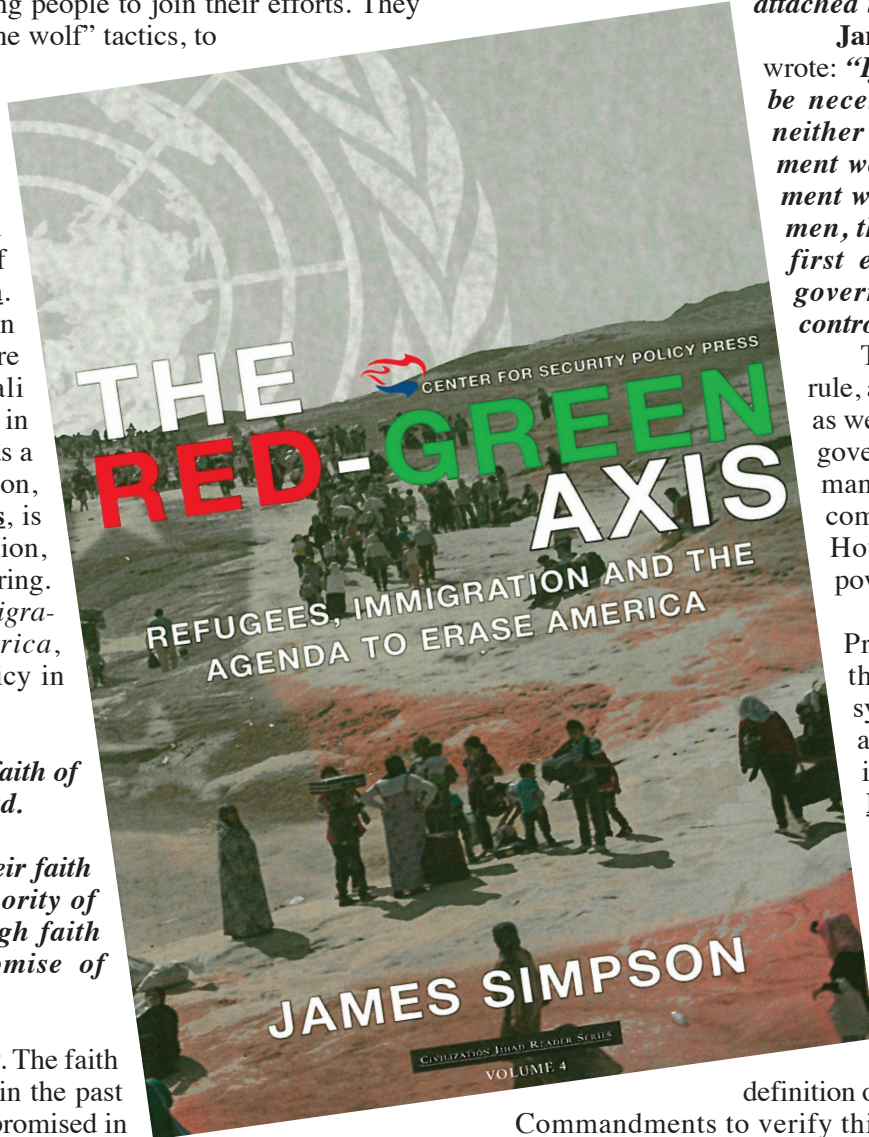
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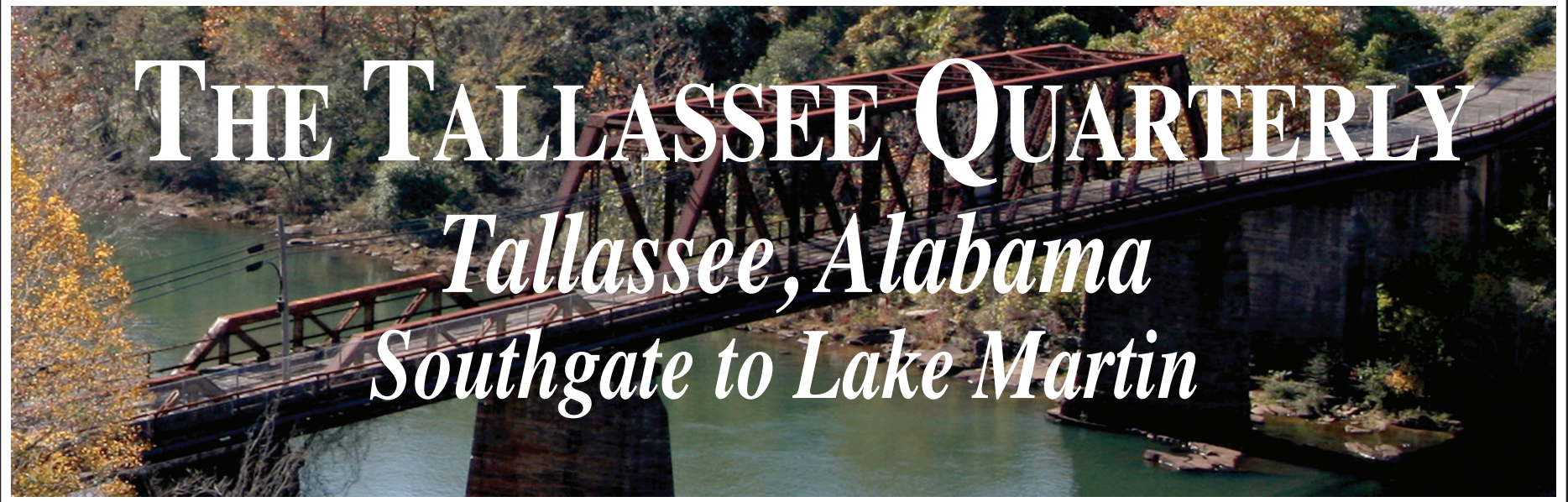
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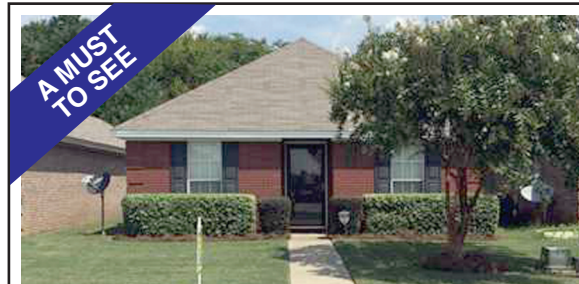
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## GOOD NEWS FOR MONTGOMERY REAL ESTATE

As most of us are aware, the great recession wreaked havoc on the housing market all over the country. Even areas which had tended to be "recession proof" in the past, suffered large losses in real estate values during this time. In fact, according to **CNNMoney.com**, prices fell in the 20-city S&P Case-Shiller index for twenty-seven consecutive months. In October 2008 alone prices fell a staggering 18% across the index!

**But, today there is good news** in the housing market in the River Region and I would like to share a few statistics with you. A quick review of the Montgomery Area Association of Realtors Facts and Figures Report as of May 31, 2015 makes a very strong case that the housing market is back. First, **sales of all homes in the area were up a whopping 14.2% over 2014 through the end of May**, according to the Multiple Listing Service. Though new homes sales remained constant, **sales of existing homes have trended up around 17.9%** compared to the previous year. The prices of these homes have also moved upward with an increase of around **4.3%** so far this year, and a very respectable **10.2%** rise over the same period in **2013!** The marketing time for both existing and new homes is also down slightly over **2014**.

*So, if anyone one asks you how our economy is in the River Region, please give them the good news!*



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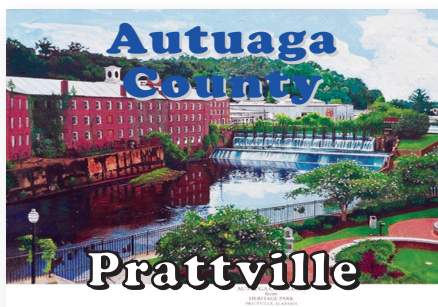
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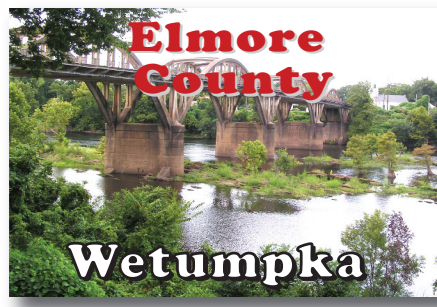
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If you cannot find the Gazette in your area, please check out our website: [www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com)



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Betty and daughter Karen have homemade jelly, jams, preserves and pickles of many varieties. Chilton County peaches is a staple at his market.

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## "The Preferred Community"

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**\*\*\* Family Support Center's  
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5K starts at 8:30 am.m - \$25  
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<https://runsignup.com/Race/Al/Prattville/5KCandyRun>**

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**Done Day  
2nd Fridays Every Month  
From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.**

**Pet-a-Palooza  
Saturday - October 17, 2015**

**Spinners Pumpkin Patch,  
Arts & Crafts  
Saturday - October 24, 2015**

**Prattville Pops Fall Concert  
Sunday - October 25, 2015**

**For More Information On These  
and Other Events Please Visit:  
[www.prattvilleal.gov](http://www.prattvilleal.gov)**

## Look What Prattville Has To Offer!

By: Barbie O'Neal, staff writer

As October's soft breezes bring in fall, with it comes great arts and crafts festivals, as well as numerous other music, fun and parades as the holiday season approaches.



I would like to highlight Prattville's own host of arts and culture. Thanks to the *Special Events and Cultural Arts Department*, whose goal is to encourage and promote cultural affairs for the citizens of Prattville, *The Preferred Community*.

I, myself being a resident of Autauga county, have had the pleasure of learning what is offered and would like to share it with you.

First let's start with *The Prattville Art Guild*. The office is located inside a charming 1890's house sitting beside the Autauga Creek behind City Hall. It's also home to the



*Prattville Creative Arts Center and Art Gallery*. It features works by members of the *Art Guild* and guest artists with exhibits changing throughout the year. It also displays a permanent collection of artwork by Prattville's own internationally known artist *Charlie "Tin Man" Lucas*, *Russell Everett*, and internationally recognized quilt artist *Yvonne Wells*, of Tuscaloosa. The Arts Center offers classes and workshops for children and adults in a variety of media. With so much happening this fall be sure to visit *The Permanent Collection* that will be on display as well as the *Annual Fall Art Show* this month.

If you enjoy live music with beautiful vocals and an amazing band then you will want to catch a show featuring the *Prattville Community Chorus* or the *Prattville Pops*. The community chorus was established in 1972 to provide cultural opportunities for it's



Director: Ken Lantz

adult members. They sing a variety of music from jazz to classical as well as from sacred to contemporary. The *Prattville Pops* was formed in 2002, under the direction of *Mr. Ronnie Mallory*, with 15 members and has grown over the past 13 years to have 35 active members with all wind and percussion instruments represented. Today they are under the direction of *Ken Lantz* and both groups are



Cast From Nunsense

sponsored by the *City of Prattville* and the *Prattville Cultural Arts and Special Events Office*.

If you want to catch a show but don't want to travel into Montgomery no worries. Prattville is

home to the *Way Off Broadway Theatre*. It was formed in the fall of 2002 and is part of the *Prattville Creative and Performing Arts Council* and operates under the umbrella of the City. The theatre seats up to 85 guests and to date has staged 16 productions, including two musicals and three Young at Art productions.



Cast From 100 Lunches

Coming soon! *Prattville Page Turners Book Club and Writers Forum*. It will include not only people who want to read and discuss books but also will promote local writers and encourage the youth to write as well.

With Prattville having so much to offer why go anywhere else? Stay local and support *The Preferred Community's* arts and cultural life. To find out more information on any of these programs please visit [www.prattvilleal.gov/departments/cultural-arts.html](http://www.prattvilleal.gov/departments/cultural-arts.html).

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# Pike Road News

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**Our Vision:** Our students are lifelong learners who use their knowledge, skills, and influence to make the world a better place.

### OUR BELIEFS

**We believe** intellectual growth occurs when learners are genuinely engaged in their learning.

**We believe** students are more engaged when they are solving real problems for a real audience.

**We believe** meaningful learning can occur any time and at any location.

**We believe** learners will do challenging work when failure is embraced as a valuable part of the learning process and they feel safe and valued.

**We believe** community members are valuable partners and must be involved in their schools.

**We believe** all members of the school community should treat each other like family.

**We believe** that every member of the school community contributes to student learning and should be a continuous learner.

**We believe** teachers are designers, facilitators, navigators, mentors, encouragers, and leaders who continuously work on improving the learning experiences designed for students and are highly respected experts who have a global impact on teaching and learning.

**We believe** parents are valuable partners and members of the school community.

**We believe** the superintendent and principals are lead learners and are highly respected experts who have a global impact on teaching and learning.

**We believe** the superintendent and school board function as a team, advocate for students, create capacity and build community.

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*Town Councilman,  
Town of Lowndesboro*

menus can be created. There is no reason for saying, “*I don’t know what to fix tonight.*” There is also a list for each day of the month, so your decision making is done for you. I picked four days in October that I will celebrate by eating the honored food of the day. On **October 12**, I will celebrate **GUMBO DAY**. Who would not like to celebrate that! Now, I admit that just because it is gumbo day and you know what to fix, you still have to decide what recipe to use. Gumbo is like tuna salad, pimento cheese, potato salad, and nachos. Everyone has a special way of preparing it. Sometimes, like in the case of tuna salad and pimento cheese, it is the way your mother fixed it while you were growing up. Gumbo is a stew, and there are different varieties, (Cajun or Creole) and different thickeners (roux, okra or file powder) and versions are numerous. There is a quote from, **Stir the Pot: The History of Cajun Cuisine**, “*Gumbo is a veritable art form in Louisiana. There are as many gumbo recipes as there are cooks.*”

We move on to **October 23rd** and **NATIONAL CHICKEN DAY**. We have the same dilemma as we had with Gumbo Day. There are too many ways to prepare chicken. We need to narrow down our choices.

We look at **October 25th** and it is **GREASY FOODS DAY**. Good thing this is a one day celebration and not a month! But oh there are so many ways to celebrate. Two great greasy foods that come to my mind are Deep Fried Twinkies and **Paula Dean’s Fried Butter Balls**. Or another favorite is a Deep Fried Peanut Butter and Banana Sandwich.

The last celebration day could be everyday when the red light flashes in the front window to tell you that a hot batch has just finished. **October 30th** is **DOUGHNUT DAY**. In my early days you ate doughnuts for breakfast or at a break during a meeting. Now there is the Luther Burger, a hamburger or cheeseburger with a glazed doughnut in place of the bun. You can use two glazed doughnuts, one for the top and one for the bottom. And to complete the heart attack, add a fried egg, cheese and bacon.

**Anytime you make a sandwich you can use doughnuts instead.** How about serving a breakfast of Eggs Benedicts made with Crumb Cake Donuts.

So I have four days I want to celebrate but two of these days are dangerous. I’ll live recklessly and go out and order a cheeseburger with bacon and a side of fries from my favorite fast food restaurant on Greasy Foods Day and I bet on Doughnut Day someone is going to have a free doughnut available. I could log on to Pinterest and do a search for doughnuts, with bacon and one of the “tasty” treats that will appear is a bacon mac’n’cheese doughnut burger!! I’ll stick to the glazed doughnut and a cup of coffee. That leaves me with National Chicken Day and Gumbo Day.

So my first recipe will be for the Gumbo. The saying is that the first line in every Cajun recipe is, “*First you make the roux.*” This recipe is no exception. I make a batch of roux ahead of time and keep it in the icebox to add to my recipes. This way if the gumbo isn’t thick enough, I can always add more roux. I like using bacon dripping as the oil for my roux. It has more flavor than vegetable oil and won’t burn like butter and is cheaper than peanut oil. Use equal amounts of oil to flour; like one cup of oil to one cup of flour. But even this is not an exact science. Start with heating the oil and start with a small sprinkle of flour, and when it starts to sizzle in the oil it is hot enough. Keep adding small amounts of flour and stir to keep from getting lumps until a thick paste forms. Constantly stir until a deep brown color appears. A cast iron pan and a long wooden spoon work well. Be careful, I have scars on my forearms from splattering roux.

## Spooner’s Gumbo

### Ingredients

- |                                                  |                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 medium onions chopped                          | 2 lbs medium shrimp, peeled and deveined               |
| 1½ cups celery, chopped fine                     | 2 lbs andouille sausage cut in ¾ inch pieces           |
| 2 large green bell peppers, chopped              | 1 small can crab meat                                  |
| 4 garlic cloves, minced                          | 1 pound frozen cut okra                                |
| 2-3 32 oz. boxes chicken broth                   | 2 bay leaves                                           |
| 1 teaspoons dried thyme                          | 2 tablespoons bacon fat                                |
| 1 tbp. Cajun seasoning                           | Cooked white rice and for garnish chopped green onions |
| 2 cans Rotel tomatoes (one can for milder gumbo) |                                                        |

### Directions

1. At medium heat sauté onions, celery, bell peppers, thyme in a large heavy stockpot.
2. After 2 to 3 minutes add garlic and heat 1 minute. Don’t want the garlic to burn but you want to extract the flavors.
3. Add two boxes of chicken broth, Cajun seasoning, Rotel tomatoes and bay leaves. Bring to a low boil.
4. Add okra and heat for 15 minutes.
5. Add roux, start with half cup and stir until dissolved. Keep at low boil and stir occasionally until mixture thickens. Add more roux if necessary or more broth to bring gumbo up to volume desired.
6. Add sausage and crab and cook until sausage is heated through if pre-cooked.
7. Taste gumbo and adjust seasoning to your taste.
8. Lastly add shrimp and cook until just done, over cooking will make them tough.
9. Remove bay leaves and serve over cooked rice and garnish with green onions.

Now the recipe for National Chicken Day. This day appears all over the calendar depending which calendar you look at. But no matter when it occurs try a different method of preparation. This time I am going with a Paula Dean recipe. I like it because I like spicy food and any time there is a recipe that calls for a cup of hot sauce for four servings, I’m going to try it.



## SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN

### INGREDIENTS

- |                                                                               |                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 eggs                                                                        | pieces. I prefer wings, thighs and drumsticks.                   |
| 1/3 cup water                                                                 | Oil, for frying. Paula prefers peanut, I prefer grapeseed oil.   |
| 1 cup of hot red pepper sauce (I preferred Crystal or Texas Pete)             | House Seasoning: Mix ingredients and put in air tight container. |
| 2 cups self-rising flour                                                      | 1 cup salt                                                       |
| 1 teaspoon pepper                                                             | ¼ cup black pepper                                               |
| House Seasoning, recipe follows (I prefer SPIKE seasoning if you can find it. | ¼ cup garlic powder                                              |
| 1 (1 to 2 pound) chicken, cut into                                            |                                                                  |

### DIRECTIONS

1. In a medium size bowl, beat the eggs with the water. Add enough hot sauce so the egg mixture is bright orange.
2. In another bowl, combine the flour and pepper. Season the chicken with the House Seasoning (or Spike). Dip the seasoned chicken in the egg and then coat well in the flour mixture.
3. Heat oil to 350 degrees in a deep pot. Do not fill the pot more than half way with oil.
4. Fry the chicken until brown and crisp. It should take between 8 and 13 minutes for the different size pieces. Best is to use a meat thermometer and cook all chicken until the thermometer reads at least 165 degrees.

**Next month is Thanksgiving!** It is never too early to plan your meal and make sure you have all the utensils needed. And I know that tradition is paramount with some holidays, especially Thanksgiving. One family tradition we have is that my wife always makes the dressing on Veterans Day. But try at least one menu item that you have not had before or prepare it differently. Who knows, one way or another, if it is a hit or a flop, it will be the subject of talk for the next Thanksgiving.

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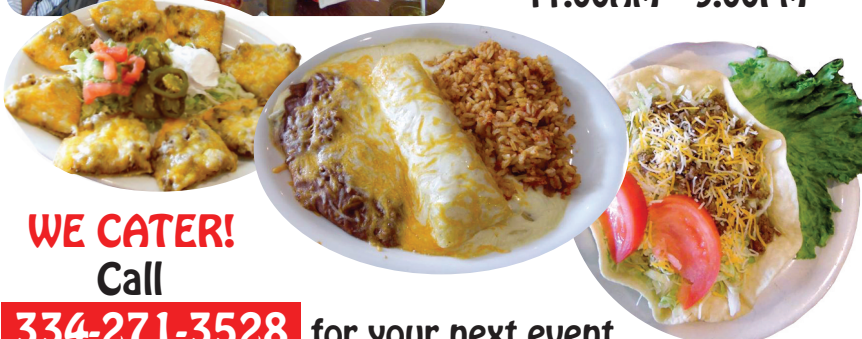


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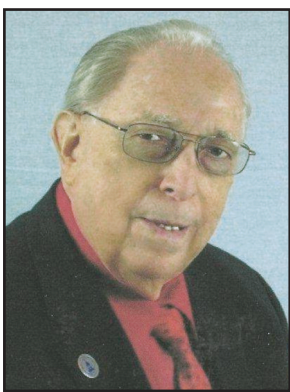
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**Dr. John Bitter**  
**Editor**  
**Senior Section**

# Gazette Seniors...

## STOCKING STUFFER

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas 2015, it might serve us well to recall a previous Christmas, one that occurred in 1777, at Valley Forge, Pa. The men who were seeking to break free of the British Crown and form their own--free--nation huddled in the snow there fearing that their Valliant effort might be for naught.

The general who was desperately trying to lead our shivering, rag-tag band of patriots to freedom from the tyranny of King George III, George Washington, went on to lead them, with a little help from his friends from France, to victory and the creation of what was to become a great nation.

The United States of America struggled against great odds, but it grew and prospered, and within time became the leader of the "*free world*."

Now, fast forward two centuries and nearly four decades, and witness the descendants of these great heroes, and the many other nations who sought, also, to live a better, more free life, stand on a precipice, facing the prospect of seeing their once free, prosperous, and powerful nation brought to its knees by ideologs, and misguided, self-serving citizens.

In this regard, **Robert Tracinski**, a senior writer for the Federalist web magazine, recently summed up the results of the Barrack Obama presidency.

(*The Federalist is not to be confused with Alexander Hamilton and James Madison's The Federalist Papers.*)

Tracinski observed that where once America was envied, respected, admired, and even feared; now, in less than one decade, it teeters on the brink of oblivion, despised, distrusted, and reviled by other nations that once respected it and looked to it for succor. All brought about by its own leaders.

Despite all the great leaps forward America has enjoyed, writes Tracinski, it now stands confused and misguided by self-serving ideologs and daydreamers, who steadfastly fail to see that the path down which they've tried to lead their country is a path to humiliation and destruction.

Despite the many victories America has enjoyed in the past half century, greed and blind ideology is plunging this once "*Beacon on a hill*" into a humiliating and painful end, much of it under the leadership of a man who has blindly, or mischievously, led us down a path of racial tension and division. He has prejudged racial issues, aligned himself with racial bigots and misfits, and turned a blind eye to instances of reverse discrimination.

His stimulus program has plunged us into financial debt. He has thrown away the taxpayers' money on a failed recovery effort, and his efforts at financial reform have created more problems than they have solved.

His ill-thought out "*Obamacare*" is bankrupting states and failing to produce any reforms in the healthcare delivery system.

Immigration reforms have failed, and have even produced a crisis situation on our borders.

His leadership--or lack thereof--produced a premature withdrawal from Iraq; and his failures to prepare for and react to the "*Arab Spring*" have allowed the ISIS monster to grow and flourish.

In another quarter, his inability to recognize and respond to the Soviet threat has placed America in a perilous position.

On top of all this, his leadership, or lack thereof, has morally discredited the U.S. in foreign eyes.

Under his leadership, our president has made America irrelevant in the eyes of the rest of the world. He has failed in Europe, he has failed in Asia, in the Middle East, and he has failed in China.

There aren't too many parts of the world in which has not proven to be irrelevant as a leader.

As he prepares to leave the office of the presidency after eight destructive years, Barrack Obama leaves the United States in the worst position it has ever experienced. Little, if any, good has come of this experience in American history. America has been plunged into a quagmire of fearful proportions, one from which it may never extricate itself.

**Put that in your Christmas stocking!**

## KEEP AN EYE ON SANTA'S "HELPERS"

It's the yuletide season with Santa and all his helpers. But seniors should be wary of an increasing abundance of "helpers" at Christmas time, especially those whose goal it is to help themselves.

As our society becomes more sophisticated, the number of ways scammers can find to help themselves has reached staggering proportions.

Granted, the traditional ways of separating the innocent from their wherewithal at this time of year is vast, but there emerges each year new ways of separating the innocent from their wealth. As an example, the Christmas card has always been an integral part of the Christmas season.

But with the advent of the gift card

Christmas card, thieves are now busy finding ways to tamper with the activation code on cards so as to be able to alter them in such a way as to use them to their own advantage.

If you're going to purchase one of these gift cards, make sure that it isn't one that's out on the rack, where everyone has access to it. Be sure that the card you buy is one that has been kept behind the counter; and be sure to get a receipt, as an added means of protection.

If you're going to be ordering gifts to be shipped to your home, be sure that you're home when they arrive; or be sure that someone is required to sign for your package. Insure that someone else doesn't pick up your purchase from your doorstep while you're away from home.

Websites have now become a source for scammers who defraud innocent customers, especially since we've seen such a rise in inter-

national retailer websites. Be sure you know from whom you're purchasing your Christmas presents.

Many websites are cleverly designed to look like the real thing; but they're not.

At Christmastime, especially; don't trust anyone you don't know, and don't buy from any source with which you're not familiar.

Also, look for phoney product names that look like well known brands—but aren't. Also watch out for "giveaways," lottery winnings, inheritances from overseas; anything that looks too good to be true, usually it is just that.

Christmas should be a time for rejoicing; not for sorrow and regret.

The "*Seniors Page*" wishes one and all a Merry Christmas; but, don't trust anyone you don't know, and be wary of many whom you do know.

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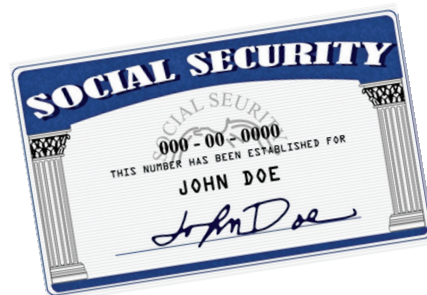
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**By Kyle' D. McKinney**  
**Alabama Public Affairs Specialist**  
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## YOU CAN HELP AS A REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE

If you handle the finances of someone who receives benefits from Social Security, or you know someone who may need help managing his or her benefits, you may want to consider applying to be a representative payee.

A representative payee is someone who receives Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments on behalf of a person not capable of managing the funds on his or her own. A representative payee makes sure an individual's basic needs are met by using the money to provide food, clothing, and shelter for the person and saving any money left over in an interest-bearing account or via savings bonds for the beneficiary's future needs.

**As a representative payee, you must:**

1. know the person's needs so you can decide the best way to meet those needs with the benefits provided;
2. be responsible for letting Social Security know about any changes that may affect the person's eligibility for benefits or the payment amount; and

3. complete a yearly report of how the funds were spent. (You can do this online).

If you know somebody who receives Social Security or SSI benefits who is not able to manage his or her own finances, the best thing you can do is become familiar with the responsibilities of a representative payee and consider becoming one.

To learn more, read our publication, **A Guide For Representative Payees**, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs) and visit the webpage, "*When People Need Help Managing Their Money*," at [www.socialsecurity.gov/payee](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payee). Social Security will work with you to determine if a payee is needed and who would be best suited to act in that capacity.

Thank you to all of the caregivers out there. And, thank you for considering becoming a representative payee for someone in need.





**Judge  
Peggy Givhan**

# Southern Gardening Potpourri for October

by Peggy Givhan

**Hoorah for fall, as it is now upon us.** When we think of fall, we visualize strong color. Our garden color scheme can be jazzed up with yellows, golds, purples, and oranges through several plants other than mums. Find purple in lantana, along with yellows and gold. Lantanas do well in the fall and

have few requirements besides sun and are drought resistant. Just plant, water in really well, add a tad of fertilizer and watch them take off. Marigolds, both the dwarf and tall size, have a rich range of color from rusty red, pale and dark yellow, gold and orange. Get these in the ground now for an amazing fall show. All of these are good fillers for areas in the beds where you have to pull out vinca, begonias and other annuals. Salvias can be planted now for rich shades of blue to purple. These are perennials, and will return next year bigger and better. Mums can be purchased now full grown and in pots. I prefer to buy them rather than waste bed room by waiting from spring until now for the full grown plants. Mums are perennials and come back reliably year and year, but this may not an asset. Be forewarned that they are invasive if left in place. I mean to say they have a distinct propensity to literally take over the bed in a couple of years. I usually just pull them out and discard them after a freeze--quick and easy. After being a victim of such rampant growers which caused me to slave most of one spring to get them under control, I thought a warning is warranted.

## Plants to die for;

Sometimes appearances can be misleading in the sense that something very beautiful can as the same time very deadly. I was looking through some lists of common poisonous plants and the following seven were unknown to me to be in that category.

1. **Delphinium** - the tall majestic blue flower with spurred bell like blooms.
2. **Larkspur** - in the same family as Delphinium, with flowers in a color range of light pink, purple and blue.

3. **Caladiums** -with a broad range of colored leaves.

4. **Monkhead**

5. **Common Privet** - hedge.

6. **Yellow Jessamine** - the vine which lights up the woods in the spring with bright cheerful yellow flowers.

7. **Golden Chain Tree** - the long velvety bean pods.

Of course there are many others, but just thought I would shout out an alarm on these few.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH: *Sunflowers-Helianthus*

We now see, arising out of ditches and in pastures, the sunny faces of many varieties of sunflowers. These are annuals one can sow from seed in the spring. The black eyed-susans are some of the most common sunflower plants, and these range all over our area. They make wonder cut flowers, and mix well with the wild purple iron weed. The giant sunflowers that I have had good luck with are *Helianthus annuus* 'Soraya' which I purchased from a seed catalog. My problem is that I did not sow enough of the seed. Birds love sunflower seed just as much humans. It is a good sight to behold, swaying orange sunflowers in the beds with humming birds and bees enjoying themselves.

One of the main tasks in the garden for October would be to mulch and lightly prune any dead stems from your roses. These plants should be either beginning or in full fall bloom. Even if you have Knock-outs, mulching is a good idea in order to conserve moisture and protect the roots if we have a really hard winter. Pruning any dead stems from the roses will keep the shrubs healthy. If there is an errant stalk that needs pruning, cut it

back to the main stalk. Cart off the dead plant material from the roses so disease will not be introduced.

**GOOD GARDENING AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**



Photo by Barbie O'Neal, Gazette Staff Photographer

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Lunch will begin at 11:30 am.

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*I know Mom is going to get better.*

2 - **Anger** at the person with Alzheimer's or others, anger that no cure exists or that people don't understand what's happening.

*If he asks me that one more time I'll scream!*

3 - **Social withdrawal** from friends and activities that once brought pleasure.

*I don't care about getting together with the neighbors anymore.*

4 - **Anxiety** about facing another day and about the future.

*What happens when he needs more care than I can provide?*

5 - **Depression** that begins to break your spirit and affects you ability to cope.

*I don't care anymore.*

6 - **Exhaustion** that makes it nearly impossible to complete necessary daily tasks.

*I'm too tired for this.*

7 - **Sleeplessness** caused by a never-ending list of concerns.

*What if she wanders out of the house or falls and hurts herself?*

8 - **Irritability** that leads to moodiness and triggers negative response and actions.

*I was so busy, I forgot we had an appointment.*

9 - **Lack of concentration** that makes it difficult to perform familiar tasks.

*I was so busy, I forgot we had an appointment.*

10 - **Health problems** that begins to take a mental and physical toll.

*I can't remember the last time I felt good.*

For more information on long-term care insurance, please contact Bernard Mathis, Agent, New York Life Insurance Company at 334-467-1108.

*If you experience any of these signs of stress on a regular basis, make time to talk to your doctor.*



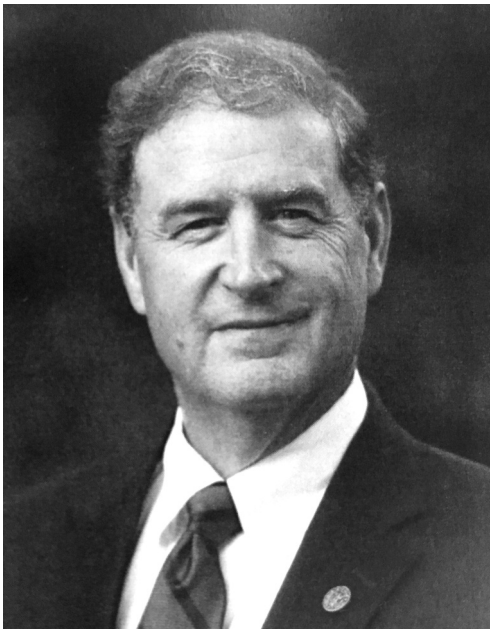
# The Tukabatchee Council of the Boy Scouts of America Annual Convocation of Eagles

Convocation (Latin: *calling together*) is a group of people formally assembled for a special purpose. It also is a gathering of eagles

Animals gather under different and sometimes unusual names. There is the gaggle of geese, or the pride of lions. Many have heard of the herd of elephants or the covey of quail. Not quite so familiar to the reader might be a lounge of lizards or a smack of jellyfish. But what do you call a gathering of Eagles?

**The Tukabatchee Council of the Boy Scouts of America** held its annual **Convocation of Eagles** Tuesday, September 15th at Trinity Presbyterian Church. The event recognizes those young men who have achieved Scouting's highest honor.

The Council also awarded **Sam Adams** the National Eagle Scout Association Outstanding Eagle Scout Award. The local Council's NESA committee selects an Eagle Scout who has demonstrated outstanding achievement at the local state, or regional level. The NOESA recognizes an Eagle Scout whose efforts have made a positive impact close to home. As part of this traditional ceremony, Adams gave the new Eagles the following charge:



**Good evening ladies and gentlemen.**

It is indeed an honor to be with you tonight as we recognize these young men for their great accomplishments.

I would be remiss if I did not extend my warmest thanks to our God above and to those who helped these young men achieve this high honor. I also applaud the parents and special friends of those here tonight who made the sacrifices necessary in order for these Eagles to roost here this evening.

A personal point of privilege as I recognize my wife, Mary, the love of my life for almost thirty years. Three of our four children were able to be with us tonight. We love them all. They belong to God and we thank Him for sharing them with us.

Thanks also to the selection committee for making this night necessary, and all those who had a hand in putting this program together with a special thanks to Denise and Marvin.

Please indulge me for a few minutes as I share with you my thoughts about these young Eagles being "Living Stones".

The term "Living Stones" is a Biblical reference. I recently heard a sermon about it and I will try to

make application to our group gathered here.

Oddly enough, last week my cousin sent me a collection of humorous writings that were found on tombstones to provide a brief contrast.

In New Mexico:  
Here lies Johnny Yeast.  
Pardon him for not rising.

In Nova Scotia:  
Here lies Ezekiel Aikle, Age 102.  
Only the good die young.

In England:  
Sir John Strange  
Here lies an honest lawyer,  
And that is Strange.

*And my personal favorite:*

Remember man, as you walk by,  
As you are now, so once was I.  
As I am now, so shall you be,  
Remember this and follow me.

*To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone:*

To follow you I'll not consent,  
Until I know which way you went.

But my focus tonight is not on tombstones but on you young men as "living stones".

Stones, in and of themselves, are rarely remarkable absent community. What do I mean by community? Once joined with others they can form great walls, great bridges, and great structures. Here is a brief list of living stones that have gone before us:

**Neil Armstrong**, the first man on the moon.  
**Eugene Calvin Cheatam Jr.**, decorated war hero with the Tuskegee Airmen.  
**Dr. William Devries**, implanted the first artificial heart transplant.  
**Christopher Fogt**, Olympian medalist.  
**Chan Gailey**, Former NFJ and Troy University head coach.  
**Bradford Parkinson**, inventor and father of GPS.  
**Robert Gates**, Former Director of the CIA.  
**Bill Gates Sr.**, Attorney for Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.  
**Roy Kramer**, SEC Commissioner, author of the BCS.

**Steven Spielberg**, Oscar winning director and producer.

**JW Marriott** of Marriott Hotels.

**Togo West**, Editor of the Howard Law Review, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

**Jeff Sessions**, former Attorney General and U.S. Senator for the great state of Alabama.

The common denominator of all these men; they were all once and always will be, Eagle Scouts. I would contend that these men are not famous for what they have done but who they are. Long before Armstrong stepped on the moon or Cheatham flew his first combat mission, or Spielberg directed ET, they were Eagle Scouts. These living stones are joined by over 2 million other Eagles like them, who have provided a strong and secure structure for our society.

And like any good structure there must be a firm foundation starting with that precious cornerstone. The cornerstone for Boy Scouts can be found in it's four guiding principles, The Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout Motto and the Scout Slogan. But unlike so many other scouts, an Eagle does not simply memorize the words, he adopts these principles, he grafts them into his soul, the words course through his veins as sure as life itself.

The oath is a sacred pledge. While some in our society consider honor as nothing more valuable than a discarded pair of shoes, the Eagle Scout rests his entire being with the simple phrase: On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country. Of the 64 Eagles in this class a dozen or so have chosen to serve their country by going to one of the military academies or going on active duty or serving in the National Guard. Some Eagles have paid the ultimate price for such a duty. I am reminded of a little known but great American, Lance Corporal Darwin Judge, Eagle Scout. He was one of the two last ground combat soldiers to die in Vietnam on the last day of the War on April 29, 1975 defending the US Embassy in Saigon. Many other Eagles have paid that same price in Iraq, Afghanistan and all around the world.

Nine Eagle Scouts have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, our country's highest honor, that can be bestowed for military service.

You gentlemen, too, have done your duty to your country by serving your community with such exemplary projects as the ones that have been displayed here tonight. They could not have been accomplished but for you striving to uphold and exhibit the 12 tenants of the Scout Law: Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. While most laws are couched in the terms do and don't, these points are who you are. These standards are high and they are meant to be, for striving for these ideals and keeping the faith with them is what scouting is all about.

And as you know to achieve these points, it takes practice, it takes perseverance, and you must always exercise the Scout Motto, be prepared. Dr. Michael Chambers, CEO of Swift Biotech, headquartered in Mobile, is District Governor for our Rotary organization (motto: Service Above Self). He illustrates the Scout motto in a similar way by discussing its essential element, planning. I would like to borrow his story. A professor at an Ivy League school some years ago met with the graduating seniors in a large auditorium. For statistical simplicity let's say that there we're one hundred graduates. The professor posed the following question,

"How many of you have a plan for your life over the next 10 years and have written it down in order to hold yourself accountable?" Only three hands were raised. Next the professor asked how many in the audience had made any plans for their future but had not put pen to paper. This time a dozen hands went up. The remaining 85% just wanted to graduate and get out as fast as they could, get a job and move on.

The professor did a follow-up questionnaire 10 years later and came up with some interesting information. Those dozen individuals who had a plan but failed to write it down actually made twice as much money on average as the other 85% of students in the class. But the 3% who did make a plan and wrote it down, and committed to it, on average earned 10 times as much as the remaining 85%. The moral of this story is not about making money but how being prepared will keep you in a state of readiness in mind and body that will far exceed your expectations.

*If you don't hear anything else I say tonight, please hear this: Go home tonight, within the next 7-10 days, make a plan for your life for the next ten years and write it down. Establish your goals, establish your timeline. Don't be afraid to think too big and don't be afraid to fail. A Chinese proverb states that a great man falls down seven times and rises eight. Your plan will become a part of you like the sweetest melody you know.*

**Put your written plan in something secure, a shoe box, a time capsule a safety deposit box. Come see me in ten years and tell me how it worked out.**

**Finally, a question. What was your good deed for the day?**

An Eagle seeks the opportunity to serve. He perceives and executes solutions before most people recognize the problem. It may be the proverbial walking the little old lady across the street or helping a friend with homework or applying first aid to a bee sting or teaching a Tenderfoot how to start and extinguish a campfire or feeding the homeless at the Salvation Army on Christmas Day. The reward is not fame or fortune; it is that a young man experiences an exhilarating sense of joy knowing he had exercised his knowledge of scouting to help someone in need.

But there is deeper meaning to the Scout Slogan. A couple of years ago a young man named Christopher Alvelo, age 17, from Philadelphia, was a passenger in a car returning home with two friends and his stepfather after completing his Eagle Scout project. Chris' step dad passed out behind the wheel due to a medical condition. The car sped directly toward a large fuel tanker truck. With no regard for his own safety, he instantly unbuckled his seat belt and reached over to steer the car clear of the tanker only to crash into a wall head on just feet away from the fuel truck.

His selfless act saved the lives of everyone in the car and the truck driver. Chris died at the scene. He was awarded his Eagle posthumously.

I share this story with you because if you remember, I mentioned earlier, there is a precious cornerstone that binds all the living stones together. Some might think that the word precious means valuable or beautiful. I would suggest to you that it instead means sacrificial. For you see the cornerstone that embodies the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan necessarily requires us to put others before ourselves. It may not be natural for the world to think that way but for an Eagle Scout it is as instinctive as breathing.

In conclusion, I urge everyone here in attendance to become a living stone. Follow these Eagles using the foundation you helped them learn, and practice and be. As these living stones skip across the lake of life and reach their final destination, may their ripples be a resounding wave of good for man and mankind.



**NESA Medal  
Outstanding Eagle Scout**



**Eagle Scout Medal**



“Once and Eagle Scout, Always an Eagle Scout”



Photo byTommy Giles  
Sam Adams, recipient of the 2015 NESA Outstanding Eagle Award, poses with a group of new Eagle Scouts on September 15th at Trinity Presbyterian Church during the annual Convocation of Eagles for the Tukabatchee Council of the Boy Scouts of America

| Name        |             |            |     | City        |          | Troop #     |     | Name     |           |             |     | City     |               | Troop #     |     |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-----|-------------|----------|-------------|-----|----------|-----------|-------------|-----|----------|---------------|-------------|-----|
| James       | Able        | Prattville | 25  | Jonathan    | Leoffler | Prattville  | 156 | Joseph   | Leoffler  | Prattville  | 156 | Austin   | Liveoak       | Jemson      | 747 |
| Samuel      | Adams       | Montgomery | 1   | Ian         | Living   | Jackson Gap | 264 | Jonathon | Lunsford  | Prattville  | 606 | Jayant   | Mackey        | Prattville  | 600 |
| Darian      | Allen       | Prattville | 156 | Robert      | Mason    | Alex City   | 701 | Peyton   | Mathiews  | Selma       | 46  | Kristoff | Mcintosh      | Tusk. Inst. | 70  |
| Tyler       | Anderson    | Montgomery | 601 | Christopher | McKee    | Wetumpka    | 50  | Dylan    | Miller    | Jackson Gap | 701 | Stephen  | Mitchell      | Wetumpka    | 13  |
| Marl        | Andrews     | Prattville | 111 | Austin      | Minor    | Clanton     | 259 | Peter    | Moore     | Montgomery  | 307 | Robert   | Nesbitt       | Montgomery  | 8   |
| Taimoor     | Arshad      | Montgomery | 15  | Ethan       | Nettles  | Wetumpka    | 50  | Patrick  | O'Mara    | Montgomery  | 23  | Leo      | Peters        | Montgomery  | 4   |
| Dalton      | Baldwin     | Verbena    | 232 | Leo         | Peters   | Montgomery  | 4   | Zackary  | Pugliani  | Prattville  | 600 | Luke     | Reynolds      | Selma       | 30  |
| David       | Barber      | Montgomery | 8   | Tyler       | Rhodes   | Millbrook   | 19  | Daziel   | Rodriguez | Montgomery  | 23  | Robert   | Schodorf, III | Deatsville  | 19  |
| Taylor      | Brown       | Montgomery | 1   | Alexander   | Sellers  | Montgomery  | 603 | Young    | Stevenson | Montgomery  | 1   | Kory     | Talley        | Montgomery  | 15  |
| Joshua      | Bryars, Jr. | Montgomery | 23  | Justin      | Thornton | Rockford    | 65  | Daniel   | Updegraff | Montgomery  | 1   | Guy      | Vaughan       | Alex City   | 701 |
| George      | Budge       | Prattville | 600 | Guy         | Vaughan  | Alex City   | 701 | Patrick  | Wolf      | Montgomery  | 307 | Charles  | Woo           | Luverne     | 147 |
| Andrew      | Bushby      | Montgomery | 23  | Charles     | Woo      | Luverne     | 147 | Ashton   | Ziglar    | Wetumpka    | 50  |          |               |             |     |
| Frederick   | Carver      | Montgomery | 307 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Christopher | Clark       | Montgomery | 307 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Charles     | Cobern      | Prattville | 25  |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Michael     | Colon       | Montgomery | 51  |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Brandon     | Cunningham  | Prattville | 606 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Spencen     | Daar        | Tallassee  | 59  |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Jacob       | Davis       | Wetumpka   | 13  |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Elijah      | English     | Jemison    | 747 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Troy        | Ferguson    | Prattville | 111 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Nathan      | Hall        | Tuskegee   | 170 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Jacob       | Hall        | Clanton    | 559 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Kaleb       | Hallmark    | Prattville | 156 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Zachary     | Halloran    | Prattville | 156 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Phillip     | Harden      | Montgomery | 15  |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| William     | Hensley     | Millbrook  | 185 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| David       | Hogge       | Montgomery | 601 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Jackson     | Horn        | Prattville | 25  |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Robert      | Howard      | Alex City  | 169 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Benjamin    | Jones       | Selma      | 46  |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |
| Bryan       | Korinko     | Wetumpka   | 605 |             |          |             |     |          |           |             |     |          |               |             |     |



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Friend of Youth

N.O.W New Optimist Wanted

Capital City Optimist Club wants you to visit and see the membership’s passion for serving and supporting our city’s youth. Please accept this invitation to be our guest for a meeting and meal at Capital City Club, RSA Tower. We meet the second, third, and fourth Wednesday of the month. Please contact, David Mills, Treasurer at 334-538-7895 or P.O. Box 4101, Montgomery, AL 36103. To confirm a date and time for your visit.

The club works tirelessly to do our best for the youth of this city and region. Please visit us soon; as in (N.O.W.).

On Wednesday, September 23, 2015, outgoing LT Governor Elaine Poole installed club officers and board members for Optimist Year 2015-2016:

- Lee Warren: President
- Steve Davis: First Vice President
- Britt Howard: Second Vice President
- David Mills: Treasurer
- John Steward: Secretary
- Board Members:
- Flip Aehnlich
- Richard Lawrence
- Sally Mitchell
- Bill Daugherty
- Bob Corwin
- Renee Johnson
- Jim Salminen: Past President

CAPITAL CITY OPTIMIST CLUB

“By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids”

Optimists announce district scholarship contests; awards total \$10,000 The Capital City Optimist Club announces the start of its 2016 Alabama-Mississippi District scholarship programs. Scholarship opportunities from three contests total \$10,000. The Optimist club conducts the contests to provide youth with additional college funds and to encourage young people to develop writing, public speaking, and critical thinking skills.

Applications for all three types of scholarships are available online now at [optimist.org](http://optimist.org) (click on Programs, then Scholarship Contests). Download the application form for the scholarship you choose and be sure to completely follow the instructions. Applications along with essay or oratorical speeches must be submitted through a local Optimist club, and you must win the contest at the local level to proceed in the scholarship program.

The Essay Contest will be held in January at the club level and the district winner announced in March. Students are asked to write a 700-800 word essay on the topic “Lead by Example: Fact or Fiction” and one winner will receive a \$2,500 scholarship.

The Oratorical Contest will start at club level in February, and the winner will compete at the zone, region, and district levels. The winner will be announced at the Optimists’ district meeting in April. A boy and a girl will be selected to receive a \$2,500 scholarship for winning the speech-writing contest on the topic of “How My Best Brings Out The Best In Others”.

Finally, The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Oratorical Contest will be held in March with the winner announced at a district contest in May, and the topic also will be “How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others.” One winner will

receive a \$2,500 scholarship.

Contestants are given plenty of time to decide to participate, research, write, and improve their essay or speech before submitting their presentation to the local Optimist club.

For information about the Capital City Optimist Club or if you have any questions, contact David Mills at 334-538-7895 or [dmills7584@msn.com](mailto:dmills7584@msn.com).

The Capital City Optimist Club is a volunteer community service organization that serves children in our community through projects, events, and mentoring programs. The Capital City Optimist Club conducts bicycle safety training at two schools, gives bicycles to worth children at these schools, co-sponsors Youth in City Government, works with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, supports the Youth All Star Baseball program, and sponsors a youth golf tournament. For information, see [optimist.org](http://optimist.org) for international information, and [amoptimist.org](http://amoptimist.org) for district information. Visit our Facebook page at Capital City Optimist Club.

The Optimist Creed • PROMISE YOURSELF:

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to everyone you meet.
- To make all of your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only the best, work only for the best, and to except on the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.



## THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL  
Eastern Hills  
Baptist Church  
Montgomery, Alabama

## Soul Searching

## AMERICA'S HOPE

Although the election of a new President for this great country is just over a year away, the pushing, shoving, and promoting of candidates is well under way. This fall we will see a number of political debates from candidates in both parties. While few of us find pleasure in the give and take of politics, it is a time of testing to find the ones who will become the candidates from which we select our leader.

My real concern in writing this article is that the Christian community does not get confused nor used in the process. Christians must be careful not to presume that somehow the deep problems of our land will go away if we support the right party and elect the right person. What's wrong with America is bigger than any one person can fix. Some years ago President Dwight Eisenhower spoke to this concern. "Never let yourself be persuaded that any one great man or leader is necessary to the salvation of America...It is the most dangerous kind of corporate self-delusion to think that a President, regardless of how much he heeds God, can reverse the bent of the national will, once it is set in a certain direction."

Quickly let me reassure you that the intent of quoting the former President is not to minimize the importance of electing the most qualified, dedicated leader possible. Neither is it intended to minimize our responsibility to be good citizens, to vote our convictions or to become involved in the political and governing process.

However, the responsibility for the future of this great land is not in elected officials first. Rather, it lies more directly upon each of us through a personal relationship with our Savior and Lord. This is not a covert way to force religion into politics. Let's just pay attention to what the Bible says. Note again the well quoted verse from **II Chronicles 7:14**, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." The hope for the United States of America lies not first and foremost in elections of Presidents or members of Congress or appointments to the Supreme Court. As much as these are important and that they do have the ability to make decisions which affect all of us and our destiny, they are not the answer.

It's time we took an honest look at the situation we are in. Some of us can remember when the name America stood for a unique nation of strength and virtue. "Whether it was because of our national pride, gratitude or hope, the response of the majority of people on earth was deeply positive toward this land. America's moral and fiscal currency was the soundest on earth. We were supremely confident that we were indeed making the world a better place to live in. We believed that technologically and diplomatically, it was only a matter of time before this assignment would be satisfactorily completed." Perhaps these ideals were beyond our reach, but the important matter to note is that we believed in what our country stood for. We were dedicated to a task greater than ourselves.

And then, it seems with both suddenness and subtlety, that precious balance of pride and progress was compromised by selfishness and separation from the things which have made this country so revered among the nations. The climb to greatness turned into a downhill roller coaster without brakes. Sadly, those who will reach their mid-life in the next few years haven't known anything different than what they see. Unfortunately they do not learn our true history in most public school and university settings.

Consider just a few of the radical changes which seem to be accepted fare. Our military ventures are not filled with clear purpose or resolve. The loss of respect for authority is rampant. Who would have ever thought the very forces which put their lives on the line every day would become the object of ridicule in many of our cities? Emerging nations for whom we have given so much in aid make fun of us. "Our foreign policy has become more one of reaction rather than action."

On the home front, our economy has become more frequently erratic. "Our children's mathematics and English aptitudes are plummeting." Home schools and other forms of education are flourishing because of the decline in the quality of much of public education. There is the loss of moral soundness pervasive in music and on all the various screens which grab our attention from computers to movie theatres. America has become tolerant of abortion and pornography. Parents have abdicated their traditional and essential roles as models for their children as well as protectors of their future. The general indifference by the great majority of our nation is the greatest indicator that we are in trouble. We elect leaders but few even acknowledge the problems or do anything to correct them.

It is for that reason I suggest to you that our greatest concern is not who will be elected the next President or to any office. We have to look closer to home. We have to look to our communities, to our Christian friends and to our churches. Most of all, we have to look inside ourselves. Are we willing to pay the price to have a different nation? Have we taken to heart the words of II Chronicles 7:14? Have we read the first phrase? It begins with the words, "If my people...." The Lord does not promise healing until something happens within His people.

It is time we quit looking for someone to blame. What's wrong with America is not the fault of Democrats or Republicans. It really isn't the fault of a drug culture, movie producers, bad laws or rebellious inner cities impoverished and stymied in their conditions by politics. As bad as these are for us to deal with, the fault, in my opinion, is with those of us who should have known and heeded. We have passed the buck and then looked for someone to blame.

The dream of America and for America which many of us have inherited was not about wealth and pleasure. It was about a land which was like no other in this millennium. Our forefathers who shaped the direction of this land saw something bigger and better than their own welfare and needs. The various people who came together to bring about this great nation, from Christopher Columbus, to the

Pilgrims, to the Puritans, and to our Founding Fathers, did so because they believed God had a special calling for this nation and her people. "They believed they were led here to found a nation where men, women and children were to live in obedience to God." It was this firm belief that led to the phrase we still repeat in our pledge to the flag of the United States of America, "One nation under God." You might note that the phrase has no comma in it. Our founders believed this nation could become a light to the world, a shining city set on a hill, not to dominate, but to elevate, not to burden but to bless. Even the famous slogan of the Marine Corps, "We are looking for a few good men," came from the experience of Gideon in the Bible.

Frankly, I believe the reason America is in trouble today on almost every front is that we have forgotten this and are not teaching it to those who come after us. We are throwing away our Christian heritage. Before going further, please be aware that my purpose is not to discriminate or to imply that we should force Christianity on anyone. The freedoms we so enjoy grew out of Christian principles. There is no other country on earth which began with such lofty goals for its people. We cannot read our history and fail to see that the intent for America was to be a Christian nation. That fact does not demean nor denigrate those who choose not to believe in God or not to accept Christianity. Freedom of worship and freedom to worship or not are basic Christian principles. In trying to be so politically correct and to reject religion from the public forum, we have lost our way as our nation. Without that underpinning, the nation will continue to crumble.

Is there any hope? A ship is hopelessly lost at sea without a compass and so is a nation. The compass for America was to provide a place where people could freely practice their faith. Our hope is in Jesus Christ. Out of the national dilemma there are movements of God full of promise and encouragement. But let us not kid ourselves. Following Christ has never been a matter of ease or slight changes. The Christian community needs repentance for the neglect of our faith. Christians can't live with feet in both worlds and fulfill the calling of Christ. Christ said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me." When we get the vertical relationship right, we can begin to work on getting the horizontal relationship right. When national interests are ahead of personal selfishness and Christians begin to be connected with other Christians instead of competing in divisive ways, God can begin to heal our land. The answer is not more well financed political parties or slicker candidates. We have tried all that. "But the cost of turning from our independent ways, of being willing to hear God speak, of coming into the light by exposing the sins of attitude or thought, of humbling ourselves by admitting where we were wrong is all too often more of a cost than many of us are willing to pay." It's time for Christians to get on their knees and follow the leadership of God if there is hope for future generations to know and experience the America our founders intended.



## PILOTS FOR CHRIST

We go through life thinking, "That would never happen to us.", but truth is **NOTHING** is guaranteed. We don't know what tomorrow holds or even the next minute for that matter. But **GOD** does and that is why **Pilots For Christ** is in existence.

**PFC** is a group of Christian pilots and volunteers whose aim is to help those in need of transportation due to medical reasons and are not able to travel any other way but by plane. **PFC** is not an air ambulance or a medical aircraft but they believe that it is their mission through the call of our *Holy Father* to help those that are in need and can not afford the costs.

**Pilots For Christ** does not receive any form of government funding and does not get reimbursements from insurance companies. They are fully funded by individuals, churches, civic organizations, and businesses. If you feel that the *Lord* has put it on your heart to make a contribution please visit their website at [www.pilotsforchrist.net](http://www.pilotsforchrist.net), and as always your gift is tax deductible.



*"Whoever is kind to the needy honors God."*

*~ Proverbs 14:31*





# Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

## Should A Christian Celebrate Halloween?

Bob Harrington, the former "*Chaplain of Bourbon Street*," preached one night and advertised his sermon title in the local newspaper: "*Three Places Where There's No Problem With Racism*." This was in the civil rights era and our nation was fixated on this problem.

Hundreds came that night to hear Harrington. He touched on his announced theme only in the first paragraph of his sermon: "***The three places where there's no problem with racism are heaven, hell, and the heart of a Christian.***" Then Harrington preached a gun barrel-straight message about how to become a Christian!

"***Should A Christian Celebrate Halloween?***" is, likewise, poised to draw a crowd, but I've chosen to skirt the issue!

Some say Halloween is the "*devil's night*" and refuse to participate or let their children participate. Others say it's a harmless night of fun and see no problem with it.

I remember a boyhood Sunday School teacher who used to rail against race car driving. "It's just like the Roman coliseum," he often told us. "*People*

*go there to see drivers crash and die!*"

A little harsh, to be sure, but race car driving is as popular as ever. We even have a block of conservatives called "*NASCAR voters*." And at Talladega and other racetracks, Christians set up booths, give away bottles of water and serve as chaplains.

There was a local pastor when I was in high school who came back from a Bible conference with new enthusiasm, telling his congregation that he'd thrown his TV out the back door and that they had to do this, too, if they really loved Jesus. A few weeks later they threw him out the door!

TV is still here. There are vile things on it, to be sure, but there are also Christian programs sponsored by Billy Graham and local churches and entire Christian networks, too.

In the same way, we probably aren't going to stop Halloween. So, how can we use it to share our faith?

Some churches have used the so-called "*Judgment House*" drama which tries to communicate the truth about death and eternity. Other churches provide printed gospel summaries or worship invitations that homeowners can give away with their Halloween treats. I've known some Christians who've designed nice Halloween gift packages and included a simple "*God loves you*" note.

For some trick-or-treaters, this might be the only time they hear such a positive message.

Rather than turning our lights off or scowling at eager boys and girls that we don't celebrate Halloween, why not give a little treat--the equivalent of a cup of cold water in Jesus' name (**Matthew 10:42**)--and simply say, "*God bless you*"?

*Reflections is a weekly devotional column by Michael Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. and adjunct instructor of speech at Jefferson State Community College, Hoover. Permission is given to use this material with attribution.*

Michael J. Brooks  
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Office - 205.663.7904

## MODERN SATANISM IN THE UNITED STATES IS ON THE RISE... CHRISTIANS NEED TO –



## PREPARE TO FIGHT FOR OUR HERITAGE AND FAITH!

With Holloween being at the end of this month and all the zombies, ghouls, and ghosts being around every corner I believe it's time to take a closer look and really see what's going on all around us.

Let's start with the satanic statue that got unveiled back in **July in Detroit, MI**. It began with **Oklahoma's Supreme Court** ruling that officials had to remove a six-foot-tall statue of the **Ten Commandments** located on the grounds of the state's capitol, preventing **The Satanic Temple's** plans to install its own statue of Baphomet to dispute government endorsement of religious symbols. The satanic group still went forward and unveil the bronze sculpture during an event called "**The Unveiling**," which occurred at a secret location.

Despite the media uproar and attention it has gotten the original cause for the statue is to move to a spot near the **Arkansas Statehouse**, where lawmakers recently approved the installation of a **Ten Commandments** monument similar to the one in **Oklahoma**.

On the flip side to this, a group of pastors promoted a prayer rally and protest of the event calling it "*a hedonistic celebration*" to pitch **The Satanic Temple's** "*largest fight to date in the name of individual rights to free exercise against self-serving theocrats*." There was a poster shared by the protesters which features a photograph of the statue between the words "**NOT ON OUR WATCH**" and the names of several pastors including **Pastor David Bullock** of St.

## God's Commandments!



**Matthew Baptist Church** who lead the prayer rally and protest.

It was mentioned in an article that **The Satanic Temple** does not actually worship Satan and the statue's presence in **Detroit** is only temporary. Quite frankly it doesn't matter, the presence of the statue has burned it's mark. That's exactly what the Devil wanted. We Christians need to make a stand and prepare to fight for the **Glory of God** so **HIS** light may shine brightly and chase away the shadows being left behind by all the signs and symbols that are being disguised to fool us into thinking it's just a mere phase or exaggeration.

## Potato Chips

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him some chips. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him.

His smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave; but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face.

She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home.

His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied "I ate potato chips in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally.

**Have lunch with God.....bring chips.**

God still sits on the throne. You may be going through a tough time right now but God is getting ready to bless you in a way that only He can.

**Keep the faith!**

### Eastern Hills Baptist Church

3604 Pleasant Ridge Rd.

## FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 31st  
4pm - 6pm  
Hotdog supper - \$2.00

### Snowdown Baptist Church

U. S. Highway 331

Cotton Candy  
Popcorn  
Cake Walk  
Hotdogs

## Community Fall Festival

October 31st • 4:00 - 6:00

### Snowdown Volunteer Fire Department

Food, Food for the entire family! FREE



Patricia Killough



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.

## William and Loretta Grant celebrate their 53rd Wedding Anniversary October 13, 2015



William retired from Coca Cola after 38 years and now enjoys his family, grandchildren and working with his cattle. Loretta is the founder and Co-Owner of The Alabama Gazette. They serve God in ministry together at Snowdown Baptist Church. Their love for each other and from family and friends are their greatest earthly blessings.

## Happy Anniversary

|        |                                  |         |                                |
|--------|----------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Oct. 2 | Brady & Amy Crowe (11th)         | Oct. 12 | Mike & Lynn Davis              |
| Oct. 3 | Mr. & Mrs. Theo Katechis (36th)  |         | James & Jean Hicks (57th)      |
|        | Tom & Mary Lion (62nd)           |         | Glenn & Susan Yost             |
| Oct. 5 | Jack & Kim Golson                | Oct. 15 | Lance & Amy Brown              |
|        | George & Farley Pugh             |         | Gaston & Doris Wallace         |
|        | Lance & Sylvia Smith (57th)      | Oct. 16 | George & Marilyn Evans         |
| Oct. 6 | Jimmy & Donna Grant              | Oct. 19 | Brett & Barbie O'Neal (13th)   |
| Oct. 7 | Jimmy & Judy Grubbs              | Oct. 20 | Tim & Amanda Anderson (3rd)    |
|        | Tracey & Britt Betts (2nd)       | Oct. 21 | Jimmy & Ann Hale               |
| Oct. 8 | Eric & Casey Fleming (10th)      | Oct. 22 | Brad & Lee Ann Williams (10th) |
|        | Bob & Lynda Maddox               | Oct. 23 | Sonny & Lexie Turnipseed       |
|        | David & Xan Morrow               | Oct. 26 | Terry & Missy Boyd (24th)      |
| Oct. 9 | Ian & Caty Jane Turnipseed (5th) |         |                                |

## Sympathy to the families of...

Amason, Gib Holody .....died August 30, 2015  
 Delaitsch, Angela Hendrix (58) .....died August 31, 2015  
 Goggans, Helen Cowles (87) .....died August 31, 2015  
 Brewer, Vivian Jeanette (85) .....died September 3, 2015  
 Gibian, Richard (95) .....died September 4, 2015  
 Roton, Frank Lewis (87) .....died September 4, 2015  
 Perdue, Lorren Laslie (93) .....died September 8, 2015  
 Norman, Julius "Britt" (90) .....died September 10, 2015  
 Mattocks, Paul (85) .....died September 14, 2015  
 Mowbray, Dr. James (74) .....died September 14, 2015  
 Payne, Billie Jean .....died September 20, 2015  
 Hays, Dr. Charles C. Jr. (79) .....died September 25, 2015  
 Weber, Sandra Jean (70) .....died September 26, 2015  
 Green, James W. ....Burial on September 30, 2015

## SOUTH MONTGOMERY COUNTY ACADEMY NEWS

### HOMECOMING COURT

Lydia Brown is the first smallest little SMCA attendant.  
 Lydia's birthday was on September 30, 2015.

## WEE ONE ON THE WAY

A baby shower was held in honor of Megan Higgins Gramling on September 13th. The shower was hosted by Alicia Smith and Sarah Smith at their home in Pike Road.  
 The baby is due in October.

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## October Birthdays



|         |                             |         |                             |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Oct 1   | David Hite (73rd)           |         | Ryan Sellars                |
|         | Karen Hollingshead          | Oct. 19 | Joann Hassey                |
|         | Wallis Litchfield           |         | Helen Law                   |
| Oct. 2  | Allie Dibole                |         | John Lithgow                |
|         | Jerry Hollingshead          |         | Jeff Ludwick                |
|         | Donna Karen                 |         | Nell Nesbit                 |
|         | Janice Vaughn Majors (66th) | Oct. 21 | Evelyn Roger                |
|         | Bob Morris                  |         | Pam Anderson                |
| Oct. 3  | Ladon Boyd (55th)           |         | Ken Guthrie                 |
|         | Monica Mills                |         | Cheryl Horp                 |
|         | Ben Sawada                  |         | Spears Rhodes               |
|         | Stevie Ray Vaughn           | Oct. 22 | Judith Lamar                |
| Oct. 4  | Hazel Campbell              |         | Joyce Browning Mills        |
| Oct. 5  | Chester Alan Arthur         |         | Tony Nemunaitis             |
|         | Thomas Chesnutt (94th)      |         | Alicia Smith                |
|         | Nikki Smith Womack          | Oct. 23 | Earl Henderson              |
|         | Lynn Moore                  |         | Mollie Ester Isacson        |
| Oct. 6  | Frances Grant               |         | Mike Kirk                   |
|         | Jimmy Pugh                  |         | Elfie Meredith              |
|         | Matthew Sweet               |         | Betty Jo Richie             |
| Oct. 7  | Ashley James                |         | Mitzi Woodall               |
|         | David Price (66th)          | Oct. 24 | Thomas Norman               |
| Oct. 8  | Jim Fleming                 |         | Connie Thompson             |
|         | Beck Tucker                 |         | Norma Mitchell              |
|         | Madera Spencer              | Oct. 25 | Glenn Chesnutt              |
| Oct. 9  | Clower Boyd                 |         | David Alexander Dean        |
|         | Vance Cordle                |         | Hannah Grace Johnson        |
|         | Arbin McCathern (78th)      |         | Dot Pouncey (65th)          |
|         | Bob Persons                 | Oct. 26 | Alice Cole (65th)           |
|         | Clifton Renfro              |         | Carol Fowler                |
|         | Linda Stringer              |         | Judd Huett (78th)           |
| Oct. 10 | Sherry McCulley             |         | Mike Horsley                |
|         | Ron Selvaggio               |         | Natailie Merchant           |
|         | Mason Williams (5th)        |         | Brynlee Ashmore (5th)       |
| Oct. 11 | Bonnie Ashcraft             | Oct. 27 | BoBo Boyd                   |
|         | Susan Guevara               |         | Terry Boyd (54th)           |
|         | Debbie Moore                |         | Amy Moone (41st)            |
|         | Anna Marie Sessions         |         | Glen Raley (61st)           |
|         | Christie Vazquez            |         | Stephanie Selvage (41st)    |
| Oct. 12 | Kirstin Boyd                |         | Dora Ann Wallace (93rd)     |
|         | Kim Moore                   |         | Louise Lareson              |
| Oct. 13 | Fred Cole (94th)            | Oct. 28 | James Cantrell (88th)       |
|         | Loretta Grant               |         | Patti Moseley Higgins       |
|         | Danny Ott (55th)            |         | Josh Hudson                 |
|         | Mary Wimpee                 |         | Parker Lynch                |
| Oct. 14 | Margaret Batley             |         | Joakin Phoenix              |
|         | Brian Burrows               |         | Matt Schall                 |
|         | Elizabeth Miller            | Oct. 29 | Marge Crockett (72nd)       |
|         | Sarah Margaret Poundstone   |         | Adam Dupree                 |
| Oct. 15 | Bob Crowe                   |         | Lisa Etheridge              |
|         | Noah Edwards                |         | Amber (Sally) Heitsenrether |
|         | Dolores Kavanagh            |         | Caylyn Oswald               |
|         | Charlie Lamar Jr.           | Oct. 30 | Nellie Cole (90th)          |
|         | Ray Martin (77th)           |         | Felicity Edwards            |
|         | Linda Stembridge Chandler   |         | Lee Sellars                 |
|         | Gaston Wallace              |         | Grace Slick                 |
| Oct. 17 | Jane Braswell               |         | Josie Stanton               |
|         | Chris Floyd                 | Oct. 31 | Carey Cauthen (61st)        |
| Oct. 16 | Louise Light                |         | Ron Johnson                 |
|         | Jessie Watt                 |         | Elizabeth Kirk              |
| Oct. 18 | Charles Andrew Campbell     |         | Johnny Marr                 |

**Belated Birthday wishes to Marilyn Blair**  
**93 on September 25, 2015**



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



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## Trisston's Tidbits...

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

### "A Seed that Lasts Forever"

**Fall.** It is a season that reminds us of endings. Once thriving leaves now drop from their branches bursting with color, but dying. Beautiful summer flowers have lost their grandeur. Colder temperatures flow in and bright, long days full of sunshine move out. We are inundated with change. We are regularly reminded of our helplessness to stop the flow of God's creation. We are caught between summer and winter in the fleeting uniqueness of autumn. Though the season brings its own joy with fabulous scents and colors of orange, yellow, and red; we know it is the end of summer.

As we enjoy the changes of fall, let it remind us of a vital truth. I believe God intends for us to see with physical eyes something that points to a lasting, spiritual truth. When you look at a fallen leaf or disintegrating summer flower; think this thought:

*"All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever."*  
(1 Peter 1:24)

# TODAY'S WOMAN

Let crinkling leaves and fallen blossoms remind us of something God wants us to always at the base of our thinking – we are finite and soon to pass. Any glory we claim to have is as transitory as summer leaves. We live and we die. We seek to accomplish much, but in the end we disappear from this earth. We cannot prevent this. We stand helpless before our "fall."

Notice the severe difference God highlights between people and His Word. People wither and fall as the grass. God's Word stands forever! God's Word never bends or loses its glory. Its beauty never fades; it's "color" never wanes. No season comes that stops God's Word. It endures! No weather pattern knocks God's Word down. No disease causes His Word to waste away. No disaster or tragedy causes His Word to twist or weaken. Through every change, through every heart break, through every earth-shattering event, through death itself; the **Word of God stands!**

God tells us in **1 Peter 1:22**, *"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."*

Do you see it? We can be born again of an imperishable seed through God's Word! When we put our hope for forgiveness and salvation in Jesus Christ, we are born of a seed that cannot be abolished – a seed that lasts forever and ever. Come seasons, winds, storms, difficulties, even death itself; but we will survive and live forever because the everlasting Word of God. And, friends, that is something we should gladly and humbly accept!

**Many blessings!**



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*doors open at 11:00 am*

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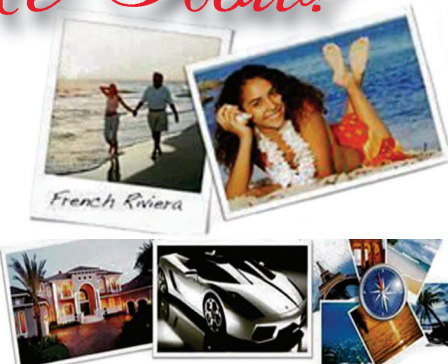
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**Congratulations Alabama Gazette  
on your 16th Anniversary!!!**

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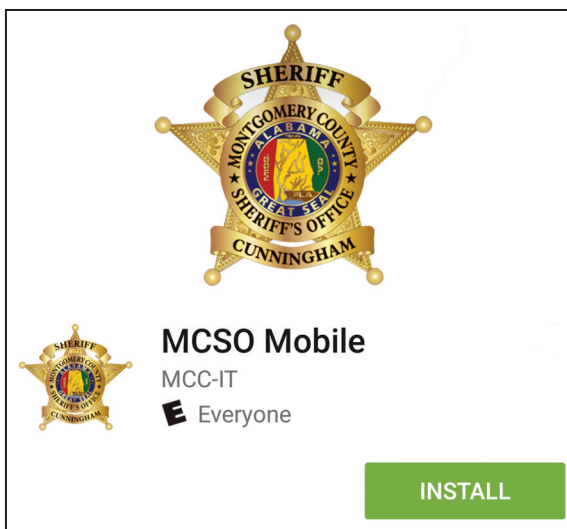
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## MCSO Mobile App

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has launched an app called "MCSO Mobile". You can install the app on your phone directly from your app store. It is compatible with Apple or Android phones. This new innovation will give you "breaking news" as news happens in and around the community. You can also check to see if someone is in the County Jail, has an active warrant, or if someone is a registered sex offender. You get all the latest and greatest news from the Sheriff's Office!



## Community Meetings

Don't forget if you or your neighborhood is hosting Community Meeting i.e., Neighborhood Watch Meetings, please call and let our agency know so that we can post your event on our website:  
[www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com).  
Please call 832.1339 to give Lisa this information to post.



## SPOOKTACULAR

The Sheriff Department is again working with the community to provide a safe place for children to bring friends and family and receive treats and have a fun time for all.

**Friday, October 30th, from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**for kids 11 and under to join us at the**  
**Alcazar Shriner's Temple**  
**555 Eastern Boulevard for our**  
**Spooktacular!**

Children should come out in their favorite costume for this safe, 1-stop trick-or-treat extravaganza!

*If you are a vendor interested in obtaining a booth for this event, please call my office at 334.832.1339 to reserve a spot now!*

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## Our Senior Fishing Rodeo

was a huge success once again! Thanks for everyone who came out and fished during the event! We look forward to seeing you all next year, 2nd Tuesday in September (every year).



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identification number

104 or 105  
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RX BIN #0000  
RX Group #0000



(See Reverse Side)

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(See Reverse Side)

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### Wetumpka Tea Party founder Becky Gerritson challenges Martha Roby for Congress



Wetumpka Tea Party founder Becky Gerritson announced she is running for Congress, challenging U.S. Rep. Martha Roby of Montgomery in the Republican primary in the 2nd District.

**Wetumpka Tea Party Meeting • October 19th at 6:30PM**

**Elmore Community Hospital, 500 Hospital Dr., Wetumpka, AL**  
**Guest: Alabama State Auditor - Jim Ziegler**

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