



Happy Fathers Day!
June 17, 2018

*It is a wise Father
that knows his own child.*

William Shakespeare



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June 5, 2018 ~ Statewide Primary Election • July 17, 2018 ~ Statewide Primary Runoff Election
November 6, 2018 ~ Statewide General Election




Vote

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A TIME TO HEAL ... by Rob Tate



**“We clearly cannot change history but
we can surely learn, evolve and grow
from it - should we choose to.”**

But through it all, my one major hope about The National Memorial for Peace and Justice as well as The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration is that as Americans we can get past these clearly horrific times in our past and heal our nation. We clearly cannot change history but we can surely learn, evolve and grow from it should we choose to. To me, it is sort of like reading a tombstone -- “Joe Bagodonuts 1919 – 1942.” What we see is that poor Joe died as a young man. But what does that “dash” between those two numbers really tell us? That dash represents his entire life; that is Joe. The dates are really nothing more than bookends bracketing all of who Joe was. The lynching tombstone might read - - “Those Lynched 1877 – 1950.” What about this dash? This is what I want all of us to see and understand on the pillars within the memorial. Not just names nor dates but rather people whose lives were cut short through the evil actions of others. I hope that once we see all of these victims as other than just numbers then true healing can take place and our past can be where it belongs, in our past.

Unfortunately, I do see the possibility for anger and hatred to be rekindled. But that doesn’t mean we need to ignore our past in order to avoid hurt feelings. We cannot. I for one will not. Although I will never hold anyone accountable for something that happened before either of us was born, if someone tries to tell me something did or did not happen that is contrary to the truth as I know it, I will not (never have) remained silent. Bottom line? **To me, life is too short to hate others, hold grudges and more importantly, we are commanded by God to forgive and love one another. Sorry folks, this is not a suggestion but a commandment from God.** Deal with it. Man’s hate for man and the evil we do is what is clearly on display here. How do we as a nation come to grips with this reality? That is the question.

No matter how integral to our societal make up and the directions our nation has taken throughout our checkered history, our past is nonetheless, our past. For better or for worst. Nobody ever said that history has to be palatable. Nobody ever said it has to be pleasant. History is never a room full of rainbow colored, unicorn kittens. **How we deal with and grow from our demons is what separates the “men from the boys,” and I do NOT believe the wanton, yet selective destruction of historical monuments is the answer.** But that is a discussion for another day. Every country has its closeted skeletons to deal with. The true winners are those who successfully navigate from their past to their future intact. This is my wish for the hard work presented by the Equal Justice Institute and the American people who are now confronted with an uncomfortable part of our history. Good luck.

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

A TIME TO HEAL

When I first walked through the “hanging garden” of six-foot steel tablets, I was taken aback at the sheer number of “in-your-face” structures there were. The Equal Justice Initiative’s, EJI, **National Memorial for Peace and Justice** in Montgomery reflects the 4,400 documented lynchings of black Americans between 1877 and 1950. There are 800 of these hanging metal structures within the 6-acre site, one for each county identified as to where a lynching took place. As the EJI states on its website, the design is to both “conceptualize racial terror” and to “symbolize thousands of racial terror lynching victims in the United States and the counties and states where this terrorism took place.” I for one think they have succeeded in this.

Sorry Ms. Fredna, but I have to say this. I hate math. I hate it mostly because I am no good at it. I see the need for it but alas, I am for the most part a math idiot. But as a historian, I love numbers. Give me numbers, not so much statistics that can be manipulated, but big, fat, juicy numbers to analyze and work with. I believe within the proper historical context, numbers can give us perfect historical insight. Let me give you several of my favorite examples as to how numbers help us quantify historical reality.

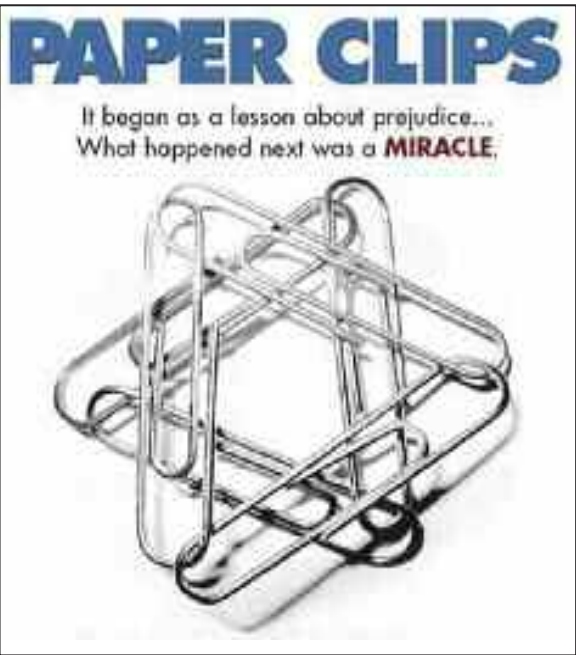
1. Operation Barbarossa: From the German invasion of Russia, on 22 June, 1941 until the German surrender on 7 May, 1945 we have a total of 1,416 days. Although some sources vary in exact numbers, if we assume the Russians indeed



lost 21,000,000 (yes, that is 21 million) people during the war, basic math (as complex as I get) tells me that on average, every single day of the Russian war, they had 14,380 people killed. Let that sink in for a moment. Every, single day, for 1,416 days the Russians had almost six times

the number of people killed than we had killed on D-Day (2,499) and almost as many people we had killed during the entire Battle of the Bulge (19,000+). This is perspective at its best.

2. Paperclips: A middle school in Whitwell, TN decided to do a class assignment wanting to collect one paperclip for every Jew killed during the holocaust. They eventually extended this to include the total 11,000,000 or so



killed by the Germans through extermination. Whitwell’s plan was to acquire an actual railcar (which they did on September 11, 2001) that was used to transport people to camps and then to make a display inside the railcar with the paperclips and other artifacts from the war. The result? 11,000,000 paperclips will not fit inside the railcar. 11 million is such a big number that they had to put bags of overflow paperclips in storage areas within the school. Now that is something we can sink our historical teeth into because we can see 11 million and

yes, it is an ugly number within this context. The beauty, however, is that it now becomes much more than just a number on a piece of paper. It becomes something touching, heartfelt and personal. Without seeing it, how many of us can comprehend a number this large? (As a side note, the documentary “Paperclips” is worth seeing).

3. 88,000 Airplanes: What? When I fly, I carry with me fourteen 3 ½” by 5” sheets of paper taped together and when unfolded extends to over 4 feet in length. Each sheet is filled with over six-thousand asterisks each representing one airplane; there are 88,000 asterisks in all. When the topic comes up, I will pull the sheets out to illustrate the number of airplanes the Russians actually admit to losing in WWII. Again, it is something someone can see and visualize. 88,000 becomes more than just a number but actually a real “holy cow” moment.

4. What is a trillion? I wrote once before about our national debt which at the time stood at \$18 trillion and asked how big is a trillion? Okay, if one million seconds is just over 11 days then how long is one trillion seconds? Best guess anybody? How about 31,709 years. That is pretty much an in-your-face number.

Numbers such as these put a “face” on historical or current events. The pillars and their words on display at The National Memorial for Peace and Justice is that face. Numbers, to me at least, are often where the proverbial rubber hits the historical road. Too often, we simply throw out numbers without context and thus forfeit the ability to correctly conceptualize it. But as either a historian, a student of history or anyone trying to glean information from a historical event, numbers outside of context and truth are unfortunately nothing more than just that, numbers.

Yes, I have done a lot of research and writing on the German ace Hans-Joachim Marseille. Yes, he shot down 158 airplanes. But those airplanes represented much more than just 158 yellow victory marks on his rudder. Those victories all represented men. Fathers, uncles, brothers, sons, cousins, friends; human beings. People who once laughed, cried, ate and celebrated holidays yet at the end of things, most of them died a bullet ridden, fiery death. In a letter Marseille penned to his mother in 1940 he wrote, *“Dearest Mother, Today I shot down my first opponent. It does not set well with me. I keep thinking about how the mother of this young man must feel when she gets the news of her son’s death. And I am to blame for this death. I am sad, instead of being happy about the first victory. I always see the face of the Englishman in front of me and think about his crying mother.”*

When I entered the “hanging garden” in the memorial, as a historian I was confronted with similar historical numbers. Yes these 800 hanging pillars

represent the counties where a lynching took place, but more than that they are historical layers to a truth many of us fear and do not want to confront. On the surface, each pillar represents a county. The next layer down is the name of a person while the next is the date that person was murdered. Put each of these together and you get something much more than an abstract event. You now have a real person. Not just one of 4,400 nameless people but a person who you now know lived and died a horrible death in some feckless county, at an impossible time in American history, swinging from the end of a rope. Who was she? Who was he? What were their lives like? Their desires; their dreams; their wants; their loves? Children? Educated? We may not know but now we have the opportunity, if so inclined to pursue further research.

When I looked at the Carroll County, Mississippi pillar for example and saw the 23 people killed on 17 March 1886, I stopped to think about the unimaginable carnage and insanity of that day. Can you even begin to imagine the events surrounding that single snapshot in American history? Who were these people? We know some of their names but others are listed only as “unknown.” So did

mobs just go out and kill anybody they saw? Fortunately for us there is a book on the subject. But I asked myself things like, what were their last moments on this Earth like? Did they fight back? Cry? Plead for their lives? Wonder at the madness as dozens gathered around to watch and cheer the barbaric spectacle? At the same time, I thought about the evil inside those who committed this mass murder. Did any of them ever feel remorse for their actions as did Hans Marseille after shooting down his first airplane? What were their first thoughts after going home and seeing their faces in the mirror? Did they feel shame? Guilt? Remorse? Pity as they watched the 23 broken bodies hanging in front of them? My guess is a resounding “no” because nobody was ever convicted for this crime and this county had an additional five lynchings in later years after this one event. No, I don’t think there was much guilt by most of the people there. It is highly unlikely the archives will ever uncover any meaningful, “Dearest Mother” letters in the vein of Marseille’s heartfelt cry of regret.

One thing the Legacy Museum, in part, captures is the true brutality of lynching. Let there be no mistake, lynching was a brutal, savage form of state sponsored and justified murder often involving, being burned alive, dismembered, tar and feathered, gutted, castrated or some other wicked torture eventually ending up hanging from a tree, lamp post, bridge or other “suitable” structure as a warning to others who might decide to step out of line. Not that I am comparing lynching to scourging as mentioned in the Bible, but when one realizes what the method actually entailed, you get a much clearer picture of what victims actually endured as their lives were snatched away from them.

But through it all, my one major hope about The National Memorial for Peace and Justice as well as The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration is that as Americans we can get past these clearly horrific times in our past and heal our nation. **We clearly cannot change history but we can surely learn, evolve and grow from it should we choose to.** To me, it is sort of like reading a tombstone -- “Joe Bagodonuts 1919 – 1942.” What we see is that poor Joe died as a young man. But what does that “dash” between those two numbers really tell us? That dash represents his entire life; that is Joe. The dates are really nothing more than bookends bracketing all of who Joe was. The lynching tombstone might read - - “Those Lynched 1877 – 1950.” What about this dash? This is what I want all of us to see and understand on the pillars within the memorial. Not just names nor dates but rather people whose lives were cut short through the evil actions of others. I hope that once we see all of these victims as other than just numbers then true healing can take place and our past can be where it belongs, in our past.

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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist.
His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers.
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Less than Two Weeks to Primary – Governor’s Race

As we get down to the lick log in the 2018 June Primary, there are few if any surprises in any of the major state races. Polling indicates that all of the contests are about where they were three or four months ago when the races began.

There is a tremendous amount of apathy and indifference as we head into the final days. This lack of enthusiasm has also affected fundraising. Most of the high-profile races have not attracted the amount of dollars as in the past.

Kay Ivey is sitting on a sizeable lead in the GOP gubernatorial primary. She took a slight dip in the polls when she ducked out of debates. However, it is not as pronounced as it would have been if she had appeared. Her campaign has been managed brilliantly.

Coincidentally, at the same time that her staff adroitly kept her out of the debates, her polling picked up that preserving the confederate monuments was an issue with conservative Republican primary voters. Kay’s media folks responded with an ad that could have come out of the George Wallace playbook. They had her telling folks that northern liberals and scalawags were not going to tell us what we are going to do with our monuments. Her resolve made folks wonder if she was actually there when the monuments were erected.

Last week, with only three weeks until the primary, lesbian lawmaker and LGBTQ activist Patricia Todd suggested in social media posts that Kay was gay. Ms. Ivey adamantly denied the tweet. She has adroitly deflected any and all inquiries into her private life.

The bottom line is that polls indicated she had a 30-point lead three months ago, and that lead is about the same now with less than two weeks to go to the Primary. The question is do her challengers push her into a runoff. Speculation is that she could win without a runoff the same way that her mentor, Lurleen Wallace, did in 1966.

The surprise in the GOP race could be Birmingham evangelist, Scott Dawson. He has run a very energetic campaign. Evangelical, rural, Roy Moore voters may be coalescing around the young minister. His strength might be underestimated by polling data.

This white evangelical vote is ironically similar to the African American vote in the state. It is quiet and beats to a different drummer. The message resonates

through word-of-mouth between church pews rather than through the media and social media. Although, it eventually gravitates to being somewhat in lock-step with a predictably higher than average turnout.

Most observers expect Huntsville mayor, Tommy Battle, to make a late run at Ivey. He has money in the bank. He will also come out of the vote rich Tennessee Valley with good Friends and Neighbors support. He should get enough votes to run second and force Ivey into a runoff. However, there will still be a 15-to-20 point spread in favor of Ivey when the votes are counted on June 5. Kay will have to put on her campaign bonnet for another six weeks. She will still not debate.

The Democratic Primary for governor has two thoroughbreds battling it out for the opportunity to face the GOP candidate, probably Ivey. Polling in this race between former Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb and Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox is inconclusive.

Most of the folks who vote in the Democratic Primary on June 5 will be African American. Although this vote is not monolithic, the pendulum swings toward one candidate.

The African American leadership in the party is actively supporting Walt Maddox. He has also captured a good number of young white millennials and college students. My guess is that Maddox is the winner in the Democratic Primary.

Troy King will probably lead the balloting in the Attorney General contest. Alice Martin and Steve Marshall are battling for a place in the runoff with King.

Twinkle Cavanaugh is poised to get a good vote in the Lt. Governor’s race. If she has a runoff, it will probably be Will Ainsworth from Sand Mountain, who has had a significant TV buy.

State Senator Gerald Dial has surged in the Agriculture Commissioner race, primarily due to a brilliant and upbeat television ad. It is the best TV spot of the year. He is also benefiting immensely from grassroots support from rural volunteer firefighters throughout the state.

Voter ambivalence favors incumbents and those who have voter name identification. Therefore, my prognostication is that when all of the votes are counted in November, we will have a female Republican Governor, Kay Ivey, and a female Republican Lt. Governor, Twinkle Cavanaugh.

We will see.

May 23, 2018



Ronald A. Holtsford

I get that question all too often. Even poor people have more than they probably think. Do you have a home (even a mobile home)? Do you have a car or truck? Do you have any money in a bank? While there are some ways around transferring a home, vehicle or bank account to a loved one or loved ones after death there are exceptions and even then it probably needed to be planned before your death and placed in the proper format. A proper Will takes care of those items in one document. It’s true that you probably still have to probate that Will after death to have a proper transfer, but a properly done Will can at least provide a solution for your “stuff” after death.

Without a Will (intestate), costs are greater for the probate process than if there is a Will. When no Will exists an heir has to step forward to be the personal representative. With no heir to step forward it becomes a little more complicated in that either the largest creditor or County Conservator may have to step forward. The availability of a County Conservator is based on County population. The Personal Representative has to be bonded based on value of the estate and an inventory of the estate with appropriate values must be filed within sixty (60) days after a Personal Representative is appointed by the Probate Judge. Short of unusual circumstances a Will does not require the Personal Representative to be bonded or an inventory to be done. The only intestate exception to bonding is for the Summary Distribution of a small estate, which is an estate under \$25,000.00 of probate assets. Remember that probate assets do not include beneficiary distributions (i.e. life insurance) or Payable on Death (POD) from a bank account, Transfer on Death (TOD) from investments or items titled to a Trust. Also not included is real property that divests to one with right of survivorship or with a remainder interest under a life estate deed. Probate assets do not include bank accounts with right of survivorship to another person or persons also on the account. HOWEVER, those bank accounts because their funding was by the deceased, must first be available for debts. If a co-owner takes the money and runs and there are debts then the estate must ask for it back, up to the fair share to pay debts or the estate may need o sue the one that has taken the money and not made it available for debts.

I think as you read this and reflect on your assets, you realize you have more to consider than you realized. It is well worth a trip to see a lawyer and to get your estate plan in order.

As I have gotten older, I have thought more about not just a Will, but how your estate plan reflects your legacy. Will your heirs look at what you left and remark about your irresponsibility? When they look at your financial account will they wonder what you did with the money that you had? Will they say, Mom and/or Dad never had much but look what they did with it and no wonder they were comfortable in retirement. Without even considering one’s stuff what will be said about your character.

In addition to your Will you can also leave a personal directive of sort speaking to your beliefs and values and directing your heirs as well as possible which

I DON’T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING, WHY DO I REALLY NEED A WILL?



characteristics they should live their lives by. One of the greatest fathers in the Bible was a man named Jonadab, son of Rekhav and found in 2nd Kings as well as Jeremiah. Jonadab had a zeal and love for God. Though murderous by today’s standards he was involved in tricking the worshippers of Baal to come together in their temple only to be locked in and all killed. But that was his zeal for God and how to treat anyone that was an enemy of God. But what Jonadab did in life was remarkable and his heirs for generations were honored by God. Jonadab’s directives to his children and children’s children was that they should not drink alcohol and never build a house nor plant a vineyard. About 250 years later (still living in tents) in Jeremiah 35:15-18 we read this concerning the descendants of Jonadab son of Rekhav (called the Rekabites),

15 Again and again I sent all my servants the prophets to you. They said, “Each of you must turn from your wicked ways and reform your actions; do not follow other gods to serve them. Then you will live in the land I have given to you and your ancestors.” But you have not paid attention or listened to me. 16 The descendants of Jehonadab son of Rekab have carried out the command their forefather gave them, but these people have not obeyed me.’

17 “Therefore this is what the LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘Listen! I am going to bring on Judah and on everyone living in Jerusalem every disaster I pronounced against them. I spoke to them, but they did not listen; I called to them, but they did not answer.’”

18 Then Jeremiah said to the family of the Rekabites, “This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘You have obeyed the command of your forefather Jehonadab and have followed all his instructions and have done everything he ordered.’ 19 Therefore this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘Jehonadab son of Rekab will never fail to have a descendant to serve me.’”

Jonadab’s commandments to his descendants were not Biblical commandments, but it was his love and zeal for God that allowed the Recabites to escape disaster. What will your legacy be?

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

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Marcia Chambliss

The Chambliss Commentary

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

The Great Divide

With each news cycle describing incidents reflecting the increasing political and cultural divide that exists in our nation, the more the following Scripture repeats in my mind.

Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. - Matthew 12:25

The mainstream media is on a daily mission to exploit every possible area of division in an effort to ramp up envy and hostility between the races, genders, and economic groupings of America. It is so very tiresome at best, and depressing at worst. And it’s being used as a tool to discourage us all.

For quite some time, I’ve been increasingly disturbed by all the ways that we have allowed hostile division to occur in our nation, our communities, and our families, and how that divisiveness obstructs civil conversation as we seek to solve the problems that we all face. While our political process is so vitally important to the preservation of our liberty, politics divides us as we too often and unwittingly become partisan pawns of those elect to serve us. One of my biggest concerns is identity politics which encourages and even demands that one support a particular candidate based on race, gender, or ethnicity rather than character or qualifications. Social media divides as it really isn’t very social when we fall into the trap of online commenting that escalates into a brutal attacks of words not likely spoken in face-to-face conversations.

But much-needed encouragement for so many in our community was provided last month during the annual Montgomery Prayer Breakfast and the National Day of Prayer. As I shared in my April article about the Prayer Breakfast, it’s a time in which our city and county elected leaders together with citizens from our River Region gather for corporate prayer on the National Day of Prayer.

In our times and culture in which the public acknowledgement of the Holy Trinity is increasingly under attack, I am truly thankful that our elected officials in our Capitol City are willing to take a bold stand for their Christian faith. It was a tremendous blessing to see so many diverse individuals – black and white, male and female, Republican and Democrat – unite for a prayer breakfast where the Rev. Cromwell Handy of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church

remarked as he looked over the crowd gathered, “This is what heaven looks like.”

We united at noon for an intense prayer time at our Capitol as we prayed for our elected leaders regardless of political affiliation, the restoration of our families, and for our churches to rise up to spread the true Gospel, not a watered-down version that is weak in addressing our moral decay. The theme of the breakfast and the prayer at noon was “unity” and for me and others who attended, it was so beautifully manifested through the diversity of those who believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Neither an annual prayer breakfast nor a National Day of Prayer will ever unite us as one political party with the same ideology, or one demographic of the same race or gender. That’s not the intent nor is it the definition of the unity so desperately needed in our nation. I want to share what one of my local pastor friends, Keith Moore of iMPact Christian Church, shared as his understanding of unity:

“Unity is not being the same. No, unity means that we are diversely and drastically different, but we choose that one thing that brings centrality to our lives and it is Christ Jesus by the power of the Holy Ghost.”

“See, I’m always going to be a black man, and a white man is going to be a white man - until we get to heaven. I’m always going to be a man and you’re always going to be a woman. Being unified has nothing to do with our natural makeup, it has to do with our hearts coming together as one. So I don’t have to deny who I am to be unified, I just have to bring who I am and humbly submit it to One who is greater, not an individual but the cause of Christ and the Holy Spirit.”

I don’t know about you, but I too often forget that my enemy isn’t the flesh-and-blood opponent in politics or the culture wars in a society that has lost its moral compass. It’s a spiritual enemy whose only intent is to steal, kill, and destroy, and his tool is separation and chaos. As my friend so aptly stated, it’s why we must intentionally choose that one thing that brings unity to our lives, our families, and ultimately to our nation.

The Financial Corner DIP IN YOUR BIG TOE



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What is the market going to do? I don’t know. You don’t know. You can’t find anyone who does know exactly what the market is going to do. That’s why it is called speculation. And it is exactly why so many people choose not to invest. They are risk averse and can’t find the perfect time to enter the market. They have seen the stories of investors who have lost thousands or hundreds of thousands and have vowed to never be in that position. They have seen other investors who have timed the market just right and walked away with huge returns. It can be paralyzing.

To some, it is a big rush to invest their money and then wait in anticipation to see if they are going to reap big rewards or suffer large losses. Then you have those who are waiting for the perfect time to enter the market. They spend hours researching only to be more confused than they were before. Just when they think they have it figured out, a major event occurs and nullifies all of their research. We are now seeing record highs in the markets and some believe that tax reform will get passed and the market will continue to grow. Others, feel like the market is very over-valued and that we are due for a correction. You may have heard the saying, “If you are waiting until you have enough money to have a child, then you will never have a child.” The same holds true here. If you are waiting for the perfect time to enter the market, you never will. That’s why it is important to sit down with an advisor and have a candid conversation about your financial situation and what


your fears and expectations of the market are. Then your advisor can help you to figure out the best way for you to enter the market. They can help you determine your risk tolerance and your time horizon for your money. You’ll learn that there are many different ways that you can enter the market. Once you and your advisor determine what your risk tolerance and time horizon is, then they can help you craft a strategy that is geared towards achieving your personal goals. Now keep in mind that no matter what your strategy is, the market is volatile by nature and can go up or down at any given point in time.

Depending on your risk tolerance, you may only want to **dip in your big toe** to get started. Then as you get more comfortable with the market you may decide to wade on in about ankle deep. Taking this approach, may be enough to help you see that the market is not as bad as you’ve built it up in your head to be. Or, you may see that it was just enough to show you that you are more of a spectator that a participant in the market. Either way, at this point you have faced your market fears and can move on as a happy investor or happy to be in bank CD’s. Investing in the market can be a lot like having a child. It takes money to do it. There are times when you wonder why you did it. Then there are times when the rewards are so great that you can’t imagine life without it.

If you don’t have a Financial Advisor, please feel free to call me and I’ll be happy to set up a time to talk with you.

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

This material represents an assessment of the market environment at a specific point in time and is not intended to be a forecast of future events, or a guarantee of future results. This information should not be relied upon by the reader as research or investment advice regarding any funds or stocks in particular, nor should it be construed as a recommendation to purchase or sell a security. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Investments will fluctuate and when redeemed may be worth more or less than when originally invested. 600 South Court Street, Suite 215 Montgomery, AL 36104 Tracking 1898196 DOFU 09/17



Check out Zimbabwe

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

By John Martin

Don’t laugh. Little Zimbabwe could be a model for providing prosperity for the entire world.

Most people remember this African nation for creating the most rampant hyperinflation in recorded history—a rate of 231 million percent annually. In the end, people were carrying boxes of \$100 trillion dollar bills.

Some also recall the ancient granite structures of Great Zimbabwe, from which the country derived its present name.

Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) has some of the most fertile farm land in Africa. During much of the 20th century, it grew massive amounts of food and was nicknamed “The Breadbasket of Africa.” It became the second wealthiest nation on the continent—second only to gold-rich South Africa.

In 1980, Robert Mugabe and his ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) party won elections that ended the white minority rule. His regime took over the country and directed groups of

black militants and an elite North Korean trained Fifth Brigade to seize the rich land from the mostly white farmers and rout them out. In doing so, they killed and tortured thousands of people including many of the farmers and burned their homes. With no one to run the farms, they soon fell into disrepair, and most food production ceased. The country’s economy plummeted. People began starving. The hyper-

inflation destroyed the currency. Epidemics erupted. Approximately 25% of the people became infected with HIV.

In 2008, Mugabe’s party lost its outright majority and had to share its power with the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). Parliament member Tendai Biti became finance minister, and in a 30 minute speech, he announced the end of essentially all government interference in the economy. He treated Zimbabwe to instant free markets. Regulations, licensure, import permits, and exchange and price controls all went out the window.

In 2009, the country scrapped its worthless hyper-inflated dollars and adopted the U.S. dollar and the South African rand for its official currencies.

These two simple reforms became Zimbabwe’s “Great Experiment,” ironclad proof of the travesty of government regulation.

In a few weeks, Zimbabwe’s economy blossomed with explosive impact. Food and fuel shortages

suddenly vanished. Empty supermarkets stocked up to their limits. The once rampant inflation dropped to a minus 7%, and within two years dropped to the lowest in southern Africa. Over the next four years, the economy grew about 8% annually. Tax revenue jumped almost eight fold. Foreign currency abounded. Unemployment plummeted. Entrepreneurs thrived and made record profits. Masses of people bought cars, took vacations, and sent their kids to the best private schools.

The magic of laissez faire (just leave me alone) had almost overnight transformed a destitute third world loser into a model of first world prosperity.

But it did not last. In 2013, in an election that was probably stolen, Mugabe’s party regained full control and immediately re-imposed the previous government shackles—thus ending the few years of Zimbabwe’s glory.

However, in December 2017, after a “soft coup,” Mugabe was deposed and succeeded by Emmerson Mnangagwa, who promised “sweeping reforms.” But so far, he has not delivered.

Zimbabwe’s next move is an election right now (June 2018). The people will once again have an opportunity to elect an opposition party and put Tendai Biti back into office—that is, if the election is honest.

That will make Zimbabwe great again.

And now, we have a proven model to make America great again.

And, yes, even the entire world.



The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

Tortured for Christ Is Nothing New It is the story of “Persecuted Believers” all over the World

A few weeks ago, Wycliffe Associates held their annual banquet in Montgomery with the Southeast Director, Noel Davis, updating us on the Voice of the Martyrs' current activities.

In the middle 1960's, we received a book from Wycliffe about Richard Wurmbrand's experiences in a Romanian Communist prison over a 14 year period, that included two long periods of seven to eight years each.

Wurmbrand had written his story of the imprisonment and revealed the true story of Communism and their determination to capture the world with their atheism. We ordered the book, Tortured for Christ and could never forget his story. For a short time, Wurmbrand came to the West and warned us about Communism. However, his passion for the persecuted believers led him right back into the dangerous area, and again to prison.

Richard Wurmbrand began his ministry with the Norwegian Lutheran Mission, that served an underground mission work. He ministered in secret to the Russian soldiers, and later to the enslaved peoples of Romania. He said that he had never seen a people with such "*thirsty souls*" as the Russian people. Only Jesus Christ could answer their need.

The underground church worked partly in the open, preaching in the streets. On a Sunday in January of 1948, he was kidnapped and taken to prison, where he remained 8 years. His wife did not know if he were alive or dead. He was tortured with the intent of forcing him to betray his brethren, which of course, he would not.

Those who tortured him would often use quotations from Lenin to justify the torture: "*You cannot make omelets without breaking the shell of eggs.*" Wurmbrand spoke of seeing Christians tied to a cross and being left there for four days and nights.

Reading the new edition of the book and learning more about the self-sacrifices of Christian believers, gives us the true picture of the underground church, where persecution never ceases.

Now that the 50th Anniversary Edition of the Wurmbrand story, Tortured for Christ, is available from Wycliffe Associates, numerous books by Richard Wurmbrand are available, in addition to the Tortured For Christ updated 50th edition.

How widespread is the greatly persecuted underground church around the world?

And who is reaching out to these believers? The number one ministry in the entire world dealing with this tragedy, is Wycliffe Associates in their Bible translations worldwide.

Wycliffe's Voice of the Martyrs emphasizes Prayer being the number one need in this work around the world. They have a Global Prayer Guide which has blessed and guided me greatly. It is easily available for our readers to order. This guide highlights the restricted nations and hostile areas, Christians face dreadful persecution because of any Christian witness. Voice of the Martyrs serves these believers in 68 countries of the world...Let's look at a few of these.

AFGHANISTAN: Restricted



The country is ravaged by drought, conflict, and the destructive presence of radical groups. Their economy relies on foreign aid and the opium trade. Conflict between the government and the Taliban, and the continual Isis threat, never ends. The religion is 99.8 percent Muslim.

The persecution of Christians is not limited to local and national governments, it comes from their families, friends, and communities. Christians have to be secretive, if they wish to live.

ALGERIA: Restricted

Algeria is another restricted nation, whose religion is largely majority Sunni Islam.



The government persecutes those who leave Islam. Muslims persecute their own family members who become Christians.

There is a growing church in Algeria among the Berber people. These believers are boldly sharing the Gospel among the al-Qaida camps in the country. Secret

communities of Arab Christians exist throughout the country also.

Some Bibles are printed in the country, but often Bibles are taken away and churches restricted. Voice of the Martyrs supports safe houses for believers, and Bible distribution.

NORTH KOREA: Restricted

North Korea is considered the worst persecutor of Christians.

The North Korean government depends on "Juche", the North Korean ideology, that demands subservience to the Kim family to maintain stability, and



Christianity is considered to be subversive. Christians are considered to be enemies of the State of North Korea.

Religious Freedom is non-existent in North Korea, and the government claims all North Koreans follow the Juche ideology.

Christians face cruel persecution in North Korea, and members of the community fear being accused of befriending them. There are prison camps for Christians where they are starved, overworked, and tortured. It is dangerous to own a Bible in North Korea. Christians try to memorize scripture passages. Voice of the Martyrs sends in Bibles by balloons sometimes, and reaches out over a special radio network.

The greatest advance for the scriptures today is Wycliffe's use of the MAST method of progress toward Bible translation.

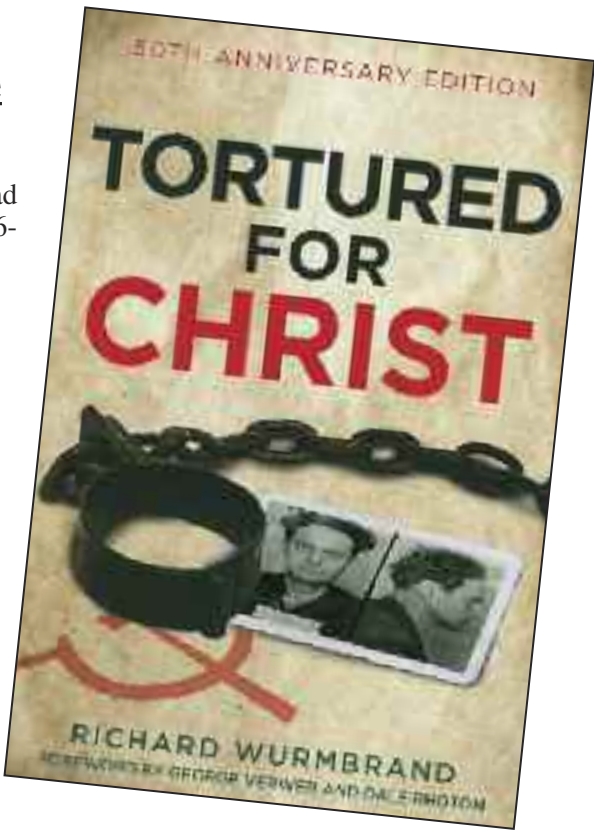
Mobilizing Assistance Supporting Translation (MAST) strategy. This new method has enabled Wycliffe to accomplish amazing results in new translations. Thirty three translation projects have been completed already in the first 59 days of 2018. In just over three years, 1,142 Bible translation projects were completed using this MAST strategy. These workshops equip local people to be involved with the translation, and they have the technology to do it on the spot with great speed and accuracy.

They even have the ability to print out the Bible where they are. Simply amazing. That is Wycliffe Associates. Investigate this further on the web.

Voice of the Martyrs

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*This column is possible by the assistance of Wycliffe staff publications.
Bobbie Ames*

“For to me, to live is Christ,
and to die is gain”
(Philippians 1:21)

“Do not fear those who kill the body
but cannot kill the soul”
(Matthew 10:28)

“I saw under the altar the souls of
those who had been slain for the
Word of God”
(Revelation 6:9)





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

John Sophocleus
THINK
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State School Board Races: worthy inquiry to Secretary Merrill?



Recent political Kabuki theatre has some contemplating Gov. Ivey’s dating preferences and Judge Sue Bell Cobb’s campaign hiring practices. How candidates deal with these may be revealing. I also wonder why Cobb did not quickly and simply apologize, then remove the convicted sex offender from her campaign team. I’m similarly at a loss on the dearth of political discussion on Ivey’s inaction w.r.t. the Alabama PACT program during our last economic melt-down and forecasts of her abilities to address another contraction. With so much unsustainable economic activity driven more by govt. distortion and bailouts instead of market forces, the next bubble pop promises to be as profound as our last a decade ago. Given my greater affection for the mundane - like why our Secretary of State eliminated an election to install Felon Hubbard’s preferred replacement, I’ll ask readers if they think an inquiry about candidates in some of our State School Board races is apropos.



Section 16-3-3 of the code of Alabama declares “*No person who is an employee of the board or who is or has been engaged as a professional educator within five years next preceding the date of the election shall be eligible for membership on the board. For the purposes of this section the term ‘professional educator’ shall include teacher, supervisor or principal of any public or private school; instructor, professor or president of any public or private university, college or junior college or trade school; any state, county or city superintendent of education; or other person engaged in an administrative capacity in the field of education.*”

Page 13 (lines 11 thru 27) of Rep. Collins 2018 House Bill 70 still included these requirements in §16-3-3 of Alabama Law <http://web.alsde.edu/.../2018Regular/2018RS%20HB0070%20OR.pdf>... Rulings in 1976 and 1983 found 16-3-3 unconstitutional under equal protection grounds, specifically because of limitations on a person to be involved in the political process. The most recent case I found to challenge these rulings was decided in 2004. The plaintiff referenced the 1976 and 1983 cases to challenge the GOP not allowing him to run for State school board. The judge dismissed that specific claim with prejudice. Our State’s own law manual [p. 134] for superintendents also references the 1976, 1983 and 2004 cases, acknowledges the findings, and elaborates our State Ethics Commission effectively supports 16-3-3 because a school employee cannot ethically be on the same governing board which employs them.

“*Association rights are also implicated in situations where the school employee is politically active. Section § 16-3-3 Code of Alabama (1975) prohibits a person who is an employee of the (state) board or who is or has been engaged as a professional educator within five years prior to election to be eligible for membership on the board. A federal district court found this prohibition to be an unconstitutional provision in Gold et. al. v. Baggett et. al., Civil Action No. 76-120-N (M.D.Ala. 1976). The same conclusion was reached by a state court in Alabama State Ethics Com’n ex rel Charles Graddick v. Dr. Evelyn Pratt, Civil Action No. CV-83-175-G (Circuit Court, Alabama Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, 1983). However, state ethics commission rulings have made it clear that it is a conflict of interest for a school employee to be on the same governing board that employs him or her. (See, materials on Alabama State Ethics Commission, compiled by Dr. Paulette Rogers, and included in the materials following Module 33.)*”

Parties have a history of changing an election rule or practice without first seeking approval from the US DoJ as specifically required by the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Parties have also violated the instruction of at least one opinion of a past Alabama Attorney General attempting to enforce, or otherwise support by means of the Party apparatus a provision in State law prohibiting professional educators from serving on the Alabama State Board of Education previously determined unconstitutional.

Application of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to election related actions undertaken by political parties has been long settled in the current legal/political environment. In [Morse v. Republican Party of Virginia \(94-203\), 517 U.S. 186 \(1996\)](#), The U.S. Supreme Court has held, “Shortly after the statute was passed, the Court thoroughly reviewed its legislative history and found that Congress intended §5 to have “the broadest possible scope” reaching “any state enactment which altered the election law of a covered State in even a minor way.” It also has long established law that any and all such changes in election rules or practices in Alabama, even minor ones, require pre-clearance by the DoJ as per Chapter 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

The form of and processes of certifying the ballots for primary elections is established in Section 17 of the Alabama Code which makes it clear no political party is obliged to hold a primary. [Section 17-16-11 of the code of Alabama states](#), “...the state party chair shall, no later than 5:00 P.M. 55 days before the primary election, certify the names of all primary election candidates, except candidates for county offices, to the Secretary of State.” Some have asserted a pattern of behaviour indicating (by means of Party apparatus and improperly enacted and selectively applied rules) an attempt to enforce a portion of State Law barring professional educators from serving on the State Board of Education previously been held to be unconstitutional.

Enough on the legal minefield. Sadly in Alabama, taxpayers fund Party **primaries** where they must decide which **ONE** they will participate in although

they pay for *both*; then suffer lack of choice due to restrictive duopoly ballot access laws in **general** elections taxpayers **ARE** obliged to provide. What role does our Secretary of State play in verifying eligibility of candidates placed on taxpayer funded ballots? If a Party (paying for their own caucus, primary, smoke filled room, etc.) wants to put someone on the ballot who’s not eligible, will violate ethics laws, etc. that’s fine; it can then be addressed on the taxpayer funded general election ballot the State IS obliged to provide. Our State spends much time and effort verifying signatures, candidate filing forms, etc. to allow one to be placed on the ballot - where does the responsibility fall? Can one file an ethics complaint/inquiry to impede certification before it is too late and more unethical contracting and decisions are determined? Recent passing of **Amendment 14** suggests a block of individuals who do show to vote not wanting (and/or caring about?) properly passed legislation in Alabama these past decades.

A complaint was filed with the ALGOP steering committee with respect to eligibility of two candidates for State School Board District 2. It appears more effort was put toward ‘*sweeping it under the rug*’ reading text from Terry Latham who relied on Brian Taylor’s (the Governor’s connection to BCA/Riley Inc.) interpretation of the law which indicates failure to read the court of appeals decision and the Ethics Commission’s opinion. A complaint was also sent to Sect. Merrill who routed it to the Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Secretary of State’s office, who indicates a similar lack of due diligence. I couldn’t find anything they’ve publicly submitted to refute ineligibility claims under circumstances of this sort. A reliable source said efforts to obtain a temporary restraining order is moving forward in an attempt to (re)assert these specific eligibility rules in the Alabama code are defended and enforced for State School Board members. From my vantage point (as most readers know, I really don’t care if they’re Democrat or Republican) here are some candidates who may be worthy of scrutiny in this regard:

Jackie Zeigler - 1st District: **incumbent**, shows information indicating time as school principal in the five year window which applies.

Melanie Hill - 2nd District: information indicating employment with the Dothan city school board less than five years ago, resigned before her term ended.

Adam Jortner - 2nd District: information indicating current employment as a professor.

Tracie West - 2nd District: information indicating current president of Auburn city school board.

Yvette Richardson - 4th District: **incumbent**, with information indicating current employment as a teacher/superintendent and educational consultant, unopposed in the primary.

Don Wallace - 4th District: information indicating employment as a part time instructor in the 5 year window.

Cynthia McCarty - 6th District: **incumbent** with information indicating current employment as a professor **and** professor when originally installed into the position, unopposed in the primary.

Some candidate research found those like Rich McAdams and Wayne Reynolds (both 8th District) who appear to be adhering to the 5 year rule; John Taylor (2nd District) shows information indicating much volunteering in schools but no official educational positions which would make him ineligible. Some candidates appear to be eligible, but are suspect with so little history I’ve found/available for verification of adhering to this specific rule. The usual caveat applies, this is simply more of my opining - I make no claim to have superior access over the offices of Sect. Merrill or AG Marshall. Doubtful I’ve enumerated **all** State School Board candidates worthy of investigation; nonetheless alarming how many candidates who appear to be in violation are incumbents, two of whom are also unopposed in the primary. One has to wonder how often and for how long these ineligibilities are left uncontested. The *trade-off* of **not** having educators (revolving door/capture theory of regulation) in the mix to curb corruption is the reason for the legislation. If lawmakers think we no longer have worries in this regard then remove the law... which seems de facto repealed under the observed results in these Districts aided/installed by party apparatchiks and Sect. Merrill.

Who verifies? Are Parties allowed to thumb their nose at the law and ethics violations? If so, why waste taxpayer effort and time on forms and filings? Will they **also** be allowed on the taxpayer funded **general** election ballots? If the AG, Ethics Commission, Parties, Secretary of State, et al fail to address this, how does one proceed? First request an Ethics investigation? Is it possible to have class action lawsuit to lower the cost of removing **all** these results in one action? It appears in 1976, 1983 and 2004 each time a candidate was removed under 16-3-3 the appeals were denied; if correct - I await argument(s) on how candidates listed above, if verified, are different. Perhaps most if not all citizens, readers, taxpayers, voters will find these foolish inquiries unworthy of consideration... Mencken sagely asserted we get the government we deserve.

Postscript: Many thanks for input and perspective from **Josh Blaz**, undergraduate student of Economics, Auburn University; again, the usual caveat applies - *i.e.*, all errors, etc. are my own. As always, constructive comments and corrections sent to gazettesophocleus@gmail.com are welcomed.





Ed Jones
Staff Sports Editor

The NFL Hoax

An NFL player, whose name will not be mentioned, knelt during the national anthem last year in protest of black men being killed or abused by white policemen. The actions of this millionaire was intended to rally America behind the “racist” nation that has been represented by the “Flag of the United States of America” from it’s inception at millions of public events all over the world. Behind this flag, the founders of this country hammered out a constitution that has been the model for every free nation on the face of this earth for 240 years. This flag lead this nation through the “The War of 1812”, The War Between the States”, “The Spanish American War”, “World War I”, World War II”, “The Korean War”, “The Vietnam War”, “The Falkland Island War”, and the “War on Terrorism”, which will be and unending war.

This same flag is leading us at this moment in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other “hot spots” all over the world, in order to keep any nation from attacking our homeland like what occurred on 9-11-2001. In America, one either gets on our train or is left at the station of life that one has chosen to endure.

It is only fitting that Thursday, prior to the Memorial Day weekend, the Commissioner of the National Football League and thirty-one owners of each team issued a ruling regarding the protests of the American Flag and the national anthem before or during an NFL game by players, coaches and other officials representing the teams. The vote was unanimous, but one spineless CEO of the San Francisco 49ers, Jed York, abstained from voting yes or no. On the fence is no way to live. One will eventually fall off of the fence or the fence will be taken down.

This long anticipated ruling is really not a victory for anybody. It is just vague enough to give wiggle room for the players and the league. Representatives of each team now have the choice to stay in the locker room during the flag raising ceremony before each NFL game. However, the players who are present on the sidelines must stand for the pre-game ceremony or be subject to a fine. Individual teams can now adopt their own polices to punish players on the field who violate this rule. Individual teams can also be fined by the league for violating this rule. This ruling is so indicative of how weak the ownership of the NFL is. They tried to solve this problem by pitting both ends against the middle. For instance, it does not explain whether the players can stand on one leg. It does not address whether a player can stand with his arms raised. It does not say whether a player must have his helmet on or cradled in the left arm. It has taken this long for the NFL to come up with this plan. It could have been solved during the first protest last year.

Not only does the American Flag represent the men and women of America’s armed forces, it represents all Americans that have served this nation in any capacity during war and during peace. It represents the men

and women who were not able to serve in the armed forces. Without the farmers we could not have fed the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, or the Merchant Marines. In addition these same farmers fed the nation for over 250 years during times of crisis and times of



Roger Goodell, NFL Commissioner

plenty. The same kind of service was performed by factory workers, medical specialists, firemen, policemen, teachers, truck drivers, people in the shipping industry, and yes politicians. Without the three branches of government none of the above would have been possible.

The President has to make gut wrenching decisions every day, especially when it involves matters of deployment of American troops into harms way. Without the Congress, the country would have no direction relating to national defense. Congress is also responsible for funding all governmental activities that are crucial to our federal, state, and local services. The Supreme Court must interpret the legality of every action that occurs as it applies to the constitution. The Supreme Court is the rudder that guides the “Ship of State”

Even today, 90% of American citizens pay reverence to the Flag of the United States of America. Those who do not are misguided in their belief that America is the problem and not the solution!



Betty and Ed celebrate “old age”.



The Cake!



Grandson, Jack Jones, not impressed.

80

ED JONES

May 5th 2018

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6 p.m. until 9 p.m.



Two 80 yr. old Marines, Judson Huett and Ed Jones.



Karl Stegall and John Ed Mathison, official chaperons.



Loretta Grant, Editor and Marie Hudson, Layout Artist of the Alabama Gazette.



Steve Segrest sleeps through the crowd.



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How The Work Rules Work for You

Retirement doesn't have the same meaning for everyone. Some people plan to retire and never work again. Some people plan for second careers in occupations that wouldn't have adequately supported their families, but they do the work for pure enjoyment. Some people, whether by design or desire, choose to work part-time or seasonally to supplement their retirement income.

Retirees (or survivors) who choose to receive Social Security benefits before they reach full retirement age (FRA) and continue to work have an earnings limit. In 2017, the annual earnings limit was \$16,920 for those under FRA the entire calendar year. In 2018, it is \$17,040. If you earn over the limit, we deduct \$1 from your Social Security monthly benefit payment for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit.

In the calendar year you reach FRA, which you can check out at www.social-security.gov/planners/retire/ageincrease.html, you have a higher earnings limit. Additionally, we will only count earnings for the months prior to FRA. In 2017, the limit was \$44,880. In 2018, it is \$45,360. In the year of FRA attainment, Social Security deducts \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above the limit.

There is a special rule that usually only applies in your first year of receiving retirement benefits. If you earn more than the annual earnings limit, you may still receive a full Social Security payment for each month you earn less than a monthly limit. In 2018, the monthly limit is \$1,420 for those who are below FRA the entire calendar year. The 2018 monthly limit increases to \$3,780 in the year of FRA attainment.

Once you reach FRA, you no longer have an earnings limit, and we may recalculate your benefit to credit you for any months we withheld your benefits

due to excess earnings. This is because your monthly benefit amount is calculated based on a reduction for each month you receive it before your FRA. So, if you originally filed for benefits 12 months before your FRA, but earned over the limit and had two months of Social Security benefits withheld, we will adjust your ongoing monthly benefit amount to reflect that you received 10 months of benefits before your FRA, and not 12.

Most people understand that if they work while receiving benefits before FRA, their benefit may be reduced. What most people do not consider in their retirement planning is that we recalculate your Social Security monthly benefit at FRA to credit you for Social Security benefit payments withheld due to earnings over the limit. Explaining the earnings limit is another way that Social Security helps secure your today and tomorrow. Understanding both the earnings limit and the possible recalculation of your ongoing Social Security benefits will provide an additional perspective on retirement for you to consider.



Montgomery Area Council on Aging

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 Fax: 334.240.6769

Meals On Wheels Direct Line
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(334) 240-6767

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CROWNE HEALTHCARE RESIDENTS...



...enjoyed an afternoon of lip sync battle with both staff and clients putting on an unforgettable show.

1st Place: Olivia Newton John and John Travolta "grease: You're The One That I Want"

2nd Place: The Emotions "You Got the Best of My Love"

3rd Place: The Ronettes; Be My Baby





Dr. Lester Spencer
Lead Pastor
St. James United Methodist Church
9045 Vaughn Road
Montgomery, Al

Soul Searching

Three Cheers In Honor of the Graduates

Congratulations to all the High School and College graduates! On behalf of all of us in the cities, towns and communities in the River Region, we honor you this month, and we are proud of you all!

No doubt all of you have been blessed, encouraged and challenged by some great Baccalaureate Addresses and Commencement Speeches. But, may I add my three cheers and offer three big C’s to think about as you step out into your next season of life? I’ll keep it short and give you the Cliff-notes version.... I promise.

As you move from this point forward either to college or the working world, these three practical things will serve you well. And, I guarantee you that every future employer, professional co- worker and/or professor will be looking for these three C’s in you!

Character



Be a person of character!

“Set an example for other followers by what you say and do, as well as by your love, faith and purity.” - Paul, 1 Timothy 4:12

“The first key to greatness is to be in reality what we appear to be.”
- Socrates

Character is who you are when no one is looking, someone once said. Image is what people think we are. Integrity is what/who we really are. Your character determines the kind of name you will make for yourself. Will you keep your word? Will you do what you say? Will you keep confidence? Will you be on time?

It’s simple really. Do what you say you’re going to do. Stand up for what you believe. Be a person people can trust. If people trust your character, they will trust you! Period! If you break that trust, it’s very, very hard to get it back!

Guard your character and protect it at all costs. Be careful of where you go, who you hang with, words you use, photos and videos you take and share, what you post and share on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and any other social media. Believe me, your potential future employers plus your Professors, your potential girl friends or boyfriends, and everyone else on the planet who you might run across is watching. Trust me. They really are.

Be cautious. Be wise. People are always watching to see who you really are. They are checking out your character!

Competence

Grow in competence!



If your gift is leadership, administration, service, generosity, etc... whatever it is... then do it with all your might. Give it your best! Give it 100%! **(Romans 12:8 paraphrase)**

In other words, make the most of the gifts you have been given. Hone them. Sharpen them. Use them wisely! You have already been given a great gift. A High School Diploma is a big deal. A College Degree is a big deal. You have worked hard to get here, and I’m sure a lot of folks helped you all along the

way. Your should be proud of yourself as they are also proud of you. But don’t stop here. Keep moving forward!

Some of you are headed into the workplace from here. Wherever you end up in the marketplace, give it all you have. If you are a person of character and competence, you will go very far and do very well my friend of that truth....I have no doubts. My suggestion is don’t just go for the highest salary. Don’t ever move anywhere to do anything just for money! Go for the opportunity where your heart and passion are calling you. And very importantly, look for opportunities to work with great people who are people of character and competence. You can learn from them. They will add value to you. And, as you grow, you can look for ways that you can add value to the company and to others!

Some of you are headed off to college. I know you are excited and that is awesome. My advice is this: Enjoy it. Have a great time. But also, study hard. Make the most of it. Learn all you can. You will need it. I’ve never met anyone who regretted furthering their education and getting a degree. But I’ve met many who quit and lived to regret it.

If you’re going to college or to further your education in some way, commit for the long run. Get ready to persevere in your education toward your goal and/or your degree. Your not just going there to learn a skill or get a job. You are going to grow in knowledge and wisdom! Knowledge is what you know. Wisdom is knowing how to apply what you know and when to use it.

Develop greater and greater competence, and you will be rewarded!

Chemistry

Have chemistry! Develop better people skills!

I would say chemisty between two people is very powerful. You have to fight to keep it, but if you don’t have it, you can’t manufacture it.
Diane Lane

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”
- Jesus, Luke 6:31

Chemistry has to do with your relational skills. Your people skills. I call it the “Like” factor! Do people like

you? Do they like to work with you? I like to work with people I like to be around. How about you?

The fact is life is about team work. If your headed to college, your college is your team. You hired a team of professors, teachers and faculty to teach you, train you, pour into you. But you have to work with them and with your fellow students. Right? It involves good chemistry! People skills.

If your headed to a job in the market place, you will most likely be working with a team of other people. Work for most people involves working for a common purpose with a group of other people. Chemistry is the key to the success of any business venture. The most important thing you need to remember about chemistry is attitude. Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we respond to it. Our attitude makes all the difference.

Well. There it is. Three key things for you to remember as you seek to be the best God created you to be. Remember these three, and seek to be a person of character, competence and chemistry. It you do, you will experience success, significance and fulfillment in your life!

Graduates, I pray God’s richest blessings and favor upon each of you! Three cheers for the graduates!

Be Uncensored

By Hannah Johnson



Hannah Johnson
Lift Ministries

I saw this photo and immediately it sparked a conviction deep in my soul. How often do we sugar coat the truth so as not to hurt someone’s feelings? To steer from the political scene or just honestly don’t get it? Do you not speak of Him in your workplace? Do you hide him away while you are with your friends? Does He embarrass you a little or possibly just take “the fun out of everything?” Do you think you know Him so well you don’t have to listen or read His word? His word is clear and countless times He tells us of the truth only He can bring. He lays down the law and as soldiers, true devoted servants of Christ, we must follow His lead.

Psalms 119:160 *“The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”*

When I heard Him repeatedly tell me to “read it, write it and speak it,” I began to worry. I began to worry was what He was telling me to do going change the dynamic of the relationships I had? Was it going to make me stand out in a weird way or would it bring on some sort of self-righteous feeling to be in the center? Was I going to say something that offended or better yet hurt someone’s feelings? I’ve been silent on many things long enough. If His Word is truth, which we know it to be, then why should anything else matter? The ones that love me, but above All else, Love God first wouldn’t ditch me. They wouldn’t unfriend me and they wouldn’t take offense to the truth. I don’t always speak truth as I should and He convicts me often when I have failed Him. Those times in which I’ve felt my heart about to beat out of chest because He’s telling me to give it up or to pray or to speak it out loud or just to simply be still and write, I’ve allowed the fear of the public opinion stop me. It’s those times He’s convicted me and for that I ask for and desperately need His redemption. He grants it to me. Every. Single. Time.

“If you had one hundred sheep, and one of them strayed away and was lost in the wilderness, wouldn’t you leave the ninety-nine others to go and search for the lost one until you found it? And then you would joyfully

carry it home on your shoulders. When you arrived, you would call together your friends and neighbors to rejoice with you because your lost sheep was found. In the same way, heaven will be happier over one lost sinner who returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!
Luke 15:3-7

Isn’t it worth the loss of a “friend” for Him to use you? Isn’t it worth asking Him for forgiveness? Isn’t it worth everything by allowing Him to continue to use you as a Shepard. A Shepard that begs for Him to consume you and cover you and lead you as you disciple to others in His name. Even just to bring the saving knowledge of Christ to one. It makes the effort of leaving the crowd worth it. It makes the shame of begging Him for forgiveness worth every uncomfortable ounce of humility. Won’t you be bold and use the opportunity to be public, without shame or fear, with what He’s saying as He speaks to you? I desire for Him to consume me and use me, and I’ve squashed many an opportunity in the past. I wish with every ounce of my being that He will continue to speak into my life. To give me the opportunity to be uncensored and to be bold. I will always fail at points in my life, and that’s ok because that’s what makes Him my redeemer. The truth. The truth that I can’t live without Him all the sweeter. If it takes this ole world chopping off my hand because I’ve written His truth(His law), as He has directed me to, then I’m ready for the pain and I’ll be ready for the next opportunity to write another truth and another after that. For if my hands are gone, He has blessed me with a mouth to speak of the truth His unfailing love and Word brings to me. To you. To the world.
#behold #beuncensored #belight





Steve Long

Woods & Waters

with Steve



SATURDAYS
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A Biologist's Opinion on Turkeys

My last article seems to have kicked off a firestorm of discussion! From all around the South, I've had fellow turkey hunters confirm exactly what I had been experiencing; a severe shortage of turkeys!

The big 3 reasons, to me, were predators, habitat, and baiting. All 3 of these are tied together, compounding each individual problem into something worse. Of course, I'm not a biologist, so I got in touch with the real deal, Ted DeVos. Asking for his views, this what he sent me.

I believe your 3 "reasons" are all valid. I would add that weather has probably played the largest part in the "decline". It is the most "region-wide" thing affecting turkey populations and the decline is region-wide. Pigs and other nest predators are also pretty much on the incline with the decline of trapping furbearers. We also have record high populations of hawks which actively hunt and prey on turkey poults. I would say that the conservation dept can't do much nor should be expected to do much since they can't control the weather, nor increase trapping or decrease hawk populations. They could stop the proliferation of corn and that would do more to help turkeys than reducing the limit or shortening the season. Alabama and each state surrounding us is showing that the real problem is the number of poults that are recruited into the population in the fall. We simply are not, and have not for several years, been getting enough poults to 3-4 months old where their survival rate is high. Predators and weather probably are the largest contributing factors. Habitat is definitely a factor but changes slowly and is not "region wide." It probably has little to do with the decline of the last 10 years. Another one we haven't discussed much is the proliferation of turkey hunters and their use of blinds, decoys and fans. There are WAY more turkey hunters than in the past regardless of what any surveys may say. No question.

As Mr. DeVos says, there are more than a few things contributing to our turkey hunting woes. One thing I've learned from my time in Mississippi is that the fertilizer plays a big role. Chicken manure is a great choice for fertilizer. In Mississippi, according to one of our callers on the radio show, it has to be heated through to kill bacteria before it can be used. There is no regulation like that the state of Alabama, to my knowledge.

Even the corn we use can have a major impact on the birds. Certain molds produce what's called aflatoxin in corn, which can make animals and people pretty ill. Of course, you can't use that corn for livestock or for supper, but we still use it for feed and bait. Be careful when you start grabbing those bags of feed corn!

As Mr. DeVos said, a lot of what's going on is out of our hands, but that doesn't mean we can just kick back and watch. Negligence won't get us anywhere! Keeping hogs and coyotes under some amount of control is a big start, as is good



Steve Long, Terry Sieveke, Hunter Smith, and Hoke Smith with a Black Hills Gobbler killed in South Dakota a few miles from Mt. Rushmore.

property and timber management. We can't do much for the weather, but that's all right. I know I'll keep doing what I can to ensure turkey hunting, and all of the other hunting sports we love, continues to be a tradition that we can share and pass on to the next generation. So get out there, save those birds for next year, and go get 'em!

Kritter Korner

The Worlds largest rodent Capybara

The Capybara is a large, semi-aquatic rodent that is found inhabiting the water-logged regions of Central and South America. Closely related to other South American rodents such as Chinchillas and Guinea Pigs, the Capybara is the largest rodent in the world weighing up to 145 lbs and measuring nearly 4 feet long. Despite their enormous size though, these mammals have adapted well to life in the water and have a number of distinctive characteristics that aid their amphibious lifestyle, including the webbed skin between their toes which is particularly helpful when swimming. Interestingly enough, the common name of the Capybara is thought to



mean "Master of the Grasses", where its scientific name comes from the Greek word for water hog. The Capybara is a heavy, stocky-looking animal with a short head and muzzle in comparison to its body and hardly any tail at all. They have short but sturdy limbs and hoof-like claws on their toes which along with the webbing, helps the Capybara both when negotiating the slippery banks and with swimming and also prevents the Capybara from sinking too deeply into the surrounding mud. Their coarse, short fur is pale to dark brown in colour with varying tinges of yellow, red and grey and

is perfectly designed to dry out quickly once the Capybara is back on land. One of the Capybara's most distinctive feature sis the fact that their eyes, ears and nostrils are all positioned on top of its head meaning that they still have excellent sight, sound and smell whilst in the water. The placement of these features also means that when threatened, the Capybara can retreat into the water only leaving these parts of its body exposed to hide from potential predators.

The Capybara is found throughout a variety of habitats in Central and South America providing that there is a constant source of standing fresh water. They are found in Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and Peru, down through Brazil and Paraguay and into northern Argentina and Uruguay where they are most commonly found in swamps, marshes, rivers and lakes. The Capybara can be found inhabiting grassy plains and even in rainforests where they occupy territories in herds, with these areas reported to be adequate territories year round even with the differing seasons. During the dry season the Capybara must have water and areas where they are able to feed (often small sandbars in the water), but in the wet season when the area floods they must still be able to graze which they often do on the grassy banks.

The Capybara is a very sociable animal that tends to inhabit densely vegetated areas close to water in herds of around 20 individuals, which are usually made up of a dominant male with a number of females and their young. Capybara herds occupy very stable home ranges that are known to vary in size depending on the size of the herd to ensure that there is enough food, and although small parts of their territory may overlap those of another herd, they will tend chase intruders off their patch. The Capybara actually sleeps very little, preferring instead to doze while resting during the morning in thickets on the banks, or wallowing in the mud and water when cooling down in the heat of the midday sun. They begin to emerge onto land in the early evening when they graze on grasses and aquatic plants which the Capybara will continue to do throughout most of the night. In a Capybara herd it is only the

dominant male that has the breeding rights to the females, and although it can occur all year round depending on the conditions, the breeding season tends to be during the rains in April and May. After a gestation period that lasts for around five months, the female Capybara gives birth to between 1 and 8 pups on land. Capybara young are very well developed at birth and not only have all their fur and can see, but are also able to run, swim and dive within hours of birth. The female rejoins the main group within hours with her newborn offspring, which begin to eat grass after about a week (although they will continue to suckle milk from their mother until they are around four months old).

The Capybara tends to live for up to 10 years in the wild and slightly longer when kept in captivity. The Capybara is a herbivorous animal that only eats plant matter in order to acquire all of the nutrients it needs. The diet of the Capybara is mainly made up of grasses and aquatic plants, along with fruits and berries and the occasional munch on soft tree bark. Despite spending a number of hours during the night grazing, the Capybara is quite fussy with around 75% of their diet involving between three and six different species of plant. Like all other species of rodent, their two front teeth grow continuously throughout their life meaning that they must gnaw and chew their food to grind them down which they do in a back and forth motion rather than from side to side. They are also known to both regurgitate their food in order to chew it again (much like a Cow) and also eat their own droppings which help to break down the cellulose in the grass, along with aiding their digestive system in general.

Despite the large size and secretive aquatic nature of this large rodent, their slow and gentle disposition makes them a rewarding meal for numerous hungry predators throughout their natural range. Wildcats including Jaguars, Pumas and Ocelots are the primary predators of the Capybara along with Caimans and Eagles that can hunt the younger ones from the sky above. The Capybara is also one of the best sources of food for the world's heaviest snake, the Anaconda, along with other species of large snake.

The Capybara is also hunted by Humans in parts of its natural range for both its meat and the hide which is prized amongst some. Although the global Capybara population is not considered to be under threat, numbers in these areas have declined. Habitat loss also affects Capybara populations through Central and South America as they are specifically adapted to life in their unique watery wilderness.

Capybara never stray far from water as when one senses danger it gives a short bark that encourages the herd to quickly scuttle into the water to hide. They are so well adapted to going unseen in the water that the Capybara is actually able to hold its breath for up to five minutes after diving in. Although Capybara herds tend



to average between 10 and 30 individuals, larger groups are not uncommon with some numbering up to 100 members in home ranges generally larger than those of smaller groups. Capybara are known to communicate between one another using both scent (which is secreted by their glands) and sound, and have a number of different vocalizations including whistles, barks, grunts and squeals. Due to their slow and generally gentle nature,



Ron VanHerwyn

Community Lifestyles

We are proud to announce
The Alabama Gazette is also being
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www.alabamagazette.com



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Rotary Clubs make Montgomery Dog Park a Reality

Work was recently completed on a new development in downtown Montgomery which will attract new visitors to downtown Montgomery...four-legged visitors to be exact!

With the addition of a public art project, City of Montgomery officials and four local Rotary Clubs are celebrating the completion of Rotary Dog Park which inhabits an existing greenspace adjacent to the parking deck at Montgomery City Hall at the corner of Coosa and Bibb Streets. Development officials chose the site due to its central location, size, treescape and underutilization. The park features mature trees and a large water fountain but also includes brand new infrastructure that includes vinyl fencing, pet fountains, a new drainage system and more.

“The Rotary Dog Park is another welcome addition to our community



enhancing the quality of life and adding to the overall vibrancy of our city,” Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange said. “Not only do we anticipate Rotary Dog Park enhancing livability downtown for existing residents, but it will serve to entice future residents who may now more easily envision themselves moving downtown with their pets.”

The park culminates a collaborative effort by four local Rotary clubs in Montgomery to serve the local community. Sunrise Rotary Club President Jimmy Hill said, “These clubs and their combined membership chose to partner with the City of Montgomery and convert a section of this park into a dog park, and I say ‘chose’ because that’s what Rotarians do: we choose service over self. This place is going to the dogs...and that’s a good thing.”

In the future, additional phases of development to the park could incorporate skills and agility training equipment for both large and small dogs. In addition to the equipment, Rotary, with help from a local Gumption Fund grant, commissioned a large mural which extends along the side of the parking deck and features colorful Rotary cogs and the Four-Way test: guiding principles for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships.

The public art project not only increases the visibility of the dog park, but serves as a reminder of the code of ethics for Rotarians worldwide. It’s hoped that people can take encouragement from the mural while their pets are enjoying the freedom to run in some grass: all in the middle of a busy downtown.





Montgomery County Alabama Sheriff's Office

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www.montgomerysheriff.com

(334) 832-4980



Chief Deputy
Kevin J. Murphy

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



MCSO K-9 Deputy in training with new body armor.

Youth Fishing Rodeo

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

Saturday, June 16, 2018
6:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Montgomery County Ponds, Highway 231 South (Troy highway)



Across from Meriwether Road

We will have our Senior Fishing Rodeo on Tuesday, September 11th... more details to come



Employee Spotlight

We would like to recognize **Jerome Powell**, one of our hard-working MCSO employees! Jerome has been with our agency since July of 2007 as a Court Security Officer and serves legal documents to businesses and handles mail for the Sheriff's Office. Jerome completes every job to the fullest and you will always find him with a smile on his face. He and his wife, Norma Jean, have two kids and one grandchild. They enjoy vacationing, anything outdoors and attending church. Keep up the good work, Jerome!

Thank you for being an awesome MCSO employee!!

Special Thank you...

We would like to extend a special thank you to the Town of Pike Road for a Proclamation given to Sheriff Cunningham for recognition of his over twenty-five years of dedicated service to the State of Alabama and Montgomery County!

Camp Show n' Tell

July 31st - August 3rd

Slots are filling up fast for our annual Camp Show n' Tell! This week long, free camp is open to youth ages 9-11 and will be held July 31st-August 3rd. Youth will explore and enjoy a week of outdoor fun and recreation. This mentoring-based camp, also offers workshops addressing bullying and the effects of bullying behaviors, substance abuse awareness and prevention and environmental safety and education.

THIS IS NOT A BOOT CAMP!

Camp Show n' Tell is a camp to award those that have excelled during the school year. A copy of your child's birth certificate must be submitted with the camp application. We bus 100 (girls and boys) from Montgomery to the camp and remain at camp until Friday; at which time, they are returned to Montgomery. The camp fills up quickly so remember first come, first served.

For more information on obtaining and application, please call 832-1339.



Firearms Familiarization Course

You can register for any of our 2018 course dates (listed below):

June 9 October 13
July 14 December 8
August 11

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

The class is held at our newly dedicated Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and lasts most of the day and is **FREE** to Montgomery County citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

Course Requirements:

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

Pistol Permit Questions?

334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?
Lisa Crenshaw@mc-ala.org

334.832.1339

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



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Sheriff's Office APP

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a new phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc.

While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the following steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

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

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



Montgomery County AL Sheriff's Office

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7am - noon

The Prattville/Autauga Farmers Market is a Certified ket and features locally grown fruits and vegetables, as well as baked goods, honey, plants, herbs, hand made bath and beauty products. There will be special events with guests cooks preparing tempting treats using products from the market, live music, arts and other special projects.

For more information, contact
the Special Events Office at 334-595-0854.

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Father's
Day**

June 17, 2018

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June 11-15 & July 16-20

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**PRATTVILLE'S
WOBT
WAY OFF BROADWAY THEATRE**

**Children's
Theatre Camp**

JUNIOR THEATER CAMP (K-4TH GRADE) June 4-9, 2018
This camp is geared toward kindergarten through fourth graders (completed) with a production of *Gran's Guide to Stop an Ogre* by Stephanie Demaree (Produced by a special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado). We will have two performances on June 9, 2018 at 1 and 3 PM. Cost is \$75 for the week.

SENIOR THEATER CAMP (5TH-8TH GRADE) June 18-23, 2018
This camp is geared toward 5-8 graders (completed) with a production of *What Happened After Once Upon a Time* by Alexi Alfieri (Produced by a special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado). We will have two performances on June 23, 2018 at 1 and 3 PM. Cost is \$75 for the week.

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

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Chef David Spooner
Retired Chef

*Volunteer Fireman,
Lowndesboro V.F.D.*

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Lowndesboro*

*Board of Registrars,
Lowndes County*

Southern Cuisine

If you are a retired chef, there is a good chance for your birthday you will receive a cookbook. If the gift giver knows that you write an article for the Alabama Gazette called Southern Cuisine, it is a better chance the cookbook will have recipes from the South. Moreover, if the book is from your sister, it will not be the run of the mill cookbook. It will be “The Southern Sympathy Cookbook, Funeral Food with a Twist”, by Perre Coleman Magness.

This cookbook will compliment a funeral food cookbook I already have, “**Being Dead is no Excuse, The official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral**”, by Metcalfe and Hays. It is from books like these

that you will expand your knowledge of everything Southern, such as learning what is a “bosom casserole”? And in case you do not know a “bosom casserole” is an enticing dish a widow brings to the home of the new widower in an effort to catch his eye. These two books are about the role tradition plays in the South. How we look out for each other in times of need and whatever the situation is in life. A good meal made by caring hands, will comfort the sad, the lost and the troubled.

A side observation is that I noticed a common thread in the recipes in the books was bourbon. Add three tablespoons to a 3-cup recipe of Pimento Cheese, add some to your roasted pecans, and add to the ham in the slow cooker. Do not forget to add it to the mustard made for the ham. Jack and Coke sheet cake did not get its name just from the soda from Atlanta! Finally, do not forget your pecan pie. It was ironic that I got the book right before I took a trip to Kentucky.

Back to the food! Being prepared to bring comfort to a family or participating in a dinner on the grounds or being prepared for a visit from friends and family can easily be accomplished. Pick a weekend when you can spend time in the kitchen prepping and preparing "make ahead meals". There is no loss of recipes from books, magazines, and from friends and family. Type in the search panel on PINTEREST for Funeral food and the choices are plentiful. All the recipes can be labeled and referenced as "make ahead meals". In addition, the nine by twelve casserole dish is the perfect vessel for these meals.

The recipes are usually in the vein of mix the ingredients together, place in dish, and bake. If you want to produce mediocre casseroles, follow those instructions. Your goal should be to prepare a dish that is not your ordinary dish, something with a slight twist that will make my dish stand out and be noticed. The ingredients can be no different from anyone else's, however something as subtle as changing the shape can set one dish ahead of another.

An example that I like to prepare is a version of classic comfort food, chicken potpie. To me, a potpie should be shaped like a pie! Not nine by twelve rectangles but round! In addition, I want a "make ahead meal" that is freezable and easily transportable. Also, is there a point when you can freeze part of the prep for a later day? The other criteria; being concerned with servings. Do you have to cook the one dish all at once or is it sized into smaller portions to cut down on leftovers that are usually thrown away.

This recipe is adapted from *www.mealplanningmagic.com*.

Chicken Pot Pie

Makes 2 whole pies

(Pie plates are from Dollar Tree, with a cardboard lid. They may be called round 8-inch foil cake pan. Deeper than regular pie plates with straight sides, the lids are for freezing and transporting only. Do not cook with lid on. Use foil to cover when baking)

Ingredients

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup 1/4inch slices of peeled carrots
- 1 cup potatoes 1/2 inch diced peeled
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour, sifted
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup milk
- 2 cups rotisserie chicken, cooked, chopped



- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 tsp. salt
- 4 unbaked pie crusts (homemade or store-bought)

Directions

- To make filling:** Sauté the first 4 ingredients in butter in a big skillet over medium heat until tender. Add flour; stir until smooth. Cook 1 minute, stirring constantly. Add chicken broth, thyme and milk; cook, stirring constantly until thickened and bubbly.
- Stir in chicken, peas, salt, and pepper. Stir to thaw peas.
- Cool, VERY important!

Freezing instructions:

Prepare crusts.
Roll them out, place the bottom crusts in the pie plates, and set aside the top crusts until ready to cover.
Pour filling mixture into bottom crusts and cover with top crusts.
Fold edges under and crimp. Poke slits in the top
Cover with foil, label, and freeze.

TO PREPARE POT PIE FROM FROZEN

Bake the whole pie from frozen.
Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
Bake, uncovered, for 30 minutes, then cover with foil and bake 30 more minutes. Crust should be a golden brown. Remove from oven and let rest for 10 minutes before cutting. Serves 16 (from two pies).



Our home freezer is full of frozen made ahead meals sealed in mason jars. We have chili, beans, vegetables, soups, and desserts all waiting for someone in need or just hungry. Wide mouth pint mason jars are perfect to store servings to be defrosted and then heated in the jar. Each is a perfect serving or even a serving for two. They are great for meals on the go also. When you are finished, screw the lid back on, and take it home to wash and fill again.

Imagine the whiff of cornbread batter and listen to the sizzle as it is poured into a hot cast iron pan that has been liberally drenched with bacon drippings. As it bakes in the oven, you stare through the oven door window, anxiously waiting to drench a slice of the fresh hot cornbread with soft butter. In addition, you taste the mix-ins that you put in the batter. What, you did not add anything to the batter? Cornbread is great by itself, but so much better with some flavor enhancers, aka, mix-ins. I like yellow corn, chopped jalapenos, and shredded cheddar cheese added to my cornbread batter. However, I have added bacon, bell peppers, sausage, and onion in the past.

I found this recipe on the Food Network website and it is a good reference for add in’s with the amounts needed to fill a 9 by 12 casserole dish. You are going to bake yours in a cast iron skillet, aren’t you? You can start your own list and pretend it is a menu for a Chinese restaurant, and pick from the different columns.

Mix-and-Match Cornbread

Ingredients

Prep Your Mix-Ins

- Choose up to 3 of the following ingredients (1/2 cup each).
- Scallions, chopped
- Carrots, grated, then sprinkled with salt, set aside for 15 minutes and squeezed dry
- Tomato, chopped
- Zucchini, grated, sprinkled with salt, set aside for 15 minutes and squeezed dry
- Roasted or pickled peppers, drained and chopped
- Broccoli florets, chopped and blanched
- Onion, chopped and sautéed
- Corn kernels, cooked or raw
- Kale, chopped and sautéed
- Bell pepper, chopped
- Dried fruit, chopped if large
- Canned hominy, drained
- Bacon or pancetta, cooked and crumbled
- Sausage, cooked and crumbled
- Unsalted nuts, chopped



- Choose a Cheese**
Grate or crumble 1/2 cup cheese (optional).
Gruyere
Cheddar
Pepper jack
Mozzarella
Fontina
Parmesan
Goat
Havarti
Swiss
Gouda

Directions

- Make the Batter or use your favorite mix.
Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
Coat a 9-inch-square baking dish with cooking spray or a 9-inch cast-iron skillet with bacon drippings. Whisk 1 1/2 cups yellow cornmeal, 1/4 cup flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, 1-teaspoon baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon baking soda, and 1/4 teaspoon salt in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, whisk 1 egg, 1 cup milk, 1 cup sour cream or plain Greek yogurt, and 2 tablespoons melted butter; whisk into the dry ingredients until combined. Fold in the prepared mix-ins and cheese.

- Add Seasonings
Stir in 1 of the following (optional).
1/4 cup chopped fresh basil, parsley, chives, cilantro, or a combination
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme, sage, or rosemary
- 1 minced chipotle chile in adobo sauce
- 1 minced jalapeño pepper

- Bake the bread
Pour the batter into the prepared dish or skillet. Bake until the cornbread springs back when pressed in the center, 25 to 35 minutes. Let cool 15 minutes in the dish, then loosen the edges and slice. Alternatively, carefully flip the cornbread out of the hot skillet onto your serving dish.

Part of the secret of success in life is to eat what you like.”
Mark Twain

“The only time to eat diet food is while you are waiting the steak to cook.”
Julia Child

US Dry Volume Measurements		3/4 cup		12 Tablespoons	
MEASURE	EQUIVALENT	1 cup	16 Tablespoons		
1/16 teaspoon	dash	1 Pound	16 ounces		
1/8 teaspoon	a pinch				
3 teaspoons	1 Tablespoon				
1/8 cup	2 tablespoons (= 1 standard coffee scoop)				
1/4 cup	4 Tablespoons				
1/3 cup	5 Tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon				
1/2 cup	8 Tablespoons				
US Liquid Volume Measurements		8 Fluid ounces		1 Cup	
		1 Pint	2 Cups	(= 16 fluid ounces)	
		1 Quart	2 Pints	(= 4 cups)	
		1 Gallon	4 Quarts	(= 16 cups)	

JUNE Thursday Special

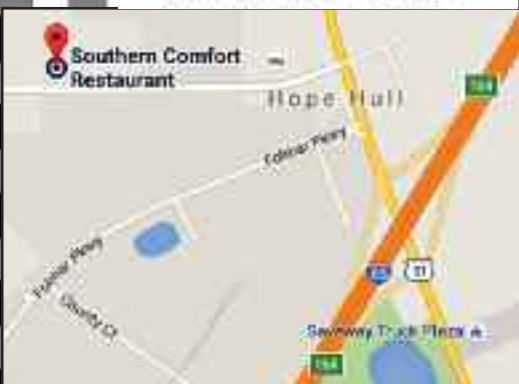
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Southern Gardening Potpourri for June by Peggy Givhan



**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

June is the month that most people are in earnest about their gardens. If you do not believe me, just go to nurseries and garden centers on these warm sunny days. Women and men are filling shopping carts full with an array of summer annuals, perennials, bulbs and tropicals. The congestion can get frantic and the lines long, so I suggest going during the week days and avoid the week ends. Also early in the mornings the gardening trade would be lighter. If you are starting from scratch or have large areas in which there is nothing, do not forget to purchase good soil to use as a top dressing which will prove to be a great start for the small plants. And do not forget the fertilizer. I usually apply it after I plant, and then water it in really good. Osmocote which is time released, and after applied, should last most of the summer. The only flower that will not tolerate commercial fertilizers to remain on its leaves are begonias. The fertilizer pellets burn the leaves and could affect the future health of the plant. If you use what I call common or cheaper raw fertilizer on begonias, shake the leaves well before watering. Of course liquid fertilizer is good in any situation.

get control, put up blinds around flowers you want to keep and use a normal solution of Round-up. Gardeners know that nature always gives us a second chance, for she is very forgiving. So get going, to get growing.

I really like to place plants in close proximity where one gets a sequence of bloom or the plants bloom simultaneously. In my backyard, which is mostly semi shade, I am enjoying a huge terra cotta pot filled with blooming light purple digitalis with three oak leaf hydrangeas in full bloom behind and off to the side-a dynamite sight. These two techniques show good garden planning and gives one a lot of bang for the buck. On a black privacy fence, a good combination of plants that bloom at the same time, are red Knock roses and white confederate jasmine. Also the jasmine gives off a wonderful scent. Both of these choices have very long bloom cycles and look great framed by the black privacy fence. A sequence of blooms example includes a mass of daffodils in front of old fashioned day lilies. When the daffodils die down with browning leaves, the day lilies are shooting up fresh green leaves hiding the daffodils' ugly feet. One has to allow the bulbs to die down to the ground in order to be nourished for bigger blooms next season.

PLANT OF THE MONTH- PHLOX

There are mainly three varieties of Phlox. One can say that we can have a Phlox for all seasons with a full range of colors and sizes. We have P. paniculata, a garden or summer Phlox which gets to around 4' in height; P.stolonifera, a creeping Phlox which grows to around 10 inches in height; P. subulata, moss pink or lavender and grows to 5 inches or so. All three of these varieties are hardy to USDA Zone 4, needs a sunny location and well drained soil. Our region is in USDA Zone 8, the higher the number, the colder the climate. In other words, these do well in our area.



GOOD GARDENING



There is one thing for sure in the gardening realm, if at first you don't succeed, try again. That holds true if the color scheme is bad, pull out or transplant to another area the block of plants that do not work, and re-plant.; if the seedlings have poor germination, re-sow the seed, as you will know within a couple of weeks; if the weeds out pace your ability to



Letters To The Editor

PLEASE SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS ON
ANY ARTICLE PRINTED IN THIS PAPER.

Letter to the Editor

“**WE THE PEOPLE**” of Alabama, or any specified level of governmental authority can no longer truthfully say this is a conservative state. It is very obvious that anything goes, and is certainly not in keeping with the initial Constitution that does not an any way support evil issues that has far too long been pushed by responsible leadership. Evil is the incentive and also the root that triggers the mindsets of criminals.

There are some amendments that does support evil, but such were enacted by default, not being in compliance with the Constitution’s mode for amending it. This said mode is shown in Art. XVIII, Sec. 285 under CASENOTES 2. Construction with other provisions. The appropriate timing is now for all the caring people to take a firm stand to reverse the direction we are traveling down the road of no return. Art. 1, Sec.2 of the Constitution so clearly bears out that we are the source of power. We must acknowledge this truth that self interest serving only special interest must come to and end, and we must have a voice in the decision making process.

For an evil issue- being in effect- will adversely affect the public safety and public health of the citizens. We, the majority, needs to stand strongly together in seeking approval for this proposal by the legislature and the governor that will require public hearings throughout the coverage area for the citizens to make the decision, eliminating/removing the current authority for local governmental entities to make such decisions. There is an abundance of needs we can do, otherwise it will never be done, but will only continue to get worse.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging:and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist (being actively involved) the devil, and he will flee from you.

In Christian Love,
Jack Pollard

IDENTITY THEFT

When your personal identification information (name, social security number, driver’s license number, etc.) has been used fraudulently to open credit accounts, bank accounts, obtain loans, utilities, telephone services, etc., without your knowledge or permission, you are the victim of the crime of identity theft. If you believe that your identity has been stolen, you should take the following steps:

Immediately contact the company or financial institution’s fraud department where your information was used and alert them of this fraudulent account. **Have the account closed or cancelled.**

File a police report with the law enforcement agency holding jurisdiction where the identity theft occurred and obtain a case number.

Contact the three credit reporting companies listed below to report an identity theft complaint. You will need to confirm that a fraud alert is placed on your personal credit file. This alert should help any future acts of fraud involving your personal identification information where a credit check would be conducted with the three credit bureaus.

Placing a fraud alert is free. The initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for 90 days, and can be renewed after 90 days. Be sure the credit reporting company has your current contact information so they can get in touch with you.

Experian
1-888-397-3742
www.experian.com

Equifax
1-800-525-6285
www.equifax.com

Transunion
1-800-680-7289
www.transunion.com

Record the dates you made calls or sent letters. Send all letters by certified mail and ask for a return receipt. That creates a record of your communications.

Keep copies of letters in your files.

Order your credit reports. After you place an initial fraud alert, the credit reporting company will explain your rights and how you can get a copy of your credit report. Placing an initial fraud alert entitles you to a free credit report from each report from each of the 3 credit reporting companies. Review each credit report for accuracy.

Create an Identity Theft Report. Submit a complaint about the theft to the Federal Trade Commission. You will need to fill out an Identity Theft Affidavit online at **www.identitytheft.gov**. When finished writing all the details and completed the report, print a copy for your records. It will print as an Identity Theft Affidavit. Attach the Identity Theft Affidavit to your police report to make a complete Identity Theft Report.

An Identity Theft Report helps you deal with credit reporting companies, debt collectors, and businesses that opened accounts in your name. You can use the report to:

Get fraudulent information removed from your credit report.

Stop a company from collecting debts that result from identity theft, or from selling the debt to another company for collection.

Place an extended fraud alert on your credit report.

Get information from companies about accounts the identity theft opened or misused.

Other agencies you might want to contact and report Identity Theft
Internal Revenue Service
1-800-908-4490
www.irs.gov/identitytheft

Social Security Administration
1-800-269-0271
www.socialsecurity.gov and search for “Fraud” in the search box.

Remember to DIAL 911 in an emergency!



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The Sheriff’s Office would like to make the public aware of the rise in air conditioner compressor thefts. Thieves are stealing these units in order to sell them for copper scrap. Please make sure to check any vacant properties or properties under construction and report any suspicious activity. You can request extra patrol to your property anytime by contacting the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office.

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

Copper Theft

The Growing Epidemic



Constitutional Offices

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STATE AUDITOR

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AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

Republicans Tracy “T.O.” Crane Gerald Dial Cecil Murphy Rick Pate	Democrats
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ALABAMA SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE

Republicans Tom Parker Lyn Stuart	Democrats
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ALABAMA SUPREME COURT PLACE 1

Republicans Debra Jones Brad Mendheim Sarah Stewart	Democrats
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ALABAMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS PLACE 1

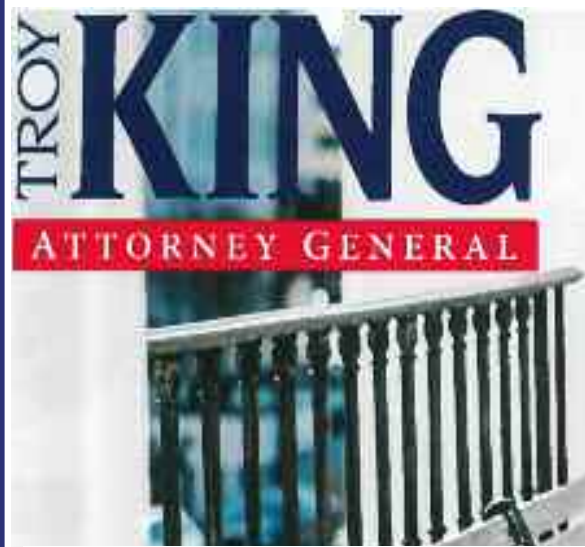
Republicans Christy Edwards Pat Thetford Michelle Thomason	Democrats
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ALABAMA SENATE

Republicans Will Barfoot Ronda Walker	Democrats David A. Sader
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DISTRICT 31

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EXPERIENCED

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- Troy wrote and passed the toughest sex offender law in America.
- Troy wrote and then used a new child pornography law to obtain a record setting sentence against a single child pornographer – 115 life sentences plus 1960 more years in prison.
- Troy convicted the worst mass murderer in Alabama history.
- Troy sued BP for polluting the Gulf, leading to a payment to Alabama in excess of \$2.3 billion.

PREPARED

- Troy is ready to restore integrity to public service and accountability to those who break the public trust.
- Troy is ready to vigorously use our existing gun laws to protect our people while staunchly defending the Second Amendment.
- Troy is ready to fight and defeat the opioid epidemic that is decimating our communities, families, and people.
- Troy is ready to continue standing up to protect our most valuable natural resources—our children—and to lead the crackdown to stop sex trafficking.

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Patricia Killough



Daniel wishes all Dads Happy Father’s Day!

Please send me your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to alabamagazette@gmail.com
The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions as space permits.



The Wedding of
Haley Floyd and Josh Bass

The wedding ceremony uniting **Haley** Nicole Floyd and Timothy **Joshua** Bass took place on Saturday, the 5th of May, 2018 at the family farm (bride) in Troy, Alabama.
Parents of the bride are Mr. & Mrs. Dane Floyd.
Parents of the groom are Rev. & Mrs. Timothy Bass and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Weston.
Grandparents of the bride are Mr. & Mrs. Danny Floyd and Mrs. Pat Sheffield.
Grandparents of the groom are Rev. & Mrs. James Bass, Mrs. Julia Burnett and Mrs. Barbara Litsey.
Rev. Timothy Bass, father of the groom, officiated.
Following the reception, the newlyweds left for a honeymoon in Destin, Florida. The happy couple are now residing in Georgia.



Home Town Community News

June Birthdays



- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Ruby Henley | 14 Kerry Brown |
| 2 Christian Grant | Julie Echols |
| Amber Holbrook | Kelly Kilgore |
| Pat Moseley (79th) | 15 Angie Ashurst |
| Mike Moseley (79th) | Greyson James Looney |
| Barbara White | Caty Jane Turnipseed |
| 3 Eleanor Haynie | 16 Saralu Belkofer |
| Margie Johnson | David Morrow |
| Kade Wallace | Terri Taylor |
| 5 Braden Crowe | Carson Tucker |
| Michelle Crowe | Garrett Tucker |
| Lane Carter Johnson | Anna Shay Wasden |
| Maggie Mills | 17 Susan McGuire |
| Johnny Rush | 18 Mary Jane Flurry |
| 6 John Michael Higgins | Marion Grant |
| William Grant | Jonathan Lowe |
| 7 Jeannie Handey | 19 David Vinson |
| Frank Litchfield | 20 Linda Reynolds |
| James Stanley | Michael Taylor |
| 8 Georgie Harris | 21 Mary Raley |
| 9 Faye Boyd (61st) | 22 Nita Tidwell (95th) |
| Laura Smith | 23 Thomas Berrey |
| 10 Juanita Beckman | 24 Alice Ivey |
| Jeffery Horton | Joe Sedinger |
| Seth Lumley | 25 Janet Treat |
| Justin Manning | 26 Jan Morris |
| Melinda Newell | 27 John Donahey |
| Sylvia Phillips | 28 Paul Hanson |
| 11 David Livingston | Nadean Holley (104th) |
| Ashley Owens | Tricia Norris |
| 12 Gary Crowe | 29 Ansley Brown |
| Charlotte Gaston | Lauren Moffitt |
| Beverly Ming | Dot Rebren |
| Mackenzie Richardson (10th) | 30 Kathy Blount |
| Madilyn Sellers (10th) | Gordon Davis |
| 13 Rachel Miller | Wyatt Echols |
| | Jonathan Killough |

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Bill & Harlan Ratliff (62nd) | 15 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Nester |
| 2 Glenn & Sue Borders (62nd) | 18 Lera & Kim Evans |
| Tony & Kate Smith | Eddie & Rhonda Spivey |
| 3 Joe & Amy Boyd | 21 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Cobb |
| Tom & Vivian Ledbetter | Lowell Thomas & |
| Rick & Ann Pascal | Julianne Hataway (60th) |
| 4 Claude & Joan Collier | 22 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Crutchfield |
| 5 Frank & Linda Clayton | 23 Harold & Susie Van Patten |
| Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ming (63rd) | Mike & Mary Pat Sikes |
| 6 Shayne & Patrice Wasden | Matt & Melanie Smith |
| 8 Ken & Karen Deavers | Dan & Marcelle Thompson |
| Jim & Joy Fleming | 25 Mike & Brenda Moseley (58th) |
| 9 Slade & Skeeter Rhodes | 28 Vance & Ruth Cordle |
| 11 Jason & Hope Marsh | 29 Billy & Betty Gallops (50th) |
| Mr. & Mrs. Steve Young | 30 Gary & Linda Beaty |
| 12 Bobby & Nicole Burton | |
| Tommy & Jennifer Champion | |

If you see a birthday person or anniversary that needs to come off these list, please contact us at 356-6700 or email us at alabamagazette@gmail.com

Sympathy to the families of...

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| Hall, Mack Laverne (90) | died April 24, 2018 |
| Jones, Paul L. “Moon” | died April 24, 2018 |
| Pool, Elizabeth Lynn (74) | died April 24, 2018 |
| Bowlin, Louise Calloway(66) | died April 25, 2018 |
| Gilmore, Erline Bazzell (91) | died April 25, 2018 |
| Nichols, Mildred Sexton (88) | died May 1, 2018 |
| Daniel, Jean Kimball (99) | died May 2, 2018 |
| Goodson, Ralph (86) | died May 4, 2018 |
| Culpepper, Betty Jean (80) | died May 5, 2018 |
| Harper, Cynthia Elizabeth (61) | died May 5, 2018 |
| Dawkins, Bevery Wilson “Nana/Nanny” (70) | died May 6, 2018 |
| Hooper, Dallas James (52) | died May 6, 2018 |
| Hughes, William A. “Billy” (84) | died May 9, 2018 |
| Capell, Gypsey Pool (76) | died May 11, 2018 |
| Bell, Elizabeth “Betty” (97) | died May 13, 2018 |
| Greenlee, Jr. Everett Clyde (90) | died May 13, 2018 |
| Logan, Sr., Thomas Clay (85) | died May 14, 2018 |
| Noblin, George M. (77) | died May 15, 2018 |
| Braswell, John Sorrell (77) | died May 16, 2018 |
| Green, Lisa Ann (60) | died May 16, 2018 |
| Howard, Leslie Ernest “Les” (88) | died May 16, 2018 |
| Sabel, Mark “Wayne” (75) | died May 22, 2018 |
| Lawley, Carol Russell Sewell (79) | died May 23, 2018 |

TODAY’S WOMAN

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



Years and Laughter:

Remnants and reminders of rural summer memories.

By Amanda Walker

It has been almost 40 years since I spent my last summer with Fannie. She would not believe the lives we live now.

Even in the 70’s she lived somewhere far back in time. It was partly, I suppose, because she was in rural Marengo County. We lived only minutes away from one another, but we were worlds apart...minus the weekdays we would spend together.

I would often arrive at her house early enough the fog would still be rising over the farm fields. It would slowly lift, surrendering to the golden beams of the rising sun.

Most of our time inside was spent within two rooms, the kitchen and her bedroom. The bedroom had a fireplace in it that would be boarded-up during the summer months. There was a closet with a curtain that served as a door. Behind the curtain was evidence of a fire that had gotten out of hand once. The charred wood had never been replaced.

There was also a small black-and-white television in the bedroom. She was a fan of the Price Is Right. We watched it every day and she would personally advise all the players who made it to the stage. She won with them and lost with them for the hour.

The rest of my day would be spent following in behind her. She drew their water from a well three times a day. I would often miss her first early morning trip, but I would be with her for the next two. We would also trek across the road diagonally to her elderly mother’s house to check on her. Nobody seemed to know for sure how old she was, she was somewhere in her nineties. They said they didn’t keep records when she was born. But I think that was primarily due to the fact that she was born Choctaw. Fannie had such features too. Her sister Mary, who lived in the old dog trot house with their mother, did not. Her skin was darker and her hair was not long and straight, nor was it braided.

The two sisters would do laundry in the back room using an old wringer style washer. They would open the door to their mother’s room so from her bed she could be included in their conversations. I had the privilege of being able to hear them talk, as I would play on the back porch where ripe figs were an arm’s stretch away.

Like so many, Fannie always kept a garden. It wasn’t unusual for her to be canning corn, snap beans, and pink-eyed purple hull peas while she cooked dinner. And it was dinner. I was midday, but it was dinner, not lunch, and it would be simple, consisting mostly of chicken, fried okra, cornbread, and sliced tomatoes. In season, there would be a row of tomatoes with their orange bottoms turned up on the counter. Sometimes the chicken would just be fried gizzards.

She would give me “Co-Cola” out of a left over Bama jelly jar. My favorite plate to use at her house had a dogwood pattern. She did not have matching dishes, just a set of mismatched plates. She would tell me about the dogwood blossoms and Jesus.

I found a plate with that same pattern on it a few years back at an antique shop on the outskirts of Selma.
It hangs on the wall in my kitchen.
It reminds me.



Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms.Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

Trisston’s Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

“Make an Eternal Difference”

After prayerful consideration, my husband, Brian, and I recently signed up to host a **Summer Small Group** through our church. For those of you in our generation and older, you may know this better as a **Bible Study**. However, no mater what you may call it, it’s a great time for folks to get together in a more intimate group setting, in this case our home, and learn more about Jesus and His plan for our lives.

“ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:36-40

Let’s face it folks...at times, life is hard. The challenges, struggles, and stresses can become overwhelming. Brian and I believe now more than ever that God is calling us, as He has many of you, to connect with others in a life-giving, meaningful way. After all, God created all of us to live in relationship with others. Perhaps. only then can we truly live the full life He intends for us.

He said to them, **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe...”** Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.
Mark 16:15-17, 20

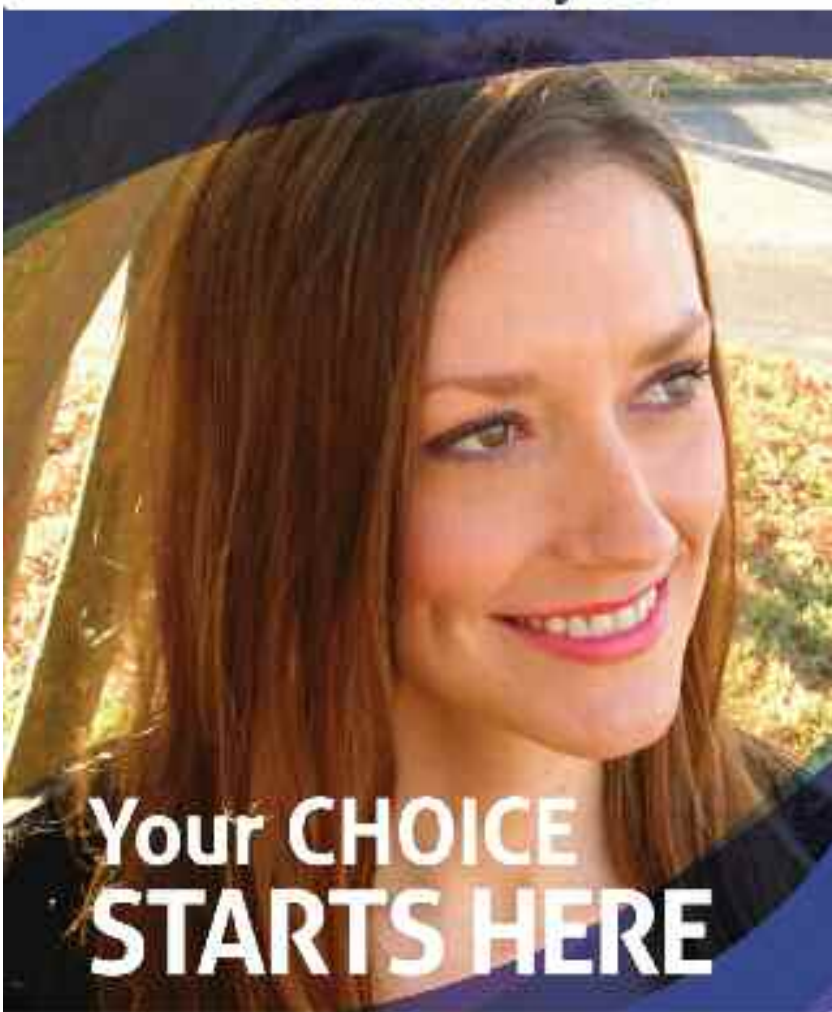
We pray that people’s lives will be changed in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead by moving one step closer to Christ....from learning the essentials of our faith to discovering and fulfilling our God-given purpose. May we all live life as a fully-devoted follower of Christ and to make an eternal difference!

Many Blessings!



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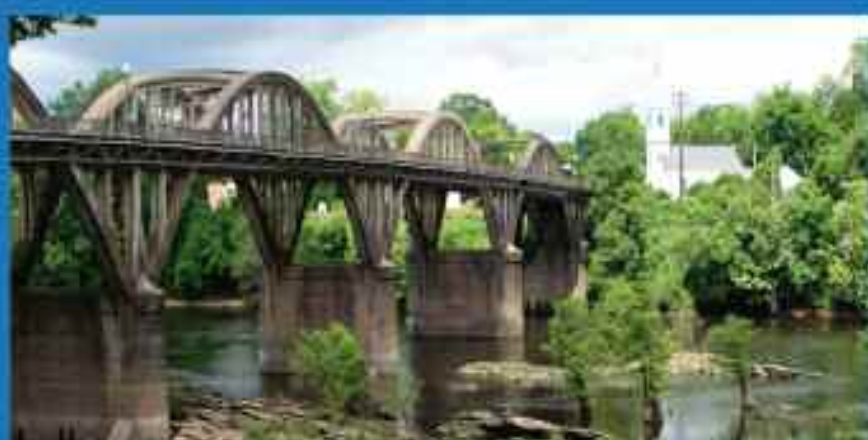
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Humane Society of Elmore County

Website: www.elmorehumane.org

Pet of the Week – Haffie

Haffie is a two-year old female cat who has been with us since Nov '17. She is a very sweet and loving, indoor only kitty that has a sensitive tummy so must stay on a prescription food from your Vet to keep her healthy. Yes, that food is a bit more expensive but Haffie is a very loving cat and well worth it.



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

To meet all the great pets at our shelter come to
255 Central Plank Road,
Wetumpka, AL, 36092, go to our
website at www.elmorehumane.org

for more information, email us at hseco@bellsouth.net or give us a call
at 334-567-3377.

We are open for adoptions Mon-Fri 10-5 & Sat 9-3.



THE ELMORE COUNTY PREGNANCY CENTER

is in need of the following items;

BABY TOILETRIES, ie,
wash, oil, shampoo, powder

DIAPERS

Newborn and up
4, 5, 6 pullups

SUMMER CLOTHING

Boys and Girls
2T, 3T, 4T

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HOURS: Mon. & Tue. 9:00 - 1:00
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