



# VOTE!



## Only weeks until the General Election!

### November 8, 2016

#### America's survival is at stake.

We can't hide our heads in the sand and expect safety, good health and happiness for our children. *Freedom is not now an automatic guarantee!*



## Exhibit Coming to Montgomery

Magna Carta is the charter of liberties that England's King John granted to his barons in 1215. In the centuries since its creation, Magna Carta has become one of the most enduring symbols of liberty and the rule of law. The American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress and the Law Library of Congress have selected the Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building in Montgomery, Alabama, to host

the exhibit "Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy 1215-2015."

The Supreme Court of Alabama, the Federalist Society for Law & Public Policy Studies, and the Blackstone Center for Law and Liberty at Thomas Goode Jones School of Law at Faulkner University are sponsoring the exhibit, which will run from October 11 - 31, 2016, in the rotunda of the Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building, located at 300 Dexter Avenue. The exhibit will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and there is no charge for admission, through groups are encouraged to make reservations.

The exhibit, featuring images of objects from the Library of Congress collections, an interpretive video, and other materials illustrating the impact of Magna Carta throughout the centuries and how it came to be recognized as the foundation of modern democracy, gives visitors the chance to learn more about the enduring legacy of the document. The exhibit has traveled throughout the United States for the past year and a half, showing in public buildings such as courthouses, law schools, state capitols, universities, and public libraries.

For more information or to make your group reservation, contact the Alabama Supreme Court and State Law Library @ 1-800-236-4069 or (334) 229-0578. Information will also be available via the Judicial System Web site: <http://judicial.alabama.gov>.

The exhibit is a joint project of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress and the Law Library of Congress.

The Alabama Gazette did a story on The 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta in our July, 2015 issue on page 4A. See on our website: [alabamagazette.com](http://alabamagazette.com)



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



## OCTOBER IS...

### Domestic Violence Month

It is a time to re-evaluate our society!  
Family Life - Health & Wellness -  
Our Faith - Commitments and  
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Liver Awareness Month

National Bulling Prevention Month



## Chief Justice Moore Suspended for Term by COJ

The Court of the Judiciary (COJ) issued a decision on the charges against Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore. The Judicial Inquiry Commission (JIC) requested that he be removed from the bench. Under the COJ rules, removal requires a unanimous 9-0 vote by the members of the COJ, which is made up of judges, a lawyer and laypeople. Absent a 9-0 unanimous vote, the COJ cannot remove a judge from the bench. But in an unbelievable violation of the law, the COJ suspended without pay Chief Justice Moore for the remainder of his term, which runs through January 2019. When his term expires, he will be ineligible to run for election as judge again because of his age. So the suspension until the end of his term is a de facto removal from the bench.

"To suspend Chief Justice Moore for the rest of his term is the same as removal. The COJ lacked the unanimous votes to remove the Chief, so the majority instead chose to ignore the law and the rules," said Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel.

My husband is beginning to show signs of dementia, maybe even Alzheimer's.

What type things should I do to prepare us should he become incapacitated?

Read story by Ron Holtsford on page 8A



Ron Holtsford

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## THINK PINK

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## 17th Anniversary



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Southern Cuisine**



**Robert Tate  
Robservations**



**Ron Vanherwyn  
The Kritter Korner**



**John Martin  
Editorial Commentary**

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

# ROBSERVATIONS...

## POOR, POOR DEPLORABLE ME

by Robert Tate

**Deplorable:** Causing or being a subject for grief or regret; lamentable; causing or being a subject for censure, reproach, or disapproval; wretched; very bad.

**Irredeemable:** Not able to be saved, improved, or corrected.

*"You know, to just be grossly generalistic, you could put half of Trump's supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables. Right? The racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic -- you name it. And unfortunately there are people like that. And he has lifted them up. He has given voice to their websites that used to only have 11,000 people -- now 11 million. He tweets and retweets their offensive hateful mean-spirited rhetoric. Now, some of those folks -- they are irredeemable, but thankfully they are not America."*

Hillary Clinton, 10 September, 2016

Yeah, I pretty much fell out of my chair when I heard this drivel spewing forth from the mouth of the Democratic nominee for President of the United States. Up to this point, I had felt compelled to not clearly state everything on my mind concerning her and in print, I will at least try to hold back some of what I feel. If you ask me in person how I feel, all I can say is be careful what you ask for.

I find it extremely sad, if not comical, that Mrs. Clinton actually had the nerve to use such language. With one broad "generalistic" swipe, she offended and denigrated several million Americans while at the same time blaming **Donald Trump** for being divisive. A clear case of the pot calling the kettle black. Although I myself was not offended, I will tell you that her words did raise the hair on the back of my neck. When you look at the definitions of deplorable and irredeemable and then look how she used it in the context of her statement, you can only walk away with the knowledge that she indeed hates what America in many ways stands for. This should not surprise anyone when you often hear her speak of her "progressive" view for America. But I will take issue with some of her inflammatory words.

If it is racist and xenophobic to want secure borders and to insist that immigrants entering our country do it legally, then I guess I am racist. If it is racist to expect immigrants to assimilate and accept and respect our laws and customs, then I guess I am racist. If it is racist to properly scrutinize the flood of immigrants that want to come into our country and avoid the crimes, consternation and heartache felt across Europe because of their lax immigration rules over the past 18 months, then I guess I am a racist. If it makes me racist because I do not want ISIS soldiers entering the US under the guise of being Syrian refugees, then I am a racist. But in reality, none of these things constitutes racism (look up the definition yourself) and if you insist on using the term, that in fact makes you a blithering idiot. Deal with the sad state of your life and bug off.

If I am homophobic because I think people with male sex organs should use the men's restroom and people with female sex organs should use the ladies' restroom, then I guess that makes me homophobic. If thinking that teenage boys should never use the girl's locker room regardless of how he "feels" about himself is homophobic, then I will proudly wear that stamp. (Yes this is happening in certain states.) If I think that biological males should compete with other biological males and vice versa, then guess what? That makes me a rational thinking American man. This goofy and dare I say, fallacious narrative that Christians hate homosexuals is tired and overdone. I have written on this several times. Yes there are Christians who fall short in this area, no doubt. But they are the clear minority. If you want to challenge Christian doctrine, that is another story for another day. I have personally had way too many friends and relatives who are/were gay to fall into this trap. Sorry, Christian doctrine is not homophobic but the secular world is clearly Christianophobic.

If it is sexist for me to think men and women are equal and that each deserves equal pay for equal work and that women deserve full protections under the law, then yes I am sexist. Remember, the Clinton Foundation has taken tens of millions of dollars from many countries that deny the rights of women who she claims to support. Countries where women are often nothing more than sexual property, where women are denied the same opportunities in education or even have the right to drive a car, and are often killed and mutilated by family members are seen as worthy of admiration to the Clinton's (at least their money). Yet these countries' actions toward women are seen as an anathema to those of us she calls deplorable. Not to mention many of these countries make sport of killing homosexuals.

Islamophobic. Wha-what? If fighting against Sharia Law within our borders makes me Islamophobic, bring it. If the realization that there are people in this

world who simply want us dead because we are not Muslim makes me Islamophobic, so be it. If the reality that certain portions of this world wants to start yet another Jewish holocaust makes me Islamophobic, oh well. As for me, I stand with Israel. Truth hurts doesn't it. Whether or not you accept the reality that there IS a very small percentage of the Islamic faith that IS already in a religious war against the West, and it is those people who we need to utterly decimate and remove from the planet, I DO NOT CARE. Several Robservations ago, I penned a quote from **Winston Churchill** about truth. He wrote, **"The truth is incontrovertible, malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end; there it is."**

So if it is this so-called deluded reality that so bothers you to the point where you feel better about calling names because you are not smart enough to understand and comprehend reality, then here is another reality. You are in fact that pathetic cartoon ostrich with your head in the sand and your rear-end exposed for the world to see and violate. You are that particular brand of human who feels nothing is ever worth fighting over and worse, worth fighting for. You are in fact a sheep. Too weak and cowardly to fight for yourself while simultaneously relying on others to fight for you while living your cloistered life hiding from reality. Islamophobic? Anyone who tells me all Muslims are bad, I will tell them to bugger off. That is not true. I have worked and flown with many Muslims. At the same time, if someone tells me ALL Muslims are just like us and want what we do, I will shake my head, walk away and under my breath call them an ignorant fool. You know why? Because you are. Islamophobic? If it makes you feel good about that term, then I will wear it. Remember, however, that is still better than being a moral coward, living on your own Fantasy Island and being out of touch with the truth that evil in the world surrounds us.

Yeah, Hillary is out of touch with reality. In an ever increasing effort to push her insane progressive agenda, she calls "black, blue" and "up, down" and yet nobody calls her on it. With the help of too much of the media and so-called journalists, she is successfully calling out others for what she herself is doing. The other day she was stomping around about Donald Trump's so-called "birther" statements while back in 2008, she and President Obama had a face-to-face scream fest when he challenged her on comments that she made calling him a Muslim. It never stops. Let me tell you what I think is deplorable:

- Going in front of Congress and telling them you never sent or received classified email and yet we know this to be false.
- Telling the American people that Benghazi was because of a video while the same day telling the President of Egypt that she had proof it was a planned terrorist attack.
- Destroying upwards of 45,000 emails even after being subpoenaed to turn over all emails.
- That she testified to using just one electronic device and now we know there were at least 13.
- That she had a classified server in her home.
- That she shared classified information with her lawyers and IT specialists who in fact had NO classified clearance to ever see this information.
- That she claimed President Obama was a Muslim and then spread that story.
- As a former First Lady, state Senator and Secretary of State, expecting us to believe that she had no idea that the "c" on a document meant classified and was not merely an alphabetical labeling convention.
- When being questioned by the FBI, she stated 26+ times she didn't remember or didn't recall.
- That she used her "concussion" as an excuse for not remembering dozens of details yet nobody in the press being allowed to question her suitability for the presidency because of potential health issues.
- That she claimed Senate member Robert Byrd, member of the KKK was her mentor.
- That she claimed to admire Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood. The woman who is famously quoted as saying, "Colored people are like human weeds and are to be exterminated."

Yes, folks, the hits just keep on coming. As for me, according to her crazy standard of wacka-doodle, yes I am a deplorable. Just like millions of others, many of whom are police, military support and combat veterans and average Americans who know what she is, what she stands for and what our world would like under her lack of leadership. Although I am no fervent Trump supporter, at least he is willing to discuss that 800-pound gorilla in the corner of the room flinging poo at everyone. Hillary sees that same gorilla and claims she doesn't remember seeing him. Get me outta here, Percy.

## UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE MARTHA ROBY

### ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT

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



### ROBY WEEKLY COLUMN:

## Behavior Toward Iran Baffling

As more details surface about the Obama Administration's decision to pay Iran \$1.7 billion in settlement money, arguments that it was anything less than an ill-conceived ransom deal are becoming pretty flimsy.

In January, **President Obama announced the United States had reached a settlement with Iran** over a decades-long arms deal dispute, in which \$1.7 billion would be transferred from a Treasury fund set up to cover court judgments and settlements. Even though the deal directly coincided with Iran's release of five Americans it was holding hostage, the President and other Administration officials repeatedly denied that this deal was a ransom payment.

However, such denials proved phony when, in August, *The Wall Street Journal* **reported in stunning detail** how the first installment actually took place. "Wooden pallets stacked with Euros, Swiss francs, and other foreign currencies were flown into Iran on an unmarked cargo plane," the story said. The plane reportedly sat on the tarmac until U.S. officials confirmed the release of American hostages. That's pretty much the definition of a ransom.

Why does it matter? Because paying a ransom would violate long-standing U.S. policy, including President Obama's own. **Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 30**, released by the White House in June 2015, states that "It is United States policy to deny hostage-takers the benefits of ransom, prisoner releases, policy changes, or other acts of concession."

Why is it important for our country not to pay ransoms? Because it endangers

Americans. As the PPD goes on to say,

"This policy protects U.S. nationals and strengthens national security by removing a key incentive for hostage-takers to target U.S. nationals, thereby interrupting the vicious cycle of hostage-takings, and by helping to deny terrorists and other malicious actors the money, personnel, and other resources they need to conduct attacks against the United States, its nationals, and its interests."

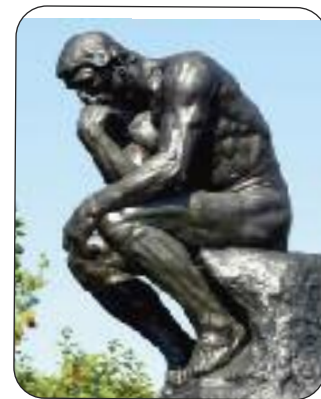
Almost as if to prove this point, since the cash shipment, Iran's Revolutionary Guard has detained two more Iranian-Americans, **according to *The Wall Street Journal***. And why wouldn't they, seeing as how **Iran's military will now apparently be the beneficiary of the \$1.7 billion** influx from the United States. Gen. Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, **told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he found this development "troubling"** because it would enable Iran's military to spread "malign influence." Unfortunately, President Obama did not consult with Gen. Dunford - his top uniformed military commander - or Secretary of Defense Ash Carter about the payment scheme before this critical decision was made.

These latest revelations have prompted Congress to act. This week the House passed **H.R. 5931**, the Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act, which essentially codifies into law the policy against ransom payments. I wish it wasn't necessary to enact a new law in order to stop a president from executing foreign transactions that go against long-standing policies put in place to protect Americans. However, given President Obama's baffling behavior toward Iran, Congressional action is absolutely necessary.

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

**John Sophocleus**

# THINK



## MEET THE NEW REP; SAME AS THE OLD REP...

Special election Candidate Lovvorn avoided a runoff, exceeding the 50% threshold by 13 votes via another low turnout poll result for House District 79. A dismal 12% of voters participated this time, only three quarters of the 16% participation when felon Hubbard was reinstalled last time. Little surprise the big money candidate anointed by Hubbard, et al wanting 'bidness as usual' [<http://www.alabamagazette.com/.../bidness-as-usual-i.../855.html>] to keep



Joe Lovvorn helping "roll" Toomers Corner

the graft churning in the former speaker's hyper-gerrymandered district won as forecasted since enough non-machine driven voters didn't show for the September 13th primary. Meet the NEW bought and paid for politician; same as the OLD felon he'll replace. If witnessing the same PACs (johns) who purchased the 'Madam of the House' supporting Lovvorn wasn't enough; seeing 'public

servants' like Bobby Lowder or appraisers used by govt. to wrongfully take properties and developers who get bonds released (to avoid paying for the costs they impose) to proliferate our unsustainable growth, etc. were even more revealing.

I'll continue to support the few small govt. candidates who attempt to win under the moniker of this corrupt Party of big govt. we allowed back into our State instead of replacing the corrupt modern Democratic Party. Candidate Toomer ran an outstanding campaign - it is truly amazing he made the margin that close [unlucky 13 on 13th] with all the money, negativity and fear mongering tactics used against him. The next step after any primary which re-affirms felon Hubbard type results with 6% of registered voters is to support what competition can make it through Alabama's despicable, anti-competitive ballot access laws (an affront to the civil rights of candidates & voters throughout the State) who may curb these extremists impeding the general welfare of our town, city, county, State & nation.

Specifically, I support Constitution, Libertarian (and it seems the T.E.A. Party is finally realizing it must cut ties with the corrupt Republican extremists and start fielding candidates to break-up the duopoly) type candidates -- if for no other reason than to increase participation for those who can no longer stand wasting their votes on the corrupt duopoly choices. The Constitution Party did not get their candidate on the ballot for the County Commission District One race as their probate Judge 'put the English' on Candidate Busby's campaign for ballot access I wrote on last month. Candidate Fenwick submitted more than enough signatures to the SoS to place him on the late November District 79 ballot (Tuesday the 29th) with Lovvorn well after the Nov. 8th general election. That is, if Fenwick and voters are allowed their civil right to vote for something other than duopoly candidates impeding our State.

Showing hubris on par with felon Hubbard, 'Fireman Joe' Lovvorn says he will keep his govt. job (he's NOT a volunteer fireman) and be our District 79 Rep in the House. So certain he'd won (figuring an honest candidate who refused to take PAC money wouldn't be able to press on to request a recount/verification of the 13 vote margin of victory) Lovvorn angered many decent folks with his smug TPing of Toomer's corner (how's that for irony) for his private victory with only 6% support of registered voters. Arguably the usual parasites who suck the wealth out of productive businesses, students and other taxpayers will always show to secure their political theft. This 'victory' has nothing to do with an AU accomplishment, if anything it means further distortion, extraction and continued cancerous growth decaying the loveliest village on the Plains of Dixie. It was a 'picture perfect' start to display the character of a felon Hubbard approved, PAC bought and paid for politician... indulging one's excess with vulgar private littering on the public purse. I forecast the productive (net) taxpayers will be spending a LOT more in the years to come cleaning-up and paying for his messes. At least it will take a while for Lovvorn to become a big enough political thief to get the AG office's attention to address another District 79 embarrassment - esp. with bigger thieves to prosecute from Birmingham's "water boarding" of taxpayers up there, impropriety with BP monies in Mobile and it seems the Bentley morass in Montgomery is about to hit the AG's propeller.

Some are already pledging support for Candidate Fenwick if allowed on the ballot; otherwise they'll write-in Mr. Toomer's name November 29th. I've been asked if there will even be the special election if Fenwick's name is not allowed after wasting taxpayer dollars on a party's primary determination last month and no Democrat. If we follow the guarantee of a republican form of govt. espoused in the Constitution, then YES we must have the election taxpayers ARE obliged to provide; there's no rational explanation why taxpayers pay for the primaries or other processes parties use to determine what candidate they put on our general/regular ballot. If only 6% support of voters in a primary determines the result, why not just have the PACs and other AEA/BCA type thugs simply pay a corrupt governor to install their replacement minion. Write in campaigns can be effective at sending a message (some may want to communicate dissatisfaction with the primary result when others are not allowed on the general ballot) and even win on rare occasion - esp. at the smaller district level where enough voters mobilize in disdain over low turn-out duopoly party results. Some argue that's why write-ins have been prohibited in municipal general elections to violate candidates' and voters' civil rights where write-ins have shown to be most effective.

Candidate Busby decided to continue serving the people of Lee County moving forward with his campaign as a write-in on District 1 ballots. The prospect of Busby, Fenwick, Toomer type write in campaigns shepherded me to Alabama Code Title 17-6-28:

"Write-in votes shall be permitted only in non-municipal general elections. The ballot must be constructed so that the voter can write-in vote for each office in the same manner that votes are registered for regular candidates. In order to cast a valid write-in vote, the voter must (1) write the name on the ballot and (2) register the vote by a mark in the space designated for that office. A write-in vote shall not be counted if the vote is not registered as provided above. If a voter registers a vote for a name on the ballot and then writes in another name for the same office but fails to register the write-in vote, the ballot shall be treated as if no write-in vote had occurred and the regular vote shall be counted. If a properly registered write-in vote causes an over-vote, it shall be treated as any other over-vote and none of the votes for the over-voted office shall be counted. However, the remainder of the ballot shall be counted. When counting write-in votes, poll officials must check for over-votes if the electronic

ballot counter does not perform the function."

Mr. Busby plans to generate a video on how this process will look on a sample ballot. Much like Mr. Toomer's outstanding 'retail politickin' these past months (instead of succumbing to the big money game polluting our State) Candidate Busby also goes door to door throughout his district handing out pocket Constitutions, etc. The irony of not allowing a Constitution Party candidate on a ballot this veteran fought so well to secure doesn't escape those aware of the 'English' being put on decisions of this sort Lee County.

At the national level, Hillary is starting to 'feel the real burn.' When Stein wasn't allowed on the ballot in GA (in dispute as I type) the State went purple instead of Trump as it appears most pollsters forecast Stein voters will go Clinton. In most other States it appears Johnson is taking significantly more (2 to 1) from Clinton than Trump - esp. with under 35 aged voters. Funny to see Trump's minions (many who do not seem to understand arithmetic) so rabidly against competition from Johnson-Weld where it looks to be the only thing which may make the Electoral College result even close. I understand those voting for Clinton and Trump type establishment candidates don't care about a ticket (even if I have great disagreement on some of their major policies) with the most executive experience. "Clintonistas/Trump Chumps" are only interested in securing their corporate/social welfare transfers; they don't care one wit about the general welfare or our posterity. Obama's, "Hillary is the most prepared candidate ever to be President/CiC" rhetoric is starting to ring hollow to the 70% who are just starting to discover two Republican Governors as an option on all 50 State ballots (who served in Democrat States) with the most executive experience who may be worthy to consider voting for in November. No doubt Democrats are doing all they can to block the competition because they see Johnson/Weld taking more from Hillary. I'm one of them - if you forced me to waste my vote on one of the duopoly extremists, I'd vote for Clinton -- we're not yet that Soviet to force voting, although Mr. Obama has floated the idea. If it were only these two Republicrats (where there's no decent choice) I'd simply NOT vote. Those who pay lip-service for more participation in the process at the same time advocating more restrictive ballot access laws, discrimination in debates, etc. to thwart those wanting to vote for something better/different is difficult to reconcile. Asserting Nader cost Gore the presidency (recall my Jan. 2011 column) assumed Nader voters would still have shown AND voted for Gore instead of writing Nader in, or someone else... Nonsense, and how dare the arrogant duopoly Party hacks think I must vote for the extremists destroying us to provide more validation to the evil enveloping us from these Nimrods.

Don't waste your time bombing my e-mail with how crazy I am to not vote for the Republicrat you want to win because it transfers wealth in the manner you desire. First, this is ALABAMA - does anyone seriously think her 9 electoral votes are NOT going to Trump. We've become just as big a laughing stock voting for whatever piece of Donkey poop was put on the ballot decades ago to now revel in the Elephant poop which has shown to 'fertilize' corruption just as effectively as the modern Democrats. From big govt. Democrat Sen. Shelby decades ago to Sen. Dial's recent party change to aid & abet the Riley Republican corruption machine -- what's substantively changed for the productive citizen hosting these parasites? Most citizen response to politics these past decades reminds me of Harry Browne's observed 'battered spouse syndrome' of government; good folks going back to the person who's suppose to care about you (but in fact beating the life out of you) expecting them to be different the next time... insanity.

Much has been said about how different this election cycle has been - really? I see the same influence of the media covering and shepherding the biggest champion of govt. on the Republican side (as it did with Dole, McCain, Romney) to 'clear the field' for the biggest champion of govt. on the Democratic Party side. Either way the Nimrods get a candidate which advances their religion of big govt. where they genuinely believe all blessings flow. Media coverage to get Trump nominated was 'in your face' to the big money players like the Bush dynasty to show they could neutralize over \$100 million in political spending to get the big govt. thugs they want as the duopoly choices. As the last days before Nov. 8th approach, the duopoly will go into full court press convincing voters it is so close, one must waste their vote validating the corrupt process which proffered the Clinton/Trump choice. Those who don't understand the Electoral College result is what matters (not the popular vote polling reported) fail to show at the polls or simply don't think it possible to write-in Castle, De LaFuente, LaRiva, McMullen, Soltysik or Stein in States which wouldn't allow them on the ballot. When enough voters do this to EXCEED the margin of victory - then one of the losers in the duopoly may take notice as these voters can be the key to future victories. My forecast is 2016 will be little different than recent past presidential election results. The outcome won't matter to productive citizens who host these political parasites -- i.e., they'll continue to be sucked to death at about the same rate. It will matter to the specific parasite if it the blue tic or red tic is getting the blood from the host. In the end, I'll be surprised if participation of eligible voters exceeds the usual 48% or so this cycle...

On a lighter note, it has been a while (December) since I've put some humour into a column, so I thought I'd share this Abbot & Costello exchange on unemployment which many of my Facebook followers got a tickle from reading:

**COSTELLO:** I want to talk about the unemployment rate in America.

**ABBOTT:** Good Subject. Terrible Times. It's 5.6%.

**COSTELLO:** That many people are out of work?

**ABBOTT:** No, that's 23%.

**COSTELLO:** You just said 5.6%.

**ABBOTT:** 5.6% Unemployed.

**COSTELLO:** Right 5.6% out of work.

**ABBOTT:** No, that's 23%.

**COSTELLO:** Okay, so it's 23% unemployed.

**ABBOTT:** No, that's 5.6%.

**COSTELLO:** WAIT A MINUTE. Is it 5.6% or 23%?

**ABBOTT:** 5.6% are unemployed; 23% are out of work.

**COSTELLO:** If you are out of work you are unemployed.

**ABBOTT:** No, the DC politburo said you can't count the "Out of Work" as the unemployed. You have to look for work to be unemployed.

**COSTELLO:** BUT THEY ARE OUT OF WORK!!!

**ABBOTT:** No, you miss his point.

*Continued on page 5A*



# Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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



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

During this election year I have watched all the politics on television. In order to judge the coverage I have perused all the channels. Over the years political observers have bemoaned the fact that certain networks are biased. Folks, I am here to tell you they are. There is no doubt Fox is a Republican channel and MSNBC and CNN are Democratic networks.

George Wallace used to strut around the country running for president as a third party candidate rhetorically saying there ain't a dime's worth of difference in the national Republican and Democratic parties. Well, I am here to tell you there is a huge difference. They are miles apart philosophically. They ought to rename the Democratic Party the Liberal Party because believe me they are liberal. They ought to rename the Republican Party the Conservative Party because believe me they are conservative.

The most believable accurate and unbiased political analyst in America is Larry Sabato from the University of Virginia. He has been the premier political analyst prognosticator and pollster in America for years. When Larry Sabato speaks, people listen. He is right on target. He is so respected and unbiased that both CNN and Fox use him as an analyst.

When it comes to Alabama politics the premier political investigative reporter is Bill Britt who has the Alabama Political Reporter. He and his wife, Susan, are head and shoulders above the rest of the investigative reporters in the state.

The two best mainline journalists are Mike Cason with AL.com and Brian Lyman with the Montgomery Advertiser. They are great writers and are thorough, honest and knowledgeable. They are filling a gap left by the great Phil Rawls. A young reporter with AL.com in Mobile, John Sharp, is doing an excellent job covering politics from the Port City and Gulf Coast. He is an excellent writer and gets his facts straight and tells a story when he writes. Tim Lockett with the Anniston Star does a good job of reporting on Alabama politics.

The legendary Montgomery lawyer and yellow dog Democratic activist Julian McPhillips has written two good books in recent years, "The People's

Lawyer" and his most recent memoir, "Civil Rights in my Bones." It chronicles his years of being a civil rights champion and lawyer for underdog clients. He has made some money with his taking on the big mules and powerful interests. He has won some big judgments for his downtrodden clients.

McPhillips was born into privilege and Mobile established gentry. The McPhillips are old Mobile aristocracy. He could have settled into a sophisticated life of practicing law with one of the old Mobile silk stocking law firms and drinking scotch in the afternoons at the Mobile Country Club and attending Mardi Gras balls.

Instead, he chose the life of a liberal civil rights lawyer and by the way he is a teetotaling minister of a liberal progressive church on the side.

McPhillips was an all American wrestler in college at Princeton. After Princeton he graduated from Columbia Law School where he became a liberal activist.

He practiced law a short while in New York before coming home to Alabama to begin his Alabama career with Bill Baxley in the early 1970's. Baxley was a young 29 year old progressive populist attorney general and he brought with him a host of young liberal Alabama born Ivy Leaguers. It was a legendary troupe that included Julian McPhillips, Tuskegee born Myron Thompson from Yale Law School, Vanzetta Penn McPherson from Montgomery from Columbia Law School, Decatur born Hank Caddell from Harvard Law School. Non-Ivy Leaguers in Baxley's group of assistant attorney generals included Judge Charles Price, Gil Kendrick, Dicky Calhoun, Bill Stephens, Walter Turner and current U.S. Attorney George Beck.

They were better at law than softball. Their team lost almost every game, but they celebrated at the old Sahara anyway.

Julian McPhillips has stayed true to his progressive politics. He is a true blue Democrat and was the Democratic standard bearer for the U.S. Senate in 1996 when Jeff Sessions won the open seat.

October 5, 2016

Continued from page 4A

## MEET THE NEW REP:

**COSTELLO:** What point?

**ABBOTT:** Someone who doesn't look for work can't be counted with those who look for work. It wouldn't be 'fair.'

**COSTELLO:** To whom?

**ABBOTT:** The unemployed.

**COSTELLO:** But ALL of them are out of work.

**ABBOTT:** No, the unemployed are actively looking for work.

Those who are out of work gave up looking and if you give up, you are no longer in the ranks of the unemployed.

**COSTELLO:** So if you're off the unemployment rolls that would count as less unemployment?

**ABBOTT:** Unemployment would go down. Absolutely!

**COSTELLO:** The unemployment just goes down because you don't look for work?

**ABBOTT:** Absolutely it goes down. That's how it gets to 5.6%. Otherwise it would be 23%.

**COSTELLO:** Wait, I got a question for you. That means there are two ways to bring down the unemployment number?

**ABBOTT:** TWO ways is correct.

**COSTELLO:** Unemployment can go down if someone gets a job?

**ABBOTT:** Correct.

**COSTELLO:** And unemployment can also go down if you stop looking for a job?

**ABBOTT:** Bingo.

**COSTELLO:** So there are two ways to bring unemployment down, and the easier of the two is to have people stop looking for work.

**ABBOTT:** NOW you're thinking like the politburo - just keep voting for their candidates!

In closing, it is with a heavy hand I type on the passing of Kenny May, an agriculture commodities businessman for most of his life working for K.F. Seeds and later founding his own company. The first to create a legal Whiskey Brand in the State of Alabama, Clyde May's Conecuh Ridge became our official State spirit and the only private distiller ever to grace the shelves of Augusta National. Mr. May's accomplishments prompted a feature article on the front page of the Wall Street Journal [<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB977262825253253667>] and also bode well for our State as a special envoy to Cuba with the Alabama Dept. of Agriculture. As a husband and parent, he was unconditional in his love and devotion to family. Kenny claimed his wife, children, and grandchildren as his greatest accomplishments. Alabama has lost one of her best, most resilient native sons - I've always considered Kenny a kindred Spirit in refusing to let the most evil political players in our State (who did their best trying to destroy his life and dreams) triumph over him.

**Postscript:** I'm delighted to wish the Alabama Gazette yet another happy anniversary - may God grant her many more! What an honour to be a small part of this blessed endeavour these past years. Thanks to all who make this 'Voice of Reason' possible and I pray God doesn't judge I've squandered the labours and treasure deployed to make it happen. One of greatest compliments I've enjoyed this past year is to be called one of the Gazette 'anchors' by some readers, knowing the other more talented folks who fill her pages. At least, I've wanted to take it as a compliment - i.e., an anchor can do more harm than good at times...

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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 error 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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Steve Long

# Woods & Waters with Steve



## BOW SEASON IS IN THE AIR

It may just be me, but it feels like everything's settling into place. The air seems just a hint cooler, college football is kicking off, and the anticipation of another round of deer hunting keeps on building. Up first, of course, is bow season, and before we get too excited and just stomp off into the woods, there's a few things you wanna keep in mind so that you don't ruin your season before it even begins!

For starters, you need to know the lay of the land. Sure, you know how to get in and get out of the stand and all, and you probably have a decent idea of where the buck is gonna come out, but the actual method of scouting is important, too. Make sure you're not going in to check game cameras too often, or that you're going in right before season kicks off. Deer are sensitive to pressure, especially those big old bucks, so be wary of tipping them off. The dumb ones don't live long enough to get that big, so don't give them any reason to avoid your hunting area.

This also means setting up a good entrance and exit plan. You want to make sure you're not setting yourself up for failure when you get into the field or leave it. Again, those old bucks are crafty, and they know when something isn't right. Just climbing on down and waltzing off the field at the end of the day is a dangerous proposition, as bucks tend to follow behind does, so even if you don't see any antlered deer on the field when it's time to go, be wary all the same, as spooking them will ensure they don't come back to your spot for some time. In fact, if you need to, just wait till after dark and have a buddy come drive up and get you. If they get spooked by a truck, that's one thing, but they're still not being tipped off by you and your stand location.

Another point is to remember scent control. You want to make sure you're prepared with not just scent control for your camo, but for you as well. It's still toasty out there, and you'll work up a sweat on the way to the stand, so prepare accordingly. Another bit of preparation is to ensure that you've shot your bow, making sure your pins are on point. Keep an open mind about range, as that buck isn't going to just sit there, looking pretty, waiting for you to shoot. Know the layout of your field and the range of your shots. During scouting, a range finder isn't a bad tool to have on hand when setting up your stands and clearing firing lanes. Make mental notes about landmarks to help you stay on target for when it's time to make that shot count. Don't forget about bugs, either. ThermaCells are your best friends, as they have no scent.

As for where to hunt, make sure you know what food supplies you have available. Different years have different sources in different amounts, so your pre-season scouting should definitely involve making and maintaining notes on what sources are available. Of course, you don't want to just plop down on top of that



Chris Nolan took this nice Canadian Mule Deer with his Bow

food source, as all you'll likely see are does and yearlings. The big boys, early season, tend to do their eating after dark, so don't just park on that white oak that's just dropping acorns. Rather, set up about 50 yards away or so and see if you can find the big boy at the end of the line of deer processing their way to that supper spot. Lastly, take the time to practice your shots. Even the most experienced of hunters can catch Buck Fever at the worst time, pulling their shot to the side at that critical moment. So make sure you prepare mentally as well. There's no worse feeling than missing the perfect shot! Also check your broadhead's shots. Even if it's mechanical, there's no guarantee that sucker will fly like a field tip, so always check their flight path a few times. Check the condition of your arrows as well. The veterans of a few rounds of shooting may have some bad fletchings or a bend in the shaft, which will only hurt your chances of filling out that tag.

I hope you guys are as excited about the return of deer season as I am. There's plenty to keep us busy, so make sure you're prepared for that shot of a lifetime. So grab your camo, take a few practice shots, grab your game cameras and notes, and go get 'em!

## Kritter Korner

### The Coati



Coati

there are also coati populations inhabiting grasslands, mountains and even deserts across the continent.

Coatis are members of the Procyonidae family, a group of New World animals that includes kinkajous, ringtails, olingos, and raccoons. The family resemblance appears strongest between coatis and raccoons, but coatis have a longer nose, body, and tail than raccoons.

There are four different species of coati, two of which, the Ring-tailed Coati and the Mountain Coati, are found in South America, and the remaining two coati species, the White-nosed Coati and the Cozumel Island Coati, are both found in Mexico. The Ring-tailed Coati is found in the jungles and rainforests of South America, where it lives both on the ground and in the trees. The Ring-tailed Coati has thick, tan colored fur and black bands running along its tail. The Mountain Coati is found inhabiting areas of the Andes Mountain range in western South America. The Mountain Coati is also the smallest species of coati and is sometimes called the Dwarf Coati. The White-nosed Coati found in parts of North America and throughout Central America, including Mexico. The White-nosed Coati is the largest species of coati with some individuals growing to nearly 120 cm in length. The Cozumel Island Coati is found only on the Mexican island of Cozumel, and is thought to have been taken there by the Mayans. Despite the obvious similarities between the Cozumel Island Coati and the White-nosed Coati, the Cozumel Island Coati is considered to be a separate species.

Female coatis live in groups of between 10 and 30 individuals, known as a



Ringtailed coati

band. The male coati is a solitary animal and only comes together with the females to mate.

The coati is a nocturnal and omnivorous animal, meaning that the coati eats both plants and animals during the darkness of night. The coati eats a variety of different fruits, nuts and seeds, along with insects, bird's eggs, rodents and small reptiles such as lizards and snakes.

Due to the generally small size of the coati, the coati has numerous predators within its natural environment. Jaguars and pumas, along with other large wildcats, are the main predators of the coati, along with birds of prey, snakes and crocodiles.

The coati breeds at the start of the rainy season which occurs at different times of the year, depending on the region, when there is an abundance of food. The female coati leaves the band of coatis and builds a nest in the trees or on a rocky ledge, where she gives birth to between 2 and 7 coati babies after a gestation period of nearly 3 months. Baby coatis are called "Kits". The baby coatis rejoin the band of coatis with their mother, when they are about 6 weeks old.

Due to the coati's endearing face and house-cat size, people sometimes see them as potential pets. Not a good idea—every bit of their behavior and biology are adapted to their survival as a wild animal. An inquiring mind, extreme climbing ability, super-dexterous digits, scent-marking behavior, and a determination to get into everything are just some of the things that should rule out the coati as a pet.

In the wild, coatis live for about seven to eight years, while in captivity they can live for up to 15/16 years. We have a white nosed coati named Bandit and a ring-tailed coati named Taz. If you would like to meet him give us a call or send us an email.



Ron VanHerwyn



Taz - our family coati

### Ron's kritter kids (wildlife education)

#### Wildlife education & wildlife rescue

Wildlife education & wildlife rescue. To educate as many people as possible about wildlife indigenous to Alabama and the repercussions that occur when we build and take away their homes.

#### TOURS AVAILABLE

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# WHO'S OUT, WHO'S IN



**Sports Editor,  
Ed Jones**

It has been a weakness of mine over the years to give people second chances, and sometimes third chances. That may be admirable, but it is not good for your reputation, if one is keeping track of your winning percentage. Some second chances work out, third chances hardly ever. Nevertheless, I will probably not change. For fifteen years, I have been publishing my "Top 40" college pre-season football teams. It's kind of like drawing to an inside straight in another game of chance. If you want to be really

Thursday night, November 17th. If both are undefeated, the loser will probably be out because a late season loss is more damaging to the playoff committee.

After two thirds of the season is gone, we will take another look at the playoff picture. Only seven teams look like they have a chance now as we end September. On November the 1st, you will here from me again. In the meantime, if your team is not doing well, remember; *bad football is better than no football.*

embarrassed and harassed, try picking the top forty college football teams in August each year. Most people don't even remember it, but some of my "friends" never seem to forget it. No matter how much data you can find on each team, each year it is a crap shoot. If I can't get compliments, I will take criticism. You will notice me either way.

Three times I have picked Oklahoma to play for the National Championship. Oklahoma is coached by **Bob Stoops**, one of the highest paid coaches in the country, and one who has an excellent record during his time at Oklahoma. During those three years, Oklahoma not only didn't win the championship, they finished 8-4, 9-3, 8-4. Twice I have picked LSU during the reign of the "Baron of Baton Rouge", **Coach Les Miles**. In all five of those years, the indicators were clear that Oklahoma and LSU had the best talent accompanied by the best schedule to go undefeated. Not so. My propensity to overlook the fact that these two "successful" coaches have an unexplainable talent to cause their teams to underperform when they have the most talent. Even though we are a long way from the end of the season, my new year's resolution in 2017 is to never pick LSU or Oklahoma to even play for the national championship.

What are these indicators that were mentioned in the above paragraph? In each conference, and with independents, there will be two or three teams that are obviously going to be good. This is because of their history, their coach, their recruiting which provides perpetual talent. But, going even further into their potential, there are many other factors to consider.

We will use LSU as an example. Les Miles' record at home at LSU is 69-10. Guess who plays them in Baton Rouge this year? The only team that they could possibly lose to, Alabama. LSU has lost to Alabama five straight times since the 9-6 win in Tuscaloosa in 2011. The odds are in favor of LSU this year because their talent level matches up well with Alabama. Going further, LSU returns eight starters on offense and nine on defense. This is double strong compared to Alabama with six on offense and five on defense. LSU returns fifty-two lettermen from a team that was 9-3, undefeated until the game with Alabama last year. The home crowd at LSU is fanatical. Les Miles was almost fired at the end of last year but survived. The players love to play for him. Generally when a popular coach is on the hot seat, his players will always fight harder to keep their coach.

However the number one indicator that LSU had a good chance to go undefeated was their schedule. With all the other factors considered, the only team that could be as good or better than LSU was Alabama. They play in the ninth game. Wisconsin, Auburn, Florida, Ole Miss, Arkansas and Texas A&M were inferior to LSU in talent and potential. So what did the embattled "goofy grass eating" head coach do? His decisions on the sidelines helped LSU lose the opener to Wisconsin and the fourth game to an Auburn team trying to stay relevant in college football. This gave LSU a 2-2 record for September, definitely out of the national race, and not looking so good in the SEC West. I won't have to contend with Les Miles again. He was appropriately fired after losing to Auburn 18-13 on September 24. **Coach Ed Orgeron**, his defensive line coach, was immediately named interim head coach. Orgeron had been head coach at Ole Miss and interim head coach at USC after the firing of Lane Kiffin.

Without going into great detail about Oklahoma, the same picture developed in Norman; another great team made average by Coach Bob Stoops. Stoops was once called "Big Game Bob". No more. Oklahoma only had to dispatch Houston, a young struggling Ohio State team in Norman, a weaker TCU, Texas and Baylor in transition. So what does "Big Game Bob" do? He does not have his team ready for Houston or Ohio State, both losses. Coach Stoops has an outside chance of winning the Big 12 Conference because his two losses were non-conference losses. But, being in the National Playoff is definitely off the table.

On this page you will find a reprint of my top-forty, only for your fun and amazement. My third team, Alabama is looking really good, and if they take care of business in Baton Rouge on November the 5th, could surely make the top four in December. Even with that horrible loss to Louisville, my number four team Florida State still has a chance to be in the final four. Only Miami and Clemson stand in the way. By the way, keep your eyes on Louisville. Bobby Petrino, who should have been hired at Auburn in 2012, is the most underrated coach in America. However, they will never again play as well as they did when they dispensed with Florida State. Amazing!

After one third of the season is over, the following teams have a chance to make the playoff:

- Alabama • Florida State • Michigan  
Ohio State • Houston • Louisville • Clemson

Louisville plays Clemson at Clemson on October 1st. The winner will stay in contention. The loser may finish with only one loss, so they would have a mathematical chance. Louisville must also play Houston in Houston on



*Les Miles out at LSU - Ed Orgeron named interim head coach. Miles leaves LSU with a 69-10 home record.*



*Leonard Fournette, the best running back in the country, will get more chances under Coach Ed Orgeron.*



*Coach Ed Orgeron takes over a talented LSU team that is 2-2 in September. Orgeron was formerly head coach at Ole Miss and interim coach at USC.*



*"Big Game Bob" Stoops is wearing out his welcome in Norman, Oklahoma. He is constantly underachieving with great talent.*

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## Ed Jones TOP 40

| Team             | Projected Record | Team              | Projected Record |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. LSU           | .....12-0        | 21. San Diego St. | .....11-1        |
| 2. Oklahoma      | .....12-0        | 22. Houston       | .....10-2        |
| 3. Alabama       | .....11-1        | 23. Nebraska      | .....9-3         |
| 4. Florida St.   | .....11-1        | 24. Auburn        | .....9-3         |
| 5. Clemson       | .....11-1        | 25. USC           | .....9-3         |
| 6. Michigan      | .....11-1        | 26. N. Carolina   | .....9-3         |
| 7. Tennessee     | .....10-2        | 27. Oregon        | .....9-3         |
| 8. Ohio St.      | .....10-2        | 28. Arkansas      | .....8-4         |
| 9. Stanford      | .....10-2        | 29. Ole Miss      | .....8-4         |
| 10. Georgia      | .....10-2        | 30. Oklahoma St.  | .....9-3         |
| 11. Iowa         | .....10-2        | 31. Boise St.     | .....10-2        |
| 12. Notre Dame   | .....9-3         | 32. Florida       | .....8-4         |
| 13. Washington   | .....9-3         | 33. Air Force     | .....9-3         |
| 14. UCLA         | .....9-3         | 34. Wisconsin     | .....8-4         |
| 15. Michigan St. | .....9-3         | 35. Navy          | .....9-3         |
| 16. TCU          | .....9-3         | 36. Texas A&M     | .....8-4         |
| 17. Louisville   | .....10-2        | 37. Penn St.      | .....8-4         |
| 18. Miami        | .....9-3         | 38. Toledo        | .....10-2        |
| 19. Texas        | .....9-3         | 39. Utah          | .....8-4         |
| 20. Baylor       | .....9-3         | 40. W. Michigan   | .....10-2        |



**Ronald A. Holtsford**

## *My husband is beginning to show signs of dementia, maybe even Alzheimer's. What type things should I do to prepare us should he become incapacitated?*



I think that you are doing the hardest thing and the best thing for your husband and yourself by facing this right now. When our loved ones are faced with such devastating diseases it's easier to not face it and believe they will improve. Being proactive will have you prepared.

First I will advise that you visit an attorney that can assist you with estate planning. The three basic documents that your husband will need (and you) are a Last Will and Testament, Power of Attorney and an Advance Directive. Even if he has these documents, if they were prepared more than 3-5 years ago or there have been other significant changes in your lives (family, health or financial), then I would advise that you both consider new documents.

If your husband is in early stages as you state and still has times of clarity, then he should be able to state his wishes for a Will, The capacity requirement for a Will is lower than that required to have a Power of Attorney and Advance Directive prepared. As I have said so often, if you don't have a Will, the State of Alabama has one for you via the rules of intestacy. As an example, the share for the spouse is stated in the following manner:

### § 43-8-41. Share of the spouse

The intestate share of the surviving spouse is as follows:

- (1) If there is no surviving issue or parent of the decedent, the entire intestate estate;
- (2) If there is no surviving issue but the decedent is survived by a parent or parents, the first \$100,000.00 in value, plus one-half of the balance of the intestate estate;
- (3) If there are surviving issue all of whom are issue of the surviving spouse also, the first \$50,000.00 in value, plus one-half of the balance of the intestate estate;
- (4) If there are surviving issue one or more of whom are not issue of the surviving spouse, one-half of the intestate estate

Without a Will you can see that you might end up with significantly less than what you thought. Additionally, the Administrator (Personal Representative) must be bonded and an inventory is required of the assets of the decedent. A Will usually states there will be no requirement of a bond or inventory.

The next document is a Power of Attorney (POA). While there are different types there are two popular types of a POA. The Durable Power of Attorney is probably the most popular and must contain a statement that the POA is effective even in your incapacity to make it durable. The other is a "springing" POA in which a certain event must occur to have it "spring" into action. Such an event may be your incapacity, which would have to be established by a physician. It can make the effectiveness a bit subjective. One of my attorney friends has compared the two documents by asking, "If you are going to trust someone under your POA when you are incapacitated, why not trust them now?" Alabama has adopted a Uniform Power of Attorney Act, which will be effective 1 January 2012. There is a statutory form, but I think most attorneys will prefer to work the statutory form into their own tried and true document. The new form does NOT invalidate prior POA's that meet the legal definition of an effective Alabama POA.

The capacity requirement to name someone to act under your POA is roughly the required capacity to enter into a contract. As an example could your husband enter into a contract to buy an automobile?

The final document is the Advance Directive. It consists of the Living Will and Health Care Proxy. It allows you to make decisions about life support measures and artificially provided food and hydration should you be in such a condition that you will die in the near future and are unable to communicate your wishes about your health care.

Additionally, you will want to consider future care. Are you and your family willing and able to provide care for your husband at home? Alzheimer's patients can become violent at times and family members have been hurt badly by loved ones because they allowed the affected family member to get between them and an escape route (out of a room). Will you want to hire sitters? What about Assisted Living? Assisted living can only keep Alzheimer's patients for a certain portion of their illness. After that it is necessary to go to a SCALF (Specialty Care Assisted Living Facility) or to a skilled long term care facility (nursing home). If your husband is a veteran he may be eligible for VA care if necessary. You also have to consider how to pay for the more advanced care. If very wealthy you can pay for it or if poor you can have Medicaid cover it in the case of being impoverished. For those in between there may very limited Medicare coverage, selling assets to cover the cost, a viatical settlement of an insurance policy, a reverse mortgage (I am not fond of these in most cases as they require payoff within six months after the last person dies or leaves the home permanently) for in home care or the very best is a long term care insurance policy. If your husband is having symptoms of dementia, has other major health issues or is elderly he may well not be eligible to purchase such insurance. I think long term care insurance is the best hedge against the potential for long term care, but it is always a gamble as with many insurances as you may never need it, just as you may never need homeowner's or car insurance.

Also consider what you might do if you have to take the car keys away from your husband. This will probably need a family pow wow and a visit to the doctor. The doctor can make an assessment with a promise of a future assessment if your husband needs to give up driving. This may give your husband something to look forward to and a reason to be more compliant if he believes he may get his driving privileges back.

Taking these steps will hopefully by pass most reasons to seek a conservatorship or guardianship through the Court in the future.

I hope that you will talk to your attorney or an elder law attorney about these things in the near future. The Alabama State Bar also has a referral service if needed.

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

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

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



**Marcia Chambliss**



## **Shining the Light**

I recently had an extremely unwelcome evening encounter with danger at our home as living in a rural setting almost guarantees that one will at some point have an experience with some of God's creations that are most unfriendly to humans.

Our barn is typically where I am at highest alert and admit that I had become a bit too complacent regarding the possibility of poisonous snakes close to our front door. I had taken a bit of care a few months ago as we had killed a few baby rattlers last year, but failing to see any poisonous ones this spring and summer, I foolishly let down my guard.

Thankfully, my flashlight located the timber rattlesnake stretched at the base of our steps just in time for me to make a hasty retreat, and my husband was able to exterminate him with a single .38 shot. The whole experience is still rather unnerving to me, and in the days after the incident, it occurred to me how similarly an overwhelming number of Americans operate daily with the same mindset of complacency regarding the dangers to the future of our republic.

But another analogy also crossed my mind as I recalled that the rattlesnake gave me absolutely no warning of his proximity. Just as light was the only thing that kept me from the potential of serious harm, shining light on what is wrong in our government and culture is crucial in safeguarding our nation.

**Here's the hard question: are we as citizens willing to commit the time and effort necessary to shine the light on our government, or are we going to stay within our comfort zones of not standing up to challenge the policies and decisions of those we elect as they enable an ever-expanding government with little to no regard for the debt facing future generations?**

Are we content with accepting the pretty picture that those we elect want to paint for us regarding our fiscal health? Because if we don't question the accounting gimmicks and spending items designed to bloat budgets at the city, county, state, and federal levels, we are consenting to our financial destruction and are just as guilty of "kicking the can down the road."

Do we really believe that those who benefit from increasing government spending and debt are going to warn us any differently than that timber rattler in front of our house?

Lately, many appear content with accepting upbeat press conference assurances that things are "turning around" while others take to social media with rants to their own choir that do little to change the mindset of those with whom they disagree instead of focusing efforts on those responsible for the policies.

Perhaps you think we have already passed the tipping point of "apathy to dependence" as often quoted in the stages of democratic self-destruction. If so, we are alarmingly close to losing the freedom of our nation described by President Ronald Reagan as that "last stand on Earth," and his description of America as the last refuge of freedom is why we must keep shining the light.

Instead of believing that the majority of citizens don't care, I choose to think

that the abundance of serious issues is simply overwhelming to most, and I share that concern and frustration. Staying informed and involved is exhausting, especially because it requires diligence in determining fact from propaganda in an age where the principle of limited government is derided as outdated.

But danger to our nation doesn't exist only in the form of debt and deficit spending; we are also facing a moral decline reflected in our culture that is in need of spiritual light as well.

Our value of life in or out of the womb is rapidly eroding in our society. We're seemingly desensitized to the increasing number of horrific murders in our communities. Rage is boiling over around our country and we are unable to have serious, necessary, and honest conversations because of elements that want to divide us into racial and socioeconomic factions to destroy us from within. Our daily news cycle provides evidence of the moral decay and lawlessness across America which reflects the lack of spiritual guidance in our culture.

It would be far easier for me to quit paying attention and enjoy the aspects of country living that don't involve snakes. But with the arrival of our first grandchild earlier this year, I was reminded again that every child of each generation deserves the opportunity to live with the liberty I've enjoyed in my life. I can't help but wonder what sort of country will exist for him one day, and I realize we all have a responsibility to educate ourselves and others to the dangers we face.

There's no way we'll eliminate all the timber rattlers at our farm, but I'm reminded of the importance of vigilance for my personal safety. We can do the same with our government if only we're willing to do the work required to shine the light.

*Marcia Chambliss serves on the leadership team of Smart Girl Politics, an online community for conservative women. She can be reached at: [montgomerysmartgirls@gmail.com](mailto:montgomerysmartgirls@gmail.com). Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics.*







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

# Family Therapy

adult who struggles with trust in romantic relationships. In Freud's theory of psychosexual development, he postulated that if a person failed to progress through the stages completely or favorably and certain issues were not resolved at the appropriate stage, fixation would occur resulting in a fixation persistent focus on an earlier psychosexual stage. Freud further concluded that until the conflict was resolved, the individual will remain "stuck" in that stage. However, if these psychosexual stages are completed successfully, a healthy personality would result. There is a third explanation of what many people call "Arrested Psychological Development" that is a result from past traumas or disturbances in childhood, adolescent, family of origin. Specifically, when there have been conflicts in the parent-child relationship during childhood developmental stages, Arrested Development can occur because the individual cannot get past that stage until the person resolves or works thru the traumatic experience that he or she experienced during his or her younger years. Many people underestimate how their childhood impacts them as adult. I encourage readers to read for themselves *Go to the Light*. to get some pointer, on how to re-parent oneself.

**Go to the Light Paperback** – August 17, 2016 by G C Cline (Author)

[https://www.amazon.com/Go-Light-G-C-Cline/dp/0997572728/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1474651351&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Go-Light-G-C-Cline/dp/0997572728/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1474651351&sr=1-1)

## Food for Thought

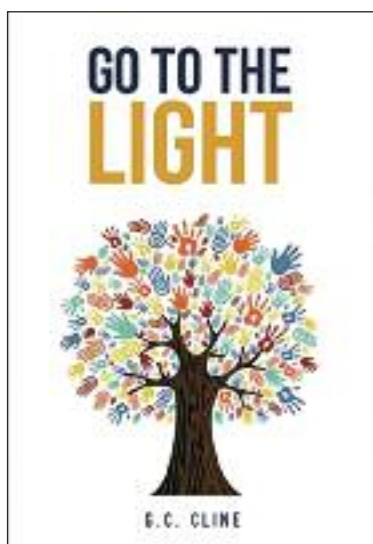
Self Help books are helpful in giving people additional information on how to handle a situation. Addiction and recovery books like *Go to the Light*, can give the reader additional insight or awareness that the reader may or may not have had prior. I often recommend self-help books to many of my clients when they seem to have difficulty grasping the general education that I provide. If it gives my clients another resource that can shed light into the issue, I am all for it. Psycho-education books provide people many real life experiences that the reader may or may not have experienced. If you've never read a self help book, try to read one chapter a day or less because the purpose of the book is not to entertain you but to educate you about healthy habits that are intended to be good for you. Start off with some Healthy awareness books that have examples of people from where the author took that advice, almost every other self help book has that these days, so that won't be an issue. I still recommend getting professional help to assist with mental health issues.

*Hector Oswaldo Chavez, MS, is a Marriage and Family Therapist, Professional Counselor, and Substance Abuse Counselor. He serves on multiple boards and has worked in a variety of clinical settings such as with the Army, Navy, Hospital Inpatient and Out-patient, Community Mental Health, and Private Practice. His professional views may not necessarily reflect the views of other mental health or medical professionals. If you have any personal or family concerns about the topic discussed, please seek professional assistance.*

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

## Why are Self Help Books like Go to the Light by G.C. Cline Helpful?

Before I started my career as a counselor, I found it difficult to communicate with others what I thought and felt. At that time in my life self help books gave me a safe environment in which I could read a book and be uplifted from my point of view with whatever the problem was. I often read spiritual based self-help books because I felt that God had to be part of positive change. It is not to say that others books that have no spiritual basis are not helpful, but that is what I connected to. I encourage readers to find self-help books that they feel they can connect with regardless if it is spiritual or not. I think the main point is to get something positive from it. I have many times opened up a self-help book with which I could not relate to, so I would move on to another one that made me feel connected. To this day I like reading books by Joel Osteen because they are uplifting, spiritual and have many examples that I can relate to.



*Go to the Light* by G. C. Cline is one of the those book I can relate to and it deals with Inner Child work. Cline describes in her book events that occurred and the dialogue the character has with her inner child to help her mend wounds that occurred at a young age. Throughout the book, the author changes the

negative internal dialogues that we all have into a positive healthy conversation with the Inner Child causing cognitive restructuring to occur. I like that Cline in her book gives numerous examples on how one can re-parent oneself.

I often see families and clients that react in the same way that they reacted when they were kids and teenagers. Erik Erickson, in his theory of development described stages as opposing parts-- healthy resolution and unhealthy resolution. Erickson believed if the person did not overcome the challenges of his or her developmental stage, these challenges would become ongoing problems. For example, a child who never establishes trust in infancy may grow into an

## The Terrible Amazon Tax

As years go by, politicians never cease to stoop lower and lower to scheme up new ways to milk more money from the people and place numerous additional roadblocks into the American economy.

One of the newest targets for government ripoffs, of course, is the internet. Up until now, it has been a bastion of free-market success, where people and corporations, both large and small, have equal opportunities to make the best of a world-wide market.

Anyone who claims to know Constitutional law should understand that states are not allowed to impose tariffs and/or embargoes on goods and/or services

brought in from or exported to other states. That is why for all of the decades since our founding, we have not been forced to pay sales taxes on mail-order and internet purchases from without our own state.

The last Supreme Court decision on this matter was in 1992 when the State of North Dakota challenged **Quill Corporation** to collect sales taxes on items it sold there. The court said, "No." Since then, a physical presence within a state has been the legal requirement before any sales taxes can be collected, regardless of what names they might be called.

In 2013, with a 69-27 vote, the U.S. Senate passed the unconstitutional "**Marketplace Fairness Act**" to allow states to impose sales taxes on internet purchases. Fortunately, enough Republicans in the House held it back and refused to let it pass.

But in February, 2014, **Governor Bentley** announced his support for the act, which has not even become law, and claimed it would generate \$150 million of extra annual revenue for the state's general fund.

Then in October, 2015, Bentley and members of the Alabama Department of Revenue colluded with **Amazon** to impose an illegal state online sales tax onto all remote retailers who sold more than \$250,000 worth of goods here in a year. The companies, in turn, were expected to collect the taxes. The mandate kicked in this past January 1, 2016. Bentley dared any retailer to sue the state.

Some retailers complied. Others did not. **Newegg** bravely stood up for its rights (and ours) and didn't pay a nickel. In May, the Alabama Department of Revenue claimed that Newegg owed nearly \$155,000 in tax for January and February along with \$32,000 in penalties and interest. Bentley got his wish.

Newegg filed suit. Newegg has no physical presence in the state, and Quill vs. North Dakota should settle it. Perhaps Alexander Shunnarah can provide Newegg a multi-million dollar settlement—enough so our greedy politicians will never try a dirty trick like this again.

Alabama Revenue Commissioner **Julie Magee** is not happy. She claims that Quill has been "detrimental" to the state's revenues.

But while some heroic companies are fighting this unconstitutional legislation tooth and nail, others, particularly Amazon, are supporting it, hence the name, "**Amazon Tax.**" Although the world's largest e-retailer claims to be fighting for e-fairness, it knows that it can easily handle the jungle of new regulations and mandates while many of its smaller competitors will, sooner or later, be unable to cope with them and go out of business. Many of the big box stores have already paid lobbyists millions of dollars to support internet sales taxes for the same reason—cut the throats of the small competitors.

**Beginning November 1, Amazon and some other large e-retailers will begin adding an 8% sales tax (double the state's official tax rate of 4%) on all purchases by Alabama customers.** We cannot even guess how many others will join Newegg in fighting to stop this racket by suing the state, but if enough stand up, we can protect a free-market internet.

There is absolutely no legitimate justification for an internet tax. The expected revenues are often grossly exaggerated. The costs of implementing and collecting the tax are considerable; a whole new bureaucracy must be staffed and funded, the cost of which could be greater than the revenue produced. Meanwhile the online retailers must undergo increased record keeping and other compliance costs. The argument of "leveling the playing field" does not wash. Even though online shoppers do not pay sales tax, they do have to pay shipping costs, which in most cases exceed the amount of a sales tax. They also have to wait for their purchases to arrive. The reason people shop online, myself included, is that the vast majority of items purchased there are not available on the local markets.

All people are urged to call Governor Bentley and their legislators and comment on their Facebook pages that unless they take strong action to stop this tax, heads will roll in the next election. If you are fed up with this gouging, act now.

For more information...

<http://yellowhammernews.com/politics-2/alabama-amazon-tax/>

## Wetumpka Tea Party

### EXPOSING THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN AMERICA



Clare Lopez

**WHEN:**  
Monday,  
October 17th at  
6:30PM

**WHERE:** Elmore Community Hospital

**DETAILS:** **Clare Lopez** is our special guest. Ms. Lopez was formerly with the CIA. She is now the Vice President for Research and Analysis at the Center for Security Policy. Be sure to bring a friend! Provides training on Islam, shariah, jihad, Iran/Hezbollah, and the Muslim Brotherhood

to Local Law Enforcement across the country. She serves as a member of the Citizens Commission on Benghazi. She was Executive Director of the Iran Policy Committee from 2005-2006, and has served as a consultant and intelligence analyst/researcher for a variety of defense firms.

Ms. Lopez will open your eyes to the real terrorists threats to America. She is a terrific author and speaker so be sure to bring your friends!

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# Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor  
Senior Section

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

You may be over  
the hill if...  
Herbert Hoover was the  
U. S. President when you  
were born.

## Is “Americanism” qualifiable?

One can only stand amazed at the multitude of ways by which the American people are able to abuse the English language; especially as it relates to their national identity.

It's bad enough that Americans have had the general neutral abomination inflicted upon us, as well as the various twists and turns that various racial silliness have brought upon them, not to mention the abuses that various segments have introduced into our language, it's no wonder that very few Americans are able to speak their language correctly.

Take, for example, the term “Native American.” Now just what does that mean? Who is included in this category?

We assume that this term refers to what was once known as “Redskins,” “Indians,” or any number of other terms, all of which seem to be unacceptable to those to which they are directed; but none seem to take into consideration the fact that those people to whom they refer migrated to this part of the world from what is now the Soviet Union. Yet, we never hear of them being referred to as “Russians,” and they're certainly not natives. In fact, as best as can be determined, there is no such thing as a “native American.”

And then we have those “Americans” whose skin is even darker than the “Redskins,” and there seems to be some confusion as to just what their official category might be. There are those who wish to call them “Blacks,” because that is the general reference as it relates to skin pigment.

In wide usage, also, is the term “Afro-American,” which assumes that most of their forefathers migrated, or were hauled here not of their own will, from Africa. And various ethnic groups have tagged their ethnic origin onto Americanism, for whatever logical reason no one really knows.

But, for some unexplainable reason, fewer and fewer Americans seem willing to be just that: Americans.

Back when many of the older population was beginning to find its way in life as Americans, we learned to pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States... indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Now that seems to be both simple, inclusive, and comprehensive. Foreigners who come to our country and wish to become citizens of it (we'll have to work out the present-day madness at some later time) were instructed that when they swore allegiance to this country they became full-fledged citizens of the United States of America, without qualification.

So, this explanation should put the matter to rest. People who reside in the United States of America are either Americans; or they're not; there's no made up adjective qualification about it.

It's time for us to get back to reality; if we're born here, or if we've gone through the legal process of naturalization, we're Americans. Everyone else is not; without qualification.

## Quo vadis?

When your humble scribe was a lad, and World War II was just getting underway, some group launched an essay writing endeavor for young people, encouraging them to describe “Why I'm proud to be an American.”

With everyone caught up in the war effort and all its associated endeavors, it seemed appropriate that participation in the effort would be appropriate; and an essay was forthcoming. This may have been an early indication that writing was a worthy activity for this unworthy soul.

A month or so later the postman delivered a small package and a letter proclaiming that the essay had borne fruit, and an appropriate testimonial for the effort was enclosed, along with a baseball, presumed to be an appropriate symbol of Americanism.

From time to time the memory of this youthful endeavor comes to mind;

usually when America is embroiled in some sort of warfare in one country or another.

In the first couple of ventures one was, indeed, proud to be an American standing guard at one foreign frontier or another.

But as time passed, and wartime efforts became almost commonplace, and the sense of Americanism seemed to begin to fade; the memory of this childish endeavor became more vivid with each passing year.

As foreign aggression becomes almost commonplace, the American spirit seems to be fading away. Like Gen. Mac Arthur's “Old Soldier,” the America that many American seniors—especially service veterans—is beginning to fade away; the America, as we knew it, may be passing from the scene, to be replaced by something so dreadful it's best not to even try to visualize it.

The upcoming presidential election will most likely produce the final verdict for America. Will it emerge as the apocryphal “Beacon on the Hill,” or will America become just another third world nation struggling to stay alive?

Alabama Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration  
4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100, Montgomery, Alabama 36116

## DON'T BE SKEPTICAL, SOCIAL SECURITY IS HERE TO STAY



It's healthy to be skeptical in a world of uncertainties. Major news networks sometimes broadcast conflicting facts that require a bit of research to verify. There's even a day in October dedicated to skeptics. So, this is the perfect time to tell all the skeptics that there's no reason to think Social Security won't be here for you well into the future.

Many people wonder if Social Security will be there for them. Here's a fact that will relieve any skepticism you might have: the increased cost of providing Social Security benefits for Baby Boomers is less than the nation's increase in spending was for public education when the baby boomers were children.

Put your skepticism aside and rest assured that Social Security is with you today and will be with you tomorrow. You can read the entire report at:

[www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2016](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2016).

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



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*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. ... Psalm 121*

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

## A WOMAN OF HONOR

### Evidence of Providence in the Life of Phyllis Schlafly

#### The First Lady in the Restoration of the Republic

#### Our Leader in Inspiring and Educating the Grassroots: Phyllis Schlafly

The New York Times called her the "First Lady of a Political March to the Right." I called her my treasured friend of more than 50 years. I also called her my inspiration and motivation, as I learned so much through the decades about political action and the passion required to "hang in there" in the world of politics.

Phyllis Schlafly was a model, not just to me, but to women all over America. Her priorities: God, Family, and Country. She was stalwart in her Christian world view, which guided her passion for the Pro-Life movement. I dare not think of where we would be had she not championed that cause so early, so consistently, and passionately. The recent Republican National Convention passed the most conservative platform in decades, and she was right there to make sure that it was just so. Many delegates were there participating because of their relationship with Phyllis, who truly educated them over decades.

Phyllis Schlafly was an Educator of the First Order. Her *Phyllis Schlafly Reports* went monthly, for many decades, to grass roots activists as did her newsletter, the *Education Reporter*. There is no way to estimate the impact that she has had in every single state in America as an Educator.

When we were establishing the GOP in Alabama, Phyllis encouraged us to help establish Republican clubs for women in every county. With the leadership of **Mary Ellen Miller**, known and revered nationally within the conservative Republican camp, we made the great changes, though slowly. The contacts and skills of **Miss Olive Spann** of Chapman, Alabama, were a great boost throughout the state. I worked the Selma, Marion, and West Alabama area, and agreed to run for President of the State Federation. The progress was remarkable because all of us had grown up as Democrats, and had known nothing but that political, one party system. And of course, many people opposed the changes.

It was Phyllis, among others, who urged me to run for the Republican National Committee as Committeewoman from Alabama. I served from 1968-1972, and I learned that everything Phyllis had taught us about the D.C. establishment was true: the good and the bad. Her objective was to educate the grassroots, particularly women. Women shared her priorities of God, Family, Country, and their involvement was essential.

In 1968, she brought women from all over America to St. Louis, for a national conference, "*The Eagles are Flying*." In our Southern Region Roundtable portion of the conference, women from California, Ohio, Connecticut, Washington, D. C. and other states came in pure delight that the South was indeed "flying" to the GOP.

Every person went back home with a plan to engage others in the cause of Christian Liberty and American Patriotism. And Phyllis made sure through her travel, her publications, and staff, that we had the "schooling" to be effective. She was indeed, our example and guide.

She was born Phyllis McAlpin Stewart on August 15, 1924. Her mother was a teacher with two college degrees, and her father was a machinist and industrial equipment salesman. The family was always interested in culture and politics, and were active Republicans.

Phyllis attended Maryville College of the Sacred Heart, which is now Maryville University in St. Louis. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in only three years, at 19 years of age. She accepted a scholarship at Radcliffe, and completed



her Master's degree in nine months. Some years later, she obtained a law degree from Washington University.

For a time, after college, she worked for a conservative think tank, now known as the **American Enterprise Institute**, and volunteered in several political campaigns. She met John Fred Schlafly, an attorney whose family had also been politically active, and conservative, and they married in October of 1949. They have six children, who have always been the top priority of the family.

She ran for Congress two times over her career, winning the primary the first time, but losing the race. The second try was not successful. She became active in leadership with the Daughters of the American Revolution, and President of the Illinois Federation of Republican Women from 1956-1964.

She and her husband, Fred, and his sister Eleanor, started the **Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation**, named for the Roman Catholic leader who was tortured by the Hungarian Communists. Throughout the years she has alerted us to the invasion of Socialism and Communism over the world, and the dangers here in our own nation. She began a radio program in the early 1960's which aired all over the state of Illinois.

Phyllis played a dynamic role in the Goldwater campaign. While his defeat was painful, she now had new contacts with thousands more women who shared her Christian world view, but needed her education outreach politically, and educationally. These women understood the threats to our liberty and were eager to be engaged.

While national defense and defending our borders were a strong passion to her, there emerged a new threat from the growing feminist movement across America. Nothing was discarded from the Goldwater effort. It was simply repackaged for the Reagan campaign, which succeeded. And you will remember that President Ronald Reagan praised her highly.

Phyllis accepted the leadership of STOP ERA, to do battle with the feminists.

And STOP ERA, she did, for she had the enthusiastic support of women in every state, who saw the danger in ERA, and not protection for women, in this proposed so called "*Equal Rights*" for Women.

The founding of *Eagle Forum* followed the Stop ERA movement, and that organization, to this day, has been the glue that held the conservative women together with purpose and skills. Her 1964 book, ***A Choice Not An Echo***, has sold over 3 million copies, and has recently been updated and republished for today's activities. We recommend it highly.



*Phyllis Schlafly*

When the Supreme Court legalized Abortion in 1973, Phyllis made the Sanctity of Life, her number one issue. In my last conversation with her just a few weeks before her death, she told me that she had met with Donald Trump and that he had assured her that he is Pro-Life.

With all of her responsibility, and with two strong ministries to lead, she was amazing through her personal relationship with friends. We had a 50th reunion of our earliest graduates in late July, here in Montgomery. Phyllis sent a letter overnight, to be distributed to those attending. Days later, she called me to ask how everything at the reunion went. She enjoyed the articles in the *Alabama Gazette*, and often wrote me little notes to encourage me to "keep on" writing. Her notes were always ones that lifted my spirit.

Her husband Fred, and her son, John, went to Alaska with my husband one summer to participate in his gold mining expedition at Dixon Creek where he had a camp. The gold mining didn't make us wealthy, but everyone who went and participated enjoyed it tremendously and still relive those memories.

I had the joy of having one of Phyllis and Fred's daughters with us in Marion at Perry (County) Christian School for a year when Liza was in high school. Phyllis was passionate about Christian Education, and she saw the sad decline in public education very early. She spotlighted our school ministry with a *Phyllis Schlafly Report* in 1972, titled, "*It Is Better To Light A Candle*." This report went nationwide and was encouraging Christians to start Christian schools, as well as alerting people to become informed on all matters of Education in their local schools.

Phyllis Schlafly was an example of American Patriotism that you rarely see today. She sacrificed her time, her energy, her resources, and she took a stand on every crucial issue. Her stands were supported by God's Word on every moral issue of our day. And she had them all stacked in the order of Scriptural mandates: God, Family, Country. Moral issues came first: Pro-Life, Religious Liberty, and the Sanctity of the Family.

Having her as a treasured friend and mentor, is one of the great blessings of my life. Paying tribute to her life and legacy is a privilege. I pray that Eagles will "continue to fly" in this nation taking the lessons from Phyllis' life and ministry, guided by God's Holy Word.

Phyllis Schlafly  
32 Briardriff  
Saint Louis, MO 63124  
(314) 993-3509

July 27, 2016

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When you and I first came together, we realized that schools and education were the major problem. And nobody wanted to do any more than spend more money.

Giving all those hundreds of children a Christian education is your great legacy. I am proud to know you for your tenacity and perseverance in identifying America's biggest problem and addressing it directly.

Your school is the model for what dedicated parents should do in every state. I am proud to have you as a friend and continue to be a big admirer of your accomplishment.

With love and admiration for your important legacy,

Faithfully,



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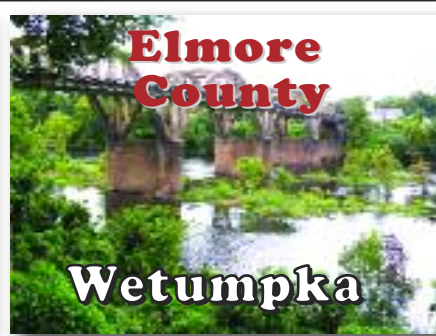
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# Community Lifestyles

We are proud to announce that The Alabama Gazette is also being delivered in parts of Crenshaw, Butler, Pike, Lee and Talladega Counties. If you cannot find the Gazette in your area, please check out our website: [www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com)



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50th Annual Pike Road

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### Voter Education Workshop was held at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Sept. 29th



Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Public and Community Relations Committee and the following collaborative partners: Pan Hellenic Council Central Alabama; the Links; and the Cosmopolite Civic Club, hosted a Voter Education Workshop which was held at 452 Cramer Avenue, Montgomery, AL, at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 29. The presenters were: Christopher Turner, Montgomery County Election Center; the Honorable Tiffany McCord, Circuit Clerk for Montgomery County. and the Honorable Alabama State Representative, Thad McClammy, District 76.

Also in attendance were Montgomery County Board of Education District 4, Representative, Mary Briers and candidate, Loretta Grant. Both introduced themselves and shared their platforms. The Program Chairman was Danita Rose, Connection Chairman, Beta Nu Omega Chapter, and Yvonne Saxon, Esq., served as Facilitator.

*Danita Rose*

## Important Voter Information for Nov. 8th

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Voter Registration Deadline</b> -----   | <b>OCT. 24</b> |
| <b>Absentee Application Deadline</b> -----   | <b>NOV. 3</b>  |
| Last day to submit absentee application.<br>Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. |                |
| <b>Absentee Ballot Hand-Delivered / Postmark Deadline</b>                              | <b>NOV. 7</b>  |
| Last day to hand deliver ballots.<br>Ballots must be received by 5:00 p.m.             |                |
| <b>Absentee UOCAVA Ballot Receipt Deadline</b> -----                                   | <b>NOV. 15</b> |
| Last day to receive voted ballots via mail.<br>Ballots must be received by 12:00 noon. |                |

The Montgomery Election Center • Office of Probate Judge Steven L. Reed      334.832.7744    [www.montgomeryelectioncenter.org](http://www.montgomeryelectioncenter.org)

# PLEASE "MARK YOUR BALLOT" FOR

# LORETTA GRANT

## District 4 Montgomery County Board of Education



### My Heartbeat is for children! They are God's gift to us!

I don't pretend to have all the answers, but will **PLEDGE** to work with all the other board members to improve our *Montgomery County Public School System* for YOUR childrens future.

Thank you for your **VOTE**

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(334) 832-4980

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

## Spooktacular

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will host our annual Halloween Spooktacular on Monday, October 31st from 6-8 pm at the Alcazar Shriner's Temple located at 555 Eastern Boulevard. Youth 12 years old and under are invited to come out and bring their Halloween bucket to trick-or-treat in a safe, family-friendly atmosphere with Sheriff Cunningham and staff. There will be 40+ vendors there handing out candy to everyone. We will not be issuing candy to anyone over 12 years of age so that we have enough candy for everyone.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Citizens Academy

Our Citizen Academy began on October 3rd but you can still attend. If you haven't heard about our Citizens Academy, you're missing out. The course consists of one night a week for one hour for a period of six weeks. You will learn about each department of the Sheriff's Office and how they operate and protect you, the citizen.



Registration is limited so please register now!!

These are the requirements:

- Resident of Montgomery County
- At least 21 years of age or older
- Pass a criminal background check
- Attend weekly meetings
- Applications can also be requested by calling 334-832-1339 or request by mail or fax

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office  
Attn: Citizens Academy Registration  
115 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Fax request to 832-7113

## Firearms Familiarization Course

Sign up NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Course scheduled for October 8th and learn how to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. The October 8th course will be the last course for 2016 so don't miss out.

The class is held at our Firing Range and lasts all 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. All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

### Course Requirements:

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

Pistol Permit Questions?  
334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?  
[LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org](mailto:LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org)  
334.832.1339

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

## Christmas Toy Drive

It's almost time for our annual Christmas Toy Drive at Wal-Mart Chantilly. Each year we collect new, unwrapped toys for kids of all ages to deliver to those in



need so that no one goes without a gift this Christmas. Please check our website periodically or the November issue of the Alabama Gazette for this year's date.

## Angel Christmas Tree for the Homeless

The Sheriff's Office will soon have a Christmas tree with angel ornaments for anyone to come by or call to pick an ornament for homeless children and



adults. These ornaments will list wanted needy items. Close to Christmas, Sheriff Cunningham and staff will deliver any donated items to the homeless in our area. Please check our website periodically for the date the Christmas tree will be displayed as well as our November Alabama Gazette article.

## Request for Christmas Assistance

If you are a Montgomery County family in need of assistance this Christmas, please contact Corporal Isaac Forbes at [IsaacForbes@mc-ala.org](mailto:IsaacForbes@mc-ala.org) or call Lisa at 334.832.1339 after November 1st to request to be on our assistance list.

## Building Renovations

We are in the process of renovating the 1st floor of our Annex I building at 100 South Lawrence. If you need to access this area, please check with our building security personnel at the public entrance door at 100 South Lawrence. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

## THANK YOU...

### Senior Fishing Rodeo



Thank you to all the senior citizens that came out for our annual Senior Fishing Rodeo was a huge success! We had over 200 seniors come out to fish with Sheriff Cunningham and staff. If you missed the event this year, please mark your calendar for the 2nd Tuesday in September, 2017.

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

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**Sheriff Joe Sedinger**

**City of Prattville held its annual 9-11 ceremony on Sunday September 11th to honor those who lost their lives on that tragic day.**

After the ceremony started Woodmen of the World presented a flag to the City of Prattville that was placed on the flag pole at half-staff. The program continued with Mayor Gillespie reading and presenting a proclamation to the Prattville Fire Department. A few words were spoken by Fire Chief Terry Brown, Police Chief Mark Thompson, and Sheriff Joe Sedinger. The ceremony ended with the presentation of cards for all the first responders who attended by the children of Woodmen of the World. *Below are just a few pictures from the ceremony.*



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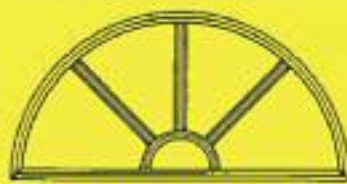
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**139 SCOTT LANE**

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# Southern Cuisine

I just returned from one of my "Escape the Summer Heat Tours." This time the escape was to Iowa. Even though it is further north than Alabama, they can have hot and humid summers but at least this time of year you don't have to worry that a blizzard will keep you from getting there or keep you trapped there. This trip was warmer than expected, highs in the low 80's, but low humidity and usually a good breeze. So coming from central Alabama it was cool and comfortable.

Nothing compares to boating on the Alabama River, eating fried chicken and snacks and relaxing. But I also like sitting on the deck of a restaurant on the bank of the Mississippi watching the pleasure crafts and barges go by. And at a restaurant I get to do "research of the culinary arts", (eating).

My "research" started with a hamburger named The Bucket List Burger.

Claim was that this burger should be on everyone's bucket list. If you ate too many of these burgers you would not finish your list. It helps you kick the bucket.

Well I couldn't pass it up. And as usual I had to enhance the burger a wee bit. It came with a half pound patty, Swiss and cheddar cheese, bacon and peanut butter and strawberry preserves. I almost changed it into a kitchen sink burger, you know everything but the! I added jalapenos, pepper jack cheese and a chipotle mayo that I saw offered on another burger. That and a margarita was the highlight of the day. That was lunch and I wasn't hungry until lunch the next day.

Another place where I did research, was at the Celtic Festival and Highland Games of the Quad Cities. A two day festival celebrating the "sports, music, dance, heritage, and culture of the people of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany." Bag pipes, dancing, caber toss, hammer throw, weight throw, the sheaf toss, a sheep herding exhibit, and a tug of war competition were some of the events. There was more music and dancing than the previous festival I attended and more food. So I was able to do more research.

There was Scotch eggs, pork pie, fish and chips, bangers and mash, Cornish pasties and what gathering of Scots would be complete without Haggis.

I had to have my yearly sampling of haggis. They served haggis and chips. Remember that chips in the United Kingdom is what we call french fries. But you do not eat the chips with ketchup. A healthy splash of malt vinegar does wonders to fries. If you are inclined to make haggis at home, Alton Brown of the Food Network has a good recipe. I'm not sure how hard it is to find sheep liver, sheep hearts, sheep tongue and a sheep stomach in this area. There is a theory that all of Scottish Cuisine is based on a dare.

But a perfect snack on the Alabama river would be Scotch eggs. What doesn't sound good if the snack consists of a hard-boiled egg wrapped in sausage meat, rolled in bread crumbs and fried. Tastes good cold and goes with a mustard sauce.

My sister does needlework and goes to sewing sessions around her area in Iowa. I visited her during a week where she went to a session at a home of a very good

## SCOTCH EGGS

### INGREDIENTS

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 6 eggs                              | 2 teaspoon grated lemon zest         |
| 2 quarts oil for deep frying        | 1/4 teaspoon dried marjoram          |
| 12 ounces pork sausage (see note)   | salt and pepper to taste             |
| 1 tablespoon dried parsley, crushed | 1 egg, beaten                        |
| 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg          | 4 ounces dry bread crumbs (see note) |

### METHOD

- Cover 6 whole eggs with water in a 3 quart saucepan. Bring to a boil. After the water has come to a full boil, turn off heat and leave pot covered on stove for 11 minutes. Remove eggs from water, cool under running water and peel. Put in container and place in refrigerator until needed.
- Heat oil in deep fryer to 375 degrees.
- Combine sausage, parsley, nutmeg, zest, and marjoram. Add salt and pepper if desired.
- Wet your hands and work 2 ounces of sausage mix into a ball. Then work your thumbs into the ball like you are going to make a little bowl. Place egg in middle of bowl and keep forming the sausage until it is big enough to cover the egg. Check of sausage so that it completely wraps the egg with no cracks.
- Roll each wrapped egg in egg wash and then in bread crumbs.
- Don't crowd the eggs but fry them for 4 to 5 minutes until golden brown, turning the eggs to brown the entire egg. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels.

**Notes:** I have made these with different style of sausage; Italian seasoned, breakfast Jimmie Dean style, and chorizo spiced plain ground pork. Type of sausage will determine if you want to use the seasonings listed in this recipe. Also seasoning of the bread crumbs will change the taste, Italian seasoned bread crumbs and Italian sausage will be like eating a meatball with an egg in the middle.  
Find a simple mustard sauce recipe or a store bought sauce, if you like.

stitcher. Since these women knew I was coming and knew I was a chef, there were snacks and dishes that they wanted to try. I liked the pickled ham. It tasted like a bread and butter pickle and I think it would be good in a cold salad. We talked about food while they were doing their projects.

I was amazed on the quality of some of the needlework. The lady of the home we went to was into art deco and art nuevo. And I will admit the pieces she did were like pieces of art.

One lady had a collection of hand written recipe cards that she was given and wanted to share them with me. A stack of twenty-one cards that looked like they had been used many times for many years. They were mostly desserts and baked items, and I found a card that I would like to share. It is a cookie recipe with eighteen items and very specific and also somewhat vague directions. The additions to the pecans, oats and coconut are mine. And it will make enough cookies to feed a small army of hungry children

Every state in the Union has a number of favorite foods, and Iowa is no different. They put ranch dressing on everything, even their pizza, and they claim the breakfast pizza and the taco pizza started in Iowa. They like their Blue Bunny ice cream, but I'll stick to my Blue Bell. With the Dutch influence in Iowa, there are delicious sausages, smoked meats and cheeses. Ham balls are a common treat and a solitary tree bearing the world famous Red Delicious Apple was first discovered in Iowa in 1872.

Is there much difference between Southern Cuisine and Northern Cuisine? Biggest differences are due to the length of the growing season, harshness of winter, first settlers in area, and even religious groups.

But as time goes by the differences become blurred, with availability of products from all over the country and the mobility of the populace. At Thanksgiving, Ham was more popular in the South but now turkey is widely eaten. I don't know anyone in my family that would dare eat rhubarb, but it's popular up north.

Yams and collards are not widely accepted up north. The Puritans allowed no



cooking on Sunday, so traditional foods had to be cooked on Saturday night before sundown and held through dinner on Sunday. And the winters are harsh so soups, stews and baked beans are hardy dishes to keep you warm.

## JUST DELICIOUS COOKIES

### INGREDIENTS

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 cup of sugar                    | 1 teaspoon cream of tartar             |
| 1 cup brown sugar                 | 1 teaspoon baking soda                 |
| 1 cup soft margarine              | 1 teaspoon salt                        |
| 1 cup vegetable oil               | 1 cup rice crispy cereal               |
| 1 egg                             | 1 cup pecans (I would use chopped)     |
| 2 teaspoons vanilla extract       | 1 cup oats (use 5 minute not instant)  |
| 1/2 teaspoon black walnut extract | 1 cup coconut( Angel flaked sweetened) |
| 1/2 teaspoon coconut extract      |  |
| 1/2 teaspoon butter extract       |  |
| 1 teaspoon burnt sugar extract    |  |
| 3 1/2 cups flour                  |  |

### METHOD

- Mix ingredients in order given. Shape into balls and place on a cookie sheet. Dip drinking glass bottom in sugar and use to flatten each cookie. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Makes 100 cookies.

**SOUTHERN;** *adj.-state of mind. More than where you were born. See also fried chicken, sweet tea, football, bourbon, acoustic guitars, hospitable, being devoted to front porches, magnolias, the GOOD LORD and each other.*

When life hands you lemons, put a slice in your sweet tea.

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**Judge  
Peggy Givhan**

# Southern Gardening Potpourri for September

by Peggy Givhan

We have always heard in politics of an "October surprise". What can we come up with for a surprise on the garden scene? Whether you have a public garden, which I name as flower beds which can viewed by the public, or a private garden secluded behind a wall or privacy fence, there is always something we can do to gain this notoriety.

Some ideas which gardeners have used that are somewhat whimsical and out of the ordinary are as follows:

1. Use hay bales in the back of the bed to raise up a group of pumpkins.
2. Place plastic pink flamingos tucked here and there.
3. Use spot light or lights with colored bulbs for an unusual night time display.
4. Hang bells or wind chimes.

Because I make an annual plan for my beds, which I tweak often since flowers may have an early demise, I know in advance what I need for my fall beds. This year I have many areas that need a burst of color for the fall, so I am searching for mums which add instant color and are great fillers. My yellow lantana are bursting with blooms, the dusty miller had been trimmed back last month and are still very much adding silvery, gray swaths, the petunias are now spent, so bronze and gold mums with perhaps a couple of dark red should fill the bill. And voila, I have a full fledged and colorful fall bed.

Fall is an ideal time to purchase and plant new shrubs and trees. With the cooler temperatures and plenty of rain, the plants get off to a great start. When planting the shrub or tree, be sure to dig the hole bigger and deeper than the roots. Try to keep as much dirt that surrounds the root ball whether burlap or a black plastic pot as possible. After placing the plant in the hole, back fill with good dirt, and tamp the dirt down with your foot to get rid of any air pockets. Then you should fertilize and water the plant. If there is no rain, water about one time per week for about a month.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

Many in the South forget about an old fashioned flowering shrub, **Weigela 'florida'**. It blooms profusely in the spring with beautiful funnel shaped flowers which range in color from pink to red to white, This shrub has many varieties as



**Weigela 'florida'**

short as 2-3 feet tall ('Minuet') to some as tall as 6 feet in height ('Red Prince and 'Candida'). Weigela grows quickly in full sun or part shade and is deciduous. There is also a variegated variety aptly named, 'Variegata'. I have seen hedges of this shrub which are as showy as any azalea grouping anywhere. They bloom on last season's shoots, and one must prune this shrub right after the blooms have died. These new shoots will provide a flurry of new blooms in the spring.

**GOOD GARDENING.**



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## THE MARSHALL MOMENT

## Soul Searching

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

## How's Your Peripheral Vision?

Each time I visit my Optometrist my face ends up looking into an instrument which is like a large bowl turned on the side. This test has a fancy name, "automated perimetry." While my head is still, the person being tested has to stare straight ahead while tiny lights of different intensities are flashed from random points in your vision field. Pressing a button indicates that the user sees the light. The purpose of this instrument is to test for blind spots and the extent of peripheral vision. It tests what you see when you are not looking directly at an object. For example, if you can only see straight ahead, you would not be able to drive a car safely. Certain eye diseases or even something as serious as a brain tumor causes these conditions which range from mild to severe and in some cases may lead to blindness.

Many people fail to appreciate the value of good vision until it is threatened or lost. This is true not only in the physical world, but also in the spiritual part of our being. In a conversation with His disciples one day Jesus said, "**Blessed are the eyes which see what you see.**" (Luke 10:23) By His teaching and example, Jesus increased the peripheral vision of His disciples. The Gospels are full of stories of the people Jesus took time to notice. Most of the time it was while He was on His way somewhere else that these people caught His attention. It may have been a woman at a well, a beggar by the way, many who were sick or troubled and even a man who climbed a tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus. His purpose was not just to perform miracles, but to raise awareness and to increase the sensitivity of the disciples to the needs of those around them.

As followers of Christ we are challenged to increase our spiritual peripheral vision. It's not enough just to focus on our own responsibilities and those of our family. What do we see that would catch the attention of Jesus each day? Do we really see the needs and pain of those around us?

I heard the story of a business man who took a commuter train to work each day. As the train moved each morning and evening through the poorest area of the city the man pulled down the shade over the window. One morning another man asked why he did that. His response was, "I try to ignore the plight of those people because I figure there is nothing I can do about it." His companion responded, "You can at least be more aware of them. That is the first step; lift up that shade."

How big is the world you live in? No, I'm not talking about physical size or location. Rather, what do you see in your world? For the Christian, peripheral vision is not an option. It is critical to developing a Christian lifestyle.

Let me share with you a favorite story about someone a teacher could have given up on, one of those children a teacher could have endured but easily passed on to someone else the next year. Instead, he got in her field of vision.

His name was **Ted Stallard**. He was one of those kids turned off by school. He was sloppy in dress, often expressionless, unresponsive and irritating to his teacher. Ted's teacher, **Miss Thompson**, enjoyed bearing down her red pen -- as she placed big red X's beside his many wrong answers. If only she had studied Ted's school records more carefully. They read: 1st grade: Ted shows promise with his work and attitude, but (has) poor home situation. 2nd grade: Ted could do better. Mother is seriously ill. He receives little help from home. 3rd grade: Ted is a good boy but too serious. He is a slow learner. His mother died this year. 4th grade: Ted is very slow, but well-behaved. His father shows no interest whatsoever.

Christmas arrived. The children piled elaborately wrapped gifts on their teacher's desk. Ted brought one too. It was wrapped in brown paper and held together with Scotch Tape. Miss Thompson opened each gift, as the children crowded around to watch. Out of Ted's package fell a gaudy rhinestone bracelet, with half of the stones missing, and a bottle of cheap perfume. The children began to snicker. But she silenced them by splashing some of the perfume on her wrist,

and letting them smell it. She put the bracelet on too. At day's end, after the other children had left, Ted came by the teacher's desk and said, "Miss Thompson, you smell just like my mother. And the bracelet looks real pretty on you. I'm glad you like my presents." He left.

Miss Thompson got down on her knees and asked God to forgive her and to change her attitude. The next day, the children were greeted by a reformed teacher -- one committed to loving each of them...especially the slow ones... especially Ted.

Surprisingly -- or maybe, not surprisingly, Ted began to show great improvement. He actually caught up with most of the students and even passed a few. Graduation came and went. Miss Thompson heard nothing from Ted for a long time.

Then, one day, she received this note: "Dear Miss Thompson: I wanted you to be the first to know. I will be graduating second in my class. Love, Ted"

Four years later, another note arrived: "Dear Miss Thompson: They just told me I will be graduating first in my class. I wanted you to be first to know. The university has not been easy, but I liked it. Love, Ted"

And four years later: "Dear Miss Thompson: As of today, I am Theodore Stallard, M.D. How about that? I wanted you to be the first to know. I am getting married next month, the 27th to be exact. I want you to come and sit where my mother would sit if she were alive. You are the only family I have now; Dad died last year. Love, Ted"

Miss Thompson attended that wedding, and sat where Ted's mother would have sat. The compassion she had shown that young man entitled her to that privilege.

Every day we come in contact with people like Ted. However, for some, the hurt doesn't always show on the outside. Some people wear a mask to cover the invisible pain that exists just beneath the surface of their lives. It may be your next door neighbor - a member of your family - a spouse - a friend - a co-worker - or a neighbor. Some of us have our head stuck in bowls looking straight ahead and never see the needs of people to our right or left. Just like we punch a button for the eye doctor to know we see all of our field of vision, you punch a button for God to know what you see when you pray for others and reach out to help them out of Christian compassion.

You can't help but notice in the Gospels the priority of Jesus was people. He was not the least bit concerned about their reputation or possessions. He saw their need and sensed their potential because His Father cared enough for them to send Him. I remember that Jesus said, "**As the Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**" (John 20:21) I hope one day it could be said about us as was said to the disciples, "**Blessed are the eyes which see what you see.**"



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## What's Wrong with Halloween?

BY RUSSELL K. TARDO

Halloween has become an issue among Christians. Long considered harmless fun, many are now questioning its history, nature, influence and fruit. The revitalization of Satanism and Witchcraft and their obvious association with Halloween has caused Christians to wonder whether they should participate in it at all. There is no denying the bizarre and occultic nature of Halloween decorum (certainly witches, devils, ghouls, monsters, vampires and ghosts are not Christian in character!). But in spite of that, some Christians defend their participation in the holiday asserting their "liberty" in Christ from the bondages of "legalism", or shrugging it off as innocent fun. Many churches see the whole thing as evil and will have nothing to do with the celebration whatsoever. Others see no harm in it and participate fully, with costume parties, Halloween decorations and trick-or-treat. Still others try to find a "middle-of-the-road" approach, allowing trick-or-treat and masquerades, but as "Bible characters" instead of demonic and occult figures.

**What's wrong with Halloween? And, what should be the attitude of the conscientious Christian towards it? Is it harmless, or is it sinister? The facts we present below should help you to answer that question once for all.**

## 1. The Halloween celebration is thoroughly rooted in Paganism and the Occult.

History traces it back to the ancient religion of the Druids, a religion so evil that Rome forbade its practice. The AMERICAN PEOPLES ENCYCLOPEDIA explains: "The origin of Halloween customs antedate Christianity. The Druids, members of pagan orders in Britain, Ireland and Gaul, held a celebration on October 31st, the eve of the Festival of Samhain. It was a night of ghosts and fairies, in which bonfires were built and futures were foretold and witches rode through the sky."

Superstitions linking cats with reincarnation made them special objects of notice on Halloween. Unquestionably, the holiday had its origin with the pagan Druids, only they called it the "Festival of Samhain -- lord of the dead". Samhain was nothing more or less than a demon (a demon spirit of death at that, or perhaps he may have been Satan himself!) who was given special homage on Halloween. This is where the emphasis on death comes from on that night. Death symbols such as coffins, tombstones, skeletons, skulls and crossbones,

ghosts, mummies and graveyards are common Halloween decorations.

Numerous legends surrounded the holiday, but two significant things supposedly occurred on that night:

First, It was believed that the dead would rise out of their graves and wander the countryside, trying to return to the homes where they formerly lived. Frightened villagers tried to appease these wandering spirits by offering them gifts of fruits and nuts. If not placated, villagers feared that the spirits would kill their flocks or destroy their property. This is the origin of our present day "trick-or-treat"! It's a custom born out of superstition, and pagan superstition at that!

Furthermore, it's a blasphemous perversion of the Christian belief in the Resurrection. In Christianity, the righteous dead are resurrected in a glorified, immortal body. In Druidism, the dead are raised as horrifying creatures of the night, hideous monsters, decaying skeletons, vampires, etc. They received not glorified bodies, but grotesque ones; not immortal bodies, but inhuman ones.

Second, Samhain was the supreme night of Demonic jubilation. This was a celebration of the beginning of Winter and darkness, as daylight grew noticeably shorter, and nights lengthier. The hoards of hell would roam the earth in a wild celebration of darkness and death, all in honor of Samhain! Pity the poor mortal forced to travel on such a night! The only thing the superstitious people knew to do to protect themselves on such an occasion was to masquerade as one of the demonic hoarde, and hopefully blend in unnoticed among them! This is the origin of Halloween masquerading as devils, imps, ogres, and other demonic creatures.

The question is, should Christians adopt such practices? Can we borrow the pagan customs and superstitions of ancient peoples and "Christianize" them? The Bible is not silent on the subject:

"Learn not the way of the heathen...for the customs of the people are vain." (Jeremiah 10:2-3), and,

"When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations" (Deut. 18:9).

**Ephesians 5:11 declares,** "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

## 2. Halloween glorifies Satan.

When America and the world celebrates the powers of darkness by masquerading as evil creatures or decorating our homes, schools, businesses and churches with occult symbols, Satanic power is glorified. While you may have participated "all in fun", be assured, Halloween is serious business for Satanists and Witches.

Anyone familiar with witchcraft would tell you that there are certain rituals and spells that can only be cast on Halloween night. That is the night when the "veil" believed to separate the living from the dead is thought to be the thinnest, and futures are easier and more accurately foretold by diviners.

Those who oppose Christ are known to organize on Halloween to observe Satanic rituals, to cast spells, to oppose churches and families, to perform sacrilegious acts, and to even offer blood sacrifices to Satan. Last year, Newscasters in numerous cities warned their viewers to guard their animals on Halloween night. Dogs and cats are thought to be the most often sacrificed animals on Halloween, and many S. P. C. A. centers will not allow black cats to be adopted until after Halloween. In rural communities, it is not uncommon for farmers to awake to find the mutilated remains of their farm animals (cows, calves, chickens, even horses) that were ritually slaughtered in Satanic sacrifices. The practices that accompany such sacrificial rites are almost too revolting to believe--the drinking of animal (or human) blood and urine, the digestion of entrails and organs, orgiastic rituals, substance abuse, and something becoming more frighteningly common across the U.S.--human sacrifice. The 700 CLUB interviewed several people last Halloween (several of which were teenagers) who actually participated in or witnessed human sacrifices while involved in Satanism. No one scoffs at such stories anymore, as police departments around the country have had to scurry to develop a whole new field of investigation dealing with the gruesome reality of Satanic sacrifices.

Isn't it sad that while Satanist, Witches, Occultists and Police are taking Halloween very seriously, many in the church protest our "spoiling all of the fun for the children," by urging Christians not to participate in it.

## 3. Halloween treats Occultism as "Harmless".

When Christians participate in Halloween, it sends a message to children that Witchcraft, Demonism, Satanism, and the Occult is something fun, entertaining and harmless. It gives the false impression that what is actually lethal, is innocuous! It's the spiritual equivalent

of painting a loaded gun to look like a toy and giving it to a child to play with!

On another recent 700 Club testimony, one man said that it was while he was out trick-or-treating on Halloween night as a boy that he had a profound psychic experience that led him on an occult odyssey that kept him bound and oppressed for dozens of years! Halloween participation led him into deeper forms of occultism, until he was swallowed by it.

Christians, we betray others and deceive ourselves if we consider this celebration a harmless or innocent one. It is more deadly than a rattlesnake, and God says such things are an abomination (**cf. Deut. 18:9-12; Lev. 18:24-30**).

#### 4. It is the Appearance of Evil.

The Bible says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." (**1 Thess.5:22**).

Who can deny that virtually all of the symbols of Halloween are evil? Witches, monsters, ogres, vampires, ghosts, ghouls, goblins, devils and demons all portray evil! On the other hand, Christians are called to be "followers of God" (Eph.5:1), and "lights" to a sin darkened world. How can we justify our masquerading as creatures of darkness in the light of the Scriptures? And if our houses and churches are dedicated to God and are to glorify Christ, how do we justify decorating them with demonic and occult symbols?

Virtually all of the common Halloween decorations represent something Demonic or Occult. For instance:

The "Jack-o-lantern" is the ancient symbol of a damned soul.

The "black cat" has long been associated with Witchcraft and numerous superstitions are still connected to it.

Witches and Witchcraft are a dominant theme of the holiday, but are an abomination to God (**Exodus 22:18; Deuteronomy 18:8-14; Leviticus 18:24-30**).

Even the "trick-or-treat" is a threat! It's nothing less than extortion! "You either give me a treat or I'll play a trick on you."

#### Halloween Destruction

Vandalism and wanton disregard for the property of others is common on Halloween night, as even normally well behaved children are driven by unseen forces to destructive behavior. Police officials everywhere report great increases in such activities at Halloween. Worse yet are the horrifying accounts of poisoned candy and fruits booby trapped with razor blades and needles. Such threats are so real that many hospitals offer free X-Rays of Halloween treats in order to prevent children from being harmed. Who but Satan could inspire such monstrous actions?

#### 5. It is Disobedience to God!

God repeatedly forbids his Children's participation in such demonic activities, as the following passages attest: **Deut. 18:9-14; Ex.7:11 - 12; 22:18; Lev.19:26,31; 20:6,27; 1 Chron.10:13-14; 2 Ki.21:5-6; Isa.2:6; Jer.27:9-10; Zech.10:2; Mai.3:5; Acts 8:9f; 16:16f; 19:19; Gal.5:16-21; 2 Tim.3:8; Rev.21:8; 22:15**.

A careful examination of these Scriptures reveals God's unreserved condemnation of all who participate in any occult activity.

What's wrong with Halloween? Everything about it is wrong! It does not have even one single redeeming virtue. It is a demon inspired, devil glorifying occult festival! Those who love the Lord Jesus Christ should have nothing to do with it!

"Learn not the way of the heathen...for the customs of the people are vain." (**Jer. 10:2-3**).

"When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations." (**Deut.18:9**).

"Let us cast out the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light." (**Rom.13:12**)

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." (**Eph.5:11**)

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." (**1 Thess.5:5**)

"For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing..." (**2 Cor.6:14-17**).

#### What Should Our Position Be?

Clearly, we should have nothing to do with the Halloween celebration whatsoever. If Christians assemble on Halloween it should be to worship, sing, praise, pray, intercede, wage Spiritual warfare and pull down demonic strong-holds. Under no circumstance should we compromise with this celebration or attempt to imitate the world in any manner. It should not be observed as any kind of a festival or "party" (masquerades, apple-bobbing, games, treats, etc.), but rather as a time to wage holy warfare and be separate from the world.

The Christian should not fear Halloween or any of the powers of darkness, for we have authority over them (**Mk.16:15; Lu.10:19**), and "God has not given us the spirit of fear..." (**2 Tim.1:7**). But at the same time, "We are not ignorant of Satan's devices" (**2 Cor.2:11**).

Some may call me "legalistic" for doing so, but I have forsaken this pagan celebration altogether. Perhaps its time you considered doing the same.

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." (**Eph.5:8**).

#### FOOTNOTE

Halloween and other common festivals which people observe in the Christian professing world have no Biblical basis. Nowhere in the Bible (which, by the way, should be the foundation of our beliefs) does our Lord tell us to participate in pagan festivals, in fact, God clearly tells us that we should have no part in them. We as Christians cannot (according to God) change the name of a holiday and then participate in it. "During the early Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church often incorporated modified versions of older religious traditions in order to win converts." Pope Gregory IV wanted to substitute Samhain with All Saints' Day in 835, but All Souls' Day (Nov. 2nd) which is closer in resemblance to Samhain and Halloween today, was "first instituted at a French monastery in 998 and quickly spread throughout Europe." If the so called "Christian" holy days of the Roman Catholic church were in fact solidly based on the Christian Bible, then why do so many non-Christians observe them? Have you ever really reflected on your motives for celebrating so called "Christian" holidays? Or by nature do you tend to follow the crowd, whether they are right or wrong? Changing the name while playing according to the same rules changes nothing. If this offends you, then why don't you really find out for yourself.

The following secular dictionaries and encyclopedia confirm the Pagan origins of Halloween.

Online Etymology Dictionary says of Halloween:

c.1745, Scottish shortening of Allhallow-even "Eve of All Saints, last night of October" (1556), the last night of the year in the old Celtic calendar, where it was Old Year's Night, a night for witches. Another pagan holiday given a cursory baptism and sent on its way. Halloween "All-saints" is first attested 1389. (Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2001 Douglas Harper)

Webster's New Millennium™ Dictionary of English says of Samhain:

October 31, Halloween; a day of celebration for Wiccans and other pagans; also called November Eve, Halloween, Feast of Souls, Feast of the Dead. (Webster's New Millennium™ Dictionary of English, Preview Edition (v 0.9.7) © 2003-2007 Lexico Publishing Group, LLC)

## What deficit? By John Bitter

We should take exception to the term: Attention Deficit Disorder, especially those of us who are blessed with it.

The noun attention is acceptable since a major portion of this psychological difference does tend to focus on the concentration of mental powers. The old term: Short attention span, was much more accurate and had less of a negative connotation about it.

Now the word deficit presents a lot of problems. This noun has a very negative connotation to it. It suggests that something is lacking in the person to which it is directed.

And disorder suggests confusion or upset. People with ADD aren't confused. Well, maybe they're confused as to why they're labeled the way they are, and they may well be upset over being singled out as some sort of freak in need of special attention. But let's take a look at some who have been so afflicted.

The antics of Sir Winston Churchill, whose behavior as a young student reflected much of what afflicts students with attention deficit disorder: hyperactive. Young Winston, for all his deviations from what was considered the classroom norm, loved to study the English language, and all its rules. Noted Sir Winston: whose behavior as a young student reflect much of students with attention deficit disorder, hyperactive. Sir. Winston, regarding the rule about not ending a sentence with a preposition, is quoted as saying: "The rule against not ending a sentence with a preposition is "an imposition up with which I shall not put.

ADD people, like Sir Winston," are right brain people. They're more spontaneous, more creative, and less tolerant of people and occasions that are mundane to the point of being boring.

People with ADD are usually discovered in elementary school when they tend to act up in class because they're bored. As a rule, when the topic of instruction is presented for the first time, they grasp the idea at first telling. "O.K. Got it.

Let's get on with the lesson," are the thoughts going through their minds. But in the standard classroom, instruction must be reduced to the lowest common denominator, the teacher must contend with "Old Ned in the First Reader," and slog on repeatedly until he comprehends the matter at hand. In the meanwhile the ADD person has nothing to occupy or challenge his intellect, so he finds diversions — such as cutting up.

Unfortunately, the penal, lock step mentality that prevails in the education community is generally unprepared to cope with the ADD person, so he or she is labeled as disruptive, willful or just plain bad, and is punished for his or her classroom transgressions; usually with a stern letter to the parents.

If the goal of education is imparting knowledge and skills on young minds, why punish those who are eager and willing to learn beyond the scope of the normal classroom? Why must they be ostracized and criticized for possessing the skills and talents one should hope for in a young person: an eagerness and willingness to enhance his or her knowledge?

A half century and more ago, before ADD was discovered, young people with this talent earned the enmity of their tutors when their minds wandered beyond the subject at hand. Either a generous application of the rod or a stern letter home received a temporary return to the path of righteousness, but usually not for long.

Some years ago the pharmaceutical industry gave us a narcotic that would turn otherwise overactive youth into docile zombies less inclined to disrupt the hum drum of the classroom. And ADD and ADHD became the afflictions du jour and eager marketers soon convinced the older population that they probably had Adult ADD. Puhleeze! There's no adult, adolescent, or juvenile ADD. In fact, it's all just a product of an overactive imagination on the part of psychologists and educators to label an otherwise normal trait that they're incapable of addressing.

So, let's not punish students with ADHD; let's encourage them.



## Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

### ON BEING GRACIOUS TO THOSE WHO DIFFER

I heard about a presumably wealthy Texas cattle ranch owner who boasted about his holdings. When asked how he got such a big ranch, he replied that he bought up a bunch of smaller ranches and made them into one bigger ranch. He said he kept the names and made the new ranch a composite of them all. Thus he owned the "Lazy J Rolling S Mighty Texas Bar Seven Triple L Buffalo Nickel" cattle ranch.

"Well, how many head of cattle do you own?" his friend asked.

"Only seven," he replied. "I had a lot more but most of 'em didn't survive the branding!"

I often remember this story as we approach football season and see how some fans take something that's supposed to be fun and turn it into a shouting match with friends and acquaintances. One friend told me they had an "Alabama/Auburn" night at their summer revival and it turned into a disaster! Apparently people focused on the red and orange more than they focused on saving souls.

One pastor customarily cautioned people on the Sunday before the Iron Bowl to

be kind to one another on the Sunday following. It would seem this would be unnecessary to say, but I've followed suit and usually say this myself come November.

This fall is fraught with another peril since it's election season. Candidates on both sides have said regrettable things, and some who support them have said some regrettable things, too. I just returned from a political items collectors convention where my conservatism was a target of some barbed comments, so I had to simply smile sweetly and press on.

I suppose the world will always be full of conflict, but it's very regrettable when this kind of division creeps into the church.

We lived in another county years ago. A local church, St. John's Baptist Church, got unwanted publicity when several public brawls broke out in the congregation and were reported in the local press. A new pastor came who chided his people somewhat sternly that if they were named for the Apostle John, the apostle of love, they must live like it.

John wrote, "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death" (**1 John 3: 14**).

And John recorded the lord of the church himself who said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (**John 15: 12**).

Everyone has their football favorites and a political party they support. This is America and we have freedom to do so. But let's remember we're Americans first. And Christians most of all.

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

Patricia Killough



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

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

# Home Town Community News

## October Birthdays



- |         |  |   |
|---------|--|---|
| Oct 1   | David Hite (74th)<br>Karen Hollingshead<br>Wallis Litchfield   | Helen Law<br>John Lithgow<br>Jeff Ludwick   |
| Oct. 2  | Allie Dibole<br>Jerry Hollingshead<br>Donna Karen<br>Janice Vaughn Majors (67th)<br>Bob Morris   | Nell Nesbit<br>Evelyn Roger<br>Oct. 21 Pam Anderson<br>Ken Guthrie<br>Cheryl Horp<br>Spears Rhodes                                |
| Oct. 3  | Ladon Boyd (56th)<br>Monica Mills<br>Ben Sawada<br>Stevie Ray Vaughn   | Oct. 22 Judith Lamar<br>Joyce Browning Mills<br>Tony Nemunaitis<br>Alicia Smith   |
| Oct. 4  | Hazel Campbell   | Oct. 23 Earl Henderson<br>Mollie Ester Isacson<br>Mike Kirk<br>Elfie Meredith<br>Betty Jo Richie<br>Mitzi Woodall                 |
| Oct. 5  | Chester Alan Arthur<br>Thomas Chesnutt (95th)<br>Nikki Smith Womack<br>Lynn Moore  | Oct. 24 Thomas Norman<br>Connie Thompson<br>Norma Mitchell  |
| Oct. 6  | Frances Grant<br>Jimmy Pugh<br>Matthew Sweet   | Oct. 25 Glenn Chesnutt<br>David Alexander Dean<br>Hannah Grace Johnson<br>Dot Pouncey (66th)                                      |
| Oct. 7  | Ashley James<br>David Price (67th)   | Oct. 26 Alice Cole (66th)<br>Carol Fowler<br>Judd Huett (79th)<br>Mike Horsley<br>Natailie Merchant<br>Brynlee Ashmore (6th)      |
| Oct. 8  | Jim Fleming<br>Beck Tucker<br>Madera Spencer   | Oct. 27 BoBo Boyd<br>Terry Boyd (56th)<br>Amy Moone (42nd)<br>Glen Raley (62nd)<br>Stephanie Selvage (42nd)<br>Louise Lareson     |
| Oct. 9  | Vance Cordle<br>Arbin McCathern (79th)<br>Bob Persons<br>Clifton Renfro<br>Linda Stringer  | Oct. 28 James Cantrell (89th)<br>Patti Moseley Higgins<br>Josh Hudson<br>Parker Lynch<br>Joakin Phoenix<br>Matt Schall            |
| Oct. 10 | Sherry McCulley<br>Ron Selvaggio<br>Mason Williams (6th)   | Oct. 29 Marge Crockett (73rd)<br>Adam Dupree<br>Lisa Etheridge<br>Amber (Sally) Heitsenrether<br>Elizabeth Mills<br>Caylyn Oswald |
| Oct. 11 | Bonnie Ashcraft<br>Susan Guevara<br>Debbie Moore<br>Anna Marie Sessions<br>Christie Vazquez  | Oct. 30 Nellie Cole (91st)<br>Felicity Edwards<br>Lee Sellars<br>Grace Slick<br>Josie Stanton                                     |
| Oct. 12 | Kirstin Boyd<br>Kim Moore  | Oct. 31 Carey Cauthen (62nd)<br>Ron Johnson<br>Elizabeth Kirk<br>Johnny Marr  |
| Oct. 13 | Fred Cole (95th)<br>Loretta Grant<br>Danny Ott (56th)<br>Mary Wimpee   |   |
| Oct. 14 | Margaret Batley<br>Brian Burrows<br>Elizabeth Miller<br>Sarah Margaret Poundstone  |   |
| Oct. 15 | Bob Crowe<br>Noah Edwards<br>Dolores Kavanagh<br>Charlie Lamar Jr.<br>Ray Martin (78th)<br>Linda Stenbridge Chandler<br>Gaston Wallace |   |
| Oct. 17 | Jane Braswell<br>Chris Floyd   |   |
| Oct. 16 | Louise Light<br>Jessie Watt  |   |
| Oct. 18 | Charles Andrew Campbell<br>Ryan Sellars  |   |
| Oct. 19 | Joann Hassey   |   |

### Wedding Announcement



Nicole Ferrin and Travis McGough announce their wedding on October 15, 2016. It will take place at Whitewater Ridge in Wetumpka, Alabama.

### 60th Wedding Anniversary



Margaret and Warner Boyd celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on the 10th of September, 2016 at the Snowdown Baptist Church fellowship hall. The reception was given by their children, Debbie (Gary) Partridge and Bobby (Mickey Ann) Boyd. They actually married on September 12, 1956.

Congratulations!

### William and Loretta Grant

celebrate their 54th Wedding Anniversary  
October 13, 2016



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

## Happy Anniversary

- |        |  |         |  |
|--------|--|---------|--|
| Oct. 2 | Brady & Amy Crowe (12th)   | Oct. 9  | Ian & Caty Jane Turnipseed (6th)                                     |
| Oct. 3 | Mr. & Mrs. Theo Katechis (37th)<br>Tom & Mary Lion (63rd)                | Oct. 12 | Mike & Lynn Davis<br>James & Jean Hicks (58th)<br>Glenn & Susan Yost |
| Oct. 5 | Jack & Kim Golson<br>George & Farley Pugh<br>Lance & Sylvia Smith (58th) | Oct. 15 | Lance & Amy Brown<br>Gaston & Doris Wallace                          |
| Oct. 6 | Jimmy & Donna Grant  | Oct. 16 | George & Marilyn Evans   |
| Oct. 7 | Jimmy & Judy Grubbs<br>Tracey & Britt Betts (3rd)                        | Oct. 19 | Brett & Barbie O'Neal (14th)   |
| Oct. 8 | Eric & Casey Fleming (11th)<br>Bob & Lynda Maddox<br>David & Xan Morrow  | Oct. 20 | Tim & Amanda Anderson (4th)  |
|        |  | Oct. 21 | Jimmy & Ann Hale   |
|        |  | Oct. 22 | Brad & Lee Ann Williams (11th)                                       |
|        |  | Oct. 23 | Sonny & Lexie Turnipseed   |

### Carl Boyd Retires



Steve Honaker presents Carl with a watch

Carl Boyd of Snowdown retires after 14 years of service to the City of Montgomery Inspections Department. A retirement luncheon was held on September 23, 2016. The food was catered by Down The Street Cafe and his co-workers.

### Sympathy to the families of...

- Waters, William Dewey "Sonny, Jr." (74).....died August 18, 2016  
 Dunaway, Bobbie Ruth Watson (83) .....died August 23, 2016  
 Brooks, Dorothy Lane Whittington .....died August 28, 2016  
 Blair, Marilyn Nall (93) .....died August 31, 2016  
 Clay, Ina Ruth Stephens (85).....died September 2, 2016  
 Turnipseed, Robbie Mae Sanders (82) .....died September 4, 2016  
 Brenner, Walter (86) .....died September 5, 2015  
 Burch, Helen Brown (91) .....died September 7, 2016  
 Hancock, Thomas Irwin, Jr. (87).....died September 7, 2016  
 Stewart, Bro. David Caldwell, Sr. ....died September 11, 2016  
 Gothard, Sherrill Preston (76) .....died September 13, 2016  
 Howell, Ruth Rea "Mom Ruth" (102).....died September 13, 2016  
 Sansom, James B. "Bunny" (71).....died September 13, 2016  
 Shaw, Margaret Irene (93) .....died September 15, 2016  
 Vann, Carolyn Price (68) .....died September 16, 2016  
 Lowe, Willie Clyde Spann (92).....died September 19, 2016  
 Smith, Sarah Jo Fagan (83) .....died September 19, 2016  
 Edwards, Howard "Buddy" Traylor, III (71) .....died September 22, 2016  
 Matthews, Cathleen Rebecca Lynn (88).....died September 22, 2016  
 King, June Alice Weeks (79).....died September 23, 2016  
 Palmer, Arnold (87).....died September 25, 2016

# TODAY'S WOMAN

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

## Trisston's Tidbits...

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

### "The Master's Autumn Masterpiece"

Ahhhh...**Fall!** The Fall Season is upon us. I have always been a big fan of Spring and Summer, but not especially fond of Fall and Winter. However, lately I have changed. I think it is something about those leaves of red, orange, yellow, brown, and burgundy. And, the crispness in the air as temperatures begin to cool down.

As I enjoy my morning cup of hot tea on my back porch and gaze upon the nature around me, I am reminded that **God** is the best artist in the world...for only **He** can create such beauty. We see many artists

that try to capture the seasons on their canvases by painting what they see around them...and they do a wonderful job. However, neither picture nor paint could ever replace the real thing splashed across the sky and spilled over the earth like the Master's display of His finest artwork. God's creativity is unmatched, for every day is different, just like every snowflake in winter.

**Psalm 147 4, 8, 16-18 (NIV),** "He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes. He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast? He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow"



Trisston Wright Burrows  
 Ms. Wheelchair America/  
 Alabama 2005

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Photo by: Robert Edward Taylor

This FABULOUS photo was taken in Trussville, Alabama just after sunset. The fall colors are AMAZING!

When people say there is no God, I know they do not see with eyes like mine. They must see a plain, white canvas or a black drop cloth and not the blue skies that fade into light pink in the evening. Nor do they see the flowers that no paint on any artist's palate could attempt to match or the trees that were each given a certain color leaf to change into when autumn arrives. 'No God,' they say. It is just that they do not know the Master of the seasons...the One who has created such magnificent displays of perfect art.

So this Fall Season, choose to enjoy the Master's autumn masterpiece...for He is the Season changer. He is Hope. He is Peace. He is Joy. He is Love. He is EVERYTHING.

Many blessings!

## Wedding Announcement



The marriage of **Audrey Dale Grant** to **Michael Thomas Freeman** took place at Sampey Memorial Baptist Church in Ramer, Alabama on Saturday, September 10, 2016.

The brides parents are Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Grant of Ramer and the grooms parents are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Freeman of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Immediately following the beautiful ceremony, a reception was held at The Barn at Pisgah Hill in Grady, Alabama. Audrey and Michael honeymooned in Saint Lucia and are now residing in Birmingham, Alabama



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