

Jamey Johnson

True Son of Alabama

Another milestone in Alabama’s illustrious country music history occurred when **Jamey Johnson** became an official member of the Grand Ole Opry. My wife Judy and I were very fortunate to be Jamey’s guest at this momentous occasion. This is an important exclamation point for the eleven-time Grammy nominated songwriter and true son of Alabama. Jamey is one of few musicians in the history of country music to win two Song of the Year Awards from both the Academy of Country Music and the Country Music Association. Jamey Johnson officially became the newest member of the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday night May 14 in front of 4,500 cheering fans receiving his member award from his mentor country music legend Bill Anderson. Anderson introduced Johnson the first night Jamey performed at the Opry. “When I met Jamey Johnson, I knew he was one of us,” stated Whisperin’ Bill Anderson. “He (has) a country heart and a country soul.” Among the country music luminaries celebrating his membership were The Gatlin Brothers Band, Deana Carter and Kid Rock.



Perry O. Hooper, Jr., Jamey Johnson and Judy Hooper

When asked what this moment meant to him, the musician/songwriter stated, “I’ve been talking about this moment since I was a kid. I prayed for it every day and hoped it would come. Well, this is proof our prayers do get answered,” Anderson replied.

His breakthrough album was “That Lonesome Song” and is certified platinum for one million in sales. His double album, “The Guitar Song,” debuted at No. 1 on the country album charts and is certified gold. He has written songs for George Strait, Willie Nelson, Trace Adkins, James Otto, Joe Nichols and others.

The “In Color” singer attended the Opry for the first time in 1999 while he was in town for a job interview and was backstage that night as Bill Anderson, Little Jimmy Dickens and Porter Wagoner performed. Johnson made his Opry debut six years later, an experience he called “surreal” because he grew up listening to the famed radio show with his dad.

Jamie was born in Enterprise and grew up in Montgomery. He was taught at Peter Crump Elementary by my wife Judy. “I knew there was something special about Jamey, but I never would have imagined he would become one of country music’s biggest names.” After graduating from Jeff Davis High School in Montgomery, Jamey attended Jacksonville State University, the Alma Mater of Alabama lead singer Randy Owen. Jamey left Jacksonville State after two years to chase his country music dream. He also became a Marine reservist where he was a self-described “mortar man.” After four years, he made it to Nashville and back to the Grand Ole Opry. He has remained a main stay on the Nashville country scene ever since. However, he still remains loyal to Alabama. Every year in Montgomery he brings some Nashville friends to hold a homecoming concert for the Nikki Mitchell Foundation to fight pancreatic cancer. He has also produced public service announcements for the Secretary of State’s Office on the importance of registering to vote.

In Jamey’s own words: “My first time even as a guest at the Opry was going in through the artists’ entrance and watching the Opry from the side-stage,” he told Taste of Country and other outlets at a virtual press event a few days before the big night. “There was something about it that just told me, ‘You belong.’ It always felt like I belonged at the Opry. Whether it was a guest or a member or what, it just always felt like a home away from home for me.”

It was a fantastic evening honoring a great patriotic American and true son of Alabama.



by Perry O. Hooper, Jr.

Founder Let the People Speak
Former Alabama State Representative
AL State Republican Executive Committee

AL Trump Victory Chairman 2016
AL Trump Elector 2016
AL Trump Team Leader 2020

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

PRIMARY RUN-OFF RESULTS FROM JUNE 21 *

U.S. Senate
Rep Katie Britt
Rep Mo Brooks

State Auditor
Rep Andrew Sorrell
Rep Stan Cooke

Secretary of State
Rep Wes Allen
Rep Jim Zeigler

Public Service Commission – Place 1
Rep Jeremy H. Oden
Rep Brent Woodall

Public Service Commission – Place 2
Rep Chip Beeker
Rep Robert L. McCollum

Candidates in dark red were primary runoff winners.
* This is only a partial list of unofficial results. Please visit <https://www.sos.alabama.gov> for more results.

GAZETTE PUBLISHING
12 East Jefferson St.
Montgomery, AL 36104

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
MONTGOMERY, AL

PERMIT #69

Almost 50 Years Later ... Roe V. Wade Overturned!

(Slip Opinion) SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
NO. 19-1392. Argued December 1, 2021—Decided June 24, 2022
Held: The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; Roe and Casey are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives. Pp 8-79.

Following excerpts from *Eagle Forum of Alabama* newsletter
<https://alabamaeagle.org/2022/06/roe-v-wade-overturned/>

Almost fifty years after the Supreme Court created a ‘constitutional right’ to abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, a majority of Justices corrected the erroneous decision stating, “*Roe and Casey must be overruled.*” The majority decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* declares, “*The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision.*”...

... More than 1.5 billion lives have been lost to abortion since *Roe v. Wade* made most abortions legal in 1972.

Justice Samuel Alito stated in the majority opinion, “*Roe was egregiously wrong from the start. Its reasoning was exceptionally weak, and the decision has had damaging consequences. And far from bringing about a national settlement of the abortion issue, Roe and Casey have enflamed debate and deepened division. It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people’s elected representatives. ‘The permissibility of abortion, and the limitations, upon it, are to be resolved like most important questions in our democracy: by citizens trying to persuade one another and then voting. [quoting Justice Scalia from the Casey decision.]. That is what the Constitution and the rule of law demand.*”

Visit the link above for Q and A regarding this ruling.



Source: JackMoreh/FreeRangeStock.com

Over the course of many years, the U.S. government clearly made decisions that infringed upon certain religious rights in a purported effort to separate church and state. In doing so, it paved the way for public entities to do the same.

On June 27, 2022, a Supreme Court ruling was the highest court in the land saying, in essence, the government had previously overreached, and it was wrong to restrict the abilities of school leaders when praying publicly at sporting events.

The ruling was passed in a 6-3 victory, and it was the result of action brought about by Coach Joseph Kennedy after the Bremerton School District (Washington state) prohibited him from praying public during sporting events.

Justice Neil Gorsuch affirmed in the majority opinion: “Both the Free Exercise and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment protect expressions like Mr. Kennedy’s. Nor does a proper understanding of the Amendment’s Establishment Clause require the government to single out private religious speech for special disfavor. The Constitution and the best of our traditions counsel mutual respect and tolerance, not censorship and suppression, for religious and nonreligious views alike.”

This opinion supported Mr. Kennedy’s claim that in praying at public events, he is merely expressing his religious convictions and did not do so with the intent to impress those on others ~ a definite victory!



Passing of Montgomery County Commissioner Elton N. Dean, Sr.

It is with extreme sadness that the Montgomery County Commission advises you of the death of our beloved and admired friend and colleague, Elton N. Dean, Sr.

“Elton was more than a Commissioner; he was like a big brother to us all. We looked to him for his insight as a leader and his words of wisdom,” says Commission vice-chairman Doug Singleton. “I will always treasure our endless discussions about his love for his county and baseball,” said Singleton.

Dean was first elected to the Commission in November 2000 and was re-elected by his constituents for the next five election cycles, serving as a County Commissioner for a total of 22 years. He was elected vice chairman at the Commission’s organizational meeting in November 2004 and named chairman in 2009, a role he served passionately and tirelessly until his recent illness.

Elton N. Dean, Sr., lay in state at the Montgomery County Courthouse on Friday, June 17, The next day, a Celebration of Life was held at Alabama State University, followed by interment at Greenwood Cemetery.

Information and image from Montgomery County Commission Facebook page.

(334) 365-6552

M-F: 9-5:30 / Sat: 9-5 / Sun: Clsd

www.BryanJewelry.com

1778 East Main Street, Prattville, AL 36066



Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He served 16 years in the state legislature.

www.steveflowers.us

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

Do Campaign Ads Pander?



During the waning days of the campaigns for Governor and U.S. Senator, I received an inordinate amount of correspondence lamenting the outrageous, demagogic, disingenuous, negative ads, especially on television. The frustration can best be summed up by a thoughtful writer's comments, "Steve, it is sad with all the issues we need to face in Alabama (health, education, infrastructure) we continue to dumb down our elections. I found the Kay Ivey ads revolting and racist."

The writer went on to say that he was a Democrat, and he knew a Democrat could not win in Alabama and the best they could get is 40%. My response was, "Negative and dumbed down, overt racist ads work. If they didn't, then these media gurus would not use them." Over 65% of the ads used were negative, over the top ads that only had a scintilla of truth. Why, again? Because they work. I also told this reader that this vicious, atrocious simpleton advertising is not limited to just Alabama.

We are a right wing conservative Republican state and only conservative Republicans vote in a Republican Primary. This reader stated he is a Democrat. He probably did not plan to vote in the Republican Primary. Therefore, the ads were not designed to appease or attract him or his vote.

Ads are designed to pander to right wing, conservative Alabamians. Therefore, it is pretty clear that ads are going to depict their candidate as being against abortion, illegal immigrants and for having, owning, and shooting guns. The media gurus are obviously going to say that someone's Republican opponent is for killing babies, letting Mexicans cross the border illegally and being against the Second Amendment.

Furthermore, allow me to take up for the Republican electorate of Alabama, who have consumed these ads. We are a red right wing Republican state. If you think these media gurus or hired guns, as I like to call them, are not moving to a left wing liberal state and doing the same thing to the left wing voters of California and New York, you are mistaken.

If you were to see the television ads in a California Democratic Primary, these hired guns would be revealing to the left wing, liberal base ads that show their candidates advocating that the governor should perform free abortions on

demand during the third trimester on the Capitol steps, and every county in California should be made to open and fund transgender schools. The hired guns would further have a picture of their gubernatorial candidate holding a welcome sign and personally embracing all illegal immigrants crossing the border and gifting them a social security card, welfare check and voucher to any school in the Golden State, and of course giving them a democratic voting application regardless of whether they could read, write or speak English. Their gubernatorial candidate would follow up with a statement saying, "We as democrats do not care what this costs us because we do not believe in a balanced budget." Then they would have their gubernatorial candidate erecting signs all over the state instructing all gun owners to turn over their guns, immediately, because the Second Amendment does not apply in California.

In short, we are a very diverse and very partisan nation. There is a lot of difference in political and social philosophy between California and Alabama. California is definitely a liberal Democratic state and Alabama is definitely a conservative Republican state.

The same hired gun political ad gurus travel from Alabama to California. They do not dwell on philosophy. They are hired to win elections. They design their ads to appeal to the base of the conservative Republican Party in Alabama and they design ads to pander to the left wing, liberal Democratic base in California.

As far as our Alabama GOP Primary, in defense of Kay Ivey, she was going to win reelection regardless of what her eight opponents did or how much they spent. She would have gotten 60% if there had not been \$16 million of mostly untruthful negative ads thrown at her. She did not go negative against the eight novices that attacked her. Folks, Kay Ivey, ain't anymore for abortions on demand than Mother Teresa.

In closing, negative ads work. If they didn't work they would not use them. You always have and probably always will see negative ads. It doesn't take a rocket scientist in Huntsville to understand that if you are trying to win a Republican Primary in Alabama, you pander to the conservative base voter. So, you ask, "Do campaign ads pander?" The answer is "Duh, yes."



Justice Will Sellers

Bending the Universe Toward Justice

Dr. Martin Luther King argued that the arc of the moral universe is long and bends toward justice. This geometry lesson was used to illustrate a belief that history is pulled gravitationally towards freedom.

One of the early "moral arcs" occurred 807 years ago this month when the Magna Carta was signed at Runnymede. This critical event would set in motion several important concepts now ingrained in our system of government. Perhaps the most important ideas acknowledged by the Magna Carter were that the British monarchs were not above the law, and their powers were neither limitless nor were they able to impose rules that violated established legal customs.

One custom that seems to attract universal interest is the power to tax and exploit from others their property to benefit the prevailing concept of the common good. Even in 1215 people had a tolerance for an acceptable level of taxation, but they also had a concept of excessive taxation, which was always a source of acrimony between the governed and civil authority.

While the Magna Carta addressed several issues, arbitrary taxation set in motion a fundamental concept that would be refined over time to require a process allowing taxpayers to consent or otherwise participate in the approval of any new taxes.

To curtail the King's power to tax was significant. The King, like any sovereign, depended on taxes to support his palace, prerogatives, and policies. Indeed, one hallmark of absolutism is the ability to squeeze as much revenue from as many people to create a government directed solely by the monarch and accountable to no one.

Limiting the purse of the ruler was a mark along the road to greater liberty and freedom. It would be a stretch to argue that the Barons who forced King John to sign the Magna Carta were the first economic supply-siders. They were merely tired of funding royal initiatives that offered no local benefit while siphoning money and commodities out of their community.

The effect of the Magna Carta was a step toward limiting the government and allowing communities to retain their crops, gold, and property. Kings, like any other authority, chaff at having their financial plans approved by others. In King John's case, he reluctantly signed the Magna Carta and later repudiated it, which started a war with his nobles. This civil war ended only after his successor, King Henry III, agreed to confirm the terms of the Magna Carta and reissued it to show royal assent.

The Magna Carta, by requiring some form of consent to levy and collect tax, indirectly created the need for a parliament to approve the King's explanation of what taxes were necessary and why. Few societies in the 13th Century had any notion of assembling people together so the King could confirm his limited power by asking his subjects for taxes.

The uniqueness of this system would create an expectation of a relationship to balance the interests of the government and the governed. As the arc of history

moved forward with Parliament, the powers of the King eroded, and greater power was ceded to a representative body.

While Parliament grew in authority, later, it too would come under scrutiny when it abused power and failed to recognize that it no longer represented the governed.

With the industrial revolution and the growth of a middle class, the power in Parliament became more reflective of an elite class with little attention to changes in the country. And so it was that 190 years ago this month, the Great Reform Act was passed to correct how members of Parliament were elected.

As Parliament developed, there was no uniformity in what constituted a district to elect a representative. In some cases, districts might be relatively small with limited land and population, while other districts would be much larger. In the same token, there was no set requirement of just who was eligible to vote in a district. Qualifications varied, which allowed the hierarchy to control both the voting district and the voters.

So, in the 1830s, rather than a voice of the people, Parliament had become more like King John in 1215 and lost touch with the population. It now abused its power by imposing laws, taxes, and a system that had no accountability to an industrialized country. Like the nobles, the growing middle class wanted a say in how government impacted their lives.

Proving once again the dynamic of the English system, Parliament reformed itself. In an appeal to liberty and the good will of all citizens, and believing in representative government, in 1832, Parliament accomplished two critical things in bending the arc of history toward justice.

First, the act changed how districts were allocated within cities and counties. Gone were the abusive boroughs controlled by an elite, and in their place were districts with similar populations and interests. Though not even remotely approaching the concept of "one man, one vote," it still served as the genesis of voting districts with proportional representation.

Second, the franchise was expanded to allow a lower threshold of property ownership for eligibility to vote. This increased the eligible voting population more than 55%. While women were not allowed to vote and lower classes continued to be excluded, in the march toward greater participation in government, it was a clear step toward justice.

The act also created an objective system of voter registration that was the primary responsibility of local government. Additionally, boards were established to hear appeals for disputes about qualifications to vote, which further established a notion of due process by defusing power to allow a review of voting eligibility by a higher authority.

Both the Magna Carta in 1215 and the 1832 Reform Act continued a process to allow greater liberty, more freedom, and expanded justice, and these two initiatives served as bright beacons along the arc of history moving civilization towards greater self-determination.

Will Sellers was appointed by Governor Kay Ivey to the Supreme Court of Alabama in 2017. He can be reached at jws@willsellers.com. The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.



12 E. Jefferson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

www.alabamagazette.com
alabamagazette@gmail.com

The Alabama
Gazette
Office (334) 356-6700

Vol. 22, Issue 10
©2022

The Alabama Gazette
16 pages / 2 sections



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

Loretta Grant
Co-Owner/Publisher

Samuel Adams
Co-Owner

Chelese Beck—Senior Editor / Layout & Design



ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

SCHOOL IS IN SESSION

Several years ago, I first wrote this column. Since then, gun violence in this country has gotten worse – no doubt. At the same time, however, I am not about to sit here and blame an inanimate object for the dirty sins in a man’s heart. Not going to happen. Evil people will always do evil things. If all he has is a hammer, guess what? That is what he/she is going to use. But with all the recent shootings in Buffalo, Uvalde and just the other day in Vestavia Hills, the common and not surprising rallying cry from the left is to disarm all citizens. Hitler, Stalin and others are looking up from hell with smiles on their faces. Whether it be the not-so bright Whoopi Goldberg saying that we have to give up our guns, Matthew McConaughey’s impassioned pleas while his armed bodyguards stand watch or our dear President fallaciously telling the American public that a 9mm bullet blows the entire lung out of a body, people need to know exactly what was and remains behind this country’s 2nd Amendment. Its place in our society cannot be taken for granted or worse, taken away. I will tell you one thing, if more parents took the time to not raise a bunch of crappy kids, we would not have the problems we have today.

In 2013, I wrote a column about the 2nd Amendment. In response to a letter to the editor with someone disagreeing with me, I felt compelled to respond him. Below is my response. It is even more valid in 2022 than in 2013. Hard to imagine I wrote this piece nine years ago.

Having the opportunity to write for *The Alabama Gazette* is always fun for me. I like to know that folks are reading my “stuff” whether they agree with it or not. I have always enjoyed pleasant disagreements and the ability to debate issues with people. After I wrote my first column about gun rights two months ago, a reader took issue with what I had written. That is fine and I know nobody will ever agree with everything I, or anybody, has to say. Although I wasn’t going to respond, the more I thought about it, the more I felt compelled to “school” him on reality.

When I first started working on my Master’s degree in history, I remember the first required book was Carl G. Gustavson’s work titled, *A Preface to History*. In this book, Gustavson outlines what he calls “Nine Questions to Historical Causation.” He posits that before anyone attempts to understand any historical event, he must ask the following questions.

1. What was the immediate cause for the event?
2. Had there been a background of agitation for the principles victorious during this period?
3. Were personalities involved on either side whose strengths or weaknesses may have helped to determine the outcome of the struggle?
4. Were any new and potent ideas stimulating the loyalty of a considerable number of people?
5. How did the economic groups line up on the issue?
6. Were religious forces active?
7. Did any new technological developments influence the situation?
8. Can the events be partially explained by weakened or strengthened institutions?
9. Was the physical environment itself a factor in the situation?

The purpose of asking these questions is to get the historian to look at any historical event in the context in which it transpired. This is what I plan on doing, very quickly, in regards to gun rights and the reality that the founders did indeed view gun ownership, among other things, as a necessary precursor to keeping renegade governments in check.

Let’s take a look at America in 1773. America was being systematically crushed by a long series of oppressive taxes and restrictive laws such as the Currency Act (Colonies could not produce paper money) and Sugar Act of 1764 and the 1765 Stamp and Quartering Acts (Colonies required to provide housing, food and other provisions to British soldiers). All came to a head with the Tea Act passed by British Parliament in May 1773. Between the Quartering Act of 1765 and the Tea Act of 1773, we endured several small conflicts with the British including the Boston Massacre in 1770.

When faced with ever increasing taxes imposed by Parliament against the colonies, the Boston Tea Party erupted on 16 December 1773. We had had enough. England responded in 1774 with the Coercive Acts that ended local self-government in Massachusetts and placed it under control of the British Army. This act also closed Boston’s commerce. In September 1774, the First Continental Congress was formed just three months after the first Continental Army was established under George Washington. In April 1775 the Battles of Concord and Lexington took place and a little over a year later, the Declaration of Independence was introduced on 4 July 1776. The war ended in 1783 after the signing of the Treaty of Paris giving the 13 Colonies sovereignty from British rule. Our constitution was adopted on 17 September 1787 by Constitutional Convention and the Bill of Rights – the first ten amendments – was ratified on 15 December 1791.

This is a VERY, VERY brief timeline of the war. The purpose is only to show, according to the nine questions of historical causation, that the American Revolution did not just happen but was the result of many factors, the vast majority of which are not listed here. But as we look at what these men had recently gone through, we have to get into their mind and ask questions that likely drove their decisions and thought processes. For example, the Third Amendment states, “No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.” Do you think the British Quartering Act of 1765 had anything to do with this? Of course, it did!

The founders had witnessed firsthand in Europe what corrupt governments could do to an unarmed people. The author of the Second Amendment, James Madison, actually went through over half-a-dozen iterations before arriving at what we see today. Madison’s first version presented on 8 June 1789 actually stated, “The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; a well-armed and well-regulated militia being the best security of a free country but no person religiously scrupulous of bearing shall be compelled to bear arms.” Ignoring the part dealing with conscientious objectors, Madison clearly wanted the right to bear arms to be separate while integral to the concept of militia. His next version presented on 21 July, switched the order placing the verbiage of a militia first. One version actually had the idea of the people’s right to bear arms and militias as two separate amendments deserving separate votes. Finally, on 21 September 1789, we got our final version. It is clear the framers intended the right to bear arms not be limited to military operations contingent upon militia actions. For those who want to argue that the founders never envisioned machine guns, they are probably right. But Madison’s own words of a “well-armed and well-regulated militia” clearly envisions a state of parity with the government.

When I read comments by modern scholars who intentionally misinterpret the constitution for political reasons, I always go back to the men who either

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



Photo by: Pattanasak Kaewhom / freerangestock.com

wrote the documents or those who lived in such contentious times. I care much more about their ideas than the ravings of the morally bankrupt intelligentsia. If you want to get a better feel for what they were thinking, read things like early commentaries of constitutional theorists, the Federalist Papers, and writings of men like Thomas Jefferson, John Jay, James Madison and Sir William Blackstone’s commentaries on the Laws of England. Constitutional theorist St. George Tucker criticized the English Bill of Rights, for example, for intentionally limiting gun ownership in England to the very wealthy, leaving the majority of the population “effectively disarmed.” Tucker wrote that he hoped the new American country would “never cease to regard the right of keeping and bearing arms as the surest pledge of their liberty.”

In William Rawle’s *A View of the Constitution of the United States* written in 1825, he penned: “No clause could by any rule of construction be conceived to give to Congress a power to disarm the people. Such a flagitious attempt could only be made under some general pretense by a state legislature. But if in any blind pursuit of inordinate power either should attempt it, this amendment may be appealed to as a restraint on both.” Powerful stuff!

Joseph Story, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court 1811-1845 appointed by James Madison, described a militia as the “natural defense of a free country against foreign enemies, domestic revolts and usurpation by rulers.” Story regarded the militia as the “moral check” against usurpation (wrongful or illegal encroachment, infringement or seizure) and the “arbitrary use of power.”

Having re-read my first column, as expected, the writer of the letter misrepresented what I said. In reality most liberals have to in order to prove their fallacious points or arguments. I never once said “this” or “our” government is corrupt or oppressive. It is clear, however, that the founders of this country, men admittedly a lot smarter than I, considered the consequences of “a” government being oppressive and corrupt. Heck, they just fought and won a war because of exactly that. Perhaps the writer missed the day in school when they taught the freedom cry, “Taxation without representation.” Had the Continental Army not been supplemented in the early days by armed men, their victory cannot be certain. It took armed men, willing to fight a king’s tyranny, to turn the tide and win the war.

Although there have been many court decisions concerning gun rights, the intent of the founders cannot be denied. That is of course unless you are the proverbial cartoon ostrich with your head buried in the sand and your exposed rear up in the air for everyone to see. I don’t know what course this debate will take over the next several years or generations. As our country becomes more liberal in its outlook, this is a battle gun rights advocates may eventually lose. All I ask that both sides read what these men wrote and try to see what they saw and notice what they knew to be true according the world in which they lived. Yes, the world has changed a lot since the 1700s but truth remains truth and as corrupt governments come and go, it may still remain an armed populace that may be the only thing between totalitarian dominance and the freedoms espoused in our constitution.

Lastly, I just found out this will be Chelese’s final Alabama Gazette as the backstage Wonder Woman. I just wanted to say that it has been a pleasure working with her and hope the best for her in the future.

Editor’s Note (Chelese): Thank you, Rob! It’s been a pleasure working with you and all of the other talented Gazette contributors!

DID YOU KNOW?

Tenth in a Series

President James Madison, “Father of the Constitution”, vetoed a bill in 1817 providing for the federal government to fund the building of roads, canals, and improvement of waterways. His veto message to Congress said the bill violated Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

“The legislative powers vested in Congress are specified and enumerated in the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution, and it does not appear that the power to be exercised by this bill is among the enumerated powers.”

By 1860, the Northern States had a commanding majority in Congress and were voting to spend most of the federal revenue to develop industry in the North. The General Welfare clause of Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution requires spending to be for the benefit of all the States.

Although the Southern States were providing two-thirds of the federal revenue through tariffs, approximately three-fourths of federal spending was in Northern States for the same type of 'internal improvements' President Madison said violated the Constitution.

Assuming powers not granted to it by Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, the federal government, dominated by Northern States also violated the Tenth Amendment.

“The Powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

Capt. Henry C. Semple Camp 2002
camp2002@alcs.org

The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette. / GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com

Trouble in Hubbardland?



John Sophocleus

More rumblings in ‘low turnout’ Lee County as voters try to reject Hubbardland, the epicenter of corruption in our State. Although in prison and well paid with back door hush money via the Auburn mafia/Yella-grubber coconspirators [www.alabamagazette.com/story/2019/10/01/opinion/the-au-horror-picture-show-bride-of-felonstein-meets-yellagrubbear/1750.html] Felon Hubbard **still** calls the shots. Reading Mike’s ‘code’ from prison dialog transcripts leaves little doubt. The Hubbard Boulevard visual may be removed from the ugliest pillage on the plains, but the road to perdition paved by the ‘*I Believe in Mike Hubbard*’ freebooters keeps steam-rolling along...

In concert with Gov. Ivey’s new and improved ACCA, BCA, et al bulldozer tactics, Goat Hill legislators ‘passed the gas’ tax to fuel a more over-built/unsustainable road system in Alabama transferring wealth to the usual grifters. No doubt our low class, high end political prostitutes (Armistead to Waggoner type ‘Hubbard grubbers’) will prosper as usual, aided and abetted by ‘*bottom dwellers*’ at the county commission level Lee County voters are currently removing.

Montgomery made it clear to political prostitutes it was open season on taxpayers when espousing their Republicrat rhetoric following the 14% **special** election turnout result (49 days before a general election) to rob \$437 million from our **ETF**. At least that 2012 sham result was accompanied by an election politburo members could spin as, “*a great show of support from the people.*” Of course they wouldn’t let the people decide a few weeks later in a **general** election where greater voter participation forecasted an outcome which would block these political thieves. Similarly, the Republicrat super-majority wouldn’t put a gas tax vote on any Statewide general election ballot.

There’s some evidence Hubbard’s “*Stealing the Statehouse*” playbook is finally meeting some resistance in Lee County, awaiting Felon Hubbard’s return to ‘Lago’ in true High Plains Grifter fashion gnawing away at souls and quality of life in East Alabama. Don’t expect productive citizens to continue applauding political thieves’ abilities and lack of scruples to steal candy from a baby as some sort of ‘*artful dodger*’ event. Reportedly 25% of the passed gas tax revenue would go to counties. In Lee County (epicenter of corrupt administrators, board members, commissioners, et al) it set off a feeding frenzy to enable more malfeasance and cancerous growth. The ‘*gentlemen agreement*’ to not pay for timber loads in excess of the 88,000 lb. limit had been effective. Great incentive to **NOT** overload since it won’t generate any greater payment for the timber. As morals and decency decayed these past years, inferior gentlemen displayed how cheaply souls are sold for ill-gotten gains; the incidence of overloaded trucks increased along with shady quarry deals and silencing citizen input, etc.

Economists (esp. traditional libertarians, **not** Ziegler apostles) champion user fees. In short, those who are doing the damage and generating increased costs **pay** to build/maintain/repair the damage done instead of being subsidized by others. With **this** tax, those often least able to bear the tax burden disproportionately pay the recently passed gas tax increase. Gasoline (like alcohol, beer, cigs. etc.) has a more **inelastic** (*i.e.*, less responsive) demand curve so producers do not lobby against it... easier to simply pass most of the tax increase onto consumers.

As an aside, taxes on clothing, food, etc. with more **elastic** demand curves/competitive markets make it more difficult to pass taxes onto consumers – *esp.* lowest income consumers who more often aren’t **directly** purchasing food via SNAP/EBT payments. When an incompetent or corrupt ‘*public servant*’ (doesn’t matter, the result is the same) champions removing taxes on these items one expects to see “*Judas rhetoric*” in overdrive; assert caring for the poor to cloak the avarice of those lobbying to avoid paying taxes they mostly bear.

Does any **rational** person think removing the 4% State sales tax on groceries will result in consumer grocery bills **in fact** decreasing 4%? They will go down a little, but I assure readers the suppliers lobbying to remove the tax are **NOT** doing so to give the portion of the tax they pay to consumers instead of transferring to the Alabama Dept. of Revenue. When I get enough reader interest about this I’ll devote a future column to who bears a tax (consumers v. producers) and the “*Calculus of Consent*” in economics.

Back to the more local realities. The first corrupt Lee County commissioner to go (recently) was Sheila Eckman, most adamant of the county politburo refusing to accept two prior general election votes against taking more from unincorporated areas, shamelessly shrilling about letting the citizens decide and saying the issue got lost and voters were confused when soundly defeating it **twice**. It doesn’t really matter if too poorly educated to understand how foolish this public servant sounds or she doesn’t understand arithmetic or genuinely believes a sham special election result was ‘letting the citizens decide’ in her mind, the deleterious result was the same.

Easy to get big govt. extremist out for victory to transfer power and wealth in their favor instead of another reasonable sample of general election voters who may again stop this sort of abuse/manipulation of outcomes. How many of the 95% of registered voters who did NOT show even KNEW about that special election vote? All is ‘*fair*’ to advance their god of bigger govt. and promote their cronies, nonetheless this abusive manipulation of the electorate from the Felon Hubbard playbook may be attenuating. The candidate Lee County Watchers supported [Cannon] to replace Eckman started out well, but quickly followed the leadership of the most corrupt commissioner [Ham] recently removed in the June 21st runoff. Sadly, Commissioner Cannon will be one to remove next election cycle ‘if these shadows go unaltered’ as Dickens penned.


It was hopeful to see the most corrupt Lee Co. commissioner go down about two to one in another low [7.3%] turnout result suggesting more are becoming aware and taking out some of the Auburn Mafia/Felon Hubbard/Gig City Fuller political trash. Sending additional tens of millions in ATRIP dollars to a county which holds a special election to pass a tax for parks & recreation (clearly **not** wanted by the more representative general election voters) **instead of** improving their roads exacerbates the observed cancerous growth these past years. Worse still, County Access Management Policies and Subdivision Regulations prescribe one thing, but County officials spend tax dollars to circumvent the rules/policies. Little surprise given 3 of 5 commissioners are developers, they do not want to bear the costs of their business activities.

When the County obtains a developer’s performance bond to guarantee improvements on a road, the policy triggers a listing of the improvements and estimate; neither were provided by corrupt County officials. The Engineer is required to certify compliance with this County policy – he has not. Before connecting, it is required to comply with ALDoT’s “County Road Design” – it does not. When exceeding 100 VPD (Vehicles Per Day) improvements are required; no improvements were made. The unlawful Engineer (not bonded as required) used his ‘*discretion*’ to redirect county tax dollars to impose his own flawed traffic study. The Engineer’s discretion (commissioners very publicly stand behind) conveniently forecasts just below VPD requirements to release bonds so developers do not pay for the increased demand/use they put on county infrastructure where every **actual** VPD count revealed how poor this ‘*public servant*’s’ discretion has been.


Now, this corrupt County commission claims they don’t have the money and must address higher priorities. Well, they **HAD** money. They instead subsidize developers spreading this unsustainable cancer in Lee county to now beggar money from Goat Hill to further cover-up their corruption, incompetence

and systematically harming those (mostly poor rural motorists and black churches in the County) least able fight this cancer and corruption. To add insult to injury our most corrupt commissioner championed 2 foot narrower roads ‘to make us more safe’ and not **one** commissioner had the courage to stand up against this bullying political thief’s nonsense.

Issues of wrongful railroad crossing closures, using County resources to clear and grub for corrupt mayors, interesting “windfalls” from Highway Department auctions, etc. speak volumes to further illustrate the corrupt things the passed gas tax enables. Just as enforcing weight restrictions and a more rational school bus policy, perhaps Goat Hill would be better served to ensure laws are followed and incompetent/unlawful ‘*public servants*’ of this sort (like this un-bonded engineer) indeed vacate their office as prescribed, fines paid, etc. instead of again throwing more money to subsidize even more harm. Similar lack of oversight issues with Hospital Board members, BCBS fraud, no billing transparency and other insurance fraud with this corrupt commissioner has overflowed these past years.



Hush Money



still at Work in Lee County

Felon Hubbard minion and Auburn mafia devotee, Mr. ‘*Gig City*’ Fuller took a hit when his corrupt incumbent candidate [LaGrand] was taken out in the May 2022 primary. LaGrand was not as big an enabler of leader Ham’s corruption as Commissioner Long, but voters clearly had enough of his not making a stand against misleading Beat 13 to adopt Ham’s ‘Masterplan/Agenda 21 zoning to stop a quarry after admitting the planning commission did not have that authority. LaGrand would not address bonding requirements for quarries nor keep simple promises like submitting resolutions for long time honoured press, specifically Fred Woods (who faithfully covered commission meetings) upon his passing last year.

LaGrand’s arrogant doubling down on even more ‘progressive’ big govt. programs like mandating/monopolizing curbside trash pick-up also didn’t bode well with the black community who witnessed one of their promising, successful young entrepreneurs destroyed to transfer wealth to yet another Ham, ACCA approved crony contractor. Watchers begged LaGrand to request looking into cost of enforcing the 30% to 40% wrongful dumping into county dumpsters and failure to address ARPA fund allocations to mostly black churches and did **nothing**. It seemed more important to support Ham’s corruption and ‘*business relationships*’ with trucks to pick-up bulk trash, citizens were told would be Arrow’s (the crony monopoly contractor) responsibility, yet never allowed to see bids/contracts.

In closing, the best thing about ‘*Gig City*’ Fuller’s corrupt commissioner going down, is that many who were being asked to vote for the Auburn mafia’s State Senate Candidate [Hovey] didn’t do so because it was more important to remove corrupt commissioner LaGrand. Otherwise, Hovey would’ve won by a margin of **hundreds** more votes. It will be interesting to see what the Alabama Republican Party decides in Birmingham June 25th. It’ll reveal if the State Party supports the local Felon Hubbard kleptocrat minions and install Hovey, or take the heat of siding with incumbent Senator Whatley who’s campaign advisors ran an awful campaign, spending ridiculous amounts of money to make this Senator look foolish. If Whatley carries the day, I pray he’s learned not to listen to these ‘Dumb Ad’ salesmen and will stop schmoozing with Auburn mafia Lovvorn types and Will Ainsworth political thieves which folks witnessed sucking up to Felon Hubbard at Whatley events just before Mike’s long delayed trip to prison. I relished the possibility Auburn mafia/coconspirators couldn’t come up with enough ‘back door’ hush money to keep Felon Hubbard quiet and rat out some of the worst political parasites in our State.



Don't let the Poarch Creek Indians

STEAL ALABAMA

SAY NO TO THEIR GAMBLING



Tell your Local Legislator to support HB-72 and HB-73. House of Representatives at 334.261.0500 and the Alabama Senate at 334.261.0800

PAID FOR BY MCGREEN INVESTMENTS, LLC
429 Green Springs Highway
Birmingham, AL 35209



Ronald A. Holtsford

MARSTILLER, IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS SECRETARY OF THE FLORIDA AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION. The majority opinion was written by Justice Clarence Thomas.

After WellCare of Florida paid almost \$21,500.00 towards her care, Florida Medicaid paid almost \$863,000.00. Gallardo had assigned her right to recover from third parties as a condition of receiving Florida Medicaid. The parents sued the truck owner and the Lee County School Board for \$20 million. It was settled on for \$800,000.00. Florida Medicaid was entitled to a 4% recovery of that amount for past medical expenses. The settlement also included language that some of the settlement would be assigned to future medical expenses.

Florida’s statutory formula meant that Florida was entitled to \$300,000.00 of the settlement. The settlement however explicitly allocated just over \$35,000.00 to Florida. \$300,000.00 was placed into escrow and the presumed allocation was challenged. Florida defended the presumed allocation stating that the statutory allocation would be for past and future medical expenses. In the meantime Gallardo sought a declaration that Florida was violating the Medicaid Act by trying to recover from the settlement for future medical expenses. The Eleventh Circuit had previously ruled that a state is not prohibited from recovering future medical expenses.

The *Writ of Certiorari* was granted by the United States Supreme Court because the Supreme Court of Florida and the Eleventh Circuit had reached opposite conclusions. Gallardo argued that the Eleventh Circuit had erred because the Medicaid anti-lien provision “forecloses recovery from settlement amounts other than those allocated for past medical care paid for by Medicaid.”

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." As always if you do not have an attorney, ask a trusted friend or family member or contact the Alabama State Bar, Lawyer Referral service.

Ronald A. Holtsford, Esq., Ronald A. Holtsford, LLC, (334) 220-3700 | 7956 Vaughn Road, Box #124, Montgomery, AL 36116, raholtsford@aol.com

Any recent interesting Supreme Court decisions?



The Supreme Court of the United States agreed to hear the case. Justice Thomas wrote, “The plain text of §1396k(a)(1)(A) decides this case. This provision requires the State to acquire from each Medicaid beneficiary an assignment of “any rights . . . of the individual ... to support ... for the purpose of medical care ... and to payment for medical care from any third party.” §1396k(a)(1)(A). Nothing in this provision purports to limit a beneficiary’s assignment to “payment for” past “medical care” already paid for by Medicaid. To the contrary, the grant of “any rights . . . to payment for medical care” most naturally covers not only rights to payment for past medical expenses, but also rights to payment for future medical expenses”. Furthermore, Justice Thomas said, “The plain text of §1396k(a)(1)(A) decides this case. This provision requires the State to acquire from each Medicaid beneficiary an assignment of “any rights . . . of the individual ... to support ... for the purpose of medical care ... and to payment for medical care from any third party.” §1396k(a)(1)(A). Nothing in this provision purports to limit a beneficiary’s assignment to “payment for” past “medical care” already paid for by Medicaid. To the contrary, the grant of “any rights . . . to payment for medical care” most naturally covers not only rights to payment for past medical expenses, but also rights to payment for future medical expenses.”

Medicaid, aside from being a program for the poor is also a financially poor program because of all that it does. In Alabama, Medicaid pays for more than seventy percent (70%) of all residents in the nursing homes. Alabama residents using Medicaid that acquire too many assets, can lose their Medicaid benefits until they can spend down and/ or pay penalties and again be eligible. A few years ago Alabama began to try and recover from the estates of decedents having their estates probated. Obviously in the case of a deceased person all medical expenses are past but any recovery that may be possible may help the program since Alabama can be entitled up to the amount previously expended by Medicaid on a decedent during their life.

Considering the above, I understand why Florida would seek the repayment of third parties to a beneficiary regardless of whether it has been paid or is expected to be paid.



John M. Taylor

After reading about Lincoln over time and writing a book where he was a central figure, it became clear that the reference to “Honest Abe” was almost certainly facetious, something akin to calling a portly individual “slim.” Many others have come to the same conclusion.

In 1832, Lincoln expressed his political philosophy: “*My politics are short and sweet, like the old woman's dance. I am in favor of a national bank. I am in favor of the internal improvement system, and a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles...*” (*Wikisource*) Whether representing the Whigs or Republicans, Lincoln’s beliefs remained consistent.

Lincoln was well known for his penchant for both telling and listening to dirty jokes, often followed with spasmodic laughter. He wrote a sarcastic, biblically structured piece entitled *The Chronicles of Reuben*, which implied the homosexuality of Billy Grigsby, brother of Aaron Grigsby (Aaron married Lincoln’s sister, Sarah. Lincoln felt Aaron’s negligence led to his sister’ death during childbirth.) This was a bold topic in an era with a moral code. Within his “inner circle” Lincoln was known as a religious skeptic, often accused of being an “infidel,” an “agnostic,” and an “atheist.” The accusers included Cornelius Vanderbilt, law partner William Herndon, bodyguard Ward Hill Lamon, friend Samuel Hill, Judge David Davis, cousin Dennis Hanks, and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln. However, when it came to the apotheosis (deification) of Lincoln, most of these same individuals were on board with the mythology.

As a lawyer, Lincoln represented a variety of individuals, including his 1847 representation of Kentucky slave owner, Robert Matson. However, he knew real money and power came from representing corporate and banking interests—and he was good at it. Lincoln won several cases that directly benefitted the railroad industry, e.g., *Barret v. Alton and Sangamon* (1851), *Hurd v. Rock Island Bridge Company* (1856), *Illinois Central Railroad v. County of McLean and George Parke* (1857) and *Illinois Central Railroad v. Morrison* (1857). Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Enabling Act on July 1, 1862, creating the Union Pacific Railroad Company. This assured the fortunes of several “elite” American families. Furthermore, Lincoln decided one railroad terminus would be in

“The Informed Southerner”

THE MYTHICAL ABRAHAM LINCOLN

On May 30th, the Lincoln Memorial celebrated its 100th birthday. Named after Abraham Lincoln, one memorial feature is the symbol of fasces (rods bundled together and bound with a red strap), which is also the symbol of fascism. How could there be a more accurate description of the philosophy of Abe Lincoln? Many share similar views, including author Greg L. Durand in *America's Caesar: The Decline and Fall of Republican Government in the United States of America*.

Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he owned suddenly more valuable property. Often portrayed as the “country bumpkin,” Lincoln was the highest paid lawyer in America and his services were in high demand.

Another pre-presidential event involved Lincoln’s role in nearly bankrupting the State of Illinois. He was part of the “Long Nine” which was made up of seven members of the house and two senators from Sangamon County, Illinois. The name came from the fact that all members were over six feet tall and politically similar. This group’s rampant spending on corporate welfare and internal improvements nearly broke the State.

Once elected, Lincoln repeatedly refused to negotiate with the South. Using a plan devised by Gustavus Fox, Lincoln sent reinforcements to Fort Sumter and Fort Pickens. The South retaliated against these acts of war, but since Southern Independence failed, the myth that the South started the war persists. Then, claiming the South did not “literally” leave the Union, Lincoln proceeded to violate the U.S. Constitution via illegally suspending the writ of habeas corpus, blockading Southern ports (he claimed were still in the union), suppressing free speech (e.g., Clement Vallandigham), suppressing the press (hundreds of newspapers censored or shut down), treasonously allowing the invasion of a State (Maryland), illegally allowing the creation of a State (West Virginia) from another State (Virginia), violating the Fugitive Slave Law, violating international law (Trent Affair), etc. The Emancipation Proclamation ruse supposedly freed slaves out of Union control and left enslaved those within its control. Lincoln was a true champion when it came to trashing the constitution and denying the right of self-government to the South.

As we celebrate July 4th and the American Colonies’ secession from the British Empire, we also have to look at the way Lincoln helped transform the country of sovereign, voluntary, independent States into a forced, centralized “union” where a State would thereafter be extremely reluctant to seek independence. Those who love centralization and leviathan will always admire Lincoln whereas those who believe in decentralized, voluntary government will always recognize Lincoln for his legacy of destroying those principles.

Sources: https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Life_and_Works_of_Abraham_Lincoln/Volume_3/I_Am_Humble_Abraham_Lincoln;_Union_At_All_Costs:_From_Confederation_to_Consolidation, by John M. Taylor

Retirement Savings Plans May Be Changing

Americans saw a number of changes to their retirement savings plans when the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, also known as SECURE, was passed in late 2019. Lawmakers at the time said they weren't done and have since proposed more changes.

With a 414 to 5 vote, the House of Representatives recently approved a second bill – the Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2022 – that would continue to tweak the rules for contributing to and withdrawing from their retire savings vehicles. Nicknamed SECURE 2.0, the legislation was introduced by Reps. Richard Neal (D-Mass.) and Kevin Brady (R-Texas), the two Congressmen who spearheaded passage of the original SECURE Act.

The new bill aims to encourage Americans to save more for retirement, in part by making that process easier. Now that SECURE 2.0 has passed the House, it's on its way to the Senate. It's widely expected that a law to enhance retirement savings will pass sometime this year, given the strong bipartisan support and the nearly unanimous backing of the original SECURE Act. Whether the final law that is eventually enacted will be SECURE 2.0, another bill in the Senate that is similar to SECURE 2.0 but has some differences, or a combination of the two, is right now anyone's guess.

The original SECURE Act raised the age at which you must start taking the required minimum distributions (RMDs) from traditional IRAs and 401(k)s from age 70½ to 72. SECURE 2.0 would again raise the age to begin taking RMDs, this time to age 75 over a decade. That means you could have more time for your money to grow tax free but if you delay RMDs, your withdrawals may need to be larger.

The age for RMDs would initially increase to 73 starting on January 1, 2023, then to age 74 on January 1, 2030. It would rise to 75 on January 1, 2033. Currently, if you fail to take your full RMD, the shortfall is hit with a 50% excise tax. That's one of the of the toughest penalties you can encounter from Uncle Sam. The new legislation with SECURE 2.0, this would be reduced to 25%. If the mistake is corrected in a timely manner, the penalty would be further reduced to 10%.



MBA and CPA

334-262-0424

Website: AccountantAL.com

Kim Clenney & Company, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

1761 Taliaferro Trail
Montgomery, Alabama 36117



kim@accountantalabama.com



John Martin

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

Overpopulation

In a mere two centuries, the human population on our planet has jumped from an estimated one billion people in 1804 to eight billion this year (June 2022)—a milestone right on schedule with the fictional movie, *Soylent Green*.

Statistics like this have been scaring people for many years. Even back in 1798, Thomas Malthus wrote about the prospect of mass starvation, death, and social unrest if we don’t bring its explosive growth under control. Then in 1968, Paul R. Ehrlich wrote an alarmist book titled *The Population Bomb* that predicted worldwide famine as early as the 1970s and ‘80s.

Fortunately, advances in technology have greatly expanded food production and held off the shortages of food. For a long time, people were beginning to consider Malthus a crackpot. But now in the 21st century, shortages are beginning to appear as we suffer from riots, wars, and Putin’s obsession to destroy the greatest food producer (Ukraine) on the Asian and European continents.

Meanwhile, masses of people are still recklessly procreating and throwing limits to the winds, especially in Africa, where they have already destroyed their greatest breadbasket (Rhodesia) some time back. Unrest in gold-rich post-apartheid South Africa is now about to do likewise.

There is no question that the world can only support a limited number of people. But what is that limit? How far can we go before millions—even billions of people suffer horrible deaths?

And food is not the only resource that people need. What about living space, or lebensraum, as Hitler called it? In 1968, John B. Calhoun began an epic experiment—Universe 25—to test it. Beginning with four pairs of healthy mice, he created a “Utopia” for them. They had all of the food and water they ever needed. Diseases and predators were kept out. About every 55 days, the population doubled for about five generations. It grew slower afterwards, but soon reached the space limits of the enclosure. Then problems developed. The excess mice could not leave the enclosure and escape the overcrowding. The social order of all of the mice broke down. The alpha males abused the others, even raping, killing and eating them. The great majority withdrew as well as they could, but they often fought and injured each other. Mother mice regularly killed their young. Infant mortality reached 90%. Violent mouse “gangs” were rampant. Normal sex drives disappeared. The population finally declined into extinction. This experiment has been repeated by others, with both mice and rats. The end results were the same every time.

Could Planet Earth end up with a similar fate once its population reaches a critical level? There is a great deal of disagreement on what that number could be. But many scientists do argue that a healthy world population should not exceed about two billion—a quarter of what we already have. The Georgia Guidestones suggest an even lower number—one half billion.

Poor people in third world countries have an opinion that bearing many children is desirable for the care of their elderly. That is family suicide. The result is chronic crowding, shortages of resources, and grinding poverty. This is already happening in Africa and much of India, Asia, the Middle East, and sizeable portions of Latin America. If this trend continues, their numbers could become so vast they would overwhelm the responsible people to the point of economic collapse. We must **NEVER** import that mindset into our country. It is certain death.

Excess children who run loose and have irresponsible or no parents are a terrible burden. In third world countries, thousands pour all over the streets begging, fighting, dealing drugs, stealing, vandalizing, and sometimes even killing people. Their numbers are far beyond the abilities of the people, police, and even the military to keep under control. We haven’t reached that point yet, but we do have some areas that are beginning to trend in that direction.

The big question is how can we lower the population? Killing the excess is too Nazi-like for rational people. There is only one serious solution—lower the total fertility rate to **WELL BELOW** the replacement level (2.1 children per family).

Beginning in 1978, China was the first country to respond with a one child per family policy up until 2015. China’s growth did slow down, but it did not plummet. Its one billion people still increased to 1.1 billion, but its explosive growth was averted, and its current population is finally stabilized. Even when enforced, lowering a birth rate has proven to be very difficult. China has proven that a long delay stands between the initiation of a reduction policy and its expected results.

Many Mexicans believe in large families, and some claim that mindset for religious reasons. The wealthy and middle class Mexicans are usually reasonable about family size. It is the poor, and especially the very poor that throw caution to the wind and multiply like rats and cockroaches. Hillside around Mexico City are literally smothered with tiny shanties as far as the eye can see. Mexico and much of the rest of Latin America are in desperate need of **SERIOUS** birth reduction.

India has slowed down its growth rate, but its population is still rising and has now pulled ahead of China. With its huge percentage of young people just reaching maturity, India must implement drastic birth reduction.

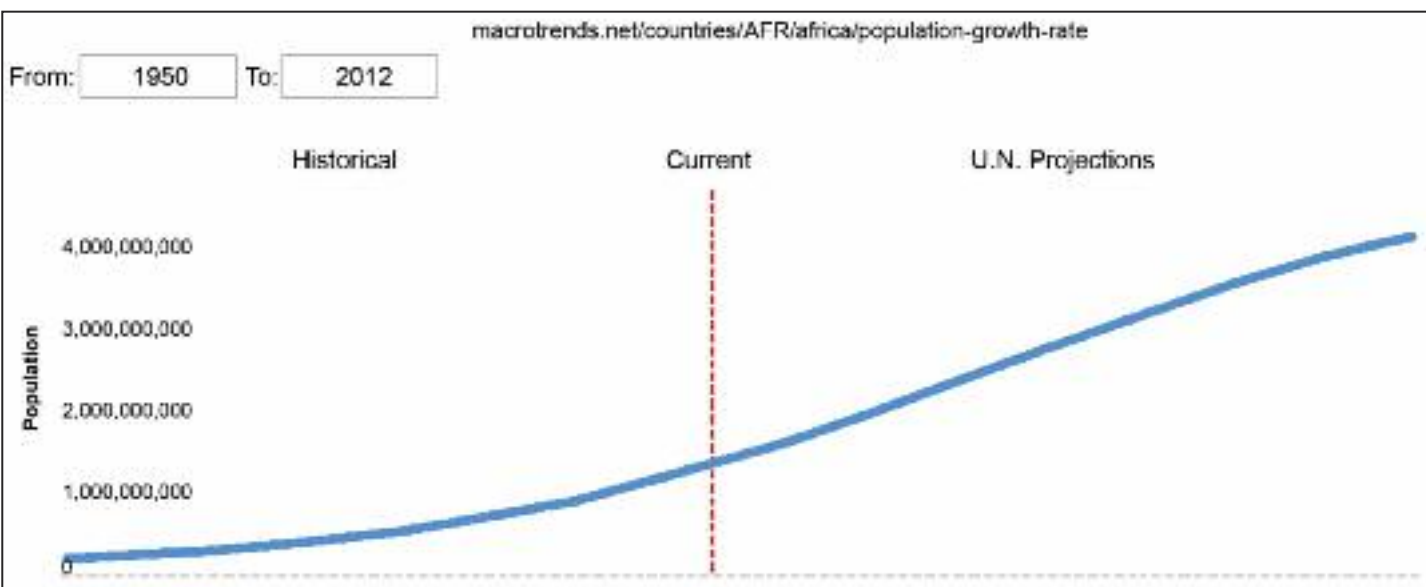
The most chronic part of the problem is Africa. Nearly all of its nations are impoverished. Africa has the world’s most explosive total fertility rate of 4.4. The worst ones are: Niger 6.8, Somalia 6.0, and DRC and Mali 5.8 each. In 1950, Africa’s entire population was less than 228 million. Now (2022), it has soared to over 1.4 billion. The United Nations’ projection for 2102 is over 4.28

billion, more than half of the world’s current population and still rapidly growing. To make matters even worse, most Africans’ IQs range from 69 – 80 and average about 75. As these masses multiply and spread everywhere, their numbers could dilute all of humanity.

(Reference image below)

Responsible people in western European countries plan their families so they will have both the time and resources to educate and care for their children. These are now at or near zero population growth or even slightly declining. Most of them have strict immigration policies. If they can keep the expanding masses at bay, their outlook looks good.

The United States could also be in that category if our immigration policies had adequate restraints. As early as the beginning of the 20th century, Americans became concerned about loose immigration policies and enacted some practical limits on the quantity and quality of people allowed to come and become citizens. Immigrants passing through Ellis Island were carefully screened for contagious diseases, birth defects, feeble-mindedness, criminal backgrounds and other undesirable traits, and if they had any, they were turned back.



But beginning in the mid-1960’s and especially in recent decades, America has ignored these standards and admitted huge masses of destitute people. Most come from third world countries with high birth rates and little self-control. Many have incompatible cultures, little education, poor ethical standards, criminal motives, and no family planning. Every year, our policies continue to degrade. The result has been increases in crime and dramatic rises in demands for public assistance. This strain has caused a serious public safety problem and a decline in our morals.

We must reject people from nations with reckless birth rates and limit any families to no more than two children, including the ones they already have. All immigrants, legal and otherwise, should never expect to get any type of freebies at the expense of the taxpayers. That includes anything—education, food, housing, and health care—even emergency health care. Mothers expecting to unload “anchor babies” should never get any free help from our doctors and hospitals; if they want or need something, they can pay for it like the rest of us do. Eliminating this magnet would be a strong deterrent to keep them from invading our country.

We must revamp our foreign aid policies from feeding hungry children (which exacerbates reckless breeding) to providing massive birth control and stern advice about the catastrophic consequences if strict family planning is not followed.

One top priority is that we must revise our Constitution with an amendment to eliminate automatic citizenship by birth on American soil. Other countries don’t provide this kind of reckless leniency; why should we?

We must end the reckless importation of destitute “refugees” and follow the strict immigration policies of the western European nations. Many of them also require substantial fees to come permanently and become citizens. Destitute masses are not welcome there.

We must also limit birth rates here at home. We should **NEVER** be paying people to procreate. Tax deductions and exemptions for more than two children must be eliminated. The bottom line is that overpopulation is a very serious problem. If we wait until we have catastrophic food shortages and tsunamis of migrants swarming uncontrollably across our borders, we could end up with endless warfare and millions of casualties.

All forms of contraception should be made readily available to everybody. These include IUDs, birth control pills, spermicides, condoms, hormones, vasectomies, tubal ligations, implants, shots, vaginal rings, RU-486 pills, and others. No method is 100% effective, but many are in the 99% range. For maximum protection, combining two procedures is recommended for maximum protection.

We should also adopt policies to improve the quality of the children we produce. People who have genes that are likely to produce birth defects could use sperm and eggs from those known to be healthy.

Violent criminals, feeble-minded persons, and other undesirables could be sterilized. If that sounds like eugenics, and you think it’s a bad idea, think about the consequences of diluting the human race into wild animals. If we let overpopulation run amok, we could face the hard choice between massive forced sterilization or a “Universe 25” extinction.

SOURCES:

1. Wikipedia, Human Overpopulation.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_overpopulation
2. Felton, James, Universe 25: The Mouse "Utopia" Experiment That Turned Into an Apocalypse, July 22, 2021.
<https://www.iflscience.com/plants-and-animals/universe-25-the-mouse-utopia-experiment-that-turned-into-an-apocalypse/>



Home Delivery 

334-356-6700

More than 20 years of printing the *People's Paper* with God, Family & Country taking front and center. Renowned writers bring the latest commentary on federal, state and local news.

Never miss an issue with home delivery! Cost covers S&H along with full online access to all the issues at www.alabamagazette.com.

The Alabama Gazette is free and can be picked up at locations around the River Region.

The ALABAMA GAZETTE S&H Subscription

Send My S&H/Home Delivery to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Send a Gift S&H/Home Delivery to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

☐ Check enclosed for **\$35** – one-year (12 iss) Shipping & Handling Subscription.

☐ Check enclosed for **\$70*** – (2) one-year (12 iss) Shipping & Handling Subscriptions

* including second gift subscription

Complete this form and return to:

The Alabama Gazette, 12 E. Jefferson Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

START MONTH



By Kyle’ D. McKinney
kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov
(334) 479-1242 – Cell
(334) 272-7630 – Fax



Social Security Services

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



Celebrate Your Independence with Social Security

Every July, we take pride in celebrating our nation’s independence. For nearly 90 years, our programs have helped provide financial independence to millions of hardworking people. We have useful online tools like the *Social Security Statement (Statement)* and our benefits estimator tool that help people not yet receiving benefits. The *Statement* shows the benefits that you and your family may be entitled to with personalized fact sheets tailored to your age and earnings situation. The benefits estimator tool allows you to get estimates based on different ages you want to begin receiving benefits. These tools can help you plan the financial independence you deserve in retirement.

Don’t receive benefits? You can get the most out of your online experience if you have a personal **my Social Security** account. You can:

- Get your Statement instantly.
- Request a replacement Social Security card (in nearly every state and the District of Columbia).
- Find out if you qualify for benefits.
- Appeal a decision we made on your claim.

Already receiving benefits? If so, you can use your personal **my Social Security** account to:

- Request a replacement Social Security card (in nearly every state and the District of Columbia).
- Get an instant benefit verification letter for *Social Security, Medicare, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*.
- Start or change your direct deposit. (Social Security beneficiaries only)
- Check your information and benefit amount.
- Change your address. (Social Security beneficiaries only)
- Request a replacement Medicare card.
- Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S instantly for tax season.
- Report your wages if you work and receive disability benefits or SSI.

You can create your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

Our blog at blog.ssa.gov features messages and information direct from our Acting Commissioner and other experts. You can subscribe and get an email each time we post a new blog so you can stay informed. From the blog, you can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube.

With so many services and helpful information available online, we are here for you when it’s convenient for you. Be sure to tell friends and family about all they can do with us from any device at www.ssa.gov.

Apply for Social Security Benefits Online

Did you know, you can do much of your business online with Social Security? This means no need to call or visit a local Social Security office. You can take your time completing our online applications and even save your progress to return to later.

You can apply online for:

- **Retirement or Spouse’s Benefits** – You can apply up to four months before you want your retirement benefits to start. You must be at least age 62 for the entire month to be eligible to receive benefits. If you were born on the first or second day of the month, you meet this requirement in the month of your 62nd birthday. If you were born on any other day of the month, you do not meet this requirement until the following month. When you’re ready, apply at www.ssa.gov/retireonline.
- **Disability Benefits** – You can use our online application, available at www.ssa.gov/disabilityonline, to apply for disability benefits if you:
 - o Are age 18 or older;
 - o Are not currently receiving benefits on your own Social Security record;
 - o Are unable to work because of a medical condition expected to last at least 12 months or result in death; and
 - o Have not been denied disability benefits in the last 60 days. If your application was recently denied, our online appeal application is a starting point to request a review of the determination we made. Please visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html.
- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** – SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness who have income and resources below specific financial limits. SSI also makes payments to people who are age 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial qualifications. If you plan to apply for SSI, you can tell us you want to apply and we will make an appointment to help you complete the application. Or you can complete a large part of your application online at www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi.
- **Medicare** – Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people age 65 or older, some people younger than 65 who have disabilities, and people with end-stage renal disease. If you are not already receiving Social Security benefits, and are not working, you should apply for Medicare three months before turning age 65 at www.ssa.gov/medicare.
- **Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Costs** – Some people with limited resources and income may be able to get Extra Help paying their monthly premiums, annual deductibles, and prescription co-payments related to a Medicare prescription drug plan. People who need assistance with the cost of medications can apply for Extra Help at www.ssa.gov/i1020.

Social Security is Here When You’re Ready for Retirement

When you think you’re ready to retire, we’re here to help you make an informed decision about when to apply for benefits. You should decide based on your individual and family circumstances.

Would it be better for you to start getting benefits early with a smaller monthly amount over a longer period? Or perhaps wait for a larger monthly payment over less time? The answer is personal and depends on several factors, such as your current and anticipated cash needs, health, and your family history on longevity. Most importantly, you should study your future financial needs and obligations, and estimate your future Social Security benefit.

The best and easiest way to estimate your future Social Security benefits is with a personal my Social Security account. You can create your free account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Use your account to see how much you might receive each month based on the age at which you want to start receiving benefits.

We encourage you to weigh all the factors carefully before deciding when to begin receiving Social Security benefits. This decision affects the monthly benefit amount you will receive for the rest of your life and may affect benefits for your survivors.

Social Security’s Online Retirement Resources

Whether you’re ready to learn about, apply for, or manage your retirement benefits, our online resources make it easy for you to find the information you need. How easy? You can do it from your computer, tablet, and even smartphone!

On our website, you can:

- Get our publications.
- Estimate your benefits with one of our many calculators.
- Find your Full Retirement Age.
- Learn about benefits for a spouse and family members.
- Apply for benefits.
- Manage your benefits once you start receiving them.

You and your loved ones can discover all these resources at www.ssa.gov/retirement.

Social Security Services for The Hispanic Community

For nearly 90 years, Social Security has provided financial protection to communities throughout the United States, including the Hispanic community.

Today, our retirement, disability, and survivors benefits are an important source of income for Hispanics. Our Spanish-language website, www.ssa.gov/espanol, provides information for those whose primary language is Spanish. There, people can learn how to get a Social Security card, plan for retirement, apply for benefits, manage their benefits, and much more.

We also provide many publications in Spanish at www.ssa.gov/espanol/publicaciones. Popular topics include:

- Retirement, Disability, and Survivors benefits.
- Medicare.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Social Security cards.
- Fraud and scams.
- Appeals.
- Benefits for children.
- Payments outside the U.S.

Customers who prefer to conduct business in Spanish can reach a Spanish-speaking representative at 1-800-772-1213. Please share these resources with friends and family who may need them.

Please help inform others by sharing these messages with family and friends.

Kylle’ McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist: kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov



HOURS OF OPERATION
LUNCH
MON - FRI 11AM - 3PM
DINNER
MON - FRI 3PM - 8PM

Saturday Brunch

6am-12 pm

Under New Ownership! Family Owned!

7725 Averieff Drive
Montgomery, AL 36116

CARRY OUT AVAILABLE

334-649-1750

TERMITE CONTROL

PROFESSIONAL PEST CONTROL



ARROW
PEST CONTROL

Serving the public for over 50 years.

GREG BOWEN 334-365-4610
740 MEMORIAL DR. PRATTVILLE, AL 36067

Support local Law Enforcement



Sheriff Cunningham



Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

(334) 832-4980 ♦ www.montgomerysheriff.com



Chief Deputy Murphy

Sheriff's Office App

If you haven't already heard, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery County AL Sheriff"

OR

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

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



Social Media

Social Media Search

Facebook Sheriff of Montgomery Alabama

Instagram Mcsoal



Firearms Familiarization Course

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



For more info, please call 334-832-1339.

NEXT DATE: Saturday, July 23rd

Ring Neighbors Program

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is excited to be on Neighbors in our efforts to connect with residents and improve the safety of our communities. Neighbors allows you, the user, to share photos, videos and information related to local crime and safety incidents so fellow residents can stay informed.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office can view what local residents have posted publicly to Neighbors and can now chime-in with relevant updates or safety alerts to help residents stay informed. You do not need a Ring device to join Neighbors. Anyone with a smartphone can download the Neighbors App in order to receive updates and have the option to post photos or videos from any device.

Feel free to spread the word and make sure to always report criminal activity and emergency situations directly to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office by calling 911. Visit: <https://ring.com/neighbors>



HEAT WAVE!

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation was created to assist the citizens of Montgomery County and law enforcement during natural disasters and critical needs.

Due to the unprecedented heat wave that has overtaken Montgomery County and the State of Alabama, the Foundation is supplying bottled water to members of the public, particularly children, elderly, the homeless and others exposed to outside activity.



On duty deputies will be distributing the bottled water for several days while the heatwave remains in our community. If you have any questions, please call 334-832-1339.



! REMINDER !
SANITIZE
AND STAY
ALIVE!

Autauga Co, Ala.
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
(334) 361-2500
162 W 4th Street, Prattville, AL
www.autaugasheriff.org



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

ELMORE CO ALA
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
(334) 567-5546
8955 US-231
Wetumpka, AL 36092
<https://www.elmoreso.com>



Sheriff Bill Franklin

Lowndes County
(334) 548-2222
1 S Washington St
Hayneville, AL 36040
www.facebook.com/LowndesCountyAlabamaSheriffsOffice/



Sheriff Chris West

Crenshaw Co Ala
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
(334) 335-4850
89 Folmar Ave, Luverne, AL 36049
www.facebook.com/crenshawcountyso



Sheriff Terry L. Mears

Montgomery's Most Affordable Funeral Service Provider

Lawrence E. Jackson, Jr.
President-LFD-Notary



Jackson
Professional
Funeral Services
A Subsidiary of McComb LLC

Family Owned & Operated



Complete Funeral Packages
Begin @ Only

\$3495

Finally ~Affordable Excellence!

CALL TODAY!

Jackson
Professional
Funeral Services
A Subsidiary of McComb LLC

334~647~1803



Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Honoring Our Heroes



If you know of a Veteran who deserves to be honored, please email: alabamagazette@gmail.com

Sergeant First Class James Owen Dozier: Age 97

Sergeant First Class (SFC) James Owen Dozier served eight years in the United States Army including four years of active duty followed by four years in the U.S. Army Reserve. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Motor Pool driver and service person immediately and then as Cannon Crewman in combat. His military decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons include European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (EAME) with one Bronze Star, WWII Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

SFC Dozier was born June 2, 1925 to his parents, William A. and Elizabeth Dozier in Elmore, AL, where he was reared. After graduation from Wetumpka High School in May 1943, he entered military service with the United States Army in January 1944. He went to Ft. McClellan, AL, for preinduction. He went to Ft. Bragg for 17 weeks of Basic Training. There he was assigned to the motor pool as a driver and service man. After training as a cannon crewman at Ft. Bragg, he went to Camp Kilmer, N.J., followed by deployment with 3000 troops on his ship with a convoy of 34 ships on a nine-day zig zag course across the North Atlantic Ocean to avoid being attacked by German U-boats. All personnel had to sleep in their life jackets each night listening to the depth charges. His ship and another ship hit each other during the zig zag maneuvers, but the ships were able to land safely at South Hampton, England, and then he landed on an English ship at Le Havre, France, August 10, 1944 to join the American Army’s liberation of Europe from the Germans. His field artillery assignment as a cannon crewman was to pull the cord that fired the 240mm Howitzer cannon with projectiles weighing 585 pounds. The 240 mm Howitzer was the most powerful weapon deployed by US field artillery units during World War II, and it was able to fire a 360 lb (160 kg) high explosive projectile 25,225 yards (23,066 m). He served in dangerous combat at the front lines all of the way across France and Germany crossing the Rhine River January 25, 1945. After the Germans surrendered in May 7, 1945, he remained for one year in Germany during the occupation, and he was then discharged July 1946. He reenlisted immediately in the U.S. Army Reserve and served four years being discharged in 1952.

SFC Dozier and his wife, Ovelle, were married 77 years before she passed away, and they had two daughters, five grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Their first child was born while he was deployed during WWII, and he saw her for the first time when the child was one and one-half years old. He and his wife enjoyed traveling and visited 48 of the United States.

After discharge from the Army Reserve in 1952, he used the G.I. Bill and attended the University of AL in Montgomery and took courses in mathematics. He worked selling furniture at Sears Roebuck and at Matthews Furniture Company in Montgomery for one year. He went into the grocery store business with his brother in Elmore, AL, for one year. SFC Dozier worked at First National Bank in Wetumpka, AL, for 35 years retiring in 1994 as Senior Vice President. He has held memberships in the Wetumpka Kiwanis Club and the Civitan Club. He has membership in the Mt. Hebron West Baptist Church in Elmore, AL, where he has served as a Sunday School Teacher and as a deacon. He enjoyed playing the harmonica with the Elmore, AL, Back Porch Pickers for 20 years.

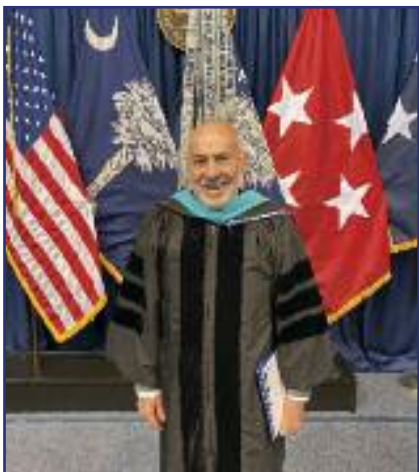
SFC Dozier’s conclusions about his military service are, “Everybody had to go. When a man turned 18 years old, every male who was in good health had to go. I was glad to have served. I did not help the situation much, but I was proud to have been there. I hope people will remember me as a being a pretty good fellow to stay around.”

end



Col Anthony Lincoln Baggiano Receives Doctor of Public Service Degree

The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, conferred an honorary degree of **Doctor of Public Service upon Col Anthony Lincoln Baggiano** May 17, 2022. This degree was given in recognition of his distinguished service. He is a graduate of the Citadel, and he has served on the Citadel’s Board of Directors of The Citadel Alumni Association. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, Col Baggiano’s record of community service is extensive. His article was published in the November 2021 issue of *The Alabama Gazette*.



Veterans enjoy *The Gazette*

Husband and Wife Veterans:

GySgt Jamie Michael LyBrand
(U.S. Marine Corps)

Sgt Mary LyBrand
(U.S. Marine Corps)

The LyBrand’s articles appeared in the April 2022 issue.

Army Specialist Dale Gamble: Age 67

Specialist (SPC) Dale Gamble served six years in the U. S. Army including three years on active duty and three years in the Reserve. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Personnel Records Clerk. He received the following decorations, awards and medals: National Defense Service Medal, Sharpshooter Badge M-16 and Good Conduct Medal.

SPC Gamble was born in Montgomery, AL, October 27, 1954 to his parents, Annie Mae Gamble and Nehemiah Jessie. He attended schools in Montgomery and graduated from Sidney Lanier High School in 1973. After working in the dining hall at Maxwell Air Force Base during that summer, he volunteered to serve in the U. S. Army beginning October 29, 1973. He completed eight weeks of Basic Training at Fort Polk, LA, followed by three months at Army Individual Training at Fort Ord, CA. SPC Gamble was assigned to serve as a Personnel Records Clerk at Fort Campbell, KY, where he served until discharge October 27, 1976. He then served in the Army Reserve for two weekends each month and two weeks during the summers for three years until October 10, 1979.

SPC Gamble used the G.I. Bill to attend classes at the John M. Technical College in Montgomery, AL, earning diplomas in 1987 in repair of office machines such as typewriters, in computer operations using the IBM punch cards and in upholstery. While attending school, he became employed by the J. R. Smith Company that manufactured plumbing products, and he worked for this company for 34 years retiring April 30, 2021.

SPC Gamble is an active member of the St. Peters A.M.E. Church in Montgomery where he has served as a member and secretary of the Stewards Board for 41 years. He is a member of the American Legion Post 1918. He enjoys swimming and is interested in playing golf. He and his wife, Arwilda Gamble, have been married 15 years. He has one daughter and two granddaughters.

SPC Gamble’s conclusions about his military service are, “It was an honor to serve my country, and wherever the Army would have sent me, I would have gone.” He states that he would like future generations to remember him as being a good person who liked to help others especially elderly people as he states that he loves the Lord.

end



Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

James Carl Poole Jr.: July 1

Cheryl D. Grinsted: July 23

James Edwin Salminen: July 3

Charles Winnick Ashley: July 24

William C. Stewart: July 5

Christopher Laneaux: July 24

William C. Allison: July 9

James Allen Campbell: July 27

Raymond F. Keel Sr.: July 9

Robert Shafton Kohn: July 28

Gilbert R. Monismith, Jr.: July 13



99-Year-Old Veteran Honored

A certificate of appreciation was presented to **Brigadier General Marvin Kent Speigner** on June 10, 2022, on this veteran’s 99th birthday by W. Kent Davis, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.), Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs. The presentation was in recognition and appreciation of the Veteran’s heroic service in the Pacific Theater during WWII and for his 28 years of service in the Alabama National Guard. His article was published in the April 2020 issue of *The Alabama Gazette*.



Veterans love reading *The Gazette*!



MCPO Marion Lee Hornsby
(U.S. Navy)



SSgt Morris F. Kendrick
(U.S. Air Force)



MSgt Neal R. Schultz
(U.S. Air Force)



CSM Anthony Edward Sharpston
(U.S. Army)

Master Sergeant Ronald Lewis: Age 65

MSgt. Ronald Lewis served 24 years in the U.S. Marine Corps including 23 years on active duty and one year in the Marine Corps Reserve. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) included Baker (3311) for 16 years, Recruiter for three years, Food Service Specialist (3381) for three years and Substance Abuse Officer (SACO) for one year. His military decorations, awards and medals include: Good Conduct Medal with six stars, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with five stars, Navy Unit Commendation, Certificate of Commendation (16), Map Reading Certification Course, Navy Achievement Medal, Certificate of Merit and Letter of Commendation and Meritorious Mast (two) given for performance well above that usually expected of an individual commensurate with his or her grade and above that degree of excellence that can be appropriately reflected in an individual's fitness report or performance. MSgt Lewis completed military training including: Sr. SNCO (Staff Non Commissioned Officer) Academy, SNCO Academy, NCO School, Baker School, Substance Abuse Training and Recruiter and Professional Sales School Training.



MSgt. Lewis was born October 19, 1956 in Hempstead, N.Y., to his parents, Willie Mack Lewis and Ruth Arlene Porter Lewis. His father was on active duty with the U.S. Air Force which resulted in his family's frequent moves to other locations of Air Force bases. He lived in Minot, N.D., at the Minot Air Force Base (AFB) where he attended elementary school followed by his father's transfer to Maine to Loring AFB. After his father retired from military service, his family moved to Georgiana, AL, where he completed grades four through 12 graduating from Georgiana High School in 1975.

MSgt. (E-8) volunteered to serve in the U. S. Marine Corps entering service May 29, 1975. He completed Basic Training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, S.C., and after taking an aptitude test, he was selected to train for 11 weeks at a Baking School at Camp Gilbert H. Johnson, a satellite camp of the Marine Corps Base Camp LeJeune at Jacksonville, N.C. His first assignments covering four years at Camp LeJeune were with the 8th Motor Transport Battalion, 2nd FAGP, 8th Engineer Support Battalion at Camp LeJeune and then with the Landing Support Battalion there. He got out of service for almost one year and worked in Greenville, AL, with Rheems Manufacturing Company in the insulation department with heating, air conditioning and painting. While working there, he used the G.I Bill and attended Lurleen B. Wallace Community College.

MSgt. Lewis re-entered service with the U.S. Marine Corps returning to the Marine Corps Base at Camp LeJeune, N.C. He was assigned to 2nd Supply Battalion serving in the Food Service field (Rations Company). MSgt. Lewis left Camp LeJeune for a tour of one year of duty in Okinawa, Japan, working in Food Service at Camp Hanson and returned to Camp LeJeune's 2nd Supply Battalion (2nd FSSG) as Mess Hall Manager. MSgt. Lewis remained at Camp LeJeune for approximately four years before being assigned another one year tour of duty to Okinawa, Japan at USMC Base Camp Kinser/Camp Smedley D. Butler. After completing his tour of duty in Okinawa, Japan, MSgt Lewis was assigned to Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) at Havelock, North Carolina, where he served three years in Food Service. He then received orders to attend Recruiting School where he successfully completed Recruiting School in San Diego, California at the MCRD (Marine Corps Recruit Depot). MSgt Lewis was a Marine Corps Recruiter assigned to RSOKC (Recruiting Station Oklahoma City, Oklahoma- Substation Tulsa, Oklahoma). He was in his 6th floor Marine office at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on the day before the bombing on April 19, 1995. MSgt Lewis completed his final four years of active duty service with three years as Dining Facility Manager at Marine Corp Base (Edson Range) Camp Pendleton, California and one year as Headquarters Battalion 1st FSSG's Substance Abuse Officer (SACO), where he was discharged April 29, 1998.

MSgt continued his education while serving on active duty. He attended the Coastal College of North Carolina while he was stationed at Camp LeJeune and received a two year Associate Degree in General Education in 1982. While serving at Okinawa, he was a student at an extension of L.A. Community College completing 30 hours in general studies. He received a B.S. Degree in Management from an extension of Park College in Park, MO, and a B.S. Degree in Management from an extension of Central Michigan University while serving at the Marine Base Camp Pendleton, CA. After retiring from active duty, MSgt. Lewis returned to AL where he used the G.I. Bill to enter an Alternative Master's Degree Program at Alabama State University and received a Master of Science Degree in Secondary Education and a Teacher's Certificate in 2001 with a specialty in Social Science. He has taught history, U.S. History, Economics and U.S. Government for 20 years at G.W. Carver High School in Montgomery, AL.

MSgt. has one daughter. He enjoys jogging and working out at a gym. He is an active member of Montgomery's Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church where he has served as a trustee and as a member of the choir, the male chorus and the Brothers Keepers men's ministry. MSgt Lewis is a member of the American Legion Post 1918 in Montgomery, AL.

MSgt Lewis in conclusion sums-up about what serving in the U.S. Marine Corps means to him saying, "It was a total life changing and strengthening experience. I would not give it up for anything. I learned so much, the motivation, togetherness, discipline, determination, sense of pride, the opportunity to serve with the world's best and the esprit de corps. The sense of togetherness cannot be found outside of the Corps. It was a great experience earning the title: a U.S. Marine; The Corps helped to make me a mentally and physically better person with the respect gained and earned for self and from others. The label found on U.S. currency plus some U.S. Marine Corps slogans can help sum up my life as a U.S. Marine: 'In God We Trust'; for God, Country and Corps. 'Semper Fidelis' Ooh Rah!"

end

Private First Class

Roy Franklin Stephens: Age 92

Private First Class (PFC) Roy Franklin Stephens served six years in the United States Army including two years on Active Duty and four years in the Army Reserve. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was lineman in communications. He received the Korean Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

PFC Stephens was born September 27, 1929 in Ramer, AL, to his parents, Frank and Mollie Stephens. Stephens' father served in the U.S. Army during WWI and married an English woman returning to live in Alabama after the war.

PFC Stephens was reared in Ramer. AL. After dropping out of school in the 11th grade, he worked for the Standard Roofing Company in Montgomery for two years. He then entered military service November 24, 1950 completing Basic Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. followed by deployment to serve in combat in the Mortar Division in the Korean War. His assignment was stringing lines for communications and repairing cuts in the line which was a dangerous task during heavy mortar combat calling out the coordinates for the mortars on the front lines north of the 38th parallel. The mortars launched explosive shells in high arcing ballistic trajectories for close fire support. He then served in the Army Reserve and was discharged July 16, 1956 in Montgomery, AL.

After his discharge, PFC Stephens returned to living in Ramer, AL. Roy and his father Frank played in a local band on Friday and Saturday nights in an area near Luverne, AL. He was the guitarist for the band and Frank played the fiddle. It was on one of these occasions when he met his wife, the former Wanda Campbell of Honoraville.

PFC Stephens and his wife, Wanda, moved to Montgomery where Roy worked for Standard Roofing Company. At the same time, he worked as a Montgomery City firefighter. Roy worked for various roofing companies before he decided to open his own roofing company, Colonial Roofing Company, which he operated for more than 20 years, retiring in 1995.

The Stephens were members of Frazer Methodist Church and assisted in serving meals on Wednesday evenings at the Church. They also assisted with the Salvation Army kettle ministry during Christmas through Frazer. Roy also played in a band with other Frazer members entertaining at various assisted living and nursing homes. They enjoyed traveling and often took trips with the senior adults from the Church. Some of their travel included going to Niagara Falls, N.Y., Branson, MO, and Calloway Gardens, GA. Among their other travels was a trip to the United Kingdom where they visited Nelson, England, the birthplace of his mother, Mollie Brown Stephens, the British war bride.

In 1995, Roy and Wanda moved to their lake home at Parker's Creek on Lake Martin where they enjoyed visiting with neighbors, riding in their pontoon boat, fishing, working in yard and growing plants and flowers. Roy and Wanda were season ticket holders for Auburn football for over thirty years never missing a game whether it was at Jordan Hare Stadium or an away game. Roy and Wanda were married for 62 years before she passed. They have two children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Roy recently moved from Lake Martin to Pike Road where he lives with his daughter, Rhonda Black and her husband, Buddy. Today, Roy continues to enjoy working in the yard and is now learning the hobby of beekeeping where he assists his son-in-law, Buddy, in building beehives, checking swarm boxes and managing hives. Buddy states, "Roy is one of my best friends. He has a kind heart and is a person who cares about people. Roy may be the biggest Auburn fan that I know."

PFC Stephens' conclusions about his military service are, "I am glad that I served. I realized that it was an honor to serve. I tried to do the best that I could."

end

Volunteer SANDRA LEE MEADOWS ROBERTSON Recognized

Dr. Martha Poole Simmons, a volunteer for the American Red Cross, presented a certificate from Rear Admiral Kent Davis, Alabama Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, to Sandra Lee Meadows Robertson. She was recognized for her service to veterans with her leadership as National President of Gold Star Wives of America, laying the wreath at the Alabama National Cemetery at Montevallo, AL, and for her voluntary service with the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System.



Thomas Miller Derickson, Jr., Passes Away

Thomas Miller Derickson, Jr., passed away February 28, 2022 at the age of 96. His article was published in the May 2021 issue of *The Alabama Gazette*.

Derickson served two years in the U.S. Navy during WWII as a diesel mechanic. He was born July 4, 1925, in Meridian, MS, and reared in Montgomery, AL, where he graduated from Lanier High School in 1943. He entered military service February 22, 1944, and, after boot camp, was trained at the Naval Training Center at Gulfport, MS, in basic engineering and diesel mechanics. From there, he was sent to serve at Pearl Harbor at the Advanced Base Reshipment Depot where he worked repairing automobiles and trucks at the base until WWII ended. His work was an important part of the support effort for the victory of American military in the Pacific Theater. Derickson was discharged April 19, 1946.



Veterans are entitled to a patriotic ceremony at their funerals. Raymond Keel will provide this service for free!

Call him at 334-233-8736

or visit: <https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org> and fill out the form for requesting a live bugle, and provide date, location and time of internment.

Resources for Veterans



Veterans Crisis Line
www.veteranscrisisline.net



National Center for PTSD
855-948-2311 / ptsd.va.gov

Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System
2400 Hospital Road, Tuskegee AL 36083 / 334-727-0550
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VACentralAlabama>



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

Soul Searching

BURN THE SHIPS

When I was in seminary I served as the Volunteers in Mission Coordinator for all the United Methodist volunteer mission teams that came to serve with the Methodist Church of Mexico. I served directly under Methodist Bishop Alejandro Ruiz who was the Bishop of the Central Conference of the Methodist Church of Mexico. My territory included all of central and southern Mexico so I traveled with teams extensively in this region of this beautiful country.

On one my journeys I went to visit the coastal town of Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico. While there I learned the whole story of Hernando Cortes, a conquistador of Spain, who gave Veracruz it's name. Cortez, under the sponsorship of Cuba's Governor Velasquez, led an expedition to Mexico in an effort to defeat the Aztec Indian Empire in 1519. By early 16th century the Aztec Empire was huge with 6 million people and 500 small states in Mexico. It was a vast and successful culture with cities, pyramids, temples, farms and thriving businesses.

Cortez and his men had committed to the goal of surrounding Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztecs, lay siege to it and then conquer the Empire for Spain. When Cortez sailed to Mexico he had only 500 soldiers and 100 sailors plus 16 horses. Cortez soldiers were greatly outnumbered by the Aztecs some say as much as 10,000 to one. And the soldiers knew it. The men grew very fearful, and there was talk of mutiny against Cortez and then returning home on their ships to Cuba or Spain. Plus, they were also being eaten up by mosquitoes and running short on supplies.

Cortez heard of the mutinous talk and during the night had all of the ships emptied and burned so there would be no escape and no mutiny. The men were forced to march forward towards their goal of conquering the Aztecs and claiming the land of Mexico for Spain. The rest is history as they say. Cortez and his men did conquer the Aztecs and take over the empire and all of Mexico. Cortez was committed to the cause, and he did what was necessary to accomplish the goal.

Several take always about commitment from Cortez and his conquests:

A. Commitment is usually discovered in the midst of adversity. People don't really know they are committed to something until they face adversity. As NFL Hall of Fame Football coach Vince Lombardi use to say, "The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender." Committed people do not surrender easily. Cortez faced incredible adversity and was seriously outnumbered. And that is when his commitment was solidified, and he burned the ships! No turning back now.

B. Commitment does not depend on gifts or abilities. I have known many very talented people who have squandered their potential because they wouldn't do anything. I have know other people not near as talented or smart who have been incredibly successful because of their strong level of commitment to their cause. Personally, I am not sure how smart it was to sail to Mexico with only 500 soldiers to face a population of 6 million Aztecs. But he found a way to reach his goal, because he was committed.

C. Commitment comes as the result of choices we make. Way too many folks think that conditions determine choices. But more often, choices determine conditions. Choose commitment and you give yourself a chance at success. Cortez faced tough conditions, but he made the choice to commit.

D. Commitment last when it is based on values. Anytime you make choices based on solid life values, then you are in a better position to sustain



your level of commitment. A commitment to something you truly believe in is a commitment that is easier to keep. Right? Cortez believed in his goal and nothing was going to deter him.

How important is commitment to you?

Are you someone who values loyalty?

When you face adversity does it make you work harder or want to give up and quit?

Do you see yourself as very gifted or smart? Some people are book smart and some people are street smart. Both can be very advantageous! Do you think you can be successful by being committed and successful regardless of your IQ, grades, degrees or test results?

What are the values that fuel your commitment to your goals?

What choices do you need to make right now that will affect your commitment to your goals?

Whatever is tempting you not to reach your goals in life is like a ship anchored in the harbor calling you to take the easy way back to mediocrity. I say burn those ships and commit yourself to move forward no matter what the odds may be!

Praying for you as you burn those ships today!

Blessings!

Dr. Spencer is Lead Pastor at Saint James Church in Montgomery, Alabama and writes the **Soul Searching** column for *Alabama Gazette* each month.

Join Saint James Church Sunday Morning



8:00

Outdoor Cafe

10:00

Contemp service

11:00

Traditional service

9 - 9:30

Open Communion

Alcoholics Anonymous

*If you want to drink, that's your business.
if you want to quit, that's our business.*

Scan for a list of meetings in Montgomery:



24 Hour Hotline:
(334) 264-4122

Free For All by Lester Spencer

Available on Amazon in paperback and digital format. Also available at **Saint James Church** and online: sjlife.com



Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group



What is the Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group?

The Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group is an affiliate of the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS). The group consists of parents, family members and friends of individuals with Down syndrome. The group meets the second Friday of every month at Vaughn Park Church of Christ in Montgomery.



The Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group is definitely making strides in spreading awareness in the Montgomery area! Through the annual Buddy Walk the group has been able to raise enough funds to purchase books to donate to local libraries, schools and teachers in the tri-county area, distribute gift baskets to new parents of babies born with Down syndrome in all Montgomery hospitals, provide educational speakers during our monthly meetings, host play dates, group outings and so much more!

www.montgomeryareadownsyndrome.org

montgomeryareadownsyndrome@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/MADSOGPublic



www.lifeonwheelsalabama.com



LIFE ON
WHEELS

We use the power of ultrasound to serve women, save babies & share Jesus.

501(c)(3) nonprofit

Support LIFE!



ELMORE COUNTY
PREGNANCY CENTER

104 Company St
Wetumpka, Alabama
Call (334) 567-1955



Your CHOICE
STARTS HERE



FirstChoice
Women's Medical Center

We're here for you.

www.FirstChoiceMontgomery.com

334-260-8010

380 Mendel Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36117



SCAN FOR APPT.

Home Town Community News



Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to algazettesubmit@gmail.com

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



July Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Alan Moore | 13 Stacey Nestor |
| Betty Moore (90) | 14 Annie Bouchard |
| Butch (Mary) Moseley | Lansdon O'Mailia |
| Linda Foxworth | 15 Joan Collier |
| 2 Ralph Davis | Farley Pugh |
| Lexie Turnipseed | Summer Rice |
| George Pugh | Paige Stringer |
| Voncille Talley | 16 Charlie Lamar |
| 4 Audrey Grant | Sherry Tucker |
| Peggy Hubbard | 17 Penny Probst (81) |
| David Johnson | 18 Linda Carleton |
| Lynn McKinley | Ann Marie Dean |
| Cindy Smith | Sharon K. Walker |
| 5 Ann Emory Harris | 19 Mary Lamar |
| Kathy Ingram | Emma Ruthe Walker |
| Joyce Todd | 20 Tony Mitchell |
| 6 Vicki Davis | 22 Freddie Strength (73) |
| Skip Mainor | Vangie Walmsley |
| Glenn Stringer | 23 Alana Jones Breedlove |
| Amber Wooten | Helen Broadway |
| 7 Knox Crowe | Zachery Dibole |
| Carolyn Grant | Matthew Grant |
| Willie B. Jackson | Rusty Moseley |
| Taylor Mills | Jim Scott |
| Brian Mosley | 24 Barbara Garrett |
| Greg Mosley | 25 Ashley Corbin |
| Cindy Young | Rod Nowakowski |
| Betty Vann | Becky Windham |
| 8 Mickie Ann Boyd | Brantley Woodall |
| Helen Dibole | Ty Woodall |
| Fred Setzer | 26 Jason Adams |
| 9 Joe Douglas | Judy Mann |
| Katherine Kirk | Stacy Dickinson |
| Kathryn Ann Sikes (9) | 27 Jimmy Norman (64) |
| Irene Woodham | 28 Arnold Fuller |
| 10 Jeffery Horton | Melanie Higgins |
| Pam Stewart | 29 Hilda Glover |
| Al Webb | 30 Shawn O'Mailia |
| 11 Abby Boyd | Emory Tucker |
| Luke Frady | Ronnie Wallace |
| James Tucker | 31 Brenda Davis |
| Trenton Windham | Meloney Gwin |
| 12 Cary Dean | Caroline Vocino |
| Bonnie Williams | Marie Hudson |
| 13 Jeremy Dickinson | Stephanie Randall |

65 YEARS of MAKING HEALTHY HAPPEN

For more information, visit: pws.shaklee.com/acole

Contact
SHAKLEE INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTORS
EVERETT & ALICE COLE

Shaklee®
Creating Healthier Lives™
Independent Distributor

Red's Little School House Now Closed to the Public



Source: Google / Roy Williams

Opened in 1985 by Debbie Deese and her father, Red, this 1910 schoolhouse became the icon for Southern food and hospitality in the small community of Grady, AL, known for its buffet, fresh ingredients and delicious dishes, including the apple cheese casserole.

Debbie stated that Sunday, July 3, 2022, after serving lunch, she would close Red's doors to the public in order to spend more time with family, and specifically, her father, Red. While this restaurant has become such a staple to locals and passerbys, it all comes back to family, and those who know this family and love them and the Little School House, support and understand the decision even if Red's and its owners and staff will be greatly missed.

But do not despair! Debbie says that they will continue to do limited private parties and batch cooking.

When Debbie announced the closing on Facebook on June 20, she concluded the news with, "Please pray for me because this is the hardest and saddest thing of my life, but you should have seen Dad's face when I gave him his Father's Day gift with the promise of time during the day."

Prior to closing the doors to Red's, Patricia Killough and her family visited the famous Little School house, and enjoyed one of their final meals there. That same Sunday, Debbie Deese stated her staff served more than 600 meals and never ran out of food – only propane! But the good folks of Grady showed up with a food truck where meals were cooked until someone else called on a friend at ACME and more propane arrived!

The customers, friends, and family of Red's wish Debbie and her father well with many wonderful years ahead!

Thank you to Red's for so many wonderful meals and memories!

Pictured are (l to r) Stephanie Selvage, Nichole & Sean Gibson, Paula Lansdon, and Sarah Kate Selvage. (Photo by Patricia).



Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Bob & Liz Morris | 19 Don & Nancy Rabren |
| 3 Everett & Alice Cole (52nd) | 20 Spears & Carrie Rhodes |
| Dennis & Karen Weber | 21 Justin & Bethany Mims |
| 7 April & Hugh Smith, III (14th) | Shannon & Cindy K. Miles |
| 8 Bill & Charlotte Gaston | 26 Blake & Amanda Wise |
| 12 Dorothy & Glenn Fuller (64th) | 31 Zachery & Jennifer Gibbs |
| 16 Laird & Sarah Bone | |

Happy 99th Birthday!

Nita Tidwell celebrated her birthday on June 18th prior to her turning 99 on June 22nd. Her family honored her with a party at Capitol Heights Baptist Church with many family members and friends who came to celebrate with her.



Women of Hope is a group of caring and compassionate individuals who desire to help educate, promote awareness, and provide hope for individuals and families coping with and dealing with the affects of breast cancer. Visit: www.thewomenofhope.org
WOMEN OF HOPE is a non-profit Foundation for Breast Cancer Support and is classified by the U. S. Department of the Treasury as a 501 (c)(3) organization under the code of the Internal Revenue Service.

Celebrating 40 Years of Service!

Gassett Funeral Home and Crematory, LLC

FUNERALS ~ CREMATIONS ~ PRE-ARRANGEMENTS ~ MONUMENTS



Front – Felecia Gassett Shockley, Glenda Gassett Terrell, Michele Gassett Henderson, Donna Boutwell. Back – Eddie Taylor, Dan Shockley, Alex Shockley, Joe Hooks, Mike Colquitt.

*Family Owned
& Operated Since 1978.*

*204 East Charles Avenue
Wetumpka, Alabama
36092
334-567-8433*

*Where Superior Service
is Standard.*

www.gassettfuneralhome.net

In Memory Of

- | | |
|--|---------|
| Linda Evans Crumpton | June 26 |
| Georgianna M. Kane | June 25 |
| Delphine Lockhart Mock | June 25 |
| Carol Ann Moncrief | June 24 |
| John Tyler Givens | June 19 |
| Geraldine McGinty | June 17 |
| Ruby Higginbotham Hayes | June 15 |
| Virginia Cox Steingruber Allen | June 9 |
| Roger Lee Price | June 7 |
| Charles Edward "Charlie" Mulcahy . . | June 6 |
| Robert Alden Corwin | June 5 |
| Norman Truett Holman | June 3 |
| Jerald Wayne Hilyer | June 1 |
| Norma Jean Schroeder Thornton . . | May 31 |

Sarah Ross Wyatt Adams and William Patrick Weatherly Joined in Holy Matrimony April 2, 2022

Sarah Ross Wyatt Adams and William Patrick Weatherly celebrated the groom's April 2nd birthday with their wedding at the beautiful Church of the Ascension, in Montgomery, Alabama, with Reverends Claude McRoberts III and Candice Prazier officiating.

Sarah Ross is the daughter of Mary and Sam Adams of Montgomery, and granddaughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Adams of Troy, Alabama, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Charlie M. Martin of Enterprise, Alabama.

The bride is a graduate of Montgomery Academy and Auburn University with a degree in English. She is a member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority. Subsequently, Sarah Ross successfully completed board certification after graduating from Samford University with a nursing degree. She is currently employed by the University of Alabama, Birmingham Hospital in the cardiac intensive care unit.

Patrick is the son of Mr. and Mrs Henry Fowlkes Weatherly of Montgomery, Alabama, and the grandson of Mrs. Mary Anne Weatherly and the late and Mr. Robert Stone Weatherly, Jr. of Birmingham and the late Mr. and Mrs. William Patrick Vogtle, also of Birmingham. The groom is a graduate of Montgomery Academy and attended the University of Alabama and earned a degree in Finance and Management. He began his career in Montgomery with ServisFirst Bank and has received several promotions. He now serves as assistant vice president of commercial banking in the Corporate Office in Birmingham.



Patrick and Sarah Ross knew each other in high school but their relationship blossomed as they renewed their friendship in Birmingham. The Weatherly's invited Sarah Ross to join them for a 4th of July weekend last year in Cashiers, North Carolina. Unbeknownst to her, Patrick had asked her father for her hand in marriage weeks before the trip. The Weatherly's surreptitiously invited the Adams to join them and watch as Patrick knelt and proposed on the green at the High Hamptons.

Following the rehearsal at the Ascension, the wedding party, family members and close friends proceeded downstairs to a magical setting in the outdoor Waldo Garden Courtyard, which Chef Eric Rivera and the Vintage Year / Ravello staff had converted into a scene right out of Northern Italy. Clint Darby and his acoustic guitar serenaded the gathering under the delightful spring evening stars. From there, all entered the Ascension Hall where the Italian motif was continued, led by Foy McGowin and a host of assistants.

The dinner that followed consisted of a sumptuous menu, including fresh pasta with red wine sauce, chicken Saltimbocca and Patrick's favorite – New York style cheesecake. Ali Bean's looping slideshow shared the couple's many happy childhood, and beyond, memories. Some of the out-of-town guests included Borden and Lucy Burr, Bobby Weatherly, Sid Weatherly, Virginia Johnston, Mary Frances Smyth, Stacy Coats Randle, Alan Stewart, John and Angie Martin, Justin and Elizabeth Jordan, Sidney and Charlene Ross,

Deloris Ross, Houston and Melissa Johnson, Brooks and Brenda Knapp. After dinner, the room was filled with toasts to the bride and groom, most of which were full of great memories and laughter. The father of the groom concluded by making a special, warm-hearted toast, wishing the happy couple all the best in their days ahead, to which all raised their glasses with a hearty cheer.

On the day of the wedding, outside of the church, gracing either side of its entrance, flowed beautiful floral arrangements of white roses and hydrangea and laced with Kelly green hydrangea and sprigs of spiral eucalyptus. Inside, the altar, too, was adorned with a beautiful arrangement by Foy McGowin, who was graciously assisted by Pat Dunn and Jessica Copeland. Ascension members Debbie Hackett and Nan Hobbs expertly directed and assisted the wedding party. Angel Davis was outstanding as the overall wedding planner for the couple, especially during those last hectic days before the wedding.

The bride wore a Romona Keveza gown featuring a bateau neckline and a fluted skirt made of silk shantung taffeta. Its lovely folds and pleats created a soft yet stunning sculptured presence. The bride's waist was accented with a hand appliquéd Alençon lace detailing with a custom made Watteau bow train.

She wore an elegant cathedral veil with blusher. Ivory & White of Mountain Brook proved invaluable in the selection process and fitting. The bride complemented the dress with a sparkling necklace designed by Tiffany, which draped effortlessly around the bride's neck. The bejeweled piece held special significance for the groom's family. It had been purchased by the groom's grandfather, Robert Weatherly, Jr., from Wartski's of London many years ago. It has been worn in the past by several generations of brides in celebration of the marriage sacrament. Similarly, the bride's family has a tradition of a sixpence presentation prior to the wedding vows. The bride's father placed a silver sixpence in the bride's shoe. The coin, struck in 1594 during the reign of Elizabeth I, symbolizes an old British tradition that guarantees good health, wealth and prosperity of every kind.

The bride's sisters, Mary Elizabeth Grant and Dorothy Alice Bean, both of Birmingham, served as matrons of honor. Bridesmaids included Ashley Ann Adams, Montgomery; Grace Watts Asbury, Jackson, Mississippi; Katherine Elizabeth Broadfoot, Montgomery; Erin Francis Budny, Montgomery; Hellen Lebbly Clement, Charleston, South Carolina; Arabella Reynolds Cowart, Selma; Tyler Vallier Denny, Mobile; Katherine Jean Henry, Birmingham; Sarah Catherine Hook, Montgomery; Kendall Lane Jennings, Norcross, Georgia; Laura Frances Lewis, Memphis, Tennessee; Emily

Elizabeth Unwin, Fairfax, Virginia; and Marley Jacob Fritz, Montgomery. Benjamin Carter Goodwyn read from the Old and New Testaments.

Patrick's brother, Henry, Jr., served as best man. Groomsman included Samuel Martin Adams, Atlanta, Georgia; Nelson Staub Bean Jr, Mountain Brook; William James Canary, IV, Montgomery; Scott Stephen Grant, Mountain Brook; Benjamin Carter Goodwyn, Montgomery; Chad Michael Hartley, Mobile; August James Hodes, St. Louis, Missouri; Kenneth Grant Janke, Columbus, Georgia; William Bradford Kidd II, Mountain Brook; Douglas Sawyer Knowles, Montgomery; John Patrick LaPlatney, Montgomery; Clay Hamilton Smith, Atlanta, Georgia; Seldon Harbour Stephens, IV, Mobile. Ushers included Grayson McRae Anzalone Robert, Montgomery; Charles Conner III, Butler; Hudson Hamlett McEntire, Montgomery; Mathew Burton Murray, Montgomery; Charles McCall Shipp, Nashville, Tennessee; and Thomas Hayes Vinson, Montgomery.

Flower girls, Virginia Manning Johnston and Elizabeth Weatherly Smyth, adroitly tossed soft rose petals to and fro as they made their way to wedding party, while Philippa Motley Morehead Dobson delightfully conversed with guests as she made her way forward. The ring bearer, George Ramsey Sprinkle, carried the most important items of the day with confidence and cheer.

The service was complemented with the resplendent voices of the Ascension choir and the music of organist Rebecca Barrinaeu Taylor. After the vows and rings were exchanged, the father of the groom approached the altar to serve as a signatory witness in his official capacity to solemnize the marriage. As the wedding party recessed, the ushers announced the matrimonial union with the ringing of the Ascension bells.

The Montgomery Museum and Fine Arts, under the supervision of Special Event Coordinator Aaron Gainey, served as the perfect reception venue. With a beautiful sunset shimmering across the swan-filled lake, guests entered the museum under a 12-foot-tall floral arbor that spanned the front doorway comprised of southern smilax, magnolia and elaeagnus greenery along with classic blooms of white and blue hydrangea, garden roses, lisianthus and blue delphinium. The Vintage Year provided sumptuous options throughout the evening. The bride's cake was a traditional Italian cream cake by Cake Designs, topped with roses. The groom's much coveted Peggy McKinney peanut butter fudge cake was comprised of small rounds of cake nestled among a miniature garden of blooms.

The renowned Sculpture Garden created a truly enchanting setting where guests relaxed under the stars at tables dressed with more flowers, along with a canopy of fairy lights glistening in the candlelight. The reflecting pool provided a stunning backdrop for the wedding cakes. The adjacent patio held a number of special attractions including a very popular throwback photo booth and a surprise visit by the groom's favorite, Biscuit's baseball team's "Big Mo." The mascot shook hands and posed for pictures with adoring children and adults. Champagne and other libations freely flowed through the night as revelers rocked with the Five Star Funk Lounge Band from Atlanta.

The beautifully cool night concluded as the newlyweds left the museum with their loving friends and family showering them with silver streamers. The two ascended into the convertible Bentley provided by Mike and Jenny Lynn Henig. After a restful night at the Renaissance Hotel and a morning brunch for the wedding party, the lovely couple departed for a wonderful honeymoon trip to Paris and Cannes, France. Upon their return, the newlyweds will reside in Crestline community of Birmingham.

*Photography by
Jordyn Smalling Photography.*



TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Amanda Walker

TEARS & LAUGHTER: *Guns for Hire and Wet Nurses Needed*

I don't encourage a whole lot of dabbling in soul searching, but consider questioning your relationship with whoever it was that encouraged you to vote for Joe Biden.

I didn't. A lot of us didn't. Granted, not enough of us didn't, but finally, we have no qualms about admitting it.

It is easier than ever to explain why. Even easy to recruit some over to the other side.

The sect of the population that needs a pop star or a half-ass celebrity to tell them who to vote for maybe shouldn't vote. Just sit elections out if you don't have any economic sense or discernment about yourself.

Everybody has the right to vote, absolutely. It's a privilege. But if somebody has to tell you who to vote for or pick up an absentee ballot up from you, or even worse fill it out for you – not because you are old, or disabled, or sick, but because you are clueless – then just don't vote. Especially if you are voting in hopes of more free money. Free money devalues all money.

Part of me, and this is not the best part of my character, but part of me enjoys knowing all members of both political parties get to enjoy the high gas prices. Every time I buy fuel, I grin. And I live on a farm where tractors are part of our daily life. I still don't mind. Whatever it takes to teach this lesson so the mistake doesn't get repeated.

The push toward all electric cars – which is reportedly part of the reason we are enjoying such high fuel prices – may not work. Wanting it to work doesn't make it work. There may be more people in rural Alabama who are closer to going back to using horses and buggies than they are buying electric cars. Horses are far more affordable and more readily available. Maybe more reliable, I don't know. For sure more fun to race.

As technologically advanced as we have all become with our many devices that think for us, we are evidently going backwards. We now have men who lack the courage to save children. And we have a shortage of baby formula. Our leaders are passionate about abortions, but do not recognize the importance of babies having proper nutrition. So exactly how advanced are we when we need to have hired guns and wet nurses again.



A hired gun, or a gunslinger – for anyone who is perhaps too young to know or doesn't watch westerns – is a person who is hired to protect a person or group of people, or a church, or even a school from harm. There only job is to protect, with a gun. Because the quickest, most efficient way to protect or rid an area of a person or predator intending harm, is a gun.

It used to make a lot of men a lot of money, and it seems to be a need for the service once again. Women and transgender people can be hired guns, too, of course, and gays, too, but they will need to be people of great courage...and pride.

The wet nurse position is needed again, too. I am more surprised by this one than I am the need for hired guns. A wet nurse, again, for anyone who may not know, is a woman – or I guess nowadays, a man – who breastfeeds other people babies. They don't stop, therefore the milk production continues. Wet nurses were common before formula became widely available.

Yep. We are going backwards.

Elections have consequences they say.

And now we are all paying the price.

Amanda Walker is a columnist and contributor with *AL.com*, *The Birmingham News*, *Selma Times Journal*, *Thomasville Times*, *West Alabama Watchman*, and *The Alabama Gazette*. Contact her at Walkerworld77@msn.com or at www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist.



Ms.Wheelchair Americal
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
site.trisstonwrightburrows.com

“A Little 4th of July Funny”

Happy 4th of July! I recently came across a funny parable (author unknown), and I thought I'd share it with you...

Once, in the 1820s, a little boy named Sam was playing in the yard behind his house. During his pretend fighting game, he knocked over the outhouse.

Now, Same was upset and worried that he would get into trouble, so he ran into the woods and didn't come out until after dark. When he arrived back home, his Pappy was waiting for him. He asked suspiciously, “Son, did you knock over the outhouse this afternoon?”



“No sir,” Sam lied.

“Well, let me tell you a story,” said the Pappy. “Once, not that long ago, Mr. Washington received a shiny new axe from his Pappy. Excited, he tried it out on a tree... swiftly cutting it down. But as he looked at the tree, with dismay he realized it was his mother's favorite cherry tree,” his Pappy paused. “Just like you, he ran into the woods. When he returned, his Pappy asked, ‘George, did you cut down the cherry tree?’ George answered with, ‘Father, I cannot tell a lie. I did indeed chop down the tree.’ Then his father said, ‘Well since you were honest with me, you are spared from punishment. I hope you learned your lesson though.’ So,” Sam's father asked again, “did you knock down the outhouse?”

“Pappy, I cannot tell a lie anymore,” said the little boy. “I did indeed knock down the outhouse.” Then his pappy spanked Sam red, white, and blue.

The boy whimpered, “Pappy, I told the truth! Why did you spank me?”

Pappy replied, “That's because George Washington's father was not in the tree when he chopped it down!”

Psalm 33:12 “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance.”

Many Blessings & Happy 4th of July!

The way banking should be.



B BRANTLEY
BANK & TRUST CO.

BRANTLEY • 334.527.3206 • 9402 North Main Street
RAMER • 334.562.3257 • 105 Main Street
PIKE ROAD • 334.676.8220 • 9545 Vaughn Road
www.brantleybank.com



ELIZABETH H. APARTMENTS

Senior Living • 62 and older



Spacious 1 Bedroom • 1 Bath apartments
Rent is based on income
rent includes utilities
(On the Campus of Faulkner University)

5201 W. Alabama Christian Dr.
Montgomery, Al. 36109



(334) 386-7490 TDD 334-557-6252
or 557-6254



CAMELLIA GARDENS APARTMENTS



334-244-6582

For those 62 years and older, or younger
if mobility or physically impaired.
1 Bedroom Apartments with furnished
utilities, and *rent is income-based.*

Come by 265 Evelyn Drive on Faulkner
University Campus or call today!



Southern Gardening

Potpourri for July

Well, Happy Fourth of July and here's to all the festivities, family and food. As I have said in past articles, we as Americans should go out of our way to show our patriotism. I am proud to be a United States citizen and try to do my part to express this sentiment in quiet ways, such as planting a red, white and blue flowerbed for everyone to see. I display the flag out in front of my home, and always have family and friends over for an old fashioned barbeque where dessert is a sheet cake iced like an American flag. Of course our display of patriotism comes in many different forms such as attending fireworks extravaganzas or ending the night singing patriotic songs. Whatever interest in displays or no displays, we should all say to ourselves, God Bless America.

Now, back to the garden. We should be entering into the hottest and driest part of the year, and we will need to water pots and flower beds on a daily basis.

Although June has been wet and rather cool, do not be lulled into complacency. Recently I heard from a reader who told me she had been watering her pots last summer and the plants did not thrive. When I asked her how she knew she had thoroughly water the soil, she said she just ran the hose over the pots. To properly water where the roots get moist and not just the soil on top, poke your index finger down into the dirt to the first knuckle, if the soil is moist at the level, you have properly watered the pot. For pots, the potting soil should come down at least one inch from the lip of the post. Usually, if you water until the water is level with this lip that should be enough. This watering soil test is also good for plants growing out in beds.

I was reading through some garden articles and came across a few tips which I will share with you:

1. If you have snail problems, crush up eggshells and place them where snails are a pest. They hate eggshells.
2. Instead of purchasing expensive plastic containers, take egg cartons, poke holes in the bottom for drainage, fill with potting soil, sow the seeds, and the seeds will germinate.
3. Save bottle tops and place in the bottom of clay pots for drainage.
4. For the environmentalist who wants to rid an area of weeds, such as side walks, pour boiling hot water directly onto the weed, and death is within minutes.
5. Vinegar will kill weeds if poured onto the roots. Just punch a hole with a stake close to the weed, and then pour the vinegar into the hole.
6. To prevent tools from rusting, clean with coke and steel wool, then plunge the tool into sand.
7. One inexpensive way to identify herbs or other plants to gather some smooth rocks, paint them with oil paint (latex may wash off) and then write the name of the plant on the painted surface with contrasting color.

What should we be growing in July? If there are areas of your garden where you have had to remove spent annuals, think about sowing seed.

Zinnias, Cleome and Cosmos can be sown directly into the beds without starting them in pots and later transplanting into the garden. Except for dwarf zinnias, these selections are tall, topping three or more feet. Any biennials that have bloomed should be



removed as they have expended their life cycle. For the perennials, try cutting them back by about a third, and see if they would bring up a fresh flush of bloom. If not, either leave in place for leaf texture and prevent having to buy summer annual replacements. These will need to be totally cut back in the fall and winter anyway. For sunny areas of the bed, vinca, ageratum, dragon wing begonias, melanpodium, gomphrena, dusty miller and torenia to name a few for sunny areas, There are impatiens, dusty miller, hosta and begonias for the shady areas. Just be sure of the sun or shade requirements, so there are no disappointments.

Happy Gardening!



Affordable Housing for the Elderly or Mobility Impaired

- Spacious 1 Bedroom Apartments
- 24-Hour Security
- Planned Activities
- Beauty Salon



Seton Haven

(334) 272-4000

3721 Wares Ferry Road, Montgomery, AL 36109

OUTDOOR Truths



By Gary Miller

God will Never Leave You

If you hunt or fish long enough there will come times you must give up your passion for other things. I can remember years ago opening a business during hunting season. The timing of the opening was not optional. You can imagine how often I got to hunt that year. Absence did make the heart grow fonder. Another year was nearly the same. I was trying to finish a Master's degree. That, along with all the other things in life, made it late into the year before I was able to get in a treestand. I tried to make up for lost time, but I missed much of the season. Sometimes a season of not hunting becomes a long period of not hunting. I know when my children were young, most of my time was taken up going from one ball game to another. I wouldn't have had it any other way. Many hunters are now former hunters because they encountered one of these times where they had to put hunting on the back burner for a season, and they never came back. They got used to the absence. I'm glad after raising my children, and after businesses and books, I still want to get back to the water and the woods.

There are times in our lives we are tempted to let other things take priority over our spiritual life as well. These times usually come when something has drawn us away for a period of time. Many times, the things that have drawn us away were not bad. It may be you had to sit with a sick child or a terminally ill mother. These may have kept you from attending a weekend gathering or from other spiritual activities. The first thing you need to know is God understands, and He wants you to know the circumstances you are in are not designed to hinder your growth, but to enhance it. And even though it may seem you are unable to do the things you used to do, God will never leave you. He will make a way. One day, things may be back to some normalcy. When that happens, don't get used to the absence of the things you once had to leave. Their importance has not diminished. In fact, it was their value that carried you through.



Source: www.freeimages.com

Get Gary to come speak at your next wild game dinner or men's event!
Contact Gary at gary@outdoortruths.org.



Central Alabama Aging Consortium
Connecting You to Services

INVITES YOU TO THE

2022 ELDER JUSTICE AND FRAUD CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

WETUMPKA CIVIC CENTER
410 SOUTH MAIN STREET
WETUMPKA, AL 36092

JULY 14, 2022
9:00AM-3:00PM
(REGISTRATION 8:30-9:00AM)

Lunch will be provided.

Who Should Attend:
Social Workers, Nurses, Nursing Home and Assisted Living Administrators, Direct Care Staff, Activity Staff, Therapy Staff, Attorneys, Family Caregivers, and Seniors

Topics Include:
Investigating and Prosecuting Elder Abuse, Elder Abuse Registry, Mental Health in Aging, and Preventing Financial Scams

To Register Please Contact:
Meghan Germek or Candace Johnson
(334)240-4680
meghan.germek@adss.alabama.gov
candace.johnson@adss.alabama.gov

4 CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS APPLIED FOR:
Nurses, Social Workers, Nursing Home Administrators, Assisted Living Administrators, and Attorneys








MACOA Serve Seniors!

The Montgomery Area Council On Aging (MACOA)



You can help! MACOA needs volunteers once a week to deliver meals.

If you can help, please call 334-263-0532.

115 East Jefferson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

<https://www.macoa.org>

PUMP REPAIRS



6908 Norman Bridge Road
Montgomery, Alabama

(334) 281-1258

**Service Station Repairs
Tank Installations & Closures
Hydrostatic Tank & Line Testing**

Norman (Tony) Mitchell



Southern Cuisine

Chef David Spooner, Retired Chef
*Volunteer Fireman, Lowndesboro V.F.D., St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
 Lowndesboro Board of Registrars, Lowndes County*

It was time for my yearly pilgrimage to Saint Francisville, Louisiana. It was time for the literary festival celebrating Walker Percy's life and works. There are lectures about "The movies of the Moviegoer" by Read Mercer Schuchardt, "The History and Culture of Barbecue." with John Shelton Reed and "Walker Percy—A Personal History" by a friend of mine since college, Dave Duty and much more for any Walker Percy fan. And if you know anything about Walker Percy, there is always Crayfish and bourbon. The celebration was canceled last year because of COVID. There was not enough time to make up for the lost time from last year but there was enough good food, good drinks (bourbon, of course) and new friends to make the weekend enjoyable.

Back on the home front, gasoline prices are still getting worse. I bought my hybrid car just at the right time. I went from a car that got combined 20 mpg to one that gets combined 44 mpg. Since gas has doubled in price, and I get twice the gas mileage, I figure I'm just holding my own with my gas.

I have scoured the stores for food deals and have found a store that is not though about as a place to buy cheap groceries. The food section at TJ MAXX



should be on your list for finding something new and unusual every time you go there. It is where I go to discover something I would not buy very often but as an addition to my menu when I want to change my menu up a bit and not spend a fortune for a gourmet item. Also when you go to Kroger's, look for the Manager's Special. I just finished reading an article about ice cream scams. The cartons are the same size but the weight of the ice cream has gone down. Some ice cream makers are being real sneaky and change the description to frozen dairy dessert. There is a standard of identity in ice cream, such as level of milk fat content, which frozen dairy dessert does not require. A frozen dairy dessert can contain corn syrup while ice cream does not.

I was at a grocery store doing my usual trek up and down every aisle, when lo and behold; I found a store discount deal on Short Ribs. Not letting a deal go by on one of my favorite cuts of beef, I bagged every one of the packages they had. Short ribs is on my list of hard to find and too expensive for what you get cuts of beef. Along with beef tongue, beef cheeks and short breads (thymus gland).

Braised Short Ribs

INGREDIENTS:

4 lbs beef bone-in short ribs cut into
 2 to 3 inch pieces
 2 yellow onions chopped
 3 large leeks white and light green
 parts only, rinsed and sliced
 4 garlic cloves peeled and thinly sliced
 3 large carrots peeled and chopped
 (1) 750 mil bottle Cotes du Rhone or
 cabernet sauvignon
 Cups chopped celery
 4 cups beef stock – homemade is
 preferable (see notes above)
 1 cup crushed tomatoes
 1 eleven oz bottle Guinness Stout
 Olive oil
 Fresh thyme sprigs



2-3 dried bay leaves
 Kosher salt
 Freshly ground black pepper
 Polenta for serving

METHOD:

1. Preheat an oven to 425 degrees F. Pat the beef very dry using a paper towel. Brush with olive oil. Generously season all sides with salt and pepper.
2. Roast for 20 minutes, remove from oven and reduce temperature to 325.
3. In a large Dutch oven, heat oil to medium-low and add onions, leeks, celery, carrots, and sauté until onions and leeks are just tender, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook for one minute more.
4. Add the wine and stock and Guinness bring to a simmer. Season lightly with salt and pepper.
5. Return the meat to the pan and nestle in the carrots, thyme sprigs, and bay leaves. The meat should sit just above the liquid line. For a good braise, you don't want it fully immersed in the liquid.
6. Cover and transfer to the oven for 2 1/2 hours. Remove lid and cook for another 30-45 minutes, until the beef is fork-tender.
7. Remove from the oven and skim off the layer of fat on top and discard. Cover and rest the beef in the juices for at least 45 minutes.
8. Gently re-warm on the stove before serving.
9. Serve meat and juices over a shallow bowl of polenta.

Quick, Delicious Food for Celebrations!

We were going to prepare some finger-food for a graduation party and after much discussion and searching for a dish that a teenager would like and for us, easy to make, we found this recipe ...

Sliders

INGREDIENTS:

(1) 16-oz package dinner rolls
 1 Tbsp. Vegetable oil
 ½ yellow onion, peeled and chopped
 1¼ lb. Ground sirloin (90/10)
 1½ Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
 ½ tsp. kosher salt
 ½ tsp. ground black pepper
 ¼ c. mayonnaise
 2 Tbsp. ketchup
 1 Tbsp. mustard
 (1) 8-oz bag shredded cheddar-jack cheese
 ½ c. Dill pickle slices
 2 Tbsp. olive oil
 1 Tbsp. everything bagel seasoning



METHOD:

1. Preheat the broiler. Remove the rolls from the packaging in one piece. With a serrated knife cut crosswise through the all of the rolls at once, to divide the top half from the bottom (keeping the sides of the rolls intact). Place both halves cut-side up on a sheet tray and broil for 2 minutes until lightly toasted. (If using slider rolls, separate the tops from the bottoms and place cut side up on the sheet tray, sides touching; broil as instructed). Set aside.
2. Heat the vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and cook for 3 minutes until just slightly softened. Add the ground sirloin and cook, breaking up into small pieces with a wooden spoon. Increase the heat to medium-high. Add the Worcestershire sauce, salt, and black pepper, and stir well to combine. Cook until the beef is no longer pink and the liquid from the pan has almost fully evaporated, about 8 minutes. Remove from the heat.
3. Preheat the oven to 375°. In a small bowl, mix together the mayonnaise, ketchup, and mustard.
4. Spread the cut sides of the rolls with the mayonnaise mixture, and then sprinkle with half of the cheese in an even layer. Layer the meat mixture over the cheese, then top with the remaining cheese and the pickles. Cover with the top half of the rolls.
5. Brush the tops of the rolls all over with olive oil and sprinkle with everything bagel seasoning. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until the cheese is melted and the tops of the rolls are golden and toasted. Pull sliders apart and serve warm.
6. If you don't have everything bagel seasoning, use sesame seeds instead or mix 1/2 teaspoon of garlic salt into the olive oil before brushing on the rolls.

Happy 30th Anniversary July 18th to David & Anne Spooner!

I had this tray of crawfish one night at the Percy conference. There is more there than you can eat and it is as spicy as you can stand. The cold bourbon helps. "Pinch the tail and suck the head." A tawdry-sounding phrase, but it's actually how you eat crawfish.

Crawfish Boil Recipe

Made with live crawfish, Louisiana and Cajun seasonings, corn, red potatoes, these crawfish are so delicious!

INGREDIENTS:

3 lbs. (1.3 kg) crawfish
 8-10 cups water
 6 oz. (170 g) Louisiana Crawfish Shrimp & Crab Boil
 2 Tbsp. McCormick Cajun seasoning
 1 Tbsp. McCormick Lemon Pepper seasoning
 1 head garlic, unpeeled but separated
 3 ears corn, cut into 2-inch pieces
 12 oz. (340 g) small red potatoes, halved
 1 lemon, sliced into rounds



METHOD:

1. Fill a large pot with water. Bring the water to a boil. Add the Louisiana Crawfish Shrimp and Crab Boil, Cajun seasoning and Lemon Pepper seasoning. Stir well to a rolling boil.
2. Add the garlic, corn, potatoes, sausage and lemon slices. Cover the pot with its lid and cook for 10 minutes.
3. Taste the crawfish boil water. If it's too salty, add more water. If it's too bland, add more seasonings to taste. Transfer the crawfish into the pot and cook for 3-4 minutes, with the lid covered.
4. Turn off the heat and let the crawfish soak for 10 minutes. The longer the crawfish soaks, the spicier they will be. Remove all the ingredients using a strainer and serve immediately. Discard the crawfish boil water.

“Real cooking is more about following your heart than following recipes.”

SUPPORT YOUR AREA FOOD BANK

Montgomery Area Food Bank

Feeding Hope Across Alabama



521 Trade Center Street

334-263-3784

MEMBER OF
FEEDING AMERICA

www.montgomeryareafoodbank.org/NeedHelp.html

Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage



Bobbie Ames' erudite collection of prose, first published in **The Alabama Gazette**, will serve humanity, and more specifically, the Christian community, for generations to come. We at the Gazette are humbled and honored that Bobbie chose our publication to share some of her greatest treatises. Bobbie undoubtedly stands as one of the foremost Christian writers of this or any generation. This book can be purchased at the link below.

www.nordskogpublishing.com/product/land-that-i-love