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"Hooked" on the Narcotic of Federal Dollars

"Federal education officials are not stupid. They are well aware that most local school districts cannot cope with sudden and severe slashes in their operating budgets. They know that school districts have contracted for services in the expectation that, having qualified for U. S. funds by meeting the terms of aid legislation, those funds will be forthcoming. They realize that local tax rates cannot be quickly and arbitrarily raised to offset the unplanned loss of federal dollars. The U. S. government has unlimited resources (which we have given it) to hire legal counsel, but our districts do not. Those districts which have most to lose by withdrawal of U. S. aid are usually the poorest districts. Working without expected and budgeted U. S.

assistance while fighting a long, costly lawsuit to regain that assistance presents a difficult choice to the local school board - and the federal power-brokers know it. Thus, in almost every case, the local board will knuckle under to federal authority without a court battle, complying with whatever rule the government imposes, simply to assure the uninterrupted flow of federal money into the district's bank account...and their school system has become "hooked" on the narcotic of federal dollars."

*- Theodore M. Black
 Former Chancellor of N. Y. State's Board of Regents*

*America 2000/Goals 2000-Moving the National Educationally to a "New World Order"
 Published March 1994"*

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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE **MARTHA ROBY**
ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT



ROBY CELEBRATES SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

WASHINGTON, D.C. — “Every student deserves a chance, and every parent deserves a choice,” U.S. Representative Martha Roby said marking National School Choice Week in a special video message.

“I’m Martha Roby and I’m proud to celebrate School Choice Week.”

“Every student deserves a chance, and every parent deserves a choice. My state of Alabama is going to be making another big push on improving school choice this year, and we are going to do our part in Congress to make sure

federal laws support and do not hinder those efforts.

“Thank you to all the educators, parents and activists who fight every day to give our children a better shot at a bright future.”

Rep. Roby firmly believes that states and not the federal government should determine education policies, including those affecting school choice. She has consistently supported measures that remove barriers and promote best practices among states and local governments that authorize school choice policies, such as charter schools.

Last Session, Rep. Roby supported and the U.S. House of Representatives passed.

“The Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act”, which promotes state efforts to expand choice through charter schools, particu-

larly for at-risk and underserved populations.

The Student Success Act, which contained provisions supporting parental engagement as well as opportunities for parents to enroll their children in local magnet schools and charter schools.

The House is expected to take up these and other measures in support of school choice this year.

For more information contact Communications Director Todd Stacy at 202-226-1567 todd.stacy@mail.house.gov.

Principles of Liberty...

*The highest level of prosperity occurs when there is a free market economy and a minimum of government regulations.
The burden of debt is as destructive to freedom as subjugation by conquest.
The proper role of government is to protect equal rights, not provide equal things.*



The Education Station...

By Bobbie Ames

THE RESTRUCTURE OF AMERICA THROUGH THE “CHOICE IN EDUCATION”

1. Global Education
2. “World Class” Citizens
3. “Choice” in Education
4. Greater Government Controls
5. Greater Responsibility on the part of Government to watch over and teach (indoctrinate) pre-school children

Plans to accomplish all of this is by a National Curriculum, National Testing, a National Database, Outcome Based Education, and State Based Decision Making conforming to National Standards.

In Alabama, Christian schools are exempt from conforming to government regulations such as Common Core. But the feds are hoping that they will use a voucher plan or take tuition tax credits, and thus force non-public schools into the framework of the government plan.

From President Bush, to Carter, and to Obama, we hear much about “World Class” standards in every school, and at the same time, they promote “Choice in Education.” It can be confusing, can’t it?

The aim in “choice” is to increase the government’s stronghold and eventually control non-public schools as well. Deceiving parents is part of the plan.

In the last session of the Alabama Legislature, Christian, Private, and Home schools were mercifully protected *by law*, from government regulation. Many legal experts sound a warning to Christian schools. To take government assistance, is to inevitably waive your right to teach and function as a Christian school, holding the Bible as infallible, inerrant, etc.

To expect federal funds to flow without any control is to be ignorant of the law. For example, in the “Excellence in Education Act of 1991,” the bill states: *“From funds reserved under section 3(b), the secretary shall conduct a national evaluation of the activities under this Act.”* This would include implementation of the program, etc. Justice Blackmon acknowledged that the government may call on the recipients of subsidies to *relinquish* some of their constitutional rights. (May 23, 1991).

Parents who have opted out of public schools, have been paying their taxes to keep public schools operating in addition to paying tuition for their Christian and Private schools. It will be tempting to see “Choice in Education” as a means of increasing enrollment in the Christian schools. If the matter were left up only to the States, it would be a different response.

However, the federal government which has no U.S. Constitutional authority over education at any level, has proven hostile to Christianity, especially in recent years.

Christians already have a grave problem with college age students leaving the church, after attending Sunday School and church all of their young lives. Families are in distress in America as never before in her history. Religious liberty is under attack across America. **The glorious light of the Gospel shines brightest against the backdrop of attacks, but only when Christians are informed and carry the Biblical armor of God into battle.**

Rev. James Patrick, a thorough researcher and able writer, has made this thoughtful observation: “The United States seems to be drifting away from more than a sound foreign policy. It is drifting away from everything of any value, politically, economically, spiritually and educationally. We are a nation adrift with neither an anchor to hold us, nor a rudder to guide us. Many writers have proposed various reasons for their drift away from our country’s original moorings, and I suppose that each has touched upon some aspect of the truth. But let me propose a different view. Could it be that we are adrift because of the deliberate actions of the enemy from within? Is it possible that a Trojan Horse was left at our gates, and we, in a moment of security, opened the gates to the very enemy we oppose?”

For nearly 200 years in America, Noah Webster’s definition of Education was upheld in local classrooms across the United States. Education is “the bringing up, as of a child; instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on



(Photo: Albert Cesare / Montgomery Advertiser)

School choice supporters march up Dexter Avenue to demand greater school choice on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015.

This “Choice” originated with the Department of Education in concert with the New American School Development Corporation years ago. All education (school systems) dependent on federal tax dollars will eliminate a true “Choice” for parents, because it will conform to a “national curriculum.”

Pre-school will be expanded to four year olds, perhaps three year olds, with families increasingly monitored by government agencies.

Components of this philosophy have been evident for many decades, but the system itself, thoroughly socialistic and without moral absolutes, has been in place as a cohesive system since Goals 2000 was made public. **Goals 2000 was a plan released by President Bush in 1991, with its own Task Force, which planned for a complete restructure of community standards toward national educational goals, with determined conformity by all local public educational systems. And now, Common Core expands the agenda’s goals.**

Make no mistake in understanding the primary and overall goals:



(Photo: Albert Cesare / Montgomery Advertiser)

Alabama Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard speaks to school choice supporters during a rally and march at the Alabama Capitol building.

parents and guardians who neglect these duties.”

Will we now allow the United Nations to redefine the content and methods of education to produce a Socialist and pagan nation? MAY GOD FORBID!

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



Ronald A. Holtsford

HOW CAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FORCE THE STATE OF ALABAMA TO ACCEPT SAME SEX MARRIAGE?



In 1996 the Defense of Marriage Act was passed by Congress, which stated that States did not have to accept same sex marriages performed in States that allowed such. Section 3 placed into law a non-recognition of same-sex marriage for all federal purposes, which included governmental employee insurance benefits, social security survivors'

benefits, bankruptcy, immigration, and the filing of joint tax returns. This also excluded same-sex spouses from the laws that protect families of federal officers, laws that consider financial aid eligibility, and Federal ethics laws, which apply to traditional spouses. It seems that some of the issues of same sex marriage had arisen involving inheritance by same sex spouses and children of "adoptive" parents in same sex marriages since only a single parent was recognized.

In 2011 the Obama administration said that they would no longer defend DOMA cases. In the 2013 case of *United States v. Windsor*, it was ruled by the United States Supreme Court that Section 3 was unconstitutional. The Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment was used to nullify Section 3 of DOMA. The Fifth Amendment reads as follows,

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, **nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law**; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

In 2006, 81% of Alabama voters voted in favor of the Alabama Sanctity of Marriage Amendment. It reads;

- (a) This amendment shall be known and may be cited as the Sanctity of Marriage Amendment.
- (b) Marriage is inherently a unique relationship between a man and a woman. As a matter of public policy, this state has a special interest in encouraging, supporting, and protecting this unique relationship in order to promote, among other goals, the stability and welfare of society and its children. A marriage contracted between individuals of the same sex is invalid in this state.
- (c) Marriage is a sacred covenant, solemnized between a man and a woman, which, when the legal capacity and consent of both parties is present, establishes their relationship as husband and wife, and which is recognized by the state as a civil contract.
- (d) No marriage license shall be issued in the State of Alabama to parties of the same sex.
- (e) The State of Alabama shall not recognize as valid any marriage of parties of the same sex that occurred or was alleged to have occurred as a result of the law of any jurisdiction regardless of whether a marriage license was issued.

- (f) The State of Alabama shall not recognize as valid any common law marriage of parties of the same sex.
- (g) A union replicating marriage of or between persons of the same sex in the State of Alabama or in any other jurisdiction shall be considered and treated in all respects as having no legal force or effect in this state and shall not be recognized by this state as a marriage or other union replicating marriage

Alabama has been one of fourteen states that does not recognize same sex marriage. Two Mobile women who were married in California and have a son via a sperm donor had sued in Federal Court because only one parent was recognized as being a parent. U.S. District Court Judge, Callie V.S. Granade (who was supported by Alabama's current Senators and appointed by President George W. Bush) ruled that the Alabama statutes violated the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The Clause reads, "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Justice Granade immediately issued a 14-day stay to allow Alabama time to respond but felt the stay should not be lengthy in time. Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore has pledged to fight the Federal ruling. The Alabama Probate Judges Association has taken the position that the case only applies to the plaintiffs in the case and that the Probate Judges Association should allow only the plaintiffs to be recognized as spouses. Montgomery County Probate Judge Steven Reed has stated that he will issue marriage licenses to same sex applicants if allowed to do so.

One must realize that the substantive portion of the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment has been used in cases since the late 1800's involving contracts, President Wilson's involvement in railroad strikes, and as a basis for a right to privacy for legalizing abortion in the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Roe v. Wade*.

Regardless of the writer's or readers opinion on the matter, a heavy handed Federal judiciary that overrides a vast majority of the voters of a State was not the intent of the Framers of the United States Constitution. Prior to World War I, most citizens identified themselves as citizens of their State and only after the terrible national war did citizens begin in unison to consider themselves Americans.

I am an Alabamian and I expect the Federal Judiciary to consider the will of Alabamians over their own bias.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist. No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

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As an update, a three judge panel of 11th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals has lifted the stay as of Tuesday, 03 February 2015. Attorney General Strange continues to appeal the decision. Short of a new stay, gay marriages may be performed as early as Monday, 09 February 2015.

Bench-Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest



Judge Philip Dale Segrest

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ECONOMIC MOTIVES OF DEFENSE ATTORNEYS

This column continues the discussion of the economics of law practice. It is the fourth in a series. First, we described the strong ties between law and economics. We pointed out that because the practice of law is a business, the economic motivation of the lawyers handling the litigation can actually make the legal system less efficient for conflict resolution. Quick resolution of legal disputes does not promote the economic interest of the law business. Defense lawyers who charge hourly rates clearly profit from continuation of the conflict. To set the stage for further examination of the economic motivation of lawyers, we explained that dispute resolution can be analyzed as an economic transaction. Plaintiffs have an economic claim against defendants. Dispute resolution (including litigation) is a transaction in which the defendant is forced to "buy" the plaintiff's claim. Often there is a negotiated settlement.

The present discussion will examine in more detail the economic motivations of defense lawyers. The Civil War decided that the United States would be involved in the Industrial Revolution rather than continuing as an agrarian economy. The case method of legal education evolved at Harvard University in the 1870's and quickly spread throughout the nation. Before

that, would-be lawyers usually "read the law." Legal education was not primarily a law school function. But from that time forward, law school has been the primary source of legal education. Large firms that worked for the emerging corporate America evolved very quickly. With the advent of automobiles and the attendant litigation, defense work was often assigned by corporations and liability insurance companies to the emerging corporate law firms.

Then in the 1960's, public interest in law firms began to emerge dealing with matters of public interest such as civil rights. And attorneys who represented plaintiffs also became highly organized, assuming the name "trial lawyers." By the 1960s, it was no longer fashionable for attorneys to "work both sides of the street." Attorneys were either defense attorneys or plaintiff's attorneys, with few exceptions. The mythology of the individual advocate continues to reassert itself in the Atticus Finch mythology; but not many lawyers practice all parts of the legal profession in an individualist style.

By the 1960's, defense firms had generally adopted hourly rate billing. By then, liability insurance companies had become significantly involved in the economics of dispute

resolution. Liability insurance companies were behind the scenes calling the shots for the defense side of cases. Under those circumstances, defense lawyers have little economic motivation to simply assess the facts about a particular case and recommend quick settlement. The justification articulated by defense firms and liability insurers for refusal to settle is the necessity for "investigation." They engage in discovery; i.e. interrogatories, requests for production and admissions, and depositions in order to "evaluate the case." But discovery is very expensive for the parties who are trying to get their disputes resolved. If an insurer or defense firm were to simply settle the case immediately after the case is presented, the defense firm would not have the opportunity to bill all of the hours that are involved in the discovery process.

In automobile liability cases insurance is a major factor. Often the limits of liability are \$25,000. The insurance company is in the background calling the shots. It has little to lose because there is such a relatively low limit on its liability. So the case undergoes expensive discovery. Companies are often able to settle the cases for far less than is actually justified simply because the company has nothing to lose by refusing to pay until

the case "reaches the courthouse steps" for trial.

The delays caused by the economic motives of insurance companies and defense firms in turn causes plaintiff's attorneys to charge higher contingent fees to cover their own time investment. The total cost of dispute resolution is disproportionately high in comparison to the amount that is actually required to settle the case. Economists call the costs that are involved "transaction costs." The transaction costs for the people involved in legal disputes are inordinately high, and threaten the effectiveness of the legal system.

If this assessment of the role of defense lawyers seems unfair, it is because the analysis over-emphasizes the point to explain the point. In the next column, we will examine the economic motives of plaintiff lawyers with the same sharp critique. The economics of law practice involving the economic motives of both plaintiff attorneys and defense attorneys present significant problems for the efficiency of the legal system in dispute resolution.

2015 ALABAMA LEGISLATURE

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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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



February 18, 2015:

The legislature and the governor are preparing for the first Regular Session of the quadrennium. The Session will begin March 3.

Legislators need to arrive in Montgomery with their lunch pails and sleeves rolled up ready to go to work because the proverbial chickens have come home to roost. They are facing a gargantuan budget crisis in the State General Fund. They cannot spend this four years cussing Obama Care and passing unconstitutional and meaningless bills dealing with federal issues like immigration and abortion.

They cannot kick the can down the road any longer. If they do not fix the cash strapped General Fund, they are going to start getting calls from angry constituents telling them that Aunt Susie is being kicked out of the nursing home and she's coming to live with them, and their daughter went down to the courthouse to get her driver's license on her 16th birthday and nobody was there to give her the

test, and their wife was in a car accident on I-65 and she sat in the care for two hours until a state trooper arrived, and, by the way, there are a couple of state convicts hanging out in their front yard.

The legislature has a big hole to dig out of for next year. Those legislators who were proud of being placed on the budget committees during the organizational session may want to rethink their committee assignments. Their appointments may appear more like a prison sentence.

For the next fiscal year, the budget hole in just the General Fund is over \$261 million. However, the projected shortfall over the next few years will be more like \$700 million. The governor has to take the lead in steering the state out of this crisis. The governor proposes and the legislature disposes.

Gov. Bentley has said that the time has come when the state is not able to postpone dealing with the issue any longer. "Taxes would be the last thing I would look to as far as raising a new tax. But I cannot see getting through this without having to raise new revenue." Bentley continued, "We're broke and we don't have enough money

to cover what we owe." In his defense, he did not cause the problem. He inherited it. His predecessor left the cupboard bare. Bob Riley spent any and all cash in the Rainy Day Funds and the federal stimulus money has run out.

It is no secret that the major culprits causing the dilemma in the General Fund are Medicaid and prisons. The governor is adamant that he does not want to expand Medicaid under the Federal Medicaid Expansion Act. He has consistently stood on the position that we cannot expand because we cannot afford what we have now.

The prison problem is pressing. Alabama's prison system is at almost double its capacity. This overcrowding is creating safety problems and is teetering on an emergency situation. There may be some long-term solutions. Some of the problems could be alleviated by alternative sentencing measures. There has got to be other ways to punish crimes besides incarceration. Other states have had success taking this approach. State Senator Cam Ward has taken the lead in prison reform. He will be at the forefront of any reform measures.

In the meantime, any alterna-

tive sentencing guidelines will take years to implement. This crisis must be addressed immediately. The state will have to allot more funds for adequate jails or risk having a federal takeover of the State Prison System. There is a precedent for this in the State. The bill for the federal takeover was extremely expensive.

We will shortly see what the governor has to offer as solutions to the state's financial woes. When the governor makes his proposals on March 3rd, the presiding officer in the House will be Speaker Mike Hubbard (R-Auburn). He has been indicted on 23 felony ethics charges accusing him of using his office for personal gain. His trial is set to begin in October.

Campaign records show he has spent close to \$300,000.00 for legal fees using his campaign funds, which has been ruled allowable by an Attorney General's opinion issued in 2000. The advisory opinion says that criminal defense costs can be paid out of campaign finance funds if the accusations are related to how the person performed in office.



February 11, 2015:

As the legislature and governor prepare for the upcoming initial legislative session of the quadrennium, they are facing ominous and obvious problems. The General Fund is in dire straits, primarily due to the escalating costs of Medicaid and prisons.

The problems in the Prison System may be even more acute than with Medicaid. The reason is that our prison population is well in excess of what federal courts have determined is constitutional. There are federal judicial standards of humane care for prisoners and we currently are not within these guidelines. Therefore, we are on thin ice and shaky ground if our prison problems come before a federal judge.

The remedy they might adjudicate could be more expensive than our fixing the problem ourselves. History has a way of repeating itself. We have been dealt this card before in the Heart of Dixie.

We in the South have had a propensity, probably due to our heritage, of rebelling against the federal government. We seem to always come up on the short end of the stick. These losses have been very costly.

The history of federal intervention into our affairs is pronounced. The results have been expensive, devastating and usually avoidable.

The most famous and glaring federal intervention came in the 1960's when George Wallace stood in the schoolhouse door. The U.S. Supreme Court had ruled school segregation unconstitutional in 1954 in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Alabama and the entire South had ignored the federal mandate. It came to a head here in Alabama with Gov. Wallace's theatrical stand in front of Foster Auditorium at the University of Alabama. Federal officials forced Gov. Wallace to stand down and allow two black students to attend the University.

The next year, the federal government, under the authority of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, forced the state to desegregate all public schools. The following year, after the Selma to Montgomery march and whirlwind of civil rights marches and protests, Congress passed the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Up until that time, very few blacks could vote in the South.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed discriminatory practices, such

as poll taxes and literacy tests. The Act also allowed for federal oversight over Alabama's voting laws. African American Alabamians voted in mass in 1966.

Alabama's Mental Health System became the subject of federal intervention in the 1970's. The legislature cut an already paltry appropriation for mental health. A class action lawsuit followed. The case *Wyatt v. Stickney* centered on overcrowding and inhumane conditions in our mental institutions. A federal judge ruled that mental health patients have a right to a certain standard of care. The judge ordered restoration of the funding. It was not until 2003, close to 30 years later, that the Feds stopped overseeing our mental health facilities. The case wound up costing the state millions in court and compliance costs.

In 1985, a federal lawsuit was filed against Alabama's Department of Transportation alleging that the Highway Department had discriminated against blacks in their hiring practices. At that time, the department had less than 10% black professionals and technicians. The plaintiffs won.

The federal court decree restrained the departments hiring until it reached the quota they desired. By

2003, 31 percent of the professionals and 25 percent of the technicians at ALDOT were black. This lawsuit has cost the state over \$300 million and is still ongoing.

We have also seen federal intervention regarding our teacher testing standards. A federal court decree kept Alabama from testing our teachers for close to two decades.

In 2001, Chief Justice Roy Moore placed a Ten Commandments monument in the Alabama Judicial Building. A federal judge ordered the monument removed in 2003. Judge Moore in a bold move, similar to George Wallace's schoolhouse door stand, refused to obey the federal order. He was then removed from office.

The people of Alabama sent the Feds a message that they stood with Moore when they reelected him as Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court in 2012.

When it comes to federal intervention, this current possible intrusion into our prisons will not be our first rodeo.

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

Inauguration - A Special Time By Lt. Governor Kay Ivey



L.R - Mrs. Robert Bentley, Lt. Governor Kay Ivey and Governor Robert Bentley

Alabama's Inauguration weekend is a special time to mark the end of the political season and the beginning of governing. In as much as everyone runs for office under a party label, candidates must lay aside partisan politics and accept duties and obligations for all the people of our Great State on Inauguration Day.

As presiding officer of the Senate, one tradition I observe is for the Lt. Governor to host a formal dinner for all Senators the night before Inauguration. These events are not funded by taxpayers, but by private donations to the Inaugural Committee. The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts served as the venue for our Sunday night dinner. The highlight of the evening was an opportunity I had to present Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh with a special gift. In Senator Marsh's district there is a small business called Bear & Son Cutlery which manufactures specialty knives. They have been in business for many years and employ almost 100

Inaugural Ceremony Monday morning, I was able to spend some time with Governor Robert Bentley and also presented him with a personalized Bear & Son pocketknife.

Taking the oath of office is an exciting, yet solemn occasion. I take the words of the oath seriously. Though brief, they carry great meaning. "To support and defend the Constitution of United States and the State of Alabama," places a heavy burden on all elected officials. I think about it often and especially when I preside over the Alabama Senate, for it is in this light that all of us labor as public officials. Taking the oath and invoking God's help is a great comfort for I know that my efforts will be aided by Almighty God. As I've done in the past, I placed my hand on my mother's Bible opened to my favorite chapter of Scripture: **Psalm 121:**

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the

people. Recently, they were awarded a contract with Remington to manufacture their knives. I had the joy of calling Senator Marsh to the front and presenting him with a personalized pocket knife made by this outstanding small business from his district. I was also able to present all Senators with a knife to highlight the critical part small businesses play in providing jobs and opportunity to the people of Alabama.

Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

In addition, my hand touched my father's Bronze Star that I keep in the Bible. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his military service in Europe in World War II. This reminds me of the debt of gratitude I owe to my parents and the upbringing I received from them. Knowing this will be my last term as Lieutenant Governor, I wanted my inaugural remarks to be a challenge not only to other elected officials, but to all citizens of Alabama. I wanted everyone to consider why we serve and why we do what we do. I wanted everyone to hear the story of the great composer Johann Sebastian Bach who at the end of each of his musical works dedicated it "to the glory of God and the good of mankind." That is a motto critically important not only for legislators and public officials, but to all citizens to consider that their work and vote should always be to the glory of God and for the good of mankind.

After the kindness of Inauguration, I have to say it is always fun to ride in the parade. There is something about marching bands and waving to the crowds that is just inspiring. Our Capitol is a gorgeous facility and it is a privilege to have a historically appointed office there. It is even more enjoyable to open it up to the general public and let people see their Capitol and enjoy the surroundings.

If the past is any indication, we face many challenges, but we have a unified Legislature committed to solve them. I'm excited to work with Governor Bentley, members of the Alabama Senate, and other elected officials to truly make Alabama a better place.

Woods & Waters with Steve



SMALL GAME ARE A GREAT WAY TO KEEP EVERYONE ACTIVE IN THE OUTDOORS, REGARDLESS OF AGE.



Steve Long



Ron Sparks and James Todd enjoyed their day at Great Southern Outdoors on a pheasant shoot

with small game season! If knocking down some of that honey-do list isn't occupying all of your time, it's a great way to stay out of the house and in the woods!

It may not have the same allure as deer hunting, but small game are a great way to keep everyone active in the outdoors, regardless of age. With its low-cost entry point and simplicity, you can count on some good times with everyone while chasing after rabbit, squirrel, possum, and raccoon. Through February 28th, we can hunt those varmints all across the state with a standard hunting license.

As always, the rules are 8 a day, 8 in possession for rabbit, squirrel, and opossum. For raccoons, on privately owned or leased land, there's a 5 per person limit, while there's a 5 per group rule for open permit – public land. Of course, for rabbit, possum, and raccoons, you can run dogs, but not during the daytime or after 3 AM in areas of spring turkey season. A simple .410 or .22 can do the job nicely without gashing your bank account too deeply.

Shoot, while you're out there, you can take shots at crows, blackbirds, beavers, groundhogs, and nutria without a bag limit, during daylight hours. As long as you practice your basic hunter safety, there's still plenty do without having to chase after deer. For the more adventurous types, you can even cook the game you hunt down. I hear you can make a mean meal out of squirrel!

And I've talked about it many times before, but hog hunting is a year-round venture, and there's never a bad time to get after those pigs. You better believe they won't take a break from rooting up your plots, trashing your roads, and generally making a

great nuisance of themselves. I say let's not give them a break either!

If you're like me, you'll take any reason you can get to get out into the woods, and it doesn't just stop with small game either. After February ends, I'll probably be out there, working around and trying to set myself up for turkey season, my favorite season of them all. There's plenty of stands to take down and move, feeders to fill, and land to walk, so don't be shy about getting those boots worn in.

I know I'm a broken record, but take any chance you can get to get outside and active in the outdoors. For folks like me, it's therapy all on its own; home away from home. There's plenty left to be done, and though we're at the end of one season, there's plenty more reason to stay out there. Be safe, and go get'em!



Chip and Bud on point during a recent quail hunt at Great Southern Outdoors



Sarah Ross poses with her beautiful 8 point, 190 pound buck. She dropped the deer in his tracks in south Montgomery County. Buckster's processed the meat. 40 pounds of sausage, steaks and back straps were donated to the Salvation Army. According to census statistics, of the 15 million hunters in the United States, roughly 15% are female.

Check out Wetumpka's Outdoor Women Unlimited, Inc. (OWU) for more great pictures and stories of women in action.

Alabama boasts of one of the largest whitetail deer populations in the country. This season was extended to February 10 so that more bucks could be harvested than in previous years.

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JOINER, SABAN... NAMES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY, 2015

JOINER

On Sunday, February 1, 2015, the last vestige of the glory days of Sidney Lanier High School came to an end. Legendary basketball coach Bill Joiner fittingly passed away as the half-time of the Super Bowl began at the age of 83. What a fitting way for him to go. As the coach in the pressbox for Coach Bobby Wilson's great football teams of the same era, Bill would scramble down the stadium steps as fast as his old bad knee would allow in order to give Bobby and the rest of the Lanier coaching staff a clear, concise report on what he had seen in the first half. He usually had another coach with him because he was so busy relaying the offensive plays down to Coach Wilson that he did not have time to make a lot of notes. Coach Joiner would point out what was working in the first half and

the same Bill Joiner returned to the school as the head basketball coach in 1961. Astoundingly, Coach Joiner's first



Huston Waters and Ashby Cook help Coach Bill Joiner accept the 1962 State Championship Trophy

Lanier team won the state basketball championship in 1961-62.

What happened between championships in 1949 and 1962? Bill Joiner was signed to a football scholarship to Ole Miss by the great Johnny Vault. Coach Vault would ultimately win a national championship for the Ole Miss Rebels. After his freshman season, Bill was not as interested in football as he was his beautiful girlfriend, Joyce Jones. So, he gave up a great chance to become a famous football player and came home to Montgomery to marry that pretty gal. He also missed his family and friends. Think about it...Oxford, Mississippi was a thousand miles away in 1949. Nevertheless, Bill Joiner came home and made plans to make Joyce his lifetime partner. This he did. To Bill that was a bigger accomplishment than being a star football player.

Time passed...a well known businessman in Montgomery named Ernest O'Connor owned part of the Montgomery Rebels baseball team, and had known Bill Joiner for a long time. Bill had actually played for O'Connor on his GAELS baseball team. O'Connor helped a lot of boys back in the day. He was especially fond of Bill because of his talent and because of his demeanor. What many don't know is that Joiner was one of the best all-round athletes in Lanier history...Football season was approaching in the summer of 1950. Ernest O'Connor called the football coach at Troy who was also the athletic director. This is what he said, "Coach, I got a boy here in Montgomery that can make yo're football team, yo're basketball team and yo're baseball team. Do you want him? Sight unseen, name unknown, Bill Joiner had a scholarship to play football at Troy, just forty-five miles from Montgomery. O'Connor called Bill on

the phone and told him to "have his bags packed and be sittin' on the front steps at six o'clock in the mornin'. You are going to Troy on a football scholarship." Bill usually did what Ernest O'Connor said. He lettered at Troy, three years in football and one year in basketball. He coached several years in Florida before getting the job he wanted, head basketball coach at Sidney Lanier.

When Bill had saved up enough money through his stamp and bubble gum machines, and what he could put away from his coaching salary, he looked for a business opportunity. Pal Shoemake, a civilian employee at Maxwell Air Force Base and Bill's brother-in-law, John Wright, a retired Air Force Colonel opened a door. They started talking about a retail sporting goods store. Thus, Olympia Sporting Goods was formed. At the zenith of that business there were five locations around Alabama and a large staff on the road selling Olympia in the summer of 2014, Bill's health gradually deteriorated. After several hospitalizations in 2014 and in January of 2015, pneumonia ended the life of a wonderful father, a successful businessman and the best basketball coach in the history of Alabama high school basketball. His friend, Coach Jack Powell from Eufaula might argue that point.

What legacy did Coach Bill Joiner leave? Four state basketball championships from 1962 - '67, a record in nine seasons at Lanier of 235 wins - 43 losses. The Lanier Gymnasium bears his name. The trophy case at Lanier is filled with Coach Joiner's work. As a football coach, he developed kids into men for five years making the play-offs in 1972. One of his boys is Johnny Davis, the best fullback to ever play at Lanier, the best fullback to ever play at Alabama and an NFL fullback for eleven years. Johnny also owns a Super Bowl ring because of his efforts as the fullback for the San Francisco 49'ers. Johnny knows how much he owes to Coach Bill Joiner. At the funeral Thursday, February 4, a sweet message was on display from Johnny Davis. This writer was at the Joiner residence on Tuesday night, February 2 when Coach Winfrey "Wimp" Sanderson of Alabama called to express his regrets to the family. For all the honors, all the trophies and all the wins credited to Coach Bill Joiner, the real tribute to him are the people that he influenced in some way. They were not always players or coaches, but people that came to know him down through the years. Many people were just too far



**Sports Editor,
Ed Jones**

away to make it to the funeral. So, we will end this story with a list of ordinary people who have accomplished extraordinary achievements, at least in part, through something that they learned from having known Bill Joiner, the man.



Coach Bill Joiner

There is no need to explain what they have done. Suffice it to say they are at the top of the food chain in our walk on this road to happy destiny. As they filed by to pay their last respects, it occurred to me that this is a

parade of champions. The coach would have been proud:

Coach Steve Savarese, Coach Alvin Briggs, Pete Farrior, Coach Floyd Mathews, Jimmy Speigner, Coach Dan Washburn, Huston Waters, Dr. Lewis Gayden, Coach Ken Blankenship, Coach Charles Lee, Rodney Burgess, Phillip Young, Charles Jinwright, Mike Haigler, Buddy Hardwick, Buddy Morgan, Meade Guy, Coach Craig McKissick, Mary George Jester, Coach Dan Lewis, Coach John Tatum, Coach Mike Turk, Coach Bobby Spaett, George Thomas, Ben McDavid, Jackie Bushman, Coach Doug Barfield, George Germanos, Richard Fulmer, Billy Moseley, Judge Randy Thomas, Coach Slade Rhodes, Charles Savage, Coach Bubba Lewis, James Anderson, Coach Ellie McKissick, Don Clark, Steve Shiflett, Coach George "Snoozy" Jones, Coach George Harrison, Pete Pummer, Bill Schaum, Paul Brantley, Ashby Cook, Jack Fowler, Coach Randy Ragsdale, Coach Clayton Bush, Charles Moody, Johnny Robertson, Bobby Norman, Mickey Griffin, Jeff Blitz, Coach Larry Chapman, Coach Terry Posey, Coach John Bricken...

what was not working. Then he would make a recommendation to Coach Wilson as to how he should conduct the second half. His recommendations were not always followed to the letter because Bobby Wilson was just as stubborn as was Bill Joiner. For the most part Coach Wilson would follow Coach Joiner's scouting report.

This process must have been very good. Lanier won the first three state play-offs initiated by the Alabama High School Athletic Association, 1966, '67, and '68. Coach Joiner would later become the head football coach for five successful seasons starting in 1969. But, Coach Joiner's football coaching is not why the Gazette is publishing this story.

When Bill Joiner was a player at Lanier, he excelled in football, basketball and baseball. His 1949 basketball team won the state championship. Bill was named "Most Valuable Player" for the Lanier Poets. It is uncanny that Lanier did not win another basketball championship until

SABAN

For the fifth straight year, **Nick Saban** has captured the number one recruiting class in the country. He has done it six times in the last eight years. How does he do it? What does it really mean for the future of Alabama football? These are the questions many people are asking. Nobody has ever dominated the national scene as much as Saban's Alabama team in the last seven years: Three national championships, six top five finishes, qualifying to play in the first NCAA National Championship four team play-off, dozens of Alabama players being drafted in the first and second rounds of the NFL draft, being named "Coach of the Year" multiple times and generally considered the number one college football coach in American.

Recruiting is the lifeblood of any college football program. It stands to reason that if you sign the best players in the country over a period of time, you will have a chance to be the best football team in the country over a period of time. That is Nick Saban's first rule for success. Sign the best. Coach better than anybody else. Win more than anybody else. How does he get so many good players?

Coach Nick Saban has several things going for him before he ever initiates his recruiting plan:

1. Alabama is the most nationally known football power in the

2. This has been the case since Alabama first won the Rose Bowl in 1926.
3. Alabama has been to the Rose Bowl four times, the last in 1946 before the Rose Bowl entered into a permanent agreement with the Big Ten and PAC 12. Otherwise, Alabama would have been invited more.
4. The winner of the Rose Bowl was generally considered the national champion because they tried to invite the best two teams in the nation.
5. Until Alabama was forced to forfeit many of Coach Stalling's wins, Alabama was third in wins in the country behind only Michigan and Notre Dame.
6. Alabama has more alumni groups in more cities than any

7. Alabama has been a successful draw for the radio and TV industry since the 1952 Orange Bowl where they defeated Syracuse 61-6.

These first reasons have nothing to do with Nick Saban. They are built in values available to who ever is the coach at Alabama.

8. Nick Saban has a good plan for recruiting. He wants to dominate a geographical area that circles Tuscaloosa in a 500 mile radius.
9. Nick Saban hires coaches who are recruiters first, coaches second.
10. Nick Saban is a very intelligent person. He can fit into any circumstance. He can be rough and even rude to the media and they love it. He can be gracious and entertaining in speaking engagements. He came to Alabama with the understanding that he would only do seventeen speeches each year. If he can not tie each speaking engagement with recruiting, he generally will not accept it.
11. Nick Saban is a "humble" fatherly figure when he goes to a prospects home. He can fit in any situation.
12. Nick Saban is a handsome, charming man to the mothers of the prospects he visits.
13. Nick Saban is a strong disciplinarian figure to the father of the prospects he visits, assuring

them that he will do whatever it takes to help their son get his degree.

14. Nick Saban assures the family that their prospect will have a good chance to play in the NFL if he applies himself in the process that Saban preaches about constantly.
15. The Alabama facilities are second to none, which is a big selling point to a recruit and his family.
16. Saban is passionate and relentless in pursuit of the top players in the country. He will outwork his competition in almost every case.
17. Nick Saban is a great salesman when he is selling Alabama football.

This should be enough to convince our readers of the reason for Nick Saban's success as a recruiter at Alabama.

The consensus of rating services had USC a close second, Florida State third and a surprising fourth place for Tennessee. Coach Butch Davis is making noise. Auburn finished strong to place in the top ten for the fifth straight year Other top ten finishers were UCLA, Ohio State, LSU, Georgia and Clemson, not necessarily in that order. This rating system is not scientific, but can be counted on to be accurate enough for discussion for the next twelve months. Other schools argue every year that the recruiting rankings are not accurate, but Coach Nick Saban's record for the last seven years is 84-11. It must mean something!

Signing day, Wednesday, February 4, 2015.



**Amari Cooper
1st Round NFL Draft Choice**

THINK



John Sophocleus

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IMPROVING OUR 2ND AMENDMENT CIVIL RIGHT IN ALABAMA

As I'd like to make this an uncharacteristically short column, I'll not address all the flawed reasoning from extremist who've successfully imposed the unconstitutional result we observe today. **All FEDERAL gun laws are prohibited as guaranteed by our 2nd Amendment civil right.** Republicans giving us the first unconstitutional gun laws in their successful effort to assert federal hegemony and set us on our soviet path are generally accepted by Lincoln apologists to be defended at all cost by pro-soviets. Even more effective destruction of our 2nd Amendment civil right are implemented by progressive jurists and lawmakers of the last century who did not want mostly poor and the disenfranchised able to defend themselves from pro-government thugs.

Whenever I suffer the hard to witness documents, pictures and statistics of progressive command and control governments (esp. National Socialist Germany) mass destruction of life, liberty and property, it is difficult not to recall it was accomplished over their citizens via restrictive gun laws. Gun laws of this sort imposed by NAZI Germany's central govt. (much like our central govt.) reduced the ability of individual citizens as well as decentralized geo-political units to defend themselves from Berlin. Dare I type when soviets shill for even more federal gun laws to 'save the children' there are many other Alabamians who think of the millions of children murdered by progressive governments as their parents (and others) couldn't defend themselves?

It is time for greater understanding our lives and freedom are in jeopardy from an increasingly out of control Moscow on the Potomac. Those who want to still devote effort, time and money trying to reverse our soviet result at the federal level - I wish you well, however small I see the probability of success over these far too entrenched extremists. Efforts to curb harm imposed by big govt. Extremists at the State and local level promise the best long-run outcomes. States who have the least distorted, unsubsidized economies will best weather future contraction(s) and/or collapse. Please make the effort to support electing local politicians who have the vision to help us through these difficult times ahead. The Riley/BCA model of more corporate welfare and unbridled/cancerous growth driven by politburo cronyism isn't sustainable. This will bury many places (think Birmingham's foolish sewer debacle) once the short-run feeding frenzy of greedy political sharks is over and the surviving little fish are on the hook to pay.

In the Spirit of protecting us from the hegemony of federal gun laws and further advancing and affirming our 2nd Amendment civil right as

designed in the US Constitution, Alabama State Senator Gerald Allen of Tuscaloosa has proposed a change in our Concealed Carry of Firearms Law for the upcoming 2015 Legislative session. As many avid readers know, I hold our civil rights to firearms and property of greatest importance to advance the general welfare of citizens over special interest. Sen. Allen's proposed change would adopt a Car Carry provision as in other States which recognize one's automobile as an extension of their home property provision allowed for concealed carry of pistols. Sad most do not know concealed carry laws began to promote the positive externality disappearing today. With firearms no longer visible to outlaws, it discouraged armed crimes as it was less known who would be one(s) armed to defend themselves; others who chose to be unarmed benefitted from the increased probability there may be other armed citizens around to deter unlawful use of firearms.

Simply put this is a significant improvement for Alabama's law with little projected change to local Sheriffs' income. This appears to be the biggest identifiable special interest group against the change, but I no longer trust much of anything out of my Sheriff who publically announces he 'believes' in public servants while under active grand jury investigation to later be indicted on multiple felony counts. Sadly, my locale in Alabama has become more interested in ticket quotas, red light cameras and special election tax increases (after failing multiple times on general election ballots) to increase revenue instead of ticketing reckless drivers, prosecuting rape, deterring murder from unlawful gun use, etc. on the rise with all the unhealthy/unsustainable growth we've endured. Some are cynical enough to assert law enforcement do not want reduced crime statistics improvements of this sort generate as it may lead to smaller budgets.

Gun enthusiasts want this change for several reasons. One scenario is a man with a concealed carry permit leaving a firearm in the auto then his wife takes the vehicle to the grocery store and back; if she does not have a permit, she is breaking the law. Another illustration arises under the recently adopted Parking Lot change in our concealed carry law allowing employees to keep a firearm in their car at work regardless of the employer's desires or policy. Intertwined with reasoning one's vehicle as an extension of their home, thus for personal protection so is the firearm.

Many proponents of this proposed change are Constitutional Carry enthusiasts who believe the 2nd Amendment allows ownership and carry to be totally protected and no state can restrict that Constitutional

right. Again, this is not how the Constitution was designed to operate; it would be an improvement if the current extremist result of unconstitutional federal gun laws were reversed. Some seem comforted by recent recognition of the Absolute Right of Ownership and Personal Protection by the SCotUS guaranteed in our 2nd Amendment civil right, but I do not share their comfort. If that translated into repealing all federal gun laws to be determined by a State's legislative process, I would see a ray of hope. Until then kudos to Sen. Allen for doing his job asserting the State of Alabama's role on improving this important civil right. It is my sincere hope the usual cadre of good Senators (Brewbaker, Samford, Ward, Whatley, et al) who understand what's at stake and sincerely care about our civil rights will support this proposed legislation.

Postscript: Sorry so many disliked my last column; I'm not asked to write to be liked, but to evoke thought. I remain a steadfast advocate of indicting and prosecuting corrupt liberals AND conservatives. Thanks to Frank Dillman who passed along some interesting observations about the House Rules Committee. Mike Jones was removed and Barry Moore (R) added as a new member. Moore is one of many embarrassments to our State, recently re-elected after investigations revealed him as one of the Hubbard machine henchmen in corrupt political 'quid pro quo' arrangements impeding our State. Not quite as vulgar as Republicans reinstalling Hubbard as 'Spender of the House' with 23 felony indictments filled with cronyism/corporate welfare, but nonetheless shameful.

Also of note in our neck of the woods, Peblin Warren (D) was installed as a new member; she sponsored and carried legislation for tax increases in Auburn (rejected by voters) and Lee County (approved by a small voter turnout special election sham) so Speaker Mike Hubbard may hide from his despicable big government record. One may intuit her political payoff came shortly after the close of the session. Before the elections, Ms. Warren was appointed by Gov. Bentley to the Tuskegee University Board of Trustees and now a member of the powerful rules committee. It harkens back to the days of doing everything possible to keep Lowder on the AU BoT to be yet another 'public servant' embarrassment from football scandals to FDIC failures in our State to keep the graft churning.

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

TIME FOR ALABAMA LOCAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS TO BE APPOINTED - NOT ELECTED

For decades local public school officials, politicians and legislators have debated the method in which local/district superintendents are selected. Nationally, 97.8 percent of all local district school superintendents are appointed. The only exceptions are six southern states which have both appointed and elected superintendents: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee. According to the Alabama Association of School Boards, there are currently 138 local school districts and of those 98 superintendents are appointed with the remaining 40 elected. The 40 which continue to elect are all county school systems. Typically, in the districts where superintendents are elected the prevailing sentiment among the citizenry, elected board of education members and local politicians is that it is best to keep the good folks of the county in direct control of the individual who serves as the perceived leader of their schools.

The issue is a multidimensional policy dilemma that involves many players and no clear solution. The debate surrounding the mandated appointment of local school superintendent embodies the struggle for power over the schools among concerned citizens, interest groups, elected board members and educators. During the 1990's John Gaines, executive director of the Florida Association of School Administrators, said that all of Florida's local school superintendents held a master's degree. Of the 22 appointed superintendents, 12 had earned doctorates but only 4 of the 45 elected superintendents had doctorates. While an earned doctorate (whether a Ph.D. or Ed. D.) does not

always make a superintendent a better instructional and organizational leader, educators who complete generally more advanced rigorous doctoral programs in school administration/supervision along with significant required research and often arduous final comprehensive evaluations, bring to the job a broader knowledge base than those who have not experienced and received the additional and higher level study.

During Governor Jim Folsom's term in office in the early 1990's he proposed making it mandatory for all local school superintendents be appointed by the local boards of education. This proposed change was supported by the then Executive Director of the Alabama Association of School Boards, Sandra Sims-deGraffenried. However, local movers and shakers, the good ole boys and their politicians held their ground against this progressive change.

Even though this issue is raised and supported by forward-looking citizens, educators and local school board members, it continues to be blocked. There are significant problems with the practice of electing local school superintendents. One obvious problem is insuring that a quality leader is elected who can proficiently lead the schools toward improved learning. The Code of Alabama sets forth "minimum standards" which allow any one of dozens of individuals to run and be elected despite lacking the qualities and experience needed to be a visionary, data-driven leader who will insure that the instructional programs and best practices are in place so that student learning in all schools is assessed and strategies

are developed which are effective in improving student progress. Another problem is that the elected superintendent is not required to work in sync with the elected school board members, thus often establishing a power base often difficult to overcome and make progress on the implementation of board policies and actions. The elected superintendent knows well that he/she has been elected by the people for a term (typically 4 years) with few controls of his/her time, no close supervision, quality of work and/or recommendation to the school board which cannot take administrative actions or make decisions without the recommendation of the superintendent. Some superintendents build their own political power base, use this power to influence the election of school board members who favor their approach in leading and withhold recommendations for the board to vote indefinitely. In brief, electing local district superintendents can and often does create a power struggle, hinder progress which would be best for the children. When there is disagreement and/or on-going conflict between board members and the superintendent with regard to the board's ideas, expectations and/or plans, a relationship of mistrust creating irreconcilable differences, there is a trickle-down effect on the system's administrators, teachers, staff and parent. It is highly unlikely that instructional programs, test scores and developing "good to great" schools will become a reality.

On the other hand, when local school boards conduct an open, unbiased search and selection process the quality of the superintendent who has been vet-



Dr. David Nichols

ted, references checked and verification of prior documented achievements, the individual will more likely hold higher credentials and work closely with the board. If he/she does not perform up to the board's expectations and is not a visionary, passionate, professional leader the board of education may invoke termination of employment...which is not possible with an elected superintendent whether he/she is in present at the central office every day or on the golf course. *David Nichols, Ed. D. is a regular contributor to The Alabama Gazette where he conducts research, analyzes data and shares findings with various news outlets and other publications. Nichols has served as a teacher and/or administrator at every level of education to include K - 12, undergraduate and graduate roles in higher education institutions, and as a member of two local/district school boards. He has presented and consulted with schools and law enforcement on leadership and security.*

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

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL
Eastern Hills Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama

Soul Searching

Making the Most of Marriage

role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Mates are present to make up for or to complete something lacking in the other. "It's not that the man is better than the woman, or the woman better than the man, but that each one is inadequate alone." That's how God designed the marriage relationship. The husband and the wife both need each other. Marriages where that is recognized and reflected in the relationship have a far better chance of success.

Verse 24 is familiar to us, "*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*" These few words contain powerful building blocks for a happy marriage. Let's consider three of them.

One is severance. In the most basic understanding, people who get married leave their parents. In the broader context, it means there must be some break with past routines and relationships in order to form a marriage with the other person. "Leave" is a very strong word, but it doesn't have to be harsh, just firm. It could also be translated "forsake." God teaches that there should not be any higher loyalty left on earth than that with one's spouse. People will not form a strong bond in marriage without some severance with the past for both.

Another is permanence. God says that once you leave, you then need to be committed to permanence. The word "united" literally means to be glued together -- "to melt two separate entities together to form a permanent bond." The word you may hear in some weddings is "cleave." It has the idea of being bonded or welded together. "The union is so strong that it takes something extremely violent to dissolve it."

A third word describing the marriage relationship is oneness. God's Word teaches that the two are to become one flesh. This phrase conveys not only intimacy, but the idea of partnership or oneness. When a married couple becomes one flesh, their hearts and lives are knit together. This unity is to be experienced emotionally, spiritually, and physically. God's objective for marriage is a loving relationship of oneness. That means neither make decisions of life without thinking of its effect on the other as well as their lives together.

Only God has the ability to knit lives

together in oneness. Only He can create a relationship where you can safely be transparent and vulnerable without fear of being put down.

That oneness and intimacy does not happen automatically. It takes work. It involves understanding your spouse and working to meet his or her needs. It is for that reason I am a fan of and suggest couples read the book, *His Needs - Her Needs* by William Harley, Jr. If you don't work at it, oneness and intimacy can unravel. You'll just start drifting apart.

The kind of marriage I am speaking of in this article is a "God thing." He joins people together so that they are no longer the same two people, but rather as one, stronger and better than either could be apart.

Let me illustrate. Here's an engineer's analysis of how much stronger something is when you double it. "He was not aware of how much stronger a rope is when it has two strands but he told me that when you double a 4x4 piece of angle iron, you increase the load 43 times! In other words, one piece can hold 2,200 pounds. When you add the other one, it can bear 96,000 pounds!" That's pretty amazing isn't it?

Add to that what Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 4:12, "A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." If a second strand provides strength many times over the single strand alone, can you imagine how much stronger a cord of three strands would be? Do you get the picture and who is the third strand? The third strand is Jesus Christ. "As you open yourself to Him, as you confess your sins and shortcomings, as you surrender to His leadership in your life and your marriage, He will give you a fresh start, and He will give your marriage strength you could never have alone."

What I have painted for you is a theological picture of what God intended marriage to look like. But as you know, theology without practice is of little value in daily living. Some years ago Philip Yancey wrote a book on marriage called, *After the Wedding*. In it he described everyday workable principles found in healthy marriage. As I share them with you be reminded that these will not be possible for long in a relationship unless the spiritual fabric described above is also in place.

The first principle: reintroduction.

In order to avoid drifting apart, make sure your partner knows who you are and what you are thinking at this time in your life.

The second principle: convenience. Marriage works well when responsibilities are shared in the home and not primarily determined by gender or rigid roles and more by who has time to do what needs to be done.

The third principle: dialogue. Partners must learn to talk everything through and to honestly express feelings in a safe environment.

The fourth principle: selflessness. Healthy marriage partners are not focused on their rights which need to be protected, but rather on their mate's needs which are to be fulfilled.

Most of this article has been for people who are married. If you are one of those, I urge you to take a moment to recommit yourself to your marriage. I want you to brainstorm some ways that your marriage can move toward oneness. Be specific. What are those things that you personally can start doing to have a marriage of oneness? If you want to be real daring, ask your spouse what he or she thinks you should be doing to build your marriage.

IF YOUR MARRIAGE IS IN SOME DIFFICULTY, this would be a good time to seek Godly counsel. PRAY for God's healing power to help your relationship and to change the atmosphere in your home. Make sure your life is right with God if you want God to help your marriage.

If you are not married and want to be

"If you're having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there."

married one day, pray that God will bring the best mate to you in His own time. Commit yourself to purity and tell the Lord that you won't settle for second best.

This article began with children. Let's close it the same way. A little boy sat through a Sunday School class and learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and turned water into wine. When he got home, his dad asked him what he learned from this story. The boy thought for a moment and then answered:

Amen!

Separation of Church and State

taken out of context can be.

1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die

5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil and blessing and calamity. (AMP)

Wow! Look how cunning a misquote can be! Adam and Eve were already "like God." For they were made in His image and likeness (**Gen 1:26, 27**). We all know that through this lie, or misrepresentation of what God had spoken, all sin, death, and chaos entered the world. And we still see its affects to this very day. Thomas Jefferson spoke a very famous quote that most of us have heard at one time or another, "Separation of Church and State". When Thomas Jefferson spoke these famous words, he uttered the sentiment of all the founders. But what did he say, and what did he really mean?

Of the 55 original delegates to the Constitutional Convention, there was representation by 28

Episcopalian, 8 Presbyterian, 7 Congregationalist, 2 Lutheran, 2 Dutch Reformist, 2 Methodist, 2 Roman Catholic, 3 deist (men who believed that God was the creator of the universe, but did not interact in the affairs of man) and 1 unknown.

All of them had experienced some form of religious persecution either from not having blind allegiance to the church of England or the church of Rome or from being members of a denomination whose beliefs were contrary to most at that time. They were collective in their belief that in order to serve God in any form or fashion they saw fit, the constitution and the soon-to-be government, could not endorse one denomination or sect, over another. Hence, we see in Article I of the Constitution, "Congress should make no law prohibiting the free practice of religion." We should all thank God, for our founders' wisdom and foresight.

Now lets look at how Satan has twisted the original intent of Mr. Jefferson's statement. Just as Satan used a serpent to misquote and change the interpretation of God's word, to deceive Eve, he uses "fallen vessels" today to do the very same thing. Today's interpretation of Thomas Jefferson's "Separation of Church and State" is "Separation of God and Government."

Satan understands that if you can change the premise of what a statement says, you can then shape the

thoughts of men and shift the rules of society.

We see this clearly today. Prayer has been taken out of schools and even colleges, such as Harvard, Princeton, Kings College (now known as Columbia University), William & Mary, Yale, Brown, Rutgers and Dartmouth...these were all founded by preachers and churches to be "schools of divinity." These universities are now enormous secular gates, which swing open the doors to Godless thinking.

I have even been surprised by the number of believers who think that an enthusiastic Christian has no place in higher public office.

Noah Webster, often called "The Father of American Education" said, "In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed... No truth is more evident to my mind than that of the Christian religion being the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privilege of a free people."

And from the original creed of Kings College, the purpose was to "inculcate upon (STUDENTS) tender minds the great principles of Christianity and morality" also in the same creed, it is noted that "cursed is all learning that is contrary to the Cross of Christ."

Continued on page 1B



I once had the privilege of meeting Art Linkletter. Many of you will remember his famous interviews with children and his book,

Kids Say the Darndest Things.

It's interesting to find out what kids think about marriage. In answering the age-old question about whether it is better to be single or married, Anita, age 9, answered with some good insight:

"It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them."

And, when asked how best to make a marriage work, 10-year-old Dustin perceptively replied:

During February, when many people

"Tell your wife that she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck."

are thinking about love, romance and marriage, perhaps it is a good time to focus on how to make the most of marriage. As a Pastor for many years, I have observed that no two marriages are alike. That's true whether people have a very happy marriage or one that seems to be troubled. They are all dynamic experiences between two people.

It does help to have a model, just like putting together a complex new piece of equipment or a roadmap for a long journey not traveled before. Because it is so personal and dynamic, marriage could never have a "nuts and bolts" level of description which would fit everyone. However, key guidelines found in the Bible tell us what it is supposed to look like. "Otherwise, it is just a guessing game."

Genesis 2:18-25 gives us much needed insight into how to make the most of marriage.

Just like the other major events of creation, God paused to reflect on what He had done and called it "good." In this instance, He remarked that it was good for Adam to have a "helper." So often this word is misused. God was not saying a wife was created to bring the chips and dip or to wash the husband's clothes. "Helper" has a far deeper meaning in the Bible and even was used by Jesus to talk about the



Minister Troy Towns

Have you ever experienced the frustration of being misquoted? Many in the public eye today have had to deal with such falsity, for it's one thing to mistakenly misquote someone, it's quite another to deliberately misquote for personal gain. Satan understood more than anyone, the power of the misquote. In **Genesis 2:16, 17...16**. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Now I'm not sure if Adam and Eve understood this in their minds, to be a spiritual death or a physical death, but the command was straight and clear; You shall not eat or You shall surely die. Now lets examine how powerful and deceptive a true statement

Montgomery County Law



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



For those that don't know my background, I was appointed by former Sheriff D.T. Marshall in 1999 to come aboard as Chief Deputy of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. My duties entailed being the point of contact for Homeland Security of Montgomery County, overseeing the daily operations of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and most importantly managing a budget for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Prior to my appointment, I served as a Montgomery Police Officer in both the Patrol and Detective Division all the while remaining active with the National Guard. My educational background consists of a Bachelor of Science degree from Troy University and later received a Master of Science Degree from University of Phoenix. One of my proudest moments was attending and graduating from the FBI Academy in 2007. Below are various organizations that I hold membership in:

- United Way Community Council Board Member
- Character @ Heart
- Say-No (Substance Abuse Youth Networking)
- Y.M.C.A. Downtown
- Boy Scouts of America Tukabatchee Council
- D.H.R. Quality Assurance Committee

- Iron Men
- Exchange Club of Montgomery
- Kiwanis Club of Montgomery
- Narrow Lane McInnis Neighborhood Association
- Leadership Montgomery
- Omega PSI PHI Fraternity

On Friday, January 16, 2015, I was blessed with becoming the next Sheriff of Montgomery County as well as the first African-American Sheriff of Montgomery County. Retired Judge Charles Price performed the inauguration at the Montgomery County Commission Chambers followed by a reception of food and fellowship at the Juliette Hampton Morgan Memorial Library.

As I hit the ground running, I'm reminded of all the future endeavors I plan to introduce to the citizens of Montgomery County.

If you have a question or need assistance, please contact my Administrative Assistant, Christie Vázquez at christievazquez@mc-ala.org or she can be reached at 832.7106.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.montgomerysheriff.com



L-R
Sheriff
Derrick Cunningham
and wife
Mattie Cunningham
and
Chief Deputy
Kevin Murphy
and wife
Debbie Murphy

The Alabama Gazette welcomes Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and Chief Deputy Kevin Murphy on their leadership in Montgomery County. We know they will serve and protect the people of this county with courage and honor.



From left to right...Captain Jon Briggs, Assistant Chief Dave Bryan, D.T., Sheriff Cunningham, Captain George Beaudry, Captain Gayle Atchison, Captain Trent Beasley & Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

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Surrounding Town and Communities:
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We are proud to announce that The Alabama Gazette is being delivered in parts of Crenshaw, Butler, Pike and Lee Counties. If you cannot find the Gazette in your area, please check out our website:

www.alabamagazette.com

Continued from page 9A

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

By Troy Towns

How the mighty have fallen. We can no longer say a prayer of protection at a football game, and even when we are trying to honor someone in a religious way, we can only have a “moment of silence.”

We can see the devastating effects of turning a truth into a lie. So let us reject the latter and adhere to the former. Our current government is filled with Godless men and women, who neither know our God nor understand the nation’s founding. We must, as children of the Most High, strip the “D”, “R”, and “I” off our chest and by our own free will, elect people who know the God who now blesses the nation, and understands the plight of a country that turns away from His truth. Frankly, there is no way to separate God and government. There are several scriptures which point to this fact. Remember, The Bible says in **Hebrews 13:8**, “*Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is [always] the same, yesterday, today, [yes] and forever (to the ages)*”.

If God destroyed nations in the past for their sinful state would He not do the same today? Also, in **Genesis 12:3**, it is clearly stated that a nation that blesses Israel is blessed by God.

3 “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in

thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Finally, it is also noteworthy to mention that all the nations of the earth will also be judged. **Psalms. 82:8**, “Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.”

Let us remember that righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. (**Proverbs 14-34**) How can we continue to put unrighteous people in high public office, and expect a righteous result?

I urge the reader to do his homework and do an in-depth study into the nation’s founding and the recorded statements of the Founding Fathers. You will be amazed by their undying devotion to the Christian faith and its God. You will only be able to make one logical conclusion: that our founders could never have meant for God to be voided from government, and that our public officials should acknowledge God in all their ways; and lean not upon their own understanding.

I leave you with three statements and consider my case closed: “Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.” (John Jay -first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court)

“It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often, that this nation was founded not by religionists, buy by Christians, not on religion, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ.” (Patrick Henry-Governor of Virginia)

“The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state.” (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)

Art, Entertainment & Book Reviews...



Marcia Chambliss



WE LIVE IN A BUBBLE

Along with millions of Americans, my husband and I recently viewed the movie “**American Sniper**” which portrays the four deployments of U.S. Navy SEAL Chris Kyle. As many have expressed on various social media sites, we

knowledge has pierced my bubble. It has revealed the viciousness of politics and the ugliness of human behavior when power and the lust for it trump the need for good government and policies to keep us thriving as communities, states, and a nation.

Reality is hard – but it’s also good medicine. Because my bubble has been pierced by that knowledge, I think I’m far more discerning than ever before with

also left the theatre in silence as we struggled to express the impact of the film and the ugly reality in which our men and women in uniform, along with their families, live their lives in service to our nation. Whether you agree or disagree with our overseas military strategy matters isn’t the issue; the brutality of war zones worldwide is something that few of us want to acknowledge.

Because I read and follow numerous news outlets and sources, I was already aware of Chris Kyle’s life as a sniper as well as his death. But it was a blogger* writing about how she almost walked out of the movie – twice – who conveyed my thoughts as if she were reading my mind.

She first explained why we need to see this movie, difficult as it may be for some to watch. Not only does the movie chronicle Chris Kyle’s expertise as a sniper who protected American troops, but the writer believes, as do I, that we “need to give a face to all those soldiers you are grateful for and realize the horrors they face.”

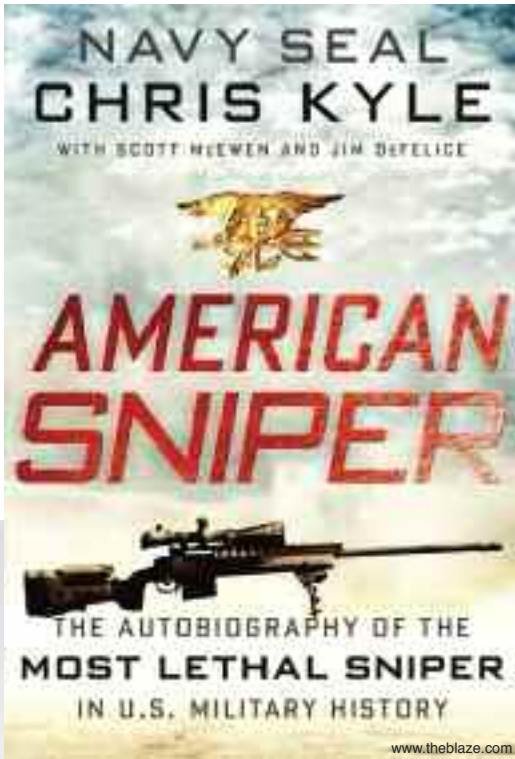
Beyond those points, her last reason resonated with me not only from the aspect of the savage realities of war, but also because it encompasses so much of life in America.

“You need to see this movie because you live in a bubble.”

Yes, we do, and the truth can sometimes hurt.

We live in our bubbles because life there is much easier, even with our daily trivial complaints. It’s especially an easy place to avoid political controversies, and ignore what is happening beyond our comfort zones. **Politicians of both stripes love for us to remain in those bubbles because it’s the best way for them to control our lives with legislation.** They’re quite happy for us to vote them into office and then disappear like good little citizens until it’s time for us to re-emerge and vote in the next election when they’ll tell us how much they have “helped” our lives.

I completely understand bubble living – and I have many days when I long for it. I almost wish I could “unlearn” all of the information I’ve acquired since becoming politically engaged because that



best suited for me, and reviving my courage to speak up more in defense of what I believe.

There are truly so many critical issues facing our state, nation, and world right now, and if we remain in our bubbles, we have only ourselves to blame for the decline of America and our culture. Stepping out doesn’t have to be magnificent in scale, as we all have some role that we can play. As expressed in one of the lesser-known quotes of the Irish statesman, Edmund Burke: “*No one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.*”

*Jennifer K. Hale, “**Hale and Hearty Words**”, <http://haleandhearty-words.com/2015/01/20/why-i-almost-walked-out-of-american-sniper/>

Marcia Chambliss is the Alabama State Coordinator of Smart Girl Politics, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the education and training of activists and candidates, and Smart Girl Politics Action, <http://sgpaction.com/>, a 501(c)(4) which focuses on conservative issues. She can be reached at: Marcia@sgpaction.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics Action.

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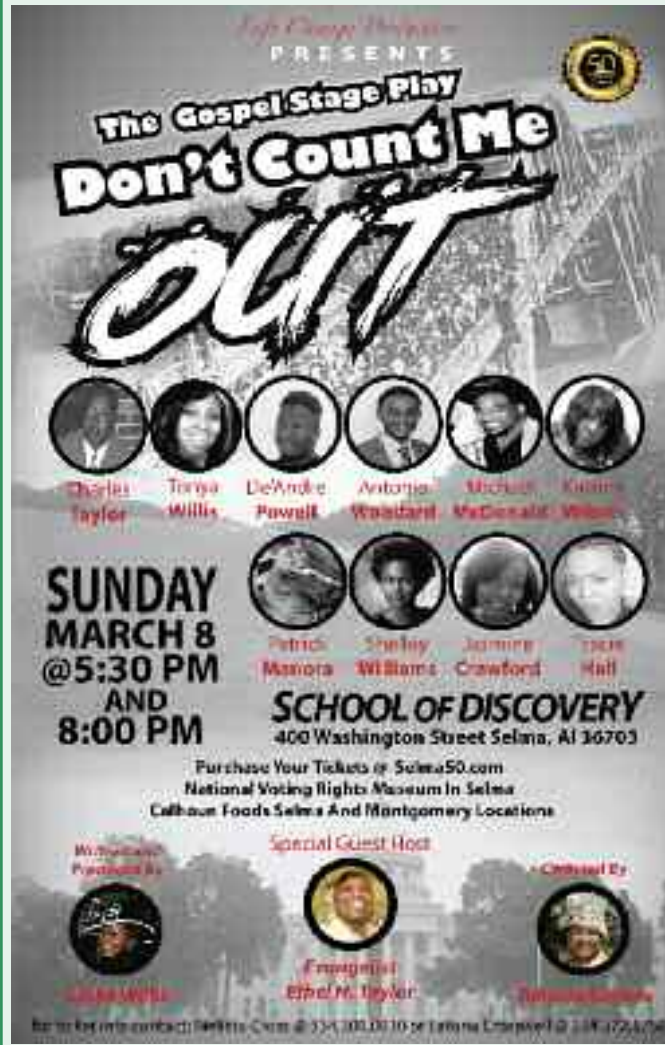
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"DON'T COUNT ME OUT"

to be performed on the 50th Anniversary of the Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee, March 8, 2015



Callie Willis

goals, dreams and visions. It does not matter where you grow up are how you rank in the class. It's all about how you as a person want to live your life. I never wanted to sit on the gift God has given me. God gave me the ability to write since I was young. I can see or here something and make it explode in my head and on paper. I encourage anyone who has a gift to step out on faith and use it and stop sitting on you talent. If I would have given up I

Callie Willis faith has enabled her to see her long awaited dream come true. Callie's hit gospel stage play "Don't Count me Out" will be closing out the 50th Anniversary of the Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee, March 8, 2015. The 1st show will be at 5:30 p.m. and the 2nd show at 8:00 p.m.

The play was performed six years ago with a sold out audience at the Davis Theater in Montgomery. She has also performed the play at the Ritz Theater, Greenville-Al, Claudia Crosby, Troy-Al, Luverne High School, Alexander City and many more counties. Callie said "I have been trying to do a show at the Jubilee for the past four years. God moves at his time not ours. Callie stated, "I was glad God gave me the 50th Anniversary for my performance.

Selma is predicting over 30,000 people from around the world. I am praying someone in the crowd will like the production in be a sponsor.

Callie said, "I grew up in Crenshaw County and went to the small country school. I always had

wouldn't be closing out this Jubilee." Callie Willis will be right there as the marchers cross the bridge. "I give thanks, that is a honor. I want to thank Life Change Production and all my actors for standing beside me all these years. I give thanks to my mother Daisy Willis and father Lawrence Willis. I give thanks to my two children KaDereka and Derrick Huffman and my step children Mya, Shanquez and Qua. I love you all. Galilee, Rockdale and Bethlem Temple church families, thank you so much for your ongoing support. Montgomery Job Corps Family and students, thank you so much for making my day. A special thank you to my Pastor John Billups and First Lady Felicia Billups for always encouraging me to stand in the mist of the storm until my break through comes", said Callie

Tickets can purchased ticket on my website, National Voting Rights Museums and Calhoun Foods. Admission price to play is \$10. Call Melissa Cross 334-306-0030 or Latoria Crosswell 334-672-5657.



Always.... Patsy Cline

Created and originally directed by Ted Swindley
Geoffrey Sherman - Producing Artistic Director

On a cold and blustery night last month a star dropped from the sky and landed slap dab in the middle of the Shakespeare Festival in the form of one Patsy Cline. Drawn from the Ellis Nassour biography, Honkey Tonk Angel, this musical, based on a true story, relives the evening when Louise Segar, played by Zoe Vonder Haar, briefly meets yet forever adores Patsy Cline, as portrayed by Jaqueline Petroccia. This was Jaqueline's ASF Debut but she has toured around the country in this role.

The curtain rises on a modest home in Houston where we find Louise, a divorced single mom, complaining about her kids' TV habits. That soon changes when she hears an angel on the antenna. Louise remembers Cline singing "Walking After Midnight" on Arthur Godfrey show and thinking, "She sang like I would like to sing". Wearing her mother made cowgirl turquoise fringe outfit, Patsy is viewed on a larger than life TV, to the delight and utter fondness of her most ardent fan. "Gees Louise" calls the local radio station incessantly until one day the host tells her Patsy will be in town for a one night gig.

Louise drags her boyfriend and boss down to an empty arena hours in advance to get a seat on the front row. There by chance she sees Patsy all alone and willing to talk and share a Schlitz beer. The two hit it off and a short but remarkable relationship blossoms. Louise even negotiates a better deal for Patsy by getting the singer some much needed breaks during the performances, all for a lousy \$350. Any classic country enthusiasts would have loved Patsy belting out many favorites to include " I Fall to Pieces", It Wasn't God Who Made Honkey Tonk Angels", "Your Cheatin Heart" and "Crazy".

Patsy ended up spending the night at Louise's house and the hero worship that started the show gives way to a sincere friendship that extends beyond the coffee grounds to a mutual respect for each other. The pair share their concerns and their dreams. When Patsy left the next morning for her engagement in Dallas, Louise never thought they would stay in touch. But the two exchanged correspondence

and phone calls which provided the underlying storyline of the production. Only Cline's untimely death broke the common yet uncommon bond they shared.

This highly interactive performance included audience sing a longs, some well placed smooches to balding foreheads and even a dance or two. The stage was so 50s, including the yellow vinyl metal chairs we all remember, to the conventional oven that very unconventionally transforms into a juke box right before your eyes. Patsy's costumes were stunning and Louise needed acetone to remove her blue jeans, The six piece band performed mighty well, behind a thin veil, so that they too could be a part of the act. Drew Perkins did a particularly good job on the fiddle.

All in all, Ms. Petroccia performed 26 songs in the span of two hours much to the delight of a somewhat mature but no less enthusiastic group of sentimental and hagiographic fans. The most emotional response may have come from the gospel songs she performed including " Just a Closer Walk" (lyrics below) and How Great Thou Art". It was a great night of entertainment at ASF as the stars really did fall on Alabama.

" Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

<i>I am weak but Thou art strong Jesus keep me from all wrong I'll be satisfied as long As I walk, let me walk close to Thee</i>	<i>When my feeble life is over Time for me will be no more Guide me gently, safely over To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore</i>
<i>Just a closer walk with Thee Grant it Jesus, is my plea Daily walking close to Thee Let it be dear Lord, let it be</i>	<i>Just a closer walk with Thee Grant it Jesus, is my plea Daily walking close to Thee Let it be dear Lord, let it be</i>



	April - 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26 May - 1, 2, 10
	February - 27, 28 March - 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 April - 30 May - 2, 3, 8, 9
	February - 1, 7, 8, 14, 15
	March - 7 April - 18, 19, 25, 30 May - 2, 3, 9

www.ASF.net

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

ROBSERVATIONS... by Robert Tate

WHERE DO WE FIND SUCH MEN?

With the study of history, we often think of the past as places where our heroes have risen above all obstacles by the very nature of their superior moral, physical and/or spiritual qualities. We have a high regard for the hero while we somehow ignore or forgive them for their

faults and shortcomings; no matter how glaring. We put them on pedestals and think of them, or wish for them, attributes and characteristics that may not exist. In turn, it becomes increasingly easy to give them credit where no credit is due. This is human nature and our study of history is replete with this idea of the "Great Man" doing things above and beyond the call of duty, somehow standing far above other men faced with similar situations and conditions.

In Sidney Hook's, *The Hero in History*, the author examines two different historical personalities. One is described as the "Eventful Man" and the other as the "Event Making Man." The eventful man, also called the determinist view, can be described as the person who is simply in the right place at the right time. He is merely part of much larger events dominating his era and is born to forces far beyond his control. This man's conduct is influenced, determined and controlled by the outside pressures he is merely reacting to. This character needs a crises, social forces, social machinery and/or certain ideas, not necessarily his own, in order to fulfill his "destiny." Although he may indeed be coping with outside stressors better than his counterpart and peers, in no way is he in control of them.

There must be some catalyst or series of events that alone propels the eventful man forward. In effect, the eventful man is merely a prisoner of his environment and will only become successful if he can navigate the myriad of situations presented to him. The eventful man in reality doesn't cause his situation he merely rides it.

The event making man or the historical "Great Man," on the other hand, is the character to which we ascribe almost supernatural powers. Not a mere pawn of his surroundings, the Great Man finds the courage and intestinal fortitude to control his own destiny and to successfully manipulate his surroundings to his advantage. Because of this ability to shape and control the events around him, the Great Man becomes a significant part of those larger events by driving them in one direction or the other. The Great Man, through his outstanding character, intelligence, will and/or abilities has the capacity to accomplish his specific goals or purposes rather than allowing himself to be manipulated by his surroundings.

In his book *Preface to History*, Carl Gustavson discusses four "maxims" concerning the historical great man. First, long term trends are far less likely to be controlled or determined by an individual hero. In other words, there appears to be a limit to just how much an individual can do by himself to shape the outcome of any historical event. Secondly, most cases of great influence throughout history are simply the right man at the right time. Third, "the occasional genius by extremely dexterous and willful actions, may achieve 'historical mutation.'" In other words, can a person actually achieve world-changing greatness through his or her physical actions? Lastly, and perhaps most important maxim is that every historical situation is unique and must therefore be judged on its own merit. No universal formula exists for the determination of the characters that will help shape and define a historical event. We must look at how the alleged "Great Man" affected or controlled his situation.

This brings me to my Robservation. My wife and I just watched the movie, *The Imitation Game*, the other night and to be quite honest, I was blown away. With all the talk of American Sniper, which I also loved, *The Imitation Game* has been kind of flying low under the proverbial radar. The story is about British mathematician Alan Turing who was responsible for breaking the German Enigma code. As a military historian, I have been fascinated by Enigma and the British Ultra Intercepts for years but until I saw the movie, I had really done no

research into what it took. I highly, HIGHLY recommend watching this movie.

But as I watched the movie, there was the question of the historical "Great Man" that entered my head. A lot of the writing above comes from my book on German super ace Hans-Joachim Marseille where I asked the question whether he could be considered the historical Great Man or just the Eventful Man. As I watched this movie, I was awestruck at what makes a man like Alan Turing work. What planet did this guy immigrate from and with what eyes did he see the world? What we have here is a man who in the 1930's envisioned machines that could think. What? Thinking machines, preposterous! He was mocked, accused of spying, taunted and laughed at. Then in the early days of WWII, the Germans came up with a code that was considered to be unbreakable. **They ran their messages through an ingenious machine called Enigma that consisted of a series of keys and rotors that gave the Germans the possibility of 59,000,000,000,000,000 combinations that was reset every 24 hours.** The movie claimed with the code breakers and their methods they were using at that time, it would take close to 20 million years to break just one day's worth of code.



Alan Turing

Enter Alan Turing. A man, very much like Sheldon Cooper on *Big Bang Theory*, Turing envisioned making a machine that could crack that German code within minutes every day. To make a long story short, despite a lot of interference and derision from higher ups and his peers, Turing and his team did just

that and broke the code. **It is estimated that his breaking the German Enigma shortened the war by over two years and saved over 14,000,000 lives.**

Again, where do we find such men? Aside from some of his personal issues and the travesty of how he was treated for being a homosexual (forced estrogen injections for chemical castration leading to his suicide in June 1954) here was a man that fits the bill as the historical Great Man in every way. I am not saying he was a great person. That is irrelevant. But from a historical perspective, Alan Turing, in my opinion is one of just a few Great Men from that era.

This socially awkward man from London, out of some kind of master vision in his mind, from scratch, built the first real problem solving computer. He didn't just improve on somebody else's idea; his creation was birthed in his mind. Wow!! Not only that, he did it in a time when thousands were dying daily in the war victory was in doubt and he and his team knew that they held the key for the defeat of Nazi aggression. Turing was no mere pawn of his surroundings. He manipu-

lated his surroundings to his advantage and controlled the events around him. Turing clearly became a significant part of those larger events caused by WWII and he drove them in the direction they needed to go. He did what was considered impossible by imposing his will on others.

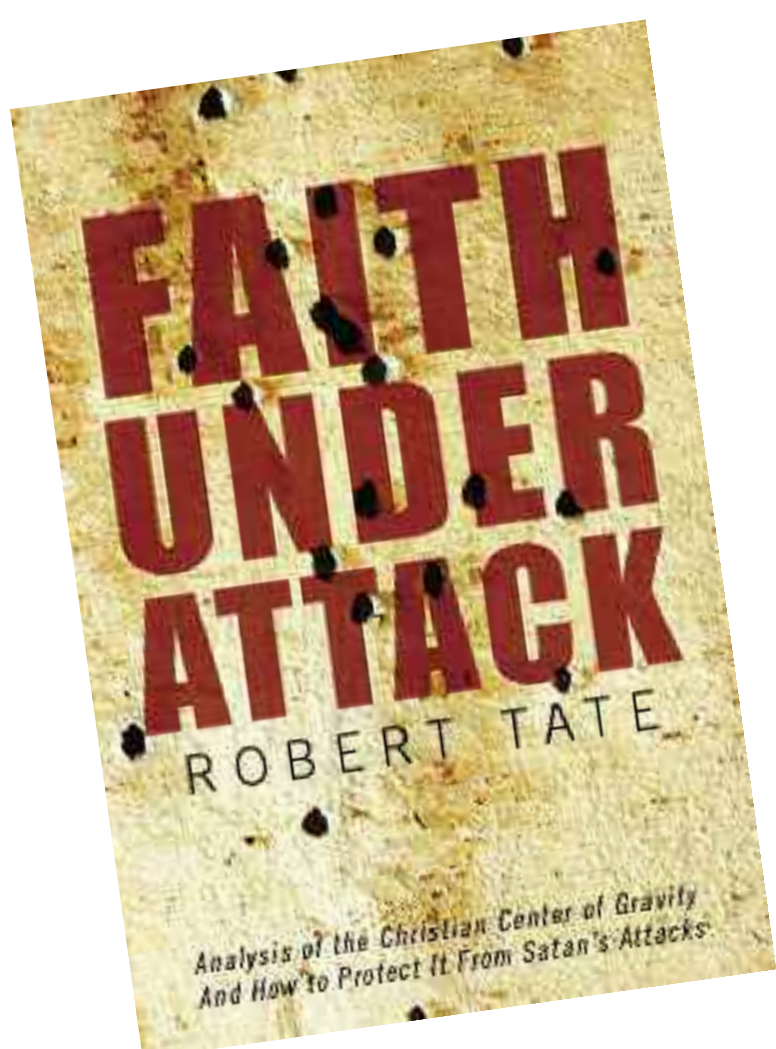
But after I watched the movie, I also thought a lot about other potential historic "Great Men" from that generation who also had such a significant impact on the world. German physicist Wernher von Braun; considered one of the Fathers of rocket science. Yes he built the dreaded V-2 rocket but he was also responsible for putting our first man on the moon. Physicist Robert Oppenheimer of the Manhattan Project; he lead the team responsible for creating the first atomic bombs. Whether these men were Eventful or Event Making, I stand in awe in their contributions to the world. They each had visions beyond their peers and turned those visions into reality.

And one last thing. When I think about what these and others of their generation did to become so special, I have to look at their educational background and then ask myself are we today doing what it takes to create more visionaries like them? Remember, all these accomplishments were completed in the day before computers and they used nothing but pencils and slide rules. Impressive stuff. To Alan Turing, though, the reason for this Robservation, hats off and thanks for all you gave the world, your vision of thinking machines and for ending the war years earlier than it otherwise would have ended. Historical "Great Man?" You better believe it.



www.extravaganzi.com

Enigma encoder machine used by the Germans during the World War II, to encode and decode war time messages



Add these two books to your list of "must have".

Rob Tate is retired military, and now a pilot for Delta Airlines.

Rob not only served his country, but is one of the finest Americans and Christians I know.

You may order as shown below.

L. Grant



Faith under Attack: Can be found at these sites as well as from the publisher, Tate Publishing. (No relation to the author) Rob also has limited copies of the books that he can sell for less than the online price.

Hans-Joachim Marseille: Can be found on *Amazon.com*, *Barnes and Noble (BN.com)*, eBay and from the publisher at Schiffer Publishing.

Just Mercy

by Bryan Stevenson
Random House, LLC
NY, NY 2014

HANDS UP DON'T SHOOT

This simple phrase has become the battle cry for the movement du jour in America challenging certain police tactics in minority communities.

Last fall in Ferguson Missouri a confrontation occurred between two pedestrians and a patrolman that spurred a national debate about the use of force and race relations. Fresh in the minds of many African Americans was the polarizing 2012 incident of the security guard shooting a young black man named Trayvon Martin in an apartment complex in Florida. While the facts were hotly disputed, a predominately white jury determined that Fred Zimmerman acted in self-defense and was found not guilty.

In multiple venues across our nation protests erupted. Even President Obama weighed in on the subject in a deeply personal way noting how his life experiences mirrored how the African-American community interpreted not only the incident but the judicial action that followed.

Fast forward to August 9 of last year. Two men, Michael Brown age 18, and Dorian Johnson, age 22, enter a package store in Ferguson, MO. A surveillance camera catches Brown using strong arm tactics to overpower a much smaller man to steal a box of Swicher Sweets and cigarillos, value, about \$50.00. A customer called the police at 11:54 and reported the robbery. Six minutes later officer Darren Wilson sees two men walking in the roadway near the scene of the crime. He directs them to move to the sidewalk.

According to Wilson he noticed cigarillos in Brown's hand. Just moments earlier a dispatcher described the two suspects and the stolen items.

The 6'4", 292 lbs "Big Mike" became combative and a physical altercation ensued as the suspect reached inside the car to strike the officer.

Wilson didn't have a tasser or a body camera. Both struggled for his weapon and shots were fired. According to forensic evidence two rounds were discharged, one grazing Brown's thumb. Brown's blood DNA was discovered in Wilson's SUV. Brown and Johnson turned and ran. Wilson left his vehicle and pursued on foot for about 150 feet. Then, inexplicably, Brown turned and began to charge the officer. 12 rounds and six wounds later Brown lay dead on the street.

Brown could have survived all wounds but the last which struck his forehead. During the grand jury testimony over 60 witnesses were called. The defendant Wilson also testified for almost 4 hours. Eyewitness testimony was contradictory as to Brown's appearance and intent. Blood splatter at the scene suggested Brown proceeded over 20 feet toward Wilson after turning around and shell casings on the street suggested that the policeman was moving backward as he fired at the decedent.

Approximately two dozen witnesses saw the incident. Some testified that Brown was clearly charging the officer while others described him as walking toward him. No one saw Brown on his knees. But where were Brown's hands?

Where did the rally cry that has stirred a national debate originate? Most likely is was Brown's accomplice, Dorian Johnson. Johnson was interviewed by CNN within 48 hours of the shooting. He was not interviewed by the police prior to CNN.

Among many of the disputed facts, Johnson claimed that "Big Mike" was shot in the back, that the decedent never reached in the police car, and that Brown had his hands up when the officer shot him.

"He fired a shot and that struck my friend Big Mike and at that time he turned around with his hands up beginning to tell the officer that he was unarmed and to tell him to stop shooting but at that time the officer was firing several more shots and so my friend and he hit the ground and died and I watched him til his body stop moving and then I ran". Dorian's statements instigated protests, riots, and destruction not only in Ferguson but across the country funded in large part by a thirty three million dollar contribution from George Soros through his Open Society Foundation.

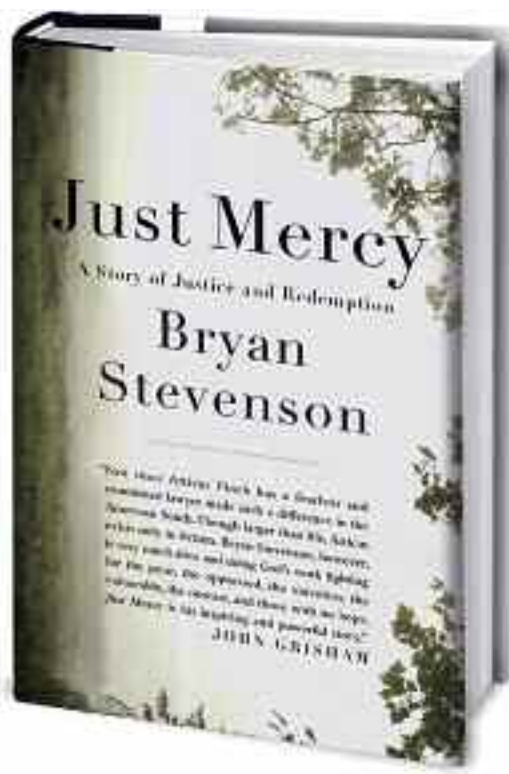
Dorian's portrait of Michael Brown is far different from that painted by the authorities. To his friends Michael Brown was a gentle giant a quiet person with a wicked sense of humor. He was the first born, the leader of the pack. Michael was meek, he was humble, he was tall. He loved dogs, he loved people, anything with life in it.

Michael graduated from Normandy High School in an alternative program where 100 students had to share two green graduation gowns for senior photos. He didn't play football. He had no adult criminal record. Big Mike was a kid who was full of jokes always trying to make people laugh.

These handsome qualities are in stark contrast to the official record which portray Brown as a bully, a gangster wannabe and a druggie. As Oscar Wilde so aptly opined, "Behind every exquisite thing that existed, there was something tragic." (from **The Portrait of Dorian Gray**)

Obviously the video of Michael Brown assaulting the shop owner and stealing cigars just moments before he was shot dead somewhat negates the parents assertion that he was simply a gentle giant. Other less nefarious but still disturbing images may be found on social media sites. Brown rapped about killing cops (for example BODY Baq Blq Mike FT, Two Cupz K-Loc.) and tweeted obscenities and violent sexist remarks toward women.

In another rap song curtesy of **SoundCloud.com**, the rapper almost prophetically talks about killing someone and seeing them "layin' across the street." The victim is said to be "mashed up and black"



like a goblin so "there ain't describing him. With this Glock in your face and you betta not make a sound and I only like white men on my money [???] Those who are last shall be first, Whites on the bottom. He musta walked up and unloaded because there was no stopping him. Somebody else layin' across the street, must be his partner. Damn."

The fact that Brown liked performing the music obviously doesn't by itself make him a thug but it does provide insight into his state of mind.

Similarly, photographs that surfaced of Brown posing like a tough guy making gang gestures with his hands are not conclusive of wrongdoing but do add another dimension of his character somewhat glossed over by the mainstream press. Evidence of marijuana use in his bloodstream further promotes his willingness to participate in some level of illegal conduct.

Finally, Brown's most ardent defender, Dorian Johnson, has a criminal record. Dorian's conviction of theft and filing a false police report has not been wildly publicized. While these bad acts negatively effect his account of the incident, his statements emphatically stating that Brown was shot in the back with his hands up just do not match up with facts. Three different pathologists, one hired by the deceased family, all concluded that Brown was struck while facing the police officer. On January 22 the Department of Justice indicated it was not going to pursue criminal charges against Wilson in light of its own investigation. Johnson has largely disappeared from public view as a result of the no bill from the grand jury while officer Wilson has resigned from his position and left town after a commendable six year stint with the Ferguson police force.

Despite the contradictions of the case, many argue the "Hands Up" cry is symbolic of the bigger movement. One protester said that this is not about a boy getting shot in the street but about the hundreds just like him who have received the same callous treatment. The slogan has become a national symbol of racial inequality for those who believe overzealous police all too often target minorities.

Now before one jumps to the conclusion that law enforcement and the legal community in general have been over scrutinized, hyper criticized and much-maligned in the media by charlatans like Al Sharpton who also infamously brought us the bogus and inflammatory cases of Tawana Brawley and the Duke Lacross Team we need to turn our attention to a case just down the road from Montgomery in Monroe County.

No, not Harper Lee's classic "**To Kill A Mockingbird**", but the painfully true story of Walter McMillian. His case has garnered national attention because of a small but devoted group of lawyers headed by Bryan Stevenson, located here in Montgomery.

Last year, Bryan penned a nonfiction called **Just Mercy**, a story of justice and redemption. It is a gripping tale not simply of an unbelievable injustice done to a black man wrongly convicted of capital murder, but also a critique of the current state of affairs regarding our judicial and penal systems. His clarion voice speaks for the poor, oppressed, the voiceless, and the vulnerable in an authentic and compassionate way.

Bryan expresses two salient yet humbling truths extracted from over 30 years experience in the death row arena. First, each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done. Second the opposite of poverty is not wealth. The opposite of poverty is justice.

Walter McMillian was born in 1941. His family were cotton sharecroppers in Monroe County for several generations first as slaves and then free men following the tradition of plowing planting and picking. He attended school for a couple of years until he became more valuable in the fields. Cotton gave way to the timber industry in this part of rural Alabama. Walter was savvy enough to see the transition and began working in the difficult yet rewarding pulp wood industry. Eventually he started his own business. He had measured success to the extent he, his wife and three children led a good life. But Walter was also a ladies man by his own admission. One such lady was Karen Kelly a married white woman, 18 years his junior. Miscegenation laws were still on the books. It was not unheard of for lynchings to occur. When Kelly's husband sued for divorce in 1986 the affair was exposed and Walter's status in the community plummeted. Later that same year, the unthinkable happened in Monroeville.

Rhonda Morrison, age 18, while working part time at a dry cleaning business in Monroeville's downtown district, was gunned down in broad daylight. Her body was riddled with bullets. There were no witnesses to the brazen crime. Police Chief Bill Daley assured the citizens that officials were working night and day to solve the case. But nothing happened. Weeks and months passed without an arrest while the

town simmered demanding a killer and justice for the victim. As one commentator explained, "it was a perfect petri dish to grow a wrongful capital murder conviction".

Unfortunately for Karen Kelly after the divorce her life spiraled out of control. She began to associate with drug addicts to include one Ralph Myers. In March 1987 both were arrested for the beating death of one Vickie Pittman in Brewton, Alabama. Facing murder charges Myers told authorities he could help them solve the Monroeville slaying. Based on the exclusive statements of Myers, McMillan was arrested for Rhonda Morrison's murder.

The trial was moved from Monroe County which was 40% black to neighboring Baldwin county with a black population of just 13%. The 11 white one black jury heard from only three witnesses during the three day trial in August 1988. McMillian was housed on death row prior to and during the trial which is highly unusual since most like prisoners are housed in the county facility until judgement. McMillan did not take the witness stand but he got a chance to speak before sentencing "I didn't kill that girl" he said "Ralph Myers don't know any more about me than the man in the moon".

The jury spent little time in finding Walter guilty of capital murder. It recommended a lesser sentence of life without parole. But using a judicial override protocol allowed under Alabama law, Judge Robert E. Lee Key rejected that sentence and condemned McMillan to die in the lap of "Yellow Mama" the States electric chair. Six long lonely years passed on death row.

Thus the stage is set as Stevenson meticulously dissects the prosecutions case, discovering reams of exculpatory evidence. The most infuriating is that on the day of the murder, McMillian was with one hundred people at a fish fry at his home eleven miles from the crime scene. Family, friends, passerbys, both black and white, and even a policeman willingly testified of his presence at the fry during the commission of the murder. But Myers testimony was the lynchpin of the case. From the outset, the ABI and local officials knew he was lying and yet proceeded with a total disregard of the truth as to Walter's rights and his treatment. Time does not permit to detail the prosecutorial misconduct which occurred throughout Walter's reign of terror. But suffice it to say it included intimidating witnesses, tampering with evidence, withholding exculpatory evidence and physical and mental abuse of the defendant.

In 1993, the Court of Criminal Appeals vacated the conviction of Judge Robert E. Lee Key in a unanimous 5-0 opinion. Even then, the sheriff, the prosecutor and local press held fast to the discredited narratives that they had created and by and large refused to acknowledge the egregious injustice.

McMillian was once again a free man. But the ravages of being on death row took its toll. Dementia preceded his death in 2013.

Stevenson's observations go well beyond this sensational case. His body of work includes similar cases of injustice brought upon the mentally incompetent, women and minors. One example was the case of Ian Manuel, a 13 year old at the time of the commission of his crime. Bryan had met Ian, who was quite bright, locked up in a maximum security prison in Milton, Florida, sentenced to life in prison without parole for a crime where no murder had occurred.

The victim even forgave him. She testified on Ian's behalf at his resentencing hearing after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2012 that sentencing a minor to life in prison without the possibility of parole constituted cruel and unusual punishment. Ian has spent over thirty years in prison. He has no skills and has been mentally and physically abused. The trial judge resented him to 65 years. He will be eligible for parole in 2031. Former Senator, Alan Simpson (R-WY), also participated in oral arguments for one reason. As a minor, Simpson was a juvenile felon. At age 17 he had multiple convictions for arson, theft, aggravated assault, gun violence and finally assaulting a police officer. He knew firsthand that you cannot judge a person's full potential by his juvenile misconduct.

On February 19, Alabama will conduct another execution of a man on death row. Tommy Arthur was convicted in a murder for hire case with little fanfare except that death by lethal injection has become controversial. There is an appeal pending. He has been on death row since 1983. He has had his execution stayed five times. The following month, the Alabama Supreme Court has scheduled the execution of William Kuenzel. He has been on death row since 1988.

Across the nation there are 3054 sentenced to die. Alabama has 194 prisoners on death row, 98 are black, 93 are white, three are Latino. Three of those prisoners are females. Arthur Lee Giles has been on death row 35 years.

From his jail cell Ian, the juvenile lifer now 48, wrote this poem that Bryan has included in his book.

Uncried Tears

*Imagine teardrops left uncried,
From pain trapped inside
Waiting to escape
Through the windows of your eyes.*

*Why won't you let us out
The tears question the conscience?
Relinquish your fears and doubts
And heal yourself in the process.*

*The conscience told the tears
I know you really want me to cry
But if I release you from bondage
In gaining your freedom you die.*

*The tears gave it some thought
Before giving the conscience an answer.
If crying brings you to triumph
Then dying's not such a disaster.*

Gazette Seniors...

THE IMPORTANCE OF BREVITY

YOU MAY BE
OVER THE HILL
...if you remember
getting your shoes
half-sole.

Over the years most of us have had to endure more than one windy speaker. Unfortunately, what most speakers don't realize was that a good speech doesn't have to be a long speech. Fifteen minutes should be the limit for an effective speech. Beyond that we get into boredom. A two minute speech can accomplish as much or more than a two-hour presentation.

A case in point is the two-minute presentation given by President Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Lincoln's address came after a two-hour chronology given by the distinguished orator, Edward Everett. Among Mr. Everett's credentials were, the presidency of Harvard University, service to his country as Secretary of State, and service to Massachusetts as that state's senator.

While press reports of that day's activities cast Lincoln's presentation in the shadows of the 69-year-old Everett's oration, the nation has well noted, and has long remembered the President's words uttered that day.

Mr. Lincoln's speech was a monument to brevity and clarity. It consisted of only ten sentences, all but the last of which averaged 20 words. In addition, two words he chose averaged five letters each. The address consisted of just three paragraphs. But these three paragraphs captured the essence of the occasion more than Mr. Everett's two hour monologue.

Mr. Lincoln began his presentation with an unusual time reference construction that has endured to this day. The words "eighty seven" have nowhere near the impact that "Four score and seven..." carried.

In addition, he used repetition to great effect, employing such devices as:

"We cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow..."
and
"of the people, by the people, for the people..."

Plus, he employed such devices as: "little note nor long remember..."

On that chilly November day, Mr. Lincoln stood before the crowd at Gettysburg and recalled:

"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this

continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.

"We are met on a great battlefield of that war.

"We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that nation might live.

"It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate it, we cannot hallow this ground.

"The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.

"The world will little note nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

"It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task of remaining before us—that these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Every American, every schoolchild in the country, can recite at least portions of that famous, brief, speech given 152 years ago. The ironic note to the whole affair is that Mr. Lincoln's two-minute speech was, at that time, "little noted," but in the end, the Gettysburg Address is "long remembered," both as an effective speech, as well as a tribute to brevity.

In this memorable speech Mr. Lincoln employed: 10 sentences, 267 words (the average word was three letters), and the first nine sentences averaged 200 words or less in length.



Remembering February

For those of us who still remember what "phonograph records" were: **RCA issued the first 45 rpm single song record, in February 1949, and the Juke Box soon followed.**

February is the month of the year that can pass without having a full moon.

On the second day of the month folks in the

U.S. and Canada await the result of what the **ground hog** does. My witness anxiously await.

On the **third Monday each February the U. S. celebrates Presidents' Day**, when we celebrate the births of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Our hearts flutter an extra beat on each **February 14**, in celebration of **VALENTINE'S DAY**, and some of us recall that in 1929 on that date Al Capone's boys descended on members of the Bugs Moran to leave a few lead Valentines, in celebration of Prohibition.

February is also "**Feed the Birds Month**,"

as well as **Avocado and Banana month**.

On the **20th**, pet owners can celebrate "**Love Your Pet Day**," when your writer must be especially nice to Wiley the cat.

The **violet is the flower of the month**, and the amethyst is its birthstone.

And in February many in the South look forward to **Shrove Tuesday "Fat Tuesday," or Mardi Gras**.

The month is named in honor of the ancient Roman rite of purification, or Februa.

And some even celebrate February as "**Spunky Old Broads Month**."

By **Kylle' D. McKinney**
Alabama Public
Affairs Specialist
Social Security Administration
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Suite 100
Montgomery, Alabama 36116



WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE

February is the month when we celebrate love and friendship. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

has also declared February as American Heart Month to bring awareness to the leading cause of death for both women and men in the United States: **heart disease**.

We encourage you to wear red all month to promote cardiovascular disease prevention.

Just as the heart is vital to our emotional and physical well-being, Social Security disability benefits are often a vital lifeline for people who are unable to work due to severe disabilities—whether heart-related or not.

There are numerous ways to protect our hearts, including eating well, exercising, and not smoking. We get checkups, and make sure to keep our cholesterol down.

However, sometimes these measures aren't enough. In fact, disability will affect one in four of today's 20 year-olds before reaching retirement age. The Social Security disability program excels in providing financial help to people when they need it most—help they earned by paying Social Security taxes on their earnings or as dependents of someone who paid Social Security taxes.

Social Security pays benefits to covered people who can't work and

whose medical condition meets the strict definition of disability under the Social Security Act. A person is considered disabled under this definition if he or she cannot work due to a severe medical condition that has lasted or is expected to last at least one year or result in death. The person's medical condition must prevent him or her from doing work that he or she did in the past, and it must prevent the person from adjusting to other work based on their age, education, and experience. You can find all the information you need about eligibility and benefits available to you by reading our publication, Disability Benefits, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

If you are disabled, and think you are eligible to receive disability benefits, you will need to complete an application for Social Security benefits. It's easy to apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

We also invite you to visit our Faces and Facts of Disability website to watch and read stories about people who have truly benefited from Social Security's disability program and to get the facts about this very important program. Helping people is at the heart of what we do. You can learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts.

During American Heart Month, go ahead and wear your heart on your sleeve. Go red, and go to www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts.

Social Security to Expand Field Office Hours Nationwide Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 Allows Agency to Restore Some Service Hours

Social Security announces as a result of Congress' approval of the fiscal year 2015 budget, the agency will expand its hours nationwide and offices will be open to the public for an additional hour on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, effective March 16, 2015. A field office that is usually open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. will remain open until 4:00 p.m. Offices will continue to close to the public at noon every Wednesday so employees have time to complete current work and reduce backlogs.

"This expansion of office hours reaffirms our commitment to providing the people we serve the option of top-notch, face-to-face assistance in field offices even as we work to expand online services for those who prefer that flexibility," said Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. "The public expects and deserves world-class customer service and thanks to approved funding, I am pleased we will continue our tradition of exceptional service."

In recent years, Social Security reduced public office hours due to congressional budget cuts, growing backlogs and staffing losses. The agency began recovery in fiscal year 2014 by replacing some field office staffing losses and providing overtime support to process critical work. With the commitment of resources in fiscal year 2015, the agency is able to restore some service hours to the public.

Most Social Security business does not require a visit to a local field office. Many services, including applying for retirement, disability and Medicare benefits, creating a my Social Security account, replacing a Medicare card, or reporting a change of address or telephone number are conveniently available anytime at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Social Security also offers assistance via a toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (Voice) and 1-800-325-0778 (TTY). Representatives are available from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Southern Cuisine

I feel vindicated!

I have always enjoyed peanut butter and mayonnaise sandwiches. I like peanut butter, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomato and cheese between two slices of white toast.

But when I tell people that I eat PB&M sandwiches, reactions range from "Oh, How disgusting" to "You're weird".

Then I found an article in Garden and Gun by Jed Portman, titled "A Forgotten Southern Sandwich". The peanut butter and mayonnaise sandwich! The picture in the magazine is even with my favorite mayonnaise, DUKE'S.

I did not know of the history of the PB&M sandwich, that it seems to have started in the 1930's during the depression and seems to have lost much of its popularity in the 1960's.

After doing a Google search, I found that there is a web site called "Three Hundred Sandwiches" and number 236, a peanut butter, mayonnaise and banana. The article starts with the sentence, "Somewhere, somewhere deep in the South, this is a delicacy."

I even found a FACEBOOK page for Peanut Butter and Mayonnaise sandwiches. Then I found someone was even suggesting using MIRACLE WHIP. "Oh, how disgusting, they must be weird"

Speaking of peanuts, when I go to a football game (War Eagle) my favorite snack food is boiled peanuts. I never could understand how something so easy to make could cost so much when you put it in a Styrofoam cup and sell it at a football game. So make your own.

This is a standard recipe for

BOILED PEANUTS.

3-4 pounds unroasted, whole, unshelled peanuts.

Enough water to cover peanuts in a large pot and 1 tablespoon of salt for each quart of water. It should be about 6 quarts water and 6 tbs of salt.

Wash peanuts and put in large pot with water and salt, bring to a boil and then simmer partially covered for at least one hour, check peanuts for tenderness but not too soft. If you leave the peanuts in the salted water and allow them to cool, the peanuts will be saltier. Serve warm or room temp. They will keep about 3-4 days in fridge or you can freeze them. Put frozen peanuts in barely salted water bring to a boil and they're ready to eat.



I have been asked to do cooking classes on the basics; sauces, and stocking a pantry. According to the FDA, I live in a Food Desert. No public transportation, low income area, and major grocery stores are miles away. The neighborhood grocery store is seven miles away; a large chain grocery store is 16 miles away. So having a well stocked pantry is essential. From that pantry, you should be able to prepare meals that are tasty, healthy and easy to prepare. Of course, this pantry should reflect the needs for southern cooking. Fresh produce and dairy products will keep long enough to use but not necessarily essential for every meal. My pantry is supplemented with about 300 jars of canned good ranging from pickled vegetables to pepper jelly that my wife and I have enjoyed canning. Making sauces is where a cook can experiment with flavors, and colors that will compliment a dish. You can buy sauces already made but it will not be same as if you made it yourself. And if you make it yourself, you can experiment with the ingredients to suit your tastes. Mayonnaise is a good one to start with. Yes mayonnaise is a sauce, a cold sauce.

MAYONNAISE

(made in a blender)



- 1 tbs Dijon style mustard
- 1 tbs lemon juice (more if needed)
- 1 egg
- 2 egg yolks
- 2 cups of oil (olive, safflower, soybean, canola or what ever you have on hand)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Pinch of white pepper (black pepper will show)

Have everything at room temperature and place mustard, eggs, and lemon juice in blender and blend for up to 10 seconds to just combine. Keeping the blender running, slowly drizzle the oil into the blender. When close to the end of the oil, check for thickness and taste. If too thick add more lemon juice

If not using it right away, put in a bowl and cover with plastic wrap and keep in fridge. It will keep for a good week. Experiment with flavors by adding garlic (juice or powder or finely minced fresh), or different oils (rich virgin olive oil or even a nut oil, like pecan or walnut. Instead of lemon juice, add flavored vinegars.

Remember to think outside the box, try adding chipotle, or curry or champagne vinegar.

"Recipe of the Month"

Send in **YOUR** recipe to Chef Spooner.

We will choose a "Recipe of the Month" for each edition of the Gazette. You may email it to: alabamagazette@gmail.com

or mail it to us at: The Alabama Gazette
12 E. Jefferson Street Montgomery, AL 36104

(Send a picture of your dish if possible.)

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SELLING IT SAFE AT THE FARMER'S MARKET



Buying home or locally grown produce at the farmers market is a great way to ensure your family is getting the freshest food possible, but it doesn't guarantee that the produce is safer. Any food grown must be safely handled on the farm as well as at the market. Putting small practices into place will help ensure that the food is safe from the farm to the table. In efforts to assure the right steps are being taken, The Alabama Cooperative Extension System in Montgomery County will be offering a Farmer's Market Food Safety training for all local

growers that sell at the market and anyone else that would like to gain knowledge on how to keep their food safe. This training will offer basic safe food practicing when harvesting fruits and vegetables, storing, transporting, and handling while at the market. Participants will also learn about how foodborne illnesses can occur and which populations are at greatest risk. They will receive a certificate when they complete the training that can be set up at their market stations so the public can view. Other resources and materials will also be available and can be used at their market stations. To attend, please contact the Montgomery County Extension at 334-270-4133 to register. This training is free to the public.

(Date): **March 26, 2015**

(Time): **9 am until 12 noon CST**

(Location): **Montgomery County
Extension Office
5340 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, AL 36109**

Alabama Cottage Food Law - Montgomery

Do you bake or make wonderful jams and jellies and wondered how you could sell these goodies? Well the **Alabama Cottage Food Law went into effect on June 1, 2014** and allows you to make certain products and sell them directly to the consumer. However, there are certain requirements that must be met to ensure you are in compliance with the Alabama Department of Public Health. A two-hour training, scheduled for **March 19, 2015** beginning at **10 am**, has been set up by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. This training meets the ADPH requirements. Upon completion of the approved food safety course and passage of the approved exam, clients will receive certification which last for five years. To continue operation, clients must maintain certification.

Contact the Montgomery County Extension Office at 334-270-4133 for registration information or Janet Johnson at 334-703-2237 for more information about the course.

There is a \$25.00 registration fee.

Southern Gardening Potpourri for February by Peggy Givhan



Judge Peggy Givhan

By the time February rolls around each year, there seems to be a reawakening. Bulbs shoot forth and flowering trees come out of what I term hibernation. Montgomery and the surrounding counties will soon have the appearance of a fairyland of flowers shrubs, trees and bulbs. Pansies planted last fall will perk up

Even the most hardened brown thumb will find success with this shrub. Totally indestructible is one description noted on Flowering Quince. It is the harbinger of spring and usually is in bloom after Ground Hog Day. When I tout this shrub as being something for everything and everybody, it is true. It will tolerate any soil type, sun or shade, extreme temperatures, and will thrive with neglect. This plant pairs well with daffodils and other ground covers. Also, as I am singing its praises, it makes a wonderful cut flower and can even be pruned by a chain saw and appear to never miss a beat. To propagate, in the spring, just root in water or rooting soil, and it can be divided. The intense color variety can not be beat--reds, fuchsia, pink, and two-toned variegated colors.

and bloom along with snap dragons, and dianthus. We should be seeing evidence of poppies forming tiny gray-green clusters close to the ground. Nurseries should be stocked soon with Japanese magnolias, flowering quince, roses, wisteria, forsythia, crab apple, pittosporum and other spring bloomers. These can still be planted and will bloom in late spring. Also, it is not too late to plant daffodils. You need to make your purchases now, and plant them. Daffodils do not require much depth in planting, just about a couple of inches of soil spread over the bulb is enough. If you place them in existing beds, know that after blooming, the leaves will have to die back so that they can be nourished and thus multiply. There is a bulb fertilizer which has a main ingredient of bone meal. The down side of the bone meal is that it attracts squirrels, and dogs. So, if you dig the fertilizer into the soil prior to placing the bulbs, this may thwart the animals. As an additional precaution, spread a light layer of pine straw over the location of the bulbs in order to hide them even more.



One easy to raise herb that has many culinary uses, remember some herbs are used purely for medicinal purposes, are Chives. A must for most herbs beds which mix well with parsley, marjoram, thyme dill and basil. The thin grass like leaves can be taken straight from the garden to pot so to speak. I use no pesticides in my gardens, so just rinsing them off and snipping into the stew, soup, sour cream for a heavenly dip, and what is better than

cream cheese and chives finger sandwiches. Chives can be frozen and when thawed, taste like they have just been picked. Chives thrive in the garden setting and in pots, do great in rock gardens, and make a wonderful border plant for the flower garden. They do prefer dry soil conditions, but will tolerate some moisture. What a wonderful pass-along plant. To divide, just dig out a clump. They do multiply quite rapidly and should be thinned over the years.

GOOD GARDENING AND HAPPY MARDI GRAS

PLANT OF THE MONTH -- FLOWERING QUINCE (Chaenomeles speciosa)

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Montgomery Tea Party Patriots
The WE Party of Montgomery

MEET US AT:
Pizza Perfect
428 Coliseum Blvd.
(across from Eastbrook Flea Market)
6:30 PM

Thursday February 12th
SPEAKER Terry Richmond
TOPIC: Convention of States

Thursday February 26th
SPEAKER Scott Beason
TOPIC: Politics

The Wetumpka Tea Party



Dr. Tim Daughtry
Monday, March 30th - 6:30pm
The Elmore Community Hospital
(500 Hospital Dr., Wetumpka)

Join us for an informative and entertaining night with Dr. Daughtry. He is a conservative writer and speaker with a long history in conservative politics. Dr. Daughtry works to convince the conservative movement that winning elections will never be enough as long as the liberal minority dominates our cultural institutions. His primary focus is giving conservatives practical strategies to get off the defensive in dealing with liberal strategy and tactics and to recover our culture from the grassroots level. Daughtry is co-author of *Waking the Sleeping Giant: How Mainstream Americans Can Beat Liberals at Their Own Game.*

Patricia Killough

Home Town Community News

February Birthdays



- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Sara Margaret Auerbach | Susan Terrell |
| George Evans | 16 Joan Kirk |
| Mary Johnson | Clark Jones |
| Ellen Saddler | Bruny Smith |
| 2 Thelma Alexander | Brunies Cauthen |
| Brewer Box | 17 Brian Betz |
| Helen Cutts | William L. Carl (80th) |
| Shelby Smith | Chuck Glasscock (53rd) |
| Alvin Turner | Kathi Farley |
| Frances Yedmans | Willa Faye Munson |
| 3 Del Atkinson | Gene Smith |
| Enoch Chalker | Alice Tyson |
| Pam Daniel | Jean Warren |
| Sybil Foshee | 18 Chip Norris |
| Gay Hayes | Kermit Paramore |
| Helen Lankford | 19 Anita Jones |
| Genye Messick | Barbara Pugh |
| Wayne Robinson | Chuck Lear |
| 4 Paige Box | Dawn Johnson |
| Anna Haigler Johnson | 20 Ann Moore |
| Helen Rahn Millican | Todd Windham |
| 5 Peggy Agent | Zac Perry |
| Walter Friday, III | 21 Victoria L. Carl (15th) |
| Jean Fuller | Alyssa Lear |
| Beth Norris | Jessica Burgess |
| Haywood Sellers | Jerrell Campbell |
| Lila Webster | Hugh Gordon (89th) |
| 6 Amanda Edwards | Jane Russell |
| Morgan Lee Madison (4th) | Shirley Yarbrough |
| Donna Spradley | 22 Ellen Adcock |
| Pat Veazey | Douglas Evans (65th) |
| 7 Rhonda Black | Jean Finlayson |
| Mary Helen Fleming | Earl Gray |
| Shelvie Freeman | Willie Stephens |
| Rick Marshall | Tim Meadows |
| Rodney Powell | Hettie H. Harrington |
| Wanda Stephens | 23 Dorothy Bennett |
| Edith Upchurch | Virgil Culpepper |
| 8 John Barnes | Thelma Nelson |
| Helen Burch | Nathan Horsley |
| Claudine Nobles | Ann Spheres |
| Helen Oates | 24 Katherine Andrews |
| Sharon Owens | Cheryl Jarrell |
| Janet Phillips | Bobbie Rahn |
| Abigail Roux | 25 Bettye Garlington |
| 9 Lori Meadows | John Higgins |
| Lucille Wilson | Lewis Mulleck |
| 10 Jim Soule | Shanny Sansom |
| Jeanne Villar | Willie Pearl Shepherd |
| 11 Glen Hataway | 26 Erma Dillard |
| Steve Law | Cassidy Gwin |
| Earline Wood | Dean Moore |
| 12 Jean Cantey (86th) | Carolyn Watson |
| Chas Hammock | 27 Portia Goss |
| 13 Susan Gambrell | Evans Hartzog |
| Dot Hill | Jamie Hall |
| 14 Nancy Andrews | Mary Horton |
| Carolyn Bowden | Carol Spencer |
| Michael Coker | 28 Joy Carlisle |
| Lyda Crowe | Freeman Carroll |
| Drew Martin | Mary Daniels |
| Hamil Martin | Debi Nowakowski |
| Dorothy Sparrow | Weldon Payne |
| Zac Swearingen | Charlene Schofield |
| 15 Mildred Durden | Helen Turner |
| Juanita Miers | Mary Vann |
| Mike Green | Freddie Oswalt |
| Nancy Rabren | 29 Mandy Azar |

Sympathy to the families of...



In Memory of Raymond Bryan Jr. August 24, 1941 - January 24, 2015

Jasper Raymond Bryan, Jr. of Montgomery went home to be with the Lord on January 24, 2015 after a brief illness. He was 73.

Mr. Bryan was born on August 24, 1941 in Rutledge, Alabama to Jasper Raymond "Ted" Bryan Sr. and Esther Pearl Chancellor. He graduated from Bradley University and was a jeweler and watchmaker.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years Shirley Ann Stephens and daughter Lynn Bryan Young (Jerry); his brother Randal Edward Bryan (Libby); his 4 grandchildren Jarrod Young (Molly), Bryan Young, Breanna Young and Heath Young; his mother-in-law Lucille Etheridge; his sister-in-law Shelby Blevins (Ricky); and numerous nieces, nephews, and many others who were blessed by his example and counsel. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister-in-law Pauline Kwilos.

The celebration of his home going was at 11:00 on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at Eastern Hills Baptist Church.

The staff of the Alabama Gazette expresses their deepest sympathy to the family of Raymond Bryan.



In Memory of Barbara Bozeman Dorrill August 25, 1937 - January 23, 2015

Barbara Bozeman Dorrill went home to her heavenly father on Friday, January 23, 2015. Barbara was remembered by many of her friends.

- McDonald, Nannie Loudied December 15, 2014
 Dorsey, Sally (37)died December 16, 2014
 Dean, Dorothy "Dottie" Azar (80)died December 22, 2014
 Lassiter, Glenn Allen (85)died December 22, 2014
 Granade, Rubilaw Ray (95)died December 24, 2014
 White, Genevieve Hazel Holmes (85)died December 26, 2014
 Cobb, Austin Perry (32)died December 28, 2014
 Pilgreen, Mary Flynn Sellers (94)died December 30, 2014
 Fleming, Dr. Norwood Japheth (72)died January 1, 2015
 Newell, Jimmie Louise Jacks (91)died January 2, 2015
 Taylor, Charles Vester (86)died January 2, 2015
 Griffin, Louise Wilkerson (84)died January 9, 2015
 Mathews, Charles M. (83)died January 10, 2015
 Gilbert, Linda (64)died January 13, 2015
 Harding, Gladys Arlene Turnipseed (83)died January 14, 2015
 Martin, Elizabeth Luckett (78)died January 14, 2015
 Barnes, Ethel Teague Watsondied January 16, 2015
 Gholston, Marjorie Vanzettadied January 16, 2015
 Goldman, Jane Elizabeth Myers Duncan (74)died January 16, 2015
 Gorrie, David F. (101)died January 16, 2015
 Cohen, Felice Hannandied January 17, 2015
 Marxer, Jane Elizabeth (90)died January 17, 2015
 Hughen, Lilly Elma "Mutt" (88)died January 18, 2015
 Moncrief, Verna Patricia (77)died January 19, 2015
 Montoya, Mary Martha Simsdied January 19, 2015
 McLemore, Andrew Jackson, Jr. (94)died January 21, 2015
 Grant, Clyde Wayne (93)died January 22, 2015
 Preston, Robert Hulan (57)died January 29, 2015
 Smith, Rev. Andrew Lowell (82)died January 29, 2015
 Smith, Mary Elizabeth Chesnutt Emfinger (88)died January 31, 2015
 Tankersley, Dr. Felix (79)died January 31, 2015
 Joiner, Billy Allen, (83)died February 1, 2015
 Kamburis, Anna Antonio (82)died February 2, 2015
 Roton, Cordelia Holstun (99)died February 2, 2015
 Foshee, Charles "Charlie" Dudley (72)died February 3, 2015
 Joiner, Billy Allen (83)died February 5, 2015

In Memory of Major Peyton Spotswood Mathis, Jr. Killed in action June 5, 1944 age - 28 Buried with full military honors on January 3, 2015

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 John & Greatha Findley (69th) | 20 Chuck & Susan Gambrell |
| 11 Ralph & Jessie Southern (69th) | Hayden & Dee Ward |
| 14 Clark & Anita Jones | 21 Tom & Bettye Garlington |
| Josh & Jamie McCandless | Gilbert & Ethel Sellers (59th) |
| Randy & Tammy Smith | 28 Pat & Butch Moseley (56th) |



A Birthday Celebration was held for Addelyne Claire Walker on January 23, 2015

Addy turned 4 on January 19th and celebrated with her family and closest friends on the 23rd at Bama Lanes in Prattville.

Everyone enjoyed the "Frozen" cake and bowling.

A Surprise 60th Birthday Celebration was held for Joy Kyser Fleming on January 18, 2015 at Country Inn & Suites by her family.



Her sister Judy Nulph also celebrated her 56th on the same day

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Trisston Wright Burrows
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America/Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"AMAZING LOVE"

Well my friends, it's that time of year again. You know - red hearts, pink roses, balloons, cards, candy, and animals that sing songs of love.

Store shelves overflow with symbols of love. They began the day after New Year's to get ready for Valentine's Day. Do you know that more roses are sold on that day than any other day in the year? All over the world, it is the day that people show their love for someone special. It is a great occasion to express love and appreciation for any of your loved ones, but it is just as important to show little acts of kindness the other 364 days of the year.

Flowers will die. Candy gets eaten. Balloons will pop. Stuffed animals may stop singing. Cards may get lost or thrown away, but the love that is shared with one another, and God's love for us, will never pass away.

"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed."
Isaiah 54:10

Isn't it wonderful to know that we have the amazing love of an amazing God?! God tells us in His Word how much He loves us. He promises to never leave or forsake us, to answer us when we call, day or night. He never slumbers nor sleeps. Just as we should tell our loved ones how much we love them, we need to tell God how much we love Him 365 days a year.

So this Valentine's Day, let's rejoice and be thankful for amazing love... of family, of friends, and of the amazing God we serve!

Happy Valentine's Day & Many Blessings!



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March 10, 2015 (5:30 pm - 6:30 pm)

The Road to Recovery

Presented by Diane Holtam, Breast Cancer Survivor

April 14, 2015 (5:30 pm - 6:30 pm)

Fresh Eyes and Renewed Spirit

Presented by Valerie Ball, Breast Cancer Survivor

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Prattville, AL 36066

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johnnie@medac4u.com
www.Medac4u.com



"CASH FOR CHRISTMAS" December 2014 Recipients

We at The Alabama Gazette were honored to present these cash awards in 2014.

A. Dees
Pine Level, AL

E. Bristow
Ramer, AL

R. Jones
Fort Deposit, AL

S. Mixon
Montgomery, AL

R. Bailey
Montgomery, AL

D. Gray
Goshen, AL

A. Richardson
Wetumpka, AL

M. Walthall-Walker
Pike Road, AL

H. Lee
Montgomery, AL

E. Walter
Ramer, AL

YARD SALE

WOODLAND UMC

Friday, March 6th - 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Saturday, March 7th - 6:00 AM til NOON

Located in the Family Life Central, 4428 Wallahatchee Road, Pike Road

All Proceeds go to the Costa Rica Mission Trip.

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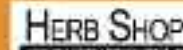
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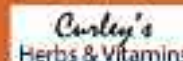
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My mother and I both received bands as gifts, and I have to say at first we were skeptical but now wear our New You Miracle Bands every day. We both noticed immediate reduction in the aches and pains that typically accompany "maturing," such as sore elbows, shoulders, knees and hips. Before wearing my Miracle Band, I was aware of bothersome aches and pains almost on a daily basis; now, after using mine for over a year, I am rarely aware of any discomfort or pains. I would highly recommend them to anyone who feels prescriptions are no longer working and you want to use a natural cure. For only \$49.99 it's worth every penny.

—Laurie Magers

Executive Assistant to Zig Ziglar, Plano, TX



In October 2007, I was hit by a pickup truck while cycling. My extreme injuries included a shattered left tibia, five broken ribs, a broken pelvis, and a punctured lung. My recovery took over a year. Afterward, the pain in my leg was so severe that by the end of the day I was barely able to walk. In October of 2009, I went to Dr. Roland Hester of Southern Orthopedic Surgeons and asked him to cut my leg off, due to the pain. On Christmas of 2009, Glenda DeRamus gave me the New You Miracle Band as a gift, and after two days the results were unbelievable! To me, the Miracle Band is worth a billion dollars and is the best Christmas present I have ever received. It has been five years, and it's still working! Listen to my testimonial online at nymb.com. Then call me if you have any questions! (334) 782-0420.

—Jeff Hensley, Montgomery, AL

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FACE STYLE Blank Cross Gecko Greek Key
 Scroll Hearts Stars Tribal

WOVEN NYLON BAND Qty: _____ Sub-Total: _____
BAND SIZE 7.5-9.5 in. 8.5-10.5 in.
BAND COLOR Black Tan
SUCER STYLE Gold Silver Black

Add 10% Sales Tax. Tax: _____
Allow 7-10 days for delivery. Shipping: \$6.95
Don't forget: Buy 2, get 1 free! **TOTAL:** _____

Name: _____
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Phone: _____
Email: _____